

THE COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS

Chairman's Report, 1991

As in previous years the Committee has met twice in 1991. The first of these meetings, at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Annual Meeting, March 24, 1991, provided an excellent forum for discussion of geoscience, and mineral resource and development issues with representatives of the mineral exploration industry.

This meeting also provides an opportunity for focussed information transfer and promotion to a major client group of the provincial surveys. Recent geoscientific work of the provinces and territories was displayed for three days in the Provincial room at the convention. The Committee also published Volume 8 of the Provincial Geologists Journal, which was released at the March meeting. The Journal provides information on highlights of the provincial programs, organizational structures, budgets and program outputs, and reports on the work of the committee. In addition, the convention once again featured a Provincial day in which a half day of the sessions was dedicated to the presentation of papers by provincial staff. These papers provided reviews of the provincial exploration scene or highlighted interesting exploration or development opportunities which a province wished to promote. The papers selected by the committee for the "Provincial Activities" session were:

- The Ontario Bureau of Mines: A 100-Year Prospect – Hon. G. Pouliot, V.G. Milne
- Financial Assistance to Prospecting: Quebec's Recent Experience – Jean-Pierre Lalonde
- Mt. Milligan Success Highlights Alkaline Suite Porphyry Deposits: B.C.'s New Gold-Copper Giants – V.A. Preto and J.L. Nelson
- A Possible Genetic Link Between Carboniferous Tectonics and Metallic Mineral Occurrences in Nova Scotia – R.J. Ryan and R.C. Boehner
- Rare Metals and Rare Earths in Labrador – R. Miller
- A New Base Metal Discovery in the Siluro-Devonian Tobique Belt of New Brunswick – R.A. Wilson

The second meeting of the Committee, on September 22, 1991, immediately preceded the Mines Ministers Conference in Halifax. A major objective of the Provincial Geologists is the development and maintenance of coordination between the provinces and the Geological Survey of Canada, to maximize the synergy of geoscientific programs, target limited program resources efficiently, and to minimize duplication of effort across the country.

Considerable strides have been made in the two years since the Committee recommended in its 1989 brief to the Mines Ministers, that formal mechanisms be established to promote coordinated planning and cooperative operation between the provincial and federal surveys. Memoranda of Understanding, formalizing program planning coordination are in place or in development with most provinces. The integration and complementary aspects of the new round of mineral development agreements has benefited significantly from extensive co-planning and an enhanced collaborative spirit. Concurrently, and facilitated by these formal programs, NATMAP projects involving interprovincial and federal participation are being developed.

The provincial surveys also continue to liaise with the Geological Survey of Canada through the National Geological Survey Committee and in 1991 a federal-provincial task group formed by the Committee completed a "Guide to Aeromagnetic Specifications and Contracts" report.

The Committee of Provincial Geologists was formally established by the Mines Ministers in 1976, and the present Committee owes a deep debt of gratitude to the original members, for establishing credibility and setting a sound course for the group by their dedication and hard work. The Committee was saddened by the loss early this year of Dr. Andre F. Laurin, a spirited, intelligent and very amiable man, who as a founding member, spearheaded many of the Committee's early initiatives and continued as an active mentor and friend until his death.