



# Mineralogical Association of Canada

[www.mineralogicalassociation.ca](http://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

To state that the past year has presented us with unique challenge is a bit of a cliché. And while the COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted us all, I am pleased to state that the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC) is continuing to successfully handle the challenges of the pandemic. Although conference revenues, publication sales, and membership numbers are down, the association has managed well financially thanks to our investments, federal and provincial government COVID support programs for business, and a strong performance by *The Canadian Mineralogist*. The MAC's ability to handle the challenges of the pandemic largely reflects the daily efforts of our business office staff in Quebec City (Business Manager Johanne Caron and Assistant Business Manager Eva Bernth) and the journal personnel in Vancouver (Editor Lee Groat, Editorial Manager Mackenzie Parker, and Assistant Editorial Manager Jordan Roberts). In addition to the tremendous efforts of these individuals, I extend my personal thanks to all members of the MAC Council for their contributions and support over the past year. And I warmly thank all MAC members for continuing to support the association: it is critical to our longevity.

The past year has seen many personnel changes to the MAC. A marked change is that after nearly 14 years as Treasurer, Marc Constantin has stepped down. On behalf of the entire MAC, I extend a gracious "Thank you" to Marc for providing such a long tenure of service to the association and in such a key role. In the spring, Rémy Poulin was elected as our new Treasurer, having served as our Financial Chair for the past few years. David McDonald was appointed as the new Financial Chair by the MAC Council at the spring executive council meeting, held 26 May. The MAC welcomes both Rémy and David and looks forward to their joint efforts at improving even further the financial health of the association. The MAC also extends thanks to Sasha Wilson, who completed a three-year term as a councillor and represented the MAC on the organizing committee for GeoConvention 2020. Earlier this year, Jordan Roberts left her position as Assistant Editorial Manager of *The Canadian Mineralogist* for employment in the private sector. We wish Jordan all the best in her future endeavours and thank her for many years of service to the journal. Emmanuelle Cecchi is continuing as a councillor for another three-year term. Emmanuelle is heading up our newly formed Outreach Committee. The mandate of the committee is to develop ways of improving and creating new services to members and to expand membership. A particular emphasis of the committee will be to engage the mineral clubs and private collectors. Our other new councillor is Dr. Brian O'Driscoll (University of Manchester, UK). We are very excited to have Brian join council because he will provide a desired international perspective. The month of May marked the start of my final year as MAC President, with Dan Marshall taking over at the 2022 joint annual meeting of the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), the International Association of Hydrogeologists – Canadian National Committee (IAH-CNC), and the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG) in Halifax (Canada). Consequently, we will soon begin the search for a new Vice President to join council in Halifax.

The final personnel change to MAC is that Lee Groat has informed council that he wishes to step down as Editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist*. Lee has done a phenomenal job with the journal, along with his editorial staff of Mackenzie Parker, Jordan Roberts, and with recent assistance from Eva Bernth, plus the excellent team of associate editors. Under Lee's decade-long purview, the journal has seen tremendous growth, improvements, and modernization. While the statistics to illustrate the growth of the journal are too numerous to list here, a key marker of the journal's performance is the continued improvement in its impact factor, which achieved an all-time high of 1.449 in 2020 (up

from the previous high of 1.398 in 2018). While council was saddened to learn of Lee's decision, we wish him all the best in his post-editor pursuits and thank him for his tremendous service to the journal and the association. Consequently, MAC has started the search for a new editor. Lee has graciously agreed to a transition period where he and the new editor will work together to ensure a smooth transition. This transition will be further facilitated with Mackenzie continuing as Managing Editor. Coinciding with our search for a new editor, the MAC will also be looking to fill the vacancy of the Assistant Editorial Manager.

The most visible impact of COVID-19 on the association's activities is that for the past two springs there has not been an in-person spring GAC–MAC joint annual meeting. GeoConvention 2020 had to be rescheduled as a fully virtual meeting that was held in September 2020. To avoid another solely virtual meeting, the London (Ontario) 2021 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) made the difficult decision this past winter to reschedule the 2021 GAC–MAC for November 1–5. And with improvements in vaccine roll-out and easing of travel restrictions, GAC–MAC 2021 will be a hybrid meeting with both virtual and in-person sessions. Apart from our sponsored technical sessions, MAC is sponsoring a virtual short course in fluid and melt inclusions, which stems from MAC's Topics in Mineral Sciences volume 49, and the Canadian Powder Diffraction Workshop 14, which is being run in-person as a MAC Berry School. The London LOC deserves our applause for organizing the meeting in such uncertain times.

While we have seen a bit of a decline in publication sales during the pandemic, MAC was pleased to have *Fluid and Melt Inclusions: Applications to Geological Processes* released in 2020 as the MAC's Topics in Mineral Sciences v. 49. We also are planning on two new publications, which we hope to announce at the next annual general meeting. And Special Publication Editor Bob Martin has a couple of volumes in the works.

The year 2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Canadian Mineralogist*. A special thematic issue was proposed to mark this important milestone. Unfortunately, the anniversary issue will not come to fruition. The increase in submissions to the journal (up 18%) – likely a reflection of mineralogists and petrologists taking advantage of work-at-home orders to write up their wealth of accumulated data – combined with a reduction in editorial office staff meant that the team could not dedicate the time to produce an anniversary issue. However, there are currently four thematic issues in the works. Two of these are memorial issues: one is a tribute to Kurt Kyser, and the other is a tribute to Tony Naldrett, both of whom were past presidents of the MAC. Submissions are now closed to these two memorial issues. There is also a career tribute issue in honour of Elena Sokolova. And finally, there is a thematic issue on critical metals, which has a submission deadline of September 2021.

I also draw member's attention to the resource section on the MAC website. This section of the website is starting to evolve. In particular, I wish to draw attention to two recent contributions to this part of the website: 1) A field guide written by Pattison and colleagues in 2020 to the geology, metamorphism, and tectonics of the Foreland and Omineca belts of SW Alberta and SE British Columbia; 2) The Phase Equilibrium Modelling workshop, which was organized and presented by Dave Pattison, Jacob Forshaw and Pierre Lanari as a Zoom webinar over five days from 10–14 May 2021. The workshop was co-sponsored by the MAC, Mineralogical Society of America, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie. A link to the full program, video recordings of the presentations, and pdf copies of the presentations are available on the MAC website. The workshop was well attended, with over 600 participants. Look for a report by the workshop organizers in a future edition of *Elements*.

The fall will be a busy time for the MAC. The Annual General Meeting is slated for September, and, like last year, the meeting will be held virtually. Also, throughout the early fall and leading up to the London GAC–MAC meeting, MAC will be hosting virtual presentations of the 2021 and 2020 medalists. And of course, we look forward to being able to meet in-person at the GAC–MAC 2021 meeting in London (Ontario, Canada). Until then, I thank all our members for their continued support of the MAC and wish you all the best as we all continue to deal and adapt to these challenging times.

Sincerely,  
**Andrew Conly**  
MAC President, 2019–2022

## WELCOMING SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The MAC Executive has approved the nomination of the following candidates for the two positions of councillor for 2021–2024. As no additional nominations were received from the membership, the nominated candidates were declared elected by acclamation.

### Councillors (2021–2024)



**Dr. Emmanuelle Cecchi** (Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue) is a research officer at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) in Rouyn-Noranda. She was born in France but grew up in Gabon, where her passion for the Earth sciences was initiated and blossomed. She initially obtained a D.E.U.G., Licence et Maîtrise (equivalent to a BSc) in Earth sciences at the University of Nice

Sophia Antipolis (France), followed by a Diplôme d'Études Approfondies de 3<sup>e</sup> Cycle (equivalent to an MSc) at Montpellier II University on the structure and evolution of the lithosphere. She then journeyed across the pond to Canada in order to conduct a PhD in the Earth sciences. Her thesis "Revalorisation of White Asbestos Tailings by Producing MgCl<sub>2</sub> using Carbochlorination" was conducted under the supervision of Drs. Guy Mercier and Mario Bergeron [Université du Québec, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Eau Terre Environnement (INRS-ETE)].

Her PhD was completed in 2008 followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the Université Laval (Quebec), working on a project entitled "Study of the Spontaneous Carbonation of Serpentine in Milling and Mining Waste, Southern Quebec". From 2010 to 2019, Dr. Cecchi has been a research associate at the INRS-ETE where she has worked on many environmental and engineering projects, including the Canadian Rare Earth Element R&D Initiative (CREEN), and contaminant-leaching prediction and mine-tailings valorization, the latter of which has a strong emphasis on CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. Since 2019, her work at UQAT has focused on helping researchers, as well as companies, in the mining industry. She demonstrates how a better understanding of the material, from ore to waste, can better manage mining exploitation.

Dr. Cecchi could be classed as an applied mineralogist who uses her knowledge of mineralogy, mineralogical techniques, and geochemistry to tackle real-world problems and issues. She also contributes to the promotion of the mineral sciences in Canada by volunteering her time, by mentoring, and by helping to organize meetings. She is a serving member of the Environmental Technical Committee of CREEN, is a reviewer of submissions to various journals (e.g., *International Journal of Mineral Processing*, *Minerals*), and is a member of the organizing committee for the Québec 2019 GAC–MAC–AIH meeting.



**Dr. Brian O'Driscoll** (University of Manchester, UK) is currently a senior lecturer (associate professor) in petrology at the University of Manchester. He originally studied geology at University College Cork (Ireland), where he graduated with a BSc in 2003. His PhD (awarded by Trinity College Dublin 2007) was supported by an Irish Research Council scholarship and was concerned with the petrogenesis of layered mafic–ultramafic intrusions. Prior to his current appointment at Manchester in 2014, he held a position as lecturer (assistant professor) in igneous and metamorphic petrology at Keele University (UK) from 2008. From 2007–2008, he held a postdoctoral position at University College Dublin (Ireland), funded by a scholarship from the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology.

He has been an ordinary committee member of the UK Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (2007–2010) and a committee member of the UK Metamorphic Studies Group (2011–2014). He has also served as an Ordinary Council Member (2013–2015) and as Vice-President (2016) of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as an associate editor for *Mineralogical Magazine* (2014–2019), associate editor for *Lithos* (2013–2016) and review editor for *Frontiers in Earth Science* (petrology) from 2017 to present.

His research interests focus on elucidating the emplacement and solidification of magma bodies in the Earth's crust, as well as constraining melt generation and migration in the upper mantle. He also carries out work in ore deposit petrogenesis (principally platinum-group metals) and early Earth evolution within the framework of the latter areas. He combines field observations with petrological, geochemical, and isotopic information from igneous (and sometimes metamorphic) rocks, to address these topics.

### Thanks to Outgoing Members of Council

We extend our thanks to MAC outgoing Treasurer, Marc Constantin, for his one year of service as councillor (2007–2008) but 14 exceptional years of service as Treasurer (2008–2021). We also thank councillor Siobhan A. ('Sasha') Wilson for her three years of service (2018–2021).



## GAC–MAC LONDON 2021 JOINT MEETING

1–5 November 2021

The University of Western Ontario (Western)  
in London (Ontario, Canada)

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