

COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 1996

With the signing of the Inter-Governmental Geoscience Accord (see page 33) at the 1996 Mines Ministers Conference in Yellowknife, the Committee of Provincial Geologists entered a new phase of codified relations with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). The next few years will see workshops and discussion groups designed to ensure that the Accord works as it was planned to. Monitoring the effectiveness of the Accord and development of systems and methods to ensure its effectiveness will be undertaken by the national Geological Surveys Committee on which sit representatives of the Geological Survey of Canada and the Provincial and Territorial Geological surveys. As well, bi-lateral accords between the GSC and Provincial Geological Surveys and tri-lateral accords between the GSC, territorial governments and Indian and Northern Affairs geological agencies are being developed to elaborate the Geoscience Accord to take cognizance of the particular needs of each jurisdiction of the country.

Needs workshops, considered to be a fundamental part of rationalizing geoscientific research in Canada are planned for most jurisdictions and in fact have been recently completed for British Columbia, the Yukon, and Nova Scotia. These workshops solicit input from the numerous users of geological survey data including environmentalists, government planners, mineral and hydrocarbon explorationists. The ever increasing complexity of our modern industrial society and the steadily increasing demands for earth material to build its required infrastructure and to provide for the needs of the country's expanding population will require that similar needs workshops be repeated every few years to ensure that the geo-survey organizations do not lose sight of their client's needs.

The needs workshops, and the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord together with the bi-lateral and tri-lateral accords that are being developed under its umbrella, are designed to improve the effectiveness of government geoscience in Canada by defining a new collaborative relationship between Provincial and Territorial Surveys on the one hand, and the Geological Survey of Canada on the other. The Accord stresses the complementary roles and responsibilities of the geoscience agencies and is expected to lead to a better utilization of scarce resources in the future.

Exciting mineral discoveries of the last few years in Canada have revived the exploration sector which is now attracting very significant amounts of venture capital. Many discoveries can be directly related to government survey work and the new mines that can be expected to be developed on these discoveries will require significantly more background geoscience data to ensure environmentally sound operations.

*William Padgham
Chair, Committee of Provincial Geologists
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