

# Earth Sciences

## Colloquium Series

### Dr. Keith Barron

CEO, President and Chairman at Aurania Resources Ltd.

## Repurposing Asbestos Mine Waste for Europe's Critical Metals Program



**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2026

**Time:** 1:30 pm

**Location:** BGS 0153

This story begins with declassified WW2 documents, a tale of subterfuge to defeat the Nazis, a chance discovery from Google Earth and a classic situation of “being in the right place at the right time”.

The European Union derives 45% of its nickel requirements from Russia; predominantly from Norilsk. Several years ago an accord was signed between Germany, Italy and France to explore for and develop domestic supplies of critical metals; particularly nickel and cobalt, so that Europe could in the least amount of time produce materials for electric vehicle batteries to combat carbon dioxide emissions and hence global warming. Buried in some dusty archives was at least part of the answer. You will have to attend my talk for the big reveal.

#### About the Speaker

Dr. Keith Barron is an economic geologist and mining entrepreneur with more than four decades of international exploration experience. He is best known as co-founder of Aurelian Resources, which discovered the Fruta del Norte gold deposit in Ecuador, earning the PDAC Thayer Lindsley International Discovery Award. He received his PhD in Geology from Western University.

*Coffee and Timbits will be served.*