Decoupling of kimberlite source and primitive melt compositions

MADELINE TOVEY¹*, ANDREA GIULIANI¹², DAVID PHILLIPS¹, CHIRANJEEB SARKAR³, D. GRAHAM PEARSON³, TOM NOWICKI⁴ AND JON CARLSON⁵

 ¹School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne (*correspondence: toveym@student.unimelb.edu.au)
² Institute for Geochemistry and Petrology, ETH Zurich
³ Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta
⁴Mineral Services Canada, Vancouver
⁵Dominion Diamond Corp., Calgary

Kimberlites emplaced since ~2 Ga show Nd and Hf isotopic compositions that follow a remarkably consistent linear evolution [1]. However, kimberlites emplaced <200 Ma within a few thousand kilometers of the western paleo-margin of Pangea (i.e. Brazil, southern Africa, and Lac de Gras in western Canada) deviate towards more enriched Nd and Hf

isotopic compositions possibly due to contribution by recycled crustal material, introduced to the deep kimberlite source via subduction [1]. To address this anomaly further we have compared new and existing geochronological and Nd isotopic data for 28 kimberlites from Lac de Gras (LDG; ca. 47 - 75 Ma) with their olivine and spinel mineral chemistries. Olivine grains typically include mantle-derived xenocrystic cores (Mg# = 83.5-94.2) overgrown by magmatic rims with relatively constant Mg# values. Olivine rims and chromite are the first magmatic phases to crystallise from kimberlite and can be used as proxies for primitive melt compositions. The average Mg# of olivine cores from each kimberlite is positively

correlated with average olivine rim Mg#, suggesting that

assimilation of heterogeneous lithospheric mantle contributed to the primitive melt compositions. The $\epsilon Nd_{(i)}$ values from whole-rock and perovskite from LDG kimberlites vary between -3.4 and -0.4 that are negatively correlated with their emplacement ages. This correlation is indicative of an evolving kimberlite source which may have resulted from a progressively lower contribution of recycled material. No systematic relationships were observed between olivine rim or chromite compositions and age or Nd isotopic composition. This observation highlights decoupling between kimberlite source evolution and primitive melt compositions due to the combined effects of crustal recycling in the kimberlite source and lithospheric mantle assimilation during kimberlite ascent.

[1] Woodhead et al. (2019) Nature 573, 578-581