

THE COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS

By A. Sutherland Brown
Chairman

The Committee of Provincial Geologists was created at the St. John's, Newfoundland, meeting of the Provincial Mines' Ministers in 1976. The Chief Geologists or equivalent of each Provincial Survey or Mineral Resources Divisions comprise the Committee and the Territories send participating observers. The committee although relatively young has already an established presence in the Canadian geoscience scene. It is an associate member of the Canadian Geoscience Council and it has led to the formation of a related body, the National Geological Surveys Committee, which deals exclusively with Federal/Provincial survey concerns. It is also having an impact on standardization, technology transfer, and exploration liaison.

OBJECTIVES

The detailed objectives of the Committee are as follows:

- Encourage disclosure of mineral exploration data through appropriate legislation.
- Promote standardization and simplification of provincial mining lands legislation and regulations.
- Promote improvement in provincial storage and retrieval capability of exploration and mineral deposit data.
- Ensure optimum availability of mineral resource lands with high potential for exploration and development.
- Monitor trends in exploration, identify the appropriate levels of exploration, and recommend measures to foster this adequate level of activity to maintain and enhance the relative contribution of the minerals industry to the economy.
- Foster research leading to improved efficiency and effectiveness of exploration and geoscience surveys.
- Identify measures to improve the government geoscience data base in support of mineral exploration.
- Provide information on provincial survey organization and activities as a basis for program planning.
- Provide a forum for discussion with GSC, University, and Industry to resolve problems in respect of geoscience surveys and initiate cooperative programs.
- Provide liaison with and/or representation to other geoscience groups in Canada on behalf of the Mines' Ministers.

OPERATION

The committee normally meets twice a year, before the Mines' Ministers Conference and the Prospectors and Developers Meeting. There is no secretariat so that work is spread out to staffs of all the surveys. Certain provinces have inherited regular roles in data assembly, review, and processing. The role of Secretary and Chairman rotate yearly. The Secretary is the Chief Geologist or equivalent of the province that is host to the Mines' Ministers Conference but takes office after the Conference. The following year he becomes Chairman.

OUTPUT

The Committee now routinely produces each year summaries useful to industry and ourselves including:

- Organization charts showing professional and support staff members and telephone numbers of senior personnel.

- Expenditure summaries for each survey.
- Schedules of open houses.
- Drill core storage reports.

The Committee has also sponsored symposia and produced special reports. A symposium was initiated and sponsored on Predictive Metallogeny at the GAC/MAC Annual Meeting in May 1982 in cooperation with the Mineral Deposit Division of GAC. This was done to encourage more open discussion in industry of methods of exploration planning and, in government, of resource assessment. This symposium was recently published by *Geoscience Canada*, thus completing the project and making it generally available.

An example of a recent special study is the review and summary of Mineral Land Use Planning in the provinces and territories published in this journal. The study includes a table showing the percentage of Crown land and of land alienation that excludes or restricts exploration. The Committee has been concerned that the growth of single use alienation presents a threat to the mineral industry in as much as the first parameter in the equation of mineral potential is the available surface area for exploration.

Some of the data produced by the Committee has been incorporated in the *Proceedings of the Mines' Ministers Conference* but this to some degree lacks timeliness and has restricted distribution. Other products have been and will continue to be published in *Geoscience Canada* and elsewhere. However, the Committee wished to make its data readily available in a cheap and timely manner on demand. As a result it has initiated the *Provincial Geologists Journal* to be published each January. The journal was suggested by Ontario but compilation and production will be the responsibility of Alberta. All provinces contribute photo-ready copy and some are responsible for compilation of specific sections.

LIAISON

The Committee has an important role in liaison both between the provinces, with the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and with industry. Central to our role is an attempt to bring as much uniformity between provinces in geoscience and to some degree in mineral title as the diversity of the nation allows. We also hope that new technology will quickly be transferred between provinces and that we may move in concert in many future decisions.

Liaison with Federal EMR is accomplished both through the CPG and also the National Geological Surveys Committee on subjects as diverse as Federal/Provincial agreements, exploration technology, and geoscience standards.

Cooperation and liaison with industry are an important aspect of the Committee's work. It has taken the form of meetings sponsored by the Committee with representatives of exploration and mining associations to consider the desirability and criteria for exploration drill core storage programs. More recently, initiatives of the Prospectors and Developers Association have resulted in excellent information exchange at their annual Conference including a session on provincial geoscience and a room displaying posters of recent work of all the provinces. The most recent aspect of cooperation has been the establishment of a Mineral Exploration Liaison Committee by Canadian exploration and mining associations principally to interface with the Committee of Provincial Geologists. This met with us on an *ad hoc* basis in March 1983 and as a formalized body at the Mines' Ministers Conference in Regina in September 1983. In addition to facilitating the provincial contribution at the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference, the new committee will meet with us to provide guidance on industry's needs and feedback on our projects. It will also support in a variety of ways provincial survey endeavours. In addition it will help establish technical liaison committees in each province that desires one for more direct input and feedback. These recent moves promise to provide provincial surveys with much better focus for their work in the future.