



Canadian Mining Industry Research Organization

Exploration Division

November 3, 2015

Dr. Harold Gibson
Laurentian University
Sudbury, Ontario

Dear Dr. Gibson,

The MERC Advisory Board endorses the submission of the Letter of Intent for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund application for Metal Earth. The Mineral Exploration Research Centre has 10 members that meet 3 times per year to advise and support the Centre to build a connection with the mineral industry and geological surveys. We strongly support development of a high level of scientific capacity to study and understand Precambrian ore systems, to develop innovative ideas and technology and provide education and training of the next generations and ongoing professional development.

Under guidance of the Advisory Board, MERC has used membership funding to hire an associate Director to develop a website, newsletter, a business plan and creation of new workshops to support growth of a program of mineral exploration research and educational initiatives.

The Metal Earth Proposal provides a major opportunity to develop innovative science at a significant scale to understand the distribution and endowment of metals in the Precambrian Shield, which underlies much of northern Canada. In the past century Canada has been a major producer of metals from the ancient Shield. New deposits of metals have become increasingly difficult to find. Development of new metal wealth in Canada's North will require investment in new innovative science to understand the distribution of metal endowment in the Earth. Industry partners and supporters of this Proposal look forward to application of new ideas, innovations and technologies to aid and direct future discovery of mineral wealth.

Industry members of MERC and CAMIRO are interested in partnering and supporting research objectives of Metal Earth.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Lane, PhD
Director Research Development
CAMIRO
Chair of the MERC Advisory Board