

FOREWORD

The British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Geoscience BC present the results of 2005 geoscience surveys and studies in this thirty-first edition of *Geological Fieldwork: A Summary of Fieldwork and Current Research*. Many articles are contributions from staff of the BC Geological Survey. Geoscience field surveys and the provision of resulting geoscience data have led to claim staking and enhanced mineral exploration expenditures, which may ultimately lead to new mines and economic support for BC communities. As in previous years, the volume also publishes studies by university and industry authors.

This volume also includes 13 articles provided by Geoscience BC, a new, not-for-profit, nongovernment organization mandated to provide geoscience information to stimulate mineral, and oil and gas exploration in British Columbia. The province provided a grant of \$25 million as start-up funding for the new organization. The articles span a wide spectrum from geochemical surveys and geological mapping to new tools for accessing provincial databases. For details of the Geoscience BC program, refer to the review, and the individual manuscripts, presented later in this volume.

This past year the BC Geological Survey regional field surveys and collaborative geoscience studies continued the tradition of partnerships with government, industry and universities. Articles in this volume include reports on continuing programs in the Iskut-Bowser Basin and Toodoggone areas, and new geoscience projects in the Canim Lake, coastal (industrial minerals), Greenwood, northeast (coal), northern Vancouver Island and Terrace areas. Industry partnerships provided operating funds and access to private-sector information, particularly for the porphyry copper-gold (Galore Creek and Mt Polley) and Toodoggone programs. This volume also reports on the re-

sults of a multiyear investigation into the province's diamond potential and highlights significant new information for the northeast corner of BC.

Over the past year, the BC Geological Survey published *Geological Fieldwork 2004, Exploration and Mining in British Columbia 2004*, 18 Open File maps and reports, 3 Geoscience Maps, 25 GeoFile maps, reports and data and 3 Information Circulars. One of the highlight products this year has been the new, 1:250 000-scale, digital geological map of the province — the first lithology-based map of the Province in over 25 years. All geoscience publications are now routinely posted to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources website. MapPlace, one of the world's premier Internet-based geoscience map systems, continues to improve with the addition of new tools and data layers; the site exceeded six million hits during the last year. MINFILE, the mineral deposits database system, has been reprogrammed and made more accessible with a new Internet interface. Clients can now access company mineral assessment reports from the ARIS database, on line for the years from 1947 to 1969, and from 1991 to the present.

This *Geological Fieldwork* volume reflects the hard work and expertise of numerous authors who have earned our thanks for their contributions. The articles have been improved by peer and supervisor review, and the quality services of RnD Technical are acknowledged for helping to put the volume together. The editor, Brian Grant, earns special commendation for being the key person in producing *Geological Fieldwork*, as he coordinates the organization and publication of the volume.

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