

THE PROSPECTOR

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CANADA ROCKS

.....Altius Minerals (ALS:CDNX) is pursuing its usual program of divide and conquer. It has interests vested in numerous properties in various joint ventures spreading the downside risk and minimizing its expenditures during the dicey and expensive exploration stages. In fact, Altius reports that on average it only pays 20% of the exploration costs on its many joint venture properties. The policy has worked well for the company in the past and management, lead by Brian Dalton, is continuing it now. Already in 2000 the company has announced a nickel exploration agreement with Billiton and the acquisition of 25 sq. km of the Butler's Pond property. The success of the policy with investors is made evident by the 52 week highs set by the stock price in recent weeks.

The new Canadian Venture Exchange (up to 3,364 in Feb), the TSE (at 9,356) and the Canadian economy are all roaring along. An undeniable part of that growth is being fuelled by investor confidence in mining in Canada as commodity prices continue an upward climb and the means finally make the ends possible for Canadian juniors. An obvious addendum to this list would be the interest in almost every one of the resource companies (and their stocks!) that are looking for PGMs in Ontario and Quebec.....