

## PREFACE

The Geological Survey, 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 are primarily used by the mineral-resource industry 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 our role in fostering and promoting the industry over the past decades, a role it will continue to play well into the future.

Geological Survey data are also increasingly in demand from other Provincial departments and other stakeholders to inform policy (*e.g.*, hazard mapping, coastal vulnerability), to assist in health and safety initiatives (*e.g.*, groundwater contaminants derived from bedrock), developing new economic initiatives (*e.g.*, enhancing geotourism) and many more.

Current Research is a major delivery product for new data, in addition to Open File reports and maps, and including 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 in the field and in office-based projects. The list of authors reflects the many collaborative efforts undertaken by Geological Survey geologists, with 10 non-Geological Survey co-authors, and indicates our strong ties with Memorial University, as well as collaborations with the Geological Survey of Canada, and Sol Ross State University in Texas. This year sees another contribution from one of our Emeritus Geoscientists; the Emeritus program was initiated in 2017 as a means of maintaining the knowledge and scientific expertise of our retiring geoscientists.

For the Island, there are reports on gold mineralization in central Newfoundland (Hamish Sandeman), fluorite mineralization in the St. Lawrence area (Zsuzsanna Magyarosi), VMS mineralization in the Buchans–Roberts Arm belt (Greg Sparkes), bedrock geology of parts of the Bonavista Peninsula (Andrea Mills), till geochemistry and Quaternary mapping in western Newfoundland (Jennifer Organ), paleontology in western Newfoundland (Doug Boyce), and surficial geological investigations on the Great Northern Peninsula (Sarah Hashmi). In Labrador, there are reports on potential Ni–Cu–PGE mineralization in western Labrador (James Conliffe), bedrock mapping in the Andre Lake area of western Labrador (Jared Butler), geological setting of the Ingrid group in the Hopedale area (Alana Hinchey), till indicator minerals in the Hopedale Block area (Heather Campbell), and the potential for carving-stone resources near Hopedale (Andy Kerr).

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 7000 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 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. Planning for the 2019 field season is underway with projects planned in western and eastern Labrador, and throughout Newfoundland – mineral-deposit studies in the Labrador Trough and central Newfoundland, surficial mapping and till geochemistry in northern and central Newfoundland, ongoing coastal monitoring around the Province, and regional bedrock-mapping projects on the Island and in Labrador. This work will be under new leadership following my retirement from the Geological Survey. It has been my privilege to have worked for the Survey for almost 37 years, from a summer student to Director, and I am confident we will continue to maintain the high standards our clients have come to expect.

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 29, 2019, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2020-1.