Drill Core Library Report of Activities, January to December 2025

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Overview

2025 was another busy and productive year at the Nova Scotia Drill Core Library, marked by strong client engagement, facility improvements, and continued progress on new initiatives. Activities throughout the year focused on maintaining safe and effective access to core materials, supporting research and exploration, and improving long-term infrastructure and services.

Staffing and Client Services

In July, the Department hired a dedicated Client Services Coordinator. Core access requests are now handled through the Drill Core Library Access Request email: drillcore@novascotia.ca

Clients are encouraged to include as much information as possible when submitting requests, ideally including drill core ID, drill hole name, year drilled, and the company responsible for drilling. Providing clear and complete requests helps staff streamline client visits and improves overall service efficiency.

Client Use

Client engagement remained strong throughout the year. Staff supported client access to approximately 54,311 m of drill core and drill cuttings, representing an estimated $8.1 million in replacement value. This represents the largest amount since records began in 2022. A summary of client activity, including total client days, samples collected, and replacement value of accessed materials, is presented in Figure 7.

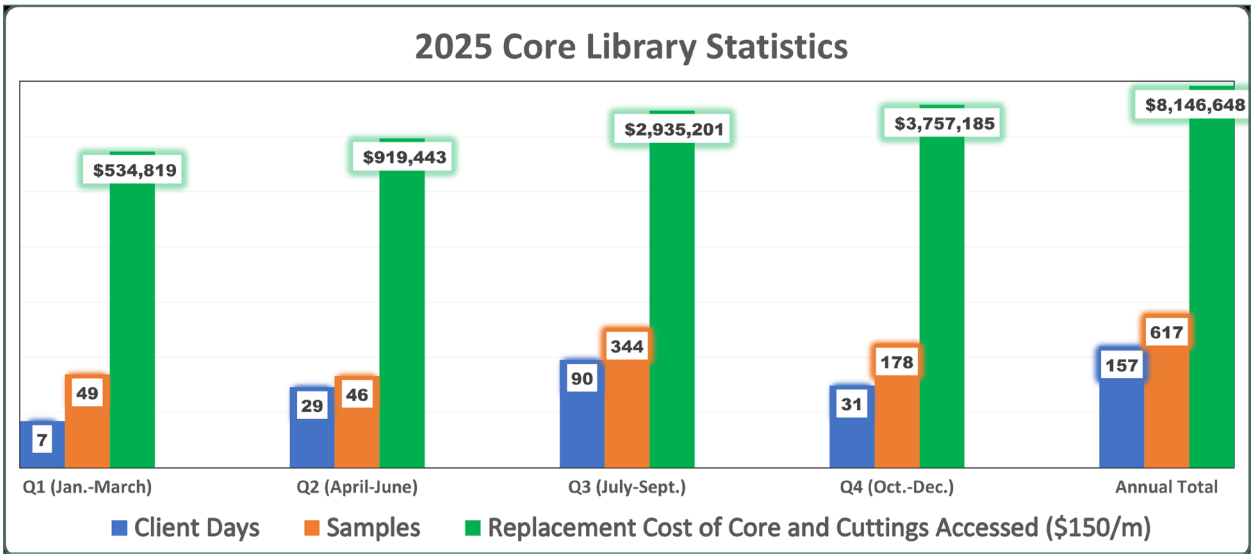

Figure 7. Drill Core Library client activity summary for 2025, including total client days, samples collected, and estimated replacement value of materials accessed.

User Groups and Research Activities

Clients accessing the Drill Core Library represented a mix of exploration, government, and academic users. Academic highlights included a PhD thesis investigating the carbon capture potential of several sedimentary units in Nova Scotia. The library also provided coal samples to Dalhousie University battery researchers and supported Geological Survey of Canada staff conducting palynological studies to improve age constraints across the Maritimes Basin.

User group activity, categorized by the primary objective of each visiting group, is summarized in Figure 8.

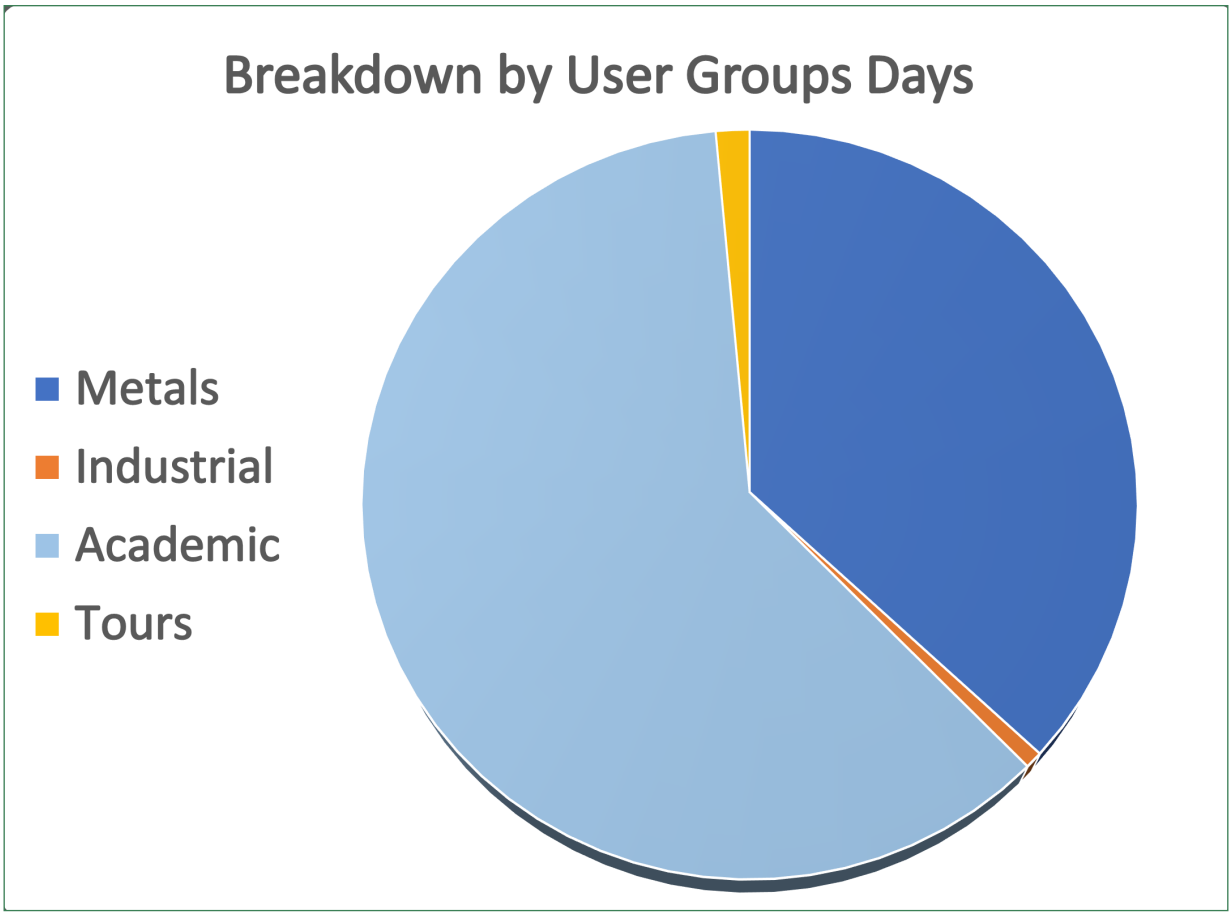

Figure 8. User group days categorized by the primary objective of each client group's visit to the Drill Core Library.

Mineral Interest Trends

Base metals, copper (Cu), lead (Pb), and zinc (Zn), continued to represent the largest proportion of mineral-related activity at the Drill Core Library during the reporting year. A detailed breakdown of metal interests by drillhole viewed is presented in Figure 9. Other non-mineral-related interests are grouped under "OP" (Other Purposes).

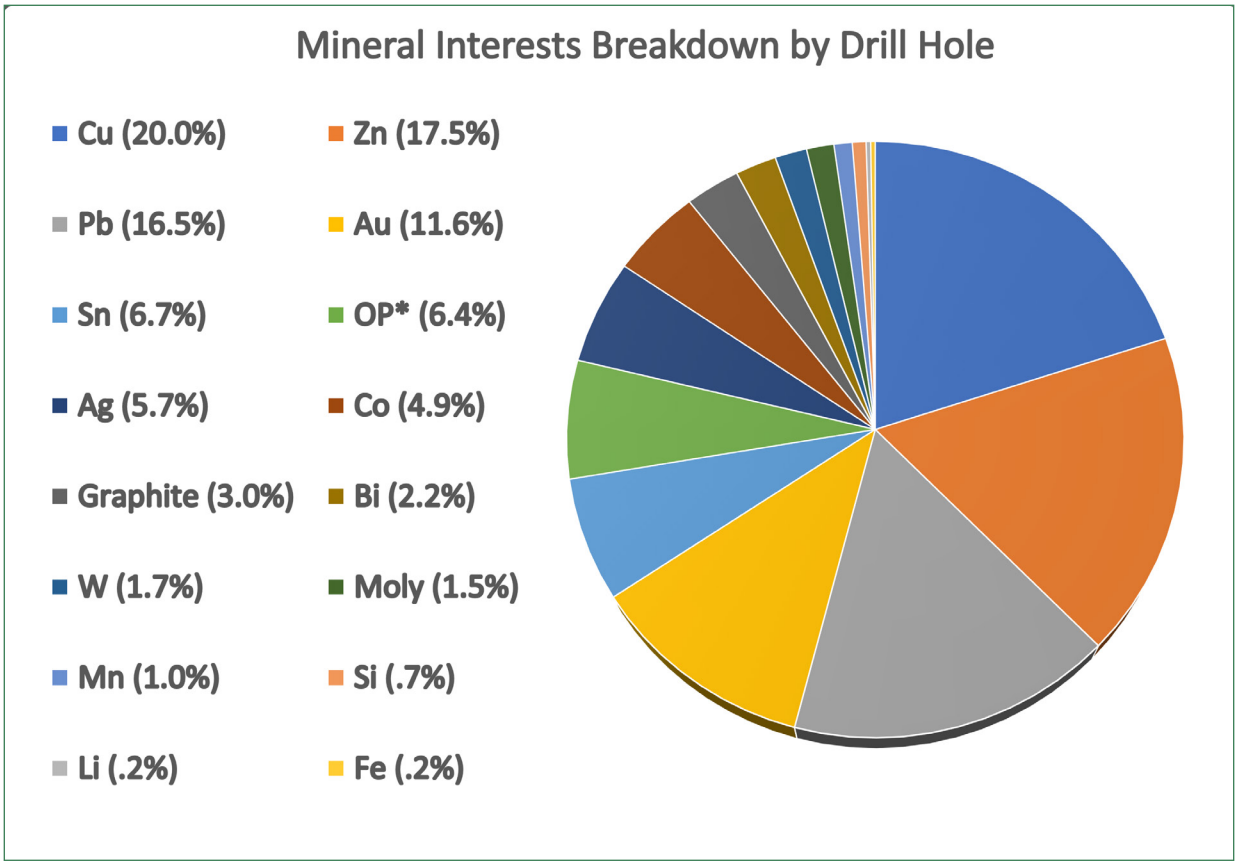

Figure 9. Mineral interests' breakdown by drill hole viewed at the Drill Core Library (*OP = other, non-mineral-related interests).

Facility Safety and Infrastructure Improvements

Scheduled energy-efficiency upgrades were completed in late spring with the replacement of several end-of-life systems. This work included the installation of new windows in the main office building, upgrades to heat pump systems, and the replacement of more than 400 light fixtures with LED lighting across the warehouse spaces. These upgrades have improved both energy efficiency and working conditions within the facility.

Presentations and Professional Engagement

The year began with a successful speaker series held in partnership with the Museum of Industry as part of their Climate Conversations Series. We would like to thank the

museum for putting on the series as well as speakers John Waldron, Maureen Matthews, and Mitch Maracle for their excellent presentations. Respectively, the topics were Nova Scotia Tectonics and Climate thru Geologic Time, Geohazards in a Changing Climate and the Keeping Pace with the Sea: Monitoring Coastal Erosion in a Changing Climate. These talks were well attended and provided valuable opportunities to connect geological research with broader public conversations on climate change.

Staff presented at the Mineral Resources Forum in November, highlighting the role of the Drill Core Library in supporting exploration, research, and data preservation in Nova Scotia.