

Mexico was an active participant at the PDAC 2013

Mexico was an active participant at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention and Trade Show, held from March 3-6 in Toronto. Their participation included various events and promotional activities. With the notable presence of federal and states officials, Mexico hosted a pavilion, as has become the tradition, and presented a Mexico Mining Day. The Mexican delegation had a full schedule of private meetings throughout the event with government representatives and international mining developers. For the second consecutive year, the delegation rang the bell to open trading at the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX).

Attending the convention were the Undersecretary of Labour, Rafael Adrián Avante Juárez and the Undersecretary of Management for Environmental Protection of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Rafael Pacchiano Alamán. Heading the delegation from the Ministry of Economy (SE), representing the Secretary, was Ernesto de Lucas Hopkins, CEO of ProMexico; as well as the General Coordinator of Mining, Mario Alfonso Cantú Suárez; the Director of the mining development trust fund Fideicomiso de Fomento Minero, Dr. Armando Pérez Gea; the Director of the Mexican Geological Survey, Raúl Cruz Ríos; the Director General of Mining Development, Luis Raúl Rey Jiménez; and the Director General of Mining Regulation, Miguel Ángel Romero González.

Also at the convention were the Governor of Zacatecas, Miguel Alonso Reyes, and officials from the state governments of Chihuahua, Durango, Oaxaca and Sinaloa, as well as the Ambassador of Mexico in Canada, Francisco Barrio; the Trade Commissioner (ProMéxico) in Toronto, José Antonio Peral; and the Consul



The Mexican delegation opens the TSX

General of Mexico in Toronto, Mauricio Toussaint.

On Sunday March 3, the Consul General gave opening remarks at the Mexico Mining Seminar. His presentation included the "Pact for Mexico," as well as the five strategic points that will guide the President Enrique Peña Nieto administration. He also underlined the importance of mining for Mexico (4.9% of the GDP), and the participation of Canadian mining companies in Mexico, which constitute 75% of foreign direct investment in this sector. Undersecretary of Labour and Social Welfare, Rafael Avante Juárez spoke about labour reform and how it related to mining activities in Mexico.

On March 4 the Mexican delegation opened trading at the Toronto Stock Exchange, where a number of important mining companies with projects in Mexico are listed. Present at the opening ceremony were Ambassador Francisco Barrio, Consul General Mauricio Toussaint, the Toronto representative for ProMexico José A. Peral and the Secretaries of Economic Development for the states of Chihuahua, Durango and Zacatecas. Representing the Ministry of Economy was the General Coordinator of Mining, Mario Alfonso Cantú Suárez

and the director of the Fideicomiso de Fomento Minero, Armando Pérez Gea. Also present was the Ambassador of Canada in Mexico, Sara Hradecky, and commercial representative for Ontario in Mexico, Chantal Ramsay.

On March 5, the third edition of the Mexico Mining Day was held. The keynote speaker, ProMexico CEO Ernesto de Lucas Hopkins, said that this is the best time to invest in Mexico because of its political and economic stability. He went on to say that Mexico is the top producer and exporter of silver in the world, and in Latin America it is the second largest producer of gold and the third largest of copper.

De Lucas Hopkins pointed out that Mexico's GDP has achieved the most growth in North America, with an increase of 3.9%. "We are a country with stability, low inflation, a reliable nation, with great opportunities to do business and invest," he said.

Information from the Ministry of the Economy shows that at the end of 2012 there were 285 mining companies with foreign capital operating in Mexico on more than 853 mining projects.

Also speaking was the Undersecretary of SEMARNAT, Rafael Pacchiano, who stressed the importance of obtaining the necessary environmental impact studies and licences before beginning an exploration project in Mexico.



*Ernesto de Lucas Hopkins,
CEO of ProMexico*

Mexico and Canada reaffirm their close relationship

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird visited Mexico, where he met with President Enrique Peña Nieto on February 14, as part of a trip to several Latin American countries.

Following his meeting with the president, Minister Baird met with Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, José Antonio Meade Kuri-breña, at the Foreign Ministry. It was the first official meeting between the two officials.

Baird and Meade reaffirmed the friendly ties between Mexico and Canada and expressed their government's commitment to strengthening political dialogue at the highest level, and continuing their cooperation.

The ministers exchanged views on the new elements which will make up the Canada-Mexico Joint Action Plan 2013-2015. They agreed to establish specific courses of action to achieve concrete results on the topics of labour mobility; educational, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation; and security, among others. Baird and Meade also agreed on the need to continue promoting bilateral ties on economic matters to increase trade and investment between the two countries.

Secretary Meade and Minister Baird agreed to keep in close communication about the



Minister John Baird and Secretary José Antonio Meade

upcoming Meeting of the Canada-Mexico Alliance as well as various plans for bilateral dialogue and cooperation this year.

The bilateral meeting also addressed each country's priorities for the North American agenda in preparation for the next North American Leaders' Summit which will be held

in Mexico this year. In principle, Mexico expressed its interest in including competitiveness and technological and educational innovation on the Summit's agenda.

Minister Baird and Secretary Meade also discussed the regional and multilateral agenda, as well as topics of mutual interest involving cooperation with Central America. On this topic, Minister Baird stressed Canada's interest as an observer to the Pacific Alliance. The ministers discussed the prospects for progress in tariff reduction and other topics covered by this innovative integration project, as well as the next steps in the process.

At the end of his visit to Mexico, Minister Baird said: "Canada and Mexico are close friends and neighbours and have a longstanding strategic partnership in North America, in the hemisphere and in the world. I was pleased to have a brief discussion with President Enrique Peña Nieto, following on our excellent exchanges last year in Davos and in Ottawa."

"Secretary Meade and I also had a productive discussion on how our two countries can build on past successes to take our partnership to the next level while creating jobs and growth in both countries," he added.

Four Pillars of Mexico's Foreign Policy

President Enrique Peña Nieto underlined the four pillars of Mexico's foreign policy before the consular corps in Mexico on February 14:

1) Strengthen Mexico's presence. Here, the goal is to deepen Mexico's bilateral relationships and improve its capacity to influence the development of a more prosperous and equitable international order.

2) Increase international cooperation. Both in a reciprocal and a supportive manner, Mexico will contribute the best it has to offer to the resolution of global challenges, in particular the challenges faced by sister nations.

3) Promote Mexico's value in the world. We want the world to know everything about Mexico: Our culture, our history, our arts, our natural beauty and, especially, Mexico's economic opportuni-



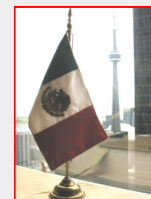
Minister John Baird and President Enrique Peña Nieto

ties and the auspicious time we are living in. Our network of representations abroad will work to project this image of Mexico.

4) Safeguard Mexico's interests abroad. Mexico will respond in a timely manner to the issues and interests of Mexico and Mexicans abroad.

"Let us become a state which respects and promotes international law, a country which promotes international free trade, a guarantor of the investments it receives. A supportive and responsible nation, which champions peace and defends human rights," said President Peña Nieto at the ceremony commemorating the 46th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which made Latin America and the Caribbean the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone.

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