

Identifying new vectors to hidden porphyry-style mineralisation

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Abstract: Intrusion related (e.g., porphyry) deposits are the most important sources for Cu, Mo, W and Sn, along with Au, Ag, and PGEs. Porphyry deposits are large, low- to medium-grade deposits in which mineralisation is hosted within and immediately surrounding distinctive intrusive phases within larger intrusive complexes that commonly have prolonged emplacement histories. To develop more effective exploration criteria to identify and evaluate deeply buried and/or hidden fertile intrusive mineralizing systems, studies into Cu-Mo/Au and W-Mo-Sn systems are aimed at answering the following questions: i) Are there distinctive proximal and distal footprints for each deposit type that will allow identification of, and vectoring towards hidden economic deposits?; ii) Is there evidence of fertility within the root system of intrusions, i.e. what are the triggering conditions and indicators of an hydrothermal-magmatic system of size and duration sufficient to develop a large porphyry deposit? To help answer these questions studies are being undertaken at sites associated with the Triassic-Jurassic porphyry deposits of the British Columbia interior and for the array of mineralised Canadian Appalachian Siluro-Devonian intrusions, for which the fundamental geoscience knowledge is often lacking.


A common problem facing Cordilleran and Appalachian exploration is how to detect intrusion-related mineralization through the extensive glacial sediment cover. Consequently, research activities are focussing at identifying key geochemical and mineral indicators in till near known mineralization and their detrital dispersal down-ice. Indicators are being developed for the detection of mineralization, but also the alteration halos and vein systems associated with mineralization, which represent much larger exploration targets than the actual economic orebody itself. Once identified in till, these indicators can be traced to their bedrock source using reconstructed ice movement vectors.

Structural relationships indicate that Sn-W-Mo mineralised intrusive systems can form due to extension associated with far removed non-orthogonal accretion. Deposits within these bodies form along fluid pathways such as the intersection of high-angle syntectonic breaks. Mineral potential can also be resolved through trace element fingerprinting. Subtle compositional changes in commonly occurring minerals (i.e., biotite) and fluid inclusions provide evidence of chemical variations related to magma fertility and vectors to mineralisation.

Originally presented Fredericton 2014: Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting, Special Session 3: Discovering the Next Generation of Porphyry Deposits: Advancements in Locating and Understanding Hidden Intrusion-related Mineralization. May 21, 2014.

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Bob Anderson

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Fredericton 2014

Wednesday, 21 May

SS3: Discovering the Next Generation of Porphyry Deposits: Advancements in Locating and Understanding Hidden Intrusion-related Mineralization

Neil Rogers (Neil.Rogers@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca), Bob Anderson, John Chapman, Dawn Kellett, Beth McClenaghan, Alain Plouffe
MacLaggan Hall, Room 53

Porphyry-style deposits are the world's foremost sources for Cu, Mo, W and Sn, plus major sources of Au, Ag, and PGEs. They are typically large, low- to medium-grade deposits hosted within and near distinctive intrusive phases. Metal content is diverse and reflects tectonic settings; Cu and Cu-Mo deposits are relatively abundant in island- and continental-arc terranes, whereas Mo and W-Mo deposits are associated with extension of continental crust. This Special Session will investigate their genetic controls and distal footprints that identify hidden economic porphyry-style deposits by highlighting new ways to predict, identify, model, and evaluate fertile intrusive mineralizing systems. Themes will include tectonic settings, structural controls, mineral and fluid inclusion compositions, and surficial and biogeochemical indicators of covered and deep porphyry deposits.

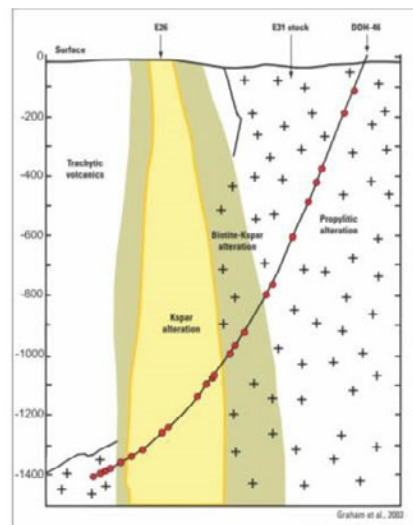
TGI 4 Objectives

“Geoscience knowledge to support enhanced effectiveness of deep exploration”

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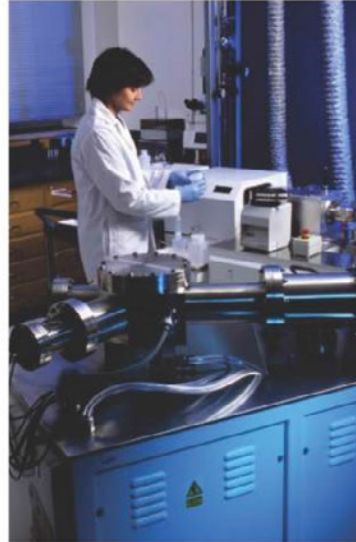
- 1) Develop more robust measures** of whether a geological system may contain deeply buried ore (**system fertility**), as well as indicators that provide the direction to that ore (**exploration vectors**), in order to reduce exploration risk



TGI 4 Objectives

“Geoscience knowledge to support enhanced effectiveness of deep exploration”

2) **Develop new geoscience knowledge** and **innovative techniques** to model and detect Canada’s major mineral systems.



TGI 4 Objectives

“Geoscience knowledge to support enhanced effectiveness of deep exploration”

3) **Train and mentor students** to increase the number of HQP available to the mineral industry.



Ore system approach to project definition

- **Base Metals:**

- **Intrusion-related (Cu-Mo, Cu-Au, Mo-W, Sn-In)**

- Ni-Cu-(PGE)-Cr
- Pb-Zn SEDEX
- Polymetallic VMS

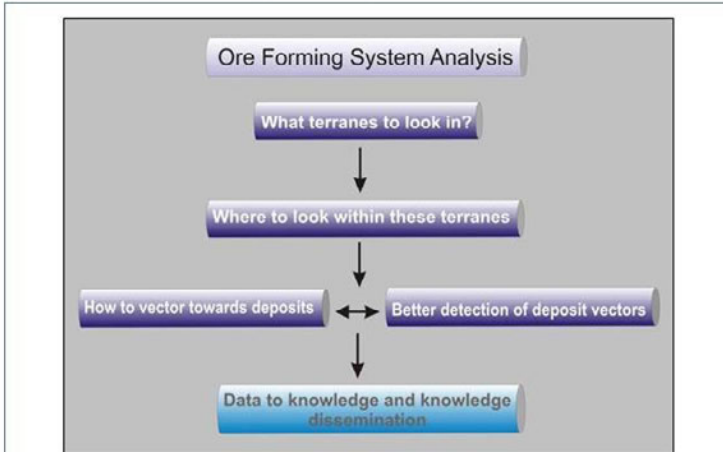
- **Precious Metals:**

- Lode Gold
- (Ni-Cu)-PGE

- **Other:**

- Uranium
- Specialty Metals

- **Method Development**



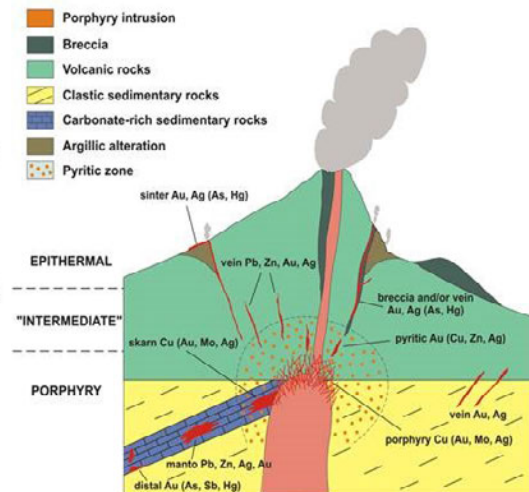
Ore Systems focus on processes of formation, not characteristics of ore deposits

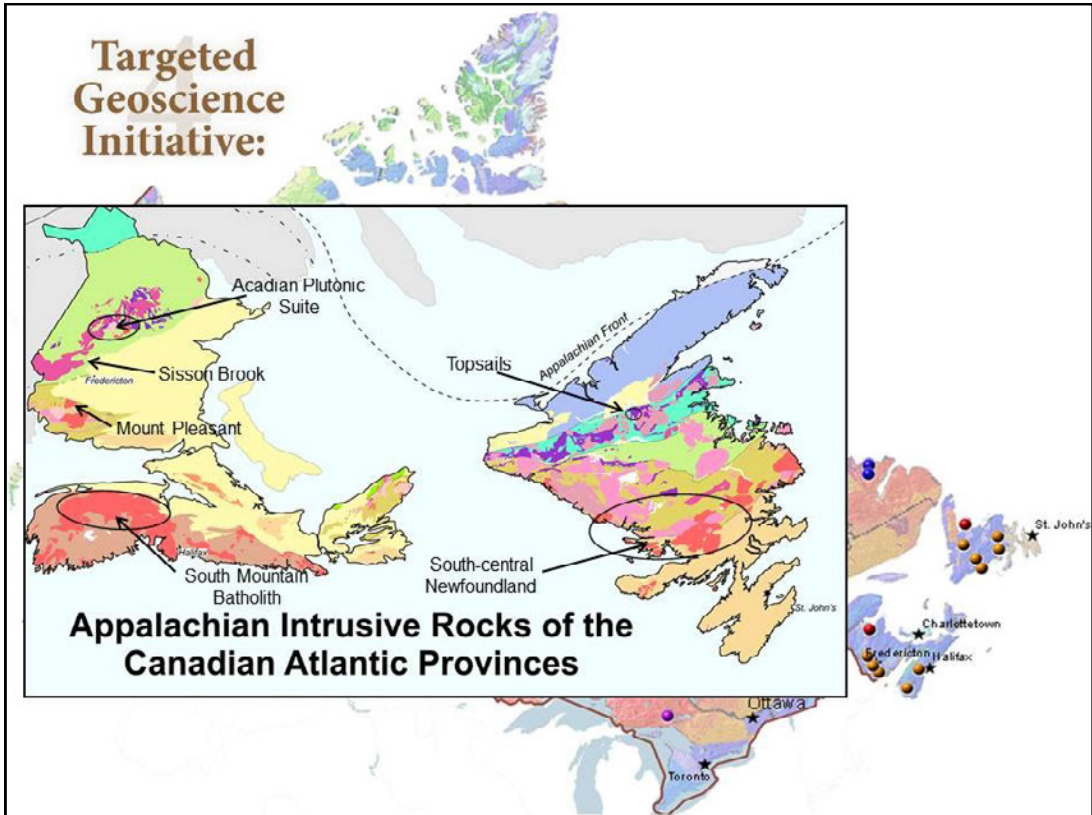
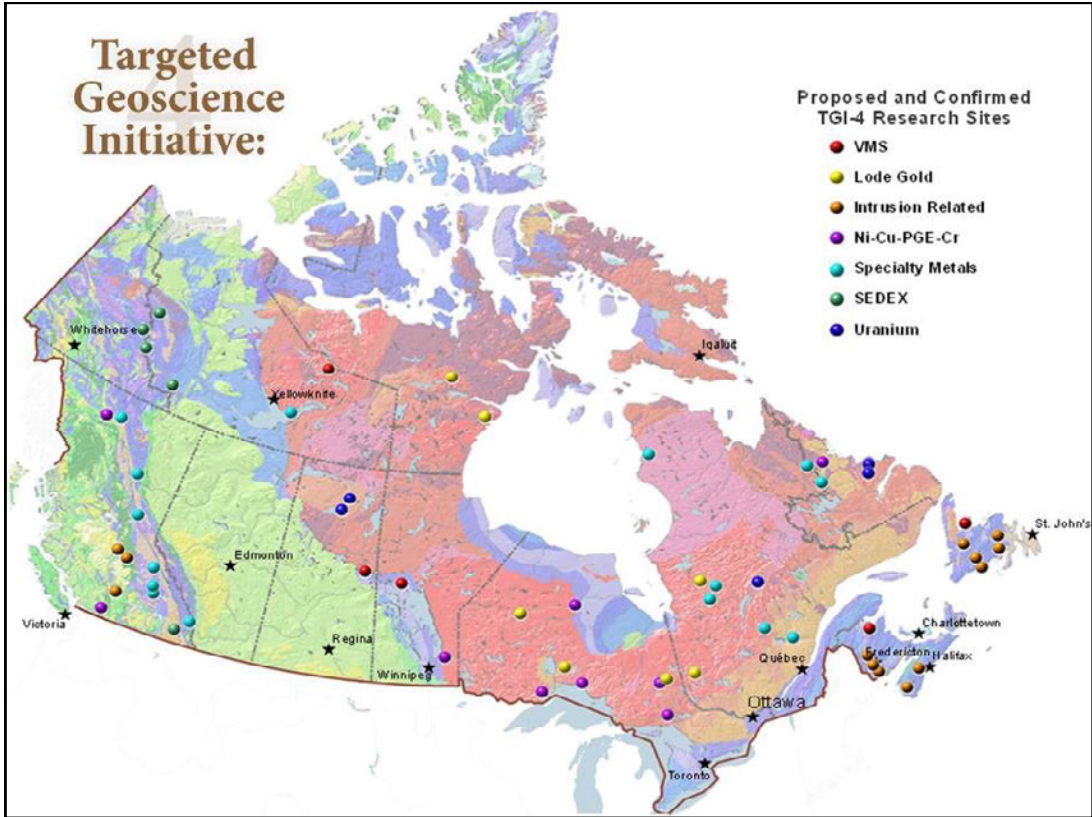
TGI 4 Intrusion-Related Mineralisation Project

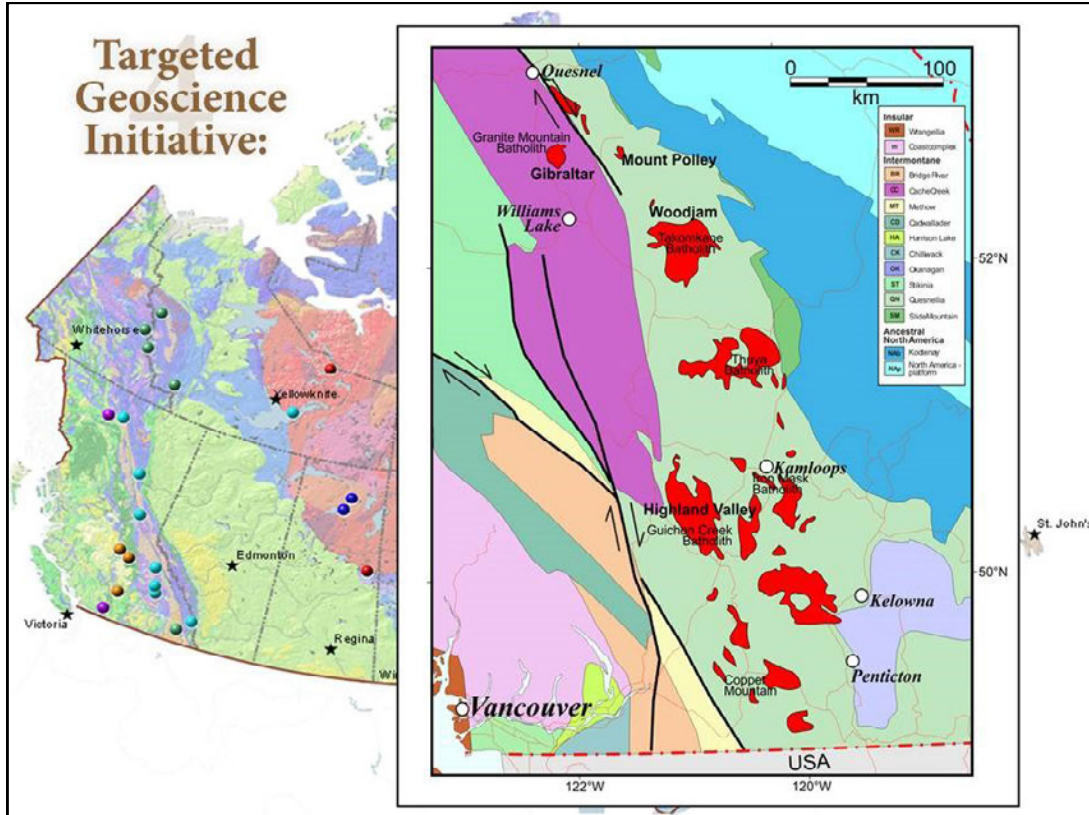
Porphyry-style deposits

2 sub-projects

- *Arc related Cu- and Cu-Au porphyries*
- *Post-accretionary Sn – W – Mo – In*
- Objective to assist in the discovery/development of next generation (hidden/buried) deposits
- Hypothesis driven activities
 - Hierarchical nested hypotheses
- Porphyry ore-system components are: source controls; transport; deposition; and discovery
 - Activities focused on source control and discovery



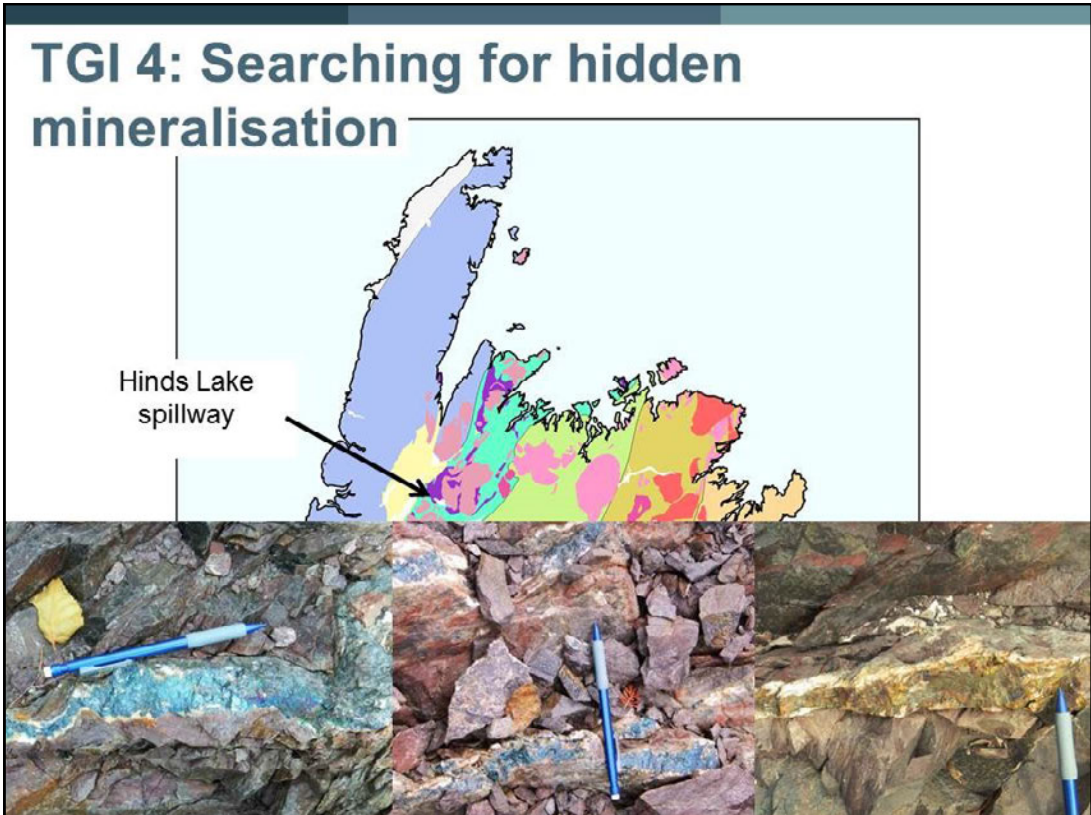
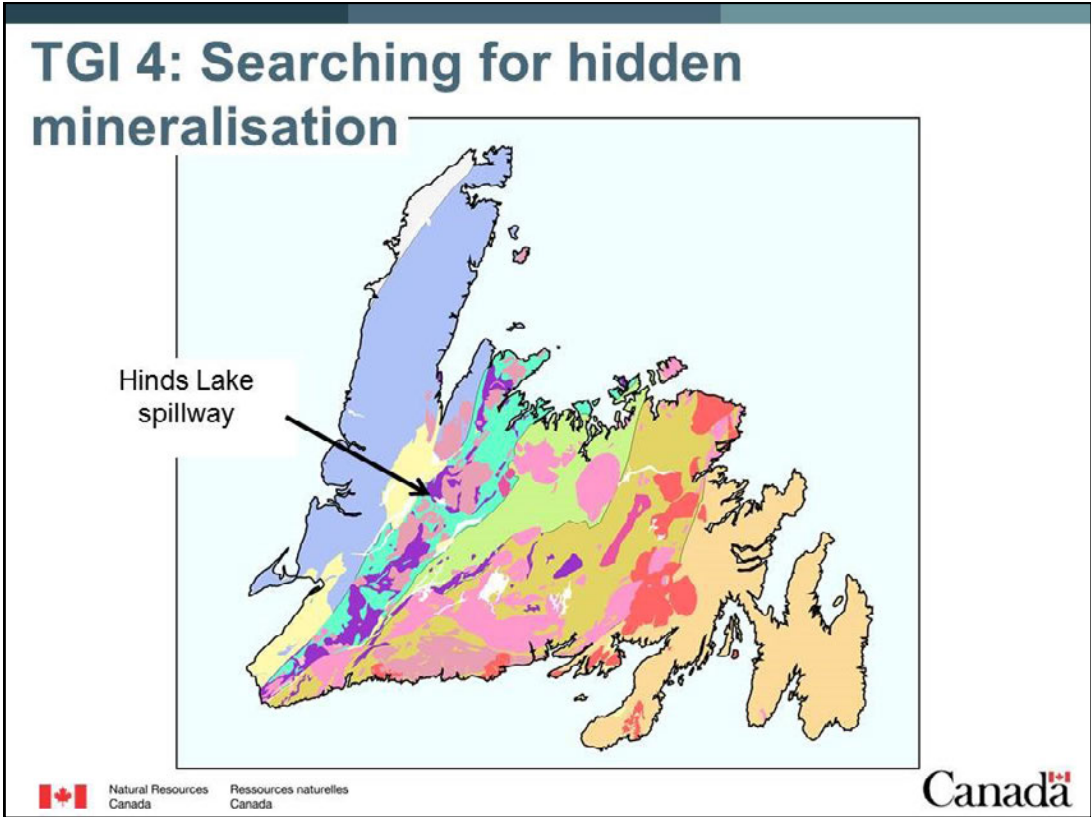




TGI 4: Searching for hidden mineralisation



Canada



TGI 4: Searching for hidden mineralisation

Hinds Lake spillway

Arc related Cu- and Cu-Au porphyries

GEOLOGY
modified from Massey et al., 2005; Logan et al., 2010

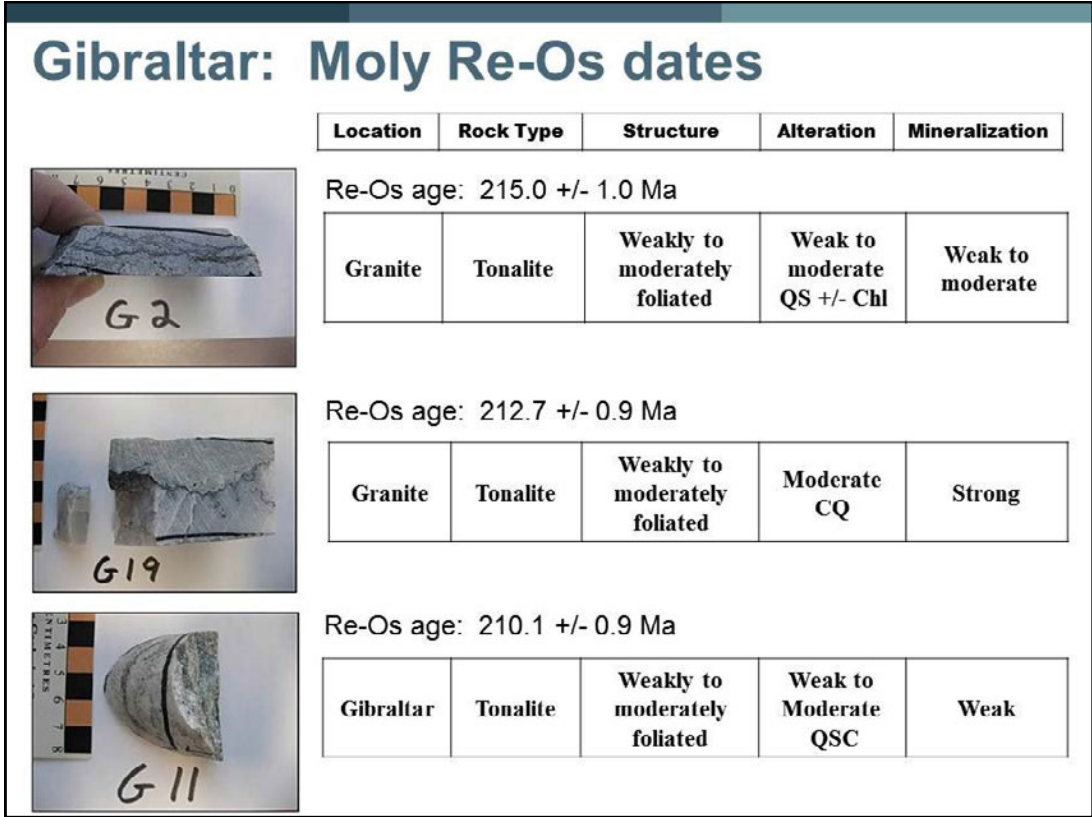
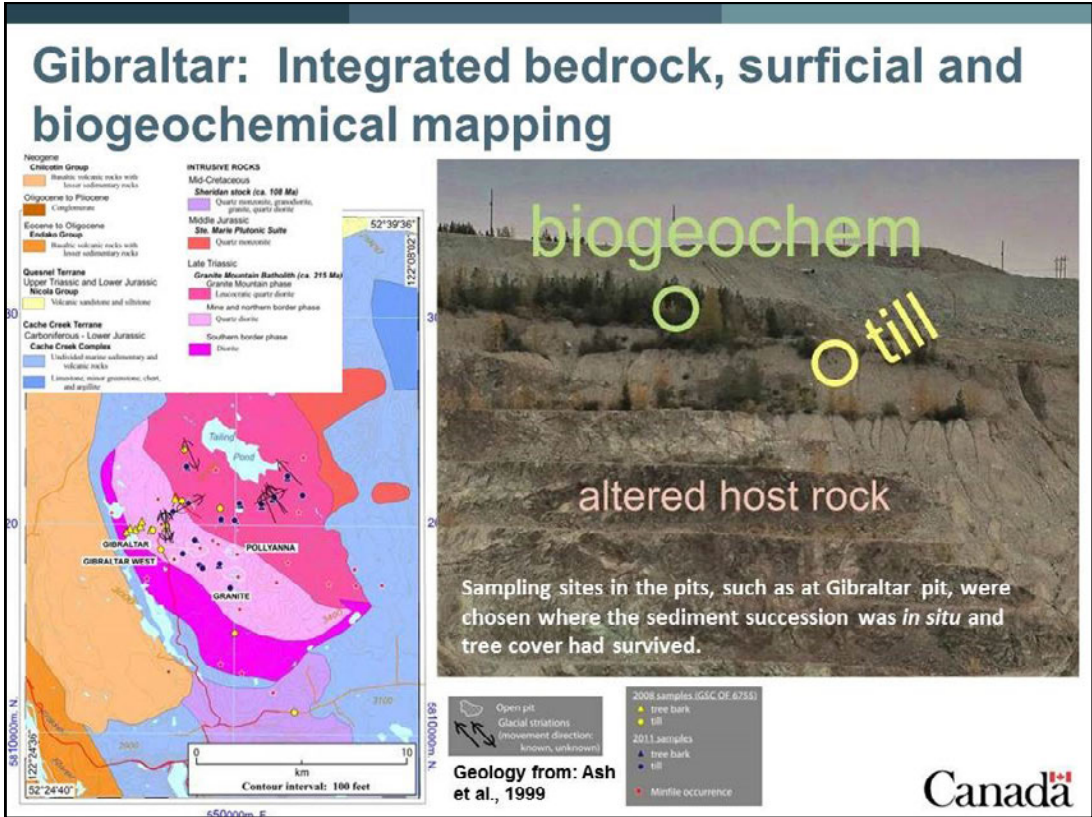
Cenozoic
Neogene Chilcotin Group
Upper Triassic to Lower Jurassic Nicola Group
arc, volcanic rocks

Mesozoic
Early Jurassic Takomane Batholith
granodiorite, monzogranite
Late Triassic to Early Jurassic Thuya Batholith
granodiorite, quartz monzonite
Late Triassic Guichon Creek Batholith
granodiorite, quartz diorite, quartz monzonite
Triassic Granite Mountain Batholith
diorite, quartz diorite, tonalite

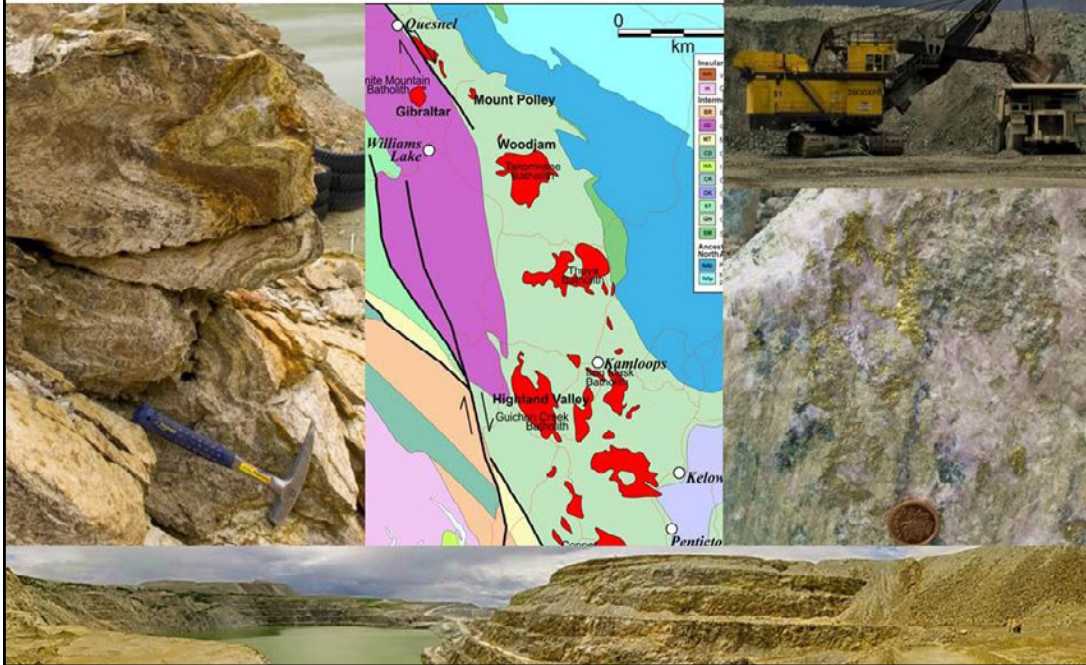
☆ porphyry deposit ↖ generalized ice-flow direction

0 25 50 75 100
kilometres

Canada



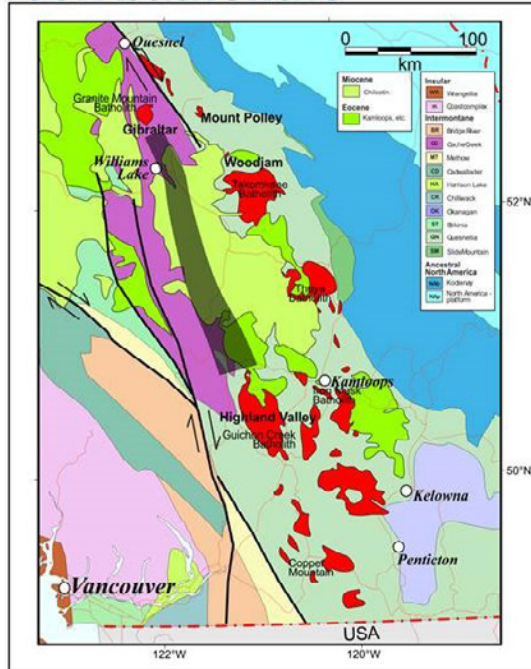
Correlating the Granite Mountain and Guichon Creek batholiths



Correlating the Granite Mountain and Guichon Creek batholiths

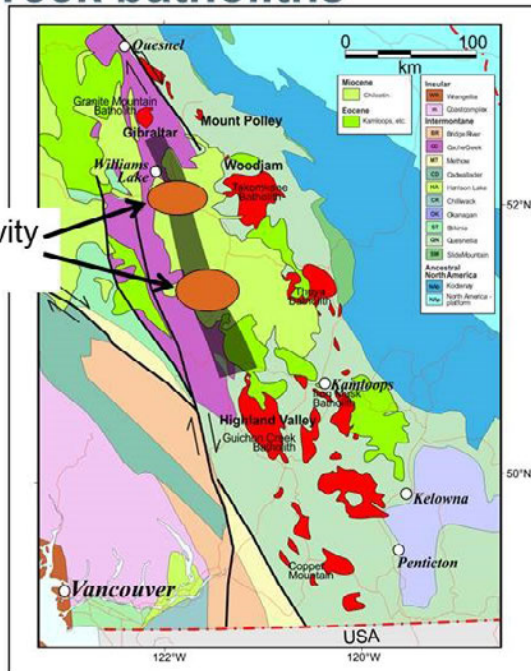


Correlating the Granite Mountain and Guichon Creek batholiths

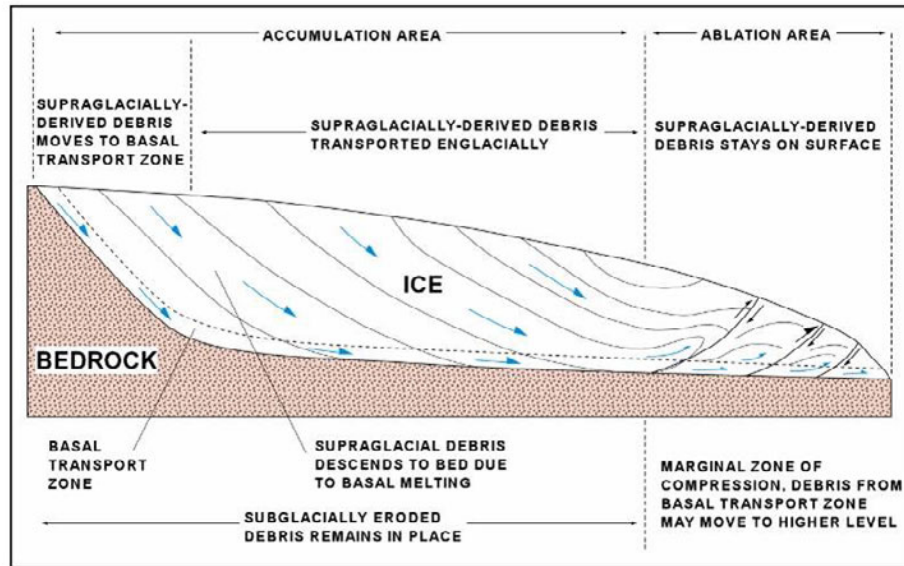


Correlating the Granite Mountain and Guichon Creek batholiths

High prospectivity zones?

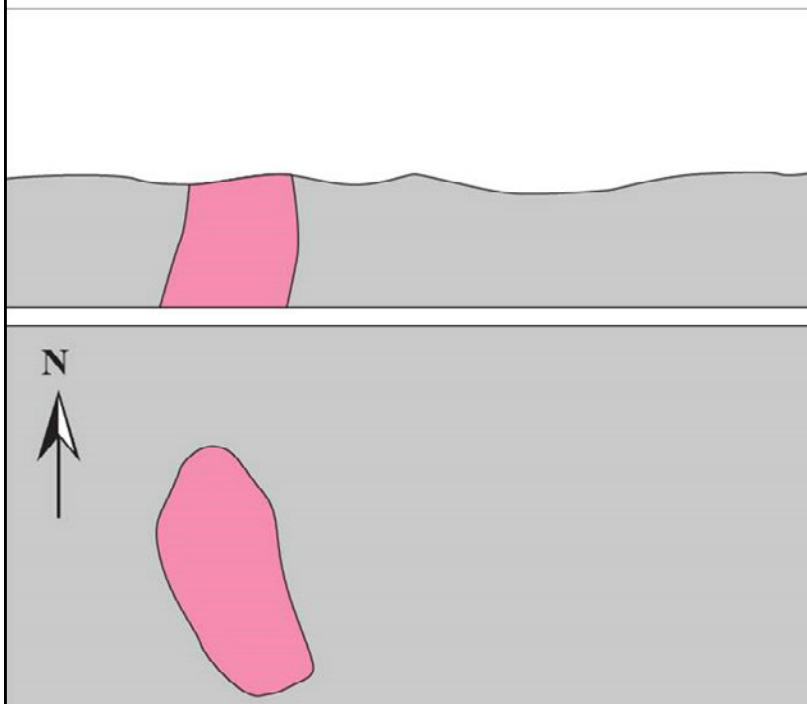


Glacial Processes: Profile of a glacier



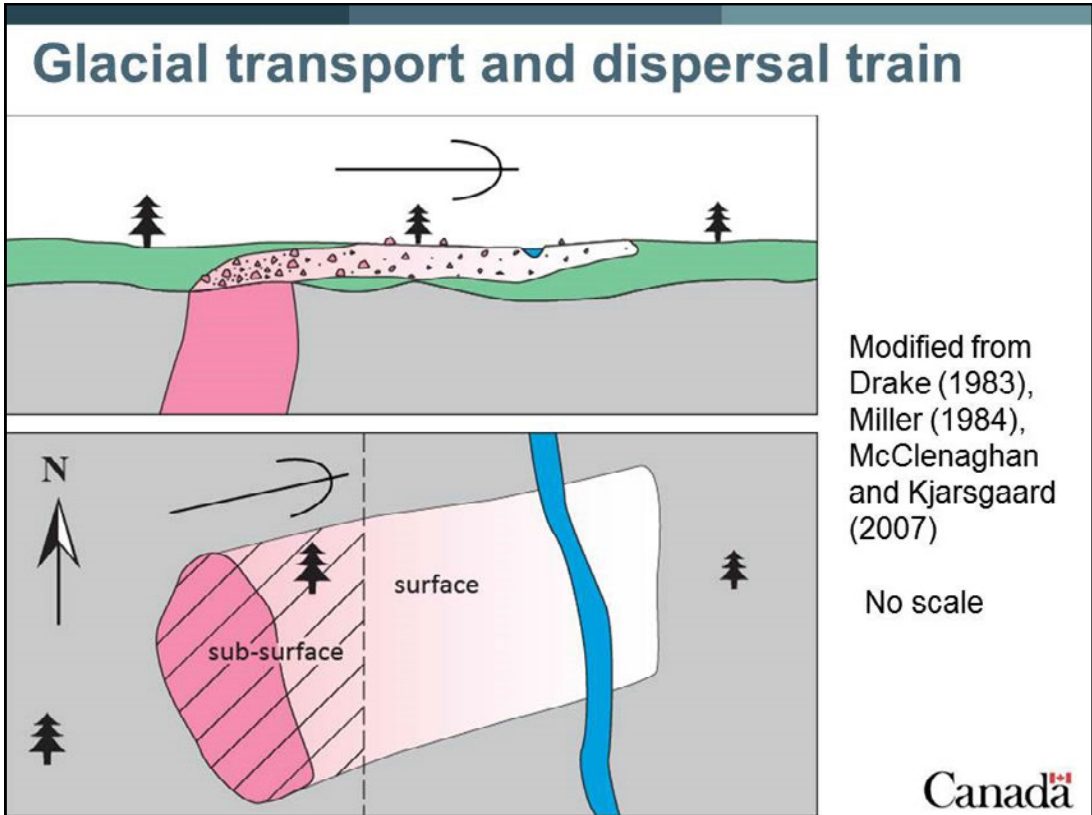
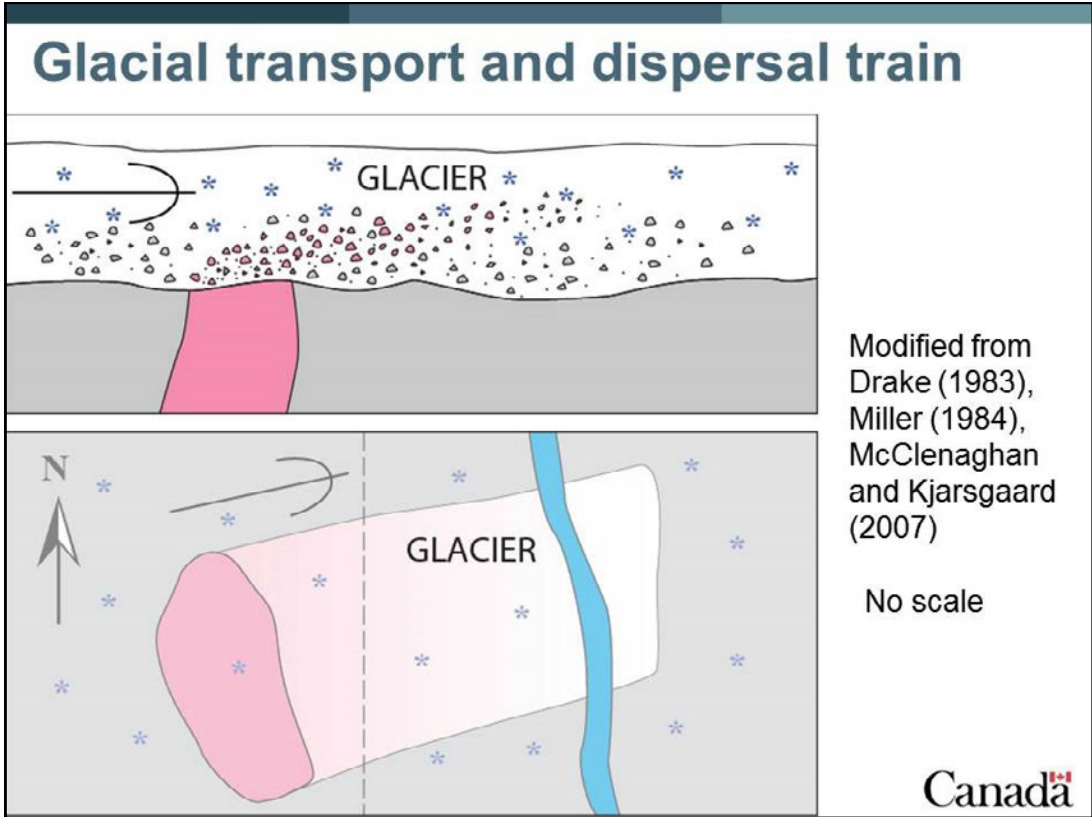
Boulton (1996)

Glacial transport and dispersal train

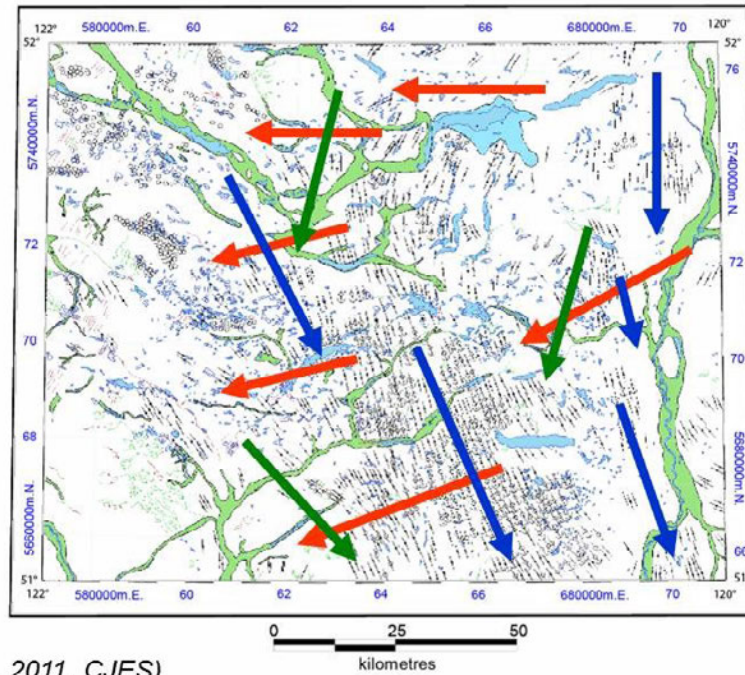


Modified from Drake (1983), Miller (1984), McClenaghan and Kjarsgaard (2007)

No scale

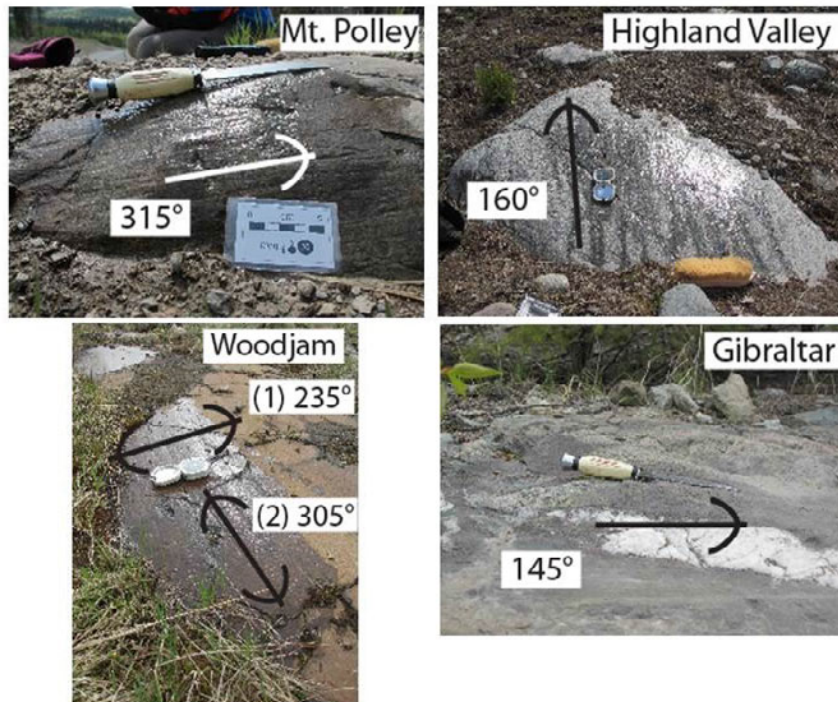


Ice-flow history: Bonaparte Lake area



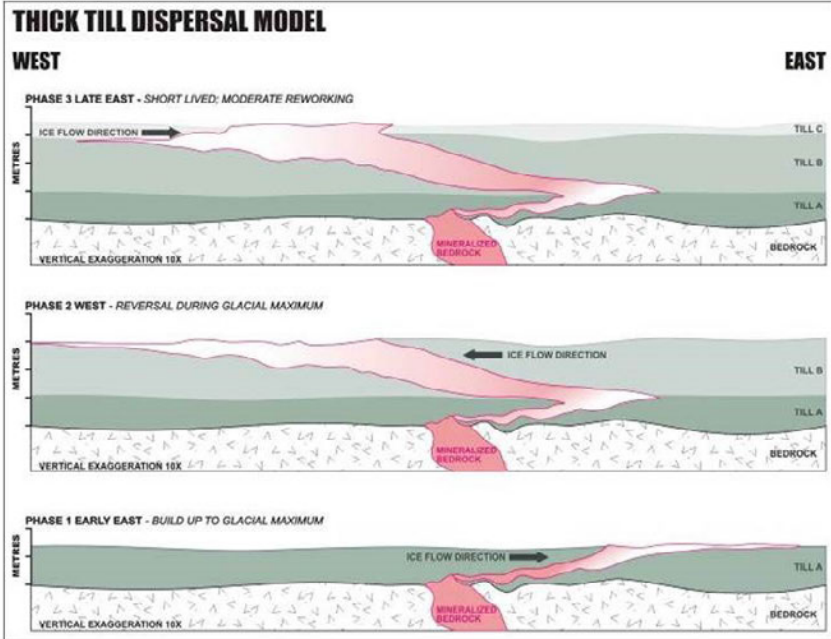
(Plouffe et al., 2011, CJES)

Ice-flow Indicators



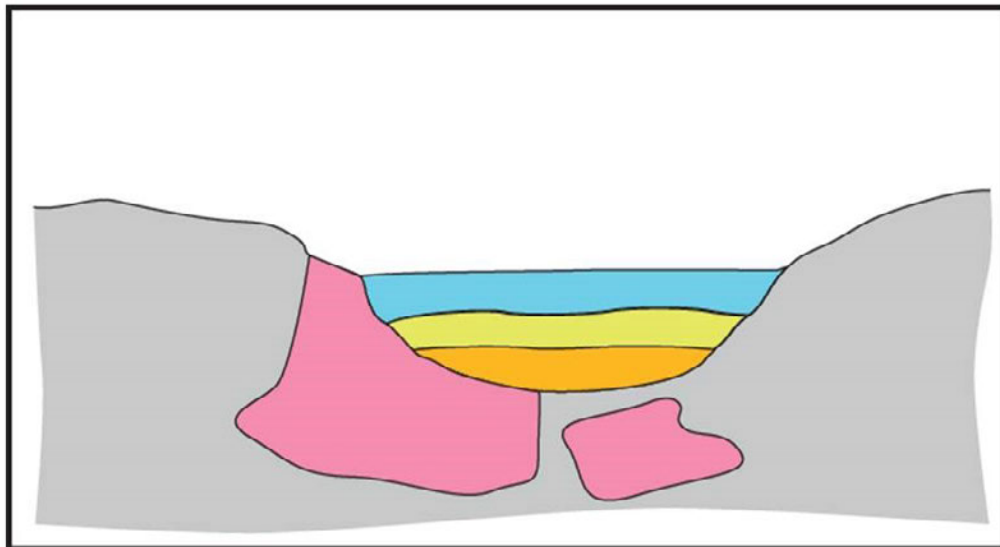
Ice-divide Migration and effect on glacial dispersal

Based on dispersal at Huckleberry Mine

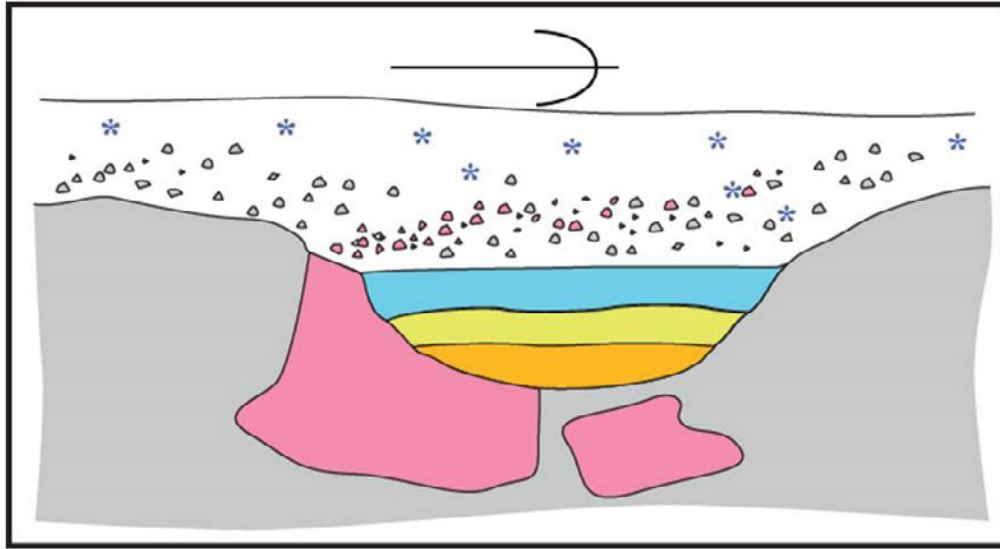


Ferbey et al. (2012; BCGS Open File 2012-02)

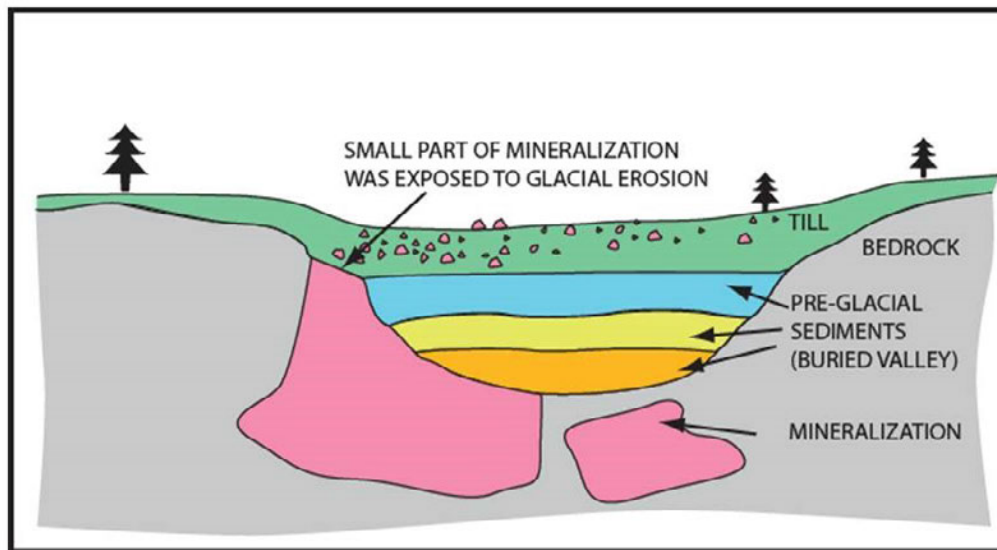
Palaeo-topography and till



Palaeo-topography and till



Palaeo-topography and till

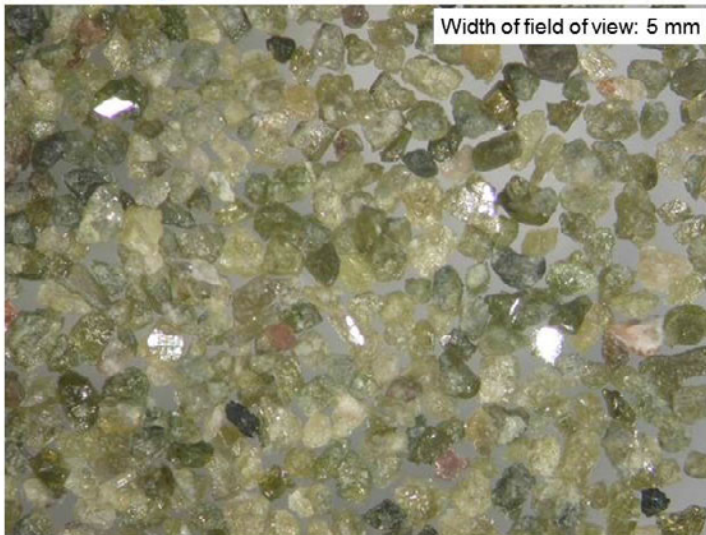


e.g. Highland Valley Mine

Highland Valley Mine: Valley Pit



Porphyry Indicator Minerals (PIM) – Woodjam

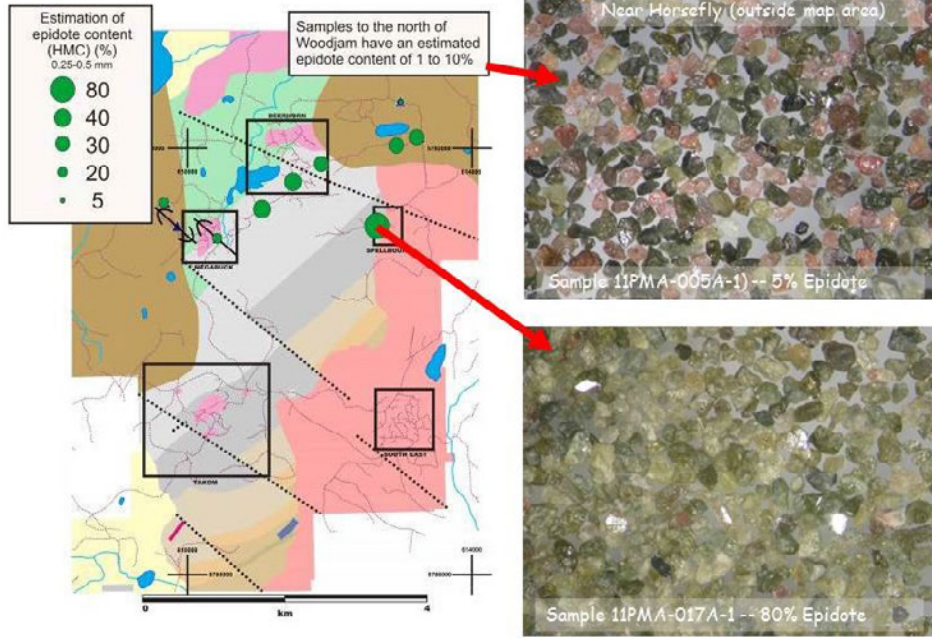


Sample 11PMA-017A-1
(WOODJAM)
80% Epidote (0.25-0.50 mm)

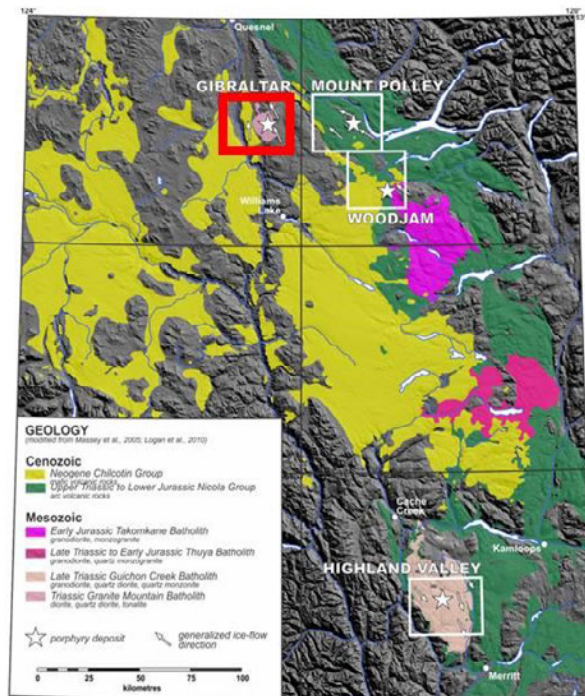
Source: ODM, March 2012; modal estimates +/-10% precision

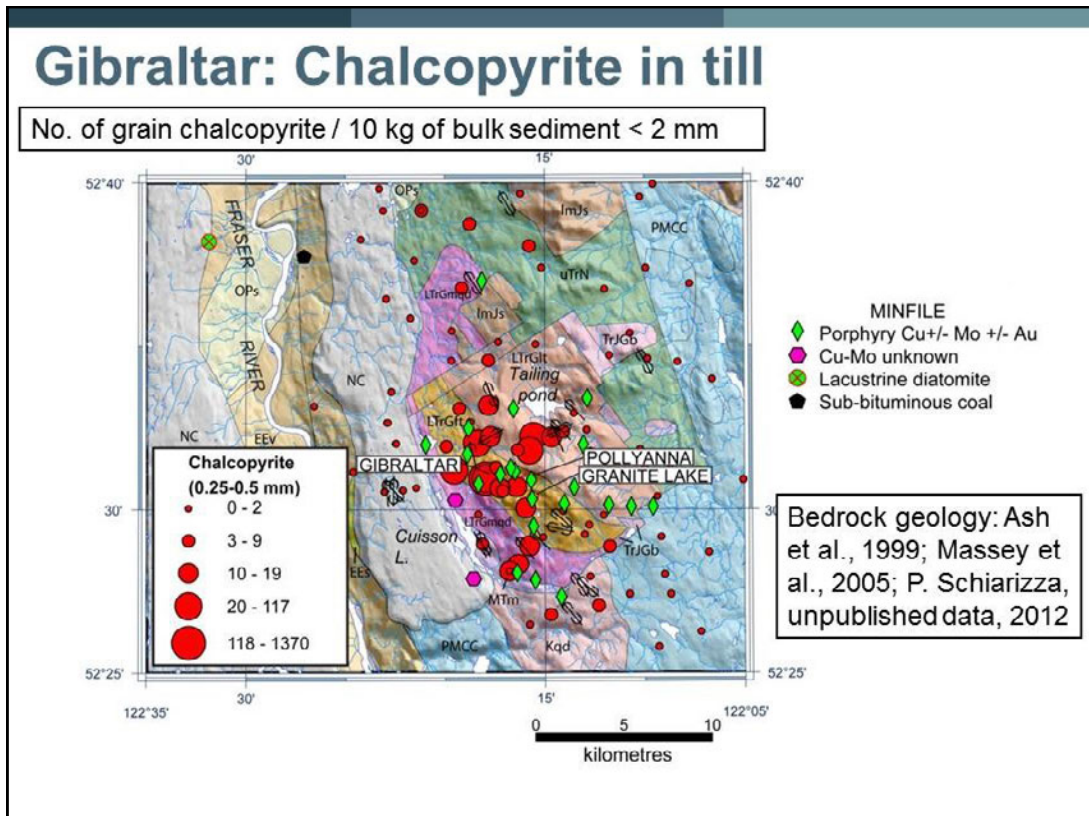
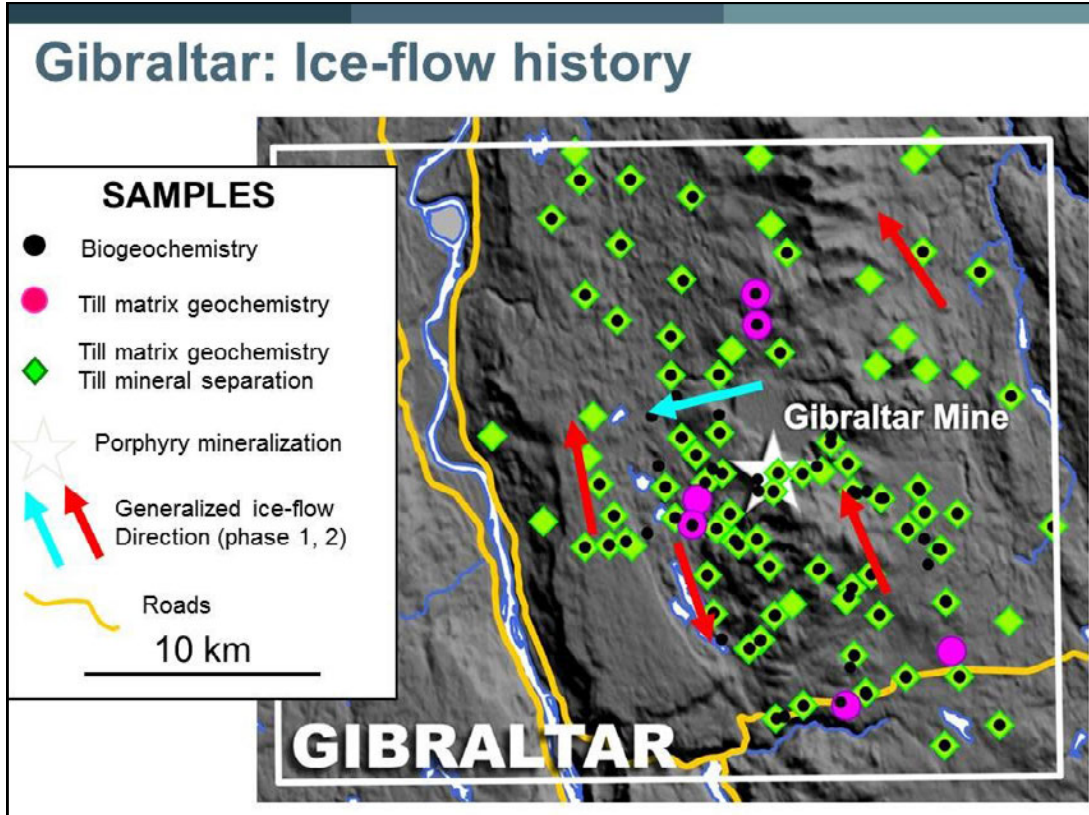
Percentage of epidote in HMC of till could provide a key indication of the presence of propylitic alteration; this could become a regional indicator mineral for buried porphyry mineralization

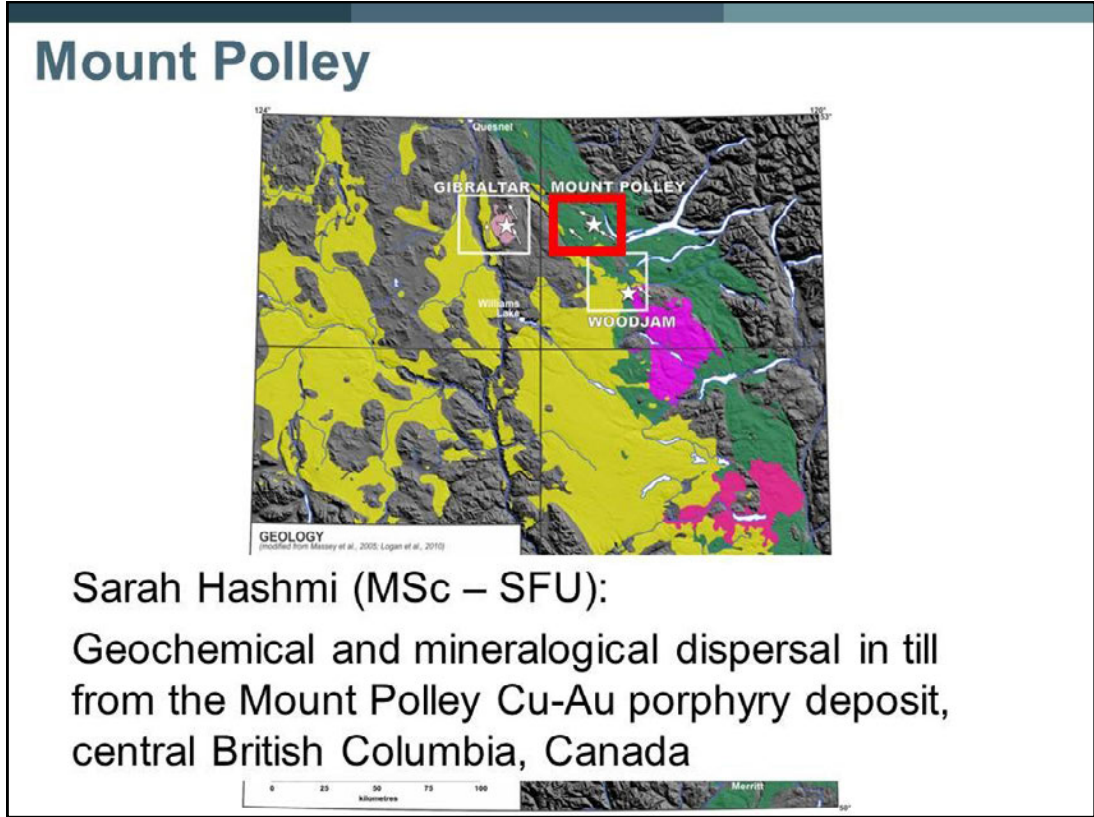
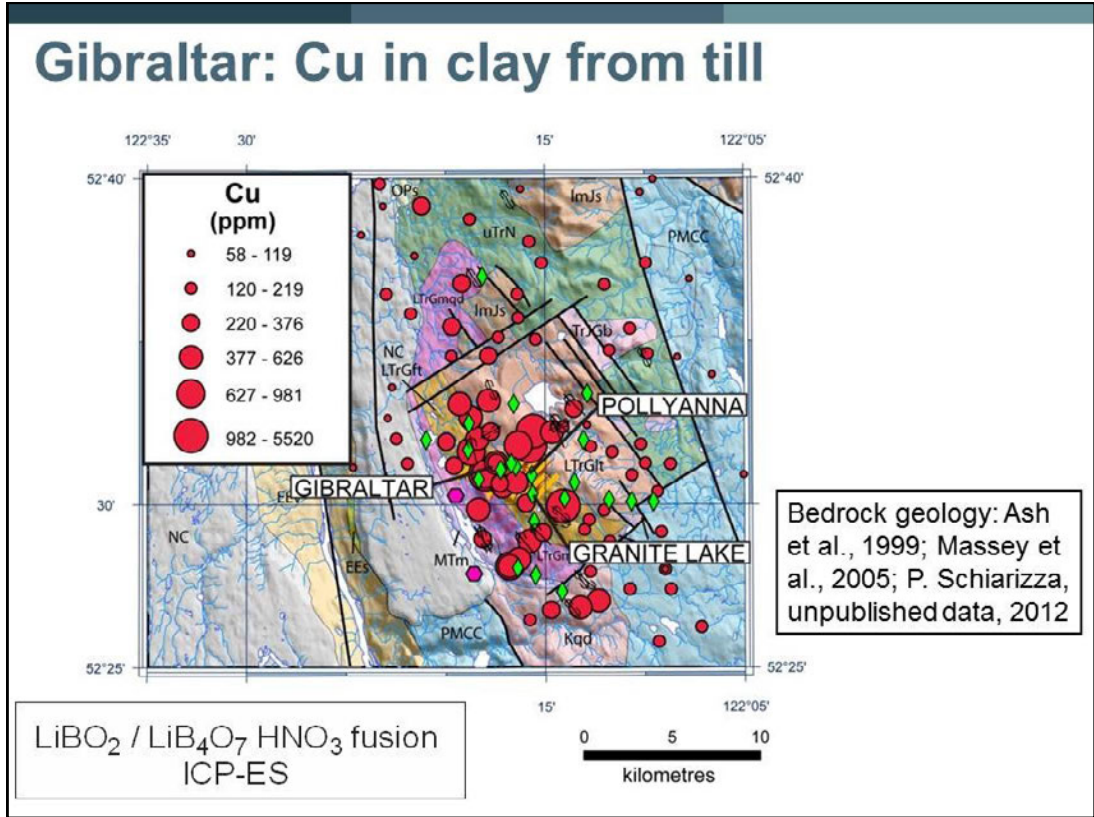
Porphyry Indicator Minerals (PIM) – Woodjam

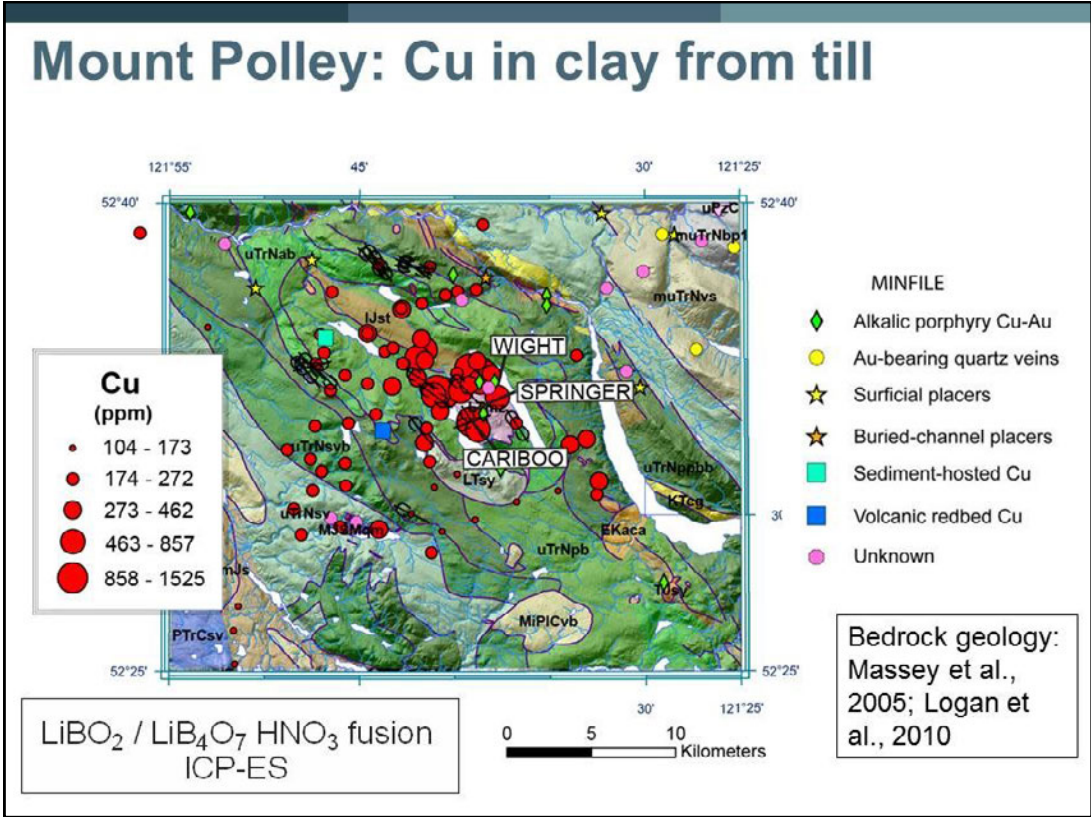
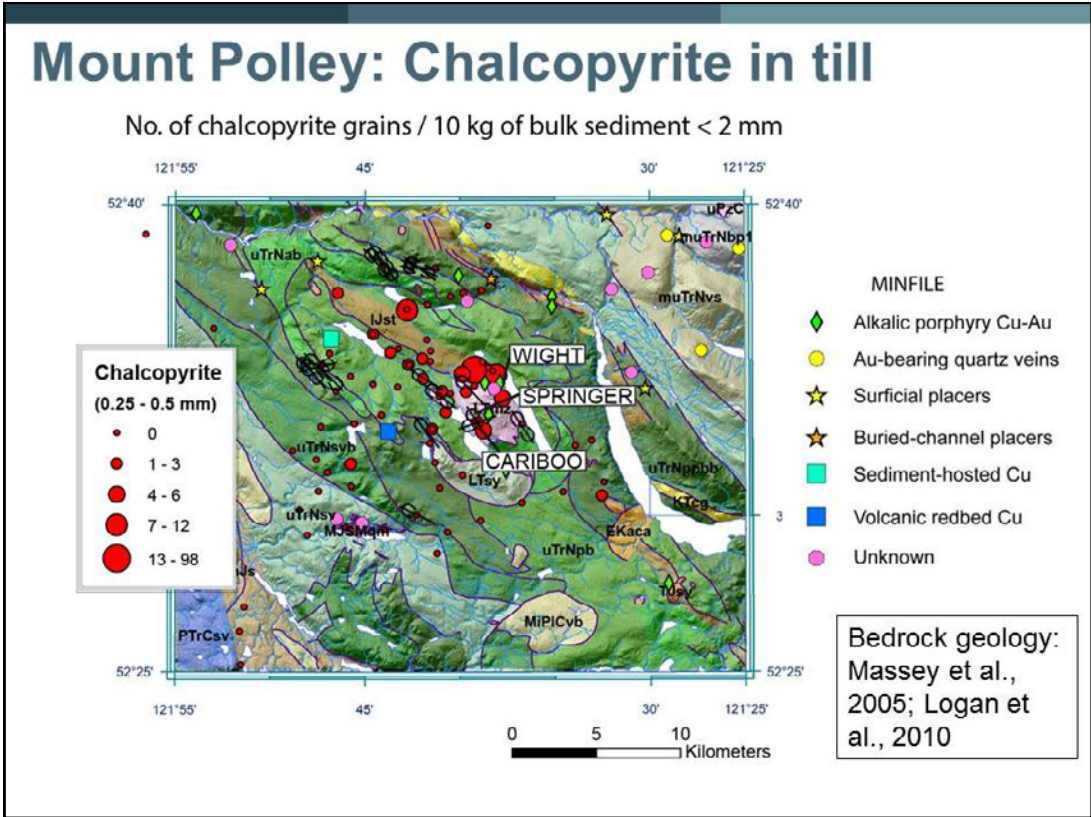


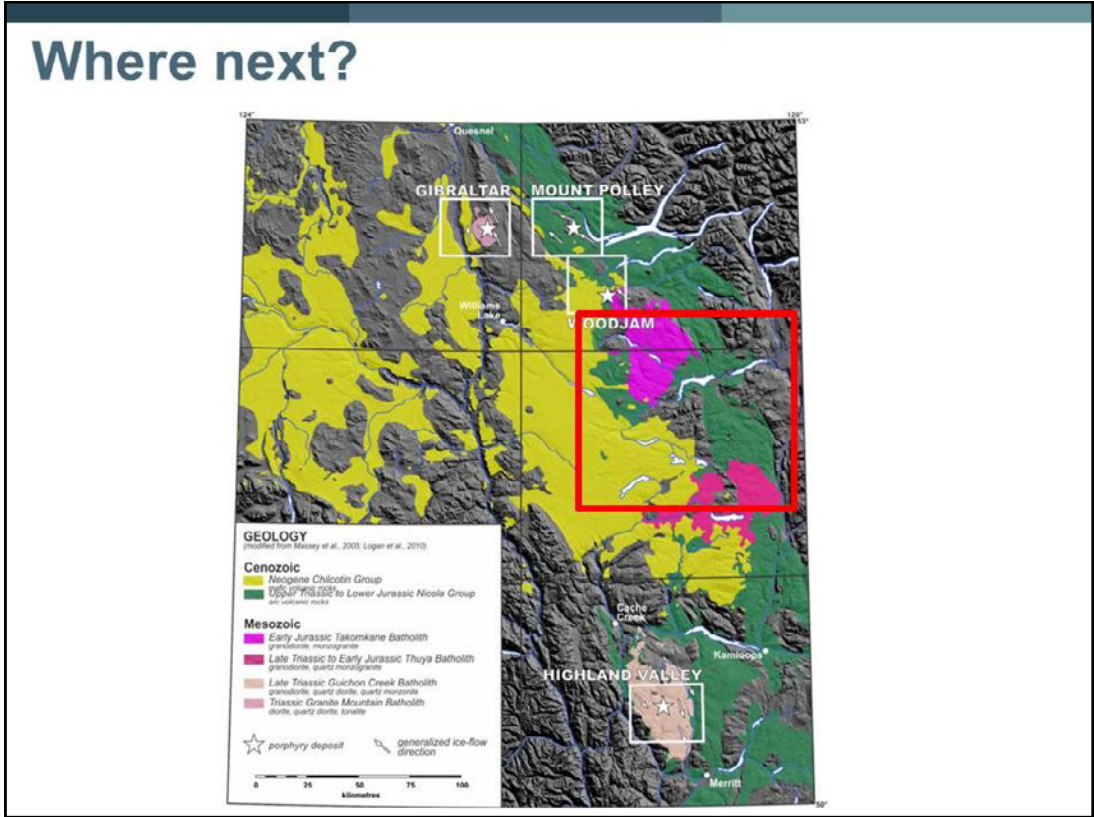
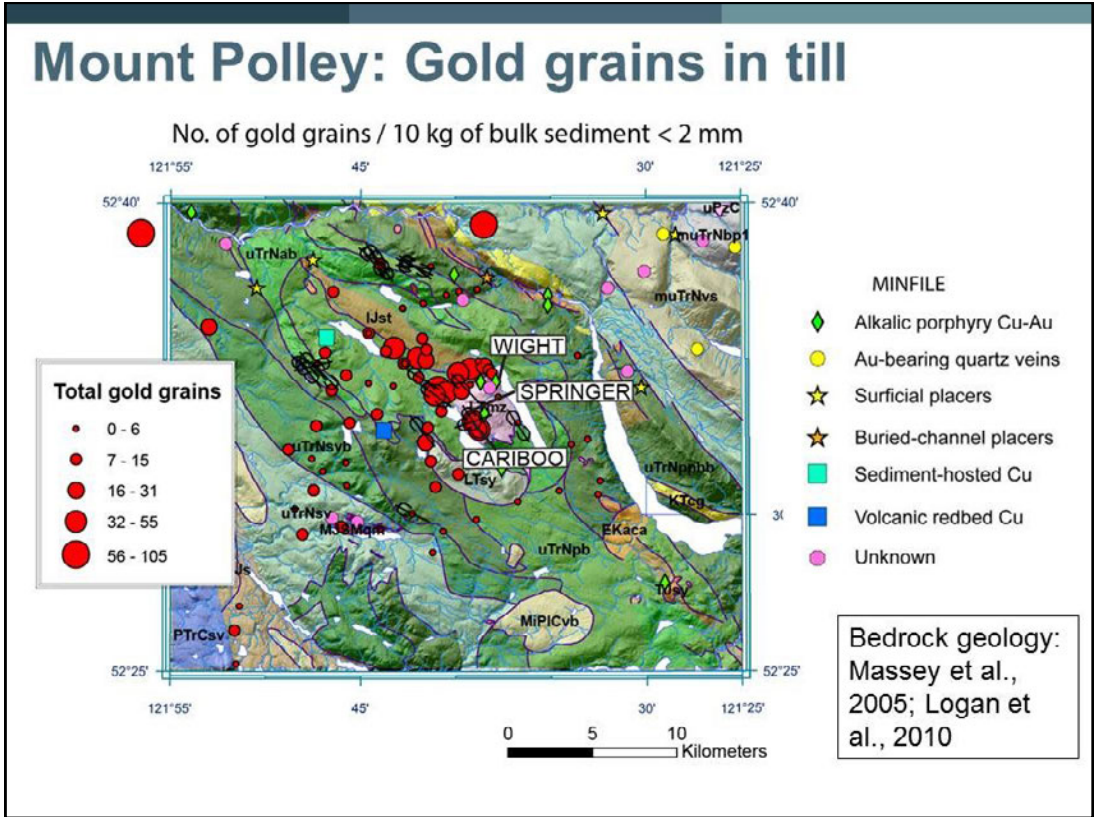
Gibraltar

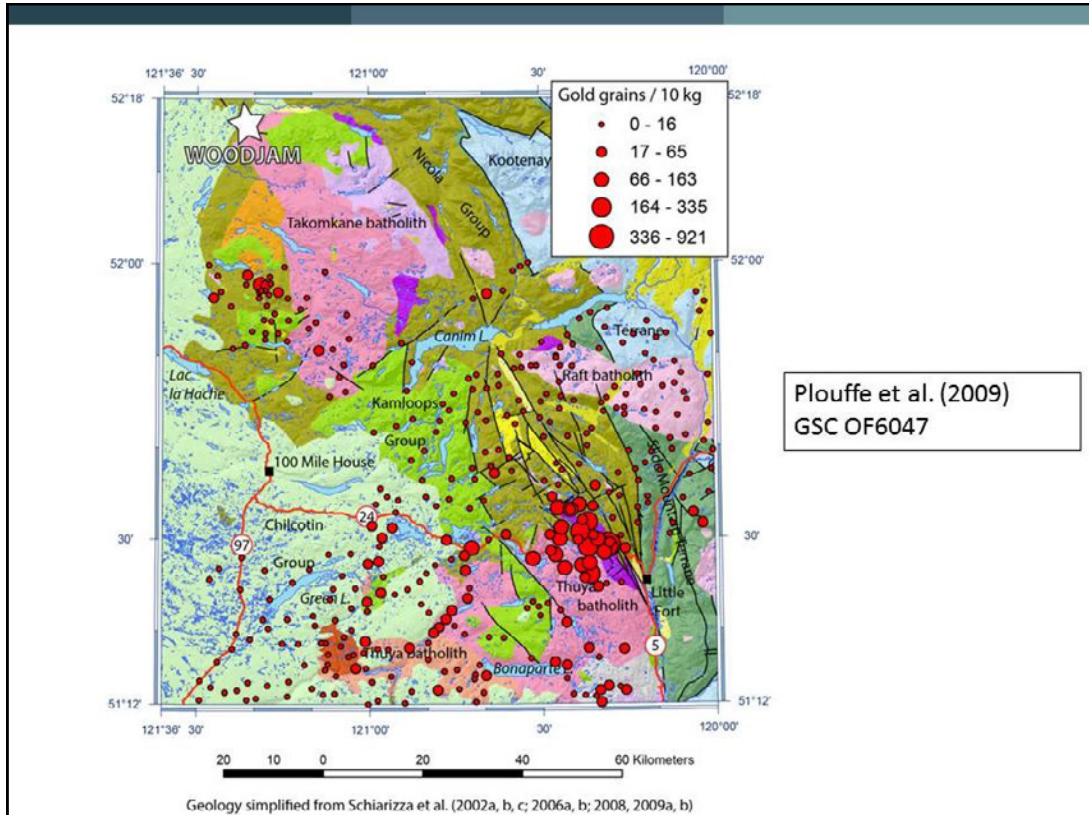
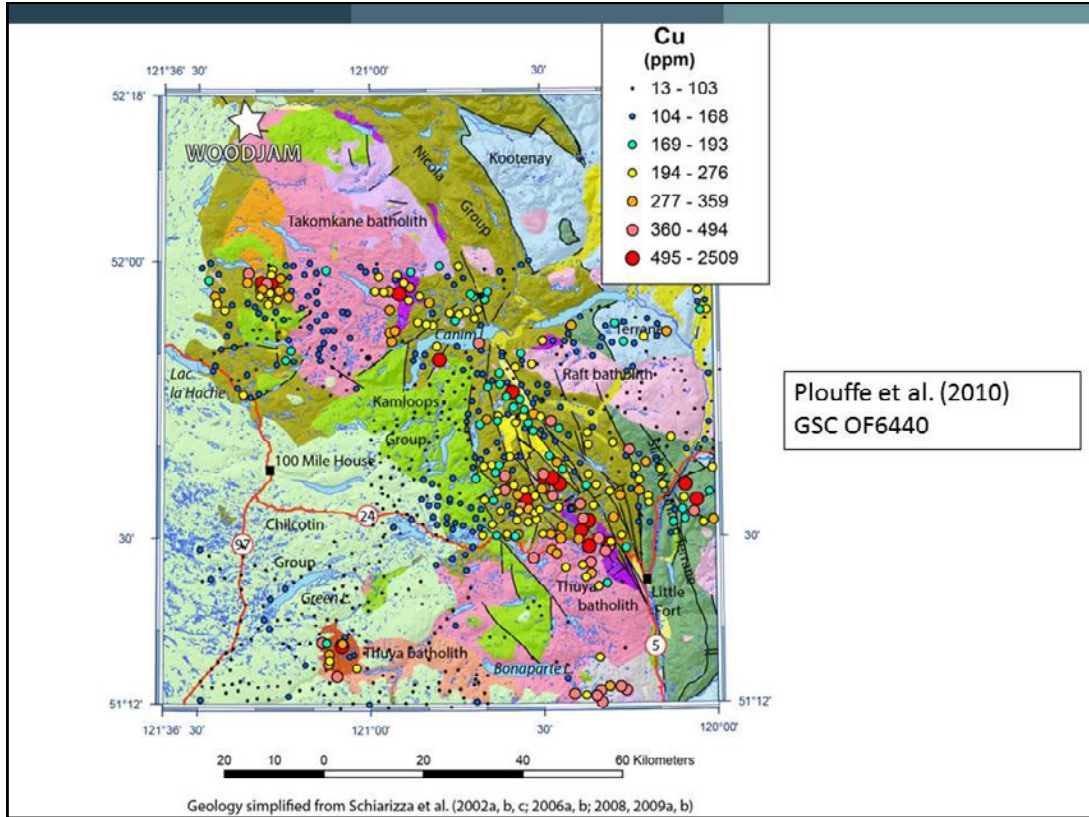


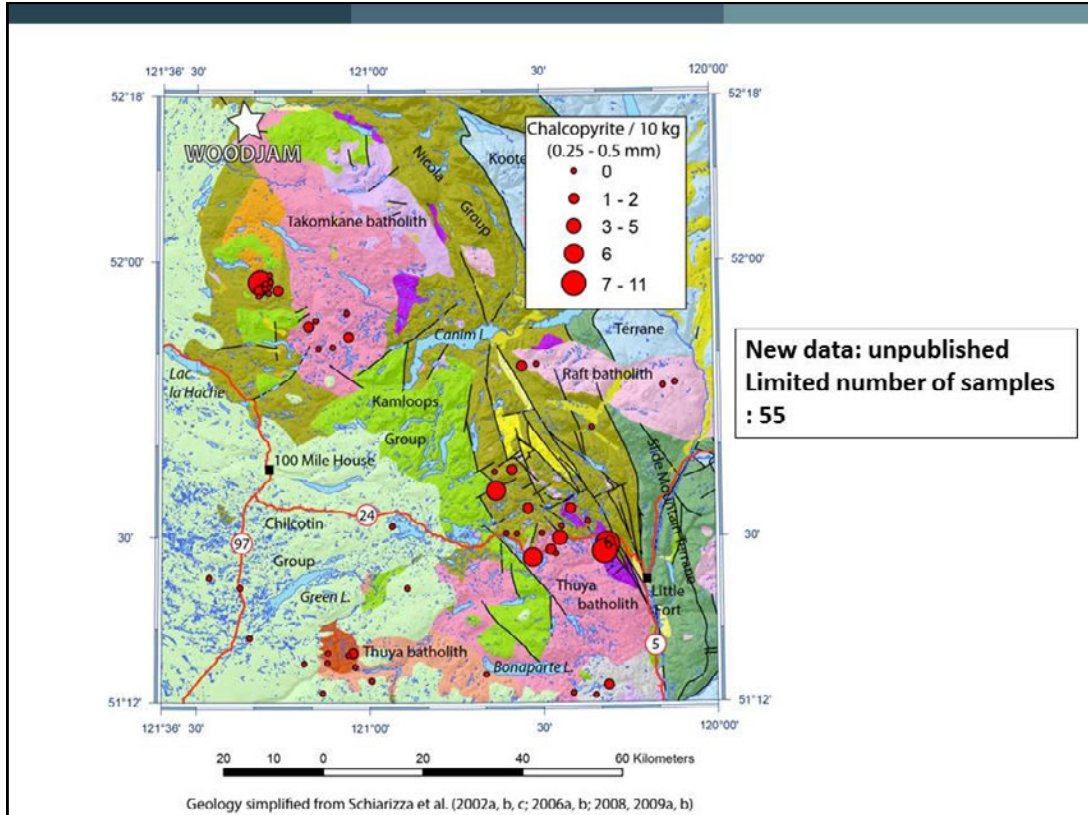












W-Mo Indicator Minerals – Sisson Brook

Sisson Brook Zone 3 trench

Collins Pond Phase till (Younger Dryas)

8 ppm W

18 ppm W

Caledonia Phase till (Early – Mid-Wisconsinan)

24 ppm W

Northumberland Phase till (Illinoian)

36 ppm W

584 ppm W

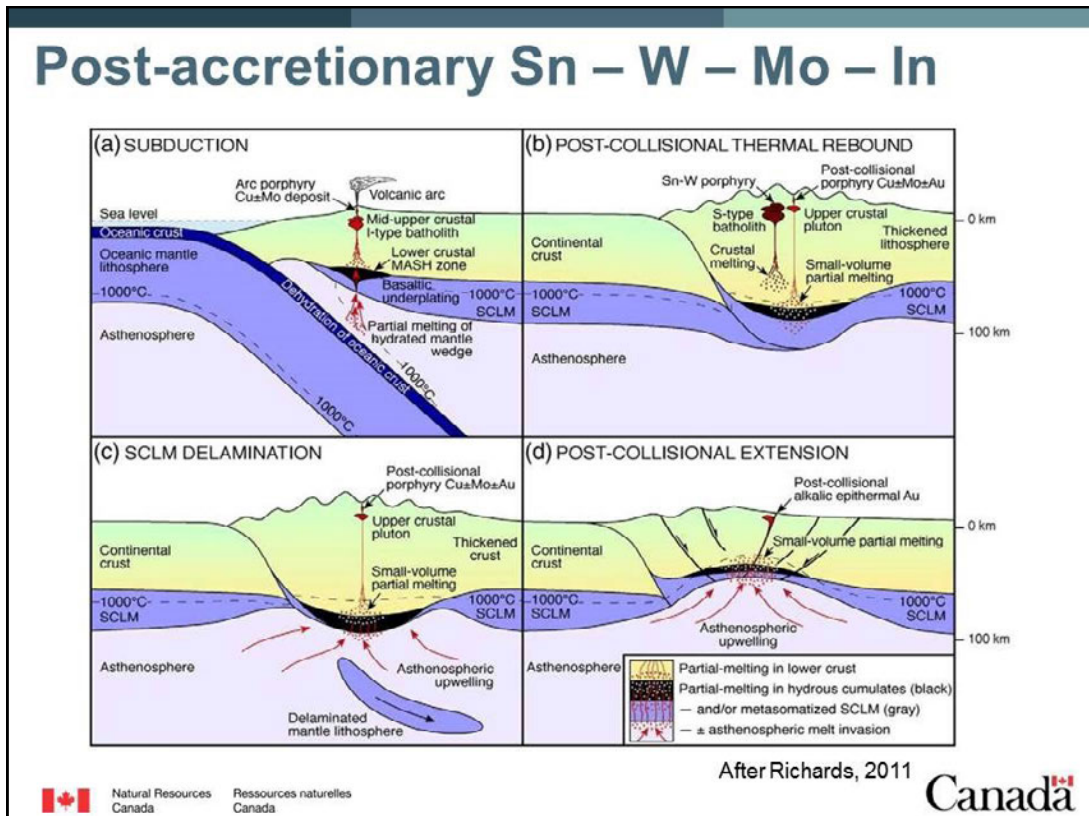
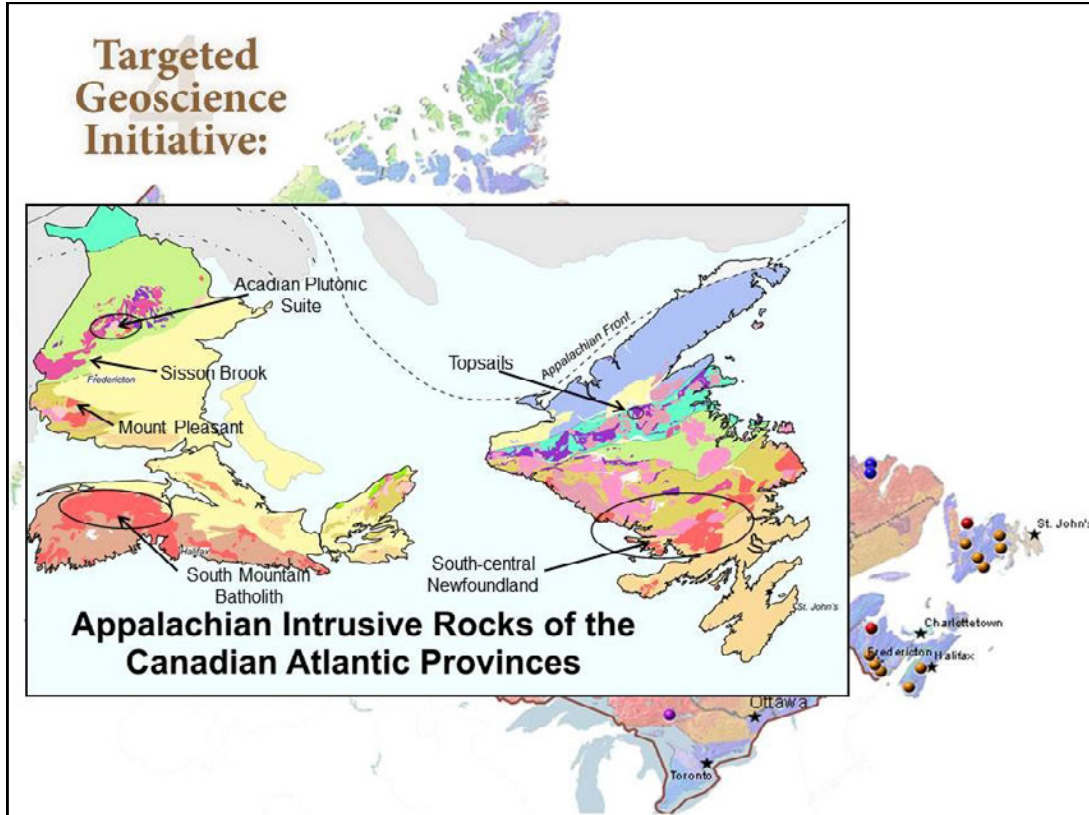
W zone outcrop

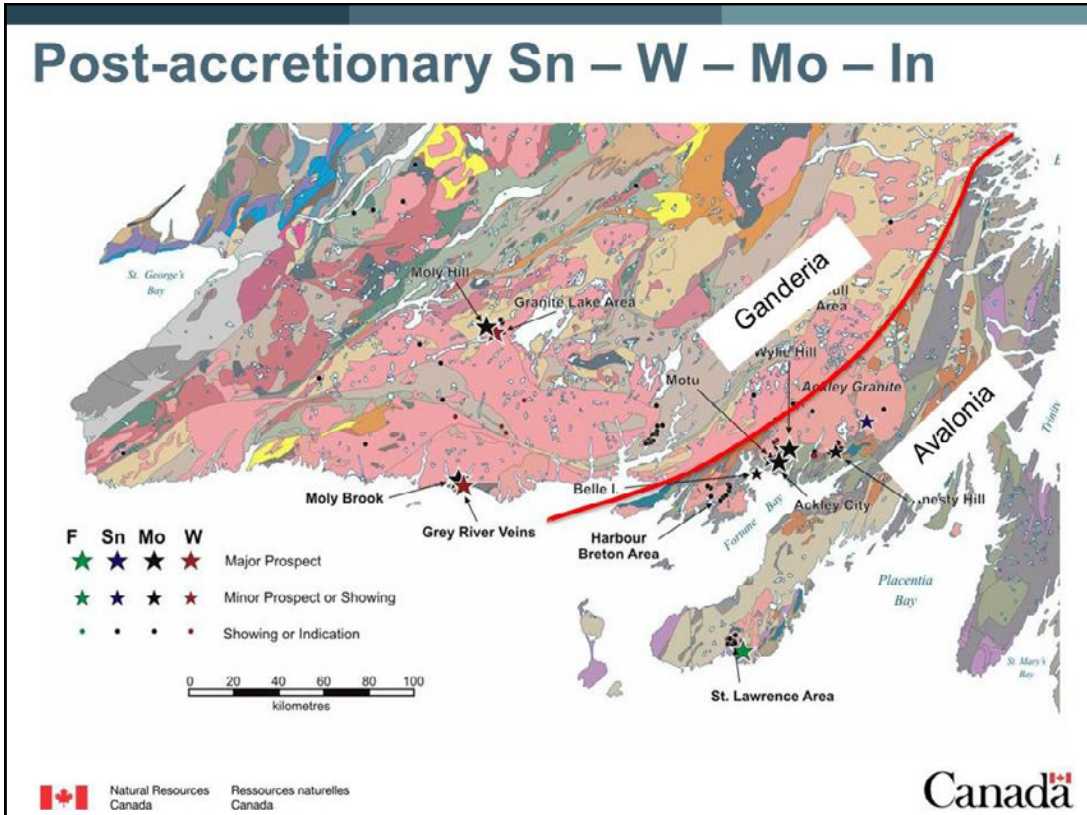
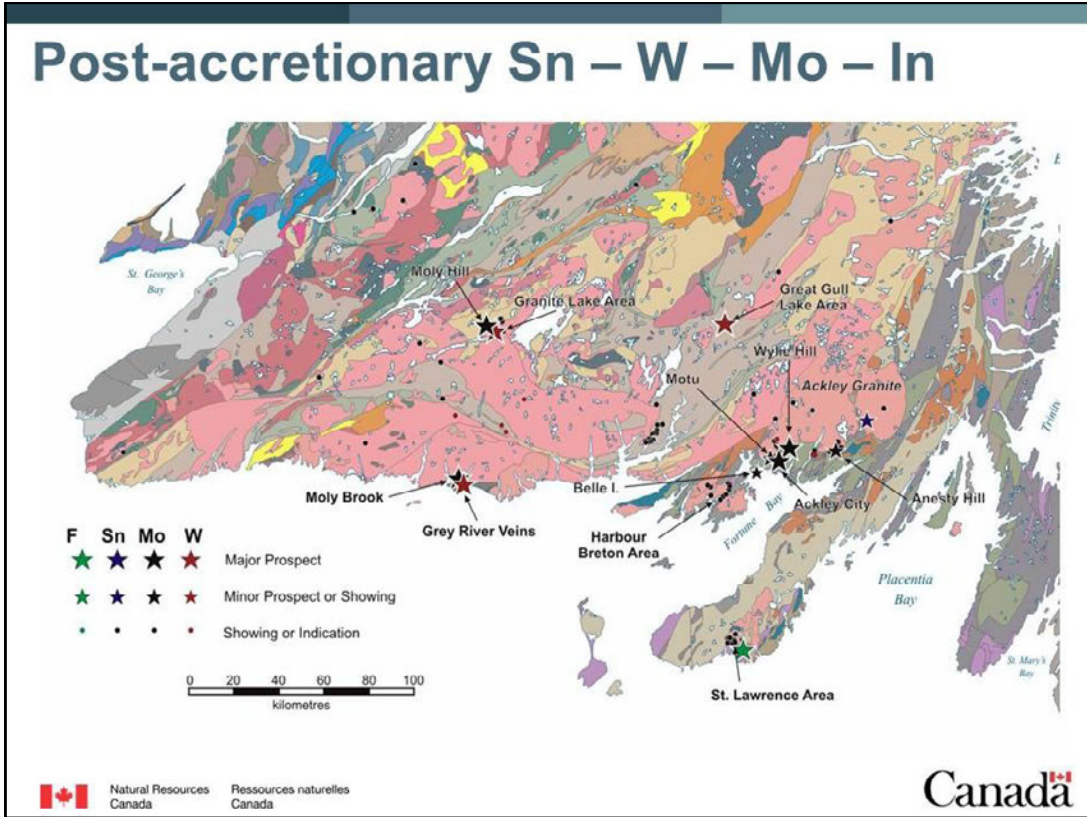
Seaman, 2008

wolframite

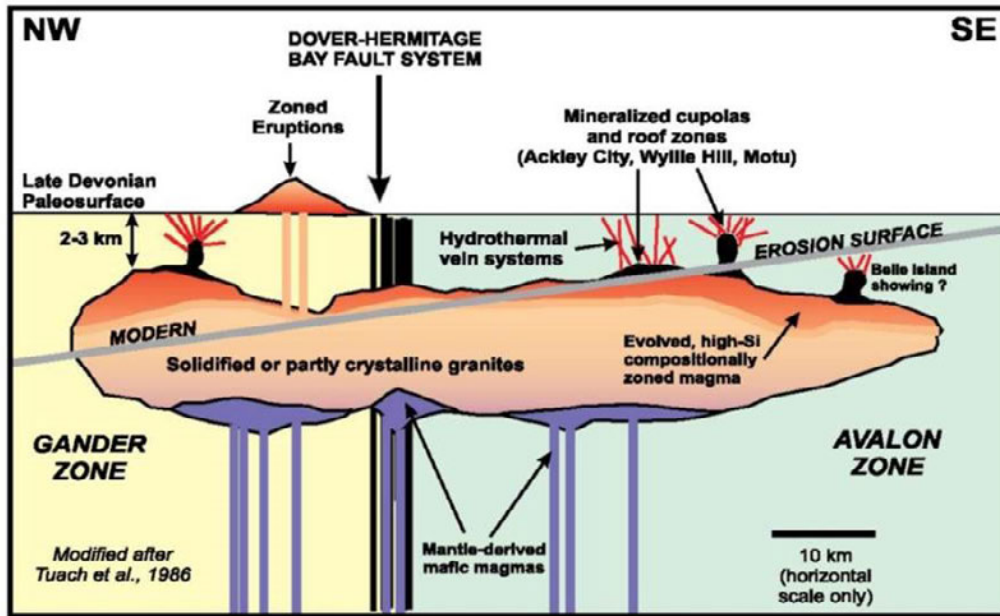
scheelite

8:40 Parkhill, M.A.*, McClenaghan, M.B., Seaman, A.A., Pronk, A.G. and Rice, J.M. Glacial stratigraphic, till geochemical, and indicator mineral studies at the Sisson W-Mo and Mount Pleasant Sn-W-Mo-Bi-In polymetallic deposits, southwestern New Brunswick

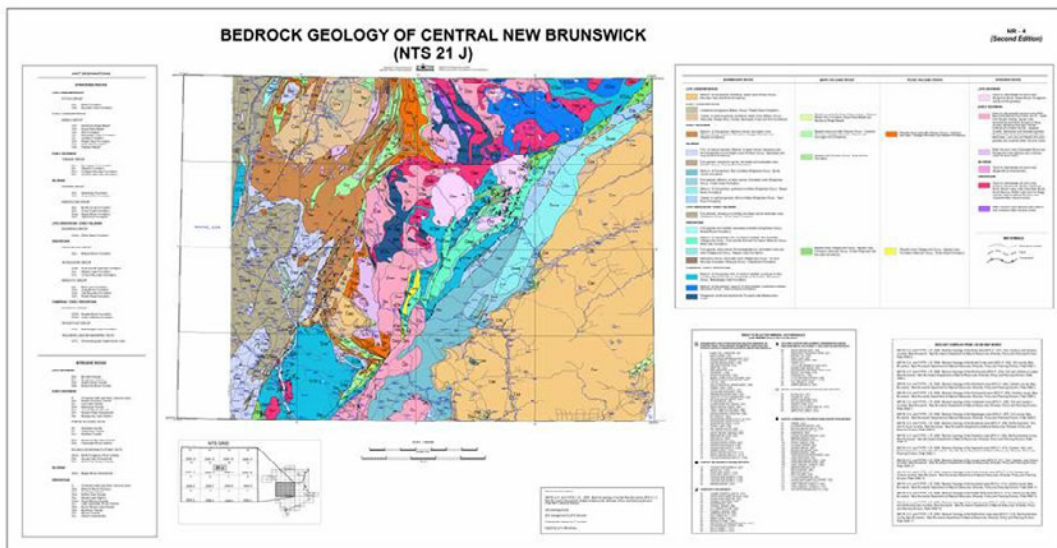




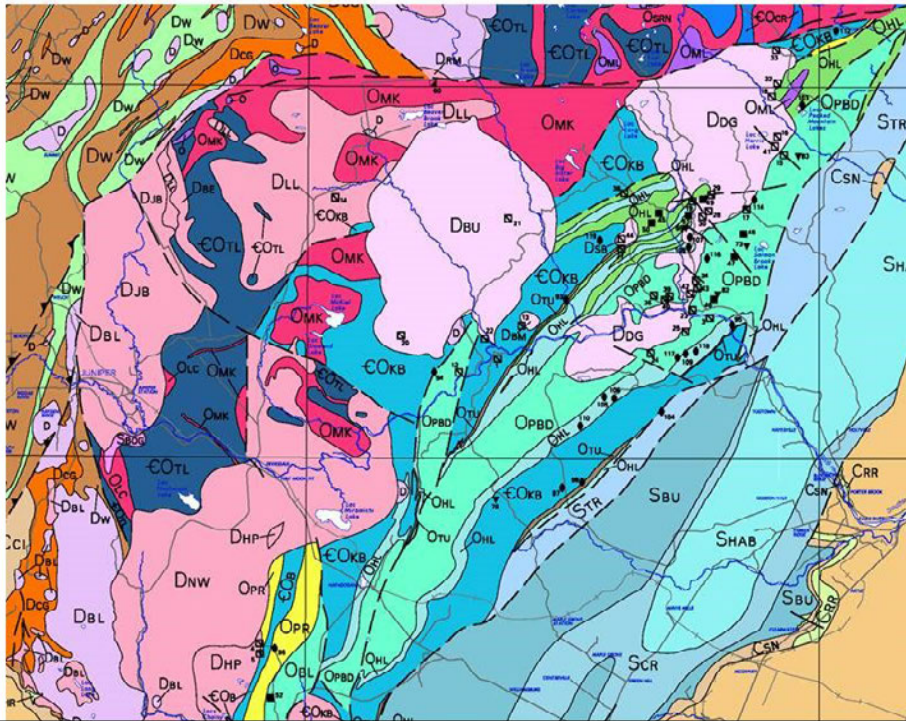
Post-accretionary Sn – W – Mo – In



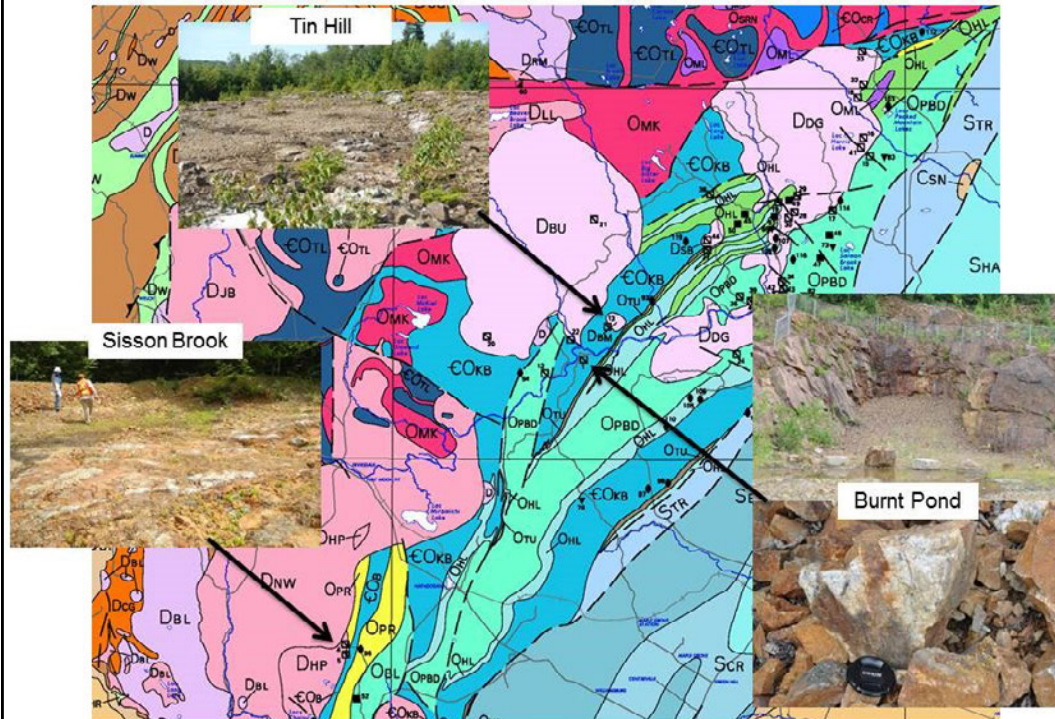
Post-accretionary Sn – W – Mo – In

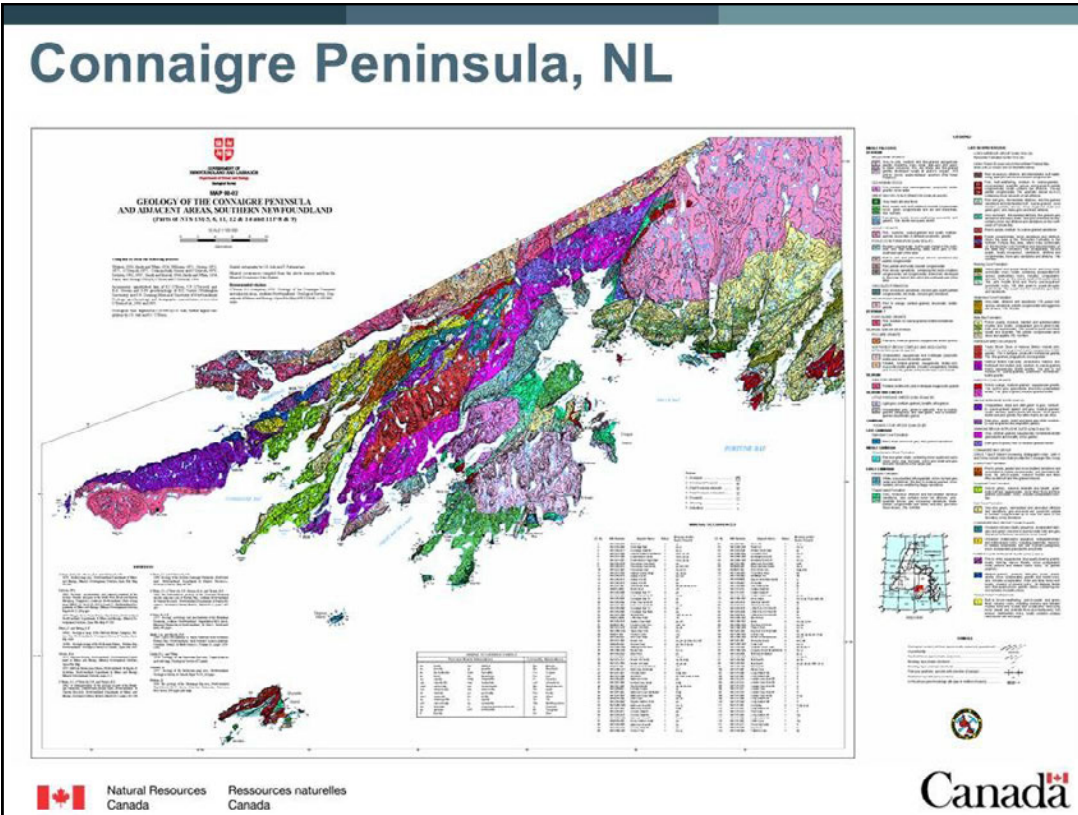
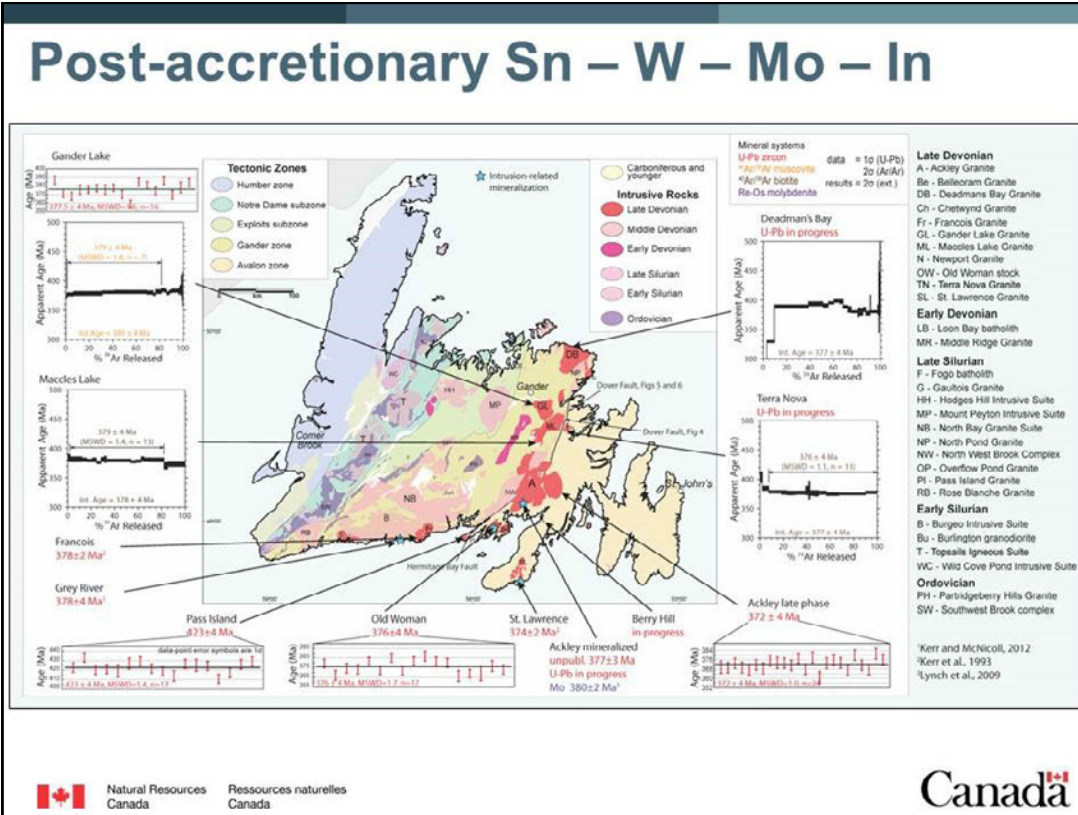


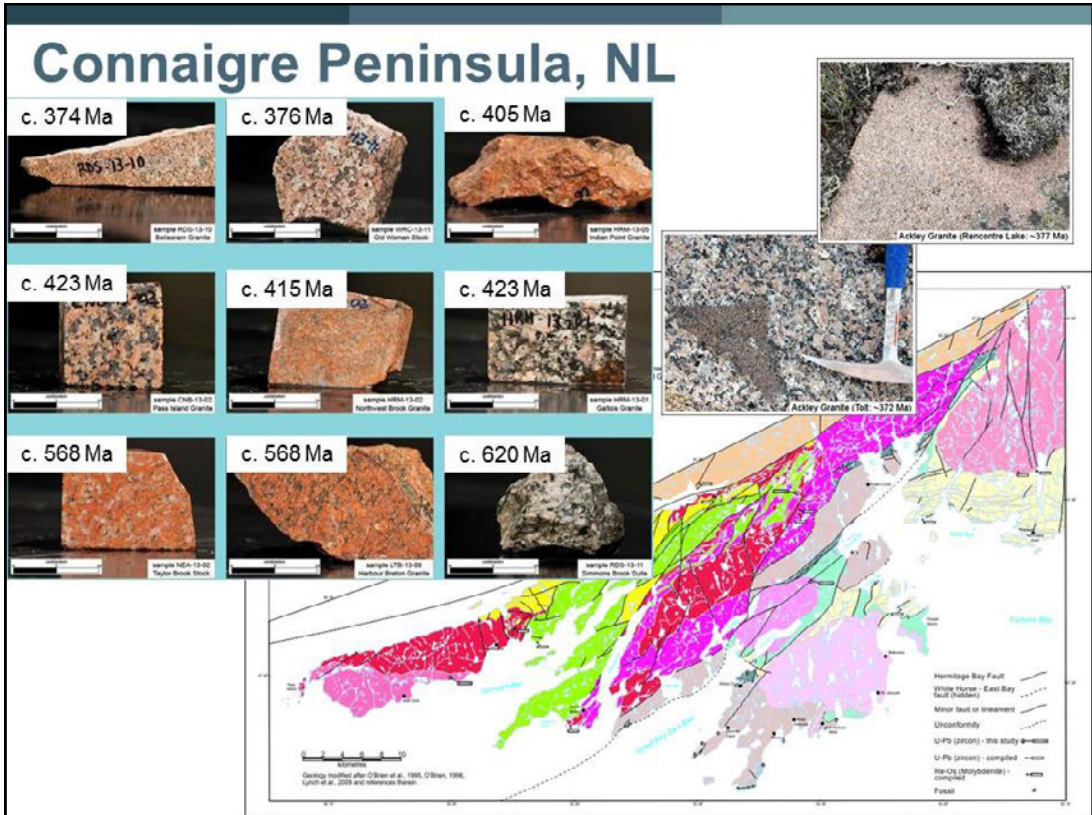
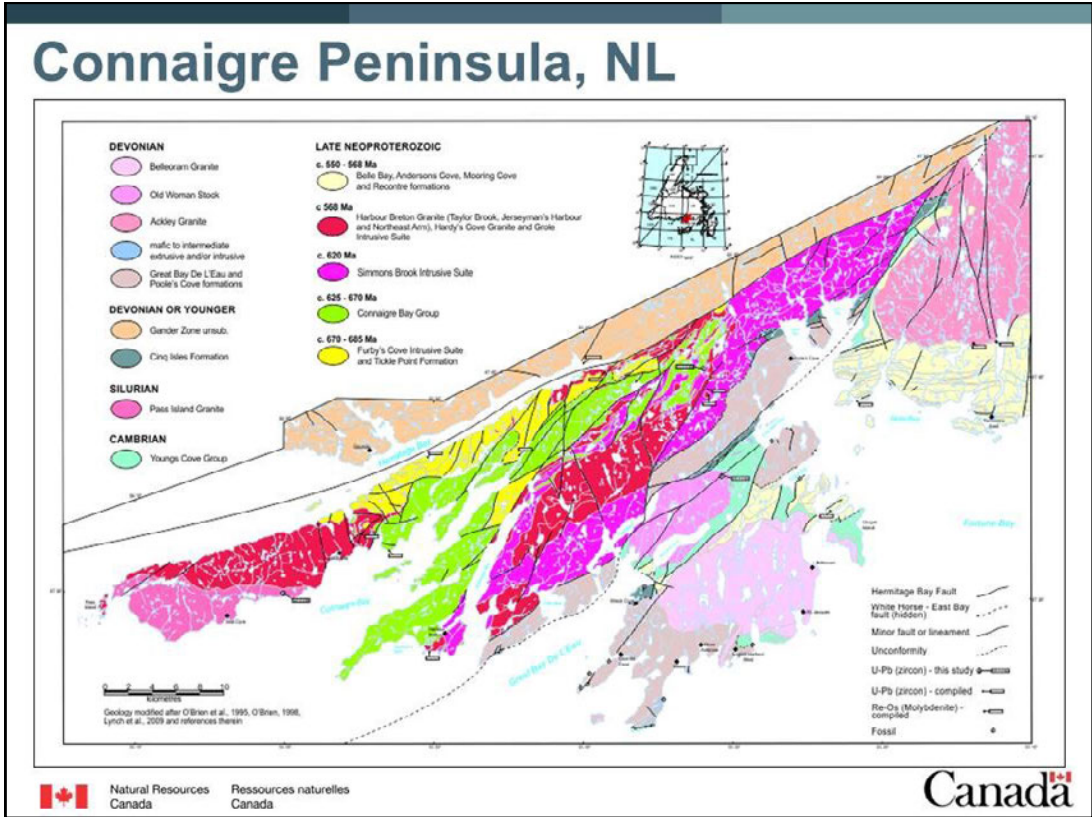
Post-accretionary Sn – W – Mo – In

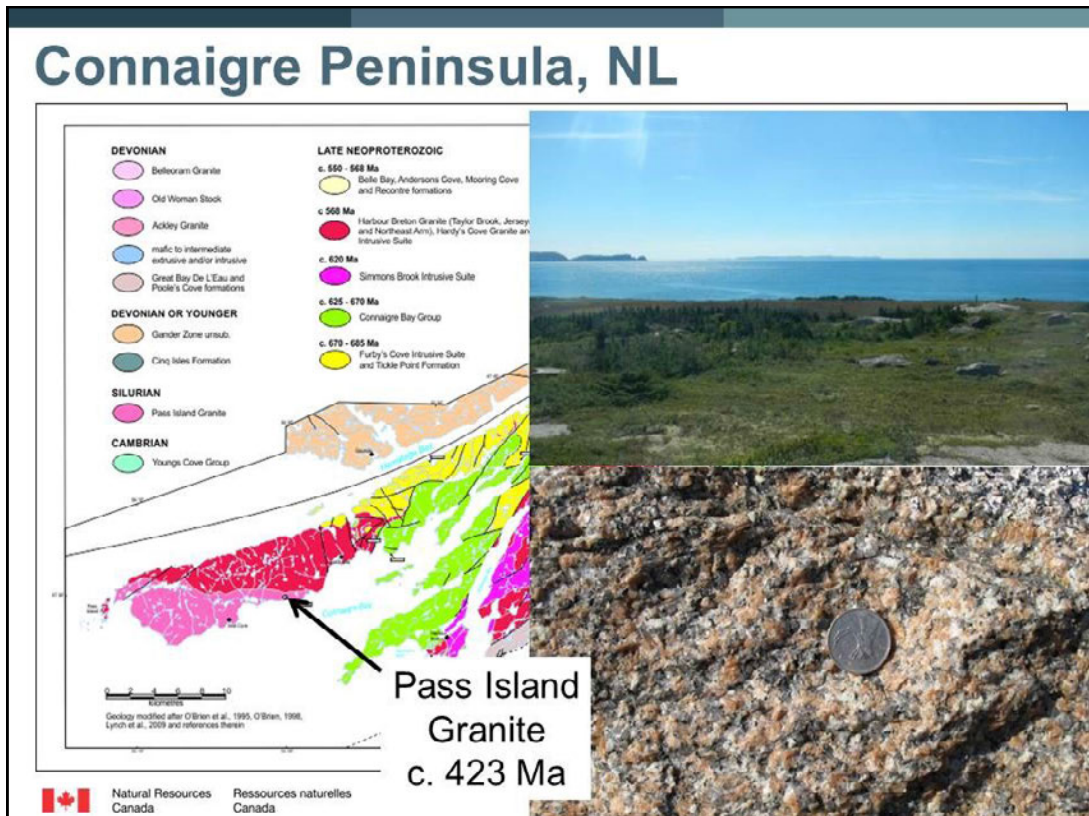
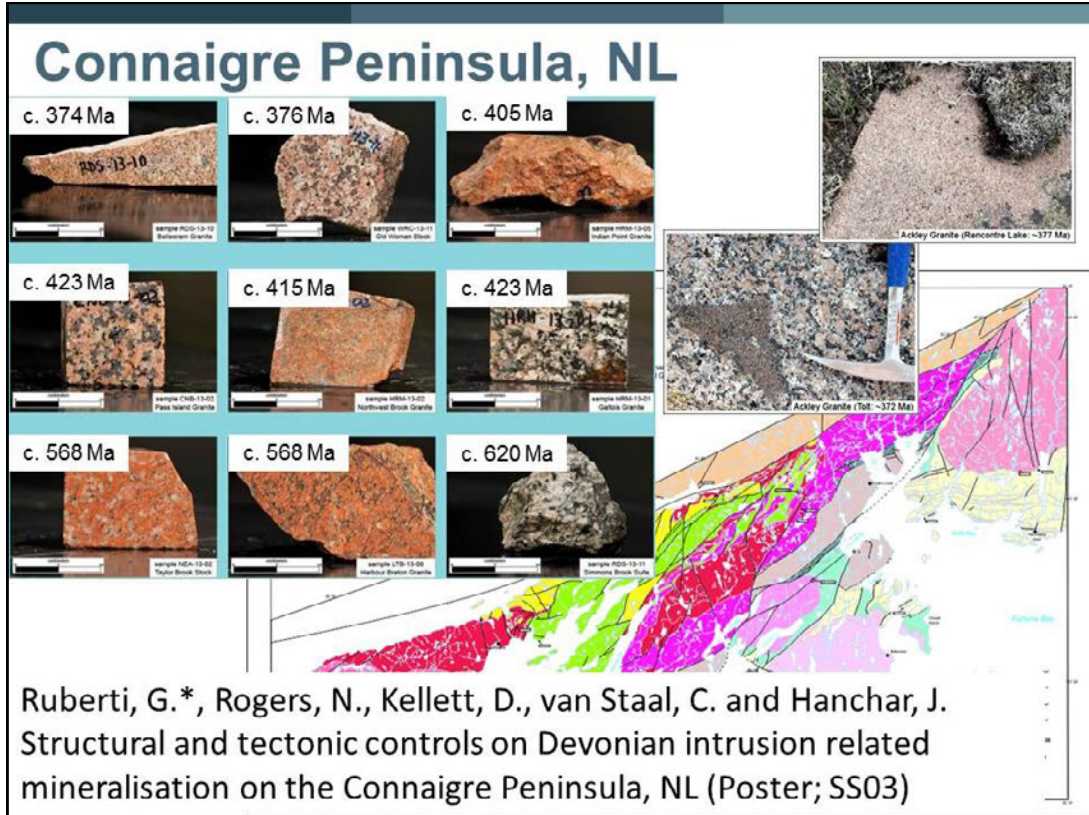


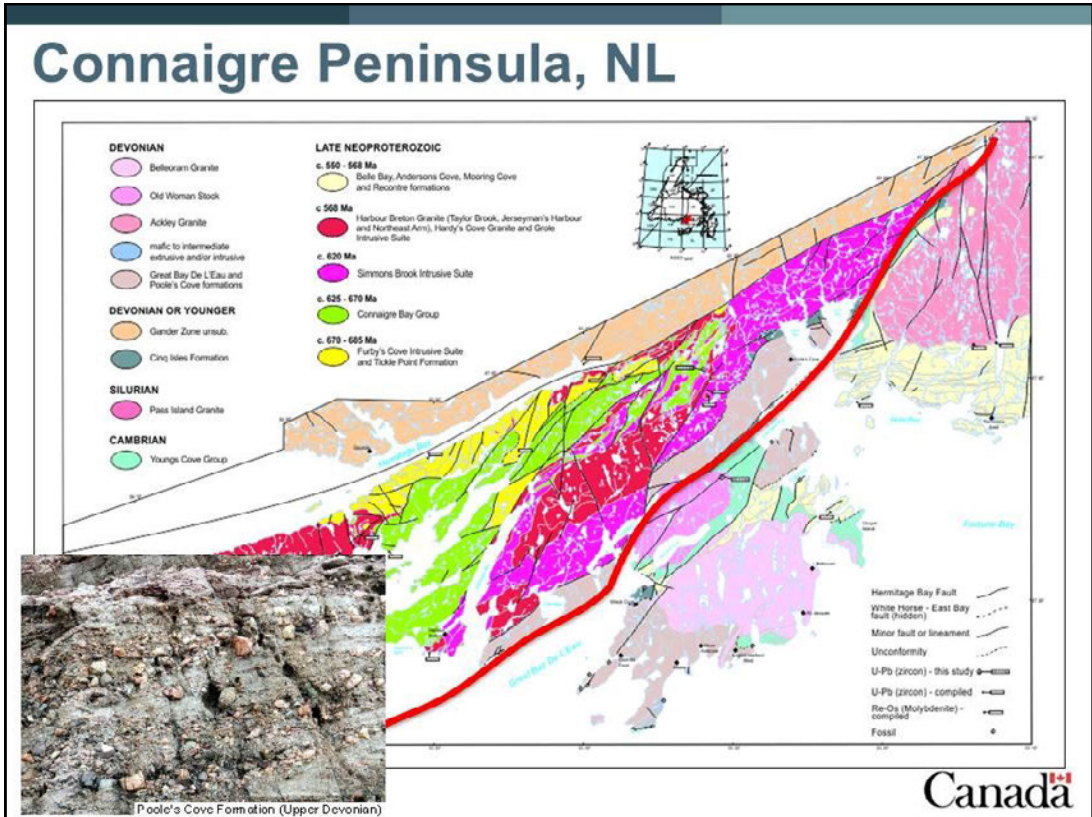
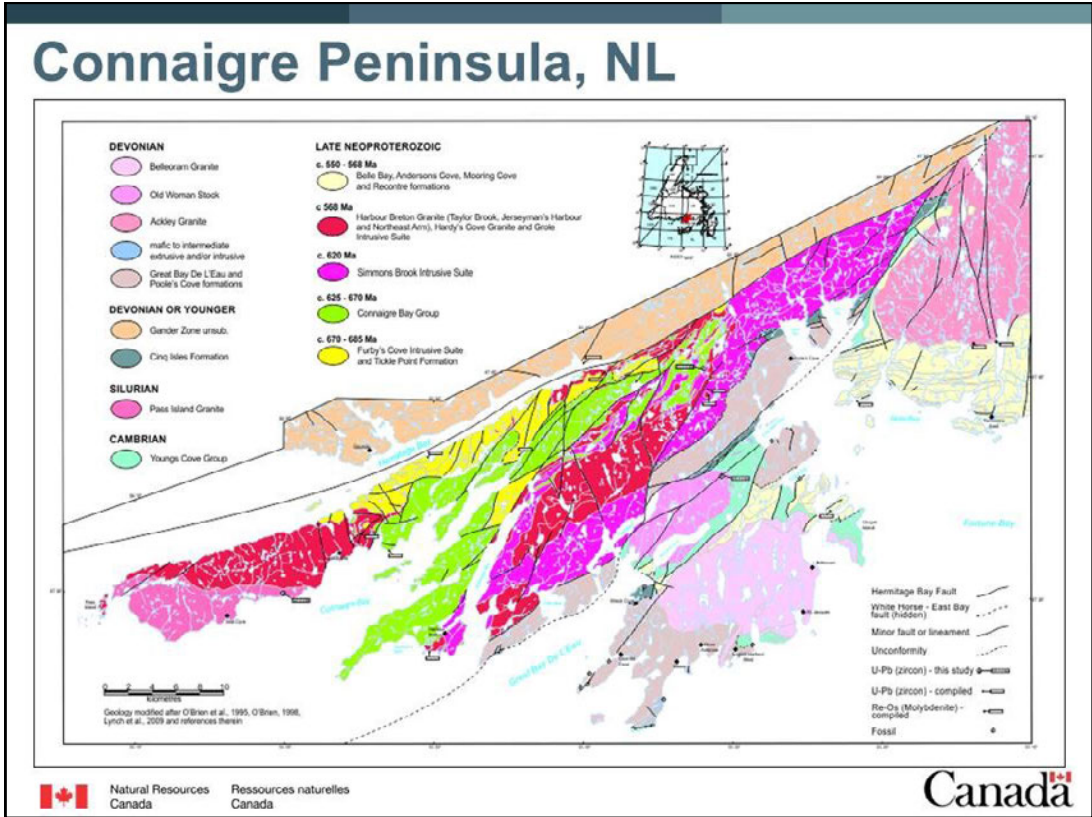
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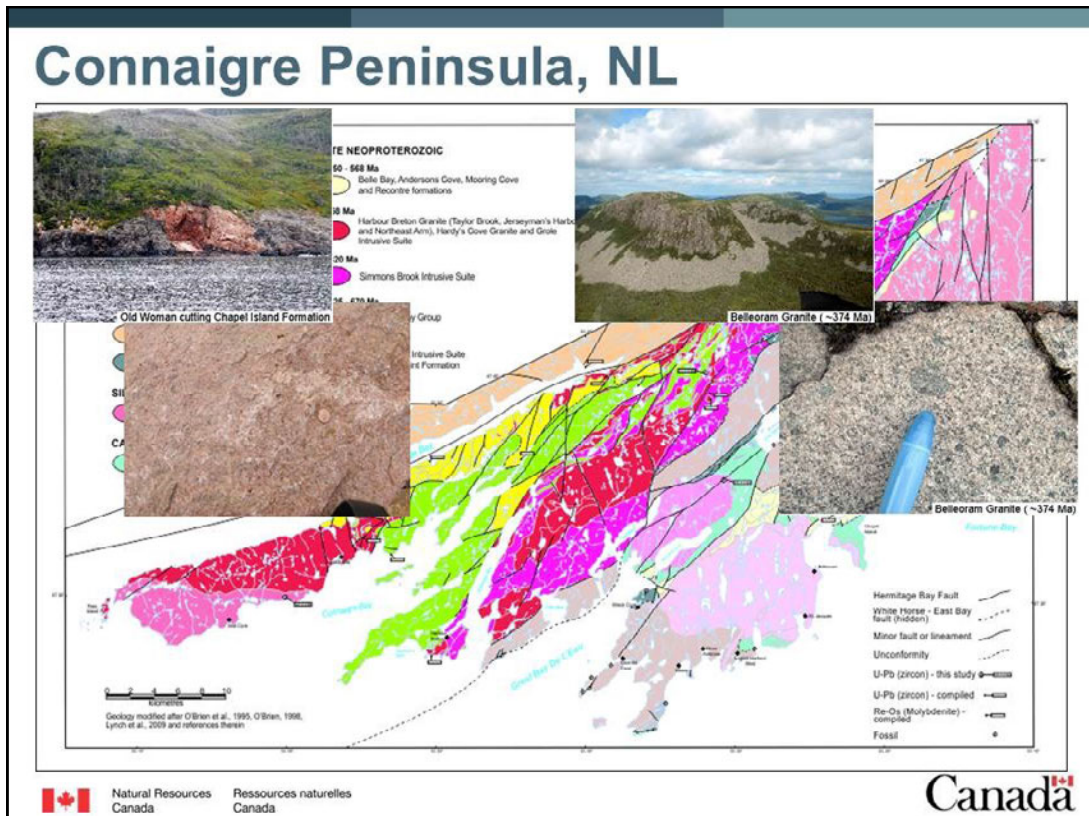
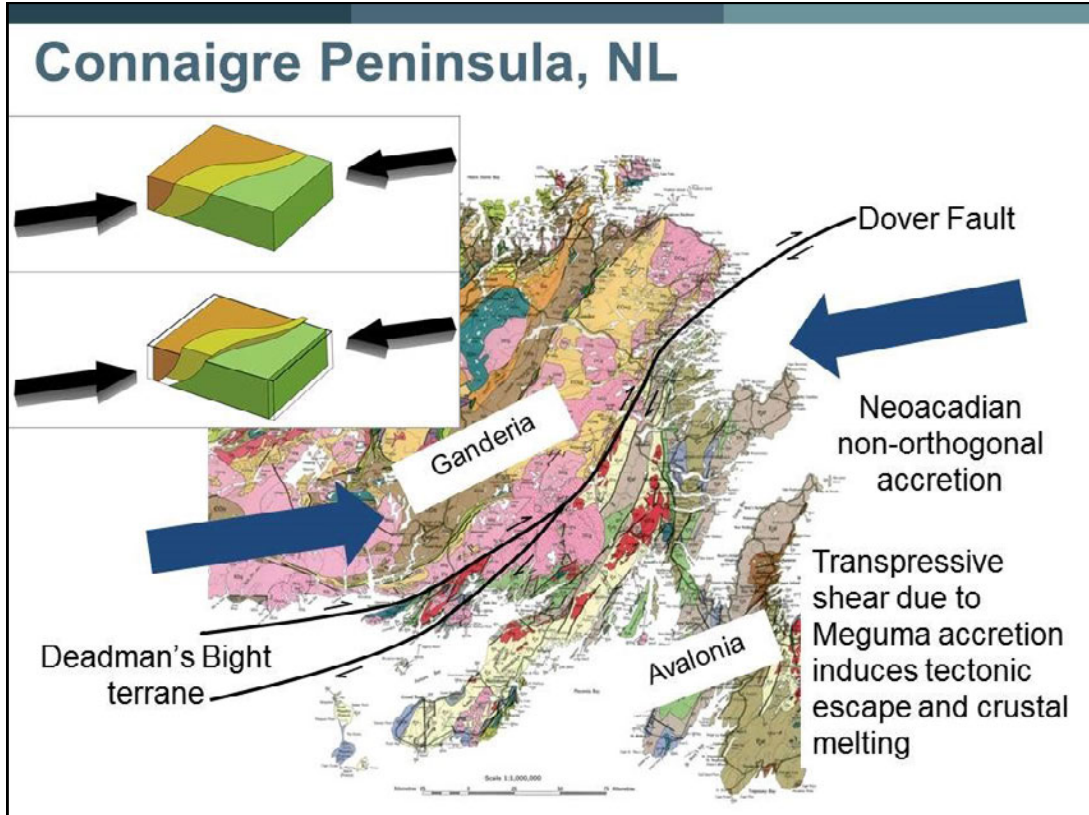


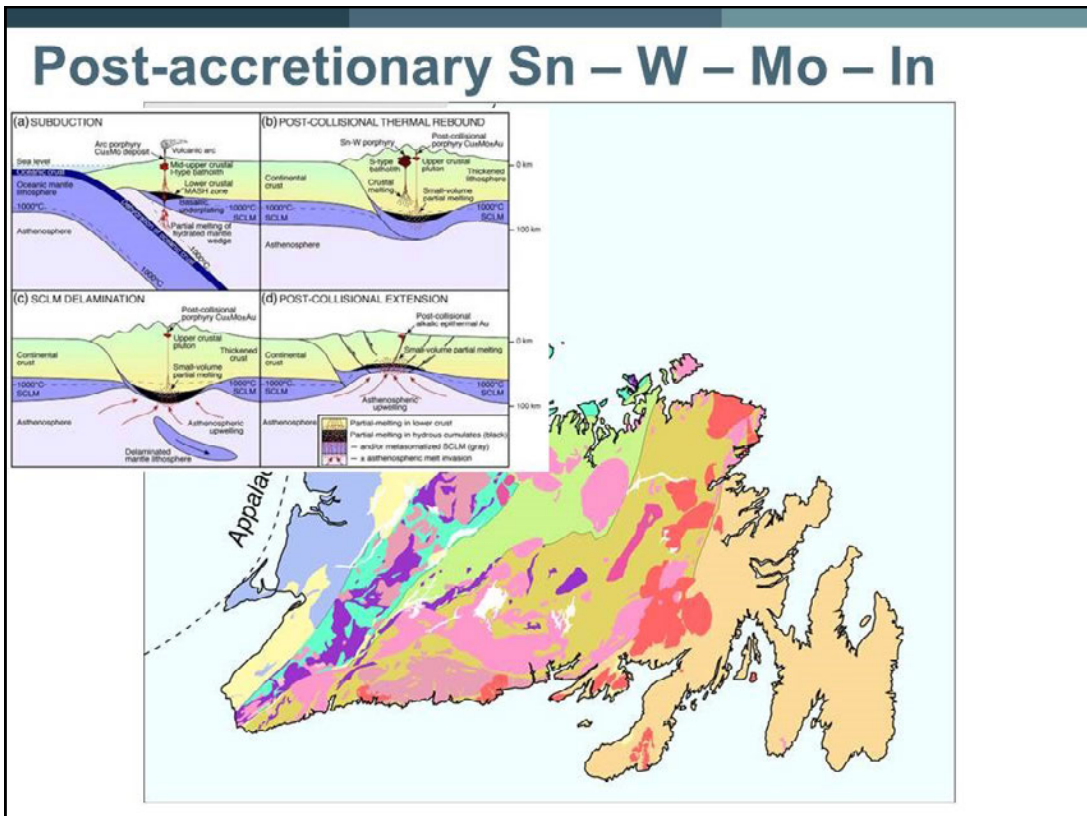
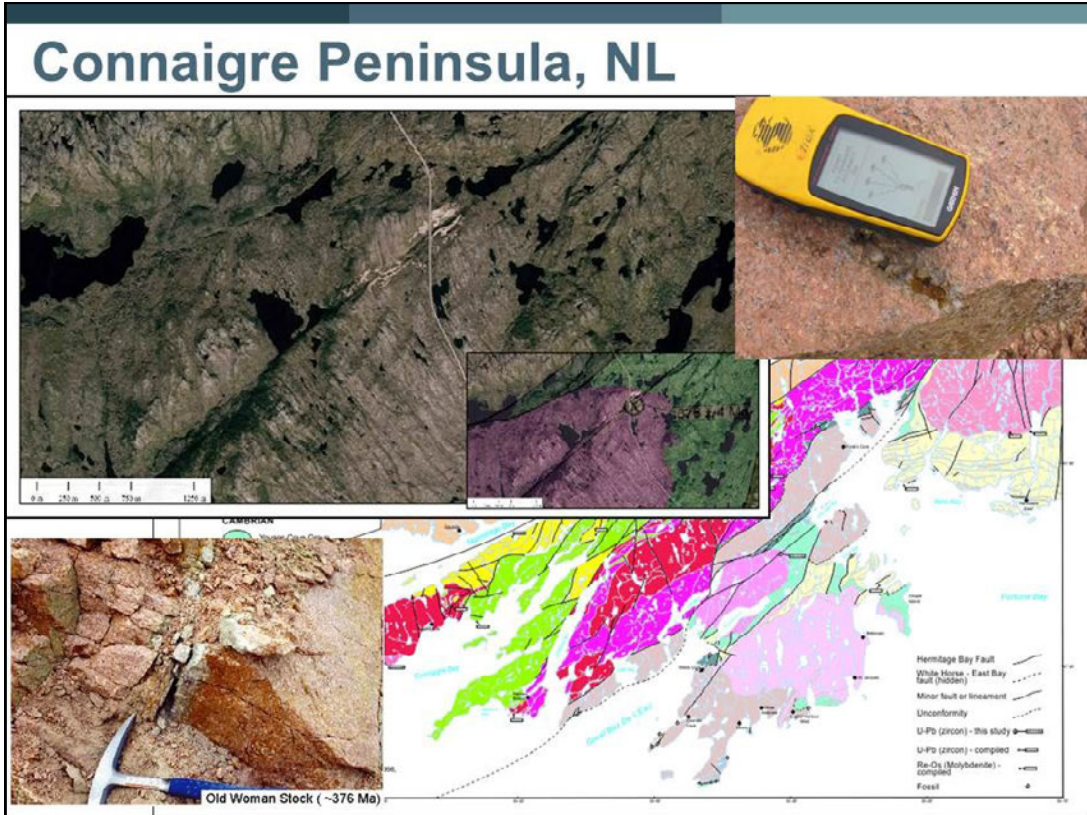


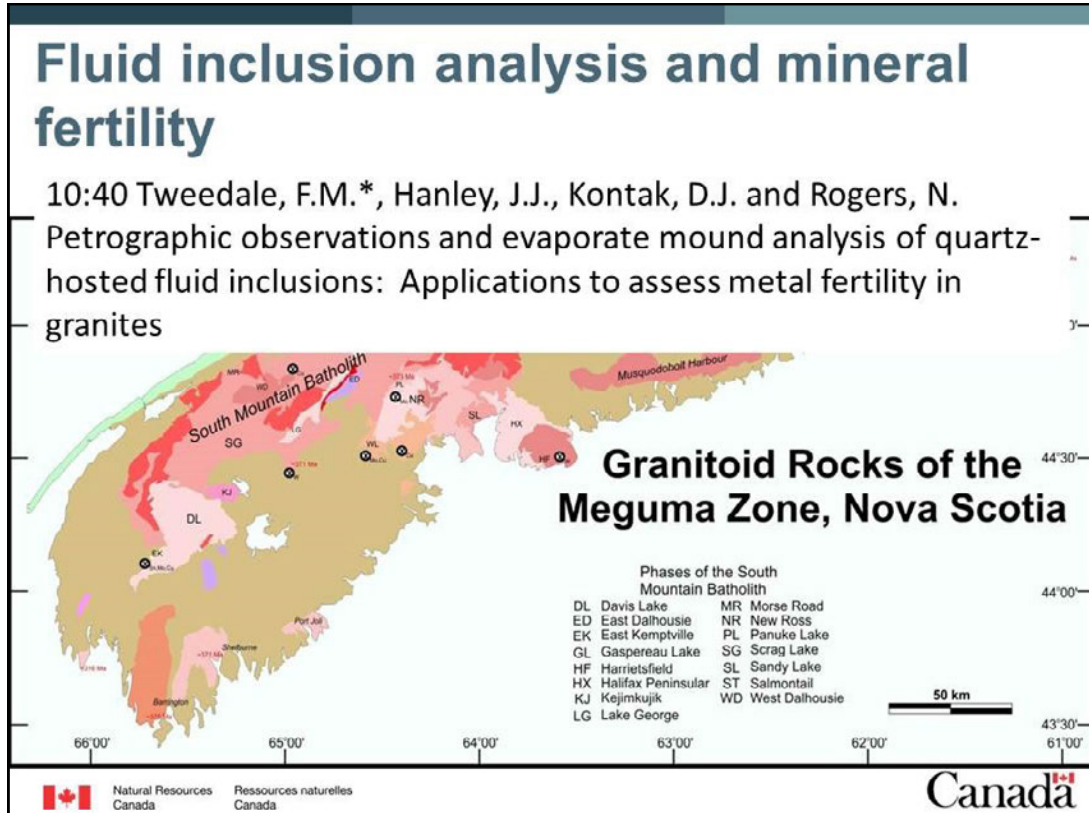
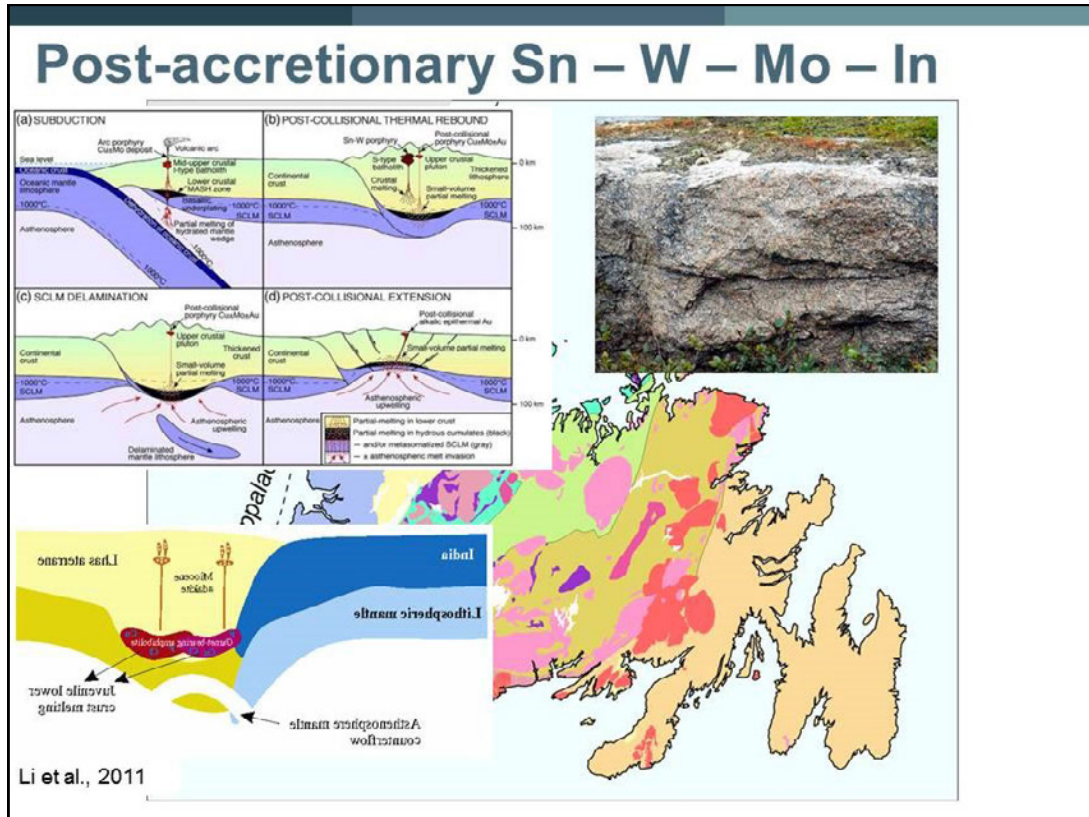












Distribution and controls on indium within Sn-W-base metal mineralization

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba		72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra		104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Uut	114 Fl	115 Uup	116 Lv	117 Uus	118 Uuo
Lanthanides	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu			
Actinides	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr			



- Atomic number: 49
- Relative atomic mass: 114.8
- Melt point: 156.6 °C
- Post-transition or poor metal
- Discovered in Freiberg, Saxony, in 1863 by Reich and Richter
- First isolated in 1864
- Named for **indigo** spectral line



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Canada

Distribution and controls on indium within Sn-W-base metal mineralization

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba		72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra		104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Uut	114 Fl	115 Uup	116 Lv	117 Uus	118 Uuo
Lanthanides	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu			
Actinides	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr			



Chris Goeddeke (MSc – University of Windsor):

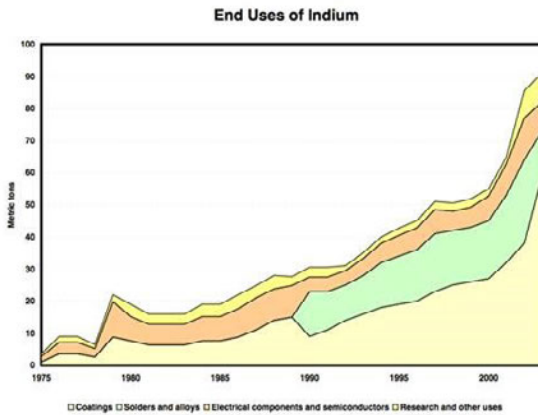
Controls on Indium content within post-collisional intrusive systems of the Canadian Appalachians



Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada

Canada

Uses of Indium

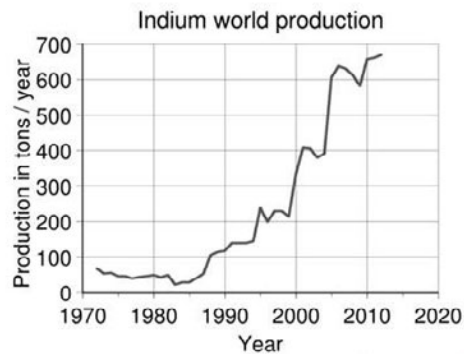


- The primary use of indium is for thin film coatings, principally indium-tin oxide (ITO)
 - Approximately 85% of global indium consumption
 - ITO is commonly 90% In_2O_3 and 10% SnO
 - Transparent, electrically conductive, low IR transmissibility

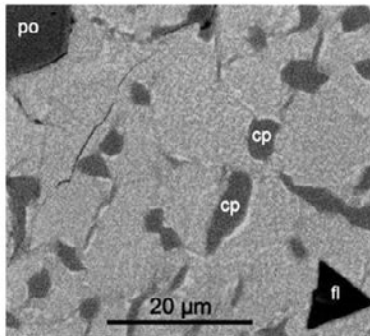
Second greatest use is for specialist solders and low melt-point alloys ($\approx 8\%$)

Indium Supply

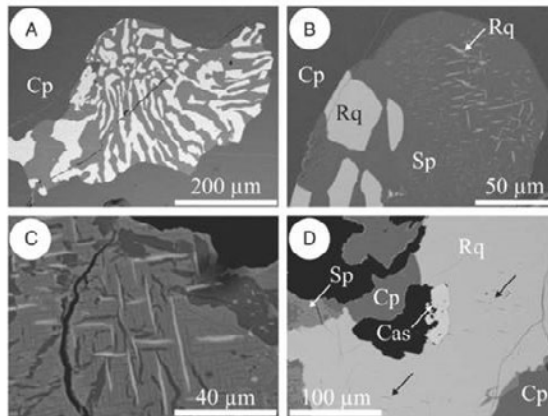
- Global primary ≈ 670 t/yr
- Recycling ≈ 850 t/yr
- 55-60% from China
- Canada 2nd largest producer
- Teck Trail Smelter (BC) produces ≈ 75 t/yr
- Falconbridge (latterly Xstrata) Kidd Met. Site (ON) produced ≈ 40 t/yr
- Adex pilot trials produced Zn concentrate with 5310 ppm In, and hydrometallurgical indium sponge at 96.25%



Indium Mineralogy



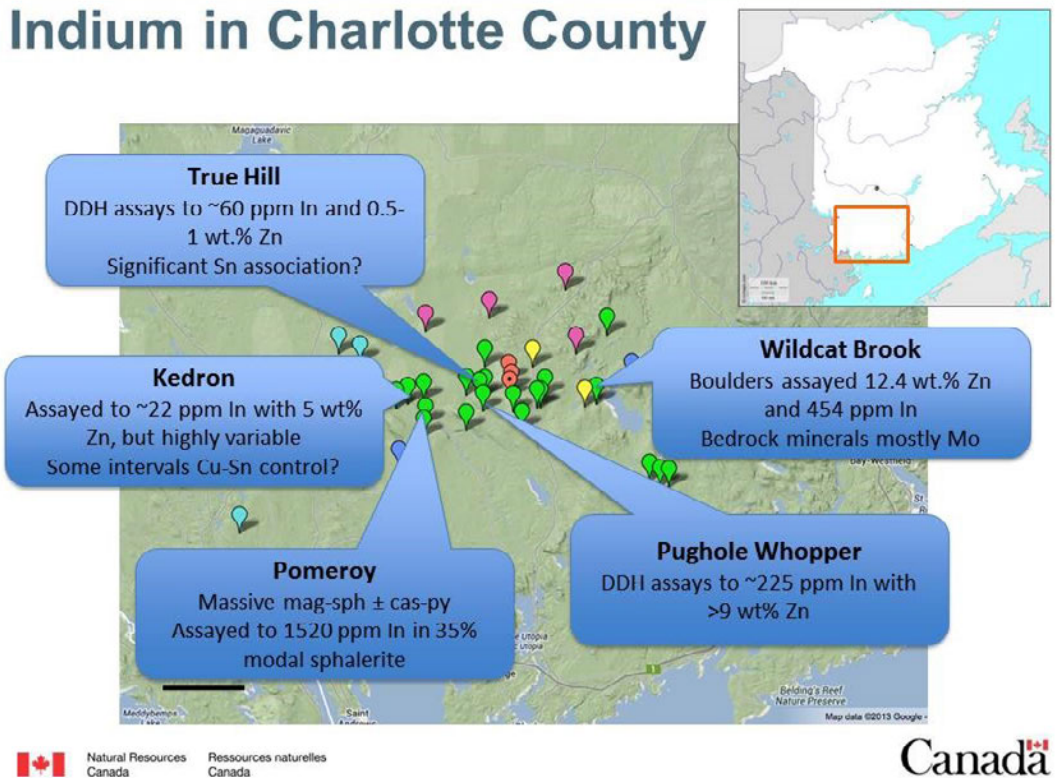
Sinclair *et al.* (2006)



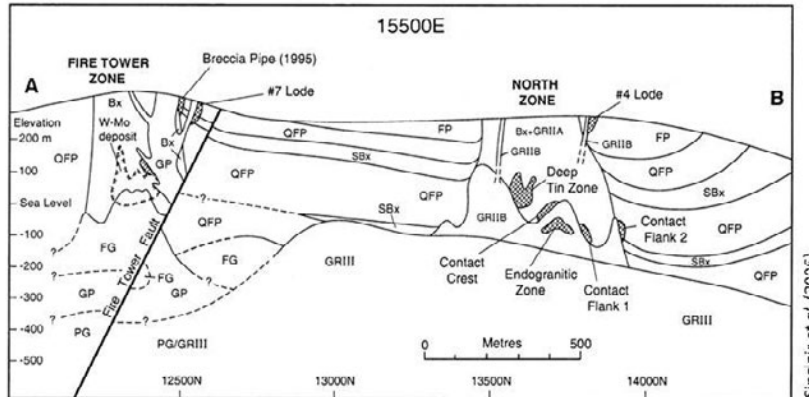
Cook *et al.* (2011)

- Most In sequestered into sphalerite, coupled substitution:
- $2(\text{Zn}^{2+}, \text{Fe}^{2+}) \Leftrightarrow \text{In}^{3+} + \text{Cu}^{+}$
- Rapidly quenched high-temperature sphalerite has been shown to contain up to 14 wt.% In
- Slow cooling rates allow almost complete exsolution

Indium in Charlotte County

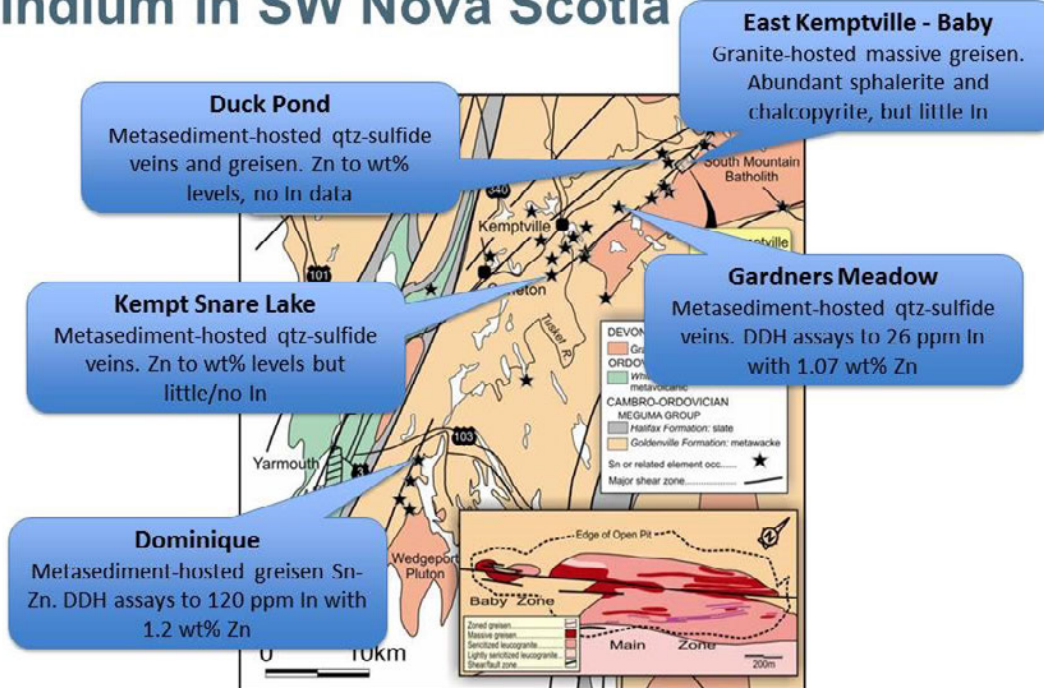


Indium in the Mount Pleasant Deposits



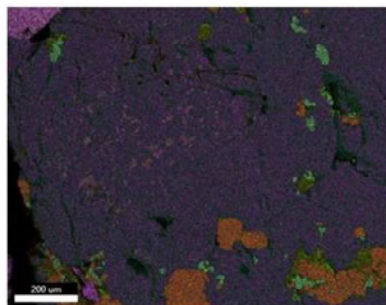
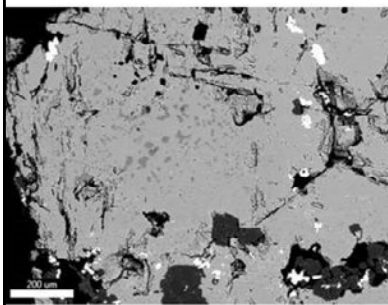
- Updated 2012 NI 43-101 indium resource estimate:
 - Indicated = 12.4 Mt @ 64 ppm
 - Inferred = 2.8 Mt @ 70 ppm
- Total contained In metal \approx 987,000 kg (\$0.6 – 0.7 bn)

Indium in SW Nova Scotia



Project Outline

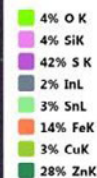
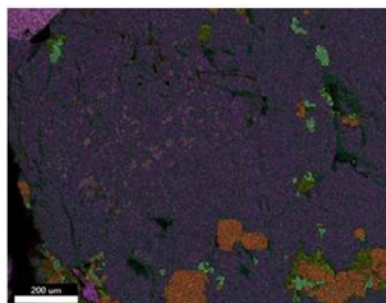
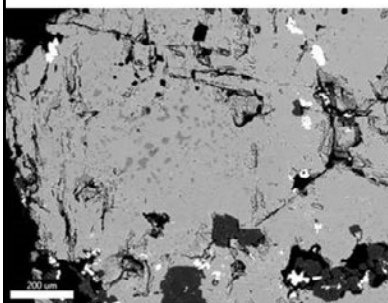
- What controls indium distribution within granite-associated Sn-W-Zn-Cu mineralization?
 - Do indium-rich zones simply reflect indium-rich fluid sources?
 - Is indium sequestration controlled by abundance of other elements (e.g. Cu, S, Zn) or a particular PT window?
 - Do high In+Cu zones reflect proximity to heat and fluid sources?
 - PTX conditions during mineral precipitation determined by fluid inclusion microthermometry and single inclusion LA-ICP-MS



Canada

Project Outline

- In distribution is decoupled from W mineralisation, and likely from the main phase of Sn mineralisation
- Decoupling suggests that secondary enrichment/metasomatism by late stage In-rich, Zn-poor fluids are a primary control
- Kesterite is thought to be the mineral giving the best indication of high-temperature, high-copper fluids most conducive to the high-indium content
 - Kesterite - $\text{Cu}_2(\text{Zn,Fe})\text{SnS}_4$



Canada

