

Analysts' Ideas of the Week

FRC's Top Picks Portfolio Up 5.9% vs 2.4% for the TSXV Last Week

July 27, 2020

www.researchfrc.com



FRC Top Picks

This section summarizes the performance of our Top Picks. These Top Picks, selected from our coverage universe, are companies we have the highest conviction on. Our Top Picks have historically helped us finish strong in various third-party analyst performance rankings.

The following table shows last week's top five performers, which included four junior resource companies (two gold and two silver) and one technology company. **The top performer, Vista Gold Corp. (TSX: VGZ), was up 30.6% WoW**. Our latest update on VGZ can be viewed <u>here</u>.

Top Five Performers Last Week

Top 5 Weekly Performers	WoW Returns
Vista Gold Corp. (TSX:VGZ)	30.6%
Kootenay Silver Inc. (TSXV:KTN)	29.4%
Monarch Gold Corporation (TSX:MQR)	23.3%
Siyata Mobile Inc. (TSXV:SIM)	22.2%
GR Silver Mining (TSXV:GRSL)	19.7%

* Past performance is not indicative of future performance

Overall, our portfolio (equally weighted) was up 5.9% in the past week versus the 2.4% for the benchmark (TSXV). Over the longer-term (six months, one-year, three-year, and since launch), our portfolio has significantly outperformed the TSXV as shown below.

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Top Five Performers Last Week

Total Return	WoW	1 Mo	3 Mo	6 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yr	Since Launch*
Mining	10.6%	29.2%	71.3%	58.1%	76.7%	21.8%	108.9%
Cannabis	-3.6%	-11.4%	-7.6%	12.5%	N/A	N/A	28.0%
Technology	0.6%	1.7%	11.5%	-34.1%	-64.8%	-59.0%	39.4%
Special Situations	-2.7%	0.0%	7.9%	-4.1%	18.0%	-6.3%	28.3%
Portfolio (Total)	5.9%	17.8%	48.6%	38.2%	52.0%	-1.8%	71.3%
Benchmark ² (Total)	2.4%	18.2%	49.4%	18.8%	16.8%	-9.5%	-22.0%
Portfolio (Annualized)	-	-	-	-	52.0%	-0.6%	8.5%
Benchmark ² (Annualized)					16.8%	-3.3%	-3.7%

1. Since the earliest initiating date of companies in the list of Top Picks

2. Green (red) indicates FRC's picks outperformed (underperformed) the benchmark.

Our complete list of top picks (updated weekly) can be viewed here.

Weekly Mining Commentary

U.S., India, Mexico, and South Africa continued to hit a record high number of daily new cases of the coronavirus last week. Peru and Spain are currently experiencing an early

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stage second wave, as shown in the charts below. The second wave in Iran seems to be persistent with no signs of decline in new cases.



Daily New Cases in Iran



Source: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/

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Source: FRC / Various

Copper prices declined for a second consecutive week. Prices of all other mainstream metals reported gains or remained flat. Gold surpassed its previous all-time high of US\$1,924 per oz in 2011, and is currently trading at \$1,936. Silver was the best performer last week, after reporting a 23% gain to \$24.25 per oz.



In real terms, the current price of gold is below the peak in 2011.

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Source: @acemaxx, @JohnAuthers; Read full article

As a result of the strong gains in gold prices, **equity valuations** of gold producers continued to rise (as shown in the charts below), while base metals producers' valuations stayed flat WoW.



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Gold Producers

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Base Metal Producers



Source: S&P Capital IQ & FRC

			13-Jul-20		Jul-20	27-Jul-20	
	Gold Producers	EV / R	EV / EBITDA	EV / R	EV / EBITDA	EV/R	EV / EBITDA
	Solu i fouters	(forward)	(forward)	(forward)	(forward)	(forward)	(forward)
1	Barrick	5.08	10.50	5.25	10.46	5.48	10.68
2	Newmont	4.80	10.84	4.80	10.89	4.90	11.11
3	Polyus	6.36	9.26	6.11	8.93	7.54	10.97
4	Agnico Eagle	5.90	13.09	5.81	13.18	6.21	14.21
5	AngloGold	3.61	8.63	3.80	8.52	4.26	9.49
6	Kinross Gold	2.82	5.90	2.88	5.93	3.10	6.34
7	Gold Fields	3.03	5.96	3.26	6.52	3.73	7.45
8	Sibanye	1.15	3.42	1.21	3.65	1.39	4.20
9	Yamana	4.16	7.60	4.18	7.65	4.48	8.36
10	B2Gold	3.73	5.92	3.83	6.05	4.05	6.22
11	Alamos	5.49	11.32	5.50	11.24	5.78	11.96
12	Harmony	2.08	12.07	2.37	13.46	2.58	14.53
13	Eldorado Gold	2.29	4.55	2.31	4.53	2.54	4.92
	Average (excl outliers)	3.88	8.39	3.95	8.54	4.31	9.26
	Min	1.15	3.42	1.21	3.65	1.39	4.20
	Max	6.36	13.09	6.11	13.46	7.54	14.53

	Base Metal Producers	EV / R (forward)	EV / EBITDA (forward)	EV / R (forward)	EV / EBITDA (forward)	EV / R (forward)	EV / EBITDA (forward)
1	BHP Group	3.23	6.14	3.37	6.42	3.36	6.52
2	Rio Tinto	2.69	5.73	2.82	6.03	2.85	6.02
3	South32	1.11	5.85	1.14	6.06	1.17	6.22
4	Glencore	0.34	6.96	0.35	7.03	0.36	7.22
5	Anglo American	1.70	5.32	1.69	5.30	1.75	5.48
6	Teck Resources	1.70	6.49	1.72	6.49	1.77	6.48
7	First Quantum	3.65	9.55	3.60	9.36	3.46	8.88
	Average (excl outliers)	2.06	6.58	2.10	6.67	2.10	6.69
	Min	0.34	5.32	0.35	5.30	0.36	5.48
	Max	3.65	9.55	3.60	9.36	3.46	8.88

Source: S&P Capital IQ & FRC

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We **remain cautious on base metal prices** due to the rising probability of a pull back in business activities from a prolonged impact of COVID-19. However, we are raising our forecasts for both gold and silver prices from US\$1,700 to US\$1,750 per oz, and from US\$17.5 to US\$19 per oz, respectively, in 2020.

		FRC Forecasts		
	Current Price	2020E	Long-Term (2024+)	
Gold (US\$/oz)	\$1,936	\$1,750	\$1,425	
Silver (US\$/oz)	\$24.25	\$19.00	\$18.00	
Copper (US\$/lb)	\$2.91	\$2.70	\$3.00	
Zinc (US\$/lb)	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.10	
Nickel (US\$/lb)	\$6.02	\$6.00	\$8.00	
Source: FRC				

We believe the primary near-term drivers of gold and silver prices will be a continued increase in money supply, and an expected increase in inflation, amid a low interest rate environment. The following chart shows the record flow of investment into inflation protected ETFs.



We recently completed a study to forecast both near-term and long-term gold prices using two proprietary models we developed in house. The report will be published this week, and can be viewed on our website.

In the following section, we review companies that announced key developments in the past week.

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Mining / Exploration

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol		Current Share Price:		FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
Golden Minerals Corp.	NYSE:	AUMN	US\$0.4	5	US\$0.95	July 22, 2020
PR Content Completed a financing.	US\$8.6	million	equity	advance properties productio advance CAPEX & per two Velardeña Tax – Ne is estima	 These funds its Velardeña (80 km apart) n. AUMN's prima Rodeo into produce budget is just US recently complete a and Rodeo, the out ted to be US\$10 current market 	and Rodeo in Mexico into ary focus is to ction in 2021; its \$1.5 million. As eted PEAs on combined Before BT-NPV") at 8% 0 million versus

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Current S Price:	hare FRC Fair Valu Estimate:	e Date of PR:
Kerr Mines Inc.	TSX: KER	\$0.18	\$0.40	July 27,2020
PR Content Announced an a 3% gross proc flagship Coppe (Arizona) for US\$ March 2021). Th total outstanding	luction royalty erstone gold 2.5 million (to be nis will bring do	quire a P on its co project ro paid by p wn the p o 3%. b o 3%. p co co (e m \$	RC Opinion ositive – This deal reflective onviction on the Copper oyalty buyback is condi- roject financing roduction. Kerr recen- bught deal financing for er unit. Each unit wo ommon share and exercise price of \$0.22 onths). Shares are co 0.18 per share; therefor nancing will go through.	rstone project. The tional on arranging to recommence atly announced a \$5 million at \$0.14 ill consist of one one-half warrant for a period of 24 urrently trading at

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Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Curren Price:	nt Share	FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
Sonoro Metals Corp.	TSXV: SMO	\$0.24		\$0.32	July 23,2020
PR Content Announced a placement of \$5 Each unit will con and one full warn three years).	million at \$0.22 p sist of a commo	n share	release. the comp and nee Sonoro's 6,000 m potential depth on Premier undergro of Cerro epitherm Caliche to drill s potential resource	 We were pleas As mentioned in pany is in a very test to raise carring immediate plan / 20-hole drill proof high-grade its Cerro Caliche Gold's (TSX: pund mine, located Caliche, is in the al system that mineralized area. 50,000 m in 202 y expand the 	Koz gold at 0.55

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Curren Price:	it Share	FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
MGX Mineral Inc.	CSE: XMG	\$0.09		\$0.75	July 24, 2020
PR Content Initial gold assay deposit (B.C.) ret of up to 6 opt gold bulk samples.	urned very high	values	potential this recer a historio 3,000 m	- The assay for high grade ntly acquired pro producer. MG drill program. will be used	results indicate mineralization on ject, which is also X is planning a Results of this to complete a

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Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Curren Price:	t Share	FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
Golden Arrow Resources Corporation	TSXV: GRG	\$0.14		N/A	July 21 2020
PR Content Acquired the Ros Chile via staking several target a surface copper st Initial sampling ha of up to 5.74% Cu	g. GRG has id areas, including ockwork mineral as returned high	entified near- ization.	comment sample portfolio i projects i The comp Mining (valued capitaliza	 Although it i on the project's p values are enco ncludes early stag in Paraguay, Chile pany holds 945,58 TSX: SSRM), whi at \$31 million. tion is only \$22 market is not ever 	otential, the high uraging. GRG's e precious-metal e and Argentina. 0 shares of SSR ch are currently GRG's market million; implying

Technology and Special Situations

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Current Price:	Share	FRC Fair Va Estimate:	lue Date of PR:
CIBT Education Group Inc.	TSX: MBA	\$0.47		\$1.22	July 23, 2020
PR Content Reported Q3 (e revenue of \$14 n However, net inco to \$1 million (EPS in the fair value of	nillion, down 15% ome was up 278 S: \$0.02), due to	2020) % YoY. % YoY a gain	expectatio Q3 (80% 10% YoY 25% YoY was down was high	 Q3 roots. CIBT's end of total) was of total) was of total) was of total was on tota	evenue beat our education revenue in s \$11 million, down antly better than our cast. Rental revenue to \$2 million, which 35% YoY decline publishing an update

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<u>Cannabis</u>

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Curren Price:	t Share	FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
<u>Namaste</u> <u>Technologies</u> <u>Inc.</u>	TSXV: N	\$0.32		\$0.70	July 24, 2020
PR Content			FRC Op	inion	
Reported Q2-20 ended May 31), willion – a yea 73% and a quav of 31%. Growth in CannMart, whose million, ayear-o 1,491%.	with net revenue r-over-year incr er-over-quarter i n revenue was d e Q2 revenue wa	e of \$6.9 ease of increase lriven by as \$2.36	forecast We beli meet, a	e – For 2020, v ing revenue to be ieve the company and exceed, our . We will provide	e \$21.73 million. / is on track to 2020 revenue

Company Name:	Ticker Symbol	Curren Price:	t Share	FRC Fair Value Estimate:	Date of PR:
Indiva Limited	TSXV: NDVA	\$0.27		\$0.59	July 21, 2020
PR Content			FRC Op	inion	
Entered into agreement with The joint ventur Bhang will be tern a new agreeme receive a net undisclosed) co manufactured an believes the ne mutually beneficia	Bhang (CSE: re between Indi minated in excha ent where Bha royalty (per on Bhang p d sold by Indiva ew agreement	iva and ange for ing will centage products a. Indiva will be	percenta commer beneficia not privy close. V 2020 fir	- Given that age is undisclosed, at on if the new al for Indiva. Furt y to when the new Ve will wait for the nancials before co new agreement.	we are unable to w agreement is hermore, we are w agreement will e company's Q3-

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Weekly Cannabis Commentary

Cannabis Industry Performance

Company	YTD	1-Week	1-Year
Aphria Inc.	17%	9%	9%
Aurora Cannabis Inc.	-57%	-10%	-86%
Canopy Growth Corp.	-13%	-5%	-49%
Cronos Group Inc.	-9%	-3%	-53%
Tilray Inc.	-56%	2%	-82%
HEXO Corp.	-57%	-3%	-84%
Organigram Holdings Inc.	-41%	-13%	-77%
The Supreme Cannabis Co., Inc.	-63%	-10%	-83%
AVERAGE	-35%	-4%	-63%
MIN	-63%	-13%	-86%
MAX	17%	9%	9%
Indexes	YTD	1-Week	1-Year
HMMJ	-17%	-2%	-56%
MCAN	-11%	-4%	NM
XCAN	NM	-2%	NM

Note: MCAN and XCAN was launched on November 18, 2019 and January 20, 2020, respectively. Source: TMX Money, FRC

Over the past week, the Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences ETF (TSX: HMMJ / "HMMJ"), the Standard & Poor's/MX International Cannabis Index ("MCAN"), and the Standard & Poor's/TSX Cannabis Index ("XCAN") generated a return of -2%, -4%, and -2%, respectively.

The best performer on the list of companies that we track is Aphria Inc. (TSX: APHA). **Today, Cantor Fitzgerald analyst Pablo Zuanic raised his price target on Aphria ahead of earnings (which are due on July 29).** As a result, shares of Aphria are trading up 12% today. We believe it is likely that Aphria will beat top-line estimates, given that (1) Canada's recreational cannabis market has been expanding amid the COVID-19 outbreak and (2) majors such as Canopy Growth have been losing market share in the Canadian recreational cannabis market (Source: Canopy Earnings Call) to other players. As shown below, Aphria is currently trading at a discount (based on EV/R) compared to peers.

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Valuation of Select Canadian LPs

The following shows the average Enterprise Value to Revenue ("EV/R") of the cannabis companies that we track.



Average EV/R (October 2019 – July 2020)

35.2 Source: S&P Capital IQ, FRC

NM

30.4

NM

The average EV/R, as of July 27, 2020, is 10.1x - a deterioration from 11.0x a week ago. The average EV/R, from October 7, 2019 to date, is 12.1x. As a number of companies are not EBITDA positive, we have refrained from tracking the average Enterprise Value to EBITDA ("EV/EBITDA").

This week, we discuss highly anticipated retail cannabis sales in Canada.

MAXIMUM

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Canadian total retail sales were \$41.79 billion in May 2020, a month-over-month ("MoM") increase of 19%. Over the same period, Canadian retail cannabis sales were \$186 million, a MoM increase of 4%. Although it may appear that retail cannabis sales underperformed total retail sales, readers should note that total retail sales deteriorated significantly in March - April, whereas retail cannabis sales remained resilient. This is shown below.

	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
Total Retail Sales	0.4%	0.3%	-10.0%	-26.4%	18.7%
Retail Cannabis Sales	4.3%	-2.7%	19.2%	-0.6%	4.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, FRC

The following shows retail cannabis sales from January 2019 to May 2020.



Retail Cannabis Sales (Jan 2019 – May 2020)

Source: Statistics Canada, FRC

We are pleased to see the data support our thesis that cannabis sales are highly resilient to an economic downturn. Extrapolating May 2020 sales to the remaining

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months of 2020 would result in Canada's recreational cannabis market growing 79% from 2019 to 2020.

Recreational cannabis sales per capita in Canada in May 2020 were approximately \$5, significantly lower than other cannabis markets, as shown below.

Geographic Region	Recreational Cannabis Sales per Capita in May 2020
Canada	~\$5
California*	~\$11
Colorado	~\$26
Nevada	~\$19
Oregon	~\$33
Washington State	~\$21

USD-CAD exchange rate of 1.34 used

*The low recreational cannabis sales per capita figure for California is likely due to the fact that California has a booming black

market for cannabis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Marijuana Business Daily, OLCC, FRC

We believe the data above is indicative that there is significant potential for Canada's recreational cannabis market to grow.

Canadian Retail Cannabis Pricing

Province (As of 2020/7/27)	Average Price per Gram	Average Price per Gram THC	Average Price per Gram CBD	# of Products	Min. Pri	ce	Max. Price
Alberta	\$ 11.65	\$ 11.68	\$ 11.30	289	\$ 4.3	2 \$	22.00
B.C.	\$ 10.27	\$ 10.38	\$ 8.22	214	\$ 4.4	8 \$	80.29
Manitoba	\$ 11.77	\$ 11.79	\$ 11.57	265	\$ 5.0	6	20.43
N.B.	\$ 10.17	\$ 10.28	\$ 9.09	149	\$ 3.5	7 \$	16.28
N.S.	\$ 10.51	\$ 10.58	\$ 9.82	163	\$ 5.3	6 5	42.85
Newfoundland	\$ 10.16	\$ 10.17	\$ 10.19	131	\$ 5.6	4 \$	15.40
Northwest Territories	\$ 11.54	\$ 11.54		3	\$ 12.0	8 \$	13.00
Nunavut	\$ 11.73	\$ 11.84	\$ 12.41	36	\$ 9.4	3 5	5 17.91
Ontario	\$ 9.89	\$ 10.09	\$ 8.41	238	\$ 4.2	0	23.98
P.E.I.	\$ 10.54	\$ 10.60	\$ 9.85	134	\$ 4.4	6 \$	23.30
Quebec	\$ 9.28	\$ 9.21	\$ 9.83	180	\$ 4.8	5 5	14.55
Saskatchewan	\$ 12.57	\$ 12.61	\$ 12.06	61	5.8	1	38.50
Yukon	\$ 14.30	\$ 14.81	\$ 12.76	12	\$ 10.9	7 \$	16.15
CANADA	\$ 11.11	\$ 11.20	\$ 10.46				

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Province (As of 2020/7/20)		Average Price per Gram	Average Price per Gram THC		Average Price per Gram CBD	# of Products	Min. Price	Max. Price
Alberta	S	11.62 \$	11.64	\$	11.30	286	\$ 4.32	\$ 22.00
B.C.	S	10.25 \$	10.36	S	8.22	212	\$ 4.48	\$ 80.29
Manitoba	S	11.77 \$	11.79	\$	11.57	265	\$ 5.66	\$ 20.43
N.B.	S	10.17 \$	10.28	S	9.09	149	\$ 3.57	\$ 16.28
N.S.	S	10.51 \$	10.58	\$	9.82	163	\$ 5.36	\$ 42.85
Newfoundland	S	10.16 \$	10.17	\$	10.19	131	\$ 5.64	\$ 15.40
Northwest Territories	S	11.54 \$	11.54			3	\$ 12.08	\$ 13.00
Nunavut	S	11.73 \$	11.84	\$	12.41	36	\$ 9.43	\$ 17.91
Ontario	S	10.13 \$	10.41	S	8.20	246	\$ 4.20	\$ 23.98
P.E.I.	S	10.57 \$	10.62	S	9.85	133	\$ 4.46	\$ 23.30
Quebec	S	9.27 \$	9.20	S	9.83	179	\$ 4.85	\$ 14.55
Saskatchewan	S	12.80 \$	12.92	\$	12.06	30	9.17	17.41
Yukon	\$	14.30 \$	14.81	\$	12.76	12	\$ 10.97	\$ 16.15
CANADA	\$	11.14 \$	11.24	\$	10.44			

Source: Online Provincial Cannabis Stores, FRC

The average retail price per gram decreased 0.31% week-over-week to reach \$11.11. Over the long-term, we continue to reiterate our view that the retail price per gram of cannabis will decrease to combat the black market for cannabis. According to Statistics Canada, the average per gram price of illegal cannabis in Q4-2019 was \$5.73. The following shows the trend in pricing for illegal cannabis:



Canadian Retail Cannabis Stores

As of July 27, 2020, there are 1,016 retail cannabis stores across Canada - a 0.4% increase from a week ago. The following shows the week-over-week growth rates:

week-over-week Store Count Change									
June 29, 2020	July 6, 2020	July 13, 2020	July 20, 2020	July 27, 2020					
0.9%	2.4%	1.8%	0.7%	0.4%					
	Sources Provincial Wabaitan EPC								

Week-over-Week Store Count Change

Source: Provincial Websites, FRC

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The following shows the number of retail cannabis stores by province/territory:

	July-20-2020	July-27-2020		
Cannabis Stores	Store Count	Store Count	Population	Population / Store
Alberta	495	497	4,428,247	8,910
B.C.	212	214	5,120,184	23,926
Manitoba	30	30	1,379,121	45,971
N.B.	20	20	780,890	39,045
N.S.	12	12	978,274	81,523
Newfoundland	25	25	520,437	20,817
Northwest Territories	5	5	44,982	8,996
Nunavut	N/A	N/A	39,486	N/A
Ontario	118	118	14,745,040	124,958
P.E.I.	4	4	158,717	39,679
Quebec	42	42	8,552,362	203,628
Saskatchewan	44	44	1,181,987	26,863
Yukon	5	5	41,293	8,259
CANADA	1,012	1,016	37,971,020	37,373

Source: Provincial Websites, FRC

As shown above, Ontario and Quebec are the two largest underserved provinces for cannabis, with a population / store of 125k and 204k, respectively. Growth in Canada's cannabis market hinges on more retail cannabis store openings in the two aforementioned provinces.

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The below chart shows Canadian retail dried cannabis flower pricing since we began price coverage.



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