

ies (Fortune Head and Green Point, respectively), by UNESCO World Heritage (UWH) designation of Gros Morne National Park for its ancient ocean crust and mantle upon a contemporary continental margin, and by pending UWH designation of Ediacaran fossils at Mistaken Point. Our geological heritage also captures the interest and imagination of municipalities and private foundations, who work with geoscientists across Canada to preserve, protect, and promote this resource for geo-tourism and educational purposes. A prominent example is the Johnson GEO CENTRE: Earth's Geological Showcase®, a world-class geological interpretation centre dedicated to fostering public awareness of Earth Science; other venues include Gros Morne's Discovery Centre and the newly-minted Rooms. Smaller, municipal-based developments celebrate minerals and mining, plate tectonics and terrane boundaries, ancient life and geological time, landscapes and glaciation.

Increasing worldwide scientific and public attention requires matching effort to safeguard this invaluable geological heritage. Currently, legislative protection is provided under the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act, the Historic Resources Act and the Canada National Parks Act, and related regulations. The most effective guardian of the resource, however, is an informed and concerned population in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Protection and promotion of "Earth's Geological Showcase" in Newfoundland and Labrador

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A diverse and protracted geological history, spectacularly revealed along 30 000 km of glacially scoured, wave-beaten coastline, has rewarded Newfoundland and Labrador with the enviable status of one of Earth's great geological showcases. The international geoscience community has long recognized our geology as a global resource with outstanding value for understanding the tectonics of ancient mountain building. The two-sided symmetry of the Appalachian orogen in northeastern Newfoundland gave rise to Wilson's paradigm of ancient ocean opening and closing. Later mapping in eastern Newfoundland uncovered a spectacular record of early life's evolution, in the form of Ediacaran biota and diverse ichnofauna that inhabited Precambrian seas adjacent to volcanic arcs once sited peripheral to Gondwana. Systematic surveys of Labrador uncovered some of the Earth's oldest rocks and greatest mineral deposits.

The global scientific significance of this geology is reflected, foremost, by the selection of IUGS global stratotypes for the Precambrian–Cambrian and Cambrian–Ordovician boundar-