Tectonically driven fluid migration in the west Newfoundland platform: record of dolomitization, breccia, Pb-Zn and carbonate cements (poster)

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Regional fluid migration through the Humber Platform was associated with episodic Paleozoic tectonism. These events profoundly altered platform stratigraphy to extensive dolostones, and veins and breccias cemented by carbonate, quartz \pm Pb-Zn sulphides and sulphates. Complex alteration and cement stratigraphy records a series of deformation events associated with fluid migration.

Four discrete events are identified at Daniel's Harbour zinc mine: (1) Convergent Lithospheric Bulge: faults on a gently uplifted, early Ordovician platform focused meteoric karst, and thermal saline brines dolomitized an emergent seafloor. (2) Foreland Burial/Obduction: calcite/dolomite cements with radiogenic Sr precipitated in ubiquitous microfractures from allochthonous fluids. (3) Peak Thermal Convergence: regional fractures and faults released voluminous hydrothermal fluids (100°-200°C) responsible for extensive coarse stratabound dolomitization, vein cements and sulphides. (4) Late uplift: fluid migrated along steep faults to form local dolostone bodies.

Extension in the St. George's Basin (Devonian-Carboniferous) resulted in several further generations of fluid movement: (1) Initial Extension: extensive fractures and breccias in Cambro-Ordovician carbonates filled with calcitesiderite-galena-sphalerite-silica. Only minor wall rock alteration resulted. (2) "Post-Windsor" Convergence: extensive precipitation of stratabound calcite, siderite, galena, sphalerite, barite and celestite occurred within basal carbonates of the Carboniferous Ship Cove Formation above sandstone aquifers. Minerals concentrated in fault-controlled, karst breccias - along joints and faults in Ordovician platform carbonates.