



Manitoba Geological Survey  
360-1395 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 3P2  
T 204-945-6549 F 204-945-1406  
[www.manitoba.ca/minerals](http://www.manitoba.ca/minerals)

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To the CFREF Selection Committee,

The Manitoba Geological Survey (MGS) strongly endorses the Metal Earth mineral exploration research initiative of the Department of Earth Sciences and the Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC) at Laurentian University, and the application for funding from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund.

The MGS has a well-established and highly productive track record of collaboration with researchers at Laurentian University, including several of the principal proponents of the Metal Earth initiative, which has made important contributions to our understanding of metallic mineral deposits and metal endowments in the Flin Flon–Snow Lake region of Manitoba – one of the premier mineral districts in Canada.

The MGS firmly believes that the research proposal outlined in the summary documents – in particular the integrated and holistic approach to answering fundamental questions relating to metal endowment – provides tremendous opportunity to build scientific capacity within Canada and to support Canadian economic growth, particularly in ‘frontier’ regions such as the Far North.

Specific key areas of potential collaboration between MGS and Laurentian University under the auspices of the Metal Earth initiative could include detailed comparisons of geologically similar, yet variably endowed, Precambrian greenstone belts (Archean and Proterozoic) in Manitoba. We would anticipate that economic activity resulting from such research will provide direct benefits to established mining communities as well as First Nations in Manitoba, many of which are located in remote areas with limited prospects for substantial, sustainable economic growth.

In addition to active research collaborations, and contingent upon budgetary approvals, MGS in-kind contributions for these types of partnered initiatives may include direct mentoring of graduate students by experienced MGS field geologists, as well as the provision of field assistants, logistics and expediting services, field accommodations, cartographic and GIS support, access to field locations, and field supplies.

The MGS applauds MERC for taking the lead in Canadian mineral exploration research. We are excited about the opportunity of working collaboratively with Laurentian University and MERC under the Metal Earth research initiative.

Sincerely,

Christian Böhm, Ph.D.  
A/Director, Manitoba Geological Survey

Scott Anderson, Ph.D.  
Chief Geologist, Precambrian Geoscience