



February 7, 2006

Dean M. Peterson, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Associate  
Economic Geology Group  
Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI)  
Assistant Professor, Adjunct  
Department of Geological Sciences  
University of Minnesota, Duluth  
5013 Miller Trunk Highway  
Duluth, MN 55811

Dear Dean

Thank you for your email informing me of your new initiative to form a "Precambrian Research Center (PRC)". I whole heartedly endorse your initiative to form this centre of excellence in studying and mapping Precambrian Terrains. I would dearly love for such a centre to be located in Manitoba but, perhaps, the next best thing will be to have such a centre located nearby in Minnesota.

We in Manitoba are currently facing the prospect of hiring new geological staff for our Precambrian Mapping Survey. One of our concerns, which we also hear stated by other government and industry agencies, is the lack of individuals with the skill-set needed for mapping and mineral deposit work in Precambrian rocks.

Congratulations for identifying this gaping "hole" in many university geological programs and being proactive in moving to fill this very real need. I would invite you to consider looking north of the border and including some of Manitoba's remarkable Precambrian geology in your learning and research programs. Should your centre become a reality I am sure that we will have many interests in common.

Sincerely,



Alan H. Bailes

Chief Geologist  
Precambrian Mapping Section  
Manitoba Geological Survey

Ph. (204) 945-6555  
Fax. (204) 945-1406  
abailes@gov.mb.ca