

# Surficial Geology Mapping in the Halifax Metropolitan and Surrounding Area

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A surficial geology mapping project in the Halifax area will be initiated in 2008 by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR). An updated, digital georeferenced surficial map will provide potential stakeholders, such as various levels of government, urban planners, geotechnical or environmental companies, and educational/research colleges/universities, with a more useful geoscience knowledgebase than the older, small-scale, paper maps provide.

Along with a more detailed update to the distribution of materials in plan view, the map will include new stratigraphic sections where available, and make use of any other 3-D data, such as boreholes and geophysical surveys.

Multiple tills exist in the Halifax area and because of their different provenances, till units have distinct geochemical and geotechnical characteristics. A better understanding of the stratigraphic relationships (and map distribution) of various till units would be useful for a broad range of uses, from planning municipal infrastructure to studying fish habitat.

The new map will be released in multiple formats (paper, digitally and in web GIS) reflecting the broad range of potential users. This project is still in the planning phase, and input from stakeholders is encouraged. This map will be complemented by similar scale bedrock mapping by NSDNR.