

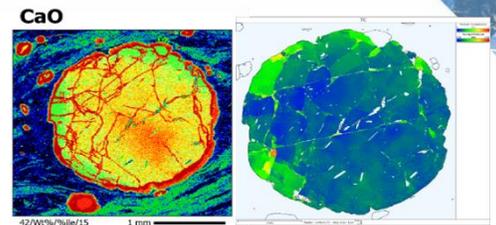


Micro-Analytics for Mineral Chemistry

This activity proposes to develop new ways to measure how metals and minerals move in areas with faults – naturally occurring fractures in bedrock. The researchers are examining previously collected samples from Yukon, in an area that is a boundary between two geological zones, and propose to collect more samples in the Rankin Inlet area. The boundary is around 60km north of Rankin Inlet and shows a divide of different rock types to the north and south.

The team of 5 researchers, with a wildlife monitor, proposes to conduct sampling for two and a half weeks in July. They would be set out by helicopter from Rankin Inlet, and conduct short hikes along the boundary area collecting fist-sized rock samples, taking photos, and taking measurements.

These new research tools would allow researchers to understand how elements and precious metals move over time along the boundaries of different geological zones in the landscape. Understanding this kind of movement could assist in mineral exploration strategies and help identify locations of carving stones and other building materials.



Sample of garnet as depicted by two lab analysis techniques: the distribution of quicklime (left) and deformation of the rock (right).

