

July 28, 2022

# **Cameco Corporation**

# Uranium on-track, increasing focus on future capital allocation plans

**Our view:** We think Cameco and the uranium market remain on-track for improvements over the next several years, supported by rising demand, tightening supply, and increased attention on security of supply by Western utilities. We expect rising cash generation over the next few years could result in >\$1.5B net cash by end-2025, increasing the focus on future capital allocation priorities.

## **Key points:**

Uranium steady for now while utilities focused on securing services: Uranium market activity slowed through Q2 and continues relatively quiet in early-Q3 as buyers (especially in the Western regions) remain focused on securing downstream services in conversion and enrichment. Cameco noted this dynamic several times during the conference call and cited strong contracting activity in Fuel Services while uranium activity has moved to the back burner — this is in-line with commentary from industry contacts. As downstream services are secured, we expect fuel buyers turn their attention toward securing uranium, which should spur further uranium contracting activity. Additionally, we continue to expect Western utilities de-risk and pivot away from Russian enrichment exposure, which may result in higher uranium demand as prior underfeed turns into overfeed at Western enrichers (see our previous note on this dynamic). However, the immediate risk from missed deliveries appears lower for now given government allowances for Russian shipments. We have lowered our spot price forecasts in 2022/2023/2024 to \$51/\$60/\$65 per pound, from \$57/\$75/75, and maintain term starting in 2023 at \$65/lb.

Strong cash position expected to grow: Cameco is currently in a strong cash position with \$1.4B cash and \$1.0B debt. We expect the cash position to grow over the next several years due to rising cash generation (\$260M, \$509M, and \$633M FCF in 2023, 2024, and 2025) from increased production into a rising price environment, along with the eventual return of ~\$300M cash held by the CRA related to the historical tax dispute. Combined, we see line of sight to >\$1.5B net cash by end-2025.

Plenty of options for capital allocation: As the cash balance builds, in addition to capital return, we see several potential options for investment including — 1) GLE (Global Laser Enrichment, currently valued at ~\$1.3B), Cameco has the option to increase ownership in GLE to 75% (currently 49%) starting 2023; 2) expand McArthur/Key capacity to 25Mlbs, from 18Mlbs (100% basis); 3) acquire a developing uranium project in the Athabasca basin; and/or 4) re-start tier 2 assets. We think increasing GLE ownership and expanding McArthur are most likely in the near-to-medium term, while adding a new project in the Athabasca basin is possible long-term.

**Reiterate Outperform rating at \$45 PT:** We maintain our NAV per share estimate and P/NAV multiple at ~\$30/sh and 1.5x.

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# **Outperform**

TSX: CCO; CAD 32.20; NYSE: CCJ

**Price Target CAD 45.00** 

WHAT'S INSIDE	
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## Scenario Analysis\*

4	Downside Scenario	Current Price	Price Target	Upside Scenario	
	20.00 <b>↓</b> 38%	32.20	45.00 <del>↑</del> 40%	60.00 <del>↑</del> 87%	<b>—</b>

\*Implied Total Returns

#### **Key Statistics**

Shares O/S (MM):	399.6	Market Cap (MM):	12,867
Dividend:	0.12	Yield:	0.4%
NAVPS:	29.88	P/NAVPS:	1.08x
		Tr. 12 ROE:	2.90%
		Enterprise Val. (MM):	12,437
		Avg. Daily Volume:	2,273,952
		3-Yr. Est. EPS Growth:	65.00%

#### **RBC Estimates**

FY Dec	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E
EPS, Adj Diluted	(0.25)	0.09	0.44	0.80
Prev.		0.04	0.62	0.87
EBITDA, Adj	113.9	292.2	604.7	796.1
Prev.		258.1	681.2	818.4
EPS, Adj Diluted	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2021	(0.07)A	(0.10)A	(0.14)A	0.06A
2022	0.04A	0.18A	(0.12)E	(0.01)E
Prev.		(0.09)E	(0.01)E	0.09E
2023	0.08E	0.07E	0.20E	0.09E
Prev.	0.13E	0.12E	0.23E	0.13E
EBITDA, Adj				
2021	17.0A	8.8A	(5.1)A	93.3A
2022	71.6A	152.7A	(1.0)E	69.0E
Prev.	70.6A	4.6E	56.9E	125.9E
2023	136.2E	130.9E	138.7E	198.8E
Prev.	159.3E	153.9E	156.2E	211.9E

All values in CAD unless otherwise noted.

Priced as of prior trading day's market close, EST (unless otherwise noted).



Exhibit 1 - RBC Cameco Model

Cameco Corporation RBC Capital Markets / Andrew Wong (416) 842-7830						Price Target: C\$45.00 Rating: Outperform														
TSX: CCO; NYSE: CCJ	8 (410) 042	Market Ca	pitalizatior Value (C\$!			\$12,867 \$12,437				Share Price (C\$/sh): \$32.20 Implied Return (%): 39.8%				Net Debt (C\$M): (\$ Issued Shares (diluted)					(\$430) 400	
ASSUMPTIONS SUMMARY		2019A	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	2029E	2030E	2031E	2032E	2033E	2034E	2035E	2036E	2037E
USD/CAD		\$0.75	\$0.75	\$0.80	\$0.78	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77	\$0.77
Uranium Spot Price (US\$/lb U3O8)		\$26	\$29	\$35	\$51	\$60	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65
Uranium Term Price (US\$/lb U3O8)		\$32	\$32	\$35	\$50	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65	\$65
OPERATIONS		2019A	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E		URANIUM SEGMENT OPERATIONS BREA				KDOWN						
Uranium Segment																				
McArthur River (70% ownership)		0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	8.4	10.5	10.5		25		Arthur River/I ii (40%), uncc	Key Lake (70% Isolidated	6 ownership)			igar Lake/McC ash COGS/lb (			\$60
Cigar Lake (50%)		9.0	5.1	6.1	9.5	8.2	7.4	7.4		_										450
Inkai (40%)		3.4	2.8	3.6	3.2	4.1	4.1	3.8		(Sq 20										\$50
Total Attributable Production	Mlbs	12	8	10	14	21	22	22		ction (7										% 00 Costs (C\$/lb)
Sales Volume	Mlbs	31.5	30.5	24.2	25.0	25.0	23.9	22.6		ducti										\$30 \$
Realized Price	C\$/lb	\$45	\$46	\$43	\$63	\$62	\$66	\$74		Produ										Cos
	C\$/15	<b>V</b> .5	<b>\$10</b>	ŷ-13	ÇÜŞ	Ç02	ÇÜÜ	φ,		E .										\$20 <del>L</del> S
Market Purchases	Mlbs	15.0	29.6	5.8	12.0	5.5	2.0	1.0		Uraniu 2										\$10
Ending Inventory	Mlbs	6.1	15.3	8.0	9.1	10.3	10.3	10.3												\$0
										0 -	2019A	2020	A 2	021A	2022E	2023E	202	14E	2025E	
Cash Production Costs	C\$M	\$164	\$87	\$92	\$157	\$282	\$304	\$304												
Cash Production Costs/lb	C\$/lb	\$20	\$29	\$16	\$15	\$17	\$17	\$17		EBITDA BY	SEGMENT	(C\$M)								
Control Decident Cold										\$1,200		Fuel Se	ervices	Uraniun	n	Inkai JV	—— Corpo	rate EBITDA		
Cost of Product Sold		\$878	\$1,068	\$840	\$1,055	\$1,001	\$838	\$716												
Royalties Care and Maintenance		\$32 \$121	\$16 \$150	\$15 \$166	\$50 \$189	\$136 \$74	\$166 \$50	\$200 \$50		\$1,000										
Other costs		\$11	\$130	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$4	\$4		\$800										
Total Cash Costs	C\$M	\$1,042	\$1,245	\$1,027	\$1,299	\$1,215	\$1,058	\$970												
D&A		\$175	\$155	\$135	\$156	\$260	\$275	\$275		\$600										
Total COGS	C\$M	\$1,217	\$1,400	\$1,162	\$1,455	\$1,475	\$1,334	\$1,246		\$400										
Cash COGS/lb (incl. royalties)	C\$/lb	\$33	\$41	\$42	\$52	\$49	\$44	\$43		\$200										
Fuel Services Segment										\$0 —										
Production	M KgU	13.4	11.7	12.1	13.0	13.6	13.6	13.6		\$0	2019A	202	DA	2021A	2022E		2023E	2024E	202	5E
Sales Volume	M KgU	14.2	13.5	13.6	10.9	13.6	13.6	13.6		VALUATIO	N (Balance	Sheet Ite	ms @ End-	22E)						
Realized Price	C\$/KgU	\$26	\$27	\$30	\$34	\$34	\$34	\$34		Segments			CAD\$M	US\$M		Balance S			CAD\$M	US\$M
Carlo Carlo		400.	400.	40.0	4.00	400=	4004	4004		Uranium			\$9,745	\$7,757		Net Debt			\$115	\$92
Cash Costs D&A		\$234	\$234	\$243	\$196	\$237	\$231	\$231		Fuel Servic	es		\$1,651	\$1,314			Assets (excl	. cash)	\$887	\$706
Total COGS	C\$M	\$46 <b>\$280</b>	\$46 <b>\$280</b>	\$43 <b>\$286</b>	\$40 <b>\$235</b>	\$53 <b>\$290</b>	\$54 <b>\$285</b>	\$54 <b>\$285</b>		SG&A			(\$726)	(\$578)		Net Asset Value \$11,93			\$11,938	\$9,502
Cash COGS/KgU	C\$/KgU	\$17	\$17	\$18	\$18	\$17	\$17	\$17		F.D. Shares	O/S (M)		400	400		P/NAV Mu	Multiple 1.50x			1.50x
	C\$/1.60	Ų1,	Ų.,	<b>\$10</b>	710	Ų.,	Ų.,	Ų.,		NAV (\$/sha			\$29.9	\$23.8		Valuation			\$45	\$36
All C\$ millions, unless noted																				
INCOME STATEMENT (C\$M)		2019A	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E		CASH FLOV				2019A	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue		\$1,863	\$1,800	\$1,475	\$1,829	\$2,021	\$2,030	\$2,139		Cash Flows		erating Act	ivities	4						
Operating Costs		\$1,492	\$1,646	\$1,429	\$1,665	\$1,587	\$1,424	\$1,336		Net Income	e			\$74	(\$53)	(\$103)	\$72	\$176	\$319	\$460
EBITDA  EBITDA (incl. Inkai)	CAD CAD	\$371 \$417	\$154 \$190	\$46 \$114	\$164 \$292	\$434 \$605	\$606 \$796	\$803 \$967		D&A Non-Recur	ring/Othor		CAD	\$276 \$64	\$209 \$102	\$190 \$68	\$200 \$4	\$313 (\$51)	\$330 (\$25)	\$330 (\$21)
D&A	CAD	(\$276)	(\$209)	(\$190)	(\$200)	(\$313)	(\$330)	(\$330)		Operating			CAD	\$414	\$258	\$156	\$277	\$438	\$624	\$769
EBIT	CAD	\$512	\$136	(\$31)	\$256	\$725	\$1,072	\$1,440		Changes in		anital	CAD	\$113	(\$201)	\$310	(\$186)	(\$49)	\$21	\$0
Other Income/Expenses		\$423	\$196	\$70	\$206	\$505	\$673	\$865		Net Opera			CAD	\$527	\$57	\$466	\$91	\$389	\$645	\$769
EBT (Adj)	CAD	\$89	(\$61)	(\$100)	\$50	\$220	\$399	\$575												,
Taxes (Adj)		(\$48)	(\$6)	\$2	(\$13)	(\$44)	(\$80)	(\$115)		Cash Flows	From Inv	esting Acti	vities							
Net Income	CAD	\$41	(\$66)	(\$98)	\$37	\$176	\$319	\$460		Net Capital	Expenditu	ıres		(\$75)	(\$77)	(\$99)	(\$149)	(\$129)	(\$136)	(\$136)
Earnings - Adjusted (\$/sh)	CAD	\$0.10	(\$0.17)	(\$0.25)	\$0.09	\$0.44	\$0.80	\$1.15		Other				\$512	(\$24)	\$18	(\$380)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Weighted average diluted shares (M	1)	396	396	398	400	400	400	400		Net Invest	ing Cash Fl	ow	CAD	\$437	(\$101)	(\$80)	(\$530)	(\$129)	(\$136)	(\$136)
BALANCE SHEET (C\$M)		2019A	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E		Cash Flows	From Fin	ancing Act	ivities							
Cash & Equivalents		\$1,062	\$943	\$1,332	\$1,112	\$1,324	\$1,786	\$2,371		Net Issue/f				(\$500)	(\$2)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Current Assets		\$745	\$1,002	\$809	\$896	\$951	\$914	\$904		Net Sale/R		ock		\$0	\$5	\$27	\$9	\$0	\$0	\$0
PP&E and Other		\$5,620	\$5,636	\$5,376	\$5,183	\$4,955	\$4,682	\$4,373		Other				(\$107)	(\$101)	(\$74)	(\$68)	(\$48)	(\$48)	(\$48)
Total Assets	CAD	\$7,427	\$7,581	\$7,518	\$7,191	\$7,231	\$7,381	\$7,648		Net Financ	•		CAD	(\$607)	(\$98)	(\$47)	(\$59)	(\$48)	(\$48)	(\$48)
Current Liabilities		\$277	\$304	\$414	\$304	\$311	\$295	\$285		Increase (E	Decrease) i	n Cash	CAD	\$351	(\$144)	\$337	(\$507)	\$212	\$462	\$585
Long Term Debt		\$997	\$996	\$996	\$997	\$997	\$997	\$997		-										
Other Long Term Liabilities	C**	\$1,158	\$1,323	\$1,262	\$1,095	\$1,115	\$1,135	\$1,155		Financial N		:)		2019A			2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Total Liabilities	CAD	\$2,432	\$2,622	\$2,672	\$2,395	\$2,422	\$2,426	\$2,436		EV/EBITDA		IJ	X	29.9x	65.3x	109.2x	42.6x	20.6x	15.6x	12.9x
Non-controlling interest Shareholder Equity		\$0 \$4,995	\$0 \$4,959	\$0 \$4,846	(\$59) \$4,854	(\$230) \$5,038	(\$420) \$5,375	(\$585) \$5,796		Free Cash I		nare	CAD	\$379 \$0.96	(\$86) (\$0.22)	\$329 \$0.83	(\$78) (\$0.20)	\$260 \$0.65	\$509 \$1.27	\$633 \$1.58
Total Liab. & Shareholder Equity	CAD	\$4,995 <b>\$7,427</b>	\$4,959 <b>\$7,581</b>	\$4,846	\$4,854	\$5,038 <b>\$7,231</b>	\$5,375 <b>\$7,381</b>	\$5,796		Free Cash I		iui C	KAD %	2.9%	(\$0.22)	2.6%	(\$0.20)	2.0%	4.0%	\$1.58 4.9%
	200	Y.,74.	ų.,J01	ų.,J10	ų.,1J1	y.,231	ψ.,301	Ç.,041		. rec casil i	riciu		70	2.370	(0.770)	2.070	(0.070)	2.570	-1.570	1.570

Priced as of market close on July 27, 2022 Source: Company reports, RBC Capital Markets estimates



# **Key ESG questions**

This section is intended to highlight key ESG discussion points relevant to this company, as well as our views on the outlook. Both the questions we highlight and our responses will evolve over time as the dialogue between management, analysts and investors continues to advance. We welcome any feedback on the topics.

#### **Our view**

What are the most material ESG issues facing this company?

Cameco produces uranium used to generate nuclear energy. Key ESG considerations are carbon emissions from mining, relations with local indigenous communities in Saskatchewan, and acceptance of nuclear energy. Additionally, a key ESG issue would be employee exposure to radiation. Cameco reports on these factors: in 2021, 274kt of CO2e (scope 1 & 2 operational share) was generated, slightly down from 280kt of CO2e in 2020; the average radiation dose was 0.60 mSv, which is in line with last year and well below typical natural background radiation exposure (2-3mSv per Cameco); and it reported no Indigenous disputes.

How does the company integrate ESG considerations into its strategy?

Cameco uses SASB, GRI, and TCFD reporting frameworks for ESG indicators, in addition to two corporate indicators that are unique to the company (Public Perception & Employee Radiation Exposure), to measure sustainability performance. Executive compensation is tied to ESG performance through the use of short-term incentives, 50% of which is tied to performance in community initiatives, safety, and environmental goals. Cameco utilizes a Safety, Health, Environment, and Quality management system that is governed by one policy, which can be found on the company's website.

What is diversity like at the board/ management level?

33% (3 of 9) of Cameco's Board are female while 11% (1 of 9) are Indigenous. Additionally, Cameco has a policy that mandates at least 30% of the BoD be female and at least one member be Indigenous. Twenty-percent (1 of 5) of executive officers are female. According to the most recent Proxy Circular, one (20%) of Cameco executive officers is female and one (20%) is a visible minority. Across all of Cameco, 25% of the workforce are female while 32% are indigenous, a visible minority, or persons with disability, according to the most recent sustainability data. We also note that Cameco has policies in place to promote women in leadership.

Is nuclear, and by extension uranium, considered a clean energy source?

ESG considerations with regard to nuclear energy are, by extension, also relevant to uranium, as it is the primary fuel source for nuclear energy generation. Nuclear reactors produce no greenhouse gas emissions, although there are slight emissions from other parts of the nuclear fuel cycle including construction, mining, conversion, and enrichment. Many countries have incorporated nuclear as a critical part of their overall energy mix and consider nuclear to be a clean and sustainable energy source that is key to meeting climate goals. However, opponents to nuclear as a clean and sustainable energy source cite the potential risk from nuclear accidents, challenges with nuclear waste disposal, and proliferation concerns.

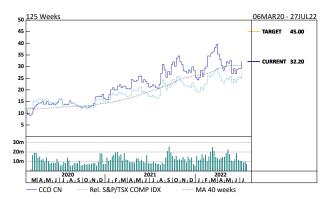
How does Cameco engage the local community?

Cameco operates primarily in northern Saskatchewan, which has a large Indigenous population. Overall, Cameco has a high employment percentage for Indigenous individuals of Saskatchewan's North (48% per latest sustainability data). Cameco also has formal agreements with communities in northern Saskatchewan based on workforce development, business development, community investment, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. In 2020, Cameco received the "Towards Sustainable Mining" Excellence Award from the Mining Association of Canada for the Community Based Environmental Monitoring Program.



## **Target/Upside/Downside Scenarios**

#### **Cameco Corporation**



Source: Bloomberg and RBC Capital Markets estimates for Target

#### **Valuation**

We value the company by applying a 1.5x P/NAV multiple to our NAV estimate. Our target multiple is above the historical average but in line with multiples during periods of strong investor interest and rising uranium prices. Our DCF uses an 8% discount rate. Our \$45 price target supports our Outperform rating.

## **Upside scenario**

Our upside scenario of \$60 assumes that uranium markets are tighter than anticipated and prices exceed our expectations in both the near term and long term. In this scenario, we increase our long-term price forecast to \$75/lb. We use a P/ NAV multiple at 1.75x, reflecting typical multiples during a positive price environment.

## **Downside scenario**

Our downside scenario of \$20 assumes that uranium prices take longer than expected to recover and less new mine supply is required due to weak demand. In this scenario, we decrease our long-term price forecast to \$45/lb. We decrease our P/NAV multiple to 1.0x to account for more normalized conditions.

#### **Investment summary**

We believe the company is well positioned to benefit from a tightening uranium market, especially as a Westernbased producer in a market shift toward security of supply. Additionally, we think Cameco has the right mix of assets to meet the coming market needs: proven uranium production with upside, conversion capacity, and potential long-term enrichment technology.

#### **Potential catalysts**

Cameco is restarting the McArthur River mine, with some production being added in H2/22 and ramping up to 10.5Mlbs production (15Mlbs 100% basis) by 2024. Additionally, the company will be dialing back production at Cigar Lake to 6.8Mlbs (13.5Mlbs 100% basis) to remain aligned with a disciplined production strategy.

Longer-term, Cameco may increase McArthur River production to 13.5Mlbs (25Mlbs 100% basis). The company also has idled Tier 2 uranium assets in Rabbit Lake and US ISR that could potentially be restarted at higher uranium prices, but we do not currently include these assets in our valuation.

Cameco has a 49% interest in the Global Laser Enrichment project with the option to increase ownership to 75%. GLE is an advanced enrichment technology that could be deployed in the future to re-enrich depleted uranium tails and produce high-assay low-enriched uranium that may be used in future advanced reactor designs.

Cameco currently has ~\$300M in restricted cash set aside (along with lines of credit) for the CRA dispute to satisfy rules that require companies to remit or secure 50% of a tax reassessment. Given the positive ruling for Cameco, we think it is reasonably likely that the company would eventually be able to recover the restricted cash.

## Risks to rating and price target

We highlight several key risks and sensitivities that could be potentially material to our thesis on Cameco including: 1) a negative outcome in the ongoing CRA transfer pricing dispute; 2) contract cancellations; 3) potential production disruptions; 4) weaker-than-expected uranium prices; 5) currency volatility, primarily CAD/USD; and 6) a decline in uranium investor sentiment resulting in lower valuation multiples.



# **Company description**

Cameco, headquartered in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is focused on uranium mining and nuclear fuel services. The company generated \$1.5B revenue in 2021, with a vast majority coming from the uranium segment. Cameco produces uranium from three major properties that are considered among the best assets globally due to high grades and low costs, and it has potential to increase production over the long term as uranium prices improve.

# Required disclosures

# Non-U.S. analyst disclosure

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RBC Dominion Securities Inc. makes a market in the securities of Cameco Corporation.

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An analyst's 'sector' is the universe of companies for which the analyst provides research coverage. Accordingly, the rating assigned to a particular stock represents solely the analyst's view of how that stock will perform over the next 12 months relative to the analyst's sector average.

#### Ratings

Outperform (O): Expected to materially outperform sector average over 12 months.

Sector Perform (SP): Returns expected to be in line with sector average over 12 months.

Underperform (U): Returns expected to be materially below sector average over 12 months.

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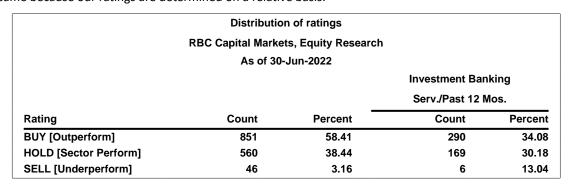


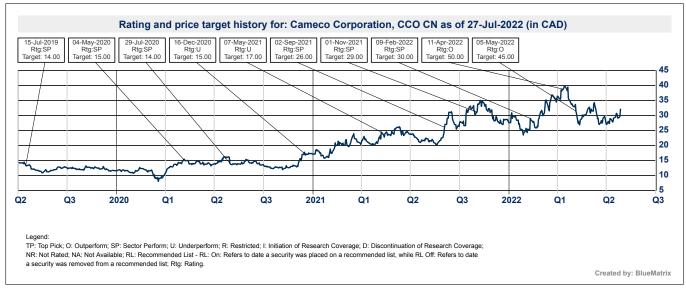
## **Risk Rating**

The Speculative risk rating reflects a security's lower level of financial or operating predictability, illiquid share trading volumes, high balance sheet leverage, or limited operating history that result in a higher expectation of financial and/or stock price volatility.

# **Distribution of ratings**

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## **Cameco Corporation**

## Valuation

We value the company by applying a 1.5x P/NAV multiple to our NAV estimate. Our target multiple is above the historical average



but in line with multiples during periods of strong investor interest and rising uranium prices. Our DCF uses an 8% discount rate. Our \$45 price target supports our Outperform rating.

#### Risks to rating and price target

We highlight several key risks and sensitivities that could be potentially material to our thesis on Cameco including: 1) a negative outcome in the ongoing CRA transfer pricing dispute; 2) contract cancellations; 3) potential production disruptions; 4) weakerthan-expected uranium prices; 5) currency volatility, primarily CAD/USD; and 6) a decline in uranium investor sentiment resulting in lower valuation multiples.

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