



Citation for JoAnne Nelson

JoAnne Nelson is an exceptional scientist, mentor, and teacher who synthesizes research at many scales that has led to a career of innovative and insightful studies on the tectonics and metallogeny of the northern Cordillera, as related through more than 125 publications that include geological maps, bulletins, and peer-reviewed papers.

JoAnne Nelson began her career in 1976 as a high school teacher in Masset on Haida Gwaii off the west coast of British Columbia. She moved on, working for eight years as a geologist for various exploration companies based in Vancouver. In 1986, JoAnne joined the British Columbia Geological Survey where she undertook bedrock mapping and the study of mineral deposits in the northwestern part of the Province. She continues to work in the rugged Coast Mountains and over the past 15 years she has been the co-organizer and British Columbia's Lead Scientist in, first, the "Ancient Pacific Margin" and, second, the "Edges" co-operative research projects that involve geologists from the Geological Survey of Canada, the Yukon Geological Survey, the United States Geological Survey and several universities. Her involvement in these projects gives her exceptional knowledge of the geology, tectonics, and metallogeny of a vast area of western North America. In addition to her many maps, bulletins, and annual reports of fieldwork, she has published several "big-picture" papers that synthesize the tectonic and metallogenic history of the Canadian Cordillera. She is also the co-author of a book aimed at the general public called "The Geology of British Columbia: A Journey through Time".

JoAnne's accomplishments were formally recognized in 2013 when she was listed in the top "100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining" by the United Kingdom's Standard Bank. In 2015 she received the "Gold Pick" Award from the Kamloops Exploration Group in recognition of "outstanding services and contributions to the minerals industry". In 2017 she was given a "Special Tribute" by the Association for Mineral Exploration in BC for her decades of distinguished work in British Columbia. The breadth of her contributions to northern Cordilleran geology, tectonics, and mineral deposits, together with her involvement in collaborative projects with many of the most insightful "big picture" thinkers make JoAnne Nelson a most deserving candidate for the 2017 Provincial and Territorial Geologists Medal.