

PREFACE

This is the 24th annual report on geoscientific work carried out by the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador. Initiated in 1974, the volume is a collection of papers describing progress and summarizing results for the contemporary projects of the Geological Survey. The report, always the first of the Survey's publishing year, has been called *Current Research* since 1980.

Again this year, the main research programs of the Geological Survey are reviewed in *Current Research*. **Regional Geology–Labrador** includes a paper by Ryan *et al.* that describes a new mapping effort in northern Labrador being carried out in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). These types of joint efforts fit well under the aegis of the pending bilateral Memorandum of Agreement between the GSC and the Geological Survey. The **Mineral Deposits** program includes the initiation of a magmatic base-metal study in northern Labrador (see Kerr's article), which will allow the Survey to contribute to nickel exploration in the region. **Geochemistry/Geophysics** reviews geochemical surveys in the Florence Lake area (see McConnell), and also includes two papers by Memorial University researchers. This continues the *Current Research* tradition of including university work that is carried out in collaboration with the Survey or in support of the provincial geoscience database.

This is the second year for the section on **Geographic Information Systems**. It points out the growing importance of GIS in the storage, retrieval and presentation of Survey data. **Terrain Sciences** reports on Quaternary and aggregate studies, and **Regional Geology–Newfoundland** covers projects from west coast carbonates to east coast volcanics. As usual, the volume concludes with a brief review of **General Mines Branch** projects and **GSC Abstracts** summarizing current federal-survey work in the province.

For the first time in over two decades, Survey work carried out in 1996-97 was funded solely by the province. The Mineral Development Agreements with the federal government have ended, and the Survey is focussing on delivering the most effective program possible for the maximum benefit of clients. This is also the first time in twenty years that the Survey has been without the sterling leadership of Bryan Greene, who retired as Survey Director in March, 1996. Bryan guided the Survey to national prominence and we wish him well in his future endeavours.

R.F. Blackwood
Senior Geologist
Geoscience Publications and Information Section