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Noble Minerals exploring the potential of critical minerals

New exploration hopes to allow Canadian sourcing of important resources

DENISE DEVEAU

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For the past two years, Noble Mineral Exploration Inc. has been on an exploration streak that promises to improve the prospects of sourcing much-needed critical minerals closer to home.

Currently active in nine projects in areas of Northern Ontario (five properties), as well as more recently acquired sites in Quebec (three) and Newfoundland (one), and having successfully spun out Canada Nickel to the Noble shareholders, the project generator has been specializing in identifying underexplored or unexplored areas, focusing on battery related and rare earth minerals.

“Our role is to take on the initial acquisition and early-stage exploration risk that will lead to join venture or option partnerships down the road,” says H. Vance White, president and CEO.

Noble is no stranger to the project generator scene, having completed the acquisition of the mineral, surface, and timber rights to the Project 81 in the Timmins-Cochrane area over 10 years ago. Originally held by Abitibi, the 52,000-hectare area property had a great deal of promise but had been idle as other projects had taken precedence.

“Drilling in the 1960s shows a 1265 ft. intersection of .26 nickel. Although it wasn’t of economic interest at the time, all the foundations were there including infrastructure, access, and a wealth of promising historical data,” says White.



Noble is investigating a number of sites in its effort to uncover new sources of battery related and rare earth minerals. *SUPPLIED*

The property hosts multiple zones where historical exploration has identified nickel, cobalt, and platinum group metals (PGM), as well as volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) and gold mineralization. To date, Noble’s Northern Ontario projects include Holdsworth Gold, Boulder, Nagagami Carbonatite, Dargavel Gold, and Lucas Gold.

The most recent projects include the niobium and rare earths Nagagami Carbonatite Complex and copper and PGM Boulder projects near Hearst, Ontario. In Quebec, the company has expanded its reach with the Buckingham Graphite, Cere-Villebon and Laverlochere nickel, copper and PGM properties.

Over the past month Noble has also completed an EM/Mag airborne survey on the Boulder Project that returned values of 70 per cent copper, plus rhodium and gold. “The value would be in the

order of \$9,900 per tonne at today’s commodity prices,” says White.

The team is also waiting results on the Nagagami project, following initial drilling activities. Both the Nagagami and Boulder projects are further north and west of the Timmins project.

Noble acquired its project areas in Newfoundland and Quebec within the past year. “Both have similarities in terms of the geology,” says White. “There we will be focusing on nickel, copper, graphite, and rare earth minerals.”

The timing to step up exploration is ideal for a number of reasons, says White. “The biggest issue is the evolution of electric vehicles and demand for battery-related minerals. With China and Russia controlling a majority of critical minerals, industry and governments are focusing on regaining control over the supply chain. China for example controls anywhere from 90 to 95 per cent of the



Noble’s exploration takes it all over Canada in search of critical minerals. *SUPPLIED*

world’s rare earth deposits. New policies are pushing for investment in North American critical minerals that will provide a stable supply line for manufacturers.”

Having secured a massive land package in an infrastructure-laden area over a decade ago, Noble has a solid foundation for delivering on this escalating demand, he adds. “What attracted us to the project in the first place is that it already had the roads, railway, water, power, and a local labour force. It also had the right location making it the perfect area to identify multiple projects. Strategic investing over the past decade has also placed Noble in a decent cash position.”

Next steps will include an airborne geophysical survey and drilling in Quebec, which White claims is one of the only niobium and rare earth producing properties in North America. “We expect to conduct drilling in the first half of 2023 at the Buckingham Graphite

property, possibly in conjunction with a third party,” says White.

The company is also in the process of lining up an airborne program in Newfoundland to better understand the geophysics.

White says Noble is well positioned to help the industry address the growing movement to secure supply chains for critical minerals in North America. Not only does it have a solid portfolio of properties in key regions, the experienced team has also worked together for many years, bringing extensive experience in precious and base metals. “Strategic investing over the past decade have also placed Noble in a decent cash position.”

With critical minerals siloed in a few countries that are outside of North America, he believes Noble is playing a key role in building supply in Canada. “Getting these sites to production will take time, but down the road Canada will be able to secure a supply line for North America and beyond.”