

Minister
of National Defence



Ministre
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

MAR 28 2024

Mr. Dhiraj Banerjee, and
Mr. John Ludden
Co-chairs, International Geological Congress Committee
c/o Secretariat, 37th International Geological Congress
813 New Building
22, Teheran-ro 7-gil
Gangnam-gu,
Seoul 06130
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dear Mr. Banerjee and Mr. Ludden:

As Minister of National Defence for Canada, I am pleased to support Calgary's bid to host the International Geological Congress (IGC) in 2028. The conference will serve as a platform for showcasing Canadian geosciences expertise as well as leadership on the world stage, including Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy, our commitment to Indigenous culture and reconciliation as well as our commitment to clean energy and carbon management.

I recently approved a Defence Climate and Sustainability Strategy 2023-2027 (<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/defence-climate-and-sustainability-strategy-2023-2027.html#Message>) that provides an account of our activities and contributions to support sustainable development, reduce our environmental impact, and adapt to the defence and security implications of climate change. The field of geological science develops important situational awareness for natural disasters during domestic operations. I understand the work of the IGC includes improved prediction and response to geological events like earthquakes. Mitigating the impacts of such natural disasters will be important for defence infrastructure and operational planning.

Canada has a strong geosciences sector, and I am confident they will host an excellent event, should their bid be successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Blair'.

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.
Minister of National Defence

Canada