

PREFACE

It is a pleasure and privilege to introduce this publication for the first time, and a challenge to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors in this role. The 35th version of Current Research showcases the diverse work of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador and its collaborators. The papers are grouped, as usual, in major areas of research, namely, geochemistry and geophysics, terrain sciences, regional geology, mineral deposits and general topics. They show the diverse approaches to fulfilling the Mines Branch mandate of promoting and facilitating sustainable use of the mineral and energy resources of the Province.

Mineral exploration in 2007 reached record levels, with a particular focus on uranium. Sparkes and Kerr's review of uranium mineralization in the Central Mineral Belt of Labrador is thus timely. McConnell and Ricketts provide results of geochemical surveys that identify interesting new opportunities in the eastern part of the Central Mineral Belt.

The central volcanic belt of Newfoundland is also the focus of much current exploration activity for gold and base metals, and four papers outline new research in this area. Three of these describe work performed in central Newfoundland either wholly or in part under the Geological Survey of Canada's Targeted Geoscience Initiative III (Batterson and Taylor, McNicoll *et al.*, and Zagorevski and Rogers). This work is supplemented by John Hinchey's examination of massive sulphide mineralization in the northern Tunks Volcanic Belt.

The report by Ricketts further delineates the aggregate resources of the Province. These deposits are required for any major development. Knight *et al.* address the detailed geology of part of the western Newfoundland carbonate platform – essential research for oil and gas exploration in this area. Gower shows how the geology of the Province can be looked upon not just as a mineral resource but also as a focus for tourism. Three papers describe the diverse palaeontological resources of the Province, and these highlight the collaboration of Boyce with university partners. The paper by Bell *et al.* on the Quaternary history of the Burin Peninsula is the result a long-term collaboration between Memorial University and the Geological Survey.

Finally, the other papers provide updates on continuing programmes that have proved their worth in collecting and providing geoscience data that has underpinned the exploration boom of the last two years, including till geochemistry, core storage and retrieval, the mineral occurrence data inventory (MODS), and the Geofiles collection of Newfoundland and Labrador geological papers, maps and exploration company assessment reports.

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Any reader who would like to write a rebuttal to, or discussion of, any report contained in this volume is invited to submit it to the editor by November 1, 2008, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2009-1.