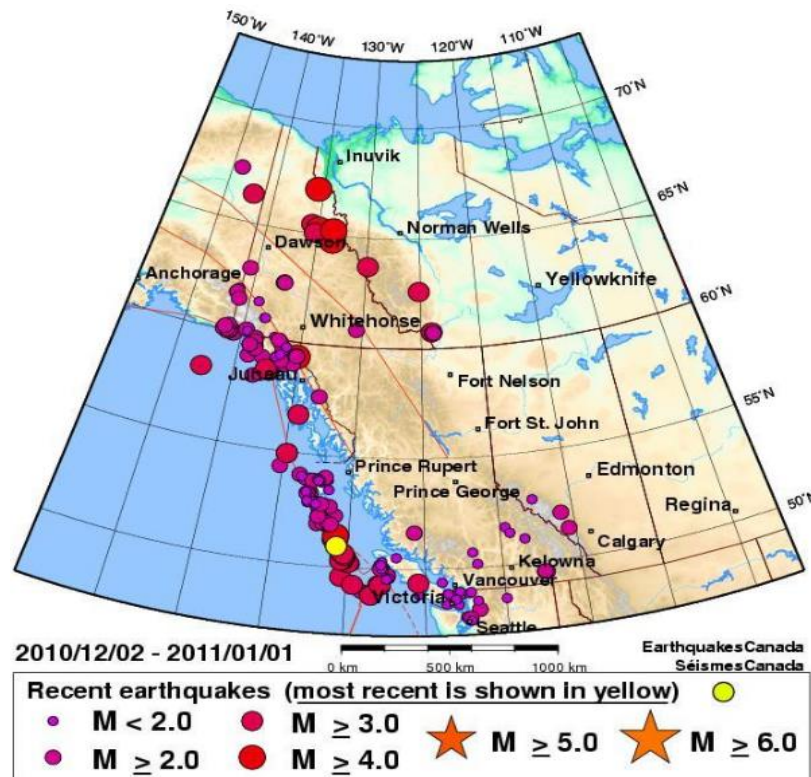


## *Background on Earthquakes in Western Canada*

Each year, seismologists with the Geological Survey of Canada record and locate more than 1000 earthquakes in western Canada. The Pacific Coast is the most earthquake-prone region of Canada. In the offshore region to the west of Vancouver Island, more than 100 earthquakes of magnitude 5 or greater (large enough to cause damage if they had been closer to land) have occurred during the past 70 years. Part of the ***Pacific Ring of Fire***, the concentration of earthquakes along the west coast is related to the presence of active faults, or breaks in the earth's crust. The surface of the earth is always changing, as the earth's crust is made up of "plates" (like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle) that are constantly moving in relation to one another at speeds of about 2-10 cm/year (about how fast your fingernails grow). The plates can either slide past one another, or they can collide, or they can diverge (or move apart).

*jigsaw puzzle* : puzzle



USE THIS DOCUMENT TO GIVE A TALK ON EARTHQUAKES

*After the site* : <http://earthquakescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/zones/westcan-eng.php>