The Division of Oceanographic Research was formed in 1960 to take charge of the extensive program of oceanographic research assigned to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys by the Canadian Committee on Oceanography, an interdepartmental body co-ordinating all oceanographic research in Canada. The Division is responsible for meeting the increasing federal needs for oceanographic information in waters of Canadian interest, mainly for defence, transport, and resource assessment purposes. This includes an intensive study of oceanography in the Arctic and the extension of Canadian studies farther out to sea to examine the special problems of the deep ocean. In addition, the Division will contribute to international oceanographic studies in which Canada will become involved.

Geological Survey of Canada.—The primary function of the Geological Survey is to obtain information on the geology of Canada that will be of assistance in the search for and development of mineral deposits. The results of its activities also provide a basis for the appraisal and conservation of Canada's mineral resources generally (including water supplies), for soil surveys and for the solution of geological problems that frequently arise in construction projects. Reports issued by the Geological Survey include: memoirs with fairly complete descriptive accounts of the geology of particular areas, usually accompanied by geological maps; bulletins dealing with problems rather than areas; papers issued as soon as possible after the close of the field season, treating separately of each area and summarizing the information acquired; and the Economic Geology Series dealing in a comprehensive way with mineral deposits of a particular type. Information circulars, issued in advance of the more detailed reports, contain data of immediate interest to prospectors. Coloured geological maps are issued on various scales from one inch equalling a few hundred feet to one inch equalling eight or more miles, the common standard scales being one inch to one mile and one inch to four miles. Preliminary maps showing the geology are issued shortly after the field season ends for those areas where the search for metals or minerals is active. Metallogenic maps show the Canada-wide distribution of known occurrences of particular metals classified according to the type of deposit.

The Regional Geology Division is responsible for mapping and studying the rocks of the eastern and western segments of the Precambrian shield, and the Appalachian and Cordilleran regions.

The Economic Geology Division investigates the geology of specific mineral deposits, applies and develops geochemical techniques, and maps and studies unconsolidated deposits that mantle much of the country and, in several provinces, carries out surveys of groundwater resources.

The Fuels and Stratigraphic Geology Division includes stratigraphic palaeontology, the geology of fuels (oil, natural gas and coal), subsurface geology, and research on coal. Its function is to establish the character, age, thickness and correlation of both exposed and concealed sedimentary formations and to map the distribution and structure of these formations with the object of determining the economic possibilities of prospective oil, gas and coal bearing areas of Canada.

The Petrological Sciences Division makes mineralogical, petrological, and isotopic studies of Canadian mineral deposits and associated rocks. Laboratories provide mineral identifications for the public, supply officers of the Survey with mineralogical and geochronological data, and permit research on the genesis of ores, fuels and rocks. Systematic mineral collections are maintained and mineral and rock collections are prepared for use by prospectors and educational institutions.