



NORTHERN VERTEX  
MINING CORP

**Management's Discussion and Analysis  
for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2017**

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## **NORTHERN VERTEX MINING CORP.**

### **Management's Discussion and Analysis for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2017**

The Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") of Northern Vertex Mining Corp. ("Northern Vertex" or the "Company"), has been prepared by management as of November 27, 2017 and provides information that management believes is relevant to assessing and understanding the financial condition of the Company and the results of its operations and cash flows for the three months ended September 30, 2017. This MD&A provides information on the operations of the Company for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and should be read in conjunction with the condensed interim consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto (the "Financial Statements"), as well as the audited annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2017, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB"). All currency amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Unless otherwise indicated, the technical disclosure contained within this MD&A has been reviewed and approved by Mr. L.J. Bardswich, P.Eng., General Manager of Golden Vertex Corp. ("Golden Vertex") and a Qualified Person for the purpose of National Instrument 43-101 ("NI 43-101"), Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects.

#### **1. Business Overview**

Northern Vertex's material mineral project is the 100% owned Moss Mine gold-silver deposit (the "Moss Mine Project") in Mohave County, Arizona. The Company is a development stage mining company focused on advancing the Moss Mine to near term production with construction activities currently well advanced. The Company's core management and technical team are proven professionals, with extensive international experience in all aspects of mineral exploration, mine development, operations, equity and debt financing and venture capital markets. The Company is a listed issuer on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSXV") and its common shares trade under the symbol NEE.

#### **2. First Fiscal Quarter 2017 Operating and Financial Highlights**

- The fabrication of the crushing plant was completed and included 4 crushing units, three rock boxes, 14 conveyors and the agglomeration circuit. The Company received plant components during August with installation commencing in September.
- N.A. Degerstrom ("NAD") completed the final grading for the initial leach pad cell just north of the solution ponds in anticipation of the first ore stacking. NAD has also completed the liner bedding in the west pad, central pad and east pad.
- American Environmental Group ("AEG") completed the secondary liner in the west pad and the pregnant leach solution pond was completed with a primary liner, leak detection geonet, and secondary liner. AEG moved over to completing the GCL liners for the upper sections of the west pad and central pad. The central pad area was also completed and ready for over-liner placement.
- Superstition Crushing ("Superstition") was awarded the contract to produce 170,000 tons of crushed and screened pad over-liner material. Superstition commenced mobilization and commenced crushing and screening operations.
- Great Basin Industrial ("GBI") completed the concrete pads for the primary, secondary and two tertiary crushers along with the secondary and tertiary rock boxes. In the Merrill Crowe area, GBI completed all of the tank pedestals, containments/sumps and has poured the floor slab for the equipment area.
- The Structural, Mechanical and Piping and the Electrical and Instrumentation contracts for the Merrill Crowe and refinery areas were awarded to GBI and commenced in September.
- The Company started to put its operational team in place and hired William (Bill) Martinich to the position of Mine Manager of the Moss Mine.

- The Company executed a definitive Master Lease Agreement (“MLA”) for up to US\$9 million with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation (“Cat Financial”) to fund the Company’s purchase of certain key pieces of equipment, including power generators, mobile equipment and the crushing plant for use at the Moss Mine.
- The final tranche of the US\$20 million non-brokered private placement (“the Greenstone Financing”) with Greenstone Resources II L.P. (“Greenstone”) was completed.
- The Company received an additional US\$5 million from Sprott Private Resource Lending (Collector), LP (“Sprott”) under its senior secured credit facility (the “Facility”).
- The Company closed a non-brokered private placement (the “Private Placement”) for gross proceeds of \$3,031,860.

Further details regarding the financings highlighted above are disclosed in the *Liquidity and Capital Resources* section of this MD&A.

### **3. Operations**

#### ***Moss Mine Project***

The Company owns 100% of the Moss Mine Project which is located approximately 15 km by road to the east of Bullhead City, in the historically significant Oatman Mining District of Mohave County Arizona. It comprises a total area of 4,030.8 hectares of mining claims and leases centered on the approximate location of the historical Moss Vein. The proven and probable ore reserves of 8,035,000 tonnes with an AuEq grade of 0.933 g/t containing 240,920 AuEq ounces (213,100 Au ounces and 2,396,590 Ag ounces) are within a central area of 15 patented lode claims totaling 102.8 hectares while the project hosts a measured and indicated resource of 15,480,000 tonnes with an AuEq grade of 0.87 gpt containing 435,000 AuEq ounces (377,000 Au ounces and 4,610,000 Ag ounces).

The key strategic priorities for the Company are to complete construction and enter commercial production.

#### ***Project Permitting***

The Company submitted two Right of Way (“ROW”) permit applications to the Bureau of Land Management (the “BLM”) in May 2017, for construction of a power-line partially on federal lands, and for eliminating vertical and horizontal curves and blind spots on the Moss Mine Access Road by widening onto adjacent federal lands. Both permit applications were deemed complete by the Kingman office of the BLM, were reviewed and items of environmental concern were identified and assessed for potential impacts. The major factors driving the applications are the elimination of diesel emissions to the atmosphere from on-site generators, and the increase in traffic safety for persons using the public county access road.

Biological and cultural inventory surveys were designed and implemented by Westland Resources Inc. of Tucson, Arizona, along the entire length of the proposed powerline and road reconstruction area. Concerns were expressed and in a pro-active approach, simple engineering design changes addressed the concerns and amended applications were submitted. Community support, including the enactment of resolutions of support by Bullhead City Council and Mohave County Board of Supervisors, for the two projects is widespread in recognition of the elimination of greenhouse gases and the improvements to vehicular traffic. The Company notes the enactment of Presidential Executive Order #13807 (August 15, 2017) and subsequent Secretarial Order #3355 (August 31, 2017), by Department of the Interior (the “DOI”) Secretary Zinke, that stipulate that federal permit and environmental assessment documents be limited in size and limited generally to one year for assessment and determination. The DOI administers the BLM. With the new orders, permitting times are expected to decrease significantly and the Company is hopeful that the passage of the Executive Orders will speed up the permitting processes for the ROW permits.

#### ***Project Engineering and Procurement***

Project engineering was substantially complete during the quarter. Procurement continued during the quarter but, with the majority of the equipment having been ordered and received at site as of the date of this MD&A, is starting to wind down.

### Construction and Civil Earthworks

Construction of the Moss Mine continued as the Company advances toward the first gold pour. As of the date of this MD&A the following construction had been completed or was in progress at the Moss Mine.

The crushing plant is mechanically complete with the installation of the 4 crushing units, three rock boxes, 14 conveyors and the agglomeration circuit. The agglomeration circuit, consisting of the cement silo and agglomeration drum, has been commissioned. The current focus is on the completion of the crusher electrical including the cable trays, cabling, conduit and instruments. Dry commissioning of the crushing plant has commenced and wet commissioning will commence once the Programmable Logic Controller programming is complete.

Work has commenced on the diesel power station for the project. GBI has poured the concrete pedestals for the 8 Caterpillar generators and transformers, and the first 4 generators have arrived and have been set. Three 10,000-gallon fuel tanks have arrived at site and the erection of poles for overhead power distribution across the mine site is nearly complete. Empire CAT has supplied a temporary 2 Megawatt power plant for commissioning.

NAD continues to advance the leach pad and pond earthworks and AEG is following with liner installations. The completed pond works include the west event pond, the south event pond and the pregnant solution pond. All of the major grading in the leach pad is complete and roughly 90% of the pad has been covered with at least one sheet of liner. Placement of inter-liner leak detection sand and piping continues in the west pad area and placement of overliner drainrock is progressing in the central and east pad areas.

Superstition has been onsite since late September and has produced 170,000 tons of clean drainrock for use as overliner in the completed portions of the leach pad. The Superstition overliner contract is complete and the contractor has commenced demobilization.

GBI continue to make good progress in the Merrill Crowe and refinery areas. All the required tankage is complete along with the installation of the major equipment including the clarifier filters, precipitate filter presses, associated pumps and piping. The refinery building shell has been erected and the focus of construction is now shifting to completing the piping and commencing the electrical work.

### Preliminary Economic Assessment

Subsequent to September 30, 2017, the Company released a preliminary economic assessment ("PEA"), in respect of the mine life extension at the Moss Mine, with highlights as follows:

|                                   | <b>Years 1-4</b>   | <b>Years 5-10</b>   | <b>Life of Mine</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Annual Production                 | 1.9 million tonnes | 1.9 million tonnes  |                     |
| Mineralized Material to Leach     | 7.1 million tonnes | 10.0 million tonnes | 17.1 million tonnes |
| Strip Ratio                       | 1.77               | 1.92                | 1.85                |
| Average Gold grade - gpt          | 0.95               | 0.52                | 0.70                |
| Average Silver grade - gpt        | 10.5               | 6.78                | 8.33                |
| Average "AuEq" grade* - gpt       | 1.12               | 0.62                | 0.83                |
| Recoveries to Doré                | Au - 82%, Ag - 65% | Au - 82%, Ag - 65%  | Au - 82%, Ag - 65%  |
| Contained Gold - troz oz          | 216,750            | 165,150             | 381,900             |
| Contained AuEq - troy oz          | 255,209            | 199,916             | 455,125             |
| Gold Production - troy oz         | 167,170            | 145,980             | 313,150             |
| AuEq Metal - troy oz              | 190,740            | 170,010             | 360,750             |
| Capital Costs (incl indirects)**  |                    |                     | US\$61.6 million    |
| Operating Costs                   | US\$76.6 million   | US\$113.5 million   | US\$190.021 million |
| AuEq Cash Cost per troy oz.       | US\$401            | US\$667             | US\$527             |
| Cash Cost net of Ag credits       | US\$283            | US\$573             | US\$418             |
| AISC per troy oz AuEq.            | US\$472            | US\$753             | US\$603             |
| Life of Mine                      |                    |                     | 10 years            |
| IRR (before/after tax)            |                    |                     | 73.1% / 52.5%       |
| NPV 5% (before/after tax)         |                    |                     | US\$133M / US\$93M  |
| Payback Period (before/after tax) |                    |                     | 20 mo. / 27 mo.     |

\* Gold equivalent ounces of silver calculated by multiplying by 20 and dividing by 1250

\*\* Includes US\$37.5 million of previously funded Phase II committed costs.

The PEA results were previously disclosed in the Company's news release dated October 9th, 2017. The PEA sets out the technical and economic viability of extending the Moss Mine to include mining of resources not included in feasibility reserves. This scenario includes surface disturbance and an expansion of the mine facilities onto federal public lands administered by the BLM and would therefore require the submission and approval of a Mine Plan of Operations.

### *Project Finance*

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, the Company completed the final tranche of a US\$20,000,000 non-brokered private placement with Greenstone, issuing 23,849,230 units at a price of \$0.52 per unit for gross proceeds of US\$9,213,670. The Company also closed a separate non-brokered private placement raising gross proceeds of \$3,031,860, issuing 5,830,500 units at a purchase price of \$0.52 per unit.

The Company drew a third tranche of US\$5,000,000 from its Facility with Sprott. A total of US\$15 million has been received under the Facility and the remaining fourth tranche of US\$5,000,000 may be drawn subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions.

The Facility with Sprott provides for a security carve-out for certain equipment financing. The Company executed a definitive MLA with Cat Financial and received funding for the crushing plant and ancillary mobile equipment of approximately US\$5,900,000. Approximately US\$3,100,000 remains available to be drawn on the MLA to be used for the purchase of diesel generators and mobile equipment.

Material terms and conditions regarding the non-brokered private placements, the senior secured credit facility and the equipment finance lease facility are included in the *Liquidity and Capital Resources* section of this MD&A.

### **Exploration**

During the quarter, the Company, in acknowledgment of the advantages of having a producing mine serving as a central focus in the Oatman area, recognized the importance of possibly expanding the resource base through detailed exploration of their extensive claim holdings in the Oatman area. Historically, the Oatman epithermal deposits have produced in excess of 2 million ounces of gold from three historical mines and little modern exploration has been conducted in the area with the exception of programs by Fischer-Watt Gold. On October 16, 2017 the Company announced the appointment of Frank (Bud) Hillemeier and Perry Durning as exploration advisors for the Oatman District through an agreement with La Cuesta International Inc.

Perry Durning and Frank (Bud) Hillemeier formed La Cuesta International in 1993 after roughly a decade together at Fischer-Watt Gold, an Arizona and Nevada-based mineral exploration firm. Perry and Bud are recognized for their outstanding record of grassroots discoveries and, in 2010, received the Thayer Lindsley International Mineral Discoveries Award. Perry and Bud possess proprietary knowledge and data that allows for quick advancement of the Company's exploration program.

During November 2017 they led field reconnaissance trips across the Oatman district, advised on the engagement of additional technical staff, and recommended an initial program of mapping and sampling of specific targets of interest that were identified within the district. This program is scheduled to commence in December 2017.

## **4. Summary of Quarterly Results**

|   | <b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2017</b> | <b>Three Months Ended June 30, 2017</b> | <b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2017</b> | <b>Three Months Ended December 31, 2016</b> | <b>Three Months Ended September 30, 2016</b> | <b>Three Months Ended June 30, 2016</b> | <b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2016</b> | <b>Three Months Ended December 31, 2015</b> |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Revenue <sup>1</sup>                      | \$ -   | \$ -                                    | \$ -                                     | \$ -  | \$ -   | \$ -                                    | \$ -                                     | \$ -  |
| Net (loss) income                         | (2,546,135) <sup>2</sup>                     | (1,146,725) <sup>3</sup>                | (1,530,550) <sup>4</sup>                 | (887,779) <sup>5</sup>                      | (926,188) <sup>6</sup>                       | (2,593,404) <sup>7</sup>                | (3,770,409) <sup>8</sup>                 | 461,594 <sup>9</sup>                        |
| Basic and diluted (loss) income per share | (0.02)                                       | (0.01)                                  | (0.02)                                   | (0.01)                                      | (0.01)                                       | (0.03)                                  | (0.04)                                   | 0.01  |

<sup>1</sup> As the Company is in the development phase and not in commercial production there are no sales.

<sup>2</sup> Net loss increased during the quarter as an unrealized foreign exchange loss of \$1,712,095 related to an increase in US cash held and was attributable to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar during the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Included an unrealized foreign exchange loss of \$506,920 relating to US cash held that was attributable to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar during the quarter and was offset by an interest expense decrease resulting from the capitalization of borrowing costs. The net impact was a decrease in net loss for the quarter.

<sup>4</sup> Included a fair value loss on gold call options issued in connection with the Facility and increased interest expense which resulted in an increased net loss for the quarter.

<sup>5</sup> Included a fair value gain on gold call options issued in connection with the Facility and a reduced deferred tax recovery which resulted in a decreased net loss for the quarter.

<sup>6</sup> Included was a deferred tax recovery of \$514,429 related to the first tranche of convertible debentures issuance which reduced the net loss for the quarter.

<sup>7</sup> Included was a non-cash unrealized foreign exchange loss of \$1,411,756 that was attributed to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar from the previous quarter end.

<sup>8</sup> Included was a non-cash unrealized foreign exchange loss of \$3,144,066 that was attributed to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar.

<sup>9</sup> Included was a non-cash unrealized foreign exchange gain of \$1,746,381 that was attributed to the strengthening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar.

The increase in net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2017 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2017 was primarily due to an increase in unrealized foreign exchange loss relating to an increase in US cash held due to recent financings and was attributable to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar during the quarter. In addition, finance costs increased during the first fiscal quarter of 2018 due to increased interest related to a larger debt balance outstanding.

The decrease in net loss for the three months ended June 30, 2017 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017 was partially due to a decrease in interest expense relating to the capitalization of borrowing costs in the fourth fiscal quarter of 2017. The decrease in interest expense was partially offset by an unrealized foreign exchange loss relating to US cash held that was attributable to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar during the quarter. A fair value gain on the gold options during the current quarter compared with a fair value loss in the previous quarter also contributed to the decrease in net loss.

The increase in net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2017 compared to the three months ended December 31, 2016 was largely due to an increase in finance costs related to the Facility. Long term debt interest expense and related financing costs increased as the average amount of debt outstanding during the current quarter was higher compared to the quarter ended December 31, 2016. Finance costs also increased as the Company recorded a fair value loss on the gold call options during the current quarter as the spot price of gold increased compared to December 31, 2016. Comparatively, the loss in the quarter ended December 31, 2016 was offset due a fair value gain related to the gold call options.

The decrease in net loss for the three months ended December 31, 2016 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2016 was due to an increase in finance income and lower severance expenses which were offset by a reduced deferred tax recovery. Finance income increased due to a fair value gain on gold call options and was offset by an increase in long term debt interest expense. A one time deferred tax recovery of \$514,429 was recorded during the quarter ended September 30, 2016 which related to a convertible debenture issuance of \$7,225,000 which did not occur in the quarter ended December 31, 2016. There were no severance expenses recorded during the quarter ended December 31, 2016.

The variation in net loss for the three months ended September 30, 2016 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2016 reflected a non-cash unrealized foreign exchange loss that was included in the net loss for the three months ended June 30, 2016 but not for the three months ended September 30, 2016. In addition, a deferred tax recovery of \$514,429, relating to the issuance of convertible debentures, was realized during the quarter ended September 30, 2016 which did not occur in the quarter ended June 30, 2016.

The decrease in net loss for the three months ended June 30, 2016 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2016 reflected an increase in general and administration during the three months ended June 30, 2016 which was offset by a larger foreign exchange loss during the three months ended March 31, 2016. Increased general and administrative costs during the quarter ended June 30, 2016 related to the expensing of supporting site costs for the Moss Mine while larger foreign exchange losses during the quarter ended March 31, 2016 were the result of the weakening of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar to a larger extent than when compared to the quarter ended June 30, 2016.

The variation in net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared to the net income for the three months ended December 31, 2015 reflected a decrease in general and administration due to an increase in professional fees during the second quarter relating to the arbitration with Golden Patriot. The Company also recorded an unrealized

foreign exchange loss of \$3,144,066 in the three months ended March 31, 2016 due to the weakening of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar compared with a gain during the comparative period.

The variation in net income for the three months ended December 31, 2015 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2015 reflected the increased professional, consulting and travel costs incurred as the Company prepared for and participated in the arbitration. The Company also recorded an unrealized foreign exchange gain of \$1,746,381 in the three months ended December 31, 2015 due to the strengthening of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar relating to intercompany loans.

Further information relating to factors which have caused period to period variations is included in the *Results of Operations* section of this MD&A.

## **5. Results of Operations**

For the three months ended September 30, 2017, the Company incurred a net loss of \$2,546,135, compared to net loss of \$926,188 for the three months ended September 30, 2016. The factors contributing to the loss as compared to the prior period quarter's net loss are discussed below.

### *Administrative Expenses*

For the three months ended September 30, 2017, the Company incurred total administrative expenses of \$715,681 (2016: \$1,286,709), which included a non-cash share-based payment expense of \$65,167 (2016: \$307,001); salaries, wages, and severance expenses of \$145,145 (2016: \$572,905); professional fees of \$131,395 (2016: \$194,813); and marketing and travel of \$228,840 (2016: \$121,821).

The following significant variances are noted between current and prior period quarters. The decrease in salaries, wages and severance was primarily related to severance payments to former employees who departed the Company during the quarter ended September 30, 2016 but not the current quarter. A decrease in professional fees was largely the result of financing due diligence relating to an abandoned financing in the previous comparative quarter but not in the current quarter. Marketing and travel increased due to an increased presence at industry conferences and increased marketing related to the development of the Moss Mine. The decrease in share-based payment expenses was due to the issuance of 2,645,000 stock options during the quarter ended September 30, 2016 compared with 750,000 stock options issued in late September 2017.

### *Other Income (Expenses) and Deferred Income Taxes*

The Company recorded a foreign exchange loss of \$1,712,095 during the three months ended September 30, 2017, compared to a gain of \$1,598 in the three months ended September 30, 2016. The foreign exchange loss for the current quarter was primarily due to an increase in unrealized foreign exchange loss relating to an increase in US cash held due to recent financings and was attributable to the weakening of the US dollar in comparison to the Canadian dollar during the current quarter.

For the three months ended September 30, 2017 the Company recorded finance costs of \$118,359, consisting of interest expense, fair value loss on gold call options and offset by interest income.

## **6. Liquidity and Capital Resources**

During the quarter ended September 30, 2017, the Company completed the following financings.

### *Senior Secured Credit Facility*

The Company drew a third tranche of US\$5,000,000 from its Facility with Sprott. A total of US\$15 million has been received under the Facility and the remaining fourth tranche of US\$5,000,000 may be drawn subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions.

### *Equipment Finance Lease Facility*

On September 26, 2017, the Company executed a definitive MLA for up to US\$9,000,000 of equipment purchases. As at September 30, 2017, the Company has purchased approximately US\$5,900,000 in equipment under the MLA and has



approximately US\$3,100,000 available for future equipment purchases. Fees paid in connection with the MLA were \$280,800 (US\$225,000) and commitment fees of 0.05% of the unused portion of the MLA are due quarterly.

The significant terms and conditions of the MLA include: a maximum of US\$9,000,000 available to fund equipment purchases with 20% to 30% due as advance payments at lease commencement, fixed quarterly payments over a four year lease period, interest rate of 3-month USD LIBOR plus interest rates ranging from 5.00% to 6.25% and the right to buy the equipment at the end of the lease period for nominal consideration. The MLA is secured with the acquired assets in favour of the lender and a guarantee from the Company.

#### *Non-Brokered Private Placements*

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, the Company completed the final tranche of a US\$20,000,000 non-brokered private placement with Greenstone, issuing 23,849,230 units at a price of \$0.52 per unit for gross proceeds of \$12,401,600 (US\$9,213,670). Each unit consists of one common share of the Company and one half non-transferable common share purchase warrant. Each warrant has a term of five years and entitles the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at an exercise price of \$0.91 for a period of two years from the date of issuance of the warrant and at a price of \$1.04 for the remainder of the term of the warrant. No finders' fees or commissions were payable in connection with the Greenstone Financing.

The Company also closed a non-brokered private placement raising gross proceeds of \$3,031,860, of which \$2,381,600 was received during the year ended June 30, 2017. Pursuant to the private placement, the Company issued an aggregate of 5,830,500 units at a purchase price of \$0.52 per unit. Each unit consists of one common share of the Company and one half non-transferable common share purchase warrant. Each warrant has a term of five years and entitles the holder to acquire one common share of the Company at an exercise price of \$0.91 for a period of two years from the date of issuance of the warrant and at a price of \$1.04 for the remainder of the term of the warrant. Cash finders' fees of 6% on a portion of the gross proceeds raised under the private placement, totaling \$147,513 were paid to certain finders at arm's length to the Company.

The Company intends to use the net proceeds of the private placements for the continued development and construction of its Moss Mine and for general working capital and general corporate purposes.

#### *Liquidity and Capital Resources*

As at September 30, 2017, the Company had cash of \$32,277,486 (June 30, 2017: \$24,985,035). The increase in cash compared to the year ended June 30, 2017 was primarily due to the receipt of cash proceeds from the second tranche of the Greenstone Financing, the equipment finance lease facility and the third tranche of the Facility.

Cash provided by financing activities during the three months ended September 30, 2017 was \$24,463,589 (2016: \$6,544,025) and primarily consisted of cash received from the non-brokered private placements, the third tranche of the Facility and the equipment finance lease facility.

Cash used in investing activities during the three months ended September 30, 2017 totalled \$14,892,483 (2016: \$869,917) and consisted primarily cash used for expenditures for property, plant and equipment related to equipment purchases, detailed engineering, permitting and the construction of the Moss Mine.

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, working capital decreased by \$1,803,137 to \$19,018,635 from \$20,821,772. The working capital decrease was attributable primarily to an increase in payables and the current portion of long-term debt that is due within a year.

The Company's ongoing liquidity needs will be funded from current cash, remaining availability of current debt facilities and further financings as required to meet its short-term growth objectives, including the completion of construction and commission of the Moss Mine. The Company's ability to secure additional financing is in part dependent on overall market conditions, the price of gold and other factors outside the Company's control and there is no guarantee the Company will be able to secure any or all required financing in the future.

## 7. Subsequent Events

In addition to subsequent events disclosed in other parts of this MD&A, subsequent to September 30, 2017:

- the Company issued 1,267,024 common shares to satisfy an anniversary fee of US\$450,000 in accordance with the terms of the Facility.
- 900,000 options at an exercise price of \$1.40 expired on November 11, 2017.
- \$250,000 convertible debentures were converted into 500,000 shares at a conversion price of \$0.50 per common share.

## 8. Contractual Obligations

### *Office space lease agreements*

The Company has entered into lease agreements for office space with terms that expire at various dates through to March 2022, as disclosed in Note 17 to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements.

### *Other commitments*

The Company has contractual commitments to acquire property, plant, and equipment as disclosed in Note 5 in the condensed interim consolidated financial statements.

The Company is committed to making finder's fee payments regarding royalty payments on future commercial production as disclosed in Note 6 to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements.

## 9. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At the date of this MD&A, there were no off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future effect on the financial performance or financial condition of the Company.

## 10. Related Party Transactions

Related party transactions were incurred in the normal course of business and measured at their fair value as determined by management. Amounts due to or from related parties are non-interest bearing, unsecured and due on demand.

Balances due to related parties are as follows:

|                                   |    | <b>September 30,<br/>2017</b> |    | June 30,<br>2017 |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|------------------|
| Shared office expenses receivable | \$ | <b>8,224</b>                  | \$ | 1,373            |
| Consulting fees payable           | \$ | -                             | \$ | 17,863           |

Related party transactions are as follows:

|                                   |       |    | <b>Three Months Ended</b>     |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                   | Notes |    | <b>September 30,<br/>2017</b> | September 30,<br>2016 |
| Consulting fees                   | (i)   | \$ | <b>78,250</b>                 | \$ 67,500             |
| Shared office (recovery) expenses | (ii)  | \$ | <b>(6,772)</b>                | \$ 1,148              |

- (i) Consulting fees charged by companies controlled by certain directors of the Company are included in professional fees, salaries and wages, and mining interest expenditures.

- (ii) Shared office expenses charged to and from a company with directors in common are included in marketing, rent, travel, and office expenses.

### **Commitments with related parties**

The Company has entered into a corporate services agreement with a related company for clerical, accounting, regulatory filing and geological services. The minimum monthly fee under the agreement is \$10,000 and renews annually.

### **Key management personnel compensation**

The remuneration of the Company's directors and other key management personnel for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 is as follows:

|                                  | <b>Three Months Ended</b>     |                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                  | <b>September 30,<br/>2017</b> | September 30,<br>2016 |
| Salaries and short-term benefits | \$ <b>238,577</b>             | \$ 274,083            |
| Termination benefits             | \$ -                          | \$ 400,000            |
| Share-based payments             | \$ <b>45,998</b>              | \$ 242,816            |

Termination benefits were due to a one-time event and are not expected to occur annually.

### **11. Conflicts of Interest**

The Company's directors and officers may serve as directors or officers, or may be associated with, other reporting companies, or have significant shareholdings in other public companies. To the extent that such other companies may participate in business or asset acquisitions, dispositions, or ventures in which the Company may participate, the directors and officers of the Company may have a conflict of interest in negotiating and concluding terms respecting the transaction. If a conflict of interest arises, the Company will follow the provisions of the Business Corporations Act (BC) ("Corporations Act") dealing with any conflict of interest. These provisions state that where a director has such a conflict, that director must, at a meeting of the Company's directors, disclose his or her interest and refrain from voting on the matter unless otherwise permitted by the Corporations Act. In accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia, the directors and officers of the Company are required to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Company.

### **12. Proposed Transactions**

As of the date of this MD&A, there were no proposed asset or business acquisitions or dispositions.

### **13. Adoption of New Accounting Standards**

There have been no changes to IFRS and IFRIC effective July 1, 2017 that impact the Company's condensed interim consolidated financial statements.

### **14. Future Accounting Policy Changes Issued but not yet in Effect**

Pronouncements that may have a significant impact to the Company have been included in the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016.

### **15. Corporate Governance**

The Company's Board of Directors and its committees adhere to recommended corporate governance guidelines for public companies listed on the TSXV to ensure transparency and accountability to shareholders. The current Board of Directors is comprised of six individuals, three of whom are independent of management as they are neither executive officers nor employees of the Company. The Audit Committee is currently comprised of three directors, who are

independent of management.

The Audit Committee's role is to ensure the integrity of the Company's reported financial results through its review of the interim and audited annual consolidated Financial Statements prior to their submission to the Board of Directors for approval. The Audit Committee meets with management quarterly to review the consolidated Financial Statements, as well as the MD&A, and to discuss financial, operating and other matters.

## 16. Outstanding Share Data

The total number of outstanding common shares, share options, and warrants at November 27, 2017 are 174,418,969, 5,655,000 and 44,371,269 respectively.

## 17. Financial Instruments and Financial Risk Management

The carrying values of cash, trade and other receivables, and trade and other payables approximate their fair values due to the short-term nature of these instruments.

In evaluating fair value information, considerable judgment is required to interpret the market data used to develop the estimates. The use of different market assumptions and different valuation techniques may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts. Accordingly, the estimates of fair value presented herein may not be indicative of the amounts that could be realized in a current market exchange.

The Company classifies its financial instruments measured at fair value at one of three levels according to the relative reliability of the inputs used to estimate the fair value in the fair value hierarchy.

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly. The Company has classified gold call options as Level 2.

Level 3 – Inputs that are not based on observable market data. The Company has no financial instruments classified in Level 3.

The following table illustrates the classification of the Company's financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy as at September 30, 2017:

|                                   | Level 1       | Level 2      | Level 3 | Total         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| <b>Financial Assets</b>           |               |              |         |               |
| Cash                              | \$ 32,277,486 | \$ -         | \$ -    | \$ 32,277,486 |
| Accounts receivable               | 93,143        | -            | -       | 93,143        |
|                                   | 32,370,629    | -            | -       | 32,370,629    |
| <b>Financial Liabilities</b>      |               |              |         |               |
| Trade and other payables          | (8,534,469)   | -            | -       | (8,534,469)   |
| Current portion of long term debt | (4,160,000)   | -            | -       | (4,160,000)   |
| Current portion of finance lease  | (965,164)     | -            | -       | (965,164)     |
| Gold Call Options                 | -             | (555,014)    | -       | (555,014)     |
|                                   | \$ 18,710,996 | \$ (555,014) | \$ -    | \$ 18,155,982 |

The Company's risk management policies are established to identify and analyze the risks faced by the Company, to set appropriate risk limits and controls and to monitor risks and adherence to market conditions and the Company's activities. The Company has exposure to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk as a result of its use of financial instruments.

This note presents information about the Company's exposure to each of the above risks and the Company's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing these risks. Further quantitative disclosures are included throughout the consolidated financial statements. The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Company's risk management framework. The Board has implemented and monitors compliance with risk management policies.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company if a client or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The Company has credit risk in respect of its cash, trade and other receivables, and reclamation deposits. The Company considers the risk of loss relating to cash and reclamation deposits to be low because these instruments are held only with a Canadian Schedule I financial institution, a US-chartered commercial bank and a US government agency. Accounts receivable at September 30, 2017 related primarily to amounts for a refund and value-added taxes are expected to be collectible in full due to the nature of the counterparties and previous history of collectability.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will incur difficulties meeting its financial obligations as they are due. The Company's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions without incurring unacceptable losses or risking harm to the Company's reputation.

The Company manages its liquidity risk through the preparation of annual expenditure budgets, which are regularly monitored and updated as management considers necessary, and through the Company's capital management activities.

(c) Market risk

Market risk consists of currency risk, commodity price risk and interest rate risk. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable limits while maximizing returns.

(i) Currency risk

Foreign currency exchange rate risk is the risk that the fair values or future cash flows of the Company's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Company is considered to be in development stage and has not yet developed commercial mineral interests; the underlying market prices realized by the Company for mineral sales are impacted by changes in the exchange rate between the Canadian and the US dollar. The Company has not entered into any formal arrangements to hedge currency risk but does maintain cash balances within each currency. Canadian dollars are exchanged when needed to meet foreign denominated liabilities.

At September 30, 2017, \$26,658,822 (US\$21,361,235) of the Company's cash was denominated in US dollars. A 10% variation in the US dollar exchange rate would result in an impact of approximately \$1,822,299 on consolidated the statements of loss.

(ii) Commodity price risk

Commodity price risk is the risk that the current and future cash flows from the Company's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in commodity prices. Commodity prices for minerals are impacted by world economic events that dictate the levels of supply and demand as well as the relationship between the Canadian and US dollar, as outlined above. Management closely monitors trends in commodity prices of gold and other precious and base metals as part of its routine activities, as these trends could significantly impact future cash flows. Fluctuations in gold prices affect the fair market value of the Gold Call Options as the fair value is based on the market price of gold at the end of each period. A 10% fluctuation in the price of gold would result in an impact of approximately US\$448,916 on the consolidated statements of loss.

(iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair values or future cash flows of the Company's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk arises from the interest rate impact on cash, which are held at variable market rates. The Company is also exposed to interest rate risk on its outstanding borrowings. The Company pays interest monthly for its senior secured credit facility, at an annual interest rate of 12-month USD LIBOR plus 8% and pays interest quarterly for its finance lease, at an annual

rate of 3-month USD LIBOR plus interest rates ranging from 5% to 6.25%. With other variables unchanged, a 1% increase on the Company's floating rate debt would increase annual interest expense by \$245,849 (US\$196,994). The Company closely monitors its exposure to interest rate risk and has not entered into any derivative contracts to manage this risk.

## **18. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Company is in the business of acquiring and exploring mineral properties. It is exposed to a number of risks and uncertainties that are common to other mineral exploration companies in the same business. The industry is capital intensive at all stages and is subject to variations in commodity prices, market sentiment, exchange rates for currency, inflation and other risks. Apart from financings, the Company currently has no additional sources of cash. The Company continues to evaluate financing alternatives to advance the Moss Mine.

The risks and uncertainties described in this section are not inclusive of all the risks and uncertainties to which the Company may be subject.

### **Need for Additional Funds**

The Company has no history of profitable operations and its present business is at an early stage. As such, the Company is subject to many risks common to other companies in the same business, including under-capitalization, cash shortages and limitations with respect to personnel, financial and other resources. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in achieving a return on shareholders' investments and the likelihood of success must be considered in light of its early stage of operations.

The Company may require additional financings to further the development of the Moss Mine. There can be no assurance that such financing will be available or, if available, will be on reasonable terms. If financing is obtained by issuing common shares from treasury, control of the Company may change and investors may suffer additional dilution. Furthermore, if financing is not available, lease expiry dates, work commitments, rental payments and option payments, if any, may not be satisfied and could result in a loss of the shareholders' entire investment.

### **Exploration and Development**

Exploration for and development of gold properties involves significant financial risks which even a combination of careful evaluation, experience and knowledge may not eliminate. While the discovery of an ore body may result in substantial rewards, few properties which are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines. Major expenses may be required to establish mineral reserves by drilling, constructing mining and processing facilities at a site, developing metallurgical processes and extracting gold from ore. We cannot ensure that our current exploration and development programs will result in profitable commercial mining operations.

The economic feasibility of development projects is based upon many factors, including the accuracy of mineral resource and mineral reserve estimates; metallurgical recoveries; capital and operating costs; government regulations relating to prices, taxes, royalties, land tenure, land use, importing and exporting and environmental management and protection; and gold prices, which are highly volatile. Development projects are also subject to the successful completion of feasibility studies, issuance of necessary governmental permits and availability of adequate financing.

### **Metal Prices**

The mining industry, in general, is intensely competitive and there is no assurance that a profitable market will exist for the sale of metals produced even if commercial quantities of precious and/or base metals are discovered. Factors beyond the control of the Company may affect the marketability of metals discovered. Pricing is affected by numerous factors beyond the Company's control, such as international economic and political trends, global or regional consumption and demand patterns, increased production and smelter availability. There is no assurance that the price of metals recovered from any mineral deposit will be such that they can be mined at a profit.

### **Title Risks**

The Company has taken steps to verify title to mining interests in which it has or is in the process of earning an interest in, including review of condition of title reports, vesting deeds, mining claim location notices and filings, and property tax and other public records and is not presently aware of any title defects. The procedures the Company has undertaken and may undertake in the future to verify title provide no assurance that the underlying properties are not subject to prior agreements or transfers of which the Company is unaware.

## **Environmental Regulations, Permits and Licenses**

The current operations of the Company require permits from various federal and state authorities and such operations are subject to laws and regulations governing prospecting, exploration, development, mining, production, exports, taxes, labour standards, occupational health, waste disposal, toxic substances, land use, environmental, mine safety and other matters. Environmental legislation in the State of Arizona provides restrictions and prohibition on spills, releases or emissions of various substances produced in association with certain mining industry operations, such as seepage from process ponds, which would result in environmental pollution. A breach of such legislation may result in imposition of fines and penalties. In addition, certain types of operations require the submission and approval of environmental impact statements. Environmental legislation is evolving in a direction of stricter standards and enforcement and higher fines and penalties for non-compliance. Environmental assessments of proposed projects carry a heightened degree of responsibility for companies, directors, officers and employees. The cost of compliance with changes in governmental regulations has the potential to reduce the profitability of operations. The Company intends to fully comply with all environmental regulations.

The Company believes that it is in substantial compliance with all material laws and regulation which currently apply to its activities. There can be no assurance that all permits which the Company may require for its exploration activities and operations will be obtainable on reasonable terms or on a timely basis or that such laws and regulations would not have an adverse effect on any mining project which the Company might undertake.

## **Competition and Agreements with Other Parties**

The mining industry is intensely competitive in all its phases and the Company competes with other companies that have greater financial resources and technical capacity. Competition could adversely affect the Company's ability to acquire suitable properties or prospects in the future.

The Company may, in the future, be unable to meet its share of costs incurred under such agreements to which it is party and it may have its interest in the properties subject to such agreements reduced as a result. Also, if other parties to such agreements do not meet their share of such costs, the Company may not be able to finance the expenditures required to complete recommended programs.

## **Economic Conditions**

Unfavourable economic conditions may negatively impact the Company's financial viability. Unfavourable economic conditions could also increase the Company's financing costs, decrease net income or increase net loss, limit access to capital markets and negatively impact the availability of credit facilities to the Company.

## **Dependence on Management**

The Company is very dependent upon the personal efforts and commitment of its existing management. To the extent that management's services would be unavailable for any reason, a disruption to the operations of the Company could result and other persons would be required to manage and operate the Company.

## **19. Disclosure Controls and Procedures and Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting**

Management is responsible for the preparation and integrity of the Financial Statements and maintains appropriate information systems, procedures and controls to ensure that information used internally and disclosed externally is complete and reliable.

Management is also responsible for the design of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting in order to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of Financial Statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS.

Readers are cautioned that the Company is not required to certify the design and evaluation of its disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting and has not completed such an evaluation. The inherent limitations on the ability of the Company's certifying officers to design and implement on a cost-effective basis disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting for the Company may result in additional risks to the quality, reliability, transparency and timeliness of interim and annual filings and other reports provided under securities legislation.

## **20. Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Information**

The Company's consolidated financial statements and this accompanying MD&A contain statements that constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of National Instrument 51-102, Continuous Disclosure Obligations of the Canadian Securities Administrators. Forward-looking statements often, but not always, are identified by the use of words such as "seek", "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "estimate", "expect", "targeting" and "intend" and statements that an event or result "may", "will", "should", "could", or "might" occur or be achieved and other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements in this MD&A include but are not limited to statements regarding the Company's future exploration and development plans and expenditures, the satisfaction of rights and performance of obligations under agreements to which the Company is a party, the ability of the Company to hire and retain employees and consultants and estimated administrative and other expenditures. The forward-looking statements that are contained in this MD&A involve a number of risks and uncertainties. As a consequence, actual results might differ materially from results forecast or suggested in these forward-looking statements. Some of these risks and uncertainties are identified under the heading "RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES" in this MD&A. Additional information regarding these factors and other important factors that could cause results to differ materially may be referred to as part of particular forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the important factors discussed under the heading "RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES" and to those that may be discussed as part of particular forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause the actual results to differ include market prices, exploration success, continued availability of capital and financing, inability to obtain required regulatory approvals and general market conditions. These statements are based on a number of assumptions, including assumptions regarding general market conditions, the timing and receipt of regulatory approvals, the ability of the Company and other relevant parties to satisfy regulatory requirements, the availability of financing for proposed transactions and programs on reasonable terms and the ability of third-party service providers to deliver services in a timely manner. 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 may be required by law. If the Company does update one or more forward-looking statements, no inference should be drawn that it will make additional updates with respect to those or other forward-looking statements. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

## **21. Approval**

The Board of Directors of the Company has approved the disclosure contained in this MD&A.

## **22. Additional Information**

Additional information related to the Company can be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on the Company's website at [www.northernvertex.com](http://www.northernvertex.com).