

CANADIAN ZINC CORPORATION

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ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM

as at March 15, 2012

for the Fiscal Year ended

December 31, 2011

CANADIAN ZINC CORPORATION
ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011

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1. CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Canadian Zinc Corporation (“Canadian Zinc” or “the Company”) was incorporated in British Columbia, Canada, on December 16, 1965 under the *Companies Act of British Columbia*. The Company changed its name to “San Andreas Resources Corporation” on August 29, 1991 and to “Canadian Zinc Corporation” on May 25, 1999. The Company currently exists under the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia). On June 16, 2004, the Company’s shareholders adopted new Articles to bring the Company’s Charter documents up to date and into conformity with the new *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia).

The Company’s shareholders passed a resolution to amend the authorized share capital from 50,000,000 common shares with no par value to 100,000,000 common shares with no par value on May 24, 2002 and from 100,000,000 common shares with no par value to 200,000,000 common shares with no par value on December 30, 2003. On June 16, 2004, shareholders passed a resolution to change the authorized share capital to an unlimited number of common shares with no par value.

The Company has no subsidiaries.

The Company's head office, which is also its registered office, is located at Suite 1710, 650 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 4N9.

Cautionary note: *Mineral Resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. Inferred mineral resources are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves and there is no certainty that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource will ever be upgraded to a measured or indicated mineral resource or to a mineral reserve.*

Cautionary Note to United States Investors Concerning Estimates of Measured, Indicated or Inferred Resources:

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) permits U.S. mining companies, in their filings with the SEC, to disclose only those mineral deposits that a company can economically and legally extract or produce. We use certain terms in this Annual Information Form, such as “measured,” “indicated,” and “inferred” “resources,” which the SEC guidelines prohibit U.S. registered companies from including in their filings with the SEC. U.S. Investors are urged to consider closely the disclosure in our Form 40-F which may be secured from us, or from the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>. “Inferred mineral resources” have significant uncertainty as to their existence, and as to their economic feasibility. United States investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource exists or is economically mineable. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource would ever be upgraded to a higher category. United States investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of measured or indicated mineral resources will ever be converted into mineral reserves.

2. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS

Canadian Zinc is a public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol “CZN,” and traded on the OTCQB under the symbol “CZICF,” and is engaged in the business of exploration and, when warranted, development of natural resource properties. The Company’s principal focus is exploration and development of the Prairie Creek Property, a zinc/lead/silver deposit with adjacent mill and infrastructure facilities, located approximately 500 kilometres west of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, Canada.

In 2009, the Company acquired an investment in Vatukoula Gold Mines plc (“VGM”), which owns and operates the Vatukoula Gold Mine in Fiji, and currently holds an approximate 14% interest in VGM.

Three Year History

Throughout the years 2009, 2010 and 2011, the Company’s principal focus has been its efforts to advance the Prairie Creek Project towards completion of development and subsequent production, principally in the re-permitting and environmental assessment process.

Permitting Process

In 2008, the Company applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (“Water Board”) for a Water Licence and associated Land Use Permits to support a mining operation at Prairie Creek. The application was referred to an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) under the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the “Review Board”) and has since been working through the various stages within the EA. These stages included a written hearing, submittal of a Developers Assessment Report, two formal Information Requests and two Technical Sessions, a Community Hearing, a two-day Public Hearing, and Final Submissions.

On December 8, 2011, the Review Board issued its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Company’s proposed Prairie Creek Mine and submitted the Report and Decision to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The Review Board concluded that the proposed development of the Prairie Creek Mine is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern. The Review Board concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Prairie Creek Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals by the Water Board.

Regulatory Phase

The Company has been advised by the Water Board that the regulatory process has commenced. The Company submitted to the Water Board on February 15, 2012, a Consolidated Project Description (“CPD”), incorporating the changes resulting from commitments made by Canadian Zinc during the environmental assessment process and responses to the Review Board suggestions.

Since the original applications for operating permits were submitted to the Water Board in 2008, the adjacent Nahanni National Park Reserve (“NNPR”) was expanded in 2009 and now encircles the

Prairie Creek Property; however the Prairie Creek Property was excluded from the expansion area and is not part of the Park. The park expansion area now includes a significant portion of the Prairie Creek Access Road route, however, when NNPR was expanded the Canada National Parks Act was amended to enable the Minister of the Environment to enter into leases or licences of occupation of, and easements over, public lands situated in the expansion area for the purposes of a mining access road leading the Prairie Creek area, including the sites of storage and other facilities connected with that road. The applications for land use permits, and water licences relating to the road access are now multi-jurisdictional and the Company has applied to both to the Water Board and Parks Canada for road related permits and licences.

The Water Board is now in the process of preparing a work plan for the permitting and licensing process. It is expected that the work plan will include review and comment of the CPD, a technical session, a public hearing and a final review of the draft Land Use Permits and Water Licence terms and conditions.

Socio-Economic Agreements

The Company has continuously undertaken discussion and engagement with local communities and government at all levels to establish mutually beneficial, cooperative and productive relationships.

In January 2011, the Company signed the Nah?a Dene Prairie Creek Agreement, which provides for an ongoing working relationship between Canadian Zinc Corporation and the Nah?a Dehe Dene Band (“Nahanni Butte Dene Band”) that respects the goals and aspirations of each party and will enable the Nahanni community members to participate in the opportunities and benefits offered by the Prairie Creek Project and confirms their support for the Prairie Creek Mine.

In June 2011, the Company signed a separate Impact Benefits Agreement with the Liidlii Kue First Nation (“LKFN”) of Fort Simpson. The LKFN has agreed to support CZN in obtaining all necessary permits and other regulatory approvals required for the Prairie Creek Mine Project. The Agreement is intended to ensure that CZN undertakes operations in an environmentally sound manner. LKFN will appoint a qualified Monitor to monitor environmental compliance and to monitor impacts of the Mine on the environment or wildlife and to work with CZN to prevent or mitigate such impacts.

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the Liidlii Kue First Nation are members of the Dehcho First Nations. Nahanni Butte is the closest community to the Prairie Creek Mine and LKFN is the largest member of the Dehcho First Nations. The Agreements provide a framework such that training, employment and business contracts, and some financial provisions are made available to the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and the LKFN to ensure maximization of benefits from opportunities arising from the Prairie Creek Project in a manner that will be to the mutual benefit of all parties.

On August 22, 2011, the Company signed a Socio-Economic Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories (“GNWT”) related to the planned development of the Prairie Creek Mine.

The Prairie Creek Socio-Economic Agreement establishes the methods and procedures by which the Company and the GNWT have agreed to work together to maximize the beneficial opportunities and minimize the negative socio-economic impacts arising from an operating Prairie Creek Mine.

In August 2011, Human Resource and Skills Development Canada (“HRSDC”), a federal department of the Government of Canada, approved a commitment of more than \$3 million dollars over a 3-year period to fund “More Than a Silver Lining”, a program to provide Aboriginal participants with training-to-employment opportunities in a variety of mining-related occupations at the Prairie Creek Mine.

Prairie Creek Property

In 2010, the Company conducted a diamond drill exploration program. The program was designed to test for extensions for the inferred vein mineral resource in the Caskett Creek Area to the north of the Prairie Creek Mine, where the host geology and structure are projected to continue at depth, approximately 1.5 kilometres north of the last drill hole within the currently defined mineral resource. A total of 2,703 metres of drilling was completed in three holes.

In 2011, the Company continued the deep drilling program started in 2010 by extending drillhole PC-10-187 to test for extensions of the Mineral Resource at the Prairie Creek Mine, 1.5 kilometres to the south. The deep drilling program in the Casket Creek area totaled 2,513 metres of coring in four holes including wedges and successfully intersected significant vein-type zinc and lead mineralization about 1.6 kilometres north along a projected strike extension of the geological structure that hosts the defined mineral resource at the mine and demonstrated the probable continuation of vein-type mineralization similar to that located within the main zone at the Prairie Creek Mine.

The Company also undertook a 2011 summer diamond drill program adjacent to the Prairie Creek Mine to test for additional high-grade vein structures and for other, wider stratabound deposits adjacent to the resource. In summary, 26 shallow holes were drilled with the Company’s Longyear rig, achieving 3,125 metres of coring directed at vein and stratabound targets in the immediate mine area. The vein structure was intersected and identified in each completed hole, many of which returned high grade base metal values.

In February 2011, the Company engaged SNC-Lavalin Inc. (“SNC”) of Vancouver to complete a feasibility study on the Prairie Creek Mine. The general scope of the feasibility study includes detailed engineering and design, including mining equipment, on-site and off-site infrastructure, transportation and logistics; capital and operating cost estimates for underground mining, preliminary designs of stoping methods and layouts; capital cost estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the processing plant, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds; construction schedule and execution plan.

It is expected that the main part of the Feasibility Study (Phase One) will be completed around the end of the first quarter of 2012 and will incorporate capital costs estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the mill, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds, as well as working cost estimates for mining, processing and transportation. An addendum to the Feasibility Study (Phase Two) will be completed later in the year and will further take into account some additional site geo-technical work planned to be carried out during the summer months of 2012.

Employees

In 2011, the Company had an annualized average of 22 employees. Eight employees were based in the Company’s corporate offices, three employees were based in a local Community Liaison Office and 11

employees were based at the Prairie Creek Mine site. In addition, the Company utilizes the services of contractors to assist in certain tasks and projects.

Vatukoula Gold Mines plc

In 2009, the Company acquired an interest in Vatukoula Gold Mines plc (“VGM”). Canadian Zinc currently holds 12,573,380 shares of VGM, which represents approximately 14% of the issued share capital of VGM. VGM is a UK company, listed on AIM (part of the London Stock Exchange), which currently owns and operates the Vatukoula Gold Mine located in Fiji.

The shares of VGM were acquired for investment purposes. Depending on the performance of the Vatukoula mine and on market and other conditions, Canadian Zinc may from time to time in the future increase or decrease its ownership, control or direction over the shares of VGM, through market transactions, private agreements or otherwise.

Zazu Metals Corporation

In December 2009, Canadian Zinc acquired 3.4 million shares of Zazu Metals Corporation (“Zazu”) representing approximately 11% of Zazu’s outstanding shares, for consideration of \$646,000. Zazu is listed on the TSX and its principal asset is the LIK zinc-lead-silver deposit, located in northwest Alaska, 22 kilometres from Teck Resource’s Red Dog Mine, the world’s largest zinc producer. In December 2010, Canadian Zinc sold 3.4 million shares of Zazu and does not currently hold any shares of Zazu.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

The Company’s principal focus is exploration and development of the Prairie Creek Property and adjacent ground (a zinc/lead/silver, partially developed property) located approximately 500 kilometres west of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, Canada. The Mine is believed to be one of the highest grade non-operating base metal properties in the world and is potentially a major Canadian resource.

The primary objectives of the Company are to complete a feasibility study, rehabilitate, upgrade and modernize the Mine, inclusive of the processing plant and related site infrastructure, and secure the necessary operating permits so as to bring the Mine into production at the earliest opportunity.

History

The original discovery of mineralization on the Prairie Creek Property was made in 1928 at the showing known as the “No. 5 Zone.” In 1958, a limited mapping program was undertaken by Fort Reliance Minerals Ltd. The claims lapsed in 1965 and were restaked by the prospector and subsequently conveyed to Cadillac Explorations Ltd. (“Cadillac”) in 1966. Cadillac also acquired a 182,590 acre prospecting permit.

During 1966 to 1969, trenching was carried out by Cadillac on a number of zones and underground exploration commenced. The prospecting permit expired in 1969 and 6,659 acres (210 claims) were selected by Cadillac and brought to lease. The property was optioned to Penarroya Canada Ltee.

(“Penarroya”) in 1970 and the underground development was extended. Surface drilling and preliminary metallurgical testing was also conducted. Penarroya discontinued their work in late 1970 and Cadillac resumed full operation of the project. Cadillac further developed the underground workings and resampled the crosscuts in 1979.

In 1980, an independent feasibility study was completed for Cadillac by Kilborn Engineering which resulted in a decision to put the property into production. In December 1980, Procan Exploration Company Ltd. (“Procan”) (a company associated with Herbert and Bunker Hunt of Texas) agreed to provide financing for construction, mine development and working capital necessary to attain production based on the Kilborn feasibility study. Between 1980 and 1982, extensive mine development took place. Cadillac acquired a 1,000-ton per day mill concentrator and transported it to the minesite. The mill was erected and a camp established. Two adits and extensive underground workings were developed. During this time the winter road connecting the mine to the Liard Highway was constructed and over 500 loads of supplies were transported to site. Construction activities continued until May 1982 and were almost complete when they were suspended due to lack of financing. Subsequently, Cadillac went into bankruptcy in May 1983 and site maintenance and operations were taken over by Procan.

In 1991, Nanisivik Mines Limited (an unaffiliated third party) acquired the property through the bankruptcy proceedings. Pursuant to an August 23, 1991 Option Agreement, the Company entered into an option to acquire a 60% interest in the Prairie Creek Property from Nanisivik Mines Ltd. Subsequently, pursuant to a March 29, 1993 Asset Purchase Agreement that superseded the Option Agreement, the Company acquired a 100% interest in the Prairie Creek Property, and a 60% interest in the plant and equipment, subject to a net smelter royalty of 2% in favour of Titan Pacific Resources Ltd. In January 2004, the Company acquired all of Titan’s interest, including the 2% net smelter royalty, and now holds a 100% interest in the Prairie Creek property, plant and equipment.

Between 1991 and 2000, the Company carried out various exploration programs on the Prairie Creek Property. In January 2001, the Company completed a Scoping Study designed to outline and guide the re-development of the existing mine and mill on the Prairie Creek Property. The preliminary study indicated the feasibility of a mining and milling operation on the site and identified a number of different development and production scenarios. The operation would utilize the existing mine and mill infrastructure that had been put in place in 1982, but which had never been operated. Indicated capital costs for the new operation were estimated in 2000 to be \$40.5 million, including the construction of an all-weather access road to the site. The Scoping Study has not been updated and is now considered to be out of date. It is now anticipated that the capital costs to place the Prairie Creek mine into production will be significantly higher than indicated in the 2001 Scoping Study.

In 2006 and 2007, the Company carried out an underground exploration program, driving a decline about 550 metres and completing approximately 10,600 metres of underground drilling. In October 2007, an updated Technical Report (the “Minefill Report”) with regard to Mineral Resource Estimation on the Main Zone at Prairie Creek was independently prepared by Minefill Services Inc. in compliance with National Instrument 43-101, following the results of the 2006/2007 underground drilling program. The Minefill Report verifies and confirms the previous historical resource estimate completed by MRDI in 1998 and notes significant upgrades in resource categories. The Minefill Report indicates that the Prairie Creek Property hosts total Measured and Indicated Resources of 5,840,329 tonnes grading 10.71% zinc, 9.90% lead, 161.12 grams silver per tonne and 0.326% copper. In addition, the Minefill

Report confirms that there is also a large Inferred Resource of 5,541,576 tonnes grading at 13.53% zinc, 11.43% lead, 215 grams per tonne silver and 0.514% copper and additional exploration potential.

In December 2011, an updated Technical Report *Prairie Creek Mine, Northwest Territories Canada, December 28, 2011* (the “Technical Report”) was prepared by Alan B. Taylor, (P.Geo), a Qualified Non-Independent Person in compliance with National Instrument 43-101. The Technical Report verifies and confirms the Minefill Report and notes no change in the Mineral Resources since 2007. The Technical Report indicates that the Prairie Creek Property hosts total Measured and Indicated Resources of 5,840,329 tonnes grading 10.71% zinc, 9.90% lead, 161.12 grams silver per tonne and 0.326% copper. In addition, the Technical Report confirms that there is also a large Inferred Resource of 5,541,576 tonnes grading at 13.53% zinc, 11.43% lead, 215 grams per tonne silver and 0.514% copper and additional exploration potential.

A Project Description Report (“PDR”) was prepared and filed with regulatory authorities in May 2008 in support of application for operating permits. The PDR describes in detail the proposed new mining operations at Prairie Creek and contemplates the construction of new facilities including new fuel-efficient/low-emission power generating units, a kitchen/accommodation block, concentrate storage shed, an incinerator, a new engineered waste rock pile and two new transfer stations along the winter road.

In February 2012, the Company submitted to the Water Board a Consolidated Project Description (“CPD”), incorporating the changes resulting from commitments made by Canadian Zinc during the environmental assessment process and responses to the Review Board suggestions. The PDR, dated May 2008 and CPD, may be viewed under the Company’s name on the Water Board’s website at <http://www.mvlwb.ca/mv/registry.aspx>.

In December 2011, The Review Board issued its *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for Canadian Zinc’s proposed Prairie Creek Mine (the “EA Report”). The Review Board concluded the proposed development is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern, an environmental impact review of the proposed development is not necessary and the project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals.

The Water Board is now in the process of preparing a work plan for the permitting and licensing process. It is expected that the work plan will include review and comment of the CPD, a technical session, a public hearing and a final review of the draft Land Use Permits and Water Licence terms and conditions.

The Company expects that the permits and licences, when issued by the Water Board, will include as conditions of such permits and licences the suggestions included in the EA Report, the various commitments made by Canadian Zinc and the water discharge limits necessary to protect water quality as determined by the Water Board.

3.1. Principal Property – Prairie Creek, Northwest Territories

The following information relating to the Prairie Creek Property in Sections 3.1 to 3.10 below has been extracted from the Technical Report dated December 28, 2011 and prepared for the Company by Alan B. Taylor, P.Geo., Vice-President of Exploration, Chief Operating Officer and a director of Canadian

Zinc Corporation, who is a Non-Independent Qualified Person as defined in National Instrument 43-101.

The Company is the 100 percent owner of the Prairie Creek mine (the "Mine" or "Prairie Creek Mine") that is located in Northwest Territories, Canada, some 500 kilometres west of Yellowknife. The Prairie Creek Property (the "Property") consists of two surface leases, twelve mining leases and one mineral claim. The Property assets include the Mine, a processing plant, various mine- and plant-related surface infrastructure various earth moving and mining equipment and numerous mineralized occurrences that are at various stages of exploration and development.

The Mine (a zinc/lead/silver, property) is located approximately 500 kilometres west of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, Canada and is partially developed with an existing 1,000 tonne per day mill and related infrastructure.

The mineral resource at the Property comprises total measured and indicated resources of 5,840,329 tonnes grading 10.71% zinc, 9.90% lead, 0.326% copper, and 161 grams silver per tonne and a large inferred resource of 5,541,576 tonnes grading 13.53% zinc, 11.43% lead, 0.514% copper and 215 grams silver per tonne. The Prairie Creek mineral deposit contains substantial quantities of zinc, lead and silver. The Measured and Indicated Resource is capable of supporting a mine life in excess of 14 years at the planned initial rate of 600 tonnes per day, which will increase to 1,200 tonnes per day, and the future inclusion of Inferred Resources is expected to extend the mine life to at least 20 years.

Prairie Creek is an advanced project for which, subject to completion of a positive feasibility study, only final permitting and financing is required to allow production at the Mine to be started. This is stated because:

- the Mine has a robust Measured and Indicated, Main Zone resource base that reflects high-grade mineralization (especially zinc);
- much of the required surface infrastructure and equipment is already in place, or at least only a comparatively limited amount of capital is required for new equipment and for rehabilitating and/or upgrading the existing Mine and mill facilities;
- only a small amount of additional underground development is required to start the production ramp-up to the target rate of 1,000 tonnes per day;
- the available resource grades (even when diluted in the normal process of stoping), indicate that high-grade, run-of-mine mill feed can reasonably be expected;
- the fairly straightforward metallurgical process for co-mingled Main Vein and stratabound material (that yields a lead concentrate [sulphide and oxide] with a lead grade of approximately 69% at a recovery of nearly 89%, a silver grade of about 820 g/t at a recovery rate of approximately 73% and a zinc sulphide concentrate with a zinc grade of nearly 54 percent at a recovery of approximately 86%);
- and the relatively limited amount of start-up capital required for mining and processing Main Zone mineralized material, especially compared to a new green field mine operation.

Significant upside resource potential exists over several kilometres to both the north and south of the Main Zone area. Exploration results indicate the presence of high-grade, vein type mineralization; and preliminary analysis suggests that structural continuity of the vein-type mineralization might exist. Additional stratabound mineralized bodies might also be present.

The Mine was developed and the processing plant and surface infrastructure were built in the early 1980s, at a cost of C\$64 million (1982 money), to exploit a high-grade, silver-lead-zinc-copper vein deposit that has been the focus of exploration since the early 1900s. The operations were engineered and fully permitted to produce and process mineralized vein material at a rate of 1,000 tons per day. The 1982/83 fall in metal prices necessitated closure of the Mine prior to production, which closure led to a change of ownership and eventually to the Company's involvement in 1992.

Although fully permitted in 1982 (since lapsed), the Mine has never achieved production and neither the processing plant (that was 90 percent complete on mine closure in 1982) nor the 1.5 million ton capacity tailings impoundment have ever been used. Approximately 40,000 tons of Main Zone vein material was, however, extracted from underground in 1981-1982, which material is currently stockpiled next to the processing plant.

Since acquiring the property in the 1990s, Canadian Zinc has invested over \$45 million, quadrupling the known mineral resource and moving the project through six environmental assessments of various development stages, including, most recently, the proposed operation of the Mine, and obtaining numerous exploration and development permits and licenses.

The primary objectives of the Company are to complete a feasibility study, rehabilitate, upgrade and modernize the Mine, inclusive of the processing plant and related site infrastructure, and secure the necessary operating permits so as to bring the Mine into production at the earliest opportunity.

The Review Board concluded that the proposed development of the Mine, including the list of commitments made by the Company during the proceedings, is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern. The Review Board therefore concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals.

3.2. Land Tenure

The Prairie Creek Property consists of a 100 percent interest in the mining leases, surface leases and staked mineral claims described below. The Prairie Creek Property is comprised of:

- **Mining Leases** Numbers 2854, 2931, 2932, 2933, 3313, 3314, 3315, and 3338; (8,749.4 acres), expiring from July 17, 2019 to August 5, 2020; and Gate mining leases Numbers 5113, 5114, 5115, and 5116 (9,245.4 acres) expiring September 9, 2030.
- **Surface Leases** Numbers 95 F/10-5-5 and 95 F/10-7-4; (325.81 acres). The Surface Leases are held from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and expire March 31, 2012.
- **Mineral Claims:** Way 5 claim (1,807.75 hectares) is in good standing until November 1, 2013.

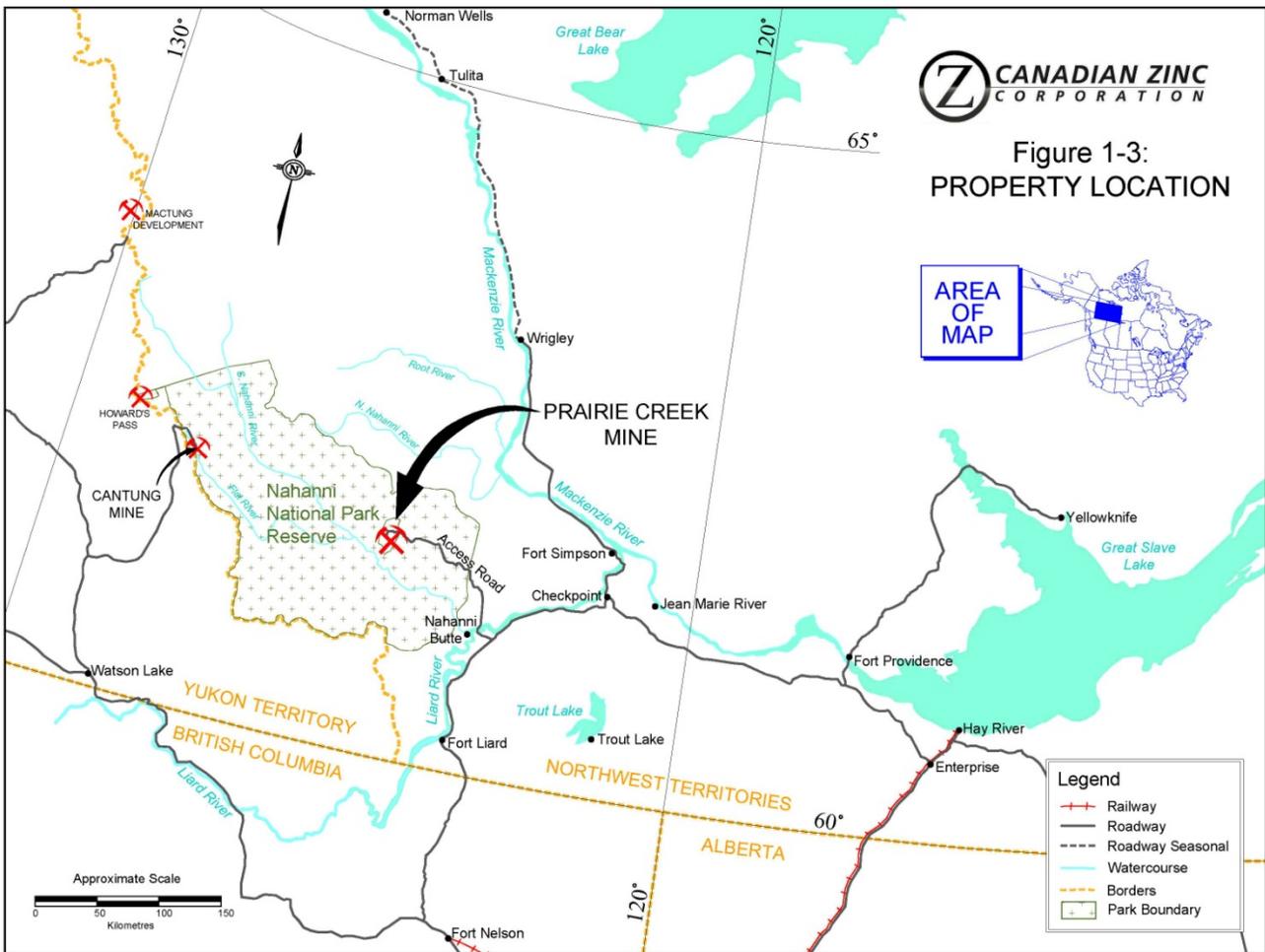
The grand total of land holdings (including mining leases, surface leases and mineral claims) at Prairie Creek now totals 8,218 hectares. All of the above leases and claims are in good standing at the date hereof.

The Prairie Creek Mine is located on land claimed by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band of the Dehcho First Nations ("DCFN") as their traditional territory. The DCFN are engaged in ongoing land

settlement negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories in what is referred to as the Dehcho Process. [Refer to Section 3.15-First Nations].

3.3. Location, Access and Climate

The Property consists of a 100 percent interest in mining leases, surface leases and staked mineral claims totaling 8,218 hectares. The Property is situated approximately 500 kilometres west of Yellowknife in the Mackenzie mountain range that locally has an average relief of approximately 300 metres and comprises low mountains with moderate to steep sides and intervening narrow valleys, at an elevation of 850 metres above mean sea level. The Property is surrounded by, but is not included in, Nahanni National Park Reserve.



Year-round access to the Property is provided by aircraft to a 3,000-foot gravel airstrip immediately adjacent to the camp. The Property is also accessible by an access road which extends from the Property to the Liard Highway, a distance of 170 kilometres and which was originally permitted for use in the winter months throughout its full length and for year round use for the first 40 kilometres out from the mine site. The Company has been granted a Land Use Permit by Parks Canada for the use of the portion of the road within Nahanni National Park Reserve. The road needs to be re-established, and the Company successfully rehabilitated approximately 30 kilometres out from the mine site in the summers of 2008 and 2009. The Liard Highway #7 is the major north-south transportation route, which connects Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories to Fort Nelson, British Columbia.

The climate is sub-Arctic, being characterized by long cold winters with pleasant summers. Snowfall is moderate and only minor difficulty has been experienced in operating throughout the winter months.

3.4. Property Geological Summary

Regional Geology

The 1987 Geological Survey of Canada Memoir 412 by Morrow and Cook provides the best description of the regional geological setting of the Property. Morrow and Cook describe the stratigraphy that accumulated during Siluro-Devonian time and formed in a paleo-basin adjacent to the ancient North American Platformal sediments. The east-dipping Tundra Thrust (that is located on the Property) and, 30 kilometres to the west, the west-dipping Arnica Thrust, define the present margins of the Prairie Creek paleo-basin in which accumulated a thick Devonian sequence of sediments, including the Cadillac and Funeral Formations.

Units within the Prairie Creek paleo-basin underwent structural deformation in the form of folds and faults during regional Laramide deformation. The prevalent regional structural trend is approximately north-south; the Prairie Creek paleo-basin is broken into a series of north-south trending, 5 - 20 kilometre wide fault blocks.

Property Geology

Canadian Zinc's mineral claims and leases overlie two major fault blocks of sediments: the Prairie Creek Block and western Gate Block.

Prairie Creek Block; Overall, the southern part of the Property is outlined by a one to two kilometre wide, doubly plunging antiform with a north-south trending fold axis that is referred to as the Prairie Creek Block. It is bordered to the west by the so-called Gate Fault and to the east by the Tundra Thrust. It is underlain by a conformable sedimentary sequence including the Lower Ordovician Whittaker Formation dolomites, Silurian Road River Formation shales and the thinly bedded, limy shales of the Cadillac Formation. Lower to Middle Devonian Arnica and Funeral Formation dolomites and limestone overlie this assemblage on the northern part of the Property.

Structurally, the longitudinal arch of the antiform occurs approximately five kilometres south of the Mine site. A local fault, referred to as the Prairie Creek fault, offsets the eastern flank of the antiformal fold and juxtaposes Cadillac stratigraphy against the Road River Formation. Erosion of the antiformal structure has resulted in windows of older Road River shales, cored by the Whittaker Formation dolomites. The antiform plunges at about 15 degrees to the north, so the geological units young in age to the north, which is also the case underground.

Gate Block; The four contiguous Gate leases (that together define what is termed the Gate Block) are located to the west of the main mining leases and overlie similar type rock assemblages to those found on the Prairie Creek Block. Grassroots exploration was completed on this ground to test for mineralization similar to that found in the Prairie Creek Block.

Main Zone Geology; The mine site is situated on the western flank of the Prairie Creek antiform, referred to as the Main Zone. It is Main Zone mineralization that was and is the focus for mine development and exploitation.

The three levels of available underground development assist in identifying the detail of Main Zone geology:

The 870 metre Level is collared in the Ordovician, Upper Whittaker Formation, which is the oldest geological formation in the Main Zone area and which forms the core of the Prairie Creek antiform;

The Whittaker Formation is in turn overlain by a large exposure of the carbon-rich graphitic shales/dolomites of the Road River Formation;

The iron-bearing Cadillac Formation shales overly the Road River Formation and are located immediately adjacent to the mine site; and

The bluff-forming rocks immediately to the west of the mine site are formed by the cherty Arnica Formation which overlie the Cadillac Formation and form the more resistant hilltops in the immediate vicinity of the Mine site.

Property Base Metal Mineralization

Four main styles of base metal mineralization have been identified on the Property: Vein mineralization (sulphide with secondary oxide), Stratabound sulphides, Stockwork and Mississippi Valley Type sulphides ("MVT"). Exploration at the Property has revealed many base metal mineral showings along the entire 16 kilometre north to south length of the Property.

Vein Mineralization. Vein mineralization comprises massive to disseminated galena and sphalerite with lesser pyrite and tennantite-tetrahedrite in a quartz-carbonate-dolomite matrix. Secondary oxidation is locally developed to variable levels of severity, yielding mainly cerussite (lead oxide) and smithsonite (zinc oxide); minor oxidation only of tetrahedrite-tennantite has been found. Silver is present in solid solution with tennantite-tetrahedrite and to a lesser extent with galena. Vein widths vary between less than 0.1 metre and more than 5 metres; overall averages indicate a horizontal thickness (i.e. not true thickness) of approximately 2.7 metres.

The most extensively developed vein is the Main Quartz Vein which trends approximately north-south and dips between the vertical and 40 degrees east (average of 65 degrees east). It remains open to the north and is expected to continue for a further 4 kilometres to the south, evidence for which is the so-called Rico showing. Diamond drilling to depth has indicated its transverse continuance, but little information is currently available below an elevation of 600 metres above mean sea level (i.e. about 250 metres below the Mine site elevation).

Stratabound Mineralization. Stratabound mineralization was discovered by the Company in 1992 while drilling to extend vein resources at depth. So far, indications of Stratabound mineralization have been found by drilling along the trend of the Prairie Creek Vein System over a strike length of more than 3 kilometres. This type of deposit has so far been located by drill holes in the Main Zone as well as in Zones 4, 5 and 6.

Oxidation is low in the stratabound mineralized material. The sulphide mineralization is generally fine-grained, banded to semi-massive and comprises massive fine-grained sphalerite, coarse-grained galena and disseminated to massive pyrite (silver is contained in solid solution within galena), contains no

tennantite-tetrahedrite and very little copper, and contains only half as much galena as, but substantially more iron sulphide/pyrite than, typical vein material.

The stratabound sulphides are developed close to both the vein system and the axis of the Prairie Creek anticline; the vein structure cuts through the stratabound indicating the vein to be younger than the stratabound deposit. An apparent thickness of 28 metres of stratabound mineralization has been intersected in Main Zone drillholes where it occurs approximately 200 metres below 870 metre Level. Stockwork Mineralization; Occurs as a series of narrow massive sphalerite-tennantite veins developed at about 40 degrees difference in strike to the average trend of the Main Quartz Vein. This mineralization has developed in sub-vertical tensional openings formed by primary movement along the main vein structure. The sulphide mineral assemblages are similar to those outlined for Main Quartz Vein material.

So far stockwork style mineralization has only been located in the immediate area surrounding the exposure on the 930mL underground workings.

Mississippi Valley Type Sulphides. The MVT mineralization found on the Property is comprised of colliform rims of sphalerite, brassy pyrite-marcasite and minor galena, with or without later dolomite infilling. The mineralization appears to occur discontinuously within coarse biohermal reefs of the Root River Formation, and always at approximately the same stratigraphic horizon. It appears to be classic MVT mineralization, insofar as it occurs in open cavity-type settings.

3.5. Gate Claims

During 1999, the Gate 1-4 Mineral Claims were staked covering an area of 9,245.35 acres to the west of the main property adjacent to the existing land holdings. A small exploration program on the newly staked mineral claims consisted of geological mapping, soil and rock sampling over areas that contain similar geology with that of the Prairie Creek Property. This exploration resulted in the discovery of a Vein in outcrop, with select samples grading similar with that of the main established Vein at the Prairie Creek Property. Also a large zinc soil anomaly was located over favourable geology. A small heli-portable drilling program was carried out on part of the Gate Claims during 2007 but revealed no significant mineralization in drillcore.

The Gate Claims contain similar geology to that of the Prairie Creek mine and grassroots exploration developed new base metal targets some of which still remain underexplored. The proximity of these claims to the Prairie Creek Mine, and the similarities in geology, justified upgrading the mineral tenure of these claims to long term mining leases. In August 2010, a perimeter land survey was completed on the Gate mineral claims resulting in an adjusted total surface area for the new Gate mining leases of 2,776 hectares. New Mining Leases for the Gate areas were received February 16, 2011 and are dated September 9, 2009 and have a term of 21 years up to September 9, 2030.

3.6. 2001 Scoping Study

In 2000/2001, the Company completed a preliminary Scoping Study designed to outline and guide the re-development of the existing mine and mill on the Prairie Creek Property.

The Study took six months to complete and included metallurgical testwork, mill re-design, alternative mining methods, inclusion of paste backfill in the mine design, capital and operating cost estimates, a review of smelter terms and conditions for the Prairie Creek concentrates and other operating

parameters. In connection with the Scoping Study further metallurgical samples were collected and the mill equipment was reassessed. The road access corridor, tailings pond and the underground workings were re-examined for future production considerations and capital cost estimates. The Scoping Study was prepared in-house using consultants and contractors at a cost of approximately \$0.4 million. The Scoping Study has not been updated.

The complete Scoping Study, dated January 29, 2001, has been filed on SEDAR, and may be found under the Company's profile on SEDAR at www.sedar.com [Technical Reports April 24, 2001].

It should be noted that the economic assessment in the Scoping Study was preliminary and based, in part, on mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have the economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as reserves in accordance with National Instrument 43-101. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. In addition, the Scoping Study was preliminary in nature, despite the existing underground development and the on-site mill, and the assumptions made within the Scoping Study and its subsequent results may not be attained.

The Scoping Study outlined the plan for the development of the Prairie Creek Project was based on the historical development and existing infrastructure at the Prairie Creek Property and on the Resource Estimation. The Resource Estimation does not constitute mineable reserves. The historical development was carried out principally in 1980 to 1982 and the infrastructure, including the mill, was constructed in the same period based on a feasibility study prepared by Kilborn Engineering (Pacific) Limited in 1980. The Kilborn feasibility study is outdated and cannot be relied upon. The existing infrastructure, including the mill, buildings, camp etc. is now over twenty-five years old and although it has been held under care and maintenance it has lain idle for more than twenty-five years and was never operated. There is a significant risk attaching to the proposed operation of aged equipment.

The Scoping Study is now considered to be out of date and should not be relied upon. The indicated capital costs were estimated in 2000 and are now outdated. The Company anticipates that the capital costs to place the Prairie Creek Mine into production will be significantly greater than estimated in the 2001 Scoping Study.

3.7. 2007 Resource Estimation

A technical report on the Mine was independently prepared by Minefill Services Inc. (Dr. David M.R. Stone, P.Eng. and Stephen J. Godden, F.I.M.M.M., C.Eng., independent Qualified Persons for the purposes of NI 43-101), effective October 12, 2007, in compliance with the standards in NI 43-101.

The 2007 resource estimation, which focused on the Main Zone, indicated that the Property hosts total Measured and Indicated Resources of 5,840,329 tonnes grading 10.71% zinc, 9.90% lead, 161.12 grams silver per tonne and 0.326% copper. In addition, the 2007 estimation confirms a large Inferred Resource of 5,541,576 tonnes grading at 13.53% zinc, 11.43% lead, 215 grams per tonne silver and 0.514% copper and additional exploration potential.

The resource estimates summarized on the table below relied on underground channel sample, surface drillcore and underground drillcore data collected by the Company since 1992. The 1992 to 1998 assay database was verified by MRDI, as part of their 1998 resource estimate program. MineFill verified the

2001 to July 2007 assay database. Only those assays that were deemed verified were used for purposes of resource estimation.

Minimal work has been carried out within the Main Zone resource area since 2007. In the opinion of the author of the 2011 Technical Report, there has been no change in the resources since 2007 and the Minefill 2007 resource estimates are considered to remain current.

A summary table of Minefill's 2007 Resource Estimate is presented below:

Zone	Classification	Tonnes	Ag (g/t)	Cu (%)	Pb (%)	Zn (%)
Main Quartz Vein	Measured	938,624	211.89	0.465	11.63	13.11
	Indicated	2,944,862	212.39	0.472	12.67	11.16
	<i>Measured + Indicated</i>	<i>3,883,486</i>	<i>212.27</i>	<i>0.470</i>	<i>12.41</i>	<i>11.63</i>
	Inferred	5,516,297	215.53	0.516	11.46	13.55
Stockwork	Indicated	682,165	50.15	0.112	2.68	5.85
	Inferred	4,045	51.31	0.126	2.51	5.54
Stratabound	Measured	611,417	67.6	-	6.68	10.85
	Indicated	663,261	62.0	-	5.53	10.15
	<i>Measured + Indicated</i>	<i>1,274,678</i>	<i>64.7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>6.08</i>	<i>10.49</i>
	Inferred	21,234	55.7	-	5.65	10.49
Combined	Measured	1,550,041	154.9	0.282	9.67	12.22
	Indicated	4,290,288	163.3	0.342	9.98	10.16
	<i>Measured + Indicated</i>	<i>5,840,329</i>	<i>161.1</i>	<i>0.326</i>	<i>9.89</i>	<i>10.71</i>
	Inferred	5,541,576	214.8	0.514	11.43	13.54

Note: copper grades for stratabound material were not estimated due to the consistently low to negligible assay grades reported in the available database.

Cautionary note: Mineral Resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. Inferred mineral resources are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves and there is no certainty that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource will ever be upgraded to a measured or indicated mineral resource or to a mineral reserve.

Cautionary Note to United States Investors Concerning Estimates of Measured, Indicated or Inferred Resources:

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") permits U.S. mining companies, in their filings with the SEC, to disclose only those mineral deposits that a company can economically and legally extract or produce. We use certain terms in this Annual Information Form, such as "measured," "indicated," and "inferred" "resources," which the SEC guidelines prohibit U.S. registered companies from including in their filings with the SEC. U.S. Investors are urged to consider closely the disclosure in our Form 20-F which may be secured from us, or from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>. "Inferred mineral resources" have significant uncertainty as to their existence, and as to their economic feasibility. United States investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource exists or is economically mineable. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource would ever be upgraded to a higher category. United States investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of measured or indicated mineral resources will ever be converted into mineral reserves.

3.8. Metallurgical Testing

Metallurgical tests conducted to date proved positive and generated satisfactory simulated results of anticipated actual operations in the production of mineral concentrates at the Mine. Good metal recoveries can be achieved in both sulphide and oxide material, with a reagent suite that does not include cyanide products. The test results showed marketable concentrates can be produced (albeit that penalty elements, including antimony, arsenic and mercury, would unavoidably report to the final concentrates).

The test results indicate that the overall grade of the blended lead sulphide/oxide concentrate assayed 67% lead, with an 82% recovery of total lead in the plant feed, and the zinc sulphide graded 58% Zn with a 74% recovery of the total zinc in the plant feed. An average of 92.7% of the total silver values in the plant feed was recovered within the lead and zinc concentrates.

3.9. Environmental Assessment

In December 2011, the Review Board, the primary authority responsible for all environmental assessment and review throughout the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories, approved the proposed operation of the Mine. The Review Board issued the EA Report and submitted the Report and Decision to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The Review Board concluded that the proposed development of the Mine, including the list of commitments made by the Company during the proceedings, is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern. The Review Board therefore concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals.

The regulatory phase, managed by the Water Board with input from territorial and federal agencies, will be the permitting stage in which the permits and licences are issued by the Water Board. The Company expects that the permits and licences, when issued by the Water Board, will include as conditions of such permits and licences the suggestions included in the EA Report, the various commitments made by Canadian Zinc and the water discharge limits necessary to protect water quality as determined by the Water Board.

3.10. Proposed Operation

The proposed operation at Prairie Creek will utilize the extensive existing infrastructure and facilities that were built in the 1980s which will be upgraded and enhanced to meet the highest environmental standards. The current planned mine life is 14 years but is expected to continue for at least 20 years. All mining will be performed from underground. Proposed production rates will range from 600-1,200 tonnes/day. Underground development and open workings on three levels already exists (about 5,000 metres). Mining will occur on a year round basis by cut and fill methods. Mine voids will be backfilled with a mix of filtered tailings, waste rock aggregate and cement.

The mill, which is already constructed on site, will process 600-1,200 tonnes/day. Ore will be crushed to a gravel-size and subjected to dense media separation ("DMS"). The lighter, uneconomic "gangue" minerals (about 30%) will create a waste rock aggregate. Denser material will be processed further by grinding and flotation to produce concentrates containing lead sulphide, zinc sulphide and lead oxide. No hazardous chemicals will be used in the process. All flotation tailings will be backfilled into the voids in the underground mine in a mix with the waste rock aggregate and cement.

When in production the Mine will add significantly to Canada's production of lead and zinc concentrates. The concentrates will be bagged and stored under cover until they are trucked off-site on flat-deck trailers over the winter road. The trucks will then travel south bound to the railway at Fort Nelson, from where the concentrates will be railed to a port and shipped to smelters in Canada and/or more likely overseas.

3.11. Feasibility Study

In February 2011, the Company engaged SNC-Lavalin Inc. ("SNC") of Vancouver to complete a feasibility study on the Prairie Creek Mine. SNC is experienced in the design, development and delivery of mining, processing, tailings, infrastructure and transportation facilities and some SNC personnel have had involvement in the Prairie Creek Project since it was originally designed by Kilborn Engineering (subsequently acquired by SNC) and constructed in 1982. SNC also has comprehensive knowledge with respect to the unique challenges of designing and constructing mine projects in the Northwest Territories, having been recently involved in the development of Rio Tinto's Diavik diamond mine (NWT) and Newmont's Hope Bay Davis North gold project (Nunavut).

The general scope of the feasibility study includes detailed engineering and design, including mining equipment, on-site and off-site infrastructure, transportation and logistics; capital and operating cost estimates for underground mining, preliminary designs of stoping methods and layouts; capital cost estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the processing plant, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds; construction schedule and execution plan.

It is expected that the main part of the Feasibility Study (Phase One) will be completed around the end of the first quarter of 2012 and will incorporate capital costs estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the mill, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds, as well as working cost estimates for mining, processing and transportation. An addendum to the Feasibility Study (Phase Two) will be completed later in the year and will further take into account some additional site geo-technical work planned to be carried out during the summer months of 2012.

3.12. Exploration Activity

The Company has been involved with semi-continuous exploration activity across the Property since 1992. Limited exploration drilling had been undertaken prior to the Company's initial involvement with the Project in 1992. Up to November 2011, the Company had completed a total of 261 surface and underground exploration diamond drill holes totaling 68,744 metres of coring.

The main focus of exploration and underground development work has been on Main Zone mineralization. A deep drilling exploration program was carried out during 2010/11 seasons to test for the northerly extension of the defined resource. This program successfully intercepted what appears to be the same mineralized structure 1.5 kilometres north along plunge of the resource bearing geology.

In 2011, the Company continued the deep drilling program started in 2010 by extending drillhole PC-10-187 to test for extensions of the Mineral Resource at the Prairie Creek Mine, 1.5 kilometres to the south. The deep drilling program in the Casket Creek area, utilizing the HTM-2500 rig totalled 2,513 metres of coring in four holes including wedges and successfully intersected significant vein-type zinc and lead mineralization about 1.6 kilometres north along a projected strike extension of the geological structure that hosts the defined mineral resource at the mine and demonstrated the probable continuation of vein-type mineralization similar to that located within the main zone at the Prairie Creek Mine.

A re-interpretation of the geological model indicated that the main structural target had been intersected by drillhole PC-10-187 above the known rock formations that host the existing resource. As a result of the less competent shaly rock of the Cadillac Formation, the fault zone is weakly developed.

To further test the vertical extent of this newly identified structure, wedge drillhole PC-11-187W2 was drilled as an undercut to the initial hole. This wedge hole successfully intersected the vertical continuation of the fault structure 50 metres below the PC-10-187 intercept. The PC-11-187W2 intercept was wider, at 3.5 metres, and assayed higher for zinc, at 11.47% Zn. However, this intersection is stratigraphically located well above the primary host rock units found at the mine. Calculated assays based on lab analysis as follows:

The drill intercepts are approximately 100 metres west of the fold axis of the main regional antiform in an identical structural setting to that of the defined vein resource in the main mine zone.

2011 Exploration Program: Deep Drill Program							
Drillhole	From (m)	To (m)	Interval (m)	Pb (%)	Zn (%)	Ag (g/t)	Cu (%)
PC-10-187	1348.36	1348.88	0.52	4.92	5.90	34	0.034
PC-11-187W2	1384.00	1387.50	3.50	5.26	11.47	84	0.176

With the continued success at intersecting the target structure, which shows increasing intensity with depth, a subsequent hole, drillhole PC-11-206, was designed to further undercut the intersected structure by 250 metres within the primary host geological formations as found at the mine. This hole had reached a depth of 1,365 metres, approximately 230 metres short of target, at the end of October 2011 when the onset of the winter season forced suspension of the 2011 drilling program. It is planned to complete drillhole PC-11-206 in the 2012 drilling season.

The Company also undertook a summer 2011 diamond drill program at Prairie Creek Mine property to test for additional high-grade vein structures and for other, wider stratabound deposits adjacent to the resource. In summary, 26 shallow holes were drilled with the Company's Longyear rig, achieving 3,125 metres of coring directed at vein and stratabound targets in the immediate mine area. The vein structure was intersected and identified in each completed hole, many of which returned high grade base metal values.

PC-11-188, collared at the minesite, was abandoned due to excessive overburden and hole PC-11-189 reported no significant assays. Drillhole PC-11-190 intersected a new area of stratabound-type mineralization approximately 150 metres below the 870 metre mine level, which is the lowest level of current developed workings at the Prairie Creek Mine.

The vein mineralization at Prairie Creek is hosted within a structural fault zone and this zone was identified in all completed holes. Due to the close proximity to surface, the mineralization was highly weathered and 70–90% oxidized, which inhibited core recovery and grade determination. Actual grades and true thicknesses will only be verified upon and if they are mined.

A series of 25 metre spaced drill holes were targeted in the upper level vein area, close to surface, and above the presently defined vein resource. The vein structure was intersected and results from the vein drilling are shown below.

Additional drill intersections of vein and stratabound mineralization were reported from drillholes. Drill holes PC-11-197 to PC-11-204 which targeted in the upper level vein area, close to surface and above the presently defined vein resource. The vein structure was intersected and identified in each completed hole.

Most of the assays listed in the table below are length-weighted composites which contain significantly higher grade internal values, such as in PC-11-202 which contained 20.45% Pb, 33.15% Zn, 300 gpt Ag and 0.752% Cu over 0.74 metres of core and PC-11-200A which returned values of 11.86% Pb, 23.77% Zn, 217 gpt Ag and 0.372% Cu over 2.04 metres of core.

Drill holes PC-11-205, 207 and 208 tested an area above a previously defined zone, known as “the stockwork zone”, which contains a series of narrow high grade veins trending at oblique angles to the main vein strike. Holes PC-11-207 and 208 reported wide moderate grade intercepts resulting from compositing a number of narrow veins together. Hole PC-11-205 did not report any significant assays.

2011 Exploration Program: Shallow Drill Program							
Drillhole	From (m)	To (m)	Interval (m)	Pb (%)	Zn (%)	Ag (g/t)	Cu (%)
PC-11-190	244.40	247.00	2.60	1.61	7.15	12	0.011
PC-11-190	252.10	254.80	2.70	3.56	8.84	28	0.011
PC-11-191	67.37	69.02	1.65	2.14	10.52	35	0.124
PC-11-192	65.00	68.40	3.40	6.32	5.64	67	0.100
PC-11-192	80.40	85.10	4.70	3.71	8.38	50	0.183
PC-11-193	64.00	65.50	1.50	7.34	8.70	244	0.650
PC-11-194	57.40	61.20	3.80	5.16	6.09	57	0.069
PC-11-194	66.20	68.70	2.50	5.63	6.55	54	0.082
PC-11-195	65.35	69.00	3.65	3.45	3.60	80	0.186
PC-11-196	70.20	77.72	7.52	8.78	5.07	126	0.258
PC-11-197	55.19	56.39	1.20	5.76	5.11	113	0.265
PC-11-197	60.20	62.48	2.28	4.44	14.48	100	0.415
PC-11-198	48.59	49.89	1.30	1.39	2.62	16	0.022
PC-11-198	55.57	61.82	6.25	2.42	5.92	18	0.058
PC-11-199	54.86	57.65	2.79	5.83	10.07	71	0.216
PC-11-200A	49.04	50.50	1.46	0.91	4.99	27	0.058
PC-11-200A	54.65	57.13	2.48	12.21	19.82	232	0.552
PC-11-201	48.61	50.20	1.59	4.44	6.51	110	0.235
PC-11-201	55.10	60.21	5.11	2.43	8.80	45	0.118
PC-11-202	28.96	29.80	0.84	23.00	8.26	300	0.360
PC-11-202	49.55	53.34	3.79	9.11	15.57	138	0.404
PC-11-203	56.00	60.40	4.40	1.57	9.62	50	0.164
PC-11-204	53.34	56.80	3.46	1.12	7.50	18	0.039
PC-11-207	98.22	98.76	0.54	1.78	5.78	12	0.014
PC-11-207	118.40	121.00	2.60	2.55	4.62	21	0.026
PC-11-207	162.60	165.81	3.21	6.63	6.43	95	0.148
PC-11-207	173.19	180.25	7.06	1.50	4.60	18	0.048
PC-11-207	182.95	187.15	4.20	1.77	5.46	55	0.131
PC-11-208	187.30	190.00	2.7	4.36	5.83	70	0.106

3.13. Environmental Assessment and Permitting

(a) *Regulatory Framework*

At the time of its construction in 1980 - 1982, the Prairie Creek Mine had been fully permitted for full scale mining and milling operations. Permitting had been undertaken under the regulatory regime of the day, which involved a comprehensive Environmental Assessment and public review before the Northwest Territories Water Board. A considerable number of technical and baseline studies describing the proposed development and the physical and biological environment were undertaken at that time.

Water Licence N3L3-0932 was issued by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on July 1, 1982 pursuant to the Northern Inland Waters Act and Regulations, authorizing the use of up to 1,150 m³/day and 420,000 m³/year of water from the Prairie Creek Valley Aquifer and setting standards for discharge of process effluent to Prairie Creek. Land Use Permit N80F249 was issued July 2, 1980 for the road connecting Prairie Creek to the Liard Highway, the first 40 kilometres being permitted for year round use with the remaining 130 kilometres permitted for use in winter months only. The Land Use Permit was extended in 1981 and again in 1982 to June 1983. Surface Leases were issued for the minesite area and airstrip. The Water Licence and Land Use Permit subsequently expired.

In 1998, a totally new regulatory and resource management scheme was introduced in this part of Canada. During the negotiation of native land claim settlements in the Mackenzie Valley, first with the Dene/Metis in the late 1980s and then with the Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene/Metis people, the Federal Government agreed to establish a new resources management system through the creation of boards with joint membership which reflects First Nations' desire to participate more effectively in the regulation of land and water throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* ("MVRMA" or the "Act") was enacted in 1998 for a defined area called the "Mackenzie Valley," which includes the area where the Prairie Creek Mine is situated. Prior to that, the applicable legislation was the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, S.C. 1992 c.37*. ("CEAA"). The CEAA no longer applies in the Mackenzie Valley, except under very specific situations.

The MVRMA is a piece of federal legislation that creates an integrated co-management structure for public and private lands and waters throughout the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories. The Act was proclaimed on December 22, 1998; however, Part IV, which establishes the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, was not proclaimed until March 31, 2000.

The overall legislative scheme of the MVRMA is designed to implement the Gwich'in and the Sahtu Land Claim Settlement Agreements (collectively the "Comprehensive Agreements") by providing for an integrated system of land and water management in the Mackenzie Valley. Under the Comprehensive Agreements, Land Use Planning Boards and Land and Water Boards must be established for the settlement areas referred to in those Agreements. In addition, an Environmental Impact Review Board must be established for the Mackenzie Valley along with a Land and Water Board for an area extending beyond the settlement areas.

The Act established these public boards to regulate the use of land and water, to prepare regional land use plans to guide development, and to carry out environmental assessment and reviews of proposed projects in the Mackenzie Valley. The Act also makes provisions for monitoring cumulative impacts on the environment, and for periodic, independent environmental audits.

These Boards are charged with regulating all land and water uses, including deposits of waste, in the areas in the Mackenzie Valley under their jurisdiction. As institutions of public government, the Boards regulate all uses of land and water while considering the economic, social and cultural well-being of residents and communities in the Mackenzie Valley.

The MVRMA ensures a greater role for Aboriginal people in land use planning, environmental assessment, and the regulation of land and water use. As stated in the MVRMA, ‘the purpose of the establishment of boards by this Act is to enable residents of the Mackenzie Valley to participate in the management of its resources for the benefit of the residents and of other Canadians.’ Consultation is the cornerstone of the MVRMA. Public Boards under the Act have established their own consultation guidelines.

To reflect the desire of First Nations to be more actively involved in resource management decision-making, half the members of each Board are nominated by First Nations, and half by the Federal and Territorial governments. Public boards are formed through nominations. Under the land claims agreements, First Nations are entitled to nominate one-half of the members of the board, reflecting the board’s jurisdiction over all lands including First Nation settlement lands. The Federal Government, Territorial Government and First Nations can each nominate at their own discretion.

These Boards are charged with regulating all land and water uses, including deposits of waste, in the areas in the Mackenzie Valley under their jurisdiction. As institutions of public government, the Boards regulate all uses of land and water while considering the economic, social and cultural well-being of residents and communities in the Mackenzie Valley.

The Act also anticipates amendments to accommodate new land settlements and self-governments as they are finalized. As land claims are settled, the Act provides for additional regional boards to be established in the Dehcho, North Slave and South Slave regions. The Dehcho area is not settled. Prior to additional regional Boards being established, First Nations in the Dehcho region were asked to participate in the new system by recommending members to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

Role of Public Boards

Under the MVRMA, public boards are responsible for:

- preparing regional land use plans to guide the development and use of land, waters and other resources [Land Use Planning Board];
- regulating all uses of land and water [Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board]; and
- carrying out the environmental assessment and review process [Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board].

Each Board has its own specific jurisdiction.

The Land Use Planning Board develops and implements a land use plan for the respective settlement areas in the Mackenzie Valley.

Land and Water Boards issue land use permits and water licences under the *Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations and the Northwest Territories Waters Act and Regulations*, within the Mackenzie Valley.

The Review Board is responsible for environmental impact review and assessment at a valley-wide level, including the Sahtu and Gwich’in settlement areas.

The public boards perform regulatory functions, such as permitting and licensing, and conducting environmental reviews, previously undertaken by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (now referred to as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada) and the NWT Water Board.

After consultation with the Land and Water Board, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada may give written policy direction to the Board with respect to the exercise of any of its functions. The Minister also approves the issuance of Type 'A' water licences. Regarding a Type 'A' water licence, the Minister may attach terms and conditions such as provision for a security deposit, a requirement for water quality and quantity measurements, and a requirement for abandonment and restoration plans.

Land Management

Inspection and enforcement continue to be the responsibility of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada controls, manages and administers all Crown lands in the Mackenzie Valley under the authority of the *Territorial Lands Act*, and the *Federal Real Property Act*. Aside from managing Crown lands and waters, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is still responsible for the administration, inspection and enforcement requirements associated with renewable, non-renewable and environmental legislation. This includes the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the *Northwest Territories Waters Act*, and the *Federal Real Property Act*.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada inspectors are responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation, regulations and the terms and conditions that are part of permits and licences issued by the Land and Water Boards. These responsibilities are exercised by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada under the authority of the *Territorial Lands Regulations*, *Territorial Quarrying Regulations*, *Canada Mining Regulations* and the *Federal Property Regulations*.

Under the *Northwest Territories Waters Act, S.C. 1992, (C.29) (Waters Act)* no person can use water or deposit waste in specific areas in the Northwest Territories without a licence to do so. Section 102 of the MVRMA provides that it is the Water Board which has the jurisdiction with respect of all uses of water and deposits of waste in the area for which a licence is required under the Waters Act. The Water Board may issue, amend, renew and cancel licences in accordance with the Waters Act and exercise any other power of the Northwest Territories Water Board under the Waters Act.

The stated objective of the Water Board is to “regulate the use of land and waters and the deposit of waste so as to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of land and water resources in a manner that will provide optimum benefit to the residents of the settlement areas and of the Mackenzie Valley and to all Canadians.” The Water Board’s main function which is relevant to the Company, is to issue land use permits and water licences on land in unsettled land claim areas in the Mackenzie Valley, inclusive of the Dehcho area.

Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative

In November 2007, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development announced the *Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative* and the appointment of a Special Representative responsible to advance this initiative. As announced by the Minister, the *Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative*

is a strategy to improve the current regulatory regime and the overall Northern regulatory environment and to ensure that regulatory regimes across the North are effective and predictable, and will better equip the North to develop and benefit from its resources in the best way possible. The Minister's Special Representative was asked to work to improve existing regulatory regimes across the North and to submit a report to the Government of Canada outlining proposed recommendations for advancing the regulatory regime.

In May 2008, the Minister's Special Representative for the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative (Neil McCrank) presented his report entitled "Road to Improvement – The Review of the Regulatory system across the North" to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Report noted that there is a need for a restructuring of the regulatory system in the Northwest Territories, to address the issues of complexity and capacity. In his report Neil McCrank called into question the very structure of the regulatory system.

"The complexity and the capacity of the regulatory system in the Northwest Territories was examined to determine if these issues could be addressed in the absence of a fundamental restructuring, which ultimately did not prove possible."

McCrank's Report recommends two options to restructure and basically amalgamate the Land use Permitting and Water Licensing functions under a single board for the Mackenzie Valley. McCrank hoped this will address the complexity and the capacity issues by making more efficient use of expenditures and administrative resources, and would achieve more understandable and consistent practices. Two options and recommendations for restructuring were outlined which would simplify and improve the effectiveness of the system and there were also 22 recommendations which will bring improvements.

In May 2010, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development announced an Action Plan to improve Northern regulatory regimes, "... to ensure that Northern regulatory regimes are more effective, predictable and *provide* greater certainty for industry, Northerners and all Canadians".

The Action Plan recognizes that the evolving regulatory regimes are currently incomplete or need adjustment. The regulatory processes currently are complex, costly, unpredictable and time consuming. The Action Plan is designed to complete and strengthen current regulatory regimes in the North and provide more efficient and effective processes. Streamlining the regulatory regimes and removing barriers to investment and support economic growth and provide opportunities for Northerners.

The Action Plan contains three elements, one of which is legislative changes to improve Northern regulatory processes to reduce overlap and duplication. Changes to regulatory regimes are to be made in consultation with the North's leaders to determine how best to modernize the legislation, while at the same time, respecting the comprehensive land claims agreements.

Changes to the current legislative framework and regulatory processes, including Land and Water Board restructuring in the NWT, will take place while respecting comprehensive land claims agreements and the Crown's duty to consult Aboriginal peoples where appropriate. The proposed legislation actions under the Plan are to amend the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, modernize the *Northwest Territories Waters Act* and *Territorial Lands Act* and develop surface rights legislation for the Northwest Territories. The aim is to simplify the process for issuing permits and licences.

The Action Plan envisages restructuring the Land and Water Boards in the NWT to ensure that individual Aboriginal organizations and government roles in resource management are strengthened and that decisions related to the regulatory regimes have greater consistency. It will also ensure that the Northern Regulatory Regime will be strong, effective, efficient and predictable.

The Minister appointed a Chief Federal Negotiator whose mandate is to lead consultations and negotiations with Aboriginal leadership and the Government of the Northwest Territories on how the Land and Water Boards will be restructured as part of the work to amend the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and Northwest Territories Waters Act and Territorial Lands Act.

In late 2011, the Chief Federal Negotiator wrote to the Water Boards and industry associations setting out a proposal for changes to the Land and Water Board structure in the Mackenzie Valley. The Minister has requested changes to the current mechanism by which land and water use is managed in the Northwest Territories in order to meet Canadian's long-term interest of having a single Land and Water Board structure for all of the Northwest Territories. The proposal is to reconfigure the current four-board structure into a single board structure. The Chief Federal Negotiator has developed a consultation plan to consult with Aboriginal groups and government, and relevant Boards, on the proposed changes to the Land and Water Board structure in the NWT.

In October 2011, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board publicly released a report it commissioned to examine the environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. The Review Board commissioned the report as the first step in its work to address criticism by industry and others that the regulatory system governing land and water resources in the Mackenzie Valley is increasingly complex and lengthy. The report focuses on opportunities to improve the timeliness of the Review Board's environmental assessment process. The report identified several areas with room for improvement. The main recommendations focus on improving scoping efficiency, developing a defined process for referrals to environmental impact reviews, developing environmental assessment processes for large versus small projects, improving guidance materials, and implementing rules based timelines.

(b) *Permitting Process*

All applications for a land use permit or a water licence in relation to a development in the Mackenzie Valley are made to the Water Board or one of its regional boards, as determined by the location of the development. In the case of Prairie Creek, being located within the Dehcho First Nations territory, for which a land claim settlement agreement has not as yet been reached, applications are processed by the Water Board.

There are three stages in the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley: preliminary screening, environmental assessment and environmental impact review. Not all developments will necessarily go through each of the three stages. All projects undergo a preliminary screening, after which it is decided whether a project must proceed to a full environmental assessment or go straight to the regulatory phase.

The environmental impact assessment process is triggered by an application to the Water Board for a water licence. The application requires the inclusion of certain baseline and other technical information

to allow them to be appropriately assessed and processed. Information provided with an application is used for undertaking a preliminary screening and for regulatory review of the application.

Preliminary Screening

Preliminary screening is the first step in the environmental impact assessment process. Preliminary screening applications are done by the Water Board. It is during the preliminary screening that the Water Board determines whether there is any public concern related to a proposed project or if it might have significant adverse environmental impacts.

During the preliminary screening, a systematic approach is taken to documenting the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. Next, the Water Board determines whether these effects need to be eliminated or minimized and, if so, how the project plan should be modified. In the end, the Water Board makes a recommendation on the need for further assessment.

The legislation requires that the Water Board conduct a pre-screening of a proposal for development (s.124). Where the Water Board determines that the development might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, or might be a cause of public concern, the Water Board refers the proposal to the Review Board for an environmental assessment (s.125).

Environmental Assessment

Environmental assessment is the second stage of the environmental impact assessment process. Projects may be referred to the Review Board by the Water Board (the preliminary screener), some other government department or agency, the First Nation qualified to make a referral, or on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's own motion.

The Review Board is responsible for the environmental impact assessment process throughout the Mackenzie Valley. It is the main instrument for environmental assessment and review, replacing the CEAA in the Mackenzie Valley except under specific instances.

The Review Board:

- Conducts environmental assessments;
- Conducts environmental impact reviews;
- Maintains a public registry of all preliminary screenings conducted by Regulatory Authorities; and
- Makes recommendations to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada for rejection or approval of any proposal.

Once a development proposal is referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for an environmental assessment, notices are placed in northern newspapers. The next step is for the developer to submit a "project description" to the Review Board. The project description describes what the developer plans to do and how it will be carried out. The Review Board develops a work plan and terms of reference in order to conduct the Environmental Assessment.

The public has an opportunity to comment on the project and identify issues which may require consideration. Public information submitted to the Review Board throughout this process, including the project description, and all technical and public submissions, are placed on a public registry.

The Review Board has guidelines for how they conduct environmental assessments. These guidelines provide information for submissions to the Review Board, including timelines and opportunities to present information at any public hearings that may be held. The environmental impact assessment process has several points where the local government and other stakeholders can contribute to and affect the regulatory process. There will also be occasions where the local government will be asked to comment on a proposed development.

The environmental assessment process looks at the same factors considered in the preliminary screening, as well as addressing potential cumulative effects, socio-cultural considerations and alternate means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the potential environmental effects of such alternate means.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has the choice of referring the development to an Environmental Impact Review before a panel if it determines there will be significant adverse environmental impact from a project. The Review Board may also recommend measures to prevent or mitigate these impacts.

Decisions of Review Board

Upon completing the assessment, the Review Board submits its Environmental Assessment Report (“EAR”) to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian Affairs and Northern Development) who is responsible for distributing the EAR to other Ministers with jurisdiction over the proposed development (s.128).

Pursuant to s.128 of the Act, the Review Board has the following obligations:

128. (1) On completing an environmental assessment of a proposal for a development, the Review Board shall,

(a) where the development is not likely in its opinion to have any significant adverse impact on the environment or to be a cause of significant public concern, determine that an environmental impact review of the proposal need not be conducted;

(b) where the development is likely in its opinion to have a significant adverse impact on the environment,

(i) order that an environmental impact review of the proposal be conducted, subject to paragraph 130(1)(c), or

(ii) recommend that the approval of the proposal be made subject to the imposition of such measures as it considers necessary to prevent the significant adverse impact;

(c) where the development is likely in its opinion to be a cause of significant public concern, order that an environmental impact review of the proposal be conducted, subject to paragraph 130(1)(c); and

(d) where the development is likely in its opinion to cause an adverse impact on the environment so significant that it cannot be justified, recommend that the proposal be rejected without an environmental impact review.

Minister's Decision Authority

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, along with the other Responsible Ministers, is required to make a decision on the EAR. The Minister may adopt the recommendations of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, refer the report back to the Review Board for further consideration (s.130) or reject the Report and order further environmental impact review. Once the recommendations contained in the EAR are adopted by the Minister, and the other responsible Ministers, those recommendations are to be included by the Water Board as conditions of any Water Licence or Land Use Permit that it issues for that proposed development (s.62).

130. (1) After considering the report of an environmental assessment, the federal Minister and the responsible ministers to whom the report was distributed may agree

(a) to order an environmental impact review of a proposal, notwithstanding a determination under paragraph 128(1) (a);

(b) where a recommendation is made under subparagraph 128(1) (b) (ii) or paragraph 128(1) (d),

(i) to adopt the recommendation or refer it back to the Review Board for further consideration, or

(ii) after consulting the Review Board, to adopt the recommendation with modifications or reject it and order an environmental impact review of the proposal; or

The authority to order an environmental impact review is provided in both Subsections 130(1) (a) and 130(1) (b) (ii). In the latter case [Section 130(1)(b)(ii)] this option is available where the Review Board has determined that a development is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and has recommended that the development proceed subject to conditions (s. 128(1)(b)) or that the proposal be rejected (s.128(1)(d)).

Environmental Impact Review

The Environmental Impact Review (“EIR”) stage is a detailed analysis and public review. This is normally reserved for development projects where the environmental impact may be significant and could include public hearings in affected communities. An Environmental Impact Review is conducted by a panel consisting of members of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, as well as any expert members they may appoint. The panel is required to issue terms of reference and the applicant must submit an impact statement. There must be public notification of the submission of the impact statement, and public consultation or hearings in communities which may be affected by the development. The panel conducts an analysis of the information received.

Regulatory Phase

When finally adopted by the Minister the application is sent to Water Board for issuance of permits and licences by the Water Board in the regulatory phase. The regulatory phase is the process of issuing regulatory authorizations once the development is approved through the environmental assessment process. The authorizations include terms and conditions which reflect the recommendations approved during the EA process, as well as other standard conditions for carrying out development.

Decisions of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Review Board are subject to review by the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

(c) “Grandfather” Provisions

Part 5 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, S.C. 1998, C.25 requires that any “proposals for development” comply with environmental assessment process consisting of a preliminary screening by the regulatory authority and, if applicable, an environmental assessment and an environmental impact review by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

However, Section 157.1 of the Act provides that Part 5 does not apply in respect of any licence, permit or other authorization related to an undertaking that is the subject of a licence or a permit issued before June 22, 1984, except the licence, permit, or other authorization for an abandonment, decommissioning or other significant alteration of the project.

Section 157.1 of the Act has been considered by the Court of Appeal of the Northwest Territories in the case *North American Tungsten Corporation Ltd. v Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board* (2003 NWTCA5). In that case the Court said (at paragraphs 24 to 27):

“24 However, both the *Comprehensive Agreements* and the *MVRMA* also clearly recognize that a full scale environmental review will not be appropriate in respect of certain existing permits, projects and licences. Instead, both reflect some grandfathering of existing developments is required to balance competing interests. Those interests include the legitimate goal of protecting land and water resources in the Mackenzie Valley for the benefit of its citizens, on the one hand, while, at the same time, exempting from the full force of the new environmental legislation undertakings developed under an earlier legislative regime. For example, the *Comprehensive Agreements* explicitly protect certain mineral interests, and arguably the rights associated therewith, in existence as of the date of the settlement legislation.”

“25 This respect for vested interests is reflected in the *MVRMA*. Part 7 contains a number of transitional provisions designed to preserve and protect the existing rights and interests. For example, Section 151 provides that certain existing permits continue in effect despite the implementation of the new legislation. Section 152 protects all existing rights to the use of any lands under any lease, easement, or other interest granted under any territorial law, again despite what would otherwise have been the impact of the new legislation on such interests....”

“26 Further confirmation that Parliament did not intend the *MVRMA* to interfere with existing rights can be seen in the fact that even pending applications for permits

and licences are to be dealt with under the prior applicable legislation and not under the MVRMA....”

“27 These provisions collectively reflect that Parliament did not intend to impose an entirely new environmental review process on every project in the Mackenzie Valley irrespective of the status of that project at the time the MVRMA came into effect. Instead, the MVRMA grandfathered certain projects and provided that others yet would be dealt with under prior applicable legislation. In interpreting Section 157.1 therefore, one must recognize that it is designed to grandfather certain undertakings which predate June 22, 1984. Accordingly, this section must be interpreted in a manner which best comports with its intended purpose.”

The Prairie Creek Project was the subject of both a Water Licence and Land Use Permit issued prior to June 22, 1984.

In May 2003, the Company applied to the Water Board for a Land Use Permit for use of the existing road from the Liard Highway to the Prairie Creek Mine. The Company submitted that this development is exempt from the Environmental Assessment process by virtue of Section 157.1 of the Act. The Company’s argument was rejected by the Water Board on June 1, 2004 and the Company filed an Appeal to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories seeking judicial review of the decision of the Water Board. The Appeal was heard by the Supreme Court in December 2004.

In a written decision dated May 6, 2005 in the case *Canadian Zinc Corporation v Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (SCNWT S-0001-CV2004)* the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories ruled in favour of the Company that its Winter Road permit application is “grandfathered” and is therefore exempt from the environmental assessment process under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (“MVRMA”)*.

The Supreme Court quoted with approval, the earlier 2003 decision of the Northwest Territories Court of Appeal in the case *North American Tungsten Corp. Ltd. v Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board*. The Supreme Court found:

“The reasoning in Tungsten appears to apply squarely to the circumstances of CZC’s (Canadian Zinc Corporation’s) permit application. The Court (of Appeal) referred to the legislative intention that projects which predate June 22, 1984 are to be subjected to a full scale environmental assessment only if they depart significantly from their approved mode of operation and engage in decommissioning, abandonment or significant alteration of the project. The project, in this case, the operation of the winter access road, predates June 22, 1984. As found by the (Water) Board, the permit sought by CZC (Canadian Zinc) is not based on any intentions to significantly alter that project or to abandon or decommission it”.

In its decision the Supreme Court said that the permit sought by Canadian Zinc is related to the operation of the winter access road, a permit in respect of that same undertaking had been issued before 1984, and therefore the exemption provided in Section 157.1 of the MVRMA governs and a Part 5 assessment does not apply.

(d) *Permitting History at Prairie Creek*

In 1992, the Company was granted an Exploration Land Use Permit by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development under the *Territorial Lands Act*. Further baseline studies were undertaken in 1994 in support of planned re-development and permitting activity at that time. A new Exploration Land Use Permit N95F346 was issued by the Minister in 1995 under the *Territorial Lands Act*, which included use of a portion of the winter road.

In 1995, environmental and geotechnical studies were carried out to facilitate the pre-production permitting process. A project description report was compiled by Rescan Environmental Ltd. and filed with the Northwest Territories Regional Environmental Review Committee (“RERC”). This report contains details of all the environmental work completed at the Prairie Creek Property. The report was filed to elicit terms of reference for an initial environmental evaluation report. A permit application was screened in 1995 as a Level 1 screening pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and it was determined that that project could proceed as it was not likely to cause significant adverse effects pursuant to section 20(1)(a) of the CEAA. A Land Use Permit Application for upgrading the access road to an all-weather road was also filed with the appropriate government agency. While the re-permitting process was subsequently discontinued in 1995, these studies represent a significant contribution to the environmental information database in support the Prairie Creek Project.

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board was created on March 31, 2000. The Water Board and its associated regional boards took over regulatory functions previously performed by the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Northwest Territories Water Board, and the Government of the Northwest Territory’s Department of Municipal and Community Affairs on Commissioner’s Lands.

The Company initiated preliminary discussions with the new Water Board and regulatory authorities in Yellowknife in August 2000 with respect to re-development and re-permitting of the Prairie Creek Mine. A follow up presentation was made to the Governmental Mineral Development Advisory Group (“MDAG”) in November 2000 to elicit specific feedback from each of the regulatory agencies on the information requirements necessary for them to fulfill their roles in review of applications for permits and licences for the Prairie Creek Mine.

Since August 2000, Prairie Creek has undergone five Environmental Assessments by the Review Board and has received five separate Land Use Permits and two Water Licences to carry out exploration and development at the Prairie Creek Mine and in the immediately surrounding area, through the new Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Process.

(e) *Land Use Permit – Phase 1 Exploration*

Canadian Zinc applied to Water Board on July 28, 2000 for a Land Use Permit (“LUP”) (MV2000C0030) to carry out a seven drill hole program and to access the Sundog (or CAT) Camp located along the winter road to retrieve fuel and clean up the camp area, which work was planned for the fall of 2000. On October 4, 2000, the Water Board referred the application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for environmental assessment. The application was then split into separate LUP applications with specific reference to the drilling program and the Cat Camp clean-up.

Following environmental assessment, a LUP was issued by the Water Board on June 14, 2001 which permitted the seven drillhole program (MV2000C0030A).

(f) *Sundog (CAT) Camp – Clean Up Permit*

On May 9, 2001, the Review Board issued its Report to the Minister recommending that the Cat Camp permit be approved but that the work be done in winter 2001/2002. Canadian Zinc preferred to do it in the summer season when the Prairie Creek Camp was open and there would be easier access. In June 2001, Environment Canada issued a direction to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to take steps to prevent the deposit of petroleum products at Cat Camp into the surrounding environment. In March 2002, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada flew in and incinerated the fuel. On June 17, 2002, three months after the fuel was incinerated, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development referred the Environmental Assessment Report back to the Review Board for further consideration, pointing out that it was no longer possible to carry out the proposed development work as there was no longer any fuel to be retrieved. In July 2002 the Review Board dismissed the proceeding.

(g) *Land Use Permit – Phase 2 Exploration*

On March 5, 2001, the Company submitted a Land Use Permit application for a Phase 2 Exploration Drilling Program and this application was also referred for Environmental Assessment. After Environmental Assessment by the Review Board, on November 30, 2001 the Water Board issued Land Use Permit MV2001C0022A, valid for a period of five years, authorizing the drilling of up to 60 exploration holes on the Zone 3 Mining Lease and within 1,000 metres of the Prairie Creek Mine. In November 2006 this Land Use Permit was renewed for a further period of two years. The Land Use Permit was allowed to expire in November 2008 and was superseded as described below in “(j) Land Use Permit – Phase 3 Exploration.”

(h) *Water Licence and Land Use Permit – Underground Development*

The Company applied to the Water Board on March 5, 2001 for Type ‘B’ Water Licence and a Land Use Permit (MV2001L2-0003) for underground decline development and metallurgical pilot plant operation planned for the Prairie Creek Mine. The application was distributed to government agencies, First Nations communities and other organizations in order for the Water Board to conduct a preliminary screening as required by *Part 5 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

However in April 2001, both the Parks Canada Agency and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation referred the proposal to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board for Environmental Assessment (“EA”) pursuant to section 126(2) of the MVRMA. The referral to EA occurred prior to the Water Board’s completion of its preliminary screening of the proposed development.

The Environmental Assessment was conducted throughout 2001 and into 2002. The Review Board submitted its Report of Environmental Assessment (“EA Report”) on February 5, 2002 to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On September 3, 2002, the Minister requested that, as per section 130(1)(b)(i) of the MVRMA, the Review Board was to give further consideration to unresolved issues in the EA Report relating to the tailings containment area and water treatment in general.

Following further assessment the Review Board submitted its Reasons for Decision on April 4, 2003, outlining recommended revisions and additions to the recommendations in its February 5, 2002 EA Report. On June 16, 2003, the Minister approved the Reasons for Decision and directed the Water Board to proceed with the licensing process.

On September 10, 2003 the Water Board approved the issue of Water Licence MV2001L2-0003, and the Land Use Permit MV2001C0023 subject to the conditions set out therein. The Water Licence contains the terms and conditions that the Board felt necessary to protect the environment, conserve the water resources of the Prairie Creek watershed and provide appropriate safeguards in respect of the Company's use of waters and deposit of wastes.

On October 10, 2003, an appeal to the Federal Court was filed by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, Pehdzeh Ki First Nation and the Dehcho First Nations against the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Company seeking Judicial Review of the decision of the Water Board to issue the Water Licence to the Company. The Applicants' grounds were that the Water Board issued the Water Licence without including certain conditions included in the recommendations of the Review Board and in the Minister's approval, and that the Water Board failed to provide the Applicants with adequate consultation throughout the Licence process. Subsequently both the Attorney General of Canada, representing the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, represented by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund (now known as Ecojustice), applied to the Federal Court to be joined as Intervenors in this Appeal.

The Judicial Review hearing was heard by the Court in August 2005. The Lawyers representing the First Nations had argued that the Water Board had exceeded its jurisdiction in issuing the Water Licence without including certain conditions on water treatment which had been recommended by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and approved by the Minister, and that the Water Board had failed to observe the principles of natural justice.

In December 2005, the Court issued its Judgment directing the Water Board to reissue the Water Licence with the inclusion of additional language which had been agreed between the Company and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On February 6, 2006 the Water Board reissued the Water Licence incorporating the wording as per the Order of the Federal Court of Canada. The Water Licence was valid for a period of five years expiring September 10, 2008.

In September 2008, the Water Board granted a two-year extension to the Company's Land Use Permit to September 9, 2010 and the Water Licence was renewed for a period of five years to September 9, 2013.

As contemplated in the Water Licence, the following plans were prepared and have been approved by the Water Board: Minewater Treatment Contingency Plan; Effluent Treatment Options Plan; Abandonment and Reclamation Plan. An existing Fuel Spill Contingency Plan was revised and approved. A Probable Maximum Flood calculation was updated and approved, and flood protection structures and the tank farm facility and associated containment structures were inspected and approved.

(i) Land Use Permit – Winter Road

In May 2003, the Company applied to the Water Board for a Land Use Permit for use of the existing Winter Road from the Liard Highway to the Prairie Creek Mine. The Company argued that this application is exempt from the Environmental Assessment process by virtue of Section 157.1 of the Act. [See 3.1.9(c) “Grandfather” Provisions] The Company’s argument was rejected by the Water Board on June 1, 2004. The Company filed an Appeal to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories seeking judicial review of the decision of the Water Board. The Appeal was heard by the Supreme Court in December 2004.

In a written decision dated May 6, 2005 in the case *Canadian Zinc Corporation v Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (SCNWT S-0001-CV2004)* the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories ruled in favour of the Company that its Winter Road permit application is “grandfathered” and is therefore exempt from the Environmental Assessment process under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (“MVRMA”).

In its decision the Supreme Court said that the permit sought by Canadian Zinc is related to the operation of the Winter Access Road, a permit in respect of that same undertaking had been issued before 1984, and therefore the exemption provided in Section 157.1 of the MVRMA governs and a Part 5 assessment does not apply.

This application for a Land Use Permit for the road was referred back to the Water Board. In June 2005 the Nahanni Butte Dene Band wrote to the Water Board asserting infringement of Aboriginal rights and inadequate consultation under Section 35 of the Constitution of Canada. The issue was referred to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which conducted a preliminary assessment and submitted its report to the Water Board in February 2007.

On April 11, 2007 the Water Board approved the issue of Land Use Permit MV2003F0028 for a period of five years to April 10, 2012.

On June 18, 2009, Parks Canada issued Land Use Permit 2009 L02 for a period of three years to April 10, 2012 for the use of that portion of the road within Nahanni National Park Reserve.

(j) Land Use Permit – Phase 3 Exploration

In April 2004, Canadian Zinc applied to the Water Board for an amendment to its previously approved Land Use Permit MV2001C0022A allowing a 60 hole mineral exploration program within 1,000 metres of the Prairie Creek Mine site facility. The amendment was submitted in order to obtain permission to drill anywhere on the extensive mineral leases and claims held by Canadian Zinc at the Prairie Creek Property. Following a Preliminary Screening in June 2004, the Water Board referred the proposed development for Environmental Assessment to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board citing “public concern about the cumulative effects of this project on the South Nahanni Watershed”.

A detailed Environmental Assessment was carried out throughout 2005. Five government agencies, two first nations and one non-governmental organization (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (“CPAWS”)) participated in the Environmental Assessment, which continued over a period of about eighteen months. Canadian Zinc submitted a Detailed Development Description dated December 2004.

The Review Board issued its Terms of Reference in April 2005 and held scoping sessions (public meetings) during March and April 2005 in the NWT communities of Fort Liard, Fort Simpson and Wrigley, NT. Canadian Zinc submitted its Developer's Assessment Report in May 2005 and Technical Reports were submitted by the end of August 2005. A Public Hearing was held in Fort Simpson NT, on October 6, 2005.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board completed its Report of Environmental Assessment and submitted the Report to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on December 23, 2005.

The Review Board has concluded that, with the implementation of the commitments made by Canadian Zinc and three mitigation measures recommended in the Report, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be cause for significant public concern. The Review Board recommended to the Minister that this development proceed to the regulatory phase of approvals.

The Review Board examined the Public Record for evidence of possible significant adverse impact on the environment, for evidence of cumulative effects from the development in combination with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future developments, and for evidence of public concern.

The Review Board found that significant adverse cumulative impacts on the environment can be prevented with adequate environmental management. The Review Board also found that the proposed development is not likely to be cause for significant public concern as long as all of the Company's commitments and all of the measures recommended by the Review Board are implemented.

The Review Board concluded that some public concern over cumulative effects on the Nahanni watershed exists but that this concern would be greatly diminished if the public had assurance that the Company's commitments, and the additional mitigation measures recommended by the Review Board, would be effectively implemented. The Review Board found that there would not be a concern if the public is kept up-to-date about the environmental protection measures Canadian Zinc will be using. "The best way for the public to receive this assurance is through an independent community environmental monitor who reports back to the effected communities."

"The Review Board is of the view that the full responsibility for monitoring, evaluation and management should not necessarily rest on the Company alone. Expert agencies of government, such as Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Government of the Northwest Territories, should be involved co-operatively in the design of this comprehensive monitoring program."

The Review Board noted that incremental development in the Prairie Creek area is likely to continue and is likely to increase rather than decrease in the foreseeable future. There has already been considerable development in the Prairie Creek watershed and development is likely to increase. On the other hand, all present and reasonable foreseeable future developments are by the same developer, are in close proximity, and are operated, if not as one development, in a co-ordinated and overlapping fashion. This provides Canadian Zinc with an opportunity to effectively manage cumulative effects through responsible environmental management of its activities in each of the developments in the area.

The Review Board recommended approval of the proposed development subject to three mitigation measures. The measures are the actions necessary, in the opinion of the Review Board, to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts on the environment. The three measures recommended by the Review Board are:

- Government and regulatory authorities are to ensure that all drill waste is disposed of in a manner that does not allow any harmful substance to enter surface waters.
- Canadian Zinc shall take every reasonable effort to employ a local person, selected in consultation with the Dehcho First Nations, as community environmental monitor, who will independently report back to the Dehcho First Nations.
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada shall ensure that a comprehensive program to monitor cumulative impacts on fish, wildlife, vegetation and water quality is implemented.

In February 2006, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and on behalf of the Responsible Ministers with jurisdiction (Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Fisheries and Oceans, and the Minister of the Environment on behalf of Environment Canada and Parks Canada), approved the report of the Review Board.

In May 2006, the Water Board issued the Land Use Permit for the Phase 3 exploration drill program, which is valid for five years commencing May 11, 2006. The Company recently received a two year extension to this Land Use Permit which now expires May 10, 2013.

(k) *Water Licence and Quarrying Permit – Road Rehabilitation*

In June 2007, Canadian Zinc applied to the Water Board for a Class B Water Licence (MV2007L8-0026) to rehabilitate a portion of the road in the proximity of the mine site and sought authorization from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (“DFO”) to carry out the work. Also in June 2007, the Company applied to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for a quarrying permit to obtain rock to be used in the road rehabilitation.

In June 2007, the Dehcho First Nations claimed that the rehabilitation work constituted a significant alteration to the Winter Road project and requested that the application for the water licence for the proposed rehabilitation work be referred for Environmental Assessment. In December 2007, the Water Board ruled that the proposed rehabilitation work did not constitute a significant alteration.

The issuance of these permits was delayed as they were referred to consultation between the Crown and the Nahanni Band. The Company received the quarry permit on February 29, 2008 and the Water Licence on March 20, 2008. The Water Licence is valid for a period of five years expiring March 19, 2013. The authorization from DFO was received on July 15, 2008.

On June 18, 2009 Parks Canada issued Water Licence 2009 – W02 for a period of just under four years to March 19, 2013 for the rehabilitation of that portion of the road within Nahanni National Park Reserve.

(l) *Applications for Operating Licence/Permit*

The Company's principal focus over the past three years has been to advance the Prairie Creek Property towards obtaining a Class "A" Water Licence and associated Land Use Permits, through the

regulatory process established under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (the "MVRM Act"), that will permit further development and subsequent mine operation and production at the Property.

In June 2008, the Company applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for a Water Licence and associated Land Use Permits to support a mining operation at Prairie Creek. In August 2008, the application was referred to Environmental Assessment ("EA") under the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the "Review Board"), the primary authority responsible for all environmental assessment and review throughout the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories, and has since been working through the various stages within the EA. These stages included a Written Hearing on the terms of reference, scoping sessions, submittal of a Developers Assessment Report, two formal Information Requests and two Technical Sessions, a Community Hearing and a two-day Public Hearing, followed by Closing Submissions.

On December 8, 2011, the Review Board issued its *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for the Company's proposed Prairie Creek Mine (the "EA Report") and submitted the EA Report and Decision to the Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The Review Board concluded that the proposed development of the Prairie Creek Mine, including the list of commitments made by the Company during the proceedings, is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern. The Review Board therefore concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Prairie Creek Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals.

The Review Board found that there is broad support among Aboriginal organizations and communities in the Dehcho Region for the benefits that the Prairie Creek Mine could bring to the Dehcho Region of the Northwest Territories. The Review Board acknowledged the commitments that the Company has made toward mitigating potentially adverse social impacts of the project on First Nations and communities in the region.

The Socio-Economic Agreement between the Company and the Government of the Northwest Territories ("GNWT") is a key document in the Review Board's findings on impacts of the project on the human environment. In the Review Board's view, the Prairie Creek Mine is not likely to have significant adverse impacts on the human environment of the Dehcho Region or the Northwest Territories provided the developer's commitments are followed and enforced and the Socio-Economic Agreement is implemented.

To achieve its proposed water quality objectives, the Company made commitments to enhance its water treatment plant, increase water storage capacity and construct an improved mine effluent outfall for discharge into Prairie Creek. The Company and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs Canada and Northern Development proposed differing approaches to site specific water quality objectives for Prairie Creek. The Review Board is of the view that the implementation of either approach to site specific water quality objectives is not likely to significantly impact water quality in Prairie Creek in the area of the mine site, in Prairie Creek at the Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary, or in Prairie Creek at its confluence with the South Nahanni River. The Review Board noted that the Water Board will decide in the regulatory phase the limits to protect water quality that are appropriate for this Project and setting.

The Review Board provided three suggestions that would improve the monitoring and management of potential impacts from the development of the Prairie Creek Mine:

- The Review Board noted that construction of a second water storage pond may address a broader range of risks and result in better water management on site and improved water quality in Prairie Creek. The Review Board suggested that the Water Board consider this during the licensing phase.
- In the Review Board's opinion, the Company's approach to tailings management by placing all tailings underground as tailings paste backfill by the end of mine operations can be achieved and will reduce impacts on water quality so that they are not likely to be significant. The Review Board suggested that the Company prepare a Tailings Management Plan for both the permanent storage of tailings underground and the temporary storage of tailings on surface at the mine site. The Review Board suggests that this Plan should be part of the water licences.
- The Review Board suggested that the Company use secondary containment of concentrate during transport along the winter road to reduce the risk of contaminant dispersal.

Throughout the EA process, Canadian Zinc proposed certain design modifications to the mine site and access road to improve the project and minimize potentially adverse impacts to the environment. Key design modifications included commitments to increase water storage capacity at the mine site, an improved mine effluent design, an enhanced water treatment plant and realignments of the access road.

The EA Report stated that the Review Board based its decision on the assumption that Canadian Zinc would fulfill its commitments made during the proceedings and that these commitments were important for the Review Board's decision on the significance of adverse impacts. The Review Board stated that, in its opinion, it is therefore important that the Company, appropriate regulatory authorities and government agencies ensure that Canadian Zinc fulfills its commitments. The full list of commitments made by Canadian Zinc is set out in Appendix B to the EA Report. Investors are urged to read and consider closely the full text of the *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision*, including the list of commitments in Appendix A thereof.

The full text of the *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision*, together with all proceedings, transcripts, technical reports and detailed information on the EA (EA0809-002) of the Prairie Creek Mine and letters commenting on the EA Report are available on the website registry of the Review Board at <http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/>, under the file of Canadian Zinc Corporation, and is included as a schedule to the amended material change report of the Company dated December 22, 2011 and filed on SEDAR on December 22, 2011 in respect of the announcement that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has approved the proposed operation of the Company's Prairie Creek Mine.

The Review Board concluded that the proposed development of the Prairie Creek Mine is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern.

The Review Board concluded that the development (including the commitments made by Canadian Zinc) is not likely to have significant adverse impacts on the environment, and that the commitments were already a part of the development, and concluded that no mitigation measures were necessary to

ensure that there would be no adverse effects on the environment. Section 128(1) (b) of the Act allows for the imposition of mitigation measures did not apply, because of the conclusion that the development is not likely to have adverse impacts.

The Review Board therefore concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Prairie Creek Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approval. The MVRM Act provides that the Minister may order an environmental impact review of the proposal, notwithstanding the Review Board's determination.

The regulatory phase, managed by the Water Board with input from territorial and federal agencies, will be the permitting stage in which the permits and licences are issued by the Water Board. The Company expects that the permits and licences, when issued by the Water Board, will include as conditions of such permits and licences the suggestions included in the EA Report, the various commitments made by Canadian Zinc and the water discharge limits necessary to protect water quality as determined by the Water Board.

(m) *Permit Delays*

The Company has to date experienced long delays in obtaining permits. It is uncertain how long the permitting stage with the Water Board may take or when the Water Licence and Land Use Permits will be issued. Since 2001, the Company has successfully obtained seven permits for the exploration and development of the Prairie Creek property, including two Type "B" Water Licences, four Land Use permits for exploration activities and underground development and a winter road permit. Various aspects of the Prairie Creek Project have been the subject of six EAs carried out by the Review Board, all of which resulted in recommendations that the relevant project be allowed to proceed, including the recent EA Report. The Company has, to date, successfully carried out extensive programs at Prairie Creek, in accordance with all regulatory requirements and in compliance with all permits and licences.

Given the open-ended nature of the Mackenzie Valley permitting process, the Company cannot, with any reasonable assurance at this point in time, provide a detailed estimate as to the likely costs of permitting activities in 2012.

When the Company receives its operating permits, which is not a certain event, additional finance will be required to bring the mine into commercial production. This will be very dependent on future market conditions, especially with regard to commodity prices, which may impact the Company's ability to complete development of Prairie Creek. The Company has engaged SNC-Lavalin to evaluate the cost of the future development required at Prairie Creek and the Company currently estimates that over \$100 million will be required. This number, however, is highly uncertain and could materially change based on final project design, permitting conditions and economic circumstances conditions at that time.

3.14. Environmental Matters

Impact Assessment

The Developer's Assessment Report submitted to the Review Board in March 2010 outlines the Company's assessment of any Potential Environmental Impact that operating the Prairie Creek mine may have on the region as follows:

Human Environment: The Prairie Creek Mine is a relatively modest project that is proposed for a region of the Northwest Territories that has limited other confirmed economic prospects. The real economic and social impact of this project will be generated through the participation of local labour and business in the area, including the communities of Nahanni Butte, Fort Simpson and Fort Liard. Participation will come in the form of direct employment, direct supply of goods and services, and spin-off activities. There will be a period of adjustment as people and communities integrate into the wage economy. The rise in financial wealth and all that it affords will more than offset this initial adjustment period. For those living in the project area, an operating Prairie Creek Mine offers an opportunity for a generation of employment, and will result in a population that is better educated, better trained and better able to cope with, adapt to and capture new opportunities in the future.

Access road operations are expected to increase traditional land use in the area since a re-aligned access road will afford easier access to hunting areas and trap lines. However, a cooperative effort is required to control road access because unauthorized use poses risks to safety and to wildlife from hunting pressures.

Water Quality: Recent studies show that the historical discharge of untreated mine drainage has had no significant impact on downstream water and stream sediment quality, or aquatic life. This suggests Prairie Creek is not particularly sensitive to discharges from the Mine. Nevertheless, Canadian Zinc's water management strategy for operations will minimize the potential for impacts.

Predictions show that the planned discharge from the Mine during operations will not cause metal concentrations in Prairie Creek to exceed the targets when creek flows are in the normal range year round. Canadian Zinc will monitor flows in the creek, and if flows are found to be lower than normal, the discharge will be temporarily adjusted so that the targets are not exceeded. This will mean no impacts on Prairie Creek water at the Mine, or 7 kilometres downstream at the new Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary.

After mine closure, there will be no drainage from mine portals because the Mine and access tunnels will be completely filled. However, bedrock surrounding the Mine workings is expected to allow the passage of groundwater. This water will contain metals, mostly from mineralization considered uneconomic and not mined, and to a lesser extent from the backfilled waste mixture. A small quantity of seepage from the covered Waste Rock Pile is also possible.

It is believed that the natural zinc concentrations that existed in Prairie Creek before any mine development potentially exceeded the water quality target during winter months when creek flows were lower than normal.

Predictions for Prairie Creek after mine closure suggest all metal concentrations will remain within the water quality targets when creek flows are in the normal range year round, but if creek flows are lower than monthly in winter, zinc concentrations could be similar to those predicted to have potentially occurred before mine development. Post-mine predictions also indicate higher cadmium concentrations in winter if creek flows are unusually low. However, cadmium is not stable in the natural environment and disappears quickly because of various natural reactions. Therefore, the target for this metal is unlikely to be exceeded. As such, it is

likely that no additional impacts on water quality will occur after mine closure compared to pre-mine conditions

Following Technical Sessions held during October 2010 related to the Prairie Creek Environmental Assessment the Mackenzie Valley Review Board issued a Second Round of Information Requests and the Company received 54 Information Requests from seven agencies. The majority of requests related to further details of the proposed operating mine water quality and management.

In order to adequately address the Information Requests the Company needed to generate water products that would be representative of the proposed Prairie Creek operations. This required the collection of local Prairie Creek minesite source water products and included the collection of a 285 kg bulk mineralization composite rock sample from various underground headings, over 200 litres minewater and water directly from Prairie Creek itself. SGS Canada Inc., of Vancouver completed a Locked Cycle Test utilizing the collected rock and water samples in a laboratory bench scale study. The mill process flow sheet used in the Locked Cycle Test had been previously determined through numerous metallurgical studies. Both concentrates and waste products, including tailings and water, were generated from this laboratory scale milling process.

SGS-CEMI labs completed further primary treatment tests on both the process water and minewater. Further analysis related to effluent discharge of the proposed Prairie Creek Mine were completed by Hatfield Consultants of Vancouver. These included development of proposed site-specific water quality objectives, definition of an internal dilution zone and development of proposed Effluent Quality Criteria. Additional toxicity studies were completed, on the product effluent using both fish and organic growth to determine discharge toxicity levels and impact assessment related to aquatic sensitivities. These studies resulted in developing a more detailed water treatment scheme and water management system for the proposed Prairie Creek site.

The original proposal to use an end of pipe-type design to disperse mine effluent did not produce satisfactory mixing condition within the Prairie Creek dilution zone. Additional investigation of outfall effluent discharge design by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants was completed and a new exfiltration trench has been proposed and at the outfall location into Prairie Creek. In addition a downstream mixing analysis of the outfall water with Prairie Creek flows was also completed with the use of proprietary HEC-RAS hydraulic modeling software.

Canadian Zinc and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development proposed differing approaches to site specific water quality objectives for Prairie Creek.

The 'Reference Condition Approach' (RCA), recommend by AANDC, is a method of determining site specific water quality objectives (SSWQOs) for the environment, which are in turn used to create effluent quality criteria (EQCs) that are meant to regulate end-of-pipe water discharge into the environment.

Canadian Zinc believes that technical solutions acceptable to all parties had been identified for most issues raised in the EA. However, there remained a difference in approach between the Company and AANDC regarding the methodology used to select site specific water quality

objectives relating to the treated water discharge from the Prairie Creek Mine. CZN and AANDC agreed to collaborate to move forward in a timely manner to further discuss the issues and seek to reach a mutually acceptable solution and approach. In a letter issued July 15, 2011, the Review Board encouraged the parties to complete the meetings and report preparation prior to the deadline established for final submissions.

During August and September the Company met numerous times with interested parties to further collaborate on water quality objectives. A number of additional components, including enhanced water storage and treatment, were suggested to further add to site contingency factors. Progress was made in resolving certain issues in order to move forward with the broad development of a framework for selecting Site-Specific Water Quality Objectives prior to the filing of Final Submissions by the parties and by the Company on September 16, 2011.

To achieve its proposed water quality objectives, Canadian Zinc made commitments to enhance its water treatment plant, increase water storage capacity and construct an improved mine effluent outfall for discharge into Prairie Creek.

The Review Board addressed the issue of the Reference Condition Approach in its EA Report under a section entitled “3.1.3 Site specific water quality objectives”. The Review Board reviewed the submissions from all parties regarding the differing approaches to establishing SSWQOs.

The Review Board is of the view that the implementation of either approach to site specific water quality objectives is not likely to significantly impact water quality in Prairie Creek in the area of the mine site, in Prairie Creek at the Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary or in Prairie Creek at its confluence with the South Nahanni River.

The Review Board concluded that either approach to SSWQOs would produce a result that was not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The Review Board specifically left the issue of what SSWQOs would be used to establish EQCs to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, stating at page 30, “The Review Board will not provide a recommendation on effluent quality criteria because it is the responsibility of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.” The Review Board recognizes that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board will decide the limits to protect water quality that are appropriate for this project and setting. The Review Board left the question of determining the appropriate SSWQOs to the Water Board, which will have the responsibility to establish EQC’s in the regulatory phase. The Review Board noted that the Water Board will decide in the regulatory phase the limits to protect water quality that are appropriate for this Project and setting.

The Review Board provided a suggestion to improve the monitoring and management of potential impacts from the development of the Prairie Creek Mine. It noted that construction of a second water storage pond may address a broader range of risks and result in better water management on site and improved water quality in Prairie Creek. The Review Board suggested that the Water Board consider this during the licensing phase.

The Water Board will establish the effluent quality criteria and how the site specific water quality objectives are to be determined and measured, and it is expected that the Land Use Permits and Water License, when issued by the Water Board, will include as mandatory

conditions (measures) of such permits and licences the water discharge limits, the various commitments made by Canadian Zinc (where appropriate) and the suggestions of the Review Board set out in the EA Report.

Fish: Bull trout and mountain whitefish are found in Prairie Creek near the Mine, however numbers are low. Spawning trout have been found in Funeral Creek, a tributary of Prairie Creek upstream of the Mine. No evidence of spawning has been found downstream of the Mine. Based on the water quality predictions, mine operations should have no impact on fish. Water quality after Mine closure may cause limited impacts in the immediate vicinity of the Mine site when Prairie Creek flows are less than winter normals. These impacts may have occurred naturally before the Mine existed.

Air: New power generators and an incinerator will limit the release of exhaust gases. Humid conditions will naturally control dust. Any impacts will be limited to the Mine area.

Wildlife and Vegetation: Impacts to wildlife from Mine operations are expected to be limited and largely avoidable. Dall's sheep lamb on high ground in the area in the spring and could be disturbed by air traffic. Flight path management will be adopted. There is a potential for mortality of Dall's sheep, woodland caribou and wood bison associated with access road use. A wildlife sighting and notification system will be adopted, in addition to the posting of speed limits. Grizzly bear-human encounters are possible at the Mine site and programs to limit any attraction of bears will be implemented, along with training to respond appropriately to bear encounters. No significant impacts on vegetation are expected because of the relatively small areas of disturbance relative to the large areas of vegetation types.

Terrain and Stability: No large-scale landslide features are evident near the Mine and access road, and the risk of major slope failure appears to be small. Small-scale slope failures and mudflows are possible along the access road east of the Mackenzie Mountains, particularly where permafrost might exist in lowland areas. Impacts can be minimized by good drainage and avoiding removal of the vegetation layer during annual road construction. Engineered structures (the Water Storage Pond and Waste Rock Pile) have been designed to be stable during earthquakes. Dykes protecting the site during major floods were designed and built properly. Maintenance repairs have been made to the armour rock on the dykes.

Accidents and Malfunctions: The majority of Mine activities, and all those associated with chemicals, fuel and hazardous material, will take place within a dyke-protected area, isolated from Prairie Creek. Any spills or contamination can be contained on site, and discharge of site water to the environment can be stopped temporarily. The potential for spills or leaks along the access road will be minimized by controlling road use and using industry-standard containers for transport and storage. Winter conditions will assist in the containment of any spills until a response team can complete a clean-up. The bags of concentrate being transported will be frozen, but road bed tests will be made along the route to make sure material is not being lost.

Cumulative Effects: Very little other activity is or will likely be occurring in the area during Mine operations that could cause cumulative effects. If the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline construction occurs during the life of the Mine, there will be significant regional disruption, but this is unlikely to significantly affect the Mine because the pipeline will require short-term

skilled labour. Unauthorized use of the access road would raise safety and wildlife concerns. Canadian Zinc is hoping to control access, and will closely monitor road activity.

Monitoring and Reporting: Significant monitoring of operations and the environment will occur during and after the Mine's life. Canadian Zinc expects individuals from local communities to be involved in this, preferably as employees. Canadian Zinc undertakes to share the monitoring results. Canadian Zinc's desire is for the current Canadian Zinc-Parks Canada-Dehcho Technical Committee to evolve into a more public, inclusive committee that meets frequently in the region, and is used as a forum to review Mine performance and to discuss and address concerns.

In December 2011, the Review Board concluded, pursuant to paragraph 128 (1) (a) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, that the proposed development of the Prairie Creek Mine as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment, including the list of commitments made by Canadian Zinc during the proceedings, is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on the environment or to be a cause for significant public concern. The Review Board therefore concluded that an environmental impact review of this proposed development is not necessary and that the Prairie Creek Mine project should proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals.

Acid Rock Drainage

The mineral resources at the Prairie Creek Mine are hosted in carbonate rocks. The low sulphide values and high excess neutralization potential of the host rocks (and tailings products) indicate that these materials will pose no long term hazard to the environment through sulphide oxidation processes.

Rescan Environmental of Vancouver, B.C. undertook a detailed analysis of the acid generating characteristics of all dominant rock types at the Prairie Creek Mine in 1994. The results indicated an overwhelming dominance of acid neutralizing minerals, with acid neutralizing carbonate minerals exceeding the total capacity to generate acidity by an average factor of almost 200. Initial analysis of flotation tailings generated from metallurgical testwork has indicated a similar excess of neutralization potential. The Company does not anticipate the potential for any acid rock drainage impacts.

Mesh Environmental Inc. ("Mesh") undertook a follow-up study during 2005/06, with the objectives of significantly expanding Rescan's 1994 rock sample dataset and incorporating analyses on mineralized rock samples, tailings and concentrates. Sample collection was completed by Mesh at the Mine Site during September 2005. A total 66 samples were included in Mesh's characterization program.

A total of ten process waste samples, including mill rock, flotation feed, tailings and concentrate samples from tests performed in 2005 were provided by SGS Lakefield Research Limited in Lakefield, Ontario ("SGS Lakefield", ISO 9001-2000 accredited). So-called mill rock is wall rock dilution that will be separated from mineralized material in the processing plant.

Static laboratory geochemical characterizations were carried out by Mesh, including acid-base accounting ("ABA"), along with: total inorganic carbon and multi-element Inductively Coupled Plasma ("ICP") analyses on all samples; and mineralogy, expanded ABA (pyritic sulphur, siderite correction, acid-buffering characterization curves) and grain size analyses on a sub-set of samples. The following conclusions were made:

- all the host rock units are non-potentially acid generating (“non-PAG”), due to generally low amounts of contained sulphur (less than one percent of total sulphur) and the substantial effective buffering capacity provided by reactive carbonates, the latter reflecting the carbonate-rich nature of the host rock material (which conclusion is supported by the behavior of mixed waste rock that has been exposed on surface at the Mine Site for 25 years, which waste rock does not demonstrate acidic pH values and remains classified as non-PAG as a result);
- Main Zone vein- and stratabound-mineralization are classified as potentially acid generating due to an abundance of sulphide mineralization (although Mesh’s kinetic test data to December 2006 suggests that it may take a substantial amount of time for acidity to be generated, due to the significant amount of buffering capacity available from the carbonate host rocks);
- the two mill rock samples produced as by-products from Main Zone vein mineralization and overbreak are non-PAG and contain relatively low sulphur values (approximately 0.3 percent, or less);
- the final composite tailings samples are classified as non-PAG and contain sufficient buffering capacity to maintain neutral conditions under laboratory conditions;
- tailings supernatant is alkaline (pH 10.7 to 10.9), with total solids in solution (“TSS”) of five to 500 milligrams and relatively high sulphate concentrations of 170 to 230 milligrams per litre, respectively, over the two hour test period;
- sulphide concentrates are classified as potentially acid generating due to slightly elevated pyritic sulphur content and very little neutralization capacity;
- as a result of substantially higher neutralization potential, oxide concentrates are classified as non-PAG (oxide zinc concentrate) and as having uncertain acid generation potential (oxide lead concentrate).

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous and toxic waste materials have been stored at the Prairie Creek minesite, including sodium cyanide and PCB’s that remained from Cadillac’s operations in the early 1980s. Diesel fuel is also stored on site. All such substances were stored in a secured manner and are regularly inspected by government agencies.

A disposal project for the cyanide and PCB’s commenced in 2007 which involved repackaging the materials such that they are ready for removal from the site for ultimate disposal. This program contracted professional toxic waste specialists to repack the new containers which were stored under tarpaulins on the approved chemical storage pad. In July 2008, following receipt of the necessary regulatory approvals, an airlift of the repacked sodium cyanide drums and associated repackaging waste took place utilizing a DHC-5 rear loading Buffalo aircraft, which shuttled the material from the Prairie Creek mine site to Fort Simpson. From Fort Simpson, Hazco Environmental Services Ltd. transported the cyanide by truck to Cyanide Destruct Systems in Barrie, Ontario and the repackaging waste was removed to Earth Tech’s Swan Hills Treatment Centre in Alberta for destruction and disposal.

In 2010, a program was undertaken to remove, by airlift, all PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) contaminated material that has been stored in a dedicated safe facility on site since 1982. The Company contracted Hazco Environmental Services to repackage, remove and transport the PCB material off-site to be disposed of, by incineration, at the certified Earth Tech Swan Hills disposal facilities in Northern Alberta.

Endangered Species

The federal, provincial, and territorial government signatories under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk (1996) agreed to establish complementary legislation and programs that provide for effective protection of species at risk throughout Canada. Under the *Species at Risk Act* (S.C. 2002, c.29) (SARA), the federal competent ministers are responsible for the preparation of recovery strategies for listed Extirpated, Endangered, and Threatened species.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (“COSEWIC”) lists only two species in the area of the Prairie Creek Mine: the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), both of which are listed in the Special Concern category. In areas removed from the minesite, COSEWIC lists the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) and the Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabascae*), each of which are considered threatened. No rare or highly valued species of vegetation or plant communities have been identified in the area. COSEWIC does not list any plant species as endangered, threatened or of special concern in the area of the Prairie Creek Mine.

Detailed field studies of wildlife populations and wildlife habitat in the area of the Prairie Creek Mine and the access road were conducted by Beak Consultants Inc. in 1980-81 and again by Rescan in 1994. None of the listed species and no critical habitats, such as denning or nesting areas, were identified in the area of the Mine. Grizzly bears and wolverine have been observed or encountered only very infrequently in the area surrounding the mine over the past 20 years.

Specific surveys of potential Peregrine falcon nesting habitat have identified no nesting sites in the area of the minesite.

Wood bison were re-introduced into the Nahanni Butte area, 90 kilometres to the southeast of the Prairie Creek Mine, in 1980 with additions to the herd made in 1989 and again in 1998. Potential impacts to these populations are primarily transportation related, in this case primarily in the area of the Liard Highway, and can be mitigated through standard road safety practices.

In 2011, Environment Canada published a proposed recovery strategy on the Boreal population of Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), referred to as boreal caribou, which were assessed in May 2002 as ‘Threatened’ by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). [Environment Canada. 2011. Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Canada [Proposed]. *Species at Risk Act* Recovery Strategy Series.] The long-term recovery goal for boreal caribou is to achieve self-sustaining local populations throughout their distribution in Canada to the extent possible.

Boreal caribou are primarily threatened by a reduction in the availability and suitability of habitat necessary to carry out the life processes necessary for their survival and reproduction. They require large range areas comprised of continuous tracts of undisturbed habitat rich in mature to old-growth coniferous forest, lichens, muskegs, peatlands, and upland or hilly areas. Large range areas with suitable quality habitat allow boreal caribou to disperse across the landscape when conditions are unfavourable (e.g. natural wildfire disturbance, anthropogenic disturbance) and to maintain low population densities throughout the range to reduce the risk of predation. Threats, primarily habitat alteration (i.e. habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation) from both anthropogenic and natural stressors, and predation have resulted in local population declines throughout their distribution.

Boreal caribou are distributed broadly throughout the boreal forest region, including in the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories. In 2010, the Company completed two wildlife surveys with Golder & Associates and Parks Canada, by fixed wing airplane, along the proposed winter road route to the Prairie Creek Mine in order to further assess the wildlife population, with an emphasis on caribou. Caribou populations and potential caribou habitat have been identified in areas removed from the Prairie Creek Mine to the north and east in the Mackenzie Mountains. Potential impacts to these populations are primarily transportation related and can be mitigated through standard road safety practices.

Nahanni National Park Reserve / Parks Canada Memorandum of Understanding

The South Nahanni River is highly valued as a wilderness recreation river and is used for canoeing trips during the summer months. These wilderness adventure tours are supported by a number of outfitting companies from as far away as Ontario.

The Nahanni National Park Reserve was created in 1972, following a canoe trip down the river by then Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, specifically for the purpose of setting aside the South Nahanni River for wilderness recreational purposes. Exploration activity at Prairie Creek had been ongoing for many years prior to 1972 and underground development was well advanced at that point in time.

Parliament formally established Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada in 1972, legally protecting it as Canada's 26th National Park under the Canada National Parks Act. It was established as a National Park Reserve in view of the fact that there were outstanding land claims in the area. It will only become a fully-fledged National Park once an agreement has been reached with the Dehcho First Nations.

Nahanni National Park Reserve is considered to be of global significance. In 1978, it was the first area added by UNESCO to its list of World Heritage Sites. There are only 13 sites in Canada designated as World Heritage Sites, eight of them being National Parks. Nahanni received this designation because of the geological processes and natural phenomena in the area. In UNESCO's view, Nahanni is special because it is an unexploited natural area. The presence in this area of three river canyons cutting at right angles to the mountain ranges, with walls of up to 1,000 metres high, Virginia Falls which falls over 90 metres, hot springs, sink holes and karst topography are considered a special combination.

In considering and approving the nomination of Nahanni National Park Reserve for World Heritage Status, the World Heritage Committee stated that "it would be desirable to incorporate the entire upstream watershed in the World Heritage Site." In 1977, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada directed Parks Canada to examine the possibility of expanding Nahanni National Park Reserve to include more of the head waters of the South Nahanni and the karst terrain. Several studies were conducted to assess this potential.

In June 2009, new legislation was enacted by the Canadian Parliament entitled "*An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act to enlarge Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada*" to provide for the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve. Nahanni National Park Reserve was expanded by 30,000 km², making it the third largest National Park in Canada. The enlarged Park covers most of the South Nahanni River watershed and completely encircles the Prairie Creek Mine. However, the Mine itself

and a large surrounding area of approximately 300 km² are specifically excluded from the Park and are not part of the expanded Park.

The exclusion of the Prairie Creek Mine from the Nahanni National Park Reserve expansion area has brought clarity to the land use policy objectives for the region and will facilitate various aspects of the environmental assessment process. The Government's decision on the expansion of Nahanni National Park reflects a balanced approach to development and to conservation which allows for mineral resource and energy development in the Northwest Territories and at the same time protects the environment.

Section 7(1) of the new Act amended the *Canada National Parks Act* to enable the Minister of the Environment to enter into leases or licences of occupation of, and easements over, public lands situated in the expansion area for the purposes of a mining access road leading to the Prairie Creek Area, including the sites of storage and other facilities connected with that road. Heretofore, an access road to a mine through a National Park was not permitted under the *Canada National Parks Act*, and the Act was amended solely for Nahanni National Park Reserve and specifically for the purpose of providing access to the Prairie Creek Area.

Parks Canada:

On July 29, 2008, Parks Canada Agency ("Parks Canada") and Canadian Zinc entered into a MOU with regard to the expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve and the development of the Prairie Creek Mine, whereby:

- Parks Canada and Canadian Zinc agreed to work collaboratively, within their respective areas of responsibility, authority and jurisdiction, to achieve their respective goals of an expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve and an operating Prairie Creek Mine.
- Parks Canada recognized and respects the right of Canadian Zinc to develop the Prairie Creek Mine and was to manage the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve so that the expansion did not in its own right negatively affect development of, or reasonable access to and from, the Prairie Creek Mine.
- Canadian Zinc accepted and supported the proposed expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve and will manage the development of the Prairie Creek Mine so the mine does not, in its own right, negatively affect the expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The 2008 MOU, was intended to cover the period up to the development of the Prairie Creek Mine (Phase I). In February 2012, Canadian Zinc and Parks Canada signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding regarding the operation and development of the Prairie Creek Mine and the management of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The MOU, which is valid for three years, replaces the previous MOU signed between the Parties in 2008. In the renewed MOU:

- Parks Canada and Canadian Zinc agree to work collaboratively, within their respective areas of responsibility, authority and jurisdiction, to achieve their respective goals of managing Nahanni National Park Reserve and an operating Prairie Creek Mine.

- Parks Canada recognizes and respects the right of Canadian Zinc to develop the Prairie Creek Mine and has granted Land Use Permit 2009 – L02 to provide road access through the Park to the Mine area.
- Canadian Zinc acknowledges the cooperative management relationship Parks Canada shares with the Dehcho First Nations in the management of Nahanni National Park Reserve. This includes recognition of the 2003 Parks Canada - Dehcho First Nation Interim Park Management Arrangement and the role of the cooperative management mechanism –Nah?a Dehé Consensus Team.

In the MOU Parks Canada and Canadian Zinc (the “Parties”) agreed to make every reasonable effort to address issues of common interest and build a strong working relationship, including convening a Technical Team, including representatives of the Dehcho First Nations, which will better identify, define and consider issues of common interest, including, among other things, development of the access to and from the Prairie Creek Mine through Nahanni National Park Reserve and operation of the Prairie Creek Mine.

The Parties have also agreed to share with one another and the Technical Team any existing technical and scientific information relevant to a discussion and analysis of issues of common interest to the Parties. The parties have agreed to make reasonable efforts to be timely in regards to permit requests being submitted, with ample time for review and consultation, such review and consultation will occur without unreasonable delay.

The MOU is an expression of the mutual intentions of the parties and is not legally binding on them or enforceable against them. The MOU does not create any new powers or duties or alter or affect any rights, powers and duties established by law, including by the Parks Canada Agency Act and the Canada National Parks Act, or result in the Parties relinquishing any right, jurisdiction, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity.

To the extent that the Prairie Creek Mine is subject to regulatory or government processes, including hearings, Parks Canada reserves the right, while recognizing the intent of the MOU, to participate in any such process and take such positions as it sees fit and the MOU does not, and is not intended to constrain Parks Canada from doing so, subject only to the understanding that in doing so Parks Canada will not object to or oppose, in principle, the development of the Prairie Creek Mine.

Environmental Obligations

As at December 31, 2011, the Company has estimated the present value of expenditures required for reclamation and closure costs at the Prairie Creek Property to be approximately \$2.445 million (2010-\$2.445 million) on an undiscounted basis, mostly to be incurred at the end of the life of the mine.

The Company recognizes liabilities for statutory, contractual, constructive or legal obligations, including those associated with the reclamation of exploration and evaluation assets, when those obligations result from the acquisition, construction, development or normal operation of the assets. Initially, a provision for a decommissioning liability is recognized at its present value in the period in which it is incurred, which is generally when an environmental disturbance occurs or a constructive obligation is determined. Upon initial recognition of the liability, a corresponding amount is added to the carrying amount of the related asset and the cost is amortized as an expense over the economic life of the asset using the unit of production method. Following the initial recognition of a

decommissioning liability, the carrying amount of the liability is increased for the passage of time and adjusted for changes to the current market-based discount rate and the amount or timing of the underlying cash flows needed to settle the obligation. Changes to estimated future costs are recognized in the statement of financial position by either increasing or decreasing the decommissioning liability and the decommissioning asset.

Various assumptions are used in determining the liability including current mine plans, future retirement costs and estimates of resources. The estimates used require extensive judgment as to the nature, cost and timing of the work to be completed and may change with future changes to cost structures, environmental laws and requirements and remediation practices employed. Management evaluates the decommissioning liability estimates at the end of each reporting period to determine whether the estimates continue to be appropriate. Other than specific environmental matters discussed in this Annual Information Form, the Company is not aware of any material environmental matter requiring significant capital outlays in the immediate future.

3.15. First Nations

The Prairie Creek Mine is located on land claimed by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band of the Dehcho First Nations (“Dehcho” or “DCFN”) as their traditional territory. The Nahanni Butte (Nahaahdee) First Nation is a “band” pursuant to the Indian Act RSC 1985. The members of the Dehcho First Nations are Aboriginal people within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The Dehcho are a distinct group of Aboriginal people, whose ancestors were among the South Slavey people of the Dene Nation of what is now the Northwest Territories, and the Metis people within the DCFN territory. The Dehcho have had their own system of laws, religion, economy, customs, traditions and language since time immemorial. Many Dehcho people continue to rely heavily on the land, water and resources within DCFN territory for sustenance, social and ceremonial purposes.

The DCFN is an organization representing all of the Dene and Metis peoples in the Dehcho territory of the Northwest Territories which comprise thirteen separate communities. The DCFN have incorporated a society under the laws of the Northwest Territories in order to provide leadership, governance, administration and program delivery to their member communities. The DCFN is a governing body of the Dehcho people lands, administers oversees a number of programs and services for its member communities including those relating to health, employment, education, and land and resource management.

The DCFN and their member Aboriginal communities hold collective Aboriginal title and rights and treaty rights to Dehcho territory and hold other Aboriginal rights as a collective in relation to their land and governance over the land and the Dehcho people.

In the Mackenzie Valley, land is owned, or managed, controlled and administered by different governments or landowners. Land can be either Crown or Commissioner’s land administered by land managers, or privately owned.

In the Northwest Territories, private lands are owned largely by First Nations with settled land claims. There are currently three major landowners in the Mackenzie Valley - the Gwich’in, Sahtu and Tlicho. It is anticipated that as claims are settled in the Dehcho region, more private lands will be created and Aboriginal groups will become recognized landowners in their respective regions.

The Federal Government has recognized that the inherent right of self-government is an existing Aboriginal right recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Dehcho are engaged in ongoing land settlement negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories in what is referred to as the “*Dehcho Process*.” The Federal Government first attempted to negotiate land claim settlements in the Northwest Territories, with the Dene/Metis in the late 1980s without success. Subsequently settlement agreements were reached first with the Gwich’in and Sahtu Dene/Metis people and later with the Tlicho in 2005. The Dehcho have not settled their land claim with the Federal Government. The Dehcho and the Federal Government of Canada both claim legal title to this territory, the Dehcho by virtue of historical occupation and the Federal Government under Treaty 8, signed in 1900, and Treaty 11 signed in 1921 and 1922. The Federal Government and the Dehcho First Nations disagree on the interpretation of Treaties 8 and 11 and legal title to the land remains in dispute. Canada maintains that under the Treaties the Dehcho extinguished ownership of their traditional lands. The Dehcho have threatened to take the Federal Government to court, or to the United Nations, over the key issue of sovereignty. The Dehcho territory has an area of approximately 210,000 km² and has a native population of approximately 6,000.

Since the mid-1990s the Dehcho and the Federal Government have been engaged in the Dehcho Process whereby the Federal Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories have agreed to negotiate with the Dehcho First Nations on a government to government basis in order to set out land, resources and governance rights to apply in the Dehcho territory. The objective of negotiations is to complete a Dehcho Final Agreement which clarifies and builds upon existing Treaties by implementing a Dehcho government which will make laws and deliver programs and services; be a public government based upon Dehcho First Nations laws and customs and other Canadian laws and customs; and be the primary government for the delivery of programs and services to residents of the Dehcho territory. The Final Agreement will also describe intergovernmental relationships and jurisdictions, provide for certainty and clarity of rights respecting land, resources and governance and provide for the use, management and conservation of land, water and other resources, including wildlife, fish and their habitat in the Dehcho territory.

Early negotiations proved very slow in part because the Dehcho initially rejected the land selection process by which other land claim disputes have been typically settled in the North. Under the typical system, the Federal Government and First Nations select by negotiation particular areas of land in the area under dispute. Once selected the Government makes a financial payment and the claim is settled. However, the Dehcho have been holding out for full constitutional, legal and governmental control over their entire region, where effectively the laws of Canada would no longer apply, and this has led to lengthy and difficult negotiations.

The DCFN’s position is that the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act cannot and should not apply within Dehcho territory, that the legislation was enacted without the participation of, or any consultation with, the DCFN and was imposed on the Dehcho territory against DCFN wishes. The DCFN have stated that the Final Agreement must, among other things, include a new resource management regime in Dehcho territory other than the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.

In 2001, the Federal Government and the Dehcho First Nations entered into a *Framework Agreement* dated May 23, 2001. The Framework Agreement contemplates providing a structure for the negotiation of the *Final Agreement*. However, all negotiations are without prejudice to the legal position of the parties and nothing in the Framework Agreement is to be interpreted as creating, recognizing or

denying rights or obligations of any of the parties. The Federal Government and the Dehcho agreed that it is desirable that the negotiations proceed at a pace which allows for the people of the Dehcho territory, and particularly the Elders, to remain fully informed and involved in the process.

As contemplated in the Framework Agreement, an *Interim Measures Agreement*, also dated May 23, 2001, was executed between the parties to provide for interim arrangements pending the negotiation and signing of the Dehcho Final Agreement.

Under the Interim Measures Agreement, the Governments and the Dehcho agreed to develop a land use plan for the Dehcho lands outside Nahanni National Park Reserve and for that purpose to establish a Land Use Planning Committee. The purpose of the Land Use Plan is to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of the land, waters and other resources in the Dehcho territory, taking into consideration the principles of respect for the land, as understood and explained by the Dehcho Elders, and sustainable development.

Under the Interim Measures Agreement, Canada and the Dehcho agreed to negotiate for the purpose of identifying lands to be withdrawn from disposal and mineral staking and Canada agreed to withdraw from disposal, by Order in Council under the *Territorial Lands Act*, the lands identified in this process.

The Interim Measures Agreement specifically provides at sections 19 and 23 that land withdrawn from disposal under the Agreement shall be subject to the continuing exercise of existing rights, titles, interests, entitlements, licences and permits and that the provisions of the Agreement shall not effect access to or across withdrawn lands.

The Agreement also provides that no new water licences or land use permits will be issued under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* within the Dehcho territory except after written notice to the Dehcho First Nations and after a reasonable period of time for the Dehcho to make representations with respect to the application for such licence or permit. Canada also agreed not to issue any new prospecting permits under the *Canada Mining Regulations* in the Dehcho territory without the support of the affected Dehcho First Nation.

The parties also agreed to enter into negotiations for the purpose of concluding an *Interim Resource Development Agreement* with the objective of fostering resource development in the Dehcho Territory and to accrue benefits from Canada to the Dehcho First Nations. An Interim Resource Development Agreement was signed on April 17, 2003 under which Canada agreed to provide to the Dehcho First Nations a percentage of Federal resource royalties collected from the Dehcho area of the Mackenzie Valley.

Canada also agreed that the Final Agreement will ensure that a major mining project that requires any authorization from Canada, and that will impact on the Dehcho, shall be subject to negotiation with the Dehcho of an agreement relating to that project. A major mining project is defined as a project related to the development or production of minerals that will employ an average of 50 persons annually for the first five years in the Dehcho territory and for which more than \$50 million will be expended in capital costs. The Company believes that the Prairie Creek Project is currently the only such major mining project in the Dehcho territory.

The Interim Measures Agreement also provided that the Dehcho may propose protected areas for land withdrawal or permanent protection under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy. The

parties also agreed to negotiate an interim management arrangement respecting the management of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The Interim Measures Agreement was made without prejudice to the legal position of the parties and nothing in the Agreement is to be interpreted as creating, recognizing or denying rights or obligations on the part of the parties.

In 2003, Canada and the Dehcho agreed to an interim withdrawal of lands covering an area of approximately 80,000 km² for a period of five years. The withdrawal was confirmed by Order in Council dated August 13, 2003. The areas of the withdrawn lands do not include the Prairie Creek Mine but include all of the Company's Mining Lease 2854 and part of Mining Leases 2931, 3314 and 3313. The withdrawn land also includes an area over which part of the Company's road to the Prairie Creek Property passes. However in accordance with Sections 19 and 23 of the Interim Measures Agreement such withdrawal is subject to the continuing exercise of existing rights, titles, interests, entitlements, licences, permits, reservations, benefits and privileges and does not affect access to or across withdrawn land.

In August 2003, a *Memorandum of Understanding respecting the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve* dated 24 June 2003 was signed between the Dehcho and the Parks Canada Agency, whereby as part of the Dehcho Process, Parks Canada and the Dehcho agreed to work co-operatively towards completion of a feasibility study towards the addition of the identified lands to the Nahanni National Park Reserve and to recommend an amendment to the Canada National Parks Act for a new boundary for the expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve and, as part of the Dehcho Final Agreement, moving the Nahanni National Park Reserve to full National Park status under the Canada National Parks Act.

At the same time in August 2003, an *Interim Park Management Arrangement* for the Nahanni National Park Reserve was signed between the Dehcho and Parks Canada Agency designed to give the Dehcho a greater role in the Park management process. A Consensus Team was established, comprising three appointees of Parks Canada and four from the Dehcho First Nations (two from Nahanni Butte) to address, amongst other things, making recommendations in respect of impacts of land and resource uses in areas outside Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Under the Arrangement the Dehcho and Parks Canada agreed that while the current jurisdiction of Parks Canada is restricted to Nahanni National Park Reserve, the ecological integrity of the Park Reserve depends on the ecological integrity of the South Nahanni River watershed as a whole. The Prairie Creek Mine is located within the watershed of the South Nahanni River.

The Interim Park Management Arrangement is a statement of interests only and is not legally binding. Nothing in the Arrangement obliges Canada to act in a manner inconsistent with federal or territorial legislative or regulatory jurisdictions or authorities and the Nahanni National Park Reserve shall be administered and managed in accordance with the *Canada National Parks Act*.

During 2005, negotiations on the Dehcho Process broke down because of issues surrounding the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. In June 2005 the Dehcho First Nations entered into a *Settlement Agreement* with Canada [represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development] to settle Court actions which had been commenced by the Dehcho in the Northwest Territories Supreme Court and in the Federal Court against Canada and the Mackenzie Valley

Environmental Impact Review Board arising out of disputes concerning the Mackenzie Gas Project. In the Settlement Agreement Canada and the Dehcho agreed to resolve issues related to the participation of the Dehcho in the environmental and regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project and which they agreed to facilitate.

The Settlement Agreement recites that Canada and the Dehcho have differing views as to the existence and scope of the rights of the Dehcho First Nation(s) recognized by Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, and the nature and extent of Canada's requirements to consult with the Dehcho First Nations. In the Settlement Agreement the parties agreed to take all reasonable steps to negotiate the terms of the Dehcho Final Agreement which would include agreement to establish a *Dehcho Resource Management Authority* (DCRMA) which will be a body of public government. The Final Agreement will describe the legal capacity, structure, accountability, rights, powers, privileges and responsibilities of the DCRMA; source(s) of the DCRMA's powers, privileges and responsibilities; relationship of the DCRMA to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and rules regarding conflict of laws and the priorities of laws. For greater certainty, the Final Agreement may provide for a stand alone DCRMA harmonized with the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. The Settlement Agreement provides that the Final Agreement will provide for the circumstances in which laws within the jurisdiction of the Dehcho First Nations, any successor organization, or any government established pursuant to a Final Agreement, will take priority over the laws of Canada in the event of a conflict. The parties agreed to negotiate a Final Agreement in accordance with the Dehcho First Nations Framework Agreement.

In the Settlement Agreement, the parties agreed to implement a Land Use Plan that is approved by the Dehcho First Nations, approved the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Northwest Territories, and favourably considered by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada, as soon as possible after the Plan's completion.

In the 2005 Settlement Agreement the parties affirmed the Interim Resource Development Agreement dated April 17, 2003 and agreed to take immediate steps to establish a working group comprised of the parties to the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement for the purposes of ensuring that the issues arising from the implementation of the Resource Development Agreement are addressed in a timely manner. The parties also agreed that once an Agreement in Principle is ratified, the resource royalty sharing formula set out in the Interim Resource Development Agreement will be replaced with any Resource Revenue Sharing Formula agreed to in the Agreement in Principle.

The Settlement Agreement further provides that, except for certain specified articles of the Agreement, the Settlement Agreement is not legally binding and is intended as an expression of goodwill and as a political commitment.

Negotiations under the Dehcho Process continued during 2006 with Canada presenting a formal comprehensive offer of land selection, local governance provisions and financial compensation but this offer was rejected by the Dehcho First Nations. The Dehcho First Nations are insisting on the approval of a Land Use Plan (see below). Negotiations continued intermittently during 2007 through 2009 with no apparent progress reported.

The *Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee* (the Committee), was formally established in February 2002 under the authority of the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement with the responsibility to prepare a land use plan for the Dehcho territory. The land use planning process is a community driven process

where the goals and values of the residents of the Dehcho guide the development of the Plan. The Committee works closely with other planning partners such as governments, public agencies, non-government organizations and businesses to fulfill its mandate.

Land use planning boards are responsible for preparing comprehensive land use plans for their respective settlement areas. These plans guide the use of Crown, settlement, and other private lands and provide direction for the conservation, development and use of land, waters and other resources. Essentially, the land use planning boards create plans which lay out the permitted and prohibited uses of all land within a settlement area. They develop land use plans for their regions and recommend approvals, exceptions and amendments to related plans.

A Land Use Plan is a public document that sets aside different areas for different uses, and describes what activities are permitted or not permitted in specified areas. The land use plan applies to both Crown and settlement lands. It does not apply to lands within municipal boundaries or lands within national parks or historic sites.

Once the land use planning board has adopted a Land Use Plan, it must submit the plan to the First Nation of the settlement area, the Territorial Minister and the Federal Minister for approval.

The mission statement of the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee is to develop a land use plan as a management tool to determine what type of land use activities should occur and where they should take place. The plan will balance economic, social, environmental and cultural needs and interests. The plan will be guided by the principals of sustainable development and respect for the land as understood and explained by the Dehcho Elders. The planning area excludes municipal areas and Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The purpose of the Land Use Plan is to promote the social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities in the Dehcho territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians. The Plan shall provide for the conservation, development and utilization of the land, waters and other resources in the Dehcho territory.

The Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee includes representatives of the Dehcho First Nations, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Government of Canada. As outlined under the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement the DCFN appointed two members while the two Governments each appointed one member. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, the parties to the Interim Measures Agreement appoint a fifth member as Chairperson.

Once approved the Land Use Plan will provide legally binding direction to regulatory agencies and decision-makers in their assessment of development projects, protected areas proposals and other land uses.

The Land Use planning process considered the traditional use and occupancy information that was gathered to determine the Interim Land Withdrawals, along with other information on the natural resources and the economic and social needs of the communities. In turn, the Plan will guide the revision of the Interim Land Withdrawals based on the new information that has been gathered. Representatives of the Planning Committee visited the Prairie Creek minesite in September 2004.

The Company made a detailed submission to the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee and participated in the planning process. The Company commented on each draft of the Plan as such draft was produced and participated in various Public Forums. The Company had concerns about the latest draft of the Land Use Plan (November 2005 – Revised February 2006) and recommended that the draft in its current form not be approved. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has also expressed concern to the Committee (January 2006).

The draft Land Use Plan was approved by the General Assembly of the Dehcho First Nations in May 2006 and submitted to the Minister for consideration. The Minister did not accept the Plan arguing that it incorporated too much land to be preserved from development. In April 2007 the Federal Government and the Dehcho First Nations entered into an agreement to form a new Committee with representatives from all sides to negotiate a new revised plan. The Company understands that negotiations on a draft Land Use Plan are continuing.

The outcome of the Dehcho Process negotiations is expected to be a Final Agreement that will provide, amongst other things, for the implementation of a Dehcho government within the Dehcho territory. It is expected that the negotiations towards a Dehcho Final Agreement will take many years to complete.

The Company cannot predict the impact, if any, that the Dehcho Final Agreement if eventually approved and signed may have on the Prairie Creek Mine or the permitting thereof.

3.16. Nahanni Butte Dene Band

The Prairie Creek Mine is located 90 kilometres from the nearest settled community of Nahanni Butte, located at the confluence of the South Nahanni and Liard Rivers, 146 kilometres downstream of the minesite. The population of Nahanni Butte is approximately 90 people and water for domestic purposes is supplied by well. There is no permanent road access into the Prairie Creek Property, other than the existing Winter Road which was established in 1981. Regular access is by air only to a private airstrip controlled by the Company. There is no other existing land occupation, nor commercial land or water based activities in the vicinity of the mine. Similarly, no traditional use or trapping activity has been observed in the minesite area in recent history.

In October 2008, Canadian Zinc and the Nahanni Butte Dene Band entered into a MOU, to establish a mutually beneficial, co-operative and productive relationship. In the MOU, the Band agreed to maintain close communication links with Canadian Zinc, participate in good faith in current and pending environmental assessment and regulatory processes, and not to oppose, “in principle,” mining operations at Prairie Creek. Canadian Zinc has agreed to apply best efforts to employ Band members and to assist the Band and its community to benefit from business opportunities associated with the exploration and development of the Prairie Creek Project. The MOU also provides for the subsequent negotiation of an Impact Benefits Agreement regarding mining operations. Nothing within the MOU is intended to define, create or extinguish any rights of the Band or Canadian Zinc and the MOU is not legally binding on the parties.

The Company continued discussions and engagement with the Band throughout 2009 and 2010, specifically regarding their Traditional Knowledge and alternate routes for the access road to Prairie Creek, taking into consideration the expressed preferences of the community of Nahanni Butte. The Band outlined their concerns with the project and the Company’s responses to date include

investigation of road realignment options and surveys of specific locations along the access road for heritage resources.

In January 2011, the Company signed the NAH?A DEHE DENE PRAIRIE CREEK AGREEMENT (the “Nahanni Agreement”) which provides for an ongoing working relationship between Canadian Zinc Corporation and the Nah?a Dehe Dene Band (Nahanni Butte Dene Band) that respects the goals and aspirations of each party and will enable the Nahanni community members to participate in the opportunities and benefits offered by the Prairie Creek Project and confirms their support for the Prairie Creek Mine.

The Nahanni Agreement provides a framework such that training, employment and business contracts are made available to Nahanni to ensure maximization of benefits from opportunities arising from the Prairie Creek Project in a manner that will be to the mutual benefit of both parties.

The Company believes that the separate goals of the Dehcho First Nations in achieving political sovereignty and economic self-sufficiency whilst protecting the environment are compatible. The Nah?a Dehe Dene Prairie Creek Agreement provides for a positive and cooperative working relationship between the Company and Nahanni Butte in respect of developing and operating an environmentally sound mining undertaking at Prairie Creek, which will not have significant adverse environmental effects on the ecological integrity of the South Nahanni River or the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

3.17. Liidlii Kue First Nation (“LKFN”)

In June 2011, the Company signed an Impact Benefits Agreement (“LKFN Agreement”) with the Liidlii Kue First Nation of Fort Simpson. The LKFN Agreement is similar in many respects to the above mentioned Nahanni Agreement entered into with the Nahanni Butte Dene Band. The LKFN has agreed to support CZN in obtaining all necessary permits and other regulatory approvals required for the Prairie Creek Mine Project. The Agreement is intended to ensure that CZN undertakes operations in an environmentally sound manner. LKFN will appoint a qualified Monitor to monitor environmental compliance and to monitor impacts of the Mine on the environment or wildlife and to work with CZN to prevent or mitigate such impacts.

The LKFN Agreement provides a framework such that training, employment and business contracts, and some financial provisions are made available to the LKFN to ensure maximization of benefits from opportunities arising from the Prairie Creek Project in a manner that will be to the mutual benefit of all parties. The Liidlii Kue First Nation are members of the Dehcho First Nations. LKFN is the largest member of the Dehcho First Nations.

3.18. Socio-Economic Agreements

In August 2011, the Company signed a Socio-Economic Agreement with the GNWT related to the planned development of the Prairie Creek Mine. The Socio-Economic Agreement establishes the methods and procedures by which the Company and the GNWT have agreed to work together to maximize the beneficial opportunities and minimize the negative socio-economic impacts arising from an operating Prairie Creek Mine. The Socio-Economic Agreement defines hiring priorities and employment commitments and practices during the construction, operation and closure of the Prairie Creek Mine and across the entire spectrum of project-based employment. The Company has targeted

employment levels of at least 60% Northwest Territories residents and 25% Aboriginals. The Company has agreed to implement policies to maximize business and value-added opportunities for businesses in the Northwest Territories. Canadian Zinc will use its best efforts to ensure that purchases of goods and services through or from Northwest Territories businesses will be at least 30% during construction and at least 60% during operations.

In August 2011, Human Resource and Skills Development Canada, a federal department of the Government of Canada, approved a commitment of more than \$3 million over a three-year period to fund "More Than a Silver Lining", a program to provide Aboriginal participants with training-to-employment opportunities in a variety of mining-related occupations at the Prairie Creek Mine. In addition to the funding from the Government of Canada, the program will receive an additional \$1 million from Canadian Zinc, the GNWT and the communities of Nahanni Butte, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River.

4. RISK FACTORS AND UNCERTAINTIES

In conducting its business, Canadian Zinc faces a number of risks common to the mining and exploration industry. These are summarized below. There are also certain specific risks including those listed below, associated with an investment in the Company and prospective investors and their advisors should consider carefully these specific risk factors associated with an investment in Canadian Zinc.

4.1 Political and Legislative

Canadian Zinc conducts its operations in the Mackenzie Valley in the Northwest Territories of Canada in an area which is claimed by the Dehcho First Nations as their traditional territory. The Dehcho have not settled their land claim with the Federal Government of Canada. The Dehcho and the Federal Government both claim legal title to this territory and legal title to the land remains in dispute. The Company's operations are potentially subject to a number of political, legislative and other risks. Canadian Zinc is not able to determine the impact of political, legislative or other risks on its business or its future financial position.

Canadian Zinc's operations are exposed to various levels of political, legislative and other risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, cancellation, renegotiation or nullification of existing leases, claims, permits and contracts; expropriation or nationalization of property; changes in laws or regulations; changes in taxation laws or policies; royalty and tax increases or claims by governmental, Aboriginal or other entities; retroactive tax or royalty claims and changing political conditions; government mandated social expenditures; governmental regulations or policies that favour or require the awarding of contracts to local or Aboriginal contractors or require contractors to employ residents of, or purchase supplies from, a particular jurisdiction or area; or that require that an operating project have a local joint venture partner, which may require to be subsidized; and other risks arising out of sovereignty or land claims over the area in which Canadian Zinc's operations are conducted.

The mineral exploration, mine development, and proposed mining, processing activities of Canadian Zinc, and the anticipated production, transportation and sale of mineral concentrates are subject to extensive federal, territorial, international and local laws, regulations and treaties, including various

laws governing prospecting, development, production, transportation taxes, labour standards and occupational health, mine safety, toxic substances including mercury, land use, water use and other matters. Such laws and regulations are subject to change and can become more stringent and costly over time. No assurance can be given that new laws, rules and regulations will not be enacted or that existing laws, rules and regulations will not be applied in a manner which could limit or curtail exploration, development, mining, processing, production and sale of concentrates. Amendments to current laws and regulations governing operations and activities of exploration and mining, or more stringent implementation thereof, could have a substantial adverse impact on Canadian Zinc.

In 1998 - 2000 there was a major change to the legislative and regulatory framework and regulations in the Mackenzie Valley. There can be no assurance that these laws and regulations will not change in the future in a manner that could have an adverse effect on the Company's activities and/or its financial condition. In 2007, the Federal Government announced the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative to improve the current regulatory regime in the north of Canada and in May 2010 announced an Action Plan to improve northern regulatory regimes, which anticipate changes to the current legislative framework and regulatory processes.

In relation to Northwest Territories specifically, a number of policy and social issues exist which increase Canadian Zinc's political and legislative risk. The Government of Canada is facing legal and political issues, such as land claims and social issues, all of which may impact future operations. This political climate increases the risk of the Government making changes in the future to its position on issues such as mining rights and land tenure, which in turn may adversely affect Canadian Zinc's operations. Future government actions cannot be predicted, but may impact the operation and regulation of the Prairie Creek mine. Changes, if any, in Government policies, or shifts in local political attitude in the Northwest Territories may adversely affect Canadian Zinc's operations or business.

Canadian Zinc's exploration, development and production activities may be substantially affected by factors beyond Canadian Zinc's control, any of which could materially adversely affect Canadian Zinc's financial position or results of operations. The occurrence of these various factors and uncertainties cannot be accurately predicted. The Company is not able to determine the impact of these risks on its business.

4.2 Permitting, Environmental and other Regulatory Requirements

The operations of Canadian Zinc require licences and permits from various governmental and regulatory authorities. Canadian Zinc believes that it is presently complying in all material respects with the terms of its current licences and permits. However, such licences and permits are subject to change in various circumstances. Canadian Zinc does not hold all necessary licences and permits under applicable laws and regulations for the operation of the Prairie Creek mine. There can be no guarantee Canadian Zinc will be able to obtain or maintain all necessary licences and permits as are required to explore and develop its properties, commence construction or operation of mining facilities or properties under exploration or development, or to obtain them within a reasonable time.

The Prairie Creek Project is located in an environmentally sensitive and remote area in the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories, within the watershed of the South Nahanni River. The South Nahanni River is considered to be of global significance, is highly valued as a wilderness recreation

river and is a designated World Heritage Site. The South Nahanni River flows through the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

The Prairie Creek Mine is encircled by the Nahanni National Park Reserve. However, an area of approximately 300 km² immediately surrounding the Prairie Creek Mine is specifically excluded from the Park. In 2009 new legislation entitled “*An Act to Amend the Canada National Parks Act to enlarge Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada*” was enacted, which also authorized the Minister of Environment to enter into leases, licences of occupation or easements over Nahanni Park lands for the purposes of a mining access road leading to the Prairie Creek Mine Area, including the sites of storage and other facilities connected with that road. The Company will require permits from the Minister of Environment and/or the Parks Canada Agency for the purposes of accessing the Prairie Creek Mine Area and Parks Canada has granted Land Use Permit 2009 – L02 to provide road access through the Park to the Mine Area. There can be no guarantee the Company will be able to obtain or maintain all necessary permits or to obtain them within a reasonable time or on acceptable terms.

The Company has experienced long delays in obtaining permits to date. The Company anticipates continuing difficulties and delays with its permitting activities and faces ongoing opposition and legal challenges from certain interests.

Canadian Zinc’s activities are subject to extensive federal, provincial, territorial and local laws and regulations governing environmental protection and employee health and safety. Canadian Zinc is required to obtain governmental permits and provide bonding requirements under federal and territorial water and mine regulations. All phases of Canadian Zinc’s operations are subject to environmental regulation. These regulations mandate, among other things, the maintenance of water and air quality standards and land reclamation. They also set forth limitations on the generation, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Environmental legislation is evolving in a manner, which will require stricter standards and enforcement, increased fines and penalties for non-compliance, and more stringent environmental assessments of proposed projects. United Nations proposals for a global treaty on mercury, intended to result in reduced global emissions of mercury, may place restrictions on the production, use and international movement of mercury and mercury-containing wastes which may, if adopted, result in restrictions on shipment of concentrates or other mineral products containing by-product or trace mercury.

There is no assurance that future changes in environmental laws or regulations, if any, will not adversely affect Canadian Zinc’s operations.

Environmental laws and regulations are complex and have tended to become more stringent over time. These laws are continuously evolving. Any changes in such laws, or in the environmental conditions at Prairie Creek, could have a material adverse effect on Canadian Zinc’s financial condition, liquidity or results of operations. Canadian Zinc is not able to determine the impact of any future changes in environmental laws and regulations on its future financial position due to the uncertainty surrounding the ultimate form such changes may take. The Company does not currently consider that its expenditures required to maintain ongoing environmental monitoring obligations at the Prairie Creek mine are material to the results and financial condition of the Company. However, these costs could become material in the future and would be reported in the Company’s public filings at that time.

Although Canadian Zinc makes provision for reclamation costs, it cannot be assured that these provisions will be adequate to discharge its obligations for these costs. As environmental protection

laws and administrative policies change, Canadian Zinc will revise the estimate of its total obligations and may be obliged to make further provisions or provide further security for mine reclamation cost. The ultimate amount of reclamation to be incurred for existing and past mining interests is uncertain. Additional discussion on the impact of reclamation costs is included in this Annual Information Form at “3.14 Environmental Matters”.

Existing and possible future environmental legislation, regulations and actions could cause additional expense, capital expenditures, restrictions and delays in the activities of the Company, the extent of which cannot be predicted. Before production can commence on the Prairie Creek Property the Company must obtain regulatory approval, permits and licences and there is no assurance that such approvals will be obtained. No assurance can be given that new rules and regulations will not be enacted or made, or that existing rules and regulations will not be applied, in a manner which could limit or curtail production or development.

Regulatory approvals and permits are currently, and will in the future be, required in connection with Canadian Zinc’s operations. To the extent such approvals are required and not obtained, Canadian Zinc may be curtailed or prohibited from proceeding with planned exploration or development of its mineral properties or from continuing its mining operations.

Failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations and permitting requirements may result in enforcement actions thereunder, including orders issued by regulatory or judicial authorities causing operations to cease or be curtailed, and may include corrective measures requiring capital expenditures, installation of additional equipment, or remedial actions. The Company may have civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed for violations of applicable laws or regulations.

Failure to comply with applicable environmental and health and safety laws can result in injunctions, damages, suspension or revocation of permits and imposition of penalties. There can be no assurance that Canadian Zinc has been or will be at all times in complete compliance with all such laws, regulations and permits, or that the costs of complying with current and future environmental and health and safety laws and permits will not materially adversely affect Canadian Zinc’s business, results of operations or financial condition. Environmental hazards may exist on the properties on which Canadian Zinc holds interests which are unknown to Canadian Zinc at present and which have been caused by previous owners or operators of the properties.

Amendments to current laws, regulations and permits governing operations and activities of mining and exploration companies, or more stringent implementation thereof, could have a material adverse impact on Canadian Zinc Corporation and cause increases in exploration expenses, capital expenditures or production costs or require abandonment or delays in the development of mining properties.

The Prairie Creek project has, on numerous occasions, experienced significant delays in obtaining permits and licences necessary for the conduct of its operations. If at any time in the future permits essential to operations are not obtained, or not obtained in a timely manner, or exemptions not granted, there is a risk that the Prairie Creek mine may not be able to operate.

4.3 Metal Prices and Market Sentiment

The market price of metals and minerals is volatile and cannot be controlled. Metal prices have fluctuated widely, particularly in recent years. If the price of metals and minerals should drop significantly, as occurred in late 2008, the economic prospects for the Prairie Creek Project could be significantly reduced or rendered uneconomic. There is no assurance that, even if commercial quantities of ore are delineated, a profitable market may exist for the sale of products, including concentrates from that ore. Factors beyond the control of the Company may affect the marketability of any minerals discovered or concentrates produced. The marketability of minerals is affected by numerous other factors beyond the control of the Company, including quality issues, impurities, government regulations, royalties, allowable production and importing and exporting of minerals, the effect of which cannot be accurately predicted. Factors tending to affect the price of metals include:

- The relative strength of the U.S. dollar against other currencies;
- Government monetary and fiscal policies;
- Expectations of the future rate of global monetary inflation and interest rates;
- General economic conditions and the perception of risk in capital markets;
- Political conditions including the threat of terrorism or war;
- Speculative trading;
- Investment and industrial demand; and
- Global production and inventory stocks.

The effects of these factors, individually or in aggregate, on the prices of zinc, lead and/or silver is impossible to predict with accuracy. Fluctuations in metal prices may adversely affect Canadian Zinc's financial performance and results of operations. Further, if the market price of zinc, lead and/or silver falls or remains depressed, Canadian Zinc may experience losses or asset write-downs and may curtail or suspend some or all of its exploration, development and mining activities.

Furthermore, sustained low metal prices can halt or delay the development of new projects; reduce funds available for mineral exploration and may result in the recording of a write-down of mining interests due to the determination that future cash flows would not be expected to recover the carrying value.

Metal prices fluctuate widely and are affected by numerous factors beyond Canadian Zinc's control such as the sale or purchase of such commodities by various central banks and financial institutions, interest rates, exchange rates, inflation or deflation, fluctuation in the value of the United States dollar and foreign currencies, global and regional supply and demand, and the political and economic conditions of major mineral and metal producing countries throughout the world. Future production from Canadian Zinc's mining properties is dependent on mineral prices that are adequate to make these properties economic. The prices of metals have fluctuated widely in recent years, and future or ongoing serious price declines could cause continued development of and commercial production from Canadian Zinc's properties to be impracticable. Depending on the price of metal, cash flow from mining operations may not be sufficient and Canadian Zinc could be forced to discontinue production and may lose its interest in, or may be forced to sell, its properties.

In addition to adversely affecting Canadian Zinc's reserve or resource estimates and its financial condition, declining commodity prices can impact operations by requiring a reassessment of the

feasibility of a particular project. The need to conduct such a reassessment may cause substantial delays or may interrupt operations until the reassessment can be completed.

Currency fluctuations may affect the costs that Canadian Zinc incurs at its operations. Zinc, lead and silver are sold throughout the world based principally on the U.S. dollar price, but operating expenses are incurred in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Appreciation of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar increases the cost of production in U.S. dollar terms at mines located in Canada.

The development of the Company's properties will depend upon the Company's ability to obtain financing through private placement financing, public financing, the joint venturing of projects, bank financing or other means. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in obtaining the required financing.

Securities of junior and small-cap companies have experienced substantial volatility in the past, often based on factors unrelated to the financial performance or prospects of the companies involved. These factors include macroeconomic developments in North America and global and market perceptions of the attractiveness of particular industries. The share price of Canadian Zinc is likely to be significantly affected by short-term changes in metal prices. Other factors unrelated to Canadian Zinc's performance that may have an effect on the price of its shares include the following: the extent of analytical coverage available to investors concerning Canadian Zinc's business may be limited if investment banks with research capabilities do not follow the Company's securities; lessening in trading volume and general market interest in the Company's securities may affect an investor's ability to trade significant numbers of common shares; the size of Company's public float may limit the ability of some institutions to invest in the Company's securities; and a substantial decline in the price of the common shares that persists for a significant period of time could cause the Company's securities to be delisted from an exchange, further reducing market liquidity.

As a result of any of these factors, the market price of the Company's shares at any given point in time may not accurately reflect Canadian Zinc's long-term value. Securities class action litigation often has been brought against companies following periods of volatility in the market price of their securities. Canadian Zinc may in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and damages and divert management's attention and resources.

The development and exploration of Canadian Zinc's property will require substantial additional financing. Failure to obtain sufficient financing will result in delaying or indefinite postponement of exploration, development or production on Canadian Zinc's property or even a loss of property interest. There can be no assurance that additional capital or other types of financing will be available when needed or that, if available, the terms of such financing will be favourable to Canadian Zinc.

4.4 Exploration and Development

The business of exploring for minerals and mining involves a high degree of risk. There is no assurance the Company's mineral exploration activities will be successful. Few properties that are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines. In exploring and developing its mineral deposits the Company is subjected to an array of complex economic factors and technical considerations. Unusual or unexpected formations, formation pressures, power outages, labour disruptions, flooding, explosions, cave-ins, landslides, environmental hazards, and the inability to obtain suitable or adequate machinery, equipment or labour are other risks involved in the conduct of

exploration and development programs. Such risks could materially adversely affect the business or the financial performance of the Company.

There is no certainty that the expenditures made by Canadian Zinc towards the search and evaluation of mineral deposits will result in discoveries of commercial quantities of ore. The exploration for and development of mineral deposits involves significant risks which even a combination of careful evaluation, experience and knowledge may not eliminate. Major expenses may be required to locate and establish mineral reserves, to develop metallurgical processes and to construct mining and processing facilities at a particular site. It is impossible to ensure that the exploration or development programs planned by Canadian Zinc will result in a profitable commercial mining operation. Whether a mineral deposit will be commercially viable depends on a number of factors, some of which are: the particular attributes of the deposit, such as size, grade and proximity to infrastructure; metal prices which are highly cyclical; and government regulations, including regulations relating to prices, taxes, royalties, land tenure, land use, importing and exporting of minerals and environmental protection. The exact effect of these factors cannot be accurately predicted, but the combination of these factors may result in Canadian Zinc not receiving an adequate return on invested capital.

A specific risk associated with the Prairie Creek Property is its remote location. Mining, processing, development and exploration activities depend, to one degree or another, on adequate infrastructure. Reliable roads, bridges, power sources and water supply are important factors, which affect capital and operating costs. Unusual or infrequent weather phenomena, government or other interference in the maintenance or provision of such infrastructure could adversely affect Canadian Zinc's operations, financial condition and results of operations.

The development plan for the Prairie Creek Project is based upon a Project Description Report prepared internally by the Company, with the assistance of outside consultants, in 2008. A Project Description Report is not a Feasibility Study. The Project Description Report outlined the plan for the development of the Prairie Creek Project based on the historical development and existing infrastructure at the Prairie Creek Property and on the Resource Estimation in the 2007 NI 43-101 Minefill Technical Report. The Resource Estimation in the 2007 Technical Report does not constitute mineable reserves. The historical development was carried out principally in 1980 to 1982 and the infrastructure, including the mill, was constructed in the same period based on a feasibility study prepared by Kilborn Engineering (Pacific) Limited in 1980. The Kilborn feasibility study is outdated and cannot be relied upon. The existing infrastructure, including the mill, buildings, camp etc. is over twenty-five years old and, although it has been held under care and maintenance, it has lain idle for more than twenty-five years and was never operated. There is significant risk attaching to the proposed operation of aged equipment.

In February 2011, the Company engaged SNC-Lavalin Inc. ("SNC") of Vancouver to complete a feasibility study on the Prairie Creek Mine. The general scope of the feasibility study includes detailed engineering and design, including mining equipment, on-site and off-site infrastructure, transportation and logistics; capital and operating cost estimates for underground mining, preliminary designs of stoping methods and layouts; capital cost estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the processing plant, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds; construction schedule and execution plan.

It is expected that the main part of the Feasibility Study (Phase One) will be completed around the end of the first quarter of 2012 and will incorporate capital costs estimates for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the mill, power plant and water treatment and storage ponds, as well as working cost

estimates for mining, processing and transportation. An addendum to the Feasibility Study (Phase Two) will be completed later in the year and will further take into account some additional site geo-technical work planned to be carried out during the summer months of 2012.

Mining operations generally involve a high degree of risk. Canadian Zinc's mining operations will be subject to all the hazards and risks normally encountered in the development and production of minerals, including unusual and unexpected geologic formations, seismic activity, rock bursts, cave-ins, flooding and other conditions involved in the drilling and removal of material, any of which could result in damage to, or destruction of, mines and other producing facilities, damage to life or property, environmental damage and possible legal liability. Mining and milling operations are subject to hazards such as equipment failure or failure of retaining dams around tailings disposal areas, which may result in environmental pollution and consequent liability.

4.5 Uncertainty in the Estimation of Mineral Resources

The figures for Mineral Resources contained in this document are estimates only and no assurance can be given that the anticipated tonnages and grades will be achieved, that the indicated level of recovery will be realized or that Mineral Resources can be mined or processed profitably. There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating Mineral Resources, including many factors beyond Canadian Zinc's control. Such estimation is a subjective process, and the accuracy of any resource 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. In addition, there can be no assurance that mineral or metal recoveries in small scale laboratory tests will be duplicated in larger scale tests under on-site conditions or during production.

Inferred mineral resources do not have demonstrated economic viability. Due to the uncertainty which may attach to inferred mineral resources, there is no assurance that inferred mineral resources will be upgraded to measured and indicated mineral resources as a result of continued exploration.

Fluctuation in metal prices, results of drilling, metallurgical testing and production and the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimate may require revision of any such resource or reserve estimate. The volume and grade of resources mined and processed and recovery rates may not be the same as currently anticipated. Any material reductions in estimates of Mineral Resources, or of Canadian Zinc's ability to extract these Mineral Resources, could have a material adverse effect on Canadian Zinc's results of operations and financial condition.

Mineral reserve and mineral resource estimates are imprecise and depend partly on statistical inferences drawn from drilling and other data which may prove to be unreliable. Future production could differ dramatically from mineral resource estimates for many reasons including the following:

- Mineralization or formations could be different from those predicted by drilling, sampling and similar examinations;
- Declines in the market price of metals may render the mining of some or all of Canadian Zinc's mineral resources uneconomic;
- Increases in operating mining costs and processing costs could adversely affect mineral reserves or resources; and

- The grade of mineral reserves or resources may vary significantly from time to time and there can be no assurance that any particular level of metal may be recovered from the mineral reserves or resources.

Any of these factors may require Canadian Zinc to reduce its mineral reserve or mineral resources estimates.

4.6 Insurance and Uninsured Risks

Canadian Zinc's business is subject to a number of risks and hazards generally, including adverse environmental conditions, industrial accidents, labour disputes, unusual or unexpected geological conditions, ground or slope failures, cave-ins, changes in the regulatory environment and natural phenomena such as inclement weather conditions, floods and earthquakes. Such occurrences could result in damage to mineral properties or production facilities, personal injury or death, environmental damage to Canadian Zinc's properties or the properties of others, delays in mining, monetary losses and possible legal liability.

Although Canadian Zinc maintains insurance to protect against certain risks in such amounts as it considers reasonable, its insurance will not cover all the potential risks associated with the Company's mining operations. Canadian Zinc may also be unable to maintain insurance to cover these risks at economically feasible premiums. Insurance coverage may not continue to be available or may not be adequate to cover any resulting liability. Moreover, insurance against risks such as environmental pollution or other hazards as a result of exploration and production is not generally available to Canadian Zinc or to other companies in the mining industry on acceptable terms. In particular, the Company is not insured for environmental liability or earthquake damage.

Canadian Zinc might also become subject to liability for pollution or other hazards which may not be insured against, or which Canadian Zinc may elect not to insure against, because of premium costs or other reasons. Losses from these events may cause Canadian Zinc to incur significant costs that could have a material adverse effect upon its financial performance and results of operations.

4.7 Key Executives and Conflicts of Interest

Canadian Zinc is dependent on the services of key executives, including the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Vice President of Exploration and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, and a small number of other skilled and experienced executives and personnel. Due to the relatively small size of the Company, the loss of these persons or Canadian Zinc's inability to attract and retain additional highly skilled or experienced employees may adversely affect its business and future operations.

Certain of the directors and officers of the Company also serve as directors and/or officers of, or have significant shareholdings in, other companies involved in natural resource exploration and development and consequently there exists the possibility for such directors and officers to be in a position of conflict. Two directors of Canadian Zinc also serve as directors of Vatukoula Gold Mines plc. Any decision made by any of such directors and officers involving Canadian Zinc will be made in accordance with their duties and obligations to deal fairly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. In addition, each of the directors is required to declare and refrain from voting on any matter in which such directors may have a conflict of interest in

accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia) and other applicable laws.

To the extent that such other companies may participate in ventures in which Canadian Zinc may participate, the directors of Canadian Zinc may have a conflict of interest in negotiating and concluding terms respecting the extent of such participation. 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 abstain from voting for the approval of such participation or such terms.

From time to time several companies may collectively participate in the acquisition, exploration and development of natural resource properties thereby allowing for their participation in larger programs, permitting involvement in a greater number of programs and reducing financial exposure in respect of any one program. It may also occur that a particular company will assign all or a portion of its interest in a particular program to another of these companies due to the financial position of the company making the assignment. Under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, the directors of the Company are required to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Company. In determining whether or not Canadian Zinc will participate in a particular program and the interest therein to be acquired by it, the directors will primarily consider the degree of risk to which the Company may be exposed and its financial position at that time.

4.8 Title Matters

Mining leases and surface leases issued to the Company by the Federal Government have been surveyed but other parties may dispute the Company's title to its mining properties. The mining claims in which the Company has an interest have not been surveyed and, accordingly, the precise location of the boundaries of the claims and ownership of mineral rights on specific tracts of land comprising the claims may be in doubt. These claims have not been converted to lease, and are, accordingly, subject to regular compliance with assessment work requirements.

Failure to comply strictly with applicable laws, regulations and local practices relating to mineral right applications and tenure, could result in loss, reduction or expropriation of entitlements.

While the Company has investigated its title to all its mining leases, surface leases and mining claims and, to the best of its knowledge, title to all properties is in good standing, this should not be construed as a guarantee of title and title may be affected by undetected defects. The validity and ownership of mining property holdings can be uncertain and may be contested. There are currently a number of pending Aboriginal or Native title or Treaty or traditional land ownership claims relating to Northwest Territories. The Company's properties at Prairie Creek are subject to Aboriginal or Native land claims. Title insurance generally is not available, and Canadian Zinc's ability to ensure that it has obtained secure title to individual mineral properties or mining concessions may be severely constrained. Canadian Zinc's mineral properties may be subject to prior unregistered liens, agreements, transfers or claims, including Native land claims, and title may be affected by, among other things, undetected defects. No assurances can be given that there are no title defects affecting such properties.

4.9 Competition

The mining industry is competitive in all of its phases. There is aggressive competition within the mining industry for the discovery and acquisition of properties considered to have commercial

potential. Canadian Zinc faces strong competition from other mining companies in connection with the acquisition of properties, mineral claims, leases and other mineral interests as well as for the recruitment and retention of qualified employees and other personnel. Many of these companies have greater financial resources, operational experience and technical capabilities than Canadian Zinc. As a result of this competition, Canadian Zinc may be unable to maintain or acquire attractive mining properties on terms it considers acceptable or at all. Consequently, Canadian Zinc's operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

4.10 Acquisitions

From time to time Canadian Zinc undertakes evaluations of opportunities to acquire additional mining assets and businesses. Any resultant acquisitions may be significant in size, may change the scale of Canadian Zinc's business, and may expose Canadian Zinc to new geographic, political, operating financial and geological risks. Canadian Zinc's success in its acquisition activities depends on its ability to identify suitable acquisition candidates, to acquire them on acceptable terms, and integrate their operations successfully with those of Canadian Zinc. Any acquisition would be accompanied by risks, such as a significant decline in metal prices; the ore body proving to be below expectations; the difficulty of assimilating the operation and personnel; the potential disruption of Canadian Zinc's ongoing business; the inability of management to maximize the financial and strategic position of Canadian Zinc through the successful integration of acquired assets and businesses; the maintenance of uniform standards, control, procedures and policies; the impairment of relationships with employees, customers and contractors as a result of any integration of new management personnel; and the potential unknown liabilities associated with acquired assets and business. In addition Canadian Zinc may need additional capital to finance an acquisition. Debt financing related to any acquisition will expose Canadian Zinc to the risk of leverage, while equity financing may cause existing shareholders to suffer dilution. There can be no assurance that Canadian Zinc would be successful in overcoming these risks or any other problems encountered in connection with such acquisitions.

4.11 Vatukoula Gold Mines Plc

As discussed at in this Annual Information Form, the Company holds a 14% interest in Vatukoula Gold Mines Plc, which operates the Vatukoula Gold Mine in Fiji. Operations in Fiji add increased risks to the Company's business affairs. Fiji has experienced political unrest and there may, at times, be challenges to foreign owned companies. In Fiji, VGM expenditures are made in Fijian dollars and revenues are in U.S. dollars. The parent company in the VGM group is based in the United Kingdom and reports in £ Sterling. The impact of foreign exchange fluctuations may have a material impact on the results of operations of VGM. As VGM is operating a working gold mine, it is exposed to risk from changes in commodity prices (notably gold) and also the price of oil on the world markets. Adverse changes in these prices could have a material impact on the operations of VGM and therefore the share price of VGM. On March 14, 2012, the value of the Company's investment in VGM was \$14.6 million.

4.12 Requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and Similar Canadian Regulations

Since 2007, the Company has documented and tested its internal control procedures in order to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”). As of December 31, 2011, SOX requires an annual assessment by management of the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting and an attestation by the Company’s independent auditors addressing internal controls over financial reporting.

Due to its size, its limited staff resources and financial constraints, the Company is exposed to certain potential deficiencies in its internal controls over financial reporting. If the Company is unable to maintain the adequacy of its internal control over financial reporting, as such standards are modified, supplemented, or amended from time to time, the Company may not be able to ensure that it can conclude on an ongoing basis that it has effective internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of SOX. The Company’s inability to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of SOX on an ongoing, timely basis could result in the loss of investor confidence in the reliability of its financial statements, which in turn could harm the Company’s business and negatively impact the trading price of its common shares. In addition, any failure to implement required new or improved controls, or difficulties encountered in their implementation, could impact the Company’s operating results or cause it to fail to meet its reporting obligations. Future acquisitions (if any) may provide the Company with challenges in implementing the required processes, procedures and controls in the acquired operations. Acquired companies may not have disclosure controls and procedures or internal control over financial reporting that are as thorough or effective as those required by securities laws currently applicable to the Company.

No evaluation can provide complete assurance that the Company’s internal control over financial reporting will detect or uncover all failures of persons within the Company to disclose material information otherwise required to be reported. The effectiveness of the Company’s controls and procedures could also be limited by simple errors or faulty judgments. In addition, as the Company continues to develop, the challenges involved in implementing appropriate internal controls over financial reporting will increase and will require that the Company continue to enhance its internal controls over financial reporting. Although the Company will be required to devote substantial time and will incur substantial costs, as necessary, in an effort to ensure ongoing compliance, the Company cannot be certain that it will be successful in continuing to comply with Section 404 of SOX.

4.13 History of Losses and No Assurance of Profitable Operations

The Company has incurred losses since inception of \$62.038 million through December 31, 2011. There can be no assurance that the Company will be able to operate profitably during future periods. If the Company is unable to operate profitably during future periods, and is not successful in obtaining additional financing, the Company could be forced to cease its exploration and development plans as a result of lacking sufficient cash resources.

4.14 Shareholder Dilution

As of December 31, 2011, there were 143,109,112 common shares outstanding. As of December 31, 2011, the Company had 6,410,000 share purchase options and 5,054,148 warrants outstanding allowing the holders to purchase 11,464,148 common shares. Directors and officers of the Company hold 5,000,000 of these share purchase options, contractors and employees of the Company hold 1,410,000 share purchase options and third-party entities hold 5,054,148 share purchase warrants. As of March 15, 2012, there were 156,719,112 common shares outstanding. As of March 15, 2012, the Company had 6,410,000 share purchase options and 12,353,798 warrants outstanding allowing the holders to purchase 18,763,798 common shares. The exercise of all of the existing share purchase options and warrants would result in percentage ownership dilution to the existing shareholders.

4.15 Potential Future Equity Financings

The Company has used equity financing in order to meet its needs for capital and may engage in equity financings during future periods. Subsequent issuances of equity securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for equity securities would result in further percentage ownership dilution to existing shareholders and could depress the price of the Company's shares.

4.16 Dividend Policy

No dividends have been paid by the Company to date. The Company anticipates that it will retain all future earnings and other cash resources for the future operation and development of its business and the Company does not intend to declare or pay any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. Payment of any future dividends will be at the discretion of the Company's board of directors after taking into account many factors, including the Company's operating results, financial condition and current and anticipated cash needs.

5. CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Canadian Zinc's capital structure consists of only one class of common shares without par value, with an unlimited authorized capital. Each common share is entitled to one vote and all common shares rank equally for the payment of dividends and for all distributions, whether upon dissolution, a winding up or otherwise.

At December 31, 2011, the Company had 143,109,112 shares issued and outstanding. At March 15, 2012, the Company had 156,719,112 shares issued and outstanding.

At December 31, 2011, the Company also had 6,410,000 stock options outstanding and 5,054,148 warrants outstanding. At March 15, 2012, the Company had 6,410,000 options outstanding and 12,353,798 warrants outstanding. Each stock option and each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one common share.

Stock Options

December 31, 2011	March 15, 2012	Exercise Price	Expiry Date
75,000	75,000	\$0.94	October 15, 2012
1,575,000	1,575,000	\$0.23	March 27, 2014
4,460,000	4,460,000	\$0.45	May 12, 2015
300,000	300,000	\$0.71	January 27, 2016
6,410,000	6,410,000		

Warrants

December 31, 2011	March 15, 2012	Exercise Price	Expiry Date
4,130	4,130	\$0.40	June 30, 2012
337,143	337,143	\$0.70	December 23, 2012
212,875	212,875	\$0.75	June 30, 2013
4,500,000	4,500,000	\$0.90	December 30, 2013
-	3,805,000	\$0.90	January 6, 2014
-	494,650	\$0.67	July 6, 2013
-	3,000,000	\$0.90	February 10, 2014
5,054,148	12,353,798		

6. MARKET FOR SECURITIES

The Company's common shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "CZN". The following table shows the price ranges and volume traded of the Company's common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on a monthly basis for each month of 2011.

Price Range 2011			
Month	High Cdn. \$	Low Cdn \$	Volume
January	0.76	0.61	6,804,300
February	1.56	0.71	15,383,500
March	1.35	0.89	10,070,600
April	1.30	0.75	6,304,700
May	1.03	0.79	5,790,700
June	0.82	0.63	4,260,600
July	0.79	0.70	2,551,800
August	0.94	0.55	3,677,500
September	0.88	0.59	2,289,400
October	0.75	0.52	2,644,600
November	0.67	0.58	1,663,500
December	0.87	0.57	9,143,300
Year	1.56	0.52	70,584,500

Source: TSX

7. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

7.1 Name, Occupation and Security Holding

Name, Province or State and Country of Ordinary Residence and Position Held with the Company	Principal Occupation During Preceding Five Years	Date First Became Director of the Company ⁽⁵⁾	Common Shares beneficially owned, controlled or directed, directly or indirectly ⁽¹⁾⁽⁶⁾
Brian Atkins ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ British Columbia, Canada Director	Chartered Accountant; Partner at KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, from 1978 to 2005; Director of North Shore Credit Union; Member of Independent Review Committee of Inhance Investment Management Inc. until December 2009; Member of the Institute of Corporate Directors.	June 2008	100,000 common shares
John F. Kearney Ontario, Canada Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Zinc Corporation since 2003; Chairman of Labrador Iron Mines Limited since May 2007; Chairman of Conquest Resources Limited since 2001; Chairman of Anglesey Mining plc since 1994; Director of Vatukoula Gold Mines plc since July 2009.	November 2001	2,833,909 common shares
John MacPherson ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ British Columbia, Canada Director	Private Businessman; Director of Vatukoula Gold Mines plc since July 2009. Director and Chairman of Tower Energy Ltd. until 2007;	May 1999	68,500 common shares
Dave Nickerson ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ Northwest Territories, Canada Director	Professional Engineer, Mining consultant, Director, Tyhee Development Corp.; previously Chairman of Northwest Territories Water Board; Member of Parliament, Member of NWT Legislative Assembly; Government Minister.	March 2004	50,000 common shares
Alan Taylor ⁽⁴⁾ British Columbia, Canada Vice President, Exploration, Chief Operating Officer and Director	Vice President, Exploration of Canadian Zinc Corporation since 1999 and Chief Operating Officer of Canadian Zinc Corporation since March 2004.	March 2004	
Trevor Cunningham British Columbia, Canada Chief Financial Officer, Vice President Finance and Corporate Secretary	Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Finance of Canadian Zinc Corporation since January 2010; Certified Management Accountant; former Project Manager of BC Hydro Corporation (January 2009 to July 2010); Corporate Controller of Ucore Uranium Inc. (February 2008 to December 2008); Corporate Controller of Alexco Resources Corp. (January 2006 to January 2008).	N/A	Nil

⁽¹⁾ The information as to common shares beneficially owned, controlled or directed by the above-named directors as at the date hereof, not being within the knowledge of the Company, has been furnished by the respective directors individually.

⁽²⁾ Member of the Audit Committee.

⁽³⁾ Member of the Compensation Committee.

⁽⁴⁾ Member of Health and Safety Committee.

⁽⁵⁾ All Directors are elected annually to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

⁽⁶⁾ All directors and executive officers as a group own, control or direct, directly or indirectly a total of 3,052,409 common shares.

7.2 Cease Trade Orders, Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions

John Kearney served as a non-executive director of McCarthy Corporation plc from July 2000 to March 2003. In June 2003, McCarthy Corporation plc adopted a voluntary arrangement with its creditors pursuant to the legislation of the United Kingdom.

7.3 Conflicts of Interest

Certain of the directors and officers of the Company, including the President and Chief Executive Officer, also serve as directors and/or officers of, or have significant shareholdings in, other companies involved in natural resource exploration and development. Two directors of the Company also serve as directors of Vatukoula Gold Mines plc. Consequently there exists the possibility for such directors and officers to be in a conflict of interest position.

8. TRANSFER AGENTS AND REGISTRARS

The Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Company's common shares is:

Computershare Investor Services Inc.
510 Burrard Street, 4th floor
Vancouver, BC V6C 3B9

and

100 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5J 2Y1

The Company acts as its own Agent and Registrar for the Company's Share Purchase Warrants. The Share Purchase Warrants are not traded or quoted on any stock exchange.

9. MATERIAL CONTRACTS

The Company is not a party to any material contract, other than a contract entered into in the ordinary course of business, entered into within the last financial year or before the last financial year (if the contract is still in effect).

10. INTERESTS OF EXPERTS

Alan Taylor, P.Geo., Vice President of Exploration and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, who is a Non-Independent Qualified Person as defined in National Instrument 43-101, and prepared the Technical Report dated December 28, 2011, has prepared, supervised the preparation of or reviewed, the parts of this Annual Information Form that are of a scientific or technical nature.. Mr. Taylor does not beneficially own, directly or indirectly, any common shares of the Company. Mr. Taylor does hold 1,500,000 stock options to purchase common shares of the Company at prices ranging from \$0.23 to \$0.45 per share.

The Company's auditors are Ernst & Young LLP, Chartered Accountants, who have prepared an independent auditors' report dated March 15, 2012 in respect of the Company's audited financial statements with accompanying notes as at and for the year ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. Ernst & Young LLP have advised that they are independent with respect to the Company within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia.

11. AUDIT COMMITTEE INFORMATION

11.1 Audit Committee Charter

The Audit Committee has adopted a Charter, the text of which is set out below:

“Charter of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors”

I. MANDATE

The Audit Committee (the “**Committee**”) is appointed by the Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Canadian Zinc Corporation (the “**Corporation**”) to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to financial accounting and reporting process and internal controls for the Corporation. The Committee's mandate and responsibilities are to:

- recommend to the Board the external auditors to be nominated and the compensation of such auditor;
- oversee and monitor the work and performance of the Corporation's external auditors, including meeting with the external auditors and reviewing and recommending all renewals or replacements of the external auditors and their remuneration;
- pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation by the external auditors;
- review the financial statements and management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) and annual and interim financial results press releases of the Corporation;
- oversees the integrity of internal controls and financial reporting procedures of the Corporation and ensure implementation of such controls and procedures;
- provide oversight to any related party transactions entered into by the Corporation.

II. AUTHORITY OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the authority to:

- (1) engage independent counsel and other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties;
- (2) set and pay the compensation for advisors employed by the Audit Committee; and
- (3) communicate directly with the external auditors.

III. COMPOSITION AND MEETINGS

- (1) The Committee and its membership shall meet all applicable legal, regulatory and listing requirements, including those of all applicable securities regulatory authorities.
- (2) The Committee shall be composed of three directors as shall be designated by the Board from time to time. The members of the Committee shall appoint from among themselves a member who shall serve as Chair. A minimum of two members of the Committee present either in person or by telephone shall constitute a quorum.

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

- (1) Each member of the Committee shall be “independent” and shall be “financially literate” (as each such term is defined in Multilateral Instrument 52-110)
- (2) The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, as circumstances dictate or as may be required by applicable legal or listing requirements.
- (3) Any member of the Committee may participate in the meeting of the Committee by means of conference telephone or other communication equipment, and the member participating in a meeting pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed, for purposes hereof, to be present in person at the meeting.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) The Committee shall review the annual audited financial statements to satisfy itself that they are presented in accordance with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) and report thereon to the Board and recommend to the Board whether or not same should be approved, prior to their being filed with the appropriate regulatory authorities. The Committee shall also review the interim financial statements.
- (2) The Committee shall review any internal control reports prepared by management and the evaluation of such report by the external auditors, together with management’s response.
- (3) The Committee shall be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation’s public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation’s financial statements, management’s discussion and analysis and annual and interim earnings press releases before the Corporation publicly discloses this information.
- (4) The Committee shall review management’s discussion and analysis relating to annual and interim financial statements and any other public disclosure documents, including interim earnings press releases, before the Corporation publicly discloses this information.
- (5) The Committee shall meet no less frequently than annually with the external auditors to review accounting practices, internal controls and such other matters as the Committee deems appropriate.
- (6) The Committee shall establish procedures for

- (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
 - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
- (7) The Committee shall provide oversight to any related party transactions entered into by the Corporation.
 - (8) In the event that the Corporation wishes to retain the services of the Corporation's external auditors for tax compliance or tax advice or any non-audit services the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation shall consult with the Audit Committee, who shall have the authority to approve or disapprove such non-audit services. The Audit Committee shall maintain a record of non-audit services approved by the Audit Committee for each fiscal year and provide a report to the Board on an annual basis.
 - (9) The Committee shall review and approve the Corporation's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former auditors of the Corporation.
 - (10) The Committee shall perform any other activities consistent with this Charter and governing law, as the Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

11.2 Composition of Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, as at March 15, 2012, is composed of Brian Atkins, Dave Nickerson and John MacPherson. The Company considers each member of the Audit Committee to be financially literate and independent for the purposes of National Instrument 52-110 ("NI 52-110").

The education and experience of each Audit Committee Member is set out below:

Brian A. Atkins, CA graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Commerce and obtained his Chartered Accountant designation from the British Columbia Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr. Atkins joined KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, in 1969 and was admitted as a partner in 1978. As a KPMG partner, Mr. Atkins provided audit, accounting and advisory services to a number of public and private companies continually throughout the period until his retirement from KPMG in September 2005. Mr. Atkins is currently a director of the North Shore Credit Union, currently a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors and a Member of the Independent Review Committee of Inhance Investment Management Inc. until December 2009. He has a thorough understanding of accounting standards used by the Company in preparing its annual and quarterly financial statements. He has a thorough understanding of internal controls over financial reporting.

Dave Nickerson B.Sc., M.Sc., Mr. Nickerson holds a Bachelors degree in Mining Engineering from the University of Birmingham and a Masters degree in Mineral Exploration from Laurentian University and has taken Post-Graduate Courses in Mineral Development and in Legislation Strategy at McGill University, Montreal. He is a Professional Engineer and a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of the Northwest Territories. He was elected as Member of Parliament for three terms 1979 to 1988, during part of which time he served as a member of the House Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories 1975 to 1979. He served as the Chairman of the Northwest Territories Water Board from 1988 to 1994. He has served as a director of public companies for a period in excess

of five years. He has an understanding of the accounting principles used by the Company to prepare its financial statements and has the ability to assess the general application of such accounting principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves. He has experience evaluating financial statements with accounting issues comparable to the financial statements and issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Company's financial statements. He has an understanding of internal controls and procedures for financial reporting.

John MacPherson has served on the Boards of many public companies as Chairman, President or Director for over 40 years. Having worked in the investment industry he was licenced to sell securities which required him to understand and evaluate complex financial reports. He has an understanding of the accounting principles used by the Company to prepare its financial statements and has the ability to assess the general application of such accounting principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals and reserves.

11.3 Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The Audit Committee has adopted procedures requiring Audit Committee review and approval in advance of all particular engagement for services provided by the Auditors. Consistent with applicable laws, the procedures permit limited amounts of services, other than audit services, to be approved by the Audit Committee provided the Audit Committee is informed of each particular service. All of the engagements and fees for Fiscal 2010 and 2011 were approved by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews with the auditors whether non-audit services to be provided, if any, are compatible with maintaining the Auditor's independence.

Since the commencement of the Company's most recently completed financial year (January 1, 2011) there has not been a recommendation of the Audit Committee to nominate or compensate an external auditor which was not adopted by the Board of Directors.

11.4 Audit Fees and Services

The aggregate amounts billed by auditors for the two fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 for audit fees, audit related fees, tax fees and all other fees are set forth below:

	Year Ended December 31, 2011 ⁽⁴⁾	Year Ended December 31, 2010
Audit Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$145,000	\$108,150
Audit-Related Fees ⁽²⁾	5,500	22,500
Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	-	-
All Other Fees	-	13,000
Total	\$150,500	\$143,650

⁽¹⁾ “Audit Fees” represent fees for the audit of the annual financial statements, and review in connection with the statutory and regulatory filings.

⁽²⁾ “Audit Related Fees” represent fees for assurance and related services that are related to the performance of the audit.

⁽³⁾ “Tax Fees” represent fees for tax compliance, tax advice and planning.

⁽⁴⁾ Fees for the year ended December 31, 2011, are based, in part, upon estimates received by Canadian Zinc as final invoices are yet to be rendered as at March 15, 2012.

12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information relating to the Company may be found on SEDAR at 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 equity compensation plans, if applicable, is contained in the Company's Information Circular for its most recent Annual Meeting of Shareholders that involved the election of Directors, which may be found on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Additional financial information is contained in the Company's Audited Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for its most recently completed financial year which may be found on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Cautionary Note – Forward Looking Statements

This Annual Information Form contains forward-looking statements, such as estimates and statements that describe the Company's future plans, objectives or goals, including words to the effect that the Company or management expects a stated condition or result to occur. Forward-looking statements in this Annual Information Form include statements with respect to:

- the Company's planned/proposed Prairie Creek mine operations which includes future mine grades and recoveries;
- expectations around the process for obtaining operating permits;
- the receipt and timing of necessary regulatory approvals;
- the Company's plans for further exploration at the Prairie Creek Mine;
- future cost estimates pertaining to further development of the Prairie Creek Mine and items such as long-term environmental reclamation obligations;
- financings and the expected use of proceeds thereof;
- the completion of financings and other transactions;
- the outlook for future prices of zinc, lead and silver; and
- the impact to the Company of future accounting standards and discussion of risks and uncertainties around the Company's business.

Words such as "believes", "anticipates", "expects", "estimates", "may", "could", "would", "will", or "plan", or similar expressions, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbour provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Since forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and address future events and conditions, by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results relating to, among other things, mineral reserves, mineral resources, results of exploration, reclamation and other post-closure costs, capital costs, mine production costs, the timing of exploration, development and mining activities and the Company's financial condition and prospects, could differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements by reason of factors such as changes in general economic conditions and conditions in the financial markets, changes in demand and prices for the minerals the Company expects to produce, delays in obtaining permits, litigation, legislative, environmental and other judicial, regulatory, political and competitive developments in areas in which the Company operates, technological and operational difficulties encountered in connection with the Company's activities, labour relations matters, costs and changing foreign exchange rates and other matters discussed under "Risk Factors" herein and under "Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2011 – Liquidity, Financial Condition and Capital Resources and Review of Financial Results".

Other delays in factors that may cause actual results to vary materially include, but are not limited to, the receipt of permits or approvals, changes in commodity and power prices, changes in interest and currency exchange rates, geological and metallurgical assumptions (including with respect to the size, grade and recoverability of mineral resources), unanticipated operational difficulties (including failure with plant, equipment or processes to operate in accordance with specifications or expectations), cost escalation, unavailability of materials and equipment, industrial disturbances or other job action, and unanticipated events related to health, safety and environmental matters, political risk, social unrest, and changes in general economic conditions or conditions in the financial markets.

Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. Inferred mineral resources are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves. There is no certainty that mineral resources will be converted into mineral reserves. The Company does not currently hold a permit for the operation of the Prairie Creek Mine.

This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect any of the Company's forward-looking statements. These and other factors should be considered carefully and readers should not place undue reliance on the Company's forward-looking statements. Further information regarding these and other factors which may cause results to differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements are included in the filings by the Company with securities regulatory authorities. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements that may be made from time to time by the Company or on its behalf, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.

Cautionary Note to U.S. Investors

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") permits U.S. mining companies, in their filings with the SEC, to disclose only those mineral deposits that a company can economically and legally extract or produce. The Company uses certain terms in this Annual Information Form, such as "measured," "indicated," and "inferred" "resources," which the SEC guidelines prohibit U.S. registered companies from including in their filings with the SEC. U.S. Investors are urged to consider closely the disclosure in our Form 40-F which may be secured from us, or from the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml>.