

# Management's Discussion and Analysis

# Year Ended - December 31, 2022

(Expressed in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise noted)

April 12, 2023

For further information on the Company, including the Company's Annual Information Form ("AIF"), reference should be made to its public filings on SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>. Information is also available on the Company's website at <a href="www.chesapeakegold.com">www.chesapeakegold.com</a>. This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, and related notes thereto which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The MD&A contains certain forward looking statements, please review the disclaimers that are provided on the last page of the report.

# **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**

Chesapeake Gold Corp. (the "Company") is a exploration and evaluation stage company focusing on the discovery, acquisition and development of major gold-silver deposits in North and South America. The Company trades on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol "CKG" and on the OTCQX market in the United States under the symbol CHPGF. The Company has its head office in Vancouver, B.C.

The Company's primary asset is the Metates project ("Metates") located in Durango State, Mexico. Metates hosts one of the largest in-situ undeveloped gold-silver deposits in the Americas. On July 26, 2021, the results of the Preliminary Economic Assessment (the "PEA") were published. The PEA focuses on the application of the sulphide heap leach technology as applied to the Metates project. The full PEA report has been filed on SEDAR with an effective date of August 30, 2021. This was amended in January 2023 with a new effective date of December 15, 2022. The report is available on SEDAR and the Company's website.

The Company also has a portfolio of exploration properties in Mexico comprising 115,484 hectares in the states of Durango, Oaxaca and Veracruz. As at the date of this report, the Company owns 68% of Gunpoint Exploration Ltd. ("Gunpoint") which owns the Talapoosa gold project in Nevada ("Talapoosa"). Gunpoint is publicly traded on the TSX Venture with a ticker symbol of "GUN".

# HIGHLIGHTS – FISCAL YEAR ENDED 2022

- Cash position of \$25.7 million as at December 31, 2022.
- During the year ended December 31, 2022, Gunpoint issued 3,443,333 to settle \$1.0 million of intercompany debt with the Company and \$1.0 million of debt with Mr. Randy Reifel (Gunpoint's president, and the Company's chairman). In addition, Gunpoint raised \$1.5 million though a non-brokered private placement. The completion of both transactions diluted the Company's ownership of Gunpoint to 68%.
- On September 13, 2022, the Company provided an update on the results of its metallurgical test work. The update included the results from the initial sample column started in May 2021, which achieved an oxidation rate of approximately 30% over an 128-day period and a subsequent gold recovery of almost 60% and just over 50% for silver after a 90-day cyanide leach cycle. These positive results support the proof of concept of the viability of the technology. The results of the Phase 1 Oxidation Testwork on fresh ores were also announced. These results to date confirm, notwithstanding slower and lower oxidation rates compared to the

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initial sample, that the fresh ore core samples will oxidize in similar fashion. Phase 2, currently underway focuses on optimizing the conditions to improve rate and higher oxidation levels. Subject to the results of Phase 2 and an updated mineral resource estimate, the Company will make a decision on the timing of commencement of the planned Pre-feasibility Study. The press release is available for review on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) and the Company's website (www.chesapeakegold.com).

- On February 15, 2022, the Company announced the results from the first five large diameter (PQ or 88 mm) infill core drill holes at Metates. The press release is available for review on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) and the Company's website (www.chesapeakegold.com).
- On April 27, 2022, the Company announce the results from the last thirteen large diameter (PQ or 85 mm) infill core drill holes completed at Metates. In total, 18 holes were completed during the 2021-2022 drill campaign which totaled approximately 7,485 metres. The press release is available for review on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) and the Company's website (www.chesapeakegold.com).

### COVID-19

In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic. This contagious disease outbreak, which has continued to spread, has adversely affected workforces, economies, and financial markets globally.

Since June 2020, the Mexican federal government and the state of Durango lifted the suspension permitting the Company to resume its exploration activities. The Company has adopted proper safety protocols in respect to these regulations and does not expect any significant impact on its operations. As at December 31, 2022, the travel restrictions globally had relaxed. However, it is not possible for the Company to predict the duration or magnitude of the adverse results of the outbreak and its effects on the Company's business or results of operations in the future.

# CORPORATE STRATEGY

On January 20, 2021, the Company closed the acquisition Alderley Gold Corp ("Alderley Gold") pursuant to a definitive agreement dated December 9, 2020 (the "Agreement") in order to gain access to an innovative precious metals oxidation processing technology (the "Technology").

The Company intends to investigate and develop the Technology's commercial application to Metates. The Company is undertaking extensive metallurgical testwork to determine the economic viability of Metates as a heap leach mine operation. If successful, a new potential development approach could be financeable and deliverable by the Company and once operational, expandable as a sulphide heap leach.

During the second quarter of 2021, the Company completed a 2300 metre diamond drilling program to recover large diameter core samples for a comprehensive metallurgical test program. Also, the Company contracted M3 Engineering and Technology to compile a Preliminary Economic Assessment study (the "PEA") that evaluates the sulphide heap leach option for Metates using the Technology. The results of the PEA were published on July 26, 2021.

Going forward the Company will continue the focus on using the Technology to de-risk and unlock value at Metates. An 18 hole in-fill drill program was completed in 2022 which improved the geological structural controls, drilling density and provided composite metallurgical samples for variability testing. With new drill core, an extensive metallurgical test program is being undertaken.

# **METATES (Durango State, Mexico)**

# Overview

Metates is one of the largest, undeveloped disseminated in-situ gold, silver deposits in Mexico. The Metates property is comprised of fourteen mineral concessions totalling 14,727 hectares. The Metates deposit is hosted by Mesozoic

sedimentary rocks that have been intruded by a quartz latite body up to 300 metres thick and 1,500 metre long. Mineralization occurs in two zones: the Main Zone which is centered around the intrusive and the North Zone, within the sediments including conglomerate, sandstone and shale. The gold-silver mineralization occurs as sulphide veinlets and disseminations in both the intrusive and sedimentary host rocks.

#### **Mineral Resource Estimate**

The PEA includes a revised mineral resource estimate for the Metates Project and replaces the mineral reserve estimate contained in the Company's updated preliminary feasibility study dated April 29, 2016 ("2016 PFS"). The measured and indicated mineral resource is 1.3 billion tonnes at 0.47 g/t gold and 12.9 g/t silver for 19.8 million ounces of contained gold and 542.0 million ounces of contained silver. Inferred mineral resource is an additional 62.2 million tonnes at 0.32 g/t gold and 9.0 g/t silver for 640,000 ounces contained gold and 18.0 million ounces of contained silver. Table 1 below shows the new resource statement for the Metates project.

The mineral resource is broadly divided into intrusive hosted and sediment hosted mineralization. In terms of measured and indicated mineral resource tonnes, about 80% of the resources are sediment hosted and 20% intrusive hosted. The mineral resources are based on a block model developed by Independent Mining Consultants ("**IMC**") during July 2014. The results of the recent metallurgical core drilling programs reported in the news releases dated June 28, 2021, February 15, 2022 and most recently April 27, 2022, have not been included in this block model.

The measured, indicated, and inferred mineral resources reported are contained within a floating cone pit shell, and are compliant with the "reasonable prospects for economic extraction" requirements of National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101"). The mineral resource cone shell is based on a gold price of US\$1,600 per ounce and silver at US\$20 per ounce.

**Table 1: Metates Mineral Resource Statement** 

	W	Gold Eq.	Gold	Silver	Gold	Silver
Resource Category	M tonnes	(g/t)	(g/t)	(g/t)	(moz)	(moz)
Measured Mineral Resource	395.4	0.79	0.59	15.5	7.44	197.3
Intrusive	103.1	0.98	0.76	16.5	2.52	54.6
Sediment	292.4	0.73	0.52	15.2	4.92	142.7
Indicated Mineral Resource	907.0	0.58	0.42	11.8	12.36	344.7
Intrusive	146.0	0.76	0.60	11.9	2.79	55.9
Sediment	761.1	0.55	0.39	11.8	9.57	288.7
Measured/Indicated Resource	1,302.4	0.65	0.47	12.9	19.80	542.0
Intrusive	249.0	0.85	0.66	13.8	5.32	110.6
Sediment	1,053.4	0.60	0.43	12.7	14.48	431.4
Inferred Mineral Resource	62.2	0.44	0.32	9.0	0.64	18.0
Intrusive	3.4	0.51	0.43	6.0	0.05	0.7
Sediment	58.8	0.44	0.32	9.2	0.60	17.3

#### Notes:

- The Mineral Resources have an effective date of May 18, 2021 and the estimate was prepared using the definitions in CIM Definition Standards (May 10, 2014).
- 2. All figures are rounded to reflect the relative accuracy of the estimate and therefore numbers may not appear to add precisely.
- 3. Mineral Resources that are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.
- 4. Mineral Resources are based on prices of US\$1600/oz gold and US\$20/oz silver.
- 5. Mineral Resources are based on a gold equivalent cut off grade of 0.26 g/t.
- 6. The gold equivalent value is calculated as follows:
  - Gold Equivalent (g/t) = Gold (g/t) + Silver (g/t) / 74.67, based on gold recovery of 70% and silver recovery of 75%.

The Company cautions that the results of the PEA are preliminary in nature and include inferred mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them to be classified as mineral reserves. There is no certainty that the results of the PEA will be realized. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability.

### **Mining and Processing**

The Metates mine will be a conventional open pit operation. The mining is planned to be conducted by contractors. Mine operations will consist of conventional drilling, blasting, loading and hauling with large off-road trucks, hydraulic shovels and wheel loaders. Plant feed will be delivered to the primary crusher and waste to various waste storage facilities. The mine plan for this study only considered the higher grade intrusive hosted mineralization as potential plant feed. There will be a stockpile for sedimentary hosted resource that is not considered plant feed for the first phase of the operation. A low-grade stockpile facility has been sited to store marginal grade intrusive material for processing at the end of commercial pit operations. A support fleet of track dozers, rubber-tired dozers, motor graders, and water trucks is budgeted to maintain the working areas of the pit, waste storage areas, and haul roads.

The site layout features a very compact layout with all the major infrastructure located at or near site. A water diversion tunnel is required upstream of the mine and a water reservoir will be constructed below the site to supply water for the operations. Power will come to site via a connection to a nearby substation and allow power to be supplied from the national grid. All the major mining, waste dumps, stockpiles and leach pads are located in one watershed. The mine plan consumes significantly less power and water than a conventional sulphide flow sheet with a very low environmental footprint.

A mine plan was developed to supply plant feed to a conventional three stage crushing plant with the capacity to process 15,000 tpd. After crushing to 80% minus ½ inch the material is agglomerated in alkaline solution and placed on a "onoff" pad to allow it to oxidize for up to 180 days. Oxidation solutions are continuously regenerated to maintain the alkalinity and remove sulphate build up.

The oxidized material is then transferred to a permanent pad for conventional cyanide leaching in multiple lifts resulting in gold and silver recoveries of 70% and 75% respectively.

Gold and silver bearing solutions from the permanent pad will be collected and processed in a conventional Merrill Crowe plant to recover the gold and silver.

Precipitate from the Merrill Crowe plant will be smelted on-site into Dore and shipped off site for final refining. The barren solution will be recharged with cyanide and returned to the gold and silver permanent leach pads.

Selected operating and production statistics from the PEA are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Estimated PEA Operating and Production Parameters** 

Operating Metrics						
Material Mined		Life of Mine ("LOM")				
Total Material Mined From Pit (K tonnes)		533	,998			
Direct Feed To Process (K tonnes)		127	,294			
Low Grade Stockpile (K tonnes)		38,	797			
Waste Rock (K tonnes)		367	,907			
Strip Ratio (Low Grade as Ore)		2.	22			
Average Stacking Rate (K tonnes/yr)	5,358					
Average Processed Grades	Years 1-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-31	LOM Avg.		
Gold (g/t)	0.859	0.931	0.511	0.756		
Average Processed Grades	Years 1-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-31	LOM Avg.		
Silver (g/t)	23.18	11.22	12.75	15.71		
Average Annual Production	Years 1-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-31	LOM Avg.		
Gold (K oz.)	104.8	114.7	57.1	91.1		
Silver (K oz.)	3,004	1,467	1,598	2,030		

# **Initial Capital Costs Summary**

The initial capital costs, including contingency are estimated at \$359 million. A significant reduction from the 2016 PFS and reflects the smaller starter mine and compact site supported by nearby infrastructure including close proximity to the national grid and water source.

A summary of estimated initial capital costs is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Summary of PEA Initial Capital Costs** 

Summary of Initial Capital Costs			
	Cost		
	\$000		
Metates Site			
Mining Equipment & Mine Development	\$18,713		
Crushing & Conveying	\$36,104		
Ponds & Pads	\$28,404		
Reagent/Regeneration System	\$11,677		
Merrill-Crowe & Refinery	\$9,124		
Subtotal	\$104,022		
Infrastructure			
General Site/Earthworks/Access Roads	\$106,069		
Electric Power	\$7,851		
Water Supply	\$7,380		
Ancillaries & Buildings	\$11,121		
Subtotal	\$132,421		
Freight, Taxes & Duties	\$4,060		
<b>Total Direct Field Cost</b>	\$240,503		
Indirects-EPCM, Commissioning & Spares	\$32,047		
<b>Total On Site Constructed Cost</b>	\$272,550		
Contingency	\$63,459		
First Fills	\$6,000		
Owner's Cost	\$17,200		
<b>Total Initial Capital Cost</b>	\$359,209		

# **Operating Costs Summary**

Cash costs and AISC per payable gold ounce are non-GAAP financial measures. Please see "Cautionary Note Regarding Non-GAAP Measures".

Average LOM operating costs (including mining, processing, and G&A - net of capital development, royalties and refining) total \$686 per payable ounce of gold sold. The AISC, which includes sustaining capital, capitalized exploration and reclamation, total \$748 per payable ounce of gold sold. Total estimated operating costs in the PEA are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Summary of PEA Operating Costs** 

	LOM Average US\$/t processed	\$/Au Oz. Production
Metates Site		
Mining (including rehandle)	\$7.51	\$441.70
Processing (Crushing, Stacking, Oxidation, Leach, Merrill-Crowe)	\$8.05	\$473.65
Site Support	\$1.41	\$82.69
Profit Sharing	\$1.32	\$77.74
<b>Total Operating Cost</b>	\$18.29	\$1,075.78
Royalties (0.5% NSR & 7.5% Gov't EBITDA Royalty)	\$1.45	\$85.35
Doré Treatment Charges	\$0.17	\$10.15
By-Product Credit (Silver)	(\$8.25)	(\$485.31)
Total Cash Cost	\$11.66	\$685.97
Sustaining Capital, Reclamation & Closure	\$1.06	\$62.49
AISC	\$12.72	\$748.46

# **Financial Analysis**

The financial analysis presented in Table 5 with the key financial assumptions.

**Table 5: Key PEA Financial Values** 

Metal Price Assumptions	Low Case	Base Case	Spot		
Gold (\$/oz.)	\$1,360	\$1,600	\$1,786		
Silver (\$/oz.)	\$19	\$22	\$26		
USD:CDN Exchange Rate \$		1:1.25			
USD:MEX Exchange Rate \$		1:20.05			
Unlevered Pre-Tax Economic Indicators					
NPV @ 5% (C\$M)	\$896	\$1,427	\$1,906		
NPV @ 5% (US\$M)	\$717	\$1,142	\$1,525		
IRR %	25.3	35.4	45.2		
Payback (years)	3.4	2.5	2.0		
Levered After-Tax Economic Indicators	l				
NPV @ 5% (C\$M)	\$506	\$850	\$1,160		
NPV @ 5% (US\$M)	\$405	\$680	\$928		
IRR %	26.9	41.2	56.1		
Payback (years)	3.4	2.2	1.6		

Notes:

The Company expects to debt finance a significant portion of development costs. The levered economics assume initial capital is 60% debt financed at an annual interest rate of 7%, an upfront financing fee of 3%, and a seven-year term post commencement of commercial production with a balloon payment of 30% of the principal at maturity.

The following table represents the project to date exploration expenditures on Metates:

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	Year ended December 31, 2022	Year ended December 31, 2021	Project to date
Acquisition from American Gold in 2006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,213
Concession	316	66	1,362
Assay	77	28	1,581
Community, taxes, camp and supplies	409	446	6,216
Drilling	1,344	865	8,192
Environmental	120	5	177
Geological and engineering	1,133	988	28,485
Travel & other	86	146	1,421
License and evaluation of technical feasbility Other	-	45,128 (58)	45,128 11,914
Total additions	\$ 3,485	\$ 47,614	\$ 124,689

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company incurred mineral exploration expenses of \$3.5 million on Metates. Most of the expenditure were related to infill drilling to confirm higher grade and metallurgical testwork.

Since acquisition, the Company has spent \$124.7 million exploring and advancing Metates.

The Company been informally advised by a staff member at the Dirección General de Minería ("DGM") that a cancellation process was to be commenced on the San Vicente 3 concession, one of concessions comprising the Metates property. No legal formal notification has been received by the Company and the Company is unaware that any steps have been taken by the DGM to commence this process. Legal advice obtained by the Company confirms that any cancellation process which may be undertaken by the DGM would have no legal merit.

#### REGIONAL EXPLORATION

During 2020 – early 2021, the Company completed the regional exploration on the eastern flank of Metates. Three gold-silver prospects, Crisy, San Javier and Cerro Pelon, were explored within different regional structural settings associated with intermediate composition intrusive rocks.

In 2021, the Company carried out a follow-up mapping and channel sampling program on the Lucy gold skarn project in Sinaloa state.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company spent \$0.4 million on regional exploration. In The Sundae Project, a rock-soil geochemical grid was sampled totalling 277 samples, to define together with the geology targets for a future core drilling stage.

In the Lucy skarn, apart of geological mapping, a recheck rock-saw channel sampling program was carried out over 170 meters of the previously hand channel sampled trenches. The recheck assay results returned same or better gold values.

The permitting process in Lucy and Sundae was initiated during 2022 for the upcoming core drilling programs in 2023.

# OTHER EXPLORATION PROJECTS

#### EL DURAZNITO (Durango State, Mexico)

On March 3, 2020, the Company announced an option to acquire a 100% interest in the El Duraznito gold-silver project ("El Duraznito") located near the town of Tayoltita in Durango State, Mexico. El Duraznito is located about 18 kilometers east of First Majestic Silver Corp.'s San Dimas Mine ("San Dimas"). At present, Chesapeake has an option agreement over one of El Duraznito Claims ("Teresa"). The Company will provide US\$78,000 in staged payments over 3 years to earn 60% of the rights. After completion of the Feasibility Study, Chesapeake will pay to the Teresa Owners US\$100,000 to earn an additional 20% interest in the project. Upon commencement of the Mine Construction, the Company will have acquired 100% interest in the Teresa claim with a final US\$150,000 final payment. During 2022 the Teresa option agreement continues in good standing.

The El Duraznito Project second claim agreement is still being finalized and expected to be completed before the end of 2023.

#### TATATILA (Veracruz State, Mexico)

In 2007, the Company acquired through purchase and staking the Tatatila project ("Tatatila") in Veracruz State. The Company acquired seven concessions comprising 2,767 hectares for US\$56,000 from the CRM, a mining division of the Mexican government. The Company also staked one concession comprising 13,902 hectares. The Tatatila concessions surround Mexican Gold Corp's ("Mexican Gold") Las Minas project ("Las Minas"). Mexican Gold reported a resource estimate of 304,000 gold equivalent ounces (gold-silver-copper) at a grade of 1.9 g/t gold equivalent and an inferred resource of 719,000 gold equivalent ounces at a grade of 2.17 g/t gold equivalent. Mexican Gold has commenced a 10,000 metre drill program to expand and upgrade the current resource for a preliminary economic assessment as well as to test other exploration targets.

The Company undertook a follow-up exploration program to determine the potential extension of the Las Minas skarn zones along regional limestone-intrusive contracts and associated structural trends. Rock chip sampling and a magnetics geophysical survey discovered four gold-copper-zinc mineralized skarn bodies along a three-kilometre southeast trending corridor from Las Minas. Generative exploration has discovered additional mineralized skarn zones along an irregular five-kilometre northeast trending intrusive-limestone corridor.

# **GUNPOINT EXPLORATION PROJECTS**

#### TALAPOOSA (Nevada, USA)

On November 26, 2010, Gunpoint acquired from the Company a 100% interest in Talapoosa located in Lyon County, Nevada. Talapoosa is a low-sulphidation gold/silver property in the Walker Lane gold trend of western Nevada, approximately 45 kilometres east of Reno. Talapoosa consists of 535 unpatented lode mining claims and seven additional fee land sections which cover 14,780 hectares.

Talapoosa has a NI 43-101 compliant resource estimate (April 2013) hosting a measured (0.6 million) and indicated resource (0.4 million) of 1.0 million ounces of gold (31.2 million tons at a grade of 0.032 oz/t AuEq) and an inferred resource of 233,532 ounces of gold (11.2 million tons at a grade of 0.021 oz/t AuEq) using a cut-off of 0.015 oz/t gold equivalent.

On September 28, 2022, Gunpoint signed an option and earn-in agreement (the "Newcrest Agreement") with Newcrest Resources Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Newcrest Mining Limited, ("Newcrest") to explore Gunpoint's Appaloosa property ("Appaloosa"), located in Nevada, USA. Appaloosa is an underexplored 7 kilometer long mineralized structural zone situated within Talapoosa. Under the terms of the Newcrest Agreement, Newcrest has the right to acquire, in multiple stages, up to a 75% interest in Appaloosa for cumulative exploration and development expenditures of US\$35 million, cash payments totaling US\$5 million to Gunpoint and completing a minimum indicated resource estimate of 1.0 million gold ounces.

Stage	Payment (in '000)	Expenditure	Newcrest Interest %	Time Schedule
Investigation	\$321	-	-	Until January 21, 2023
	(US\$250 received)			
Option Phase	US\$750	US\$2,000,000*	-	18 months
Stage 1	US\$1,500	US\$10,000,000	51%	3 years
Stage 2**	US\$1,000	US\$23,000,000	65%	3 years
Stage 3	US\$1,500	Minimum mineral resource estimate of 1.0 million gold ounces	75%	2 years

<sup>\*</sup>Minimum expenditure commitment required by Newcrest if it elects to enter into the Option Phase

# SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED LOSS

	Yea	r ended December	: 31,	
(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	2022	2021	2020	
Depreciation	\$ (9)	\$ (14)	\$ (17)	
Exploration	(283)	(343)	(238)	
General & administration (1)	(2,941)	(2,492)	(2,452)	
Share based compensation expense	(1,112)	(3,089)	(579)	
	(4,345)	(5,938)	(3,286)	
Finance income, net	463	115	249	
Foreign exchange loss	(22)	(36)	(82)	
Unrealized gains (loss) on marketable securities and investments	(520)	(394)	1,959	
Impairment – exploration and evaluation asset	(5,831)	-	-	
Gain from debt settlement	52	-	-	
Other income	68	216	229	
Net loss before income tax	(10,135)	(6,037)	(931)	
Income tax provision	(855)	(1,364)	(571)	
Net loss	(10,990)	(7,401)	(1,502)	
Other comprehensive gain (loss)	(1,402)	275	635	
Net loss and comprehensive loss	(12,392)	(7,126)	(867)	
Basic/Diluted loss per share	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.03)	
Non current financial liabilities	-	-	-	
Total assets	164,627	174,298	128,325	

<sup>(1)</sup> General and administration ("G&A") consists of general and administrative expenses, professional fees and management fees for the Canadian, U.S. and Mexican offices.

The Company incurred a net loss of \$11.0 million (\$0.15 loss per share) for the year ended December 31, 2022, compared to a net loss of \$7.4 million (\$0.11 loss per share) in 2021, and a net loss of \$1.5 million (\$0.03 loss per share) in 2020. The increase in the net loss in 2022 was principally due to impairment of mineral properties (from discontinuation of exploration activities on Yarely and part of the Regional projects).

The Company's general and administration expense was \$2.9 million in 2022. This was higher than the previous years due to an increase in corporate activities.

The Company had an unrealized loss on investments of \$0.5 million in 2022 compared to a loss of \$0.4 million in 2021, a gain of \$2 million in 2020. The difference in the unrealized loss on investment was due to the change in market conditions and fluctuation of the share prices for marketable securities and long-term investments.

<sup>\*\*</sup>If Newcrest elects to terminate Stage 2 or does not earn the additional 14%, Newcrest's interest in Appaloosa will decrease to a 49% interest

The Company's timing of stock option vesting schedule resulted in a lower share based compensation expense in 2022 (\$1.1 million) compared to 2021 (\$3.1 million), 2020 (\$0.6 million).

Other comprehensive gain (loss) fluctuations over the years are due to changes in the macro-economic environment related to foreign exchange translation, marketable securities and stock-based compensation expense. This includes the translation gains and losses incurred when translating subsidiary financials with local currency and the IFRS non-cash adjustment related to the translation of measurement currency to reporting currency.

### Consolidated quarterly loss - 8 quarters historic trend

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	Q4 2022	Q3 2022	Q2 2022	Q1 2022	Q4 2021	Q3 2021	Q2 2021	Q1 2021
Amortization	(3)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(4)
Exploration	(58)	(27)	(137)	(61)	(106)	(102)	(64)	(71)
General & administration (1)	(762)	(784)	(707)	(688)	(623)	(570)	(716)	(583)
Share-based compensation	(359)	(382)	162	(533)	(585)	(841)	(838)	(825)
	(1,182)	(1,196)	(683)	(1,284)	(1,317)	(1,516)	(1,622)	(1,483)
Finance (cost) income, net	273	92	64	34	(29)	36	43	65
Foreign exchange (loss) gain	(35)	241	(384)	156	89	(80)	(40)	(5)
Unrealized gain(loss) on marketable securities and investments Impairment - exploration and	97	(441)	(624)	448	375	(266)	135	(638)
evaluation asset	(5,831)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	66	2	-	52	56	(3)	-	163
Income tax provision	(855)	-	_	-	(1,364)	-	-	-
Net income (loss)	(7,467)	(1,302)	(1,627)	(594)	(2,190)	(1,829)	(1,484)	(1,898)
Other comprehensive (loss) income	(467)	(648)	(186)	(101)	7	21	(118)	365
Total comprehensive gain (loss) Basic/Diluted earnings (loss) per	(7,934)	(1,950)	(1,813)	(695)	(2,183)	(1,808)	(1,602)	(1,533)
share	(0.11)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)
Total assets	164,627	174,298	172,405	174,662	174,298	172,553	173,611	174,507

<sup>(1)</sup> General and administration ("G&A") consists of general and administrative expenses, professional fees and management fees

#### Three months ended December 31, 2022 vs. all historic quarters in 2021 and 2020

The Company incurred a net loss of \$7.5 million (\$0.10 loss per share) for the three months ended December 31, 2022. The net loss was the highest than all of the previous quarters. The net loss balance was driven, non-cash tax provision due to timing differences of accounting basis and tax basis of assets and liabilities, and by impairment of mineral properties related to Yarely project and part of Regional project.

Exploration expenditures and general and administrative expenses are consistent with the historic quarters with minor differences from timing differences of expenses between 2021 and 2022. These expenses had since increased due to change and increase in members of management in late Q4 2020.

Unrealized gains and losses on investment are dependent on market conditions which fluctuate from quarter to quarter.

Foreign exchange gains and loss along with cumulative translation adjustment (other comprehensive income or loss) fluctuate from quarter-to-quarter dependent on the strength of the Canadian Dollar against the Mexico Pesos.

#### Change in total assets

The total assets declined since Q1 2021 due to impairment of exploration and evaluation assets and use of cash.

# LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

	Year ended December 31,				
(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	2	022	2021	2020	
Cash (outflow) inflow from operating activities	\$ (4,4	98) \$	(2,609)	\$ (1,513)	
Cash inflows from financing activities	1,	680	1,193	22,187	
Cash outflows from investing activities	(3,4	183)	(1,008)	(1,557)	
Foreign exchange impact on cash		157	(7)	(128)	
Net cash flows before foreign exchange on cash	(6,3	301)	(2,424)	18,989	
Cash balance	\$ 25	673 \$	31,817	\$ 34,247	

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	2022	2021	2020
Opening cash balance	\$ 31,817	\$ 34,248	\$ 15,258
Proceeds from private placement, Gunpoint	1,455	_	
Proceeds from private placements	-	_	19,846
Payback stock option upside	-	(652)	-
Purchase of other investment	(7)	(969)	(417)
Proceeds from sales of market securities	158	3,396	862
Proceeds from sale of mineral properties	322	-	-
Proceeds from options exercised	225	1,849	2,347
Settlement of other receivables	(457)	(308)	21
Investment income – cash received	463	115	249
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(1,336)	377	(397)
General & administration and other overhead	(2,941)	(2,492)	(1,304)
General exploration expense	(283)	(343)	(238)
Capitalized Exploration Expense	(3,957)	(3,397)	(1,998)
Foreign exchange impact on cash and others	214	(7)	19
Ending cash balance	\$ 25,673	\$ 31,817	\$ 34,248

As at December 31, 2022, the Company's net working capital was \$25.3 million, which was slightly lower than the \$29.3 million as at December 31, 2021, and was lower than the \$34.6 million in 2020. This was driven by the use of cash for exploration and corporate activities.

Cash outflows from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2022 were \$4.5 million compared to a cash outflow of \$2.6 million in 2021, cash outflow of \$1.5 million in 2020, this was mainly driven by movements in working capital items.

Cash inflow from financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$1.7 million, compared to a cash inflow of \$1.2 million in 2021, cash inflow of \$22.2 million in 2020. Proceeds from financing activities of \$1.5 million were received from Gunpoint's private placements, and exercised option for proceeds \$0.2 million in current year.

The cash outflow from investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$3.5 million compared to \$1.0 million in 2021, \$1.5 million in 2020. In the current year, the Company spent \$4.0 million in mineral property expenditures, which included the metallurgical sample testing and the continuation of the 2021-2022 drilling program. This cash outflow was netted out by liquidating marketable securities and other items, resulting in higher cash outflow of investing activities of \$2.5 million, when comparing with the previous historical fiscal years.

The Company's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on the Company's ability to raise funds. The Company has sufficient working capital to fund the planned development and corporate expenses through 2023 and beyond.

The following table reflects the Company's aggregate contractual commitments as of December 31, 2022:

Contractual Obligations (in '000)	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,705	1,705	-	-	-
Decommissioning obligations	258	-	-	-	258
	\$ 1,963	\$ 1,705	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 258

On August 18, 2020, the Company closed a private placement with net proceeds of \$19.8 million. The net proceeds from the private placement were to be used for Metates metallurgical test work, ongoing regional exploration and for general working capital.

As at December 31, 2022, the use of proceeds was estimated as follows:

Category	In million \$
Total expenditures – year ended December 31, 2020	0.86
Metallurgical testing – Metates	1.00
Drilling - Metates	0.86
Regional exploration	0.35
Total expenditures – year ended December 31, 2021	3.07
Metallurgical testing – Metates	1.13
Drilling - Metates	1.34
Regional exploration	0.37
Total expenditures – year ended December 31, 2022	2.84
Net proceeds raised	19.85
Remaining proceeds	13.08

# **SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

As at December 31, 2022 and date of the report, the Company had the following common shares and stock options outstanding:

('000s)	Common shares	Stock options
December 31, 2022	67,366	3,748
February 13, 2023 grant	-	200
Date of report	67,366	3,948

The following table discloses the number of options and vested options outstanding as at the date of this MD&A:

Number of options ('000s)	Vested ('000s)	Exercise price \$	Expiry Date
1,665	1,665	3.30	29-Aug-24
400	200	3.15	14-May-25
1,400	775	4.56	10-Dec-25
150	38	4.55	19-Jan-26
73	18	4.37	31-May-26
60	-	1.92	28-Sep-27
200	-	2.15	7-Feb-2028
3,948	2,696	3.71	

# **REGULATORY DISCLOSURES**

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As at the date of this MD&A, the Company did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

#### Proposed transactions

As at the date of this MD&A, unless noted, the Company did not have any proposed transactions.

### **Related Party Transactions**

The Company's related parties include its subsidiaries, associates over which it exercises significant influence, and key management personnel. Transactions with related parties for goods and services are made on normal commercial terms and are considered to be at arm's length.

The Company incurred the following expenses with related parties during the year ended December 31, 2022:

Amounts in '000	Year ended December 31,		
Amounts in 000	2022	2021	
Consulting	\$ 250	\$ 177	
General and administration – salary	35.	350	
General and administration - directors' fees	24	3 244	
General and administration - rental		- 24	
Legal	20	254	
Management fees	250	250	
Share-based compensation (recovery) expense	76	2,756	

Management and rental fees were paid or accrued to a private company owned by the Executive Chairman of the Company. Consulting fees were paid or accrued to directors of the Company.

As at December 31, 2022, the Company had amounts payable of \$64,000 to related parties (December 31, 2021 - \$205,000), of which \$47,000 relates to Chesapeake and \$17,000 relates to Gunpoint. These amounts are unsecured and non-interest bearing, due on demand and are included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

On January 19, 2021, the Company closed the acquisition of Alderley Gold, a private British Columbia mining technology company (that was previously controlled by the CEO of the Chesapeake Gold Corp.). Through the acquisition of Alderley Gold, the Company gained access to the mining technology ("Technology") that is currently being used to the determine the technical and commercial feasibility of the Metates project. 7,000,000 shares were issued to a company controlled by the CEO. The remaining 3,000,000 shares were issued to non-related parties. As at December 31, 2022, 6,300,000 shares are still held in escrow.

As at December 31, 2022, Gunpoint has a promissory note in the principal amount of \$nil (2021 - \$700,000) and \$nil (December 31, 2021 - \$334,000) of interest payable included in accounts payables and accrued liabilities due to the Director of the Company (Note 10).

As at December 31, 2022, the Company held \$nil (December 31, 2021 - \$107,000) of marketable securities and a corresponding payable of \$nil (December 31, 2021 - \$107,000) in trust for one of its employees related to the exercise of stock options.

#### Financial Instruments

The following provides a comparison of carrying and fair values of each classification of financial instrument:

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	December 31, 2022		December 31, 2021	
	Carrying value \$	Fair value \$	Carrying value \$	Fair value \$
Financial assets				
Cash	25,673	25,673	31,817	31,817
Marketable securities	-	-	336	336
Long term investment	890	890	1,328	1,328
Financial liabilities				
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	1,705	1,705	2,925	2,925
Promissory note	-	-	700	700

The fair value hierarchy establishes three levels to classify the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (prices) or indirectly (derived from prices).

The following table sets forth the Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis by level within the fair value hierarchy. Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total December 31, 2022
Marketable securities	-	-	-	-
Long-term investments	890	-	-	890
	\$ 890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 890

(tabled amounts are expressed in thousands of CAD dollars)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total December 31, 2021
Marketable securities	336	-	-	336
Long-term investments	1,328	-	-	1,328
	\$ 1,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,664

The fair value of other financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and promissory note payable, approximate their carrying values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these instruments. The Company's policy for determining when a transfer occurs between levels in the fair value hierarchy is to assess the impact at the date of the event or the change in circumstances that could result in a transfer. There were no transfers between the levels during the year ended December 31, 2022.

#### Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of an unexpected loss if a customer or third party to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, and long-term investments. The Company's cash and cash equivalents are held through large Canadian financial institutions. The Company's marketable securities and long-term investments are held in common shares of publicly traded companies. The carrying amount of the financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure.

#### Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. The Company settles its financial liabilities using its cash. The Company manages liquidity risk through the management of its capital structure as described in Note 14 of the financial statements. The accounts payable and accrued liabilities is due within the current operating period.

#### Market Risk

The Company's financial instruments include investments which are publicly traded and therefore subject to the risks related to the fluctuation in market prices of publicly traded securities. The Company closely monitors market values to determine the most appropriate course of action.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows from a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes to market interest rates. The Company is exposed from time to time to interest rate risk as a result of holding fixed income cash equivalents and investments, of varying maturities. A 1% change in market interest rates would result in no significant change in value of cash. The risk that the Company will realize a loss as a result of a decline in the fair value of these assets is limited as they are generally held to maturity and held with large Canadian financial institutions.

#### Foreign Exchange Rate Risk

Currency risk is the risk of a loss due to the fluctuation of foreign exchange rates and the effects of those fluctuations on the Company's foreign currency denominated monetary assets and liabilities. The Company currently operates in the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. Certain costs and expenses are incurred in US dollars, Mexican pesos, and Guatemala quetzal. The Company attempts to mitigate currency risk through the preparation of short and long-term expenditure budgets in the foreign currencies.

#### Price Risk

The Company is exposed to price risk with respect to its investments, which consists of common shares of publicly-traded companies and is dependent upon the market price or the fair value of the common shares of these companies. The market price or the fair value of the common shares of publicly-traded companies can fluctuate significantly, and there is no assurance that the future market price or the fair value of those companies will not decrease significantly.

# Critical estimates, change in accounting policies, significant accounting policies, accounting policies not yet adopted

Please refer to the audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, which was filed on SEDAR.

#### Risk and uncertainties

This MD&A contains forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned as to the risks and uncertainties related to the forward-looking statements and are directed to those risks and uncertainties discussed in the Annual Information Form ("AIF") dated July 28, 2021, of which was filed on SEDAR. Also, please refer to the "Cautionary Statement on Forward-Looking Information" at the end of the MD&A

#### Cautionary Statement on Forward Looking Statements

This MD&A contains "forward-looking statements" and "forward-looking information" (collectively, "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities legislation. Such forward-looking statements and information herein include, but are not limited to: statements regarding prospective gold and silver production and planned work programs; the timing and amount of estimated future production; costs and timing of the development of new deposits; timing of completion of exploration programs; the success of exploration and development activities and mining operations; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Company's operations; the future price of commodities; timing and expenditures to develop Metates; gold and silver resources, grades and recoveries; cash costs per ounce, capital and operating expenditures and sustaining capital; the Company's plans and intentions surrounding the technology acquired from the Alderley Transaction; completion of acquisitions and their potential impact on the Company and its operations; and the ability to fund mine development at Metates. The Company does not intend to, and does not assume any obligation to update such forward-looking statements or information, other than as required by applicable law.

Forward-looking statements are made based upon certain assumptions and other important factors that, while considered reasonable by the Company, are inherently subject to significant business economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. The Company has made assumptions based on many of these factors which include, without limitation: present and future business strategies; the environment in which the Company will operate in the future, including the future price of gold and silver; currency exchange rates; estimates of capital and operating costs; production estimates; estimates of mineral resources and metallurgical recoveries; mining operational and development risks; regulatory restrictions; activities by governmental authorities and changes in legislation; community relations; the speculative nature of mineral exploration; the global economic climate; loss of key employees; additional funding requirements; title to mineral claims or property; and the ultimate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations. The assumptions used in the preparation of such statements, although considered reasonable at the time of preparation, may prove to be imprecise and, as such, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date the statements were made.

Forward-looking statements or information involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements of the Company and its operations to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, among others: ability to finance mine development, fluctuations in the prices of gold and silver, fluctuations in the currency markets (particularly the Mexican peso, Canadian dollar and U.S. dollar); changes in national and local governments, legislation, taxation, controls, regulations and political or economic developments in Canada and Mexico; operating or technical difficulties in mineral exploration, development and mining activities; risks and hazards of mineral exploration, development and mining (including environmental hazards, industrial accidents, unusual or unexpected geological conditions, pressures, cave-ins and flooding); risks of local violence; risks related to natural disasters, terrorism, civil unrest, public health concerns (including health epidemics or outbreaks of communicable diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic) and other geopolitical uncertainties; inadequate insurance, or inability to obtain insurance; availability of and costs associated with mining inputs and labour; the speculative nature of mineral exploration and development, diminishing quantities or grades of mineral reserves as properties are mined; risks in obtaining necessary licenses and permits, and challenges to the Company's title to properties.

Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements or information, there may be other factors that cause results to be materially different from those anticipated, described, estimated, assessed or intended. There can be no assurance that any forward-looking statements or information will prove to be accurate as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements or information. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements or information.

# **Qualified Persons**

Mr. Gary Parkison (VP Development) and Alberto Galicia (VP Exploration) are Qualified Persons as defined by NI 43-101 and responsible for the technical information on Metates in this MD&A.

The Metates 2022 PEA report (dated December 15, 2022) has been prepared by M3 to professional standards in the industry and is produced by Michael G. Hester, FAusIMM, Art S. Ibrado, PhD, PE, and Richard K. Zimmerman, MSc, RG, consultants, of M3 Engineering & Technology Corporation (M3).