

Darwin Green

President & CEO **HIGHGOLD MINING (TSXV: HIGH)**

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What is the genesis of HighGold (TSXV:HIGH) and what was the opportunity HighGold identified when it acquired its assets?

HighGold was formed in 2019 by way of a spinout from a precursor company called Constantine Metal Resources. Acquisition by Constantine of the Johnson Tract project in Alaska provided the impetus for the spinout of all the company's gold exploration assets and the creation of HighGold. This allowed the shareholders to realize the value of Johnson Tract and the Timmins gold assets and became the opportunity to raise funds and hire dedicated technical teams to explore and advance each of them. Johnson Tract is a unique project, as it is on ground owned by the Alaskan Native Corporation, Cook Inlet Region, known by 'CIRI'. In the 70s, Alaska settled their native land claims by creating corporate entities, in which the shareholders were indigenous peoples in the surrounding region, and each corporation was able to select lands for the purpose of generating revenue. CIRI approached our management team to advance this project, which had been explored in the 80s and 90s by senior producers. The project was not viable given the price of gold and the economic environment of the day and sat idle, until CIRI approached us and we jumped at the opportunity to advance this project. What makes Johnson Tract special is that it has the unique combination of very highgrade mineralization - both gold and base metals - over very wide widths.

Can you provide an overview of the other assets in HighGold's portfolio?

HighGold has three properties in the Timmins area, which constitutes a very large land position that is well over 200 sq km – one of the largest land positions held by a junior miner in the Timmins gold camp. Much of this land was acquired over 10 years in an entirely different and less robust gold market than we currently are experiencing. It would be very difficult to acquire the land that we have in today's hot gold market.

The crown jewel of our land package is Munro-Croesus, a former producing mine in the early 1900s which had relatively small total production. However, what they did produce was fantastically high grade. Gold samples from this mine had mineralization of more than 10,000 ounces per ton. Munro-Croesus was the nucleus of our property position. We spent the better part of 2020 and early 2021 consolidating the land around Munro-Croesus – much of which is patented and has been in private hands for several generations. Now it is gaining prominence within HighGold as a second pillar for us in terms of creating shareholder value through exploration.

What are the benefits and challenges of operating in Alaska and how does it compare with Ontario?

There is less infrastructure in Alaska, which leads to higher costs. That said, as far as Alaska goes, HighGold is in a very good position in that we are very near tidewater within 10 km of the coast and are also relatively close to population centers that help support the project. Johnson Tract is a project that will produce concentrates in Alaska. However, Alaska is and proximity to deep tidewater is important for shipping to overseas markets. We use helicopters for our exploration program in Alaska, so that doubles the cost of drilling compared to a place like Timmins where your drillers go back to their own homes at the end of their shift. Certainly, the threshold for a deposit to go the distance is lower in an established mining camp like Timmins than it is in Alaska. However, Alaska is elephant country. There are some monster deposits there and it has got tremendous potential. In Timmins, the lower hurdle point for success is offset by the fact the ground has been more picked. That said, our claims in Timmins are surprisingly underexplored for such a mature and prolific gold producing district and that is the opportunity we have. Alaska is a great place to make brand new discoveries and big ones. ■

Vance White

President & CEO **NOBLE MINERAL EXPLORATION (TSXV: NOB)**



in the ensuing months?

felt that there was an opportunity there that could encour- near-term cash flow in the next 12 to 18 months. age Glencore's participation. That is going to be a call that CNC's team will be making down the road. The prefeasibility What role do you think the project generator model can study will be available in early 2021 and that should give us a play during a bull market? good handle on the kind of numbers we are looking at, but At Noble, our job is take out the early risk on a project by we know it is a very large deposit.

The other properties that were optioned out to CNC are po- ic and current data. We do this to the point where the next tential low-grade, nickel, PGM, cobalt deposits that we know round of de-risking the project is at the drill phase. From from our experience drilling them contain between 0.25 to there, we have another partner come in and carry that out 0.27% nickel. Recently, CNC completed an airborne mag and either in association with Noble or on their own whereby gravity survey over the option properties, and they are get- we can then take a position down the road. Normally, if it ting ready for a drill program that could start around Janu- is another junior or mid-tier company, we will take an equity ary 2021. Right now, Noble owns approximately 2.1 million position in them and take a ride on their paper. Then, in the shares and we distributed 10 million to our shareholders. If final analysis, we can take a direct interest should they prove CNC wishes to pick up the second option, Noble can take something up. It is about laying off the next round of risk to back additional shares, depending on the number of options the partner coming in. that they pick up, or take cash back.

Can you provide an update on Project 81, including mobi- Project 81? lization of the diamond drill at the Dargavel Gold Trend Project 81 is in an area that has been totally underexplored. It project?

course of the next few months.

Can you explain Noble's current interest in Canada Nick- What did the exploration update from the Holdsworth el's Crawford project and the options that were acquired Oxide Sand Project Preliminary Metallurgical Results show?

When Noble spun out the Canada Nickel (CNC) deal, we Noble engaged Dundee Sustainable Technologies to detergave our shareholders a direct benefit through exposure to mine whether a gold concentrate could be generated from CNC's large Crawford resource. It is headed up by notable the oxides, and utilizing their system, we were able to genergeologists with deep expertise in the field of nickel and as a ate over 90% concentrate. The next step is to determine what result, Noble's shareholders can now benefit directly from a kind of resource we have and what kind of economics will be project with enormous potential. Furthermore, with Crawford associated with the asset. It is early stage, but we have hope sitting a few kilometers north of the Kidd Creek Complex, we that it is something that may be able to generate some fairly

completing all of the airborne surveys and compiling histor-

Do you have a final message for potential partners about

is covered by overburden and consequently there is no out-We recently completed a drill program with a partner on the cropping on it. As a result, the only way that you are going Dargavel Gold Trend and we are currently waiting on results to be able to determine whether there is a successful deposit to come in from the assay office. With respect to other op- is by going out and drilling. Noble has taken out the early portunities at Project 81, we are entertaining option and risk by carrying out up-to-date airborne EM/Mag surveys, Joint Venture Partners coming in on certain areas of those and we are considering doing a gravity survey over the entire projects. Additionally, the group that came into the Carnegie project area. The potential on an asset in an underexplored Township option are planning an active program over the area, with significant infrastructure, is very high, and Noble's success with the CNC deal has validated our land package.