

FOREWORD

Increasing energy production from conventional and unconventional resources has positioned the province of British Columbia as one of Canada's energy leaders. The goals and strategies set out by the Ministry of Energy and Mines play a significant role as energy continues to generate wealth. The Ministry is the steward of energy and mineral resources and is mandated to protect the public interest in development of these resources and ensure that the benefits of these developments are maximized for all residents of the province.

One of the Ministry's key objectives is to provide a strong, competitive oil and gas sector while working with governments, First Nations and communities. Further implementation and refinement of the Ministry's Oil and Gas Development Strategy has been the main catalyst for increased capital investment in British Columbia's oil and gas sector. The annual dollar amount of oil and gas industry capital investment in British Columbia is expected to reach \$4 billion in 2005.

The Resource Development and Geoscience Branch within the Oil and Gas Division, serves as the lead unit within the Ministry in supplying petroleum geoscience information and knowledge to the province. It conducts ongoing energy-related projects that encompass a wide variety of studies, papers, and articles that summarize geoscience and resource development activity. This second volume of the "Summary of Activities" is the result of work completed by Branch staff; they have contributed the majority of the articles enclosed.

Geoscientists from the Geological Survey of Canada and the Alberta Geological Survey, have authored and co-authored articles on the Skeena and Bowser Lake Groups and highlighted results from surficial geology mapping. University research projects also play an important role in this volume. Contributions by the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Regina, University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University are presented here.

Some of the highlights in this volume include papers on the following:

- Exploration in the Middle Devonian Liard Basin
- Aggregate and surficial geology mapping in northeast British Columbia
- Bedrock topography mapping program and shallow gas in northeast British Columbia
- Implementation of geomatics technology for aggregate exploration in northeast British Columbia
- Bowser Lake Group stratigraphy and its relationship to the overlying Cretaceous Skeena Group
- Cumulative coal thickness and coalbed gas potential in the Comox Coal Basin on Vancouver Island

The Resource Development and Geoscience Branch continues to publish numerous open files, studies, special papers and other products, which recently included an analysis of shale gas potential in British Columbia. The Branch also continues to make improvements and add new information to its website at www.em.gov.bc.ca/oil&gas.

I thank all the authors for their contributions, dedication and perseverance; they have made this second volume another success. Lastly, these are exciting times for geoscience and its vital contributions to society. This volume contributes to our outreach efforts and documents important new findings.

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