

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

## **DESCRIPTION AND GENESIS QUATERNARY** HOLOCENE ANTHROPOGENIC MATERIALS: Culturally-made or modified geological materials such that their physical properties (e.g., structure, cohesion, compaction) have been drastically altered. ORGANIC DEPOSITS: Undifferentiated black peat layers, woody to fibrous muck; occurring in undifferentiated wetlands; commonly underlain by fine-grained, poorly-drained glaciolacustrine deposits; includes marshes, Bog 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. Fen peat: Occurs in a peatland with water table at surface and slow internal drainage; peatland surface is dominated by sedges, with grasses and reeds near local pools, and sparsely treed. 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 bedrock, till, glaciolacustrine, glaciofluvial and eolian sediments, generally poorly sorted. FLUVIAL DEPOSITS: Sediments transported and deposited by streams and rivers; synonymous with alluvial. 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). LACUSTRINE DEPOSITS: Sediments deposited in and adjacent to recent lakes; offshore sand, silt and clay, minor organic deposits; littoral (nearshore beaches and bars) sand and silt and minor gravel. EOLIAN DEPOSITS: Wind-deposited sediments; well-sorted, medium- to fine-grained sand, and minor silt (loess); generally massive to locally cross-bedded or ripple laminated; includes both active and vegetated deposits. PLEISTOCENE GLACIOLACUSTRINE DEPOSITS: Fine-grained distal sediments deposited in or along the margins of glacial lakes, including sediments that were released by the melting of floating ice. Includes laminated (rhythmically bedded) to massive fine sand, silt and clay, and may contain ice-rafted stones. Littoral and nearshore sediments: Massive to stratified well-sorted silty sand, pebbly sand and minor gravel; occurs as beaches, bars, spits and foreset deltaic deposits deposited during regression and lowering of glacial GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: Sediments deposited by glacial meltwater streams directly in front of glacier ice 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 and terraces.

Ice-contact sediments: Sediments deposited by glacial meltwater streams in direct contact with glacial ice, either in front of (kame terraces) or within glacial ice (eskers, crevasse ridges). Includes massive to stratified, poor to moderately sorted coarse sediments (predominantly pebble gravel and coarse sand, locally till) and may show evidence of ice melting (slumped structures).

Includes nonsorted diamicton deposited as lodgement till (a mixture of clay, silt, sand and minor pebbles, cobbles and boulders) at the ice margin or beneath a glacier. Locally, it may contain blocks of bedrock, pre-existing stratified drift and till. Beds and lenses of glaciolacustrine and/or glaciofluvial sediments may occur. Stagnant ice moraine: Terrain resulting from the collapse and lateral movement of englacial and supraglacial sediment in response to melting of buried stagnant ice at the ice margin; sediment is mainly diamicton (till), but locally includes stratified sediments of glaciolacustrine or glaciofluvial origin. Characterized by low- to high-relief Ice-thrust moraine: Terrain resulting from glacio-tectonic transport of originally subglacial sediment and

MORAINE: Material deposited directly by glacial ice without modification by any other agent of transportation.

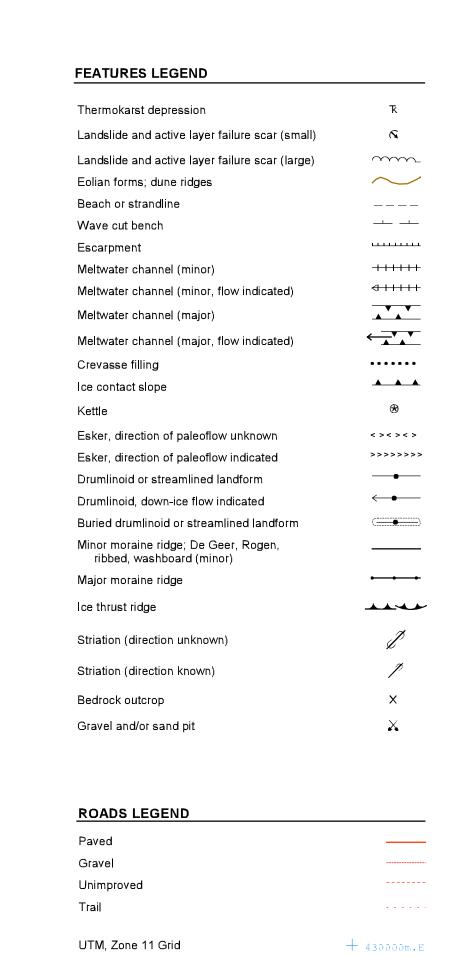
hill-hole pairs and glacio-tectonic moraine ridges. Fluted moraine: Glacially streamlined terrain; varies from alternating furrows and ridges to nearly equidimensional smoothed hills; all landforms parallel to the local ice flow direction; includes flutes, Undifferentiated moraine: Moraine is of undetermined origin and texture, but usually fine-grained; silt, clay and minor sand; lacks distinctive features required to subdivide it or the unit is a composite containing

pre-existing till, stratified drift and/or bedrock. Characterized by high to moderate relief and features include

three or more subdivisions inseparable at the map scale.

by the glacier more or less intact; deposits may include syngenetic till as well as masses of deposited

**BEDROCK:** Undivided; may include crystalline (Shield), carbonate or clastic sedimentary rock, and/or coal. Tertiary gravels: Predominantly quartzite and chert gravel and cobbles; preglacial age.



Contour, intervals 10 metres

150

**UNIT NOTATION** Example: GLACIOLACUSTRINE plain

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 s = sand s = silt

GENETIC & GEOMORPHIC MODIFIERS

a = sand-silt-clay

c crevasse fill ice-contact ridges and linear forms deposited by meltwater in stagnant ice d doughnut rings circular hummocks with a central depression (doughnut ridges), plateau mounds and brain pattern ridges, low to moderate relief planar surface eroded by glacial meltwater, often capped by a boulder lag deposit and/or thin deposit

gently sloping fan-shaped mass of detrital debris slopes dissected by modern ravines created by intermittent runoff

assemblage of approximately equidimensional hills and hollows; moderate to high relief (commonly depression, including kettles, pitted outwash, thermokarst depressions, karst sinkholes sinuous curves, loops and ox-bows produced as meltwater and modern streams shift their channel

deposit greater than 2 m thick; commonly masks geomorphic pattern of underlying deposits; flat to gently rolling topography (commonly less than 2 m relief) one or more parallel or subparallel, convex, linear morphological elements with a width-to-length ratio

landslide blocks, slope failure debris terrace bench cut by either meltwater or wave action; antiplanation terrace, kame terrace

greater than 2 m; low to high relief

low-relief rolling terrain; swell and swale topography thin mantle of unconsolidated material 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.

low relief tranverse moraine ridges, usually formed from basal ice shearing channelled or dissected by glacial meltwater flow; dissected terrain by Holocene fluvial activity

lake delta; ice-contact delta

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. For example, means that the area is underlain by approximately 60% morainal plain and up to 40%

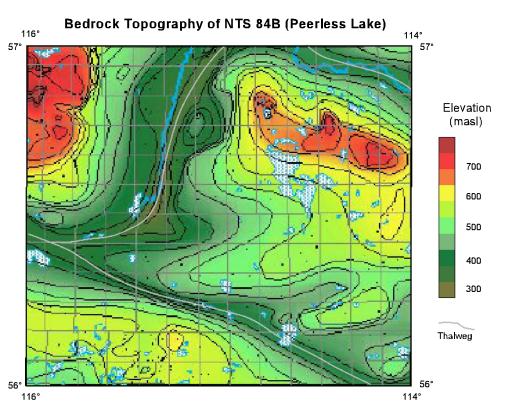
'Mv/LGv/FGp' means that at least 60% of the area is underlain by morainal veneer, with up to 40% glaciolacustrine veneer and less than 15% glaciofluvial plain. means that more than 60% of the area is underlain by a glaciolacustrine plain, with less than 15%

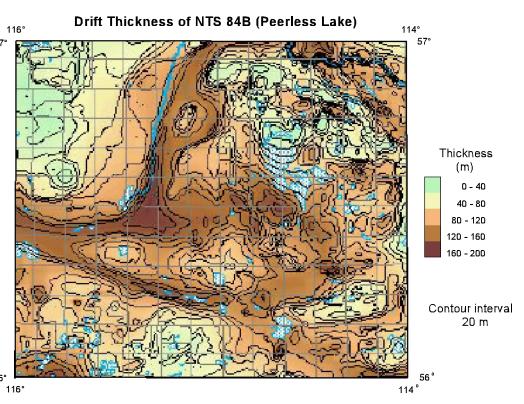
Where materials of different origin or texture are known to be superimposed or can be confidently inferred, the sequence is indicated in conventional order using vertical separators, such as: Thin sandy glaciolacustrine sediment

deposited on morainal plain

Transitional Association Locally, two or more terrain units are juxtaposed by reason of related origin, temporal sequence, or ambiguous geomorphic 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: 'FGz-LGz' indicating ice-contact delta indistinguishable from glaciolacustrine delta, or 'FGIk-MSh' indicating ice-contact kame and kettle topography that blends with hummocky stagnant ice moraine.

Where a sequence of geomorphic processes has produced a multi-aspect or compound terrain fabric, the geomorphic modifier suffixes are appended in the inferred order of super position. 'Mpry' means that a plain of till has been moulded into ridge forms and finally dissected by modern streams. 'FGphr' means that a glaciofluvial plain has been discontinuously covered by ice-contact hummocks and ridges.





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