



December 15, 2023

Re: 38th International Geological Congress

Dear Members of the Council of the International Union of Geological Sciences,

I am pleased to support the bid to host the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Calgary, Alberta, in 2028.

Alberta is at the heart of Canada's energy industry. As one of Canada's top five research universities, the University of Alberta has been central to developing Alberta's energy industry. Now, Alberta and the University of Alberta are evolving to become Canada's centre for the global energy transition. To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, we need to accelerate this transition. Hosting the 2028 IGC in Alberta would provide the perfect forum for exchanging ideas and data to speed our way to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences (originally the Department of Geology) opened in 1912. U of A researchers were intimately involved in discovering and developing the province's petroleum reserves, including the foundational Leduc oil discovery of 1947. The department continues to play a critical role with its paleontology and geology programs ranked third and fifth globally by the Centre for World University Rankings.

Since 2016, the U of A has been host to Future Energy Systems, a research initiative launched through a \$75 million Canada First Research Excellence Fund grant from the Government of Canada to help transition to a low net-carbon energy economy. There are many U of A faculty, students and staff whose research and teaching are rooted in understanding anthropogenic climate change and bringing about the required energy transition and who are keen to support this bid and can be counted upon to supply the congress with the academic content and administrative support needed for a successful meeting.

Hosting the global geoscientific community in Calgary in 2028 allows us to create a legacy for Alberta as a global leader in the energy transition. The congress will showcase Alberta's leading-edge Earth Science researchers and facilities, demonstrate our commitment to bringing about the energy transition and launch a new generation of young Canadian Earth scientists to face the challenge of securing a sustainable future for our planet. It is for these reasons that the University of Alberta is fully supportive of this bid.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Flanagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Flanagan
President and Vice-Chancellor