

Committee of Provincial Geologists Chairperson's Report 2000

The Committee of Provincial Geologists (CPG) is an organization of senior executives of the provincial and territorial geological surveys.

Under the British North America Act, 1867, minerals are a provincial responsibility. Therefore, all the provincial and territorial geological surveys have a strong service and product focus in support of the mineral industry. In addition, the provincial and territorial geological surveys function as the principal source of basic geological knowledge source for their jurisdictional governments' executive, legislative, and judicial branches, in addition to the mineral industry. Some provincial and territorial geological surveys have regulatory responsibilities for water and oil and gas.

In the spirit of cooperation, CPG works closely with our federal counterpart, the Geological Survey of Canada, to capitalize on the complementary and differing mandates. This cooperation, guided by the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord (September 1996), enhances the competitiveness and economic and social well-being of each respective jurisdiction and Canada through the documentation of, and access to, high quality geoscience data and knowledge.

Key activities addressed by, or affecting, Committee of Provincial Geologists during the 2000 calendar year include:

Changes to CPG:

Jan Boon served the function of NGSC Liaison until fall 2000. In the fall 2000, Jan Boon accepted the position of Director General, Sedimentary and Marine Geoscience Branch. Jan was instrumental in moving the NGSC agenda forward and his selfless efforts are much appreciated by all CPG, especially the Chair of CPG. Jan Boon's efforts as the NGSC Liaison coordinator follow upon the excellent federal – provincial relationships built by Mike Cherry who served the predecessor function for several years. This function is critical to ensure communication and awareness between the managers and scientific staff of the GSC and provincial/territorial geological surveys. Efforts are underway to fill this vacancy.

David Scott replaced Gordon MacKay as the CPG Representative for Nunavut. David is the Chief Geologist, Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office.

Alain Simard joined CPG as the Directeur p.i., Direction de la recherche géologique, Ministère des Ressources naturelles, Gouvernement du Québec. Alain replaces Jean-Louis Caty who served the CPG very well.

Ric Syme joined CPG in the fall in his capacity as Acting Director, Manitoba Geological Survey, Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines. Ric replaces Christine Kaszycki who assumed the role as Assistant Deputy Minister.

Provincial Geologists Medal:

At the September 2000 Energy and Mines Ministers Conference in Toronto, the Provincial Geologists Medal was presented to Sean O'Brien, a geoscientist with the Geological Survey of the Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy.

Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord (IGA):

The first agreement was signed in September 1996. This five-year agreement expires in September 2001. A draft of the second IGA was developed by September 2000. Additional work on the language of the final agreement is required in an effort to achieve buy-in from all provincial-territorial and federal governments.

Cooperative mapping Strategy:

CPG was active on an industry-led task force charged by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Minerals Industry (IGWG) to investigate the state of the Canadian geoscience knowledge base, alternative funding arrangements for geological surveys, and the effort required to arrest the decline of the Canadian geoscience knowledge base.

The Cooperative Mapping Strategy (CMS) was presented at the 57th Mines Ministers' Conference held in Toronto, Ontario, in September 2000, as per the recommendation by the National Geological Surveys Committee, in consultation with industry, as the solution to address the decline in Canadian geoscience knowledge base. The goal of the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies is to ensure that enhancing the geoscience knowledge base will play a key role in re-establishing Canada as a pre-eminent global destination for exploration dollars and in providing a sound basis for resource stewardship.

Implementation of the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategy is predicated on the availability of new funding, and it is envisaged that both levels of government will make equal contributions. While different funding ratios may be negotiated, both levels of government will provide new funding where possible.

Targeted Geoscience Initiative:

CPG worked with GSC to develop projects to deliver during summer 2000 under the Targeted Geoscience Initiative.

In the spring 2000 federal budget, the federal government announced a \$15 million allocation assigned to the Targeted Geoscience Initiative. This funding represented an initial federal investment in support of geoscience studies and the Cooperative Mapping Strategy.

Key elements of TGI included cooperation between provinces/territories and the GSC, joint project delivery, and stakeholder advice key to federal government programming.

A list of 2000-2001 projects funded under TGI is available on the internet at: <http://www.NRCan.gc.ca/css/imb/hqlib/200054ea.htm>

Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network (CGKN) Highlights:

- Alain Simard accepted the role as CPG lead on the CGKN portfolio;
- CGKN updates are posted at <http://cgkn.net>
- In September 2000, NGSC approved the establishment of a CGKN Secretariat, coordinated by John Broome (Head, Earth Science Sector GeoInformatics / CGKN Secretariat, ESS-Info, Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada. The 3-person Secretariat is responsible for coordination of CGKN activities and projects, liaison with GeoConnections, marketing and communication, maintenance of the CGKN Home Page, and CGKN financial administration. The Secretariat consists of John Broome (GSC), James Rupert (GSC), and a rotating provincial member, currently Eric Grunsky (AGS). The Secretariat reports to NGSC and the Steering Committee.
- CGKN prepared a business plan;
- GeoConnections is considering support for CGKN – the preliminary response to the CGKN proposal is very favourable;
- CGKN supports the On-line Geoscience Data Catalog Project, a comprehensive catalogues containing metadata describing all government geoscience data;
- The federal-provincial CGKN Data Integration Working Group addresses solutions for technical issues related to CGKN Implementation.

Meetings with GSC:

CPG met in Toronto in March 2000 (PDAC) and in Toronto in September 2000 (Energy and Mines Ministers Conference). Each of these meetings involved, or immediately preceded, a meeting that included our colleagues from the Geological Survey of Canada (Natural Resources Canada) under the auspices of the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC).

Committee Work:

CPG members represent the interests of the provincial/territorial geological surveys and constituents on several committees, including, but not limited to: the federal Minister's National Advisory Board on Earth Sciences, Canadian Mining Industry Research Organization, Lithoprobe, and the Canadian Geoscience Council.

Provincial Geologists Journal:

Once again, British Columbia professionally produced the 2000 Provincial Geologists Journal. The Chair extends his gratitude to Mr. Brian Grant for his patience and persistence in assembling the Provincial Geologists Journal.

*Andy Fyon
CPG Chair, 2000*