

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The Minister's National Advisory Board on Earth Sciences (MNABES) provides advice to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) on strategic issues concerned with science and technology (S&T) and related areas that significantly impact on the Earth Sciences Sector (ESS). MNABES will be supported in its work by three technical committees. These are the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) Advisory Committee; the Geomatics Canada (GC) Advisory Committee; and the Polar Continental Shelf Project (PCSP) Advisory Committee.

REPORTING

The GSC Advisory Committee reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Earth Sciences Sector.

MEMBERSHIP

The GSC Advisory Committee shall consist of a maximum of ten members from the various client and stakeholder groups (e.g., private sector, provinces and territories, universities, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and other government departments), plus two ex-officio members representing the Canadian Geoscience Council and the Committee of Provincial Geologists. The members represent the various areas of GSC activities or other related activities.

Members shall be invited by the ADM to serve for a term of (normally) three years. Terms may be renewed. The chairperson shall be appointed by the ADM and shall be a member of MNABES. The ex-officio Advisory Committee members shall also be members of MNABES. Members shall serve as independent experts and not as representatives of individual institutions.

METHOD OF OPERATION

The GSC Advisory Committee shall meet twice a year (in the spring and fall), preferably one to two months before MNABES meets, and shall submit a report to the ADM summarizing its recommendations after each meeting. In examining GSC's programs, committee members should consider the strategic value of the work in their areas of review. Their responsibility is to judge whether GSC's work:

- properly responds to the overall direction as set forth in the ESS business plans;
- has an appropriate allocation of resources, and reasonable distribution of these resources

among programs and projects, bearing in mind the overall level of resources available to GSC;

- responds to client and stakeholder needs; and
- complements and cooperates with related work in Canada and elsewhere.

The GSC Advisory Committee is to advise the ADM on the content and direction of GSC's programs. The committee should avoid examining particular projects in detail as it is not responsible for reviewing how GSC manages its projects.

Members have access to all pertinent information they require to discharge their responsibilities. Members will be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement regarding confidential information that they may be given when reviewing GSC's programs. ESS' Policy, Planning and Coordination Division shall provide the secretariat for the GSC Advisory Committee.

COMPENSATION

The GSC Advisory Committee members serve without remuneration, but will be reimbursed, on request, for travel and living expenses associated with committee meetings according to the Treasury Board guidelines.