

# Contributions of Government Geoscience to the Prosperity of New Brunswick

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## Summary

The main objective of the Geological Surveys Branch (GSB) is to encourage exploration activity in New Brunswick. Various geoscience activities are conducted by GSB to provide a geological framework to meet this objective. Explorationists use bedrock, surficial, and geochemical maps, metallic and industrial mineral deposit investigations, and hydrocarbon reservoir evaluations published by government to identify prospective target areas. Such geoscientific information has led to the recent discovery of a significant gold district in southern New Brunswick. Other government departments as well as private sector consultants use this geological data for urban planning and to address environmental and/or health concerns. Shoreline erosion studies by GSB contribute to the understanding of climate change and its effects on coastal development. To raise public awareness of the earth sciences, GSB participates in outreach activities such as school visits, workshops, and field trips.

Resource information collected by GSB is highlighted at various national and international industry forums in order to attract investment into New Brunswick. Direct financial support to stimulate exploration investment is provided by a \$1 million incentive program that offers annual grants to junior mining companies and prospectors. More than 100 holes drilled under a five year, \$12 million joint venture between GSB and Xstrata Zinc has provided valuable data on the geology of the Bathurst Mining Camp. This information has renewed exploration interest in northern New Brunswick where mining has contributed to the local economy for over half a century. In southern New Brunswick, the economy is benefitting from a \$1.7 billion expansion of the PotashCorp potash mine, continuing development of the McCully natural gas field, and investment in exploration for future productive oil and gas fields. Geoscience information generated by GSB was instrumental in the discovery and geological modelling of these mineral and hydrocarbon resources.