

## **COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, 1995**

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The Committee of Provincial Geologists (CPG) was almost wholly preoccupied in 1995 with the formulation of a geoscience accord between the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the provincial and territorial geological surveys. The wording of the accord was negotiated through the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC) which includes all members of the CPG and representatives of the GSC.

Members of the CPG and NGSC met in March at the Prospectors' and Developers Annual Meeting in Toronto and again at the Mines Ministers Conference Saskatoon in September. A special meeting on drafting the accord was also held in Winnipeg in June.

Provincial geologists are faced by increasing demands at the technical level for geoscience information, and at the political level by reduced budgets and sometimes lesser appreciation of the value of geoscience. The traditional activity of geological survey agencies is to provide support for and promote mineral exploration in the context of sustainable economic development. These agencies also provide and maintain systematic coverage of the geoscience database for a wider range of needs. Today there is an increasing demand for geoscience information for environmental and land use management, including involvement in land claim negotiations. There is also a shift toward client-oriented studies, and a heavy involvement in the transition to the new world of digital data handling, packaging and communications.

With the above in mind, the accord aims to improve the effectiveness of government geoscience in Canada by defining a new collaborative relationship between the provincial and territorial geological survey agencies on the one hand, and the GSC on the other. It also stresses the complementary roles and responsibilities of the agencies, and is expected to lead to a better utilization of resources.

The accord is expected to be administered and monitored by the NGSC. The final document was approved in principle by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry Committee (IGWG), and later by the Privy Council and, under the name "Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord" (IGA), is proposed to be signed at the March 1996 PDAC meeting.

Provincial geologists have also shared information on a number of bilateral agreements with the GSC which are being negotiated currently by most provinces.

Bob Macdonald  
Chair, Committee of Provincial Geologists,  
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