

MINERAL RESOURCES DIVISION Geological Survey Branch

GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK 1988

A summary of Field Activities and Current Research

### MINERAL RESOURCES DIVISION Geological Survey Branch

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### **FOREWORD**

The 1988 edition of *Geological Fieldwork: A Summary of Field Activities and Current Research* is the fourteenth in this publication series. It covers a year during which the Geological Survey Branch again expanded its mapping and research activity to improve the geoscience database in British Columbia.

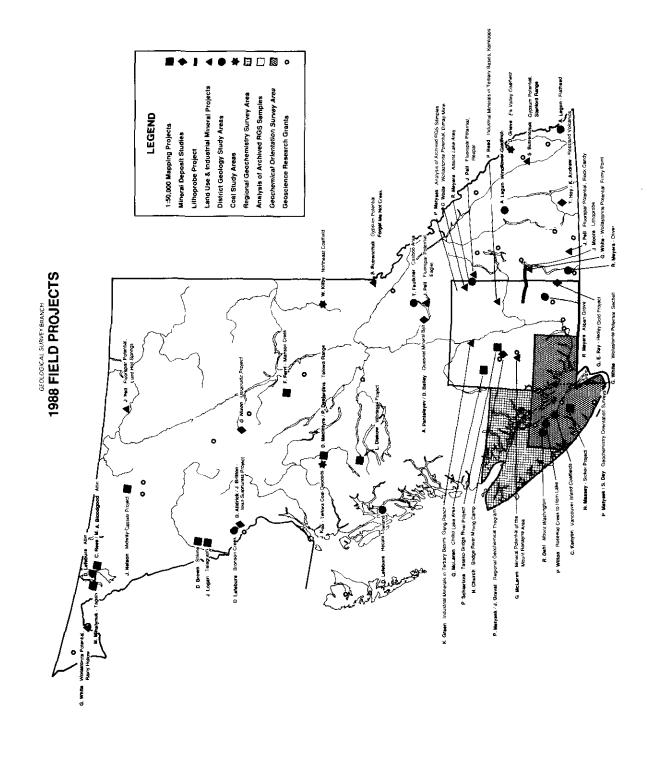
The Branch budget was increased in 1988 for the second year in a row. The \$2 million increase in 1987 was followed by an additional \$1.5 million this year, bringing the total base budget of the Geological Survey Branch to \$6.7 million. The government's policy of encouragement for mineral exploration and mine development in the province is solidly backed by funding for geoscience research. Provincial base funding in 1988 supported 32 field projects, with an additional 10 projects funded by the Canada/British Columbia Mineral Development Agreement. Highlights of the program are:

- Three new 1:50 000 regional mapping projects, in the Atlin and Stikine River areas, were
  added to the seven continuing projects in the Sicker Group on Vancouver Island, the
  Sylvester allochthon, the Whitesail Lake and Taseko Lake Bridge River areas, the
  Manson Creek Germansen Landing area, the Babine and Telkwa ranges and the Tutshi
  and Tagish lakes area of northwestern British Columbia.
- Reconnaissance geochemical surveys were completed over four 1:250 000 map sheets covering northern Vancouver Island and the adjacent Mainland.
- Metallogenic studies included continuing work in the Iskut-Sulphurets gold belt, the Bridge River mining camp and the Rossland volcanic rocks of the West Kootenay District, and assessment of the mineral potential of Alaskan-type ultramafic complexes in northern British Columbia.
- Industrial minerals research included evaluation of the provinces sulphur, fluorite, zeolites
  and feldspar resources. Regional mapping and analysis of gypsum occurrences led to the
  discovery of extensive gypsum resources near Canal Flats in the East Kootenay District.

Fieldwork in the province's coalfields decreased in 1988 with the completion of several major projects in the Elk Valley, Peace River and Bowser Basin coalfields but work continued on regional mapping, sampling and coal-quality studies in the Comox and Nanairno coalfields on Vancouver Island. The new computerized, mineral inventory database, MINFILE, entered its production phase during the year. Support to Universities and individuals was continued through the successful Geoscience Research Grant program and the 1988 results are reported in this volume.

This very active field program is reflected in the number of publications released during the year and in the increased number of contributions to this year's edition of Fieldwork. The volume continues to grow while the time available for its production does not. The efforts of our editorial staff, including Brian Grant and John Newell, who edited the volume and managed the production process; Doreen Fehr, Janet Holland, Debbie Bulinckx and other typists who wore out their fingers at the keyboards; Janet Fontaine who did the page layout; and John Armitage, Martin Taylor and Pierino Chicorelli, the drafting staff, are gratefully acknowledged. Appreciation is also extended to the management and staff of the Queen's Printer, without whose cooperation timely delivery would not be possible.

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