# **OROGENIC GOLD DEPOSITS**

#### ARCHEAN OROGENIC GOLD DEPOSITS ASSOCIATED WITH STRUCTURALLY-CONTROLLED METASEDIMENTARY BELTS OF THE SUPERIOR CRATON

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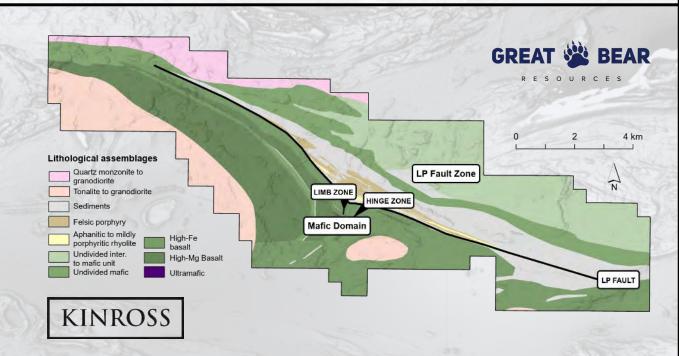
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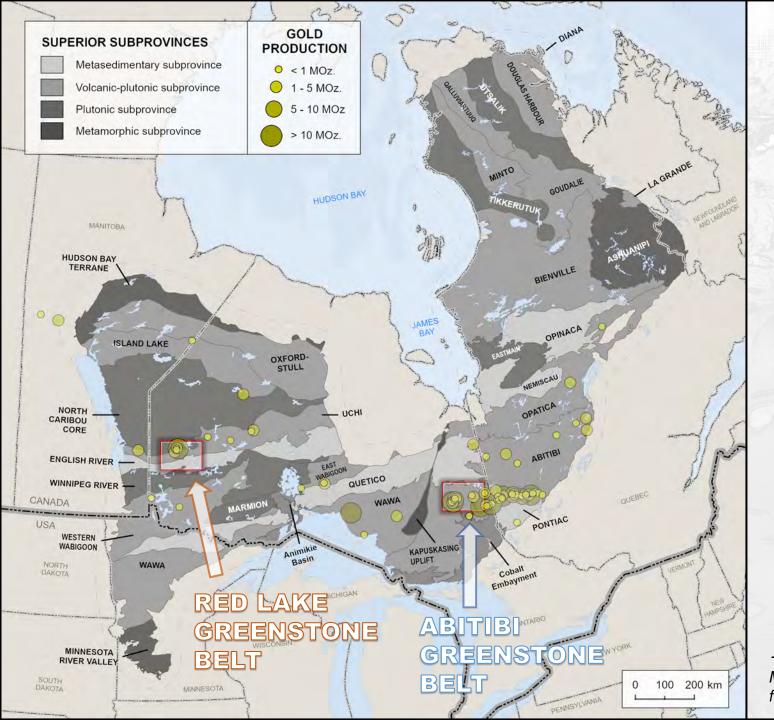












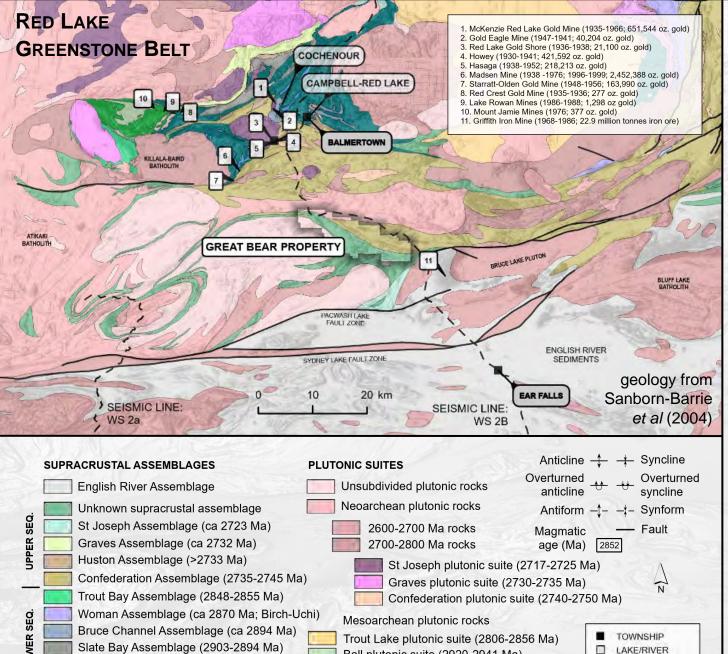
# **Superior Craton**

- Preserves the early formation of continental and oceanic crust and possibly the transition from nonuniformitarian to modern-Earth tectonics.
- Consists of nineteen (19) plutonic volcano-plutonic, metasedimentary, and metamorphic subprovinces.
- Hosts multiple world-class base metal, gold and komatiite-associated Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposits.
- Most notable orogenic gold deposits of the Superior Craton occur in the
  - Abitibi Greenstone Belt
  - Red Lake Greenstone Belt



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→ GIS data for the Superior Craton from Montsion et al. (2018). Gold production values from Gosselin and Dubé (2005).



Ball plutonic suite (2920-2941 Ma)

Balmer plutonic suite (2980-2990 Ma)

ROAD

SEISMIC LINE

 $\square$ 

One (1) of six (6) major greenstone belts in the Uchi Subprovince:

- Rice Lake

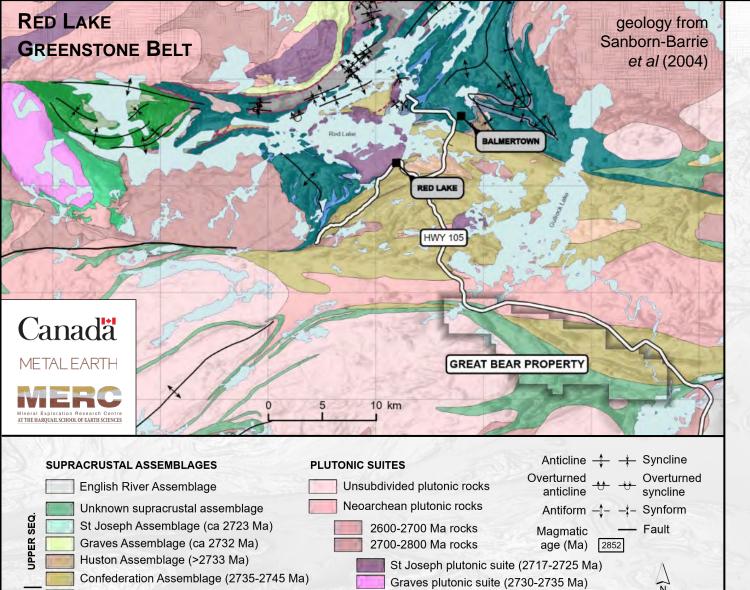


- Red Lake  $\rightarrow$  This talk
- Birch–Uchi
- Meen–Dempster
- Pickle Lake
- Lake St. Joseph
- Records a 300 Myr year period of volcanism. intrusive magmatism, sedimentation, and metamorphism attributed to mantle plumes, arc volcanism, intra-arc rifting, and tectonic uplift.
- Hosts some of the largest and richest orogenic gold deposits in Canada (>29.6 million Oz. gold extracted; Lewis et al., 2021).

Continued on next page

Ball Assemblage (2940-2925 Ma)

Balmer Assemblage (2992-2964 Ma)



Confederation plutonic suite (2740-2750 Ma)

TOWNSHIP

LAKE/RIVER

ROAD

— — SEISMIC LINE

Mesoarchean plutonic rocks

Trout Lake plutonic suite (2806-2856 Ma)

Ball plutonic suite (2920-2941 Ma)

Balmer plutonic suite (2980-2990 Ma)

Trout Bay Assemblage (2848-2855 Ma)

Bruce Channel Assemblage (ca 2894 Ma)

Slate Bay Assemblage (2903-2894 Ma)

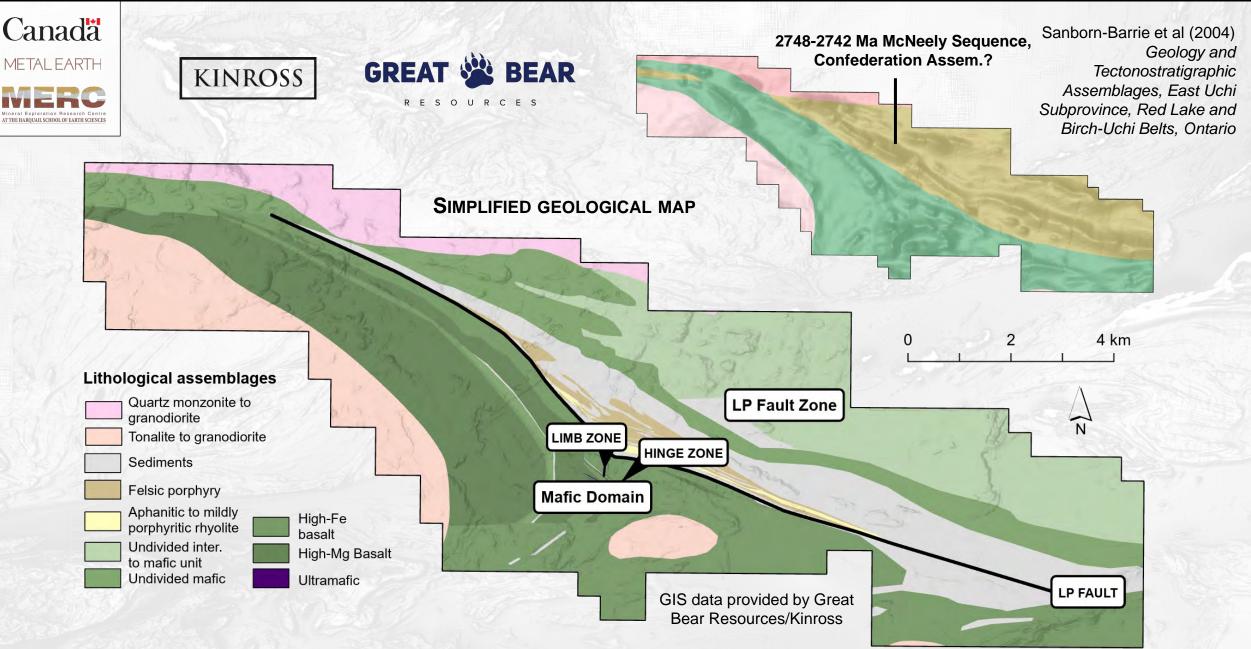
Balmer Assemblage (2992-2964 Ma)

Ball Assemblage (2940-2925 Ma)

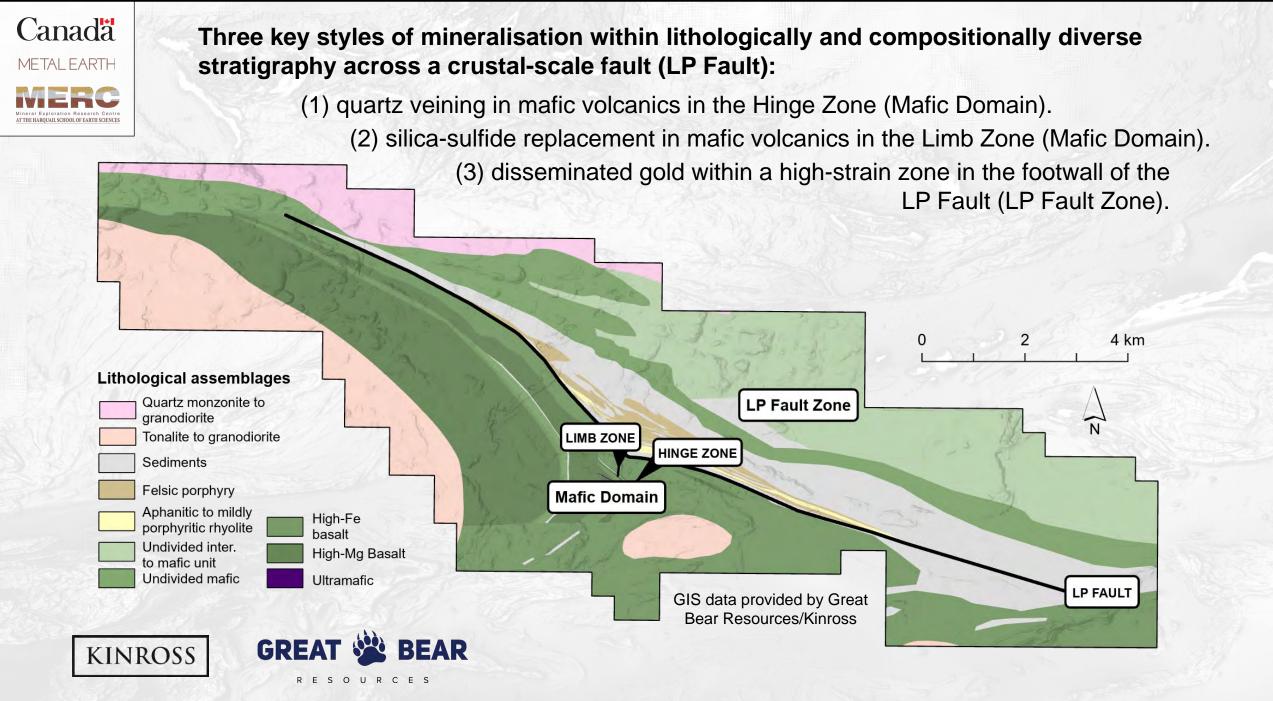
Woman Assemblage (ca 2870 Ma; Birch-Uchi)

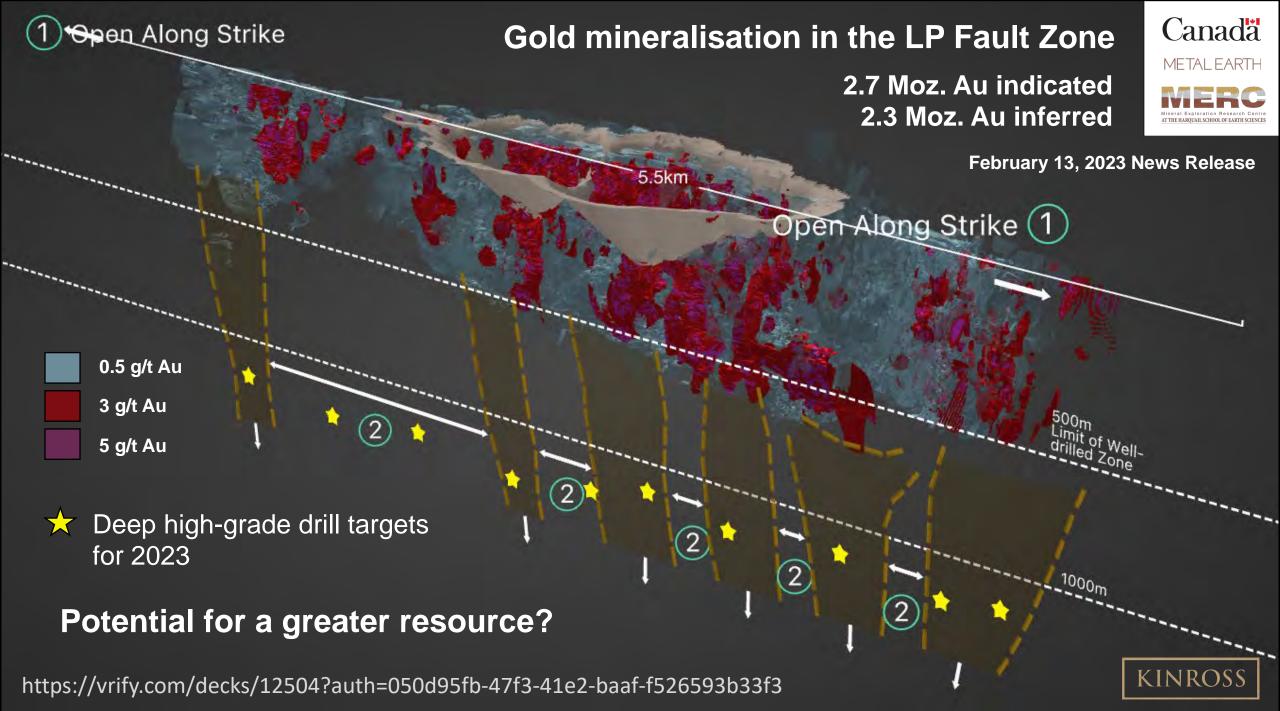
- Exploration has prioritised the Mine Trend between Cochenour to Balmertown, a corridor of E to SE trending  $D_2$  structures that formed during the 2720-2715 Ma Uchian phase of the Kenoran orogeny.
- Major mines within the Mine Trend include the Cochenour and Campbell-Red Lake gold mines (>15 Moz. Au).
- Gold mineralisation within the Mine Trend is principally hosted by tholeiitic and komatiitic metabasalts of the 2.99-2.96 Ga Balmer Assemblage.
- Recent discovery by Great Bear Resources of disseminated gold in the footwall of a crustal-scale fault (LP Fault) located ~25 km SE of the main Red Lake gold camp.

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\rightarrow GREAT BEAR PROPERTY
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#### **Geology of the Great Bear property**





1 Spen Along Strike

### Gold mineralisation in the LP Fault Zone

2.7 Moz. Au indicated

# Is the Great Bear deposit a world-class gold deposit?

According to Singer (1995) world-class is defined as any gold deposit with >3.2 Moz gold (100 metric tons).

**Resource estimates for the LP Fault Zone include:** 

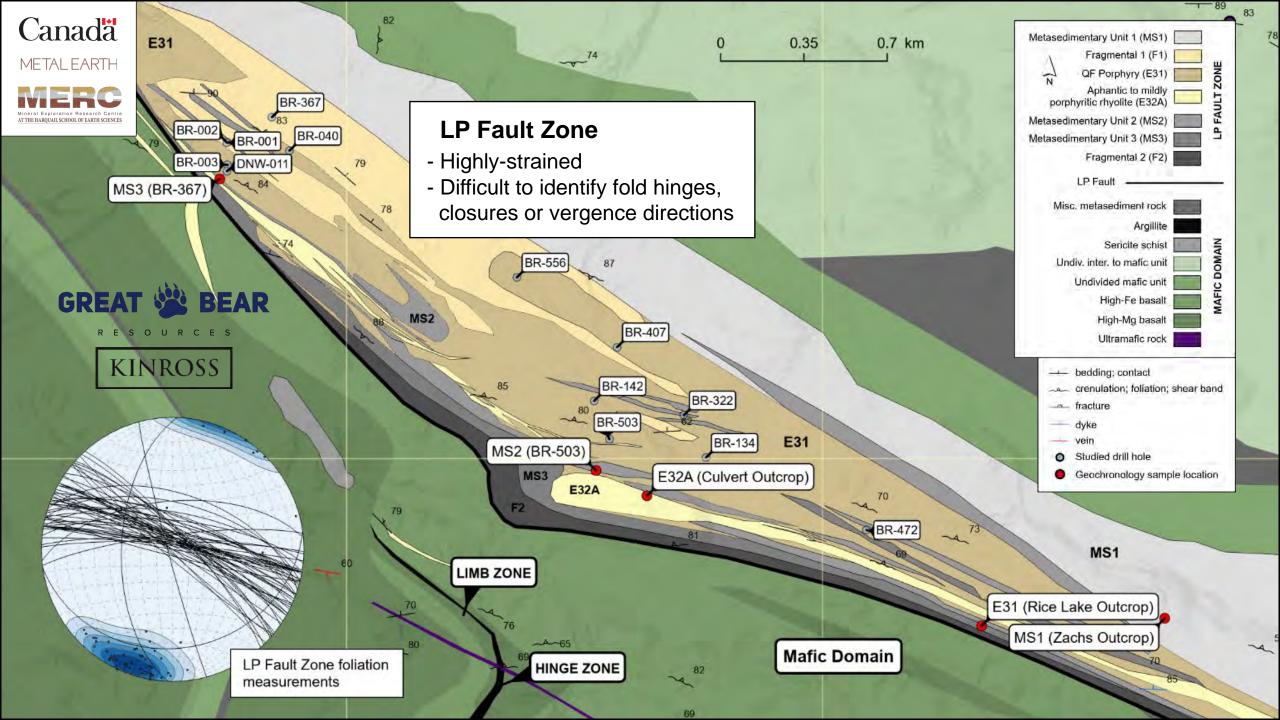
2.7 Moz. Au indicated +
2.3 Moz. Au inferred
= ~5 Moz. Au

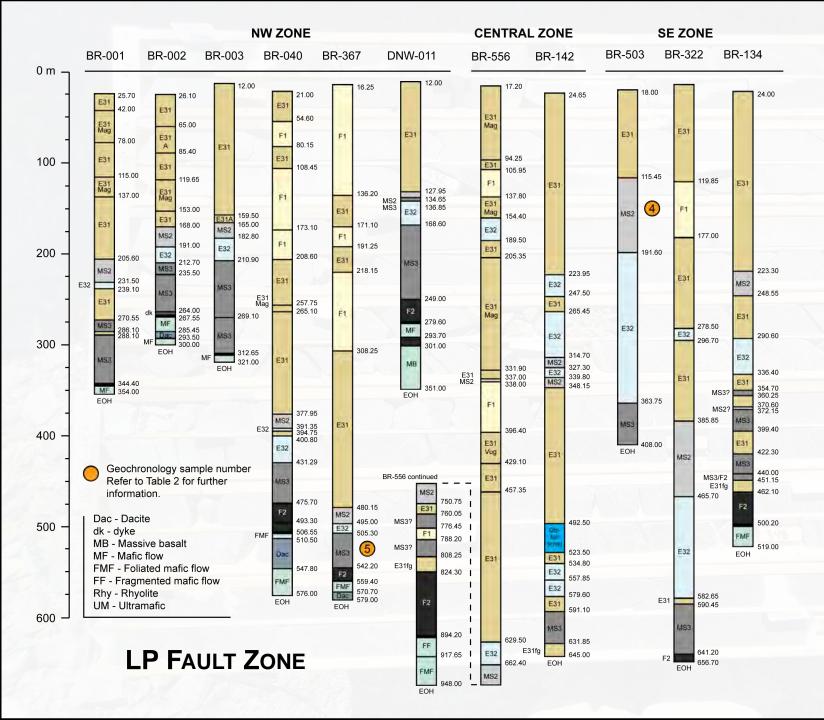
**YES**????

# Exploration to continue...

Singer, D. A., 1995, World class base and precious metal deposits; a quantitative analysis: Economic ttps://vaiv.coନ/decks/12504?auth=050d95fb-47f3-41e2-baaf-f526593b33f3 3 News Release







# Lithostratigraphy

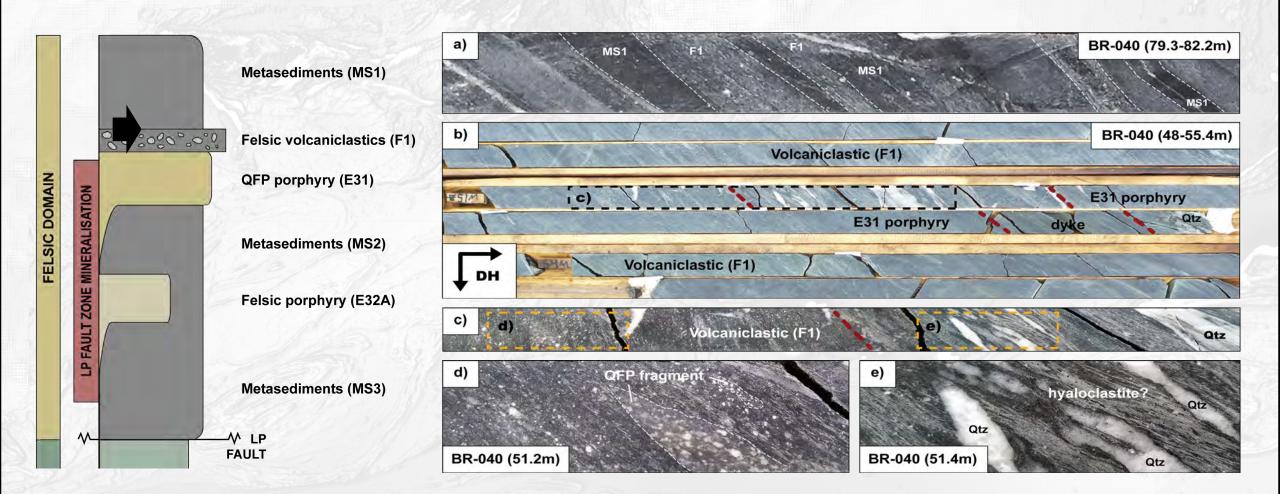
The stratigraphy of the LP Fault Zone is defined by seven (7) key lithofacies:

- Metasedimentary Unit 1 (MS1)
- Fragmental Unit 1 (F1)
- Metasedimentary Unit 2 (MS2)
- Quartz-Feldspar porphyry (E31)
- Altered porphyry (E32A)
- Metasedimentary Unit 3 (MS3)
- Fragmental Unit 2 (F2)
- + multiple mafic dykes and sills

Canada

METAL EARTH

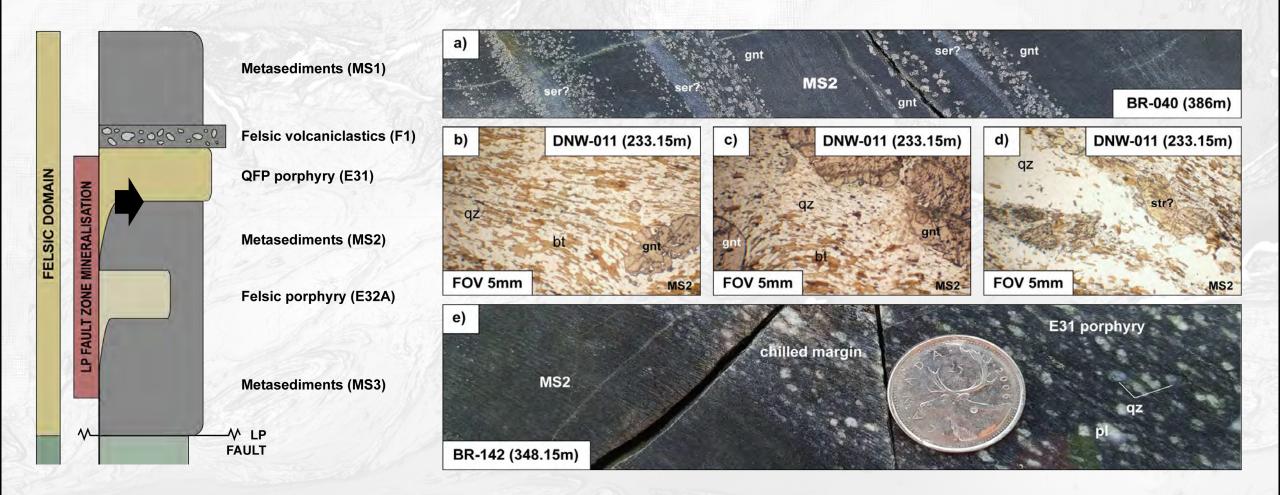
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**Metasedimentary Unit 1 (MS1)** - Thinly-bedded, fine- to medium-grained sediments, with rare graded beds indicating a NE facing direction (away from the LP Fault).

**Fragmental Unit 1 (F1) -** Poorly-sorted, matrix-supported volcaniclastic deposit, consisting of 4-5 mm-size quartz and feldspar crystals and larger angular to round QFP fragments (derived from E31 QF porphyry in a fine- to medium-grained matrix).

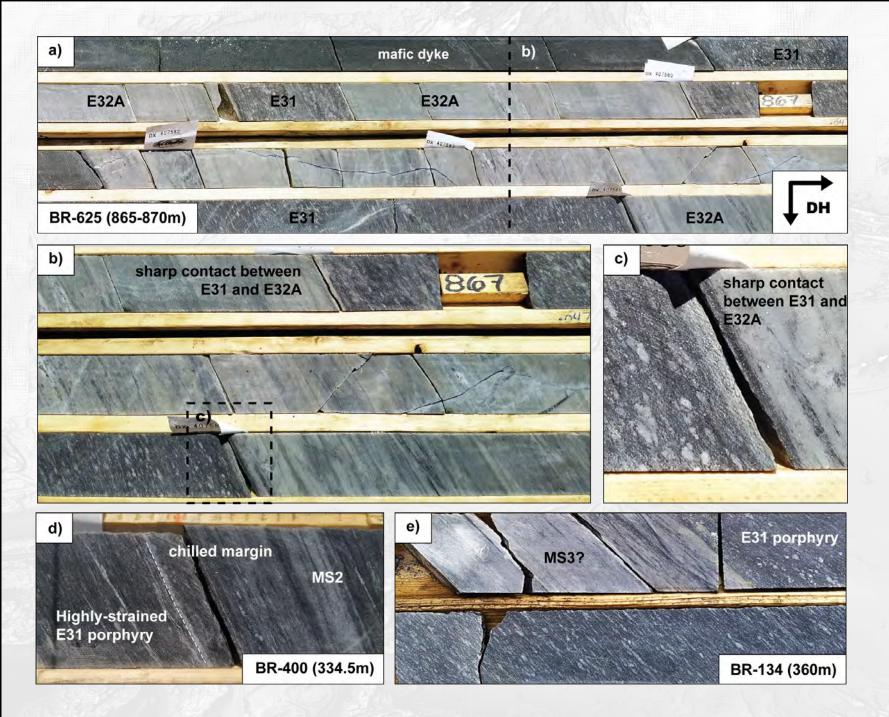




**Quartz-Feldspar Porphyry (E31) -** Grey to dark grey, medium to strongly foliated porphyry, consisting of generally white feldspars and blue-grey-white quartz in a fine-grained groundmass of quartz, feldspar and biotite.

**Metasedimentary Unit 2 -** Intensely foliated, massive to thinly-bedded, fine-grained, carbonaceous sediments, with garnet, staurolite, and andalusite porphyroblasts.



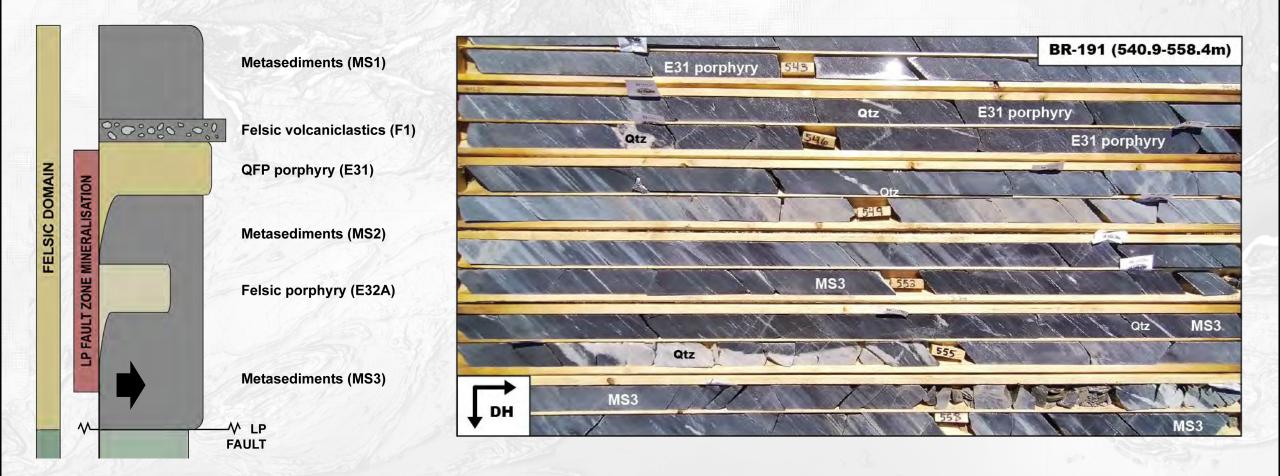


Quartz-Feldspar Porphyry (E31) Grey to dark grey, medium to strongly foliated porphyry, consisting of generally white feldspars and blue-grey-white quartz in a fine-grained groundmass of quartz, feldspar and biotite.

#### Altered porphyry (E32A)

White to grey, silicified, strongly foliated, aphanitic to mildly porphyritic (minor plagioclase), with secondary quartz, feldspar, muscovite, calcite, and chlorite.





**Metasedimentary Unit 3 (MS3)** - Moderately to strongly foliated, fine-grained, thinly- to mediumbedded metasediments, with strong sericite alteration.

**Fragmental Unit 2 (F2)** - Highly-strained unit adjacent to the LP Fault and gradational with MS3, consisting of subangular to round sericitically altered fragments in a fine-grained matrix. - Pseudobreccia (highly-strained or boudinage component of MS3).



# Paleoenvironment

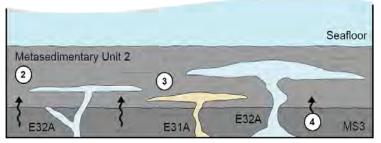
- The metasedimentary units (MS1, MS2, MS3) are part of the one succession that was deposited in a structural basin.

- The E32A and the younger E31 porphyries were emplaced as intrusions. The E31 porphyries also breached the seafloor, producing volcaniclastic deposits (F1).

The volcaniclastic deposits
(F1) were subsequently intruded
by additional QF porphyries
(E31).

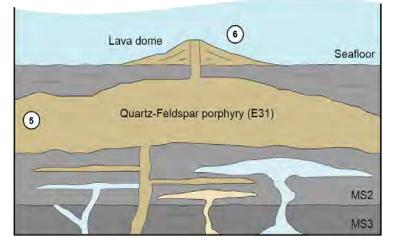


1. Basin development and early deposition of Metasedimentary Unit 3 (MS3).

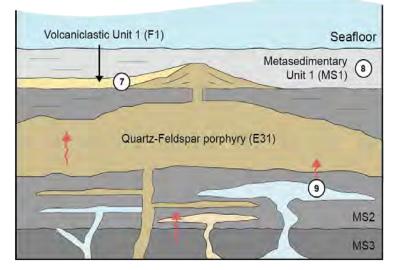


2. Ongoing sedimentation and the deposition of Metasedimentary Unit 2 (MS2).

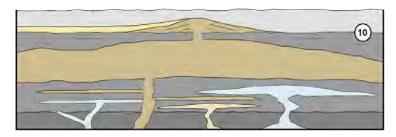
 Emplacement of aphantic to mildly porphyric felsic intrusions (E32A and E31A) within the sedimentary package.
 Widespread silicification/abitization.



5. Intrusion of a quartz-feldspar porphyry (E31).6. Construction of a submarine lava dome (E31).

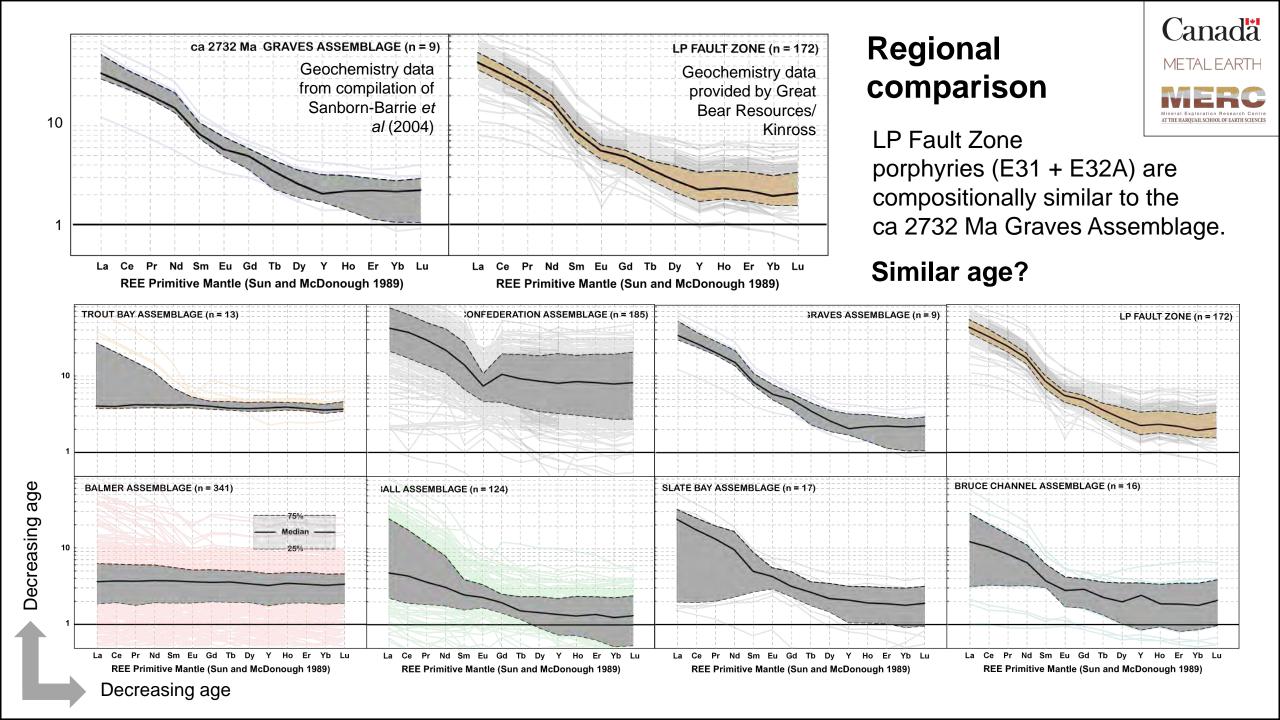


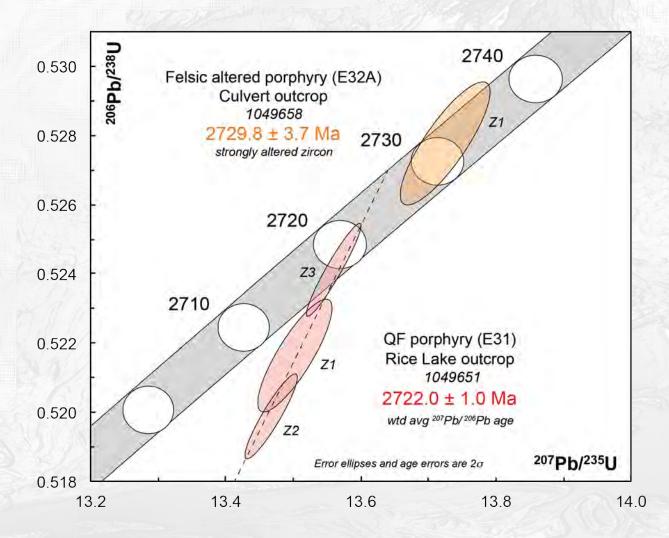
7. Quench fragmentation, autobrecciation, and possible collapse of the submarine lava dome, resulting in development of volcaniclastic deposts (F1).
8. Ongoing sedimentation and the deposition of Metasedimentary Unit 1 (MS1).
9. Widespread sericite alteration (<2722 Ma). </li>



10. Transposition and flattening of the stratigraphy associated with the 2720-2715 Ma Uchian phase of the Kenoran orogeny.



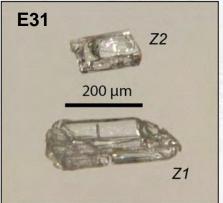




# **TIMS Geochronology**

U-Pb TIMS dating of zircon from the felsic porphyries (E31, E32A) indicate crystallisation ages of 2730-2722 Ma.

- The ages are inconsistent with existing interpretations of the stratigraphy as part of the 2748-2742 Ma McNeely Sequence of the Confederation Assemblage.
- Possible correlation with the 2732 Ma Graves Assemblage or the 2725-2717 Ma St Joseph Suite?



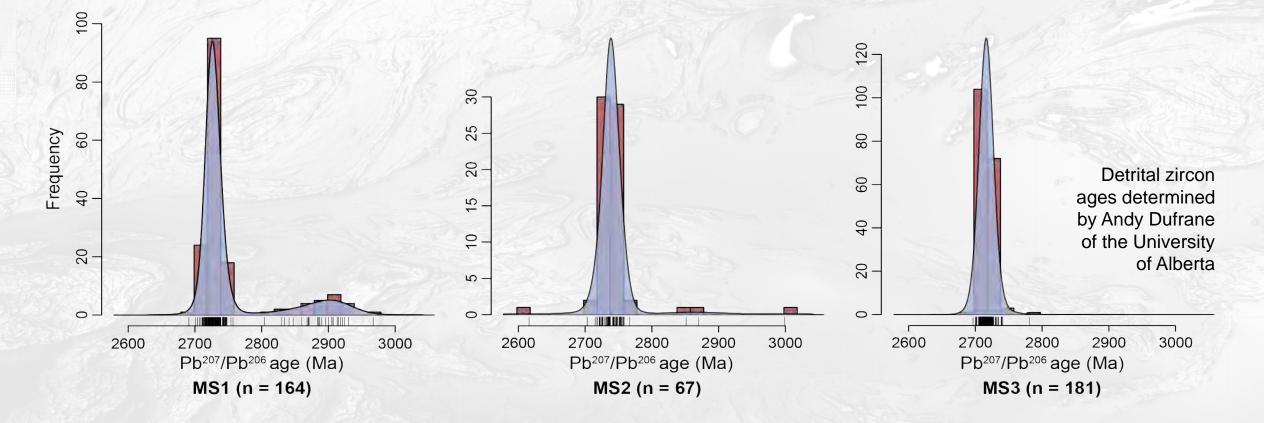


#### What about the detrital zircon data??

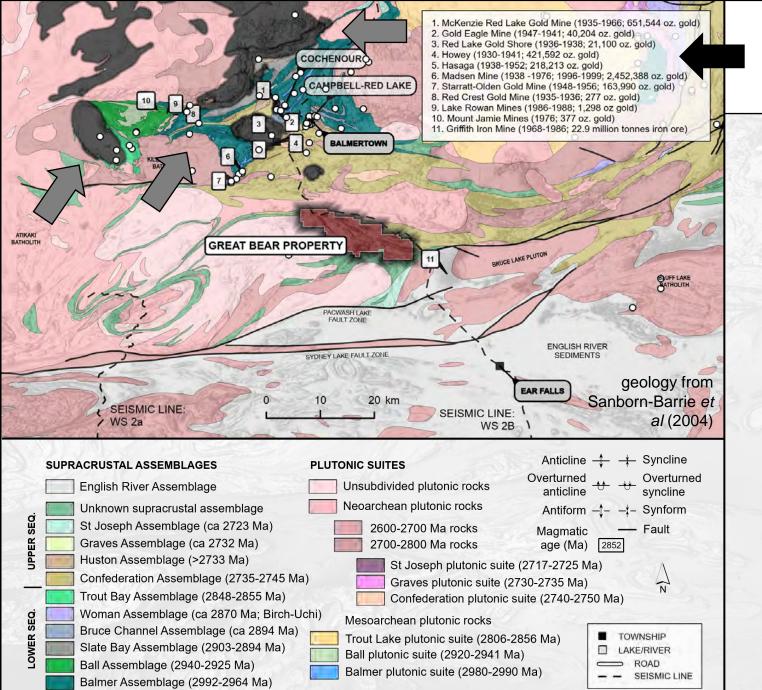
# **LA-ICPMS Geochronology**

U-Pb LA-ICPMS dating of detrital zircon from the metasedimentary succession indicate that the majority of zircons were derived from the felsic porphyries, with clustered aged of ca 2730-2720 Ma.

 Younger (<2720 Ma) detrital zircon ages within MS2 and MS3 likely reflect the local influence of Pb loss associated with deformation, hydrothermal alteration and metamorphism.







#### 2732-2712 Ma assemblages (Graves Assem. and St Joseph Suite)

 Equivalent aged rocks of the Graves Assemblage and St Joseph Suite occur within and to the NW of the Red Lake gold camp.

- St Joseph Suite includes the 2720 Ma Abino granodiorite, 2720 Ma McKenzie Island stock, and 2717 Ma Dome Stock.

- McKenzie Red Lake Gold Mine
- Gold Eagle Mine
- Red Lake Gold Shore
- Few known occurrences to the SE of the Red Lake camp.

Is this an accurate reflection of the regional geology or an artifact of limited samples to the SE of the Red Lake camp?



### Significance of 2730-2722 Ma zircon crystallisation ages for mineralisation in the LP Fault Zone?

- Maximum age for mineralisation in the LP Fault Zone is <2722 Ma.

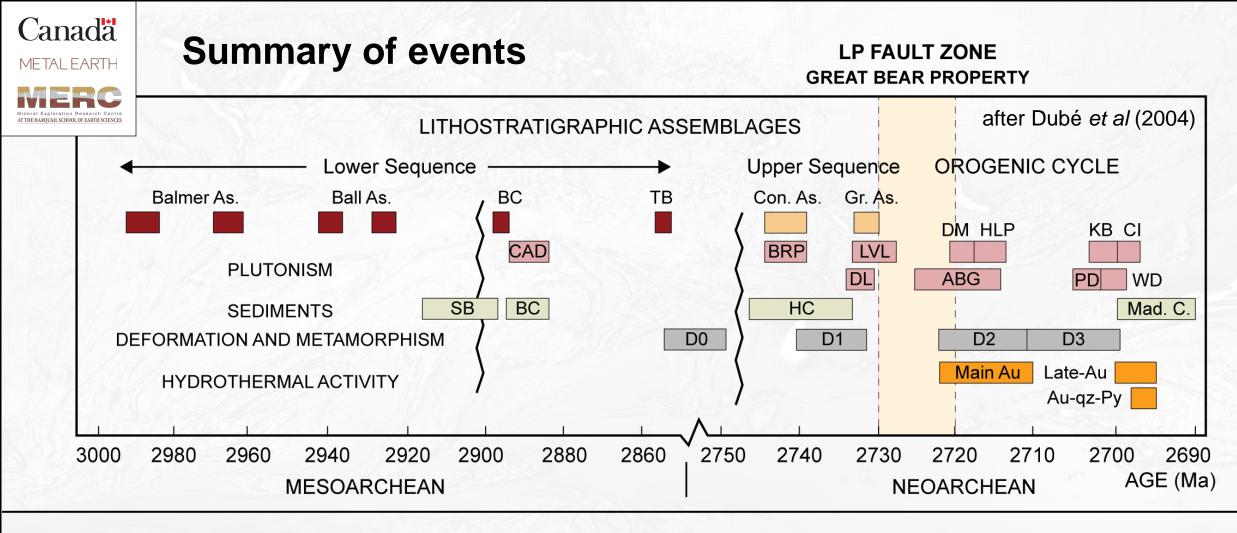
#### however.....

There are three different styles of mineralisation within the LP Fault Zone:

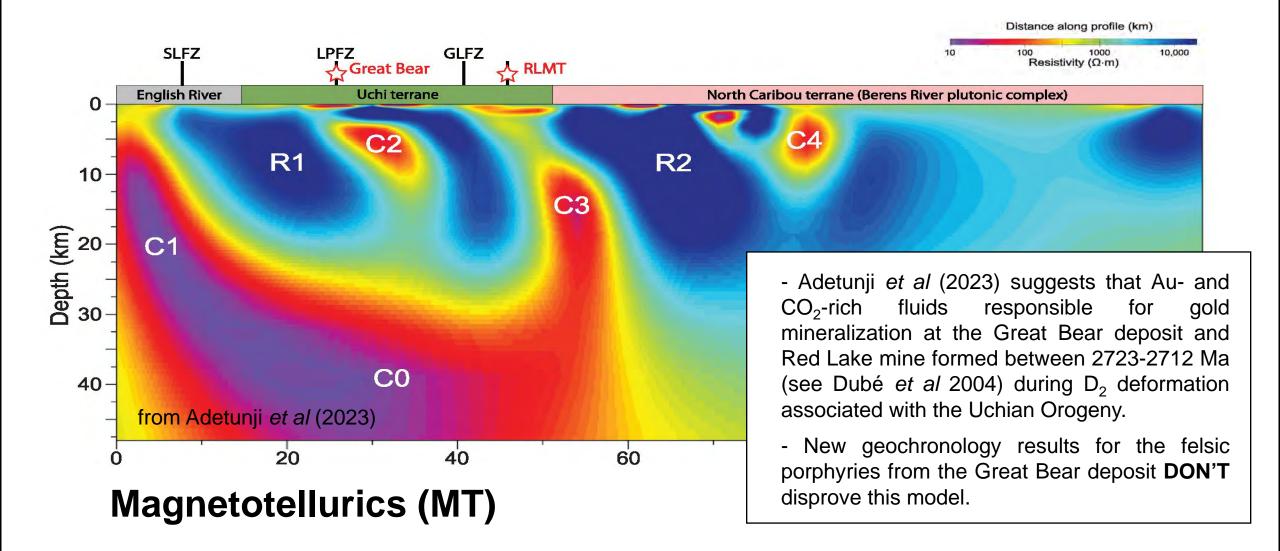
- 1. Disseminated free gold parallel to the primary NW-SE trending foliation in the host rock. Syn-intrusion or Syntectonic?
- 2. Gold in transposed quartz veins.
- 3. Free gold in quartz veins oblique to the primary foliation.  $\square$  **Post-tectonic?**

How does this compare with the known timing of mineralisation at the main Red Lake mine?





- Dubé et al (2004) suggests the main-stage of gold mineralisation at the Red Lake mine occurred between 2723-2712 Ma, most likely coinciding with the Uchian phase of the Kenoran Orogeny (D<sub>2</sub>).
- Late-stage gold mineralisation and remobilisation (quartz-pyrite-tourmaline-vein-type deposits) occurred after 2702 Ma, most likely associated with D<sub>3</sub> amphibolite-facies metamorphism and post-orogenic intrusions (Dubé *et al* 2004).

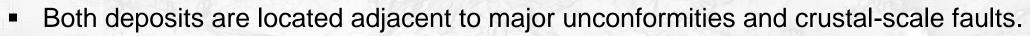


Is there potential for the discovery of other major gold deposits within the RLGB?



# LP Fault Zone vs. Red Lake mining camp

#### Similarities



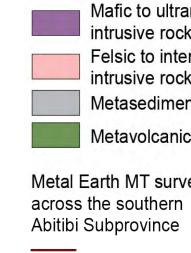
- Both deposits are located adjacent to sedimentary belts.
- Both deposits are hosted within a zone of predominantly NW-SE structures.
  - SE trending 'Mine Trend' in the Red Lake gold camp.
- Mineralisation at both deposits was likely associated with the 2723-2712 Ma Uchian phase of the Kenoran Orogeny (D<sub>2</sub>)???

#### Differences

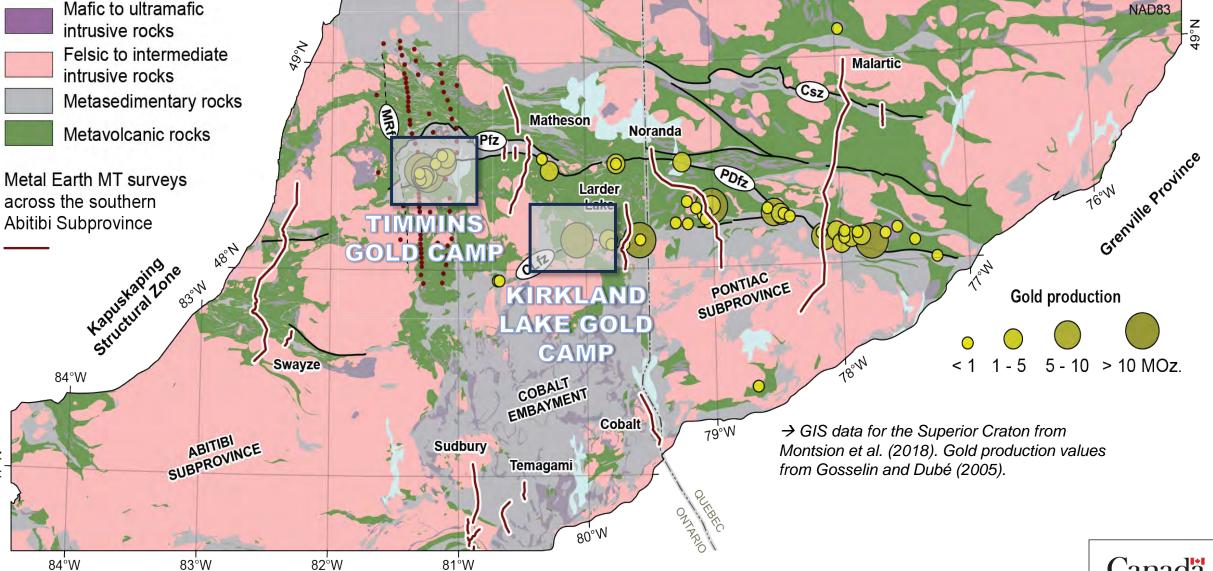
- Hosted by different lithostratigraphic assemblages.
  - 2.99 Ga Balmer Assemblages vs. 2.73-2.72 Ga Graves Assemblage/St Joseph Suite.
- Different primary styles of mineralisation.
  - Widespread shallow disseminated gold in the LP Fault Zone at the Great Bear property vs. goldbearing quartz-carbonate veins at the Campbell-Red Lake deposit.

# IMPLICATIONS FOR GOLD EXPLORATION?





N°T

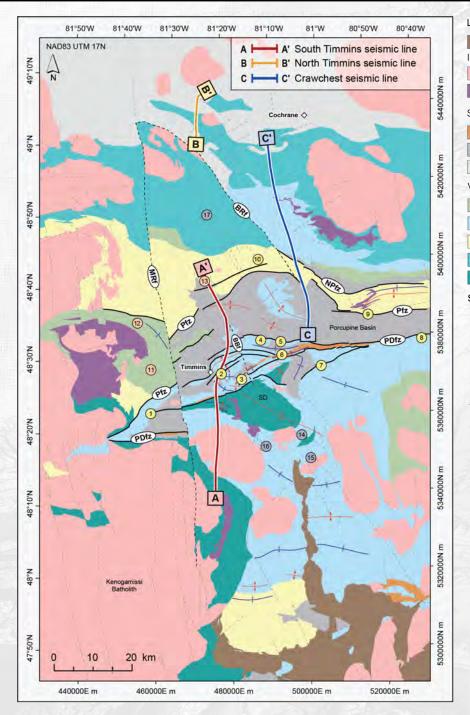


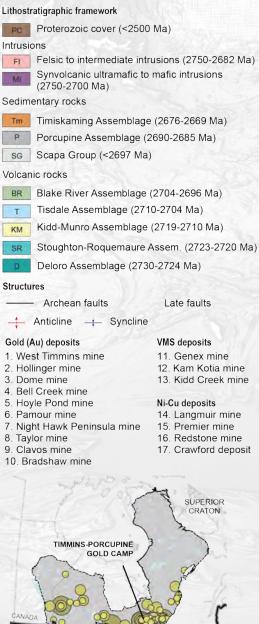
# Major gold deposits of the Abitibi Subprovince

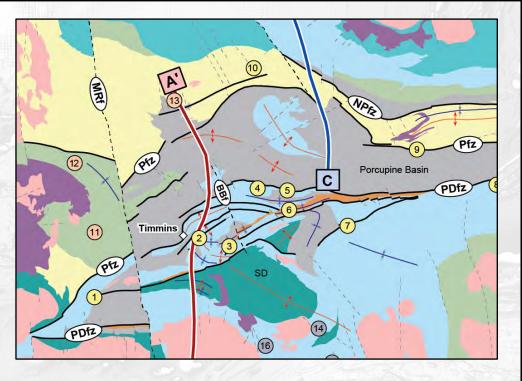


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#### **Timmins Gold Camp**

- Multiple world-class-giant gold deposits associated with the Porcupine- Destor fault zone (75-100+ Moz. Au).
- World class VMS deposits
- Multiple Ni-Cu-PGE deposits



# Deloro Assemblage (2730-2724 Ma) calc-alkaline andesite pillows with breccia

Canada Metalearth

tr

# Tisdale Assemblage (2710-2704 Ma)

variolitic, strained, mafic pillow lavas



# Tisdale Assemblage (2710-2704 Ma)

quartz-carbonate alteration (ankerite) of ultramafic-mafic metavolcanic flows with multiple generations of veins



# **Angular unconformity**

greywacke of the Porcupine Assemblage (2690-2685 Ma) vs. conglomeratic deposits of the Timiskaming Assemblage (2676-2669 Ma).



# Timiskaming Assemblage (2676-2669 Ma)

polymictic conglomerate with fuchsitealtered ultramafic clasts, sulfidized clasts, quartz feldspar porphyry, and mafic volcanic clasts.



# Macassa Mine, Kirkland Lake

**KIRKLAND LAKE, ONTARIO** Macassa Mine The Golden Mile - Seven mines, one ore body (1931-present) **Toburn Mine** 1912-1953 West East Wright-Hargreaves Lake Hugh Shore Toburn Macassa Sylv aa 📥 a dit a alt orebody Shaft gold Underground Kirkland property boundary Canada **CN** Tower METALEARTH Seven mines. for scale 553m 500 m One orebody.

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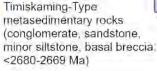
41+ Moz. Au produced

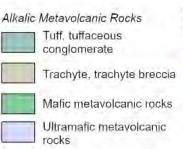
# Kirkland Lake Gold Camp 41+ Moz. Au produced

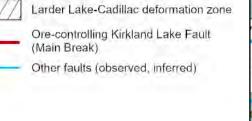


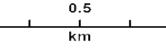
200

	Trachyandesite
	Diorite, hornblendite
Intrusive Contact	
	Mafic intrusive rocks (gabbro, quartz gabbro, quartz diorite)
-	Timiskaming-Type











KIRKLAND LAKE

METALEARTH

Mineral Exploration Research Centre



Foliated porphyry

Case

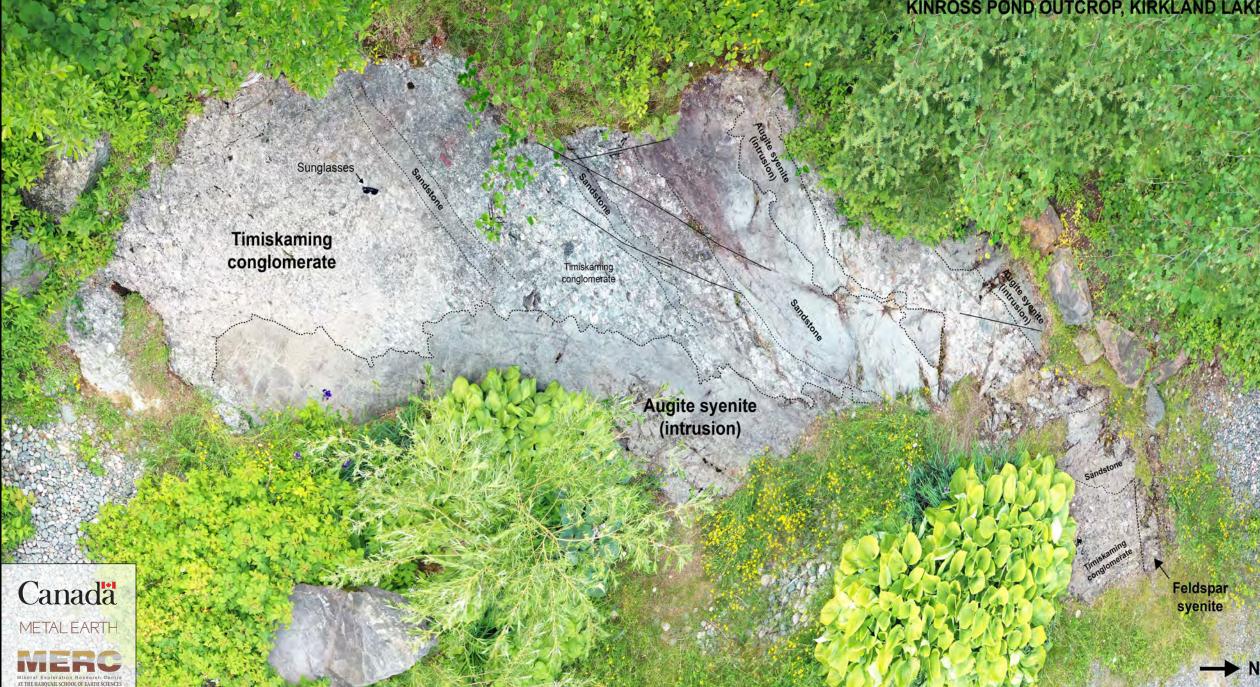
Syenite porphyry

Gold-bearing quartz vein

Syenite porphyry

Bill Wright discovered gold at this location in Kirkland Lake in the fall of 1911.

#### KINROSS POND OUTCROP, KIRKLAND LAKE



DON LOU OUTCROP, KIRKLAND LAKE

Feldepar phyric dyke

Augite syenite (intrusion)

Pyroclastic deposits

Augite syenite (intrusion)

Feldspar syenite porphyry (intrusion)



Case

# Important references

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- 2. Adetunji, A. Q., Launay, G., Ferguson, I. J., Simmons, J. M., Ma, C., Ayer, J., and Lafrance, B., 2023, Crustal resistivity footprint of a world-class orogenic gold district in the Red Lake Greenstone Belt, western Superior Craton; Geology.
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- 4. Dubé, B., Williamson, K., McNicoll, V., Malo, M., Skulski, T., Twomey, T., and Sanborn-Barrie, M., 2004, Timing of gold mineralization at Red Lake, Northwestern Ontario, Canada: New constraints from U-Pb geochronology at the Goldcorp high-grade zone, Red Lake mine, and the Madsen mine: Economic Geology, v. 99, p. 1611-1641.
- 5. Sanborn-Barrie, M., Parker, J. R., and Skulski, T., 2001, Three hundred million years of tectonic history recorded by the Red Lake greenstone belt, Ontario. Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), 2001-C19.
- Sanborn-Barrie, M., Rogers, N., Skulski, T., Parker, J. R., and Devaney, J., 2004, Geology and Tectonostratigraphic Assemblages, East Uchi Subprovince, Red Lake and Birch-Uchi Belts, Ontario, Western Superior Natmap Compilation Series, Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 4256; Ontario Geological Survey, Preliminary Map P.3460.















# **QUESTIONS?**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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