

Committee of Provincial Geologists Chairperson's Report 2003

The Committee of Provincial Geologists (CPG) comprises representatives of the 12 (9 provinces and 3 territorial) government geological survey organizations across Canada. The Committee was established in 1976 as a forum that would encourage and promote actions by governments in support of mineral exploration and development, and provide liaison with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), universities, industry to resolve issues and initiate cooperative programs, and act on behalf of Mines Ministers.

The CPG maintains a close relationship with the GSC through meetings of the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC), which comprises the members of CPG and senior representatives of the GSC. The meetings of both committees ensure that government geoscience activities across Canada are carried out in a collaborative and coordinated manner, thereby maximizing their utility for all users of geoscience information.

2003 Meetings

CPG and NGSC met twice 2003, in conjunction with the March annual meeting of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada and with the annual conference of Energy and Mines Ministers, held in September. Key issues discussed at these meetings are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

TARGETED GEOSCIENCE INITIATIVE, PHASE 2

The federal government announced in its 2003 budget that the Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI), which had operated from 2000 to 2003 with \$15 million in new funding, would be extended for 2 years, with an additional \$10 million in funding. Phase 2 of TGI is focused on geoscience activities to stimulate energy exploration. By mid-year, 17 projects had been approved and started: all are collabo-



Committee of Provincial Geologists during field trip in the fall of 2003.



Photo taken during the NGSC taken on our field trip in the fall of 2003.

rations of the GSC with provincial and territorial geological surveys and/or industry. Every province and territory has at least one project in TGI 2.

GSC ISSUES-DRIVEN PROGRAM

The change within the GSC, begun in 2002, from a program based largely on geoscience disciplines to one based on issues and priorities of the federal government continues to present challenges and opportunities to cooperation between the provinces and territories and the GSC. An important challenge to CPG and NGSC is to find commonalities among the different political and fiscal regimes in which member agencies operate that will permit each survey to participate in collaborative initiatives while still meeting its own priorities. Recent initiative by NGSC, such as the development and renewal of the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord and the development of the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies, indicate that these challenges will be met. Many of the opportunities for collaboration in the near future are being identified through current joint initiatives. Most important of those in 2003 are the Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies and the Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network.

COOPERATIVE GEOLOGICAL MAPPING STRATEGIES

Mines Ministers agreed to a proposed Cooperative Geological Mapping Strategies Across Canada (CGMS) at their 2000 conference. The document calls for increased funding by governments for geoscience mapping. The ability of governments to meet this requirement has, to date, been mixed. The federal government provided new funding for the first phase of the Targeted Geoscience Initiative, which operated from 2000 to 2003, and renewed that funding for a 2-year second phase of TGI. Several provinces and territories have also received additional funding for geoscience activities.

During 2003, the GSC accelerated its planning for the federal component of the CGMS, as part of its issues-driven Consolidating Canada's Geoscience Knowledge program. This initiative by the GSC included definition of federal priorities for geoscience mapping and extensive communication with the provincial and territorial surveys to look for areas of overlapping priorities that could be met through projects done in collaboration. Considerable progress was made during the year toward definition of an operational framework for a national CGMS. Regional workshops across Canada, involving federal, provincial and territorial agencies responsible for geoscience related to minerals, energy and public

good, are planned for 2004 to continue this work.

CANADIAN GEOSCIENCE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

The Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network (CGKN) is an initiative of the NGSC to make the information holdings of Canada's government geoscience surveys discoverable through a single portal on the Internet. Work is continuing to integrate key jurisdictional holdings into distributed, national, seamless databases. A primary objective of the initiative is to develop and implement a national, Internet-based, data catalogue with comprehensive search capabilities.

A highlight of CGKN activities in 2003 was a national workshop, held in Toronto in conjunction with the March meetings of CPG and NGSC. The workshop comprised sessions to resolve technical issues and to discuss policy issues related to the CGKN. The latter sessions brought managerial and technical personnel together to develop a common understanding of the goals and limitations of the CGKN initiative. The workshop was very productive in resolving technical issues, and will be repeated in 2004.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Provincial Geologists Medal

The Provincial Geologists Medal for 2003 was awarded to Dr. Peter Barnett of the Ontario Geological Survey at the Energy and Mines Ministers' Con-

ference in Halifax. The medal citation is provided elsewhere in this volume.

Liaison Activities

Gary Delaney of Saskatchewan Energy and Mines represented the Committee on the federal Minister's National Advisory Board on the Earth Sciences. Mike Cherry and Ric Syme represented provincial and territorial interests on steering committees for the GSC's issues-driven Consolidating Canada's Geoscience Knowledge and Northern Resource Development programs, respectively. The Committee benefitted from the participation in its meetings by Dr. Bill Shilts, Chief, Illinois State Geological Survey. Dr. Shilts provided liaison between the Committee of Provincial Geologists and the Association of American State Geologists.

Provincial Geologists Journal

The Committee of Provincial Geologists gratefully acknowledges the dedication of Brian Grant and Dave Lefebure of the British Columbia Geological Survey to the production of this and preceding volumes of the Provincial Geologists Journal.

Mike E Cherry
Chairperson
Committee of Provincial Geologists