

PREFACE

It is a privilege for me, as Director of the Geological Survey, to preface the 2016 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, thus enhancing our Province's geoscience knowledge-base. The data generated by the Geological Survey 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 geotourism 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, and our online Geoscience Atlas, all of which can be freely accessed *via* the Geological Survey website (<http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/mines/geoscience/index.html>).

This volume of Current Research reflects the wide range of activities undertaken, both as a result of field work and office-based projects. There are 12 separate reports on field work conducted either on the Island of Newfoundland or in Labrador. The list of authors reflects the many collaborative efforts undertaken by Geological Survey geologists, with 11 non-Survey co-authors, and indicates our strong ties with Memorial University, University of Toronto, and the Geological Survey of Canada.

For the Island, there are reports on the geology and genesis of the Long Lake group (John Hinchey), geochronology and petrochemistry of parts of the Sops Arm group (Hamish Sandeman), gold mineralization in the Avalon Zone (Greg Sparkes), structural interpretations on the Bonavista Peninsula (Andrea Mills), geochronology of the Connecting Point Group (Andrea Mills), geochronology of Silurian rocks on Fogo Island (Andy Kerr, Emeritus Geoscientist) and Quaternary studies on The Topsails (Jennifer Organ). In Labrador, there are reports on high-grade iron-ore deposits in western Labrador (James Conliffe), potential IOCG-style mineralization in the Central Mineral Belt (Greg Sparkes), bedrock geology of the northern Ashuanipi Complex (Tim van Nostrand), and statistical analysis of variables (Steve Amor) collected during lake-sediment surveys and also includes data from Newfoundland.

Office-based projects contribute significantly to our provincial geoscience knowledge base. In this volume, the Mineral Occurrence Data System (Greg Stapleton) is described. The MODS 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!

As this volume of Current Research is released we will have lost 3 staff responsible for its production. Dave Leonard, who is part of the team responsible for drafting the graphics, is retiring after more than 40 years dedicated service to Government. Bev Strickland who is responsible for the layout and design of Current Research is also retiring after 35 years. Their efforts to ensure that Current Research remains a high-quality production are greatly appreciated. In addition, Sean O'Brien, the manager of the Geoscience Publications and Information Section is also retiring after 40 years with the Geological Survey – another tremendous loss to the corporate knowledge of the Survey.

The coming years will likely be challenging in light of the current fiscal situation and more impending retirements of our long-term staff. However, the Geological Survey remains committed to providing the highest level of service that we can. Planning for the 2016 field season is underway with projects planned in western Labrador, and throughout Newfoundland - mineral deposit studies on the Great Northern Peninsula and Baie Verte Peninsula, surficial mapping and till geochemistry in north-central Newfoundland, ongoing coastal monitoring around the Province, and regional bedrock mapping projects.

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, 2016, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2017-1.