

interest in expanding this approach to other areas of the province.

**Captains and Coaches Meeting**- was held in Kamloops this week to discuss any concerns with last years provincial mine rescue competition, and to begin planning for next years competition in Campbell River, starting June 9, 2001. Two interesting presentations: a) the automatic external defibrillator for use by airlines, mines, etc. where first aid may not be readily available due to logistics; b) update on gas testing and breathing equipment manufactured by Draeger of Germany.

**2000 South-Central Exploration Review** - Early estimates indicate about **\$3.5 million in spending in 2000, up 40% from 1999** but still well below the \$21 million spent in 1996. We forecast about **20,000 metres drilling by year end, up 67% from 1999, but well below 120,000 metres in 1996.** 2001 should be better due to increased interest from junior companies, who cite positive factors such as the recent exciting discoveries, the upcoming provincial election, the low cost of working in BC vs. other jurisdictions, excellent access and data availability, and federal and provincial tax credit schemes.

**Spire Copper-Zinc Discovery (Imperial Metals Corp.)** - This brand new copper-zinc massive sulphide discovery is located north of Revelstoke and only about 7 km southwest of the dormant Goldstream mine/mill complex. Similar to Goldstream ore in appearance, grade and stratigraphic setting, the new mineralization was tested in late September with 7 drillholes totalling 720 m. A news release with assay results should come out next week.

**Northwest Copper (Jaguar International)** - 4 km IP completed on this copper prospect located west of Taseiko Lake.

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**Clearwater Platinum (Cusac Gold Mines Ltd.)** - Partial results of soil and chip samples released for this prospect located southwest of Little Fort. They show quite anomalous nickel, cobalt and chromium with "notable" platinum. Additional gridwork, geophysics, geochem and trenching is planned.

**Afton (DRC Resources Corp.)** - the drill has been moved to near the northwest rim of the pit and is now drilling on hole 2000-18, in the opposite direction from the previous holes. Holes should now be about 2000 feet deep but will allow the company to better test along strike to the southwest. Approx 8500 m in 20 drill holes (\$800,000 spending) should be done by year end, making this the largest project in South-Central Region this year.

**Fox Zinc-Copper Discovery (Gitennes Exploration Ltd.)** - A \$60,000 airborne EM/magnetics survey was flown during the week of Oct 30. A Notice of Work for a winter IP survey and drill program is expected shortly 900 to 1000 claim units are rumoured to have been staked by Gitennes and related companies **Fjordland Minerals Ltd.** (CDNX, Vic Tanaka, Pres.) and **Platinova A/S** (TSE, Gren Thomas, Pres.) but only about 500-600 units have been recorded to date. Numerous inquiries from other junior companies (**Redstar Resources, Xplorer Gold, Golcliff Resources**) looking to acquire properties in the belt. Cathro conducted field examinations with **Paul Schiarizza** (GSB) and **John Moore** (GSC/SFU) between Nov 2-4 and collected information which will form the basis of a compilation map on "Potential for Polymetallic Massive Sulphide Deposits in the Southern Nicola Belt", a poster and rock display for Round-up, and a descriptive paper in "Exploration in BC - 2000".

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