### **MANTLE XENOLITHS FROM** THE **ATTAWAPISKAT KIMBERLITE FIELD, JAMES BAY LOWLANDS, ONTARIO**

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**A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Master of Science Graduate Department of Geology University of Toronto** 

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### **Mantle Xenoliths from the Attawapiskat Kimberlite Field, James Bay Lowlands, Ontario**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

A chernical investigation of coarse texttued, **gamet-bearing** peridotite xenoliths and xenocrysts from the Attawapiskat kimberlite field was undertaken. The kimberlites occur in the James **Bay** Lowlands, in the Sachigo subprovince of the Superior Craton.

Fragments of coarse textured lherzolite, harzburgite and eclogite occur as microxenoliths ( $\leq 1.5$  cm diameter). Most of the xenoliths occur as one or two phase assemblages (olivine  $\pm$  orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, garnet, spinel). Garnet-bearing assemblages were investigated for **the** purposes of geothermobarometry.

Calculated pressures and temperatures of equilibration indicate that garnet harzburgites equilibrated at depths within the diamond stability field, and garnet lherzolites at depths within the graphite stability field. All the xenoliths equilibrated near a 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> subcratonic steady-state geothermal gradient.

Extensive modal metasomatism occurred in the mantle prior to xenoliths being incorporated into the kimberlite magma. This metasomatism extended to great depths below the **Superior** Craton in the Attawapiskat region.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Samples of the Attawapiskat kimberlites were provided to Professor Schulze by **Monopros** Ltd.. Research **was** performed grants from Lithoprobe and NSERC. **Thank**  you all.

Last, but certainly not least, I **thank my family** and friends - **who** pmbably didn't understand most of it, but graciously pretended **they** did.

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#### **CEAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The Earth's mantle constitutes approximately two thirds of the planet, and yet it remaias largely inaccessible to dctailed study. Geophysical investigations reveal complex heterogeneities in the mantle. Geophysical data cannot, however, reveal the chernical processes that take place there to create the observed heterogeneities. Direct chemical analysis of the mantle is possible through analysis of xenoliths of mantle material (spinel and gamet-bearing peridotites, eclogite, and rare dunite), brought to the surface by kimberlite and certain other alkaline volcanic rocks. Kimberlites are ultrapotassic, volatile-rich magmas which originate at depths greater **than** 200 km below **the** surface of the **Earth,** below **thick,** cool **Archean** craton roots (Mitchell, 1986). **As**  they rise towards the surface. kimberlites entrain fragments of the mantle through which they **pass. These** fragments provide petrologists **with** small pieces of the mantle rocks, and as such act as **"windows"** to the maritle below.

The cool peridotitic roots of Archean cratons have been identified as the source region for diamonds recovered from kimberlites and lamproites (Mitchell, 1986). Academic and economic interest in understanding the **way** diamonds form in their source region **bas** sthulated studies of mantle xenoliths recovered **from** kimberlite pipes. **Many**  mantle xenoliths are recovered from active diamond mines. Diamond exploration and **mining** companies study xenolith chemistry to help design exploration programs specific to the **mide** rock-îypes sampled by kimberlites in an effort to target the most lucrative **prospects.** 

 $\mathbf{1}$ 

Discovcries of kimberlite pipes and diamonds **in** Canada during the **last two**  decades have provided opportunities to examine several new suites of mantle xenoliths, aüowing research into the mantle below **the** Canadian Shield, the wotlds largest Archean craton **(Card** and Ciesielski, 1986). The Attawapiskat kimberlite field, in the Supenor Province of the Canadian Shield, in northem Ontario, **was** discovered by Monopros Ltd. in 1984. This **study** is **an** investigation of the chemistry of minerals **fiom** xenoliths recovered from exploration drill core from the Attawapiskat kimberlites. The data have been used to constrain the composition of the mantle below the western Superior craton, determine the subcratonic geothermal gradient at Attawapiskat, and to qualify modal metasomatism in the source region.

#### **1.2 Regional Settlng**

The Attawapiskat kimberlite field **is** located approximately 120 km west of James Bay on the Attawapiskat River in Northem Ontario (Figures 1 - 1 to **1-3).** There are **18 kimberlite** pipes in **the** Attawapiskat cluster. Sixteen of **the** pipes are owned by Monopros Ltd.. **The remaining** two pipes, MacFadyen 01 and 02, **ore** owned by **KWG-**Spider **Resowes. The** pipes lie **within** the **James Bay** Lowlands **physiographic** region, **an area** of dense muskeg swamp and stunted spruce forests on the southem limit of **permafrost** (Johnson et al., 1991; Figure 1-2). The kimberlites intrude Archean basement rocks of the Superior Province, Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks of the Moose River Basin, and Quaternary and Holocene glacial and lake deposits on the north and south shores of **the** Attawapiskat River (Figure **1-3).** 



**Figure 1-1** : **Subprovinœ divisions of the Superior Province within Ontario. Boxed area is detailed in Figure 1-3. Modified after Thompson**  et al., (1991); Subprovince boundaries from Card and Ciesielski (1989).



**Figure 1-2: Hudson Bay and Moose River Sedimentary Basins, with associateci continental arches. Boxed area is detailed in Figure 1 -3. The Attawapiskat kimberlite pipes lie at the zero (O) displacëment line between the Moose River Basin and the Cape tienrietta-Maria Arch. Modified after Thompson et al., (1991).** 



Figure 1-3: The Attawapiskat kimberlite field. Kimberlite pipes are **represented by black diamonds, with names beside each pipe. Modified after Sage (1 996).** 

Regional tectonics associated **with** craton accretion in the Superior Province created **a** province-wide basin and dome structure (Williams et al., **199** 1; Johnson et al., **1991).** Intracratonic **basins** acted as depocentres for the infiw of sedirnents associated **with increased** erosion rates during the Appalachain orogeny. The Hudson **Bay** Platform in northern Ontario, **and** St. Lawrence Platforni in southem Ontario, were the two major depocenters active **during** the Paiaeozoic and Mesozoic (Johnson et al., **1991).**  Deposition in northem **Ontario was centrd on** two **intracratoaic** basins, the large northem **Hudson Bay** Basin, underlying **most** of what **is now** Hudson Bay and **James**  Bay, and the **much smdler** Moose **Rivet Basin,** undcrlying the **southwest tip** of James Bay (Johnson et al., **1991** - Figure **1-2.).** The two basins are divided by the north-east trending Cape Henrietta-Maria Arch (an extension of the transcontinental arch - Sanford and **Noms, 1975).** The Moose River Basin **is** bounded on the **southeast by** the Fraserdale Arch, the northeast by the Saguenay Arch, and by the Severn Arch - Fraserdale Arch to the southwest (Johnson et al., 199 1; Williams et al., **199 1).** Sedimentary rocks of the Hudson Bay Platform cover approximately 320,000 **km2** of northem **Ontario,** underlying Hudson **Bay** and James **Bay,** and much of **the** curent land surface surrounding the bays (Johnson et al., **199** 1). The Attawapiskat kimberiites lie on the northwest flank of the **Moose River basin, near the inflection point from the basin to the Cape Henrietta-Maria** Arch.

Sedimentation in the Moose River Basin **began** in the middle to upper Ordovician and continued intermittently to the mid to upper Cretaceous (Sanford and Norris, 1975). The sedimentary rocks of the Moose River Basin consist of limestones and dolostones, **with** intercalateci **&aies** and sandstones. **The** youngest sedimentary **rocks** preserved in

the immediate vicinity of the kimberlite pipes are the **428-421** Ma reef and inter-reef deposits of **the** Attawapiskat Formation (Sanford and Noms, **1975). These** resistant biohemal dolostones **and** ümestones form outcrops along the banks of the Attawapiskat River. Locally, the Attawapiskat Formation conformably overlies the middle Silurian age limestones and dolostones of the Ekwan Formation. The Attawapiskat formation is confonnably overlain by the upper **Silurian** age evaporitic deposits of the **Lower** Member of the Kenogami River Fonnation to the north of the kimberlite cluster (Johnson et al., 1991). Fragments of **the** Kenogami formation strata are preserved **as** xenoliths in the kimberlites, indicating that the pipes erupted before the current level of erosion of **the**  Palaeozoic sediments **was** attained (Kong et al., 1999).

Archean rocks of the Superior and Hearn Provinces, and the Proterozoic **Trans-**Hudson Orogen, **are** completely covered by the sedimentary **rocks** of the Hudson Bay Platform along the Hudson Bay Coast (Williams et al., **1991).** Sedimentary rocks of the Moose River **Basion** lie completely **within** the **boundaries** of the Superior Province (Williams et al., **1991).** The **basement** rock **in the** region of **the** Attawapiskat kimberlites is the northern **part** of the Sachigo subprovince, just south of the contact between the **Sachigo** and **Winisk** subprovinces **(Card** and Ciesielski, **1986; Thurston** et al., 1991). **The**  Sachigo **subprovince** consists of granite-greenstone belts, separated by granite pluton and metasedimentary **units** (Thurston et al., **199 1** ; **Henry** et ai., **1997). Ages** of these basement **rocks** range **from 2.65** - **3.17 Ga, making** the Sachigo the oldest subprovince of the Supenor Craton (Thunton et al., **199 1;** Henry et **al., 1997).** 

**A** teleseismic study by **Grand** (1987) nported a **good** cesolution, **high-velocity**  root below the northwest Superior Province to a depth of  $\sim$  400 km. Results from Grand (1987) also Uidicate that **the lithosphere-asthenosphere boundaty is** at least 200 km below the dace in the **vicinity** of **the** pipes.

Resistant **cliffs** of biohemal deposits of the Attawapiskat formation **are**  discontinuous dong the **banks** of the river **near** the location of the kimberiite pipes, **with**  swamp-covered lows intermittent between the outcrops. **Suchy** and Stearn (1993) attribute the intermittent lows to several faults associated with a continent-wide fault system. The Attawapiskat kimberlites **occur** in the **vicinity** of several of these faults (Figure 1-4).

Quaternary deposits in the Attawapiskat **region** consist of two **thin** till sheets, overlain by marine Holocene deposits (Kong et al., 1999). Thickness of these glacial and modern marine sediments ranges from 5.5 – 54.0 m over the kimberlites (Kong et al., 1999).

#### 1.2.1 **Kimberlite Geology**

#### **1.2.1.** *l* Kim *berlire*

The Attawapiskat kimberlites were discovered in 1984 by Monopros Ltd., using a combination of sediment **sampling** for kimberlite indicator minerals and aeromagnetic surveys. Pipes were named based on geophysical grid coordinates (example, Alpha-1 at the intersections of lines "A" and "1"). For this study, the names of the pipes have been abbreviated to **letter-nurnber** combinations ("Al"), or just letters ('Y") where appropriate. **The** kimberlites **lie dong** a northwest trend, **primarily** to the **south** of the Attawapiskat River (Figure 1-3). The trend is similar to that of the kimberlite pipe occ~r~ences **in** the **Northwest** Temtories (Kong et al., **1999),** and dong **the** northwest



 $b)$ 



**Figure 14: Faults in the vicinity of the Attawapiskat kimberlite field. Solid Iines** = **faults, dashed to dotted** - **inferred faults, with increasing**  uncertainty. a) Plan view. Black diamonds - kimberlite pipes. Line X-**X-Y-Y' is cross section presented in b. b) Cross section X-X-Y-Y'. Vertical sale is exaggerated. Modified from Suchy and Stearn (1 993).** 

trend for kimberlites **within** the Canadian Shield **defined** by Sage **(1996).** Rocks of two of **the** pipes outcrop, one to the south of the river **("X"),** and one that is incised by the Attawapiskat River **and thus** outcrops on **the** nverbank ("U"). Surface **area** of the pipes ranges **hm** 0.4 - **15 ha** (Kong et al., **1999).** Fifteen of the 16 pipes **are** diarnondiferous, and buk sampling of several pipes is ongoing (Kong et al., 1999; Don Boucher, personal communication). Xenoliths from several of the 16 Monopros Ltd. pipes were investigated in this study.

Two mineralogical and textural types of kimberlite occur. Spinel-carbonate kimberlite and monticellite kimberlite both occur as macrocrystic uniform to segregationary textured hypabyssal kimberlite, and macrocrystic pyroclastic kimberlite (Kong et al., **1999). Many** of **the** kimberlite bodies have textures gradational between segregationary hypabyssal kimberlite **and** pyroclastic kimberlite **(Kong** et al., 1999). Most of the diatremes appear to be the result of single intrusions. Pipes "Al North", "D **1". 'T' and "V",** however, have geophysical signatures **which** suggest multiple pulses of kimberiite **magma** emplacement **(Kong** et al., **1999).** 

Various ages have been determined for several of the Attawapiskat pipes. Rb/Sr on phlogopite from the Monopros Ltd. pipes yielded model ages of  $155 - 170$  Ma (Kong et al., **1999).** URb **ages hm** perovskite **grains** recovered **fiom** the **two** MacFadyen pipes **give** ages of **177** - **179 Ma V 2.2 Ma (Hetman, 1996;** Kong et al., **1999).** Whereas **15 of the** pipes have nomial **magnetic** polarization, pipe **'W' has** reverse magnetic polarization, indicathg it enrpted **during** a reversai of the Earth's magnetic field. **It has** been determined that pipe "U'' is older **than** the **other** pipes (Hetman, **1996;** Kong et al., **1999).** 

#### **1.2.1.2** *Xenoliths*

The Attawapiskat kimberlite pipes contain numerous country-rock xenoliths. Fragments of Moose River **Basin** seâimentary rocks **are** abundant. Xenoliths of the **Ekwan,** Attawapiskat and Kenogami formations range in size fiom # 1 cm **to** 30 cm, and are angular to subrounded. Most of the sedimentary fragments display little or no evidence of **themal** alteration induced by entrainment **within** the kimberlite magma. Many of the country rock fragments contain fossils with very delicate features (such as individual coral septae) **that** are perfectly preserved and unaffected **by** the kimberlite magma,

Fragments of **Archean** basement rocks are also common, and **gamet** + clinopyroxene  $\pm$  plagioclase (granulite facies rock), tonalitic and amphibolitic gneiss  $\pm$ **gamet** have been identified by Moser and Krogh (1995). Moser et al. (1997) reported an **age range** of 2920-3050 Ma for one rock-foming event, recorded in detrital zircons from amphibolite-facies paragneiss xenoliths. Moser et al. (1997) also presented U/Pb, Rb/Sr and **Sm/Nd** analyses of metarnorphic zircons from granulite-facies xenoliths as evidence for high-temperature metamorphism of the deep crust at Attawapiskat which occurred sometime between **the** late Archean and late Proterozoic,

Ultramafic xenoliths are common in some pipes ("A1", "G1", "D1") and absent in pipe "Y"'. **The** vast **majonty** of **mantle** fragments occut as microxenoliths **(#1** cm diameter), consisting of **one** or more phases. Single crystals, especially olivines, are the dominant mantle fragments. Most of the composite mantle fragments are coarse $text{textuence, metasonatized gamet Interzolites and harzburgites. Large (31 cm) single$ **crystals** of **gamet,** olivine, **clinopymene** and ilmenite **(megacrysts)** are **present** in the

kimberlites. Fluidal-textured, disrupted gamet pendotites and eclogite fragments are rare, but have been recovered from several pipes.

#### **1.3 Previous Work**

**The** Attawapiskat kimberlites are owned by Monopros Ltd., a subsidiary of De Been Consolidateci Mines Ltd.. Kong et al. (1997) presented **an** account of the exploration **and** discovery of the Attawapiskat kimberlite pipes. Kong et al. (1999) outlined exploration, discovery, geology of the kimberlites and xenoliths. Results of chemical analysis of a **small** group of **mantle** xenoliths from the Attawapiskat kirnberlites are detailed in Schulze and Hetman (1997). Hetman (1996) gave a detailed chemical and petrographic analysis of ilmenite-silicate intergrowths recovered from diamond drill core. Alkaline intrusions of kimberlite, carbonatite and alnoite affinity from Hearst, Ontario (-250 km south of Attawapiskat), discovered **by** aeromagnetic **survey** by BP Resources, Canada, **are** descn'bed **by Jase** et al. (1989).

Kimberlite pipes fiom Kirklûnd **Lake,** Ontario, approximately 400 km to the southeast of the **study area,** are the geographically closest other kimberlite field to Attawapiskat. Kirkland Lake kimberlite exploration, discovery, and chemical and petrographic analyses **are surveyed** by **Sage** (1 **996). Chernical** analyses of kimberlites and xenocrysts from Kirkland Lake are presented in Brummer et al. (1992a, 1992b). Mantie **xenoiiths hm Kirkland Lake** pipes **were** described by Meyer et al. (1 994), Sage **(1996),** and **Vicker (1997).** 

#### **1.4 Methodology**

#### 1.4.1 Sample Preparation

Kimberlite **diamond** drill core **was** made available to the University of Toronto by Monopros Ltd. and **was** examined for ultramafic xenoliths. Multi-phase assemblages were extracted for chernical and petrographic analysis. Mantle xenoliths are quite small **(5** 1.5 cm) in **these** rocks, and often cousist of only one or **two** phases. **To** prevent loss of material during preparation, xenoliths were mounted in 2.5 cm diameter **epoxy** rings. Samples were ground until the minerals desired for analysis were exposed, and then polished **at** the University of Toronto **thin** section laboratory. **Heavy** minerai separates were created by Overburden Drilling Management Ltd., using chip samples from reversecirculation **drilling** for **buk** ore analysis (pipe **"V'?,** and crushed drill core fragments (pipes **"A"** and "G"). **Mineral** mounts of **gamet,** chromite, and clinopyroxene were created using **grains fiom** the **0.5-1 .O** mm size fraction. **Thin** sections of sheand lherzolite samples were made at the University of Toronto thin section laboratory.

### 1.4.2 Minera1 Chernical Analysis

Major element chemical analysis of seven minerals *(garnet, olivine, major*) clinopymxene, orthopyroxene, chornite, amphibole and phlogopite) **was** done **using** a **Cameca SX-50** electron microprobe at **the** Duncan Rarnsey Derry Laboratory at the **Department** of Geology, University of Toronto. Minerais **were analyzed** in wavelength **dispersive mode, and** data corrections were made on-line **using** standard **SX-50** PAP procedures. An accelerating voltage of 15 **kV was** used for gamet, **chopyroxene,**  orthopyroxene, phlogopite and amphibole, and 20 **kV** for chromite **and** olivine. Beam

**currents used were 20 nA (chrornite), 25 nA (orthopyroxene, cliaopyroxene, amphibole) and 30 UA (orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, olivine, gamet). Phlogopite grains were analyzed using a beam current of 8 nA to prevent volatilization of Cl and F. Count times for each element varied according to the mineral being analyzed, and are summarized dong with other operational specifications in Appendix A.** 

#### **CHAPTER 2: PETROGRAPFN**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Xenoliths in khberlite indicate **that** the Earth's upper **rnantle** consists predominantly of olivine, with large amounts of orthop **yroxene** and **some** clinop yroxene. Classitication of mantic rock types is based on modal abundance of olivine, orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene, as depicted in the **IUGS ultramafic** rock triangle (Figure 2-1). Pyroxenites, rocks consisting of < 40 modal % olivine and > 60 modal % **pyroxene**  (orthop yroxene and/or clinop yroxene), and which include olivine websterite and websterite, are rare as xenoliths in kimberlite. No pyroxenite xenoliths were recovered fiom the Attawapiskat core.

The term "peridotite" encompasses all of those ultramafic rock types with 40-100 modal % olivine. Subdivision of peridotites **is based on** the presence of orthopyroxene **and/or** clinopyroxene. Although the IUGS classification defines harzburgite as containhg up to **5** modal % clinopyroxene **and** wehrlite **with** up to **5** modal % orthopyroxene, it is accepted practice in mantle xenolith studies to **use** the term iherzolite for **any** peridotite that contains both orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene. Further subdivision of peridotite **rocks** is based on accessory minerais. **MgAL-spinel** is the most common accessory phase in cratonic peridotites at pressures below  $\sim$  20 kbar ( $>$  60 km **depth).** Above 20 kbar, gamet is the stable **Al-bearing** accessory **mineral.** Cr-rich spinel **may** coexist **with** gamet at pressures **>20 kbar,** and occur as the Cr-bearing phase during the metasomatic breakdown of garnet.

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**Figure 2-1: IUGS major ultramafic rock-types in terms of olivine (OL), clinopyroxene (CPX), and orthopyroxene (OPX). Lherzolite and harzburgite may have garnet at high**pressure (>15kbar, ~900°C) or spinel at lower pressures (10-**1 Skbar, -900°C) as accessory phases (Haggerty, 1995). Eclogite (not shown) is grossular-pyrope-almandine garnet** + **omphacitic diopside.** 

#### **2.2 Attawapiskat Xenoliths**

The small size and fragility of the Attawapiskat xenoliths prohibited thin sectioning, so petrographic observations were made using reflected light microscopy and **back**scattered imagery in the electron microprobe. Mineral identification **was** facilitated **by xray** dispersive spectroscopy **(EDS** scanner) in the electron microprobe.

Mantle xenoliths **fiom** the Attawapiskat kimberlites occur as rounded to subrounded microxenoliths **(Sl.5** cm diameter) of one or more phases. The most common mantle xenoliths are gamet-olivine pairs, however several olivine + gamet + orthopyroxene (harzburgite) xenoliths were also recovered.

Olivine occurs as fresh, equant unstrained grains commonly < 2 mm in diameter plates **1,3,4** and 6). Xenoliths containing fiesh equant olivine pins **rnay** be classified as "coarse" using the terminology of Harte (1977). Minor secondary serpentinization occurs dong olivine grain margins and in cracks and veins. The extent to which individual grains of olivine have been serpentinized may vary between grains **within** a single xenolith.

Gamet grains may vary from 0.5 to 7 mm in diameter. Gamets are generally clear, red to purple coloured rounded grains. Garnets in eclogite xenoliths are orangepink in colour. Many garnets have multiple fractures filled with fine-grained phlogopite, **small** euhedral spinels, and **fine-grained** alteration material.

Peridotite garnets are commonly partially replaced by phlogopite  $\pm$  amphibole  $\pm$ chromite. **Gamets may** also be replaceci by clinopyroxene. **The two** replacement types **have the** foilowing textures:



**Plate 1: Garnet Iherzolite 13-95-34. Garnet (Gnt) is partially replaced by amphibok (Amph), phlogopite (Phbg) and chramite. ûther gamets in this sample have been completely replaced by amph + phlog + chromite. Field of**  $view = 4 mm$ .



**Piate 2: Sample 13-95-49. Garnet (Gnt) partially replaced by amphibole (Amph), phiogopite (Phiog) and chromite. Note that the chromite occurs as vermicular inclusions in the phiogopite and amphibole. Field of view = 4mm.** 

- 1) Partial replacement of gamet by very he **grained (cc L** mm) flakes of phlogopite  $\pm$  fine grained ( $\leq$ 1 mm) amphibole, where either phlogopite or both phlogopite and amphibole **have** vemicuiar inclusions of chromite. The gamet **has**  embayed contacts with both phlogopite and amphibole. Gamets do not have kelyphite **rims.** (Plates 1 and 2).
- 2) Partial replacement by clinopyroxene, without any associated phlogopite. Gamet **grain margins are** embayed **where** in contact **with** the clinopyroxene (Plates 3,4 and 6).

Two **primary** clinopyroxene grains **were** found, in samples **13-102-05** and 13- **102-**  12 (pipe "X"). The primary clinopyroxene occurs as small  $\sim$  2 mm diameter), subrounded, bright green grains without exsolution textures. No alteration of **the**  clinopyroxene grains was evident. Clinopyroxenes in two eclogite samples are dark green, rounded, unaltered grains **without any** inclusions or exsolution lamellae.

Orthopyroxene is **typically** rare, and is extensively altered to serpentine where present. Orthopyroxene grains are generally small  $(-2 \text{ mm})$ , coarse equant, and opaque blue-white where altered to serpentine. Four grains have clear, pale-yellow cores that **have sharp** contacts with serpentine replacing **the gain** rims (Plates 4 and 5).

#### 2.2.1 Metasomatic Minerals

With the exception of just a few olivine – garnet pairs, mantle xenoliths at Attawapiskat have undergone **some degree** of metasomatism. Fine-graineci alteration material with associated phlogopite and chromite filled cracks and infiltrated along grain **margiiis.** Most of the **gamet-bearing** xenoliths **have gamets which** have been **partiaîiy** 



**Plate 3: Garnet Iherzolite 13-95-63. Garnet (Gnt) is partially replaced by** clinopyroxene (Cpx). Phlogopite (Phlog) and Chromite are secondary minerals. The garnet has embayed margins where it is in contact with the clinopyroxene.  $Olivine - Oliv$ . Field of view  $= 4$  mm.



Plate 4: Garnet Iherzolite 13-97-83. Clinopyroxene (Cpx) partially replaces garnet (Gnt). The orthopyroxene (Opx) is almost completely altered to serpentine (Serp) - only the very core of the grain is preserved. Olivine - Oliv. Field of view  $=$  4 mm.

replaced with phlogopite  $\pm$  amphibole  $\pm$  chromite. Some garnets have been partially replaced by clinopyroxene.

Phlogopite occurs in three different textural associations:

- **As** very **fine-@ed mantles** on gamet and olivine, as mantles around the whole **xenolith,** and **fibg** veins and cracks interstitial to **and** within major phases. The phlogopite **grains** are **euheâral** and **arc** green-brown in colour. **The** phlogopites occur with fine-grained alteration material (phlogopite textural type "1" – Plate 3).
- As a **single,** optically continuous precipitate filling veins in gamet and olivine, similar to igneous orthocumulate texture (phlogopite textural type "2").
- 3) As large flakes, occurring with amphibole to partially replace garnet. Phlogopites of **this** association may or **may** not **have** vermicular inclusions of chromite (phlogopite texturai type **"3"** - Plates **1.2** and 3).

Amphibole occurs with phlogopite and chromite to partially replace Cr-pyrope **gamet.** The amphibole occurs as very fine-gnined **(cc** 1 **mm)** euhedral to anhedral grains, green-brown in colour, **within** mal1 "clots" of metasomatic minerals. **Many**  amphibole grains have vermicular inclusions of chromite oriented along cleavage planes (Plates I **and** 2).

Chromite occurs as three different textural types:

**L) Primary** chromite **grains** preserved either as inclusions in gamet and olivine, **or** as large grains such as those in sample 13-97-83 (Plate 4). The chromites are relatively large  $(1 - 3$  mm), subrounded and completely encapsulated within the host silicate phase where **occurring** as inclusions in **gamet** and olivine (chromite texhual **type** " $1$ ").



**Plate 5: Gamet harzburgite 13-97-78. Orthopyroxene (Opx) is almost completely altered to serpentine. The core of the orthopyroxene grain is** unaltered. Field of view = 4mm.



**Plate 6: Garnet harzburgite 13-97-78. Garnet (Gnt) is partially replaced by dinopyroxene (Cpx) only. There are three small chromite inclusions in the dinopyroxene, and one in the garnet. Olivine - Oliv. Field of view = 4mm.** 

- 2) As secondary grains in veins and cracks in garnet and olivine. Secondary chromites **are** small(5 1 mm diameter) **coarse** euhedral octahedra set in the fine-grained alterations material filling cracks and veins in garnets (chromite textural type "2" -Plate 2).
- 3) **As small** vermicular inclusions in amphibole and phlogopite replacing **gamet** (Plate 1). **The** inclusions **are** very small **(cc 1** mm diameter) and follow cleavage planes in the phlogopite **and** amphibole. Included in this textual group are four small rounded chromite inclusions in gamet and clinopyroxene in sample 13-97-78 (chromite  $text{textural type "3" - Plate 6}.$

Clinopyroxene partially replaces garnet in several garnet – olivine pairs and in garnet harzburgite sample 13-97-78 (Plate 6). The clinopyroxene is bright green in hand sample. It is optically continuous around the rim of the garnet, and has embayed contacts with the replaced garnet. The clinopyroxenes rarely have chromite inclusions, however sample **13-79-78 has** clinopyroxene **with three** srnall chromite inclusions (Plates **3.4**  and 6).



Table 2-1: Petrographic Summary

#### **CHAPTER 3: MINERAL CHEMISTRY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Multiphase xenoliths of mantle material preserve the chemical state of the mantle prevalent at the time of kimberlite eruption. Chemical analyses of equilibrium assemblages in xenoliths may be used to **detennine** the pressure and temperature of rock formation. Pressure-temperature pairs may **be** equated to depth, allowing for characterization of vertical **chemical** variations in the mantle.

In addition to **ultramafic** xenoliths, kimberlites contain abundant xenocrysts, which **are** single minerai grains **hm** disaggregated mantle **rocks. These** dense mantle rninerals are routinely removed **hm** crushed kimberlite **during** bulk ore analysis **using** densemedia separation. Xenocrysts **nmoved nom** kimberlite are **refened** to as **"heavy** mineral separates". Heavy mineral separate analyses may be used to compliment and augment xenolith data,

**Mineral** chemical results for xenoliths rexovered **hm** Attawapiskat core, and heavy **mineral** separates **hm** pipes "Al", **"G"** and **"V"** are Iisted in Appendix B.

#### **3.2 Detaiïed Minerai Chemistry**

#### 3.2.1 Heavy **Minerai** Separates

Small splits of heavy mineral separates of crushed kimberlite from pipes "Al", "G" **and** 'Tl" **were picked for** aii **grains** of **gamet,** and pipe **TV" concentrate** for chmite, **and**  green clinopyroxene (chrome diopside). The number of grains analyzed from each split **(n** = **nurnber** of pains) is indicated on the **figures** accompanying each section.

#### **3.2.1.1 Gamet**

Garnets were picked from the heavy mineral separates and pooled, then small splits **pomd** out into a sepiuate container before mounting, to avoid **biased picking** of **one**  colour of **garnet** over another. **This** method of **grain** selection allows for a statistically sound representation of the various types present, and was done for pipes "Al", "G" and **'V1.** 

Figures 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3 shows variation in CaO with  $Cr_2O_3$  for garnets from heavy mineral separates. Gurney (1984) showed that 85% of garnet diamond inclusions have compositions that fall above 2 wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  in the CaO-poor portion of the CaO – **Cr203** plot **area.** Although the 85% field does not delimit a particular **gamet** paragenesis, Fipke et al. (1995) observed that the line approximately divides garnets of harzburgite  $(low-Ca)$  and lherzolite (higher-Ca) parageneses. CaO and  $Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  contents of garnets **may therefore** be used to **determine** the identity of the parnit **rock,** particularly in cases where no other primary minerals are preserved, or for single garnet xenocrysts. This method of discrimination has been used for many of the garnet – olivine pairs recovered from the Attawapiskat kimberlites.

Garnets which have  $\geq 2$  wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  (peridotitic) have  $3.6 - 10.6$  wt% CaO.  $Cr_2O_3$ contents **range** to 9.05 **wt%,** 10.0 **Wto! and** 8.6 **wt%** for pipes "Al", **"G"** and **"V",**  respectively. **Mg#** (mol % M@(Mg+Fe) **x** 100%) for **the peridotite** gamets ranges **from**


**Figure 3-1** : **Gamet disrrimination based on Ca0 and Cr203 content, for gamets from pipe "A 1** " **concentrate. Fields based on Gumey (1 984).** 



**Figure 3-2:** Garnet discrimination based on CaO and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content, for garnets **fiom pipe "G" concentrate. Fields as in Figure 3-1.** 



**Figure 3-3:** Garnet discrimination based on Ca and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content, for garnets **fiom pipe** 'Y" **concentrate. Fields as in Figure 3-1.** 

<sup>75</sup>- 83 for **al1 three** pipes. The majority of the peridotite **gamets** are herzolitic (Figures 3-1.3-2. and **3-3).** 

Eclogite **gamets** are differentiated **bm** those of pendotitic paragenesis by **Mg0**  and  $Cr_2O_3$  content. Worldwide, eclogite garnets usually contain  $\leq 0.49$  wt%  $Cr_2O_3$ , but in some cases may contain up to 7.2 wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  (Dawson and Carswell, 1990). Low- $Cr_2O_3$ **gamets** with **high Mg0** contents **may** be considered iherzolitic **(Dawson and Carswell,**  1990). A cutoff of maximum 2 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is used to identify eclogite garnet xenocrysts from concentrate in Figures 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3. This arbitrary cutoff is favoured by Fipke et al. (1995) for prospecting samples (heavy minerals separates from glacial deposits used in **drift prospecting** for kimberlites), and is used here to distinguish gamets of lherzolite and harzburgite paragenesis from those of megacryst and eclogite paragenesis. Many Cr-poor megacrysts have Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents which coincide with the eclogite and pendotite fields in Figures 3-1,3-2 and **3-3. Megacryst** gamets may **be** differentiated from peridotite gamets by  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  content (Schulze, 1997 – Figures 3-4 and 3-5). Discrimination between megacryst and eclogitic garnets may be aided by TiO<sub>2</sub> contents, but the division is unclear. Eclogite garnets worldwide have  $\leq 0.3$  wt%  $\text{TiO}_2$  (Dawson **and Carswell,** 1990). **The** Cr-poor megacryst garnets at Attawapiskat have **very** low **Ti02**  contents (Schulze, **personal** communication), so discrimination between the two **suites was limited. Garnets from the Attawapiskat concentrates with**  $\leq 2$  **wt%**  $Cr_2O_3$  **and**  $> 0.2$ **wt%** Ti02 **were classifiecl** as **a** Cr-poor **megacrysts. The remahhg garnets** (< 2 **wt%**   $Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  and 2 wt% TiO<sub>2</sub>) may be eclogitic, crustal, or very low TiO<sub>2</sub> megacrysts. Garnets from both eclogite and crustal rocks (garnet-bearing amphibolite country rocks) have low Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents that fall along the Cr-poor axis in Figures 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3.

**Attawapiskat Gamet Megacrysts** 

a)







# **V1 Megacryst Discrimination**



# **G1 Megacryst Discrimination**



Figure 3-5: Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> vs TiO<sub>2</sub> for garnets from concentrate from a) pipe "G" and b) pipe "V". Fields for discrimination between lherzolite and **megacryst gamets are from Schuize (1 997). See text, and Figure 3-4, for discussion.** 



**Figure 3-6:** Variation in  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  content with FeO (calculated as  $Fe<sup>2+</sup>$ ) for low- $Cr_2O_3$  garnets from pipes "Al", "G" and "V". Fields for eclogite and crustal **gamets ffom Schulze (1 997). A region of overlap between the cnistal and eclogite fields extends from**  $\sim$  **18.0-23.0 wt% FeO.** Open symbols  $-$  eclogite; *Black synrbols* - **mstal;** *Grey symbols* - **paragenesis undetermined using this discrimination.** 



**Figure 3-7:** Eclogite garnet composition. Garnets occurring as inclusions in **diamond have different compositions to gamets fiom diarnond-bearllig eclogites (dashed and dotted fields, respectively). Attawapiskat eclogite gamets fali just inside the field of gamets fiom diamond-bearing eclogites worldwide. Fields firom Fipke et al. (1995).** 

Discrimination between eclogite and crustal garnets may be aided by variation in TiO<sub>2</sub> and **Fe0** contents **(Schuize,** <sup>1997</sup>- Figure **3-6).** The heavy minerai concentrates **contained** very few **crustally-det.ived gamets.** The **narrow** range of **Feû** content for the Attawapiskat **anaiyses** in **the** eclogite field is inconsistent **with the** range of values in eclogite gamets **hm** Schuke (1997). The cluster of Fe0 values **may** imply **that** these **gamets are not** eclogitic. Eclogite **gamet** xenocrysts have compositions **which**  correspond to those from diamond-bearing eclogites worldwide (Fipke et al., 1995  $-$ Figure 3-7). Further classification of these gamets is not possible.

## **3.2.1.2 CIinopyraxene**

Bright-green Cr-diopsides fiom **"V" heavy mineral** concentrate **have** 0.24 - 2.6 **wt%** Cr203. They are Mg- and Ca-rich (14.7 - 17.6 **wt% MgO, 14.1** - **23.1 wt% Cao),**  and Fe-poor (1.5 - 4.7 wt% FeO, all Fe calculated as  $Fe^{2+}$ ). Bright green Cr-diopsides are typical of lherzolite and garnet-lherzolite rocks, whereas diopsides from hightemperature sheared herzoîites and eclogites **are** typically pale green.

**The** enstatite-diopside **solvus** has been developed as a geothermometer **by** several authors **(see Finnerty and** Boyci, (1987) for **review). Equilibrium** temperatures calculated for garnet lherzolites from worldwide localities using various enstatite-diopside solvus thermometers often have two "groups", one at low temperature and one at high**temperature, with** a **"gap"** in between (Harte, 1983). The gap in temperature is related to **Ca-Mg-Fe** contents of **the** clinopyroxeaes. Harte (1983) notes **that the** gap **between** the **corresponds to Ca/(Ca+Mg) values of**  $\sim$  **0.43 (** $\sim$  **1100 °C). A plot of Ca/(Ca+Mg) versus** wt!!! **Fe0** for the **Attawapiskat** V" **clinoppxenes reveais** there is no gap **in the** 



**Figure 34: Clinopyroxenes hm pipe** "Cr' **concentrate. Clinopyroxene xenocryst compositions are more ferroan than those clinopyroxenes fiom coarse**  and sheared lherzolites from Lesotho. Lesotho Data from Boyd (1973), Cox et al. **(1973) and Nixon and Boyd (1973).** 



**Figure 3-9:** Variation in  $Cr_2O_3$  content with Mg# (Mg/(Mg+Fe)), for clinopyroxenes from "V" concentrate. Fields from Kopylova et al., (1999) for clinopyroxenes in xenoliths from Jericho, Northwest Territories, Canada: *dashed* - **spinel-gamet coarse-textured petidotite;** *dotted* - **gamet-bearhg coarse-textured peridotite.**  $\Box$  **- Kirkland Lake clinopyroxenes from coarse gamet lhenolites (&ta from Sage, 1996, and Vicker, 1997).** 

**Ca/(Ca+Mg)** values **(Figure 3-8).** The **"V"** clinopyroxenes are particularly FeO-rich compared to those clinopyroxenes from coarse or sheared Lesotho lherzolites (Boyd, 1973; Cox et al., 1973; Nixon and **Boyd,** 1973).

Variation in Cr203 with Mg# for clinopyroxenes is **compared** with fields for clinop yroxenes from coarse spinel-gamet lherzolite and coarse gamet lherzolite from Jericho, Northwest Territories *(Kopylova et al., 1999)*, and for coarse garnet lherzolite fiom Kirkland **Lake,** Ontario (Vicker, 1997) in Figure 3-9.

## *3.2.1.3 Orthopyoxene*

Ten green orthopyroxene grains were randomly picked as green Cr-diopside from the "V" concentrate. These enstatites  $(\text{En}_{90.7.93.6})$  have  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  contents ranging from 0.20- $0.41$  wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  and  $TiO_2$  from  $0.45 - 1.1$  wt%  $TiO_2$  (Figure 3-10a). Mg#'s fall in the restricted range  $91.8 - 94.2$ . Compositions of the 10 Attawapiskat orthopyroxenes fall **within** the enstatite diamond inclusion field of Fipke et al. (1 995 - Figure 3-lob), **as** do orthopyroxenes **hm many made** peridotites. Compositions are similar to orthopyroxenes **Erom** worldwide sources (Nixon, **1987).** 

#### **3.2.1.4** *Chromite*

The  $Cr_2O_3$  contents of 77 spinels from pipe "V" concentrate range from  $47.1 -$ **63.8 wt% Cr203, with 18.9** - **40.4** wt% **Fe0** (caiculated **as** totai Fe), and 7.0 - 12.0 **wt% MgO.** Variation in Cr/(Cr+Al) with  $Fe^{2+}/(Fe^{2+}+Mg)$  shows that chromite compositions fall in the field of lherzolite and harzburgite chromites defined by Haggerty (1995 -Figure 3-11). The extensive overlap in the Iherzolite-harzburgite field and diamond

a)



**Figure 3-10: Orthopyroxenes in xenoliths. a) Variation in Wh TiO,**  with wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. **b)** Mg# (mol% Mg/(Mg+Fe) x 100%) vs wt% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. **Orthopyroxene compositions fall within the field of diamond indusions of Fipke et al. (1995).** 



Figure 3-11: Compositions of chromites from "V" concentrate, with fields **fiom Haggerty (1 995) superimposed. The chromites fiom concentrate fa11**  within the region of overlap between the lherzolite-harzburgite and diamond **inclusion fields. The same chromite compositions plotted as wt% Mg0 vs wt% Cr& in Figure 3-12 fd weU outside of the diamond inclusions field of Fipke et al. (1 995). The significance of the Haggerty (1995) diamond inclusion field is uncertain.** 



**Figure 3-12: Pipe 'V" chromite compositions compared to those fiom Kïrkland**  Lake (dotted) and Ile Bizard (dashed) fields. The "V" chromites have a **negative MgO-Cr203 trend compared to the two other Canadian localities. The 'V' chromite compositions fall well outside the field of diamond inclusions**  defined by Fipke et al. (1995). Data for Kirkland Lake and Ile Bizard from **Fipke et al. (1995).** 



**Figure 3-13:** Variation in wt% TiO<sub>2</sub> with wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> for "V" chromites. **Compositions decrease in TiO<sub>2</sub> with increasing Cr<sub>2</sub>** 

inclusion field of Haggerty (1995) is unexplained. Figure 3-12, a plot of  $MgO$  vs  $Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ contents for the **same** chromites, shows they fall well outside of the field for chromites as diamond inclusions defined by Fipke et al. (1995). The Fipke et al. (1995) discriminant is more **ngorous than that** of Haggerty **(1995).** Chromites **nom 'V'** concentrate have a positive Cr-Mg-enrichment trend compared to chromites fiom **Kirkland Lake,** Ontario, and **ne Bizard, Quebec** (Fipke et ai., **1995** - **Figure 3-1 2).** 

The "V" chromites from concentrate show a weak negative trend on a plot of  $Cr_2O_3$  versus  $TiO_2$  (Figure 3-13). Chromites with  $\leq 2$  wt%  $TiO_2$  have similar compositions to chromites in the Attawapiskat xenoliths (see section **3.3.2.3)** 

#### 3.2.2 Xenoliths: **Primary** and Metasomatic/Secondary Assemblages

In addition to **the** four primary silicate **phases** in peridotites (herzolite - olivine <sup>+</sup> clinopyroxene + orthopyroxene  $\pm$  gamet, harzburgite - olivine + orthopyroxene  $\pm$ gamet), the **majority** of the xenoliths have metasomatic assemblages of phlogopite + amphibole  $\pm$  chromite and fine-grained alteration material, or clinopyroxene only, as well as secondary **niinerals such** as serpentine. **When** present, orthopyroxene **is** heavily altered to secondary serpentine. Only clear, unaltered orthopyroxene cores were **analyzed.** 

#### **3.2.2.1 Primary Minerals: Olivine**

Olivines **hm** Lhenolites and hanburgïtes are Mg-rich, **with** Mg#'s **ranghg hm 90.1** – 92.7 (Fo<sub>90.1-92.9</sub>). These values are slightly lower than those for olivines from **southan Afnca** xenoliths **(KimberIey iherzolites** (coarse **and** sheared) **and batzbwgites,** 



Figure 3-14: Chemical trends in olivines from xenoliths. All of the olivines are MgO-rich, and depleted in CaO, FeO, Na<sub>2</sub>O, and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Mg#'s91- 94 (Boyd and Nixon, 1978); Kimberley harzburgites, **Mg#'s** <sup>93</sup>- 95 (Schulze 1995); **Fiasch,** average Mg# 92.9, **(Shee** et al., 1992); Northern Lesotho, Mg#'s 91 - <sup>94</sup> (Nixon and Boyd, 1973)). Attawapiskat olivine Mg#'s are similar to those from other Canadian localities (Jericho, Slave Province, Northwest Territories, Mg#'s 88.0 – 93.0 (Kopylova et al., 1999); **Grizzly** and Tome, Slave Province, Northwest Temtories, **Mg#%** 90.6 - **93.8 (MaciCemie and Canil, 1999); Kirkiand Lake, Ontario, Mg#%** 85.0 - 93.3 (most > **go),** (Vicker, 1997)). Olivine in contact **with** amphibole in **gamet**  harzburgite 13-97-78 has grain rims slightly depleted in MgO, CaO and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and **enriched in FeO,** compared to **its** core composition.

#### **3.2.2.2 Gamet**

**Gamets** in xenoliths are markedly depleted in **Ca0 compareci** to **gamet** xenocrysts **hm** concentrate (gamets **hm** heavy **minerai** separates **hm** pipes "Al", **"G"** and **"V"**  are dominantiy lherzolitic - see section 3.1). Six xenoliths **may** be **classified** as harzburgite based on CaO and  $Cr_2O_3$  content of garnet (Dawson, 1980 - Figure 3-15). Sample 13-95-59 plots to the low-CaO side of the 85% line in Figure 3-15, at  $\sim$  2 wt% **Cr203. Altbough this** gamet analysis **fans within** the eclogite field in **Figure** 3-15, the xenoiith contains olivine, **so** it **is ia** fact a **Cr-poor** hanburgite hgment. Al1 xenoliths containing garnet with  $> 2$  wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  are classified as either lherzolitic or harzburgitic. **Mg#'\$** for the lherzoiite and **hanburgite gamets range hm** 80.2 - 86.5.

**Three** xenoliths **containhg** orange gamet were analyzed and **their** compositions fall in the eclogite field in Figure 3-15. Paragenesis (either crustal or eclogitic) was detenaineci **using Ti&** and **Fe0** contents of the **gamets. Two of the xenoîitbs (13-95-42** 



**Figure 3-15:** Garnet discrimination based on CaO and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents of **gamets in xenoliths. Fields as in Figure 3- 1.** 

 $\overline{1}$ 



**Figure 3-16:** Eclogite/crustal garnet discrimination for garnets that plot in the **eclogite field in Figure 3-15. Sarnples 13-95-54 and 13-95-32 are eclogites; sarnple 13-95-28 falls in the region of overlap between the two fields. This**  sample contains amphibole and phlogopite, and is probably crustally derived **see text for discussion. Eclogite and crusta1 fields after Schdze (1997).** 

**and** 13-95-54, both pipe "G"') contain **bright gcem** diopside. Gamet compositions for these two samples **fdi within the** field of **eclogite gamets** defineci by Schulze (1997) **based on their TiO<sub>2</sub> and FeO contents (Figure 3-16). The third xenolith (13-95-28, pipe** "G"), contains **bright green** amphibole and large **flakes** of green-brown phlogopite. The composition of the gamet in xenolith 13-95-28 **fds** in a **region** of overlap between the **edogite** and **mistai tields in Figure 3-16. The high Feû** content of the **gamet** and the presence of amphibole and phlogopite suggest **this** sample is of crustal origin, so it will not be discussed further. Mg#'s for the eclogite garnets are 84.0 (13-95-32) and 67.7  $(13-95-54).$ 

**Three gamets** are compositionally zoned. Samples 13-97-83 (pipe "Al"), 13-102-05 **and** 13- 102-1 2 (both pipe 'X'), have decreasing Cr2q and **Ca0 hm** core to **rim.** Sarnples 13-97-83 and 13-102-12 contain **other gamet** grains that do not have chernical **zoning.** 

## 3.2.2.3 **Clinopyroxene**

Two xenoliths (13-102-05 and 13-102-12, both pipe "X") contain one clinopyroxene grain **each. Both** grains **are** Cr-diopsides, **and** have compositions correspondhg to **ciinopyroxenes hm** coarse gamet lhenolites worldwide **(Harte, 1983;**  Meyer, 1987; **Nixon,** 1987; Haggerty, 1995). No compositional zoning **was** noted. The **two** xenoiiths do not contain orthopyroxene, **so** thennobarometne calculations were not possible.

#### **3.2.2.4** *Orthopyroxene*

Orthopyroxene grains are Mg-rich (En<sub>91.3-93.1</sub>), but have higher FeO contents than the 10 green orthopyroxene grains recovered from pipe **"V"** concentrate (Figure 3-17). **The** orthopyroxene compositions fom two **smalî** "clusters", one with Mg# -92, the other with Mg#  $\sim$ 93.0 - 93.5 (Figure 3-17). The two orthopyroxenes with Mg#  $\sim$ 92 are from gamet harzburgite **hgments** 13-95-35 (pipe **"G'3** and 13-97-78 (pipe "Al"). The **three**  orthopyroxenes with **Mg#%** between 93 **.O** and 93.5 are **hm** gamet iherzolites **1** 3-95-33  $(pipe 'G')'$  and 13-97-83 (pipe "A1"), and gamet harzburgite 13-95-67 (pipe "G"). Orthopyroxenes from both lherzolite and harzburgite samples fall within the field of orthopyroxene diamond inclusions **defined** by Fipke et ai. **(1995).** 

Some of the orthopyroxene grain cores appear to have very slight enrichment in **Cr203** and **Ti02** where **they** are in direct contact **with** secondary serpentine replacing the grain rim. No change in  $A_2O_3$  content at the contact between the fresh orthopyroxene core and serpentinized rim that could affect geobarometric calculations was observed.

## 3.2.3 Metasomatic Minerals

Metasomatic amphibole and phlogopite, **with** or without associated chrornite. partially or wholly replace garnet in the majority of the xenoliths recovered from Attawapiskat kimberlite. Metasomatic clinopyroxene partiaiiy replaces **gamet** in some gamet - olivine pairs.



**Figure 3-17: Orthopyroxene compositions fiom coarse peridotite xenoliths. Two "groups" of orthopyroxene occur, one with Mg# -92 (gamet harzburgites 13-95-35 and 13-97-78), the other** with **Mg# 93.0-93.5 (gamet Iherzolites 13- 95-3 3 and 13 -97-83, and gamet hanburgite 13 -95-67). Orthopyroxene compositions fa11 within the field of diarnond uiclusions of Fipke et al. (1995).** 

#### **3.2.3.1** *Amphibole*

Amphibole replacing gamet in sample 13-95-49 has high Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CaO contents (13.2 **wt% A1203 and 10.0 wt%** Cao), and moderate to **high Mg0 and Fe0** conteats (18.4 wt% **Mg0 and** 3.4 **wt% FeO).** The amphibole **may** be classified **as** a pargasite **(Leake** et al., 1997). The pargasite has high chrome content  $(2.2 \text{ wt\% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)$ .

## **3.2.3.2** *Phlogopite*

Phlogopites have  $0.4-2.1$  wt%  $Cr_2O_3$  and up to  $1.1$  wt%  $TiO_2$ . Totals for microprobe analysis are somewhat lower than expected for phlogopites containing  $-4 - 5$ **wt% H20. The** phlogopite **grains** in xenoliths fiom Attawapiskat **are** heavily altered, and **so** yield low oxide totals during electron microprobe **anaiysis** (Appendix B). The phlogopite grains **are** poor in the volatile elements Cl and F **(up** to 0.15 **wt%** CI and 0.4 wt% F). Phlogopite grains occurring with amphibole  $\pm$  chromite to replace gamet have slightly elevated MgO and Na<sub>2</sub>O contents, and lower Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents, compared to the fine-grained *phlogopites filling* veins and fractures.

Figure 3-18 depicts phlogopite compositions in terms of  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ . The fields in Figure 3-18 are **hm** Erlank et al. (1987) and Field et al. **(1989), who** correlate texture and accompanying metasomatic assemblage to phlogopite composition. "Stage **A"** and **"Stage B"** phlogopites **are** of metasomatic **origin;** 'Stage **A"** phlogopites occur with amphibole, "Stage B" with clinopyroxene (Erlank et al., 1987; Field et al., 1989). **Sccondary** phlogopites **are** the result of host-mck reaction with a volatile-rich fluid during **kirnberiite auption (Erlank** et al., **1987;** Field et al., 1989).



**Figure 3-18:** Fields of phlogopite compositions from upper mantle sources (after Field et al., 1987): *dotted* – Stage A (paragenetically early, co-existing with **amphibole);** *dashed* **– Stage B (paragenetically late, co-existing with diopside);** *solid* - **Secondary (due to late-stage metasomatism in the source region). Symbols:**  *red* – **textural type "1" (fine-grained mantles on garnet);** *yellow* **– <b>textural type** "2" **(vem filling);** *green* - **texturai type "3" (metasomatically replacing gamet, with or without chromite inclusions). Fields for Stage A, Stage B and Secondary phlogopites based on Erlarik et al. (1987), Field et al. (1987) and Haggerty (1995).** 

Phlogopites occurring with amphibole  $\pm$  chromite to replace gamet in the Attawapiskat xenoliths **fail withh** or near the "Stage **A"** field of **Erlank** et al. (1987) and Field et al. (1989 – Figure 3-18). Two of these phlogopites have low TiO<sub>2</sub> contents (0.032 and **O.Owt%** Ti02, which is below **minimum** detection for the microprobe analyses), and fall near the "Stage A" field. Phlogopite occurring as textural types "2" and **"3" (as mautles** on **gamets** and as **veh-tilling** materiai, respectively) have higher Cr203 contents **than** texhual **type** " **1"** phlogopites.

Compositions of texhiral type **'2"** and **"3"** phlogopites **fdl in** the **"Secondary"** and "Stage B" **fields** in **Figure 3-18.** None of these phlogopites occur in association with the metasomatic clinopyroxene (see below), so **they** may **be** classified as "Secondary" **based**  on Erlank et al. **(1987)** and Field et al. (1989).

## **3.2.3.3** *Clinopyroxene*

Metasomatic clinopyroxenes are Cr-rich  $(2.7 - 5.0 \text{ wt\% Cr}_2O_3)$ , Ca-rich  $(14.3 -$ **16.9 wt% Cao), and** Fe-rich (2.6 - <sup>44</sup>**wt% FeO)** compared to **primary** clinopyroxenes from Lesotho coarse-lherzolites (Figure 3-19). The metasomatic clinopyroxenes have particularly **high** Na20 contents compared to primary clinopyroxenes **from** Lesotho lherzolites (Boyd, 1973; Cox et al., 1973; Nixon and Boyd, 1973). Compositions are similar to those of clinopyroxenes recovered from "V" concentrate (Figure 3-18).

## *3.2.3.4 Chromite*

Chromite compositions have been correlated with the three textural types of chromite **occurring** in **xenoliths as descnied** in Chapter 2.



**Figure 3-19: Metasomatic clinopyroxene compositions** *(red squares)* **compared to clinopyroxenes from** V" **concentrate** *(green circles).* **Clinopyroxenes replacing gamet in cognate xenoliths have similar Mg/(Mg+Fe) and Ca/(Ca+Mg) values to**  those occurring as xenocrysts in the kimberlite. The close compositional **correlation between the two groups suggests most of the clinopyroxene xenocrysts may be of metasomatic origin.** 

A plot of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> vs TiO<sub>2</sub> content of the Attawapiskat chromites reveals differences in chemistry based on textural occurrence (Figure 3-20). All chromites have  $0.0 - 2.2$  $w\%$  TiO<sub>2</sub> and 40.1 – 576.7 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The primary texture chromites have compositions **which** overlap secondary texture chromites (Figure **3-20).** 

With the exception of three outliers, secondary chromites have  $>0.6$  wt% TiO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 3-20). Two of the outliers have  $0.02$  and  $0.01$  wt%  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  (at minimum detection for microprobe analyses). The third outlier has low  $Cr_2O_3$  content (40.2 wt%  $Cr_2O_3$ ) but similar TiO<sub>2</sub> content to the other secondary chromites. The low TiO<sub>2</sub> chromites are from sample 13-95-67 (pipe "G"), and occur as small grains in veins in garnet. The low  $Cr_2O_3$ secondary-texture chromite occurs as a small **grain** between an inclusion of carbonaceous material in a garnet and the garnet itself (sample 13-102-05, pipe "X").

Chromites occurring as vermicular inclusions in amphibole and phlogopite have **very** low **Ti@** contents compared to the secondary-textwed chromites (Figure 3-20).

Sample 13-97-78 **has** metasomatic clinop yroxene replacing **gamet.** The clinopyroxene **has** three **mal1** chromite inclusions, and the garnet it is partially replacing has one chromite inclusion (Plate 6). These inclusions have much higher  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  contents than the vermicular chromite inclusions. The chromite in the garnet in sample 13-97-78 has 41.6 wt% Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, whereas the chromite inclusions in the clinopyroxene replacing the gamet have 54.5 **wt% Cr203 (Figure 3-20).** 

All of the chromites analyzed fall outside of the field for chromites occurring as inclusions **in diamoad as** defincd by Fipke et al. (1995 - Figure 3-21). Chromites in xenoliths **hm** Attawapiskat have a **negative Cr201** - **Mg0 trend** compared to chromites fiom Attawapiskat pipe **"V"** concentrate (Figure 3-21).



**Figure 3-20: Compositions of chromites** in **xenoliths. Syrnbols:** *red* - **textural type** "1" **(primary);** *yellow* - **textural type 'Y" (secondary); green** - **textwal type "3" (vermicular inclusions in amphitbole and phlogopite);** *filled blue* - **inclusions**  in clinopyroxene replacing garnet in garnet harzburgite 13-97-78; open blue inclusion in garnet partially replaced by clinopyroxene in garnet harzburgite **13-97-78.** 



**Figure 3-21:** Chromites in xenoliths. Compositions fall well outside of the field of **diamond inclusions fiom Fipke et al., (1 995). Attawapiskat chrornites have a negative trend similar to ne Bizzard, Quebec and Kirkland Lake, Ontario, but opposite the trend displayed by chromites fiom 'V" concentrate. Kirkland Lake and IIe Bizard data** - **Fipke et al. (1995). Symbols:** *red* - **texturd type "1" (primary);** *yellow*  **texturd type 'Y" (secondary);** *green* - **textural type "3" (vermicular inclusions in amphi'boIe and phlogopite); filled** *blue* - **inclusions in clinopyroxene replacing gamet in gamet harzburgite 13-97-78; open** *blue* - **inclusion in gamet partially replaced by clinopyroxene in gamet harzburgite 13-97-78.** 



**Figure 3-22:** Chromites in xenoliths compared to chromites from "V" concentrate **Chromite compositions fa11 towards the Cr/(Cr+Al) axis. Symbols:** *red* - **texturd type "1" (primary);** *yellow* - **textural type "2" (secondary);** *green* - **textural type "3" (vennicular inclusions in amphibole and phlogopite);** *jllled blue* - **inclusions** *in*  **clinopyroxene replacing gamet in** *gamet* **harzburgite 13-97-78;** *open blue* - **inclusion in gamet partially replaced by clinopyroxene in gamet harzbwgite 13-97-78. Fields Srom Haggerty (1995).** 

Chromite compositions fall outside of all of the fields for mantle chromites as **denaad by Haggerty (1995** - **Figure 3-22)** - **one secondary-texhite chmite falls** within **the îherzolite-harzburgite and diamond inclusion overlap area. Haggerty (1995) notes**  that chromites of metasomatic origin should fall towards the Cr/(Cr+Al) axis in Figure **3-22.** Attawapiskat chromite compositions are consistent with this observation.

### **CHAPTER 4: THERMOBAROMETRY**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

Thennobarometric investigations of **mantle** xenoiith suites place mineral chernistries within a three-dimensional framework that may ultimately reveal local vertical mantle inhomogeneities. **Equiiiirium** pressures **and** temperatures of **mantie** assemblages **may** be estimated **using** a **variety** of experirnentally calibrated geothermometers and geobarometers **(Finnerty** and Boyd. **1987).** Estimated equilibnum pressures and temperatures of **mantie** xenoiiths rnay be used to constrain the local subcratonic geothermal gradient at the the of kimberlite eruption. Pressure - temperature values have been calculated for the mantle assemblages at Attawapiskat and have been used to constrain the **geothermai** gradient below the eastem Sachigo subprovince in the **Jurassic.** 

## 4.1.1 Geothermometers and Barometers

A variety of thermometers and barometers have been calibrated for mantle assemblages by various authors (reviewed in **Finnerty** and Boyd, 1987). The thennometers and barometers utilize the experirnentally calibrated pressure or temperature dependent molecular or major element exchange between two coexisting phases. **The** majority of thennometers for the temperature range of the upper mantle are based on the experimentally determined position of the diopside-enstatite miscibility gap **(Finnerty** and Boyd, 1987). **Equilibnum temperatures** for gamet-olivine **pairs may** be determined using the temperature dependant Fe-Mg exchange thermometer of O'Neill and Wood (1979). Estimated temperatures of equilibration of garnet xenocrysts (single

**gamets** for which paragenesis is **uncertain)** rnay be calculated **using** the Ni-in-gamet thermometer of Canil (1999) (assuming equilibration with olivine).

**Geobarometers for the pressure range** of **gamet-bearing** made assemblages in kimbertites **are al1 based** on the pressdependant **alumina** content of enstatite coexisthg **with** olivine plus an gamet, calibrated in either **the** CMAS (Ca-Mg-Al-Si) **system or MAS system (Fherty aad** Boyd, 1987). The coexistlig **aidous phase** for the pressure range defined by the Attawapiskat xenoliths is pyrope garnet (MacGregor, 1974).

Equilibrium P-T **pairs may only** be calculated for gamet-bearing assemblages using **the** thennometers and barometers above. Equilibrium temperatures **rnay** be calculated for reasonably presumed pressures **in** orthopyroxene or gamet-fiee assemblages **using** either the O'Neill and Wood (1979) thennometer or a two-pyroxene thermometer **(Finnerty** and Boyd, 1987).

**A critical** evaluation of **various** geoihermometers and barometers by Finnerty and Boyd (1987) favoured the combination of the pyroxene-miscibility gap thermometer of Lindsley and Dixon (1976) and the alumina-in-enstatite + **gamet** barometer of MacGregor (1974) for P-T estimates for gamet Uienolites. **Hanburgite** P-T estimates **may be calculated using the garnet-olivine exchange thermometer of O'Neill and Wood** (1979) **coupled** with the MacGregor **(1974)** barometer.

**4.1.2 Required Conditions for Equilibrium Pressure – Temperature Estimations** Estimates of pressures and temperatures for mantle xenoliths may be calculated only for those assemblages in chemical equilibrium (Finnerty and Boyd, 1987). Whereas it is not possible **to demonstnite** equilibrium **has been** attained, it is possible to provide evidence that certain conditions of equilibrium are met by a given mineral assemblage.

**Minerai** homogeneity is an observation that **is** consistent with cbemical equilibrium **(Finnerty** and Boyd, 1987). Zonation in **mantle** assemblages is **usually** manifest as a slight change in minor elements such as  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  or  $Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  from core to rim (Smith and Boyd, 1992). Most mantle minerals are homogeneous in their MgO, FeO and CaO **contents, which are the elements used in temperature and pressure calculations (Finnerty** and Boyd, 1987). Heterogeneous distribution of Mg, Fe and Ca is usually restricted to the rims of mineral grains in metasomatized peridotites (Finnerty and Boyd, 1987). These authors argued that the significance of pressures and temperatures calculated **using**  heterogeneous mineral analyses are uncertain.

The presence of metasomatic minerals impiies that **an** assemblage **was** not **at**  equilibrium prior to kimberlite eruption. Most metasomatism is late-stage, just prior to or related to kimberlite eruption, so the chemical compositions of the cores of the primary minerals may record the equilibrium temperature and pressure prior to the metasomatic event **(Erlank** et al., 1987). As such, the results of **P-T** calculations **using** analyses of the cons of minerais in metasomatized peridotites **may** represent the equilibrium conditions prevdent immediately before kimberlîte eruption.

## 4.1.3 The Attawapiskat **Mantle Xenolith** Suite

The **mantie** sample at **Attawapiskat does** not **readily** lend **itself** to **pressure**temperature **calcuiations. Most** of **the xenoliths** are gamet-olivine **pairs, so although equilibrium temperatures have been calcuiated,** absolute pressure determinations **were** not
possible. Orthop **ymxene graias** in most harzburgite fragments are completely **alteteci** to serpentine. In only a few xenoliths is fresh orthopyroxene preserved.

Although **mantle** stratigraphy may be evaluated by relatiag **P-T** results to rock type, gamet - olivine pairs **cmot be** classined into rock types **based** on **modal** mineralogy so should not contribute to a three-dimensional model. For the garnet – olivine pairs, rock  $\times$  **type classification was done using CaO and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contents of the garnets (see Figure 3-15,** and Chapter **5** for discussion). Although this method of classification is not as rigorous as that based on modal mineralogy, it does mean that temperatures for garnet – olivine pairs can be related to rock type **and** used to augment the stratigraphie relations between **rock** types at depth as determined by the xenoliths.

Analysis of clear, homogeneous grain cores were used for the pressure and temperature calculations for Attawapiskat xenoliths. Temperatures were calculated using the O'Neill and **Wood** (1979) gamet - olivine Fe-Mg **exchange** themorneter. Pressures for orthopyroxene-bearing assemblages were calculated using the MacGregor (1 974) alumina-in-orthopyroxene coexisting with garnet barometer. T<sub>equil</sub> for 14 garnets from pipe "V" concentrate **were** calculateâ **using** the Ni-in-gamet **(assumed** to bc in equilibrium with olivine) thermometer of Canil (1999).

#### **4.2 Oiivine-Gamet Thermometry, Gamet-Enstatite Baromehy**

Estimated **equilibrium temperatures** of Attawapiskat xenoliths were calculated **using**  the O'Neill and **Wood** (1979) **thennometer (with** the **O'NeilI** (1980) correction, the **combination of which will hereafter be referred to as OW79).** 

Partitioning of Fe and Mg between high-Mg olivine and coexisting gamet may be **represented by the exchange equation;** 

$$
3 Fe2SiO4 + 2 Mg3Al2Si3O12 \equiv 2 Fe3Al2Si3O12 + 3 Mg2SiO4 (1)
$$
  
(olivine) (garnet) (olivine)

**as defincd by O'Neill and Wood (1979).** 

**The themorneter is dependant on olivine and gamet compositions, temperature and Ca content of the gamet, with minor dependence on pressure. The equilibrium temperature is calculated by;** 

$$
T = \frac{902 + \text{DV} + (X_{\omega_0}^{\alpha} - X_{\text{re}}^{\alpha})(498 + 1.5(P - 30)) - 98(X_{\omega_0}^{\alpha} - X_{\text{re}}^{\alpha}) + 1347 X_{\text{ce}}^{\alpha}}{\text{Ln } K_0 + 0.357}
$$
 (2)

where  $X^i_j$  is the mole fraction of component *j* in phase *i*, *P* is pressure in kbar at which **the phases are in equilibrium, and T is in K (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). Ko is the partition coefficient between olivine and gamet, given by;** 

$$
K_0 = \frac{X_{\omega_0}^{\alpha} X_{\text{Fe}}^{\alpha}}{X_{\text{Fe}}^{\alpha} X_{\omega_0}^{\alpha}}
$$
 (3)

**where,** 

$$
\chi^{\text{ul}}_{\text{Mg}} = \left(\frac{Mg}{Mg + Fe}\right)_{\text{Oivine}}
$$

$$
X_{M_0}^{\alpha} = \left(\frac{Mg}{Mg + Fe + Ca}\right)_{\text{Garnat}}\tag{4}
$$

and so on for components Fe (olivine and gamet) and Ca (gamet) (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). DV **is** the term,

$$
DV = 462.5 [1.0191 + (T - 1073)(2.87 \cdot 10^{-5})] \cdot (P - 2.63 \cdot 10^{-4} P^2 - 29.76)
$$
  
- 262.4 [1.0292 + (T - 1073)(4.5 \cdot 10^{-5})] \cdot (P - 3.9 \cdot 10^{-4} P^2 - 29.65)  
+ 454 [1.020 + (T - 1073)(2.84 \cdot 10^{-5})] \cdot (P - 2.36 \cdot 10^{-4} P^2 - 29.79)  
+ 278.3 [1.0234 + (T - 1073)(2.3 \cdot 10^{-5})] \cdot (P - 4.5 \cdot 10^{-4} P^2 - 29.6) (5)

**which** is used to **incorporate** the **pressure** dependant volume change of the Fe-Mg exchange (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). Equation (2) **may** be solved iteratively **with** a geobarometer to arrive at a P-T pair for the assemblage. A first approximation of the pressure and temperature of formation must be made and entered into eq. (2) for the first iteration. The thermometer is most sensitive at high temperatures  $(\leq 1300 \degree C)$ , where two-pymxene themiorneten **become** spurious due to the decrease in size of **the** pyroxene miscibility gap (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). Pressure effects on  $K<sub>D</sub>$  lead to slight increases in the calculated temperature, from 6 <sup>o</sup>C/ kbar at 10 kbar, to 3 <sup>o</sup>C/ kbar at 70 kbar (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). Error in the calculated temperature is  $\pm$  60<sup>o</sup>C for values between 600 °C and 1300 °C (O'Neill and Wood, 1979).

The pressure of quilibration for the Attawapiskat sarnples **was** estimated using the equation derived by **Finnerty and** Boyd (1984) for the durnina-in-enstatite geobarorneter of MacGregor (1974) for **use in** the program **TEMPEST (F.R.** Boyd, personal communication to D. Schulze). The equilibrium between enstatite and coexisting **olivine and gamet may** be represented by the exchange reaction,

$$
x Mg3Al2Si3O12 + 3(1-x) MgSiO3 \equiv 3 MgSiO3 \cdot x Al2O3
$$
  
(**garnet**) (enstatite) (Mg-Tschemaks)

**65** 

 $(6)$ 

as experimentally determined by MacGregor (1974). Isopleths of  $A<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  in enstatite projected onto P-T space may **be used** to detemüne the pressure of equilibration a **given**  temperature. Finnerty and **Boyd** (1984) derived **an** equation for calculating a MacGregor (1974) equilibrium pressure for a **known** temperature for **the** computer program TEMPEST. **Pressure** may be caiculated by,

$$
P \text{ (kbar)} = \left(\frac{1.46 - \text{lnAl}_2\text{O}_3}{97.1}\right) \cdot T - 38.5 \tag{7}
$$

where  $AI_2O_3$  is the weight fraction of  $AI_2O_3$  in enstatite, and T is in K (F.R. Boyd, personal cornniunication to **D.J.** Schulze).

Equation (7) may be solved iteratively **with** a geothermometer to **arrive** at a P-T pair for the **mantle** assemblage. **Error** in eq. (7) **is partially** dependant on the error in **the**  geothermometer with which the pressure determination is coupled. Error in eq.  $(7)$ solveà iteratively with **eq.** (2) is **k3.0 kbar** (O'Neill **and** Wood, 1979).

#### **4.3 Pressure-Temperature Results**

**Pressures** and temperatures of equilibration were calculated for seven **coarse** gamet + olivine + orthopyroxene assemblages, one chrornite + **gamet** + olivine + orthopyroxene assemblage, and one **deformeci garnet** iherzolite. **The** gamet + olivine + orthopyroxene assemblages are modally classifieâ as **huzburgite.** Gamet analyses for four of **these**  assemblages plot in **the Cao-rich** field in Figure **3-1 5, so** they **are** chemicaiiy classifiai as lhcrzoütes. Those **gamet** + olivine + octhopyroxene **assemblages** for which garnet compositions **fd** to the lefi of **the discRminant iine in** Figure 3-15 **are** coasidered **harzburgites; those with gamets compositions to the right** of the **discriminant** iine

lherzolites. Lherzolites were recovered from pipes "Al". "G" and "V". Harzburgites **were** recovered **hm** pipes "Al" and **"G". A** chromite-gamet harzburgite **was** recovered from pipe "G". The single deformed garnet lherzolite was recovered from pipe "Al". Results **ofT** - P calculations are **summarized** in Table **4-1.** 

Calculated  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  and  $P_{\text{MCT4}}$  indicate the garnet lherzolites equilibrated in the range 782.9 *OC13* **1.4 kbar** to 937.4 **"CI42.4** kbar. **Gamet** harzburgites equilibrated in the range 1036 **OU47.4** kbar to 1045 **OC147.9** kbar. **The** chrornite-gamet harzburgite has calculated equilibrium **T-P values** of 68 **1.7 'Cl25 kbar. The deforneci** gamet lhenolite **hm** pipe **"G"** has calculated equilibrium temperature and pressure of 927.0 °C/42.9 kbar.

Attawapiskat xenolith equilibrium pressures and temperatures fall along a 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> conductive subcratonic steady-state **geothemd** gradient in Figure **4-1** (Pollack and Chapman, 1977). Garnet lherzolites equilibrated at pressures below the graphitediarnmd univariant curve of Kennedy and Kennedy **(1976).** Two of **the** harzburgite samples equiiibrated within the diamond stability field, the other **two within** the graphite stability field. The chromite-gamet harzburgite **has** equiiiirium pressure **and** temperature that places it well **within** the graphite stability field in Figure **44.** Enor in the P-T results of  $\pm$  60<sup>o</sup>C and  $\bullet$  3 kbar preserves the relationship between rock type and the diamondgraphite univariant.

There is a slight "gap" in **the** Attawapiskat **P-T** results, between 937 "Cf42.4 **kbar** and **1036 OC147.7 kbar (Figure 4-1). The** gap **roughly corresponds** to a division between lower pressure and temperature lherzolitic assemblages and higher pressure and **temperature barzburgitic** assemblages.



**Figure 4-1** : **Pressure** - **Temperature results for Attawapiskat xenoliths. The xenoliths have equilibrium pressures and**  temperatures that fall along a 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> conductive subcratonic steady-state geothermal gradient. Graphite - diamond stability, Kennedy and Kennedy (1976); 40mWm-2 geothermal gradient, Pollack and Chapman, (1977); Kirkland Lake data, Vicker (1997); **Somerset Island data. Jago (personal communication); Slave data, Kopylova et al. (1999) and MacKenzie and Canil(1999).** 

Attawapiskat **xenoliths** equilibrated at lower temperatures and pressures compared to coarse gamet peridotites **firom** other **Canadian** localities. Some Slave craton coarse peridotites equilibrated at higher temperahues, at pressures **within** the diamond **stability**  field (Figure 4-1; Kopylova et al., 1999; MacKenzie and Canil, 1999). These samples **equilibrated** on a slightly hotter geothcrmd gradient **than** those at Attawapiskat **(42rn~rn-\*** - Kopylova et ai., 1999; **MacKeaPe and Canil,** 1999). **Somenet** Island peridotites define a **geothemal** gradient **that** inaects **to high** temperatures at pressures  $> 45$  kbar (Mitchell, 1978). Coarse peridotites from Kirkland Lake have a broad range of equilibrium temperatures and pressures, but generally yield equilibrium temperatures above the 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient at pressures above 50 kbar (Vicker, 1997).

#### **4.4 Thermometry Results**

#### 4.4.1 *TOw9* for Coarse Gamet Peridotites

Temperatures of equilibration for garnet-olivine pairs were calculated using  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  at an assumed equilibrium pressure of **40** kbar (which is consistent **with** the calculated pressures discussed **above).** Results of the temperature calculations are **smarized** in Table 4-1. Calculated equilibrium temperatures were projected to a reference  $40mWm<sup>-2</sup>$ geothermal gradient in Figure **4-2** by **drawing** horizontal tie-lines **hm** *TOw9* at 40 kbar to the **reference geotherrnal** gradient (see **Figure 4-2** for a graphical explanation). Temperatures were then recalculated using the pressure on the 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient. The difference between  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  (at 40 kbar) and  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  (assumed pressure) was <sup>3</sup>- **<sup>10</sup>OC for al1 of the** samples. Projection of calculated equiübriurn temperatures to a known geothermal gradient in **this manner aiiows** for **spatial** cornparison **of** gamet -



**Figure 4-2: Equilibrium temperatures for gamet - olivine pairs, calculated using OW79 at an assumed pressure of 40 kbar. a) Temperature results were** horizontally projected to a 40 mWm<sup>2</sup> geothermal gradient (arrows). Temperatures were then recalculated at the pressure corresponding to the geothermal gradient. **This procedure was repeatd unül a final POT pair was atteined. b) Rewits of**  recalculation process in (a). There is a "gap" in the results from ~850 - 1100 °C. **Symbdsr** red - **Ihetzdite, blue** - **harzburgilie.** 

olivine **chernistries** with those of the composite xenotiths. Aithough absolute **depths** of **equiîibration** for the gamet - olivine **pairs are** somewhat **uncertain,** relative stratigraphy **between** the samples is preserved

Calculated  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  for garnet-olivine pairs ranges from 680  $^{\circ}$ C to 1129  $^{\circ}$ C at an assumed pressure of 40 kbar, with a slight "gap" from  $\sim 850 - 1100$  °C (Figure 4-2). Seven of the samples that lie below the 40 mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient in Figure 4-2 contain **gamets** with compositions that **fa11 in** the lherzolite field in Figure 3-15. The eighth sample contains garnet with harzburgite composition. Three samples plot above the 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient in Figure 4-2. They may be classified as lherzolite (two samples) and harzburgite (one sample) based on CaO and  $Cr_2O_3$  content of the gamets.

#### 4.4.2 Ni-in-garnet Thermometer

Trace element analyses of **14** low-Ca0 **(harzburgitic)** gamets **fiom "V"**  concentrate were used to determine  $T_{\text{coul}}$  using the Ni-in-garnet thermometer of Canil (1999). The Ni-in-garnet thermometer is based on the temperature sensitive partitioning of Ni between Mg-rich olivine (forsterite) and gamet. Ni strongly prefers partitions **into**  the octahedral site in olivine over the distorted cubic site in gamet due to a large dinerence in **stabiiization energy** (Ross et al., **1996;** Canil, **1999). The** thermometer **was**  caiibrated **using** experimentally **derived** partition coefficients between coexisthg olivine and garnet and natural garnets occurring in lherzolite and harzburgite xenoliths (Ryan et al., **19%; Canil, 1994; Canïl, 1999).** Howeva, the thermometer **is** applicable to **single garnets by assuming the gamet was in equiIiirium** with a Mg-rich (forsteritic) **made** 



**Figure 4-3: Equilibrium temperatures calculated using the Ni-ingamet thennometer. Temperatures have been projected to the 40**   $\overline{m}$ Wm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient in a similar manner to those results in Figure 4-2.  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  span the "gap" in temperature seen in Figures 4-1 and **4-2.** 

olivine. **Mantle** olivines have Ni contents which **typically range hm 2700** - 3 1 00 ppm. The average Ni content for **mantle** oiivines (2900 ppm) **Grifnn** et ai. (1989) **may** be used to calculate  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  for single garnets of peridotite affinity.  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  is calculated by,

$$
T = 8772/(2.53 - lnD_{\rm N}^{\rm g/d})
$$

where *T* is temperature in K, and  $D^{\text{gVol}}$ <sub>Ni</sub> = [Ni]<sub>gt</sub> / [Ni]<sub>ol</sub> (ppm) (Canil, 1999). [Ni]<sub>ol</sub> is assumed to be 2900 ppm. Error in eq. (8) is  $\pm$ 50 <sup>o</sup>C (Canil, 1994; Canil, 1999).

Results of  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  for the 14 "V" garnets have been projected to the 40 mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothemal gradient **using the same** method for *Tow9* results discussed above (Figure 4- 3). Relative stratigraphy of **the** source rocks **is** pnserved **whereas tnie** depths of equilibration are uncertain. The temperatures cluster between 950 – 1091 °C. Calculated  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  span the temperature "gap" in the  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  and  $T_{\text{OW79}}$ -P<sub>MC74</sub> results. The range in  $T_{\text{Ni}}$ , **and their** approximate depths of ongin, coincide **with the** higher **P-T group** (harzburgite) of xenolitbs.

## **4.4.3** Comparison of  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  and  $T_{\text{Ni}}$

**The** temperature dependant exchange of Fe and Mg between coexisting olivine and gamet calfirated for **the 0W79** themorneter **has** a **slight** dependence on Ca content of gamet **and** a slight pressure dependence, related to volume expansion in the exchange **reactioa as** pressure increases **(O'Neill and** Wood, 1979). **The** "IN' tenn (eq. 4) corrects for most of this dependence, but error in eq. (1) is somewhat greater at higher pressure because of **the dependence** (above **6Okbar** (approximately @valent to temperatures >14ûû **OC)** and below **600 OC, cmr is** 190 **OC** -O'Neill and **Wood,** 1979). For the temperature range 600-1300 °C,  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  is within  $\pm 60$  °C of the Wells (1977) two-

 $(8)$ 

pyroxene thermometer (O'Neill and Wood, 1979). **Emr** in **0W79** is comparable to emr in experimentally caiibrated two-pyroxene thermometers (O'Neill and Wood, 1979; Finnerty and **Boyâ,** 1987).

**The** Ni-in-gamet thermometer **has several** advantages **over** conventional two-phase thennometers. **It** is applicable to single grains recovereà **hm** diamond exploration samples, or for garnets from heavy mineral concentrates.  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  is independent of pressure, so no correction temis are necessary **(Canil,** 1999). The Ni-in-gamet themometer of Canil (1999) assumes garnet coexisted with olivine with 2900 ppm Ni, so it is only applicable to peridotitic **gamets.** Appiication of **the** Ni-in-gamet themorneter to Fe-rich deformed peridotites and fertile lherzolites has not been tested.

Results of **OW79** and the Ni-in-gamet themometer for **this** study yield very similar results (Figures 4-2 and 4-3). Calculated equilibrium temperatures using  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  for **harzburgitic gamets** are somewhat more restricted **than** those for gamet harzburgite garnets calculated using OW79  $(T_{\text{Ni}} - 950 \degree \text{C}$  to 1091  $\degree \text{C}$ ,  $T_{\text{OW79}} - 808 \degree \text{C}$  to 1129  $\degree \text{C}$ ).

#### **4.5 Deformed Lherzolites**

One deformed lherzolite sample from pipe "Al" yields  $T_{\text{OW79}} = 927.0 \text{ °C}$  and  $P_{\text{MC74}} =$ 42.9 kbar. This point plots just into the diamond stability field, on the  $40mWm^{-2}$ **geothermal gradient in Figure 4-1. Error of**  $\pm 60$  **°C and**  $\pm 3$  **kbar would place the sample £ûrther** into the diamond stability field or below **the** graphite-diamond **univariant** in the graphite stability field **(Figures 4-1).** 

The single deformed lherzolite from pipe "Al" has a low calculated  $T_{equil}$ . Deformed **lhazoiites hm Kimberley** South **Afnca** (Boyd **and Nixon, 1977),** Matsoku, Lesotho



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**Figure 44: Pressure** - **Temperature results from Attawapiskat**  compared to sheared garnet lherzolite pressures and temperatures from worldwide sources. Data for Elwin Bay, Northwest Territories, **Mitchell (1977); Letseng, Lesotho, Boyd (1973); Thaba Putsoa and Mothae, Lesotho, Nixon (1973) and Nixon and Boyd (1973); Slave province, Northwest Territories, Kopylova et al. (1 999) and MacKenzie and Canil(1999).** 

**(Cox et al., 1973) and the Thumb minnette, New Mexico (Harte, 1983) have similarly**  low equilibration temperatures. Worldwide, however, deformed lherzolites typically have calculated equilibration temperatures above a 40 mWm<sup>-2</sup> steady – state geothermal **gradient (Nixon and Boyd 1973; Boyd and Nixon, 1978; Boyd, 1987; Harte, 1983).** 

Pipe	<b>SAMPLE</b>	<b>Rock Type</b>		$T_{\text{OW79}}$ (°C)	$P_{MC74}$ (kbar)
		garnet chemistry classification	modal classification		
G	13-95-33	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt. harzburgite	808.8	33.5
G	13-95-67	gnt. harzburgite	gnt. harzburgite	1036,4	47.7
G	13-95-35	gnt. harzburgite	gnt. harzburgite	1037.7	48.5
G	13-95-42	gnt-chr harzburgite	gnt-chr harzburgite	681.7	25
<b>A1</b>	13-97-78	gnt. harzburgite	gnt. harzburgite	1045.9	47.9
A <sub>1</sub>	13-97-83	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt. Iherzolite	937.4	42.4
A1	<b>Att-A1-P1</b>	disrupted gnt. Iherzolite	gnt. Iherzolite	927.0	42.9
<b>A1</b>	<b>Att-A1-P2</b>	coarse gnt. Iherzolite	gnt. Iherzolite	782.9	31.4
$\mathbf v$	13-99-18	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt. Iherzolite	915.0	39.4
	<b>Temperature only</b>			$T_{OW79}$ (°C)	P(assumed)
G	13-95-34	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	1100	40
G	13-95-48	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	827	40
G	13-95-50	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	726	40
G	13-95-52	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	844	40
G	13-95-56	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	683	40
G	13-95-59	gnt. harzburgite	gnt-oliv pair	802	40
G	13-95-70	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	680	40
A <sub>1</sub>	13-97-81	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	1100	40
A1	13-97-82	gnt. Iherzolite	gnt-oliv pair	797	40
$\boldsymbol{\mathsf{X}}$	13-102-09	gnt. harzburgite	gnt-oliv pair	1129	40

**Table 4-1: Pressure** - **Temperature Resulb** 

#### **CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

**Resuits of analysis** of **uitramafic** xenoliths **hm** the Attawapiskat **kimberlites** have been used to determine vertical heterogeneity in the mantle beneath the eastern Sachigo subprovince during the late to middle Jurassic. The results of this study represent the first conductive subcratonic steady-state geothermal gradient determination for the Sachigo subprovince, **and** for that portion of the Superior Province **which** is covered by the Palaeozoic sedimentary rocks of the Hudson Bay Platform.

#### **5.2 Mineral Chemistry**

Ultramafic mantle xenoliths from the Attawapiskat kimberlites are small, and typically occur as gamet - olivine pairs. Modal classification of the xenolith suite indicates that the mantle below Attawapiskat consists of harzburgite, with minor volumes of lherzolite and eclogite. Rock type classification of the composite xenoliths based on **mineral chernistry** indicates that the **mantle below** Attawapiskat is approximately **bimodal, consisting of abundant lherzolite with significant amounts of harzburgite.** Eclogite **is** volumetrically insignificant at Attawapiskat. Gamet-olivine pairs **are**  predominantly lherzolite-derived, however, harzburgite fragments contribute considerably to **the** suite.

Classification of composite mantle assemblages **based** on gamet **chemistry** is **pmblematic,** as the divisions **in** Figures **3-1,3-2,3-3 and** 3-15 are **based** on statistical **analyses** of gamets included in diamond and not on **gamets hm** xenoüths. Fipke et al. (1995) **use the** "G9", "G10" and "Eclogite" fields of Gumey (1984) to relate the chemical composition of gamet xenocrysts to parent rock type. In the **case** of the Attawapiskat **ulüamafic** xenoiith suite, modal classification **has** been augmented by **chemical**   $classification$ , particularly for the garnet  $-$  olivine pairs.

Analysis of **gamets hm heavy** mineral separates expands the data suite **from** the cognate xenoiiths. Gamet xenocrysts indicate that the **mantle** below Attawapiskat is predominantly lherzolitic, with subordinate amounts of harzburgite. The paucity of eclogite at **depth indicated by** the xenolith suite is comborated by xenocryst analyses.

Cr-diopsides recovered from pipe "V" are ferroan compared to Cr-diopsides from coarse and sheared lherzolites from Lesotho (Boyd, 1973; Cox et al., 1973; Nixon and Boyd, 1973 – Figure 3-19). Xenocryst compositions correspond closely to those for metasomatic **clinopyroxenes in** the xenoliths, **indicating** the xenocryst population is dominated **by** metasomatic clinopyroxene. **It is** unknown **why primary** clinopyroxene did not survive in the xenoüth **and xenocryst** populations.

#### **5.3 Geothermobarometry**

#### **5.3.1** Pressure - Temperature Results

Subcratonic conductive steady-state geothermal gradients equal to 40 mWm<sup>-2</sup> have **been calculated for the Kaapvaal craton, southern Africa, Siberia (Finnerty and Boyd,** 1987), and for the Superior Craton, Canada (Meyer, 1994; Vicker, 1997). A 40 mWm<sup>-2</sup> **geothermal gradient** is considend typical of **deep,** cool pendotitic **mots** at the centres of cratons **(Fimerty and Boyd,** 1987). Meyer (1994) **and** Vicker (1997) both showed that the **Kirkland Lake** suite **of xenoliths hm the** Abitibi subprovince correspond to a centrai - cratonic geothemal gradient. Results of this study **are** consistent with the location of **these kimberlites** in **the** Sachigo subprovince in **the** central region of the Superior Craton. **The** equilibration **depths** of the **samples** corroborates the estimate of 150 **km depth** to **the iithosphere-asthenoqhere** boundary by **Grand** (1987).

Calculated equilibrium pressures and temperatures indicate that the mantle below Attawapiskat is layered. Garnet lherzolite xenoliths typically equilibrated at shallower depths than garnet harzburgites. The majority of garnet lherzolites equilibrated at pressures within graphite **stab** ility . Hanburgites typically equilibrated **at** higher pressures and temperatures than the lherzolites, and two of three harzburgite samples equilibrated at pressures within the diarnond stability field.

## **5.3.2 Temperature ResuIts**

Temperatures of equilibration calculated for garnet-olivine pairs using OW79, and  $T_{\text{Ni}}$ coincide **with** the **temperature** range of the xenoliths for which **both** equilibrium pressure and temperature were determined. **0W79** results indicate that the majority of lherzolite xenoliths equilibrated at pressures and temperatures within the graphite stability **field.**  Two gamet -olivine **pairs** of lhexzolite **afnnity** equilibrated within the diamond stability field. Harzburgitic garnet - olivine pairs equilibrated at pressures within both diamond and graphite stability.  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  for harzburgitic garnets do not extend below  $\sim$  940 °C, consistent with the higher  $T_{equil}$  established for garnet harzburgite samples using OW79.

#### 5.3.3 The Attawapiskat P-T "Gap"

Thermobarometry on composite xenoliths indicates there is a segment of the mantle, **near 45** - **<sup>50</sup>kbar (140** - **160 lm depth)/ 950** - **<sup>1000</sup>OC** that is not represented by the mantle xenolith suite. Results for for  $T_{\text{OW79}}$  for garnet – olivine pairs have the same "gap" in data.  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  for low-CaO garnets extend into the gap, suggesting that there may be **<sup>a</sup>layer** of **harzburgite** between 140 - <sup>160</sup>**km depth that was sampIed** but **did not** survive as composite xenoliths during kimberlite eruption.

#### **5.4 Metasomatism**

Metasomatism is the **in situ** enrichment of a mantle peridotite by **an LIL- and LREEenriched fluid or volatile-rich silicate magma, resulting in an enrichment/depletion reaction between the host rock and infiltrating fluid (Harte 1983; Spera, 1987; Menzies and** *S* **and** Hawksworth, 1987). **The** result of the interaction **may** be 1) the introduction of one or more new hydrous phases, such as phîogopite **and** amphibole (modal metasomatism), or 2) LREE enrichment **and** major element depletion in the **host** rock phases, without **any accompanyuig change** in the modal mineralogy (cryptic metasomatism - **Harte, 1983; Spera, 1987; Menzies and Hawksworth, 1987). Secoadary minerals are the product of reactions between the made** assemblage **and the** volatile-rich kimberlite **magma** as the **xenoliths are transported to and sit at the surface (Harte, 1983).** 

**Excess chrome from the breakdown of Cr-pyrope is accommodated as vermicular chromite** inclusions **in the** phlogopite **and amphiibok replacing the gamet. It may be inferred that srnail "clots" of** phlogopite + amphibole **chromite** in **some xmolitbs are completely** nplaced **gamets** (&la& **et al., 1987). It** is possible **to** extend **this** iaference to several phlogopite + amphibole  $\pm$  chromite fragments in the kimberlite  $\pm$  they may be fragments of completely replaced garnet from coarse-grained metasomatized lherzolites (Erlank et al., 1987). Garnet harzburgites and garnet – olivine pairs of harzburgite **af'hity** have gamet **which** is partially replaceci by metasomatic clinopytoxene **ody.** The metasomatic assemblage at Attawapiskat is similar to **that** at Monastery, South Afnca, **where Summers** (1987) **sbowed tbat metasomatism took place in stages,** with graduai replacement of garnet by clinopyroxene  $\rightarrow$  amphibole  $\rightarrow$  amphibole + phlogopite with decreasing **depth.** Vicker **(1997)** noted clinopyroxene metasomatism in the **Kirkland**  Lake, Ontario **xenoliths,** but not amphibole metasornatism. Metasomatism at Attawapiskat appears to have penetrated to greater depths **than** that **at** Kirkland **Lake.** 

Petrographic, chernical and therrnobarometric evidence suggests two different types of metasomatism occurred at Attawapiskat: 1) Modal metasomatism of **gamet** lherzolite between -1 20 - 140 km, where garnet **comumed** by phlogopite + amphibofe, **and** 2) Modal metasomatism of a dominantly hargular mantle at depths greater than  $\sim$ 160km, **where garnet was partially replaced by clinopyroxene. A similar relationship was** observed in **mantle** xenolitbs **hm** Kimberley, South **Africa** by Erlank et al. (1987). Phlogopite and amphibole metasomatism is restricted to shallow samples, whereas clinopyroxene metasomatism **occuned** at deeper intervals. The **same** relationship between **depth** and type of metasomatism is evident at Attawapiskat, however, parent rock type seems to have played a roll as well. Shallow lherzolites have amphibole + phlogopite metasomatism **whereas** deeper hanburgite **hgments** have **unâergone**  clinopyroxene metasomatism. Compositions of the phlogopite, amphibole and clinoppxene indicate that the metasomatising fiuid **was Ti&** and **&O- poor.** 

**Dawson** (1987) and Lloyd (1987) argue that replacement of relatively **dense** gamet by light oxides in garnet peridotite may create a density contrast in the mantle that could lead to gravitational instabilities at depth, contributing to local buoyancy of the overlying craton. The **=suit** of **large-scale** metasomatism could **lead** to the creation of craton-scale **basin** and dome **structures, and** associated **rifüng.** The degree to which metasomatic alteration of the lithospheric mantle contributes to craton buoyancy will typically be **mal1** but may **make** an important contribution to craton buoyancy when coupled with larger instability influences such as isostatic rebound after glacial retreat (Lloyd, 1987). Amphibole and phlogopite metasomatism **was** oniy a small component of the total metasomatic event at Attawapiskat, and will likely have had a negligible role in Superior Craton **buoyancy. Cr-diopside** and **pympe gamet have very similar** densities **@eer** et al., 1966), and clinopyroxene metasomatism will not have had any effect on the gravitational stability of the upper **mantle** 

#### **5.5 Deformed Peridotites**

One deformed lherzolite sample was recovered from the Attawapiskat kimberlite. Calculated pressure and temperature of equilibration for this sarnple place it **near the**   $40$ mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothermal gradient. This is similar to Bultfontein, Kimberley, South Africa **(Dawson** et al., 1975; **Boyd** and **Nixon, 1978),** Matsolni, Lesotho (Harte et al., **1975).** and **the Thumb minnette in New** Mexico, (Harte, **1983),** when **defomed** pendotites have pressures and temperatures of equilibration that fall on or near the local geothermal **gradient.** 

Worldwide, deformed perîdotites **may** be correlated **with** high estimated equilibrium temperatures, and define high-temperanire inflections in the local **geothermal** gradient at **depths** > 150 **km Finnerty and Boyd, 1987).** This is particularly pmounced in xenoliths **hm** northern Lesotho **(Finnerty** and **Boyd,** 1987). **Finnerty** and Boyd (1987) **and Boyd (1987) argue** that hi&-temperature deformed lhenolites form in regions where the  $lithosphere - asthenosphere$  boundary is shallow, particularly in circum-cratonic mobile belts. **The** low-temperature deformed iherzolites at Attawapiskat are typical of **regions where** cool craton mots penetrate to **depths** > **150 km** (Boyd and Nixon, 1987; **Boyd,**  1987).

#### **5.6 Diamond Potential**

 $\ddot{\phantom{1}}$ 

Diamonds **hm** eclogite **are** not expectcd at Attawapiskat. Gumey (1984) showed that 85% of peridotite **garnet** diamond inclusions have compositions that fa11 on the **Cao**poor portion of Figure 3-15, the **"banburgite"** field. Hanburgite **xenoiiths** at Attawapiskat equilibrated at pressures and temperatures near or in the diamond stability field (Figure **4-1).** The presence of diamonds at Attawapiskat **is** consistent **with** the high **P-T harzburgite xenolith suite.** 

**Results of**  $T_{\text{Ni}}$  **for garnet xenocrysts indicate that a layer of harzburgite, which** equilirated **at** temperatures comsporiding to the diamond stability field, **was sampled by**  the Attawapiskat kimberlites but **did** not survive as cognate xenoliths. **Ifthis** layer of harzburgite contained diamonds, there is a high possibility that the diamonds survived **kimberlite eruption and are recoverable from the kimberlite.** 

#### **CaAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS**

#### **6.1 The Attawapiskat Mantle Xenolith Suite**

The Attawapiskat mantle xenolith suite is representative of a dominantly lherzolitic mantle, with subordinate amounts of harzburgite and eclogite. Estimated pressures and temperatures of equilibrium for xenoliths define a 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> conductive steady-state subcratonic geothemal gradient below the **Sachigo** subprovince of the Supenor Province of the Canadian Shield.

**The** xenoiith assemblage at Attawapiskat includes deformed peridotites with estimated equilibration temperatures and pressures which fall near the 40mWm<sup>-2</sup> geothemal gradient. This is similar to the cold, sheared pendotites fiom Kimberley, South Africa, Matsoku, Lesotho, and Thumb, New Mexico. This appears to be unique **within** Canada, **as** al1 other **Canadian** localities report some high-temperature sheared peridotites.

Lherzolite and harzburgite xenoliths have different metasomatic assemblages. Modal metasomatism of shallow-derived lherzolites resulted in the introduction of phlogopite  $+$  amphibole (pargasite)  $\pm$  chromite at the expense of garnet. Deeper harzburgite xenoliths have undergone modal metasomatism where gamet is consumed by clinopyroxene only. The identity and **source** of the fluid **nmains** undetennined.

The presence of harzburgite xenoliths with calculated equilibrium pressures and temperatures **within the** diamond stability field **is** consistent with the presence of diamond in **the Attawapislrat** kimberlite pipes.

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**Appecidix A: Electron Microprobe Standards and Operations Specifications** 

**APPENDIX1** 

# **MICROPROBE STANDARDS** All minerals



from pipe V-1 were analyzed using this routine.

A - augite from kakanui basalt, New Zealand

\*\* - synthetic olivine, forsterite content 85

**Appendix B:** Mineral Analysis Results

# **Appendix B**

# **Mineral Analysis Results**

## **Olivine**



# **Appendix B**

 $\mathcal{A}$ 

# **Mineral Analysis Results**

Olivine



# **Appndix 6 Mineral Analysis Results O tivine**



# **Appendix B**

# **Mineral Analysis Results Gamet Analysis Results Gamet Analysis Results** Gamet **Gamet**


## **Appendix B Construction Construction Construction Construction Mineral Analysis Results Gamet Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construc**



## **Mineral Analysis Results**

**Garnet** 



## **Appendix B Mineral Analysis Results Mineral Analysis Results Gamet**





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### Mineral Analysis Results

**Garnet** 

# **Appendix B Mineral Analysis Results Mineral Analysis Results Controller B Orthopyroxene**



### **Mineral Analysis Results**

Clinopyroxene

**Primary Clinopyroxene** 



Metasomatic Clinopyroxene (not nalyzed for Ni)





 $501$ 

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### **Mineral Analysis Results**

Chromite





and the company of the

**Appendix B** Mineral Analysis Results Gamets from "A1" Concentrate

o se encontra el comun





**Appendix 6 Mineral Analysis Results Gamets** from **"Al" Concentrate** 





**Mineral Analysis Results Gamets from "Al" Concentrate** 







**Appendix 6 Mineral Analysis Resuks Gamets from "Alm Concentrate** 



Minesel Anglusia Deputta

Carnate from "A1" Concentrate



Mineset Anglusia Desults

Compte from WAAR Conc entrate



**Mineral Analysis Results Carnets from "G" Concentrate** 



**Appendix B** Mineral Analysis Results Gamets from "G" Concentrate Concentrate is a set of the set of  $\lambda$ 









**Appendix B** Mineral Analysis Results Garnets from "V" Concentrate

<b>POINT</b>	<b>Na2O</b>	<b>MgO</b>	<b>AI2O3</b>	<b>SiO2</b>	<b>MnO</b>	<b>FeO</b>	CaO	<b>TiO2</b>	<b>Cr2O3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	0.043	19.630	19,729	41.342	0.391	7.694	5.394	0.163	5.618	100,006
$\boldsymbol{2}$	0.047	19.696	19.336	41.207	0.371	7.575	5.170	0.275	5,884	99.561
3	0.013	19.744	20.568	42.018	0.333	7.698	5.204	0.232	4.160	99,970
4	0.050	18,895	21.539	41.553	0.399	10.383	4.785	0.544	1.763	99.912
5	0.022	19,824	21.256	41.737	0.416	8.158	5.024	0.112	3,613	100.161
6	0.023	16,433	23.508	41.361	0.325	13.714	5.103	0.038	0.126	100.632
7	0.053	18.982	18,526	41.004	0.395	8.257	5.676	0.379	6,654	99,925
8	0.024	16.557	23.423	41.228	0.482	13.962	4.626	0.068	0.126	100.497
9	0.032	20.923	23.278	42.636	0.333	7.824	4.249	0.205	1.000	100.481
10	0.081	19.859	20,918	41.881	0.374	8,949	4.433	0.472	3.307	100.274
11	0.066	19,570	19,607	41.534	0.421	7.963	5.173	0.290	5.868	100.493
12	0,031	18.793	18.227	41.040	0.382	7.406	6.478	0.092	7.641	100,090
13	0.036	20,296	21,577	41.740	0.381	7.938	4.792	0.193	3.144	100.097
14	0.044	19.305	18.505	40.952	0.414	7.505	5.413	0.183	7.055	99.378
15	0.051	19.794	19.703	41.284	0.372	7.675	5.052	0.279	5.452	99.661
16	0.034	19,607	20.364	41.468	0.386	7.983	5.227	0.188	4.746	100.003
17	0.036	19.612	18.658	40,967	0.383	7,370	5.573	0.188	7.072	99.860
18	0.058	19.540	21.783	41.560	0.405	9.744	4.300	0.394	1.958	99.743
19	0.024	19,718	19.909	41.530	0.334	7.612	5.563	0.152	5.136	99.978
20	0.077	19.585	19.083	41.282	0.363	8.276	5.041	0.494	5.823	100.024
21	0.101	20.041	21.628	41.994	0.337	9.435	4.004	0.375	2.026	99,942
22	0.036	18,587	21.834	41.325	0.442	10.773	4.675	0.492	1.536	99.698
23	0.042	18.955	21,390	41,506	0.409	10.108	4.998	0.509	2.033	99,950
24	0.050	19,147	18.641	41.115	0.402	7.700	5,627	0.272	6.976	99,930
25	0.049	20,306	21.655	41.904	0.343	8,706	4.466	0.340	2.371	100.140
26	0.063	20.165	21.573	41.896	0.354	8,612	4.403	0.330	2.409	99.805
27	0.024	19,338	19.639	41.337	0.331	7.894	5.443	0.349	5.351	99.705
28	0.044	18,766	17.419	40,942	0.412	7.438	6.025	0.235	8.483	99.765





### **Mineral Analysis Results Gamets from "V" Concentrate**

**Appendix 6 Mineral Analysis Results Clinopyroxenes from** "V" **concentrate** 









## App





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