



Dhiraj Banerjee and 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

15 March 2024

**Re: Support for Canadian IGC 2028 bid.**

Dear Banerjee and John,

As the Director of Geological Survey Ireland, a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Government of Ireland, I would like to express my support for the Canadian geological community as they submit their proposal to host the 38<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC) in Calgary, Canada, in 2028.

Our historical, geological, and cultural links to Canada, particularly to the east coast, are strong, and mean we are happy to support this venture. We share a geological origin with Newfoundland, and much of the rest of the eastern seaboard of Canada, and there has been a long history of scientific collaboration between Ireland and Canada, from my predecessor in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Joseph Beete Jukes, who mapped the geology of Newfoundland and left important records on life on the island, before becoming the second director of the Geological Survey in Ireland, to the re-establishment of the Irish mining industry in the mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the return of Irish geologists after serving their time in geology and exploration in Canada, to the continuing annual participation in PDAC, ongoing sharing of minerals and tectonics expertise, and of course the important cultural and diplomatic connections.

There are UNESCO Global Geoparks on both sides of the Atlantic celebrating the same geology and similar cultural stories of rural life, emigration, and traditions, as well as the same need to work with local communities in relation to climate change and resource management, and Canada's hosting of the 38<sup>th</sup> IGC in Calgary would be a vehicle to further enhance or "twin" geoparks with the joint Irish and Canadian goal of promoting geological heritage, education and communications.

The proposed theme of Geosciences for Humanity is fitting and admirable as we will be so close to the global emissions 2030 target date and the role of geoscience and geoscientists will need to be reassessed and recommitted as we move on towards 2050. I have every confidence in the ability of the organising committee in Calgary to successfully deliver the 38<sup>th</sup> IGC meeting there in 2028. I and my colleagues at Geological Survey Ireland will offer any necessary support for this significant event and will provide every effort to ensure it is a great success.



Please accept my best wishes for the continued development and success of IUGS activities. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in Calgary in 2028.

Yours sincerely,

Koen Verbruggen.  
Director, Geological Survey Ireland.