

Foreword

On behalf of the Manitoba Geological Survey (MGS), it is my privilege to present the *Report of Activities 2017*—the annual peer-reviewed volume of geoscience project results by the MGS and our partners.

The MGS mandate has evolved considerably since its inception in 1928. Early efforts to document Manitoba's geology have expanded alongside the growth of the mining and petroleum industries to assist Manitoba in realizing its vast mineral potential by providing comprehensive, authoritative and accessible geoscience information, and also to meet the ever-changing needs of the exploration industry and geoscientific community. In addition to providing geoscience data to the mineral resource development sectors, the MGS now provides information in support of Indigenous and municipal land-use planning, environmental assessment and protected area assessments.

The research reported on in this year's *Report of Activities* details project areas that cover Manitoba geography from the Hudson Bay coast to our southern border. The nature of the geoscience spans regional mapping in frontier regions to detailed mineral deposit studies in established camps—from traditional commodities such as base metals and gold to emerging commodities such as lithium and diamonds. This variety speaks to the great diversity and potential of Manitoba's mineral resources, a feature that was reinforced in the recommendations of the Look North Task Force, a northern communities stakeholder group advising the government on the development of its northern economic development strategy.

The sustainability of mineral resource development requires successful petroleum and mineral exploration in order to maintain the reserve base. The MGS recognizes this as a priority, and in this context, the work of the MGS and its partners must balance geoscience support for active mineral exploration in established camps with the acquisition of fundamental geoscience in frontier and emerging districts. This approach works to improve the discovery rates in established districts to assist in new and continuing exploration initiatives, while at the same time building the geoscience infrastructure critical to reducing mineral exploration risk and informing private sector

investment decision making in more remote regions.

This year's volume includes research results generated through a number of collaborations within the academic and geological survey communities. Leveraging expertise and resources is an important facet of MGS research programming, and these partnerships help to expand the scope of our research and also address the broader objective of providing opportunities to train the next generation of geoscientists to support the minerals sector in Manitoba.

The past year has seen considerable change within the organization of the Manitoba government. The Manitoba Geological Survey now resides within the Resource Development Division of the Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade. The internal structure of the MGS has also changed, with the restructuring of geoscientific staff into three sections: Precambrian Geoscience, Mineral Deposits and Sedimentary Geoscience. These changes were accompanied by a number of staff retirements: Jim Bamburak retired after more than 41 years as an industrial and specialty minerals geologist, Viorel Varga retired from the Midland Lab and Rock Storage facility after 33 years of service, Maureen McFarlane retired from the Geoscience Information Services section after 32 years of service and Shirley Holgate retired as Convention Coordinator after 44 years of service. Linda Murphy departed the MGS to pursue opportunities in the private sector after serving as both a project geologist and Aboriginal Issues Policy Analyst.

The production of the *Report of Activities* is not possible without the dedicated efforts of geologists, cartographers and GIS specialists, lab technicians, expeditors, storekeepers and administrative and Corporate Services staff. Bob Davie and his team from RnD Technical provided outstanding professional technical editing services, and Craig Steffano managed report production and publication layout. I sincerely thank everyone of the MGS team for their valuable contributions.

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