

SEDIMENTARY and VOLCANIC ROCKS

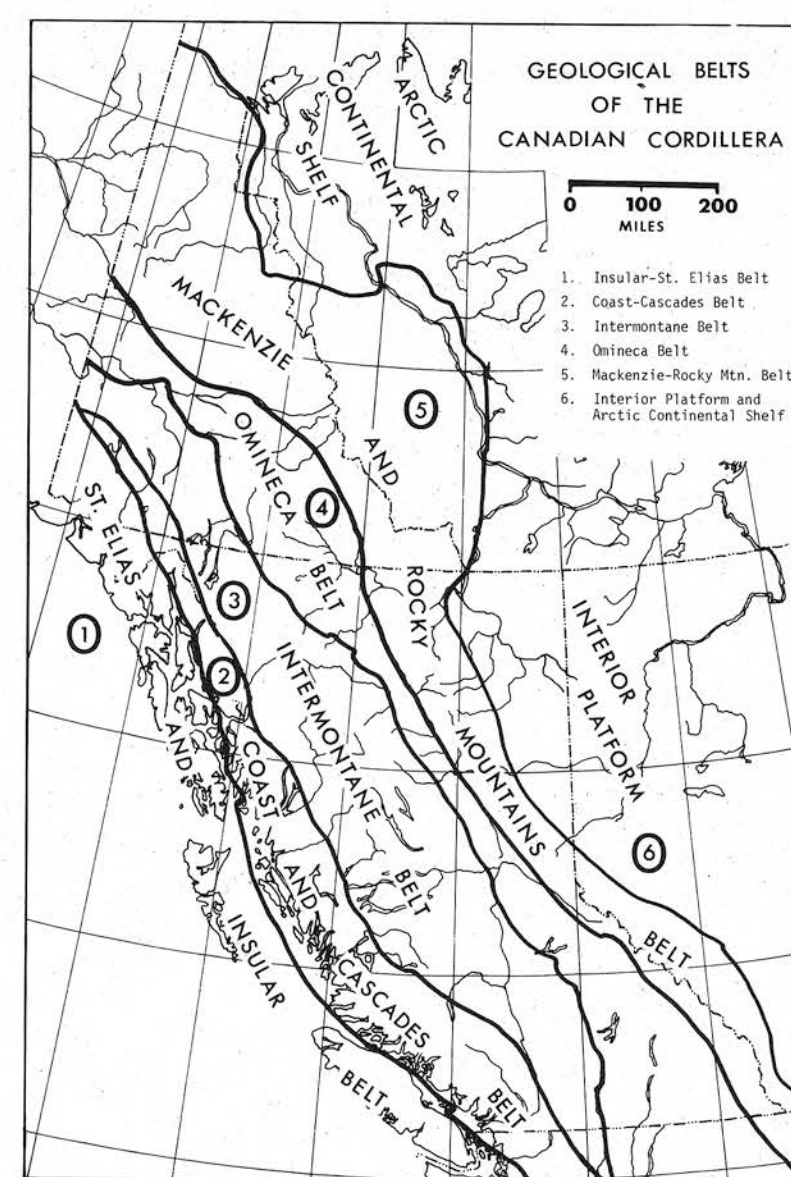
Nomenclature of Assemblages

1. Age of assemblage is indicated by standard Geological Survey of Canada symbols and usage.
2. Name of assemblage is chosen as follows:
 - (a) two existing rock-stratigraphic names, generally groups, are used if the named units are major components of the assemblage (e.g. Tully-Nicolet assemblage (F) incorporates Tully, Nicolet, Stuhini, Quessel River etc. groups)
 - (b) a geographic name is used where there is a multiplicity of named units and none is dominant (e.g. Front Range assemblage (F) is used for Devonian to Jurassic strata in the Rockies)
 - (c) a geographic name is used where there are no formal rock-stratigraphic names (e.g. Canadian assemblage for the Upper Cambrian rocks, northwestern, B.C.)
 - (d) plutonic assemblages are named but distinguished by age and composition.

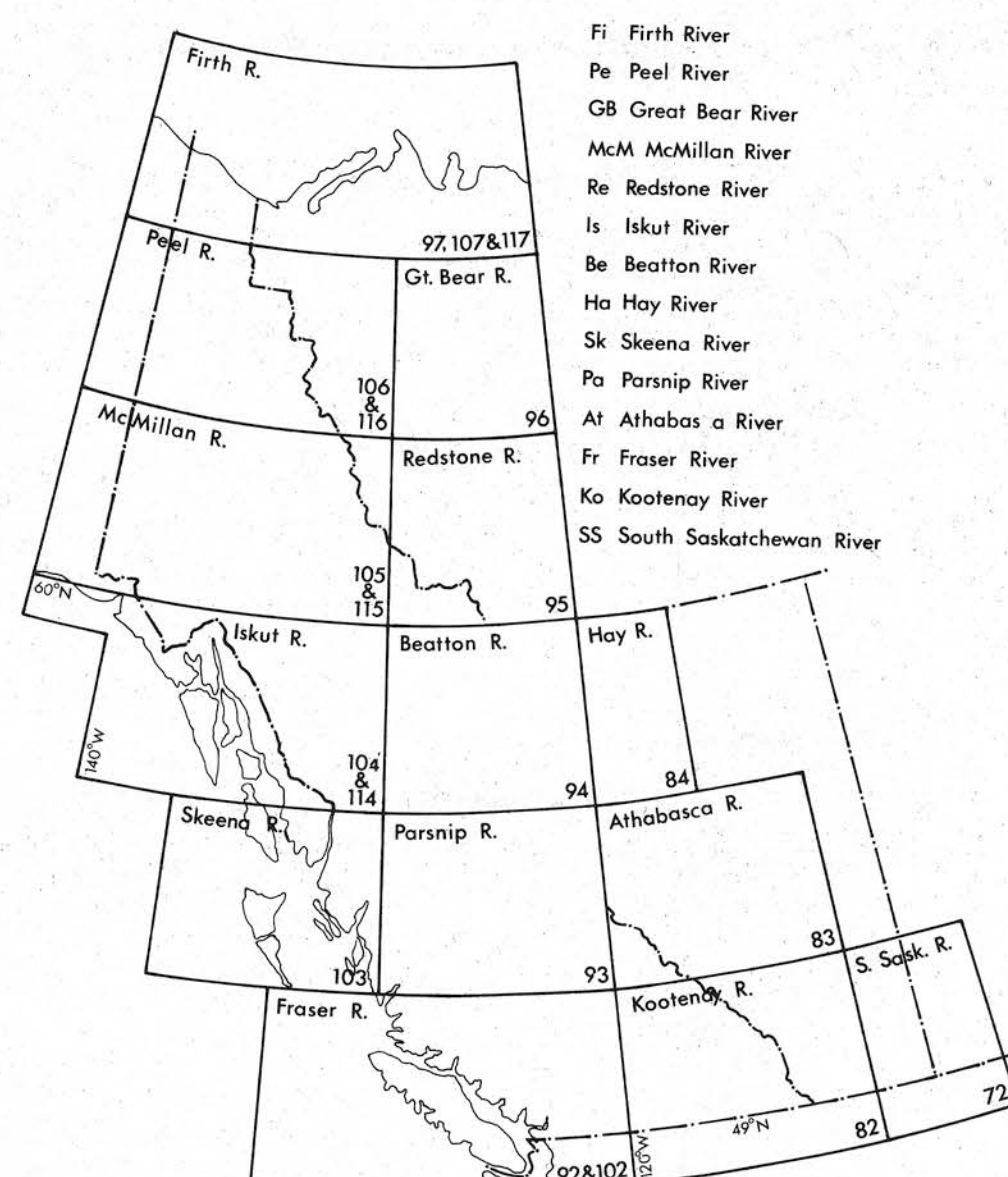
Legend

- Shown in columns from the left are:
- (1) assemblage nomenclature and symbol (see above)
 - (2) characteristic lithology of assemblages
 - (3) representative formal (and some informal) rock stratigraphic units in each assemblage and their distribution:-
 - (a) in six geological belts (see Index Map A)
 - (b) in fourteen 1:1,000,000 maps of the region (see Index Map B). The appropriate abbreviations for the maps are recorded after the group or formation in the legend to indicate general location.

INDEX MAP A
Geological Belts



INDEX MAP B
1:1,000,000 Geological Maps



Tectonic assemblages are the basic subdivisions of the map. Each includes, to varying degrees, a distinctive assemblage of rocks which reflects an unique environment or related environments of deposition and history of deformation. They may include either one group or formation or may units and are not necessarily strictly celled throughout. The assemblages are either bounded by unconformities, in which case relationships with other assemblages are fairly well known, or by major faults where relationships may be unknown. Assemblages of plutonic rocks are defined mainly on age and subdivided on composition.

The six geological belts (Index Map A) are somewhat arbitrarily defined northeast-trending regions each of which has a distinctive general similarity in physiography, stratigraphy, metamorphism, plutonism and structural development throughout much of the length of the Cordillera. The belts represent the end result of Cordilleran evolution and may transect tectonic assemblages.

The geological belts initially may have been arranged in discrete regions related to their erosional and depositional history but orogenic processes have changed and blurred the boundaries, so that the belts are difficult to delineate and define precisely. Many tectonic assemblages, particularly younger ones, cross the boundaries of the belts and add to the vagueness of their definition. As used herein the geological belts are not strictly defined as tectonic belts. They are cumulative, the summation of all geological processes that have interacted through time to produce the present geological framework of the Cordillera.

In discussing North American geosynclines, Marshall Kay proposed an arrangement shown in Fig. 1 in which the craton was the stable source area forming the central mass of the continent, the eugeosyncline or Millard Belt was the subsiding sedimentary trough on the western flank, and the eugeosyncline or Fraser Belt was the belt of volcanic arcs and volcanogenic sediments farther west. This concept is in general still valid but needs some modifications to relate it to the six belts used here.

The craton is not generally considered as one of the belts of the Cordillera. It is, however, the eastern source for the sediments of the miogeosyncline and plays a crucial role in the evolution of the Cordillera. The extent to which it underlies the geosynclinal areas is debatable.

Miogeosynclinal sediments characterize the Mackenzie and Rocky Mountains Belt (Fig. 2) within which igneous and high-grade metamorphic rocks are the exception. Regional folding and thrusting are common, and for large segments, characteristic. Structural style varies along its length.

To the east of the Mackenzie and Rocky Mountains Belt, flanking the craton, is an area of gently deformed platformal or shelf sediments referred to herein as the Interior Platform and Arctic Continental Shelf Belt (Index Map A, Belt 6; Figure 2).

The western Cordillera or Fraser Belt of Kay is characteristically a volcanic or eugeosynclinal regime. Along the eastern margin, the eugeosynclinal and miogeosynclinal strata interfinger to produce a zone or belt which, at any given time, was characteristically either miogeosynclinal or eugeosynclinal. Within the overlap area are areas of regionally metamorphosed rocks in places high-grade, and many scattered

The eugeosynclinal part of the Cordillera is characterized by volcanic assemblages of various origins and largely volcanogenic sedimentary successor basins deformed by dominantly dextral transcurrent faults. These assemblages of different origins and different environments, some clearly of oceanic derivation, have been tectonically juxtaposed into a mosaic of seemingly unrelated, mainly allochthonous blocks and slices.

The eugeynsclinal region has been divided into three belts by the emplacement of the Coast Plutonic Complex the major element of the Coast-Cascades Belt. (Index Map A, Belt 2; Fig. 4), distinguished by igneous and metamorphic rocks transsecting older stratified rocks. Lying west of the Coast-Cascades Belt is the Insular - St. Elias Belt (Index Map A, Belt 1) and to the east is the Intermontane Belt (Index Map A, Belt 3; Fig. 4). The tectonic assemblages of the Insular - St. Elias Belt extend in many instances into the Coast-Cascades Belt as do the tectonic assemblages of the Intermontane Belt and if it were not for the mere or less continuous belt of granitic and metamorphic rocks of the Coast Plutonic Complex the two flanking belts would be largely indistinguishable.

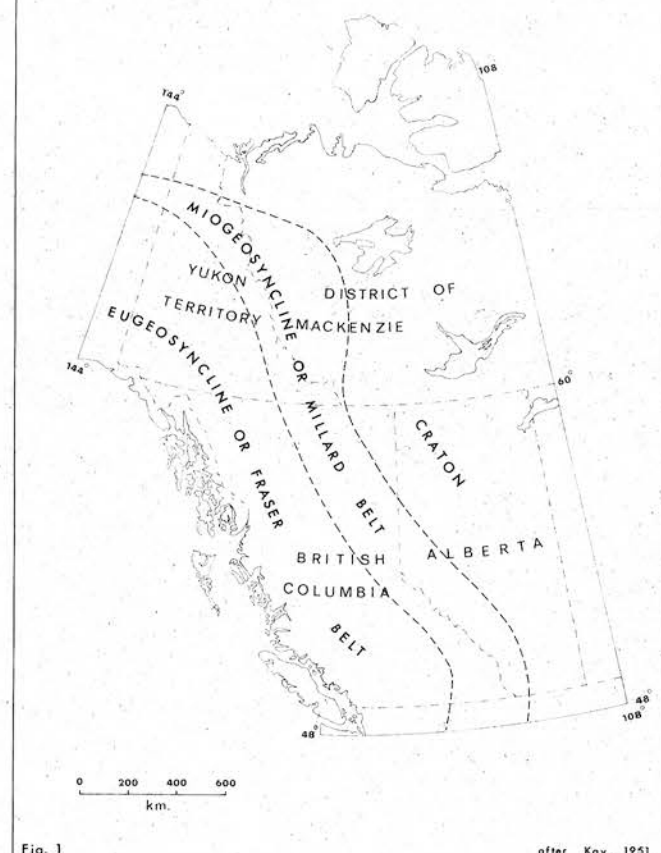


Fig. 1

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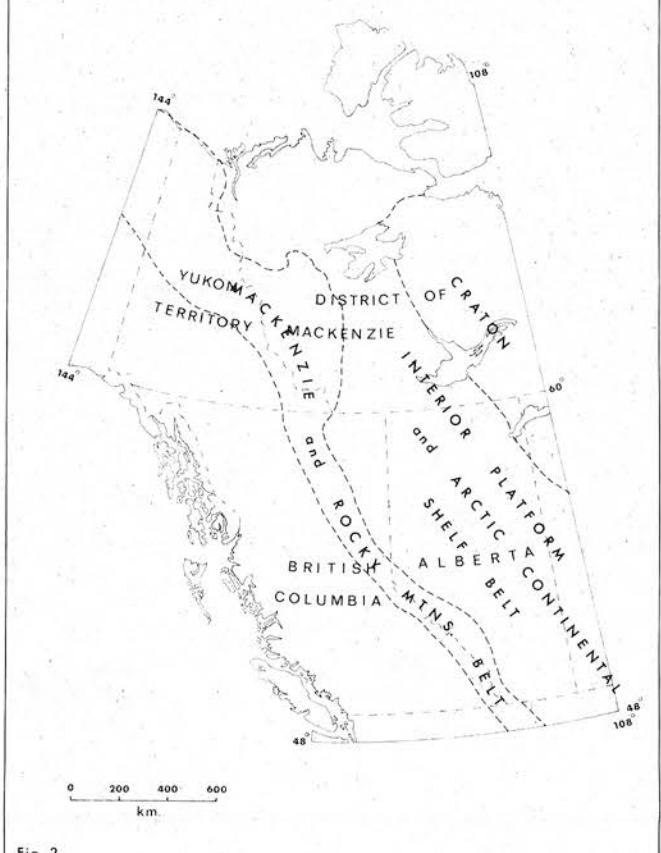


Fig. 2

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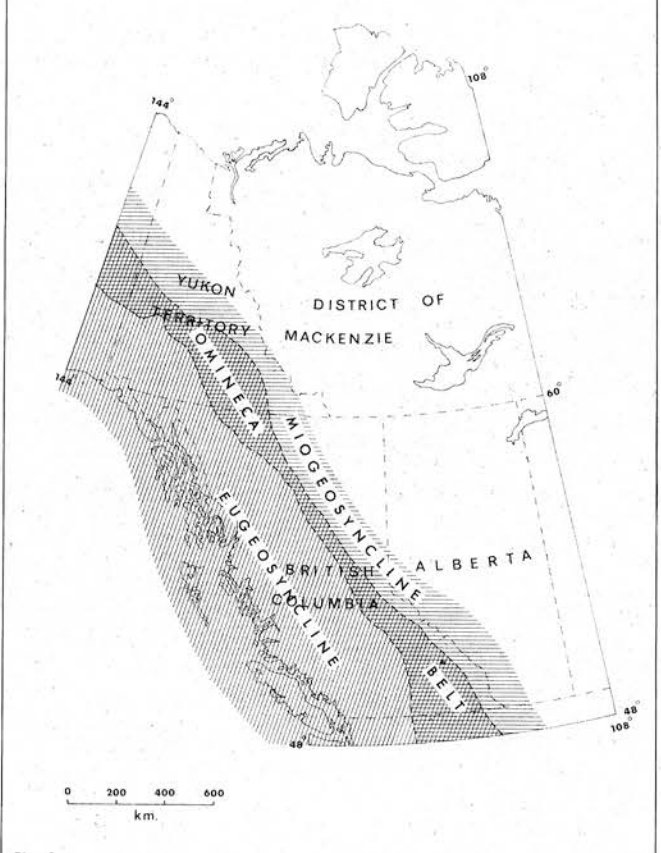
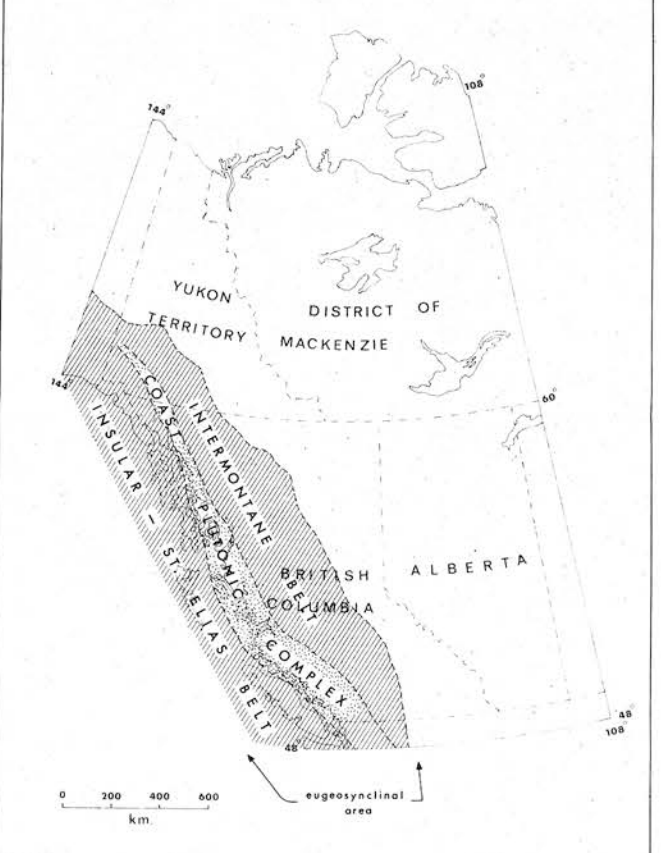


Fig. 3.

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Sources of information are published and unpublished maps, reports and manuscripts of the Geological Survey of Canada, United States Geological Survey, and U.S. Dept. of Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Cooperative, supervisory, co-ordination, and organization was under the general direction of H.W. Tipper. The organization of formation of photos and xero-mechanic records was mainly the responsibility of G. Woodworth. Initial compilation, research, drafting, and assembling of data was carried out by R. Arnold, R. Burns, B. Dawson, C. Banninger, G. Little, D. Baker, D. Skitchley, D. Villegas, and P. Taylor.

The technical organization of the map was largely the work of W. Gabrielse, R.B. Campbell, J.W.H. Macdonald, and J. G. Smith, with critical assistance of C. Vornatz, J. Southern, and other members of Cordilleran and Pacific Marginal Subdivision. Compilation of the Kootenay River 1:100,000 map-area was supervised by A.F. Gaulton, Geological Survey, Ottawa and critically reviewed by Professor J. G. Smith, University of Alberta. The map of the Peace River area, Calgary co-ordinated the critical review and up-dating of the geology of the eastern Cordilleran area. The map of the Peace River area was prepared by the Geological Survey of Canada, the Institute of Sedimentary and Petroleum Geology, Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary. Members of the United States Geological Survey provided information and critically reviewed parts of the map. The map of the Peace River area was prepared by the Geological Survey of Canada, Denver, Colo. Constructive critical comments have been from many sources within and outside the

The map is intended to portray factual information as well as interpretation for areas where little or no information is available. Areas of drift have been eliminated and bedrock interpretation of such areas is conjectural. Cartographic limitations have necessitated the elimination of many small but important geological units, the exaggeration of many small areas, and the diagrammatic representation of some stratigraphic units. No attempt has been made to indicate age of faults and the position or extension of many faults is an extrapolation based on a minimum of evidence. The map incorporates information available to Mex. 1978.

PLUTONIC and ULTRAMAFIC ROCKS

B

The map is intended to portray factual information as well as interpretation for areas where little or no information is available. Areas of drift have been eliminated and bedrock interpretation of such areas is conjectural. Cartographic limitations have necessitated the elimination of many small but important geological units, the exaggeration of many small areas, and the diagrammatic representation of some stratigraphic units. No attempt has been made to indicate age of faults and the position or extension of many faults is an extrapolation based on a minimum of evidence. The map incorporates information available to Mex. 1978.