

THE COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS

BY JOHN B. HAMILTON

Chairman - 1984

The Committee of Provincial Geologists was formally established in 1976 at the 33rd annual meeting of the Provincial Ministers' of Mines in St. John's, Newfoundland. The committee is a successor to a Task Force on the submission of Exploration Data that had been established 4 years earlier at the 29th annual meeting in Edmonton. This Task Force - chaired by Quebec and with a representative from each province reported to the Mines Ministers Conference in 1973 and again in 1974. It thereafter remained dormant until, at the St. John's meeting, it was reactivated as the standing sub-committee of Provincial Geologists under Committee #1. Following the structural changes that took place in the conference at the Victoria meeting in 1981 the committee was given its present name and status.

The committee consists of the directors of Geological Surveys or their equivalents in each of the provinces and territories. Meetings are held regularly twice a year - once at the annual Ministers' of Mines Meeting and again in the spring in association with the Prospectors and Developers Association meeting in Toronto. The committee's mandate in brief is "to coordinate geological affairs between the provinces, promote uniformity where this is desirable and provide scientific and resource liaison with industry in regard to exploration and development".

Activities of the committee during the year arose directly out of this mandate. Discussions took place between us and representatives of the Geological Survey of Canada, the Resource Supply and Information Branch, EMR, the Geological Association of Canada, the Yukon Chamber of Mines, the Canadian Geoscience Council and the Mineral Exploration Liaison Committee of the Prospectors and Developers Association. A broad spectrum of matters relating to earth science and mineral exploration and development were considered including: drill core management, exploration statistics, mineral exploration research, map standards, publication policies in each of the provinces, provincial participation in the annual PDA meeting, existing provincial exploration incentives, federal-provincial mineral agreements, in addition to many other topics.

One of the most important activities of the committee lies in information exchange and promotion, and to this end, a provincial program was again this past year organized at the PDA meeting in Toronto. The recent work of all the provincial and territorial surveys were presented there in the form of poster displays and several committee-sponsored papers were presented as part of the PDA general program.

The response to the recommendation of the Committee of Provincial Geologists that technical liaison committees be established in each of the provinces has been excellent. At present such committees now exist or are in the process of being formed in nearly all provinces and territories. While the role of these committees varies from province to province the common purpose of each is to provide guidance and suggestions to the respective provincial surveys on the types of research and projects that would be most effective for mineral development.

For several years the committee has been interested in establishing liaison with our counterparts in the United States, the Association of American State Geologists in order to discuss areas of common concern, for example, matters such as the coordination of geological survey activities across respective provincial and state borders. This year a representative of our Committee was invited to attend and address the Annual State Geologists meeting in Duluth, Minn.

Further future contact between our groups is planned.

Several changes have occurred in the committee membership during the year. Ed Pye (Ontario) and Atholl Sutherland Brown (British Columbia) have retired. Dr. Pye has been succeeded by Vic Milne but at the time of writing a permanent British Columbia representative has not yet been appointed. Grant Mossop (Alberta) has resigned from the Committee having taken on new responsibilities at the Alberta Geological Survey. His replacement has yet to be named.