

Exploration History of Frontier Basins in Canada - Ignore It At Your Peril -

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ABSTRACT

As exploration in Canada shifts toward Frontier basins it is important that the lessons learned during past exploration campaigns not be lost. The following critical questions should be asked. Why and when did active exploration start? What have been the results – both positive and negative? What is known about the geology? Why did exploration cease? Why has it or why has it not restarted? These issues must be examined before considering new exploration programs or before undertaking assessment of undiscovered resources.

A brief review of three areas, Mackenzie-Beaufort, Arctic Islands, and Labrador will illustrate the use of historical background information to assist in the judgement of potential for future exploration. The same approach may be applied to exploration in any area in the world.

The first and most important thing to appreciate is; competent, professionals who earnestly sought out the most prospective areas and targets for drilling have conducted the exploration done to date. Remember, in the Frontiers you are looking for big exploration targets. It is only special configurations that will produce the combination of small anomalies with large resources. These are rare for oil accumulations and extremely rare for natural gas.

When a new round of exploration or basin assessment is started it is important to know and use the information that is already available. Don't reinvent the wheel; if all else fails – go to the library.