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FOREWORD

The 1987 edition of *Geological Fieldwork: A Summary of Field Activities and Current Research* is the thirteenth in this publication series. It covers a year during which the Geological Survey Branch continued its expansion of mapping and research activity to improve the mineral exploration database in British Columbia.

The most significant event for the branch was the allocation of an additional \$2 million to the base budget. This, coupled with \$1.67 million in funding from the Canada/British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement, allowed delivery of a significantly expanded field program in 1987. The following deserve special mention:

- Eight 1:50 000 regional mapping projects, covering some 6500 square kilometres, were undertaken in the Kootenay District, Vancouver Island, the central Interior and north and northwestern British Columbia.
- Reconnaissance regional geochemical surveys were completed over four 1:250 000 map sheets in northwestern British Columbia, covering the Stewart, Iskut and Muddy Lake gold belts.
- Seven metallogenic projects, focusing on precious metal deposits, were undertaken in active mining camps. In the Hedley gold-skarn camp, a metallogenic zonation has been outlined that indicates that tungsten skarns in the Cordillera may also have potential for significant gold mineralization. A new project to assess the mineral potential Alaskan-type ultramafic rocks has been initiated.

The Geological Survey Branch also increased its commitment in the priority fields of coal resource evaluation, industrial minerals, land-use evaluation and the development of computerized databases. The growing interest in the province's industrial minerals potential is reflected by strong sales of publications in this field. Preliminary results from the first year of a two-year evaluation of the mineral resource potential of the Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park are reported in this edition of *Fieldwork*. 1987 saw the first release from the improved mineral inventory database, MINFILE. The file operates on both mainframe and personal computers; a user-friendly IBMpc-based search system is available from the branch and described in this volume.

The Geoscience Research Grant Program to universities was reinstated in 1987 to assist original research on the geology and mineral deposits of the province. Twenty-six grants were awarded to ten institutions and the preliminary results of this program are reported in this publication. Topics include district-scale geological mapping, mineral deposit studies, lead isotope research, conodont biostratigraphy and various studies in applied geochemistry. The publication of a listing of recently completed theses on the geology of British Columbia and related topics, begun last year, is continued in this volume.

Publications stemming from this increased activity appeared in record number during the year and included 22 Open File maps and reports. The number of papers contributed to this edition of *Fieldwork* shows an increase of 25 per cent over last year. This volume was edited and compiled by John Newell and Rosalyn Moir. The time available between completion of fieldwork and going to press is very short; their efforts, together with those of Jacqui Patenaude and Debbie Bulinckx, who input and updated most of the manuscripts and assisted with many other tasks, are gratefully acknowledged.

W.R. Smyth
Chief Geologist
Geological Survey Branch
Mineral Resources Division

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