

SHIELD FAULTS AND CORDILLERAN STRUCTURAL UNITS, WESTERN CANADA

Derek Wilson
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

ABSTRACT

The relationships between major fault zones which traverse the Canadian Shield to the west of Hudson Bay and major structural units and changes in trend in the Canadian Cordillera are demonstrated. A mechanism which involves deflection of subcrustal convection currents is invoked to account for this conjugate series of structural units and for the major features of the structure of western North America. Other manifestations of this deflection mechanism also involving major wrench fault systems are discussed.