

JoAnne Nelson

JoAnne Nelson is a 31-year veteran of the British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS), specializing in the tectonics, structural geology and metallogeny of the Northern Cordillera. Over this time span she has developed an outstanding geoscience reputation coupled with major contributions as a project leader, mentor and communicator.

JoAnne was raised in the western United States where she initially became fascinated with rocks as a young teenager, during a mountaineering course at Yosemite National Park. Following completion of high school she went on to earn B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in geology at the University of Washington and at UBC, in 1973 and 1976, respectively. While at UBC she also earned a B.Ed. degree, and later taught high school science on Haida Gwaii followed by sessional lecturing in geology at UBC and at Douglas College, between 1978-1985. During this time period she also worked as a field geologist with Resource Associates of Alaska and other exploration companies, and as a contract petrographer for Vancouver Petrographics.

Since joining the BCGS in 1986 JoAnne has conducted extensive field mapping and related geological studies throughout British Columbia, with a primary focus on the tectonics and metallogeny of the northwestern part of the province. She has also developed expertise in aspects of the evolution of the BC-Yukon-Alaskan Cordillera as a whole. Her current project involves structural and geochronological studies of the Mesozoic porphyry-epithermal belt known as the Golden Triangle.

Throughout her career JoAnne has successfully interwoven the complex geology of the Cordillera with the wealth of mineral deposits it contains. She understands that this is best done by also incorporating knowledge developed by industry geologists and prospectors. To this end she meets with them in their offices and in the field, uses their reports, and engages with them at conferences. Her charisma and enthusiastic presentations at technical conferences and at regional community meetings have informed and inspired a broad spectrum of explorationists, researchers, students, and even the general public.

JoAnne's accomplishments were formally recognized in 2013 when she was listed in the top 100 *Global Inspirational Women in Mining* by the United Kingdom's Standard Bank. In 2015, she was presented with the *Gold Pick Award* by the Kamloops Exploration Group (KEG) in recognition of "outstanding services and contributions to the minerals industry". AME awarded her a Special Tribute for scientific leadership in 2016, and in 2017 she received the Canadian Provincial and Territorial Geologists' medal.

This talk, *The Road North*, looks back at a long, adventurous field career in BC's northern wilderness: the landscape, the stories, and the people most of all.