

MINERAL ASSESSMENT REPORT LIBRARY—MICROFICHE PROJECT

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The Mineral Development Division maintains a geological and mineral-resource-assessment file system, which is referred to as the 'Mineral Assessment Report Library'. This library presently consists of approximately 9,000 geological and geochemical reports, maps, journal articles and mineral-assessment files, making them the largest and most comprehensive single collection of geoscience documents about Newfoundland and Labrador.

As a result of the high level of mineral exploration activity experienced during the late 1970's and early 1980's throughout the province, the amount of new data submitted increased substantially. New information is now available on many of the old and numerous new mineral occurrences in the province. Much more is now known about the geology and mineral potential of various regions, both on the island and in Labrador.

The Mineral Development Division has also conducted a large number of field projects over the past few years. This has resulted in the publication of many new geological reports, maps and open files, as well as the results of numerous geochemical surveys and surficial and aggregate-resource studies.

Mining and exploration companies, prospectors, geotechnical and consultant firms, government agencies, universities, libraries and the general public are continually making use of the geofiles. Requests for information have increased substantially in the past few years.

During the past seven years, the Publications and Information Section has been putting all of the good-quality mineral-assessment reports on microfiche. This provides a much more efficient system of maintaining the geofiles. Requests for information are processed more rapidly and easily, with relatively inexpensive charges for microfiche.

The microfiche project involves weekly filming of batches of reports. The reports are cross-checked before filming for quality, content and reproducibility. Two microfiche originals are made and cataloged for each file. Filing follows the standard NTS system. Duplicates can be copied from the original fiche upon demand. One set of fiche originals is

stored offsite at the Torbay Core Library for security and protection from fire.

Microfiche sets of mineral-assessment reports covering all 1:250,000 NTS map sheets in insular Newfoundland are available along with microfiche sets for many of the Newfoundland General Series reports. Several releases have also been made for microfiche sets of mineral-assessment reports covering all 1:250,000 NTS map sheets in Labrador.

Work on the Labrador mineral-assessment reports is continuing and we expect to make several more releases of duplicate sets of microfiche by this fall. Labrador has been the focus of our attention this year, and we are hoping to complete this phase of the project in 1988. We are also hoping in 1988 to release microfiche copies of files that have become non-confidential since the initial release.

The total cost of mineral-assessment reports that are available as microfiche duplicates is \$2,081.00

During 1987, we also continued placing the mineral-occurrence reports on microfiche and making them available. Presently, mineral-occurrence reports for NTS areas 1N, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2L, 2M, 11O, 11P, 12A, 12B, 12G, 12H, 12I, 12P, 13K, 13N and 14C are available. Further releases will be made as staff in the Mineral Deposits Section complete new NTS areas.

For information, please contact Norman Mercer (709) 576-3159. We look forward to your comments and suggestions in improving our microfiche system.

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