

Foreword

Geological Fieldwork 2014

This is the 40th edition of Geological Fieldwork, a volume of peer-reviewed papers that present the results of geological research conducted by the British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) and its partners in 2014. The papers address various aspects of British Columbia's geology, with many highlighting the mineral wealth of the Province. The annual Geological Fieldwork publication is one way that the BCGS helps to unlock this mineral wealth by providing comprehensive, objective, and up-to-date geoscience information, advice, and knowledge to the minerals industry.

The BCGS underwent considerable renewal this year with the addition of 7 new permanent staff to fill both new positions and several longstanding vacancies.

British Columbia Geological Survey activity highlights

Research

- Fieldwork and in-house laboratory studies continued on three projects that are part of the Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) Targeted Geoscience Initiative program (TGI-4).
- Initiatives on the metallogeny of porphyry deposits in British Columbia continued with industry colleagues and the GSC as part of a renewed Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals program (GEM-2).
- A new geochemical initiative on indicator minerals began with a joint team of five researchers from the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences (University of Victoria) and the BCGS.
- BCGS geologists published three Geoscience Maps, fifteen Open Files, eleven Geofiles, nine Information Circulars, thirteen external papers, and seven interagency publications.

Outreach at conferences and workshops

- Survey geologists presented at conferences and workshops including Roundup, PDAC, GSA, KEG, GACMAC, Minerals South, Minerals North, FOSS4G, Cordilleran Tectonics Workshop, and the Smither's Rock Talk.
- BCGS staff chaired two technical sessions and presented numerous talks and posters at the Geological Society of America (GSA) 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver. This was the first time in 16 years that the GSA held its annual meeting outside of the United States and over 7,000 delegates were in attendance.
- The newest generation of MapPlace, the Survey's web service, was tested by clients at a workshop held at the Minerals South Conference in Nelson.

Data archiving and access

- Clients can now access over 34,000 company mineral assessment reports using the online ARIS database.
- The Property File database now features more than 54,000 documents online.
- MINFILE continues to expand with 14,000 occurrences recorded. In the past two and half years, updates to 5,900 occurrences included 1,700 new entries.
- The Regional Geochemical Survey (RGS) database was re-compiled from the original published sources into a MS Access database to remove inconsistencies. The new database now contains 64,828 samples covering 80% of the province.
- The Provincial litho-geochemical database, last released in 2005, underwent retrofitting and updating to improve data quality.

Renewal

- The BCGS's Mineral Development Office in Vancouver underwent a complete renovation in 2014, just in time for the arrival of its new Director, Gordon Clarke.

Awards

- The 2013-2014 Fraser Institute's global ranking of geological databases ranked MapPlace third again in 2014. Since 2005, MapPlace has consistently been ranked in the top ten, including two first place placements.

Stephen M. Rowins
Chief Geologist & Executive Director
British Columbia Geological Survey

