

## The southeastern margin of Laurentia ca. 1.7 Ga: the case of the missing crust

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By 1.8 Ga the major part of the exposed Precambrian Shield had been assembled. The southeastern part of the shield, and its major orogenic components, are depicted at left. Subsequent crustal growth was restricted to the southeastern boundary of the shield commencing with massive accretion during the Labradorian Orogeny (1.70 - 1.63 Ga). The Labradorian suture, marked by the Trans-Labrador batholith (TLB), transects earlier orogenic trends; however, pre-1.8 Ga orogenic patterns suggest an

original extent well to the south of their present limit. Structural and geophysical considerations indicate that this old crust is likely to underlie only the northern margin of the Labrador Orogen. What, therefore, happened to the remainder of the pre-1.8 Ga crust? Lack of mafic dyke swarms and related rocks of 1.8-1.7 Ga age discounts crustal rifting as a viable explanation. An alternative model may involve lateral transfer of crust by (Labradorian?) transcurrent shearing.

