THE SAMATOSUM DEPOSIT DISCOVERY, GEOLOGY AND GENESIS.

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The Samatosum deposit is located on the Adams Plateau approximately 65km north of Kamloops, British Columbia. It was discovered in June 1986 by Minnova Incorporated when the 64th diamond drillhole on the property intersected 0.9m of massive sulphides containing 9.3% Cu, 7.8% Zn, 6.9% Pb, 2700g/T Ag and 3.8g/T Au. Subsequent drilling has outlined a deposit of 600,000 tonnes grading 1.2% Cu, 3.5% Zn, 1.7% Pb, 1100g/T Ag and 1.8g/T Au.

The sulphides are hosted by Devonian age rocks of the Eagle Bay Formation. They are within a mixed package of mafic pyroclastics, epiclastics, chert and sediments at a distinct transition from mafic volcanics to sediments. Principal ore sulphides are tetrahedrite, sphalerite and galena with minor chalcopyrite. In addition large amounts of pyrite surround the deposit. The deposit is considered to be syngenetic in origin. Initially the mineralizing solutions deposited mainly pyrite, but as the system matured and the early formed sulphides became buried a lot of the pyrite was replaced by tetrahedrite and sphalerite. Much later, deformation would affect the deposit by remobilizing some of the sulphides into quartz veins but no addition of metals occurred.

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