



First Cobalt Announces \$7 Million Exploration Program for 2018

TORONTO, ON — (January 16, 2018) – First Cobalt Corp. (TSX-V: FCC, ASX: FCC, OTCQB: FTSSF) (the “Company”) is pleased to announce its 2018 exploration program for its Cobalt Camp properties in Ontario, Canada. The C\$7 million program includes over 26,000m of drilling on 13 different targets.

The 2018 program is a significant expansion over 2017 exploration activities and will test mineralized areas throughout the Cobalt Camp proximal to more than ten past-producing mines known to contain cobalt in addition to new targets within three regional areas. The drill program will test cobalt targets occurring in different styles of mineralization and in diverse geological settings.

Highlights

- 26,500m of drilling planned at 13 targets across the Cobalt Camp, testing different geological settings
- Geophysical testing techniques including downhole and ground geophysical surveys, televiwer surveys, soil geochemistry will be applied in some areas to refine targets in this program
- Regional mapping and prospecting will be conducted throughout the Camp with emphasis on the highly under-explored Central Cobalt area
- Digitization and 3D modelling of 100 years of data are ongoing to facilitate new structural interpretations for drilling target follow-up in 2018

Trent Mell, President & Chief Executive Officer, commented:

“Having consolidated the Cobalt Camp land package, the objective of the 2018 drill program is to use our strong treasury to blanket the Camp, testing the near-surface potential of many areas with different styles of mineralization and diverse geological settings that have never been assessed for their cobalt content. In addition to Keeley-Frontier, twelve new properties will be drilled on our 100 km² land package, including Bellellen, Drummond, Silver Banner and Silverfields.”

Frank Santaguida, Vice President, Exploration added:

“Preliminary exploration activities in 2017 provided valuable insights on structural controls in various areas of the Camp. We have undertaken a review of the historical records as well as integrated new data from the Camp and, with our expanded team and increased budget, now plan to target at least 13 different areas over the year. The broad range of cobalt mineralization styles and associated metals such as silver, nickel, copper, zinc and lead require a widespread, systematic approach across the Camp. We are also looking at applying innovative methods and techniques to maximize the efficiency of this program.”

2018 Cobalt Camp Program

The 26,500 metre drilling program has been designed to test mineralized areas throughout the Cobalt Camp with known historical production of cobalt and silver. These areas include the Kerr, Drummond, Juno, Ophir, Hamilton, Silver Banner and Silverfields mines in Cobalt North, the Caswell mine in Cobalt Central, and the Bellellen, Keeley and Frontier mines in Cobalt South (Figure 1).

Results from the 2017 drill program indicate that cobalt occurs as different styles of mineralization in the Cobalt Camp largely due to different geological settings. This program will test several prospective areas to ascertain near-surface mineralization potential. Shallow surface drilling methods, such as reverse circulation drilling will be utilized at some prospects prior to diamond drilling to more accurately define the extent and dip character of the veins and determine if cobalt grades are sufficient for follow-up.

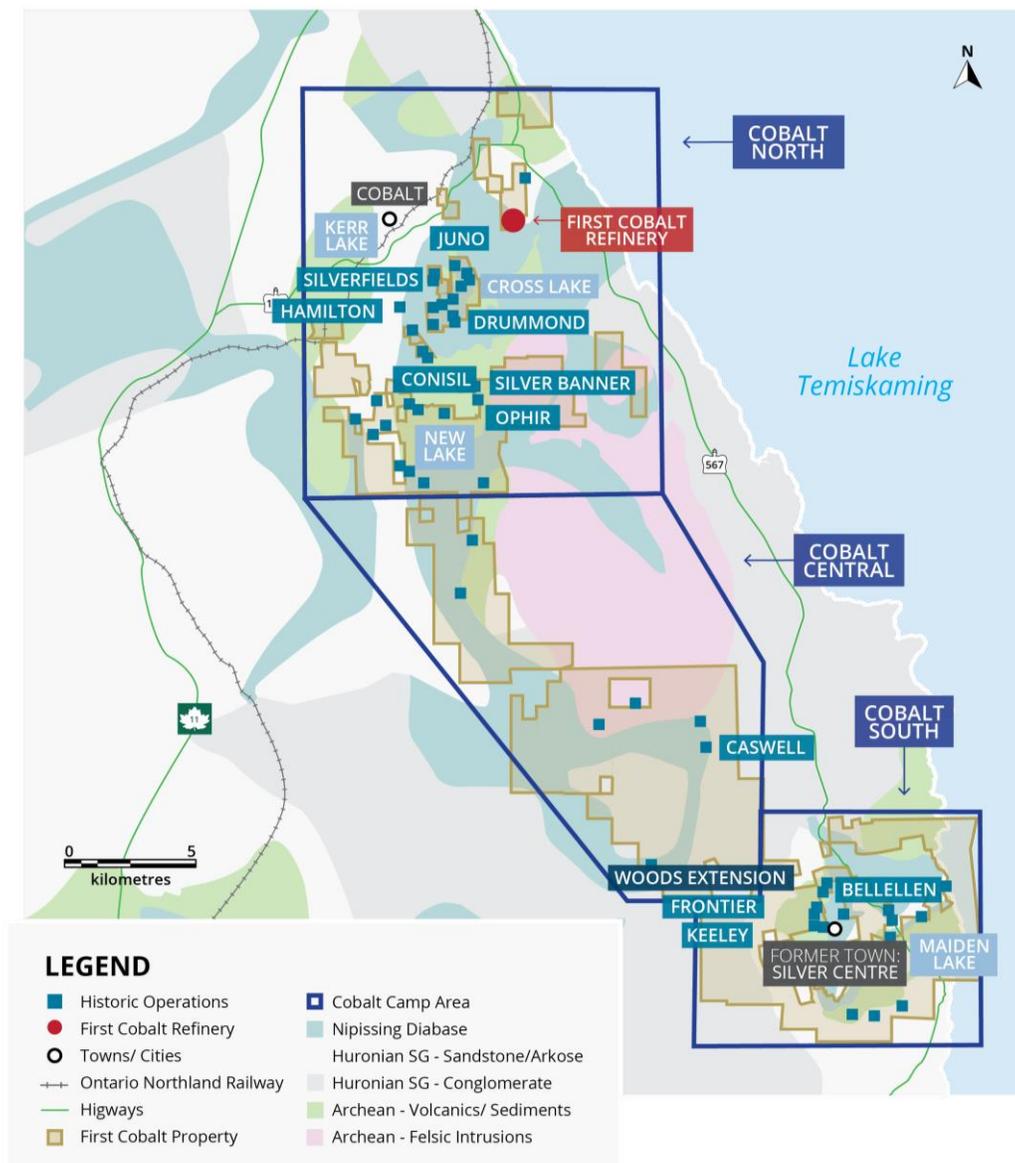


Figure 1. Regional bedrock geology of the Cobalt Camp showing target areas for exploration work in 2018.

Downhole geophysical surveys and televiwer surveys will be done on selected holes throughout the year based on the successful application of these methods in the 2017 program. The intention of these surveys is to identify possible extensions of cobalt-bearing veins beyond the holes and to better define the orientation of veins and other host-rock structures for further drill targeting.

Regional mapping and prospecting programs will start in the spring and run through the summer and fall throughout the Camp with emphasis on the Central Cobalt. This area was historically highly under-explored. In addition, soil geochemical and ground geophysical techniques will be used in some areas to better define the extent of cobalt mineralization prior to drilling the known vein systems

A new NI 43-101 technical report is being compiled on the consolidated land package including recently acquired claims and including results from the 2017 drill program. This report is anticipated for completion during the first quarter of calendar 2018.

Target Areas

Cobalt North

First Cobalt's properties in the Cobalt North area include the past-producing Drummond, Kerr, Silver Banner, Juno, Silverfields, Hamilton, Ophir, Lawson and Conisil mines. Operations in this area accounted for over 80% of the historic silver production. Cobalt has not previously been an exploration focus in this area and exploration activities in the 1980's and 1990's focused on Cu-Zn-Pb mineralization within the volcanic rocks. Cobalt had not been assayed previously, so potential for an extensive polymetallic mineralization system remains to be explored. Muckpile grab samples from the Juno and Drummond mines returned grades of up to 3.9% cobalt, up to 1.63% zinc, and up to 4,990 g/t silver (see October 26, 2017 and December 4, 2017 press releases).

Cobalt Central

A prospecting program near the Caswell mine announced November 21, 2017 returned elevated base metal values, with samples up to 9.44% cobalt, up to 1.27% copper and up to 2.92% nickel. Caswell appears to be an enriched cobalt vein system similar to other targets throughout the Camp although most of the cobalt at Caswell is hosted by Nipissing Diabase, in contrast to mafic volcanic rocks that are more commonly associated with cobalt mineralization.

Silver is conspicuously low in all samples collected in the Caswell area and low silver content in these mines is believed to have precluded any significant production, making this an ideal target for soil and till geochemical surveys, ground geophysical surveying and drilling.

Cobalt South

The Bellellen mine will be the primary focus of the initial 3,000 metres of drilling planned in Cobalt South, in addition to follow up drilling at the Keeley and Frontier mines. A further 2,000 metres of drilling is contemplated in the Maiden Lake region later in the year based on the results of regional exploration work.

Sampling from Bellellen in 2017 returned high grade cobalt values in fracture and disseminated material, including grades of up to 3.76% cobalt (see September 28, 2017 press release). Historically, the Bellellen mine contained high cobalt content relative to silver, thus it struggled to be economically viable in a silver mining era.

Other Company Business

The Company is also pleased to announce that Canaccord Genuity Corp. ("Canaccord") has elected to accept the fee it is entitled to receive in connection to the mergers with Cobalt One Limited and CobalTech Mining Inc. in equity of the Company. Canaccord acted as the Company's financial advisor in connection with both transactions and is entitled to receive 1,566,933 common shares of the Company as a result of their successful completion.

The Company has also completed a final tranche of its previously announced private placement and has issued a further 151,364 units at a price of C\$1.10 per unit, for aggregate proceeds of C\$165,500. Each "unit" consists of one common share of the Company, and one-half-of-one common share purchase warrant. Each full warrant entitles the holder to purchase a further common share of the Company at a price of C\$1.50 for a period of twenty-four months. For further information regarding the private placement, readers are encouraged to review the Company's news release of December 21, 2017.

All securities issued in the private placement, and to be issued to Canaccord, are subject to a four-month-and-one-day statutory hold period. Issuance of the shares is subject to the approval of the TSX Venture Exchange.

Qualified and Competent Person Statement

Dr. Frank Santaguida, P.Geo., is the Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 who has reviewed and approved the contents of this news release. Dr. Santaguida is also a Competent Person (as defined in the JORC Code, 2012 edition) who is a practicing member of the Association of Professional Geologists of Ontario (being a 'Recognised Professional Organisation' for the purposes of the ASX Listing Rules). Dr. Santaguida is employed on a full-time basis as Vice President, Exploration for First Cobalt. He has sufficient experience that is relevant to the activity being undertaken to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the JORC Code.

About First Cobalt

First Cobalt is the largest land owner in the Cobalt Camp in Ontario, Canada. The Company controls over 10,000 hectares of prospective land and 50 historic mines as well as a mill and the only permitted cobalt refinery in North America capable of producing battery materials. First Cobalt began drilling in the Cobalt Camp in 2017 and seeks to build shareholder value through new discovery and growth opportunities.

On behalf of First Cobalt Corp.

Trent Mell
President & Chief Executive Officer

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release may contain forward-looking statements and forward-looking information (together, "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable securities laws and the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Generally, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of terminology such as "plans", "expects", "estimates", "intends", "anticipates", "believes" or variations of such words, or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might", "occur" or "be achieved". Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results, performance and opportunities to differ materially from those implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include the reliability of the historical data referenced in this press release and risks set out in First Cobalt's public documents, including in each management discussion and analysis, filed on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Although First Cobalt believes that the information and assumptions used in preparing the forward-looking statements are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on these statements, which only apply as of the date of this news release, and no assurance can be given that such events will occur in the disclosed times frames or at all. Except where required by applicable law, First Cobalt disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.