

# MAGNETIC ANOMALY MAP CARTE DES ANOMALIES MAGNÉTIQUES CANADA

SCALE 1:7 500 000 ÉCHELLE  
LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION  
PROJECTION CONFORME CONIQUE DE LAMBERT  
STANDARD PARALLEL 56° 46' 17" N  
PARALLÈLES D'ÉCHELLE CONSERVÉE: 46° 46' 17" N

**ABSTRACT**  
The magnetic anomaly map of Canada shows small variations in the magnetic field that are caused largely by variations in the magnetic properties of the Earth's crust. The magnetic character of a rock depends on its composition and its tectonic and metamorphic history. To map these variations, the Geological Survey of Canada has been acquiring aeromagnetic data since 1947. Over the years, more than 200 surveys have been carried out, generally with a flight-line spacing of 300 m and an altitude of 300 m above the ground. These aeromagnetic surveys have been levelled to each other to correct for arbitrary factors, such as variations of the Earth's magnetic field over time, and offering survey-to-survey consistency. The dominant structural trends of geological provinces, truncation of those trends at structural boundaries, and the characteristic patterns of magnetic anomalies over the entire country are described. The magnetic signature of Precambrian basement rocks can be seen through the Phanerozoic sedimentary basin cover. Major tectonic events can be traced over hundreds of kilometres from their resulting linear magnetic patterns. Coarse crust has a characteristic striped magnetic pattern that is due to changes in the polarity of the Earth's magnetic field, which occur over intervals of millions of years.

**INTRODUCTION**  
This map presents small variations in the magnetic field over Canada, called 'magnetic anomalies', that are largely due to variations in the magnetic properties of the Earth's crust. The data are derived from the history of the National Aeromagnetic Data Base maintained by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and have been collected as part of an ongoing program to map the intensity of the Earth's magnetic field over the Canadian landmass and adjacent offshore areas. Aeromagnetic maps are produced in a variety of scales; they are useful for geological mapping and have applications in mineral, oil, and gas exploration.

**RESIDUAL TOTAL MAGNETIC FIELD**  
Magnetic fields are produced by the flow of an electric current. Orbits of electrons in atoms create magnetic dipole moments. Minerals may also be magnetic dipoles. These can be aligned by an external field by the process of magnetic induction. The anomaly field produced by aligned dipoles,  $M$ , is measured from a magnetic field  $H$ . The anomaly field is proportional to the ratio  $M/H$ , which is called magnetic susceptibility. The magnetic susceptibility of a body measures how magnetizable that body can become in the presence of an external field. The ratio  $M/H$  is called magnetic susceptibility.

The Earth's magnetic field is largely produced by three main sources, the geopotential or core field, the crustal field, and the remanent field. The core field is generated by the slow motion of electric currents flowing in the Earth's liquid core. It varies slowly with time as a change that is called secular variation. The crustal magnetic field is the result of the geopotential field and the magnetic susceptibility of the underlying rocks. Magnetic susceptibility is a physical property of a material that reflects the material's magnetic content and character. Magnetite is the principal mineral phase responsible for ferromagnetic susceptibility, although pyrrhotite and some members of the hematite family may be locally important. Remanent magnetization is also a property of crustal rocks and produces magnetic fields even in the absence of an ambient field. Remanent magnetization records the direction of the geopotential field at the time the minerals were magnetized, for example by cooling to a temperature lower than the Curie temperature. The intensity of the remanent magnetization of a rock body depends on the proportion of ferromagnetic minerals present, the strength of the geopotential field at the time of their remanent magnetization, and the magnetic susceptibility of the rock body. The magnetic susceptibility of a rock body depends on the proportion of ferromagnetic minerals present, the strength of the geopotential field at the time of their remanent magnetization, and the magnetic susceptibility of the rock body. The magnetic susceptibility of a rock body depends on the proportion of ferromagnetic minerals present, the strength of the geopotential field at the time of their remanent magnetization, and the magnetic susceptibility of the rock body.

**DATA ACQUISITION**  
Aeromagnetic surveys were conducted with constant flight-line orientations, usually perpendicular to the regional geopotential field. The GSC has been acquiring aeromagnetic data since 1947 and current holdings comprise over 11 million kilometres of data. Most aeromagnetic data were acquired in the late 1970s and lasted about 10 years. The leveling of individual surveys was performed by first subtracting the International Geomagnetic Reference Field for the date and altitude of the survey from the data. The difference at the boundary of adjacent surveys was removed using a low order polynomial. The remaining errors were locally smoothed until where required (Dunlop et al., 1982). The leveled line data were archived on a survey by survey basis and the accumulated data resulted in the creation of the National Aeromagnetic Data Base.

The leveling of Canadian aeromagnetic survey profile data was initiated in 1989 by the Ontario Geological Survey in co-operation with the GSC. The project involved making a single master aeromagnetic profile for the province of Ontario at a uniform grid spacing of 200 m (Brett et al., 1990). This required the leveling of the digitized line data to a four digit scale and the subsequent transfer of the leveled data to a common reference datum. The leveling of the digitized line data to a four digit scale and the subsequent transfer of the leveled data to a common reference datum. The leveling of the digitized line data to a four digit scale and the subsequent transfer of the leveled data to a common reference datum. The leveling of the digitized line data to a four digit scale and the subsequent transfer of the leveled data to a common reference datum.

Canada and northern British Columbia. Using the digitized, leveled aeromagnetic data the constant altitude aeromagnetic survey data has been performed by computational digitizing of the constant altitude survey to an altitude 300 m above surface. The method used for digitizing is a 'ray-trace' method. The expression of the magnetic field on the measurement surface (Plouffe and Robert, 1982) has been computationally digitized and the resulting data are available on a survey by survey basis. The digitized data are available on a survey by survey basis. The digitized data are available on a survey by survey basis.

**DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR FEATURES**  
Earth's crust and tectonic plates are indicators of the composition and the deformation and metamorphic history of the underlying rocks. Areas in red are associated with highly magnetic rocks (for example, iron-rich volcanic rocks), whereas areas in blue are generally associated with essentially non-magnetic rocks (for example, some types of granite). The Canadian Shield is a large area of Precambrian rocks that covers most of the continent. The transition of the trend to the east by a north-south trending, broad magnetic low marks the Grenville. The boundary between the Trans-Hudson Orogen and the Superior Province is marked by a constant magnetic high corresponding to magnetic axis. The magnetic anomaly of the western Canadian Shield can be traced under the Western Canada and Williston Sedimentary basins. Since the magnetic signal is attenuated with increasing distance to the source, the magnetic anomalies over sedimentary basins have longer wavelengths and lower amplitudes than those over exposed basement. Both the Mackenzie and Mackenzie-Eagle basins can be clearly traced from their linear, radiating magnetic patterns. The striped magnetic pattern over Canada is the result of remanent magnetization in the Precambrian rocks that is due to changes in the polarity of the Earth's core field over time.

Digital profiles and profile data from the National Aeromagnetic Data Base are available from the Geological Data Centre, Geological Survey of Canada, 615 Booth Street, Room 226, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E8, Canada. Tel: (613) 952-3236; fax: (613) 952-9897; email: info@geog@gsc.nrcan.gc.ca; WWW: http://geogdata.gc.ca/nrcan/

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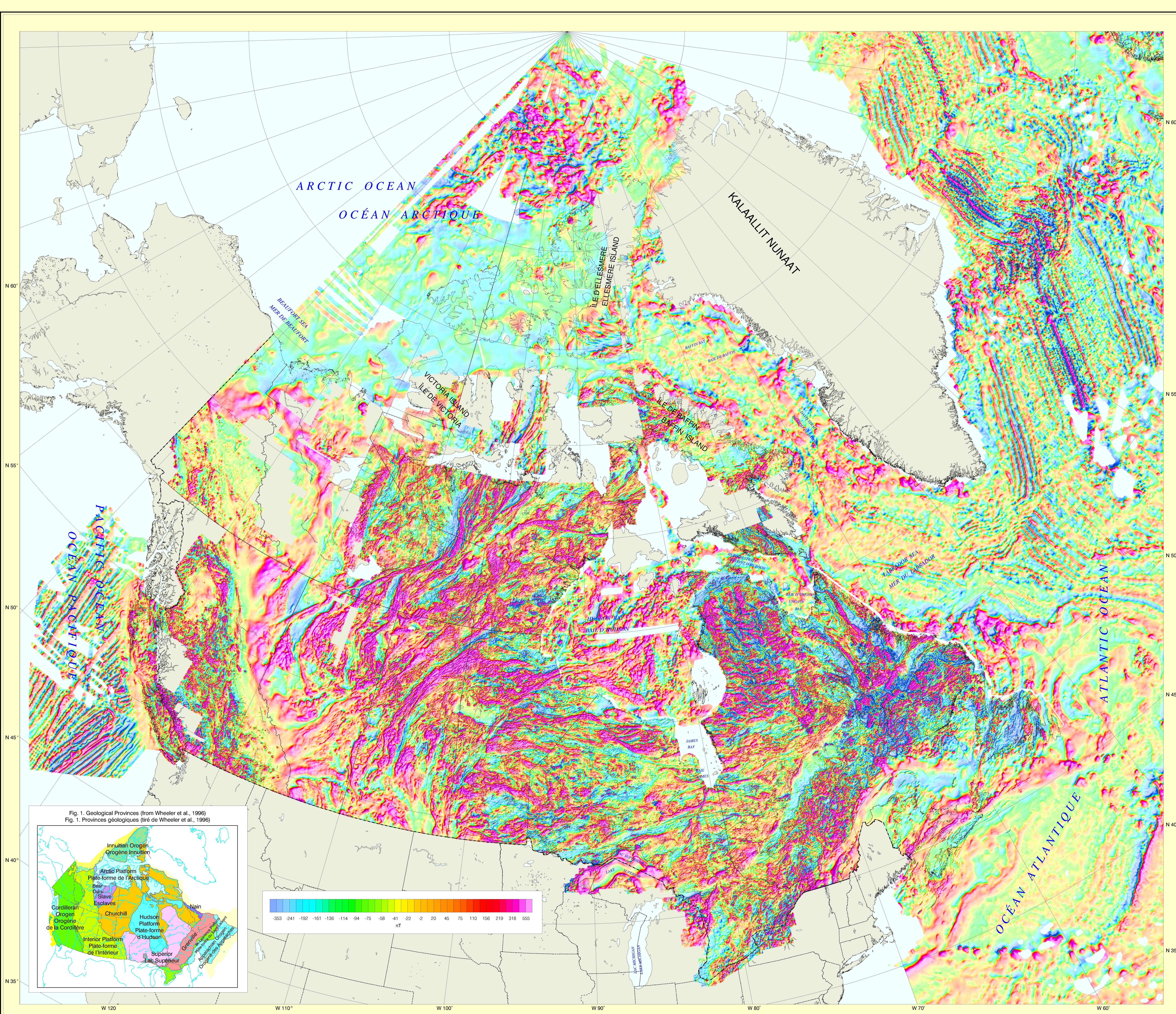


Fig. 1. Geological Provinces (from Wheeler et al., 1996)  
Fig. 1. Provinces géologiques (tiré de Wheeler et al., 1996)

