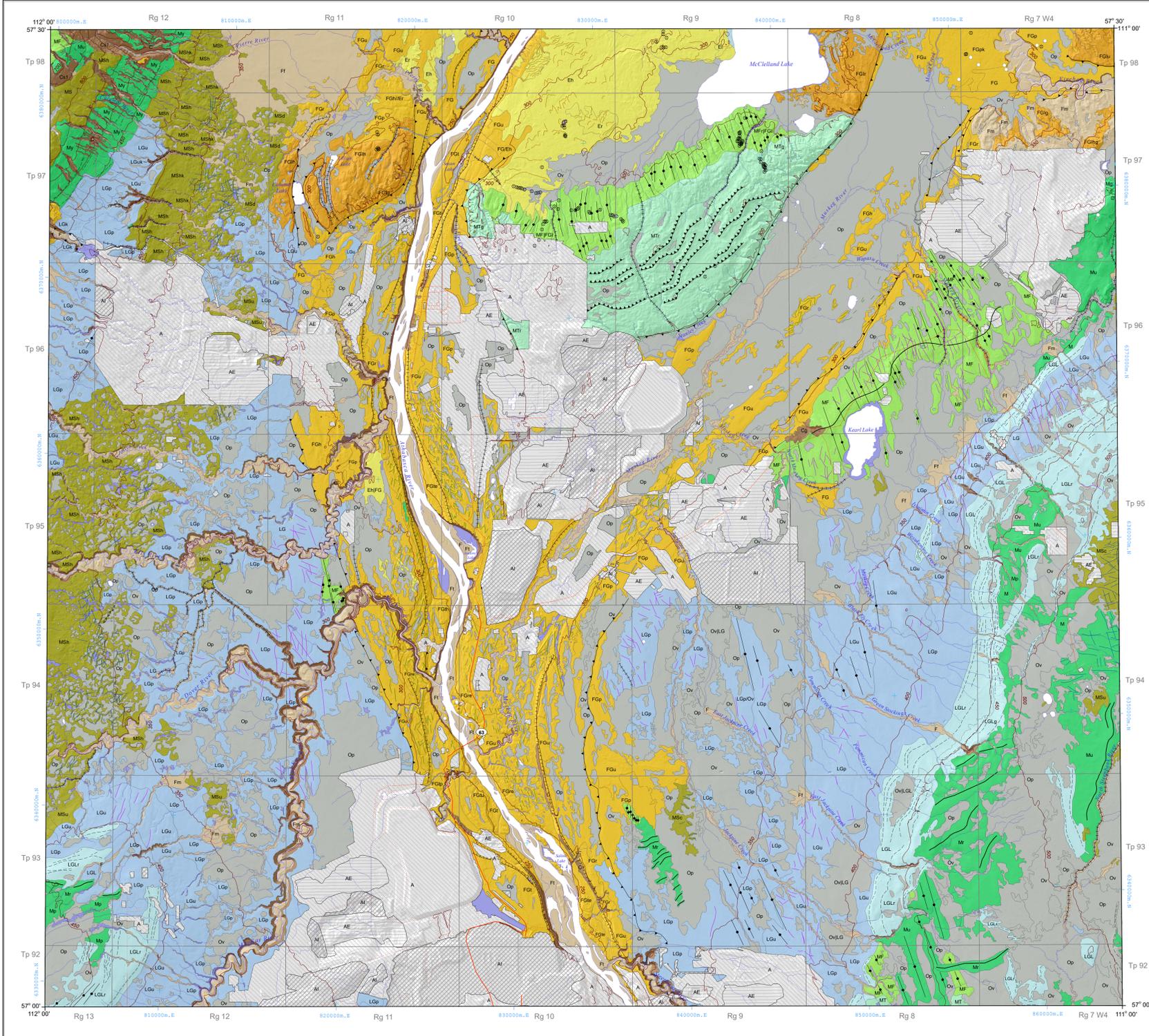


NTS 74E/SW
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY



This is a common map legend for the surficial geology of northern Alberta. Coloured legend boxes indicate map units that appear on this map. Not all map symbols shown in the legend necessarily appear on this map.

UNIT	UNIT NAME	DESCRIPTION AND GENESIS
QUATERNARY		
Holococene		
A	Anthropogenic materials	Artificially made ground or geological materials that have been disturbed by human activity, such that their physical properties (e.g., structure, cohesion, compaction) have been drastically altered.
AE	Excavated ground	Areas where the ground has been excavated; includes mines, quarries, pits, and linear infrastructure cuttings.
AI	Infilled ground	Areas where the ground is known to have been excavated, and then has been subsequently infilled or back-filled by anthropogenically disturbed materials.
O	Organic deposits	Undifferentiated peat (woody to fibrous muck) occurring in wetlands; commonly underlain by fine-grained, poorly drained glaciolacustrine deposits; includes marshes, swamps, bogs and fens.
OB	Big peat	Occurs in a peatland with a fluctuating water table and commonly a raised surface; peatland surface is dominated by sphagnum mosses, heath shrubs and short, stunted trees.
OF	Fen peat	Occurs in peatland which receives water from slowly flowing streams and groundwater, with the water table lying at the land surface; peatland surface is dominated by sedges, with grasses and reeds near local pools, and is sparsely treed.
C	Colluvial deposits	Materials that have reached their present position as a result of direct, gravity-induced movement; commonly occurs as slope and slump deposits confined to valley slopes and floors; includes pre-existing hummocks, till, glaciolacustrine, glacioluvial and eolian sediments, generally poorly sorted.
F	Fluvial deposits	Sediments transported and deposited by streams and rivers; synonymous with alluvium; includes well-sorted stratified sand, gravel, silt, clay and organic sediments occurring in channel and overbank deposits (e.g., postglacial floodplains, terraces, fans and deltas).
L	Lacustrine deposits	Sediments deposited in and adjacent to recent and modern lakes; includes offshore sand, silt and clay, minor organic deposits; may also include minor littoral (nearshore) beaches and bars composed of sand, silt and minor gravel.
E	Eolian deposits	Wind deposited sediments; comprise well-sorted, medium- to fine-grained sand and minor silt; generally massive to locally cross-bedded or ripple-laminated; includes both active and vegetated dunes and sand sheets.
Pleistocene		
LG	Glaciolacustrine deposits	Primarily fine-grained, distal sediments deposited in or along the margins of glacial lakes, including sediments released by the melting of floating ice. Includes laminated (rhythmically bedded) to massive fine sand, silt and clay, and may contain ice-crafted debris.
LGL	Littoral and nearshore sediments	Massive to stratified, well-sorted silt sand, pebbly sand and minor gravel; occurs in beaches, bars, spits and deltaic forests deposited during regression and lowering of glacial lakes.
FG	Glacioluvial deposits	Sediments deposited by glacial meltwater streams as subaerial or subaqueous outwash. Includes sand and gravel, often stratified, minor silt, and may show evidence of ice melting (slumped structures). Features include meltwater channels, kettle holes, terraces and minor ice-contact sediments.
FGI	Ice-contact sediments	Sediments deposited by meltwater streams flowing either in direct contact with the ice margin (kame terraces) or within and/or under glacial ice (eskers, crevasse ridges). Includes massive to stratified, poor to moderately sorted, coarse-grained sediments (predominantly pebbly gravel and coarse-grained sand, local till) and may show evidence of ice melting (slumped structures).
M	Moraine	Diamiction (till) deposited directly by glacial ice and consisting of a mixture of clay, silt, sand and minor pebbles, cobbles and boulders. Locally, this unit may contain blocks of bedrock, pre-existing stratified sediment and till, or lenses of glaciolacustrine and/or glacioluvial sediment.
MS	Stagnant ice moraine	Material resulting from the collapse and slumping of englacial and supraglacial sediment in response to the melting of buried stagnant ice at the ice margin; sediment is mainly diamictic, but locally includes stratified sediments of glaciolacustrine or glacioluvial origin. Characterized by low to high-relief hummocky topography.
MT	Ice-thrust moraine	Terrain formed from the glaciotectonic displacement of materials as blocks or rafts in a more or less intact state. Materials may include syngenetic till, as well as masses of pre-existing sediments and/or bedrock. Characterized by high to moderate relief and features include hill-hole pairs and glaciotectonic moraines.
MF	Fluted moraine	Glacially streamlined terrain; varies from alternating furrows and ridges to nearly equidimensional smoothed hills; all landforms parallel the local ice flow direction; includes flutes, drumlins and drumlinoids.
FP	Preglacial fluvial deposits	Sediments transported and deposited by streams and rivers prior to glaciation. This includes sand and gravel deposited in paleovalleys (i.e., preglacial floodplains, terraces, fans and deltas).
Pre-Quaternary		
RT	Unconsolidated fluvial gravels	Predominantly well-sorted, quartzite and chert gravel and cobbles; Cordilleran source, Paleogene to Neogene.
R	Bedrock	

SYMBOL LEGEND	BASEMAP LEGEND
Eolian forms; dune ridges	Primary road, paved
Beach or strandline	Primary road, gravel
Meltwater channel (minor)	Unimproved road
Meltwater channel (minor, paleoflow direction indicated)	Truck trail
Crevasse filling	River
Ice thrust ridge	Lake
Esker (paleoflow direction known)	UTM, Zone 12 Grid
Drumlinoid or streamlined landform	Contour, intervals 50 metres
Drumlinoid (ice flow direction known)	Town
Buried drumlinoid or streamlined landform	
Minor moraine ridge	
Major moraine ridge	
Iceberg scour	
Flow-aligned ridge	
Kettle	
Sinkhole	

UNIT NOTATION
Example: sandy GLACIOLACUSTRINE plain
s LG P
Textural modifier Genetic unit Geomorphic modifier

Textural Modifier
Textural characteristics may be applied to the terrain classification as a prefix based on field observations or by inference from distinctive genesis and/or morphology. When two modifiers are given, the second letter is the dominant texture, with the first letter indicating the secondary texture; i.e., sc for sandy clay.
p = pebble
g = gravel
s = sand
\$ = silt
c = clay
a = sand-silt-clay

GENETIC & GEOMORPHOLOGICAL MODIFIERS

c crevasse fill ice-contact ridges formed by the slumping of sediment into crevasses on the ice surface or the squeezing of till into fractures at the ice base

d doughnut rings circular hummocks with a central depression, plateau mounds and brain-like pattern ridges, low to moderate relief and ridges

f fan gently sloping fan-shaped mass of detrital debris

g gullied slopes dissected by modern ravines created by intermittent runoff

h hummock assemblage of approximately equidimensional hills and hollows; moderate to high relief (commonly greater than 2 m)

k collapse depression, includes kettle holes, pitted morphology, thermokarst depressions, karst sinkholes

m meander sinuous curves, loops and oxbows produced as meltwater and modern streams shift their channels over time

p plain deposit greater than 2 m thick; commonly masks geomorphic pattern of underlying deposits; flat to gently rolling topography (commonly less than 2 m relief)

r ridged one or more parallel or subparallel, convex, linear morphological elements with a length-to-width ratio greater than 2; low to high relief

s1 slide movement of material down slope inferred to have occurred along zones of weakness; includes rotational and translational slides

s2 flow movement of material down slope inferred to have occurred by internal deformation, similar to the flow of a viscous fluid; includes debris, earth and mud flows

t terrace a bench of either erosional or depositional origin that flanks the sides of floodplains, valleys and lakes; includes fluvial and glacioluvial terraces, shoreline terraces and antipianation terraces

u undulating low-relief rolling terrain; swell and saddle topography

v veneer thin mantle of unconsolidated sediment that lies too thin to mask the minor irregularities of the surface of the underlying material; it ranges in thickness from 10 cm to 1 metre and may be discontinuous

y dissected channelled or dissected by glacial meltwater and/or Holocene fluvial activity

Complex
Where two or more classes of terrain are interspersed in a mosaic or repeating pattern on a scale too small to warrant meaningful differentiation, the proportion of each component in the combination is given in a two- or three-position designation set off by slashes denoting arbitrary percentage limits. Examples are:
MpLGV indicates the area is underlain by approximately 60% morainal plain and up to 40% glaciolacustrine veneer
MvLGVGp indicates at least 60% of the area is underlain by morainal veneer, with up to 40% glaciolacustrine veneer and less than 15% glacioluvial plain
LGP/M indicates more than 60% of the area is underlain by a glaciolacustrine plain, with less than 15% moraine

Stratigraphic Sequence
When materials of different origins or textures are known to be superimposed or can be confidently inferred, the sequence is indicated in conventional order using vertical separators, such as:
sLGVjMp indicates sandy glaciolacustrine veneer deposited on morainal plain

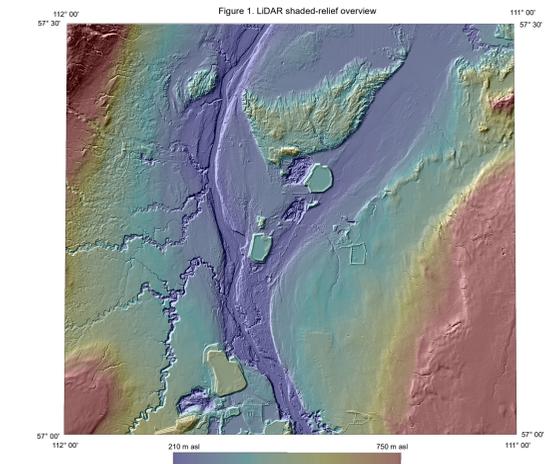
Transitional Association
Locally, two or more terrain units are juxtaposed by reason of related origin, temporal sequence or ambiguous geomorphological distinction. In the last case, both components may or may not be present. Such situations are identified by a compound designation marked by a hyphen. Examples are:
LG-LGL indicates glaciolacustrine indistinguishable from littoral and nearshore glaciolacustrine sediment

Morphological Overprint
Where a sequence of geomorphological processes has produced a multi-aspect or compound terrain fabric, the geomorphological modifier suffixes are appended in the inferred order of superposition. *Mpy* indicates a morainal plain has been moulded into ridges and finally dissected by streams. *FGpfr* indicates a glacioluvial plain that includes discontinuous hummocks and ridges.

Methodology
The Alberta Geological Survey conducted surficial geology field mapping in the area during 2017. Observations made during field mapping were combined with the interpretation of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) bare-earth data and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) digital elevation model (Figure 1) and image classification of peatlands from Landsat 8 multispectral data. The LiDAR digital elevation model was used to delineate landforms through shaded-relief images created from three illumination directions. The shaded relief shown as an underlay on the main map was produced by fusing shaded-relief (315° illumination azimuth, 45° declination) and slope-gradient images.

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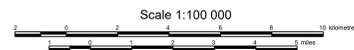
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Map 618

Surficial Geology of the Fort McKay Area (NTS 74E/SW)

Geology by: S.M. Pawley and N. Atkinson



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American Datum, 1983



Recommended Reference Format

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