

Geology and Society: What is the Role of the Mineral Inventory?

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Geology plays a significant role in the day-to-day lives of Nova Scotians, but only a small minority of the provincial population is cognizant of this fact. The deficiency in knowledge and recognition of this fundamental science can lead to poor land-use planning decisions, which in turn can have significant long term implications for the health and safety of both communities and the environment.

Department of Natural Resources, the principal collector and compiler of geological data in Nova Scotia, has an inherent responsibility to disseminate this information to community decision-makers and planners. The question is, how do we accomplish this formidable task?

Many of Nova Scotia's rural communities are struggling to survive in a time when their populations are both shrinking and aging. There is a need for new economic opportunities to draw and hold young people in these areas. Small-scale mineral resource developments, such as that seen at the River Denys Marble Quarry, are one possible solution.

The posters will attempt to portray the relevance of one component of the geological data set to society, the Mineral Inventory, and the efforts made by Inventory staff in 2005 to deliver this information into the hands of community leaders and planners. They will also highlight a model that could be used as a rural economic development tool.