

# **GEOSCIENCE MAP SYMBOLS USED BY FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS**

G.W. Cameron, R.P. Ridbighough, and members of the  
National Geological Survey Committee

## **Introduction**

The chart of Geoscience Map Symbols used by Federal, Provincial and Territorial Geoscience Organizations is a compilation of symbols provided by the members of the National Geological Surveys Committee (NGSC). The chart should be considered a "working document" and viewed in the context of it being updated as more symbols are accepted as 'standard'. Comments from all sectors (Industry, University, Government) are welcome. It is suggested that comments from government personnel be submitted through the heads of their organizations to ensure that their suggested symbols represent that organizations view.

## **Sources of Information**

Some organizations (e.g. Newfoundland, Quebec, Geological Survey of Canada) have their own 'Guide to Authors' for the preparation of geoscience maps which were a source of some of the information shown on the chart. More recently, draft 'compilation sheets' based on these guides and other information 'on file' was distributed to members of the NGSC with the request that they update the relevant information in preparation for the publication of a 'first edition' of a chart. The present chart is the result of these responses.

## **Historical**

The chart is a culmination of considerable discussion by members of the NGSC since the committee's inception in 1979. In the May 24, 1979 Minutes of the NGSC, it is noted that one of the draft objectives of the meeting was to "facilitate the establishment of consistent national standards for all types of geoscience surveys". The British Columbia and Quebec members, in correspondence to the Federal co-chairman in February, 1980, suggested that some attention should be given to standardization of legends and symbols. In May 1980, a working group (WG) was established with a representative from the GSC, British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan. It was agreed that the basic reference for the WG to start from would be the GSC "Guide to Authors". It was felt by the NGSC that the WG would be able "to propose to the NGSC standard symbols for geological features".

Further discussion at subsequent NGSC meetings of submissions to the WG could not determine agreement as to how, and how much of, the submissions should be displayed in order to obtain comments from the complete geoscience community. It was even suggested that map symbol standardization was not possible. However, the committee agreed that there were a large number of commonly used symbols which could be considered as standard and therefore map symbols should remain an agenda item for further meetings.

In 1988, it was agreed that GSC would provide a draft compilation for review by the NGSC in preparation for distribution of a 'working document' symbols chart. At the March, 1989 meeting, a draft compilation of information "on file" was distributed for comment by the NGSC. In response to several suggestions, the consensus was that a separate chart of symbols in use, which could be readily updated and published at time other than when any specific Journal or other publication was published, and of an approximate 1:250 000 map sheet size (readily wall mounted) would be appropriate. The GSC indicated it would publish the first version. It was also suggested that the chart be called a table of "geoscientific" rather than "geological" map symbols in order to accommodate standard symbols for multiparameter maps, i.e. the map in question may be published as a geological map, but the author(s) may wish to denote boundaries

indicated by the interpretation of geophysical data. For example, both Manitoba and Quebec have symbols to indicate geological boundaries located by geophysical surveys.

### **Present/Future**

This first edition, 'working document', of the symbols chart has omitted a number of the symbols submitted by the NGSC members. It is hoped that constructive criticism will be submitted and indicate a preference for which symbols should or should not be 'standard' and additions may be suggested. Perhaps, some of the unique symbols of some organizations would be the preferred standard of all. The objective is to publish as large a data base of 'standard' symbols as is possible for use by geoscientists. If enough standard symbols are agreed upon, it may be necessary to have a two sided quick reference chart.

It is hoped that those receiving the chart in this Journal will circulate it widely (or request additional copies for circulation) amongst their colleagues and request constructive suggestions.

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