

# MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the nine months ended September 30, 2023



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

#### **GENERAL**

The information in this Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") is intended to assist the reader in the understanding and assessment of the trends and significant changes in the results of operations and financial conditions of HighGold Mining Inc. (the "Company" or "HighGold"). This MD&A should be read in conjunction with the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements of the Company for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and the audited consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2022, and other information relating to the Company on file with the Canadian provincial securities regulatory authorities on SEDAR+ at www.sedar.com. The Company's consolidated financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 and for the year ended December 31, 2022 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS").

This MD&A contains forward-looking information. Please refer to the cautionary language at the end of this document.

Historical results of operations and trends that may be inferred from the following discussions and analysis may not necessarily indicate future results from operations.

HighGold is a mineral exploration company focused on the high-grade Johnson Tract Gold (Zn-Cu) Project, ("JT" or the "Project") a gold-dominant polymetallic deposit, located in an accessible area of south-central coastal Alaska, USA. HighGold's experienced Board and senior management team, are committed to providing shareholder value through discovery, careful stewardship of capital, and environmentally and socially responsible mineral exploration activities.

The Company is a reporting issuer in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario and trades on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSX-V") under the symbol HIGH. HighGold is also listed on the OTCQX in the USA under the symbol HGMIF.

This MD&A has taken into account information available up to and including November 22, 2023.

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Company ended the quarter with approximately \$9.1 million in cash and marketable securities;
- Following completion of the spin-out of Onyx Gold Corp. in July 2023, HighGold focused its efforts
  on unlocking value at the high-grade JT Deposit. In parallel with exploration drilling, the Company
  launched on a program of advanced exploration and de-risking activities to support the evaluation
  of a potential high-grade, low-impact, underground mine;
- The Company has initiated preliminary scoping work to evaluate conceptual direct-shipping-ore ("DSO") scenarios that offer the potential for a nearer term, lower capital cost and enhanced environmental benefit production scenario;



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

- The Company completed a comprehensive work program to support the permitting of an underground exploration ramp, including six (6) hydrogeology-geotechnical drill holes, related hydrogeology test work, engineering, and multiple environmental and cultural studies;
- A total of 33 drill holes for 7,648 meters were completed, including 27 exploration holes (6,254m) and six (6) hydrogeology-geotechnical holes (1,394m), with exploration drilling designed to expand the existing JT Deposit and Ellis Zone and to target new prospect areas;
- Drill hole GT23-004 from infill drilling completed as part of the hydrogeological-geotechnical program returned thick, high-grade mineralization typical of the JT Deposit;
  - o 56.6 meters at 7.8 g/t gold equivalent ("AuEq"), including
    - 33.6 m at 12.1 g/t AuEq, and including
    - 4.9 m at 34.9 g/t AuEq;
- Narrow high-grade and broad low-grade mineralization was intersected in Ellis Zone step-outs;
  - 2.2 m at 57.0 g/t AuEq in hole DC23-070
  - o 1.4 m at 11.6 g/t AuEq in hole DC23-071
  - o 47.1 m at 0.7 g/t AuEq in hole DC23-087
  - 64.1 m at 0.7 g/t AuEq in hole DC23-088;
- Encouraging new zones of veining and JT-style alteration intersected in first pass drilling of new prospect areas, warrants additional follow-up in 2024.

## **COMPANY BACKGROUND**

HighGold was listed on the TSX Venture Exchange in September 2019 under the ticker "HIGH". A history of the Company's financings is listed in the table below:

Date	Amount	Shares	Price	Warrants
	\$C	Issued	\$C	
August 20, 2019 (1)	\$200,000	1,000,000	\$0.20	½ @ \$0.45, 5-year term
September 23, 2019	\$7,650,000	17,000,000	\$0.45	½ @ \$0.70, 2-year term
December 5, 2019 (2)	\$2,304,000	1,280,000	\$1.80	N/A
December 5, 2019	\$7,000,000	5,600,000	\$1.25	N/A
July 28, 2020	\$13,800,166	7,976,975	\$1.73	N/A
July 28, 2020 (3)	\$772,445	446,500	\$1.73	N/A
December 23, 2020 (2)	\$3,000,000	1,500,000	\$2.00	N/A
December 23, 2020 (2,3)	\$700,000	350,000	\$2.00	N/A
October 27, 2021 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$18,800,000	12,750,000	\$1.60	N/A
April 12, 2023 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$9,259,300	14,029,243	\$0.66	N/A

- (1) Seed round completed by management and directors.
- (2) Flow-through financing at premium to market.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

- (3) Side-car financing pursuant to existing investor rights agreement with strategic shareholder.
- (4) Two-part financing a \$13,800,000 prospectus offering bought deal and \$5,000,000 private placement to an existing strategic shareholder.
- (5) Non-brokered private placement.

# **Spin-out of Canadian Mineral Properties**

In March 2023, the Company announced a proposed spin-out of its Ontario and Yukon exploration properties to its wholly-owned subsidiary, Onyx Gold Corp. The spin-out was completed by way of a plan of arrangement (the "Arrangement") under the British Columbia Business Corporations Act, effective on June 6, 2023. Pursuant to the Arrangement, the shareholders of the Company were entitled to receive one Onyx Gold share for every four shares of the Company held, distributed on a pro rata basis and the Company received 5,000,000 shares of Onyx Gold.

The spin-out of Canadian assets to Onyx Gold enabled HighGold to dedicate 100% of the Company's effort on the important next steps at Johnson Tract.

#### **EXPLORATION PROPERTIES**

# Johnson Tract Property (also "JT Deposit" or the "Project")

The large, 21,000-acre Johnson Tract property is located near tidewater on Cook Inlet, 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Anchorage. It includes the high-grade Johnson Tract Gold (Zn-Cu) Deposit along with excellent exploration potential indicated by several other prospects over a 12-kilometer mineralized trend. Prior to HighGold, the project was explored in the mid-1990s by a mid-tier mining company that evaluated direct shipping gold mineralized material from the Project to the Premier Mill near Stewart, British Columbia.

HighGold acquired the Project through a lease agreement with Cook Inlet Region, Inc. ("CIRI"), an Alaska Native regional corporation that is the largest private landowner within the Cook Inlet region. The Johnson Tract property is an inholding in Lake Clark National Park and was conveyed to the CIRI Native Corporation under the terms of the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act ("ANSCA") and the Cook Inlet Land Exchange. As ratified by an act of Congress, CIRI is entitled to transportation and port easements through Park lands for mineral extraction.

# **Exploration Plans**

The Company has implemented and is executing a multi-year plan to unlock value and demonstrate optionality at the Project. This plan is two-pronged:

- To progress advanced exploration and de-risking activities on the already defined high-grade resource at the JT Deposit to support studies for the evaluation of a potential high-grade, lowimpact, underground mine; and
- To continue exploration with a view to expanding existing deposits and making new discoveries to demonstrate the prospectivity of the Project.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

HighGold has initiated preliminary scoping work to evaluate conceptual direct-shipping-ore ("DSO") scenarios. This includes studies and investigations into potential mining methods, mine designs, and the logistics and infrastructure required for shipping mineralized material to an existing, off-site milling facility. The Project's location near tidewater offers the potential for DSO via bulk marine transport (the lowest cost form of bulk shipping) either direct to Asia or to existing coastal mills at mines in Alaska and British Columbia.

Advantages of a DSO mine over a conventional mine include project simplicity, lower CAPEX and execution risk, and potential for an expedited timeline to production. A DSO mine at Johnson Tract would also have the attractive environmental benefits of a small surface footprint and minimal long-term management and closure concerns. Under such a scenario, development rock (waste-rock) would likely be integrated into the mining plan as backfill for permanent underground storage within the mine, and tailings would be stored at a pre-existing off-site facility, resulting in no on-site tailings.

A key component of de-risking the Project is the development of an underground exploration ramp to the JT Deposit. The exploration ramp will provide a platform to conduct cost-effective tightly spaced definition drilling in the highest-grade portions of the known deposit to support future engineering and economic studies. The 1,800m long ramp, which is parallel to and slightly outboard of the trend of mineralization, will also provide access to efficiently test multiple deep exploration targets.

In support of this, HighGold has completed a work programs consisting of hydrogeological test work, engineering, and environmental and cultural studies. The data from these studies will be incorporated into the project design and form the basis of the exploration ramp permitting that is planned to commence in early 2024.

# JT Deposit Mineral Resource (July 2022)

- Indicated Resource of 3.49 million tonnes ("Mt") grading 9.39 g/t gold equivalent ("AuEq") for 1,053,000 oz AuEq
- Inferred Resource of 0.71 Mt grading 4.76 g/t AuEq for 108,000 oz AuEq
- Indicated resource averages 40-meter horizontal width, roughly 10 times the mineable width of most high-grade (+5 g/t) underground gold deposits
- Open to expansion along strike/down-dip/down-plunge with numerous high-priority propertywide targets



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

# JT Deposit Mineral Estimate at 3.0 g/t AuEq Cut-off (effective date July 12, 2022)

Category	Tonnes	Au	Ag	Cu	Pb	Zn	AuEq
	(000s)	(g/t)	(g/t)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(g/t)
Indicated	3,489	5.33	6.0	0.56	0.67	5.21	9.39
Inferred	706	1.36	9.1	0.59	0.30	4.18	4.76

# **Contained Metal**

Category	Au (k oz)	Ag (k oz)	Cu (M lb)	Pb (M lb)	Zn (M lb)	AuEq (k oz)
Indicated	598	673	43.1	51.5	400.8	1,053
Inferred	31	207	9.2	4.7	65.1	108

#### Notes

- 1. Includes all drill holes completed at JT Deposit, with drilling completed between 1982 and as recently as October 2021
- 2. Assumed metal prices are US\$1650/oz for gold (Au), US\$20/oz for silver (Ag), US\$3.50/lb copper (Cu), US\$1/lb lead (Pb), and US\$1.50/lb for zinc (Zn)
- Gold Equivalent ("AuEq") is based on assumed metal prices and payable metal recoveries of 97% for Au, 85% for Ag, 85% Cu, 72% Pb and 92% Zn from metallurgical testwork completed in 2022
- 4. AuEq equals = Au g/t + Ag g/t  $\times$  0.01 + Cu%  $\times$  1.27 + Pb%  $\times$  0.31 + Zn%  $\times$  0.59
- 5. Average bulk density value of 2.84 used as determined by conventional analytical methods for assay samples
- 6. Capping was applied to assays to restrict the impact of high-grade outliers, resulting in the removal of 8.4% Au, 10.1% Ag, 2.8% Cu, 6.2% Pb, and 1.3% Pb from the resource block model as compared to an uncapped version
- 7. The economic underground mining cut-off is estimated to be 2.5 g/t AuEq derived from assumed operating cost of \$65/t for long hole open stope mining, \$35/t processing and \$20/t G&A and accounting for transport and smelter charges. HighGold elected to report this mineral resource at a higher cut-off grade of 3.0 g/t Au, given the high-grade nature of the deposit.
- 8. Preliminary underground constraints were applied, including the elimination of isolated or scattered blocks above cut-off grade to define the "reasonable prospects of eventual economic extraction" for the Mineral Resource Estimate
- 9. Mineral resources as reported are undiluted
- 10. Mineral resource tonnages have been rounded to reflect the precision of the estimate
- 11. Readers are cautioned that mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability

In addition to attractive grades and favourable metallurgy, the JT Deposit has several attributes that are considered attractive for underground development, including: (i) excellent thickness (avg. 40m); (ii) strong continuity; (iii) subvertical geometry; and, (iv) geotechnically competent mineralization.

For additional details, see the NI 43-101 Technical Report titled "Updated Mineral Resource Estimate and NI 43-101 Technical Report for the Johnson Tract Project, Alaska" dated August 25, 2022 authored by Ray C. Brown, CPG, Lyn Jones P.Eng. and James N. Gray, P.Geo.

# Ellis Zone, DC Prospect

The DC Prospect, located four kilometers northeast of the +1Moz AuEq JT Deposit, includes the high-grade Ellis Zone discovery and numerous other mineralized showings within a series of large gossan alteration zones extending over a 1.5 km x 3.0 km area. Drilling in 2023 included 50 to 100m step-outs on the Ellis Zone to assess resource potential and first-time tests of new targets between the Ellis Zone and East DC Prospect areas.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

Two distinct and overlapping styles of mineralization have been defined at the Ellis Zone: a steep-dipping, structurally-controlled high-grade quartz vein and sulphide breccia zone; and a zone of shallow-dipping, broad, lower-grade potentially stratigraphically-controlled mineralization with VMS-style characteristics. The current interpretation is of a broad zone of stringer-style mineralization with local structurally controlled high-grade shoots. Mineralization has now been intersected over a length of 200 m and to a depth of 225 m.

Highlight high-grade drill intersections from the Ellis Zone include 6.4m at 577.9 g/t Au and 2,023 g/t Ag in hole DC21-010, 11.9m at 25.3 g/t AuEq in hole DC22-043, 14.8m at 14.3 g/t AuEq in hole DC22-046, and 2.2 m at 57.0 g/t AuEq in hole DC23-070.

## **Other Johnson District Targets**

The Johnson Tract property hosts multiple other mineral prospects over a 12-kilometer mineralized trend and the potential for discovery of additional deposits and mineralized zones is considered excellent. These include the East Difficult Creek, Kona, Easy Creek, Milkbone, South Valley and Double Glacier prospects among others.

#### **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

# **Exploration and Evaluation Property Expenditures**

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded expenditure additions of \$9,789,863 (2022 - \$7,867,217) on its Johnson Tract property. In addition, the Company completed the spin-out of its Ontario and Yukon properties to Onyx Gold.

# **Operating Costs**

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 was \$1,415,052 (2022 – net loss of \$1,435,724). During the period, the Company recorded an unrealized gain on marketable securities of \$2,765,940 (2022 – \$33,004) related to 150,000 Fireweed shares (before sale of 50,000 shares), 100,000 shares held in Snowline and 5,000,000 shares held in Onyx Gold. The shares of Onyx Gold were acquired during the completion of the spin-out of the Company's Ontario and Yukon properties to Onyx Gold resulting in an unrealized gain of \$2,500,000.

Significant expenses in the period included:

- Advertising and promotion of \$211,923 (2022 \$260,245), mainly consisting of advertising campaigns and the cost of participating in virtual and in person mining investment conferences and roadshows.
- Professional fees of \$210,522 (2022 \$142,865), relating to legal fees of \$147,428 (2022 \$69,770), and fees of \$63,094 (2022 \$73,095) related to accounting services provided to the Company.
- Salaries, wages and benefits of \$425,536 (2022 \$458,644) paid to directors, officers and employees of the Company. Please refer to "Transactions with Related Parties" section for additional information.
- Share-based compensation of \$118,601 (2022 \$521,083), relating to the vesting of stock options that were granted during the prior years.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded interest income of \$240,978 (2022 - \$99,055) related to the Company's investment in short-term bank certificates.

# Quarter Ended September 30, 2023

Net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2023 was \$154,038 (2022 – \$388,672). Significant expenses include:

- Advertising and promotion of \$94,102 (2022 \$82,934), mainly consisting of advertising campaigns and the cost of participating in mining investment conferences and roadshows.
- Salaries, wages and benefits of \$139,182 (2022 \$153,852) paid to directors, officers and employees of the Company. Please refer to "Transactions with Related Parties" section for additional information.
- Professional fees of \$62,285 (2022 \$87,593), relating to legal fees for general corporate matters, and accounting services provided to the Company.

During the three months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded an unrealized gain of \$178,440 (2022 – \$13,500) related to 50,000 shares held in Fireweed, 100,000 shares held in Snowline and 5,000,000 shares held in Onyx Gold. The Company also recorded a realized gain of \$48,627 (2022 - \$Nil) related to the disposal of 100,000 shares of Fireweed and interest income of \$120,152 (2022 - \$53,994) related to the Company's investment in short-term bank certificates.

The following is a summary of certain consolidated financial information of the Company for the past eight quarters:

	•	arter ended etember 30, 2023	Qua	rter ended June 30, 2023	Qua	orter ended March 31, 2023	•	rter ended cember 31, 2022
Revenue (1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Net comprehensive income (loss)	(154,038)		2,151,839		(582,749)		(65,265)	
Total assets	57,374,492 56,763		5,761,037	61,405,906		61,547,699		
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$	(0.00)	\$	0.03	\$	(0.00)	\$	(0.00)
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$	(0.00)	\$	0.02	\$	(0.00)	\$	(0.00)
	Quarter ended September 30, 2022		Qua	rter ended June 30, 2022	Qua	erter ended March 31, 2022	•	rter ended cember 31, 2021
Revenue (1)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Net comprehensive loss		(388,672)	(	589,354)		(457,698)	(	563,806)
Total assets	62	2,828,258	61	,417,915	63	1,589,527	61	,726,689
Basic and diluted loss per share	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.01)	\$	(0.01)

<sup>(1)</sup> The Company has no sales revenues.

During the quarter ended June 30, 2023, net comprehensive income of \$2,151,839 includes an unrealized gain of \$2,500,000 related to 5,000,000 Onyx Gold shares received in the completion of the spin-out of the Company's Ontario and Yukon properties to Onyx Gold.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

# **Quarterly Results – General Trend**

The Company's operating expenses for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, not including share-based compensation, were \$462,429, compared to \$410,818 for the same period last year. The Company's operating costs are not expected to increase materially over the next quarter.

# FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had current assets of \$9,920,519 (December 31, 2022 - \$8,582,520), including cash and cash equivalents of \$6,033,304 (December 31, 2022 - \$7,637,197) and \$1,250,636 (December 31, 2022 - \$364,882) in total liabilities. The Company's cash position as of the date of this report is \$4.5 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company used \$1,274,493 (2022 - \$640,274) in cash for operating activities and \$9,377,017 (2022 - \$10,020,604) in cash for exploration and evaluation expenses, spent primarily on the Johnson Tract and Munro-Croesus properties.

Total cash provided by financing activities for the period ended September 30, 2023 was \$9,055,446 (2022 – total cash used of \$11,725). The Company completed a non-brokered private placement in April 2023, consisting of 14,029,243 shares at a price of \$0.66 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$9,259,300, and 281,375 warrants were exercised for gross proceeds of \$126,619. The increase in cash provided by financing activities was partially offset by lease payments related to the Company's office in Vancouver.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS applicable to a going concern, which assumes that the Company will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business for the next twelve months.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

# **USE OF PROCEEDS**

The following table is a summary at September 30, 2023 of actual use of proceeds from the Company's two most recent financings:

	Gross Proceeds	Intended Use of Proceeds	Actual Use of Proceeds to Date
Proceeds from bought deal offering and non-brokered private placement on October 27, 2021	\$18,800,000		
Proceeds from non-brokered private placement on April 12, 2023	\$9,259,300		
	\$28,059,300		
October 27, 2021 financing:			
Johnson Tract exploration and development		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Expenditures on capital equipment		\$100,000	\$245,116
Cost of financing		\$1,038,275	\$1,038,275
General working capital		\$7,661,725	\$7,661,725
April 11, 2023 financing:			
Johnson Tract exploration and development		\$8,981,595	\$8,375,365
Expenditures on capital equipment		\$0	\$97,151
Cost of financing		\$277,705	\$277,705
General working capital			\$363,963
Total	\$28,059,300	\$28,059,300	\$28,059,300

# **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

# **Classification of financial instruments**

		September 30,	December 31,
	Ref.	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Financial assets at FVTPL	(a)	3,073,000	447,000
Financial assets at amortized cost	(b)	6,283,128	7,637,197
Financial liabilities at amortized cost	(c)	1,160,230	234,466

- (a) Comprised of marketable securities
- (b) Comprised of cash and amounts receivable excluding sales taxes receivable
- (c) Comprised of accounts payable and accrued liabilities



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

The fair value of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost approximates the carrying amount.

The Company's marketable securities carried at fair value have been classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy.

# **Management of Industry and Financial Risk**

The Company's financial instruments are exposed to certain financial risks, which include the following:

# Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of loss associated with a counterparty's inability to fulfil its payment obligations. The Company limits its exposure to credit loss for cash by placing its cash with high quality financial institutions and for trade receivables by performing standard credit checks. The credit risk for cash is considered negligible since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations when they become due. The Company ensures, as far as reasonably possible, that it will have sufficient capital in order to meet short-term business requirements, after taking into account cash flows from operations and the Company's holdings of cash. As at September 30, 2023, the Company has working capital of \$8,696,240 (December 31, 2022 - \$8,284,288). There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful with generating and maintaining profitable operations or will be able to secure future debt or equity financing for its working capital and expansion activities.

# Foreign exchange risk

The Company operates internationally and is exposed to foreign currency risk arising from currency exposures to Canadian dollars. The main currency to which the Company has an exposure is the U.S. dollar. The Company is exposed to currency risk to the extent of its cash and trade and other payables that are denominated in U.S. dollars. The Company does not currently hedge its exposure to fluctuations in the related foreign exchange rates.

Based on the Company's net US currency exposure as at September 30, 2023, and assuming all other variables remain constant, a 15% weakening or strengthening of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar would result in an increase/decrease of approximately \$55,000 in comprehensive income/loss for the period.

# Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates. The Company does not hold any assets or liabilities subject to variable interest rates, and as such, the Company is not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

# **Equity price risk**

Equity price risk arises from market fluctuations in equity prices that could adversely affect the Company's operations. The Company's current exposure to equity price risk is limited to declines in the values and volumes including those of its own shares, which could impede its ability to raise additional funds when



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

required and movements in individual equity prices or general movements in the level of the stock market. The Company closely monitors the individual equity movements and the stock market to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken by the Company. As at September 30, 2023, the Company's marketable securities of \$3,073,000 are subject to fair value fluctuations.

Based on the Company's marketable securities as at September 30, 2023, and assuming all other variables remain constant, a 10% increase/decrease in the fair value of marketable securities would result in an increase/decrease of approximately \$307,000 in comprehensive income/loss for the period.

# Capital management

Capital is comprised of the Company's shareholders' equity and any debt that it may issue. As at September 30, 2023, the Company's shareholders' equity totalled \$56,127,106 (December 31, 2022 - \$61,182,817). The Company's objectives when managing capital are to maintain financial viability and to protect its ability to meet its on-going liabilities, to continue as a going concern, to maintain creditworthiness and to maximize returns for shareholders over the long term. Protecting the ability to pay current and future liabilities includes maintaining capital above minimum regulatory levels, current financial strength rating requirements and internally determined capital guidelines and calculated risk management levels.

The Company's current capital was received from the issuance of common shares, options and warrants. The Company has done and continues to plan to use a significant portion of the net proceeds raised to date for the development of its current mineral properties and for the acquisition of additional mineral properties or assets.

The Company is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements as at September 30, 2023 except when the Company issues flow-through shares for which the amount should be used for exploration work.

There were no changes to the Company's approach to capital management during the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

# **OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

The Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements and no long-term debt obligations.

## TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had a total of \$2,672 (December 31, 2022 - \$905) payable to Mr. Ian Cunningham-Dunlop, Senior VP Operations for outstanding expense reimbursements payable.

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had a total of \$41,141 (December 31, 2022 - \$20,766) payable to Mr. Darwin Green, the Chief Executive Officer and a director for outstanding expense reimbursements payable.

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had a total of \$Nil (December 31, 2022 - \$2,671) payable to Mr. Aris Morfopoulos, Chief Financial Officer for outstanding expense reimbursements payable.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had a total of \$191,309 (December 31, 2022 - \$Nil) payable to Onyx Gold, a company with certain management and directors in common, that is noninterest bearing, unsecured, and has no specified terms of repayment. Subsequent to September 30, 2023, the balance owing was repaid.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company paid/accrued salaries, wages and benefits included in administrative expenses of \$60,000 (2022 - \$45,000), paid/accrued salaries, wages and benefits included in exploration and evaluation expenditures of \$120,000 (2022 - \$135,000) to Mr. Darwin Green, the Chief Executive Officer and a director of the Company.

During the nine months September 30, 2023, the Company paid/accrued salaries, wages and benefits included in administrative expenses of \$84,000 (2022 - \$72,000) and paid/accrued management to Mr. Aris Morfopoulos, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the Company.

During the nine months September 30, 2023, the Company paid/accrued salaries, wages and benefits included in exploration and evaluation expenditures of \$131,665 (2022 - \$164,996) to Mr. Ian Cunningham-Dunlop, Senior VP Exploration of the Company.

During the nine months September 30, 2023, the Company paid/accrued salaries, wages and benefits included in administrative expenses of \$135,000 (2022 - \$135,000) to Ms. Naomi Nemeth, VP Investor Relations of the Company.

During the nine months September 30, 2023, the Company paid director fees of \$9,375 (2022 - \$9,375) to each of the non-executive directors of the Company (Michael Cinnamond, Michael Gray, Lance Miller and Anne Labelle).

During the nine months September 30, 2023, the Company paid fees of \$250,000 (2022 - \$50,000) to a consulting firm partnership for financial, capital markets and strategic advisory services, of which \$150,000 (2022 - \$33,333) was charged to consulting expense, \$100,000 (2022 - \$Nil) was charged to share issue costs during the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Mr. Michael Gray, a director of the Company, is a partner of the firm, although he was not involved in providing any of its services to the Company.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded total share-based compensation of \$119,534 (2022 - \$442,693), of which \$78,306 (2022 - \$291,816) is included in administrative expenses and \$41,228 (2022 - \$150,877) is included in exploration and evaluation assets, related to the vesting of stock options previously granted to officers and directors of the Company.



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

### **OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

The following table shows the Company's share capital data as at September 30, 2023 and as of the date of this MD&A:

87,760,828		
5,260,829		
75,500		

In April 2023, the Company issued 14,029,243 shares at a price of \$0.66, pursuant to completion of a non-brokered private placement and 281,375 shares at a price of \$0.45, pursuant to the exercise of warrants.

93,097,157

# **Future Cash Requirements**

**Fully diluted** 

The Company's future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including, among others, its ability to earn cash flow from operations. Should the Company wish to pursue current and future business opportunities, additional funding will be required. If additional funds are raised through the issuance of equity securities, the percentage ownership of current shareholders will be reduced, and such equity securities may have rights, preferences, or privileges senior to those of the holders of the Company's common stock. No assurance can be given that additional financing will be available, or that it can be obtained on terms acceptable to the Company and its shareholders. If adequate funds are not available, the Company may not be able to meet its contractual requirements.

# **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgments and estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of expenses during the reporting period. Actual outcomes could differ from these judgments and estimates. The financial statements include judgments and estimates that, by their nature, are uncertain. The impacts of such judgments and estimates are pervasive throughout the financial statements, and may require accounting adjustments based on future occurrences. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised, and the revision affects both current and future periods.

# **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

Refer to the "Risk and Uncertainties" section of the annual MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2022. These factors remain primarily unchanged for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company's Board and its committees follow the recommended corporate governance guidelines for public companies while tailored to its size and operations to ensure transparency and accountability to shareholders. The current Board is comprised of five individuals, one of who is the Chief Executive Officer



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

of the Company. The Audit Committee is comprised of three members, all of whom are independent directors of the Company.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This MD&A contains certain statements that may constitute "forward looking statements". Forward looking statements include but are not limited to, statements regarding future anticipated business developments and the timing thereof, and business and financing plans. Although the Company believes that such statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Forward looking statements are typically identified by words such as: believe, expect, anticipate, intend, estimate, postulate and similar expressions, or which by their nature refer to future events. The Company cautions investors that any forward-looking statements by the Company are not guarantees of future performance, and that actual results may differ materially from those in forward looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, the Company's ability to continue its projected growth, to raise the necessary capital or to be fully able to implement its business strategies. This MD&A includes, but is not limited to, forward-looking statements regarding the Company's upcoming exploration plans for the year, the meeting of its Canadian flow-through expenditure obligations and its ability to meet its working capital needs for the next fiscal year.

Forward-looking statements contained herein are made as of the date of this MD&A and the Company disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise, except as required by applicable securities laws.

#### FINANCIAL AND DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, there has been no significant change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting since its inception on April 16, 2019.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate information systems, procedures and controls to ensure that information used internally and disclosed externally is complete, reliable and timely. Management is also responsible for establishing adequate internal controls over financial reporting to provide sufficient knowledge to support the representations made in this MD&A and the Company's financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2023 (together the "Interim Filings").

The management of the Company has filed the Venture Issuer Basic Certificate with the Interim Filings on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

In contrast to the certificate required for non-venture issuers under National Instrument 52-109 Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings ("NI 52-109"), the venture issuer basic certificate does not include representations relating to the establishment and maintenance of disclosure controls and procedures ("DC&P") and internal control over financial reporting ("ICFR"), as defined in NI 52-109. Investors should be aware that inherent limitations on the ability of certifying officers of a venture issuer to design and implement on a cost-effective basis DC&P and ICFR as defined in NI 52-109 may result



Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2023 (Expressed in Canadian Dollars)

in additional risks to the quality, reliability, transparency, and timeliness of interim and annual filings and other reports provided under securities legislation.

# **APPROVALS**

The Board of Directors of the Company has approved the disclosure contained in this MD&A. A copy of this MD&A will be provided to anyone who requests it.

lan Cunningham-Dunlop, P.Eng., Senior VP Exploration for HighGold Mining Inc. and a qualified person ("QP") as defined by Canadian National Instrument 43-101, has reviewed and approved the technical information contained in this document.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information pertaining to the Company is available on the SEDAR+ website at www.sedarplus.ca.