

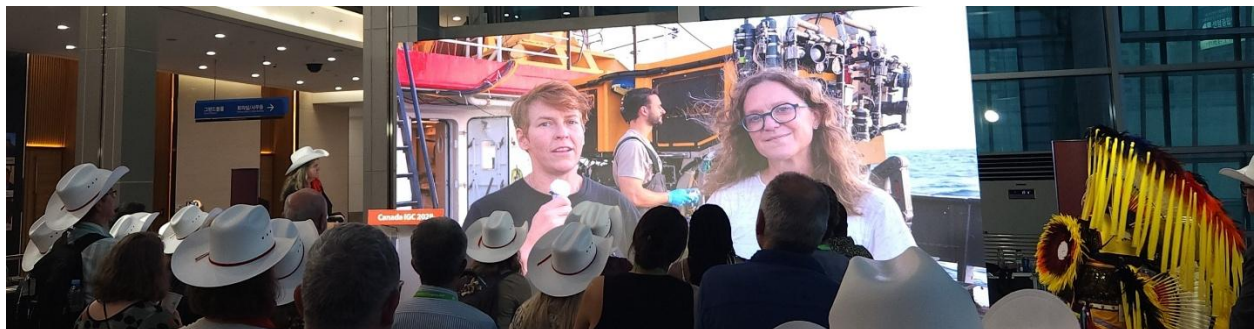
## International Geological Congress 2028 is coming to Calgary! Opportunities for the Geoconvention Community

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### Introduction to International Geological Congresses (IGC)

International Geological Congresses (IGC) occur once every four years, rotate around the globe and have a competitive bidding process. The last IGC in Canada was 1972 in Montreal and there has never been an IGC in western North America. Calgary was chosen as the host city to represent the Canadian bid through a national competition in late 2022. Canada then won the bid to host IGC 2028 at IGC 2024 in Busan, South Korea (Fig. 1) in a tight competition with Australia (Melbourne) and Scotland (Glasgow).



*Figure 1. Dr. Cherisse du Preez (left, a marine biologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans) and Dr. Rachel Lauer (right, marine geophysicist at the University of Calgary) presenting from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship J.P. Tully over the Tuzo Wilson Seamounts during the Canadian Reception at IGC 2024. The findings of this cruise are described in the website - <https://www.nepdep.com/2024expedition>. During the summer 2023, Dr. du Preez led the team that discovered the 4<sup>th</sup> known octopus nursery and the 2<sup>nd</sup> known skate nursery in this region. The first 30 delegates at the Canadian reception were White Hatted. Craig First Rider (Blackfoot) was likely the most photographed individual at IGC 2024 (yellow regalia in the bottom right; photograph by J. Demorcy).*

Here we welcome this opportunity to inform the Canadian geoscience community that IGC 2028 is coming to Calgary, outline the overall plan for IGC 2028 while welcoming proposals for scientific sessions, short courses/workshops, field excursions, and presenting opportunities for volunteers. IGCs are coordinated by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and therefore provide sessions that represent all aspects of the geosciences. There are also proposed sessions related to the conference tagline “Geosciences for Humanity”, the North American Geoscience Symposium and Keynote Daily Themes. Proposed short courses/workshops showcase local geoscience facilities such as the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and the Alberta Energy Regulator Core Research Centre. Field Excursions will cover the North American craton including Greenland, Iceland, Alaska and the continental U.S. in addition to Hawaii. For more information please refer to the website - <https://www.igc2028canada.org/> - which is transitioning from the bid development to the organization phase.

## Why should the Geoconvention Community care about hosting an IGC?

With an anticipated national and international delegation of 10,000+ participants, IGC 2028 provides an exciting opportunity to unite the entire Canadian geoscience community in one place to welcome the globe's geoscience community. Today in Canada, the geoscience community is divided across multiple petroleum (e.g. Geoconvention, URTEC and AAPG IMAGE 2025, both in Houston, Texas), mineral exploration (e.g. Roundup in Vancouver, PDAC in Toronto), and academic conferences (e.g. GACMAC 2025 in Ottawa, GSA 2025 in San Antonio, Texas, AGU 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Goldschmidt 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic).

The Geoconvention community can seize this opportunity to elevate the international profile for Geoconvention, promoting Canadian geoscience and unique worldclass facilities such as the AER Core Research Centre. IGC 2028 offers the opportunity for Canadian geoscientists to increase their international networks while hosting the world in Calgary. Students starting undergraduate and graduate programs in 2025 will be able to present their research projects to the world at IGC 2028. We are also partnering students and early career geoscientists with more senior geoscientists in all positions in order to mentor and guide the future leaders within the Canadian geoscience community.

## IGC 2028; An opportunity to promote the geosciences.

We are working with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to designate two years of national geoscience leading into 2028. During these two years we will be increasing geoscience signage in all parks across Canada, working with Parks Canada to increase the number of geoscientists within their naturalist teams, pitching a GeoPromotion competition to school children (where they can take any aspect of the geosciences and promoting it with deliverables only limited by their imagination), leveraging a social media campaign that will promote the geosciences in addition to promoting IGC 2028, and developing a sport-geoscience camp for children that will run in 2026/2027 in collaboration between MRU and UofC then in the BMO Centre during IGC 2028. We are also working towards developing a stamp and distribution coin to be issued in 2028. We welcome other ideas for promoting the geosciences across Canada.

**Acknowledgements:** We are very grateful to "Team Canada" for your support, especially the platinum sponsors Cenovus Energy and Canadian Geoscience Foundation and our partner organizations (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Thank-you to the "Team Canada" bid sponsors (left) and partners (right).