

THE COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1986

It is ten years since the Committee of Provincial Geologists was formed at the Meeting of the Provincial Mines Ministers in St. John's, Newfoundland. The Chief Geologists or equivalent from each provincial and territorial Survey of Mineral Resources Division comprise the Committee. In anticipation of future devolution of mineral resource responsibilities for the northern territories, the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments were given observer status in 1985.

The Committee provides a forum for discussion of those geological and mineral resource exploration and development issues that lie within the jurisdiction of the Provinces, and through contacts with private sector mineral oriented organizations maintains an effective and highly useful liaison with most of the components of the mineral industry. The Committee, through its individual members, is a major component of the National Geological Survey's Committee, through which a formal communication channel has been established with the Geological Survey of Canada. Committee representation on the Geoscience Council of Canada provides an effective window to many other facets of the earth science community in Canada. Active participation in the annual convention of the Prospectors and Developers' Association is maintained through a Provincial Day, during which activities in the provinces and regions as well as their resource potential are discussed, and through the Provincial Room in which each province and territory advertises to the mining and mineral exploration community activities and potential within its domain.

The Committee meets twice a year: in March, just prior to the Prospectors and Developers' Convention; and usually in September in conjunction with the Provincial Mines Ministers' Conference. Various mining, exploration and related mineral industry groups and federal agencies are invited to discuss issues of current interest with the Committee.

A topic of high priority has been the maintenance, expansion and enhancement of Canada's geoscience data base. Mineral exploration and development, land use planning, and geo-technical hazard evaluation, a growing concern as our country becomes more and more urbanized, are all dependent for success of this data base. Under the current economic restraint that affects all levels of the Canadian economy, the need to enhance the effectiveness of all geoscientific investigations, and to preserve and ultimately to make available both the results and data generated by such investigations has become more apparent. Thus, among the topics of concern to the Committee, ones which are regularly discussed with private industry, academic and federal communities are:

- (1) Computerization of the various types of data files that have been built up, and how these can be made available to potential users.
- (2) Capture and preservation of geological data, including drill core, produced by various industry activities, and data produced by geochemical and geophysical surveys.
- (3) Review of government supported geological programs to enhance their usefulness and relevance to private and public sector needs and to avoid, as far as possible, non-productive duplication of work.

To further these goals at the individual survey level, Mineral Exploration Liaison Committees have been formed to improve communications between the various provincial geoscience organizations and their client communities. Most of these committees are made up of industry and academic representatives.

The Committee published Volume 3 of its Journal in March 1986. This Journal, by publicizing the work of the Committee and of the member organizations, provides a vehicle to acquaint the many client groups of provincial surveys with basic information on provincial survey operations.

Achievements of Committee of Provincial Geologists in 1986

- 1) A survey of geological data files was conducted to ascertain the status and variety of such data bases and their availability to industry and other public users.
- 2) A survey of Mineral Development Agreements was completed in order to share experiences and expertise with these programs and ensure there will be no unnecessary duplication of studies.
- 3) Consultations continued to develop and ensure the use of standard geological map symbols.
- 4) A survey of the methods used in the discovery of Canadian mineral deposits was begun. First results for mines that began production during the past 20 years will be published in the next Committee Journal.
- 5) A Provincial Room, at which all provincial and territorial geological surveys displayed their products and advertised their current activities, was held at the March Prospectors and Developers Convention in Toronto. More than 1500 people viewed these exhibits.

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