

COMMITTEE OF PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 1997

The Committee of Provincial Geologists (CPG) had two full-committee meetings during the year: the first in Toronto, in March, in conjunction with the PDAC Convention, and the second in St. John's, in July, in conjunction with the Mines and Energy Ministers Conference. After each meeting, the CPG met jointly with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) under the auspices of the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC). Further communications regarding regular business and special projects were effected throughout the year via e-mail and conference calls.

Two significant and successful activities supported by the Committee during the year were the "Team Canada" exhibit at the PDA and the "Geoscience Workshop" at the Mines and Energy Ministers Conference. The Team Canada exhibit saw all the provincial and territorial surveys combine with the GSC in a single-area display at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, site of the March 1997 PDAC Exhibition. Flags and other trappings, along with the excellent individual displays, served to give Canada important profile during the increasingly international PDAC convention. The cooperation between the CPG and the GSC, as well as the support of the PDAC, will continue for an even better effort in 1998.

The Geoscience Workshop, sponsored by the NGSC and the PDAC, was entitled *Canada's Geoscience Knowledge Base: Maintaining Our Competitive Advantage*. Held in conjunction with the 54th Mines and Energy Ministers Conference in St. John's in July, the workshop was designed to draw attention to the importance of Canada's geoscience knowledge base and the plight of government surveys vis-à-vis funding. A summary report on the workshop follows elsewhere in the Journal, but it's worth noting here that its success was due in no small measure to the Workshop Planning Committee chaired by CPG's Ron Smyth of B.C. The Committee considered every aspect of the workshop dynamic, including breakout topics and the presentation of results to ministers. The effectiveness of the workshop reflects the careful planning and cooperation of the GSC and the PDAC with the CPG.

Another initiative related to the workshop and the Mines Ministers Conference was the production of posters demonstrating the positive impacts of government geoscience programs. Again this was a joint effort between the CPG and the GSC through the NGSC. The template for the posters was designed and coordinated by CPG's Scott Swinden of N.S., such that all sixteen posters were of similar size and format to make for easy perusal and assimilation of data. The posters covered each province and territory and provided a colourful and informative backdrop for both the Geoscience Workshop and the Mines Ministers meetings. Subsequently, through the coordinating efforts of the GSC, the posters were provided in digital format to the Canadian Geoscience Education Network for its public-awareness projects.

The Provincial Geologists Journal for 1996 (Volume 14) was published by the Committee through the coordinating and compilation efforts of the B.C. Survey. The Journal covered the geoscience activities of all jurisdictions and presented a summary of budget information pertinent to each survey. The B.C. Survey also continues to serve the CPG in that its Chief Geologist, Ron Smyth, is the new CPG Treasurer.

The interests of the CPG member surveys, as well as CPG service to the national geoscience community, were facilitated by CPG participation on several important committees and councils. Jan Boon of the Alberta Geological Survey represented CPG on the federal Ministers National Advisory Board on Earth Sciences (MNABES), meaningfully contributing to reviews of GSC's programs and policies. Andy Fyon of the Ontario Geological Survey represents CPG on the Canadian Geoscience Council. This year CPG agreed to continue supporting the Council by remaining as an Associate Member but volunteering to pay a membership fee of \$200 per CGC member. Dr. Fyon also attended meetings of the Council of Chairs of Canadian Earth Science Departments (CCESD) in 1997. The Council has provided a list of contacts at most Canadian universities for consultation by CPG during program planning. CPG and CCESD have agreed to foster better communications in the future. Other committees supported by CPG include LITHOPROBE (Ron Smyth of B.C.) and NATMAP (Scott Swinden of N.S. and Carolyn Relf of N.W.T.). These allow CPG input into planning and decision making to maximize the benefits to its member surveys and Canadian geoscience. Other ad hoc national committees, such as the SHRIMP Advisory Committee

and the Task Force on Alternative Funding Arrangements for Government Geological Surveys, request and are given CPG support.

Throughout the year, CPG made representations on behalf of its members on a number of issues. One of the most important concerns the policies, e.g., royalties, of NRCan's Geomatics Canada regarding use of baseline geomatic data by provincial and territorial surveys. Satisfactory progress has been made in some jurisdictions by bilateral arrangements with Geomatics Canada. CPG also requested that the CGC lobby to have a geoscientist placed on the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee, resulting in a letter from CGC to Minister Manley requesting same.

The Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord (IGA) continues to set the cooperative tone for relationships between the GSC and CPG member surveys. Several surveys have signed (or are working on) bilateral agreements with the GSC, which further clarify the respective and collaborative roles of the GSC and the local surveys in their particular jurisdictions. The "needs studies" called for in the bilateral agreements are producing contemporary, stakeholder-influenced five-to-ten-year strategic plans for several jurisdictions in Canada. The IGA also stipulates that national workshops be held annually to review the GSC's national program and assist the GSC with planning. As 1997 is the first full year since the Accord's signing in September 1996, a first workshop has yet to be held. However, several planning sessions between the CPG and GSC, under the auspices of the NGSC, have taken place, and the first workshop is now scheduled for January, 1998.

Perhaps one of the most important indications of the increasingly cooperative nature of the relationship between the GSC and CPG member surveys is the sharing-geoscience resolution passed by NGSC at its July meeting in St. John's. It is reproduced below to remind us that we exist to serve the same public:

Whereas the Geological Survey of Canada and the provincial and territorial geological surveys are mandated to provide geoscientific knowledge on their various and overlapping jurisdictional areas in Canada; and whereas a framework agreement (the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord) calling for cooperation, consultation, joint planning and joint implementation – to maximize limited resources in the collection and dissemination of geoscientific data – exists between the federal survey and its provincial and territorial counterparts; be it resolved that the Geological Survey of Canada and the provincial and territorial geological surveys endorse as a fundamental principle of their cooperation, the mutual and efficacious sharing of all survey-held geoscientific data, information and knowledge that is not restricted by third-party interests. In the occasional item-specific circumstance where an obstacle to data sharing develops, all parties are committed to overcoming the obstacle as expeditiously as possible. This resolution will help ensure that multipurpose and dual jurisdictional applications of data may be effected for the maximum economic and social benefit of Canadians.

*R. Frank Blackwood
CPG Chairman, 1997*