

## PREFACE

It is a privilege for me, as the new Director of the Geological Survey, to preface the 2014 edition of Current Research. The Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, as the geoscience division of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, is tasked with collecting, interpreting and disseminating geoscience data, enhancing our Province's geoscience knowledge-base. The data generated by the Geological Survey provide a comprehensive and up to date understanding of the geology of the Province. These new data are primarily used by the mineral resource industry in the Province to inform and enhance their exploration and investment efforts. A strong mineral resource sector provides both direct and indirect employment opportunities and wealth throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The Geological Survey is proud of the role that we have played in fostering and promoting this industry over the past decades, a role we will continue to play well into the future. Geological Survey data are also increasingly in demand from other Provincial Government departments to inform policy (as with hazard mapping within municipalities, and coastal vulnerability studies), to assist in health and safety initiatives (as in identifying groundwater contaminants derived from bedrock), developing new economic initiatives (such as enhancing the geo-tourism potential of the Province) and many more. Current Research is a major delivery product for our data, in addition to Open File reports and maps, all of which can be freely accessed *via* the Geological Survey website ([http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/mines/geoscience/reports\\_maps.html](http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/mines/geoscience/reports_maps.html)).

This volume of Current Research reflects the wide range of activities undertaken by the Geological Survey, both as a result of field work and office-based projects. There are 13 separate reports on field work conducted on the Island of Newfoundland and in Labrador, representing a mixture of new field programs and the continuation of existing programs. On the Island, reports on new projects are bedrock mapping in the Sweet Bay area, western Bonavista Peninsula (Andrea Mills), and surficial geology and ice-flow mapping in the Springdale–Sheffield Lake areas of northeastern Newfoundland (Jennifer Organ). Reports from ongoing projects are geochronology and litho-geochemistry of the Long Lake Group in central Newfoundland (John Hinchey), studies of gold mineralization in central, west-central and eastern Newfoundland (separate reports from Hamish Sandeman and Greg Sparkes), lithostratigraphy of the Hammerdown Basalt in the King's Point area (Brian O'Brien), granular aggregate-resource mapping in the Sweet Bay and Port Blandford areas of eastern Newfoundland (Jerry Ricketts), and the monitoring of areas of coastal erosion (Melanie Irvine); this latter project is supported by funding from the Office of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (CCEE).

There are 3 separate reports on field programs in Labrador. A report on the bedrock geology of the northeastern Ashuanipi Complex in western Labrador (Tim van Nostrand) describes the first year of field work of a new multi-year project. Reports from ongoing projects are on the Sawyer Lake iron-ore deposit in the Labrador Trough (James Conliffe), and a discussion of rare-earth mineralization in the Mistastin Lake and Smallwood Reservoir areas (Andy Kerr).

Office-based projects contribute significantly to our provincial geoscience knowledge-base. The Mineral Occurrence Data System (Greg Stapleton) provides descriptions of more than 6700 mineral occurrences in the Province and is a valuable resource to the mineral resource industry. Data from this and other projects are delivered through the Geological Survey's GeoScience Online webmapping application (<http://gis.geosurv.gov.nl.ca/>). This interactive resource atlas makes geoscience resources available online and freely accessible anywhere in the world to an ever-expanding clientele. I encourage you to explore this website – it contains a wealth of information!

The 2014 field season represents the final year of the Geological Survey's 5-year planning cycle and many projects are in their wrap-up phase. However, there are projects planned in the Central Mineral Belt of Labrador and the Labrador Trough, and the continuation of bedrock mapping in eastern Newfoundland, surficial mapping and till geochemistry in the Bay d'Espoir area, and coastal monitoring around the Province.

Martin Batterson  
Director

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, 2014, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2015-1.