

FOREWORD

This is the twenty-fifth edition of *Geological Fieldwork: A Summary of Fieldwork and Current Research*. An annual publication, it contains reports summarizing results from B.C. Geological Survey (GSB) projects completed throughout the province during the past year. As well, there are several contributions by associated researchers from the Mines Branch, University of Victoria and The University of British Columbia.

The contents of this volume reflect the emphasis of the Geological Survey Branch's field surveys. Highlights include:

- Initiation of the Ancient Pacific Margin NATMAP project, a joint venture with the Geological Survey of Canada, universities and industry. Bedrock mapping, surficial mapping and geochemical programs demonstrate that favourable Yukon-Tanana stratigraphy, with potential for volcanogenic massive sulphides, extends from the Yukon into British Columbia. Mineral deposit studies in comparable rocks in central British Columbia were also completed.
- Studies started in the southern part of the province used geology and geochemistry to identify regions having potential for plutonic-related gold deposits, such as Pogo and Fort Knox.
- Another new project was started in the Ecstall Belt within the Coast Plutonic Complex with the objective of more clearly identifying the controls on VMS mineralization.
- An innovative provincial assessment to identify potential copper and gold-rich iron oxide deposits in British Columbia, such as Candelaria and Olympic Dam, was conducted.
- Continuing coal quality and washability studies help to understand the nature of coal deposits, the province's most valuable commodity in 1999.
- Gemstone potential within the province continues to be evaluated.
- Mineral occurrences were examined and key areas in the Coast Ranges and Queen Charlotte Islands were covered with regional geochemical sampling programs as a contribution to Land and Resource Management Plans.
- Geologic mapping in the Mt. McCusker-Robb Lake area was completed as part of the GSB commitment to the Foreland Belt NATMAP project.

The GSB continues to work on upgrading provincial geoscience databases, including those for mineral occurrences (MINFILE), assessment report files (ARIS) and regional geochemical samples (RGS). Access to these databases improves with continual revisions and enhancements to the Ministry's internet site.

The Terrain Stability and Soils projects, funded by Forest Renewal BC, continued during 1999. The B.C. Geological Survey Branch audits digital terrain data submitted by forest companies in compliance with the Forest Practices Code and makes this data available over the internet. Terrain and soil maps are increasingly being used in mineral exploration, for example as an aid in interpreting geochemical surveys. These products are also valuable for land-use planning.

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