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FOREWORD

This is the twelfth edition of *Geological Fieldwork and Current Research*, the premier annual publication of the Geological Survey Branch.

In 1986 the Branch mounted the largest field program in our 91-year history, largely as a result of increased funding under the Canada/British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement. The Branch increased its commitment to the priority areas of mineral deposit studies, geochemistry and database development. A new program of 1:50 000-scale regional mapping was initiated in 1986 in the Cowichan, Taseko Lakes, Whitesail Lake and Midway areas. Papers detailing results of the first season's work on these projects are included in this volume.

In the past year all of the metallic mineral deposit field studies undertaken by Branch geologists were oriented towards precious metals. Old camps such as Hedley and Bralorne were re-evaluated and emerging districts such as Quesnel were mapped at regional 1:50 000 scale for the first time. A number of industrial mineral investigations were also undertaken, reflecting growing industry interest in this field. These studies included evaluation of the potential for production of such diverse commodities as zeolites, phosphate, olivine and dimension stone.

The Geological Survey Branch funded a number of studies and theses at the Department of Geological Sciences at The University of British Columbia which are also reported in this volume. The topics covered include wallrock alteration at the Erickson gold mine, an analysis of the effects of seasonal variations in stream flow on the gold content of stream sediments, palynology in the Northeast Coalfield, lead isotope research and a number of specific mineral deposit studies.

The second year of a mineral resource evaluation of the Chilko Planning Area was completed by staff of the Land Use subsection. Detailed silt geochemistry in this area has aided in the identification of a number of new mineral occurrences.

To further the reputation of this volume as a major reference on current research in the earth sciences, we have added a section listing recently completed theses on the geology of British Columbia and related topics.

The volume was edited and compiled by John Newell and Rosalyn Moir; the effort required to achieve timely publication is gratefully acknowledged.

W. R. SMYTH
Chief Geologist
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