

December 14, 2023

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

Dear IGCC 2028 selection committee,

Re: Bid for Calgary to host the 38th International Geological Congress in 2028

The University of Calgary is pleased to lend its support to Canada's bid to host the 2028 International Geological Congress (IGC) in Calgary. Considering the theme, "Geosciences for Humanity," our city is uniquely positioned to represent a diversity of perspectives and expertise on humanity's relationship with Earth. As one of Canada's top research-intensive universities, UCalgary shares IGC's commitment to the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the Earth Sciences. Our university holds a long history of partnerships with government agencies and international organizations in which we have collaborated to explore our evolving planet; ancient geological mysteries; Earth's diverse landscapes and resources; natural hazards; and Indigenous knowledge of the natural environment.

Calgary is known as Canada's energy hub, making it an ideal host city for the quadrennial IGC, which will provide a global forum for knowledge sharing to accelerate the global energy transition to net-zero. Much has changed since 1972, when the IGC was last hosted in Canada. Today, climate change is recognized as an existential global issue that is fundamentally an energy challenge. With over 250 researchers engaged in all aspects of energy research, UCalgary is an international leader in energy research, engagement and technology development. Earlier this year, UCalgary launched *Energy for the Common Good* (ECG), an institutional research strategy that aims to change scholarly and societal thinking about energy, its challenges, and a sustainable path forward. ECG aims to have technical impacts, and inform corporate, community-based, and governmental policies, discussions, and practices. In addition to other major UCalgary energy initiatives — such as the launch of the Energy Transition Centre in downtown Calgary — ECG further augments our university's continued commitment to leading energy transition.

Moreover, UCalgary's Faculty of Science has identified several grand challenges that are specifically relevant to IGC, including *Energy in Transition*. Our scholars strive to ensure Alberta and Canada achieve breakthroughs and leadership in a rapidly evolving global energy sector. This multidisciplinary effort enables us to lead the way in areas of reservoir exploration and modelling, environmental monitoring and carbon capture and storage. With its unique research and teaching programs, the recently launched Department of Earth, Energy, and Environment has leading expertise in almost every facet of IGC's domain, including critical minerals, water and energy resources, tectonics, geophysics, and much more. Situated in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin, immediately adjacent to the Canadian Cordillera that gave rise to the Rocky Mountains, we have incredible natural laboratories for studying the origins, evolution, and interactions of Earth's dynamic systems.

These UCalgary scholars benefit from access to world-class facilities, such as the Containment and Monitoring Institute for research on carbon capture and storage.

Most recently, on December 13, the University of Calgary and the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health were proud to launch a historic partnership. This agreement established the University of Calgary as the world's first United Nations University hub for water research. Specifically, UCalgary scholars will focus their efforts on four research areas: understanding changes in aquatic ecosystems, infectious diseases in a changing climate, environmental predictions for water sustainability and resilience in Indigenous communities. This latest development builds on the strong leadership of our team involved in the UNESCO Chair in Mountain Water Sustainability, a global research initiative sharing knowledge from Canada, Chile and Nepal to develop pathways toward sustainable water management.

For these reasons, the University of Calgary enthusiastically supports this bid to host the Congress and will provide technical content, workshops, symposia and field trips that showcase the magnificent geoscientific sites that lie within the regions surrounding Calgary. These include one of the richest deposits of dinosaur fossils in the world, the Badlands of Drumheller; the breathtaking wonders of the Rocky Mountains; Head-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump (a UNESCO World Heritage site preserving Blackfoot culture); and the glaciers, lakes and peaks of Banff National Park.

As a host city, Calgary is one of Canada's top tourist destinations with outstanding cultural activities, nightlife and world-class restaurants. Its proximity to outdoor recreation facilities for golfing, skiing, hiking, fishing, rock climbing, horseback riding and more regularly attract visitors from around the world. The University of Calgary's four campuses in the city have also become tourist destinations in their own right as the home of the Glenbow Western Research Centre, the Olympic Oval, the Nickle Galleries, the Taylor Family Digital Library and the EMI Music Canada Archives. In fact, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index 2023, Calgary is the seventh most liveable city in the world.

It would be an honour to host the 2028 International Geological Congress in Calgary, and we anticipate sharing our unique landscapes, vistas and heritage sites with the international geoscience community of scholars. The IGC will provide a deeply impactful opportunity to interact with the global geoscience community and foster opportunities to address grand challenges that will face our planet. The University of Calgary unreservedly supports this bid for Calgary to host the 2028 International Geological Congress.

Sincerely,

Edward McCauley, PhD, FRSC President and Vice-Chancellor University of Calgary	Kristin Baetz, PhD Dean, Faculty of Science University of Calgary