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Getting geology into the grade IV classroom: The  
FENOREX collection

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Geological and mining societies and institutes have always been concerned about supplying competent young scientists and engineers to sustain the mining and environmental sectors. This concern has been more evident during the recent cycle of global mineral exploration and mining activity. The supply shortage is exacerbated by the short-term approach by industry and governments who do not tend to look beyond a 2–3 year window of technical requirements. Universities have a responsibility to alleviate this problem which could help cure the feast-and-famine cyclic nature of enrollments. This presentation will examine an individual, grassroots approach which may help solve this problem by consistently sparking interest at the elementary school level. This idea is not original. It has been modified from EdGeo and other professional programs. You cannot begin to educate students if the teacher has not been exposed to the subject they are to teach. Therefore, this presentation will demonstrate one method of getting rock and mineral collections into the classrooms to assist these teachers. We will examine the concept of phenomenology as a teaching style, a methodology which initiated this project. To date, 17 local Cape Breton consulting, construction, and well drilling companies as well as the Strait-Highlands Regional Development Agency have purchased and placed 39 collections in 35 Grade IV classes in the 2 Cape Breton Island school boards. Response by teachers is extremely positive. Grade VII and XII classes are the next target market. Over the past 3 years, a total of 140 kits have been distributed across Canada. This idea works because it has been created with passion and an entrepreneurial spirit.