

# REVIEWS IN ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Volume 19

# ARCHEAN BASE AND PRECIOUS METAL DEPOSITS, SOUTHERN ABITIBI GREENSTONE BELT, CANADA

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SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGISTS, INC.

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On the cover: Geologic map of the Abitibi greenstone belt showing the distribution of supracrustal rocks and intervening domes of intrusive rocks (modified from Thurston et al., 2008). LLCfz = Larder Lake-Cadillac fault zone, PDfz = Porcupine-Destor fault. Inset map shows location of the belt.

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Geology and Hydrothermal Alteration of the World-Class Canadian Malartic Gold Deposit: Genesis of an Archean Stockwork-Disseminated Gold Deposit in the Abitibi Greenstone Belt

Stéphane De Souza, Benoît Dubé, Vicki McNicoll, Céline Dupuis, Patrick Mercier-Langevin, Robert A. Creaser, and Ingrid Kjarsgaard

#### **PREFACE**

Due to the economic importance, accumulated geological knowledge, the outstanding degree of preservation of primary geological relationship, and generally easy access to excellent exposures, the southern Abitibi greenstone belt of Ontario and Quebec, Canada, represents one of the most important field trip destinations for industry professionals and geology students worldwide. Gaining field experience in the classic mining camps of the southern Abitibi greenstone belt is particularly important for industry geologists exploring for base and precious metal deposits.

The purpose of the present volume is to provide a comprehensive review of the geology of the major mining camps of the southern Abitibi greenstone belt. An overview of recent advances in the understanding of Neoarchean geology and metallogeny is provided. The papers collected here also give an update on current deposit models and camp-scale geological factors controlling the location of the world-class deposits of the southern Abitibi greenstone belt, and they emphasize implications for deep exploration in Neoarchean greenstone terranes.

This volume was initially compiled as a guidebook for a field trip held in conjunction with the Society of Economic Geologists 2010 Conference in Keystone on October 6–11, 2010. Subsequent modifications and updates were made for the Society of Economic Geologist Foundation Student Field

Trip, held September 3–11, 2014. As travel distances between adjacent mining camps are not large in the southern Abitibi greenstone belt, it is possible to visit the most important mines and key outcrops within a few days. Both field trips commenced in Timmins, Ontario, and ended in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec. Road logs and descriptions of outcrops visited during both field trips are given in the appendices to the respective chapters of this *Reviews in Economic Geology* volume.

We express our gratitude to the mine geologists and company representatives who assisted in the set-up of the field trips, especially B. Atkinson, E. Barr, F. Blanchet, P. Calloway, B. Drolet, R. Dubuc, D. Gamble, D. Gervais, and D. Pitre. We are indebted to R. Goldfarb for constructive review. Some of the contributions forming part of this volume resulted from the collaborative Targeted Geoscientific Initiative of Natural Resources Canada and the Plan Cuivre project of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec. The production of this volume was financially supported by Natural Resources Canada and the Colorado School of Mines.

Thomas Monecke Patrick Mercier-Langevin Benoît Dubé May 8, 2017



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# **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES**

**Brian Atkinson** graduated in 1977 from McMaster University. He has worked as a professional geoscientist for more than 30 years. The first five years of his career were in Cordilleran exploration, starting in Yukon with subsequent work throughout Yukon and British Columbia. His most notable accomplishment was the first North American discovery of the mineral malayaite while exploring for tin-tungsten skarns in southern Yukon. Following that western experience, Brian worked briefly in northern Ontario exploration before joining the Ontario Geological Survey, working in Quaternary geology for a year in southern Ontario. He was appointed resource geologist and advanced to resident geologist in Red Lake, where he spent 13 years learning about Archean greenstone geology and completing township- and regional-scale mapping. In 1997, he moved to Timmins as regional resident geologist and retired from this position in December 2014. Brian's expertise is in Archean greenstone belts, with interests in mineral deposits and economic geology.

**John Ayer** received B.Sc. (1976) and M.Sc. (1979) degrees from Carleton University and a Ph.D. degree from Ottawa University (1999). He worked five years in mineral exploration across Canada before joining the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS) in 1984, where he continued until retirement in 2011. His work with the OGS included extensive bedrock mapping in the Wabigoon and Abitibi subprovinces of the Superior Province. He led the Precambrian Mapping Program in northeastern Ontario and was OGS representative on the Discover Abitibi Initiative and Targeted Geoscience Initiative-3 Abitibi projects. John has been the lead and co-author on numerous government and journal publications and was co-editor of a 2008 Economic Geology special issue devoted to base metal and gold metallogeny in the Abitibi greenstone belt. He was corecipient of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Barlow Medal awarded for best geological paper for the 2012 paper in Exploration and Mining Geology, entitled "Structure, Stratigraphy, U-Pb Geochronology and Alteration Characteristics of Gold Mineralization at the Detour Lake Gold Deposit, Ontario, Canada." He has been associate director of the Mineral Exploration Research Centre within the Earth Sciences Department at Laurentian University in Sudbury since 2013.

François Blanchet earned a B.Ing. degree in geological engineering from Université Laval in 1995. He has more than 20 years with the industry, mainly in gold and VMS exploration and mining operations. From 1995 to 2004, he was successively production geologist, exploration geologist, senior geologist, and then chief geologist at Cambior's Géant Dormant gold mine in northwestern Quebec. From 2005 to 2015, he was in charge of exploration and geology in two major mining operations in the Doyon-Bousquet-LaRonde mining camp in the southern Abitibi greenstone belt. From 2005 to 2006, he served as chief of the geology department at Cambior's Doyon mine and from 2006 to August 2015 as geology superintendent at Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. LaRonde Division. In 2015 he joined Agnico Eagle Mines Project Evaluation Department as manager of the

Technical Evaluations Group, looking for external growth opportunities.

**Jocelyn Côté** received a B.Sc. degree from Université Laval in 1986. He has worked in the industry for more than 30 years, mainly in the mining industry as exploration geologist for Barrick Gold at the former Bousquet and Bousquet 2 gold mines from 1993 to 2002 and as senior exploration geologist for Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. at the LaRonde Penna mine from 2002 to 2003, at the Regional Division from 2004 to 2006, and at the Lapa gold mine from 2006 to present.

**Robert A. Creaser** holds B.Sc. (Honors, 1984) and Ph.D. (1990) degrees from the Australian National University and La Trobe University, Australia. He held the position of research fellow in geochemistry at the California Institute of Technology from 1990 to 1992, where he developed efficient mass spectrometry methods for isotopic analysis of osmium, rhenium, and other platinum group elements. He was appointed at the University of Alberta in 1992 and is currently professor and holds the Canada Research Chair in Isotope Geochemistry in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. His primary research interest lies in the application of isotope techniques to further the understanding of fundamental processes that control the origin and evolution of Earth's crustal rocks. In particular, his current research focus involves continued development and application of the rhenium-osmium (Re-Os) radioactive isotope system for geochronology of sulfide minerals. He has been awarded the Geological Association of Canada's W.W. Hutchinson Medal (1997), is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (2008), and a Distinguished Member of the Geological Association of Canada (2007).

**Réal Daigneault** received a B.Sc. degree in 1980 from University of Montréal and an M.Sc.A. in 1983 from Polytechnique School in Montréal. Working with the Ministère de l'Energie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec, he has been in charge of the camp-scale mapping of the Chibougamau mining district from 1982 to 1987. He completed a Ph.D. degree at Université Laval in 1991. Since 1988, he has been professor in structural geology at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, conducting numerous research projects involving many graduate students, focusing on the major deformation corridors of the Abitibi greenstone belt and their relationship to gold and base metal deposits. Réal is currently director of the Centre d'Études sur les Ressources Minérales (CERM), a research unit of Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. Since 2000, he is also director of CONSOREM, a mineral exploration research consortium that primarily develops innovative, applied exploration tools and concepts for the industry.

**Stéphane De Souza** graduated from Université du Québec à Montréal in 2004, where he also obtained M.Sc. (2007) and Ph.D. (2011) degrees. His doctoral research on mountain building processes, plus a keen interest in economic geology, led him to undertake postdoctoral research (2012–2015) on the genesis of the Canadian Malartic Archean low-grade, bulk-tonnage gold deposit with the Geological Survey of

Canada as part of the Targeted Geoscience Initiative-4, a multidisciplinary research program on major Canadian ore systems. He also worked in the mineral exploration industry and contributed to mapping projects for the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec. He is now professor of geology and tectonics at Université du Québec à Montréal, developing and conducting several research and mapping projects aimed at better understanding the genesis of precious and base metal ore deposits and at providing the industry with improved mineral exploration models.

Pierre Doucet received a B.Sc. degree (1981) from Queen's University in Kingston and an M.Sc. degree (1983) in metamorphic petrology from Dalhousie University in Halifax. He has more than 20 years of professional experience. From 1987 to 1989 he worked as a project geologist with Noramco Explorations, exploring for base metal and gold deposits. He has worked for over 18 years with the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec as a project and then district geologist. He is the author/co-author of four scientific papers and more than 50 government publications.

Benoît Dubé received B.Ing. (1982) and M.Sc. (1985) degrees from Université Laval and a Ph.D. degree from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in 1990. He has worked in the industry for more than 25 years, mainly with the Geological Survey of Canada as senior research scientist conducting studies on various types of gold and gold-rich massive sulfide deposits in ancient metamorphosed terranes. He has also studied ancient epithermal gold deposits in Newfoundland and Patagonia. In recent years, he has led multidisciplinary and multiagency projects designed to study gold deposits in the Superior and Churchill provinces, Canada. Benoît is an adjunct professor at Université Laval, Laurentian University, and Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique-Centre Eau, Terre et Environnement. He is the author or co-author of more than 50 journal papers and 150 government publications. Benoît was awarded the Geological Association of Canada Julian Boldy Medal in Economic Geology and Robinson Lecturer Medal in 1997 and 1998, respectively, the Association de l'Exploration Minière du Québec Jean-Descarreaux Award in 2006, the SEG Brian J. Skinner award for best paper published in Economic Geology in 2007, the Geological Association of Canada Duncan Derry Medal for contributions in the field of economic geology in Canada in 2011, and the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Barlow Medal, as co-author, for best geological paper in Exploration and Mining Geology journal in 2014.

Richard Dubuc obtained his B.Sc. degree from Université du Québec à Montréal in 1991. He was hired by Aurizon Mines as exploration geologist from 1991 to 1993, and then as a production geologist from 1993 to 1997 with TVX (Casa Berardi mine), Cambior (Géant Dormant mine), and Placer Dome (Sigma mine). He was administrative and technical director at Franc Or Resources Cayenne project in French Guyana from 1997 to 1999, where he was in charge of exploration, including soil geochemistry in Amazonian laterites

and saprolites. Richard moved back to Canada in 2000 and worked both as exploration and production geologist at various sites in northern Quebec, including the Sigma and Kiena gold mines in Val-d'Or, the Joe Mann gold mine in Chibougamau, the Raglan nickel mine in Cape Smith, the Croinor project near Val-d'Or, and the Géant Dormant mine in the northern Abitibi greenstone belt. He became senior production geologist (2004) and then chief geologist (2006–2010) with Mines Richmont at the Beaufor gold mine in Val-d'Or, where he contributed to the discovery of new gold zones that helped extend the mine life. In 2010 he joined Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Lapa Division as senior production geologist, and he was soon after promoted to geology superintendent, a role that he still holds today. He is also assistant superintendent at the LaRonde Penna mine.

Céline Dupuis earned a B.Sc. degree in earth sciences in 1999 from University of Ottawa, an M.Sc. degree in geophysics in 2001 from University of Western Ontario, and a Ph.D. degree in earth sciences in 2005 from Université Laval. She held a professional researcher position in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering of Université Laval from 2006 to 2013, working on the chemical signatures of iron oxides and their use as exploration tools. From 2013 to 2015, she was research scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada studying the Archean low-grade, bulk-tonnage stockwork-disseminated Canadian Malartic gold deposit in the Abitibi greenstone belt, and the banded iron formation-hosted Meadowbank deposit in Nunavut. Céline is author or co-author of more than 10 scientific journal papers and 10 government publications.

Ben M. Frieman is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Colorado School of Mines, where his research is focused on constraining the formation and evolution of the southern Abitibi greenstone belt using new and compiled structural and geochronological data. Prior to arriving at the Colorado School of Mines, he obtained an M.Sc. degree in earth sciences from the University of Maine in 2012, where his work focused on the kinematics and rheology of porphyroblastic schists. Ben also obtained B.Sc. degrees in geology and geophysics from the University of Minnesota in 2010. His research aims to elucidate how the Earth deforms at various scales and how these processes affect the distribution and endowment of orogenic gold deposits in both ancient and modern terrains.

Damien Gaboury is professor at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, where he teaches economic geology and metallogeny. He received a B.Sc. degree from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in 1989, an M.Sc. degree from Université Laval in 1991, and a Ph.D. degree from the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in 1999. He spent four years as research scientist at CONSOREM (Consortium de Recherche en Exploration Minérale), studying volcanogenic massive sulfide and gold deposits, and he has been professor since 2004. He is the author/co-author of more than 20 journal papers and 30 industrial reports. He was visiting professor at Otago University in 2010. In 2012, he spent six months in Burkina

Faso doing field mapping for SEMAFO, helping define the geological framework of the gold systems of the region and training local geologists. He conducted research field projects in collaboration with the industry in Quebec, Peru, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sudan, and Gabon. He is founder and director of the LAMEQ (Laboratoire de Métallogénie Expérimentale et Quantitative), for which he developed a unique apparatus for analyzing gas from decrepitating fluid inclusions by mass spectrometry under direct vacuum. He is cofounder and director of the newly established Professional Master in Mineral Exploration program at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, a one-year program specially designed for exploration geologists wishing to improve their knowledge of ore systems and working skills through courses and projects in industry.

Thomas Gemmell earned a B.Sc. degree in earth sciences from Carleton University in 2009 and an M.Sc. degree in economic geology from the University of Ottawa in 2013. He has worked with both industry and the Geological Survey of Canada as a student and has subsequently gained four years of work experience in industry from 2011 to 2014 as a project geologist with Xstrata Copper–Glencore, exploring for volcanogenic massive sulfide and porphyry deposits and conducting geochemical/metallurgical studies on the Kidd Creek deep orebodies. He joined the Ontario Geological Survey in 2015. He currently is a Precambrian geoscientist with the Earth Resources and Geoscience Mapping Section working in the Swayze greenstone belt. He presented his preliminary M.Sc. findings at the 2010 SEG conference in Keystone.

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Jean Goutier received his B.Sc. (1986) and M.Sc. (1989) degrees from Université de Montréal. He has been with Géologie Québec (Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles) for more than 25 years as senior geologist in charge of mapping at various scales in a number of areas in the Archean Superior Province. He also led and contributed to numerous thematic studies on the stratigraphy and structure of the Abitibi greenstone belt and the Blake River Group, which represents the world's best volcanogenic

massive sulfide-endowed Archean volcanic succession. He is the author/co-author of 13 journal papers and 160 government publications (reports and maps). Jean was awarded the Marteau d'Or Award from Géologie Québec in 2003 and 2007 for his work in the Abitibi greenstone belt, the Mérite Géoscientifique-Ressources Minérales Award from the Ordre des Géologues du Québec in 2007, and the Jean Descarreaux Award of the Association de l'Exploration Minière du Québec in 2008 for his contributions to mineral exploration. Jean is also heavily involved in promoting Quebec's geological heritage and in training the next generation of geoscientists.

**Mark D. Hannington** is the Goldcorp Chair in Economic Geology at the University of Ottawa and Helmholtz Professor at GEOMAR—Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany. Prior to joining the University of Ottawa in 2005 and GEOMAR in 2014, he was a senior research scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada for 15 years. His research combines the study of ancient ore deposits and active hydrothermal systems on the modern sea floor. He and his students have worked extensively on Precambrian volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits and also have participated on more than 35 research cruises to active volcanic systems in the oceans. From 2001 to 2008, he served as editor of Economic Geology. He is the recipient of the Duncan Derry Medal of the Geological Association of Canada and the Silver Medal of the Society of Economic Geologists. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2012.

Michel G. Houlé obtained B.Sc. (1997) and M.Sc. (2000) degrees from Université Laval, and a Ph.D. (2008) from the University of Ottawa. Since graduation, he has over 10 years of experience as a senior geoscientist with the Ontario Geological Survey and as a research scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada. He conducted regional bedrock mapping and mineral assessments for Ni-Cu-(PGE) sulfide deposits in the Abitibi greenstone belt with the Ontario Geological Survey from 2003 to 2009. He joined the Geological Survey of Canada in 2009 and is conducting collaborative research on Ni-Cu-PGE, Cr-PGE, and Fe-Ti-V deposits associated with mafic and ultramafic rocks across Canada. Michel is leading major research activities in the "Ring of Fire" emerging mining camp of northern Ontario (i.e., McFaulds Lake greenstone belt) under the Ni-Cu-Cr-PGE project of the Targeted Geoscience Initiative of Natural Resources Canada. His expertise is also on physical volcanology of komatiites and metallogenesis of komatiite-associated Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposits. He is adjunct professor at Laurentian University in Sudbury (2009-present), at University of Manitoba in Winnipeg (2011-present), and at the Institut National de la Recherche scientifique—Centre Eau, Terre et Environnement in Quebec City (2009-present). Michel was awarded the William Harvey Gross Medal of the Geological Association of Canada Mineral Deposits Division in 2013 and has been on the board of directors for the Division since then.

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Annie Laberge received B.Sc. (1999) and M.Sc. (2003) degrees from Université du Québec à Montréal. She has worked more than 14 years in industry, as geologist and senior geologist, with Cambior Inc. from 2001 to 2005 and with Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. since 2005. Annie is currently in charge of planning and coordinating definition and exploration programs at Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. LaRonde Penna mine in northwestern Quebec. She is a member of the Ordre des Géologues du Québec.

Michael Lesher received B.Sc. (1974) and M.A. (1976) degrees from Indiana University and a Ph.D. degree from University of Western Australia (1984). He was mineralogist for Iron Ore Company of Canada (1976–1979), a postdoctoral research fellow at University of Toronto (1982–1984), and professor of economic geology at University of Alabama (1984-1997). Since 1997 he has been professor of economic geology and Research Chair in Mineral Exploration at Laurentian University, serving as founding director of the Mineral Exploration Research Centre (1997–2004), department chair (2004–2007), and Director of Mining Initiatives (2010–2011), designing and founding the School of Mines. He has worked on the physical volcanology of komatiites and Ni-Cu-(PGE) mineralization in Brazil, China, Manitoba, Nunavik, Ontario, Quebec, and Western Australia, Cr deposits in northern Ontario, and volcanogenic massive sulfides, lithogeochemistry, and gold deposits in Alabama and Western Australia. He has authored or co-authored over 80 journal articles/book chapters and over 325 technical reports, scientific communications, extended abstracts, and abstracts. He was leader of International Geoscience Program (IGCP) Project 427: Dynamic Processes in Ore-Forming Magmatic Systems (1997–2002), and he currently is principal investigator and director of the \$13M Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council-Canadian Mining Innovation Council (NSERC-CMIC)-funded pan-Canadian Mineral Exploration Footprints Network (2013–present). He is an elected Fellow of the Society of Economic Geologists, the Geological Association of Canada, and the Geological Society of America, has been awarded the Geological Association of Canada Mineral Deposits Division Duncan R. Derry Medal and Julian Boldy Award, was co-awarded the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Wardell Armstrong Prize, and has been a Society of Economic Geologists Thayer Lindsley Lecturer and a Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy University Visiting Lecturer.

**Patrick Mercier-Langevin** earned B.Ing. (1998) and M.Sc. (2000) degrees from the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi and a Ph.D. degree in 2005 from the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique—Centre Eau, Terre et Environnement. Since graduation, he has worked two years in industry as project geologist at Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. Exploration Division (2004–2006) and 11 years with the Geological Survey of Canada (2006-present) as a research scientist conducting collaborative research on gold and volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits. Patrick currently champions the Gold Project of Natural Resources Canada 2015-2020 Targeted Geoscience Initiative. He served as adjunct professor at Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (2006-2009), at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (2007–2010), and at Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique—Centre Eau, Terre et Environnement (2006–present). He was Visiting Professor at Akita University in Japan in 2010. He has authored and coauthored more than 20 scientific papers and over 300 technical and government reports, extended abstracts, and oral communications. Patrick was awarded the SEG Brian J. Skinner Award in 2007 as co-author of the best paper published in Economic Geology, the Geological Association of Canada Mineral Deposits Division William Harvey Gross Medal in 2009, and the Society of Economic Geologists Waldemar Lindgren Award in 2011. Patrick is chair of the Society of Economic Geologists Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship Committee and a member of the Society of Economic Geologists Publications Board.

Vicki McNicoll is a geochronologist in the Geochronology Laboratory at the Geological Survey of Canada. She obtained B.Sc. (1987) and M.Sc. (1990) degrees from Carleton University. Vicki has over 25 years of experience, working extensively in the field of U-Pb geochronology on both lab- and field-based research studies. She has authored or co-authored more than 65 journal papers and over 50 government publications, maps, and technical reports. She is the lab manager of the U-Pb ID-TIMS facility and clean lab at the Geological Survey of Canada.

Thomas Monecke obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees at the TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany, in 1996 and 2003, respectively. He spent five years as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Ottawa and the Geological Survey of Canada. In 2006, he received the Waldemar Lindgren Award of the Society of Economic Geologists for his contributions to economic geology. He joined the Colorado School of Mines in 2008 as assistant professor. Since 2014, he has been associate professor in economic geology at this university. His research focuses on the metallogeny of modern and ancient volcanic

arcs and related extensional settings. He and his students have conducted extensive research on shallow marine hydrothermal systems and the volcanic setting, alteration mineralogy and geochemistry, and ore mineralogy of volcanogenic massive sulfide deposits. He has authored and co-authored more than 50 journal papers and over 250 other publications and reports. He served as a councilor of the Society of Economic Geologists from 2011 to 2014 and joined the editorial board of *Mineralium Deposita* in 2016.

David Pitre obtained B.Sc (1995) and B.Sc.A. (1997) degrees from Université Laval. In 2000, he earned an M.Sc. degree from Université Laval, focusing on isotopic geochemistry applied to lode gold deposits of the Val-d'Or mining camp. He moved to the Abitibi in northwestern Quebec after graduation and worked as mine geologist at the Bouchard-Hébert mine from 1998 to 2002. He joined Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. in 2002 as mine geologist at the LaRonde Penna mine (2002–present). David is currently senior geologist at Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. LaRonde Division where he spends part of his time training young geologists through regular underground and surface tours at the mine. He is a member of the Ordre des Géologues du Québec and the Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec.

K. Howard Poulsen earned a B.Sc. Hons. degree from University of Waterloo in 1970, an M.Sc. degree from Lakehead University in 1980, and his Ph.D. from Queen's University in 1984. He has more than 45 years of experience, including research and teaching at University of Waterloo from 1972 to 1980, as project geologist with the Ontario Geological Survey from 1980 to 1983, and as regional metallogenist at the Geological Survey of Canada, Mineral Resources Division, from 1983 to 1998. As a senior research scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada, Howard led the Gold Working Group's cooperative research program on gold deposits in northern China. In 1998 he became consulting economic geologist, specializing in geological guidelines for gold exploration and

structural aspects of mineral deposits in granite-greenstone settings. Despite his consulting responsibilities, Howard still spends significant time teaching geology to the new generations of geoscientists. He was adjunct professor at Queen's University from 1998 to 2010. He is the recipient of the Duncan Derry Medal of the Geological Association of Canada. Howard is currently director of the Abitibi-Timiskaming Institute. He is the author or co-author of more than 60 publications.

Sonia Préfontaine earned a B.Sc. degree from the University of Ottawa in 2003 and an M.Sc. degree from Laurentian University in 2013. She started working at the Ontario Geological Survey in 2005 on the Archean geology of northern Ontario until 2008. She focused her work on the geology of the Abitibi greenstone belt from 2008 to 2015 and now concentrates on the Wawa-Abitibi Archean terrane. Her expertise at the Ontario Geological Survey is in Archean stratigraphy and economic geology, with a specific emphasis on Ni-Cu-PGE, volcanogenic massive sulfides, and gold deposits.

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