

The British Columbia Geological Survey: Serving Society's Mineral Resource Needs

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The British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) is committed to supporting a thriving, safe and responsible mining industry for the benefit of all British Columbians. We accomplish this by providing expert advice to government on the geology and mineral resources of the province, in addition to generating new geoscientific data to attract mineral industry investment.

The expertise and data of the BCGS play a critical role in government decisions that could impact on subsurface resource use and/or the mineral industry. For example, mineral assessment maps play a significant role in preserving access to areas with mineral potential.

The BCGS makes it a priority to generate new geoscience data and products, including bedrock and surficial geology maps, mineral deposit studies and geochemical information. In 2009, Survey staff shared information and expertise at conferences, workshops, fieldtrips and the first annual BCGS Open House. Geoscience publications and data are delivered online through the BCGS website and MapPlace.

To deliver key field programs, BCGS staff collaborate with various partner organizations, including the Geological Survey of Canada, Geoscience BC and industry. Ongoing partnership projects include the North Coast bedrock and Iskut River mineral deposit and bedrock mapping projects, and Tahtsa Lake surficial geology and geochemistry program. The BC digital bedrock geology map has been recently updated with a new geological compilation of the Quesnel Trough, the first of several major updates planned for the map.

Databases and websites play an integral role in providing access to all of BC's public geoscience information. New data are continually added, in particular, recent updates to Property File and MINFILE in Geoscience BC's QUEST area.

The BC Mineral Development Office (MDO) of the BCGS is located in Vancouver, the leading centre for global exploration. This office promotes investment opportunities in the province's mineral industry by interacting with companies and hosting incoming delegations. The MDO has reached out to Asian investors in recent years.