Mineralogical Association of Canada

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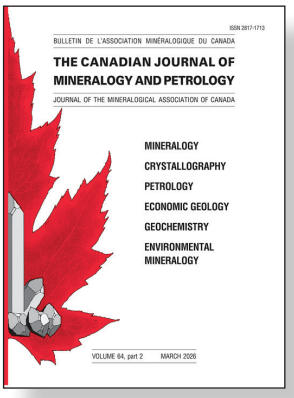

In this mid-year update on the activities of the *Canadian Journal of Mineralogy and Petrology*, we report on the March issue of the journal. This features two papers on the phyllosilicates that never go out of style, the mica group, here featuring as accessories to mineralization. Moine and colleagues explore the variation in Li and F in pegmatitic lepidolites, and Derek Leung and colleagues from Laurentian University investigate Cr content in orogenic gold-associated fuchsites. Still with chromium, Barkov and colleagues examine Cr variation in ultramafic-hosted spinels from the Kola Peninsula. Hexiong Yang (Arizona) and colleagues introduce us to shenganfuite, a brand new lead-tellurite mineral from the Moctezuma Mine, Sonora, Mexico. A review of the recent quite comprehensive publication on heavy liquids written by François Cardarelli has been contributed by this correspondent, and finally to conclude the issue, a memorial to Tony Plant (1941–2025) has been thoughtfully provided by Graham Plant.

Our current most frequently cited article is "***Growth and Stability of Stratiform Carrollite ($CuCo_2S_4$) in the Tenke-Fungurume Ore District, Central African Copperbelt***" (available as Open Access) by Bjorn Von Der Heyden, Jeffrey Dick, Ryan Rosenfels, Luke Carlton, Kristina Lilova, Alexandra Navrotsky, Tamilarasan Subramani, Brian Woodfield, and Alexis Gibson. This collaboration between colleagues at Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and others in China, Arizona and Utah illustrates that interest in the diagenetic ores of the Copperbelt remains high, and probably also suggests that Open Access helps in the dissemination thereof. Our most frequently read recent paper is "***Structural Controls on the Origin and Emplacement of Lithium-Bearing Pegmatites***" by David Silva, Lee Groat, Tânia Martins, and Robert Linnen, which, along with the previously noted paper and most of the other ones most read and cited from our journal, indicate the continued (arguably predictable) interest in the petrogenesis of so-called critical minerals globally.

MAC WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT

As MAC says goodbye and sincerest thanks to outgoing President, Fred Ford on June 1, we extend a warm welcome to David Lentz as he begins his 2-year tenure as President.

Past President – Fred Ford

Dr. David R. Lentz, Research Chair in Economic Geology for the Department of Earth Sciences, University of New Brunswick

Dave received his BSc (1983) and MSc (1986) degrees in geology from the University of New Brunswick (UNB). He completed a PhD in 1992 at the University of Ottawa with Prof. Ralph Kretz and then worked with the Geological Survey of Canada for three years. In 1994, Dave joined the New Brunswick Geological Survey as their mineral deposit geologist. In 1999, he won the Young Scientist Medal from the MMD of Geological Association of Canada (GAC). Since 2000, he has held the Research Chair in Economic Geology at UNB, with a research focus on the petrogenesis of certain critical mineral resources. Dave has been awarded: MAC's Peacock Award; GAC's Distinguished Service Award; the New Brunswick Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists' Loring Bailey Geoscience Award; the Atlantic Geoscience Society's Gesner Medal; the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum's Julian Boldy Award; and the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits' International Distinguished Lecturer (2020–2024). Dave is a Fellow of Geoscientists Canada. He is now Technical Chair of the International Geological Congress in 2028 (IGC Calgary). Dave is particularly well known for his short courses, workshops, and field trips, and being a grandpa.

MAC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2026

The Mineralogical Association of Canada funds annual scholarships to graduate students. $3000 scholarships are available to students enrolled in MSc programs and $5000 scholarships are available to students enrolled in PhD programs.

Niyayesh Khorshidi (PhD, University of New Brunswick)

Niyayesh Khorshidi is a PhD candidate in Earth Sciences at the University of New Brunswick whose research focuses on historical mine tailings and environmental geochemistry. Her thesis investigates the geochemical and mineralogical characteristics of tailings from the Lake George Antimony Mine in New Brunswick, including acid rock drainage potential, environmental risks, and the potential for reprocessing and reuse. With a background in mining engineering and experience in mineral exploration and environmental assessment, she applies mineralogical and geochemical tools to support more sustainable mine waste management.

Thomas Brian Avram (MSc, University of Saskatchewan)

Thomas (Tommy) Avram is a PhD student in environmental geochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan, working under the supervision of Dr. Matthew Lindsay. His current research investigates the geochemical evolution of sulfide-bearing tailings produced in bitumen-ore processing in the Athabasca Oil Sands Region (AOSR).

Broadly, his research objectives are to: (i) investigate the geochemical response of the tailings to the application of a soil reclamation cover; (ii) characterize the mineralogy of hardpan layers and examine their influence on metal(loid) mobility and oxidation kinetics; (iii) identify primary and secondary REE-hosting minerals and the mechanisms controlling REE mobility; and (iv) gain understanding regarding the presence and importance of secondary phases in metal(loid) attenuation. Tommy's work employs a broad variety of field-, lab-, and synchrotron-based techniques, including field lysimeters, column experiments, and pair distribution function (PDF) analysis. Tommy holds a BSc (Hons) in environmental geoscience from the University of Regina; his honours thesis examined lithium enrichment via mineralogically controlled water–rock interactions in basinal brines.

MAC TRAVEL & RESEARCH GRANT WINNERS 2026

The Mineralogical Association of Canada awards travel and research grants to assist honours undergraduate and graduate students in the mineral sciences to:

- Present their research at a conference
- Visit a facility, laboratory, or field area to gather data for their research
- Pay for analyses or equipment for a research project undertaken to complement the main research topic.

We congratulate Gabrielle Jones, Natasha Melymuka, Si Kaur, Jacklyn Krueger, Jamie Burnett, Jessica Tomacic, Jordyn Schumacher, Leslie Boateng-Dwomoh, Alisa Yakimenko, Cesar Tarazona, Kelsey Krossa, Mohammed Nayeem Mohammed Rifkhan, Remi Naulot, Ryan Pippy, Shannon Murtonen, and Zhongzheng Yuan, each of whom received a 2026 Mineralogical Association of Canada Travel & Research Grant.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS 2026

The Mineralogical Association of Canada Undergraduate Student Awards are given annually to undergraduate students (2nd year of study or higher) at a recognized Canadian university or institute of higher education for excellence in one of the specialties supported by the society: mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, and mineral deposits. Congratulations to the following students who received this award in 2026:

Tessa Kierstead, Acadia University
Paul Ostlund, University of Regina
Nandni Patel, University of Waterloo
James Shipley, McGill University
Iso Maauad Rodriguez, University of British Columbia Okanagan
Heather Tocher, University of Victoria
Emma Roy, Laurentian University
Callum Houston, University of Calgary
Ben Kishchuk, Dalhousie University
Alexis Mandziak, University of Saskatchewan
Andrea Ferriss, University of Alberta
Nolan Gilberg, Lakehead University

CCFMS AWARD 2026

Marissa Pimental

Marissa Pimental is a fourth-year undergraduate Earth sciences student specializing in geology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia. She has a strong interest in geochemistry, mineralogy, and petrology, and recently worked as a teaching assistant for metamorphic petrology.

She has gained diverse industry experience through four summers of mineral exploration work across British Columbia and Yukon. Her experience includes geological mapping, geochemical sampling, and supporting drill programs, ranging from early-stage exploration programs to active mine sites. Marissa has also worked as a research assistant with Simon Fraser University and the Geological Survey of Canada, where she assisted with the mapping of ultramafic rocks in the Harrison Lake area.

Following her graduation this spring, she plans to pursue a career as an exploration geologist where she hopes to contribute to responsible resource discovery.

MAC TRAVEL & RESEARCH GRANT WINNERS 2025

Kiera Hamel

Kiera Hamel is an MSc student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, supervised by Dr. Eric Thiessen. Her project aims to clarify the timing of structural, metamorphic, and high- to low-temperature progression of the Striding Mylonite zone (Northwest Territories) to assess the role of this feature in the tectonic evolution of the southeastern Rae Province. This is accomplished by combining field work, petrographic study, and geochronology of monazite, biotite, and zircon. The MAC Travel Grant awarded to Kiera allowed her to attend the 2025 GAC-MAC-IAH-CNC conference in Ottawa and give an oral presentation titled "2.4 Ga metamorphism followed by 1.9 Ga high-grade strain and rapid exhumation recorded in the Striding Mylonite zone," detailing the results of her research. Through presenting at the conference, Kiera was able to receive valuable feedback on her project as well as to learn from other presenters, establish pathways for potential future careers, and engage with the community of Canadian geoscientists.

Dylan Spence

Dylan Spence is a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia (Canada) under the supervision of Professor James Scoates. His PhD research utilizes the minerals olivine, clinopyroxene, and hornblende in Alaskan-type intrusions as petrogenetic indicators for magmatic processes in subduction zones. As an extension of this research, Dylan is investigating phosphorus zoning in olivine from a global suite of ultramafic-mafic intrusions and was awarded a MAC research grant to help cover the analytical costs of high-precision X-ray mapping by electronprobe microanalysis (EPMA). Select olivine grains were analyzed from a variety of tectonomagmatic settings, emplacement depths, and ages, and include samples from the: 1) Tulameen Alaskan-type intrusion, British Columbia, Canada, 2) Polaris Alaskan-type intrusion, British Columbia, Canada, 3) Skaergaard intrusion, East Greenland, 4) Rum intrusion, Scotland, and 5) Kiglapait intrusion, Labrador, Canada. The preliminary results of this study show that phosphorus zoning is common in olivine from intrusions globally with wide variations ranging from skeletal and dendritic to convoluted and weak to absent. These results will advance the use of phosphorus zoning in olivine as a tool for investigating magmatic evolution in the crust, with implications for uncovering the processes that lead to the compositional diversity of magmas on Earth.

AARON J. LUSSIER, IMA-CNMNC CANADA REPRESENTATIVE

Aaron was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He completed his PhD at the University of Manitoba in 2012 with a dissertation focused on the crystal chemistry of tourmalines from granitic pegmatites. From 2012 to 2015, he held a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Notre Dame, USA, where he worked on the crystal chemistry of actinide minerals, with support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). Since February 2017, he has held the position of Research Scientist in Mineralogy at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. His current research spans a wide range of mineralogical topics.