

Harvey Thorleifson, Ph.D.

Dr. Harvey Thorleifson has been Director of the Minnesota Geological Survey, State Geologist of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota Professor of Geology since 2003. This year, he is President of the Association of American State Geologists, and previously, he was President of the Geological Association of Canada, and President of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences.

He is originally from the town of Baldur in southwestern Manitoba; he did his undergrad at University of Winnipeg, his Masters in geology at University of Manitoba in 1983, and his Ph.D. in geology at University of Colorado in 1989. He also holds a 2007 Honorary Doctorate of Science from University of Winnipeg.

While with the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa as a scientist from 1986 until 2003, he worked on many water-related topics across south-central Canada. The institution he now leads, Minnesota Geological Survey, plays a key role in supporting water resource protection and management throughout Minnesota, particularly through the County Geologic Atlas program that is crucial for groundwater protection.