

# RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

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## Altius Minerals Corp.

(ALS:TSXV)

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### Nevada in Newfoundland

#### The Search For New Gold Deposits Gains Momentum

Spurred on by the rising gold price, the major gold producers are now firmly committed to finding new gold deposits. That search has taken the explorers around the world. However, North America remains the destination of choice for all of the gold companies, especially with rising tensions spreading to areas that were once considered safe. Even the overseas companies are bearing the pain of paying North American prices to get involved in exploration here.

As the gold companies continue to grow ever larger through mergers, the hurdle rate is moving up. The focus among the majors is now exclusively on finding massive deposits. Even deposits with a few million ounces are no longer of interest, as the bar has now been raised to 10 million ounces, or even larger in some companies. Those ounces don't necessarily need to come in one deposit, but they must see that sort of potential in a district over which they are a dominant player.

#### An Important New Discovery

In 1996, two young geology students named Brian Dalton and Roland Butler were staking claims and selling them to mining companies to pay their way through university. One of their prospecting treks took them

to a region of central Newfoundland known as the Botwood Basin, that had turned up sporadic gold showings. They were intrigued enough to turn their findings into theses. The concept of a sediment-hosted epithermal gold district in Newfoundland helped to earn their degrees, but initially was not taken too seriously by the mining industry. You see, this young duo was suggesting that central Newfoundland had similar geology to the Carlin Trend of Nevada. That belt of rocks hosts more gold than any region in the world outside of South Africa.

Some astute financiers who had seen Dalton and Butler at work helped to set up a company for the duo even before they finished their geology degrees. During the dark days of the gold industry, that company – Altius Minerals (ALS-TSXV) – had a simple business strategy: Acquire properties cheaply and get other companies to spend money on them. They were fascinated with the Botwood Basin concept, yet it took years of efforts to accumulate enough hard data to begin to sell the concept of Nevada in Newfoundland to a major mining company.

It is now widely accepted that the Botwood Basin region is a geological analog of the Carlin Trend of Nevada and the adjacent areas of northeastern Nevada. However there are some important differences between the two regions: Newfoundland was swept by glaciers in the ice ages, and the province is covered with forests and swamps, making it difficult to get a good look at the rocks. It took the youthful enthusiasm and dedication of the

Altius team to gather enough information to make a convincing story.

Before getting into joint venture talks with majors, Altius had locked up vast tracts of ground, covering 90 kilometers of one of the main features of the Botwood Basin, known as the Mustang Trend. That region is characterized by a series of calcareous marine sediments locally overlain by clastic sedimentary rocks that were thrust over the calcareous units. Anybody familiar with the Carlin Trend will recognize the close similarities, and may be surprised that even the ages of the rock units are the same.

#### Secondary Trends Also Parallel Nevada Geology

Before taking their story public, the Altius team also locked up substantial portions of two other geological trends in the Botwood Basin that carried gold values. Those secondary trends in the area of the main trend are also a feature of Nevada geology.

Early in the evolution of the Botwood story, Altius optioned a portion of its Moosehead property to Sudbury Contact Mines (SUD-TSX) based on some impressive gold values found on surface. (Sudbury Contact is an exploration company controlled by Agnico Eagle (AGE-TSX), which operates the LaRonde gold-copper mine in Quebec.) Three drilling programs on the Moosehead project have produced some impressive results, including 17.1 meters grading 10.0 g/t

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