

# Yukon Mining Incentives Program Overview, 1999

*Ken Galambos<sup>1</sup>*

*Mineral Resources Branch  
Yukon Government*

Seventy-one applications were received by the program deadline of March 1, 1999. These prospectors and exploration companies were applying for a share of the Yukon Mining Incentives Program (YMIP) contribution budget of \$378,000. In an attempt to fund as many of the excellent proposals as possible, the Department of Economic Development, Yukon Government decided to increase the monies offered to a total of \$467,600. As a result, 35 individuals and junior companies were able to participate in YMIP this year.

Approximately 80% of the projects contained a precious metal component. The vast majority of these undertakings were searching for the Yukon equivalent to the Pogo deposit, an intrusive-related deposit located 180 km west of the Yukon/Alaska border. These projects generally focussed their exploration near mid-Cretaceous intrusions of the Tombstone Suite, part of what is now being termed the Tintina gold belt. Most programs, with the exception of Barramundi's Longline project, remain at a very early stage in their exploration history and results are pending.

The remaining 20% of programs focussed on base metals exploration, with zinc as the primary target. Initial results from a number of small programs are promising and reveal extraordinarily rich mineralization.

Highlights for the year include grassroots and initial stage exploration programs on three base metals properties.

On the Andrew claims, **RON BERDAHL** discovered smithsonite mineralization in a large kill zone north of Ross River (Fig. 1). A small trenching program revealed a zone of zinc enrichment with values as high as 19.9% Zn and 1.4% Pb over 6 m, and 34.4% Zn over 1 m. The property contains numerous base metal showings over a wide area, which have yet to be thoroughly explored.

**SHAWN RYAN**, this year's "Prospector of the Year" (Fig. 2), revisited the Jabberwock and Sterling properties in the Fortymile Creek area and discovered a zone of flat-lying quartz-sulphide mineralization which returned values as high as 22% Zn. This zone sits stratigraphically below coincident geophysical and geochemical anomalies, which remain untested.

**WADE CARRELL** and **STEVE TRAYNOR** (Tanana Exploration Ltd.) staked a large claim block south of Ross River near Fox Creek. Historical sampling is reported to have returned assays as high as 11.5% Pb, 10.2% Zn and 78.9 g/t Ag from large quartz-sulphide boulders. This year's program discovered a new massive sulphide showing and a new area of mineralization in talus. They have also found what is believed to be feeder style mineralization in talus assaying 17.5% Zn and 28 ppm Hg (Fig. 3).



**Figure 1.** Ron Berdahl with the Andrew "Kill Zone" in the background.

<sup>1</sup>ken.galambos@gov.yk.ca



**Figure 2.** Shawn Ryan at the quartz-sulphide showing on his Alpine property.



**Figure 3.** High-grade sphalerite float from Tanana Exploration's Fox property.