

# The Geological Survey of Canada: Overview

November 5, 2010

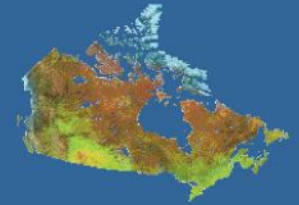
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# Natural Resources Canada's Earth Sciences Sector

- Expertise at the service of Canadians to access, understand, and use Earth science information to deal with economic, environmental, and social changes.
  - Geological Survey of Canada... *Canada's National Geoscience Agency since 1842*
  - Geomatics Canada ....*provides maps of, and geographic information on, Canada's landmass and offshore*
  - Polar Continental Shelf Project ...*support arctic research*

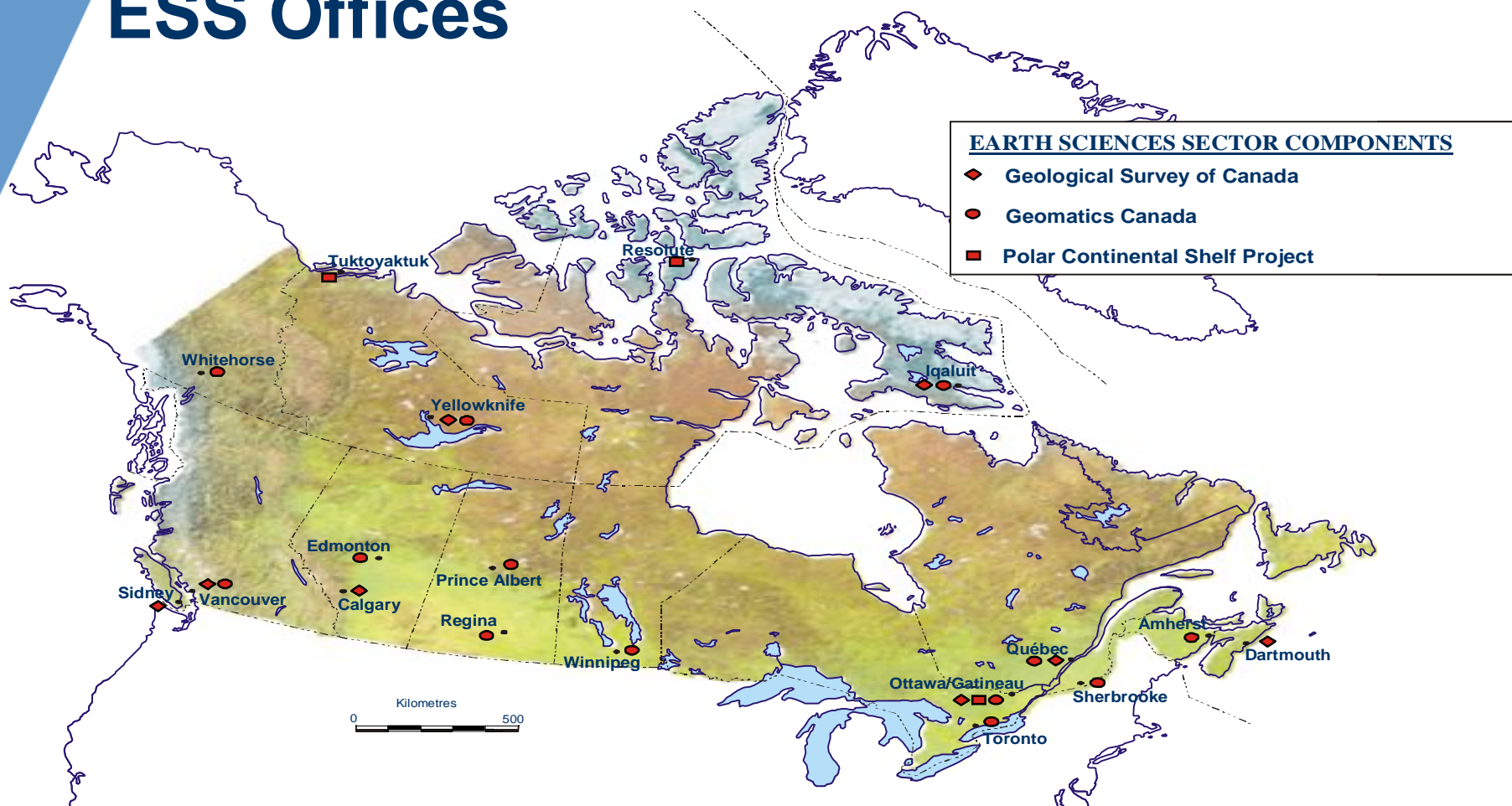


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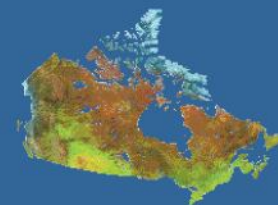
# ESS Offices



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## **ESS contributes to all three of NRCan's Strategic Outcomes**

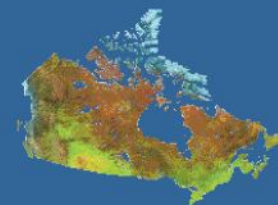
- **Economic Development**
  - Geoscience is used to help stimulate the exploration and development of new energy and mineral resources
- **Environment Responsibility**
  - Geoscience is used to understand environmental issues and reduce risks to the environment
- **Safety Security and Governance**
  - ESS science and knowledge are used to help Canada adapt to a changing climate, the risks of natural and man-made hazards are reduced, and basic infrastructure is provided to support the governing of Canada.



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# ESS has a key role to play in NRCan's Priorities

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

## DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

- Legislated Environmental and Resource Assessments (LERA)
- Environmental Geoscience program

Regulatory  
System

- Green Mining Initiative
- Targeted Geoscience Initiative (TGI)
- Offshore Geoscience Program
- Gas Hydrates Program
- Groundwater Geoscience Program

Competitive  
Resource Sectors

- Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP)
- Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM)
- UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Development in the  
North

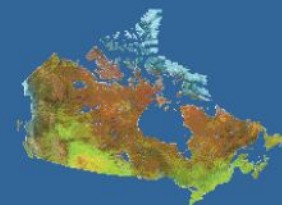


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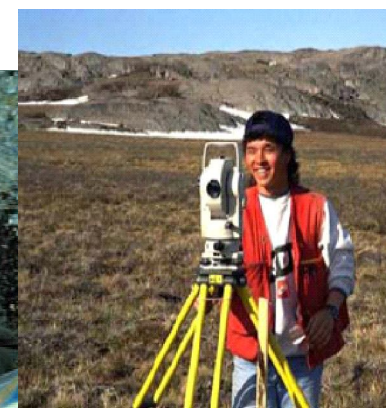
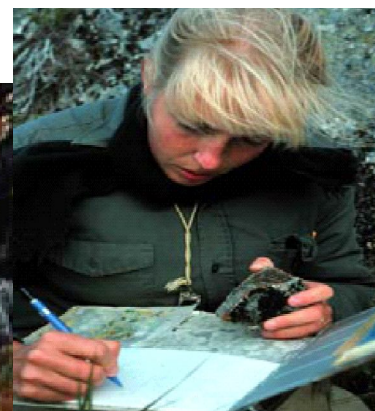
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# Economic Development

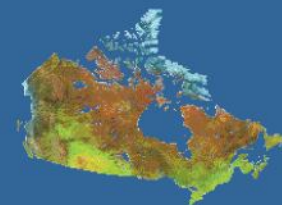
Geoscience is used to help stimulate the exploration and development of new energy and mineral resources.



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# Economic Development

## Geoscience Exploration

- Targeted Geoscience Initiative
- Offshore Geoscience
- Gas Hydrates

## Northern Development

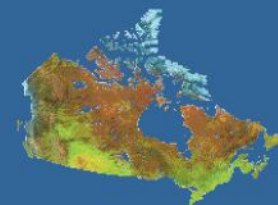
- Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals
- Polar Continental Shelf Project
- Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office



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## Targeted Geoscience Initiative 4: Objectives

- Improved exploration models where gaps exist in our understanding of Canada's major mineral systems
- Improved methods for detecting buried mineral deposits

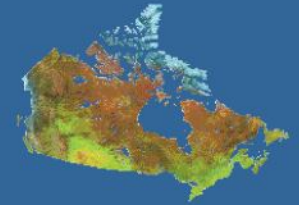


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## TGI4 – An Ore Systems Approach

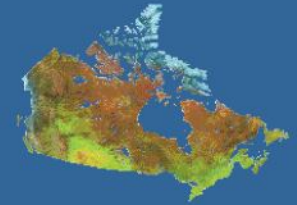
- Allows the consideration of all scales of processes that control the development of a mineral district
- More than one mining camp can be included within a single ore system study in order to use optimum examples from across Canada
- Develop multi-disciplinary expert teams from across Canada to focus on specific ore systems



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## TGI4 Framework

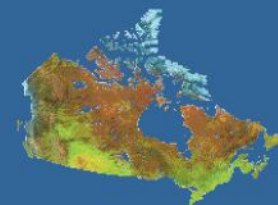
- Create knowledge and techniques to better understand, model and detect Canada's major mineral systems
- Focus on areas of highest mineral potential as defined by established and emerging mineral districts
- Include all non-ferrous commodities, i.e. base, precious and rare metals
- Program focus influenced and defined by the research needs of national and international exploration and mining companies (e.g. CMIC).
- High priority on partnering: provinces/territories and academia; training of students



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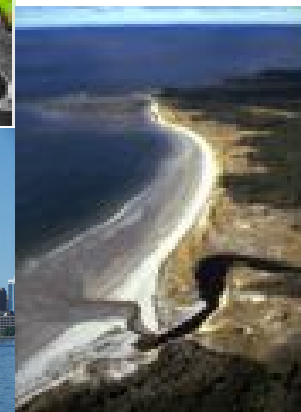
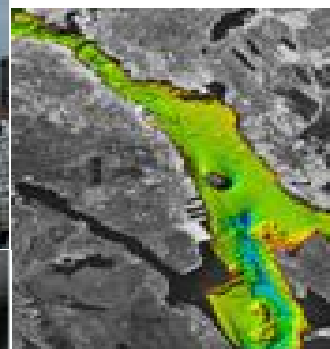
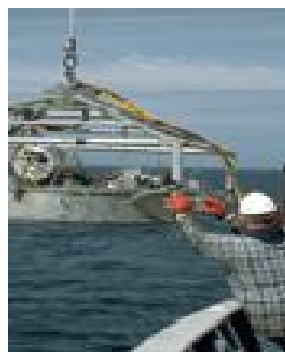
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# Offshore Geoscience

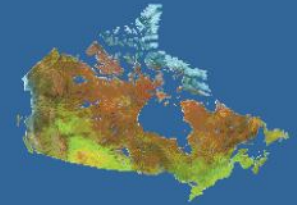
- Facilitate offshore development activities through provision of geological information about the seafloor
  - Seafloor environment
  - Seafloor hazards to built infrastructure
  - Seafloor marine benthic habitat
  - Collaborations with Ocean Networks Canada on NEPTUNE and VENUS



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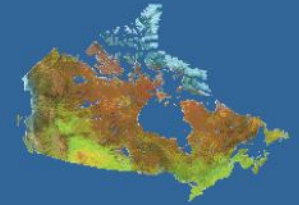
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# Gas Hydrates

- Evaluate the feasibility of producing land-based gas hydrates resources by depressurization
- Test well at Mallik, NWT
- Future steps: possible long-term production tests.
- Canadian recoverable natural gas (excluding gas hydrate): **~733 TCF** (*Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas, May 2010, low case*).
- Natural gas contained in Canadian gas hydrate deposits: **~1755 to 25,836 TCF\*** (Majorowicz and Osadetz, 2002; Osadetz and Chen, 2005)





# Geo-Mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM)

- Increase the economic prosperity of Northern Canada through stable, long-term investment in natural resources development
- Mapping 60% of the North to modern standards over 10 years- with approval received for first five years
- Multi-metals, diamonds, conventional petroleum
- Major, multi-year field work, massive data acquisition
- Training for the next generation of highly-qualified geoscientists
- Catalyst for developing and adopting new approaches to managing information throughout its life cycle

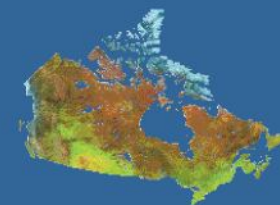


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# GEM - Geo-Mapping for Energy & Minerals

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## GEM Project Areas

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Northwest Canadian Cordillera                   | 10 Northeast Manitoba             |
| 2 Yukon Sedimentary Basins                        | 11 Diamonds                       |
| 3 Mackenzie Delta and Corridor                    | 12 Diamonds                       |
| 4 Sverdrup Sedimentary Basin                      | 13 Melville Peninsula             |
| 5 Victoria Island                                 | 14 Hudson/Foxe Sedimentary Basins |
| 6 Diamonds  | 15 "Baffin Bay" Sedimentary Basin |
| 7 Great Bear Lake                                 | 16 Cumberland Peninsula           |
| 8 Uranium   | 17 Hall Peninsula                 |
| 9 Baker Lake/<br>Chesterfield Inlet/<br>Wager Bay | 18 Schefferville, QC-NL           |

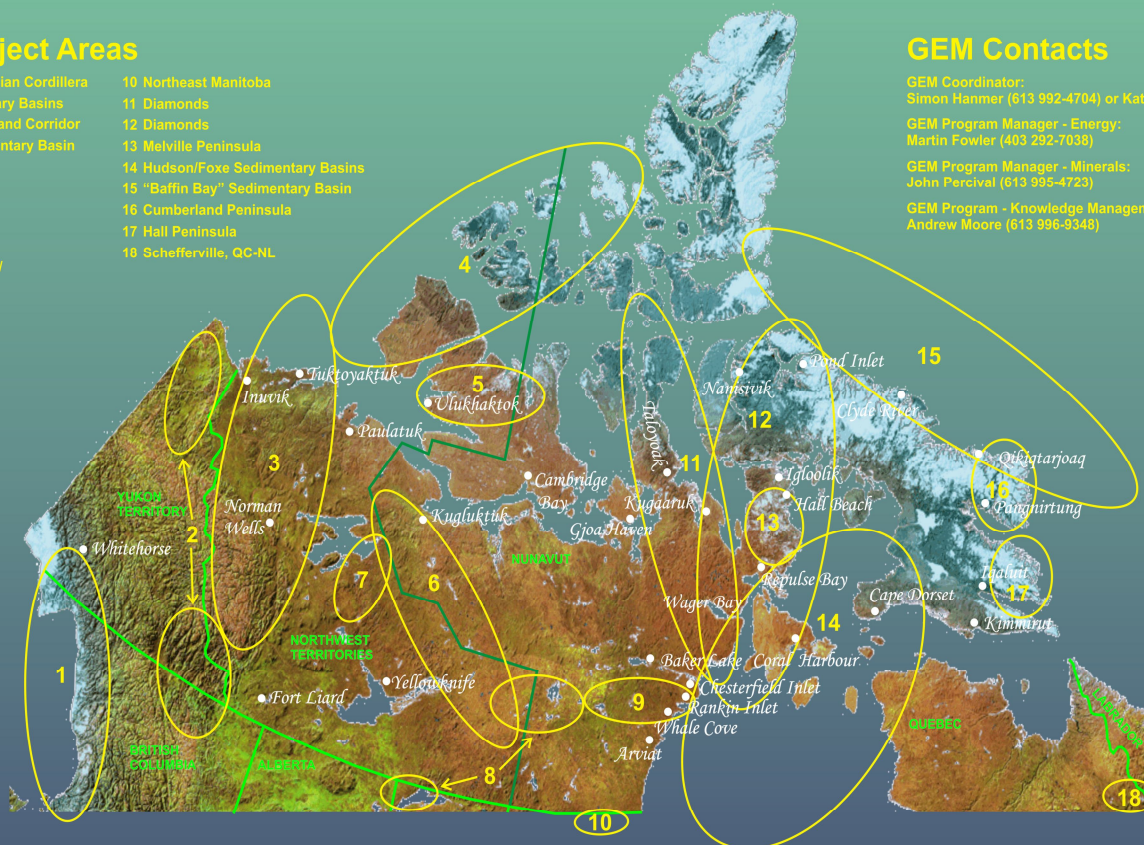
## GEM Contacts

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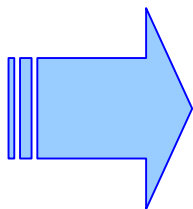
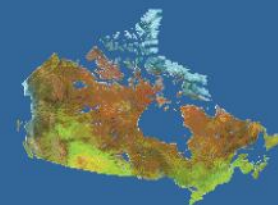
Northwest Territories Geoscience Office,  
John Ketchum, john\_ketchum@gov.nt.ca  
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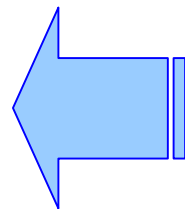
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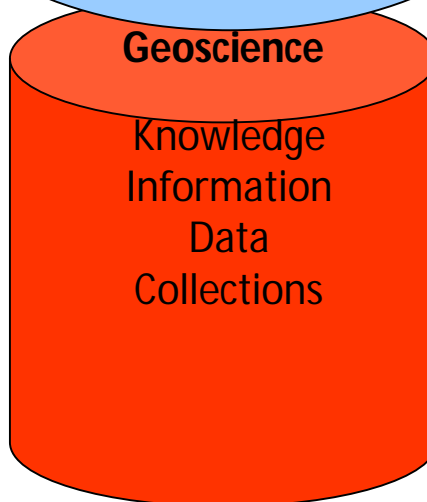
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Field Project Process  
Information Mgmt



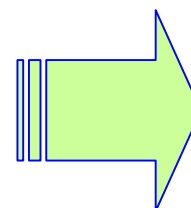
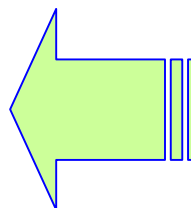
# GEM Knowledge Management



Geoscience

Knowledge  
Information  
Data  
Collections

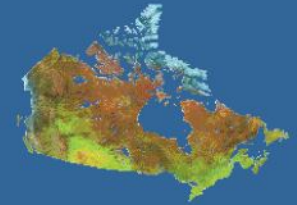
Discovery – Access  
Application – Use  
Understanding



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# Polar Continental Shelf Project

- **Provide logistical coordination and a northern base to support Arctic research**



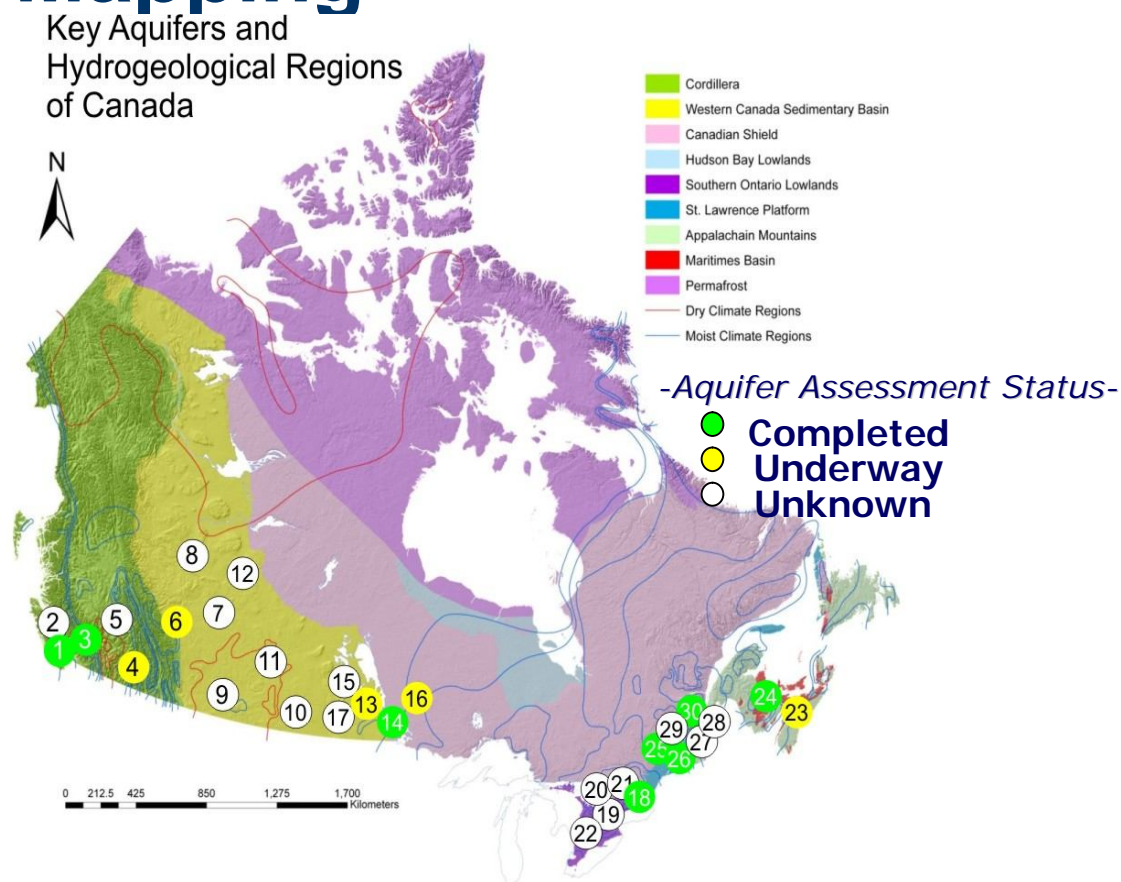
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# Groundwater Mapping

- Complete assessment of 30 key regional aquifers
  - Aquifer assessments
  - Data and information integration and dissemination
  - Integration with the Provinces and Territories
  - Methodologies for aquifer assessment

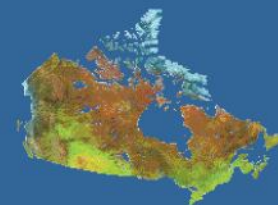


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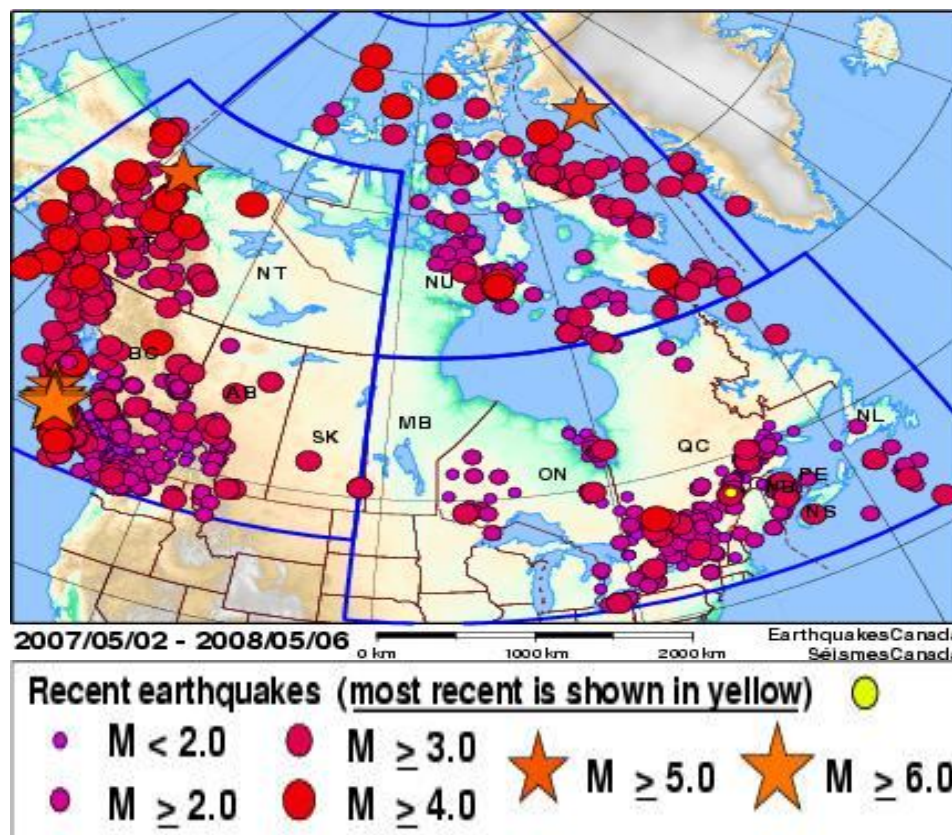




## Public Safety Geoscience and Hazards

The risks of natural and man-made hazards are reduced

- **Public Safety Geoscience Program**
- **Canadian Hazard Information Service**

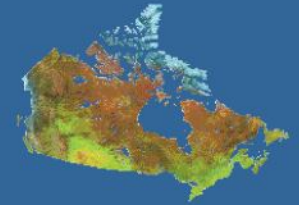


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## Opportunities for Collaboration

- Geological mapping: boots on the ground, knowledge management
- Methodologies for pre-competitive mineral exploration
- Environmental geology
- Gas hydrates
- Developing the next generation of highly-qualified Canadian Geologists (RAP, FSWEF, PDF)



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