Helping to Bring
GREEN METALS
to the Market

By Stephen Murdoch

If you follow the mining industry closely in Northern Ontario, chances are you have heard of New Age Metals (NAM: TSXV), formerly Pacific North West Capital. The Vancouver-based mineral exploration company is leading Canada’s largest primary Platinum Group Metals (PGM) project. The team has already met several key milestones on this 100% owned River Valley PGM project.

The President and COO of New Age Metals, Trevor Richardson, credits the company’s success to their highly skilled team, “our team is second to none. We have one of the most technically savvy teams in the mineral exploration business. Collectively, we have years of combined experience within our management team. This group has innate knowledge of what it takes to succeed,” said Richardson.
Since day one, New Age Metals has focused their efforts on the exploration of PGM and lithium. “We want to develop the River Valley deposit as Canada’s next primary PGM producer. With the economic situation shifting in South Africa, we feel there is an opportunity for Northern Ontario to become the next PGM leader. Our company is sitting on the largest undeveloped primary PGM resource in Canada with 2.5 Moz PGM in Measured Plus Indicated mineral resources,” Richardson explained.

Richardson expects the River Valley PGM Project to put the company and the area on the global mineral exploration map. “Our work has indicated that the resources are near-surface and road accessible. We also have power and rail infrastructure nearby. Best of all, transportation of the minerals is relatively easy, thanks to our location. The project is situated within 100 road-kilometres of the city of Sudbury,” he went on to say.

Anglo Platinum, the world’s largest Platinum producer also saw great potential in the project. “Several years ago, Anglo invested approximately $30 million into the project. With fewer places in South Africa to source PGM, Anglo Platinum saw Canada, specifically this project, as a place to invest,” said Richardson.

Early drillings on the project site have come back with positive results. “Our team is highly confident this project will result in a high level of mineral resources. Metallurgical studies have indicated a potential for a sulphide concentrator to produce a saleable concentrate. Resources are currently under evaluation for development potential as an open pit mining operation,” he explained.

As a result of acquisition, New Age Metals strategic land position in the River Valley region is quite extensive. “In total, we have 15,800 acres to work from. Overall, the River Valley PGM deposit on our landholdings is 16 kilometres long by 0.2 kilometres, in wide open depth. Current exploration focus is for higher grade, near surface mineralization in the north part of the deposit.”

In 2017, Richardson and the team have earmarked approximately $1 million to meet specific targets for the River Valley PGM project. “We will be undertaking geophysical surveys over the new evaluated Pine Zone. From there, we will commence drilling of the Pine Zone. Once completed, efforts will then turn to developing additional structure PGM targets for priority drilling testing,” he went on to say.

Long term efforts for New Age Metals will focus on securing a strategic partner and raising additional capital. “Within the next few years, we hope to start delineation and infill drilling
of the Pine Zone. We also plan on Phase I drill tests of other structural targets, for higher grade mineralization. Other long-term plans include carrying out Phase II metallurgical test work and undertaking a preliminary economic assessment," Richardson explained.

River Valley is a primary PGM deposit, similar to the Lac des Iles deposit. "This means that the majority of potential payable metal, from a possible mining operation at River Valley, would be palladium plus platinum, rather than nickel plus copper. Primary PGM deposits are rare outside of South Africa and Russia and River Valley is the largest undeveloped primary PGM deposit in Canada."

In addition to their work in the PGM sector, the company is also working in lithium. "Our Lithium Division, under the name of Lithium Canada Development, focuses on acquisitions and exploration. We are currently exploring and developing projects in both Canada and the United States. There is a growing need for lithium, as a critical part of lithium-ion battery market," said Richardson.

"To date, a majority of Lithium Canada Development's projects are taking place on Canadian soil. "We have five 100% owned lithium pegmatite projects in the Winnipeg River Pegmatite Field of Manitoba and one lithium brine project in Clayton Valley, Nevada. Three of the lithium pegmatite projects in Manitoba are drill ready," Richardson explained. The Winnipeg River Pegmatite Field hosts numerous pegmatites and pegmatite deposits, which includes the world class Tanco Pegmatite.

Of the five projects north of the border, New Age Metals has seen positive results from the Lithium One Project and Lithium Two Project. "Both projects are located approximately 125 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg. The locations are historically known as being lithium-bearing pegmatite rich. Last year, for Lithium Project One, we carried out a small ground proofing program to confirm the historic lithium assays of several pegmatite bodies, as well as the larger pegmatitic granite. We also conducted the same for Lithium Project Two, to confirm the historic lithium assays."

The movement towards green metals should prove well for the TSX-based company. "We believe new age metals like PGMs and lithium will see surging demand, with very limited supply. We will continue to explore for the minerals needed to fuel the demand for energy storage and other 21st century technologies. Lithium and platinum group metal prices have improved and both metal groups continue to be used in several expanding industries," he explained.

With some 20 years of experience in the industry and eight months as company lead, Richardson is excited about future prospects for the company and the mineral exploration industry. "I believe in where we're headed as a company and as an industry. I have been fortunate to bring my many years of experience from working in Africa to a project of this magnitude. Looking ahead, we are slowly seeing a rebound and I'm hopeful this trend will continue," Richardson concluded.