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Welcome to the OTCQB Venture Markets Podcast. Today we're joined by John LaGourgue, CEO of First Canadian Graphite, trading on the OTCQB Venture Market under the symbol GRAPF. First Canadian Graphite is advancing the Lac Guéret South Project in Quebec, a district-scale graphite project positioned to capitalize on growing demand for critical metals used in batteries and advanced technologies. The company's primary focus is on graphite and the North American supply chain opportunity. John, thanks so much for joining us today.

John LaGourgue

Thanks, Cecilia. It's great to be here.

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Absolutely. So to start, just give us an overview of First Canadian Graphite and the importance of the graphite industry right now.

John LaGourgue

Yeah, so First Canadian Graphite is an exploration-stage mining company. We're solely focused on our Lac Guéret project in northern Quebec on the North Shore. We have 200 square kilometers of claims, a historical resource, multiple zones, and a new discovery. We're moving quickly and efficiently to advance that project and would like to go into production as soon as possible. Obviously there are a few steps along the way, but we're really active right now, and I'd love to talk more about that if you're ready.

OTC Markets Group

Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah. So what makes this project unique and why do you believe it has the potential to become an important North American graphite asset?

John LaGourgue

Yeah, you know, for critical minerals and specifically graphite, all the stars are really aligning. When you look at the worldwide demand for graphite, they're a significant part of all EV batteries, up to 25 to 30 percent of each battery in many cases. Historically, about 90 percent of production comes out of China, and as everybody understands, having a single source for these critical minerals isn't working. As a potential domestic supplier, we're in the right place at the right time and in the right location. We're in northern Quebec, about eight hours drive from Quebec City. We have Bay-Comeau, which provides infrastructure and roads with year-round access, as well as grid power nearby. So we're in a great district. When you look at the other deposits in the area, Nomad has a large deposit called Wentnam with grades of 16 to 17 percent, some of the highest grades in the world. We already have a historical resource showing similar grades, which is the highest worldwide. The worldwide average for graphite deposits is around five to six percent. We have the right location, high quality, and a new significant discovery called Zone 13. The anomaly has a strike of about four kilometers by up to 600 meters wide. We're advancing that currently, and it really has the potential to be one of the larger deposits with some really high grades that would meet worldwide standards as a significant new production area.

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Yeah, and as you mentioned, graphite has become one of the most discussed critical minerals. You did mention China and the geopolitical and trade elements, and how you want to bring production back to North America. How do you see the long-term demand and supply working for you in your industry here in North America?

John LaGourgue

Yeah, when you look at today, there is basically almost no domestic production of graphite, so it's definitely needed. Beyond that, battery demand is tripling between 2025 and 2030. So by 2030, graphite as a critical mineral will be one of the top minerals in deficit. It's required and a priority for the U.S. and Canadian governments worldwide. We're in a really good spot for that. Creating a supply chain of significant, high-quality product with long-term availability is our priority, and I think it's aligning with the general market as well.

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Yeah, and as you cross-trade between Canada and here in the U.S. on OTC OTCQB, what do you want to give investors in terms of an outlook and the benefits of your U.S. investor strategy with us?

John LaGourgue

Yeah, so I'm a dual citizen. We have some great shareholders that reside on the U.S. side, so you'll see some of our volume increase as we grow. Currently, there's still significant opportunity. I think our market cap is around 20 million Canadian today, and really, if you look at the potential, we could have a multi-billion dollar deposit. Obviously, there's some work to do between now and there, but we're systematically advancing and de-risking the project. We're flying airborne surveys today. We already have a large anomaly that we've confirmed with geophysical interpretations and followed up with assays on the ground, getting up to 43 percent graphite content in surface samples. We're moving forward quickly and should be drilling here in November. That allows us to make the next steps towards building a mineral resource that we can move toward a production plan. Right now we're flying airborne today, we'll do some more field work in October, and then hopefully drilling in November. Real quick steps forward with no big risks. I mean, it's mining, so there are always some challenges around it. But when you look at the risk-to-reward on this one, it's certainly very exciting. That's why I'm here.

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Oh, lovely. Very exciting. We really should catch up with you early next year for more updates. But thanks so much for joining us today.

John LaGourgue

Thanks for having us and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

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Absolutely. To learn more about First Canadian Graphite, visit the company's website or find real-time quotes and disclosure on OTC Markets at otcmarkets.com. Thank you for listening, and we'll see you soon, John.

John LaGourgue

Thank you.