



# **CaNickel Mining Limited**

**[www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com)**

## **ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM**

**For the year ended December 31, 2015**

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**March 29, 2016**

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## **CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

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This annual information form contains forward-looking statements under Canadian securities legislation. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to the Company's production, development potential and timetable of the Company's properties, including the Bucko Lake Nickel Mine; the future price of nickel and other minerals; the estimation of mineral reserves and mineral resources; conclusions of economic evaluations; the realization of mineral reserve estimates; the timing and amount of estimated future production; future cash flow; future financing; costs of production; capital expenditures; success of exploration activities; mining or processing issues; currency exchange rates; government regulation of mining operations; and environmental risks. Generally, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved". Forward-looking statements are based on the opinions and estimates of management as of the date such statements are made. Estimates regarding the anticipated timing, amount and cost of mining at the Bucko Lake Nickel Mine are based on assumptions underlying mineral reserve and mineral resource estimates and the probability of realizing such estimates that are set out herein. Capital and operating cost estimates are based on extensive research of the Company, purchase orders placed by the Company to date, recent estimates of development and mining costs and other factors that are set out herein. Production estimates are based on mine plans and production schedules, which have been developed by the Company's personnel and independent consultants. Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including but not limited to risks related to: unexpected events and delays during construction, expansion and operation; variations in mineral grade and recovery rates; receipt and revocation of government approvals; timing and availability of external financing on acceptable terms; actual results of current exploration activities; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; future prices of minerals, particularly nickel; failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate as anticipated; reliance on joint venture partners and contractor service providers; accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry. Although management of the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.

## **DEFINITIONS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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In this annual information form, references to “CaNickel” or the “Company” mean CaNickel Mining Limited and the following abbreviations and defined terms are used:

“AIF”	means this annual information form.
“Audit Committee”	means the audit committee of the Board.
“Board”	means the Board of Directors of CaNickel.
“Common Shares”	means the common shares in the capital of the Company.
“Compensation Committee”	means the compensation committee of the Board.
“Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee”	means the corporate governance and operating committee of the Board.
“NI 43-101”	means National Instrument 43-101 – <i>Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects</i> of the Canadian Securities Administrators
“BCCA”	<i>Business Corporations Act</i> (British Columbia)
"OBCA"	<i>Business Corporation Act</i> (Ontario)

## **CURRENCY PRESENTATION AND NOTES ON INFORMATION**

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This AIF contains references to United States dollars and Canadian dollars. All dollar amounts referenced herein, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in Canadian dollars and United States dollars are referred to as “United States dollars”, or “US\$”.

All information in this AIF is given as of December 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

## **CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

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CaNickel was incorporated under the name Nootka-Zeballos Gold Mines Limited, under the laws of British Columbia on January 11, 1937, by registration of its Memorandum and Articles with the British Columbia Registrar of Companies. On December 13, 1937, Nootka-Zeballos Gold Mines Limited changed its name to Privateer Mine Limited. On January 29, 1959, Privateer Mine Limited changed its name to New Privateer Mine Limited. On June 6, 1995, New Privateer Mine Limited changed its name to Phrygian Mining Corporation, consolidated its common shares on a five-to-one basis and altered its post consolidation authorized share capital to consist of 100,000,000 common shares without par value. On August 12, 1998, Phrygian Mining Corporation changed its name to Crowflight Minerals Inc., consolidated its common shares on a three-to-two basis and altered its post consolidation authorized share capital to consist of 100,000,000 common shares without par value, 100,000,000 Class “A” Preference Shares with a par value of \$10.00 each and 100,000,000 Class “B” Preference Shares with a par value of \$50.00 each. On August 12, 1998, the Common Shares were listed on the Toronto Venture Exchange. On July 30, 2003, Crowflight Minerals Inc. filed Articles of Continuance pursuant to the OBCA to continue the Company from British Columbia to Ontario. Also on July 30, 2003, Crowflight amended its Articles to increase its authorized share capital to an unlimited number of common shares without par value, an unlimited number of Class “A” Preference Shares and an unlimited number of Class “B” Preference Shares. On June 21, 2004, Crowflight Minerals Inc. was registered as an extra-provincial corporation in the Province of Manitoba.

In December 2010, the Company changed its head office and registered office at 181 Bay Street, Suite 2500, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2T7 and relocated its corporate office to 999 West Hastings Street, Suite 1655, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 2W2.

In June 2011, the Company, pursuant to the BCCA, continue the Company from the province of Ontario to the province of British Columbia and changed its name to CaNickel Mining Limited. The current registered office of the Company is located at 999 West Hastings Street, Suite 1655, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 2W2.

In September 2012, the Company consolidated its common shares on a forty-to-one basis. All share and per share data herein have been retroactively restated to reflect the impact of this share consolidation.

In August 2015, the Company received notice from the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") that TSX is reviewing the eligibility of the Company's common shares for continued listing on the TSX. Specifically, the TSX has advised that it is reviewing whether the Company meets the TSX's continued listing criteria in the following areas: (i) the Company's financial condition and operating results, and (ii) whether the Company has adequate working capital and an appropriate capital structure. CaNickel was being reviewed under the TSX's remedial review process and has been granted 120 days to comply with all requirements for listing. In January 2016, the Company voluntarily applied to de-list from TSX and transfer its listing to TSXV as the Company viewed that it would be unable to continue to meet certain minimum financial listing requirements of the TSX. Shares of the Company delisted from TSX on the close of business on February 4, 2016 and commenced trading on TSXV on February 5, 2016. The transfer of the listing provides continued trading liquidity for shareholders on a recognized trading platform and results in lower listing costs for the Company. The Company continues to trade under the symbol "CML" and no action is required by shareholders.

## **GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS**

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CaNickel is a Canadian mining company focused on nickel mining and related activities, including exploration and the extraction and processing of nickel-containing ore, in the Thompson Nickel Belts, Manitoba. The Company's 100% own nickel mine, Bucko Lake Mine, was first declared commercial production in June 2009, but since then, it has been experienced two temporary suspension in October 2009 and 2010, and then resumed operations in April 2010 and 2011, respectively. As a result of the unfavourable nickel price, the Company decided to place Bucko Lake Mine on care and maintenance in July 2012.

### **2016 Outlook**

Since Bucko Lake Mine was placed on care and maintenance in July 2012, the Company has been devoting substantial resources to run the care and maintenance program to ensure the environmental, health, and safety at Bucko Lake Mine. As the current nickel price is still below the point to allow the Company to achieve viable financial operations at Buck Lake Mine, the timing to resume the operations at Bucko Lake Mine is uncertain.

In 2016, the Company will continue to diligently run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine to safeguard assets, and to carry necessary exploration activities to evaluate the potential resources of Thompson Nickel Belt property and to maintain mineral claims and leases in good standing.

### **Three-Year History**

The following is a summary of the general development of the Company's business over the three most recently completed financial years.

### Financial Year Ended December 31, 2015

In August 2015, the Company received notice from the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") that TSX is reviewing the eligibility of the Company's common shares for continued listing on the TSX. Specifically, the TSX has advised that it is reviewing whether the Company meets the TSX's continued listing criteria in the following areas: (i) the Company's financial condition and operating results, and (ii) whether the Company has adequate working capital and an appropriate capital structure. CaNickel was being reviewed under the TSX's remedial review process and has been granted 120 days to comply with all requirements for listing. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, the Company voluntarily applied to de-list from TSX and transfer its listing to TSXV as the Company viewed that it would be unable to continue to meet certain minimum financial listing requirements of the TSX. Shares of the Company delisted from TSX on the close of business on February 4, 2016 and commenced trading on TSXV on February 5, 2016. The transfer of the listing provides continued trading liquidity for shareholders on a recognized trading platform and results in lower listing costs for the Company. The Company continues to trade under the symbol "CML" and no action is required by shareholders.

In 2015, the Company engaged an external geological consulting firm to carry a survey program and incurred expenditures of \$564,419 at the Company's Thomson Nickel Belt properties (the "TNB properties") and received government assistance and refunds of \$238,674 on the qualified exploration expenditures incurred on TNB properties. However, due to the decline of metal prices, the Company determined that the carrying value of TNB properties exceeds its recoverable value, and an impairment charge of \$20,586,052 was taken against its carrying value. The recoverable amount is determined based on the properties' future cash flows expected to be derived and represent its fair value less estimated costs on disposal ("FVLCD"). FVLCD includes an "option value" meaning that these projects may have value even if they are not expected to be profitable at current price and cost estimates. The cash flows were determined based on cash flow projections which incorporate management's best estimates of future metal prices, recoverable reserves, production timing and levels, operating costs, capital expenditures, tax rates, foreign exchange rates, discount rates and net asset value ("NAV") multiples over the life of the properties. As at December 31, 2015, management has determined the option value to be nominal as it is uncertain how much longer the Company will continue to maintain these properties and it has not yet been able to sell or farm-out the projects to third parties.

In 2015, the Company did not raise any funds through equity financing but advanced \$1,100,000 from Hebei Wenfeng Industrial Company Limited ("Hebei Wenfeng"), the largest beneficiary shareholder of CaNickel. All funds advanced from the related party are to run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine, carrying exploration program to safeguard assets, and for general corporate purposes to maintain the listing status of the Company.

In May 2015, Mr. Myles Gao, P.Geo, a qualified person as defined under Canadian NI43-101, and Dr. Yingting (Tony) Guo, P.Geo, a qualified person as defined under Canadian NI43-101, were appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company. Mr. Raymond Lai resigned from the Board for personal reasons.

### Financial Year Ended December 31, 2014

In December 2014, Kevin Zhu, P. Eng, PMP, director of the Company, was appointed to the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, James Dai, CFA, director of the Company, was appointed to the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary of the Company, and Sandy Wang, a securities and corporate lawyer, was appointed to the Board of Director of the Company. Mr. Wenfeng Liu was resigned from the Chief Executive Officer and focus on his role as the Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Derek Liu was resigned from the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary for personal reasons.

In October 2014, Luckyup Investment Limited ("Luckyup") irrevocably and unconditionally transferred and assigned to Hebei Wenfeng, all of its present and future right, title and interest in and to the Loan Facility Agreement and its related Amendments (collectively called "Loan Agreements") with the

Company, including but not limited to the right to receive future repayments and interest arising from the Loan Agreements. Before the transaction, the principle amount of the loans payable to Luckyup by the Company was US\$25.0 million and the interests accrued and not yet paid were approximately US\$9.8 million. The loans matured on July 22, 2014 bearing a coupon rate of 12% per annum, compounded semi-annually, and have no conversion feature. Immediately after the transactions, all loans payable of the Company are owed to Hebei Wenfeng, in the principle amount of US\$30.0 million plus accrued interest of approximately US\$11.6 million. All loans have matured and now are due upon demand. Hebei Wenfeng also forgave the Company a total of US\$3.5 million interests and advised the Company that they would continue to support CaNickel's operations, make annual decision if any interests arising from the loans payable are to be waived, and currently has no intention to demand any repayments from CaNickel. However, there is no formal agreement between the Company and Hebei Wenfeng regarding such arrangement. Any agreement to modify the loans payable to Hebei Wenfeng might require acceptance of Toronto Stock Exchange and/or approval from the minority shareholders of the Company.

In 2014, the Company was advanced a total of \$1.25 million from Hebei Wenfeng to run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine.

In August 2014, the Company completed a transaction to dispose its AER-Kidd Property, a nickel project located in Sudbury, Ontario for a gross proceeds of \$1.25 million.

In December 2014, the Company completed a ground magnetic geophysical surveying of fifteen grids, totalling 184.6 line-km at Brithtree North, Birchtree South, Burntwood, Moak Lake, and Strong Lake projects of its Thompson Nickel Belt ("TNB") Properties. The survey grids were designed primarily to test magnetic and electromagnetic anomalies identified by intersections. In addition to surfacing gridding, a 3D VOXI mode, using 3D Magnetic Inversion process, was also created.

In September 2014, the Company also completed a ground time-domain electromagnetic (TEM) geophysical surveying program of four grids totalling 2.5.07 line-km at its Burntwood and Birchtree North projects of TNB Properties. The survey grids were high priority magnetic-electromagnetic geophysical anomalies identified from previous airborne and ground geophysical surveys.

In 2014, the Company exercised its option to earn in 100% Glencore's interest in TNB Properties. Titles of the TNB Properties were transferred to the Company.

#### *Financial Year Ended December 31, 2013*

In November 2013, Kevin Zhu, P. Eng, PMP, former interim CEO and director of the Company, was appointed to the board of the Company. Myles Gao resigned from the board of the Company due to personal reasons.

On September 23 2013, the Company issued a press release to disclose the assay results of a 17-hole 8,682 diamond drilling program at Bucko North property, which the Company completed during the first half of 2013. A total of 1,033 samples were assayed and the press release is available on the SEDAR system at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website at [www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com) in due course. The Company submitted an exercise notice to Glencore to exercise its options to earn in 100% Glencore's interest in Thompson Nickel Belt properties.

On July 12, 2013, the Company issued a press release to disclose the assay results of a 4-hole 3,078 meters drilling program at Bowden Lake Deposit, which the Company completed early 2013. A total of 669 samples were assayed and the press release is available on the SEDAR system at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website at [www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com) in due course.

In June 2013, James Dai, CFA, was elected to the member of the board during the annual and special shareholders' meeting.

In 2013, the Company advanced a total of \$2,203,250 from Hebei Wenfeng, the largest beneficial shareholder of the Company, to run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine.

## **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS**

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### *General*

CaNickel owns a 100% interest in the Bucko Lake deposit and operated a mine and mill complex on the Bucko Lake Mine site near Wabowden, Manitoba. The Company maintains an interest in a variety of grass roots and advance-staged exploration properties in the Thompson Nickel Belt, Manitoba.

Due to the unfavorable nickel price, Bucko Lake Mine has been placed into care and maintenance since July 2012, and therefore, no revenue was recorded in 2013.

### *Suppliers*

When Bucko Lake Mine was in operations, the Company spent a significant percentage of its financial resources to procure goods and services in support of its business activities. Principal goods and services included labour and contractor personnel, maintenance and repair parts and services, electricity, fuel and lubricants, ground support materials, explosives, tires, chemical reagents and ventilation supplies. The Company used suppliers or independent contractors for a portion of the equipment rebuilds and repairs both on and off-site, as well as for construction activities. Currently, to run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine, the Company spends a significant percentage of its financial resources to purchase electricity, fuel, reagent to improve water quality and consulting and management services to monitor the water quality.

### *Competitive Conditions*

The base metals mineral exploration and mining business is highly competitive. CaNickel competes with numerous other companies for the discovery and acquisition of mineral rich properties that can be developed and produced economically, the technical expertise to find, develop, and operate such properties, the labour to operate the properties, and the capital for the purchase of such properties. Many of these companies are substantially larger and have greater financial resources than the Company.

### *Offtake Arrangement*

CaNickel has a concentrate sales agreement with Glencore Canada Corporation (formerly “Xstrata Nickel Inc.”), pursuant to which the Company has agreed to sell, and Glencore Canada Corporation has agreed to purchase, 100% of the nickel concentrate produced at the Bucko Lake Mine at commercially competitive terms during the life of the Bucko Lake Mine.

### *Environmental Protection*

The operations of the Company, are subject to extensive federal, provincial and local laws and regulations governing; environmental protection, employee health and safety, exploration, development, tenure, production, taxes, labour standards, wastes disposal, toxic substances and other matters. CaNickel is also subject to various reclamation-related conditions imposed under federal or provincial rules and permits.

The Company believes that the primary environmental management issues, related with the Bucko Mine are associated with the treatment and disposal of mill tailings and related effluent. The mine, mill facility and power supply line have been established on a previously disturbed site. CaNickel has a progressive environmental management plan for the prevention of adverse environmental impacts during the life of the mine, including further exploration, mining and milling operation and closure.

Challenges with the federal permitting process to allow disposal of tailings in Bucko Lake and the unlikelihood that Environment Canada will recommend authorization caused CaNickel to consider alternative solution for tailings disposal. A Notice of Alteration (NOA) to its original *Environmental Act* Licence Proposal in December 2007 to include the provision for an interim (land-based) tailings storage facility (ITSF) was submitted and approved. CaNickel has received its *Environment Act* License from the Province of Manitoba to permit CaNickel to commence production at the Bucko Lake Nickel Mine in Manitoba. In September 2011, the Company was granted by the Manitoba government a revised Environment Act License (the "Licence") to construct and operate a land based tailing management area (the "TMA") at its Bucko Lake Mine, Wabowden, Manitoba. The TMA is an expansion of the existing ITSF and has a footprint of approximately 68.5 hectares to store all tailing from Bucko Lake Mine for the remainder of its existing mine life. Environmental studies indicated that the TMA would have a net benefit in relation to environmental impact, eliminating the need for sub-aqueous deposition of the tailing into Bucko Lake Mine. The construction of the TMA is to be carried in two phases and the phase I construction was completed in March 2012. The phase II construction is currently on hold as Buck Lake Mine is on care and maintenance.

During the care and maintenance period, the Company is still required to comply with Environmental Act to monitor the tailing facility and ensure the quality of water discharged to the environment.

### Employees

As at December 31, 2015, the Company employed a total of four employees and two contractors from across Canada to run the care and maintenance program at Bucko Lake Mine as well as corporate office and exploration program administration. When Bucko Lake Mine was in full operations, a total of 152 employees on an average basis were employed and the average employees employed by the Company in 2012 were 72.

### **Risks of the Business**

Investing in the Company involves risks that should be carefully considered. The operations of the Company are speculative due to the high-risk nature of its business. Investors should be aware that there are various risks, including those discussed below, that could have a material adverse effect on, among other things, the operation of the Bucko Lake Mine, and the operating results, earnings, business and condition (financial or otherwise) of the Company. See "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information".

### Nature of Mining, Mineral Exploration and Development Projects

Mining operations generally involve a high degree of risk. The Company's operations are subject to the hazards and risks normally encountered in the exploration, development and production of nickel, including environmental hazards, explosions, unusual or unexpected geological formations or pressures and periodic interruptions in both production and transportation due to inclement or hazardous weather conditions. Such risks could result in damage to, or destruction of, mineral properties or producing facilities, personal injury, environmental damage, delays in mining, monetary losses and possible legal liability.

Development projects have no operating history upon which to base estimates of future capital and operating costs. For development projects, resource and operating costs estimates are, to a large extent, based upon the interpretation of geologic data obtained from drill holes and other sampling techniques, and feasibility studies, which derive estimates of capital and operating costs based upon anticipated tonnage and grades of ore to be mined and processed, ground conditions, the configuration of the ore body, expected recovery rates of minerals from the ore, estimated operating costs, and other factors. As a result, actual production, cash operating costs and economic returns could differ significantly from those

estimated. It is not unusual for new mining operations to experience problems during the start-up phase, and delays in the commencement of production often can occur.

Although Bucko Lake Mine was declared commercial production in June 2009, its operations were suspended several times for various reasons and currently Bucko Lake Mine is on care and maintenance. In November 2009, the Company temporarily suspended production operations to focus on ramp development, mine development and installation of the backfill plant. Milling operations subsequently resumed in March 2010, but was suspended again in October 2010 in order to facilitate the introduction of its own underground mining equipment and team and to make adjustments to address certain operation issues. Operations at Bucko Lake Mine re-commenced in April 2011, but the operations were affected by a number of issues, such as late delivery of mining equipment, issues left over from previous operation, and unfavourable nickel price. On December 29, 2011, the Company decided to scale down the operations at Bucko Lake Mine in order to reserve capital to complete the construction of paste backfill plant and the expansion of tailing facility. Although the decision of reduced operation was reversed in January 2012 as a result of the successful trial of long hole stoping mining method and the improvement of mill performance, the Company decided to place the Bucko Lake Mine on care and maintenance in July 2012 due to the unfavorable nickel price. The timing to resume the operations at Buck Lake Mine is uncertain and mainly depends on the nickel price. There is also no assurance that the mine can be operated at the designed capacity and financial viable, particularly in light of its past operational history

Mineral exploration is highly speculative in nature. There is no assurance that exploration efforts will be successful. Even when mineralization is discovered, it may take several years until production is possible, during which time the economic feasibility of production may change. Substantial expenditures are required to establish proven and probable mineral reserves through drilling. Due to these uncertainties, no assurance can be given that exploration programs will result in the establishment or expansion of mineral resources or mineral reserves. There is no certainty that the expenditures made towards the search and evaluation of mineral deposits will result in discoveries or development of commercial quantities of ore.

#### Going Concerns and Future Financings

As at December 31, 2015, the Company only has \$27,633 cash on hand and a negative working capital of approximately \$75,406,188 Excluding \$73,947,222 loans and advances from the Company's largest beneficial shareholders, Hebei Wenfeng, the working capital of the Company is in negative of \$1,458,966. The Company will need to raise additional capital in order to fund its ongoing exploration expenditures and the care and maintenance program. The Company has incurred significant losses and negative cash flow from operations in recent years. The cumulative deficit was \$287,770,552 as at December 31, 2015. Since July 2012, Bucko Lake Mine was placed on care and maintenance due to the unfavourable nickel prices. Whether and when the Company will resume the mining operation and attain profitability and positive cash flow is uncertain and depends on numerous factors, including but not limited to production level, production cost, ore grade, metallurgy, and nickel price. These factors indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

In the event that Company is not able to secure additional financing and continue as a going concern, material adjustments would be required to the carrying value of assets and liabilities and the balance sheet classification used.

To address its financing requirements, the Company is currently relying on advances from its related parties, mainly Hebei Wenfeng. In 2015, Hebei Wenfeng advanced a total of \$1,100,000 to the Company, and entered into a loan arrangement agreement with the Company on November 30, 2015 that Hebei Wenfeng would continue to fund the Company a minimum of \$600,000 for the next six months. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, Hebei Wenfeng advanced a total of \$300,000 to the Company.

### Nickel Prices

The Company is focused on nickel mining and related activities, including exploration and the extraction and processing of nickel-containing ore. The Company's future profitability is largely dependent on movements in the price of nickel. Nickel prices have historically been volatile and are primarily affected by levels of industrial production in addition to production supply/demand balance. Nickel prices are also affected by several other factors beyond the Company's control, including the relative exchange rate of the U.S. dollar with other major currencies, global and regional demand, political and economic conditions, production levels and costs and transportation costs in major nickel producing regions.

A decline in nickel prices would be expected to adversely affect the business of the Company and could affect the feasibility of the Company's projects. In July 2012, due to the unfavorable nickel price, the Company decided to place its only operational nickel mine, Bucko Lake Mine, on care and maintenance. The timing to resume its operations at Bucko Lake Mine would largely depending on when the nickel price would increase to the level at some points enable viable operations at Bucko Lake Mine.

### Foreign Exchange

Nickel and other material are sold in U.S. dollars thus the Company is subject to foreign exchange risks relating to the relative value of the Canadian dollars as compared to the U.S. dollars. To the extent that the Company generates revenues, it will be subject to foreign exchange risks as revenues will be received in U.S. dollars while operating and capital costs will be incurred primarily in Canadian dollars.

The Company is also exposed to foreign exchange risk as a result of its financing activities as majority of its liabilities are denominated in US dollars.

Based on the financial assets and liabilities denominated in US dollars as at December 31, 2015, every 1% strengthening in Canadian dollars would decrease net loss by \$692,921 (2014 - \$519,980).

The Company currently has not entered into any agreement to hedge the foreign exchange risk.

### Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Estimates May be Inaccurate

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating mineral resources and mineral reserves. Such estimates are a subjective process, and the accuracy of any mineral resources and mineral reserves estimate is a function of the quantity and quality of available data and of the assumptions made and judgments used in engineering and geological interpretation. These amounts are estimates only and the actual level of recovery of nickel from such deposits may be different. Differences between management's assumptions, including economic assumptions such as metal prices, market conditions and actual events could have a material adverse effect on the Company's mineral reserve estimates, financial position and results of operations. The results of historical production activities called into question the estimated grades at the Bucko Lake Mine upon which the mineral reserve and mineral resource estimates were based. Although the Company has completed additional analysis and continues to believe that the estimated grades are accurate, this could result in a significant adverse impact on the potential profitability of the mine if the Company cannot realize the estimated grades.

### Licenses and Permits, Laws and Regulations

The Company's exploration and development activities, including mine, mill, road, rail and port facilities, require permits and approvals from various government authorities, and are subject to extensive federal, provincial and local laws and regulations governing prospecting, development, production, transportation, exports, taxes, labour standards, occupational health and safety, mine safety and other matters. Such laws and regulations are subject to change, can become more stringent and compliance can therefore become more time-consuming and costly. In addition, the Company may be required to compensate those

suffering loss or damage by reason of its activities. There can be no guarantee that the Company will be able to maintain or obtain all necessary licenses, permits and approvals that may be required to explore and develop its properties, commence construction or operation of mining facilities. The failure of compliance with federal, provincial, and local laws and regulations could result in a partial, temporary or even complete cessation of the mining operations at the Bucko Lake Mine.

### Environmental

The Company's activities are subject to extensive federal, provincial and local laws and regulations governing environmental protection and employee health and safety. Environmental legislation is evolving in a manner that is creating stricter standards, while enforcement, fines and penalties for non-compliance are more stringent. The cost of compliance with changes in governmental regulations has the potential to reduce the profitability of operations. Furthermore, any failure to comply fully with all applicable laws and regulations could have significant adverse effects on the Company, including the suspension or cessation of operations.

### Title to Properties

The acquisition of title to resource properties is a very detailed and time-consuming process. The Company holds title to the Bucko Lake Mine through mining claims. Title to, and the area of, the mining claims may be disputed. There is no guarantee that such title will not be challenged or impaired. There may be challenges to the title of the properties in which the Company may have an interest, which, if successful, could result in the loss or reduction of the Company's interest in the properties.

CaNickel's interest in the Bucko Lake mining lease is subject to a back-in right held by Glencore Canada Corporation. In the event that CaNickel identifies a new deposit (in addition to the Bucko Lake Mine) with estimated measured and indicated resources in excess of 200,000,000 pounds of Nickel, Xstrata has the right to purchase a 50% interest in the property and to become the operator of the new deposit in consideration for a payment to CaNickel of an amount equal to the aggregate of all direct expenditures that were incurred by CaNickel in carrying out mining operations on the Bucko Lake Lease outside of the Bucko resource block prior to the date of exercise of the back-in right. Accordingly, the potential benefit to CaNickel of any discovery of a significantly increased deposit will be limited to a 50% interest in the project.

### Uninsured Risks

Due to the current financial difficulties, the Company did not maintain its property insurances, which expose the Company to significant risks of loss of properties without any compensation from insurance companies.

### Competition

The Company competes with many other mining companies that have substantially greater resources. Such competition may result in the Company being unable to acquire desired properties, recruit or retain qualified employees or acquire the capital necessary to fund the Company's operations and develop its properties. The Company's inability to compete with other mining companies for these resources would have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations and business.

### Dependence on Outside Parties

The Company has relied upon consultants, engineers, third party contractors and others and intends to rely on these parties for development, construction and operating expertise. Substantial expenditures are required to develop and construct mining related facilities, to develop mining plan and ground support procedures, to establish mineral reserves through drilling, to carry out environmental and social impact assessments, to develop metallurgical processes to extract the metal from the ore and, in the case of new properties, to develop the exploration and plant infrastructure at any particular site. If such parties' work is deficient or negligent or is not completed in a timely manner, it could have a material adverse effect on the Company.

### Qualified Personnel

Recruiting and retaining qualified personnel is critical to the Company's success. The number of persons skilled in the exploration, development, and mining activities is limited and competition for this workforce is generally intense. The operations of the Company may be significantly delayed or otherwise adversely affected if the Company cannot recruit and retain qualified personnel as and when required.

### Availability of Reasonably Priced Raw Materials and Mining Equipment

The Company will require a variety of raw materials in its business as well as a wide variety of mining equipment. To the extent these materials or equipment are unavailable or available only at significantly increased prices, the Company's production and financial performance could be adversely impacted.

### Operation Uncertainties

Although commercial production at Bucko Lake Mine was declared in June 2009, the mine operation has never been reached its designed and planned production capacity. Due to numerous reasons, operations at Bucko Lake Mine have been experiencing a cycle of startup and suspension, and then restart-up and suspension since 2009. Since July 2012, Bucko Lake Mine has been placed into care and maintenance. The Company currently has no plans to resume the mining operations. Even if the operations resumed, there is still great uncertainties if the Company could reach profitable operation as the cash cost of production is frequently subject to great variation from one year to the next due to a number of factors, such as ore grade, metallurgy, cost of supplies and services (for example, electricity and fuel) and the exchange rate in the case of supplies and services denominated in foreign currencies. Failure to achieve production or cost estimates casted adverse impacts on the Company's future cash flow, profitability, results of operation and financial conditions.

### Share Price Fluctuations

The market price of securities of many companies experience wide fluctuations in price that are not necessarily related to the operating performance, underlying asset values or prospects of such companies. Over the past 52 weeks, the share price of the Company ranged from \$0.025 to \$0.16 per share, and since the Company placed Bucko Lake Mine on care and maintenance in July 2012, the market capitalization of the common shares of the Company has been decreased by more than 90%. There can be no assurance that fluctuations in the Company's share price will not continue.

### Conflicts of Interest

Certain of the Company's directors and officers serve or may agree to serve as directors or officers of other companies and, to the extent that such other companies may participate in ventures in which the Company may participate or consider opportunities that may be of interest to the Company, the directors of the Company may have a conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest have the potential to call into

question the good governance of the Company and can also result in additional time and costs reviewing and implementing transactions involving a conflict.

### Land Reclamation

Although they vary, depending on location and the governing authority, land reclamation requirements are generally imposed on mineral exploration companies, as well as companies with mining operations, in order to minimize long term effects of land disturbance. Reclamation may include requirements to control dispersion of potentially deleterious effluents and to reasonably re-establish pre-disturbance land forms and vegetation. In order to carry out reclamation obligations imposed on the Company in connection with its mineral exploration and mining operations, the Company must allocate financial resources that might otherwise be spent on further exploration programs.

### Bucko Lake Mine Nickel Concentrate Sale Agreement

The Company entered into a sale agreement with Glencore Canada that provided that the Company will sell 100% of the Bucko Lake nickel concentrate to Glencore Canada on commercially competitive terms over the life of Bucko Lake Mine. There can be no assurance that “commercially competitive terms” will be favourable to the Company, given the state of the nickel market. As the Company has agreed to sell 100% of the Bucko Lake nickel concentrate to one customer, should Glencore Canada breach the sale agreement or encounter financial difficulties and be unable to perform its obligations under the sale agreement, the Company's financial position could be negatively impacted.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE BUCKO LAKE PROPERTY**

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**The information in this section has been derived in part from and based on the assumptions, qualifications and procedures set out in the “NI 43-101 Technical Report regarding Update to Reserves and Resources for the Bucko Lake Nickel Project, Wabowden, Manitoba” (the “Technical Report”), prepared by Lane A. Griffin, P.Geo, Paul L. Martin, P.Eng., and Chris C. Brioli, P. Geo., dated October 19, 2012. Each of the authors is independent from the Company and a Qualified Person under NI 43-101. The Technical Report is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). See “Interests of Experts”, “Risk Factors - Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Estimates May be Inaccurate” and “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information”.**

### **Property Description and Location**

The Bucko Lake property is located approximately 4.5 km southwest of the town of Wabowden, Manitoba, 116 km southwest of Thompson, Manitoba or 657 km north of Winnipeg, Manitoba on Highway 6

The Bucko Lake Property consists of a single mineral lease (ML-031) which covers 557 hectares (Ha). All mineralized zones, mineral resources, mineral reserves, mine workings and current and proposed tailings and waste rock deposition areas are located within the boundary of this lease. In Manitoba the ML-031 lease has a 21 year term and requires the party holding such lease make annual payments of CAD \$10.50 per hectare if in production or CAD \$12.00 per hectare if not in production. Mining leases which terminate after the initial 21 year period can be renewed for an additional 21 year period on into perpetuity through the payment of the annual per hectare fee. One of the conditions required of recording a mining lease is that the boundary of the area under application be surveyed by a Manitoba Land Surveyor. Mining lease ML-031 was recorded in 1992 and is up for renewal in April 2013. CaNickel also maintains surface rights for Mining Lease 031 under a separate lease agreement with the Province of Manitoba ensuring no restriction to access or development on the property.

CaNickel's 100% interest in ML-031 is subject to a Back-in-Right whereby should CaNickel outline a Threshold Deposit-a new deposit (outside of currently known Bucko Resources) exceeding 200 million pounds (90.9 million Kg) of nickel in Measured and Indicated reserves, Glencore would have the right to Back-In for a 50% interest and to become the operator of the Threshold Deposit by paying to CaNickel an amount equal to the aggregate of all direct expenditures which were incurred by CaNickel in carrying out mining operation on the Bucko Lake Lease outside of the Bucko Lake Resource Block prior to the date of exercise of the Back-In Right.

Under the terms of the Lease Transfer Agreement production from the property is subject to a 2.5% Net Smelter Royalty payable to Glencore net of all charges and penalties for smelting and refining, insurance premiums, and sampling and assay charges incurred after the minerals, metals or metal concentrates have left the site. If the cash quotation from the London Metal Exchange is less than \$6.00 per pound for Nickel Grade A in any month then proceeds from this Net Smelter Payment would not apply.

### **Accessibility, Climate, Local Resources, Infrastructure and Physiography**

The property is accessible from Provincial Highway 6 and a network of all-weather gavel roads and seasonal trails extending from the Highway, and surrounding infrastructure associated with the town of Wabowden which is located centrally within the project area.

The climate is typical of northern areas within the Canadian Shield with long winters and short warm to hot summers. Average temperatures range from a low average of -25 degrees centigrade in January to a high average of 17 degrees centigrade in July. The average number of frost free days is 104. The annual precipitation average 315 cm of rain and 147.5 cm of snow. For most purposes the site can be considered an all-weather operation except for temporary unusual weather conditions.

The HBR (Omnitrac) Rail Line to Churchill and a major electric transmission line heading south along Hwy 6 transect the project area.

Fresh water make-up is supplied by a combination of water from Bucko Lake and underground diamond drill holes from underground. Recycling systems are established to reuse water from the underground operations and the tailings facility to reduce additional water consumption from the make-up sources.

### **History**

Consolidated Marbenor Mines Limited (CMML) first acquired the lands containing the Bucko Lake deposit in 1959 and subsequently optioned the property to Falconbridge in 1962 after drilling hole M77-B which intersected 1.54% Nickel over 6.3m. CMML and Falconbridge conducted numerous follow-up ground and airborne-based magnetic, electromagnetic, seismic refraction and induced polarization surveys on the claims.

In 1964 the Bucko Lake mineralization was discovered with a drill program that tested geophysical drill targets. After a 53 hole program in 1970 with over 21,000m of work was completed a decision was made to go underground and run an exploration program at depth. In 1971-72 an all-weather access road was developed and a three compartment shaft was sunk to 356.6m below the surface. Over 900m of drift was developed on the 305m (1000 ft.) level and a diamond drill program of 61 holes with over 12,000m of drilling. In 1974 the shaft was capped, allowed to flood and the site demobilized.

Not until 1990 was work begun again on the property when additional geophysical surveys were conducted and 9 holes were completed totaling 6880m of drilling. Nuinsco Resources Ltd. conducted a due-diligence drilling program in 2000 testing the continuity of mineralization and followed up with additional drilling in 2001 for a total of over 7100m of work.

CaNickel became involved with the project in 2004 with operating partner Falconbridge and conducted surface diamond drilling. During this period 77 holes totaling 32, 246 meters were drilled to in-fill areas of known mineralization, expand resources and reserves, and to obtain bulk sample material for metallurgical testing. In 2008, CaNickel conducted underground infill drilling on the 1000 foot (304.8 m) level to delineate reserves in areas of planned initial production as well as increase the geotechnical database for ground conditions. CaNickel achieved first production from the Bucko Lake Mine in September of 2008.

Underground operations have continued but occasional slowdowns have occurred as many startup operations experienced. On December 29, 2011 a reduction in operations occurred due to unfavorable nickel prices in an effort reduce operational costs and preserve capital and was in effect until April when work ramped back up to full capacity.

Full production of the Bucko Lake Property was achieved in the first quarter of 2012 having mined over 60,000 tonnes of ore and milled 54,000 tonnes to produce over a million pounds(453,590 kg) of nickel. CaNickel sold just over 900,000 pounds (408,230 kg) of nickel and an average selling price of \$8.65 US per pound for \$7.8 million dollars US. During this time they also completed construction of Phase 1 of the tailings management area. The month of March saw a milestone as the mill achieved a record recovery rate of 79.1%.

On May 16, 2012 CaNickel received a stop work order from Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Division to cease blasting operations at the company's Bucko Lake Mine. The stop work order was lifted in June, 2012 and known voids have been backfilled and the current mining plan is revised to correct the ground condition issues. Moreover, as a consequence of weakening nickel prices and higher mining costs experienced by the company using cut and fill mining methods, CaNickel decided to place the Buck Lake Mine on care and maintenance in July 2012.

## **Geological Setting and Mineralization**

### Regional Geology

The Bucko Lake mine is located within the Thompson Nickel Belt, a northeastern trending zone 10-35km wide and 100km long zone of variably reworked Archaean basement gneisses and early Proterozoic cover rocks between the Superior and Churchill Provinces in northern Manitoba.

Strong gravity and magnetic expressions allow delineation of the belt and permit its extension beneath platformal cover. It is comprised of gneisses, metasedimentary, metavolcanic and ultramafic rocks and felsic plutons. The metasedimentary, metavolcanic and ultramafic rocks and associated nickel deposits are located on the western side of the belt.

The intermediate to felsic gneisses are stratiform in nature and have a complex tectonic and metamorphic history. They also have an earlier Archean granulite facies and a pervasive retrograde Proterozoic amphibolites facies metamorphism. Of the two structural events identified an earlier folding produced tight sub-horizontal plunging synclinal structures and the later cross folding produced sub-vertically plunging folds.

The metavolcanic pile consists of pillowed and massive metabasaltic flows. They are recrystallized to amphibolites and no primary textures are evident. Magnesium metabasalts and minor ultramafic flows are also associated with these flows. Field relationships suggest that the metavolcanic rocks are coeval with the metasedimentary rocks. The ultramafic rocks have been divided into serpentinites and ultramafic amphibolites. Serpentinites occur as sheet-like or lenticular concordant bodies in the gneisses and they range from dunite to peridotite in composition. The ultramafic amphibolites also occur as lenticular concordant bodies in the gneisses. The general character of the ultramafic rocks suggest that they were originally intruded as sills and are early "Hudsonian" or "pre-Hudsonian" in age.

The present producer is Vale at their Birchtree and Thompson underground mines and the Thompson open pit mine. Past producers include the Pipe, Soab, and Manibridge deposits. The nickel deposits are genetically and spatially related to the serpentinite sills. Their present distribution is the result of re-mobilization during the long and complex tectonic history of the Thompson Belt. Sulfides occur as interstitial grains in the serpentinites, as massive and inclusion bearing sulfides on the contact between the serpentinites and the country rocks and as stringers or veins in the serpentinites and country rocks.

### Local Geology

The Bucko Lake property is underlain by Archean gneisses and Proterozoic ultramafic intrusive rocks. The Archean magmatic gneisses have been subdivided into granite gneiss, amphibole gneiss and amphibolite.

The Archean gneisses were intruded by Aphebian ultramafic sills including the Bucko Lake Ultramafic which hosts the nickel mineralization on the property. The Bucko Lake Ultramafic sill is on the northeast flank of the Resting Lake intrusion. The footwall contact of the deposit comes in close contact to granodiorite gneiss associated with this intrusion.

The Bucko Lake ultramafic sill is primarily composed of metamorphosed peridotite and dunite with lesser amounts of olivine orthopyroxenite, poikilitic harzburgite, orthopyroxenite and amphibole bearing peridotite. It has been interpreted as a hook shaped body dipping steeply (75- 80 degrees) to the east. It is approximately 20m wide at the south end, gradually increasing to over 150m wide at the north end where it wraps around the nose of a synformal fold structure plunging steeply to the south. A strike length of approximately 800m has been determined from its north-south trace on the surface.

Contacts of the ultramafic rocks with the surrounding country rocks are usually obscured by alteration, shearing or late stage pegmatite dikes. Blocks of amphibolite rich gneiss called plagioclase amphibole occur in the northern part of the ultramafic sill. The larger xenoliths occur within a distinct bulge or keel in the footwall of the ultramafics adjacent to the Hinge Zone. These blocks appear to be xenoliths of country rock incorporated into the sill during its emplacement.

The sill has undergone two stages of metasomatic alteration. The serpentinization of the olivine was first with concurrent alteration of the orthopyroxene to anthophyllite, tremolite and phlogopite. The next stage of alteration was superimposed on the serpentinized ultramafics and occurs as envelopes around pegmatite dikes and fractures. The envelopes range from centimeters to meters in width and consist of an outer zone of talc and tremolite, a central zone of fibrous tremolite and an inner zone of phlogopite and minor anthophyllite.

### **Exploration**

Surface work is very restricted on the nickel prospects in this part of Manitoba because of limited rock exposures. Lakes cover much of the area and initial exploration along the Thompson Nickel belt relies largely on ground and airborne geophysical surveys (mainly gravity and magnetics) to locate areas of potential nickel mineralization.

The Bucko Lake Project has been actively explored since 1959, mainly by Falconbridge Ltd. and Crowflight Minerals. Beginning in 1962, Falconbridge conducted numerous follow up geophysical surveys with some additional surveys done in 1990, specifically ground and airborne magnetic and electromagnetic (EM) surveys. In addition, many down-hole EM surveys were done on selected drill holes. The final geophysical surveys were done in 2004.

Initial exploration drilling began in 1962 with diamond drill core holes on the east side of Bucko Lake. In

1972 a decline shaft was sunk to 305 meters depth, after which the drilling consisted solely of underground drill holes designed to follow the nickel mineralization to depths of 800 meters. A report by P&E Mining Consultants Inc. in 2005 entitled “Technical Report and Resource Estimate on the Bucko Lake Property, The Pas Mining District, Manitoba, Canada” provided resource estimates for the mineralization discovered up to then and highlighted several areas where additional drilling could result in expansion of the resource. Crowflight began extensive drilling in 2006 to verify the location, shape and quality of this mineralization to enhance the economics of the project. The same year (2006) Micon reported a reserve for the Bucko Lake Project in a report entitled “Feasibility Study for the Bucko Lake Nickel Deposit, Wabowden Manitoba” and in the following year (2007) Micon produced an updated report entitled “Technical Report on the Updated Bucko Lake Nickel Project Feasibility Study, Bowden, Manitoba.”

As of early 2009, surface and underground diamond drilling at Bucko Lake consisted of 157 holes totaling 45,929 meters. In mid-2010, CaNickel drilled infill and exploration holes to further define and expand the resources, but no surface or underground drilling has been done since then.

## **Mineralization**

Three areas of nickel mineralization are currently recognized within the Bucko Lake deposit.

- The West Limb or western limb of the structure. The Lower, Middle, and Upper Zones follow interpreted continuity in elevated mineralization between drill intercepts through corresponding portions of the intrusion. Two corridors of elevated nickel within this area are referred to as the North and South trends.
- The Hinge Zone occupies the “hinge” area between the western and eastern fold limbs and represents the northernmost portion of the deposit and consists of three zones of mineralization interpreted to be folded extensions to the Lower, Middle, and Upper Zones observed on the West Limb.
- The Footwall Zone represents a new mineralized horizon that was intersected during the course of infill drilling and driving footwall development on the 1,000 foot (308.4 m) level in 2008. This zone is interpreted to tie within mineralization intersected by historical exploration drill holes near the southern limit of drilling on the 1,400 foot (426.7 m) level.

Wide zones of lower grade disseminated mineralization (usually >1.0% Ni) typically envelope higher grade net textured to semi-massive sulphide layers or shoots (>3% Ni) within segregated portions of the ultramafic intrusion. Mineralization consists of disseminated to net textured sulfides containing (in order of relative abundance) pentlandite, pyrrhotite, mackinawite, pyrite, and chalcopyrite.

A network of remobilized sulphide veinlets ranging from the millimeter to several meter scale are associated with a fracture controlled talc/tremolite/phlogopite/anthophyllite alteration network that overprints the intrusion. Sulfides are also observed along altered contacts with pegmatite dykes cross-cutting the intrusion.

## **Drilling**

CaNickel has conducted a number of drill programs on the Bucko Lake property. It has completed infill drilling with the goal of further defining the resources at the project. A total of 625 holes totaling 143,645 meters diamond drilling were completed at Bucko Lake property since 1962.

Drilling was completed from both surface and underground collar locations. Holes drilled from surface typically collected NQ diameter core. The majority of surface drill holes were surveyed by DGPS and recorded as UTM coordinates using a NAD 83 Zone 14 projection system. The collar positions are then converted to a local mine coordinate system using an orthographic projection system based on an

assigned shaft elevation of 304.8 meters. The eastings and northings are translated without rotation by subtracting 520,000 meters from the UTM Easting and 6,000,000 from the UTM Northing. This local grid system is used for surface and underground engineering design and resource modeling. Underground drill hole collars are spotted and aligned prior to completion using standard underground survey methods and picked up again following completion of drilling at each set-up.

Downhole surveying of all drill holes was completed in all holes at a 30 metre intervals using an electronic single shot survey instrument, such as Reflex ZS-Shot or Flex-it, which accurately measures azimuth, inclination, magnetic tool face angle, gravity roll angle, magnetic field strength and temperature. All core was logged and is stored on a secured compound at the Bucko Mine Site. Drill sites were inspected upon completion by CaNickel personnel, and cleaned if necessary. Manitoba Conservation officers were notified upon the completion of drilling for post drilling site inspection. Site locations were marked by a stake affixed with aluminum tags containing hole number, depth, azimuth, and dip. Underground holes are plugged and marked with metal tags containing hole name information.

### **Sampling Methods and Approach**

CaNickel prepares its core samples at the company's secure core facilities in Wabowden. The samples consist of NQ sized (47.6 mm) diamond drill core for most surface drill holes and smaller BQ sized core (36.5 mm) from underground drilling. The NQ core from surface drilling is split in half using a diamond blade rock saw, whereas the smaller BQ core from underground infill (definition) drilling is mainly whole sampled after it has been logged and photographed. Only a couple of samples from each drill section were selected to split in 2007 to 2009 underground definition drilling program. Core is stored in racks or cross stacked at Bucko Lake Mine Site. Samples are bagged with identification tags, bundled together in rice sacks on shrink wrap bound pallets, and shipped to independent accredited commercial laboratories for preparation and subsequent analysis.

All drill core samples, both from the earlier Crowflight drilling and CaNickel's subsequent drilling, have been sent to ALS Chemex in Thunder Bay for preparation and from there to ALS Chemex in Vancouver for analysis. ALS Chemex is a reputable international laboratory who has provided analytical services to the mining and mineral exploration industry in more than 15 countries. All ALS Chemex laboratories in Canada are registered under ISO 9001:2000 quality standard.

Samples received at the ALS Chemex preparation facility in Thunder Bay, Ontario, are verified against the submittal forms and weighed, and their subsequent preparation progress is then tracked and monitored by the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). The entire sample is crushed in a jaw crusher to 75% passing -10 mesh (2 mm). Sieve tests are completed periodically to monitor grain size variation. Samples are split in a riffle splitter to achieve a 200 to 225 g split. The sample splits are pulverized using a ring mill for approximately two minutes to achieve 85% passing -200 mesh. The pulp is sealed in paper envelopes affixed with a digital label and shipped via courier to the ALS Chemex analytical laboratory in Vancouver. A confirmation of shipping, including submittal form number, number of samples, and waybill number is e-mailed from the sample preparation laboratory to the CaNickel Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) geologist.

At the ALS analytical facility in Vancouver, the sample pulps are again verified against the submittal form, logged as 'received' into the SGS LIMS, and then posted to the laboratory's secure website, where their progress may be monitored by authorized staff. For Ni, Cu, Co, Pb, Zn, Fe and S, 0.2 g of the pulp is fused with 2.6 g of sodium peroxide at 650°C. The resulting melt is cooled and dissolved in dilute nitric acid. The solution is analyzed by ICP-AES and the results corrected for spectral interference. Calibration solutions for the ICP-AES must be prepared in a similar fashion to achieve matrix matching. Detection limits are 0.01% for both Ni and Cu, and 0.001% for Co.

ALS manages its internal QA/QC using procedures to ensure proper tracking of samples during sample preparation is followed and its analytical equipment is properly calibrated. Results from each batch of

samples prepared by ALS are presented in a certificate of analysis accompanied by a QA/QC statement, ensuring that the lab's internal QA/QC procedures are transparent and effective.

Sample Preparation, Analysis, and Security

All diamond drill core utilized during the 2009-10 drill program was sent to ALS Chemex in Thunder Bay for preparation. Prepared samples were subsequently analyzed in Vancouver. ALS Chemex is a reputable international laboratory which has provided analytical services to the mining and mineral exploration industry in more than 15 countries. All ALS Chemex laboratories in Canada are ISO 9001:2000 certified.

Upon reception in Thunder Bay, all samples were sorted and checked against the sample submission form before entering the preparation laboratory. All samples were subsequently dried at 70°C for at least two hours before sample preparation continued. Once weighed, all drill core samples were crushed to 95% passing 2mm, and then the whole sample was homogenized before taking the final split for the pulp. Once all samples were homogenized, a 250g split was selected to be pulverized using a LM-2 to 95% passing 75 µm. A final pulp of at least 100g was produced by splitting through an appropriate sized Jones splitter for analyses to ALS Chemex lab in Vancouver.

ALS Chemex was required to include internal specific quality control measures. Preparation duplicates were inserted every 20 samples and pulp duplicates every 10 samples for all analyses. The laboratory was also requested to use a preparation blank at least twice for each work order and insert in-house standards appropriate to the samples approximately every 20 samples. Particle size analysis (PSA) was also requested for the coarse reject and pulp for every 20 samples.

**Mineral Reserve and Mineral Resource Estimates**

Results from a program of surface and underground drilling completed on the property from 2007 to 2010 were used to produce an updated Mineral Reserve and Resource estimate. By taking out mined areas between March 25, 2010 to March 31, 2012 and based on interpolation of drill results, geological information and updated information regarding capital and operating costs, available from the mine operations, fully diluted Proven and Probable Reserves and Mineral Resources were prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 guidelines are summarized as follows:

**Estimated Mineral Reserves and Resources at Bucko Lake Mine  
as at April 1, 2012**

Category	Cut-Off Grade	Tonnes	Ni %	Contained Nickel (000 000 lbs)
Proven Reserves	1.25%	616,000	1.43	19.4
Probable Reserves	1.25%	1,994,000	1.44	63.13
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>1.25%</b>	<b>2,610,000</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>82.53</b>
Measured Resources*	1.0%	751,000	1.37	22.68
Indicated Resources*	1.0%	2,845,000	1.28	80.06
<b>Total Measured and Indicated Resources</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>3,596,000</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>102.74</b>
Inferred Resources**	1.0%	5,043,000	1.41	156.89
<b>Total Inferred Resources</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>5,043,000</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>156.89</b>

\* Resources are exclusive of reserves.

\* Mineral Resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The estimate of

mineral resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal title, taxation, sociopolitical, marketing or other relevant issues.

\*\*The quality and grade of reported inferred resources in this estimation are conceptual in nature and there has been insufficient exploration to define these inferred resources as an indicated or measured mineral resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in upgrading them to an indicated or measured mineral resource category.

The mineral resources were estimated using the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), CIM Standards on Mineral Resources and Reserves, Definitions and Guidelines prepared by the CIM Standing Committee on Reserve Definitions and adopted by CIM Council.

Mining reserves for the Bucko Lake Mine were derived from the mineable portion of the Measured and Indicated resources defined by a cut-off grade of 1.25% nickel grade totaling 3,491,200 tonnes at 1.78% Ni. They represent the portion of the Measured and Indicated mineral resources that have been subject to a detailed economic assessment by Mr. Martin using the current Bucko Lake mine, mill, G/A unit costs, milling recovery, concentrate ratios, recovery and transportation costs for year to date 2012. Stope design, underground development and all volumetric queries were created by CaNickel; using the computerized mine design software packages Gemcom and Flairbase Amine. Solids were developed for each level for cut & fill and long hole stopes including crown pillars to constrain grade interpolation and calculate grade and volumes.

Mine design factors used in the reserve estimates are consistent with standard industry practices for base metals deposits. They include:

- Utilization of the resource block model as a basis for stope design. A full block approach was utilized with stope shells based on the full block. Block sizing is 2mW x 2mD x 2mH which is smaller than the minimum mining width.
- Conversion of resources to reserves considered the following factors: mining dilution and recovery, mucking recovery, allowance for backfill gouging, accountability parameters and mining, G/A and milling costs.

Dilution parameters used for the Proven and Probable reserve estimates include Longhole (LH) stopes include 20% external dilution – as per approved stope grade from mine inventory. Cuts have 4.7% over break factor applied plus 2% fill dilution factor as calculated from Overhand Cut and Fill (OHCF) study. Crowns assume 15% external dilution at 1.0% Ni, 2.5% fill dilution at 0% Ni applied on an 85% mining recovery.

The stopes are defined by a 1.25% nickel cut-off grade within the ultramafic zone. The 1.25% cut-off grade is calculated using a 30% profit margin for the mine operations using historical mine operations parameters. The bulk of the mining going forward starting in 2012 is utilizing Longhole stoping methods. Stopes are defined by grade boundaries, not geologic contacts.

Mining of the reserves was based primarily on Longhole extraction methods from the 1000 ft. (305 m) to the bottom of the reserve model, and Overhand Cut and Fill method for the stopes above the 1000 ft. (305 m) elevation.

Mining methods include the use of consolidated backfill and sequencing based on a series of primary and secondary stopes to achieve complete recovery of the modeled reserve.

## **Mining Operations**

Commercial production at Bucko Lake Mine was declared in June 2009 and the mine operation was temporarily suspended in November 2009 in order to complete ramp development, review the mining method, accelerate mine development, continue with underground diamond drilling, and to upgrade the backfill plant. In March 26, 2010, CaNickel resumed nickel concentrate shipments from the Bucko Lake Mine. However, due to numerous reasons, the Company was not able to achieve the production target

and unit mining cost was very high. In October 2010, the Company temporarily suspended the mining operation at Bucko Lake Mine in order to facilitate the introduction of its own underground mining equipment and team and make readjustments address certain operation issues.

Mining operations at Bucko Lake Mine was resumed in April 2011, but re-startup was affected by the late delivery of mining equipment, issues left over from previous operation, and unfavorable nickel price. In order to reserve capital to complete the construction of paste backfill plant and the tailing facilities, the Company decided to scale down the operation at Bucko Lake Mine on December 29, 2011, however, the decision was reversed as a result of the successful trial of long hole stoping mining method in January 2012. In May 2012, the Company received a stop work order from Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Division which require the Company to stop underground blasting until the Company backfill all known open voids underground, an independent mining engineer to review the current mine plan and audit the last twelve months of mining methods in respect to the mine plan, and the Company revise the mine plan based on the audit and finding. The stop work order was lifted in June 2012, but due to the weakening of nickel prices, the Company decided to place Bucko Lake Mine on care and maintenance in July 2012. During the care and maintenance period, the Company will continue its efforts to optimize the underground mining methods and mine plan. However, the timing to re-open the operations at Buck Lake Mine is uncertain.

Several metallurgical tests have been conducted to measure the methods and techniques that would best liberate the metals from the Bucko Lake Mine rock. Falconbridge initiated testing in the 1960's at the Lakefield Research facility (now SGS-Lakefield Laboratories, a metallurgical testing laboratory in Ontario) and continued until 1991.

The overall design of the Bucko Lake Mill involved detailed studies of mineralogy, mineral processing and design and was coordinated and supervised by Micon International, Toronto, Canada. From 2005-2007 metallurgical test work was performed by G&T Metallurgical Laboratories, Kamloops, British Columbia. The process design for the mill is predominately based on this program.

In 2006 a new metallurgical sample comprising three major types of mineralization was studied. The purpose of this new program was to further investigate the effect of different types of MgO (magnesium oxide) mineralization on the metallurgical performance and to optimize certain processing parameters. A sample comprised of 160 half sawn core intervals of representatively mineralized rock weighing 380 kg was submitted to G&T Labs. This sample was considered to be more representative than the previous samples because of the greater number of samples and the greater spatial distribution throughout the deposit.

The sample was sub-characterized based on three mineralogical distinct ore types. Type 1 is characteristic of unaltered periodite consisting of fine disseminated interstitial to incipient net textured nickel sulfide in a relatively homogenous gangue assemblage consisting of orthopyroxene and amorphous serpentine minerals. When this rock was observed to contain greater than 50% fracture controlled to pervasive talc/tremolite/phlogopite/anthophyllite alteration by volume, it was classified as Type 2 Ore. Ore type 3 consists of fracture controlled to semi-massive nickel sulfide mineralization occurring along the margins of and with the interior of cross cutting pegmatite dykes observed throughout the ore body.

The process selected to produce a single primarily nickel concentrate is based on the interpretation of the results from the historic and 2005-2007 metallurgical test work programs. The basic process selected is primary crushing, grinding to 80% passing 98 microns, flotation to produce a single bulk concentrate, concentrate dewatering and tailings disposal.

The installed processing plant at Bucko Lake Mine was based on the above determinations and is currently designed to treat 1,000 dry ton per day but can be expanded to the rate of 1,500 tonnes per day with minimum capital investment and amended permitting. During the first quarter ended March 31, 2012, the Company achieved an average milling recovery rate of 75.20% with an average head grade of

\$1.18%. In March 2012, the Company reported a monthly average of 79.1% mill recovery rate with an average head grade of 1.16% and the highest daily recovery rate of 86.1%.

Based on the production rate of 1000 tonnes per day or 363,000 tonnes per year and the 2.61 million tonnes of diluted proven and probable reserves, Bucko Lake Mine has remaining mine life of 7.2 years. Using long term nickel price of US\$8.50 per pound, mining cost of \$63.53 per ton, processing cost of \$38.13 per ton, general and administration cost of \$7.84 per ton, and a discount rate of 6%, the net present value of Bucko Lake Mine is approximately \$80.0 million (“base case”).

Sensitivity analysis for net present value has been applied to the base case pre-tax economic evaluation for the price of nickel per pound, nickel grade in percent nickel and underground mine operating costs per ton of ore to the mill varying the Base Case values from -30% to +30% in 10% increments and summarized as follows:

<b>Sensitivity Value into LOM Pre-Tax Economic Evaluation</b>			
Percent Change	Nickel Price (\$/lb)	Nickel Grade (%)	Mining cost (\$/ton)
+30%	\$11.05	1.86	\$82.58
+20%	\$10.20	1.72	\$76.23
+10%	\$9.35	1.58	\$69.88
Base Case	\$8.5	1.43	\$63.53
-10%	\$7.65	1.29	\$57.17
-20%	\$6.80	1.15	\$50.82
-30%	\$5.95	1.00	\$44.47
<b>• Sensitivity Net Present Value at 6% Discount Rate</b>			
Percent Change	Nickel Price (\$/lb)	Nickel Grade (%)	Mining cost (\$/ton)
+30%	\$195,715,129	\$186,641,628	\$40,587,708
+20%	\$157,152,747	\$151,103,745	\$53,733,132
+10%	\$118,590,364	\$115,565,863	\$66,880,557
Base Case	\$80,027,981	\$80,027,981	\$80,027,981
-10%	\$41,465,598	\$44,490,099	\$93,175,405
-20%	\$2,903,215	\$8,952,217	\$106,322,830
-30%	(\$35,659,167)	(\$26,585,666)	\$119,470,254

### **Concentrate Sale Agreement**

In 2007, the Company entered into a sale agreement with Glencore Canada Corporation (“Glencore”) that provided that the Company will sell 100% of the Bucko Lake nickel concentrate to Glencore commercially competitive terms over the life of Bucko Lake Mine. Under the terms of the Agreement, a net smelter return (NSR) is payable to Glencore on the proceeds of production for all nickel sold at a monthly average daily spot price that is greater than US \$6.00 per pound of nickel. The NSR is not payable for product sold at a metal price less than US \$6.00 per pound of nickel.

### **DESCRIPTION OF OTHER EXPLORATION PROPERTIES**

#### **THOMPSON NICKEL BELT EXPLORATION PROPERTIES (THE “TNB”) - MANITOBA**

The Thompson Nickel Belt (TNB) is a geological region located in north central Manitoba known to host large deposits of nickel sulphides. Since discovery in the 1950s, the belt has produced more than four billion pounds of nickel from several mines operated at one point or another by either Vale Inco Limited or Falconbridge Limited. Two deposits owned and operated by Vale (Thompson and Birchtree) are currently in production and in 2005 produced about 70 million pounds of contained nickel. The nickel

smelting and refining facilities at Thompson contribute to roughly one-third of total Canadian nickel output.

Under the terms of the Exploration Option Agreement (“Agreement”) and Exploration Amending Agreement (“Amending Agreement”) with Glencore, the Company has the right to earn a 100% Glencore’s interest in Glencore’s TNB properties (formerly referred to as the TNB North and TNB South Exploration Properties), which includes approximately 580 square kilometres of exploration ground in Manitoba, Canada by incurring \$12.7 million option expenditures by December 31, 2013. In 2013, the Company fulfilled its obligations and submitted the exercise notice to Glencore to exercise its options. In 2014, titles of all Glencore’s TNB properties governed by the Agreement and Amending Agreement were transferred to the Company.

In October 2012, the Company completed and released CaNickel 2012 Technical Report which provided an updated resources estimate covering Bucko Lake Mine and its satellite properties, including M11A, Apex, Halfway Lake, and Bowden Lake projects. The updated reserves and resource estimates have included all drillings from the 1960’s to 2012. With additional drilling conducted at M11A projects in 2012, the Company was able to bring the confidence level of some resources estimates at M11A project to indicated category. For detailed resources estimates, please review our press release “CaNickel Announces Updated Mineral Reserves and Resources For the Bucko Lake Nickel Project” dated October 26, 2012” and the CaNickel 2012 Technical Report, which is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company’s website at [www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com).

During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company completed 3,078 meters drilling program at Bowden Lake Deposit and 669 samples were assayed in this four holes drilling program. The assay results were disclosed on the Company’s press release dated July 12, 2013.

In addition, the Company also completed a 17-hole 8,682 diamond drilling program at Bucko North property and 1,033 samples were assayed. The assay results were disclosed on the Company’s press release dated September 23 2013. The above press releases are available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company’s website at [www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com).

In December 2014, the Company completed a ground magnetic geophysical surveying of fifteen grids, totalling 184.6 lin-km at Brithtree North, Birchtree South, Burntwood, Moak Lake, and Strong Lake projects of its TNB Properties. The survey grids were designed primarily to test magnetic and electromagnetic anomalies identified by intersections. In addition to surfacing gridding, a 3D VOXI mode, using 3D Magnetic Inversion process, was also created.

In September 2014, the Company also completed a ground time-domain electromagnetic (TEM) geophysical surveying program of four grids totalling 2.507 line-km at its Burntwood and Birchtree North projects of TNB Properties. The survey grids were high priority magnetic-electromagnetic geophysical anomalies identified from previous airborne and ground geophysical surveys.

In 2015, the Company continued survey programs at TNB properties and incurred \$564,419 exploration expenditures, and received a total of \$238,674 government assistance and refund on the qualified exploration expenditures incurred during the year. However, due to the decline of metal prices, the Company determined that the carrying value of TNB properties exceeds its recoverable value, and an impairment charge of \$20,586,052 was taken against its carrying value. The recoverable amount is determined based on the properties’ future cash flows expected to be derived and represent its fair value less estimated costs of disposal (“FVLCD”). FVLCD includes an “option value” meaning that these projects may have value even if they are not expected to be profitable at current price and cost estimates. The cash flows were determined based on cash flow projections which incorporate management’s best estimates of future metal prices, recoverable reserves, production timing and levels, operating costs, capital expenditures, tax rates, foreign exchange rates, discount rates and net asset value (“NAV”) multiples over the life of the properties. Expected prices of US\$5.37 per pound in 2016 and US\$4.70 per pound in 2017

and thereafter were used for the estimation. As at December 31, 2015, management has determined the option value to be nominal as it is uncertain how much longer the Company will continue to maintain these properties and it has not yet been able to sell or farm-out the projects to third parties.

Pursuant to terms of the agreements with Glencore, the Company fulfilled its obligations to earn in Glencore's 100% interest in TNB properties. Titles of TNB Properties have been transferred to the Company.

The Company's interest in the TNB properties is subject to a back-in right whereby should the Company outline a threshold deposit or deposits, each of which exceed 500,000,000 pounds of nickel in measured and indicated resources, Xstrata has the right to back-in for a 50% interest and become the operator of the threshold deposit or deposits by incurring expenditures on the property in an amount equal to two times the aggregate of all expenditures which were incurred by the Company in carrying out mining operations on the property prior to the back-in, provided that if Xstrata exercises more than one back-in right, then in calculating the required back-in expenditures for each subsequent back-in right, expenditures relating to any previously exercised back-in right are excluded from such expenditure calculation.

The properties are also subject to underlying agreements, specifically i) a 2% net smelter return ("NSR"); and ii) a 10% net proceeds of production royalty payable to Xstrata.

The TNB South Exploration Properties, or satellite deposits of Bucko Lake Mine, include (a) M11A Project; (b) the Bowden Lake Nickel Deposit; (c) Apex Zone Project, and (d) Halfway Lake Prospect located within 30 kilometres of the Bucko Deposit.

The TNB North Project area encompasses 250 square kilometres of mineral claims in six properties (Burntwood River, Birchtree South, Birchtree North, Airport, Moak Lake and Strong Lake) located adjacent to Vale's Thompson and Birchtree mines near the town of Thompson, Manitoba.

**The following information has been derived in part from and based on the assumptions, qualifications and procedures set out in the "NI 43-101 Technical Report regarding Update to Reserves and Resources for the Bucko Lake Nickel Project, Wabowden, Manitoba" (the "Technical Report"), prepared by Lane A. Griffin, P.Geo, Paul L. Martin, P.Eng., and Chris C. Brioli, P. Geo., dated October 19, 2012. Each of the authors is independent from the Company and a Qualified Person under NI 43-101. The Technical Report is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). See "Interests of Experts", "Risk Factors - Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Estimates May be Inaccurate" and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information".**

### **Bowden Properties (M11A, Apex, and Bowden Lake)**

The M11A deposit is approximately 4 km northeast of the Bucko Lake deposit and 1 km east of the town of Wabowden and shares the same good road and infrastructure characteristics as the Bucko Lake deposit. The outline of the deposit as defined in recent drilling occupies a wetland bog and is best traveled during the frozen winter months. The approximate UTM NAD83 (Zone 14) coordinate for the property is 524,000mE; 6,084,000mN.

The Bowden Lake and Apex prospects are located outside the town of Wabowden, Manitoba, 106 km south-southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg. The approximate central UTM NAD83 (Zone 14) coordinate for the claims mentioned in this report is: 521,300mE; 6,084,100mN.

Like the Bucko Property, the Bowden Properties (M11A, Bowden Lake and Apex) is underlain by Archean magmatic gneisses and Opswagan Group (Manasan Formation) metasediments hosting concordant ultramafic rocks. The western portion of the Lease is underlain by an amphibole quartz monzonite believed to be an extension of the Resting Lake Pluton. The full extent of the Opswagan Group

metasedimentary sequence in this area is poorly understood. The Bowden Nickel Deposit lies within a faulted, folded and pegmatite intruded altered ultramafic-mafic complex enveloped by mafic to felsic gneisses. The Bowden deposit consists of a large number of variable sized elongate lenticular disseminated sulfide bodies. They all occur within ultramafic horizons but show no consistent relationship to either structural footwall or hanging wall contacts. On the M11A mining lease a variable sized elongate lenticular disseminated sulfide body was defined. It occurs within an ultramafic horizon. The M11A mineralized lens strikes over 500 meters at N050° before splitting in two limbs (N-NE and E) over 250 meters. The horizontal thickness varies from 6 to 120 meters.

The Bowden project area has been the subject of exploration activity since the 1950's. In the 1960's and early 1970's, a total of 67 drill holes were drilled on the M11A property by Consolidated Marbenor and Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited. During this period Falconbridge also conducted a variety of ground magnetic, AFMAG EM and IP surveys. This work resulted in the discovery of the Bucko Lake, Bowden Lake, and initial M11A (or Discovery) deposits. By the mid 1970's non-compliant 43-101 historical resource estimates had been internally established by Falconbridge at all three zones. In 1976 due to low nickel prices and operations problems at Manibridge, Falconbridge Ltd. curtailed exploration and development activities in Manitoba.

In 1990 Falconbridge returned to the area to complete additional ground geophysical surveys, digitally compile historical drill logs, and to re-assess resources located near Wabowden. In 1991 several holes were drilled to test targets located east of the Bucko Lake deposit. In 1992 Falconbridge applied for and was granted mining leases 31, 32, 33, and 34. In 2004, Falconbridge optioned approximately 580 square km of its exploration properties in the Thompson Nickel belt to the Company. Since 2004, the Company and Falconbridge jointly explored portions of the optioned property undertaking programs of exploratory drilling in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and the fall-winter of 2009-2010. This activity has resulted in the discovery of new zones of mineralization referred to as the Apex and M11A North deposits and the further definition of the known resources at M11A and Bowden Lake.

In 2006 holes W11106-01, 02, 03, and 04 were completed intersecting (W11106-01) 0.91% Ni over 11.38m (inc 1.67% Ni over 0.46m), (W11106-02) 0.79% Ni over 14.97m (inc. 2.39% Ni over 0.73m), (W11106-03) 0.76% Ni / 7.6m, and (W11106-04) 1.65% Ni / 0.33m and 1.34% Ni/ 0.75m.

During the 2007 winter program 4 drill holes were completed for a total of 1655.7 meters. One additional hole was added in April 2007 for a total of 465 meters.

During the 2008 winter program a total of 6 drill holes were completed for a total of 2033.1 meters drilled. Exploration diamond drilling intersected what was interpreted to be a new zone of nickel sulfide mineralization located beneath the M11A North deposit Hole M08-03 that intersected 26.7 meters (87.5 feet) grading 1.30% nickel including 5.76 meters (16.6 feet) grading 3.06% nickel.

An exploration and delineation drilling was completed in December 2009 at M11A North Project Area. This program consisted of 6,675 metres of diamond drilling in 18 holes, and was designed to test theories on plunge and orientation of previously intersected mineralization. Highlights from the drilling results was released on February 4, 2010 and March 4, 2010, including 8.15 metres grading 1.90% nickel in hole M09-17, 5.20 metres grading 1.82% nickel in hole M09-15, and 4.33 metres in hole M09-18.

No drilling program was carried out in 2010 as the Company was focusing its energies at trying to start up the operations at Bucko Lake Mine. As a result, a modified agreement was entered with Xstrata to cover the deficiency in the exploration expenditures in 2010.

In January 2011, the Company carried out a winter drilling program at two deposits, M11A North Deposits and Gonlin Deposits, of the TNB, to explore further potential in satellite deposits surrounding the Bucko Lake Mine. A total of 13 holes were completed, and a total of 5,889 metres was drilled

throughout the program with 1,548 samples taken. There was no significant result from the hole drilled at Gonlin Deposits, and a total of 5,202 metres in 12 diamond drill holes were completed at M11A North Deposits, of which 11 holes reached their planned depth with 1,548 samples assayed while one hole was abandoned. This successful winter drilling program demonstrates that the M11A North Deposit can be extended at depth, to the northeast and southwest tying the deposit to mineralization intersected in drill hole M09-17 with several intervals of potentially mineable widths and grades. Hole M11-08 with 14.25 metres grading 1.60% nickel and hole M11-07 with 14.85 metres grading 1.19% nickel and another intersection of 6.40 metres grading 1.80% nickel had extended the deposit to the northeast. The previously discovered high grade mineralization in hole M08-03 and hole M09-12 had been extended further at depth by hole M11-01 with an intersection of 9.98 metres grading 2.35% nickel. For detailed and complete drilling results of the winter drilling program at the M11A Deposits, please refer to the press release dated June 29, 2011.

In 2012, a 12-hole with a total of 7,157 meters diamond drilling program at M11A was completed and 1,519 samples were assayed. Hole M12-02 intersected 7.3 meters grading 2.59% nickel, Hole M12-07 intersected 5.3 meters grading 2.24% nickel, Hole M12-08 intersected 10.4 meters grading 1.20% nickel and M12-09 intersected 12.9 meters grading 1.21% nickel. For detailed and complete drilling results of this 2012 drilling program, please refer to the press release dated September 7, 2012.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the Company also initiated a drilling program at Bowden Lake and a total of 3,078 meters drilling was completed and currently pending for the assay results.

At the Bowden Properties, primary Ni sulfide mineralization occurs as disseminations interstitial to metasomatized olivine grains. Net textured sulfides have also been observed locally in the peridotites. The sulfides consist of pyrrhotite, pentlandite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, and mackinawite. Minor accessory violarite and millerite may also be present. Stringer-type mineralization is present in proximity to the pegmatites and consists of hydrothermally remobilized veins and stringers. These are usually massive to semi-massive and contain variable amounts of pyrrhotite, pentlandite, pyrite and chalcopyrite.

### **Halfway Lake Prospect**

The Halfway Lake property is located outside of the town of Wabowden, Manitoba, 106 km south-southwest of Thompson and 640 km north of Winnipeg UTM NAD83 (Zone 14) coordinates 535,000mE and 6,092,000mN: NTS 63J115, in the Pas Mining District. The property is located on the southeast portion of the Halfway Lake and continues to the southwest past the Bucko-Bowden properties.

Access to the property can be achieved by travelling approximately 20 kilometers NE from Wabowden on the Wekusko-Thompson Highway, and then east 5 kilometers along drill roads to Halfway Lake. Summer and winter access may also be achieved by using float or ski-equipped aircraft from Wabowden to Halfway Lake a distance of approximately 16 air-kilometers. The Canadian National Railway line crosses the NE portion of the property.

Between 1960 and 1970, Falconbridge carried out ground magnetic and AFMAG-EM Surveys and followed up with a regional follow up program of drilling. During this period a total of 36 holes were drilled on the property testing shallow targets. Between 1994 and 1996, Falconbridge carried out a regional Geotem Airborne EM Survey and followed this up with ground HLEM and Magnetic Surveys. Falconbridge drilled a total of 13 diamond drill holes focused on a mineralized ultramafic in the northeast of the property. Significant results from this drilling included a zone of 1.19% Nickel over 7.97 meters; 1.25% Nickel over 5.72 meters; 1.23% Nickel over 0.80 meters, and the best interval to date gave 1.38% Nickel over 17.55 meters. Limited borehole EM was carried out on the 1995 and 1996 drill holes. No deep penetrating EM surveys have been used to date on this property.

The Halfway Lake property is underlain by an Archean banded magmatic gneiss complex, which includes plagioclase-quartz-biotite-hornblende gneisses (granite to granodiorite gneisses), hornblende-biotite

gneisses and amphibolite rocks. Younger felsic feldspar-quartz ( $\pm$  biotite) pegmatitic dykes and intrusions cross cut and intrude all gneissic lithologies. The more amphibole and biotite-rich gneisses and amphibolites may be the metamorphic equivalent of upper Ospwagan mafic volcanic rocks. Ultramafic (peridotite and pyroxenite) bodies, invariably altered to serpentine, tremolite, anthophyllite with minor biotite, talc and chlorite, have been drill intersected in several localities within the Halfway Lake property. Ultramafic lithologies do not outcrop in this area. Several of these bodies are weakly Nickel bearing. Pyrrhotite and pyrite rich gneissic horizons adjacent to ultramafic bodies were also intersected in several locations.

The Halfway Lake property is a mineralized ultramafic body in the northeast portion of the property and is Nickel bearing. The past and recent drill holes have revealed significant results included a zone of 1.19% Nickel over 7.97 meters (Hole # HW94-02); 1.25% Nickel over 5.72 meters (Hole # HW96-08), and the best interval to date gave 1.38% Nickel over 17.55 meters (Hole # HW95-05).

### Mineral Resources Estimates – Satellite Deposits near Buck Lake Mine

The determination of mineral resources was based on geostatistical block modeling using Gemcom Software utilizing the inverse distance squared method for grade interpolation. Composite lengths were based on a 1.5 meter ideal interval within resource domain solids. The density of material was based on average bulk density measurements taken in mineralized intervals based on available density data. The Inferred Resource calculation used a 150 meter (X) by 50 meter (Y) and 50 meter (Z) search ellipse within minimums of two drill holes and five samples per block. A 0.5% nickel cut-off grade was used to constrain the interpolation model. A 1% nickel cut-off grade was used to report inferred resources for the satellite deposits. The updated mineral resources as of April 1, 2012 are summarized as follows:

#### Statement of Mineral Resources at Satellite Deposits near Bucko Lake Mine as at April 1, 2012

Deposit	Category	Cut-Off Grade	Tonnes	Ni %	Contained Nickel (lbs)
<b>M11A North</b>	Indicated Resources*	1.00%	800,000	1.17%	20,639,000
	Inferred Resources*	1.00%	525,000	1.11%	12,850,000
<b>Apex</b>	Inferred Resources*	1.00%	41,000	1.19%	1,076,000
<b>Bowden</b>	Inferred Resources*	1.00%	2,044,000	1.16%	52,281,000
<b>Halfway Lake</b>	Inferred Resources*	1.00%	900,000	1.20%	23,814,000

\* Mineral Resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The estimate of mineral resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal title, taxation, sociopolitical, marketing or other relevant issues.

The quality and grade of reported inferred resources in this estimation are conceptual in nature and there has been insufficient exploration to define these inferred resources as an indicated or measured mineral resource and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in upgrading them to an indicated or measured mineral resource category.

### **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

The constating documents of the Company do not limit its ability to pay dividends on its Common Shares. However, the Company has not paid any dividends since incorporation and the Company does not

expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future. Payment of dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of the Board of Director of the Company.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

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The authorized capital of the Company consists of an unlimited number of common shares without par value (the "Common Shares"). In September 2012, the Company consolidated its share on the basis of one post-consolidation share for forty (40) pre-consolidation shares, and therefore all shares and per share data contained herein have been retroactively restated.

As of March 29, 2016, the issued and outstanding Common Shares of the Company were 37,520,668, and a further 3,750 for issuance upon proper exercise of certain stock options outstanding.

### **Common Shares**

Holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive notice of and to attend any meetings of shareholders and shall have one vote per share at all meetings, except meetings at which only holders of another class or series of shares are entitled to vote separately as such class or series. Holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive, on a pro rata basis, such dividends, if any, as and when declared by the Board and, upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, are entitled to receive on a pro rata basis the net assets of the Company after payment of debts and other liabilities, in each case subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to any other series or class of shares ranking senior in priority to or on a pro rata basis with the holders of Common Shares.

## **MARKET FOR SECURITIES**

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The Common Shares of the Company were traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 3, 2008 under the symbol "CML" until February 04, 2016. In February 2016, the Company voluntarily delisted its common shares from trading on Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") and transferred its listing to the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSXV"), which was trading on TSXV effective at the opening of trading on February 5, 2016 under symbol of "CML". The table below shows the price ranges and volume of trading for each month of the year ended December 31, 2015:

<b>Month</b>	<b>High (\$)</b>	<b>Low (\$)</b>	<b>Close (\$)</b>	<b>Average Daily Volume (# of Shares)</b>
December 2015	0.035	0.025	0.025	4,714
November 2015	0.06	0.025	0.025	12,859
October 2015	0.10	0.07	0.07	2,782
September 2015	0.135	0.08	0.08	7,957
August 2015	0.10	0.085	0.10	2,093
July 2015	0.12	0.10	0.10	3,543
June 2015	0.115	0.105	0.11	1,571
May 2015	0.135	0.12	0.125	560
April 2015	0.16	0.11	0.115	2,253
March 2015	0.175	0.15	0.16	1,718
February 2015	0.21	0.13	0.18	1,542
January 2015	0.23	0.13	0.135	9,713

## ESCROWED SECURITIES

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The Company has no securities currently held in escrow.

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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The following table sets forth the name, province of residence, position held with the Company, and principal occupation of each person who is a director/officer or a former director/officer of the Company but hold office in 2015. Unless otherwise stated, all directors hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders of the Company or until their successors are elected or appointed.

<b>Name and Province of Residence</b>	<b>Position(s) with Company and Period of Service as a Director</b>	<b>Principal Occupation</b>
Wenfeng Liu <sup>(2)(3)</sup> (British Columbia, Canada)	Chairman of the Board Since December 2010 Former CEO from July 2012 to December 2014	Business Executive
James Dai <sup>(2)</sup> (British Columbia, Canada)	Director since June 2013 CFO and Corporate Secretary since December 2014	Financial Executive
Kevin (Xuexin) Zhu (British Columbia, Canada)	Director since November 2013 and from September 2010 to August 2011 CEO since December 2014	Mining Executive
Sandy Wang <sup>(1)(3)</sup> (British Columbia, Canada)	Director since December 2014	Securities and Corporate lawyer
Myles Gao <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup> (British Columbia, Canada)	Director since May 2015	Mining Executive
Yingting (Tony) Guo <sup>(1)</sup> (British Columbia, Canada)	Director since May 2015	Professional Geologist
Raymond Lai (Alberta, Canada)	Former Director from July 2012 to April 2015	Business Executive

(1) Member of the Audit Committee.

(2) Member of the Compensation Committee.

(3) Member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

The current directors and officers of the Company, as a group, beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control over, 14,185,029 common shares, representing approximately 37.8% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Company as of the date hereof.

The principal occupations, businesses or employments of each of the Company's directors and executive officers within the past five years are disclosed in the brief biographies below.

*Wenfeng Liu, Chairman, Director.* Mr. Liu is a Chinese-Canadian businessman and investor who has numerous business interests and who serves as a principal of Canadian Maple Leaf Investment Ltd. (CMLI). Mr. Liu has held senior positions with Chinese steel producer Hebei Wenfeng Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. from its inception to 2004, as well as senior management and executive positions in various other business corporations in China. In Canada Mr. Liu served as Director of Welichem Biotech Inc. from January 24, 2008 to March 12, 2009.

*James Dai, Director, CFO & Corporate Secretary*, Mr. Dai has over five years of capital market experiences, including over three years at Raymond James Ltd., where he was a member of the investment banking group. Mr. Dai holds a Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Media Arts & Sciences Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Dai received his Charter Financial Analyst charter in 2011 and was a Director and Chair of the Audit Committee of Welichem Biotech Inc., a TSX Venture listed company.

*Kevin (Xuexin) Zhu, CEO & Director*, Mr. Zhu is a professional mining engineer (P.Eng.) and project management professional (PMP) with over 20 years experiences in mine planning, engineering design, construction and operation management of open pit and underground hard rock mines. He graduated in mining engineering from Central South University in China and holds a master's degree in mining engineering from Laurentian University, Canada. He currently is the principle consultant and a director of CMS Consulting Limited. He joined CaNickel in 2010 and resigned from the Board and as interim CEO of CaNickel in 2011 due to family reasons. Prior to joining CaNickel, he worked at Continental Minerals Corporation for two years as project manager of Xietongmen project, two years with Eldorado Gold Corporation as senior mining engineer and chief engineer at Tanjianshan mine, and six years with Sino Gold Limited as senior manager at JCL gold mine and White Mountain project.

*Sandy Wang, Director*, Ms. Wang is a securities and corporate lawyer with over 15 years of legal practice in both China and British Columbia, and has been involved in a number of M&As, corporate finance and Canadian listings in respect of Asia Pacific clients. Ms. Wang obtained her LL.B. from the University of Windsor and Dual Degree in Science and Law from Peking University, China. She is fluent in English and Mandarin.

*Mr. Myles Gao, Director*, Mr. Gao obtained his B.Sc. in geology from Lanzhou University, China, in 1982. Moving to Canada in 1989, he received his M.Sc. Degree in geology in 1993 from Laurentian University. Mr. Gao has worked for numerous Canadian mining and exploration companies in both Canada and China, and held executive positions, such as CEO, President, or COO of a Canadian public mining company since 2003. Mr. Gao was also a director of the Company from December 2010 to November 2013. Mr. Gao is a Qualified Person as defined under Canadian NI43-101.

*Dr. Yingting (Tony) Guo, Director*, Mr. Guo has over 27 years' experience in the mineral industries. He has worked on mineral exploration and development projects/mines in China, Mongolia, Africa, US and Canada. Mr. Guo's business expertise includes the mineral resource exploration, development, assessment, acquisition and project management. Mr. Guo has participated and managed many mineral exploration works internationally for the last 15 years. His credentials include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the Nanjing University as well as a Doctor Degree in Geology and Exploration from China University of Mining and Technology. Dr. Guo has also worked at West Virginia University and British Columbia University as a Post Doctor. He is a registered Professional Geoscientist from the Province of British Columbia, Canada, QP member of Mining and Metallurgical Society of America and Associate of the International Institute of Minerals Appraisers. Dr. Guo has worked from mining companies to consulting firms such as Jinshan Gold Mines, China Gold International, Behre Dolbear Group etc. as an exploration and development manager, chief geologist, Vice President and Independent Director. Dr. Guo is a Qualified Person as defined under Canadian NI43-101.

*Raymond Lai, former Director*, Mr. Lai holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree received from the University of Calgary in 1975 and is a member of Certified Management Accountant in Alberta. Mr. Lai has been a successful key executive for public companies in the mining, manufacturing, and packaging industries over the past ten years, and currently the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Maple Leaf Green World Inc., a public company traded in Toronto Stock Venture Exchange.

### Corporate Cease Trade Orders, Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions

No director or executive officer (a) is, as at the date of this document, or has been, within ten years before the date of this document, a director or executive officer of any company (including the Company) that, while that person was acting in that capacity: (i) was the subject of a cease trade or similar order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under the securities legislation, for a period of more than 30 consecutive days; (ii) was subject to an event that resulted, after the director or executive officer ceased to be a director or executive officer, in the company being the subject of a cease trade order or similar order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under securities legislation, for a period of more than 30 consecutive days; or (iii) within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or (b) has, within the ten years before the date of this AIF, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the proposed director.

No director or executive officer of CaNickel, or a shareholder holding sufficient number of securities of the Company to affect materially the control of the Company, has been subject to: (i) any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or (ii) any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision.

### Conflicts of Interest

Certain of the Company's directors and officers serve or may agree to serve as directors or officers of other reporting companies or have significant shareholdings in other reporting companies. For a list of the other reporting issuers in which directors of the Company also serve as directors, please see the 2014 Management Information Circular of the Company and the above biographies of Raymond Lai and James Dai.

Under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, the directors and senior officers of the Company are required to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Company. In the event that such a conflict of interest arises at a meeting of the Company's directors, a director who has such a conflict will disclose such interest in a contract or transaction and will abstain from voting on any resolution in respect of such contract or transaction. Please also see the information above regarding certain existing conflicts of interest involving members of the Board under the heading "*Narrative Description of the Business - Risks of the Business - Conflicts of Interest*".

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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The Corporation's Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the Company's systems and procedures for financial reporting and internal control, reviewing certain public disclosure documents and monitoring the performance and independence of the Company's external auditors. The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing the Company's annual audited financial statements, unaudited interim financial statements and management's discussion and analysis of financial results of operations for both annual and interim financial statements and review of related operations prior to their approval by the full board of directors of the Company.

## **Audit Committee's Charter**

The Audit Committee's charter sets out its responsibilities and duties, qualifications for membership, procedures for committee member removal and appointments and reporting to the Company's board of directors. A copy of the charter is attached hereto as Schedule "A".

## **Composition of the Audit Committee**

In 2015, the Company's audit committee is comprised of three directors, Myles Gao (Chair), Sandy Wang, and Tony Guo. All members of the audit committee when they are sitting at the audit committee are independent of the Company and financially literate; as such terms are defined in NI 52-110. The Company currently is looking for another independent director to be a member of the audit committee to comply with the requirements of NI 52-110.

## **Relevant Education and Experience**

The following provides a brief summary of the qualifications of each member of the Audit Committee.

### *Myles Gao, Director*

Mr. Gao obtained his B.Sc. in geology from Lanzhou University, China, in 1982. Moving to Canada in 1989, he received his M.Sc. Degree in geology in 1993 from Laurentian University. Mr. Gao has worked for numerous Canadian mining and exploration companies in both Canada and China, and held executive positions, such as CEO, President, or COO of a Canadian public mining company since 2003. Mr. Gao was also a director of the Company from December 2010 to November 2013. Mr. Gao is a Qualified Person as defined under Canadian NI43-101. As an executive in the mining industry involving date to date operation management and project evaluation, Mr. Gao is able to understand the internal control and procedures for financial reporting, the accounting principles used by mining companies, and to assess the general application of such accounting principles in connection with the accounting estimates, accruals and provisions.

### *Sandy Wang*

Ms. Wang is a securities and corporate lawyer with over 15 years of legal practice in both China and British Columbia, and has been involved in a number of M&As, corporate finance and Canadian listings in respect of Asia Pacific clients. Ms. Wang obtained her LL.B. from the University of Windsor and Dual Degree in Science and Law from Peking University, China. She is fluent in English and Mandarin.

### *Dr. Yingting (Tony) Guo, Director*

Mr. Guo has over 27 years' experience in the mineral industries. He has worked on mineral exploration and development projects/mines in China, Mongolia, Africa, US and Canada. Mr. Guo's business expertise includes the mineral resource exploration, development, assessment, acquisition and project management. Mr. Guo has participated and managed many mineral exploration works internationally for the last 15 years. His credentials include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology from the Nanjing University as well as a Doctor Degree in Geology and Exploration from China University of Mining and Technology. Dr. Guo has also worked at West Virginia University and British Columbia University as a Post Doctor. He is a registered Professional Geoscientist from the Province of British Columbia, Canada, QP member of Mining and Metallurgical Society of America and Associate of the International Institute of Minerals Appraisers. Dr. Guo has worked from mining companies to consulting firms such as Jinshan Gold Mines, China Gold International, Behre Dolbear Group etc. as an exploration and development manager, chief geologist, Vice President and Independent Director. Dr. Guo is a Qualified Person as defined under Canadian NI43-101.

### **Audit Committee Oversight**

At no time since the commencement of the Company's most recently completed financial year has there been a recommendation of the Audit Committee to nominate or compensate an external auditor that was not adopted by the Board.

### **Reliance on Certain Exemptions**

At no time since the commencement of the Company's most recently completed financial year has the Company relied on the exemption in sections 2.4, 3.2, 3.3(2), 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 or 3.8 of NI 52-110, or an exemption from NI 52-110, in whole or in part, granted under Part 8 of NI 52-110.

### **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

The Audit Committee has adopted specific policies and procedures for the engagement of non-audit services.

### **External Auditor Service Fees**

The Audit Committee has review a nature and amount of the services provided by Ernst & Young LLP to ensure auditor independence. Fee billed or billable by external auditors for audit services in the last two fiscal years are outlined below:

<b>Nature of Services</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2015</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2014</b>
Audit fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$40,000	\$40,000
Tax fee <sup>(2)</sup>	Nil	Nil
Audit related fees <sup>(3)</sup>	Nil	Nil
Total fees	\$40,000	\$55,000

Notes:

(1) "Audit Fees" include fees and expenses related to professional services of the principal accountant for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and the review of the Company's interim financial statements, notwithstanding when the fees and expense were billed or when the service were rendered.

(2) "Tax fees" include fees and expense related to professional services rendered by the principal accountant for tax compliance, tax advice, and tax planning from January through December of the fiscal year, notwithstanding when fees and expenses were billed.

(3) "Audit related fees" include fees and expense related to assurance and related services by the principle accountant that reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements and are not reported under above item (1). In 2011, the audit related fee was for the review of the Company's Bucko Lake Mine valuation model and interim financial statements.

### **PROMOTERS**

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To the best of the Company's knowledge, no person or company has been within the three most recently completed fiscal years, or is during the current fiscal year, a promoter of the Company.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND REGULATORY ACTIONS**

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Since the mining operation was suspended in July 2012, the Company has been encountering difficulties in retiring some outstanding accounts payables in accordance with terms provided by vendors, and therefore expects that some liens will be placed and legal actions will be initiated. As at December 31, 2015, one lien placed against Bucko Lake Mine for \$377,086 remained outstanding.

In January 2014, the Company received a statement of claim for \$377,086 from the contractor who placed the lien against Bucko Lake Mine. The Company believed that it has fulfilled its contracted obligations to make payment to the contractor and the claim has no base; accordingly, the Company retained a legal counsel to file a statement of defense and also made a counter claim for refund of overpayment for services not delivered and damages to be determined by court. No further action was carried by the plaintiff since our filing of the defence and counter claim. No provision has been provided for this claim.

In February 2015, the Company received a statement of claim \$175,412 against the Company for property damages arising from a blast in February 2013 at Bucko Lake Mine. Management believes that no evidence shows any relation between the property damages and the blast, and the Company is therefore not responsible. Consequently, the Company has filed a statement of defence and requested the claim to be dismissed.

In 2015, the Company was also charged with offences under the Fisheries Act for an alleged “deposit of deleterious substance” and alleged failure to “conduct acute lethality testing” at the Bucko Lake Mine between January and October 2014. This matter is in its preliminary stages and the potential liability is not determinable at this time.

## **INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

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None of the directors, executive officers or principal shareholders of the Company and no associate or affiliate of the foregoing persons has or has had any material interest, direct or indirect, in any transaction within the past three years or in any proposed transaction that has materially affected or will materially affect the Company or any of its subsidiaries, other than:

In May 2011, the Company arranged a one-year term unsecured debt facility of up to US\$5,000,000 (the “Loan”) with Hebei Wenfeng. The Loan was drawn down at the option of the Company and bears interest at 10% per annum. The Company is also required to pay 2% of any funds drawn down under the Loan as a structuring fee to Hebei Wenfeng. Principal, interest and structure fees are payable upon maturity. The Loan was subsequently extended to a three-year term, but expired on May 28, 2014 and became payable on demand. As at December 31, 2015, the outstanding balance including interest accretion and foreign exchange impact was \$10,702,556(2014 - \$8,120,773).

In July 2011, the Company entered into an unsecured debt facility of up to US\$15 million in July 2011 with Luckyup, an arm's-length party based in Hong Kong. In December 2011, this debt facility was increased to US\$25 million. This debt facility was drawn down at the option of the Company and bears interest of 12% per annum. Principal and interest are payable upon maturity. In March 2012, this debt facility was extended from one-year term to three years' terms, but expired on July 22, 2014. In October 2014, Hebei Wenfeng and Luckyup entered into an Assignment Agreement that Luckyup assigned and transferred its right and interest in this debt facility to Hebei Wenfeng. Immediately after this Assignment Agreement, Hebei Wenfeng became the only interest bearing loan creditor and waived the Company interest of US\$3.5 million. As at December 31, 2015, the outstanding balance of the debt facility Hebei Wenfeng acquired from Luckyup, including interest accretion and foreign exchange impact, was \$51,933,736 (2014 - \$38,296,706).

In 2015, a total of \$6,707,828 interest expenses (2014 - \$1,800,437 after US\$3.5 million interest forgiven) and \$9,509,406 foreign exchange loss (2014 - \$3,794,921), respectively, were recorded arising from the US dollar denominated interest bearing loans.

Due to the financial conditions of the Company, Hebei Wenfeng advanced funds, from time to time, to the Company to support the Company's operation. In 2015, Hebei Wenfeng advanced a total of \$1,100,000 to the Company and as of December 31, 2015, the outstanding balance of the advances from Hebei Wenfeng, including foreign exchange impact of \$1,074,720, was \$11,310,930. In November 2015, the Company entered into a written agreement with Hebei Wenfeng that Hebei Wenfeng would lend \$600,000, free of interest, to the Company. Subsequent to December 31, 2015, Hebei Wenfeng further advanced \$300,000 to the Company. The advances bear no interest and are due on demand.

## **TRANSFER AGENTS AND REGISTRARS**

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The Company's transfer agent is TMX Equity Transfer and Trust Company, located in Toronto, Ontario.

## **MATERIAL CONTRACTS**

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There are no other contracts, other than those disclosed in this AIF and other than those entered into in the ordinary course of the Company's business, that are material to the Company and which were entered into in the most recently completed financial year ended December 31, 2015, or before the most recently completed financial year but are still in effect as of the date of this AIF.

## **INTERESTS OF EXPERTS**

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Lane A. Griffin, P.Geo., Paul L. Martin, P.Eng., and Chris C. Brioli, P.Geo. were the authors of the Technical Report.

To the best knowledge of the Company, none of the aforementioned individuals had an interest in any securities or other properties of the Company, its associates or affiliates as at the date the individual prepared the applicable report and as at the date hereof.

Ernst & Young, LLP, the auditors of the Company, are independent of the Company within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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Additional information on the Company can be found on the Company's website at [www.canickel.com](http://www.canickel.com) or on SEDAR located at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

Additional information, including directors' and officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of the Company's securities, and securities authorized for issuance under the Company's stock base compensation plan is contained in the Company's management information circular for its most recent annual meeting of shareholders that involved the election of directors.

Additional financial information is provided in the Company's annual financial statements and management discussion and analysis for the year ended December 31, 2015.

## SCHEDULE A

### CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### I. PURPOSE

The Audit Committee shall provide assistance to the Board of Directors of CaNickel Minerals Inc. (the "Company") in fulfilling its financial reporting and control responsibilities to the shareholders of the Company and the investment community. The external auditors will report directly to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee's primary duties and responsibilities are to:

- Oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company, and the audit of its financial statements, including: (i) the integrity of the Company's financial statements; (ii) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and (iii) the independent auditors' qualifications and independence.
- Serve as an independent and objective party to monitor the Company's financial reporting processes and internal control systems.
- Review and appraise the audit activities of the Company's independent auditors.
- Provide open lines of communication among the independent auditors, financial and senior management, and the Board of Directors for financial reporting and control matters, and meet periodically with management and with the independent auditors.

#### COMPOSITION

The Audit Committee shall be comprised of at least three directors. Each Committee member shall be an "independent director" within the meaning of National Instrument 52-110 - *Audit Committees* ("NI 52-110"), as may be amended from time to time. Pursuant to NI 52-110, a member will be considered "independent" if he has no direct or indirect, material relationship with the Company. NI 52-110 sets forth certain relationships which deem one not to be independent. In addition, the composition of the Audit Committee shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Toronto Stock Exchange and any other stock exchange on which the shares of the Company are listed, subject to any waivers or exceptions granted by such stock exchange.

In addition, a director shall not be qualified to be a member of the Audit Committee if such director (i) is an "affiliated person" or (ii) receives (or his/her immediate family member or the entity for which such director is a director, member, partner or principal and which provides consulting, legal, investment banking, financial or other similar services to the Company), directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory, or other compensation from the Company other than compensation for serving in his or her capacity as member of the Board and as a member of Board committees. An "affiliated person" means a person who directly or indirectly controls the Company, or a director, executive officer, partner, member, principal or designee of an entity that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the Company.

All members shall, to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors, be financially literate in accordance with the requirements of the NI 52-110 (i.e. will have the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Company's financial statements). At least one member shall have accounting or related financial

management expertise to qualify as a “financial expert” . A person will qualify as “financial expert” if he or she possesses the following attributes:

1. an understanding of financial statements and generally accepted accounting principles used by the Company to prepare its financial statements;
2. an ability to assess the general application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves;
3. experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Company's financial statements, or experience actively supervising one or more persons engaged in such activities;
4. an understanding of internal controls and procedures for financial reporting; and
5. an understanding of audit committee functions.

The Committee members will be elected annually at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual general meeting of shareholders.

Quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Committee shall be a majority of the number of members of the Committee or such greater number as the Committee shall be resolution determine.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS

Responsibilities and powers of the Audit Committee include:

- Annual review and revision of this Charter as necessary with the approval of the Board of Directors provided that this Charter may be amended and restated from time to time without the approval of the Board of Directors to ensure that that the composition of the Audit Committee and the Responsibilities and Powers of the Audit Committee comply with applicable laws and stock exchange rules.
- Making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the selection, the appointment, evaluation, fees and compensation and, if necessary, the replacement of the independent auditors, and assisting in resolving any disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting.
- Approving the appropriate audit engagement fees and the funding for payment of the independent auditors’ compensation and any advisors retained by the Audit Committee.
- Ensuring that the auditor’ s report directly to the Audit Committee and are made accountable to the Board and the Audit Committee, as representatives of the shareholders to whom the auditors are ultimately responsible.
- Confirming the independence of the auditors, which will require receipt from the auditors of a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditors and the Company and any other factors that might affect the independence of the auditors and reviewing and discussing with the auditors any significant relationships and other factors identified in the statement. Reporting to the Board of Directors its conclusions on the independence of the auditors and the basis for these conclusions.

- Overseeing the work of the independent auditors engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services.
- Ensuring that the independent auditors are prohibited from providing the following non-audit services and determining which other non-audit services the independent auditors are prohibited from providing:
  - bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statements of the Company;
  - financial information systems design and implementation;
  - appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions, or contribution-in-kind reports;
  - actuarial services;
  - internal audit outsourcing services;
  - management functions or human resources;
  - broker or dealer, investment adviser or investment banking services;
  - legal services and expert services unrelated to the audit; and
  - any other services which the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board determines to be impermissible.
- Pre-approving all audit services, internal control related services and approving any permissible non-audit engagements of the independent auditors, in accordance with applicable legislation.
- Meeting with the auditors and financial management of the Company to review the scope of the proposed audit for the current year, and the audit procedures to be used.
- Meeting quarterly with auditors in “in camera” sessions to discuss reasonableness of the financial reporting process, system of internal control, significant comments and recommendations and management’s performance.
- Reviewing with management and the independent auditors:
  - the Company's annual financial statements (and interim financial statements as applicable) and related footnotes, management’s discussion and analysis and the annual information form, for the purpose of recommending approval by the Board of Directors prior to its release, and ensuring that:
    - i. management has reviewed the audited financial statements with the audit committee, including significant judgments affecting the financial statements
    - ii. the members of the Committee have discussed among themselves, without management or the independent auditors present, the information disclosed to the Committee
    - iii. the Committee has received the assurance of both financial management and the independent auditors that the Company's financial statements are fairly presented in conformity with Canadian GAAP in all material respects

- Any significant changes required in the independent auditors' audit plan and any serious issues with management regarding the audit.
  - the Company's internal controls report and the independent auditors' certification of the report, and review disclosures made to the Committee by the CEO and CFO about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
  - Other matters related to the conduct of the audit that are to be communicated to the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards.
- Satisfying itself that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Company's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statements, other than the public disclosure described in the preceding paragraph, and assessing the adequacy of such procedures periodically.
  - Reviewing with the independent auditors and management the adequacy and effectiveness of the financial and accounting controls of the Company.
  - Establishing procedures: (i) for receiving, handling and retaining of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls, or auditing matters, and (ii) for employees to submit confidential anonymous concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
  - Reviewing with the independent auditors any audit problems or difficulties and management's response and resolving disagreements between management and the auditors and reviewing and discussing material written communications between management and the independent auditors, such as any management letter of schedule of unadjusted differences.
  - Making inquiries of management and the independent auditors to identify significant business, political, financial and control risks and exposures and assess the steps management has taken to minimize such risk to the Company.
  - Making inquiries of management and the independent auditors to identify significant business, political, financial, litigation and control risks and exposures and assess the steps management has taken to minimize such risk to the Company.
  - Assessing the overall process for identifying principal business, political, financial, litigation and control risks and providing its views on the effectiveness of this process to the Board.
  - Ensuring that the disclosure of the process followed by the Board of Directors and its committees, in the oversight of the Company's management of principal business risks, is complete and fairly presented.
  - Obtaining reports from management, the Company's independent auditors that the Company is in conformity with legal requirements and the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and reviewing reports and disclosures of insider and affiliated party transactions.
  - Discussing any earnings press releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.
  - Ensuring adequate procedures are in place for review of the Company's disclosure of financial information and assess the adequacy of these procedures at least once per year.

- Reviewing of confirmation of compliance with the Company's policies on internal controls, conflicts of interests, ethics, foreign corrupt practice, etc.
- Ensuring that the Company's Annual Information Form and the Company's Management Information Circular contains the disclosure as required by law, including that required by NI 52-110.
- Reviewing with financial management and the independent auditor ' s interim financial information, including interim financial statements, management discussion and analysis and financial press releases for the purpose of recommending approval by the Board of Directors prior to its release.
- At least annually obtaining and reviewing a report prepared by the independent auditors describing (i) the auditors ' internal quality-control procedures; (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the auditors, or by any inquiry of investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the auditors, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and (iii) all relationships between the independent auditors and the Company (to assess auditors ' independence).
- Reviewing and approving hiring policies for employees or former employees of the past and present independent auditors.
- Reviewing disclosure by management in the event that management deviates from existing approved policies and procedures which disclosure must also must be contained in financial reporting sub-certification forms.
- Engaging independent counsel and other advisors, without seeking approval of the Board of Directors or management, if the Committee determines such advisors are necessary to assist the Committee in carrying out its duties and setting and paying for any counsel or advisors employed by the Audit Committee for such purpose. The Committee shall advise the Board of Directors and management of such engagement.
- Discussing with the Company's legal counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements or of the Company's compliance policies and internal controls.
- Conducting special investigations, independent of the Board of Directors or management, relating to financial and non-financial related matters concerning the Company and/or any one or more of its directors, officers, employees, consultants and/or independent contractors, if determined by the Committee to be in the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders. The Committee shall advise the Board of Directors with respect to the initiations of such investigations and shall periodically report any findings such investigation to the Board of Directors.
- Reporting annually to the shareholders in the Company's Annual Information Form on the carrying out of its responsibilities under this charter and on other matters as required by applicable securities regulatory authorities.

## MEETINGS

The Audit Committee will meet regularly at times necessary to perform the duties described above in a timely manner, but not less than four times a year and any time the Company proposes to issue a press release with its quarterly or annual earnings information. Meetings may be held at any time deemed appropriate by the Committee.

The Audit Committee shall meet periodically in separate executive sessions with management (including the Chief Financial Officer), the internal auditors and the independent auditor, and have such other direct and independent interaction with such persons from time to time as the members of the Audit Committee deem appropriate. The Audit Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee.

The independent auditors will have direct access to the Committee at their own initiative.

The Chairman of the Committee will report periodically the Committee's findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors.