

Felix Lee on the critical role of #PDAC2021 in promoting miners interest around the world

In a recent InvestorIntel interview, Peter Clausi spoke with Felix Lee, President of PDAC about the convention that just kicked off earlier this week and the role of PDAC in promoting miners interest around the world.

In this InvestorIntel interview, which may also be viewed on YouTube (click here to subscribe to the InvestorIntel Channel), Mr. Lee starts with: "The show is off to a great start."

Mr. Lee pointed out that most people think of PDAC as a convention but the organization exists as an advocacy body. He said that the organization works very hard to support and promote a vibrant, competitive, and responsible minerals exploration industry. They also work with the Canadian federal government to enact policies that benefit the industry. "We are poised to play a very critical role in the transition of Canada's economy to a low carbon future," Mr. Lee added.

To watch the complete interview, click here

About PDAC

Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is the leading voice of Canada's mineral exploration and development community since 1932. With over 7,200 members around the world, PDAC's work centres on supporting a competitive, responsible mineral sector. The annual PDAC Convention is the world's premier international event for the minerals and mining industry. It has attracted more than 25,000 people from

135 countries in recent years.

To learn more about PDAC, [click here](#)

Focusing on battery materials at #PDAC2021, Publisher starts with the rare earths experts from Search Minerals

It's the week where the mining world usually descends in Toronto for PDAC 2021 (#PDAC2021) conference...last year I gained a business partner and 2 Board members , this year I am committed to reviewing every single battery material, critical material, technology metal and associated cleantech/greentech and EV company participating.

Often asked how I find companies, the answer is always the same – relationships. 20+ years now on Bay Street, am always seeking the story behind the deal, this one is about Newfoundland and Labrador. A deal that has not only made every local a potential shareholder, is championed by the government but is about the value of investing in people for the future good of the whole.

For #PDAC2021, I urge you to start with going to the Search Minerals Inc. (TSXV: SMY) virtual booth. Off to a good start in 2021, especially on the money side of their business. They closed an oversubscribed private placement in January (\$534,000), received another \$150,900 in warrant proceeds in early February and announced another non-brokered private placement in mid-February for maximum gross proceeds of \$1.75

million. This is expected to close on or before March 15.

Recall that the company has a 100% interest in an approximate 70 kilometer long by 8 kilometer wide region in the Fox Harbor volcanic belt located in the Port Hope Simpson area of southeastern Labrador. Within this area is a belt 63 km long and 2 km wide which is road accessible, on tidewater, and located within 3 local communities. Search is focused on finding and developing Critical Rare Earths Elements (CREE), Zirconium (Zr) and Hafnium (Hf) resources.

Exploration commenced in 2009 and it quickly became apparent that the district was rich in rare earths. The Foxtrot deposit was discovered in 2010 followed by Deep Fox in 2014 and Fox Meadow in 2016. While all of these discoveries have significance, there are more than 20 additional exploration prospects identified in the immediate area, providing future exploration inventory. Search has completed a preliminary economic assessment report for Foxtrot and a resource estimate for Deep Fox. Search is also working on three exploration prospects along the belt which include: Fox Meadow, Silver Fox and Awesome Fox.

The company now has five major discoveries in this area with excellent road and power infrastructure with deep-water port access nearby that would support a low-cost development scenario. Foxtrot is the most advanced with a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) on the prospect and an NI 43-101 report prepared in 2016. The deposit, which would be mined with both open pit and underground workings, contains the key rare earth elements neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium, necessary for permanent magnets used in electric cars, wind turbines and many high-tech products.

In addition to being a mineral exploration company, management recognized the importance of leveraging the cost advantages provided by the physical location of Foxtrot as well as the subsequent discoveries. The company developed a patented

proprietary Direct Extraction technology which has produced a 99% high purity mixed rare earth concentrate via two continuous pilot plants. Search has continued to optimize their patented Direct Extraction Process technology with the generous support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and from the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency (ACOA).

Greg Andrews, President and CEO of Search Minerals commented in their February 10, 2021 news release that "Search has received internal engineering studies which outlines the capital and operating costs for constructing a 1/200th scale demonstration plant in St. Lewis Labrador (10 tonnes per day). The demonstration plant would be essential for 1) training our future workforce for plant operations, 2) producing sufficient quantities of mixed rare earth concentrate for demonstration of commercial rare earth separation, and 3) large scale validation of our Direct Extraction processing flowsheet. We are putting together our business plan for the construction of the demonstration plant with our funding partners."

While their technology has been proven, scaling up to a plant will require significant capital and the company now needs to securing funding and/or a partner to further refine the process in a demonstration plant. In addition, the company will require further funding to continue infill drilling to take the discoveries to feasibility study stages.

We note that the company has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), signed in late October 2020, for technical collaboration. The company has also entered into a Technical Collaboration Framework Agreement with USA Rare Earth, LLC to explore further separation capabilities.

An interesting company with good assets, Search has a nice, compact area of operations and have had good exploration

success under the helm of some of the most respected rare earths experts such as Dr. David Dreisinger. They are in the right resource space at the right time (in my opinion*) – and with the critical piece of business in the market (always) being leadership, Greg Andrews has been at the helm since 2014 and is evidence that indeed, investing in relationships in the community is a long term strategy for the wise.

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The CSE on the Benefits of a Virtual #PDAC2021

In a recent InvestorIntel interview, Peter Clausi speaks with Barrington Miller of the Canadian Securities Exchange (CSE) about the upcoming Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Mining Conference to be held from March 8-11, 2021.

In this InvestorIntel interview, which may also be viewed on YouTube (click here to subscribe to the InvestorIntel Channel), Barrington talks about the upcoming PDAC mining conference, its new digital format, and the CSE's participation in PDAC 2021. Barrington discusses the

challenges of running a mining conference digitally, but also the perks. Having a digital mining conference makes it more accessible to companies that are located internationally and also means that investors and media who may be occupied during the conference can access the conference later. While the pandemic has changed the format, Barrington thinks that may be a good thing and that PDAC 2021 may be the best year yet.

To watch the full interview, [click here](#).

About the Canadian Securities Exchange

The Canadian Securities Exchange, or CSE, is operated by CNSX Markets Inc. Recognized as a stock exchange in 2004, the CSE began operations in 2003 to provide a modern and efficient alternative for companies looking to access the Canadian public capital markets.

To learn more about the Canadian Securities Exchange, [click here](#)

PDAC 2021: The world's largest mining show goes virtual

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose travel restrictions and limitations on the size of gatherings, large and in-person events in Canada are challenging to hold.

With this in mind, the **89th Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)** conference shifted to cyberspace this year as the world's largest mineral exploration and

mining event decided that a virtual event would be safer than getting over 23,000 people together in a conference hall.

The annual conference, which brings together mining executives, geologists, analysts, investors, students, and government officials, will be held online and aims to offer attendees the same ability to connect with the global mineral exploration and mining community.

InvestorIntel returns again this year as a **PDAC** 2021 media partner.

Virtual PDAC

PDAC plans to offer over 100 hours and more than 100 sessions of unique content. Similar to previous years, the online event will be divided into different programs including Capital Markets, Investor Exchange, Presentation Rooms, Sustainability, Geoscience, and Short Courses.

An advantage of the virtual conference is that the platform will be available 24 hours a day and, after the “live” presentations are finished, the content will be available on-demand for three months following the conference.

With thousands of companies attending and presenting, even as a virtual attendee, preparation is key when “exploring” for the next investment “gem”.

Presentations for Investors

The Corporate Presentation Forum for Investors (CPFI) is changing for 2021 and will combine insights from industry thought leaders such as John Kaiser of Kaiser Research and Frank Holmes of US Global Investors, with links to selected company presentations.

To allow attendees to focus on specific commodities, the CPFI Showcase groups together similar companies into categories: base and energy materials, diamonds, gold explorers, gold

producers, royalty companies, silver, and uranium.

Other key sessions and events for investors include:

- Capital Markets Program
 - “Profits with a Purpose” with Aline Cote of Glencore, Mark Bristow of Barrick Gold, and Evy Hambro of BlackRock.
- Letter Writer Presentations for Investors
 - Rick Rule of Sprott, Brent Cook of Exploration Insights, and Gwen Preston of Resource Maven.
- Keynote speakers
 - “The Fate of Gold Deposits” with Douglas Silver of Flydentity.

During these presentations, attendees can participate in group discussions and breakout rooms, and connect with the speakers. Companies will have virtual booths with chat rooms and the ability to book 1-on-1 meetings with the exhibitors.

Questions to Ask Exploration Companies

The Investors Exchange returns in a virtual format, allowing investors to connect with leading junior mining companies, mid-sized producers, and major mining companies, to discuss investment and project potential.

Even at a virtual conference, plan to ask companies questions. Key factors when deciding to invest in an exploration company include:

- **Deposit:** What commodity is the company targeting? What is the grade? How far below the surface is the mineralization?
- **Location:** Where is the deposit located? Is it located in a mining-friendly jurisdiction? Is it accessible year-round? Is it near power?
- **Management:** Does the management team have experience with that specific mineral? Have they been successful in

the past? Who leads the company's exploration efforts?

- **Funding:** Do they have the cash in the bank to fund exploration for the next 12-18 months? How much financing will they require?

Virtual Entertainment and Cocktail

PDAC also wants attendees to enjoy the social side of the conference and included a variety of entertainment including musical acts, tours, and interactive events.

For example, hosted by an award-winning mixologist, the Peru Cocktail event includes learning how to create Peru's famous signature cocktails. Don't forget to have a bottle of Pisco and all of the ingredients at the ready.

Save the Date – PDAC is from March 8-11

The **PDAC** convention is scheduled to run this year from March 8-11.

To learn more about the virtual conference and download the **PDAC** 2021 Preliminary Program, you can visit the PDAC Convention webpage.

To register for the event, you can visit the PDAC Registration webpage.

Hope to see you "virtually" there!

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2021

THE WORLD'S PREMIER
MINERAL EXPLORATION
& MINING CONVENTION

MARCH 8-11

VIRTUAL CONVENTION

JOIN FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

pdac.ca/convention
#PDAC2021

HOW THE PDAC VIRTUAL CONVENTION WORKS

The Convention will take place within a virtual venue called a platform, comparable to a physical venue. Event components that attendees would traditionally experience in-person will be presented virtually. A virtual convention offers attendees more benefits than ever before!



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Access to a broader global audience and even more valuable business connections with investors, financiers, banking executives, fund managers, brokers, analysts and more!



MATCHMAKING

Facilitated matchmaking based on all participants' interests in order to deliver the most focused networking experience.



DISCUSS INVESTMENT POTENTIAL AT THE ONLINE EXHIBIT HALL

Book meetings with junior and major mining companies, mid-sized producers, prospectors, financial institutions, international governments and suppliers.



MUCH MORE THAN A WEBINAR

Attend various interactive presentations with breakout sessions, group discussions and be among your peers.



BROADER ACCESS

Attend virtual networking lounges, educational sessions and entertainment all from the comfort of your home or office.