**Key to Terrain Classification and Surficial Geology Map Unit Labels**

Based on the Terrain Classification System for British Columbia (Howes & Kenk, 1997)

**TEXTURE(S)** (sand, gravel)

**SURFICIAL MATERIAL** (fluvial)

**QUALIFIER** (G = glacial; A = active; or I = inactive)

**SURFACE EXPRESSION(S)** (plain, terrace)

**AGE** (McConnell)

**GEOMORPHOLOGICAL PROCESS(ES)** (permafrost)

**SUBCLASS(ES)** (sheetflow)

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**TEXTURE - up to 3 lower case letters in front of surficial material**

- **a**: blocks (>256 mm, angular)
- **b**: boulders (>256 mm, rounded)
- **k**: cobble (64-256 mm, rounded)
- **p**: pebbles (2-64 mm, rounded)
- **s**: sand (0.062 - 2 mm)
- **z**: silt (0.002 - 0.062 mm)
- **c**: clay (<0.002 mm)
- **m**: mud (mix of silt and clay)
- **d**: mixed fragments (>2 mm, rounded and angular)
- **g**: gravel (>2 mm, rounded; mix of b, k, p)
- **x**: angular fragments (>2 mm; mix of r & a)
- **y**: shells (shells or shell fragments)
- **e**: fibric organic (poorly decomposed)
- **u**: mesic organic (intermediate decomposition)
- **h**: humic organic (highly decomposed)

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**SURFICIAL MATERIAL - first single upper case letter shown in map unit. (Upper case letter immediately following surficial material is the glacial or activity QUALIFIER.)**

- **A**: Anthropogenic
- **C**: Colluvium
- **D**: Drift (green) or Weathered Bedrock (pink)
- **E**: Eolian
- **F**: Fluvial (FA = Active Fluvial)
- **FG**: Glaciofluvial
- **I**: Ice (Glacier)
- **L**: Lacustrine
- **LG**: Glaciolacustrine
- **M**: Morainal (tilt)
- **O**: Organic
- **R**: Bedrock
- **U**: Undifferentiated materials
- **V**: Volcanic

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**SURFACE EXPRESSION - up to 3 lower case letters following surficial material**

- **a**: apron
- **b**: blanket (>1 m thick)
- **c**: cone(s)
- **d**: depression(s)
- **f**: fan(s)
- **h**: hummock(s)
- **l**: delta
- **m**: rolling
- **p**: plain
- **r**: ridge(s)
- **t**: terrace(s)
- **u**: undulating
- **v**: veneer (0.1 - 1 m thick)
- **w**: mantle of variable thickness
- **x**: thin veneer (2 - 20 cm thick)

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**AGE - single upper case letter following surface expression**

- **H**: Holocene
- **>H**: pre-Holocene
- **N**: Neoglacial
- **<M**: Postglacial
- **M**: McConnell (late Wisconsinan)
- **>M**: pre-McConnell
- **S**: Laurentide, Tusieta (late Wisconsinan)
- **L**: Laurentide, maximum (late Wisconsinan)
- **G**: Gladstone (early Wisconsinan)
- **>G**: pre-Gladstone
- **R**: Reid (Illinoian)
- **>R**: pre-Reid (Pliocene - early Pleistocene)
- **P**: Pleistocene undifferentiated
- **Q**: Quaternary
- **>Q**: pre-Quaternary
- **T**: Tertiary
- **U**: undifferentiated

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**GEOMORPHOLOGICAL PROCESS - up to 3 upper case letters following dash "-". Lower case letters indicate subclasses.**

- **-V**: Gully erosion
- **-B**: Braided floodplain
- **-I**: Irregularly sinuous floodplain
- **-J**: Anastamosing floodplain
- **-M**: Meandering floodplain
- **-A**: Snow avalanches
- **-F**: Slow landslides (subclasses: g = rock creep)
- **-R**: Rapid landslides (subclasses: b = rockfall; d = debris flow)
- **-L**: Undifferentiated landslide (subclasses: s = slide; u = slump)
- **-C**: Cryoturbation
- **-N**: Nivation
- **-S**: Solifluxion
- **-Z**: General periglacial processes (-C, N & -S combined)
- **-X**: Permafrost (subclasses: s = sheetflow; t = thermokarst)
- **-E**: Glacial meltwater channels
- **-H**: Kettle
- **-T**: Glacial ice-contact
- **-U**: Inundation
Yukon Terrain Classification System

We have adopted the British Columbia Terrain Classification System (Howes & Kenk, 1997) as a legend standard and database structure for surficial geology mapping in Yukon. This system was selected largely because of its flexibility, the existence of well documented digital capture standards, the ease with which specific surficial geology characteristics can be searched in a database, the potential to produce derivative maps for a variety of end-users, and to maintain a consistent map legend between Yukon and BC.

- To view the complete BC terrain classification system and code descriptions, please click on the link below:


Modifications to the BC classification system:

Some modifications to the BC classification system were made to accommodate additional landforms, processes and permafrost features common in Yukon. These changes are summarized below:

Surface Expressions:
- slope steepness codes “j”, “a”, “k” and “s” were discarded
- “a” was changed to indicate “apron”
- “l” was added to indicate “delta”

Surficial Materials:
- “H” was added to indicate “water bodies”
- “S” was added to indicate “snow patches”
- “D” indicates weathered bedrock in unglaciated areas

Geomorphological Processes:
- “-L” in reference to “surface seepage” was discarded
- “-L” was changed to indicate “mass movements of undifferentiated velocity”
- “-T” was added to indicate “ice-contact” glacial processes

Geomorphological Process Subclasses:
- “b” was added to indicate “beaver damming” (i.e. “-Ub”)
- “c” was added to indicate “cryoplanation” (i.e. “-Zc”)
- “l” was added to indicate “segregated ice” (i.e. “-Xl”)
- “n” was added to indicate “open-system pingo” (i.e. “-Xn”)
- “s” was added to indicate “sheetwash” (i.e. “-Xs”)


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<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>LINES</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Geological boundary</td>
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<tr>
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<td>bedding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ψ cryoplanation terrace</td>
<td>Recessional glacial limit</td>
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<tr>
<td>▼ delta</td>
<td>Landslide direction of movement</td>
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<td>○ drill hole</td>
<td>Lineament, fault, fracture or joint system</td>
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<td>Ravine or canyon</td>
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<td>Paleoflow, abandoned or buried valley</td>
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<td>Major meltwater channel</td>
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<td>Minor meltwater channel</td>
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<td>Esker</td>
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