

Geoscience BC Announces QUEST: New Regional Geoscience Surveys in Central BC this Summer and Fall

Geoscience BC (GBC) is pleased to announce the QUEST project, a program of regional geophysical and geochemical surveys this summer in central BC. The surveys will focus on a belt of rocks that extends from Kamloops to past Mackenzie and runs beneath Prince George and Quesnel. These rocks have potential for copper and copper-gold deposits such as those at the Gibraltar and Mount Polley mines. The central part of this belt (around Prince George) has been relatively unexplored as it is covered by a thick layer of sand and gravel left behind by glaciers, making mineral exploration difficult.

This project is part of Geoscience BC's initiative to generate new economic diversification opportunities for communities in the Mountain Pine Beetle affected areas.

The project will collect new geophysical and geochemical data in the area, which will help the mineral exploration industry identify targets underneath the sand and gravel cover (see photos). Altogether, this program will produce a compilation of maps combining the results of the above surveys with existing public geoscience data, and is scheduled for release in early 2008. All data will be released to the public in digital format, and key maps will also be printed.



Helicopter flying airborne electromagnetic geophysical survey (survey equipment, which looks like a giant spiderweb, is suspended beneath the helicopter). Geophysics is essentially remote sensing of the properties of rocks in the ground, in this case being the conductivity of the rocks. The helicopter will operate out of airports, roads, and open areas where it can land for re-fueling.

Photo courtesy of Geotech Ltd.

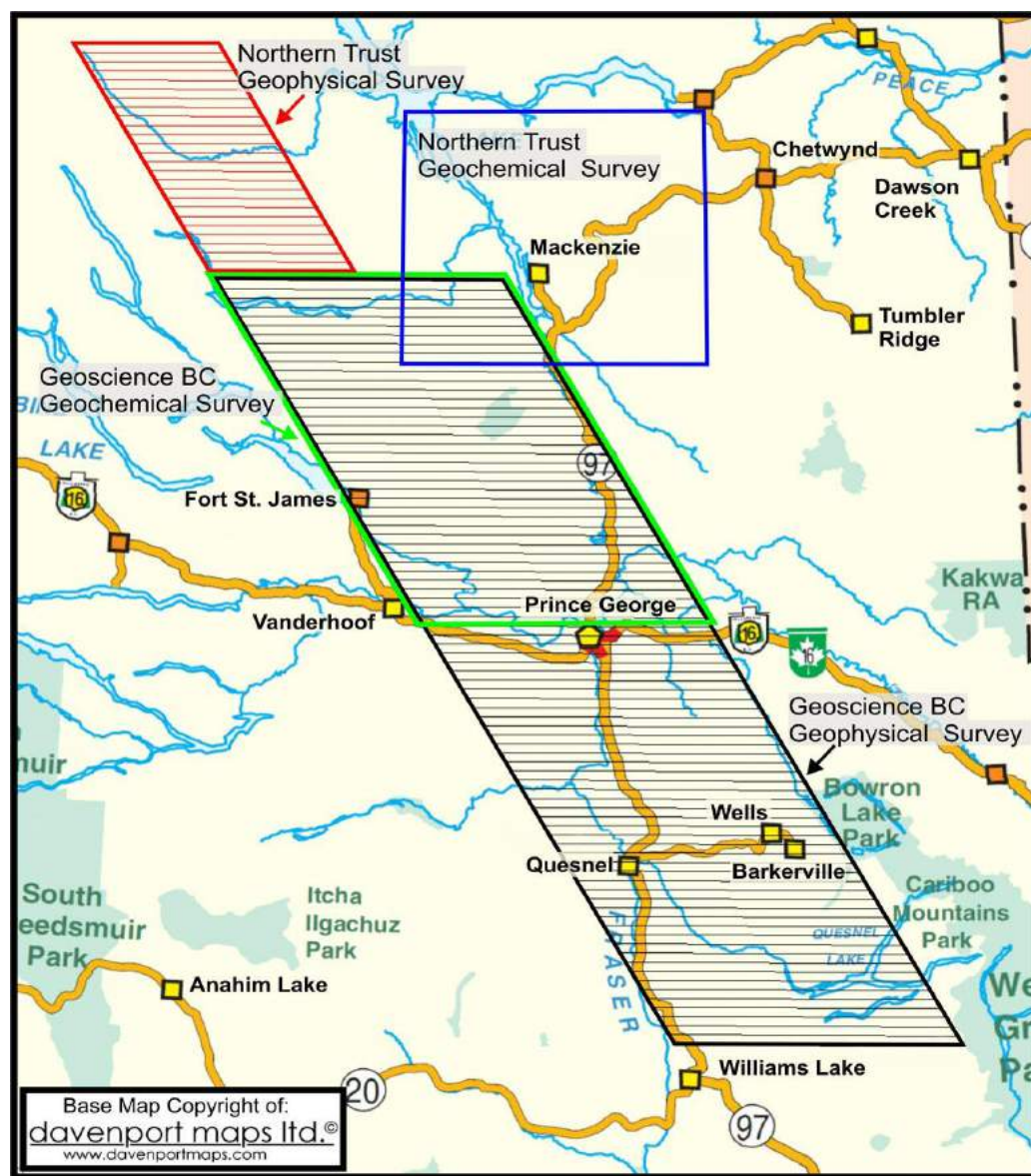


Airplane flying an airborne gravity survey, which measures the density of rocks. All survey equipment is contained within the airplane. The airplane will operate out of local airports. *Photo courtesy of Sander Geophysics Ltd.*



Sampling of lake sediment for geochemical analysis. Geochemistry involves the sampling of sediment from lakes and streams, looking for unusual concentrations of elements of interest such as copper or gold. Sampling crews will work from trucks and helicopter. This new geochemical data will identify new potential mineral exploration targets, and help attract the exploration industry to the region.

Photo by W. Jackaman.



Road map of central BC, with airborne geophysical and geochemical survey areas labeled and outlined. The horizontal lines in the airborne geophysical survey areas represent the flightlines of the electromagnetic survey.

Geoscience BC is very pleased to welcome the Northern Development Initiative Trust as our funding partner in this project. Their funding will allow an extension of the geophysical survey area to the north, and expansion of the geochemical survey area to the north and east around Mackenzie, BC. For more information on the Northern Trust, please contact:



Northern Development Initiative Trust
Prince George, BC
250-561-2525
admin@nditrust.ca
www.nditrust.ca

Geoscience BC is an industry-led, industry-focused, applied geoscience organization. Our mandate is to encourage mineral and petroleum exploration investment in British Columbia through the delivery of applied geoscience, including; new data, new ideas and new technologies; as well as compilations and reprocessing of existing data, and applications of existing technologies in new areas.

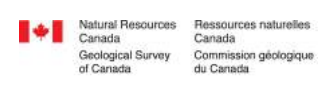
Geoscience BC works in partnership with industry, academia, government, First Nations, and communities to identify and fund applied geoscience projects to fulfill our mandate.

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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This is part of the Mountain Pine Beetle Collaborative Geoscience Plan developed by Geoscience BC, BC Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources and Natural Resources Canada for geoscience initiatives in the Mountain Pine Beetle area. For more information on the Federal or Provincial project, please contact:



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