

PREFACE

This 36th 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, mineral deposits, geoscience data management, regional geology, geochemistry and geophysics, terrain sciences and general topics. They show the diverse approaches to fulfilling the Mines Branch mandate of promoting and encouraging sustainable use of the mineral and energy resources of the province.

This volume is built around the reports of the 2008 field work of the Geological Survey. An extensive Labrador mapping effort is documented in the papers by van Nostrand, Hinchey and LaFlamme and LaFlamme *et al.* Mineral deposits research in the Central Mineral Belt of Labrador is featured by Sparkes and Dunning. On the Island of Newfoundland, bedrock mapping projects are described by O'Brien, and Knight and Boyce; and surficial and geochemical mapping by Smith and Taylor. Boyce and collaborators describe new palaeontological discoveries in two papers.

In addition to summaries of 2008 field studies, Hinchey and McNicoll review the results of two years of mineral deposits studies in the Tulls Belt; and Kerr *et al.* review molybdenum and tungsten mineralization in the province.

Various collaborations with other agencies are also well represented. Results from the Geological Survey of Canada Targeted Geoscience Initiative projects in Baie Verte and the Buchans-Roberts Arm Belt are outlined in four papers. University work supported by the Geological Survey is highlighted in the studies of Laflamme *et al.* and Blundon *et al.* Further university research is covered by the paper from Lynch *et al.* Serpa describes preliminary results of a collaborative study with the Department of Environment and Conservation on groundwater geochemistry.

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 three years, including online delivery of geoscience data (Crisby-Whittle), core storage (Harris), the mineral occurrence data inventory (Smith *et al.*), geophysical compilation (Kilfoil) and the document collection of Newfoundland and Labrador geological papers, maps and exploration company assessment reports (Patey and Saunders).

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Readers who would like to write a rebuttal to, or discussion of, any report contained in this volume are invited to submit it to the editor by November 1, 2009, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2010-1.