

Welcome to 8IKC

A very warm welcome to the 8th International Kimberlite Conference and to the delightful city of Victoria, capital of British Columbia.

Canada is proud to host the 8IKC and to continue the tradition initiated 30 years ago at the First International Kimberlite Conference held in Cape Town, in that the 8IKC will be the venue for the presentation of the latest developments in kimberlite and upper mantle geology and studies of diamond, including a wealth of data from the many new Canadian occurrences. As a consequence, we have chosen to depart from tradition and hold a limited number of concurrent sessions, so please make sure you are familiar with the details of the oral session program for Monday and Tuesday.

The Program with Abstracts Volume contains a summary of the program together with short abstracts for all the oral and poster presentations. This CD-ROM contains the Extended Abstracts for the same oral and poster presentations. As you read these, you will be impressed by the advances that have been made in many fields since the 7th International Kimberlite Conference. The breadth of contributions, the many detailed investigations and the scope of these studies indicates that our particular branch of geoscience continues to flourish.

Relative to previous kimberlite conferences, the 8IKC is also breaking new ground in that the extended abstracts are being published on a CD-ROM. This permitted authors to include far more information, as well as coloured diagrams together with photomicrographs, than previously possible. We consider that this, and the publication of the conference proceedings as special volumes of *Lithos* by Elsevier Press, will ensure that the information presented at the conference will be accessible and of lasting scientific value.

The extremely generous support of many Canadian companies and individuals, together with the dedication and enthusiasm of the organizing committee, has allowed us to introduce some activities unique to this kimberlite conference. These will reflect the diamond-exploration rush of the last decade and the resulting opening of two diamond mines in Canada. The Large Core Exhibit provides an exceptional opportunity to examine over 2000 metres of drill core from the new diamond mines and other localities across Canada, most of which are inaccessible and will not be visited on any of the field trips. At the small Booth-style Core Shack, a traditional activity of Canadian conferences, more kimberlites will be on display on Sunday only. In addition to the scientific program there is an exciting and varied social program - this will give you opportunities to meet with old friends and make new ones.

On behalf of the 8IKC organizing committee we wish you an enjoyable week in Victoria and on the 8IKC field trips.

Roger Mitchell
Convenor

Barbara Scott Smith
Co-convenor