

Building on the successful 2007 QUEST project, Geoscience BC's 2008 QUEST-West Project will collect new geoscience data over an additional 40,000 square kilometers in central BC (see map). The project will help exploration geologists better understand the geology and mineral potential of this region, hopefully leading to increased mineral exploration investment. The QUEST-West Project is being funded by Geoscience BC with support from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Northern Trust, through funding from the Trust's Pine Beetle Recovery Account.

What Can I Expect?

Two new airborne geophysical surveys will be flown as part of the QUEST-West Project: an electromagnetic survey and a gravity survey. These surveys will be flown by helicopter and will help industry identify areas for further mineral exploration. The electromagnetic survey equipment is suspended below the helicopter so that it flies just above the treetops. The gravity equipment is all within the helicopter. Both surveys operate out of local airports.

QUEST-West will also include the collection of new sediment samples from small lakes and streams in the region, using a helicopter and trucks. Also, over 4700 sediment samples that were collected in the 1970s and 1980s will be reanalyzed using modern geochemical methods. These results will also help exploration companies identify interesting areas for more work. Geoscience BC is also supporting reanalysis partnership projects in the Babine Lake (with the BC Geological Survey) and Terrace-Kitimat regions (with the Terrace Economic Development Authority, KT Industrial Development Society and Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine).

All QUEST West project activities are non-intrusive and environmentally safe.

The QUEST-West program will produce a compilation of maps combining the results of the new surveys with existing public geoscience data. Data will be released to public starting in early 2009.

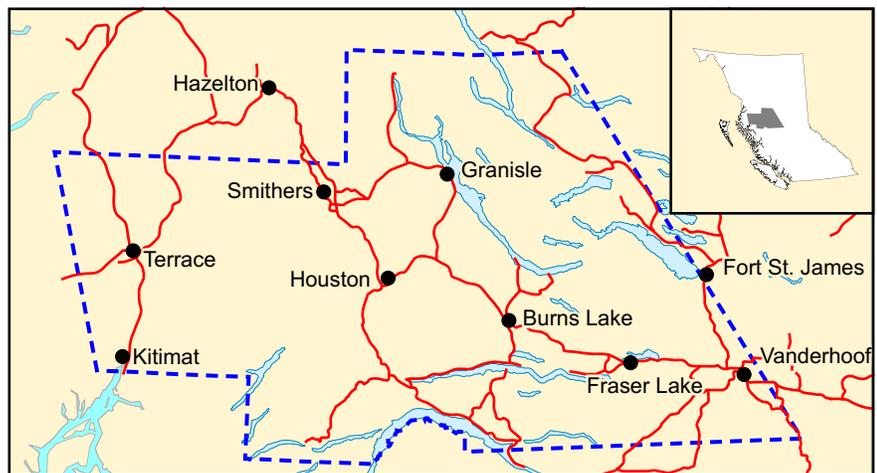


Helicopter used in flying an airborne gravity survey. All survey equipment is contained within the helicopter. Photo courtesy of O. Peterson, Sander Geophysics Ltd.

Inset: Helicopter flying an airborne electromagnetic survey. The survey equipment is suspended beneath the helicopter. Photo courtesy of Aeroquest International Ltd.



Sampling of lake sediment for geochemical analysis. Photo courtesy of W. Jackaman, Noble Exploration Services Ltd.



Map of central BC, with QUEST-West survey area outlined.

If you have any questions concerning these surveys, or would like more information about Geoscience BC, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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QUEST-West is a partnership project between Geoscience BC, the Regional Districts of Bulkley-Nechako and Kitimat-Stikine, Terrace Economic Development Authority, Northern Trust and British Columbia Geological Survey (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources). Project funding is provided by Geoscience BC and the Northern Trust. Geoscience BC has been funded by the Provincial Government.

GEOSCIENCE BC'S PARTNERS:

