

PLATE 30. SURFICIAL HYDROGEOLOGY

Introduction
During the Pleistocene epoch Canada was almost entirely covered by glaciers. Hence, although there are extensive and hydrologically important alluvial (river) deposits, as well as lesser areas of eolian (wind-deposited) materials, the country's unconsolidated surficial materials are predominantly of glacial derivation.

These highly variable and irregular glacial materials contain many of the best local near-surface aquifers. The groundwater resource potential of the materials depends on their intergranular porosity and permeability, which result from the mode of deposition.

Some glacial materials were deposited directly by ice; others, by running water and standing meltwater. In size they range from a very fine rock flour and clays through sands and gravels to large blocks. Silts and clays, however, are the predominant glacial deposits. A till is a mixture of all sizes of materials in fine clays, silts, and sands.

Till is found in large structureless sheets extending for many hundreds of kilometers and varying in thickness from a metre or less to 25 metres or more.

Other forms of glacial deposits commonly found in Canada are eskers, kames, and outwash deposits. They also have the potential to meet local water supply requirements, such as single-family domestic needs and the demands of small municipalities.

Alluvial deposits, although not large enough to show on this map, can be very important locally. They have the ability to supply medium-sized municipalities and major industrial plant needs.

Quantity and Quality Considerations
In Canada, groundwater supplies about 20 per cent of the total number of individual water systems, but only 5 to 10 per cent of the total volume. The majority of the better groundwater supplies tend to be obtained from surficial aquifers [1].

Quality requirements for groundwater vary depending on water use. For drinking water, Health and Welfare Canada has put forth the recommendations listed in Table 1 [2].

Data were supplied by various provincial agencies. The map shows quantity and quality of groundwater rather than type of surficial aquifer material because of the variability and complexity of the materials and because of scale limitations of the map.

Appalachian Hydrogeological Region
The surficial deposits of the Appalachian Hydrogeological Region are composed primarily of Pleistocene sand and gravel deposits which occur as eskers, kames, and outwash plains. The deposits are generally small in size and of limited distribution and are commonly confined to valleys.

The thin layer of till that covers most of the Maritimes is a relatively poor aquifer. In general, in this region, the groundwater quality is in the range of 500-2500 ppm (parts per million) TDS (total dissolved solids) except in Prince Edward Island, where the range is less than 500 ppm TDS. Yields are approximately 2 to 8 litres per second (25 to 100 imperial gallons per minute) with yields from some limited areas, e.g. river valleys, being higher.

St. Lawrence Hydrogeological Region
The surficial deposits of the St. Lawrence Hydrogeological Region east of Kingston are composed primarily of sand deposits which originated either as beaches of the glacial era Champlain Sea or as high terraces formed during the early stages of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers.

Water quality in this region varies from less than 500 ppm TDS in the west to a range of 500 to 2500 ppm TDS in the east. Yields are commonly from 0.5 to 2 litres per second (5 to 25 imperial gallons per minute),

although areas do exist with yields of 2 to 8 litres per second (25 to 100 gallons per minute).

Canadian Shield Hydrogeological Region

Where the bedrock is not exposed, the Canadian Shield Hydrogeological Region is covered in most cases by a ground moraine consisting basically of a clay till, although some coarse-grained surficial materials may be found in existing bedrock valleys.

The quality of the water found in this region is generally less than 500 ppm TDS, and yields are less than 0.5 litres per second (5 imperial gallons per minute), although isolated areas of higher yields may occur.

Table 1. Recommended limits for chemicals in drinking water

Table with 3 columns: Chemicals, Limit (micrograms per litre), Objective, Acceptable. Lists various chemicals like Aldrin, Ammonia, Arsenic, Barium, Boron, Cadmium, Calcium, Chloride, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Herbicides, Iron, Lead, Lindane, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Methoxychlor, Methylene blue active substance, Nitrate, Organic Phosphates, Organics, Phenolic substances, Selenium, Silver, Sulphate, Sulphide, Total dissolved solids, Total hardness, Toxaphene, Uranium, Zinc.

\* "Not detectable," i.e. by the specified approved analytical method.
† Based on limits established in United States; 0.001 acceptable limit in U.S.S.R.
‡ Expressed in parathion equivalents in cholinesterase inhibition.
§ Total of carbon chloroform and carbon alcohol extractables.
|| Based on taste and odour. Concentration greater than 0.05 mg/litre may be objected to by the majority of people.
¶ Not by water containing >180 mg/litre is classified as "poor."
\*\* Milligrams per litre corresponds approximately to parts per million as given on the map.

Interior Plains Hydrogeological Region

The surficial deposits of the Interior Plains Hydrogeological Region consist of till, lacustrine sediments, and outwash deposits. The till, which is commonly calcareous, is an unsorted mixture of clay, silt, sand, and boulders. In the Interior Plains the till thickens from west to east and averages approximately 20 metres in thickness, although thicknesses more than 100 metres have been measured.

The quality of water found in this region is estimated to be from 500 to 1000 ppm TDS. Yields are probably highly variable, but there is great potential in some of the thicker alluvial deposits for yields of 8 litres per second (100 imperial gallons per minute) or greater.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The quality of water found in this region is estimated to be from 500 to 1000 ppm TDS. Yields are probably highly variable, but there is great potential in some of the thicker alluvial deposits for yields of 8 litres per second (100 imperial gallons per minute) or greater.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

Cordilleran Hydrogeological Region

The surficial deposits of the Cordilleran Hydrogeological Region are composed of glacial, glaciofluvial, lacustrine, alluvial, and wind-blown materials. They are generally thin on the upland areas and thick in the valleys, so thick in some valleys that the rivers are entrenched 60 metres or more into these deposits.

The quality of water found in this region is estimated to be from 500 to 1000 ppm TDS. Yields are probably highly variable, but there is great potential in some of the thicker alluvial deposits for yields of 8 litres per second (100 imperial gallons per minute) or greater.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

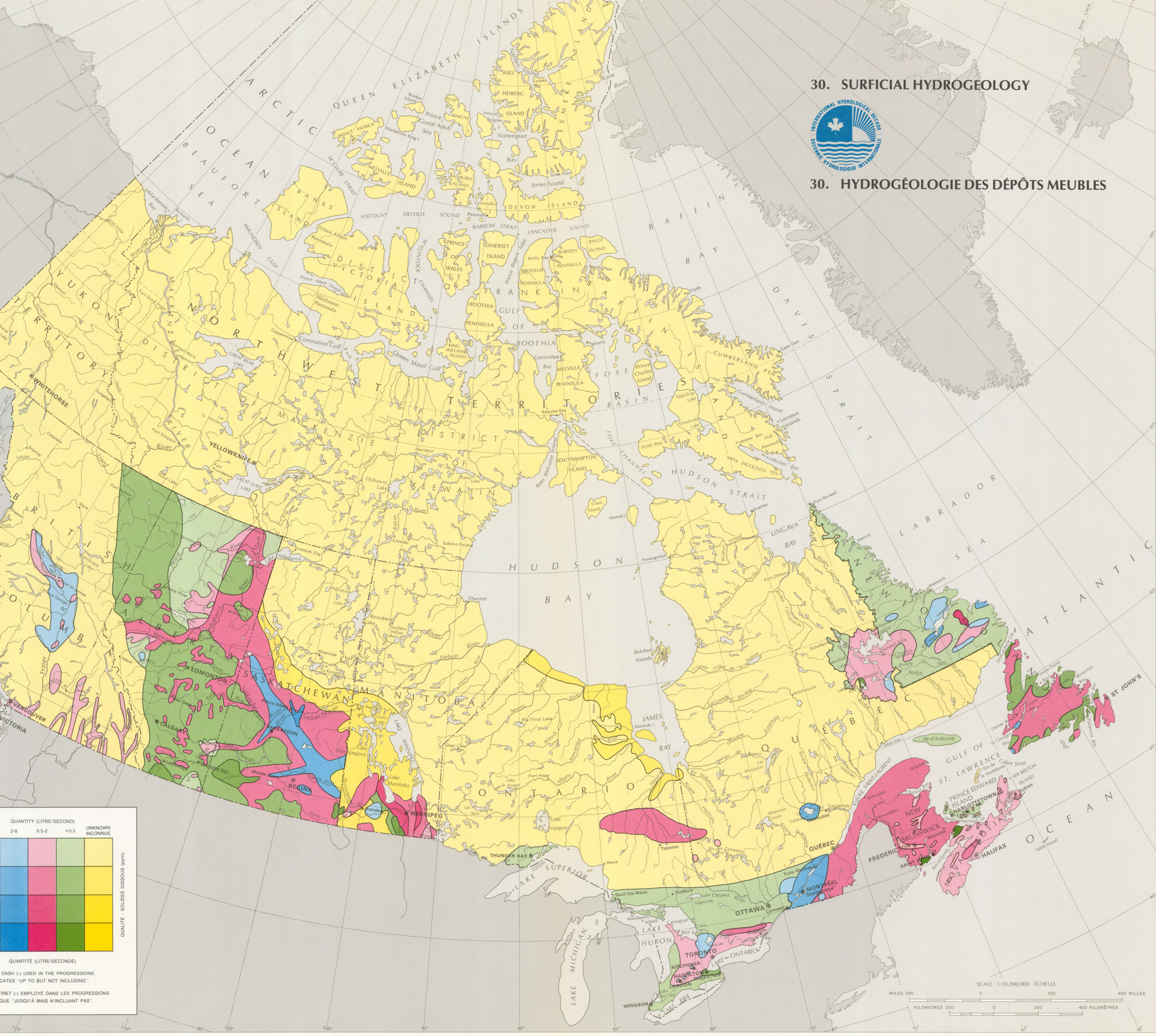
The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.

The Northern Hydrogeological Region
The unconsolidated surficial deposits of the Northern Hydrogeological Region are widespread in the central lowlands extending outwards from the Mackenzie River. They are also found in the river valleys of the Canadian Shield and the Western Cordillera where it extends northward into this region.



30. SURFICIAL HYDROGEOLOGY



30. HYDROGÉOLOGIE DES DÉPÔTS MEUBLES