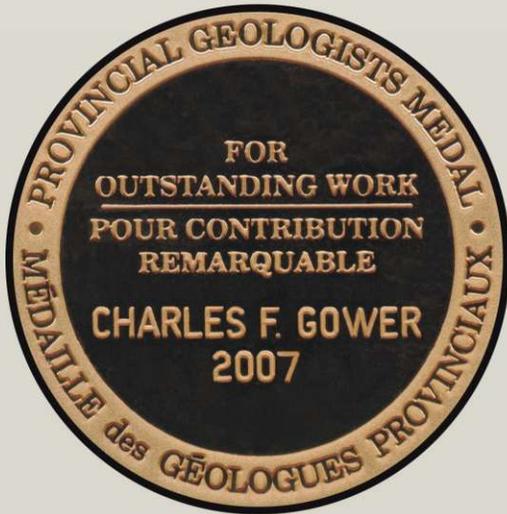




2007 PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS MEDALLIST



Charles F. Gower
Geological Survey
Department of Natural Resources
Newfoundland & Labrador

September 24, 2007
Whistler, British Columbia

CITATION

Charles F. Gower

Excellence in any scientific pursuit requires energy, intellectual rigour, stamina and passion. Dr. Charles F. Gower of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Natural Resources, has exhibited all of these characteristics and more during his 28 years as a provincial geoscientist. While 'provincial' accurately describes the jurisdictional nature of Charlie's field work, it does not convey the national and international impact of his mapping and research on our current understanding of Proterozoic geology. It goes without saying that Charlie is well known and highly regarded for his meticulous work in his home province but it's revealing to know that letters of support for his nomination for the Provincial Geologists Medal have come from prominent geoscientists in six provinces, five countries and three continents. Excellence travels well!

Charlie Gower's task over nearly three decades of geological research has been to map the eastern half of the Grenville Province in Labrador. In this regard he has been tireless, covering more than 100,000 square kilometres of complex geological terrane and producing more than 48 government reports and maps, more than 50 refereed journal papers and conference proceedings, and more than 50 poster and oral presentations. Charlie's prodigious output and collaborations with other researchers have led to a clearer understanding of the period of Earth history between 1 billion and 2 billion years ago, including plate-tectonic assemblies that show the Proterozoic continuity of Canada's Grenville Province with rocks in Scandinavia and South America. These reconstructions are not the result of fanciful arm waving but are

always based on Charlie's rigorous and indispensable field work, complemented by his successful collaborations with geochronologists, geochemists and geophysicists.

These fundamental breakthroughs in understanding the geological evolution of the Grenville Province and the Proterozoic Eon also include Charlie's elucidation of the region's metallogeny. Following a year (1990-1991) as Guest Researcher at Sweden's University of Gothenburg, and drawing on his trans-Atlantic correlations, he showed how Baltic Shield mineral deposits have relevance for exploration in southeastern Labrador. This and subsequent work have identified new and prospective mineralizing environments in Labrador, attracting important staking and exploration investment.

Charlie Gower is considered by his peers as one of the preeminent government geoscientists in Canada today. Apart from his obvious scientific acumen, he is also cited for his exquisite presentations (many as a sought-after keynote speaker), his leadership in the national and international geoscience communities (for example, the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, and the International Geoscience Programme), his honest and exacting approach to his work, and his gentlemanly character. Charlie's impressive abilities are nicely summarized by Dr. Tom Krogh, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto: "I am truly in awe of his intellect, perseverance and insight, and can think of no one better qualified for the [Provincial Geologists Medal]."

Medal presented by
Honourable Kevin Krueger
British Columbia
Minister of State for Mining