



PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS ONTARIO

AWARD OF MERIT

2019 Recipient



Dr. James M. Franklin, P. Geo.

Jim Franklin, originally from North Bay, Ontario, is focussed on unravelling the reasons for the exceptional mineral endowment of the Canadian Shield. His PhD thesis examined mineral deposits in the Proterozoic of the Thunder Bay area. He initiated his post PhD research efforts at Lakehead University, where he was the first economic geology professor (1969-75). He then joined the Geological Survey of Canada, continuing base metal and gold research throughout the Shield. In 1981 he took a 10-year “excursion” to lead the GSC’s Marine Minerals Program, discovering “black smoker” systems on the modern seafloor: From this combination of sea- and land-based work, he developed a robust set of guidelines that help steer modern exploration. In 1992 he became Chief Scientist for the Geological Survey of Canada, responsible for steering the GSC’s entire science program, as well as chairing the Federal-Provincial Geological Surveys committee, which included representing the GSC in developing the Federal-Provincial Geoscience Accord.

Since “retireing” from the GSC (1998) he has been advising about 70 exploration companies world-wide, with projects in every continent except Antarctica. Jim is a board member of four companies (Ur Energy, Nuinsco Ltd., Anconia and Aura Silver), and has been involved in the development of base metal, chrome and uranium resources in the Ring of Fire, Sturgeon Lake, Wyoming and Mexico. He also serves as a senior advisor to several others, including Millbrook Minerals Ltd. and the MacDonald Red Pine group. He served as member of management boards for numerous public-service related organizations, and on advisory committees to the Earth Sciences Sector of NRCan. He has received GAC’s Logan and Duncan R Derry medals, CIM’s Selwyn Blaylock, A.O. Dufresne, Distinguished Lecturer and Julian Boldy Memorial awards and SEG’s Thayer Lindsley and Distinguished Lecturer awards and its Penrose Gold Medal. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of Lakehead University, an Adjunct Professor at several Ontario Universities, and a Past President of both the Geological Association of Canada and the Society of Economic Geologists. In January, 2019, he was inducted into the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. He has published over 200 papers and book chapters, and innumerable abstracts.

His passion is his continuing work towards the discovery of more new mines throughout the world, with a focus on geochemical and alteration aspects of base metal, silver and gold-rich volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits. He also enjoys mentoring students, and giving short courses to aid in the professional development of his geoscience colleagues. He gives several of these each year, and has had them translated into Spanish in three countries.

PROUDLY P.GEO.