

# The Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room

A public—private sector partnership working for the  
Newfoundland and Labrador prospecting community



## Overview

*Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room; Matty Mitchell Sample Library  
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## FOREWORD

The Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room is an important public–private sector venture that facilitates the effective delivery of a wide range of joint government–industry initiatives supporting prospecting and related mineral resource development throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Resource Room partners are proud of what has been accomplished over the many years of our service to prospectors across the Province. Prospectors are a key resource in our mineral sector and their discoveries are fundamentally important to the sustainable development of our multi-billion dollar mineral exploration and mining industries. A healthy minerals sector contributes significantly to the economic prosperity of rural areas throughout the Province. Revenues from this sector help governments to address a wide range of public priorities.

If you are interested in learning more about us and the range of activities we pursue, contact us at [matty@gov.nl.ca](mailto:matty@gov.nl.ca) or visit [our website](#):

The management committee welcomes your ideas as to future initiatives for us to consider, and of ways to partner with you in delivering same, as resources allow.

***Sean O'Brien, P. Geo., Chair  
Management Committee  
Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room***

# **Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room**

## **WHO WE ARE**

The Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room (MMR) is a government–industry–university partnership developed in 1998 by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Mines and Energy (renamed Department of Natural Resources in 2004) to support the Province's prospecting community. The MMR is dedicated to pioneering prospector Matty Mitchell, discoverer of the world-class Buchans Mine.

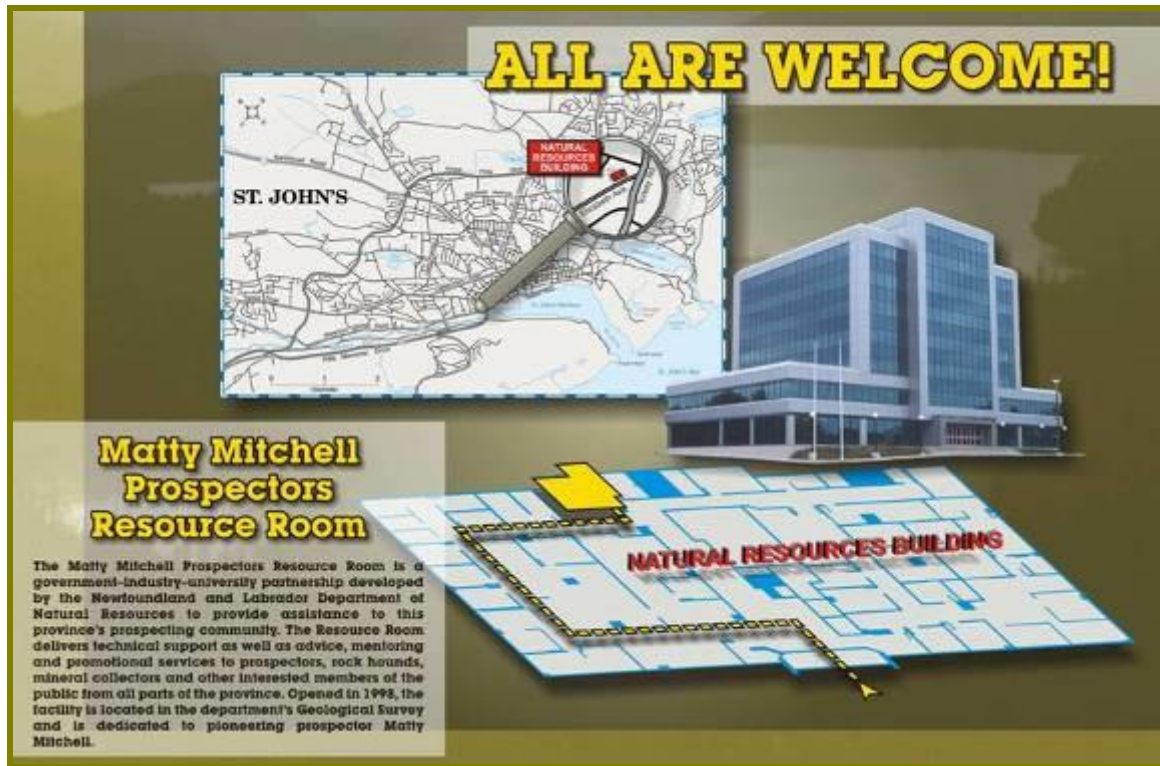
We deliver information, advice, technical support, mentoring and promotional services to prospectors and other interested public from all corners of the Province. We help put government geoscience data and other pertinent information into the hands of prospectors, in order to aid them in their planning, exploration and promotional activities. Data and support are provided to prospectors prior to discovery and thereafter, thus aiding clients throughout all stages of the discovery–promotion–optioning process.

The original purpose of the MMR was to serve as a permanent multi-use resource area and drop-in centre for prospectors. This partnership project has evolved over the years, however, into a major venture that facilitates effective delivery of a wide range of joint government–industry initiatives in support of prospecting and the mineral exploration industry. As before, we strive to deliver these initiatives and meet client demands in a rapid, effective, and cost-efficient manner.

## **WHERE TO FIND US**

The Matty Mitchell Prospectors Resource Room and the Matty Mitchell Sample Library are located in the first floor offices, Publications and Information Section, Geological Survey Division of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources, 50 Elizabeth Avenue (Natural Resources Building), St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

We spend significant time on the road and can be found at points from St. John's to Vancouver, delivering initiatives in support of the Newfoundland and Labrador prospecting and exploration industry.



We can be reached by telephone at 709-729-2120, by fax at 709-729-4491 or email at [matty@gov.nl.ca](mailto:matty@gov.nl.ca)

[Our website:](#)

## PARTNERS and MANAGEMENT

The MMR was initiated by the Geological Survey Division of the provincial government's Mines Branch. The MMR is located within the Survey's Geoscience Publications and Information Section, which is responsible for the Mines Branch's interests in the project.

Daily operations and on-going development of the MMR are overseen by a public-private-sector committee, chaired by the manager of the Geoscience Publications and Information Section of the Geological Survey Branch, NL Department of Natural Resources (Sean O'Brien). The committee includes representatives from Mining Industry NL and the Geological Survey and Mineral Development divisions of the Mines Branch. The Geological Survey works in close partnership and collaboration with Mining Industry NL on all aspects of the MMR project.

The MMR has one full-time professional geologist's position dedicated to the delivery of information services and promotional activities in support of prospectors. The MMR geologist is a contractual employee of Mining Industry NL, working under the direction of the management committee. The position is based in the MMR.

Salary and operating expenses are cost-shared by Mining Industry NL (50%) and the MMR (50%). Mining Industry NL's contribution is sourced from a Business Development Agreement between it and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). The MMR receives significant funding from the Mines Branch's Prospectors Assistance Program, and additional support from the CIM Newfoundland Branch. Professional and technical expertise and extensive in-kind support is provided by the Geological Survey.



Mining Industry NL Staff: Jennifer Kelly, Ed Moriarity

## MISSION STATEMENT

The MMR is designed to support prospectors by providing them with mentoring, technical support, and promotional assistance, thereby assisting in the creation of wealth and jobs through sustainable mineral development. Through its programs in support of prospectors, the MMR project's goal is to stimulate the provincial mineral industry and attract mineral investment to the Province.

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

### *Information & Consultation Services*

- Supply one-on-one advice, including rock and mineral identification, technical assistance and long-term mentoring.
- Ensure integration of pertinent data from Geological Survey geofiles, databases and other sources with prospectors' own information in compiling promotional property posters.
- Assist with administration of MIAP grants to the Exploration Consultant's office (Geological Survey) in support of novice prospectors.
- Maintain a rock and mineral collection with ore suites and alteration styles from around the Province and around the world.

- Maintain a library of textbooks, reprints, maps, short-course notes, databases and other related documents.
- Provide Prospecting Guides to prospectors; new guides are compiled on an on-going basis. These guides focus on prospecting techniques suitable for use in NL and summaries of descriptions of various deposit types that are found in the province. These guides are available for download from the MMR website.
- Maintain a website.

### ***Promotional Services***

Promotional services include the design, display and distribution of the following maps and posters:

- Property Poster Series
- Regional Technical Posters
- “Properties for Option” Maps and Booklets
- “Properties for Option” CD-ROMs

Other promotional and information materials are developed and displayed at Mineral Resources Review, Roundup, PDAC and other mineral industry conferences, and for public awareness events throughout the year.

### ***Prospector Support at Mineral Industry Trade Shows and Conferences***

The Resource Room provides logistical, technical and other support to prospectors participating in the following major annual conferences and trade shows:

- Mineral Exploration Roundup, Vancouver, January
- PDAC, Toronto, March
- Baie Verte Mining Conference, June
- Mineral Resources Review, St. John’s November

### ***General Prospector Support***

We aid prospectors in selecting and refining target areas, generating and further advancing new prospects, and compilation of data for known prospects. Many of these individuals will have received prospecting grants from the Mines Branch Prospectors Assistance Program. These efforts continue to help attract new mineral exploration to many parts of rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

Assistance and advice is provided in a number of ways, including on-site visits and consultation in the MMR, through responses to e-mail, mail or telephone requests, via the web site and by field visits. MMR users are provided with advice and help researching additional off-site sources of information; when necessary, visitors are



connected with appropriate Mines Branch staff, MUN faculty or others who can assist them. Mentoring relationships between prospectors and the MMR geologist and/or Mines Branch geologists are encouraged.

## PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

### PROPERTY POSTER SERIES

Posters for individual properties are compiled for prospectors for display at the conferences and trade shows listed above. The MMR maintains this "Property Poster Series" by revising older versions and developing new posters when requested by prospectors. The publications provide thumbnail sketches of the local geology, style of mineralization, commodities, location of prospects and contact information for the owner.

Digital versions are made available during and after these conferences as pdfs for download on the MMR website. The individual property posters meld prospectors' data with additional geoscientific data and interpretation from the Geological Survey and other sources.



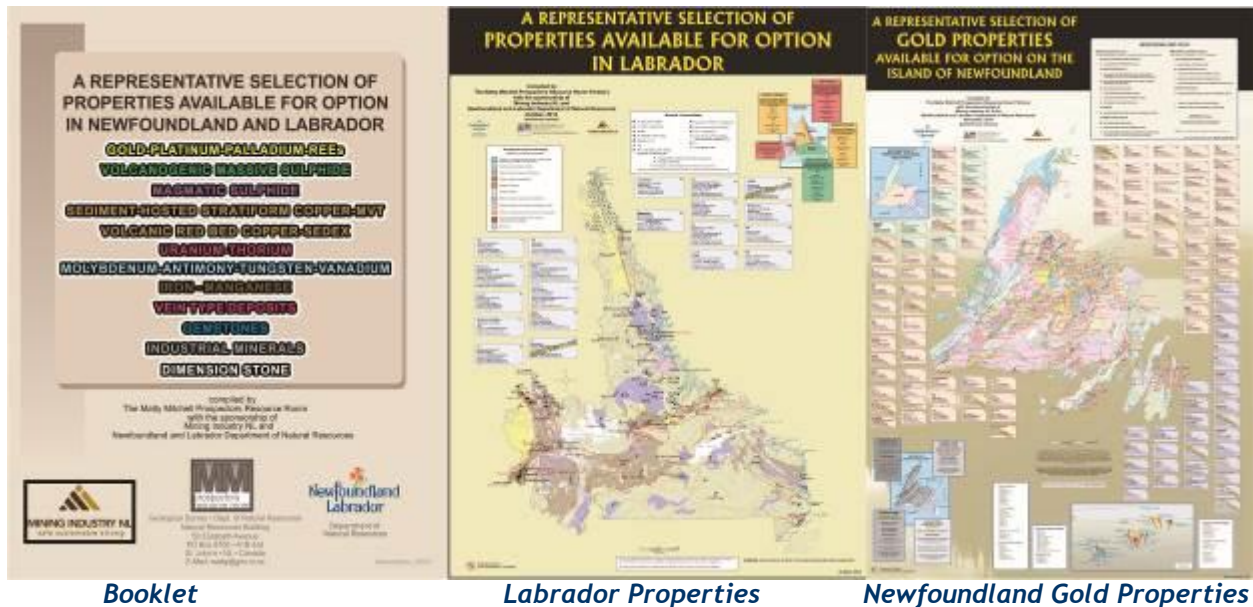
In many cases, the information was included in property information packages sent by the prospectors, the MMR or the Geoscience Publications and Information Section (Geological Survey Division) to mining and mineral exploration companies as follow-up to contacts made at these meetings.

Our Property Poster Series continues to be an important aid to prospectors in promoting and optioning their properties. We currently maintain a growing digital library of [prospectors' properties available online](#).

Note that some of these properties may have been optioned; some properties may be open for staking; others may be available for option.

### PROMOTIONAL MAPS AND BOOKLETS

The "Properties for Option" maps, Booklet and CD - ROMs are updated prior to every major conference for distribution and display as described above. These publications are available on the "Properties for Option" CD-ROM and for viewing or download from the [MMR website](#).



- The “Representative Selection of Gold Properties Available for Option on the Island of Newfoundland” map, above, contains many of the current available properties that have gold as a major commodity.
- The map in the middle above “Representative Selection of Properties Available for Option in Labrador” shows some currently available properties and owner information.
- The Booklet on the left above - “A Representative Selection of Properties Available for Option in Newfoundland and Labrador” contains approximately 250 properties and owner information.

The background geology to the two maps above represents generalized prospecting environments in Newfoundland and Labrador; these two maps were prepared in conjunction with the Geological Survey Branch.

## COMMODITY POSTERS

In 2005 and 2006, the MMR developed a set of six Commodity Posters: these are used primarily for display purposes, and modified annually:

- Gold - *Orogenic, VMS-related and Other Gold systems*
- Gold - *Epithermal and Intrusion-Related Gold systems*
- Copper/Zinc - *VMS, Volcanic Red Bed and Sediment hosted stratiform Cu-Ag and Intrusion-related Cu–Au and Cu–Mo systems*
- Uranium
- Nickel
- Tungsten, Molybdenum and Antimony



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Other one-day or weekend courses are attended on an occasional basis and are generally partially organized by the Resource Room geologist. Such courses have taken place in St. John's, Marystown, St. Lawrence and Baie Verte.

A major initiative was launched in 2005 to promote prospecting throughout the province. The Resource Room in partnership with Mining Industry NL, delivered a series of free prospecting workshops, delivered by geologists Nath Noel and Larry Hicks, in regional centres across the province. More than 300 people attended the seminars and expanded the MMR client database significantly.

## SAMPLE LIBRARY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Work continues on cataloging and expanding our collection of samples and other resource materials on geology, mineral deposits, commodities, mineral exploration and the mining industry. Friends of the MMR continue to donate books and materials to the collection. Samples from the MMR collection are also incorporated into our displays and public information initiatives used in our workshops around the province. We encourage all readers to remember our collection the next time you thin out your bookcases.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

### PROPERTY DATABASES

The MMR continues work on assembling databases and applications for digital management and production of “Properties for Option” series and other posters. Master spreadsheets have been developed for “Properties Available for Option” (and other prospects) based on Geological Survey databases. Trial ArcMap templates are in the process of being developed to produce wall-size maps, and the development of an interactive internet mapping page to view current properties for option is in progress

**WEBSITE:** The Matty Mitchell website continues to be updated and is readily accessible from the main Natural Resources site. The Exploration Highlights page from the Mineral Land Division of the Mines Branch is updated monthly. The “Properties Available for Option” page is updated for all the major conferences attended during the year (Roundup, PDAC and Mineral Resources Review).



***MMPRR website***

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVES - OUTREACH**

The MMR undertakes public awareness initiatives to help promote prospecting and new economic development linked to the minerals industry via prospectors. The MMR collaborates annually with Mining Industry NL and the Geological Survey in displaying prospecting information at the Baie Verte Mining and the Expo Labrador conferences. The MMR continues to develop outreach initiatives to promote itself and its services to the public, including through the following:

- Organize prospecting workshops throughout Newfoundland and Labrador
- Participate in rural conferences
- Help organize lectures and short-courses
- The MMR provides novice and professional prospectors and members of the general public with geoscience information from the provincial Geological Survey, from industry reports in the Mines Branch geofiles, and from other local, national and international sources.

The Resource Room has also participated in various miscellaneous events over the years, generally in the form of a presentation of the services offered. These include

- BOW - “Becoming an Outdoorswoman”
- High School Career Fairs days

### ***Newfoundland and Labrador Prospector Association - NLPA:***

The Resource Room project supports the newly-formed “Newfoundland and Labrador Prospectors Association” (NLPA) as part of its outreach initiatives. The MMR collaborates with NLPA in bringing awareness of prospecting and its benefits to the general public.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF IN-KIND SUPPORT**

*The MMR acknowledges the “in-kind” support it receives from the Geological Survey Division. The Geological Survey continued to supply a wide range of office support (e.g., communications, photocopy, clerical assistance) as well as extensive cartographic advice and support, including access to certain cartographic hardware and materials. The Survey’s geoscientific input level remains significant, and includes one-on-one consultations, help with prospector posters, input into display material, provision of reference materials and other data, on-site support in the Resource Room and at conferences and trade shows. The amount of time that Survey staff devotes to the Resource Room varies throughout the year, typically peaking around Mineral Resources Review, Mineral Exploration Roundup and PDAC conferences. Members of the Survey staff play a major role in seeing short- and long-term objectives are met. The Department of Natural Resources offers additional in-kind support in the form of office and storage space and network access.*