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Ray Price (April 14, 1992)

[At the Geological Survey of Canada 150th Anniversary Gala at the Canadian Museum of Nature on Tuesday 14th April, 1992, Dr. Raymond A. Price proposed the following toast to the GSC.

Dr. Price (B.Sc. University of Manitoba, 1955 and Ph.D. Princeton University, 1958) joined the GSC in 1958. He left in 1968 to join the faculty at Queen's University, Kingston and returned to the GSC in 1981. He was appointed the 16th Director General, Geological Survey of Canada, January 1, 1982 and later Assistant Deputy Minister, Geological Survey of Canada 1987-88. He then returned to Queen's University and has been Professor Emeritus since 1998. He is the recipient of many awards including the Massey Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society in 2010, the Logan Medal from the Geological Association of Canada in 1985 and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2003.]

Mesdames et messieurs, il me fait beaucoup de plaisir de vous inviter de porter avec moi un toast à la Commission géologique du Canada.

The Geological Survey of Canada means many different things to different people. Its name evokes many different images for different people; for example these images include the notion of:

- (1) an annual expenditure of \$100 million on salaries for 1000 people, on the operating costs for many large and expensive buildings, on maintaining high tech laboratories, huge data-bases and large collections of rocks, minerals, and fossils, all of which must be justified in terms of a prescribed set of program outputs;
- (2) an effective national geoscience information and research network of centres of international excellence, comprising highly productive multidisciplinary teams of scientific and support staff at regional nodes in Dartmouth, N. S., Quebec City, Ottawa, Calgary, Vancouver and Sidney, B.C.;
- (3) a national treasury of geoscience knowledge, experience and technology, available for, and dedicated to serving Canadian needs;
- (4) a fiercely proud and loyal team of professionals committed to maintaining and enhancing their 150-year legacy of fundamental contributions to the development of Canadian resources, the well-being of Canadians, and the advancement of the solid earth sciences;
- (5) an inverted pyramid with Sir William Logan at the apex, a thousand current GSC employees across the top, and all the intervening GSC employees occupying the space between, comprising the huge mass of individuals, living and dead, who have worked for the GSC, and who collectively have made it what it is;

(6) solid earth science professionals so dedicated to their craft and their service to their country that they are determined to continue working as emeritus research scientists, without pay, after they have earned the right to a full pension, and thereby create problems for public service human resource management specialists who cannot accommodate this kind of behaviour among the stereotypes they use in their normal business.

Many of you undoubtedly have other images and metaphors that can be used to describe some of the attributes of the GSC. Yesterday Bruce Howe said that the GSC is like the Society of Jesuits. To me it is more like an elite military regiment with a distinguished history of service to its country in many long and arduous military campaigns, some on the home front, but most is far off territories. I say this because having retired from service to my country in the GSC, I do feel like a war veteran; but particularly because I am conscious of the fact that the real GSC includes not only its present and past employees, but the spouses and the families who so often had to share in the sacrifices by being left behind at home when their loved one was away with the Survey on field campaigns in far off regions.

Whatever your images and your choice of metaphor may be, I ask you to raise your glass in a toast to something that we all cherish, the Geological Survey of Canada.