

**OTC Markets**

From OTC Markets Global Headquarters in Lower Manhattan, you're listening to the OTCQB Podcast, featuring the entrepreneurs and innovators buying the companies that trade on the venture market. Joining us today is Belinda Labatte, the CEO of Lomiko Medicals that trades on our OTCQB venture market under the ticker LMRMF. Lomiko Metals is a development stage critical minerals mining company, actively developing two main projects in Quebec, Canada, focused on large flake, graphite and lithium. Belinda, thanks so much for joining us today here in New York.

**Belinda Labatte**

Good morning. It's great to be here.

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So to start, tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got involved in the mining and exploration industry.

**Belinda Labatte**

That's a great question because we are now in the energy transition business. And I think it was really interesting for me to be part of the traditional mining industry where I worked with producers, primarily in precious metals all around the world. I've been doing that over 20 years. I started in that role as a consultant and eventually became the chief development officer with a team and growing a gold producer with assets in Sweden, Chile, and Australia and finding solutions for the non-core assets as well as looking at growth opportunities. And then it really came upon me that I saw that the critical minerals was the future of this industry. There's a need and a demand for it. And in Canada, we have all of them, all 30 of them, and really made a pivot into energy transition, which is so fantastic because you have the opportunity to start new with a blank piece of paper and figure out what is that business going to look like in the future? Because it's all about energy. It's about developing a supply chain here in North America. And I thought that was just such an exceptional opportunity. And I'm so glad to be here with fantastic news to share as well on Lomiko Metals.

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Yeah, so talk about that news and your recent DoD announcement.

**Belinda Labatte**

That announcement came out last week, Thursday. It's been a long process for our team. We're absolutely thrilled. It's exceptional. In fact, it's the first time that the Department of Defense and the Canadian government have provided concurrent funding opportunities to a Canadian team with a Canadian asset. And so that was part of the Energy Transformation Task Force between President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau about a year ago that this was launched to really support a domestic supply chain. And graphite, as we know, is coming into shortage in 2025. Massive demand for that. It is about 90% of the battery in any electric vehicle or any battery that is electric for that matter. And China has cut the supply of that going out. So we really are thrilled. The grant announcement is for US \$8.35 million that can be available to us for all the next phases of study all the way to a construction decision. And the Canadian government came in with a contribution agreement for metallurgical studies to show with greater sample sizes, work that we've already been doing, that our graphite can go into the anode, fully anode process. And that was a \$4.9 million Canadian dollar grant. So it's just fantastic and fantastic for investors who've been with us and for new investors that are looking for companies that have secure partners. We've got it.

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Yeah. So what are some of the future applications of graphite and lithium?

## **Belinda Labatte**

The future applications, we've been talking a lot about anode and cathode. So clearly the growth for graphite and the reason why we cannot depend on the Chinese market is for the electric vehicles. We've been seeing, even though there's been a bit of a blip in demand for the EVs over the last few months, the direction for all the automakers is to go fully electric and natural flake graphite is still the best way to provide that material for the anode. And it is also part of the decarbonization and net zero that we are looking for in terms of climate change goals here in North America. Graphite is also used in a whole load of different industrial uses as a lubricant. It is a very good, strong heat conductor. So it has many different industrial uses and all of that will be looked at in the next phases of work. And lithium is a project that we have achieved 49% ownership in Northern Quebec. We are taking our time to evaluate how we want to grow that part of the business. And it is used obviously as a key component to the cathode in the electric vehicle battery.

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Talk about your company's sustainability focus.

**Belinda Labatte**

It's completely in the DNA of the company that we came together as a team really to look at what does a critical minerals mining company of the future look like. So we said five years from now, it is going to be clear that you need to have incorporated and respected First Nations worldviews, abide by UNDRIP, so ensuring that there's full consent. And also the community focus. We are in Southern Quebec. We're the largest undeveloped project in proximity to the United States in Canada. And so that means that we have great infrastructure, but we also have to look at what the community challenges are, what their needs are, and how do we incorporate that project in that setting. And that's what we've been spending a lot of time on. And so sustainability for us is not about necessarily the big-picture goals, but it's really getting into how do we work within the community context for a project that will meet all of their expectations, which meets our expectations as a team.

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What's next for Lomiko Metals in 2024 and beyond?

**Belinda Labatte**

The grant announcement is an absolute catalyst. I mean, we now have, I would say, with Canada and the United States collaborating together to advance these studies with us. We've more than 50% de-risked all of the study work and the access to capital that we need. So the next steps is to find the investors and the partners to go on that journey with us. We obviously have had partners with us to this point, but now we brought in \$11 million Canadian of non-dilutive financing. So we want to advance those studies, which means completing the PFS. That can be done promptly with the right partners to work with the DOD grant and doing the metallurgical studies to continue to show on a greater and greater scale that the graphite concentrate and that material coming out of the plant can be transformed into CSPG graphite. So those are the goals. And a third goal, which you alluded to earlier, is making sure that we progress our sustainability strategy as a Quebec company with a Quebec team leader and with the community.

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How is trading on OTCQB venture market here in the US helps you access more investors as part of your equity strategy?

**Belinda Labatte**

It's clear that we've said from the beginning, we are part of a North American supply chain. So ensuring that we can bring access to the American investor to a graphite project in Canada, where graphite is considered a domestic mineral for the United States. It's key. And I see that now US investors are gonna be able to trade easily, get involved in private placements and so on with us to participate in the DOD grant announcement and that award as we build the company in 2024.

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Well, Belinda, it's been a pleasure speaking with you. Thank you for visiting us here in New York.

**Belinda Labatte**

It's been great to be here. Thank you.

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Lomiko Metals trades under the symbol LMRMF on our OTCQB Venture Market.

*\*This is an autogenerated transcript and may contain typos.*