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 to inform policy (*e.g.*, hazard mapping, coastal vulnerability *etc.*), to assist in health and safety initiatives (as in identifying groundwater contaminants derived from bedrock), developing new economic initiatives (such as enhancing the 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 6 non-Survey co-authors, and indicates our strong ties with industry, Memorial University, as well as collaborations with the University of Toronto. This year sees the first 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 carbonate-hosted zinc mineralization on the Great Northern Peninsula (James Conliffe), fluorite mineralization in the St. Lawrence area (Zsuzsanna Magyarosi), the Beaver Brook antimony mine (Hamish Sandeman), the distribution of VMS-style mineralization in the Buchans–Roberts Arm belt (Greg Sparkes), bedrock geology of the St. Alban's map area (Anne Westhues), till geochemistry and Quaternary mapping in western Newfoundland (Sarah Hashmi), UAV (drone) data in environmental monitoring (Melanie Irvine), and testing the application of geophysical methods in coastal monitoring research (Gerry Kilfoil). In Labrador, there are reports on potential Ni–Cu–PGE mineralization in western Labrador (James Conliffe), and bedrock mapping in the Hollinger Lake area (Jared Butler).

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 staff. However, the Geological Survey remains committed to providing the highest level of service. Planning for the 2018 field season is underway with projects planned in western Labrador, and throughout Newfoundland – mineral-deposit studies in the Labrador Trough and Baie Verte Peninsula, 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.

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 30, 2018, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2019-1.