

Benton and Sokoman Report First Drill Assay Results from the Kraken Pegmatite Field - Golden Hope Project, SW Newfoundland

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The 8.4 metre pegmatite dike averaged 0.95% Li₂O with grades hitting a high of 1.76% Li₂O

Thunder Bay, March 24, 2022 - [Benton Resources Inc.](#) (TSXV: BEX) ("Benton") and [Sokoman Minerals Corp.](#) (TSXV: SIC) (OTCQB: SICNF) ("Sokoman") together, ("the Alliance") are pleased to report the first assay results from the 1,025 m reconnaissance drilling program, that tested the recently discovered Kraken pegmatite field on the Golden Hope Joint Venture Property in southwestern Newfoundland. The samples were cut from an 8.40 m wide (drilled thickness), spodumene-bearing, pegmatite dike that returned the following assays:

Widths reported are believed to be 90% of true thickness

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:

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Assay values ranged from 0.08% to 1.76% Li₂O reflecting variations of spodumene content, and the presence of occasional barren wall rock or quartz vein inclusions, averaging 0.95% Li₂O over 8.40 m from 47.8 to 56.2 m. Other pegmatite dikes ranging from 0.40 m to 2.30 m with variable spodumene content were also intersected in hole GH-22-01 with assays pending. Gold analysis results from the host sericite schist units carrying variable pyrite are also pending. All samples submitted, 1,165 including blanks and standards, for the remainder of GH-22-01 as well as for holes GH-22-02 to 06 are pending.

Golden Hope Project - Kraken Pegmatite Swarm Drilling/Sampling Update

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https://orders.newsfilecorp.com/files/3657/117981_map1.png

The 1,025 m program focused on a 100 m by 150 m area in the vicinity of the initial discovery (see map), which included more than 100 float and outcrop grab samples and composite chip samples, that returned lithium values ranging from 0.05% to 2.37% Li₂O. Multiple mineralized, spodumene-bearing dikes were intersected in all drill holes ranging from less than 1.0 m to 8.40 m in drilled thickness (true thicknesses believed to be 90% of drilled thickness), from surface to approximately 50 m vertically below surface. The Kraken pegmatite field has been sampled over a strike length of 2,200 metres and an apparent width of 1,200 metres, and historical assessment work reports pegmatite dikes exposed up to 6 kilometres along trend.

All samples have been shipped to Activation Laboratories in Ancaster, Ontario for multi-element analysis including lithium, tantalum, cesium and other rare/critical metals by Sodium Peroxide Fusion ICPOES + ICPMS. Gold will be analyzed by fire assay.

The property lies along the Bay d'Est fault system, a gold prospective fault structure in southern Newfoundland that extends through the Sokoman/Benton licences. The Alliance continues to evaluate historical data for significant gold and lithium mineralization and will restart ground prospecting and follow-up exploration once weather conditions permit.

Benton's President and CEO Stephen Stares, states: "The first drill hole drilled for lithium on the Island of Newfoundland has confirmed good grades of lithium comparable to other lithium pegmatite systems worldwide. We've barely scratched the surface of this extensive system and we're anxious to get back on the

ground, prospecting, sampling, mapping and drilling and completing more regional exploration in general. Both companies are very well financed to execute our upcoming field season plans. I'm confident that this summer will unveil excellent value for our shareholders."

Sokoman's President and CEO Tim Froude, comments: "The Alliance is pleased with the first assays from our recon drilling program at the Kraken pegmatite field. Our objectives for the program were to establish significant lithium values to depth and to better understand the distribution and orientation of the dikes - the results have confirmed our objectives, with grades reported comparing favourably to many global lithium projects currently known. We wish to emphasize that we have just scratched the surface with the exploration to date, and that we have extensive work ahead of us to establish the limits of the dike swarm given that previous workers have reported pegmatites at least six kilometres on trend from the area just drilled. The Alliance is purchasing a camp to facilitate a larger drill program that will be put in place once we receive all required permits. In the meantime, as soon as conditions allow, we will be prospecting and sampling the many reported dike occurrences beyond the area already sampled to establish the true extent of the lithium-enriched dike swarm."

The Alliance has created a short video for this announcement. Investors can watch it [HERE](#).

QP

This news release has been reviewed and approved by Timothy Froude, P. Geo., President and CEO of [Sokoman Minerals Corp.](#) a 'Qualified Person' under National Instrument 43-101.

COVID-19 Protocols

To ensure a working environment that protects the health and safety of the staff and contractors, Benton and Sokoman will continue to use best practices in the course of performing our work programs and will follow any future federal or provincially mandated or recommended COVID-19 guidelines.

About Benton Resources Inc.

Benton Resources Inc. is a well-funded mineral exploration company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol BEX. Following a project generation business model, Benton has a diversified, highly prospective property portfolio in Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Lithium, and Platinum Group Elements and currently holds large equity positions in other mining companies that are advancing high-quality assets. Whenever possible, BEX retains Net Smelter Return (NSR) royalties for potential long-term cash flow. In 2021, Benton entered into a 50/50 strategic alliance with [Sokoman Minerals Corp.](#) (TSXV: SIC) through three large-scale joint-venture properties including Grey River Gold, Golden Hope and Kepenkeck in Newfoundland that are now being explored.

About Sokoman Minerals Corp.

[Sokoman Minerals Corp.](#) is a discovery-oriented company with projects in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The company's primary focus is its portfolio of gold projects: flagship, 100%-owned Moosehead, Crippleback Lake (optioned to [Trans Canada Gold Corp.](#)) and East Alder (optioned to [Canterra Minerals Corp.](#)) along the Central Newfoundland Gold Belt, and the district-scale Fleur de Lys project in northwestern Newfoundland, that is targeting Dalradian-type orogenic gold mineralization similar to the Curraghinalt and Cavanacaw deposits in Northern Ireland, and Cononish in Scotland. The company has also entered into a strategic alliance (the Alliance) with Benton Resources Inc. through three large-scale joint-venture properties including Grey River Gold, Golden Hope and Kepenkeck on the island of Newfoundland. Sokoman now controls independently and through the Alliance over 150,000 hectares (>6,000 claims - 1,500 sq. km), making it one of the largest landholders in Newfoundland, Canada's newest and rapidly-emerging gold district. Sokoman also retains an interest in an early-stage antimony/gold project (Startrek) in Newfoundland, optioned to White Metal Resources Inc., and in Labrador, the company has a 100% interest in the Iron Horse (Fe) project that has Direct Shipping Ore (DSO) potential.

For further information, please contact:

CHF Capital Markets
Cathy Hume, CEO
Phone: 416-868-1079 x 251
Email: cathy@chfir.com

Benton Resources Inc.
Stephen Stares, President & CEO
Phone: 807-475-7474
Email: sstares@bentonresources.ca

[Sokoman Minerals Corp.](#)
Timothy Froude, P. Geo., President & CEO
Phone: 709-765-1726
Email: tim@sokomanmineralscorp.com

Website: www.bentonresources.ca, www.sokomanmineralscorp.com
Twitter: @BentonResources, @SokomanMinerals
Facebook: @BentonResourcesBEX, @SokomanMinerals
LinkedIn: @BentonResources, @SokomanMinerals

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