

# Charlie Angus and the story of Cobalt's ESG failure

written by Peter Clausi | August 10, 2022

Charlie Angus is pissed off.

Charlie is the Canadian [Member of Parliament](#) for Timmins – James Bay in northern Ontario, a federal position he's held since 2004 through 7 elections. He sits on the Canadian Government's Standing Committee on Natural Resources. He's also an author, activist, journalist, guitar player, and frontman for the alt-folk Grievous Angels (who I saw play in the late 80s at the Empire Hotel in Timmins). He's also deeply passionate about First Nations rights. Not entitlements, *rights*.

And he's pissed off. If you're in any way connected to the mining industry, anywhere in the world, pay attention.

House of Anansi Press recently published Charlie's well-researched book "[Cobalt: Cradle of the Demon Metals, Birth of a Mining Superpower](#)". It's a riveting telling of how the town of Cobalt was founded at the turn of the 20th century, how its minerals were exploited, its wealth exported and its environment destroyed, while turning Canada into a mining superpower. Despite the grim material, it's a fun informative read. Charlie today lives in Cobalt.

Toronto at the turn of the 20th century wasn't much of anything. "Toronto? Ah yes, that's where you switch trains to get to Cobalt." But it was through the extraction of wealth from the ground around Cobalt that Toronto learned how to be a center of finance, how to re-invest in new projects, and how such projects should be regulated. Toronto owes much of its current financial hi-life to minerals taken from Cobalt over a century ago.

Charlie's book is also a painful narration of how First Nations got screwed, again and again and again. From murder to claim jumping to starvation and rape, First Nations didn't stand a chance.

The history books we read seem to think God (whatever that is) created northern Ontario in about 1900, just for Europeans to 'discover' and exploit. Actual data contradicts that historical claptrap. As Charlie points out (with extensive footnotes), silver from this region has been found in jewelry, pottery and religious ornamentation across eastern North America, proving up an extensive trading network predating Europeans. First Nations were doing just fine without Europeans thank you very much within their own local context.

But as written about in the Pulitzer Prize winning book *Guns, Germs and Steel*, that local context changed when faced with European disease and firearms. Suddenly First Nations were on their back foot, and heading backwards. Forced into corners, ignored by the legal system, the only alternative was to settle with the Crown and reach reasonable accommodation, also known as 'treaties'.

In mining in Canada, we keep hearing about 'the honor of the Crown'. It's a dubious honor. The Crown has broken every treaty it signed in Canada – it's hard to call that honorable. First Nations' rights have been trampled, spat upon, ignored.

Did you have fresh water this morning? A lot of First Nations didn't. As of November 1, 2021 there were 99 drinking advisories in place for First Nations communities across Canada. These are Canadians, with drinking advisories? Imagine Forest Hill in Toronto with a drinking advisory. Westmount in Montreal? North Vancouver? It's pretty much a guarantee water advisories in those communities wouldn't last very long. But since it's *only*

First Nations, most of Canada seems to think it's OK.

Charlies' riding includes many reserves and First Nations members living off-reserve, on an everyday basis trying to deal with the Crown's dishonor. No wonder he's pissed off.

At 260 pages, the book is a solid read without becoming pedantic or redundant. It would be great if the Canadian Securities Administrators could somehow make it a precondition to being on the board of a Canadian-listed mining company to have to read *Cobalt*. As a book, it stands on its own just fine. But there's a much larger point, larger to the point of being global. Charlie uses the horrific indigenous experience in northern Ontario as a metaphor for communities around the globe displaced by invasive miners. Whether in Brazil or the DRC or Papua New Guinea, every mining exploration play is on someone's native lands. Every producing mine is in someone's backyard.

Being in someone's backyard is a challenge. You have responsibilities to your neighbors, to the government, to the industry as a whole. Not everyone is up to that challenge.

For example, I stopped by a booth at PDAC 2022 in Toronto to chat with a PGeo friend. The CEO came over to try to make an impression, with talk about the asset and the company's commitment to ESG. I asked him if he knew what ESG stood for. He didn't. Rhetorically I asked, how can you be committed to something if you don't know what it is? The CEO just laughed weakly and walked away.

An obligation to each of Environment, Social Justice and Good Governance (ESG) is a key part of any successful company, not just a miner. While ESG is largely about the company's relations with the communities around it, DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) relates to matters internal to the company. The scorched earth policies historically enacted at Cobalt and

elsewhere around the world have no place for ESG or DEI. That has to change. And you and I have to be those agents of change.

I'm pissed off, too. Get [the book](#).

---

## Vance White on the next boom in the commodity cycle

written by InvestorNews | August 10, 2022

"I would put that the cannabis and perhaps cryptocurrency markets are going to roll over into the next boom in the commodity cycle. It does not matter whether you are talking about gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc. With the evolution of the electric vehicles and demand for battery-grade nickel and cobalt components that comprise those batteries, you will see an evolution with regards to demand for those specific minerals in general. We feel very hopeful that down the road the prices for those minerals and gold will be significantly higher than what they are right now." States Vance White, President, CEO and Director of [Noble Mineral Exploration Inc.](#) (TSXV: NOB), in an interview with InvestorIntel's Tracy Weslosky.

Vance went on to discuss Noble's 2018 drill program on the Lucas Gold Project. He said that the company has identified a 1,700 meter gold mineralized trend that has the potential to host economic gold grades. Vance also provided an update on the preliminary results from mineralogical studies at Crawford Nickel-Cobalt project near Timmins. He said that the results were very encouraging from the project which is close to existing infrastructure including the Kidd Creek milling

complex.

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

Disclaimer: Noble Mineral Exploration Inc. is an advertorial member of InvestorIntel Corp.

---

# CTEC's Charles Gryba on being right in the main gold camp in Timmins

written by InvestorNews | August 10, 2022

"The biggest advantage is we have 25 square miles of ground right in the main gold camp in Timmins. Timmins has produced 75 million ounces so far. Has 25 million ounces in reserve. But the main thing with Timmins is they have been through multiple cycles. Investors in Timmins have made a hundred times their investment at least three times. They did it with Denison, they did it with Kidd Creek." States Charles Gryba, President, CEO and Director of [Central Timmins Exploration Corp.](#) (TSXV: CTEC), in an interview with InvestorIntel's Tracy Weslosky.

**Tracy Weslosky:** The reason why we are interviewing CTEC today is, you have gold in Timmins and we are trying to get the new cannabis investors investing in gold. Can you tell us what the most competitive advantage is of CTEC.

**Charles Gryba:** The biggest advantage is we have 25 square miles of ground right in the main gold camp in Timmins. Timmins has produced 75 million ounces so far. Has 25 million ounces in

reserve. But the main thing with Timmins is they have been through multiple cycles. Investors in Timmins have made a hundred times their investment at least three times. They did it with Denison, they did it with Kidd Creek. A lot of them are doing with the pot companies now. If you find a good ore body in a proven camp you can make hundred times your money the same way you can with a good pot stock.

**Tracy Weslosky:** For all us Americans that may not be familiar with Timmins. Timmins is on Ontario, Canada. With regard to your gold deposit, one thing that I liked about CTEC was your management experience. We like to follow the jockey and you have 35 years plus as an executive in gold properties.

**Charles Gryba:** I spent the first 10 years mining gold in Timmins and became president of Moneta Porcupine Mines and president of St Andrew Goldfields. So, I have got 10 years of operational experience and 30 years of foreseeing geologists to explore. It took us 15 years to put our land position in Timmins. I am looking for the extensions of the two main gold systems that between the two of them have produced about 60 million ounces of gold...to access the complete interview, [click here](#)

---

## Croft on why Pancon is outperforming the market

written by InvestorNews | August 10, 2022

“I think the reason Pancon is performing well is really a function of the quality of the people that we have and the quality of the projects that we have. We are focused on

exploring for nickel, cobalt and copper in Ontario. We have four projects. Three of them make a camp size position covering almost 14,000 hectares west of Timmins in northern Ontario.” States Layton Croft, President, CEO and Director of [Pancontinental Resources Corporation](#) (TSXV: PUC), in an interview with InvestorIntel Corp. CEO Tracy Weslosky.

**Tracy Weslosky:** Let’s just hit the ground running here. First of all, your website is incredible and number of venture capitalists that we both share in common are big fans of yours. I want to draw attention of the InvestorIntel audience that the TSX Venture is down 16% year-to-date and you guys did a newsletter on your site where you looked at battery metals and the battery metal explorers were down approximately 24% year-to-date but you guys were up 62% so let’s start there.

**Layton Croft:** That is correct Tracy. Its good to see you again. We are now producing a monthly newsletter, the Battery Metals Report, that you referred to. I think the reason Pancon is performing well is really a function of the quality of the people that we have and the quality of the projects that we have. We are focused on exploring for nickel, cobalt and copper in Ontario. We have four projects. Three of them make a camp size position covering almost 14,000 hectares west of Timmins in northern Ontario.

**Tracy Weslosky:** Layton, I applaud you. You know, core team relationships, we agree, that’s the formula for success. But also, you are putting out news releases and achieving benchmarks regularly and you recently announced exploration activity on your Timmins area project. Can you tell us a little bit more about this, the Montcalm project please?

**Layton Croft:** That’s right Tracy. The Montcalm project is where we are putting a lot of our focus these days. It covers almost

4,000 hectares and it surrounds the former Montcalm mine which is owned by Glencore. It was discovered in the 1970s by the Tech Corporation. The Montcalm mine produced in the early 2000s almost 4 million tons of nickel, cobalt and copper grading at 1.25% nickel and about a pound per ton of cobalt. Our land surrounds the former Montcalm mine and in the past few months we have been conducting state of the art airborne electromagnetic survey and gravity survey. We also have historic UTEM ground electromagnetic survey data. So as a result, we have put together, we have identified about 27 targets of interest. We are going to refine this over the coming weeks and in January we are going to start our maiden drill program at the Montcalm project...to access the complete interview, [click here](#)

Disclaimer: Pancontinental Resources Corporation is an advertorial member of InvestorIntel Corp.