

## **CSPG input to Federal Review of Science Funding**

The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG) is the largest technical society of geoscientists in Canada. The primary focus of the CSPG is fostering technical excellence in the areas of geosciences that are applicable to oil and gas exploration and development which includes all aspects of sedimentary geology, basin development, tectonics and fluid flow. As a result there is very significant overlap of the practice of geosciences in industry and research interests in the Canadian academic system. Many of our members work in University departments and undertaking and publishing their research is a key element of what they do. However we also know that many of our members that work in industry also publish research funded by their employers. We also have our own peer reviewed scientific journal that publishes 4 issues per year contributing 20-30 papers (mostly on Canadian topics) per year to the advancement of geosciences knowledge. We therefore feel that it is appropriate for us to provide our input on the importance of Federal funding to the geosciences.

Canadian geoscience has a long and impressive track record globally and has been responsible for a number of groundbreaking new discoveries and theories during the last 150 years. The diversity of geology in Canada have resulted in a very broad spectrum of earth science disciplines being applicable to better understanding the development of Canada through geological time and the impact that this has had on the distribution of natural resources. One of the key drivers therefore for continuing success is to fund basic research aimed at upgrading the geological mapping and characterization of the geology mapped throughout this very large country. It may be surprising to learn that this is not yet done, at some simplified level it is but not at the level of detail that is necessary, and this type of data is the starting point for other research initiatives.

Therefore we consider that Federal funding is a key element in providing the necessary foundation of data and research work for future success. This requires funding of and collaboration between various branches of NRCAN and Canadian Universities. This is not cheap as much of this work begins with spending significant amounts of time doing fieldwork in remote and difficult to access locations to upgrade bedrock and surficial geological maps, collect samples for lab work and log key stratigraphic sections. Further funding is then required to allow analysis of the data collected and for lab work. Technology brings with it some significant efficiencies but also often brings more demands on capital to acquire hi-tech analytical resources.

Canada has an economy that is strongly reliant on the development of natural resources of various types and to sustain these industries and their revenue generating capacity. It is therefore imperative that funding at the Federal level for the earth sciences in Universities and for NRCAN be increased. If this is not done then we risk seeing a slow but steady decline in these industries.

The CSPG is not in a position to comment on the current processes for the distribution of funding to researchers but many of our members are and we have advised them of the request for input through our electronic newsletter and we are confident that many of them will take advantage of this opportunity to provide some informed commentary.