

MINERAL OCCURRENCE DATA SYSTEM (MODS)

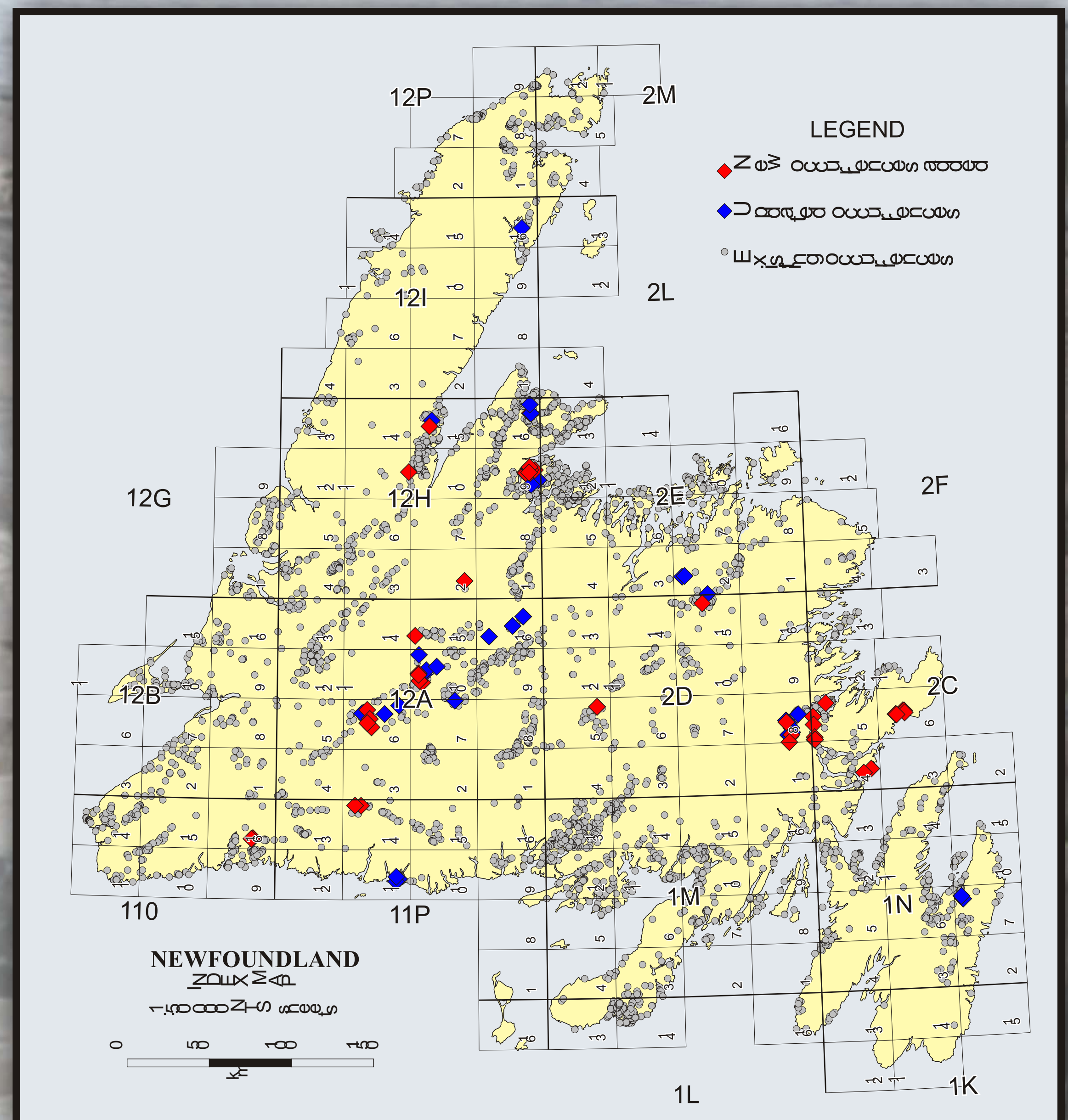
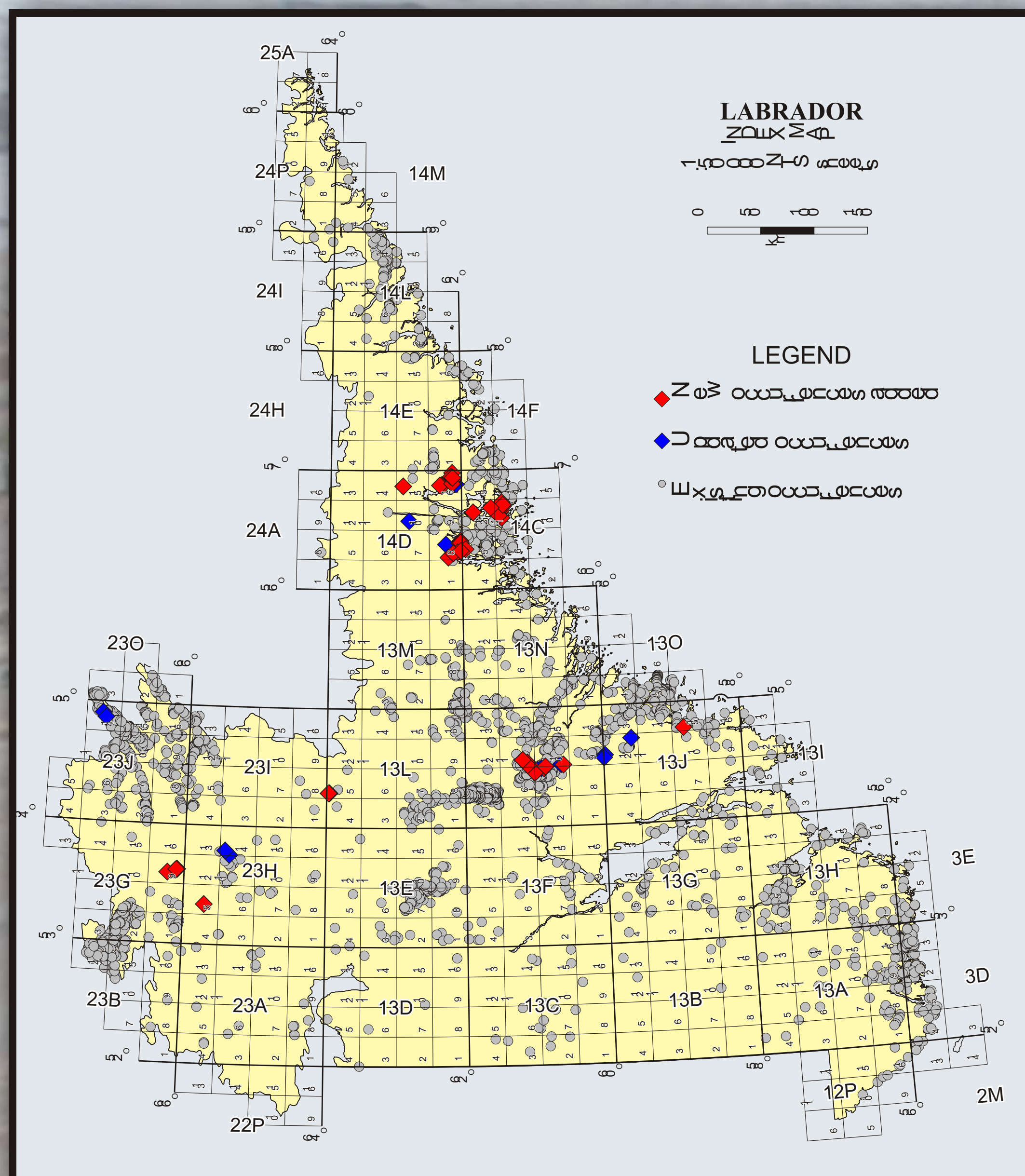
The Mineral Occurrence Data System (MODS) is a vital resource available for explorationists and researchers interested in the mineral resources of the Province. It provides locational information on showings and prospects, information on previous exploration work and essential geological data, and classifies them by style and geological context. The database currently

contains over 6000 records, and grows on a weekly basis. The MODS project is closely linked to the ongoing **Commodity Series Reports Project**, for which it provides fundamental descriptive information, as well as additional references.

Format and Delivery Mechanisms

MODS resides within an Oracle™ relational database management system, but routine data access and management is facilitated through the more familiar Microsoft Access™ platform. The Oracle™ system provides a common platform for the stable of Geological Survey databases, allowing dynamic links to Geofiles and other digital resources. Most users access MODS across the internet, via the Geological Survey website. The standard website interface allows the database to be searched using geographic and/or geologic criteria to retrieve specific sets of records for more detailed analysis. MODS data are also displayed graphically through the **Online Resources Atlas**, in conjunction with other geographic data, and can also be queried in a more limited manner through this graphical interface.

MODS data are an important component of other Geographic Information Systems (GIS) developed by the Survey for mineral resource and geoscientific purposes. Selected data from MODS form part of the CD-ROM **Geoscience Atlas** products for Newfoundland and Labrador. MODS data are also provided via thematic maps available as digital or on-demand printed products; these cover important commodities (e.g., gold, copper, lead-zinc) or deposit types (VMS, carbonate-hosted). Such maps offer a valuable complement to the **Commodity Series Reports** on these and related commodities.



Maps showing the distribution of new and updated MODS records according to NTS map sheets on the island of Newfoundland and in Labrador, as of march 2008

Developments in 2008

Record levels of mineral exploration, notably in Labrador, translate into a flood of new information — keeping our MODS up to date is one of the greatest challenges at present! In support of this, our staffing complement has increased with the addition of Dorothea Hanchar and Heather Rafuse, and our approach to maintaining and expanding MODS is now twofold. Systematic updates by NTS map sheet continue to be important, with most work focused on 2D (east-central Newfoundland) and 13J (Central Mineral Belt, Labrador). Increased staffing now allows us to implement updates on a province-wide basis by accessing mineral-industry assessment reports as they transit from confidential to public-domain status. The availability of

newer reports in digital (pdf) format reduces previous delays in accessing such information, and individual records are now updated on a more timely basis. Areas treated in this manner include 1N, 2C, 2E, 12A and 12H (Newfoundland), and 13K (Labrador). In 2008, we also moved to more consistent delivery of new information through both the database and the graphical interface. New or updated occurrences were always *immediately* accessible through the database, but their appearance in the **Online Resources Atlas** was variably delayed. As of September, 2008, the graphical interface also became “real-time”.