



Webinar

Developing Responsible and Sustainable Strategies in the North American Critical Minerals Supply Chains

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST

Speakers Profile



John Fleming

Deputy Senior Commercial Officer

Embassy of the United States, Ottawa, Canada

[U.S. Commercial Service](#) - U.S. Department of Commerce

John Fleming is the Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. He spent the past six years serving in Asia as the Senior Commercial Officer in Rangoon and the Principal Commercial Officer in Chennai. He also served in Osaka, Atlanta, Tokyo, and Moscow. John joined the Foreign Service in 2000. Before his U.S. Government service, he spent three years with a Japanese multinational in Belgium and five years with NGOs in the Russian Far East and Cambodia. John has a B.S. from the

University of Maryland, an M.B.A. from Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium, and an M.A. in International Relations from Boston University. He speaks French, Russian, and Japanese. When not assisting U.S. firms in the Canadian market, John plays left wing for the U.S. Embassy ice hockey team.



Patrick Hum

Senior Director, Advanced Manufacturing & Material Industries Directorate

[Innovation Science and Economic Development \(ISED\)](#)

As Senior Director, Advanced Manufacturing and Material Industries Directorate, Patrick oversees the strategic planning and policy direction of manufacturing policy and analysis for Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada. His group conducts and coordinates policy and industrial analysis pertaining to the economics and business issues affecting manufacturers in Canada and leading Canadian industrial sectors, such as steel, aluminum, chemicals, and energy. Before joining the Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Strategies Branch, Patrick held positions as Senior Advisor to the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Sector, and Senior Economist in the Aerospace, Defence, and Marine Branch. Patrick holds a Masters of Business Administration from Queen's University and a Bachelors of Arts in Economics from Concordia University.



Paul Thanos

Director, [Office of Finance and Insurance Industries](#)

U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

Mr. Thanos is responsible for developing and executing policy, analysis, and promotion initiatives pertaining to finance and insurance industries, trade and project finance, corporate governance, and access to finance. Mr. Thanos is also responsible for policy solutions to new economy issues around fintech, blockchain technology, and the future of work. He leads the Department's Environmental Social Governance Investment initiative and the U.S. delegation to the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions

Committee. He manages the Department's Trade Finance Advisory Council and the Commercial Pillar of the US-UK Financial Innovation Partnership. He is a regular guest lecturer on topics ranging from trade, competitiveness, and innovation. Mr. Thanos served as the inaugural Global Trade and Investment Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and previously was a legislative aide to Senator Maria Cantwell with responsibility for trade, foreign policy, and defense issues.



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Maureen Coulas
Deputy Director, Lands and Minerals Sector
[Natural Resources Canada](#)

Maureen Coulas joined Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) in 1999 and has taken on a wide variety of responsibilities in such areas as mineral resources governance, trade, and investment promotion, recycling, and environmental management. Maureen is currently a Deputy Director in the International Affairs and Trade Division of the Lands and Minerals Sector at NRCan, where she manages a team responsible for conducting policy and industry analysis and bilateral relations with the United States, the U.K., the European Union, and European countries. Before joining the public sector, Maureen worked for several years in Toronto as a Marketing Manager for Noranda Inc., a global natural resources company, where she managed the raw materials requirements of the company's five Canadian and South American-based copper metallurgical facilities. Maureen received her undergraduate degree in Commerce from Concordia University in Montreal.



Bryan Tisch
Deputy Director, CMSR Division
[CanmetMINING](#), Natural Resources Canada

Bryan is the acting Director of the Critical Minerals and Industry Support Division of CanmetMINING at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). For the last six years, he was responsible for managing CanmetMINING's recently completed six-year, \$24M Rare Earth Element and Chromite R&D Program, and is currently working with colleagues to advance NRCan's new R&D programming for critical minerals. Bryan has a diverse environmental background in mining through more than 20 years of experience as an Environmental Scientist with CanmetMINING. His focus has been on tailings reclamation and management, particularly related to the use of organic industrial wastes for the reclamation of mine tailings. Bryan served as National President of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) for two years and has been the Ontario Chapter President/Vice President for more than 20 years. He is a recipient of the CLRA's Noranda Land Reclamation and Edward M. Watkin Awards for excellence in the field of land reclamation and has received several NRCan achievement awards. He has undergraduate and MSc degrees in Biology from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.



Dr. Grant S. Bromhal
Acting Director, Mineral Sustainability Division
[Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management](#), U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Grant S. Bromhal is Acting Director of the Mineral Sustainability Division. He is leading a team to facilitate an environmentally, economically, and geopolitically sustainable supply chain of critical minerals, from upstream through midstream to downstream, and numerous associated industries, all while protecting our environment. He comes from the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), where he is a Senior Fellow focusing on Geological and Environmental Sciences. In that role, he leads a team that conducts novel research related to carbon storage, unconventional oil and gas recovery, enhanced oil recovery, enhanced geothermal systems, and other related issues. Dr. Bromhal is the Technical Director of the Science-informed Machine Learning for Accelerating Real-Time Decisions in Subsurface Applications (SMART Initiative). Dr. Bromhal earned his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and his BS/BA degree in Civil Engineering and Math from West Virginia University.



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Michel Gagnon
CEO
[Alliance Magnesium](#)

Michel Gagnon is a financial executive with more than 35 years of experience. Michel spent most of his career in the light metal industry serving as CFO and Corporate Development at Aluminerie Alouette which is the largest primary aluminum facility in America and CEO of Alliance Magnesium, a new company developing a primary magnesium production facility in Canada. During those years, he has been quite instrumental in developing new procurement and logistics initiatives for both operational and large-scale projects to address today's challenges. Michel is a member of the Institute of Corporate Director (ICD) and was awarded "CFO of the year" in the private sector category for the province of Quebec by the Financial Executive Institute (FEI) in 2012.



Keith Phillips
President & CEO
[Piedmont Lithium](#)

Appointed on July 6, 2017, Mr. Phillips has a career on Wall Street spanning 30 years during which he has worked on strategic and financing transactions representing over \$100 billion in aggregate value. Mr. Phillips was most recently a Senior Advisor with merchant banker Maxit Capital, after leading the mining investment banking teams for Merrill Lynch, Bear Stearns, JPMorgan, and Dahlman Rose. Mr. Phillips has worked with numerous mining companies, including many established global leaders, and has dedicated most of the past decade to advising exploration and development-stage companies in achieving their strategic objectives, with a particular focus on obtaining relevance in the United States capital markets. Mr. Phillips received his Master of Business Administration from The University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Commerce from Laurentian University in Canada.



John Mullally
Country Manager Canada and Senior Director Sustainability & External Relations,
[Newmont Corporation](#)

John Mullally, based at Newmont's regional office in Vancouver, is the Senior Director, Sustainability & External Relations for Newmont in Canada. In his role, he is responsible for implementing the Newmont social and environmental strategy across Operations in Quebec and Ontario and projects in the Yukon and British Columbia. Prior to the Newmont acquisition of Goldcorp in 2019, he worked for Goldcorp for 5 years in the Sustainability & External Relations function and Energy and Climate Change. Before joining Goldcorp, he worked for Vale S.A. as the Director, Corporate Affairs, with Ernst & Young as a Management Consultant, and with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris from 2009 to 2011. John holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Dalhousie University and a Masters of Business Administration from INSEAD. John is fluent in English, French, and Spanish.



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Cristina Larrea

Lead, Sustainability Standards

[International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\)](#)

Cristina Larrea is the Lead of the Sustainability Standards workstream at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). She has 18 years of experience working in the fields of economic inclusion and sustainability with vulnerable populations in developing countries, including women, Indigenous People, and agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises. Her career path includes seven years of fieldwork with rainforest community-based organizations in Chiapas, Mexico, leading initiatives for sustainable natural resources management in agroforestry systems, while supporting agribusiness development and market access of local enterprises. In previous roles, Cristina contributed to the creation of an internationally recognized framework to measure the social, economic, and environmental impacts of investments in rural enterprises, and led initiatives to improve their bankability to access finance. Cristina holds a Master's degree in International Development from the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, an Executive Development Course from McGill, and a Bachelor in Business Administration. Before joining IISD, Cristina had served as the Senior Project Developer Consultant with the Global Green Growth Institute, Senior Project Manager with the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade, and Regional Director for Oxfam Novib's local partner in Chiapas.



Laura Turley

Associate

[International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\)](#)

Laura Turley has been working with IISD's Economic Law and Policy program since 2012, first as a project officer and currently as an associate. She has overseen projects on public procurement, sustainable infrastructure, investment policy, and voluntary sustainability standards. Laura has provided research, advisory, and training services to the governments of India, South Africa, Bhutan, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Chile, Argentina, and the East African Community. Laura is also a teaching assistant at the University of Geneva, where she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. on the topic of operating large water infrastructure under conditions of climate change and urbanization. She holds an MSc (Water Science and Policy) from the University of Oxford and a B.A. Hons (International Development) from McGill University. She teaches responsible business at the Geneva Business School and is an honorary research associate at the Smith School for Enterprise and Environment at the University of Oxford.



Danielle Woodring

Geologist & Government Affairs Lead

Center for Critical Minerals Strategy, [Securing America's Future Energy \(SAFE\)](#)

Danielle Woodring is the Geologist and Legislative Lead for Ambassador Alfred Hoffman, Jr. Center for Critical Minerals Strategy at SAFE. Danielle brings real-world geological and science policy expertise to the Center. After obtaining her Master of Science in structural geology and geological mapping, Danielle worked as a geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Geological Survey. Prior to her master's, she served as a Policy Associate for the American Geosciences Institute and worked for the American Geophysical Union. Her multi-faceted career provides her with insights into the science and policies informing all aspects of the critical minerals supply chain, from discovery and extraction to manufacturing and recycling.



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Andy Blackburn
CEO
[Niron Magnetics](#)

Anderson (Andy) Blackburn has been Chief Executive Officer at innovative materials science company Niron Magnetics since May of 2017. He brings with him more than 30 years of industry experience ranging from aerospace manufacturing to IT hardware, software, and components. Andy spent much of his career running the west coast technology practice for the Boston Consulting Group before joining Cisco Systems as a senior marketing executive focused on business strategy and pricing. He holds BS and MS degrees in Aerospace and Control Systems Engineering from Princeton and Stanford and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.



Melissa Menzies
Associate Director, Debt Capital Markets & Sustainable Finance
[Scotiabank](#)

Melissa is an Associate Director on the Sustainable Finance team within Global Banking and Markets at Scotiabank, where she provides sustainable finance and ESG advisory solutions to corporate and institutional clients and partners across Scotiabank's global footprint. She joined Scotiabank from an ESG rating and research firm, where she was responsible for assisting issuers, underwriters, and companies with sustainable finance transactions across the Americas and EMEA markets. Melissa brings experience advising corporate clients on their sustainability performance and supporting corporate sustainability benchmarking. Melissa is based in Toronto and has a Master of Environmental Studies in Sustainability Management from the University of Waterloo.



Miguel Peñaloza
Loan Officer, Structured & Project Finance
[Export-Import Bank of the United States \(EXIM\)](#)

Miguel Peñaloza joined EXIM in April 2016 and currently covers focused on Energy projects as part of the Bank's Structured & Project Finance Division. His experience includes the origination and due diligence of corporate, structured, and limited recourse transactions. Previously Miguel worked as a Senior Regional Manager at the Institute of International Finance (IIF), which is the global association of the financial industry, with nearly 500 member institutions from over 70 countries. In this role, he engaged leading financial institutions in the IIF's collaborative efforts on global financial policy and regulatory matters, with the Basel Committee, Financial Stability Board, and with policymakers from key governments, the G-20, and the IMF. Miguel holds an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland (College Park) and a B.Sc. in International Business from James Madison University.



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U.S. Government's Event Contacts for Critical Minerals



Randall Oliver
Canada Desk Officer
[U.S. Department of Commerce](#), International Trade Administration

Mr. Oliver is a Canada Desk Officer in the Global Markets unit of the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA). He is responsible for issues related to the U.S.-Canada relationship, including critical minerals. Previously, he worked in ITA's Enforcement and Compliance unit. In 2017, he was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow and joined the Department of Commerce. He received both his Bachelor's in International Studies and Master's in International Affairs from

Texas A&M University.



Nathan Donohue
Deputy Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Toronto
[U.S. Commercial Service](#), U.S. Department of Commerce

Nathan Donohue is the Deputy Principal Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, supporting an office of seven trade professionals assisting U.S. companies with market access and trade promotion in Ontario, Canada. Nathan previously served as a Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Commerce, Nathan worked for the State Department's Office of Export

Control Cooperation. Nathan has almost 10 years of government and policy experience including policy analysis and consulting for various arms control associations and national security firms.



Luz Betancur
Commercial Specialist, Embassy of United States, Ottawa, Canada
[U.S. Commercial Service](#) - U.S. Department of Commerce,

Luz coordinates trade promotion and advocacy programs for U.S. firms looking to export to Canada. She is the national sector coordinator under defense & aerospace, oceans, maritime port security, and develops trade promotion activities in Canada's Arctic. Luz is the Commerce Department's liaison in Canada for industry engagement programs under the U.S.-Canada Action Plan on Critical Minerals Cooperation. Luz holds a B.A. in Business Administration and a Post-Graduate degree in Management of Commercial

Enterprises from Universidad del Norte, Colombia, and executive certificates in Global Negotiations, Global Finance, and Business Analytics from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. Luz is a recipient of the United States Department of Commerce's Bronze Medal Award for Superior Federal Service. Luz is fluent in Spanish and enjoys biking, traveling, artistic painting, and reading.



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Shweta Nagpal

Commercial Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Toronto

[U.S. Commercial Service](#), U.S. Department of Commerce

Shweta Nagpal is a Commercial Specialist based in the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Canada. Shweta's role includes developing strategies and implementing trade promotion programs to help U.S. businesses in the critical minerals & mining, infrastructure, ITC, and advanced manufacturing sectors. She also supports bilateral activities under the U.S.-Canada Action Plan for Critical Minerals Cooperation. Prior to this, Shweta worked with the UK Department for International Trade in Canada and India. In India, Shweta

also worked extensively with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) focusing on policy, advocacy, and diplomatic relations. Shweta holds an MBA in Marketing and Finance. A nature lover, she enjoys hiking and camping.

U.S. Government's Event Contact for Environmental Technologies



Ozlem Toplu

Commercial Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Toronto

[U.S. Commercial Service](#), U.S. Department of Commerce

Ozlem Toplu is a Commercial Specialist based in the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Canada. Among other sectors, Ozlem covers Environmental Technologies, Travel and Tourism, Healthcare, and Education. Before her current role, Ozlem worked for Natural Resources Canada in Montreal as a Commercialization Officer, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara as the Economic Specialist in charge

of the energy portfolio. With an international background and experience in both government and private sectors, Ozlem holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management from the Louis Pasteur University of Strasbourg in France. An ultrarunner and triathlete, she enjoys training for various races and hiking with her dogs.