

Northern Mining News

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From the Editor ...

Congratulations to Vital/Chettah and Det’ on Cho Nahanni Construction on their mining contract announcement for Nechalacho. A new mine for the NWT! Several releases from Vital/Cheetah this past month. For those of you interested in all the details, check out the feature article – project history and numerous images - written by Bill Braden.

The Chamber of Mines, like many others followed the blockades at the Mary River Mine and we look forward to seeing continued dialogue by all parties.

A big thanks to Gahcho Kué’s team for how they’re keeping safety above all else during such challenging times. Our entire industry and our stakeholder partners are doing all they can to keep people safe.

Several other announcements this past month! Have a look! **Be safe, be healthy! ... Editor**

Our Mission: To provide leadership on, and advocate for, responsible and sustainable mineral exploration and development in the NWT and Nunavut.

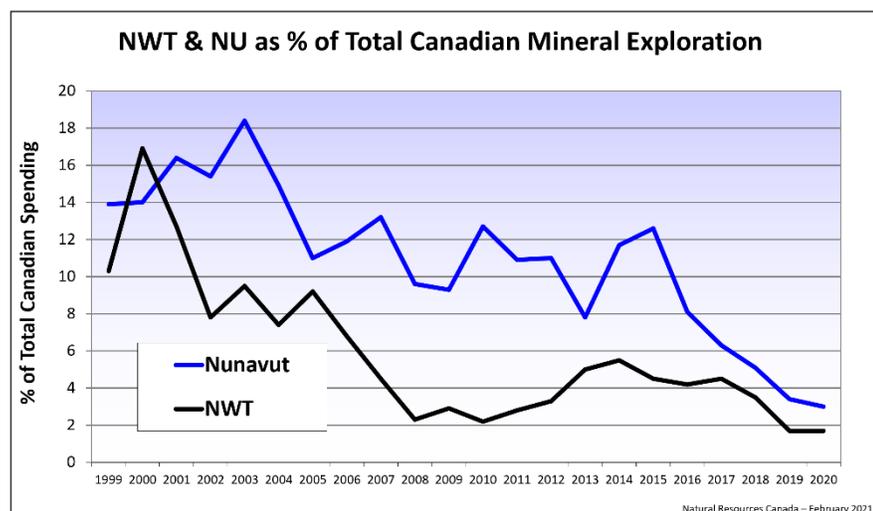
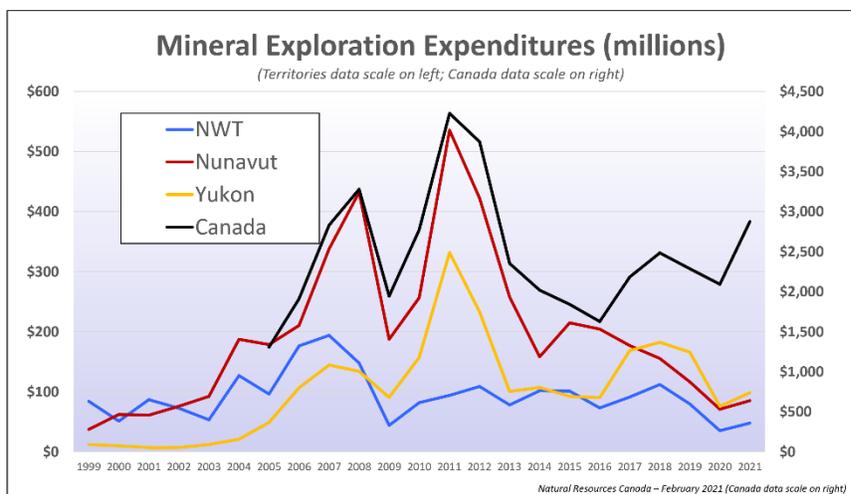
Latest exploration statistics from Natural Resources Canada

Natural Resources of Canada has released the [latest exploration figures](#) for 2020 with projections for 2021.

The data shows that exploration investment continued to fall in 2020, but there is optimism that there will be a slight increase in 2021. Even with that increase, exploration would be at levels not seen since the early 2000's (see chart below). Let's not think that the COVID-19 pandemic is totally to blame for the fall in 2000, figures show that several provinces including British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland-Labrador experienced increased exploration in 2020.

When compared to other jurisdictions, Nunavut and the NWT continued to capture a declining and flat share of total Canadian investment, demonstrating that other jurisdictions were capturing more investment interest.

The trends continue to fall unchecked and are worrisome given that exploration is required to find new mines to replace those currently in operation. The sustainability of future mining benefits is at risk.



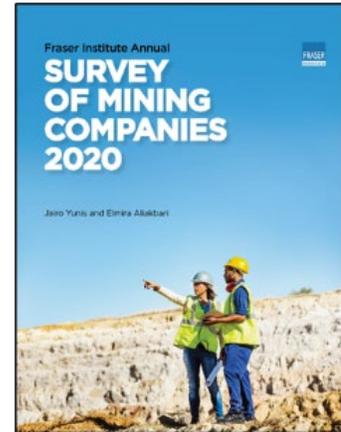
Fraser survey – Canada shines, but NWT and Nunavut continue to decline

The Fraser Institute has released the results of its annual *Survey of Mining Companies 2020*, which compares global jurisdictions for investment attractiveness. The institute received 276 individual responses to evaluate 77 jurisdictions. Top three were Nevada, Arizona, and Saskatchewan.

On the investment attractiveness index, Canada is the second most attractive region in the world for investment after Australia. This year, Saskatchewan (3), Quebec (6), and Newfoundland & Labrador (8) ranked in the top 10 in terms of investment attractiveness, a significant increase compared to last year when no Canadian jurisdiction featured in the top 10. The increase was largely driven by investors' perception on mineral potential. But the NWT and Nunavut continue to decline.

The NWT fell to 46, down from 35 in 2019, and well below its 10 rank in 2018.

Nunavut fell to 39, down from 26 in 2019, and well below its 15 rank in 2018.



Comments in the 82-page report that reference the NWT and Nunavut:

- In Canada, the Northwest Territories (83 percent), Manitoba (60 percent), and the Yukon (50 percent) had the highest percentages of respondents indicating that the permitting authority met its own established timelines or milestones about half the time or less.
- The three territories have a high proportion of respondents indicating that lack of transparency is a deterrent to investment. Half of the respondents for Nunavut and the Yukon and 67 percent for the Northwest Territories cited the lack of transparency as a key deterrent to investment.
- Ninety-one percent of respondents for Ontario and 88 percent for Nunavut indicated that they were either confident or highly confident that they would receive the necessary permits, compared to only 44 percent for Manitoba and just 33 percent for the Northwest Territories.
- In six out of the 10 provinces and territories included in the sub-survey (British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, and the Yukon), 60 percent of respondents or more said that the time to permit approval had lengthened over the last 10 years.
- Among the territories, the Northwest Territories has the lowest percentage of respondents, 33 percent, who acquired permits in six months or less.
- In Nunavut, “lack of land use plans creates uncertainty for mineral exploration permitting.” An exploration company vice-president



Signing of the Mining Services Agreement for the Nechalacho Rare Earth Project in Cheetah Resources Corporation's Canadian head office in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. From left to right standing: Bobby Drygeese, Chair Det'on Corporation; Sarah Kakfwi, Office Manager Cheetah Resources Corp.; Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation. From left to right sitting: Paul Gruner, President and CEO of Det'on Cho Corporation and President Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd., David Connelly, Vice President Corporate Affairs and Strategy Cheetah Resources Corp.; Kenny Ruptash, President of Nahanni Construction and Vice President of Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd. Vital Metals/Cheetah photo

Vital signs contract to commence mining at Nechalacho in March

Vital Metals Limited announced its 100%-owned Canadian subsidiary Cheetah Resource Corp. has signed a definitive mining contract with local company Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd. for work to commence at the North T Zone at its Nechalacho Project in Northwest Territories.

The North T Zone is the first deposit to be mined at Nechalacho, with Vital progressing to rare earth oxide production in CY2021.

Vital Metals Managing Director Geoff Atkins said, "The signing of our mining contract in Yellowknife is an important step forward for Vital as we move toward production at Nechalacho, and we are pleased to be working with Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd, which is owned by local First Nations people. We are developing Nechalacho using the most

sustainable methods possible which includes the use of local labour so that we can support the communities surrounding our project.”

“Having finalized an offtake agreement with REEtec earlier this month, we are pleased to have executed this contract with Det’ on Cho Nahanni Construction as it allows us to continue to progress towards production at Nechalacho, which is on track for the coming months.”

Highlights

- Vital signs mining contract with Det’ on Cho Nahanni Construction Ltd for mining campaign at Nechalacho, Northwest Territories, Canada
- Nahanni Construction will mobilize to site by end of March
- Mining contract scope includes mining, site clearing, preparation of retention ponds, site roads, ROM pad and crushing and screening
- Vital is on track to commence rare earth production at Nechalacho in CY2021
- Vital has commenced drilling to define mine plan for Stage 2 operations at Nechalacho to build larger scale, long-life rare earths project

See the [Vital signs contract to commence mining at Nechalacho in March 2021 release](#).

Over the past month, Vital has issued numerous releases on Nechalacho including:

- [Vital appoints rare earths expert as strategic advisor in ramp up to production](#)
- [Response to ASX price and volume query](#)
- [Construction update ahead of rare earth production at Nechalacho](#)
- [Vital’s rare earth carbonate customer sample program underway with positive results](#)
- [Vital commences drilling to define mine plan for stage 2 rare earths production](#)
- [Vital metals executes definitive offtake agreement with REEtec](#)

Managing Director Geoff Atkins commented, “2021 will be a groundbreaking year for Vital Metals.” Click [here](#) for an audio interview about the company’s drill program to define stage two of the mine plan.

Nechalacho feature – rare earth project on track to deliver ‘green’ metals soon

Article and images submitted by Bill Braden/Cheetah Resources

Overview: A high-grade polymetallic rare earth deposit in Canada’s Northwest Territories will begin an innovative, three-year scalable extraction program in 2021, building the foundation for full scale production in 2024. The Nechalacho Project at Thor Lake, 100 km southeast of Yellowknife, will be carried out by Cheetah Resources Ltd., the Canadian arm of Australia’s Vital Metals Ltd.

Nechalacho will ship its beneficiated ore to a processing plant in Saskatchewan that will produce mixed rare earth precipitates. It will mark Canada’s entry into the critical rare earth supply chain by securing the first three steps of the chain in Canada: extracting the mineral, beneficiating the ore, and producing a mixed rare earth precipitate for sale to rare earth separation plants at and to Canada’s allies.

Cheetah will own the extraction plant, to be built and operated for Cheetah by the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) in Saskatoon. Cheetah expects to sell the precipitate to rare earth separation plants outside China and Russia, including REETec of Norway and SRC, which has recently been funded to build the first Canadian rare earth separation plant to further refine the material into pure rare earth oxides, securing the fourth step in Canada's rare earth supply chain.



Nechalacho is scheduled to begin producing rare earth elements this year.

These are significant investments by both the private and public sectors. Rare earths are vital to many clean-tech and high-tech industries, as world supply comes under increasing uncertainty due to growing demand, geopolitical concerns and domestic shortages in China, the world's dominant producer.

An extensive in depth look at Nechalacho – Cheetah Resources will extract and process cleanly-sourced rare earth elements from a world-class deposit in the NWT and process them in Saskatchewan to launch Canada's debut as the world's newest high-tech supplier of mixed rare earth products.

In the summer of 1983, Geologist Chris Pedersen was meandering over lichen-covered quartz and granite country rock, exploring the north shore of Canada's immense Great Slave Lake. He was prospecting for signs of beryllium, a mineral much in vogue at the time for emerging electronics technology.

That morning, 37 years ago, a shiny glint of light blinking off a knobby outcrop caught his eye. Back at the showing in the summer of 2020, Pederson waved his hand over what grabbed his attention.

“What we're looking at here, all the shiny stuff, is mica. It's not a host for rare earths, but it is an indicator of lithium, another green technology metal that's used in batteries and electric cars,” said Pedersen.



In 1983, Chris Pedersen, senior project geologist, found this outcrop of quartz and mica that lead to the rare earth discovery at Nechalacho.

It was also to prove the fateful signal of what lay beneath. As he scraped the moss away, he uncovered the quartz-rich vein that hosts Nechalacho - a world-class rare earth element deposit.

“This is the outcrop that got it all going. It just basically goes to show you what a treasure trove this deposit is,” said Pedersen, who remains a senior consulting geologist to the project’s proponents.

That treasure trove is one the world’s richest, shovel-ready sources of rare earth elements (REEs). There are 17 in all, given exotic-sounding names with an astonishing array of what our modern world needs: yttrium, europium and terbium for computer and TV screens, and lanthanum in high-performance batteries and cell phone camera lenses.

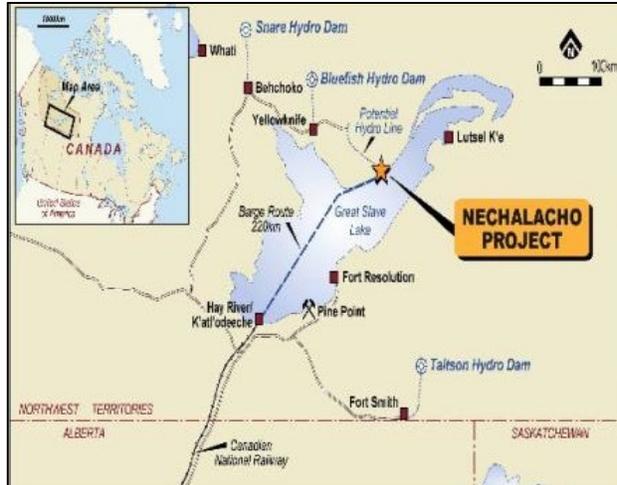
Alloyed with iron, neodymium and praseodymium make the world’s most powerful magnets - essential where miniaturization is critical - in electric vehicles, computer hard drives, medical diagnostic instruments, even the tiny speakers in ear buds. The average passenger vehicle has over 30 electric mini-motors, all of them powered with rare earth alloys.

Indeed, just about every gadget, convenience or machine we use at home and work relies in some way on a rare earth element.

Many of the so-called REEs are actually widely, though thinly distributed over the planet. But in economic terms, they are indeed rare, because only a few deposits are rich enough to be viable. And they don’t come out of the ground as simply as, say, gold or iron. REEs are typically chemically bound with each other and their various host minerals, requiring highly specialized processing to separate and refine them to the 99.99 per-cent-plus purity demanded by manufacturers.

While REEs are geologically scarce and expensive to bring to market, they are even more complex because of the turmoil in world economics and politics. Over several decades, production has dwindled to only a handful of suppliers, dominated by China’s 80 per-cent share of much of the REE market. Aided by its lax environmental and labour

standards and disruptive pricing, China has managed to keep other potential suppliers dormant. But as technology’s appetite for REEs has rapidly grown, western governments have woken up to their role as ‘strategic’ elements for achieving their goals of a green economy and reducing carbon



Nechalacho, located 100 kms southeast of Yellowknife.



Modern wind generation turbines are just one market for super-magnets needing the kind of rare earth metals that Nechalacho can supply.

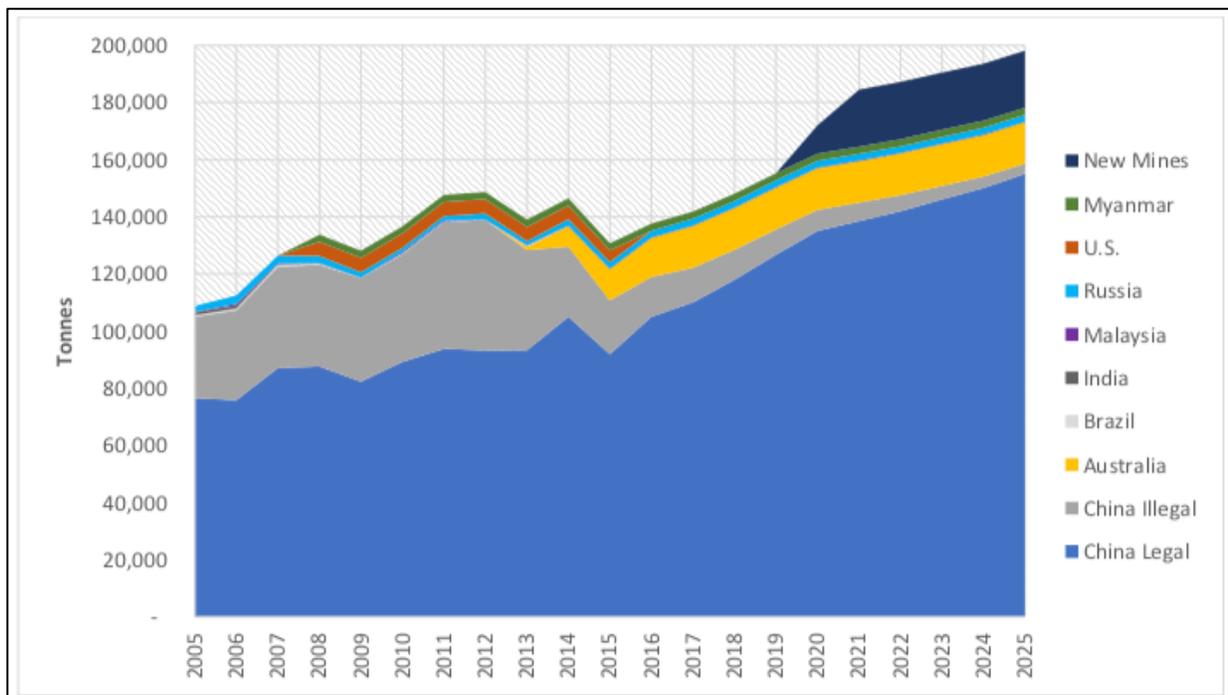
footprints. This has triggered political action to try to restore certainty and affordability to the critical REE supply chain.

In early October of 2020, the U.S. Government ordered its own agencies to look for opportunities to “help allies build reliable critical mineral supply chains within their own territories.” And in January, reported the *National Post*, Canada and the U.S. announced the “Canada–U.S. Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration” to guide co-operation on developing a North American supply chain for some 35 critical minerals. In September, the European Union stepped up its own efforts to become less dependent on imported raw materials, including rare earths.

All of this has cast new urgency to develop viable deposits in trustworthy trading zones to restore certainty of supply and price. To ensure reliable sources, countries are exploring avenues such as stockpiling REE reserves, and offering tax incentives to miners and downstream processors to get on board.

Nechalacho’s minerology has been only gradually revealed, as it was probed over some five decades for numerous market-friendly elements. Along with a host of hard-scrabble prospectors as well as senior miners, the Geological Survey of Canada also put considerable resources into early mapping and exploration.

The ground was first staked in late 1960s by Falconbridge, owner at the time of Giant Yellowknife gold mine, in a prospecting rush for uranium and beryllium. Yellowknife prospectors Dave Smith and the late Ted Mahler restaked what is now the Lake Zone in 1973, followed by Yellowknife geologist Jim Murphy who picked it up and sold it in 1976 to



World demand for rare earth minerals (REE) will grow dramatically over the coming decade. New sources will be needed soon to satisfy the surge in demand. Source: Adamus Intelligence

Grenville Thomas (who later discovered the Diavik diamond mine) and his then-private consortium, Highwood Resources Ltd.

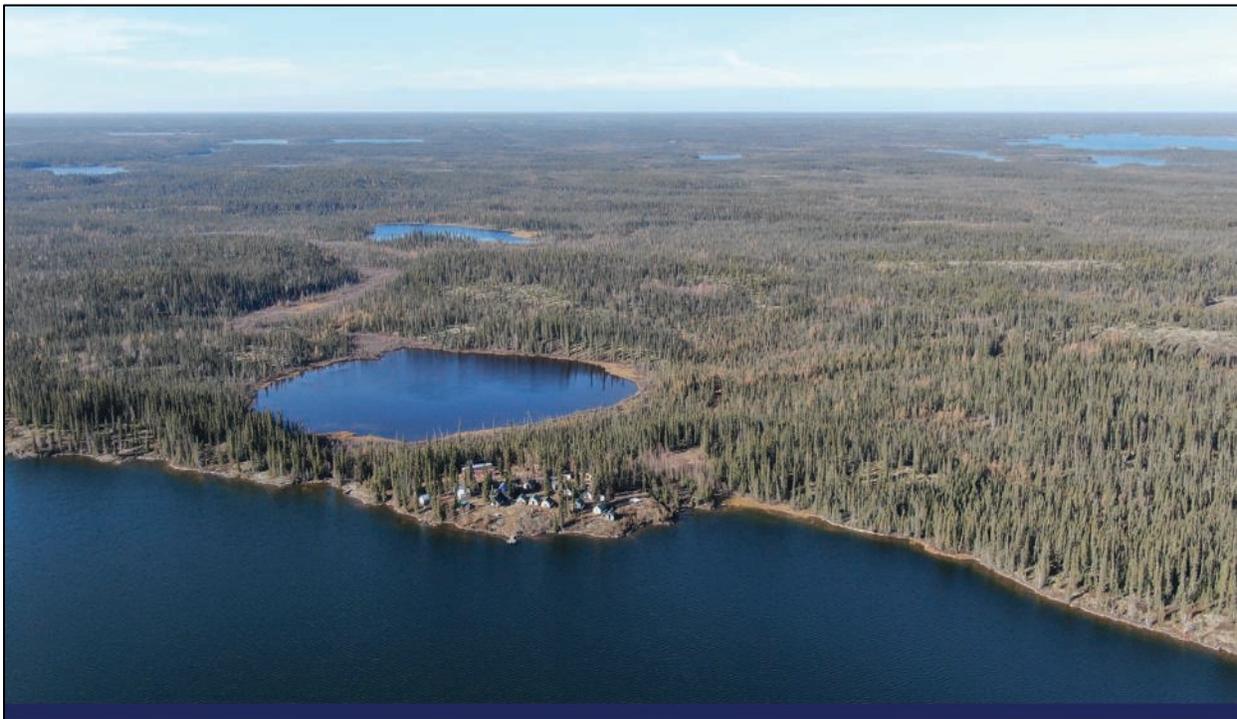
“There was all sorts of other stuff there too,” said Thomas in a recent phone interview. Numerous rare earth elements were found in five separate zones, “In the mid-80s we drove a decline and sent a 750-tonne bulk sample south... we spent a lot of money there.”

Thomas attracted geologist Dave Trueman to the deposit in the early 1980s, tapping his expertise in tantalum, a corrosion-resistant element sought after by the electronics industry. (Trueman has remained an active member of the project since). While the tantalum deposit is perhaps one of the biggest in North America, says Thomas, it proved low-grade and hard to extract.

As they learned more of the REE riches at Thor Lake (the unofficial name for the small lake next to the camp) it was of little interest at the time; China, even then, had most of a relatively small market. In the market meltdown of 1986-87, Thomas relinquished control of Highwood to Nanisivik Mines Ltd.

Highwood subsequently changed hands several times, mainly as a holding company, and the deposit lay dormant for almost two decades.

A start-up enterprise called Avalon Ventures entered the story in 1995, when founder Don Bubar switched his primary focus from gold to REE. Bubar saw the potential for emerging



The Nechalacho Rare Earth Project camp at Thor Lake, NWT, is 100 kilometres from the NWT capital of Yellowknife. It has access via summer barge and winter ice road, as well as year-round aircraft.

technologies needing rare metals like lithium, tantalum and the 17 rare earth elements. A keen observer of world trends, he sought out likely targets, including the Separation Rapids lithium deposit in western Ontario.

He landed on Thor Lake, in 2005, as an "unloved orphan" rare metals asset. Over the next decade, Avalon raised \$100 million in equity financing and ploughed some \$90 million into its 4,249 hectare holding,



Avalon conducted several years of winter drilling from its Nechalacho camp at Thor Lake NWT. Photo: Avalon Advanced Materials

establishing it as a prime development prospect among the world's known deposits. (Avalon has since rebranded itself twice: as Avalon Rare Metals, and most recently as Avalon Advanced Materials. Avalon's ambitious work up to 2013 produced impressive results:

- A positive feasibility study showing a near-surface rare earth resource estimated at 94.7 million metric tons averaging 1.46 per cent total rare earth oxides (TREO)
- 20-year, one billion-dollar-plus plan for underground mining, processing on and near site, plus a purpose-built refinery in Louisiana.
- Shipping by barge, truck, rail and winter road
- Federal approval of its environment impact assessment – a crucial step in the NWT's complex regulatory process
- Positive support from civic, Territorial and regional Indigenous governments.

As the deep recession of the early 2010s set in, Avalon paused its aggressive plan.



Senior Project Geologist, Chris Pedersen, and Cheetah Resource's Canadian Operations Manager, Ray Anguelov, look over 40 years of exploration at Nechalacho's vast core library.

But by 2018, with REE values rising, Avalon hit the play button again, completing a field program that shifted from large-scale to an innovative, small-scale development at the T-Zone, requiring far less capital and environmental impact. Now, the target would be at-surface deposits of bastnaesite, hosting high proportions of the

RREs neodymium and praseodymium, along with lithium potential in the mica-rich quartz veins. A decisive moment came in 2018 when Bubar connected with Geoff Atkins, Managing Director of Australian junior rare earth developer Cheetah Resources Pty Ltd. It was an ideal match, as Cheetah was already involved in a similar program based in Tanzania.

Cheetah had a seasoned team on side, bringing experience from Lynas Corporation, the well-established Australian REE miner and world supplier. To advance its new corporate interest in Canada, Vital established Cheetah Resources Ltd. as a wholly-owned private Canadian company.



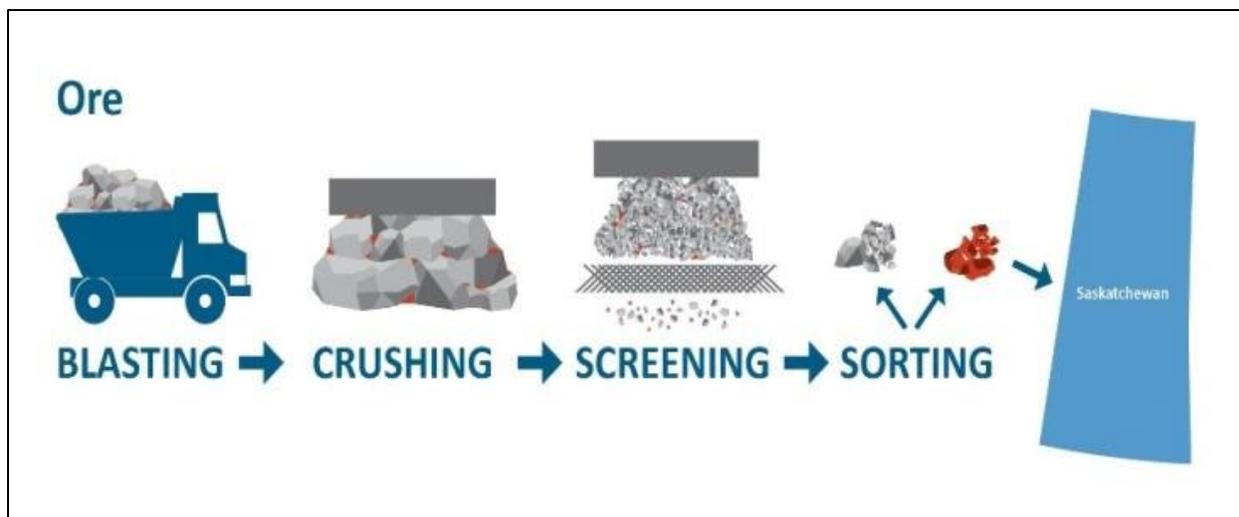
Vital Metals Managing Director Geoff Atkins

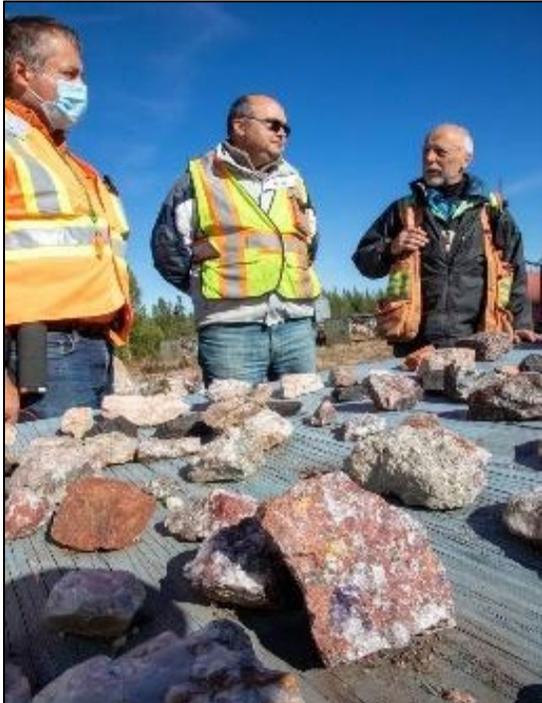
Cheetah also brought much-needed cash to the table, as Avalon announced in January of 2019. Also in 2019, in a demonstration of the support for Nechalacho, Cheetah announced it had been acquired by Australian Stock Exchange listed company, Vital Metals Ltd.

Cheetah had spent three years reviewing over 400 dormant REE projects worldwide before acquiring Nechalacho and the Wigu Hill deposit in Tanzania.

Selection criteria included high grade near surface, the match of the mix of rare earths to market demand and simpler mineralogy and processing.

Their \$5 million deal secured Cheetah's rights to extract the upper 100 meters of the entire Nechalacho project, including the T-Zone and Tardiff Zone resources of highly-marketable neodymium and praseodymium. (Avalon retains rights to the lower depths) The strategy marks a major departure from the way most deposits are brought on stream.





Cheetah Vice President for Strategy and Corporate Affairs, David Connelly, Cheetah's Canada Operations Manager, Ray Anguelov, and Senior Project Geologist, Chris Pedersen, discuss the approach to extracting the Nd-Py rich bastnaesite from the North T Zone.

Ray Anguelov, Cheetah's Operations Manager for Canada, describes the first phase of the Nechalacho program as "an extraction/bulk sampling demonstration project" that will begin in 2021 and run until 2023 as Cheetah prepares to ramp Nechalacho up to full production.

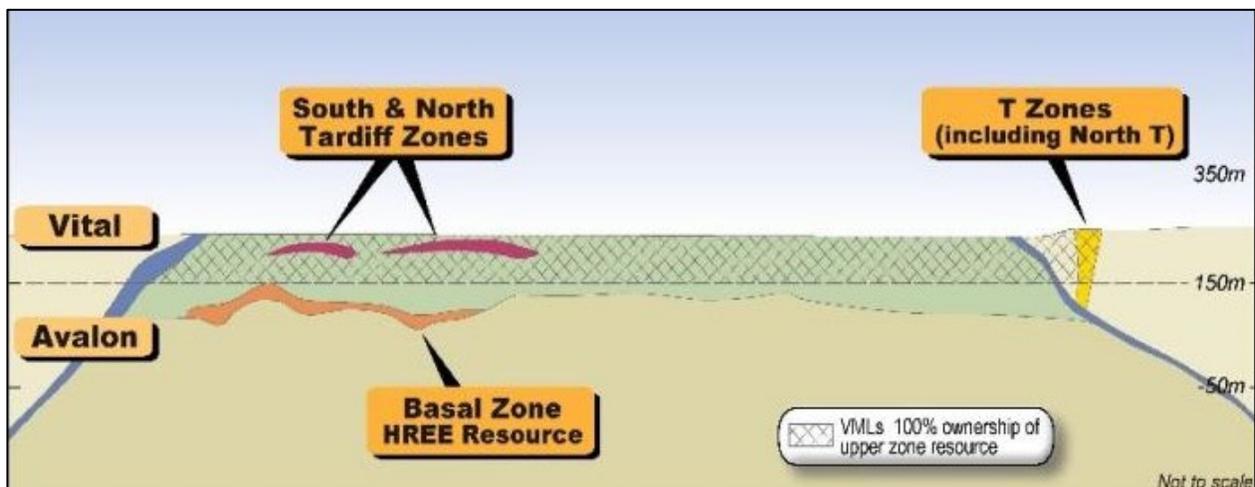
"We are preparing the site right now," he said in an interview at the camp in September, 2020. A crew of about 12, mostly Indigenous workers from several surrounding communities, were at work brushing out and clearing overburden from the deposit, installing the base for the ore sorter and preparing the camp for approximately 30 workers next spring.

Cheetah Resources will extract rare earth ore from the upper 90 to 100 meters of the Nechalacho project including the T-Zones and the Tardiff Zones, all part of the Upper Zone that Cheetah acquired from Avalon Advanced Materials of Canada.

"From December to February of next year, we'll be doing more drilling, and once the winter ice road is open [about 138 kilometres over Great Slave Lake from Yellowknife] we will bring in the contractor's

equipment for the blasting and extraction of the 600,000 tonnes of ore and waste rock."

Anguelov, a metallurgist/process engineer with global experience, expects that extraction will start in March and be complete by the fall of 2021. "Cheetah Resources crews will then be responsible for the sensor-based ore sorting beneficiation process, over the summer seasons from 2021 to 2023."



That sorting process involves crushing the ore to specific sizes, then as it is carried through the sorting machine, sensors will separate the reddish bastnaesite ore from its white, host quartz mineral – once described as simply picking the red marbles from the white ones.

Over the 2021-23 seasons, Cheetah Resources will extract, screen and sort REE ore for shipping to Saskatchewan for specialized processing to market grade product for high-tech manufacturing.

It's a small foot print, uses advanced sensor technology, and is environmentally very low impact - it uses no water, no chemical agents, and produces no tailings.

"I'm very excited about Nechalacho," says Anguelov. "It's my second rare earth project, it's a very interesting process... it's beautiful out here, I get to work with nice people. Why wouldn't I be excited?"



Summer barging to Hay River will be a key component of transport to Nechalacho, along with winter roads to Yellowknife.

"The supply chain for rare earth (development) has many steps in it," says David Connelly, Cheetah's Yellowknife-based Vice President for Strategy and Corporate Affairs, in a *Yellowknifer* story. "The first two – extraction of the ore from the ground, and beneficiation (concentrating it) by sensor-based sorting – will be done at site."

The ore will then travel by barge or ice road across Great Slave Lake, then by truck or rail 2000 kilometres to the heart of the Canadian prairies, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for further processing.

This is where Cheetah has forged a strategic partnership with the province's Crown Corporation, the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), to refine Nechalacho ore into commercial grade REE oxides.

As [announced by Vital Minerals in September](#), the two have signed a binding Term Sheet to negotiate construction and operation of Vital's Rare Earth Extraction Plant, to process the ore into a mixed rare earth carbonite. The plant is expected to be in operation by the fall of 2021.

The fourth, and final stage in the supply chain could be handled by the SRC, Canada's second largest research and technology organization with a long and respected track record of service to the mining industry. Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe announced in August ([see link](#)) the

corporation will also start construction of its own \$31 million Rare Earth Processing Facility, where mixed rare earth carbonate will be separated for sale as pure rare earths. Both plants will occupy nearby sites in Saskatoon.

“The facility will be a catalyst to stimulate the resource sector in Saskatchewan and across Canada, providing the early-stage supply chain needed to generate cash-flow, investment and industrial growth of the sector,” Premier Moe said. It will be the first of its kind in Canada and should be fully operational by late 2022.

“Being the only rare earth project in Canada with near term production capability, co-located with Canada’s only Separation Facility, provides Cheetah the opportunity to be a cornerstone of the North America Critical Minerals Strategy,” said Cheetah Resources’ Managing Director, Geoff Atkins.



Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe announces the province’s \$31 million investment in the REE industry in Saskatoon, August 27, 2020. Photo: courtesy SRC



Reddish-colored bastnaesite ore, contained in quartz veins, hosts the elements neodymium and praseodymium that are among REE found at Nechalacho.

“There are only six other rare earths elements separation facilities in the world outside of Russia and China,” said Connelly. “The one in Saskatchewan, once built by SRC, will be the only one in North America providing Canada with a strategic step forward.”

The world is also paying attention to the rapid advances flowing from Nechalacho.

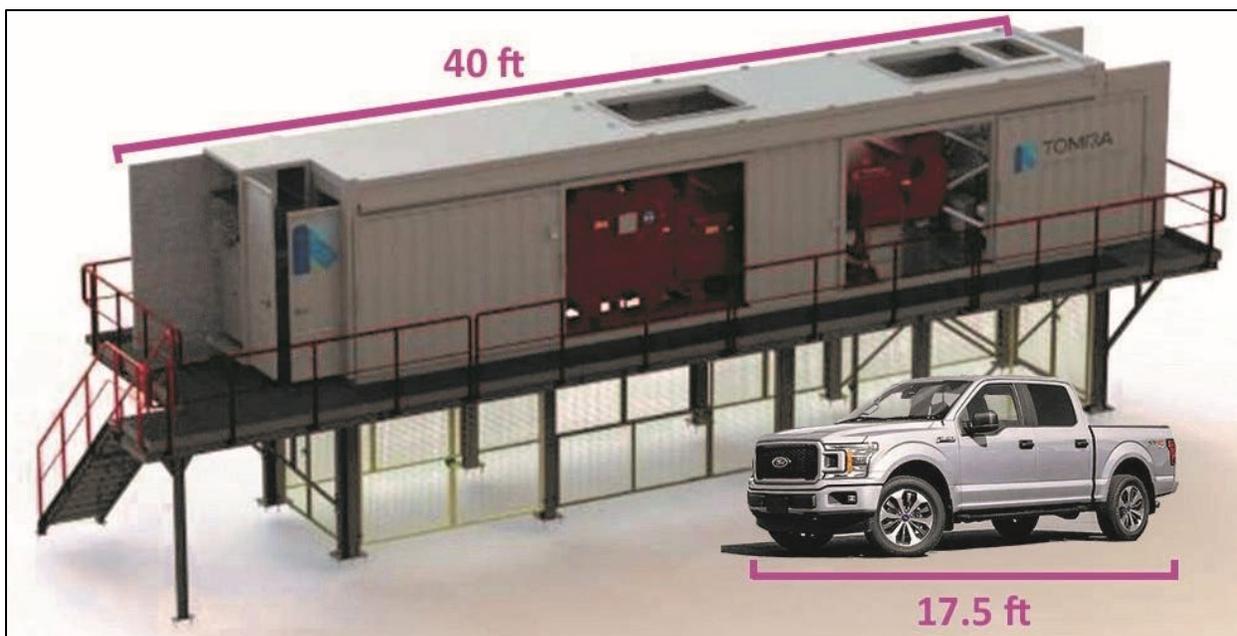
In late December 2020, Vital Minerals and Norwegian industrial innovator REEtec announced the signing of a five-year, offtake term sheet agreement, committing Vital to supply 1,000 tonnes each year of rare-earth oxide. Both parties have an option to increase this volume to up to 5,000 tonnes REO per year over 10 years. These volumes take out any low-value cerium content. Vital and REEtec expect to formally sign the deal by late January 2021.

The deal absorbs virtually all of Cheetah’s anticipated production over the life of its demonstration project, says Connelly, substantially reducing risk.

“The agreement will form the foundation for the development of the company’s (Cheetah’s) processing operations in 2021,” said Vital Minerals’ Atkins, adding, “it is also a pleasure to be able to join with a likeminded company to develop a source of rare earths to support our customers in the diversification of their supply chains.”

Avalon’s diligence included building good relations with Indigenous First Nations, which can hold significant sway in securing project permits and regulatory approval. One key step was to receive their endorsement, in 2009, to rename the project as “Nechalacho”, a Dene language place name for the site’s location on the rugged north shore of Great Slave Lake’s Hearne Channel.

Cheetah set another milestone – perhaps a first in the world– in January, when it contracted with an Indigenous company to conduct the entire mining operation to quarry and stockpile ore for the demonstration project.



A sea-can contains the high-tech sensor based sorting system at Nechalacho that will produce REE ore concentrate for further value added steps in the RRE chain in Saskatchewan.



Cheetah Resources Ltd. and Det'on Cho Corporation inked a mining contract with First Nations-owned Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction at the Vancouver AME Roundup in January of 2020. Front from left: Paul Gruner, president and CEO of Det'on Cho Development Corporation; Kenny Ruptash vice-president of Det'on Cho Nahanni; Yellowknives Dene First Nation Chief Ernest Betsina; Evan Cranston, director of Vital Metals Ltd. (Cheetah's parent company); David Connelly, representative of Cheetah Resources Corporation; and City of Yellowknife Mayor Rebecca Alty. Standing: Shane Thompson, NWT Minister of Lands and Katrina Nokleby, former minister of Industry Tourism and Investment

Det'on Cho Nahanni Construction, owned by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, expects at least half the initial 25 to 30 seasonal jobs will be filled by First Nation members, says Det'on Cho CEO and President, Paul Gruner. Dene Chief Ernest Betsina said the contract marks a transition from being "passive witnesses to major projects to being key participants" on their own territory.



Jonathon Mackenzie and Jonas Baillargeon of Dettah, NWT, are First nations workers at Cheetah Resources' Nechalacho rare earth project.

The next three years will bear out what has been a 50-year odyssey of determined exploration, corporate and market gambles, and dogged perseverance.



Senior Project Geologist, Chris Pedersen, and Cheetah’s Canada Operations Manager, Ray Anguelov, survey the bastnaesite showing what will be extracted to gain market acceptance for the NWT’s RREs.

Blockades lifted at Baffinland Mary River project

The blockades at Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation’s Mary River mine were lifted in February and Baffinland would begin restoring operations at the mine’s airstrip and tote road.

This includes employee and contractor transfers, the resumption of food and supply flights, search and rescue flights, and other North Baffin air traffic support services provided using the Mary River airstrip. Mine production would also in the process of resuming.

Throughout this situation, Baffinland’s first priority is the safety of more than 700 employees who were impacted by the blockades, the company said in a release.

“I’d like to express my gratitude to our personnel and their families for their support and patience during what was a challenging time. The health and safety of everyone on our property remains our top priority,” said Brian Penney, CEO of Baffinland. “We welcome the move to a constructive dialogue and hope to work in collaboration with our community partners to find mutually agreeable solutions to the issues that have been raised.” Below are the company’s February releases on the blockade. Additionally, see Baffinland CEO Brian Penney’s article published in Nunatsiaq News on March 3.

- [Blockades lifted at Baffinland Mary River project](#)
- [Blockades at Mary River continue to stop food, supplies getting to workers](#)
- [Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockades](#)
- [Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockade](#)

Op-ed: Inuit concerns and protection of environment central to Baffinland expansion plans

By Brian Penney, CEO of Baffinland

Published in Nunatsiaq News, March 3, 2021

Recent events and the public hearings on Baffinland’s proposed expansion of the Mary River project provide an important opportunity to scrutinize the expansion. We understand some people may support it while others don’t, and others are unsure or have questions.

It’s important that everyone has access to accurate information. Over the past six years, we have been in constant dialogue with hamlets, hunter and trapper organizations, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and regulators at all levels through consultation, technical meetings, community roundtables, and other formal and informal meetings, many of which are open to the public.

Extensive written documents have also been filed during this assessment process. Our plans have been closely reviewed by all parties and we have made changes based on this input, which includes direct Inuit feedback.

Baffinland is one of the most environmentally sustainable iron ore operations in the world – it produces very little waste rock, and no chemicals or water are used for processing. We will improve upon this strong performance with Phase 2, where we aim to set new benchmarks in the mining industry.

We understand that harvesting caribou, narwhal, seal and char are important food sources and at the centre of Inuit culture and identity. Preserving and respecting this aspect of Inuit well-being is critical to our planning. Narwhal monitoring shows consistent numbers in Eclipse Sound between 2013 and 2019, with mine operations starting in 2015. The total allowable harvest was increased in 2016, and since that time, the annual average harvest number in Pond Inlet has increased substantially.

We recognize the importance of the North Baffin Island caribou herd and will work with Inuit to protect this valuable resource. We are taking a number of steps as part of the expansion plans, many of which are the direct result of Inuit engagement, such as providing caribou underpasses and designing rail embankments to support caribou crossing.

The Inuit Certainty Agreement, signed in 2020, expands the role of Inuit in monitoring and reviewing operations. Inuit will oversee many forms of monitoring through the Inuit Stewardship Plan, which will include monitoring for changes in culture, resources, land use and social well-being. This monitoring will tie directly into an Adaptive Management Plan, which will enable Inuit to identify additional preventative measures to protect the environment should impacts be greater than predicted.



Brian Penney, CEO of Baffinland

Baffinland is the largest private sector employer in the Qikiqtani and has directly and indirectly contributed \$1.68 billion to Inuit businesses and communities since 2015. With Phase 2, Baffinland is expected to contribute even more over the mine life: \$4.5 billion to government and Inuit organizations, including roughly \$1 billion to the QIA, \$1.4 billion to Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., \$679 million to the Government of Nunavut, and \$1.5 billion to the Government of Canada.

Baffinland will also spend up to \$15 million to build or enhance child-care facilities in Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik and Sanirajak. We will also support a child-care subsidy for Baffinland Inuit employees who reside in Nunavut, a study of Pond Inlet's country food, the hunters and trappers organizations, and make milestone payments to QIA totalling \$45 million over the first five years of Phase 2. Royalties paid to the QIA will increase from 1.19 per cent to 3 per cent, a portion of which will be provided by QIA to North Baffin communities through community direct benefits.

Baffinland aims to set new standards in the Canadian mining industry for community oversight and benefit sharing. Our plan reflects years of engagement between Baffinland, Inuit, and all levels of government. Baffinland will work with all parties to deliver positive contributions for years to come, while protecting and respecting the environment.

Brian Penney is the chief executive officer of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.

Gahcho Kué announces additional COVID-19 measures in return to production

Gahcho Kué Mine joint venture partners De Beers Group (51% - the operator) and Mountain Province Diamonds (49%) report new [COVID-19 health and hygiene measures](#) are being implemented in addition to the range of existing controls, as part of the ramp up to production over the coming weekend. The mine suspended production related activities on February 6 after an on-site outbreak of COVID-19.

The ramp up to return to production follows an essential services team crew change on February 23, which included bringing in two industrial hygienists to review and oversee work protocols and provide further recommendations for enhancing on-site measures. The entire workforce has been changed out to break any possible chain of COVID-19 transmission. The new essential services team have all received negative PCR tests. Essential services, which have continued throughout the production suspension period, include maintaining power, water and sewer treatment, clearing roads, time critical maintenance work, water management, and receiving incoming winter road fuel and cargo shipments. The next step will be to bring in the operational crews to build up to full production.

Lyndon Clark, General Manager of Gahcho Kué Mine, said: "The most important thing throughout this time is the health and safety of everyone at Gahcho Kué and the communities nearby. To further bolster the range of controls we already have in place, we are therefore taking additional strong actions, including adopting the use of newly-available rapid testing technology, to detect cases early and to minimize the risk of transmission."

The additional measures to further strengthen the critical controls aimed at preventing infections include enhanced pre-screening of all employees and contractors prior to travel to

the mine. Gahcho Kué is also expanding its testing program with the introduction of newly-available rapid antigen testing at all points of pickup, allowing presumptive cases to be identified and isolated before they travel to the mine. Additionally, rapid testing will be used during shift rotations at defined intervals between inbound and outbound PCR testing.

The wide range of existing precautionary measures at the mine site remain in place, including daily health screening, use of facial barriers, enhanced physical distancing measures in camp facilities including the dining room and smoking areas and redesign of some work procedures. Additional measures will be added as a result of the industrial hygiene assessment. Gahcho Kué Mine is in the Northwest Territories about 280 km northeast of Yellowknife.

See the mine's COVID-19 outbreak at Gahcho Kué release [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the plan for the operations restart release.

Mountain Province includes 157 carat rough diamond in February sale

Mountain Province Diamonds Inc. announced the [largest gem quality diamond](#) recovered to date from the Gahcho Kué mine, was to be included in its February sale.

The diamond is a 157.38 carat gem of exceptional quality. Named Polaris after the North Star, this diamond exhibits a rare natural blue fluorescence that echoes its Canadian Arctic origins.

Reid Mackie, the company's vice president diamond marketing said, "We are thrilled to offer Polaris at our upcoming February sale. It is an extraordinary stone, recovered at the end of an extraordinary year. Polaris, the North Star, is an enduring touch point of light for those navigating under northern skies. It remains a celestial constant as the earth rotates and the seasons change. We take inspiration from this stone and the beautiful light suspended within it, as we, our customers, and indeed the world, navigate forward to more positive times."

Polaris will be offered for sale at Mountain Province's second sale of the year at Bonas Group's offices in Antwerp. Included in the offering are more than thirty, high quality gd+10.8 carat rough diamonds as well as the company's customary run-of-mine assortments.

Mountain Province's Gahcho Kué Mine, located at the edge of Canada's Arctic Circle. From the start of production in late 2016 the mine has established itself as a regular source of exceptional, gem quality, large diamonds.

In 2020 Mountain Province sold over 400 individual diamonds larger than 10.8 carats.



The 157.38 carat Polaris gem-quality rough diamond from the Gahcho Kué mine. Mountain Province photo

Agnico Eagle reports fourth quarter and full year 2020 results

Record quarterly production; record annual earnings and cashflow; record reserves; gold production forecast to grow 24% from 2020 through 2024; odyssey project and Amaruq underground approved for development

Eagle Mines Limited reported quarterly net income of \$205.2 million, or net income of \$0.85 per share, for the fourth quarter of 2020. This result includes non-cash mark-to-market gains on warrants of \$29.3 million (\$0.12 per share), foreign currency translation gains on deferred tax liabilities of \$28.8 million (\$0.12 per share), derivative gains on financial instruments of \$21.7 million (\$0.09 per share), losses on environmental remediation of \$16.6 million (\$0.07 per share), non-cash foreign currency translation losses of \$11.0 million (\$0.04 per share) and various other adjustment losses of \$9.1 million (\$0.04 per share). Excluding these items would result in adjusted net income¹ of \$162.1 million or \$0.67 per share for the fourth quarter of 2020. For the fourth quarter of 2019, the company reported net income of \$331.7 million or \$1.39 per share.

Included in the fourth quarter of 2020 net income, and not adjusted above, are non-cash stock option expense of \$3.0 million (\$0.01 per share) and workforce costs of employees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (primarily Nunavut-based) of \$2.3 million (\$0.01 per share).

In the full year 2020, the company reported record net income of \$511.6 million, or \$2.12 per share. This compares with the full year 2019, when net income was \$473.2 million, or \$2.00 per share.

In the fourth quarter of 2020, cash provided by operating activities was \$403.5 million (\$386.8 million before changes in non-cash components of working capital), compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 when cash provided by operating activities was \$257.5 million (\$263.8 million before changes in non-cash components of working capital). The cash provided by operating activities in the fourth quarter of 2020 resulted in another strong quarter of free cash-flow² generation.

¹ Adjusted net income is a non-GAAP measure. For a discussion regarding company's use of non-GAAP measures, please see "Note Regarding Certain Measures of Performance".

² Free cash flow is a non-GAAP measure. For a discussion regarding company's use of non-GAAP measures, please see "Note Regarding Certain Measures of Performance".

In the full year 2020, cash provided by operating activities was \$1,192 million (\$1,211 million before changes in non-cash components of working capital), compared to the full year 2019 when cash provided by operating activities was \$882 million (\$867 million before changes in non-cash components of working capital). The cash provided by operating activities in the full year of 2020 sets a yearly record for the company and resulted in strong annual free cash-flow generation.

The decrease in net income in the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to the prior-year period, is primarily due to the impairment reversal (net of tax) relating to the Meliadine mine of \$223.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2019, partially offset by higher revenues from mining operations resulting from higher average realized gold and silver prices as well as changes in

non-cash items related to mark-to-market gains on warrants and other financial instruments owned by the company.

The increase in net income in the full year 2020, compared to the prior-year, is primarily due to higher average realized gold prices as well as changes in non-cash items related to mark-to-market gains on warrants and other financial instruments owned by the company, partially offset by the impairment reversal (net of tax) relating to the Meliadine mine of \$223.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2019, higher amortization costs from the Meliadine and Canadian Malartic mines and lower gold sales volume.

See the [release](#) which includes tables and details on:

- Fourth quarter of 2020 and full year 2020 highlights include:
- Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2020 Financial and Production Highlights
- Strong Financial Results; Increased Cash Position at Year-End 2020
- Capital Expenditures
- Dividend Reinvestment Plan
- COVID-19 Update
- Four-Year Guidance – Forecast Shows Continued Production Growth
- Pipeline Projects Continue to Advance – Opportunities to Enhance Short-Term and Longer-Term Production
- Amaruq Underground Approved for Mine Development; First Production Expected in 2022
- Hope Bay – Focus is to design an optimal mining and milling strategy around the geological potential of the land package

Sabina updates feasibility study on Goose Property at Back River

Increased mine life and gold production, reduced execution risk showcases world class project

- Post tax IRR/NPV(5%) of ~28% and C\$1.1 billion(US\$860 million)
- Assumes a gold price of US\$1,600/oz and exchange rate of 1.31:1 (C\$:US\$)

Gold & Silver Corp announced results of the updated feasibility study for the Goose Property at its 100%-owned Back River Gold District in Nunavut.

“After significant work and several new discoveries, we are very pleased to announce the UFS for the Goose Property, the first planned mine on the Back River Gold District,” said Bruce McLeod, President & CEO, “Ongoing work over the last five years has enabled us to significantly advance the Project through many critical de-risking phases. The UFS supersedes the 2015 feasibility study and showcases a gold project with greater capital efficiency, a higher production profile and longer mine life and has also received the required environmental authorizations and social license to commence construction and operations. We have constructed and operated our logistics and supply chain, successfully delivering goods to the mine site overland, reducing a key risk to the project.

Sabina has also continued to demonstrate the robust tenor of the mineralization at Goose by adding 1 million ounces of gold to the mineral reserves as well as significantly increase the total

mineral resource estimate. With a million new inferred resources at Llama extension and Nuvuyak at a historic conversion rate of 73% to reserves, and with and all deposits open, we believe we will be mining at Goose long past the 15 year mine life in this study.

The UFS is rigorous and provides a high level of confidence in our project economics through basic and detailed engineering studies. Additionally, we have taken our own experience and that of other companies in the north and made adjustments to the Project scope and execution plan that we believe provide for greater certainty of success. We believe that the Back River Gold District will become a full scale mining camp in Canada. Next, we have already started to focus on refreshing the Project debt process with a view to obtaining financing to make a production decision this year.” he said.

The company initiated the UFS following the completion of five years of exploration success in adding to the already significant resources within the Goose Property. The Study indicates the Project generates a post-tax internal rate of return (“IRR”) of 27.7% and net present value(5%), (“NPV”) of C\$1.1B (US\$860M) with a rapid pay back of 2.3 years. Using U\$1,800 and a 1.26 exchange rate, the IRR would be 31.3% and NPV would be \$1.3B (US\$1.1B).

The UFS is based on an initial processing rate of 3,000 tonnes per day (“tpd”), with an expansion to 4,000 tpd at the end of year two. The mine plan envisions average gold production of ~287 koz Au per year for the first 5 years, and ~223 koz Au per year over the 15 year mine life (upon commencement of commercial production) at a cash cost of US\$679/oz Au and All In Sustaining Costs (“AISC”) of US\$775. Initial capital (“CAPEX”) is estimated at C\$610M (US\$466 M) with sustaining capital and closure of C\$419M (US\$320M). All dollar figures in CAD unless otherwise noted.

[See the release for details on the following:](#)

- Project Improvements in the UFS
- On Site Improvements since IFS
- UFS Economic Highlights
- GOOSE PROPERTY – UFS
- Opportunities for further Goose de-risking, future growth for Sabina at Back River
- UFS Parameters
- Geology and Mineralization
- Infrastructure
- Power
- Mining
- Metallurgy
- Processing and Recovery
- Tailings, Waste Rock, and Saline Water Disposal
- Capital Costs
- Operating Cost Estimation (“OPEX”)
- Mineral Resource Estimate
- Mineral Reserve Estimate
- Goose Property Community and Social Responsibility

- Permitting
- Social License
- Project Execution and Development
- Next Steps

NorZinc announces 2021 plans and beyond, appoints CSR VP

NorZinc Ltd. provided a corporate update and announced the appointment of Claudine Lee as vice president, corporate social responsibility.

2020 Highlights

Prairie Creek 2020

- Recognizing the potential to improve project economics to mitigate lower commodity prices and anticipated increasing costs, NorZinc announced a mine enhancement study to optimize mining design and potential throughput opportunities. (Feb)
- Completed initial internal review of direction and goals for the Prairie Creek Mine, and announced preparation of a 2020/2021 workplan focusing on a possible significant increase in production throughput and reserves. (Apr)
- Completed internal workplan, narrowing the focus to an objective of a 50% increase in design throughput and, through an underground drilling program, planned to commence by the end of Q2 2021, an objective of increasing contained metal in reserves by up to 50%. (Aug)
- Launched silver-focused surface drill program at Prairie Creek. (Oct)
- Completed weather shortened surface drill program with multiple high-grade silver and zinc intercepts within and adjacent to the existing inferred resource. (Dec)
- Worked closely with both the Government of the NWT and the local communities to ensure industry leading safety protocols were implemented for the safety of staff and local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Progressed 2020 renewal of 2013 operating permits for the mine and commenced the process of obtaining approval for increased design throughput and reserve additions assumed at the end of the underground drill program.

Financial and Corporate 2020

- Closed oversubscribed \$0.8 million private placement. (Mar)
- Closed \$9.5 million rights offering. (Dec)
- Closed oversubscribed \$1.6 million flow through private placement for 2021 surface exploration program. (Dec)

Don MacDonald, President and CEO of NorZinc Ltd. said, “Given the challenges that were presented in 2020, we were very pleased with our ability to raise financing and continue advancing the Prairie Creek Mine this past year. Like all other companies, we were affected by Covid-19 in many ways, including delaying site access until we were fully satisfied with the safety protocols for our site workers and the local communities, progressing all planning and permitting processes while working remotely, and navigating this during the market uncertainty

that affected the finance markets worldwide. However, we ended the year with significant advances to the economic potential for the project, and a new focus on the importance of the silver content of our mine. I would like to thank all of our NorZinc team, the local indigenous communities and various NWT government and regulatory authorities who supported us this past year.”

[See the release for details](#) on the company’s focus for 2021/2022, including:

- Long Term Financing and Development
- Mine Enhancement Activities
- Development focus of NorZinc over the next 18 months detail
- Short Term Financing
- COVID-19

VP corporate social responsibility announced

NorZinc is very pleased to announce that Ms. Claudine Lee, M.Sc., P. Geo. will assume the position of VP CSR as of February 22, 2021. Ms. Lee brings extensive experience with over 20 years working in the north in mining, including social corporate responsibility, sustainability projects, environmental programs compliance, community engagement and relationship building, and the management of health and safety at the Ekati Diamond Mine.

Ms. Lee was most recently Head of Health, Safety, Environment Communities and Training at Dominion Diamond Mines. In this position, she was responsible for the implementation and maintenance of Dominion’s Health, Safety, Risk and Hygiene and Environment programs and policies ensuring compliance with all federal and territorial regulations. Prior to this role, Ms. Lee was an Environment Advisor at BHP Billiton Canada.

Ms. Lee holds a MSc in Geology/Environmental Geochemistry from Queen’s University and an Honours BSc in Geology and Environmental Science. She started her career as an Exploration Geologist.

Don MacDonald, President and CEO of NorZinc Ltd. said, “We are delighted to have Claudine join our NorZinc team. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in Corporate Social Responsibility that will benefit NorZinc greatly. Her appointment significantly strengthens our focus on achieving best practices in sustainability, safety and community engagement. Her experience in the north will be invaluable to the company and the development of the Prairie Creek Mine.”

Fortune announces process residue disposal option for its NICO project refinery

Site selection optionality, while reducing capital costs, and permitting and technical risks

Fortune Minerals Limited announced it has received indicative terms from a large waste disposal and environmental services company to dispose of the process residue from the planned refinery for the NICO cobalt-gold-bismuth-copper project.

This waste disposal company operates several facilities in western Canada and provided its quote after reviewing the chemistry and environmental characteristics of the process residue

produced in Fortune’s earlier pilot plant. The ability to dispose of the residue in an existing permitted facility provides Fortune with flexible options to finalize the preferred site for its planned refinery and reduces the amount of land that would need to be acquired as well as the capital costs for the refinery. This contracted disposal solution would also reduce permitting times, technical risks during operations, and eliminates long-term legacy issues associated with a company-owned facility.

The NICO project is a Canadian, advanced vertically integrated development that is planned to produce cobalt sulphate, gold doré, bismuth ingot and oxide, and copper as a minor by-product. Both cobalt and bismuth are identified on the United States (“U.S.”) and European (“E.U.”) Critical Minerals Lists, being minerals needed for defense and new technologies, cannot be easily substituted, and have supply chain risks from geographic concentration of production and/or geopolitical issues. Cobalt sulphate is needed to manufacture the cathodes of most lithium-ion rechargeable batteries used in electric vehicles, portable electronics and stationary storage cells. Fastmarkets (formerly, Metal Bulletin) reports that cobalt prices are up about 30 per cent over the past two months with cathodes trading above US\$20 per pound. There is also a significant premium being paid for cobalt contained in sulphate, which represents a price of approximately US\$25 per pound of cobalt. The NICO Project stands out among other cobalt developments with 12% of global bismuth reserves, and 1.1 million ounces of gold contained in the Mineral Reserves, the latter providing a countercyclical and highly liquid co-product.

The NICO Project is comprised of a planned open pit and underground mine and mill in Canada’s Northwest Territories and a related hydrometallurgical refinery in southern Canada. The company has received environmental assessment approval, the Land Use Permit, and the Type “A” Water License to construct and operate the NICO mine and concentrator in the NWT. The Tlicho Highway under construction for the NWT government, is a key enabler for the NICO development and is nearing completion and expected to open to the public later this year. This C\$213 million, 97-kilometre all-season road to the community of Whati, together with the spur



Aerial view of NICO site during test mining. Fortune Minerals photo

road Fortune plans to construct, will allow metal concentrates to be trucked from the mine to

the rail head at Hay River or Enterprise, NWT for railway delivery to the company's planned refinery.

Fortune received EA approval for a refinery site in Saskatchewan but is looking at alternative locations in western Canada with the municipal industrial planning approvals already in place. They include brownfield sites with existing permits and facilities to reduce capital costs for the planned development. The company is also working with Canadian government departments, several Provinces as well as the U.S. and E.U. for their support of a new reliable Canadian producer of Critical Minerals with supply chain transparency of metals from ore through to the production of value-added products.

Fortune has already completed a positive Feasibility Study for the NICO development in 2014, prepared by Micon International Limited. The economics for the NICO development will be re-assessed when the refinery site has been finalized and after the company completes the optimizations underway to produce a more financially robust project to mitigate metal price volatility.

[See the release.](#)

Nighthawk raises indicated resources, provides exploration outlook

Nighthawk Gold Corp. reported an [updated mineral resource estimate](#), on the 100% owned Indin Lake Gold Property, located 200km north of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. The 2021 MRE builds upon the 2020 Mineral Resource Estimate, and includes additional drilling completed in 2020. The company also provides an outlook for exploration, including identified drill targets.

Highlights of 2021 MRE:

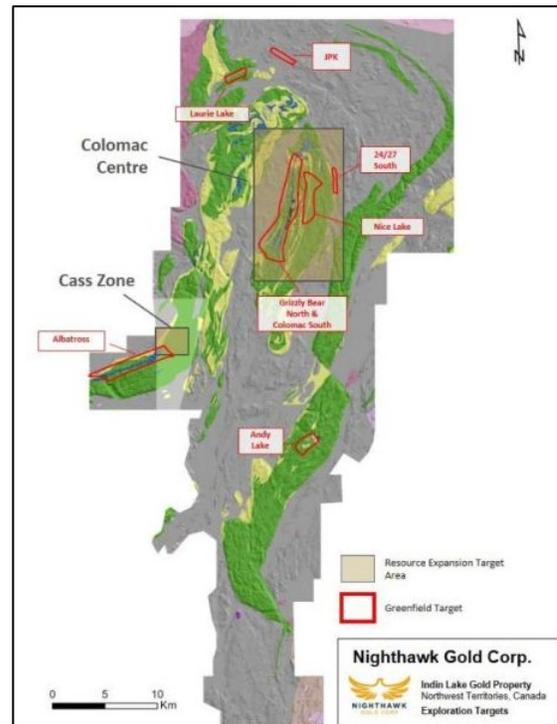
Indicated Resources:

- 38.7 Mt @ 1.81 g/t for 2.25 million ounces (35% increase from 2020 MRE)
 - Including 17.9 Mt @ 1.62 g/t for 0.93 million ounces open pit resources (71% increase from 2020 MRE)

Inferred Resources:

- 11.5 Mt @ 2.13 g/t for 0.79 million ounces (60% increase from 2020 MRE)

Keyvan Salehi, President & CEO commented: "We are very pleased with the results of the 2021 MRE with a significant increase to our global resource base. Following a comparison of our peers and current economic conditions, we have adjusted the economic parameters from our previous 2020 MRE and included the assayed 2020 drill holes,



many of which have returned excellent results. This resulted in a 35% increase in total indicated resources and a 60% increase in total inferred resources. We are particularly excited with the 71% increase in indicated pit constrained resources in the 2021 MRE.”

“We have also established aggressive exploration plans focused principally on increasing the near-surface pit-constrained resources both at Colomac along strike, and on exciting grassroots targets, including at Nice Lake and Kim & Cass. We believe these targets could contribute significantly to the near-surface resources proximal to the main Colomac Deposit.”

Pine Point Mining Limited submits EA reports to NWT regulators

Osisko Metals Incorporated is pleased to announce that Pine Point Mining Limited, its 100%-owned subsidiary that controls the Pine Point project, has submitted an Environmental Assessment Initiation Package to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. This key step will commence the Environmental Assessment process for the Pine Point project.

The initiation package includes a detailed Project Description, the Developers Assessment Proposal detailing the information to be included in the Developers Assessment Report on which the assessment will be based along with supporting documents.

The EA should be completed in approximately eighteen months. Following the successful conclusion of the EA, permit applications for the proposed mine will be submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and it is expected to take approximately 12 months to process by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

At the completion of the permitting process, the project will be green lighted for the construction and operation of the proposed mine.

Drilling is progressing at Pine Point with the completion of 2 holes in the R190 prismatic deposit and 2 hydrogeological test holes in the Western and Central Zones of the Project. The Winter program will consist of a total of twenty holes: ten holes designed for hydrogeological & infill, two holes for infill only, and eight holes for hydrogeological purposes only which will be drilled outside of the mineralized trends. Encouragingly, none of the holes drilled to date are producing water to surface. All completed holes will be monitored for water outflow until such time as flow tracing and pumping tests can be performed in Q2 of this year.

Det'on Cho continues to show commitment to the North

Det'on Cho Logistics is pleased to announce it has entered into a strategic business relationship with Bradenbury Expediting (BBE) through the acquisition of their Yellowknife equipment and infrastructure at 100 McMillan Street and formalizing an agency agreement.

The agency agreement, which commences on May 1, 2021, will see DCL provide all Logistics and Expediting services for BBE'S clients in Yellowknife. “The economics of the North are changing and as business owners we must adapt. Through this investment and consolidation DCL will now be able to continue to offer consistent value and service to our clients and partners for years to come”, says Matt Mossman President and Co-founder of Det'on Cho Logistics.

“This purchase further enforces Det’ on Cho’s commitment to the North and puts us in a position to better serve the needs of our clients”, says Paul Gruner President and CEO of Det’ on Cho Management LP.

“It doesn’t seem that long ago when DeBeers, put trust in us to be their logistics partner. It could not have been an easy decision to put their faith in a startup like DCL. The mining industry’s willingness to help northern and indigenous businesses thrive has been the foundation for many success stories, including ours, ultimately the mining industry should look upon our success and that of others as part of their legacy”, says Bobby Drygeese, Chair Det’ on Cho Corporation.

Founded in 2009 Det’ on Cho Logistics is a provider of logistics and expediting services based in Yellowknife Northwest Territories with operations in Edmonton, Alberta. DCL is owned 51% by Det’ on Cho Management LP and 49% owned by the managing partners Matt Mossman, Stu Impett and Rudolph Swanepoel.

NWT mineral incentive program launched

The Northwest Territories Geological Survey has launched the 2021-22 application period for the NWT Mining Incentive Program (MIP). The NWT MIP provides funding to prospectors and exploration companies who propose a new exploration project or are already carrying out NWT mineral exploration work. There were several program changes made in response to COVID-19 to the 2020-2021 MIP. This year (2021-2022) those program changes will continue as the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to continue to negatively impact NWT mineral exploration. The key program changes for 2021-22 are:

- The maximum funding for corporate projects remains at 60% of eligible expenses (up from 50% pre-pandemic)
- The maximum funding for corporate projects is \$240,000 (up from \$200,000 pre-pandemic)
- Proposals for advanced mineral exploration project will be considered for funding.
- NWT expenses related to self-isolation, expediting, and program logistics remain eligible for MIP funding (were not eligible pre-pandemic)
- Remote community access requires proof of community engagement and a risk assessment plan

A checklist will be used to confirm applicants’ understanding of NWT public health orders.

In a return to the normal MIP program timeline, this year’s application deadline has been set for April 30, 2021.

For more information about the MIP and application instructions, please visit the NTGS website here: <https://www.nwtgeoscience.ca/services/mining-incentive-program>



Seabridge team member national award winner from Woman in Mining Canada

Seabridge Gold's Taryn Cutler has won the 2021 Indigenous Student Trailblazer Award by Woman in Mining Canada. The Indigenous Student Trailblazer Award is awarded to young Indigenous women in post-secondary studies, college, vocational training and university who are successfully integrating into the minerals and metals industry. The women considered for this award are establishing a path in mining and inspiring other young indigenous women to join the industry's ranks while retaining their connection to their culture and traditions.

Taryn Cutler is the Community Liaison and Office Manager of Seabridge's Smithers BC office. She joined the company in 2011 and has steadily expanded her role and responsibilities since then. In addition to her full-time job with Seabridge, Taryn has a young family while also currently enrolled in the General Studies Program offered by Thomson River University. Ms. Cutler belongs to the Wolf Clan of the Tahltan Nation and she is an active participant in the life of her community. Her commitment to life-long learning, her willingness to work tirelessly and her insights into NW BC communities have greatly helped Seabridge develop and maintain its "social license to operate" at KSM and its other BC and Yukon projects. She is a role model for young women looking to enter the mining industry.

Seabridge Chairman and CEO Rudi Fronk stated: "We are very pleased and proud to see Taryn's accomplishments being recognized by her colleagues and peers. Her quiet leadership and success as a role model demonstrate her focus and strength of character and highlight the commitment that Seabridge places on hiring and advancing citizens from local NW BC communities."

PDAC announces Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada announced Rebecca Canam, as the 2021 Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award, recipient.

Rebecca Canam's (MSc, Simon Fraser University) thesis investigates the Paleoproterozoic structural evolution of the western margin of the Rae craton exposed in the Nonacho Lake area of the southeastern Northwest Territories. This work integrates regional and detailed bedrock mapping, microstructural analyses, U-Pb geochronology and $40\text{Ar}/39\text{Ar}$ thermochronology. Her results will be used to constrain the cooling history of the region and the timing and kinematics of major domain-bounding structures.

The Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award was created to honour the memory of Ms. Ward. The intent of the award is to encourage and support a full-time, graduate student in Canada whose thesis is likely to increase our knowledge of the geological history of Canada through mapping.

The award, comprising \$5,000 and a certificate, is given annually and honours the memory of Mary-Claire Ward who died in 2004. At the time of her death Mrs. Ward was the chair of the PDAC's geoscience committee, chairman of Watts Griffis McOuat Ltd., and a past president of the Geological Association of Canada. She was a passionate advocate for the geosciences in Canada.

The award is administered by the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), the National Geological Surveys Committee, the Canadian Geological Foundation, and Watts, Griffis and McOuat Ltd.

Exploration & development news briefs

Avalon Advanced Materials Inc. reported on its [Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Risk Rating](#) following an independent audit of the company's business practices and policies performed by Sustainalytics, a Morningstar company, as first announced on November 3, 2020. Avalon's overall management of material ESG issues is strong. No events or policies were identified that may negatively impact stakeholders, the environment or the company's operations.

Sustainalytics is a leading ESG research, ratings and data firm. It assesses ESG risks of companies on a scale of 0-100, with 0 indicating the lowest risk. In January 2021, Avalon received an ESG Risk Rating of 28.9 in its industry, Diversified Metals, and ranked among the top 5% of 150 industry companies analyzed globally. Avalon is among a growing number of companies focusing exclusively on clean tech minerals development assessed per the Sustainalytics' ESG Risk Ratings methodology. It is due to this focus on a variety of rare metals and minerals that it was classified as part of the Diversified Metals industry group. While this relative ranking for Avalon is derived from a total score comparison with other companies in the industry, the five peers identified in the summary ESG Risk Rating report are meant to provide an overview per the market cap range than any direct score impact on Avalon's score.

Avalon Advanced Materials Inc. announced that it has entered into a binding letter of intent (the "Agreement") to [purchase ownership of 2333382 Ontario Inc.](#), a private Ontario corporation which owns four industrial minerals properties and a demonstration-scale processing plant located at Matheson, Ontario.

Among the industrial minerals property assets owned by 2333382 is an asset transfer agreement giving 2333383 the right to acquire full title to the Cargill Carbonatite Complex near Kapuskasing, Ontario. This carbonatite complex hosts significant concentrations of a number of critical minerals, contained both in the bedrock and in the tailings from a historic phosphate mining operation at the site.

Work done by 2333382 has demonstrated that the tailings contain phosphate levels ranging from 15-20% P₂O₅ and can be sold "as is" for use in various agricultural fertilizer products. Sales of these phosphate-rich tailings are already generating revenues for 2333382, with considerable potential for growth as demand for phosphate mineral products is increasing. Analytical work done by 2333382 and Avalon on the tailings to date indicates the presence of significant concentrations of rare earths, scandium and zirconium, which preliminary testwork indicates will be recoverable through additional processing of the tailings. This provides significant potential for future revenue growth.

The total purchase price to be paid by Avalon will be \$16 million, payable in a combination of cash and common shares of Avalon over a period of two years.

Blue Star Gold Corp. announces a [significant increase in its land holdings](#) in the highly prospective and underexplored High Lake Greenstone Belt, Nunavut following an agreement to acquire a 100% interest in the Roma Project claims. Blue Star will be the largest title holder in the HLGB following the acquisition of the Roma Project claims, effectively creating a district scale project in the region when combined with the company's Ulu and Hood River Projects in the south section of the belt. Blue Star now controls 16,645 hectares in this very prospective and underexplored district.

Highlights:

- Acquisition of 100% interest in 7,683 hectares of highly prospective mineral claims (Roma Project) in HLGB gives Blue Star access to 44 km of the belt
- Multiple significant gold showings are present on the Roma Project within a 6.5 km by 2.4 km area, including several drill ready targets
- Numerous high-grade gold showings and zones were discovered in the 1990's with little to no follow-up work conducted since that time
 - Grab samples up to 126 g/t Au and chip samples up to 24 g/t Au over 1.5 m

- Limited shallow drilling (10 holes for 465 m) returned 12.38 g/t Au over 2.31 m and 8.69 g/t Au over 1.87 m

•The geologic setting and style of gold mineralization at the Roma Project is similar to that found at the company's Ulu Project, where a significant high grade gold resource has been outlined at the Flood Zone deposit

Fury Gold Mines Limited is pleased to outline its 2021 [exploration plans for the Committee Bay gold project](#) located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The company plans to drill between 5,000 metres (m) and 10,000m this summer, subject to COVID limitations, with the goal of: 1) drilling the underexplored Raven high-grade vein target, which sits along an 8 kilometre (km) shear zone that has the potential to turn into a significant discovery; 2) expanding the Three Bluffs deposit through the drilling of a major conductor down dip from a high-grade portion of the resource; and 3) advancing the previous geological work on targets along the Aiviq - Kalulik corridor to advance them to drill stage.

See release for:

- Raven Prospect overview
- Three Bluffs deposit expansion drilling
- RAB drilling
- Core (diamond) drilling
- CB grabs
- 2017 pXRF tills

Fury Gold Mines Limited is pleased to announce the first set of results from its 25,000-metre (m) resource [expansion and infill drill program at the Eau Claire deposit](#) located in the Eeyou Istchee Territory in the James Bay region of Quebec. The drill program was designed to expand the resource by testing between defined resource blocks as well as confirm the quality and continuity of mineralization within the inferred resource category in the lower eastern region of the deposit. Highlights from drill holes outside of the defined resource include 6.04m of 11.56 g/t gold and 2.51m of 8.87 g/t gold and demonstrate the potential to expand the deposit.

"Our first set of drill results confirm the potential of this under explored area of the deposit and supports our overall goal of increasing scale and defining more gold at Eau Claire," commented Mike Timmins, President and CEO, Fury. "We are very pleased with the productivity and pace of the program and are excited to continue drilling out the lower areas of the deposit, as well as the down-plunge extension.

Assays are pending on several holes and we look forward to delivering consistent drill results over the coming months."

This program is specifically focused on expanding and upgrading the highest grade portion of the resource at the lower eastern margin of the deposit, which contains an inferred resource of 204,000 ounces grading 11.81 g/t gold at a 2.5 g/t cut-off grade1 (Figure 1). The results of the first five holes are presented below (Table 1) in release.

Fury Gold Mines Limited is pleased to provide an update on its regional exploration plans at the Eau Claire project located in the Eeyou Istchee Territory in the James Bay region of Quebec. This summer the company plans to explore the Percival trend, which is located 14 kilometres (km) east of the Eau Claire deposit. Percival was the site of a 2018 discovery that included drill intercepts of 78.5 metres (m) of 1.46 g/t gold (Hole ER18-822) and 87m of 2.35 g/t gold (ER18-823)[1] from surface (Figure 1). The mineralized footprint at Percival is 400m by 100m and is hosted within sulphidized and silicified breccias in a sedimentary sequence in multiple parallel stacked lenses (Figure 2). This represents a second style of mineralization at the Eau Claire project that Fury's technical team believes is largely underexplored.

Fury Gold Mines Limited is pleased to provide an update on [exploration plans for the high-grade Homestake Ridge](#) gold-silver project located in the Nisga'a Nation Territory within British Columbia's Golden Triangle. The company plans to drill 25,000 metres (m) at the project in the summer of 2021 with the primary goal of expanding the resource and testing high quality gold-silver targets along the deposit trend. In addition, an infill drill program will be conducted with the goal of converting a large portion of the resource at the Homestake Silver deposit from inferred to indicated category.

"The company has refined the geological model at Homestake Ridge and outlined the largest and most intensive drill campaign at the project to date," commented Mike Timmins, President and CEO of Fury. "We have identified multiple high priority opportunities to expand the resource and discover additional high-grade gold and silver mineralization at the project. Increasing the ounce profile at Homestake is a key component of our growth strategy and supports the continuous growth we offer to our shareholders."

Gold Terra Resource Corp. announced it has arranged to [issue, on a non-brokered private placement](#) basis, 8,000,000 flow-through common shares of the company at a price of C\$0.36 per FT Share for gross proceeds to Gold Terra of C\$2,880,000.

The gross proceeds from the issue and sale of the FT Shares will be used to extend the drilling program already in progress from 10,000 metres to over 20,000 metres on the Campbell Shear target south of the Con mine at the company's Yellowknife City Gold project (the "YCG Project"), which will qualify as "Canadian Exploration Expenses" and "flow-through mining expenditures", as those terms are defined in the Income Tax Act (Canada), which will be renounced to the initial purchasers of the FT Shares with an effective date no later than December 31, 2021.

It is expected that the closing of the Offering will occur on or about March 4, 2021 and is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including receipt of acceptance of the TSX Venture Exchange. The FT Shares will have a hold period of four months and one day from the Closing Date, in accordance with applicable Canadian securities laws.

Gold Terra Resource Corp. provided an update on the [ongoing drilling at the company's optioned property from Newmont Ventures Limited and Miramar Northern Mining Limited](#) adjacent to its 100% owned Yellowknife City Gold Project ("YCG"), NWT. The fully funded drilling program is targeting the immediate southern extension of the Campbell Shear, which hosted approximately 5 of the 6 million ounces of gold produced at the former Con Mine and is currently one of the highest priority targets to add additional high-grade ounces to the current YCG mineral resource.

The company has completed the first 2 holes of the current winter 2021 program. While assays are pending, images of the core are shown further along in this press release illustrating the mineralization, alteration, and quartz veining of the Campbell Shear zone.

David Suda, President and CEO, stated, "We are very pleased to have hit the Campbell Shear Structure with our first two holes on the Newmont Option which is now our highest priority target area where we believe there is the potential to make a new discovery. The Campbell Shear structure extends over a minimum of 20 kilometres south of the Con Mine. The Campbell Shear is an extensive plumbing

system for potential gold mineralization, and we have only started to drill a small portion of it immediately south of the former Con Mine." See the [release](#) for highlights.

Nighthawk Gold Corp. announced it has entered into a binding option agreement, with Geomark Exploration Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Pine Cliff Energy Ltd., [to acquire a 100% undivided leasehold interest in four \(4\) contiguous mining leases](#) (the "Kim & Cass Property", a total of 7,588 acres (31km²) that incorporate the historic Kim and Cass zones), immediately adjacent to Nighthawk's Indin Lake Gold Property, Northwest Territories, Canada.

The Kim & Cass Property is an integral part of Nighthawk's consolidation strategy and represents an important piece of ownership that provides contiguity to the main claim group with the Albatross claim block (Figure 1). Nighthawk believes that the historic Kim and Cass zones and the 4km-long Albatross trend (with surface samples returning up to 20.60 grams per tonne gold ("g/t", "Au")) enhances the potential of identifying near-surface mineralization within 15km of the Colomac Main Deposit ("Colomac"). The apparent higher-grade nature of historical drilling suggests that with further exploration work, that there may be the possibility for above-average, near-surface deposits in line with the company's near-term objectives.

Nighthawk Gold Corp. reported assay results for twelve (12) drillholes (4,325 metres) from the [2020 drilling campaign on the Treasure Island Gold Project](#), located within the northern section of its Indin Lake Gold Property, Northwest Territories, Canada (Figure 1; Table 1 in the release).

A total of 15 holes for 5,508 metres of drilling was completed at Treasure Island as part of the 2020 drilling campaign with 12 holes being reported on today. Of the 12 holes, 5 tested the Seadog Showing, an area where surface grab samples previously returned values of up to 27.8 grams per tonne gold ("g/t", "Au"), while the remaining 7 holes tested the extension of the Main Zone. As shown in the highlight table below, significant assay results were obtained on both areas with values of up to 4.49 g/t Au over 7.25 metres in hole T20-03 (Figure 2).

Richard Roy, Vice President of Exploration commented, "Drilling at Treasure Island continued to encounter elevated grades within the near surface environment and tested the continuity of mineralization to depth. The target area has now

been traced for up to 850 metres in strike length and remains open in both directions and to depth.

North Arrow Minerals Inc. announced it has entered a [data sharing and royalty agreement](#) with StrategX Elements Corp. involving North Arrow's Mel Diamond Project, Nunavut.

Under terms of the agreement, StrategX has acquired the non-diamond mineral rights to the 56,000 ha Mel property, subject to North Arrow retaining a 1% gross overriding royalty ("GOR") on non-diamond production from both the property and an approximately 435,000 ha surrounding area of interest ("AOI"). North Arrow will retain 100% of the diamond rights to any mineral claims acquired by StrategX within the AOI, subject to StrategX retaining a 2% GOR on diamonds, reduced to 1% where an existing 1% GOR interest applies (please see North Arrow news release dated August 19, 2013 for details on the existing royalty). The agreement also provides for logistics and cost sharing during exploration programs. See release.

North Arrow Minerals Inc. is pleased to announce that a [ground geophysics program is underway at its 100% owned Loki Diamond Project](#) in the Lac de Gras region of the Northwest Territories. The property is located approximately 40 km west, and 35 km southwest of the Diavik and Ekati diamond mines, respectively, and immediately west of North Arrow's LDG Joint Venture Diamond Project with Arctic Canadian Diamond Company. The program will include gravity surveys of kimberlite EG05, and gravity and magnetic surveys in the north Loki target area. This exploration is supported, in part, by a grant from the Northwest Territories Mining Incentive Program.

Five kimberlites have been discovered to date within the Loki Project area, all of which have been confirmed as diamond bearing. The current surveys are intended to help identify specific drill targets in the north Loki area, which is located near the up-ice termination of an unsourced kimberlite indicator mineral anomaly. The survey of EG05 is intended to better define the size and geophysical signature of the kimberlite, which has not been constrained by drilling completed to date.

North Arrow also announces it has entered into a loan agreement (the "Agreement") with Anglo Celtic Exploration Ltd. ("Anglo Celtic") to provide North Arrow an unsecured loan of \$400,000 (the "Loan").

North Peak Resources Ltd. announced it has agreed to sell its four United States issued patents, ongoing

related patent applications in China and related development work to Helix Applications Inc. North Peak prepared and applied for these patents prior to its current status as mining company, as part of a broader application for the technology it was developing at the time within the blockchain sector.

As part of the transaction, North Peak will receive a CAD\$150,000 cash payment and a 5% royalty on any profits generated by Helix and its affiliates from any commercial applications derived from the patents that Helix may develop as it seeks to evaluate the growing interest in the networks of digital token economics. [See release for details on the patents.](#)

Silver Range Resources Ltd. announced February 17 the [closing of the private placement](#), consisting of the sale of 2,330,000 units at a price of \$0.25 each for total proceeds of \$582,500. Each unit consisted of one common share and one non-transferable share purchase warrant, with each warrant entitling the holder to purchase one additional common share at a price of \$0.33 for a period of three years from closing, provided that, in the event the closing price of Silver Range shares is \$0.40 or greater for a period of ten consecutive trading days subsequent to the expiry on June 25, 2021 of the statutory hold period, Silver Range will have the right to provide all warrant holders with notice of an earlier expiry date for the warrants – in such event, the warrants would expire thirty calendar days from the giving of such notice. All common shares issued pursuant to the private placement, including any shares that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of the warrants, will be subject to the statutory hold period referred to above. The proceeds from this private placement will be used for working capital and exploration work in Nevada. See the [February 17 release](#).

Silver Range Resources Ltd. announces that it has concluded an [asset purchase agreement](#) ("Agreement") granting Silver47 Exploration Corp. a 100% interest in the Michelle Silver-Zinc-Lead Project located in central Yukon.

The Michelle Project lies within a belt of Paleozoic platform carbonate rocks that stretches through northern BC, western NWT, Yukon and Alaska. It covers carbonate-hosted, zinc-lead-silver-gallium mineralization, with district-scale potential. The project encompasses 782 mineral claims that adjoin the Dempster Highway via an 18-kilometre-long proposed access corridor.

Work to date has identified 23 mineralized zones within a 14 km by 9 km area. Surface rock sampling on the property has yielded peak values of 4180 g/t

silver, 48.57% zinc, 82.78% lead and 1120 ppm gallium. Historical diamond drilling, which concentrated on two occurrences, returned highlights including 18.29 m containing 310 g/t silver, 16.75% zinc, 8.86% lead at the Gully Zone, and 2.96 m containing 2134 g/t silver, 0.55% zinc, 15.18% lead at the Peak Zone.

Silver Range Resources Ltd. announced it has [acquired a new high grade silver property](#) in the Walker Lane, west central Nevada.

The Roughrider Property consists of 6 claims located in Esmeralda County, approximately 17 kilometres southwest of Gold Point. The property contains shear-hosted quartz veins and stockworks along a one kilometre long, shear zone. The zone reportedly averages 1.7 metres wide and mineralization is reported in adjacent wall rock splays. Mineralization at surface is highly oxidized with malachite, azurite, argentite and zinc oxides and variegated clay-sized minerals occurring with milky ribbon quartz.

Sampling by Silver Range during staking returned 4,320 g/t Ag and 3,530 g/t Ag from vein material exposed in underground workings along a 300 m interval where the shear zone is intermittently exposed. A chip sample of the back of one of the veins returned 0.2 m @ 632 g/t Ag. Base metal tenor of the vein material is high with up to 0.6% Cu, 2.1% Zn and 11% Pb recorded in mineralized samples.

Sixty North Gold Mining Ltd reports the previously announced unit [private placement offering at \\$0.065 per unit will not be proceeding](#).

The company is pleased to report that it has closed a non-brokered private placement of 7,012,286 units (the “Units”) at an offering price of \$0.055 per Unit to raise gross proceeds of \$385,675.73. Each Unit consisted of one (1) common share, and one (1) non-transferable share purchase warrant, with each Warrant being exercisable to purchase one (1) additional Share at an exercise price of \$0.08 per Share until February 19, 2023.

The net proceeds of the Offering will be used for further exploration and development of the Mon Gold Property, NWT, and the company’s general working capital requirements.

The securities for the Offering will bear legends restricting resale until June 20, 2021.

Operations and Winter Road Update

Dave Webb, President and CEO, reports from Yellowknife that our crews have started all of our heavy equipment, which is stored in Yellowknife, prior to shipping up the winter road to the Mon Gold Property. Trucks, scooptrams, jumbos and bulldozers are all operating normally. The road is at full load capacity for all but the final five km, which is at 75% capacity. It is expected to reach full capacity by the middle of next week. Shipments of equipment and supplies to site are expected to commence next week.

Sixty North Gold announced [construction of the winter road to the Mon Property](#) has made its first pass onto the mine site. The plan is for the ice to thicken and the portages to be groomed in preparation for the equipment and supply haul. The next week is forecast for high temperatures of minus 22 to minus 34C and low temperatures to minus 40o will allow for the ice to thicken and the portages to harden. “Dave Webb, President and CEO states, “Installation of the winter road is progressing as planned and will be used to haul all of the heavy supplies and equipment to the property so mining can commence this spring. The company is completing additional regulatory filings to allow operations to begin as scheduled. Petroleum storage and quarry permits have recently been received. Crews are being mobilized under the Northwest Territories’ COVID 19 requirements, including mandatory 14-day self-isolation. We acknowledge that while the current operating environment is less than ideal, we must protect the communities we work in and will take every step required to work safely.”

Member news releases February

- 2 March 2021 [Vital appoints rare earths expert George Bauk as strategic advisor in ramp up to production](#)

- 2 March 2021 [Response to ASX price and volume query](#)
- 1 March 2021 [Fury drills 6.04 metres of 11.56 g/t gold outside of the defined resource at Eau Claire](#)
- 1 March 2021 [Nighthawk substantially increases indicated resources, provides exploration outlook](#)
- 26 February 2021 [Construction update ahead of rare earth production at Nechalacho](#)
- 26 February 2021 [Gahcho Kué Mine announces additional COVID-19 measures as part of return to production](#)
- 26 February 2021 [Mountain Province announces plan for restart of Operations at Gahcho Kué Mine](#)
- 26 February 2021 [Seabridge Gold to present at the BMO 30th Global Metals and Mining Conference](#)
- 26 February 2021 [Osisko Metals to present at BMO Global Metals & Mining Conference](#)
- 25 February 2021 [Silver Range Resources Ltd. closes private placement](#)
- 24 February 2021 [Sabina Gold & Silver announces updated feasibility study on Goose Property at the Back River gold district, Nunavut](#)
- 24 February 2021 [North Peak resources announces sale of its blockchain patents to Helix Applications Inc.](#)
- 24 February 2021 [Avalon receives high-ranking ESG risk rating](#)
- 24 February 2021 [Vital's rare earth carbonate customer sample program underway and delivering positive results](#)
- 23 February 2021 [Silver Range options high-grade silver Michele Project to Silver47](#)
- 22 February 2021 [Vital signs contract to commence mining at Nechalacho in March 2021](#)
- 22 February 2021 [Sixty North announces closing of new non-brokered unit offering, and provides a winter road update](#)
- 21 February 2021 [Vital signs contract to commence mining at Nechalacho in March 2021](#)
- 18 February 2021 [Blue Star Gold acquires highly prospective and underexplored Roma project; Increases landholding in High Lake greenstone belt by +85%](#)
- 18 February 2021 [Nighthawk enters into option agreement to acquire the Kim & Cass property, located 15km southwest of Colomac](#)
- 17 February 2021 [North Arrow starts geophysics program at Loki diamond project, enters loan agreement with Anglo Celtic Exploration](#)
- 17 February 2021 [Silver Range Resources Ltd. announces private placement](#)
- 17 February 2021 [Avalon announces agreement to acquire the right to title of a closed mine site with rare earths recovery potential](#)
- 17 February 2021 [Fury announces 2021 exploration plans for Committee Bay](#)
- 16 February 2021 [Mountain Province Diamonds announces the inclusion of 157 carat exceptional rough diamond in its February sale](#)
- 16 February 2021 [Gold Terra announces C\\$2.88 million non-brokered private placement](#)
- 16 February 2021 [Vital commences drilling to define mine plan for stage 2 rare earths production at Nechalacho](#)
- 15 February 2021 [Vital commences drilling to define mine plan for stage 2 rare earths production at Nechalacho](#)
- 11 February 2021 [Agnico Eagle reports fourth quarter and full year 2020 results](#)
- 11 February 2021 [Blockades lifted at Baffinland Mary River project](#)
- 10 February 2021 [Fury outlines first regional exploration target at Eau Claire; Summer plans to explore the Percival trend](#)
- 9 February 2021 [Blockades at Mary River continue to stop food, supplies getting to workers](#)
- 9 February 2021 [Fortune Minerals announces 3rd party process residue disposal option for its NICO project refinery](#)
- 8 February 2021 [Det'on Cho continues to show commitment to the North](#)
- 8 February 2021 [Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockades](#)
- 8 February 2021 [NorZinc announces corporate plans for 2021 and beyond, appoints VP corporate social responsibility](#)
- 8 February 2021 [Mountain Province Diamonds reports COVID-19 outbreak at Gahcho Kué Mine](#)

- 8 February 2021 [Seabridge Gold team member announced as national award winner from Woman in Mining Canada](#)
- 5 February 2021 [Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockade](#)
- 4 February 2021 [Silver Range Resources Ltd. samples up to 4,320 g/t silver at the Roughrider](#)
- 4 February 2021 [North Arrow and Strategx announce data sharing and royalty agreement, Mel Diamond Project, Nunavut](#)
- 4 February 2021 [Pine Point Mining Limited submits environmental assessment reports to NWT regulators](#)
- 4 February [Gold Terra updates Newmont option drilling program adjacent to past producing Con mine](#)
- 3 February 2021 [Nighthawk reports Treasure Island Drill results, intersecting elevated grades](#)
- 3 February 2021 [Dominion Diamond Mines sells Ekati mine to Arctic Canadian Diamond Company](#)
- 2 February 2021 [Agnico Eagle Mines Limited completes acquisition of TMAC Resources Inc.](#)
- 2 February 2021 [Fury outlines 2021 exploration program at Homestake gold-silver project; 25,000 metres focused on resource expansion](#)
- 2 February 2021 [Vital Metals executes definitive offtake agreement with REEtec](#)

Industry events

2020 NWT & Nunavut Geoscience Symposium

The [2020 NWT & Nunavut Geoscience Symposium](#), organized by the Northwest Territories Geological Survey, in association with the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, is available online. This virtual symposium includes posters and pre-recorded oral presentations. The symposium, organized after the cancellation of the 2020 Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, showcases the latest geoscience-related research in the territories and encompasses:



- [Mineral Exploration](#)
- [Geoscience](#)
- [Energy Geoscience](#)
- [Permafrost Science](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [Regulatory Updates](#)

Visit the website at <https://geosympos.ca/> which went live November 23.

Dates confirmed for Virtual PDAC 2021 Conference

The annual [PDAC 2021 Convention](#) — the world’s premier mineral exploration and mining event, will now be held virtually from Monday, March 8 until Thursday, March 11.

We have shifted our dates to weekdays to offer attendees an even greater opportunity to experience the virtual convention during the week. It provides opportunity for an extra half a day to be added to the schedule, allowing time for attendees to access exclusive content, to explore virtual exhibit halls, and to network within the platform. Presentation opportunities are still available. To apply for the few remaining presentation opportunities:

- [Corporate presentation forum for investors](#)
- [Cutting edge](#)
- [Exploration insights](#)

GAC-MAC 2021 – Exploring Geosciences through Time and Space

The 2021 Geological Association of Canada – Mineralogical Association of Canada annual meeting and conference is scheduled for May 17-19 in London, Ontario. As of currently, GAC-MAC London 2021 is still scheduled to take place on the University of Western Ontario campus in London, Ontario. The local organizing committee is currently planning to deliver a hybrid conference with a mix of in-person and virtual talks and events. For more information, or to submit and abstract, visit <https://gacmac2021.ca/>.

Of note, the agenda includes the following session:

- *SS-04 Diamonds in Cratons, Diamond-bearing Rocks and Mantle Xenoliths*

The aim of this special session is to provide a forum for discussion of research related to diamond origin, entrainment, and dispersal. This session seeks to bring together perspectives from academic, government and industrial partners to improve the current understanding of diamond deposits. Convenors: Song Gao (Western University), Roberta L. Flemming (Western University), Carl Ozyer (GSC Calgary)

Welcome new members

Please join us in welcoming the newest Chamber of Mines member!

- **Rover Metals Corp**, Yellowknife, NT, is a mineral exploration company, with a focus on gold, primarily with Tlicho lands. Contact CEO Judson Culter, judson@rovermetals.com, 604 999 7240.

Chamber of Mines’ social media

Follow via live [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) links



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<p>NWT & NUNAVUT CHAMBER OF MINES <i>Established 1967</i></p>	<p>For further information contact us at: #4-5120 49 Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1P8 Email: info@miningnorth.com Website: www.miningnorth.com</p>

Mines and promising Northwest Territories projects

The following table describes leading mineral development projects in the NWT.

Project Name	Owner(s)	Commodity	Description	Status
Ekati Mine	Arctic Candian Diamond Company Ltd. , and Dr. Stewart Blusson	Diamonds	Canada's first and largest diamond mine, 310 km. NE of Yellowknife. Open pit and underground. Mine life potentially to 2034. Workforce in 2019, 1,186. The Ekati mine consists of two joint ventures, the core zone joint venture and the buffer zone joint venture, in which the company has interests of 88.9% and 72.0%, respectively. Reserves at 31 January 2017 were 68.9 million tonnes at 1.5 carats per tonne for 105.4 million carats. Inferred mineral resources were 20.6 million tonnes at 1.0 carats per tonne for 19.8 million carats. Additionally, Fox Deep indicated and inferred resources of 51.0 million tonnes at 0.4 carats per tonne for 18.7 million carats.	Media release 3 February 2021 Dominion Diamond Mines sells Ekati mine to Arctic Canadian Diamond Company
Diavik Mine	Rio Tinto (operator) & Arctic Canadian Diamond Company Ltd.	Diamonds	Canada's largest producer of diamonds, 300 km NE of Yellowknife. Mine life to 2025. Became all underground mine in 2012. Workforce in 2019, 1,124. New A21 open pit development budgeted at US\$350m over 4 years. A21 grand opening celebrated August 2018. Reserves at Dec 31, 2019 were 10.5 million tonnes at 2.4 carats/tonne.	Media release 9 July 2020 Rio Tinto supports COVID-19 isolation shelter in Yellowknife
Gahcho Kué Mine	De Beers Canada Inc (51% and operator) and Mountain Province Diamonds Inc. (49%)	Diamonds	Located 280 km NE of Yellowknife, NWT. Workforce in 2019, 574. Located at Kennady Lake, approximately 280 km northeast of Yellowknife and 80 km southeast of De Beers' Snap Lake Mine in the Northwest Territories, the Gahcho Kué Mine is a joint venture between De Beers Canada Inc. (51%) and Mountain Province Diamonds Inc. (49%). The mine began the ramp up of production in early August 2016 and was officially opened on September 20, 2016. The mine commenced commercial production in March 2017. Gahcho Kué is an open pit operation, mining three kimberlite pipes in sequence: 5034, Hearne and Tuzo. Mine life of approximately 12 years.	Media release 26 February 2021 Gahcho Kué Mine announces additional COVID-19 measures as part of return to production Media release 26 February 2021 Mountain Province Diamonds announces plan for restart of Operations at Gahcho Kué Mine Media release 16 February 2021 Mountain Province Diamonds announces the inclusion of 157 carat exceptional rough diamond in its February sale Media release 8 February 2021 Mountain Province Diamonds reports COVID-19 outbreak at Gahcho Kué Mine
Prairie Creek	NorZinc Ltd.	Zinc-lead-silver	Proposed underground mine 120 km west of Fort Simpson. Estimated mine jobs: 220 All permits now in place to construct and operate the mine. Feasibility Study completed in 2017 supports 15-year mine life. Subject to completion of financing, and 2.5-year construction phase, production proposed for mid-2020.	Media release 8 February 2021 NorZinc announces corporate plans for 2021 and beyond, appoints VP corporate social responsibility, live webinar Wednesday

			<p>In 2017, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board recommended approval of the proposed all season road.</p> <p>Over the past eight years Canadian Zinc has successfully completed numerous environmental assessments related to exploration and development of the Prairie Creek Mine. Canadian Zinc has obtained all the significant regulatory permits and social licences required to complete construction and development and undertake mining and milling at Prairie Creek, including construction and use of a winter access road to the mine site.</p>	
NICO	Fortune Minerals Limited.	Cobalt-gold-bismuth-copper	<p>Proposed open pit and underground mine located 50 km NE of Whati. Estimated mine jobs: 150. Mine life, 20 years. In March 2018, The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has recommended that the Tlicho all-season road be approved. The approval is subject to measures designed to mitigate potential environmental, social, and cultural impacts. The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Transportation and Tlicho Government received this conditional approval on March 29, 2018, enabling construction of the 97-kilometre Tlicho Road to connect the community of Whati to the territorial highway system.</p>	Media release 9 February 2021 Fortune Minerals announces 3rd party process residue disposal option for its NICO project refinery
Kennady North	Mountain Province Diamonds Inc.	Diamonds	<p>Kennady North project comprises 13 leases and claims immediately to north and west of 4 leases controlled by the Gahcho Kué Joint Venture (see above). Project aims to identify a resource along the Kelvin – Faraday kimberlite corridor of between 12 and 15 million tonnes at a grade of between 2 and 2.5 carats per tonne and to identify new kimberlites outside of the corridor. The Kelvin – Faraday corridor is a target for further exploration. Potential quantity is conceptual as there has been insufficient drilling to define a mineral resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in target being delineated as a mineral resource.</p>	Media release 13 July 2020 Mountain Province Diamonds obtains waiver under revolving credit facility
Indin Lake	Nighthawk Gold Corp	Gold	<p>Nighthawk controls over 90% of the prospective Indin Lake Greenstone Belt in this historic gold camp with a total ground position now comprising 930 sq km, approximately 220 km north of Yellowknife, NT. The Indin Lake Greenstone Belt is one of Canada’s most underexplored gold camps. The property contains 14</p>	<p>Media release 1 March 2021 Nighthawk substantially increases indicated resources and provides an outlook for exploration</p> <p>Media release 18 February 2021 Nighthawk enters into option agreement to acquire the Kim & Cass property, located 15km southwest of Colomac</p>

			known gold deposits and showings, 3 are historic mines (eg Colomac)	
Pine Point	Osisko Metals Incorporated	Lead-zinc	Proposed open pit mine east of Hay River, NT. 10-year LOM plan will consist of mining open pit and underground deposits. The overall strategy is to achieve an average LOM production rate of 11,250 tonnes per day. The open pit mineral resource inventory used in the LOM plan is contained in 47 open pits. Indicated Mineral Resource: 12.9Mt grading 6.29% ZnEq (4.56% Zn and 1.73% Pb) representing approximately 25.5% of the declared tonnage in the updated 2020 MRE. Inferred Mineral Resource: 37.6Mt grading 6.80% ZnEq (4.89% Zn and 1.91% Pb). The realized project would have a significant impact NWT, with the potential of generating over C\$529M in combined federal and territorial tax revenue and contributing approximately 258 jobs during production phase and ~395 jobs during the construction period.	Media release 26 February 2021 Osisko Metals to present at 30th Annual BMO Global Metals & Mining Conference Media release 4 February 2021 Pine Point Mining Limited submits environmental assessment reports to NWT regulators
Courageous Lake	Seabridge Gold Inc.	Gold	Proposed open pit mine 240 km NE of Yellowknife. 6.5 M oz proven and probable reserves in 91.0 million tonnes at 2 g/t (2016 Annual Report). Positive PFS July 2012. The FAT deposit is one of Canada's largest undeveloped gold projects. Seabridge is currently focusing on their KSM mine and other BC projects.	Media release 26 February 2021 Seabridge Gold to present at the BMO 30th Global Metals and Mining Conference Media release 8 February 2021 Seabridge Gold team member announced as national award winner from Woman in Mining Canada
Selwyn Project (Howard's Pass Project)	Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.	Zinc, lead	Proposed base metal mine in Yukon on NWT border and access is through NWT. Agreements signed with NWT (Sahtu) Indigenous land corporations. The project will process multiple open pit mines over an approximate 10+ year mine life and includes a mineral processing plant, tailing management facility and the required onsite infrastructure. The mine is being designed to process 38,500 tonnes per day (tpd) of ore which, after processing, is expected to result in 2,500 tpd of zinc and 600 tpd of lead concentrate, which would be trucked to the Port of Stewart for export. Selwyn Chihong estimates the proposed mine will create approximately 1500 jobs during construction and approximately 750 during operation.	Selwyn Chihong Mining's proposed upgrade of a road to its lead-zinc mining project in Yukon's Selwyn Mountains will undergo an environmental assessment. Parks Canada has referred the 79km Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) to Environmental Assessment under the MVEIRB, which accepted the referral in July 2015. The HPAR was developed in the 1970s and runs from the Nahanni Range Road to the NWT-Yukon border. Passing through 2 national parks. Yukon media reported in Feb 2016 that Selwyn Chihong has decided to slow their project down due to the current low zinc prices and will not to take the project to the permitting stage this year. According to External Affairs VP Maurice Albert, SC has opted for a traditional drilling program and hopefully add another 10 years to the mine life.
Nechalacho	Vital Metals (Cheetah Resources)	Rare earth metals	Vital Metals' Nechalacho rare earths project in Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT) hosts a world-class resource of 94.7Mt at 1.46% REO (measured, indicated and inferred). Nechalacho is about 100km southeast of Yellowknife. The North T Zone at Nechalacho hosts a high-grade resource of	Media release 2 March 2021 Vital appoints rare earths expert as strategic advisor in ramp up to production Media release 2 March 2021 Response to ASX price and volume query Media release 26 February 2021 Construction update ahead of rare earth production at Nechalacho

		<p>101,000 tonnes at 9.01% LREO (2.2% NdPr), making it one of the highest grade rare earths deposits in the world.</p> <p>Vital is targeting production of rare earth oxide at Nechalacho in 2021, with early production from a North T starter pit. It has completed detailed engineering for the ore sorting plant, and defined capital and operating costs. Vital aims to produce a minimum of 5,000 tonnes of contained REO by 2025 at the project. Earth Project hosts within the Upper Zone, a JORC Compliant Resource of 94.7Mt at 1.46% REO (25% NdPr). In September 2020, Vital Metals announced signing of an agreement between Vital's 100% owned subsidiary Cheetah Resources and Saskatchewan Research Council which sets out parameters on design, procurement, construction, commissioning and operation of a rare earth extraction plant.</p>	<p>Media release Vital's rare earth carbonate customer sample program underway with positive results</p> <p>Media release 21 February 2021 Vital signs contract to commence mining at Nechalacho in March 2021</p> <p>Media release 15 February 2021 Vital commences drilling to define mine plan for stage 2 rare earths production</p> <p>Media release 1 February 2021 Vital metals executes definitive offtake agreement with REEtec</p>
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Mines and promising Nunavut projects

The following table describes leading mineral development projects in Nunavut.

Project	Owner(s)	Commodity	Description	Status
Meadowbank Gold Mine	Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	Gold	<p>In operation since 2010. Produced its three millionth ounce gold in 2018. Open pit mine located in the Kivalliq Region, 300 km west of Hudson Bay and 70 km north of Baker Lake. The Meadowbank Complex refers to the mining, processing and infrastructure at the Meadowbank mine site combined with the mining and infrastructure at the nearby Amaruq site. The Meadowbank gold mine achieved commercial production in March 2010 and produced its three millionth ounce of gold in 2018 and 2019 was the final year of production at the Meadowbank mine. The company declared commercial production at the Whale Tail pit at Amaruq mining operation on September 30, 2019. The life of mine plan for the Whale Tail pit calls for the production of approximately 2.5 million ounces of gold between 2019 and 2026.</p>	<p>Media release 11 February 2021 Agnico Eagle reports fourth quarter and full year 2020 results</p> <p>Media release 2 February 2021 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited completes acquisition of TMAC Resources Inc.</p>
Mary River Iron Mine	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation	Iron	<p>Open pit mine 936 km north of Iqaluit. 2019 marks 5 full years of Mary River operations. Baffinland continues its phased development of the mine. As of 2019, highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Over \$65 million in wages to Inuit •Over \$1.2 billion in contracts signed and awarded to Inuit firms •~\$800,000 in sponsorship and donations since 2016 •435 graduates of pre-employment training programs •~100,000 hours of training provided directly to Inuit Project employees 	<p>Media release 11 February 2021 Blockades lifted at Baffinland Mary River project</p> <p>Media release 9 February 2021 Blockades at Mary River continue to stop food, supplies getting to workers</p> <p>Media release 8 February 2021 Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockades</p> <p>Media release 5 February 2021 Baffinland provides update on Mary River blockade</p>
Hope Bay (Mine began commercial production May 15, 2017)	Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.	Gold	<p>Gold mine 130 km south of Cambridge Bay. The property covers the majority of the Hope Bay Greenstone Belt. On January 5, 2021 Agnico Eagle announced it would be acquiring TMAC Resources Inc., the operator of the Hope Bay property located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut, Canada. The property and operations are remote but not isolated, serviced by both a port and airstrip. Hope Bay is an 80 km by 20 km Archean greenstone belt that has been explored by BHP, Miramar, Newmont and TMAC over a period spanning more than 30 years. TMAC</p>	<p>Media release 20 January 2021 TMAC receives final court approval for acquisition by Agnico Eagle Mines</p> <p>Media release 5 January 2021 TMAC Resources to be acquired by Agnico Eagle</p> <p>Media release 8 January 2021 TMAC provides transaction update and notice to shareholders</p>

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			<p>began producing gold in early 2017 from Doris, its first mine at Hope Bay, and processed gold at the Doris processing plant which originally had nameplate capacity of 1,000 tpd and expanded to 2,000 tpd midway through 2018.</p> <p>The acquisition of TMAC Resources was officially completed on February 2, 2021.</p>	
<p>Meliadine Gold Mine (commercial production May 14, 2019)</p>	<p>Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.</p>	Gold	<p>Meliadine mine declared commercial production on May 14, 2019. 25 km NE of Rankin Inlet. 526 employees.</p> <p>IIBA signed June 2015. Total capital cost ~\$830m, below \$900m forecast; mine life ~15 years. On February 15, 2017: Agnico Eagle approved Meliadine and Amaruq projects for development with production beginning in 2019.</p> <p>The high-grade Meliadine gold project has (by Dec 2019 figures) 4.07 million ounces of gold in proven and probable reserves (20.7 million tonnes at 6.10 g/t).</p>	<p>Media release 23 October 2019 Agnico Eagle reports third quarter results</p>
<p>Back River</p>	<p>Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.</p>	Gold	<p>Approximately 60km from Hackett River; adjacent to the Wishbone Greenstone belt. Consists of George and Goose Lake deposits and holds significant gold resources.</p> <p>Estimated construction jobs: 1,600 Estimated mine jobs: 900</p> <p>Sabina's Feasibility Study on its 100% owned Back River Gold Project presents a project designed on a fit-for purpose basis, with the potential to produce ~200,000 ounces a year for ~11 years with a rapid payback of 2.9 years (at a US\$1,150 gold price and a 0.80 exchange rate). Initial CAPEX of \$415 million. EA complete</p>	<p>Media release 24 February 2021 Sabina Gold & Silver announces updated feasibility study on Goose Property at the Back River gold district, Nunavut</p>
<p>Chidliak</p>	<p>De Beers Group</p>	Diamonds	<p>Located 120kms NE of Iqaluit, Nunavut, and 180 km S of Pangnirtung. 74 kimberlites discovered with 8 potentially economic on 317,213-hectare site. Positive Phase One PEA, updated May 2018 highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •After-tax payback of 2.2 years •Life of mine 13 years •Resource at CH-6 and CH-7 exceeds 22 million carats •Pre-production capital requirement ~\$455m, incl \$95m for access road from Iqaluit, \$55m in contingency •Pre-tax NPV(7.5) of \$1069 million and a pre-tax IRR of 38.6% •After-tax NPV(7.5) of \$679 million and an after-tax IRR of 31.1% 	<p>Media release 9 July 2020 De Beers Group: Inuit firm successfully completes critical Chidliak maintenance</p>
<p>Naujaat Diamond Project</p>	<p>North Arrow Minerals</p>	Diamonds	<p>7 km from tidewater; 9 km from Repulse Bay, Melville Peninsula; 7,143 hectares of contiguous mineral</p>	<p>Media release 18 August 2020 North Arrow reports \$5.6m financing in place for bulk sample evaluation of Q1-4 diamond deposit at Naujaat</p>

			claims. Largest kimberlite in Nunavut.	
Committee Bay Gold Project	Fury Gold Mines	Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High grade gold endowment • Existing exploration infrastructure • Over 270,000 hectares with district scale discovery opportunities 	Media release 17 February 2021 Fury announces 2021 exploration plans for Committee Bay

Project maps

