



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



Call for Nominations: PDAC 2026 Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (S-IMEW)

On behalf of the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) and its Human Resource Development Committee, we are pleased to announce that the 17th annual Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (S-IMEW) will take place April 29 – May 14, 2026, in Sudbury, Ontario.

This exclusive workshop will host 24 selected senior geoscience students from Canadian post-secondary institutions for two weeks of hands-on learning and interaction with representatives from the Canadian mineral exploration community. S-IMEW provides students with a technical and a business perspective of mineral exploration that is not the usual focus in an academic environment.

S-IMEW is focused on the Canadian mineral industry, introducing and affirming many of the applied aspects of the industry through practical mineral exploration techniques, field skills development, familiarization with a variety of mineral deposit models and related economic geology. In addition, S-IMEW provides students with opportunities to practise their networking skills and make valuable contacts with key industry representatives, potential future employers and mentors.

The workshop content includes:

- Development of networking skills
- Alumni perspectives and career paths
- Professional registration
- Mineral economics and valuations
- Field trips to world-class mining camps
- Geological mapping and interpretation; geophysics and geochemistry
- Health and safety, environmental and social governance
- Capital markets, financing alternatives and business arrangements

PDAC invites you to nominate one or two senior students from your Geoscience Department or College program who are planning to pursue a career in the mineral exploration industry. We value equity, diversity and inclusion and encourage applications from traditionally underrepresented groups.

The number of institutions that apply to the selection committee regularly exceeds the allotted number of students that are accepted to attend S-IMEW. Institutions may nominate up to two candidates, however representation from any given institution is limited to one student. The *S-IMEW Nomination Checklist*, attached, has instructions for submitting a nomination package. Visit the [S-IMEW Media Gallery](#) and [S-IMEW 2025 Itinerary](#) learn more about the S-IMEW experience.

Should you have any questions regarding S-IMEW, or PDAC student activities, please contact Krishana Michaud, Manager, Student & Early Career Program, at kmichaud@pdac.ca.

Sincerely,

Karen Rees
Co-Chair
S-IMEW Planning Committee

David Murray
Co-Chair
S-IMEW Planning Committee



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



S-IMEW NOMINATION CHECKLIST

The nomination package includes the *Student Application* and a *letter of recommendation*. The package must be submitted by either the Department Head or a designated Professor.

- ☐ The *Student Application* comprises the following:
 - Signed Nomination Form (attached)
 - Cover letter that outlines the student's long-term career objectives, how they would benefit from attending S-IMEW, and why they believe they are the best candidate for the workshop
 - Resume that includes work experience, accomplishments, field skills, association memberships, volunteer and extra-curricular experience, interests and hobbies, and travel experience
 - Academic transcript (official is preferred but not mandatory)
 - Completed Liability Waiver Form (attached)
- ☐ Letter of recommendation that speaks to the student's character, passion for mineral exploration, and conduct in a team environment
- ☐ Complete the [NOMINATION FORM](#) on our website and upload pdf files of the Nomination Form, Cover Letter, Resume, Academic Transcript, Liability Waiver and Letter of Recommendation

When the nomination package is submitted you will be redirected to a confirmation of submission page. Additionally, an email will be sent to the Faculty email entered in the form to confirm receipt of the nomination. It is the responsibility of the Department Head or designated Professor to ensure they receive this confirmation.

Nominations must be received by Monday, December 15, 2025.

All nominees will be informed of the status of their nomination by late January 2026.

Selected participants will be recognized on the PDAC's student website with their name, school and headshot. They will also be recognized at the Student-Industry Mixer on Tuesday, March 3, at the annual PDAC Convention in Toronto.

We encourage all workshop participants to attend the PDAC Convention, March 1-4, 2026.



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



S-IMEW NOMINATION FORM

Students must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Full-time student enrolled in their 3rd or 4th year of an undergraduate program with a major in an Earth Sciences discipline and be in good academic standing or currently enrolled in the final year of a Canadian college program with a strong background in Earth Sciences;
- Demonstrate an interest in some or all aspects of economic geology, structural geology, petrology, volcanology, geophysics and their relation to mineral deposits
- Demonstrate a strong interest in pursuing a career in the mineral exploration industry
- Demonstrate good communication skills and strong problem-solving abilities in their academic and non-academic work to date
- Be eager to learn and willing to participate in and take full advantage of this exceptional and exclusive opportunity. Please review the [S-IMEW 2025 Itinerary](#)
- Possess the maturity, self-discipline, and the ability to gain from, and contribute to, team-based activities
- Be a good representative of the academic institution
- Available from April 29 – May 14, 2026, inclusive.

I acknowledge and understand that the submission of this application is for the purpose of evaluation and determination of candidates to participate in S-IMEW. The awarding of a spot in the Workshop is competitive and subject to the sole discretion of the Selection committee and its members.

Student Signature: _____

Faculty Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



STUDENT-INDUSTRY MINERAL EXPLORATION WORKSHOP

April 29 – May 14, 2026

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS,
ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT
(hereinafter the “Release Agreement”)**

**BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT, YOU WILL WAIVE OR GIVE UP CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING
THE RIGHT TO SUE FOR NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT OR BREACH OF THE *OCCUPIERS’ LIABILITY ACT* (Ontario)
OR CLAIM COMPENSATION FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

***THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING FUTURE PARTICIPATION,
IN PDAC STUDENT-INDUSTRY MINERAL EXPLORATION WORKSHOP (S-IMEW) ACTIVITIES***

INITIAL

TO: **PROSPECTORS & DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**, and its governing board, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, agents, other participants, service providers, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for Workshop activities (all of whom are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Releasees”)

FROM: **Participant’s name (please print):** _____

DEFINITIONS

In this Release Agreement, the term “**Workshop**” shall include all activities, events and services provided, arranged, organized, conducted, sponsored or authorized by the Releasees as part of the PDAC Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (also known as S-IMEW) and shall include but is not limited to: classroom seminars and activities, field-based geoscience and mineral exploration exercises and activities, underground and surface mine tours, drill site tours, measuring geologic formations, collecting geologic samples, other geological activities, and other forms of educational mineral exploration activities, loading, unloading and travel to, from and around the designated classrooms, accommodation facilities, field locations and mine sites by motor vehicle, airplane, and/or boat.

In this Release Agreement, the term “**Workshop Sites**” means any and all classrooms, accommodation and accommodation facilities, service provider premises, dining facilities and locations, fields (including rugged and remote terrain), natural environments, mines, and any other designated site where the Workshop is conducted, and all routes of ingress and egress thereto and therefrom, by way of air, land or sea, as applicable.

In this Release Agreement, the term “**Negligence**” includes the failure by the Releasees to use such care as a reasonably prudent and careful person would use under similar circumstances, or breach of any other duty of care imposed by law.

ASSUMPTION OF RISKS – PERSONAL INJURY, MINING HAZARDS, FIELD HAZARDS, WEATHER CONDITIONS, ETC.

I am aware that the Workshop, which includes visiting an underground mine and/or surface mine, engaging in field-based geoscience and mineral exploration exercises and activities, transportation to and from the Workshop and the various Workshop Sites (by air, land and/or water), involve significant risks, dangers and hazards, including the risk of serious injury, illness, permanent paralysis and death. I acknowledge and accept that the Workshop Sites include inherently unstable environments, subject to changing conditions, adverse weather events, and uncontrolled, unmarked and uninspected terrain. The many risks, dangers and hazards associated with the Workshop and the Workshop Sites may include, but are not limited to: slips, trips, falls and injury while traversing rugged and remote terrain; muscular or skeletal injuries; aggravating pre-existing physical injuries, conditions or congenital defects; instability of underground and surface mines; dangers on water caused by natural forces or



by other vessels travelling through the area; encounters with dangerous flora and fauna; cliffs; trees; tree wells; tree stumps; forest dead fall; creeks; rocks; rockfall; rockbursts; boulders; holes and depressions on or below the rugged, remote and/or underground terrain; ground instability; variable and difficult weather and marine weather conditions; lightning; equipment malfunction or failure; impact or collision with other persons, vehicles or equipment; becoming lost or separated from the Workshop group; infectious diseases contracted through viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi which may be transmitted by direct or indirect contact; allergen exposure; marine vessel sinking; loss of balance or control; falling overboard; motion sickness; mine collapse; premature burial; entrapment by natural obstacles; limb amputation; loss of vision, hearing, taste and/or smell; reproductive damage; hypoxia; respiratory illness; flooding; suffocation; drowning; heat exhaustion; heat stroke; dehydration; exhaustion; hypothermia; frostbite; electrocution; explosions; fires; burns; brain and/or organ injury; neurological issues; airborne hazards and contaminants; chemical or hazardous material releases; negligence of other persons; and **NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES THE FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME OR WARN ME OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF THE WORKSHOP.** Communication at all or some of the Workshop Sites may be difficult, challenging or nearly impossible and in the event of an accident or illness, rescue, medical treatment and evacuation may not be available or may be delayed. I also understand that medical help may be a considerable distance from the Workshop Sites, and that while the Releasees will do everything that they are qualified to do in the event that I am injured or become ill, including seeking medical attention on my behalf, I understand that they are not trained medical professionals.

I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORKSHOP AND THE WORKSHOP SITES AND I FREELY ACCEPT AND FULLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of **THE RELEASEES** allowing me to participate in the Workshop, I hereby agree as follows:

- I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS** that I have or may in the future have against **THE RELEASEES** and **TO RELEASE THE RELEASEES** from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including permanent paralysis and death that I may suffer or that my next of kin may suffer as a result of my participation in the Workshop, **DUE TO ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF CONTRACT, OR BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE, INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE OWED UNDER THE OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY ACT (Ontario), ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGLIGENCE INCLUDES FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM OR WARN ME OF THE RISKS, DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE WORKSHOP.**
- TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES** from any and all liability for any property damage or personal injury to the Releasees and any third party resulting from my participation in the Workshop.
- This Release Agreement shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives, in the event of my death or incapacity.
- This Release Agreement and any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Release Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and no other jurisdiction.
- Any litigation involving the parties to this Release Agreement shall be brought solely within the City of Toronto and shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of Ontario located therein.

In entering this Release Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representations or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of the Workshop and/or the Workshop Sites, other than what is set forth in this Release Agreement.

I CONFIRM THAT I AM 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER AND I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT. I AM AWARE THAT BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT, I AM WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH I OR MY HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, ASSIGNS AND REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE AGAINST THE RELEASEES. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT SHALL APPLY TO ALL PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING FUTURE PARTICIPATION, IN THE WORKSHOP.

In case of accident, injury, or illness, I hereby authorize you to arrange for emergency medical care and to notify the person named below as my Emergency Contact.



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereby executes this Release Agreement as of this ____ day of _____, 202__.

Participant's signature _____

Date and City: _____

Witness's signature: _____

Witness's name (printed): _____

Emergency Contact's name: _____

Emergency Contact's telephone: _____

Emergency Contact's relationship to participant: _____

THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL, INITIALED, DATED, SIGNED, WITNESSED AND SUBMITTED TO PROSPECTORS & DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKSHOP.

Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada respects your privacy. By providing your or another person's personal information to Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada, you agree and confirm your authority from such other individual, to our collection, use and disclosure of such personal information in accordance with Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada's Privacy Policy and S-IMEW Privacy Policy.



PROSPECTORS &
DEVELOPERS
ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA



PDAC Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (S-IMEW)

Application Grading Rubric

Score	Advocacy	Transcript: Academics and Scholarship	Work Experience	Extra-Curricular and Volunteer
8-10	<p>Well thought out resume and cover letter, exceptionally written, and demonstrates a good understanding of S-IMEW</p> <p>Indicates strong passion for exploration</p> <p>Applicant's academic and professional goals clearly articulated. High-level use of vocabulary and word choice with no spelling or grammatical errors</p> <p>Faculty strongly supports the candidate's application</p>	<p>Applicant excels academically and demonstrates consistent progress toward completion of the program</p> <p>Applicant excels in earth science courses applicable to mineral exploration (igneous & metamorphic petrology, geochemistry, mineralogy, structural geology, economic geology)</p> <p>Recipient of merit scholarship(s)</p>	<p>Student has two or more summers/terms of geoscience work experience</p> <p>Student has taken on a diverse range of roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Student has shown growth in roles and responsibilities taken on from one year to the next</p>	<p>Student has a leadership role in one or more extra-curricular and/or volunteer activities</p> <p>Student demonstrates initiative and industry involvement via association membership or other</p>
5-7	<p>Well written resume and cover letter demonstrates an understanding of S-IMEW</p> <p>Has academic and professional goals related to exploration. Few spelling and grammatical errors, with a good use of vocabulary</p> <p>Faculty supports the candidate's application</p>	<p>Applicant has done well in earth science courses applicable to mineral exploration (igneous & metamorphic petrology, geochemistry, mineralogy, structural geology, economic geology)</p>	<p>Student has one summer/term of geoscience work experience</p> <p>Student has taken on a diverse range of roles and responsibilities</p>	<p>Student is involved in extra-curricular and/or volunteer activity</p> <p>Student industry involvement via association membership or other</p>
2-4	<p>Good resume and cover letter with career goals stated but unclear</p> <p>Minimal spelling and grammatical errors, low-level use of vocabulary</p> <p>Faculty weakly supports the candidate's application</p>	<p>Steady academic progress</p> <p>Applicant has some earth science courses applicable to mineral exploration (igneous & metamorphic petrology, geochemistry, mineralogy, structural geology, economic geology)</p>	<p>Student has work experience</p>	<p>Student has participated in extra-curricular and/or volunteer activities</p>
0-1	<p>Resume and cover letter is poorly written, student provides no clear career goals</p> <p>Many grammatical, or punctuation errors with a poor use of vocabulary</p> <p>Faculty weakly supports the candidate's application and provides no insight into candidate's merit</p>	<p>Slow academic progress</p> <p>Weak background in earth sciences courses applicable to mineral exploration</p>	<p>No work experience</p>	<p>No extra-curricular or volunteer activities mentioned in application</p>