

THE PROSPECTOR

RESOURCE INVESTMENT NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2023



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ABORIGINAL MINER

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PUBLISHED BY THE PROSPECTOR NEWS

www.theprospectornews.com

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THE BIG BRICS MEETING: FACTS VS. FICTION

WHILE THE NOTION OF A “COMMON CURRENCY” FOR THE BRICS COUNTRIES BORDERS ON FANTASY, THE BIG TAKEAWAY IS THAT THE AGE OF CHEAP COMMODITIES FROM THE EMERGING WORLD ARE OVER.

By Chris Temple

In all the wishful thinking over the recent past that inflation will continue coming down—as the overall global economy bogs down some and, thus, commodity prices along with that—few have understood the extent to which the evolving “BRICS” story is going to throw a HUGE monkey wrench into that benign outlook. The way in which these countries—cobbled together somewhat imperfectly, but fired by their common rebellion against decades-long Western/U.S. hegemony—are going to *massively* change global pricing (indeed, they already are) has been little understood thus far.

confab and how things are most likely to evolve going forward. This is a “wrap up” of sorts to a lot of the commentary, interviews and such on this subject leading up to and during the BRICS summit, so I will be concise in one sense (but also offer numerous links, etc. for those who want to take a deeper dive.)

1. EXPANSION:

Fist off, you would do well here to recall that the origin of the “BRICS” was more an academic/investment



Talk in some circles (off-point at best, straight-up hype at worst) about a “BRICS Bank” rolling out a “new currency” with “gold backing” to replace the dollar’s reserve currency status, blah, blah, has taken everyone’s eye off the REAL ball. I’ll get to *that* in a minute where global commodity supplies, their availability and future prices are concerned.

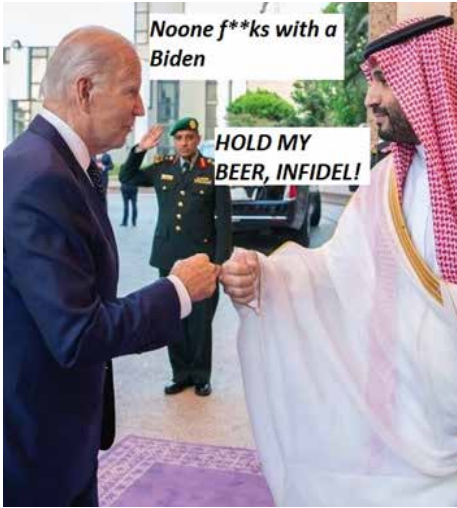
But first, let’s separate fact from fiction on what actually *did* transpire at the recent South African-hosted BRICS

theme from then-Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O’Neill way back in 2001, when he introduced the acronym. He correctly pointed out then that, in the years to come, these major emerging market nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—would have increasing relevance due to their growing populations, economies, and such. He also rightly pointed out that *investors* would do well to ponder this development and the opportunities it presented.

Over time, these nations have gone beyond the initial implications of O’Neill’s take and **have sought to make themselves into a cohesive specific economic bloc and more.** I do not dismiss the likelihood in the years to come that an expanded BRICS will have more heft on the world stage, even if—as I point out below—much of what you have heard in the recent past is exaggerated at best.

At August’s BRICS confab, the core countries formally announced that they will be accepting Argentina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates into their grouping. The identity of these nations underscores the gambit to wrest global economic control—and the control of supplies and pricing of crude oil especially, besides other commodities—away from the West generally and the hated United States of America specifically.

As I have pointed out again of late—with Saudi-led production discipline helping crude oil to rally some 30% off its bottom at the same time the U.S. dollar has been surging—**America has seen its ability to dictate to and largely control policies of oil-producing nations especially erode sharply.** That major Middle Eastern oil producers will be brought into the BRICS fold speaks volumes about what’s coming (and is here *already* to some extent.)



Those who have been obsessed over what an expanded BRICS bloc means for *gold* simply have their eyes on the wrong commodity(ies). **The petrodollar is on its last legs**, and we have only begun to see how this is going to upend the global balance of power, security, alliances, etc. *But that is infinitely more relevant today to the pricing for oil, base metals/battery metals and more than it is for gold.*

2. THERE IS NO “NEW BRICS CURRENCY”:

Granted, the usual suspects among The Pied Pipers of the Gold Bug Echo Chamber and others who were insisting that a new gold-backed or other currency for this bloc would be unveiled in Johannesburg didn't *completely* make up their predictions from whole cloth. Such a suggestion has previously been floated by some of those nations' leaders and others.

Well before the summit, though, it was announced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa that—contrary to his report in the spring that a common currency would be on the agenda (see <https://www.voanews.com/a/common-currency-on-agenda-for-south-african-brics-summit/7090756.html>) –it would not be after all (see <https://www.reuters.com/world/brics-currency-not-august-summit-agenda-south-african-official-2023-07-20/>.) Yet many continued to flog this non- (for the foreseeable future) story.

And again: that took a lot of peoples' focus off the REAL stories concerning oil and other commodities.

One of those other stories that wasn't as “juicy” to some but—I hold—is *more relevant* than any real/phantom “gold-backed common BRICS currency” is that a preliminary game plan was furthered to make development loans by one or more development/infrastructure banks already in existence/proposed. **These will *not* include involvement of the U.S. dollar or the International Monetary Fund.**

As I have pointed out numerous times of late in *The National Investor* and in various interviews this mechanism of taking economic development funding, the trade in commodities, etc. away from dollar hegemony DOES NOT REQUIRE A “BRICS CURRENCY.”

I especially discussed this recently with *Relevant Radio's* Drew Mariani; see <https://relevantradio.com/2023/08/brics-the-end-of-woman/>.

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3. THE U.S. DOLLAR WILL REMAIN “KING OF THE HILL” FOR A WHILE, BUT...



As this excellent *Financial Times* piece pointed out (see <https://www.ft.com/content/efocac54-48f5-418f-9d7a-634634592724?segmentId=3f81fe28-ba5d-8a93-616e-4859191fabd8>), there are a host of reasons why a common BRICS currency is unworkable, *if not essentially impossible*.

And as I have repeatedly pointed out, it's one thing to have *day-to-day transactions* in global trade move away from dollars and be done with individual BRICS member or other currencies. That IS relevant, as I have explained. **But it's another entirely to make not a stretch but *gargantuan leap* to the idea of not just a common BRICS currency, *but said currency being a reserve currency/asset*.**

It is unlikely I'll see that in my lifetime. In addition to the Mariani discussion, I especially spent time on the reasons for this in a couple recent lengthy discussions with this publication's Michael Fox, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeVy6oeLIRg&t=6s> and, most recently, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD2SztuipZQ&t=305s>.

4. ...THOUGH ITS RESERVE STATUS IS NOT MEANINGFULLY THREATENED, WHAT IS TAKING PLACE WITH THE B.R.I.C.S. WILL MATTER!

While, for all the preceding reasons, we don't need to prepare for a “BRICS

currency” any time soon (an idea that O'Neill himself describes as “ridiculous” and which I spoke to in detail in those above links) I repeat: what *is* taking place is *now* having consequences and will more so.

As I have said, the net, immediate result is that prices for all manner of commodities will be rising. All else being equal, the former/fading *present* colonizers of these BRICS, would-be BRICS and allying nations will be paying much more for their mineral and energy wealth than previously. That will keep inflation high and drive it higher, among numerous other consequences.

We've seen that, as I reminded you above, with oil. **Even more so, uranium is also in a “perfect storm” in part due to this resource nationalism being embraced by BRICS, et al.** One specific fact on this even since my recent posting of a discussion on the uranium/nuclear energy story with Scott Melbye (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8eeKAF1S6Y>) is that—having now booted France out—Niger's

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uranium shipments to that country will now go from a price of €0.80/kg to €200/kg; see <https://www.samaa.tv/20873396-niger-france-uranium-african-country-increases-uranium-price-to-200-kg>.

We will also see much more in the way of resource nationalism to come, as even a motley assortment of an expanded BRICS bloc—with still tiny clout in *global capital markets* as financial centers or anything else of the kind—WILL push back in every way they can against the West/U.S. by driving commodity costs higher to benefit themselves/their own development.

5. CHINA'S A "WILD CARD" IN SEVERAL WAYS

One of the reasons why there won't—indeed, *can't*, at least any time soon—be a “common BRICS currency” or such a thing **has to do with China specifically**. As is being (finally) covered more in the financial press, the country's finances remain in a mess, its world-leading total debt-to-G.D.P. ratio becoming increasingly hard to manage

against a moribund economy. Its lack of transparency and an identifiable rule of law means that **its banking system isn't trusted long-term**, as I mentioned again in the above-linked discussions.

And *this* would be the anchor for a common BRICS currency?

Let's keep in mind here, too, that China has *itself* very much been the same kind of imperial power in recent years that many of the rest of the BRICS nations/BRICS wannabes are looking to throw off. In its own way it has used loans, projects/promises of the same to glom on to ports, resources *and entire countries* in some cases the world over. Especially with a lot of the onerous debts associated with its attempted Belt and Road Initiative and the like, it has seen some rebellion from some countries now thinking they have been “led down the garden path” by a new colonial power that has sucked them into oppressive debt.

This is not to say China can't work with its debtors/would-be partners in a more constructive way than Western lending

institutions like the I.M.F. and World Bank have done over the years. But the present reality/ongoing frictions *and fears* over an ascendant China's underlying motives and character will also, more likely than not, keep in check any broader development of the BRICS bloc than what we are seeing.

A couple other especially relevant views:

- <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/analysis-investors-see-long-wait-144054428.html> Here, *Reuters'* Rachel Savage and Karin Strohecker look at all the disparate puzzle pieces of an expanded BRICS alliance and its limitations.
- <https://geopoliticalfutures.com/the-future-of-the-brics/>. Here, Antonia Colibasanu, the Senior Geopolitical Analyst and Chief Operating Officer at *Geopolitical Futures* likewise injects a LOT of reality into this discussion.

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IN SASKATCHEWAN: COLLABORATION AGREEMENT FOR FORAN AND THE PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION IN PLACE GOES “BEYOND THE TYPICAL DEVELOPMENT”

By Lynnel Reinson Communications, Ltd.

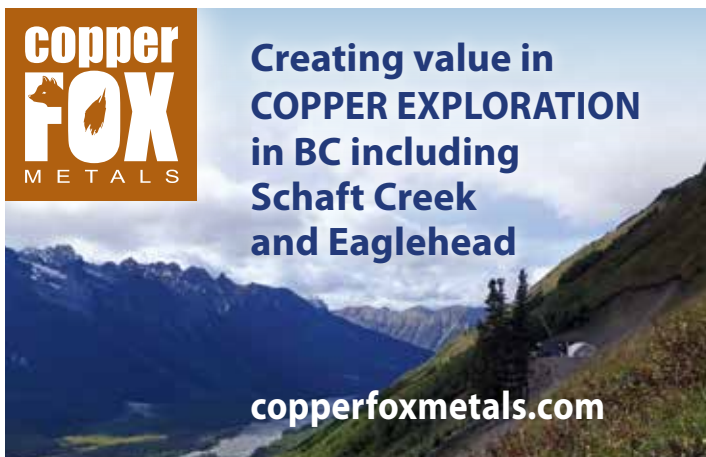
Working in Saskatchewan, a leading global mining jurisdiction, **Foran Mining (TSX: FOM) (OTCQX: FMCXF)** is a copper, zinc, silver, and gold exploration and development company seeking to build the world's first carbon-neutral copper mine in the province's McIlvenna Bay. The company holds offices in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and is led by an experienced board of directors and management team. Foran has five properties located less than 100 kilometers west of Flin Flon, Manitoba on the Saskatchewan side of the border. The properties – Bigstone, McIlvenna Bay, Galvani, Curie, and Becquerel – are each within 75 kilometers of the other and benefit from proximity to infrastructure. Currently, Foran is focused on advancing their wholly-owned McIlvenna Bay project, as well as continuing exploration around Bigstone and the main deposit at McIlvenna Bay. In July, Foran signed a collaboration agreement with the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and received ministerial approval of their Environmental Assessment (EA) for the McIlvenna Bay project, marking important milestones for the company.

Foran is led by Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman, Dan Myerson; the company's board of directors and management team are comprised of experienced individuals from government, mining, technology, and finance sectors. The diverse executive team includes COO, Gilbert Lamarche; CFO, James Steels; VP of Legal and General Counsel, Terri Uhrich; VP of Technical Services, Sam Renelli; VP of Exploration, Erin Carswell; VP of Capital Markets and External Affairs, Jonathan French; and Director of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG), Kirsten Ketilson. Notably, for a Saskatchewan operation, Brad Wall, the province's 14th Premier brings his experience of expanding the province's economy and working within Saskatchewan's political structure to the advisory board. The composition of their management team reflects the company's commitment to sustainability and longer term growth and strategy with their attention to sustainable growth in their organizational structure.

The company's enthusiastic commitment to building a sustainable project in McIlvenna Bay is shown not only through their widely experienced and comprehensive leadership team, but also their landmark collaboration agreement with the Peter

Ballantyne Cree Nation. During the signing of the agreement, Dan Myerson's words signify the importance of communities to the company and project, in particular, the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation:

“We believe that in order for a company to succeed over the long run, it must build deep and meaningful relationships with local rightsholders and stakeholders and prioritize those groups' needs. This agreement with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation is not just about what we can achieve today, but what we can build for tomorrow. It's more than a partnership; it's a commitment to shared growth, prosperity, and a legacy of success for generations to come.”



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Sustainable benefit is important to the Nation as well, Chief of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Karen Bird stated at the signing of the collaboration agreement for the McIlvenna Bay project:

"The financial benefits from the McIlvenna Bay project will make an important contribution to improving the quality of life of our members. The employment and contracting opportunities will provide sustainable and transferable careers and business opportunities for both individual Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation members and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation businesses. While it has taken a significant amount of effort by both parties to achieve the partnership we have today, it will endure through the life of the mine."

Working together with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Foran is poised to continue successfully advancing the project, especially as they have also received approval of their EA. The increased confidence in the project prompted by the EA approval has further snowballed into a C\$67 million equipment

financing deal, which Foran will use to build its fleet of electric mining vehicles and charging infrastructure from Sandvik. This is one step in the company's "three-pillar strategy: (1) delivering initial phase production at McIlvenna Bay, (2) unlocking the untapped value of its properties with systematic exploration, and (3) its Net Positive Business, focusing on carbon-neutral critical metal production to support a decarbonizing world and other related business opportunities." Foran has a completed feasibility study which indicate "an 18.4 year mine life producing 65.4 M Lbs copper equivalent at all-in sustaining costs of \$0.90/lb (net of by-product credits)".

The main deposit and the rest of Foran's claims' proximity to infrastructure simplify the logistics of development at McIlvenna Bay and nearby exploration. The site plan is shown below, with some of the location highlights including already-present power lines and roadways, all the way to McIlvenna Bay and the company's exploration camp, which will allow the company to do their work with significantly reduced

need for diesel power-generation and helicopter usage as compared to more remote sites.



With their commitment to working sustainably, and their strong relationship ties to Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Foran Mining has set themselves and the surrounding area up for success. The company has completed one of the greatest hurdles of building a new mine, with its EA approval, and now they will proceed with their next steps toward getting a future McIlvenna Bay Mine into operation in partnership with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

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MAZINI ENERGY GENERATION, FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

By Lynnel Reinson Communications, Ltd.

Working towards the development of energy resources in Canada, Mazini Energy and Power Incorporated, is a fully Indigenous-owned company which is based in Treaty 7 Territory in southern Alberta. The company was founded in 2018 and has offices in Calgary, Alberta, in the Brown Bear Woman Meeting Center. Mazini strives to create opportunity and prosperity for Indigenous people in Canada and creating long-term success in energy projects, which meet the needs of today's generations and the next seven generations to come. The company's philosophy and identity are very much in line with those of sustainable business practice, putting them in position to succeed in an increasingly sustainability-focused market. Mazini looks to unite passionate environmental and social governance with sound investing and business strategy in order to create a sustainable and prosperous future for Indigenous people and others across Canada.

Mazini Energy is led by Brian L. Mountain, an experienced oil and gas professional focused on business development and working with First Nations in Alberta, and Haida Hereditary Chief Roy Jones Jr., who

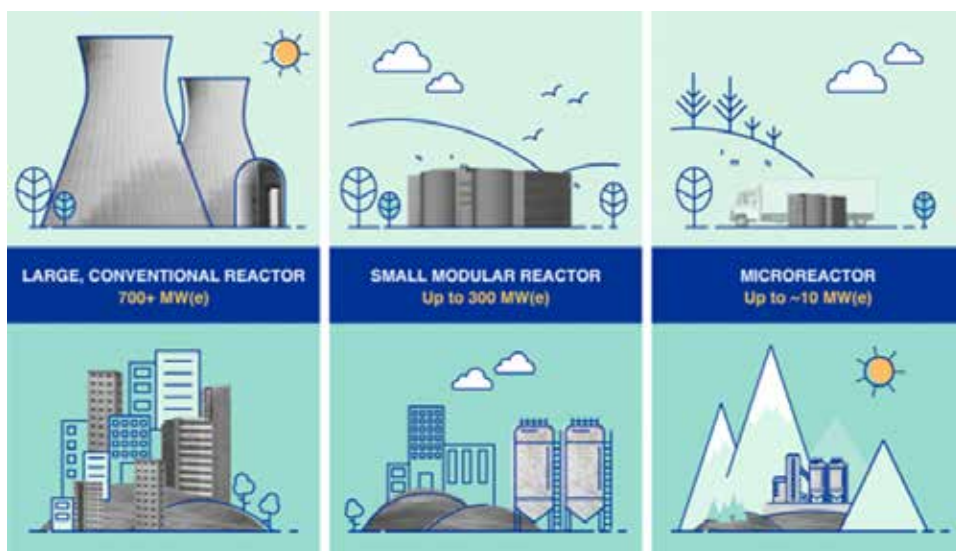
has been a long-time industry proponent. In a prior interview with The Prospector News, Brian L. Mountain and Chief Roy Jones Jr. spoke of their goals to create generational wealth through the pursuit of transitional energy projects, particularly nuclear energy in small modular reactors (SMRs) and micro modular reactors (MMRs). These modular nuclear reactors innovate upon the traditional nuclear plant set up by decoupling the power generation functions from the nuclear reaction systems, in the SMRs and MMRs the nuclear reaction heats up molten salts which are then used to drive power generation.

The separation of the two processes greatly simplifies the usage of SMRs and MMRs, the modularity of these reactors also gives the power generation system the ability to expand as energy demands increase. SMRs long project lifespans have great appeal for Mazini as they create the generational wealth, which is a core goal of the company. As Brian L. Mountain says in the interview, "SMRs you're talking 60-100 years", this longevity brings incredible opportunity for scalable economic growth for First Nations across Canada, especially as many are in remote areas. In order to promote and increase the adoption of SMRs and MMRs, Mazini believes improving Indigenous engagement will

be vital and a key aspect of economic reconciliation stating:

“Canada’s Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Action Plan is the country’s plan for the development, demonstration and deployment of SMRs for multiple energy applications. This approach must include Indigenous consultation and opportunities for investment to host SMR technologies in Indigenous territories, as well as a working group that includes Indigenous groups, industry, investors and subject matter experts to develop the opportunity.”

Recently, Mazini created a discussion framework entitled Indigenous Engagement #101, which outlines many of the stumbling blocks that various Canadian resource companies might encounter in their own engagements. Pivotaly, Mazini's presentation urges companies to move away from simply meeting the "duty to consult", as called for within the Canadian legal system, to re-framing their perspective on the duty and obligation to one of desire. By shifting a company's focus from 'ticking the Indigenous engagement box' toward a focus on the opportunity for mutual benefits that meaningful Indigenous engagement presents, companies would be better positioned to advance their projects more quickly and efficiently. In addition to speeding up work



<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/what-are-small-modular-reactors-smrs>

for resource companies, and thus ultimately saving money, the 'desire to engage' culture presented by Mazini fosters community-company relationships that provide mutual benefits and long-term stability for all involved in a project and for future opportunities.

Additionally, Mazini is also aware of the time and cost of effective engagement, as both can push some companies away from meaningful and effective engagement; however, Mazini believes that rather than shying or moving away from engagement, companies would do better if they instead embrace the necessity of it and proceed with optimism and recognition of the benefits to all involved. There is no single approach to engagement that will work in every situation so while it is not possible to say how long each series might go on, a rather consistent outcome of the process is the positive impact of bringing on a qualified and knowledgeable Indigenous engagement specialist. Bringing in an expert provides companies and

communities with a reliable point of contact for engagement, this expert can ensure that the company stays consistent in their communications with community. If, and when, incorporated early, there should be fewer costly surprises down the road, either to the budget or the timeline, as communication and a stable working relationship will be part of the initial phases of the project.

In keeping with the Calls to Action resulting from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's work with documenting the residential schools impacts on Indigenous people and cultures across the country, Canada brought into law, as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Act, formally and legally on June 21, 2021. Justice.gc.ca notes the importance of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous peoples on their own territories, the importance of interpreting existing and future treaties in this context and that "FPIC is about working together in partnership and respect. In many

ways, it reflects the ideals behind the relationship with Indigenous peoples, by striving to achieve consensus as parties work together in good faith on decisions that impact Indigenous rights and interests." Mazini Energy Inc.'s Brian Mountain alignment and leadership in the industry for energy projects-especially in remote areas--sees his advocacy for Indigenous engagement highlighting the mutual, generational prosperity possible for all parties, emphasizing that "Indigenous people are not anti-energy development, but anti-poverty".

SOURCES:

www.mazinienergy.ca

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/about-apropos.html>

<https://theprospectornews.com/prospector-news-podcast-critical-minerals-will-provide-first-nations-generational-wealth/>

**"Net Zero Energy
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Hereditary Chief Roy Jones Jr, Haida Gwaii

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Updated Mineral Resource Estimate

Announced March 15, 2023



VIEWING NNE (915 DEGREES)

CLASS	Tonnage (Mt)	AuEq (g/t)	Ag (g/t)	Cu (%)	Ag (g/t)	AuEq (Moz)	Au (Moz)	Cu (Mlb)	Ag (Moz)
INDICATED	641.93	1.13	0.91	0.15	5.45	23.38	19.75	2,190	112.44
INFERRED	233.90	0.98	0.74	0.16	5.99	7.35	6.54	845	45.08

COPPER BELLE

INDICATED
AUeq: 1.00 g/t, 114.45 Moz

300H

INDICATED
AUeq: 1.02 g/t, 7.70 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 1.00 g/t, 915.18 Moz

NS 5TK

INDICATED
AUeq: 2.28 g/t, 467.6 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 2.26 g/t, 54.06 Moz

R66

INDICATED
AUeq: 1.36 g/t, 216.44 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 2.19 g/t, 36.84 Moz

CS-600

INDICATED
AUeq: 1.10 g/t, 9.00 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 0.83 g/t, 1.88 Moz / Ag: 6.79 g/t, 4.81 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 1.19 g/t, 3.71 Moz

INFERRED
Cu: 0.38 %, 791.68 Mlb / Ag: 6.79 g/t, 3.31 Moz

DS5

INDICATED
AUeq: 1.32 g/t, 4.87 Moz

INFERRED
AUeq: 1.57 g/t, 120.29 Moz

for our deposit. In addition, very large blocks within the previously estimated drill inferred category have been successfully intersected with very positive gold, copper and silver grades, which we believe will convert these blocks of mineralization into the drill Indicated category. Our goal is to increase the size of the resource without diminishing the grade. This

will be a critical component to the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) that we plan to complete once we have totally defined the Goldstorm Deposit. We have completed five additional drill holes on the Goldstorm Deposit and three drill holes at the Perfectstorm target, which are currently in the lab. Results will be announced once they are received

and compiled. Crews have begun construction of drill pads required to pursue the northern aspects of the CS-600, 300H and DS5 domains for the 2024 drill program; these are beyond the scope and the time available to drill within our planned 2023 program. Defining the shape and extent of each domain is necessary prior to determining a mine plan, which is essential for the PEA level and beyond."

VALUE CREATION

Tudor is not only creating value through the drill bit. In 2022 the company spun off its non-core Crown and Electrum properties into newly listed vehicle Goldstorm Metals Corp. Goldstorm acquired the Crown Property, consisting of six contiguous mineral properties located in the Golden Triangle Area in northwestern British Columbia in consideration for Goldstorm issuing 49,847,967 Goldstorm Shares to the Tudor Gold shareholders.

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EARLY DAYS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH TAHLTAN FIRST NATION ARE KEY FOR RARE EARTH RIDGE RESOURCES

Rare Earth Ridge Resources Corp. is a British Columbia based mineral exploration company recently founded in 2022. The Company has two projects in northern British Columbia, Mount Major Hart and Beryl Tong, both of which have promise as rare earths and critical mineral developments. The Mount Hart project is located 88 kilometers northeast of Dease Lake, BC, and the Beryl Tong project is west of there, near the Alaskan and Yukon borders. Today, Rare Earth Ridge is focused on advancing and continuing exploration of the Mount Hart asset, as it shows the potential to be one of the largest critical mineral and rare earth deposits in North America.

Rare Earth Ridge is a young company with a small, but incredibly experienced team who are eager to further explore Mount Hart. The team is led by the Company's President, Chief Executive Officer, and Co-Founder, Barry Miller, who showed a lot of enthusiasm in discussing the potential of the early stages of exploration on the Mount Hart project. Mr. Miller brings over 30 years of experience in the financial sector alongside fellow co-founder and director, Robert Ripplinger, who began his career as an entrepreneur over 30 years ago before moving into investing in private start up companies in 2009. Brent Hemingway, Exploration Manager, and Dr. Deepak Malhotra, Director, round out the rest of Rare Earth Ridge's team, with each bringing over 40 years of experience. Mr. Hemingway has worked as a geologist

for a number of junior mining exploration companies. Dr. Malhotra is the president and owner of Resource Development Inc., a company that does consulting and metallurgical testing for the resource industry. This four-person team brings nearly 150 years of cumulative experience to Rare Earth Ridge and going forward, Mr. Miller hopes to leverage this experience to develop Mount Hart into a producing asset.

The Mount Hart project is located in Tahltan territory. Mr. Miller expressed his sincere desire to work and partner with the Tahltan Central Government as soon as possible. The TCG is the central administrative governing body of the Iskut Band and Tahltan Band located in Telegraph Creek, BC, who collectively recognize the importance



SIRIOS RESOURCES INC.

Sirios is a Canadian exploration company focused on developing its high quality gold projects within the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region of Quebec.

The flagship Cheechoo gold project contains 2.0 Moz Au (93.0 Mt @ 0.65 g/t Au) inferred resources with significant upside for expanding the mineral resources.


S I R I O S

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of the mineral resource industry and its creation of jobs and employment in Tahltan Territory. When mineral exploration and mining are done in a manner that respect Tahltan rights and culture, the Tahltan have been supportive of mining and the prosperity it brings. As per the 2022 agreement signed between the BC government and the Tahltan, working with the Tahltan in Tahltan Territory will be essential as the TCG controls their territory. In that agreement, the President of the TCG, Chad Day, stated:

“The Tahltan Central Government has been clear on behalf of all Tahltan people that there will be no world-class mining jurisdiction in Tahltan Territory without robust Tahltan stewardship which must include world-class wildlife and fisheries management, strong environmental mitigation measures and recognition of our 1910 Declaration.”

Working alongside and in partnerships with the Tahltan government and people will put companies in best position to succeed in developing resources in Tahltan Territory, as it will not only be necessary but more importantly,

will allow for the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships between the nation and industry. Additionally, the Tahltan have many experts in exploration and mining poised to bring tremendous value to industry partners as they have in the past with companies like Skeena Resources and Newcrest Mining.

Rare Earth Ridge has yet to begin drilling at Mount Hart. Mr. Miller is keen and hopeful about working with the Tahltan communities and people in the summer of 2024, as they would like to be drilling. Rare Earth Ridge is just getting started but they have already begun to engage with the TCG and intend to work with them and follow the TCG's processes right from the start. Currently, Mr. Miller believes the Company is roughly two or three years out from beginning the pre-feasibility study and hopes to ramp up drilling and exploration programs over the few years, ideally with the Tahltan members and entities operating the work programs. During the summer of 2023, Rare Earth Ridge has narrowed down their intended exploration area through rock and stream sampling. The area chosen has been termed 'the Knoll' and has revealed promising initial results from the assays, pointing to concentrations

of tin mineralization. In a project update, the Company states that metallurgical testing of the rock sampling “was very encouraging, as it not only proved that the rare earth minerals are extractable, but that they can be concentrated.” Based on these results, Rare Earth Ridge has applied for a 1,800 m drill permit that requires a bond deposit of C\$131,000 with the BC Government to facilitate that drill permit.

Ultimately, as always with a discovery, there are many questions to answer with regard to working relationship and programs as they seek to define the mineralization and their partnerships. The prospect of contributing not only products for the energy transition in electrics with the minerals themselves, but compounding the sustainability of the project overall in the way they will explore, assess, develop, and engage with communities and businesses of the territory are all part of the challenge Rare Earth Ridge is keen to continue. Being able to engage with the Tahltan First Nation's multi-faceted government and business development operations at this earliest stage is an endeavor Rare Earth Ridge anticipates with optimism.



COMPANY CONTACT:

BARRY MILLER, PRESIDENT & CEO

PHONE: 778-874-2600

EMAIL: BARRY@RAREEARTHRIIDGE.COM

MT HART PROJECT

THE COMPANY IS IN THE PROCESS OF PROVING UP THE LARGEST DEPOSIT OF RARE EARTHS/METALS IN NORTH AMERICA

AMEX EXPLORATION: UNVEILING THE POTENTIAL OF THE PERRON PROJECT

By Marc Challande

Amx Exploration (TSX-V:AMX) (OTCQX:AMXTF) (FRA:MXO), a key player in Québec's gold mining industry, has been making significant strides in its Perron Gold Project. Located in the mining-friendly jurisdiction of Québec, Canada, the Perron project has proven to be a hotspot for high-grade gold and volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) discoveries. With a focus on its 100% owned Perron Project, Amex Exploration has been at the forefront of exploration and development in this mineral-rich region.

COMPANY OVERVIEW



Amex Exploration's Perron Project spans across 4,650 hectares, 8 kilometers to the NW of the town of Normétal, Québec, 115km north of the town of Rouyn-Noranda. The project is strategically located, with close proximity to major gold producers and excellent existing infrastructure. Amex has conducted an extensive drilling campaign, with over 400,000 meters drilled on the property since discovery in late 2018. This has resulted in the identification of multiple gold zones and copper-rich VMS zones. In addition, the project is in close proximity to a number of major gold producers' milling operations. The project hosts both disseminated bulk tonnage-type and vein-hosted high-grade gold mineralization.

HIGH-GRADE GOLD DISCOVERIES

The Eastern Gold Zone (EGZ) within the Perron Project has been a significant source of high-grade gold discoveries. One of the standout gold zones within

the EGZ is the High Grade Gold Zone (HGZ), which has consistently delivered ultra high-grade results since its discovery in 2019. The HGZ has quickly become one of the highest-grade and most consistent gold zones in Canada. Notable drill results include an astonishing 393.33 g/t Au over 1.70m at a vertical depth of 170m at HGZ. The HGZ is now considered a priority target for underground mining.

Adjacent to the HGZ is the Denise Zone, a broader disseminated gold target. The Denise Zone has been traced along strike length for at least 1 km. Recent drilling at the Denise Zone has returned impressive results, such as Hole PE-22-510 intersecting 30.90 m of 11.57 g/t Au, making it one of the best intersections drilled to date in the Denise Zone. The gold mineralization in the Denise Zone presents a bulk tonnage target for Amex.

TEAM ZONE: A NEW DISCOVERY

Amex Exploration has recently announced a brand-new discovery, the Team Zone, which has the potential to significantly enhance the Perron Project. The Team Zone has produced some remarkable drill results, with visible gold identified in many of the holes targeting this zone. Notable highlights



include PE-22-548, which intersected 6.75 g/t Au over 14.50 m at a vertical depth of ~180 m, including 26.34 g/t Au over 1.50 m and 32.60 g/t Au over 1.50 m. Another impressive result is PE-22-556, which returned 19.04 g/t Au over 2.25 m at a vertical depth of ~20 m. The Team Zone has quickly become a priority for

Amex, with plans to aggressively drill it through the coming months.

“The fact that we have seen multiple occurrences of visible gold in the majority of holes targeting this zone is fascinating. This is also the most significant discovery to date along the northern limb of the Beupre rhyolite.”

Jacques Trottier,
Executive Chairman of Amex

COPPER-RICH VMS ZONES

In addition to its gold discoveries, Amex Exploration has also made significant advancements in identifying copper-rich VMS zones within the Perron Project. The QF Zone, occurring along the Normétal Mine Horizon, has shown promising initial drill results. Notable results include 2.40% Cu, 0.72% Zn, 0.27 g/t Au, and 22.15 g/t Ag over 7.80 m, including 3.92% Cu, 1.20% Zn, 0.39 g/t Au, and 35.99 g/t Ag over 4.40 m. Follow-up drilling has confirmed the initial discovery with similar grades and widths, indicating the presence of a substantial VMS system. Amex plans to conduct additional borehole electromagnetic (EM) geophysics to further define the mineralized system.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND ECOLOGO CERTIFICATION

Amex Exploration's exceptional performance and achievements have earned the company international recognition. In 2022, Amex was awarded the Exploration Company of the Year at Mines and Money in London, solidifying its position as a leader in the industry. The award recognizes Amex's significant new discoveries and advancements in the field.



Furthermore, Amex has been certified with the internationally recognized UL 2723 ECOLOGO® Certification for Mineral Exploration Companies. This certification acknowledges Amex's commitment to employing the best social, environmental, and economic practices throughout its project.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND SHARE STRUCTURE

Amex Exploration boasts a solid balance sheet, with a drilling program funded until the end of 2023. As of the Q3 2022 financial statements, the company had \$12.4 million in cash and

cash equivalents and no debt. The share structure of Amex includes 108 million fully diluted shares, with the largest strategic shareholder being Eric Sprott with over 12% ownership. The company benefits from tight capital structure and tax incentives, positioning it favorably for future growth.

CONCLUSION: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF THE PERRON PROJECT

Amex Exploration's Perron Project in Québec, Canada, represents a significant opportunity for high-grade gold and VMS discoveries. With notable gold zones like the HGZ and Denise Zone, along with the recent discovery of the Team Zone, Amex has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to unlocking the potential of this mineral-rich portion of the prolific Abitibi greenstone belt. The company's strong financial position, industry recognition, and commitment to responsible exploration make it a promising investment opportunity in the market.



WILL SEPTEMBER KICKSTART THE NEXT GOLD BULL RUN?

By Jeff Clark

WHEN IN THE WORLD WILL GOLD START RISING AGAIN?!

We've been surrounded by catalysts for years now, and while the price is up roughly 30% since January 2020, we all expected it to be at much higher levels by now based on a plethora of catalysts.

Maybe seasonality will play a role...

GOLD & SILVER'S BEST TIME OF THE YEAR

As most readers know, gold became legal to own in the US again in 1975.

So, I averaged the daily gain/loss from that year through 2022. Here's what it shows over the 48-year period.



As the green arrow shows, on average the gold price sees its greatest gains from late August through early October, with September particularly strong.

The typical gain is 5.5%—you may not think that's much, but from its September 1 price it would take gold to its all-time again. The average gain from the July 4th holiday is 6.5%. And you can see it usually ends the year with a spike.

Here's the same 48-year period for silver.



Silver's performance in September is better than gold's. Its biggest gains, however, start from the last day of June to the September high, averaging over 8%. And like gold, it finishes the year with a pop.

WHAT ABOUT RECENT AVERAGES?

Some think the above charts don't paint the most accurate picture of seasonal strength since it includes the giant advances from the 1970s. It is true that both gold and silver had two huge runs in the 1970s, though I'll point out the advance in the first half of the decade is excluded in the above charts.

Let's zero in on a more recent timeframe, what gold and silver have done in the new century.

Here is the average daily gain/loss for gold from 2000 through 2022, a 23-year period that would be considered statistically significant.

Gold still has a good September, though the run tends to kick in just after the July 4th holiday. It typically cools in

October, but again has the spike at the very end of the year.



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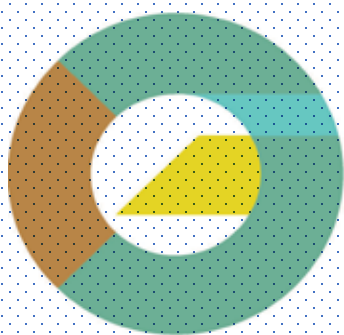


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Here's how the silver price has performed on average since 2000.



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Access to Tidewater**

The price is more volatile, typical for silver, but you can see that the best part of the year is the second half. Including a pop at the end.

There's a message here for silver investors: don't get shaken out by the volatility!

I wouldn't use periods shorter than this to calculate seasonality. Short time frames can be subject to short term forces. They can also introduce recency bias. Last, as many have said, the further you look in the past the further you can see in the future.

IS A BULL RUN ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY?

September tends to be a good month for gold and silver since it marks the end of summer and analysts and investors are back at their desks. They weren't buying gold with their phones at the beach.

I don't know about you, but my court was dead most of July and August, half my neighbors on vacation. My Twitter feed has seen fewer reactions, and views on our website were below average. Many company CEOs take their vacation in the summer, too.

With the summer doldrums over, investors presumably back at their desk, will gold and silver wake up?

Seasonal averages play out about two-thirds of the time. Meaning one-third of the time they don't. But if seasonal trends persist this fall, gold and silver will end the year higher than where they traded this summer.

The gold price ended the month of August at \$1,442.40. Will a fundamental catalyst break out and begin to boil the

gold and silver pot? Will purchases in India push demand markedly higher like they typically do in the fall? Is a recession about to strike or the stock market ready to cool or crash, both of which are good for gold? Is a black swan circling?

Amidst all these questions is one more:

- Could normal seasonal strength kickstart the next gold bull run?

It doesn't happen every year, but it's occurred many times before.

Either way, as our French friends may say, être prêt (be prepared).

[If you'd like analysis on who we think the strongest mining stocks will be in the next run, whenever it may occur, you can get it for free by signing up at TheGoldAdvisor.com]

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PINE POINT

- » Located on the south shore of Great Slave Lake in Canada's Northwest Territories
- » C\$100 million investment agreement with Appian Natural resources Fund III – includes C\$75.3 million of project funding over 4 years
- » Near-surface Indicated Mineral Resource of 15.8Mt grading 4.2% zinc and 1.5% lead, plus Inferred Mineral Resource of 47.2Mt grading 4.4% zinc and 1.7% lead



GASPÉ COPPER

- » Located next to the town of Murdochville, in the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, approximately 825km east of Montreal
- » Contains the largest undeveloped copper resource in Eastern North America with an Inferred Mineral Resource of 456Mt grading 0.31% sulfide copper
- » Significant infrastructure including paved road access, hydroelectric power on site and port access in Gaspé

UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ADVANCE RENEWABLE POWERED MINING

By Mike Ray

A Wyoming coal mine might be the last place you'd think to be investing in research on next-generation renewable energy strategy, but that's exactly what Amy McBrayer, Ph.D., has undertaken during doctoral studies at South Dakota Mines.



Dr. Amy McBrayer just completed her doctorate at South Dakota Mines on helping surface mining companies strategize and plan mining operations around renewable power availability.

Her work focuses on building mathematical models to help surface mining companies strategize and plan mining operations around renewable power availability, using energy generated from renewable power sources to run the mine during peak energy production times and slowing down mine production when less renewable power is available.

McBrayer says many mining companies have plans to reduce carbon emissions at their operations in the coming years, and this challenge is compounded by the accelerating demand for raw materials in the global economy.

"If we're not constantly working to improve efficiencies, we won't meet this increasing demand while continuing to reduce carbon intensity and energy use at these operations," says McBrayer.

Part of her effort is to show that aligning power consumption with renewable power availability reduces the environmental impact of power generation and also improves the bottom line for mining companies. "We are really trying to help mining companies make decisions on what technology to employ to increase efficiencies and meet demand," she says.

McBrayer just completed her doctorate under Andrea Brickey, Ph.D., a professor of mining engineering and management at South Dakota Mines. McBrayer says surface mines, such as coal mining operations in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, can actually help lead technology development in renewable energy and in other areas.

"Some mining companies have built their own renewable systems on site that not only benefit them but also the local utilities and their customers," says Brickey. "There have been a lot of renewables sited on reclaimed mine lands," McBrayer adds. "In Wyoming, we have a wind farm on the former part of the Dave Johnston site. Other mines in the US are looking at solar development on reclaimed mine lands as well."

Brickey notes that there is not a "one size fits all" approach to the application of renewable energy in the mining industry.

"The discussion is site specific; one mine may have excellent prospects for solar and wind, another may have access to geothermal. Hydrogen is also being looked at for some mines as a fuel for machinery and vehicles," says Brickey. "New mines coming online are looking at the latest technology to meet production needs in a safer and more environmentally friendly

manner. Companies are also looking at technology to help increase efficiency — especially in a challenging hiring environment," McBrayer adds.

McBrayer and Brickey both point out that mining is necessary for the materials needed in everyday life, from the critical minerals that enable your smartphone to the high carbon steel in a surgeon's scalpel. They add that today, coal is essential for baseload power and grid reliability.

"The use of thermal coal for power generation is likely to continue for decades, even with current carbon emissions targets, and updating production scheduling practices for this region to maximize renewable power usage at mine sites benefits both the producer and the consumer,"

McBrayer says.

McBrayer spent several years in industry as an engineer before coming back to academia for a Ph.D. to explore the effort to help coal operations continue to provide energy thought the transition to renewables. "It's been really fulfilling to look at things in the broader view than I could as an engineer working on the front-line," she says.

Brickey adds that the mining industry is facing major workforce needs in the coming years that will include a huge focus on environmental protection.

"We need engineers who are focused on sustainability. It's something that is integrated into everyone's role on a mine site. What can we do to be more efficient in a continually changing environment," says Brickey.



Mining haul trucks like this are increasingly electric autonomous vehicles that are powered by renewable energy sources.
The mining industry is at the forefront of renewable energy and other technology development.

In the next phase of her career, McBrayer is joining the faculty at West Virginia University where she will continue her research and work to inspire the next generation of mining engineers.

ABOUT SOUTH DAKOTA MINES

Founded in 1885, South Dakota Mines is one of the nation's leading engineering, science and technology universities. South Dakota Mines offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and a best-in-class education at an affordable price. The university enrolls 2,493 students with an average class size of 24. The South Dakota Mines placement rate for graduates is 98 percent, with an average starting salary of \$70,036. For these reasons South Dakota Mines is ranked among the best engineering schools in the country for return on investment.



What Would Be the Best Indicator Mineral to Find a Gold Deposit?

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PLACER RECOVERY

- Successful entry into paleochannel
- Placer gold seen similar character and size to 2012 test crosscut
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Contact the Company at info@ominecaminingandmetals.com

TSXV: OMM

BRICS+ POISED TO CAPITALIZE IN AFRICA'S RESOURCE WARS AS FRANCE LOSES GRIP ON FORMER COLONIES

By Ted Butler

With 8 military coups in the last 3 years, including 2 in the last 5 weeks, the sentiment of revolution is spreading through Africa like a wildfire, thus creating new implications for the supply chains of key commodities such as oil, gold, uranium, and manganese.

distant tune of Bongo's 1967 comments: "Gabon without France is like a car with no driver. France without Gabon is like a car with no fuel."

Undoubtedly defined by corruption, resource exploitation and disproportionate benefits to France, the Bongo Family's relationship with Elf

Ultimately, whilst the corruption should be frowned upon, the point is that Gabon's dependence on France's trade today is a far cry from what it once was – a phenomenon that renders the 400 French troops currently stationed in Gabon fairly useless, as far as reinstating their preferred President, Ali Bongo, is concerned.

For example, in 1964 when Gabon supplied large quantities of its iron ore and other critical minerals to France, then President, Charles De Gaulle, had the economic leverage to quash a military coup in Gabon, subsequently sending French troops to restore the Gabon President, Leon Mba, back to power.

Fast forward to today and Gabon's abundance of crude oil and manganese is not being lapped up by France like it once was, as instead, the BRICS+ nations, primarily China and India, have gradually pushed France aside in their relentless pursuit of commodity superiority.

Moreover, with the BRICS+ nations boasting a combined 55% share of Gabon's total exports, versus the EU and U.S' combined share of 21%, the competition for Gabon's natural resources isn't even a close one.

Perhaps then, we should not be so surprised to see French President, Emmanuel Macron, condemn the coup verbally, yet do little in terms of action, as he wrestles with the fact that France no longer has the economic foundation to intervene militarily in Africa, let alone Gabon.

This trend becomes clearer upon analyzing the situation in Niger – a country whose coup on the 26th of July saw a military junta, led by Colonel Amadou Abdramane, dramatically succeed in their ousting of the elected President, Mohamed Bazoum.



French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, pictured with Omar Bongo (2007)

The latest of these coups took place on the 30th of August 2023, when the now transitional President of Gabon, General Brice Oligui Nguema, led a military junta known as the "Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions", as they ousted the former Gabon President, Ali Bongo.

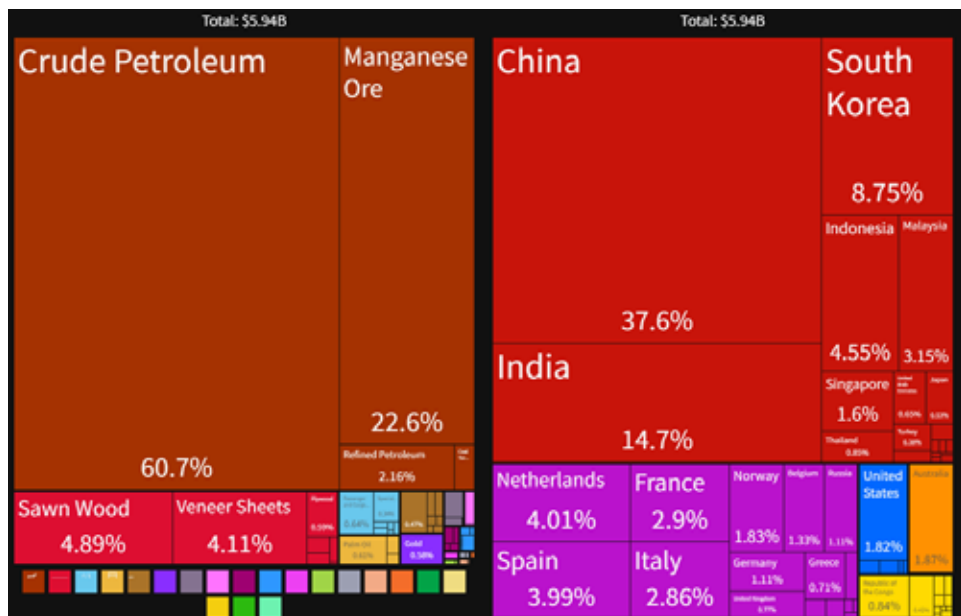
Not only did this event mark the end of a 56-year political dynasty in Gabon - which began with Ali's father, Omar Bongo, way back in 1967 – but it also charted the decline of what was once a historically fruitful relationship from a French resource extraction perspective.

French Oil Company, Elf, was just one of the beneficiaries of this relationship during the Bongo rein, enjoying exclusive access to Gabon's oil reserves for years, as executives danced to the

typified France-Gabon trade relations throughout the late 20th and early 21st century, with Gabon alone providing Elf with up to 75% of its profits in its heyday.

Unfortunately for both parties, the relationship came to a grinding halt in 2003, when Elf executives were jailed in a mammoth embezzlement case, regarded by some experts at the time as "the biggest corporate and political sleaze scandal to hit a Western democracy since WW2".

The scheme saw former Gabon President, Omar Bongo, receive an inflation adjusted \$21m in annual payments directly from Elf's coffers; the only difference between him and the Elf executives was that it took another 20 years before he was punished, albeit posthumously, through the deposition of his son, Ali Bongo.



Gabon Exports 2021 –
Observatory for Economic Complexity

The deposition of Bazoum, who was largely in the pocket of France but to a lesser extent than Bongo, can be explained again by the general population's recognition that France

no longer has the economic authority to enforce its military presence, in the same way that it used to do in the past.

We see this playing out again in Niger's trade balance, as whilst France commands a 5% share of Niger's total exports, the newly

confirmed BRICS+ member, the United Arab Emirates, accounts for over 70% of Niger's total exports, due to the fact that it purchases 99% of the gold produced in Niger.

In contrast, 20.2% of France's total uranium imports came from Niger in 2022, as it sought to bolster the nuclear power that accounts for 70% of its electricity output, albeit despite the fact that close to 2/3 of Niger's population has zero access to electricity.

Importantly, France's uranium supply is reportedly not yet compromised by the Niger coup, however the bottom line is that, economically, France now needs Niger more than Niger needs France – a theory which explains why Nigerian people no longer respect the 1500 French troops stationed there, recently demanding that they leave Niger.

Unfortunately for Macron, the story is the same in neighboring gold-rich countries Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, whose respective military coups in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were all born out

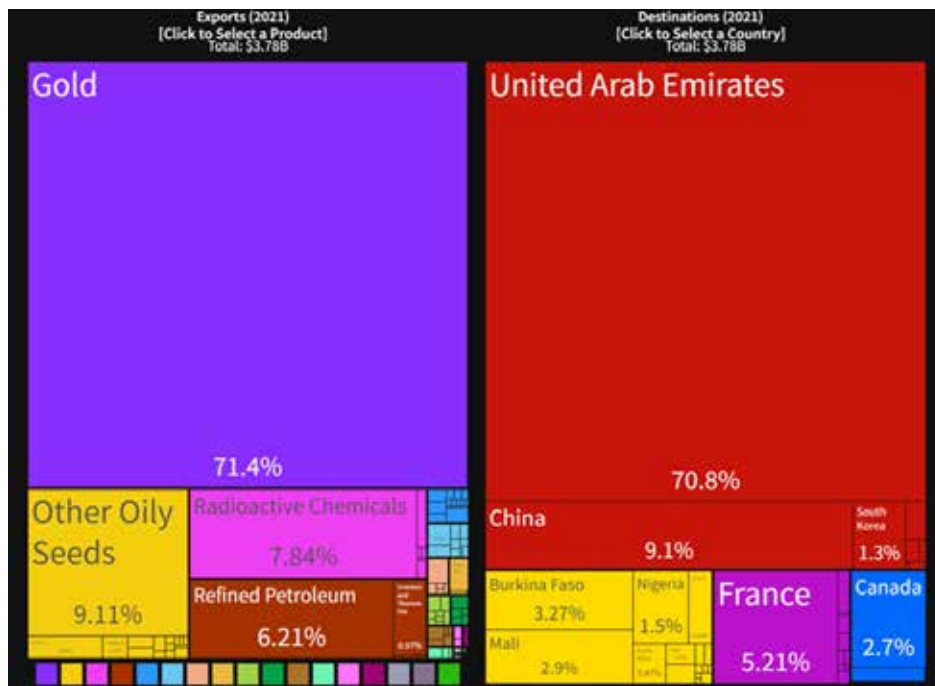
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Niger Exports 2021 -
Observatory for Economic Complexity

of the sentiment that they were being unfairly exploited by former colonial powers, namely France.

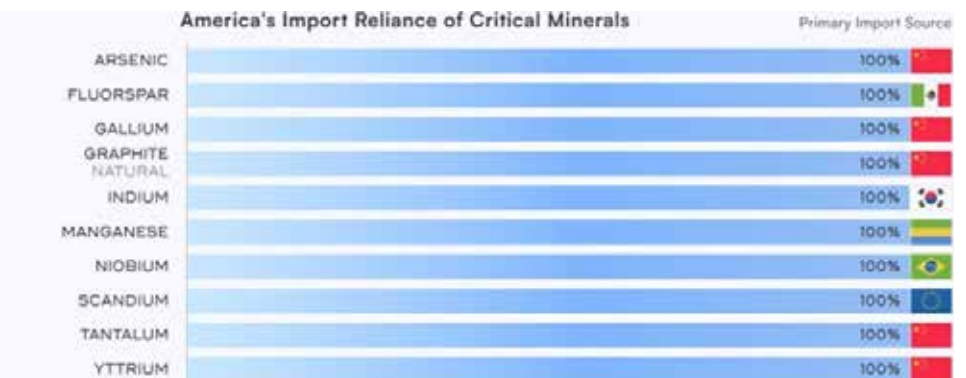
Like a shark smelling blood, the BRICS+ nations have been able to capitalise on France's demise in Africa's Sahel region, fueling the anti-western narrative, and arguably emboldening those inclined to revolt, through the distribution of propaganda by Russian Wagner Forces.

In the below cartoon, created by the Wagner Group, we can observe Wagner forces assisting an African soldier with a machine gun, as it takes aim at a snake which - coloured red, white and blue - unironically represents the national flag colours of France, the U.S and U.K.



Wagner Group Propaganda

Clearly part a choreographed strategy, this theme coincided perfectly with Putin's recent announcement at the BRICS summit of 25000 – 50000 tonnes of free grain donations to Africa.



America's Import Reliance of Critical Minerals -
Visual Capitalist

This move is certain to bolster the already robust support for Russia across West Africa and goes hand in hand with the infrastructure

development by China's State Oil Company, who has been busy creating a crude oil pipeline from Niger through to neighbouring Benin - a project which is already at 75% completion.

Ultimately though, whilst it is nothing short of humiliating for France to be powerless to its own downfall on the international stage like this, the inconvenience caused to its closest allies is arguably a much more painful consequence.

For example, France's failure to maintain order in Niger has left the U.S stuck between a rock and a hard place, unable to call the Niger coup a coup, due to the strategic importance of its 1100-soldier military base, which involved a sunk cost of \$110 million to build, as well as \$20-30 million a year in maintenance costs.

Moreover, France's newfound inability to enforce a western status quo in Gabon has thrown a curveball at the U.S, who are 100% reliant on Gabon for manganese, amongst the other critical minerals listed below.

Naturally then, the recent Gabon coup potentially jeopardizes the guarantee of the U.S' manganese supply, which is why U.S officials recently stated that: "The United States, the European Union, and France – a longstanding ally and former colonial power of Gabon – specifically condemned the coup".

Incidentally, there is a theory that the U.S has premeditated France's loss of control in Gabon, which is based on the assumption that interim President Nguema's \$1 million purchase of 3 properties - near Washington around the 2015-2018 period - was involved in some kind of bribe.

Whether this is true or not, if Nguema has any sense about him, he will read the room and prioritize international trade with the BRICS+, as no amount of deal sweetening from the U.S will

prevent him from becoming an anomaly to the inevitable trend of increasing BRICS+ dominance in Africa.

Ultimately, the prisoner's dilemma for the West is that that they cannot be seen to be intervening militarily in former African colonies - partly due to the fact that re-earthing colonialism is such a moral taboo - whilst on the other hand, leaving Africa unattended will see them stricken with commodity supply woes for decades to come.

Therefore, as Russian flags continue to be raised in Niger, the new reality for the West will be learning how to coexist with the BRICS+ in Africa, as a failure to do so could see it cut off from Africa's commodities, similar to how a boa constrictor slowly ensnares its prey, cutting off its circulation before it meets its inevitable death.



Scenes from Niger Coup - Translation: "Down with France, Long Live Putin"

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THE RISING DEMAND FOR LITHIUM IN THE JAMES BAY REGION

By Marc Chalande

The demand for lithium has skyrocketed in recent years, driven primarily by the growing need for rechargeable batteries, particularly in the electric vehicle (EV) industry. As the world transitions towards cleaner energy sources, the demand for lithium is expected to continue rising. This surge in demand has led to the development of numerous lithium projects around the world, with the James Bay region in Canada emerging as one of the most promising areas for lithium exploration and production.

THE JAMES BAY LITHIUM CAMP



The James Bay region in Quebec, Canada, has emerged as a highly prospective area for lithium exploration and production. The region covers a large area and is home to several advanced lithium projects and prospective mines. With hundreds of early-stage projects still under development, there is immense potential for further discoveries in the area. Lithium in the James Bay camp is mainly found in pegmatites, which are rocks that contain high concentrations of lithium-bearing minerals, such as spodumene and tantalite.

MAJOR LITHIUM PROJECTS IN THE JAMES BAY REGION

Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project

The Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project, owned by Critical Elements Lithium Corporation, is one of the advanced

projects in the James Bay region. Located approximately 40 km north of the Cree village of Nemaska, the project has significant indicated and inferred resources of lithium and tantalum. The mining plans for Rose Lithium-Tantalum Project involve an open-pit mine with an estimated production of 1.61 million tonnes per year over a 17-year mine life. The project has received environmental approvals and is set to commence construction in late 2023.

James Bay Project

The James Bay Project, owned by Allkem Galaxy Lithium, is another significant lithium project in the region. Situated about 130 km east of the community of Eastmain, the project has substantial mineral resources and reserves of lithium. The mining operations will involve open-pit mining of spodumene-bearing pegmatite dykes, with an estimated production of 330,000 tonnes per year over an 18-year mine life. The project received federal approval in January 2023 and is expected to contribute to the growing lithium production in the James Bay region.

Whabouchi Project

The Whabouchi Project, owned by Nemaska Lithium, is located approximately 30 km east of the Nemaska community. The project is partially built, with construction temporarily paused due to financing issues. However, with the recent restart of construction activities and additional investments, the Whabouchi Project is expected to begin operations in 2025. The project has significant proven and probable reserves of lithium and a projected mine life of 33 years.

Moblan Project

The Moblan Project, jointly owned by Sayona Mining Limited and SOQUEM Inc, is another notable lithium project in the

James Bay region. Extensive drilling and exploration activities have significantly increased the estimated resources and reserves of lithium at the project. The Moblan Project represents one of the largest undeveloped lithium resources in North America, attracting attention from investors and industry experts. The project is currently undergoing a prefeasibility study, with a drilling campaign planned for later this year.

Corvette Property

The Corvette Property, owned by Patriot Battery Metals, is a recent discovery in the James Bay region. Located northwest of previous discoveries, the property covers a vast land package with significant lithium potential. The property hosts the CV Lithium Trend, a corridor containing numerous spodumene-bearing pegmatite outcrops. Although exploration and drilling activities have primarily focused on the CV-5 cluster, there is still a large portion of the trend that remains unexplored. With the ongoing exploration and promising drill results, the Corvette Property holds the promise of becoming another major lithium project in the region.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JAMES BAY LITHIUM CAMP

The James Bay region has become a crucial hub for lithium exploration and production. The concentration of world-class lithium projects in close proximity has attracted significant attention from investors and industry experts. The Quebec government, in collaboration with local communities, has been actively supporting the development of new mines in the area, investing in infrastructure such as roads, power lines, railroads, and ports. The region's geological characteristics, combined with the government's support and favorable mining jurisdiction, make the James Bay Lithium Camp a highly attractive and promising destination for lithium mining companies.



THE FUTURE OF LITHIUM IN THE JAMES BAY REGION

With the rising demand for lithium and the significant lithium resources in the James Bay region, the area is poised to become a major lithium-

producing district in the coming years. The development of advanced projects, such as Rose, James Bay, Whabouchi, and Moblan, will contribute to the overall lithium production in the region. Furthermore, the ongoing exploration activities and the discovery

of new projects, such as the Corvette Property, indicate the vast potential for future lithium discoveries in the James Bay camp. As the world continues its transition towards cleaner energy sources, the importance of the James Bay region in the lithium industry is expected to grow even further.

CONCLUSION

The James Bay region in Quebec, Canada, has emerged as a significant player in the global lithium market. With numerous advanced projects and prospective mines, the region offers immense potential for lithium exploration and production. The concentration of world-class lithium projects, combined with the support of the Quebec government and favorable mining jurisdiction, makes the James Bay Lithium Camp an attractive destination for mining companies. As the demand for lithium continues to rise, the James Bay region is poised to become a major lithium-producing district, contributing to the global transition towards cleaner energy sources.



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LATEST VALUE ADDING DEVELOPMENTS AT DENARIUS METALS

By Christian Elferink

Loyal readers of Prospector News magazine are quite familiar with **Denarius Metals (TSX-V: DSLV) (OTCQX: DNRSF)**. For those who don't know this Spanish speaking focused explorer and developer, here is a short introduction. Denarius Metals is a Canadian junior company engaged in the acquisition, exploration, development, and eventual operation of polymetallic mining projects in high-grade districts, with its principal focus on the Lomero Project in Spain. The Company signed a definitive option agreement with Europa Metals Ltd. in November 2022 pursuant to which Europa has granted Denarius Metals two options to acquire up to an 80% ownership interest in the Toral Zn-Pb-Ag Project, Leon Province, Northern Spain. The Company's 100%-owned Zancudo Project in Colombia provides an opportunity to develop near-term production and cash flow through local contract miners and long-term growth through exploration.

Denarius has been very active in 2023 providing its shareholders with the following value adding developments:

COLOMBIA – NEAR TERM PRODUCTION UPGRADE

On September 5th Denarius released an updated mineral resource estimate (MRE) on its 100%-owned Zancudo Project in Colombia. The upgrade shows an increase in tonnage resulting:

Inferred Mineral Resource: 4.1 million tonnes @ 6.5 g/t Au, 107 g/t Ag totaling 860,000 ounces of gold and 14.1 million ounces of silver (1,060,000 gold equivalent ounces).

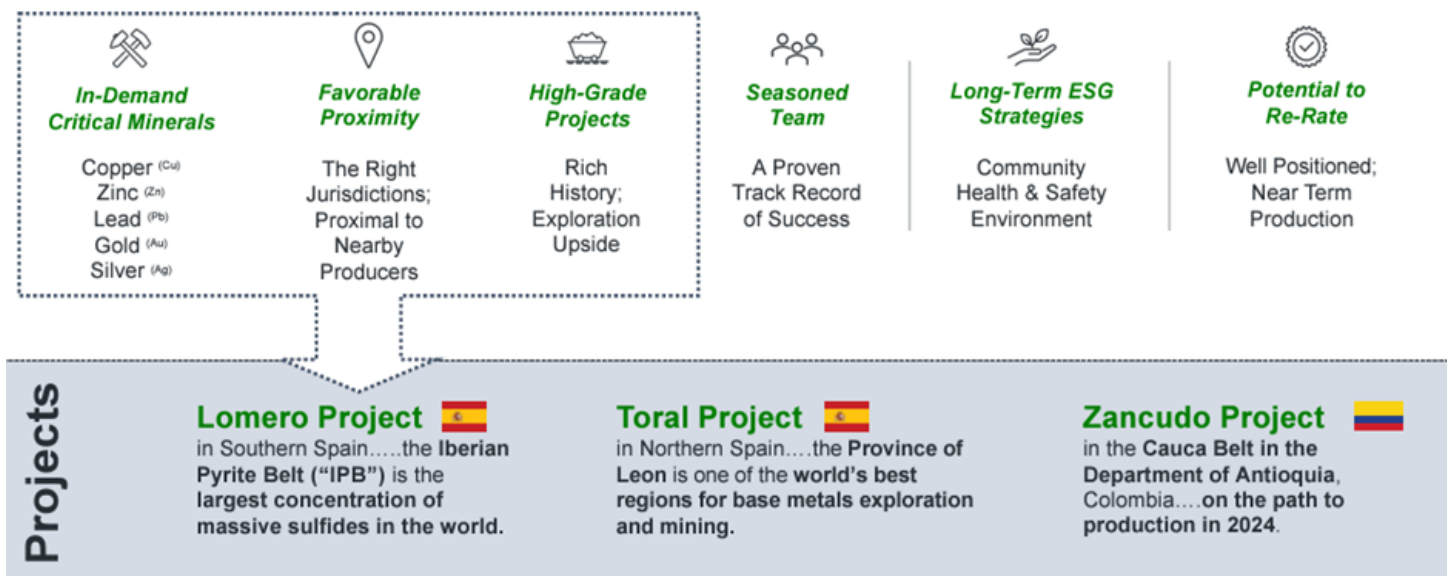
Serafino Iacono, Executive Chairman and CEO of Denarius, commented,

“We are nearing completion on the preparation of a preliminary economic assessment (“PEA”) for our Zancudo Project. We are pleased to announce that a detailed review of the geological model as part of

the PEA process has resulted in a significant increase in the tonnage in our updated MRE, which now contains over one million gold equivalent ounces. Our stage 1 construction activities at Zancudo are progressing well and we remain on track to commence operations in 2024 as planned.”

Denarius has contracted a local miner and is expecting to finalize the final mine plan based of a 500 tonne per day operation by 2024. Permitting, road construction and the next phase of exploration are in the works. The Company recently announced it is proceeding with a proposed non-brokered financing (the “Offering”) of up to CA\$20 million in common shares with the principal use of funds focused on completing payments related to the Phase 1 construction activities at the Zancudo Project that are nearing completion in the third quarter of 2023.

Developing High-Grade Projects in Spain and Colombia





Zancudo Project...Location of Independencia Mine



NORTHERN SPAIN

On November 22, 2022 Denarius entered into to 80% interest in the Toral Zn-Pb-Ag Project in Northern Spain located just 250km from Glencore's zinc smelter. The project has seen over 60,000 metres of historic drilling and a hosts a JORC-compliant resource outlining:

- Indicated Mineral Resource: 7Mt @ 29 g/t Ag, 3.7% Pb and 5% Zn,
- Inferred Mineral Resource: 13Mt @ 19 g/t Ag, 2.3% Pb and 4.1% Zn

On August 22 the company announced the latest drilling results from their 7,000m validation and infill drilling within the project's known Indicated

Mineral Resource area. Significant intersections show:

- 7.95m @ 4.46% ZnEq(PbAg), including:
 - 1.50m @ 11.64% ZnEq(PbAg)
 - 0.6m @ 18.34% ZnEq(PbAg)* and 2.4m @ 3.72% ZnEq(PbAg)
- 4.7m @ 6.68% ZnEq(PbAg)
- 6.65m @ 8.12% ZnEq(PbAg)
- 5.00m @ 6.91% ZnEq(PbAg)
- 3.90m @ 10.30% ZnEq(PbAg)



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Iberian Pyrite Belt, Southern Spain
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Toral Project

Leon Province, Northern Spain
Zinc, Lead, Silver

Zancudo Project

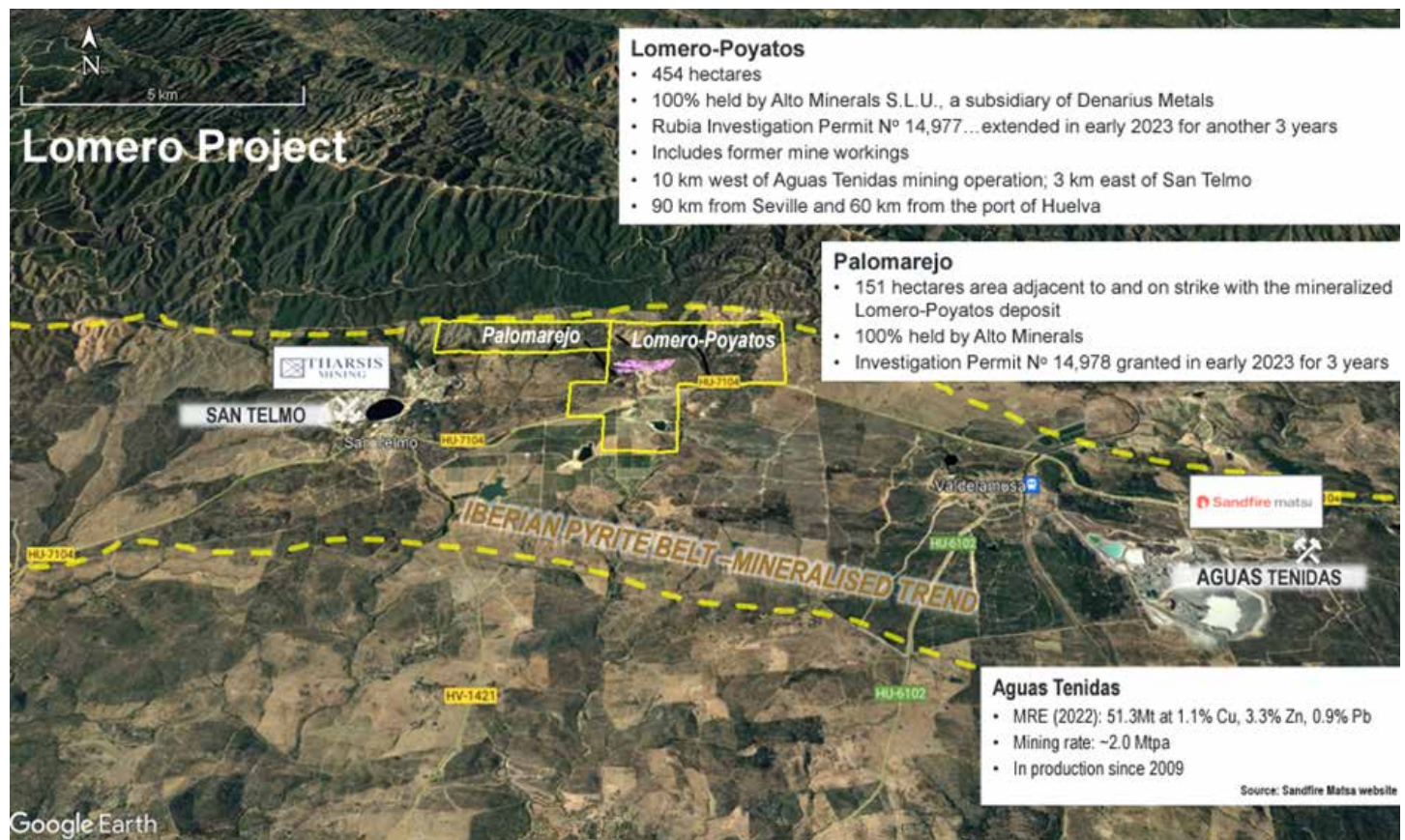
Titiribí Mining District, Colombia
Gold, Silver, Zinc, Lead



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All holes to date have been successful in intersecting mineralization adjacent to selected, previously reported, high grade intersections within the Toral Project's Indicated Resource block. Investors can expect more assays as the company continues to drill.

THE MAIN FOCUS

The main focus is on their Lomero Project located in the world class Iberian Pyrite Belt district in Spain. The project has access to a high-quality water, power and highway infrastructure, a reliable local workforce, and services, as well as proximity to several high-capacity processing facilities and the port at Huelva. The historic mine began its operations dating back to Roman times where they started working on the two open pits, Lomero and Poyatos. In 1905 the mine transitioned to an underground operation developing 8 levels, which are currently all flooded. The Project is reported to have produced about 2.6 metric tonnes (Mt) of pyrite mineralization grading 5 g/t Au, 80 g/t Ag, 1.20% Cu, 1.10% Pb and,

2.91% Zn from different orebodies. The gold grades at the Project are some of the highest known in the Iberian Pyrite Belt.

The company's initial MRE for Lomero has determined that Lomero is amenable to open pit and underground options or a combination of both. The initial MRE shows the following numbers:

- Open Pit Inferred Mineral Resource: 6.2Mt @ 2.3 g/t Au, 22 g/t Ag, 0.60% Cu, 0.44% Pb and 1.02% Zn, resulting in 112,700 tonnes of CuEq metal averaging 1.82% CuEq; and,
- Underground Inferred Mineral Resource: 4.5Mt @ 1.7 g/t Au, 20 g/t Ag, 0.24% Cu, 0.37% Pb and 1.03% Zn resulting in 56,600 tonnes of CuEq metal averaging 1.27% CuEq.

A drill program was carried out from April through July 2023 comprising a total of 4,760 meters in 20 drill holes. The Phase 3 drill assays were successful in confirming high

grades in the underground drill holes drilled in the 1980s. To date, a total of approximately 47,200 meters of drilling in 149 drill holes at the Lomero Project, has been completed. The Phase 2 and Phase 3 drilling results will be incorporated into the geological model for an updated MRE and work on a PEA in the second half of 2023.

Denarius Metals is focused on in-demand critical metals, is located in favourable mining jurisdictions, has quality high-grade projects with rich histories, and has a proven team who knows how to unlock value for shareholders.

To learn more about Denarius Metals, visit their website at www.denariusmetals.com and follow @DenariusMetals on social media.



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SILVER NORTH RESOURCES RAISING C\$1.5M AFTER NAME CHANGE, CONSOLIDATION AND RENEWED FOCUS ON HIGH GRADE SILVER

By The Critical Investor

After a long period of non-material events, management and Board of **Alianza Minerals (TSX-V:ANZ)** decided it was time for a thorough change in many aspects. On August 10, 2023 they announced a name change into **Silver North Resources**, with a new ticker to go with that (**TSX-V:SNAG**), a 5 to 1 roll back, renewed focus on their fully owned silver projects and leaving the prospector generator model, and divesting/optioning out of copper/gold projects currently in their portfolio. The renewed focus was driven by the fact that Haldane is a rare opportunity to explore and make greenfields discoveries in an existing high grade silver district. Management believes their time is better spent focused on that. As the company was low on cash, a financing was announced soon

In this article I will discuss with CEO Jason Weber the turn of events that eventually led to their strategy change, a cancelled financing last year, developments with partners and projects this year, the strategy itself and events/catalysts to expect in the near future.

*All pictures are company material, unless stated otherwise.
All currencies are in US Dollars, unless stated otherwise.*

Although general sentiment for junior miners wasn't exactly positive the last few years, when looking at the chart below it becomes clear Alianza Minerals was at a dead end road, heading for 1c as it couldn't raise any money without diluting itself into oblivion, which eventually could become a dead spiral:

was earning in at the time through the Cloudbreak Alliance. As a reminder, this would have been an extremely profitable venture for Alianza, as they paid just C\$105k for the Klondike property, and Allied Copper would have to pay C\$2.6M in cash and shares plus a royalty for 100% ownership in 3 years, and spend no less than C\$4.75M in exploration expenditures in total. At these terms, exploration definitely had to be successful in order to continue.

However, on November 30, 2022 the results of the first 5 holes came in, highlighted by best intercepts 1.06m @ 4.26% Cu and 11.4m @ 0.34% Cu, indicating this could be a pretty long journey. Allied Copper already started contemplating a different direction around that time, focusing more



Share price 3 year period (Source: Tmxmoney.com)

after, when Silver North released the news on August 29, 2023 about the undertaking of a C\$1.5M non-brokered private placement, in order to fund exploration at their flagship Haldane Silver project in the Yukon.

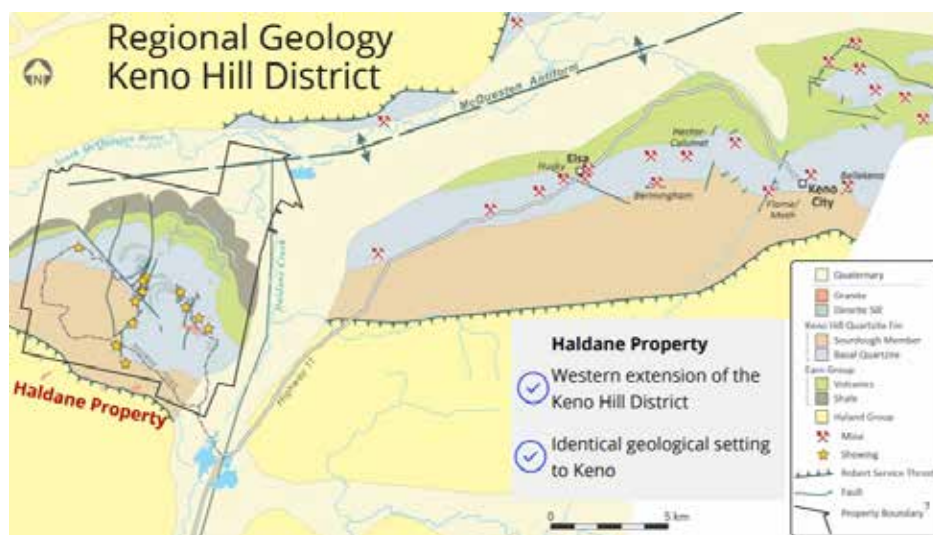
Let's take a brief look into past events first so far, to provide more context. Alianza Minerals was only actively drilling at their Klondike property last summer, at which partner Allied Copper

on lithium brines in Alberta, and in February they decided it was time to terminate the Klondike option agreement with Alianza.

CEO Jason Weber had this to say about the future of the Cloudbreak Alliance,

copper mineralization was intersected at depth on a splay of the target structure. The main target structure was not reached and a promising drill target remains to be tested here.”

Before Klondike was terminated, the company also tried to pull off a financing in December 2022. A CS1M non-brokered flow through raise was announced on December 12, 2022, only to be cancelled 4 days later on December 16, 2022. The news release provided the following explanation for this remarkable timing: “The timing of the Offering was delayed, putting the pre-year end closing in question and



the potential to raise funds at a later date at better prices has increased, so the Company has decided to defer raising funds at present.” After talking to CEO Weber, it turned out that the raise was delayed because of the inefficiencies of dealing with a number of different groups in the holiday season, creating all sorts of pressure on the December 31 deadline for flow-through financings. However, the potential for better prices at a later date didn’t exactly crystallize.

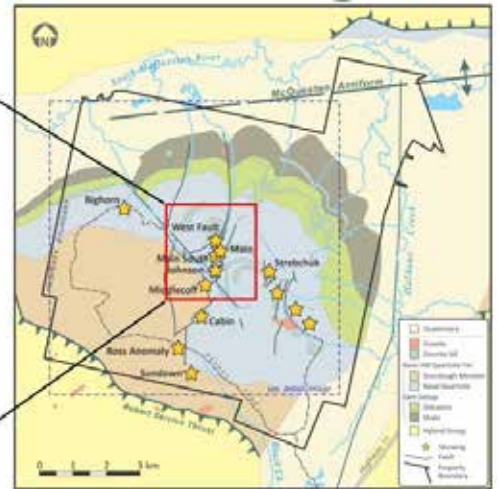
A golden rule in junior mining finance has always been if you can take the money, take it. So I wondered if there wasn’t the option to raise less, or non flow-through in January, or a combination of FT and non-FT, especially with the loyal backing of Pacific Opportunity Capital and Fruchtexpress. CEO Weber had this to say:

“Flow through was considered but the market for flow through softens early in the new year, and with the junior markets out

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of favour the interests in financings in general was low. If we were to raise money it had to be sufficient to complete a program at Haldane anyway.”

As a consequence of the cancelled financing and a soft junior market through the spring, Silver North/

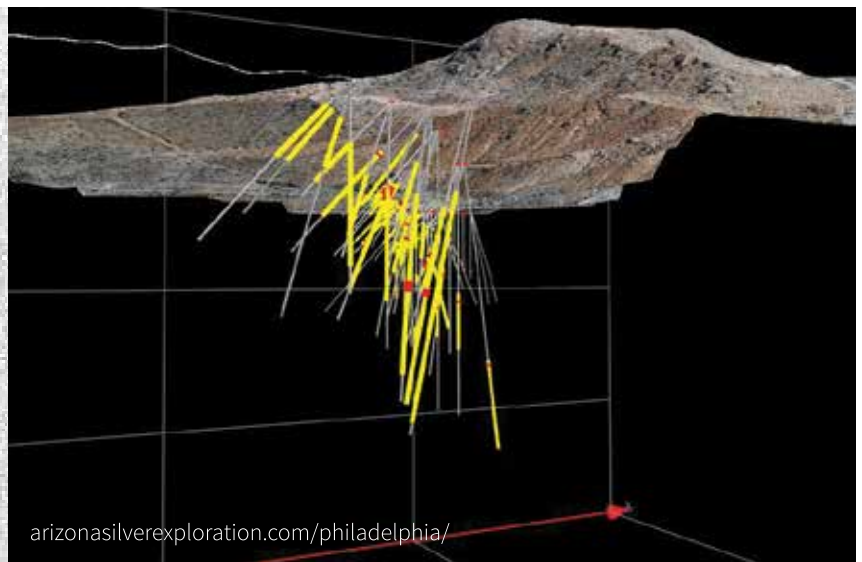
Alianza was unable to commit to an early summer drilling campaign, and started to contemplate the rebranding and restructuring to Silver North and an autumn program at Haldane. The company had announced the outline of drilling/exploration plans for this year on January 30, 2023 and still plans to execute much of what was outlined in January this Fall. I have always loved the geological thesis behind this project, as the host rocks clearly resemble the



TSX.V: AZS | OTCQB: AZASF

Arizona Silver Exploration Inc. is pleased to announce very positive results from re-assays by the metallic screen procedure on selected drill hole intervals on the Philadelphia epithermal gold project. The highest-grade interval to be re-assayed showed the largest grade increase, 42.2% (51 gpt to 72.5 gpt) gold. A total of 24 samples of both high and low-grade material were re-assayed if they contained visible gold. The samples were all from the spring 2023 reverse circulation drilling campaign.

Mr. Greg Hahn, VP Exploration commented, **“Re-assaying of samples with coarse gold is a normal industry practice to gauge if grades are being underestimated simply because a standard 30-gram sample for fire assay can miss coarse gold that might not be represented in a 30-gram split.. Re-assaying on 24 samples is considered statistically meaningful as we assayed both higher and lower**



arizonasilverexploration.com/philadelphia/

grade material. For all 24 samples the average grade increased by 25.9%.”

The highest grade sample in drill hole PRC23-97, which originally contained a grade of 51 gpt gold, returned a grade of 72.5 gpt gold in metallic screen analyses, a 42% increase in grade. For that sample grades of 65 and 74.8 gpt gold were also returned upon re-assaying the original sample using a larger (50-gram) pulp size.

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rocks that host the abundance of high grade silver mines and deposits the Keno Hill Silver District is famous for.

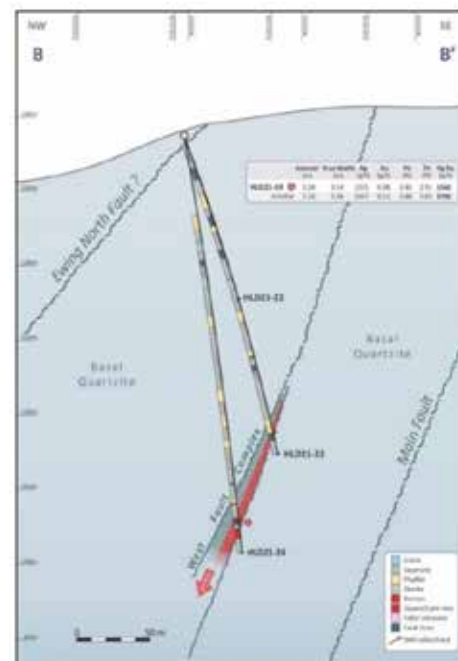
These plans were pretty comprehensive according to the news release:

“Management is planning airborne electromagnetic and magnetic surveys to help map lithologies, refine target structures (strike extensions and offsets) and potentially identify new target structures that may be silver bearing. This work would be followed up by trenching where applicable and diamond drilling. Drilling will target the extensions down plunge on the West Fault target where high-grade silver mineralization has been identified over an area 100 meters by 90 meters in size, and on two structural levels within the West fault structure. Drilling would aim to build on previous intersections at West fault including 1.8 metres of 818 grams per ton silver, 3.47% lead, 1.03% zinc and 3.14 metres of 1,315 grams per ton silver, 2.43% lead, 2.91% zinc (true widths), with grades and width increasing at depth. At least four holes are planned to test the extensions of this mineralization on 50 metre stepouts.

Drilling is also planned for the Bighorn target located 3 kilometers to the northwest of the West Fault. The Bighorn target was identified from soil geochemical sampling that returned anomalous values for lead and silver in soils. The only drill hole at this target returned 125.7 grams per ton silver and 4.39% lead over 2.35 metres from previously unrecognized vein structures. Trenching and groundwork in 2022 programs was able to refine targeting at Bighorn, and additional drilling will test this target for its potential to host wide, high grade silver mineralization. Additional drilling will also target the Main and Middlecoff targets, and any targets generated from the geophysical data and trenching.”

Besides own exploration, another important regional development is ongoing next door. At the moment, Hecla Mining is ramping up production, having produced over 182,000 ounces of gold in Q2, trying to iron out the mining/milling kinks that plagued new acquisition Alexco at Keno Hill, and full production is planned for Q4, 2023. Establishing the Keno Hill Mine as a

profitable silver mine (as a reminder the most significant step to help in this regard was to retire the silver stream Alexco was feeding prior to the Hecla acquisition) backed by a large producer is a very favorable development for the district and thus also for Silver North.



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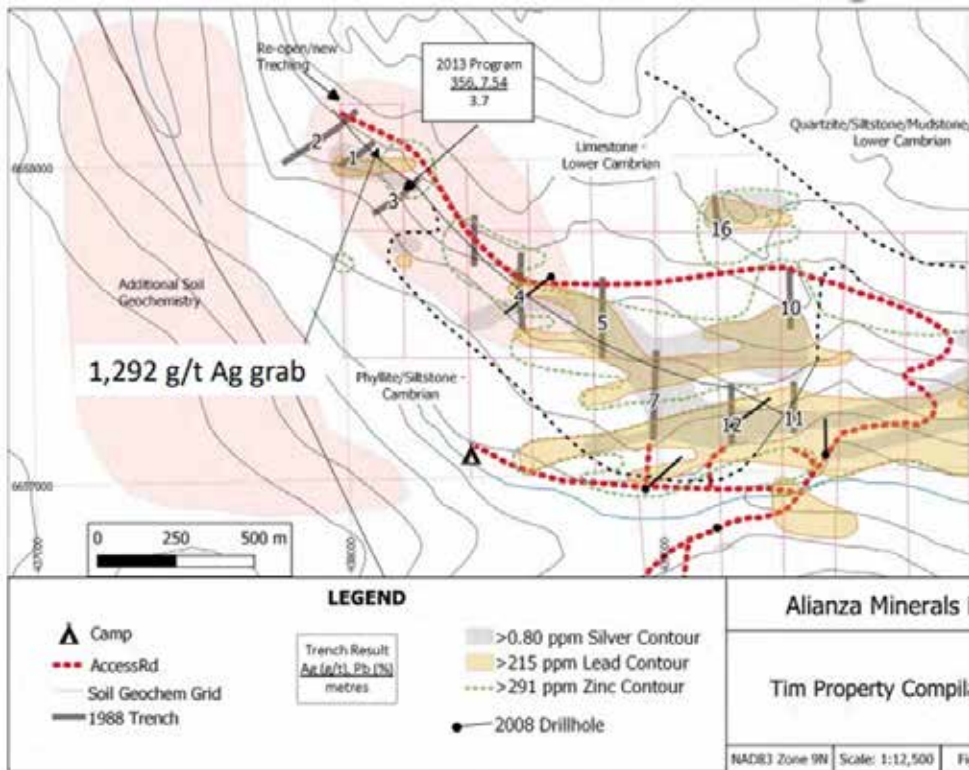
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The second most important project for Silver North is the Tim Silver project, also in the Yukon. Coeur Mining, which has optioned the Tim Silver project, hasn't been very active since 2021. It compiled the results from a sampling and mapping program in 2022, but didn't disclose the results in a news release.

According to CEO Weber, the required permits for drilling are now in hand. Coeur's previous program was successful in identifying drill targets that resemble the setting at Coeur's Silvertip Mine, 19km to the south of Tim. The exploration team at Coeur has been very successful in adding ounces the resource at Silvertip over the last few years and is eager to take their knowledge and apply it to Tim. This next program has not been fully articulated to Silver North, but Coeur is eager to test the targets they have generated at Tim with drilling. Management should have a clearer picture on this shortly."

The fully owned Twin Canyon gold project in Colorado also has seen its fair share of prioritizing drill targets, and a drill permit for a 13 hole, 3,950m RC

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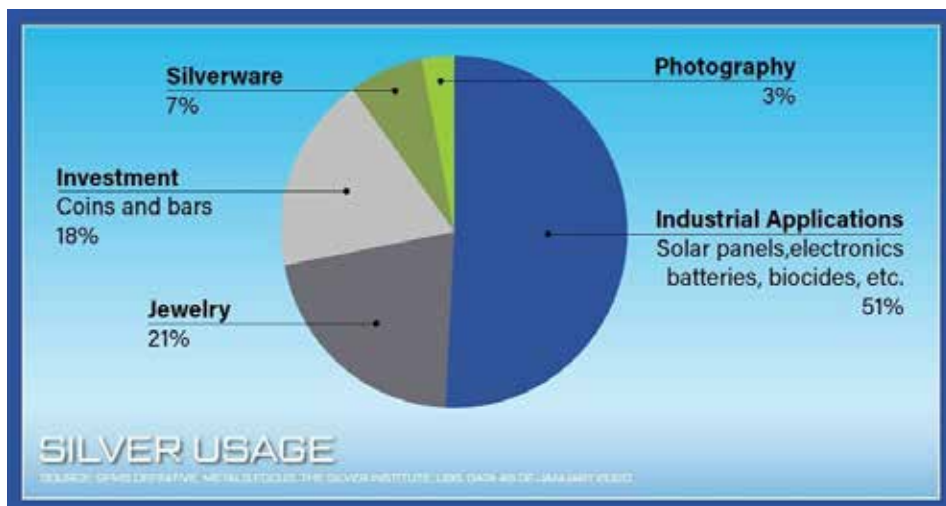
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drill program was granted on January 11, 2023. Alianza has been actively seeking a partner to conduct the first drill program at Twin Canyon, but hasn't been able to come to an agreement with interested parties. I wondered if Silver North is still actively pursuing a partner, or will be focusing more on Haldane, and potentially divest projects like Twin Canyon. CEO Weber stated:

“We really like the Twin Canyon target and will find a partner to take it on, and do the drilling to test their target ideas.”

Silver North has other projects in its portfolio, like in Nevada and Peru, but is

actively looking to divest those or find partners for them. According to CEO Weber, they are receiving a good deal of interest in the project portfolio and will move the non-core projects on, so they can fully focus on their silver projects.

I also asked him if he could describe the process that eventually led to the strategy change, from being a multi-metal hybrid prospect generator to a silver focused explorer, focusing on their fully owned flagship Haldane project. He elaborated that they felt that Haldane, and by extension, Alianza was not getting the recognition for the silver discoveries made to date (and the potential for new ones) especially considering that the project is located in one of the world's highest grade silver districts with over 100 years of production history. As a silver focused junior explorer, the company can more efficiently direct its efforts in unlocking the value at Haldane with a much simpler and streamlined story for investors. Management also feels strongly that the outlook for silver is very positive, especially when one considers the vital role silver plays in

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the transition to a green economy in everything from solar panels to electric vehicle. This theme holds true for the broader application of technology to society, such as 5G technology and silver's applications. Silver North is now likely better able to appeal to investors who see this same value.

Besides this, I'm curious (no doubt other investors are as well) what activities, timelines and catalysts he has in mind for Silver North, after the financing will be closed. He commented the following: "An autumn drill program at Haldane is our primary focus going forward, both to expand the West Fault mineralization with additional high grade intersections, as well as following up the Bighorn discovery made in 2019. This discovery was never followed up due to the discovery at West Fault. The longer term goal is to define the extents of West Fault while also continuing to test the almost 12 km of prospective vein strike length to make additional discoveries like West Fault. To date, under 500 metres of this strike length has been tested

by drilling – plenty of room remains to additional silver veins. Drilling at Tim funded by Coeur should provide an additional catalyst for investors and of course the divestment of the now non-core projects will provide additional news flow."

CONCLUSION

It hasn't been an easy year for Silver North Resources/Alianza Minerals, or for most junior companies for that matter. But management took this time to undertake a strategic review of its business and where the most value could be created. Identifying that the Haldane Silver project has tremendous potential to create this value, and silver could be in strong demand following the ongoing renewable energy paradigm shift, they took this opportunity to reinvent themselves with a name change, roll back and strategy change. CEO Weber has big plans for Haldane, and I'm curious if, after the current C\$1.5M financing will be closed, upcoming autumn drill programs can prove up lots more high grade silver. Stay tuned!

I hope you will find this article interesting and useful, and will have further interest in my upcoming articles on mining. To never miss a thing, please subscribe to my free newsletter, in order to get an email notice of my new articles soon after they are published.

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- Updated Resource Estimate
- Increase in **Indicated** Category by 187% to 62.8Mozs AgEq or by 214% to 765Kozs AuEq: 21.0Mozs Ag (+297%), 237Kozs Au (+179%), 18Mlbs Cu (+288%), 48Mlbs Pb (+178%) and 267Mlbs Zn (+134%)
- Increase in **Inferred** Category by 30% to 22.5Mozs AgEq or by 41% to 273Kozs AuEq: 10.3Mozs Ag (+117%), 50Kozs Au (-21%), 10Mlbs Cu (+79%), 23Mlbs Pb (+45%) and 84Mlbs Zn (-9%)
- 18,852ha with no underlying royalties
- Management and exploration team with proven track record of discovery in BC
- Superior access and logistics in a mature Mining Region
- Low exploration costs and expanded exploration season
- Significant existing historical underground development
- Major & Mid-tier miners nearby, potential JV or acquisition
- 94 holes for 31,895 metres completed to date
- 2nd phase of 2023 drilling underway testing two areas not included in current resource base
- Current high-grade (high-margin) NI43-101 Mineral Resource Estimate
- Near-term resource target of +1.5M oz AuEq

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THE GEOPOLITICS OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND THE FUTURE OF CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

By Marc Challande

The global shift towards clean energy and the electrification of transportation has led to a rising demand for critical minerals, essential components of green energy technologies. As countries around the world race to secure their supply chains for these minerals, a new geopolitical landscape is emerging. In this article, we will explore the implications of this race and how it is shaping the future of the clean energy transition.

THE CHANGING NATURE OF GLOBAL RESOURCE COMPETITION

The competition for critical minerals is evolving rapidly, driven by the increasing demand for green energy technologies. Cory Combs, Associate Director at Trivium China, highlights that understanding the structural forces that influence these trends is crucial to anticipate what comes next and shape it in a mutually beneficial direction. Different geopolitical actors, such as the EU, the U.S., and China, each have their own list of critical minerals based on their unique goals and industrial structures. These minerals represent an economic analysis of what is important for current and future industries.

CONCERNS OVER SUPPLY CHAIN DEPENDENCIES

The supply chains for critical minerals are complex and span regions across the globe. Key players have emerged in different stages of the supply chain, with upstream extraction predominantly happening in Global South countries like Indonesia, Chile, Peru, China, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Processing, on the other hand, is heavily concentrated in China. This configuration has raised concerns over supply disruptions and the vulnerability of certain countries to leverage their position in the supply chain. The U.S., in particular, is taking



steps to address its dependence on critical mineral supply, as disruptions can have significant implications for its decarbonization efforts.

THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

While competition for critical minerals is inevitable, it should not be a zero-sum game. Cooperation between countries is key to ensure a smooth and sustainable transition

to clean energy. The United States, for example, is collaborating with other nations through initiatives like the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment and the Mineral Security Partnership. These partnerships aim to diversify mineral supply chains, protect against supply shocks, and promote high Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards.

China, with its strategic focus on critical minerals, is also a crucial



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partner in the clean energy transition. The U.S. and other countries should seek opportunities for cooperation with China, aligning their interests with the development strategies of producing countries. By working together, countries can ensure that the global green transition benefits all economies and promotes sustainable development.

BALANCING NATIONAL SECURITY AND CLIMATE MITIGATION

Critical minerals are not only essential for clean energy technologies but also have implications for national security. The U.S. recognizes the importance of secure supply chains for critical minerals in achieving its climate goals. Policies and investments, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, reflect the U.S.'s commitment to addressing critical mineral supply dependence as a national security priority. However, it is crucial to strike a balance between national security concerns and global

cooperation on climate mitigation. Antagonism between the U.S. and China in the critical mineral discourse risks hindering progress on clean energy and undermining shared goals.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Developing countries rich in critical minerals have a significant role to play in the clean energy transition. They have the opportunity to benefit from the boom in critical material demand and develop their resources in a way that contributes to their economies and the well-being of their people. Building institutional capacity, enhancing revenue forecasting, and investing in geological research are essential steps for these countries to adapt to changes in global demand. Moreover, they should ensure access to major demand centers and develop high-quality energy, logistics, and infrastructure to attract private investment in intermediate processing and manufacturing.

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) RISKS

The surge in mining activity associated with critical minerals raises concerns about environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. The extraction of minerals like cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been linked to environmental damage, human rights abuses, and unsafe working conditions. Responsible sourcing and sustainable practices are gaining importance, with major buyers and exchanges implementing due diligence assessments and reforms in their purchasing rules. Governments and industries must work together to enhance transparency, promote ESG standards, and decarbonize commodity supply chains.

THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

To navigate the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape of critical minerals, comprehensive research and

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CONCLUSION

The race for critical minerals is reshaping the geopolitical landscape and influencing the future of the clean energy transition. As countries compete to secure their supply chains, it is crucial to prioritize cooperation, diversification, and sustainable practices. Balancing national security concerns with global climate goals is essential, and developing countries have a significant role to play in this transition. By addressing ESG risks and promoting responsible sourcing, the industry can minimize its environmental and social impact. Comprehensive research and interdisciplinary

interdisciplinary collaboration are essential. Economists, geographers, procurement specialists, development experts, sociologists, engineers, and chemists must work together to understand the implications of the clean energy transition and identify strategies

for sustainable resource management. By leveraging their expertise and fostering collaboration, these professionals can contribute to shaping a future where critical minerals support a clean and sustainable energy transition.

collaboration will be key in navigating the complex challenges and opportunities presented by critical minerals in the pursuit of a clean and sustainable energy future.



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Bravada Gold Corporation (BVA-TSX.V; BGAUF-OTCQB; BRTN-Stuttgart) is an exploration and development company with a portfolio of ten high-quality properties for 810 claims (6,500ha) in two prolific Nevada gold trends. Bravada's value is underpinned by a substantial gold and silver resource with a positive PEA at Wind Mountain, which was updated in December 2022. The Company also holds a royalty on a high-grade gold property in Ontario and a near-surface barite deposit in central Nevada. The Company recently signed a letter-of-intent with Endeavour Silver to option Baxter project. In addition to sole funding, Bravada often works with partners, which may fund up to US\$1million per year on Bravada's properties each year.

- **Wind Mountain Au/Ag Flagship project** – Substantial gold and silver resource with positive PEA in 2012, updated for a Phase I operation in December 2022 that demonstrated attractive economics and identified a Phase II pad site. Permitting is underway to expand resources further.
- **Highland** – Many drill-ready, low-sulfidation vein targets remain on this large and largely alluvial-covered property with demonstrated high-grade gold and silver intercepts. Permitting is nearly completed for a 15 hole (2,600m) drilling program to test two of the targets.
- **SF/HC** – Two “Proof-of-Concept” drill holes in 2019 confirmed the presence of a gold system in favorable host rocks and structures that are similar to those at the large, high-grade Goldrush/Fourmile deposits nearby. Soil sampling and IP planned for 2023.
- **Baxter** – Endeavour Silver is planning to further test the property as part of their earn-in.
- **Pete Hanson & Gabel** – Soil sampling completed 2023 with results pending and expected to be drill ready after results are evaluated. Soil-sampling program at Pete Hanson late fall 2023 or 2024.
- **North Lone Mtn and South Lone Mtn** – Zinc and gold soil anomalies drill ready at NLM, and SLM is adjacent to a competitor's development-stage Lone Mountain Oxide Zinc deposit.
- **Shoshone Pediment** – Royalty to Bravada on future production from a well-defined barite deposit, with Bravada retaining rights to other metals.

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David O'Brien
Nov 22, 1952 – July 9, 2023



On July 9th, our friend and colleague David O'Brien lost his battle to cancer. He is being remembered by his family, daughter Kari, son Michael, Michael's wife Anne - Marie and David's Grandson James and Granddaughter Penelope. He touched the lives of the members of Evergreen Squash Club and many of us in the Junior Mining industry.

David was an eccentric character and was fortunate to find kindred spirits amongst the eccentricities of those characters that work as Geologists, Analysts and in Investor Relations within the Junior Mining sector. David loved people and wanted to engage with literally everyone he met, preferably over some food or drinks, and always enjoyed sharing stories about his past while trying to learn about theirs. Everyday was an opportunity to have a good time. I have never known him to ever say a disparaging word about anyone nor do I think he even had a single mean bone in his body. To David everyone he met was a potential new friend.

I have had the pleasure of knowing David since 2008, when he joined the Prospector News as a regular contributor. At his passing he was easily the longest serving and most prolific contributor. We spoke last Christmas as we always did to wind up the year. At that time, we calculated that David had contributed nearly 170 articles over the past 15 years. David was always very specific as to how his articles were to appear, so I knew that the cancer he had was a lot worse than he let on when last September when he accepted the use of a "ghost writer" for his final few articles.

Those in the mining business often referred to us as the "Odd Couple" as we are nothing alike. We joked between ourselves that we were the cartoon dogs from Looney Tunes. David being the hyper little dog and me, the plodding bulldog. A kind of Mutt and Jeff relationship.

As many of you are likely aware David had a particular way of referencing things (a David O'Brien code) that didn't make sense to many other than David. I often worried about myself over the years when I started to make sense of the O'Brien code and knew what he was talking about without asking.

Finally I will share what I felt was David's greatest quality. Even in the darkest of clouds he could find a silver lining that meant things wouldn't be so bad. I hope he has found that permanent silver lining.

For a little guy he is going to leave a Large Hole.

I think our mutual friend Ellis Martin summed things up perfectly.

"David O'Brien was my friend. And many of yours. An extremely nice, warm spirited and kind person. Rest well, friend...in peace."

If any of you wish to make a remembrance of David, please donate to the BC Cancer Agency so they can continue David's fight going forward.

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