

# ROYAL NICKEL CORPORATION

# NOTICE AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CIRCULAR ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11, 2020

**MAY 8, 2020** 

# ROYAL NICKEL CORPORATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the annual and special meeting (the "**Meeting**") of shareholders of Royal Nickel Corporation (the "**Corporation**") will be held on June 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Toronto time).

This year, out of an abundance of caution, to proactively deal with the unprecedented public health impact of coronavirus disease 2019, also known as COVID-19, and to mitigate risks to the health and safety of our communities, shareholders, employees and other stakeholders, the Corporation will hold the Meeting in a virtual only format, which will be conducted via live audio webcast at https://web.lumiagm.com/233424430. Shareholders will have an equal opportunity to participate at the annual meeting online regardless of their geographic location.

The Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- 1. to receive the audited financial statements of the Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2019, together with the auditors' report thereon;
- 2. to elect the directors of the Corporation;
- 3. to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Accountants, as auditors of the Corporation for the ensuing year and to authorize the directors to fix the remuneration to be paid to the auditors;
- 4. to consider and, if deemed advisable, to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution authorizing the amendment of the Corporation's articles of incorporation to change the name of the Corporation to "Karora Resources Inc.", as more particularly described in the accompanying management information circular of the Corporation;
- 5. to consider and, if deemed advisable, to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution authorizing the amendment of the Corporation's articles of incorporation to consolidate the common shares of the Corporation on such basis as the directors of the Corporation may determine, provided that the consolidation shall not be greater than on a 11-to-one basis, as more particularly described in the accompanying management information circular of the Corporation; and
- 6. to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof.

The accompanying management information circular provides additional information relating to the matters to be dealt with at the Meeting and forms part of this notice. If you are not able to attend the Meeting online, please exercise your right to vote by signing and returning the enclosed form of proxy, if by mail or delivery, to Computershare Investor Services Inc. at 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2Y1, Attention: Proxy Department, so as to arrive not later than 10:00 a.m. (Toronto time) on the second business day preceding the date of the Meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof. The time limit for the deposit of proxies may be waived or extended by the chairman of the Meeting at his discretion, without notice. You may also vote by telephone or via the Internet by following the instructions on the form of proxy. If you vote by telephone or via the Internet, completion or return of the proxy form is not needed. If you execute the form of proxy you may still attend the Meeting. Only registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders may vote in person at the Meeting.

The Corporation is holding the Meeting in a virtual only format, which will be conducted via live audio webcast. Shareholders will not be able to attend the Meeting in person. Attending the Meeting online enables registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders, including non-registered shareholders who have duly appointed themselves as proxyholder, to participate at the Meeting and ask questions, all in real time. Registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders can vote at the appropriate times during the Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

(signed) Paul Huet

Paul Huet Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Toronto, Ontario May 8, 2020

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# ROYAL NICKEL CORPORATION

#### MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CIRCULAR

#### GENERAL PROXY INFORMATION

# **Solicitation of Proxies**

This management information circular (this "Circular") is furnished in connection with the solicitation by management of Royal Nickel Corporation ("RNC" or the "Corporation") of proxies to be used at the annual and special meeting (the "Meeting") of the shareholders of the Corporation on June 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Toronto time), and at all postponements or adjournments thereof, for the purposes set forth in the notice of the Meeting that accompanies this Circular (the "Notice of Meeting"). The Meeting will be held in a virtual only format, which will be conducted via live audio webcast. Shareholders will not be able to attend the Meeting in person. A summary of the information shareholders will need to attend the Meeting online is provided below. It is expected that the solicitation will be made primarily by mail but proxies may also be solicited personally by directors, officers or regular employees of the Corporation. Such persons will not receive any extra compensation for such activities. The Corporation may also retain, and pay a fee to, one or more proxy solicitation firms to solicit proxies from the shareholders of the Corporation in favour of the matters set forth in the Notice of Meeting. The total cost of the solicitation will be borne directly by the Corporation.

#### **Virtual Meeting**

RNC is holding the Meeting in a virtual only format, which will be conducted via live audio webcast. Shareholders will not be able to attend the Meeting in person.

Attending the Meeting online enables registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders, including non-registered shareholders who have duly appointed themselves as proxyholder, to participate at the Meeting and ask questions, all in real time. Registered shareholders and duly appointed proxyholders can vote at the appropriate times during the Meeting.

Guests, including non-registered beneficial shareholders who have not duly appointed themselves as proxyholder, can log in to the Meeting as set out below. Guests can listen to the Meeting but are not able to vote.

- Log in online at https://web.lumiagm.com/233424430. We recommend that you log in at least one hour before the Meeting starts.
- Click "Login" and then enter your Control Number (see below) and Password "royal2020".

OR

• Click "Guest" and then complete the online form.

**Registered shareholders**: The control number located on the form of proxy or in the email notification you received is your Control Number.

**Duly appointed proxyholders**: Computershare Investor Services Inc. (the "**Transfer Agent**") will provide the proxyholder with a Control Number by e-mail after the proxy voting deadline has passed and the proxyholder has been duly appointed AND registered as described in "*Appointment and Revocation of Proxies*" below.

If you attend the Meeting online, it is important that you are connected to the internet at all times during the Meeting in order to vote when balloting commences. It is your responsibility to ensure connectivity for the duration of the Meeting. You should allow ample time to check into the Meeting online and complete the related procedure. In order to participate online, shareholders must have a valid 15-digit control number and proxyholders must have received an email from the Transfer Agent containing a username.

# **Appointment and Revocation of Proxies**

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are officers and/or directors of the Corporation. A shareholder has the right to appoint a person (who need not be a shareholder of the Corporation) other than the persons specified in such form of proxy to attend and act on behalf of such shareholder at the Meeting. Such right may be exercised by striking out the names of the persons specified in the form of proxy, inserting the name of the person to be appointed in the blank space provided in the form of proxy, signing the form of proxy and returning it in the manner set forth in the form of proxy. In order to receive a username, shareholders must also register their duly proxyholder after that have submitted their form appointed of proxy visiting https://www.computershare.com/RoyalNickel by 10:00 a.m. June 9, 2020 and provide the Transfer Agent with their proxyholder's contact information, so that the Transfer Agent may provide the proxyholder with a Username via email.

A shareholder who has given a proxy may revoke it (i) by depositing an instrument in writing, including another completed form of proxy, executed by such shareholder or shareholder's attorney authorized in writing either at the registered office of the Corporation at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the date of the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, or if you have followed the process for attending and voting at the Meeting online, voting at the Meeting online will revoke your previous proxy, or (ii) in any other manner permitted by law.

If a you are using a 15-digit control number to login to the online meeting and accepts the terms and conditions, the shareholder or duly appointed proxyholder will be revoking any and all previously submitted proxies. In such a case, you will be provided the opportunity to vote by ballot on the matters put forth at the Meeting. If you DO NOT wish to revoke all previously submitted proxies, do not accept the terms and conditions, in which case you can only enter the Meeting as a guest.

# **Exercise of Discretion**

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy will vote the shares in respect of which they are appointed by proxy on any ballot that may be called for in accordance with the instructions contained therein. If the shareholder specifies a choice with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted accordingly. In the absence of such specifications, such shares will be voted FOR each of the matters referred to herein.

The enclosed form of proxy confers discretionary authority upon the persons named therein with respect to amendments to or variations of matters identified in the Notice of Meeting and with respect to other matters, if any, which may properly come before the Meeting. At the date of the Circular, management of the Corporation knows of no such amendments, variations or other matters to come before the Meeting. However, if any other matters that are not now known to management should properly come before the Meeting, the proxy will be voted on such matters in accordance with the best judgment of the named proxy.

The time limit for the deposit of proxies may be waived or extended by the chairman of the Meeting at his discretion, without notice.

# **Advice to Beneficial Holders of Common Shares**

The information set forth in this section is of significant importance to many holders of common shares, as a substantial number of shareholders do not hold common shares in their own name. Shareholders who do not hold their common shares in their own name (referred to herein as "Beneficial Shareholders") should note that only proxies deposited by shareholders whose names appear on the records of the Corporation as the registered holders of common shares can be recognized and acted upon at the Meeting. If common shares are listed in an account statement provided to a shareholder by a broker, then, in almost all cases, those common shares will not be registered in the shareholder's name on the records of the Corporation. Such shares will more likely be registered under the name of the shareholder's broker or an agent of that broker. More particularly, a person is a Beneficial Shareholder in respect of common shares which are held on behalf of that person but which are registered either: (a) in the name of an intermediary that the Beneficial Shareholder deals with in respect of the common shares (intermediaries include,

among others, banks, trust companies, securities dealers or brokers and trustees or administrators of self-administered RRSPs, RRIFs, RESPs and similar plans); or (b) in the name of a clearing agency (such as CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. ("CDS")), of which the intermediary is a participant. In Canada, the vast majority of such shares are registered under the name of CDS, which acts as nominee for many Canadian brokerage firms. Common shares held by brokers or their nominees can only be voted upon the instructions of the Beneficial Shareholder. Without specific voting instructions, brokers and their nominees are prohibited from voting common shares held for Beneficial Shareholders. Therefore, Beneficial Shareholders should ensure that instructions respecting the voting of their common shares are communicated to the appropriate person or that the common shares are duly registered in their name.

Applicable Canadian securities regulatory policy requires intermediaries/brokers to seek voting instructions from Beneficial Shareholders in advance of shareholders' meetings. Every intermediary/broker has its own mailing procedures and provides its own return instructions to clients, which should be carefully followed by Beneficial Shareholders in order to ensure that their common shares are voted at the Meeting.

In Canada, the majority of brokers now delegate responsibility for obtaining voting instructions from Beneficial Shareholders to Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions ("Broadridge"). Broadridge typically supplies a voting instruction form ("VIF") and asks Beneficial Shareholders to return the completed forms to Broadridge. Broadridge then tabulates the results of all instructions received and provides appropriate instructions respecting the voting of common shares to be represented at the Meeting. A Beneficial Shareholder receiving such a form from Broadridge cannot use that form to vote common shares directly at the Meeting. The form must be returned to Broadridge well in advance of the Meeting in order to have the common shares voted. Beneficial Shareholders who appoint themselves as a proxyholder MUST register with the Transfer Agent at <a href="https://www.computershare.com/RoyalNickel">https://www.computershare.com/RoyalNickel</a> after submitting their voting instruction form in order to receive a Username.

In addition, the Corporation has decided to take advantage of certain provisions of applicable securities regulatory requirements that permit it to deliver meeting materials directly to non-objecting beneficial owners. These materials are being sent to both registered and non-registered owners of common shares. If you are a Beneficial Shareholder, and the Corporation or its agent has sent these materials directly to you, your name and address and information about your holdings of common shares have been obtained in accordance with applicable securities regulatory requirements from the intermediary holding the common shares on your behalf. By choosing to send these materials to you directly, the Corporation (and not the intermediary holding on your behalf) has assumed responsibility for (i) delivering these materials to you, and (ii) executing your proper voting instructions. As a result, you can expect to receive a scannable VIF from the Corporation's Transfer Agent. These VIFs are to be completed and returned to the Transfer Agent in the envelope provided. In addition, the Transfer Agent provides both telephone voting and Internet voting as described on the VIF. The Transfer Agent will tabulate the results of the VIFs received and will provide appropriate instructions at the Meeting with respect to the common shares represented by the VIFs they receive.

# **Record Date**

The directors have fixed May 11, 2020, as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of the Meeting. Only shareholders of record on such record date are entitled to vote at the Meeting.

# **Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof**

The Corporation is authorized to issue an unlimited number of common shares and an unlimited number of special shares, issuable in series. As of the date of this Circular, there were 610,577,301 common shares and nil special shares of the Corporation issued and outstanding. Each holder of common shares as of the record date is entitled to one vote in respect of each common share held by such holder.

To the knowledge of the directors and executive officers of the Corporation, based on publicly available information as of the date of this Circular, no person beneficially owns, or controls or directs, directly or indirectly, common shares carrying 10% or more of the voting rights attached to common shares of the Corporation.

# Interest of Certain Persons in Matters to be Acted Upon

Management of the Corporation is not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of common shares or otherwise, of any director or executive officer of the Corporation at any time since the beginning of the Corporation's last financial year, of any proposed nominee for election as a director of the Corporation, or of any associate or affiliate of any such person, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting (other than the election of directors).

# **Information Incorporated by Reference**

This Circular incorporates by reference information disclosed in the annual information form of the Corporation dated as of March 27, 2020 (the "**Annual Information Form**"), which is available on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>) under RNC's issuer profile. Upon request, the Corporation will promptly provide a copy of the Annual Information Form free of charge to a shareholder of the Corporation.

All dollar amounts referred to in this Circular are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

# **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

#### **Election of Directors**

# **Management Nominees**

In accordance with the Articles of incorporation of the Corporation (the "Articles") and By-laws of the Corporation, the board of directors of the Corporation (the "Board") must be comprised of a minimum of three (3) directors and a maximum of ten (10) directors. At the Meeting, it is proposed that the directors whose names are set forth below be elected to the Board. Each nominee for election as a director is currently a director of the Corporation. All directors elected will hold office until the next annual and special meeting of shareholders of the Corporation or until their successors are elected or appointed.

On November 9, 2012, the Board approved in principle the adoption of a majority voting policy relating to the election of directors and, on March 26, 2013, the Board adopted a majority voting policy. The policy stipulates that, except in a contested meeting, if a director nominee receives a greater number of votes withheld for his or her election than votes for his or her election, the nominee will submit his or her resignation promptly after the Meeting. Absent exceptional circumstances, the Board will accept the resignation. The Board's decision to accept or reject the resignation offer will be disclosed to the public. Subject to certain exceptions, the nominee will not participate in any committee or Board deliberations on the resignation offer. The Corporation is entitled to nominate only those candidates for election or re-election as directors who agree, prior to their nomination, to tender their resignations in accordance with the terms of the policy. Each of the proposed nominees listed in the table below has agreed to comply with the terms of the policy.

Unless the shareholder has specified in the enclosed form of proxy that the common shares represented by such proxy are to be withheld from voting for one or more nominees in the election of directors, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the election of each of the nominees whose names are set forth below.

The table sets forth below lists, with respect to each of the persons proposed to be nominated for election as directors the: name; province/state and country of residence; the present principal occupation, business or employment; a brief biographical description; the date on which the person became a director of the Corporation; the person's independence as a member of the Board; committee membership; attendance at meetings of the Board; the number of common shares of the Corporation beneficially owned, or controlled or directed, directly or indirectly; the number of stock options and other share-based awards held, all as at the date hereof.

Nominees for Election as Directors	Number of Common Shares (1)	Number of Options <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of Awards <sup>(2)</sup>		
PAUL HUET	162,085	1,639,000	2,821,701 RSUs		
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Nevada, USA	Mr. Huet is the Chairman and served as the Executive Chairm he was appointed Chairman and	nan from February 25, 2019 u I interim Chief Executive Offi	antil July 18, 2019, when		
Director since November 19, 2018	of his title was removed in Aug He is also a Chairman and Ch		agan Gaachamical and a		
Non-Independent Director  Committee membership: Technical,	director of 1911 Gold Corporal Huet was President, Chief Exc 2012 - 2018, until its acquisitio	tion and Havilah Mining Cor ecutive Officer and Director	poration. Previously, Mr. of Klondex Mines from		
Health Safety; and Sustainability Committee.	Mr. Huet has a strong command of capital markets and has served in all levels of engineering and operations of Mining. Mr. Huet graduated with Honors from the Mining Engineering Technology program at Haileybury School of Mines in Ontariand successfully completed the Stanford Executive program at the Stanford School of Mines in Ontarian description.				
Board meetings attended in 2019: 100% (14 of 14)	business. In 2013 Mr. Huet was nominated for the Premiers Award in Ontario for outstanding College graduates; he is currently a member of OACETT as an applied Science Technologist and an Accredited Director.				
SCOTT M. HAND Lead Director	3,847,188	3,282,000	521,343 DSUs 78,000 SARs		
Massachusetts, USA			1,799,799 RSUs		
Director since June 27, 2008	Mr. Hand is the Lead Director of He served as the Executive Ch	airman of the Corporation fro	om November 2009 until		
Independent Director	February 2019. He is also Executive Chairman of Kharrouba Copper Company Inc. (copper mining in Morocco) and a director of Boyd Technologies LLC (non-woven materials), Universal Helicopters Newfoundland and Labrador LP (a Labrador Inuit				
Committee membership:	controlled company), and the M				
Audit Committee;	former director of Frontier	Gold Inc., Legend Gold (	Corp., Chinalco Mining		
Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee; and	Corporation International and Mr. Hand was the Chairman an	-			
Technical, Health Safety and Sustainability Committee.	2002 until he retired from Inco of Inco Limited and held positi Law. Mr. Hand received a B	in January 2007. Prior to that ions in Strategic Planning, Bu	, Mr. Hand was President usiness Development and		
Board meetings attended in 2019: 100% (14 of 14)	Doctorate from Cornell University				
PETER GOUDIE	1,320,644	1,589,000	69,000 DSUs		
New South Wales, Australia			52,000 SARs		
Director since July 17, 2008			929,089 RSUs		
Independent Director	Mr. Goudie is currently retired five years). He serves as a direct company that is unaffiliated wi	tor of the Corporation, and of			
	He was Executive Vice Presider				
Committee membership: Audit Committee; Human Resources and Compensation	January 1997 to February 200 negotiation, construction and o Asia.				
Committee; and	He was employed with Inco since 1970 in increasingly more senior accounting and				
Technical, Health, Safety and Sustainability Committee.	financial roles in Australia, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong, before becoming Managing Director (later President and Managing Director) of Inco Pacific Ltd. in Hong Kong in 1988. He is an Australian CPA.				
Board meetings attended in 2019: 100% (14 of 14)					

Nominees for Election as Directors	Number of Common Shares (1)	Number of Options <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of Awards <sup>(2)</sup>	
WENDY KEI	-	889,000	338,236 RSUs	
Toronto, Ontario  Director since June 26, 2018  Independent Director	Ms. Wendy Kei's principal occupation is corporate director. She currently serves on the boards of Ontario Power Generation Inc. (she joined in March 2017) where she is Chair of the Board, and Guyana Goldfields Inc. (TSX: GUY) (she joined in May 2015) where she is the Chair of the Audit Committee. She also serves as a member of the Department of Audit Committee for Transport Canada (she joined in May 2019).			
Committee membership: Audit Committee; Human Resources and Compensation Committee; and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.	Ms. Kei is an accomplished Finance Executive with over 25 years of business experience in a variety of industries. Ms. Kei previously served as Chief Financial Officer of Dominion Diamond Corporation. Ms. Kei is a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario, holds an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors and holds a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo. Ms. Kei was selected as a Diversity 50 2016 Candidate by the Canadian Board Diversity Council.			
Board meetings attended in 2019: 100% (14 of 14)	200.000			
WARWICK MORLEY-JEPSON	-	889,000	384,953 RSUs	
Johannesburg, South Africa  Director since February 25, 2019	Mr. Morley-Jepson's principal occupation is Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Ivanhoe Mines (since August 2019) and Chairman of Wesdome Gold Mines (since June 2019; he joined the board in June 2017).			
Independent Director	He previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Kinross Gold Corporation from October 2014 to December 2016, and as Senior Vice President, Operations, and Regional Vice President - Russia, between October 2009			
Committee membership: Audit Committee; Human Resources and Compensation Committee; Corporate Governance and	and October 2014. Prior to ju Executive Officer of SUN Gold Platinum South Africa and thre spent several years with Placer development efforts.	oining Kinross, Mr. Morley and was Managing Director of the Russian-based companies	-Jepson served as Chief of Barrick Africa, Barrick in the Barrick group. He	
Nominating Committee; and Technical, Health, Safety and Sustainability Committee.	Mr. Morley-Jepson graduated i Technicon Witwatersrand now number of technical, manager notably the 'Management Dev	the University of Johannesburial and financial programs relopment Program' at Gradu	arg. He has undertaken a during his career, most mate School of Business,	
Board meetings attended in 2019: 90% (9 of 10) <sup>(3)</sup>	Cape Town University and 'M School of Business, University Finance for Senior Executives	of the Witwatersrand. Most re		
	Mr. Morley-Jepson is a membe	er of the Canadian Institute of	Corporate Directors.	
CHAD WILLIAMS Toronto, Ontario	Mr. Williams has an extens	- sive background in mining	200,000 RSUs	
Director since January 6, 2020	management. He is currently the Blue Thunder Mining Inc. In a	ne Chairman and Founder of laddition to this, Mr. William	Red Cloud Securities and s is a director of several	
Independent Director	emerging mining companies and a founder of Agilith Capital Inc., as well as Westwind Capital Inc. He is also the former CEO of Victoria Gold Corp., as well as the former Head of Mining Investment Banking at Blackmont Capital Inc. Prior to these positions, Mr. Williams was a top-ranked mining analyst at TD Bank and other Canadian brokerage firms in Toronto.			
	Mr. Williams is currently a me Ontario, having received a Bac before going on to receive his N	chelor of Engineering degree	from McGill University	

# **Notes:**

- (1) The information as to the number of common shares beneficially owned, or controlled or directed, directly or indirectly, by the directors, including those which are not registered in their names and not being within the knowledge of the Corporation, has been furnished by such directors.
- (2) For additional information regarding Options and Awards held by directors, please see "Statement of Executive Compensation Director Compensation".
- (3) Mr. Morley-Jepson was not appointed as a director until February 25, 2019.

Scott M. Hand was a director of Royal Coal Corp. during the period from August 2010 until May 2012. On May 3, 2012, a cease trade order was issued against Royal Coal Corp. by the Ontario Securities Commission for failure to file annual financial statements. On May 17, 2012, Royal Coal Corp. announced that it received notice from the TSX Venture Exchange that the TSX Venture Exchange had suspended trading in Royal Coal Corp.'s securities as a result of the cease trade order.

Frank Marzoli has provided the Corporation with notice that he is retiring from the Board, the Audit Committee, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, and is not up for re-election as director at the Meeting.

## Shareholder Nominees

Pursuant to section 5.10 of the Corporation's By-Law No. 2, nominations by shareholders for the election of directors at the Meeting (other than nominations by shareholders pursuant to a shareholder proposal or a requisitioned meeting), are to be received by the Corporation by 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on May 11, 2020.

# **Appointment of Auditors**

The auditors of the Corporation are PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Accountants, who were first appointed as auditors of the Corporation on May 25, 2009.

Unless the shareholder has specified in the enclosed form of proxy that the common shares represented by such proxy are to be withheld from voting in the appointment of auditors, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as auditors of the Corporation to hold office until the next annual and special meeting of shareholders, and to authorize the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors.

Disclosure of fees received by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and its affiliates from the Corporation for the financial years ended December 31, 2019, and December 31, 2018, is set out under the heading "Audit Committee Information – External Audit Fees" in the Corporation's Annual Information Form dated March 27, 2020 which is available on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) under RNC's issuer profile.

# Name Change

At the Meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider, and if deemed advisable to approve, a special resolution, authorizing, an amendment to the Articles to change the name of the Corporation from "Royal Nickel Corporation" to "Karora Resources Inc." (the "Name Change"). Management believes that the time is appropriate to re-brand the company to more accurately reflect its business focus on growing gold production in Western Australia - the Fraser Institute's top ranked mining jurisdiction for investment worldwide in 2019. While continuing to advance its gold producing operations in Western Australia, the Corporation also remains focused on delivering strong shareholder value via its 28% ownership in the Dumont Nickel Project located in Quebec.

The proposed Name Change is subject to certain regulatory approvals, including the approval of the TSX. The Corporation has notified the TSX of the Name Change and subject to TSX and shareholder approval, it is expected the common shares will start trading on the TSX two to three business days subsequent to the effecting of the Name Change by the Corporation, subject to the receipt of the TSX of the necessary documentation. The Board may, in its

sole discretion, determine not to implement the Name Change Resolution (defined below) at any time after the Meeting and after receipt of necessary regulatory approvals, but prior to the issuance of a certificate of amendment, without further notice to or action on the part of the shareholders. The Corporation has prepared documentation in the prescribed form to be submitted with the Director under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (the "CBCA"). The Name Change will become effective on the date shown on the certificate of amendment issued by the Director under the CBCA. Under the CBCA, shareholders do not have dissent and appraisal rights with respect to the proposed Name Change.

Should the Name Change become effective, any outstanding and existing share certificates representing common shares in the capital of the Corporation and bearing the name "Royal Nickel Corporation" will continue to be recognized by the Corporation as validly issued and eligible for trading on the public or private market. Shareholders who wish to have new share certificates issued to them in the new name of the Corporation after the Name Change becomes effective, may arrange directly with the Transfer Agent, at their own cost, to have such new share certificates issued to them.

# Shareholder Approval of the Name Change Resolution

At the Meeting, shareholders of the Corporation will be asked to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution (the "Name Change Resolution") approving the Name Change. The full text of the Name Change Resolution is set out in Appendix B attached hereto.

In order to be passed, the Name Change Resolution must be approved by at least two-thirds (66\%) of the votes cast by holders of the common shares, either present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the Meeting. The Board recommends to shareholders of the Corporation that they vote FOR the Name Change Resolution.

Unless the shareholder has specified in the enclosed form of proxy that the common shares represented by such proxy are to be voted against the Name Change Resolution, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the Name Change Resolution.

## **Share Consolidation**

At the Meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider, and if deemed advisable to approve, a special resolution, authorizing, an amendment to the Articles to consolidate its outstanding common shares (the "Share Consolidation") on such basis as the Board may determine, in its sole discretion, provided that the Share Consolidation shall not be greater than on a 11-to-one basis (the "Consolidation Ratio"). The Board may in its sole discretion determine to use a Consolidation Ratio which may be less than 11-to-one, and subject always to the Corporation continuing to meet the distribution requirements of the TSX. Subject to the approval of the TSX, approval of the special resolution by shareholders of the Corporation would give the Board authority to implement the Consolidation at any time prior to the next annual meeting of shareholders of the Corporation. Notwithstanding approval of the proposed Share Consolidation by shareholders, the Board, in its sole discretion, may revoke the special resolution and abandon the Share Consolidation without further approval or action by or prior notice to the shareholders.

# Background and Reasons for the Share Consolidation

# Potential for Increased and More Attractive Share Price

The Corporation believes that it is desirable for its common shares to trade at a higher price per common share. An increase in trading price of the common shares could heighten the interest of the financial community in the Corporation and potentially broaden the pool of investors who may consider investing or may be able to invest in the Corporation, potentially increasing the trading volume and liquidity of its common shares. The Share Consolidation may also help to attract institutional investors or fund managers who have internal policies that either prohibit them from purchasing stocks below a certain minimum price or tend to discourage individual brokers from recommending such shares to their customers, including institutional investors, indexes, investment funds and exchange-traded funds that are prohibited from purchasing shares below a certain minimum price threshold.

# Reduced Shareholder Transaction Costs

Certain investors pay commissions on a per share basis on a purchase or sale of common shares. The Share Consolidation would raise the price per common share. As a result, certain investors may pay lower trading commissions when trading a fixed dollar amount (for a lower number of common shares).

Improved Trading Liquidity

The combination of potentially lower transaction costs and increased interest from institutional investors and investment funds could ultimately improve the trading liquidity of the Corporation's common shares.

Evolution into a new Producer Peer Group

The Corporation has quickly evolved into a steady-state gold producer in a short time period. An analysis of the peer group to whom the Corporation is now compared indicates that a restructuring of the common shares is appropriate.

# Consolidation Conditional Upon Decision of the Board

If the special resolution is approved, the Share Consolidation would be implemented, if at all, only upon a determination by Board that it is in the best interests of the Corporation at that time. In connection with any determination to implement the Share Consolidation, the Board will determine the timing for the Share Consolidation to become effective. No further action on the part of the shareholders will be required in order for the Board to implement the Share Consolidation.

If the Board does not implement the Share Consolidation prior to the next annual meeting of shareholders, the authority granted by the special resolution to implement the Share Consolidation on these terms will lapse and be of no further force or effect. The special resolution also authorizes the Board to elect not to proceed with, and abandon, the Share Consolidation at any time if they determine, in their sole discretion, to do so.

# Procedure for Implementing the Share Consolidation

If the Board decides to proceed with the Share Consolidation and assuming that shareholder approval for the Share Consolidation is received at the Meeting and all regulatory approvals are obtained, including the approval of the TSX, the Share Consolidation will only become effective upon the filing by the Corporation of articles of amendment with the Director under the CBCA giving effect to the Share Consolidation and the endorsement by the Director of a certificate of amendment in respect thereof. Under the CBCA, shareholders do not have dissent and appraisal rights with respect to the proposed Share Consolidation.

The Corporation will issue a press release announcing the filing of the articles of amendment giving effect to the Share Consolidation, and, in accordance with the rules of the TSX, the post-Share Consolidation common shares will be assigned a new CUSIP number. Registered shareholders should then, at that time, complete, sign and return the letter of transmittal (the "Letter of Transmittal") that will be sent to them, along with the share certificate(s) representing their pre-Share Consolidation common shares, to Computershare Investor Services In. at one of the addresses set out in the Letter of Transmittal. Upon receipt of a properly completed and signed Letter of Transmittal and the share certificate(s) referred to in the Letter of Transmittal, the Corporation will arrange to have a new share certificate representing the appropriate number of post-Share Consolidation common shares delivered in accordance with the instructions provided by the holder in the Letter of Transmittal. No delivery of a new share certificate to a shareholder will be made until the shareholder has surrendered his or her current share certificates. Until surrendered, each share certificate formerly representing pre-Consolidation Common Shares will be deemed for all purposes to represent the number of post-Share Consolidation common shares to which the shareholder is entitled as a result of the Share Consolidation. Shareholders should neither destroy nor submit any share certificates until instructed to do so.

No certificates representing fractional common shares will be issued or delivered if, as a result of the Share Consolidation, a registered shareholder would otherwise become entitled to a fractional common share. It is expected that any and all such fractional common shares will be aggregated and sold by the Corporation's transfer agent,

Computershare Investor Services Inc., and registrar on the market, with the proceeds therefrom, net of brokerage commissions and expenses, being proportionately distributed to registered shareholders (without interest) in lieu of such fractional common shares. Alternatively, the Corporation will consider providing cash consideration as means to compensate shareholders who are otherwise entitled to receive fractional common shares (and purchasing such fractional shares for cancellation). After the Share Consolidation, then current registered shareholders will have no further interest in the Corporation with respect to their fractional common shares and such shareholders will not have any voting, dividend or other rights in respect of such fractional common shares other than the right to receive payment therefor as described herein. The elimination of fractional interests will reduce the number of post-consolidation registered shareholders to the extent that there are registered shareholders holding common shares that are not in a multiple of 11, if, for illustrative purposes only, the Share Consolidation ratio is 11-for-one. This is not, however, the purpose for which the Corporation is proposing to effect the Share Consolidation. The Corporation will consider an alternative means to compensate shareholders in respect of their fractional common shares.

The principal result of the Share Consolidation will be that the number of common shares issued and outstanding will be reduced from 610,577,301 common shares as of May 8, 2020 to a minimum of 55,507,027 common shares, depending on the Consolidation Ratio selected by the Board.

In general, the Share Consolidation will not be considered to result in a disposition of common shares by Shareholders for Canadian federal income tax purposes. Each Shareholder should consult its tax advisor with respect to the particular tax consequences of the Share Consolidation to such shareholder. The aggregate adjusted cost base to a Shareholder for such purposes of all common shares held by the shareholder will not change as a result of the Share Consolidation; however, the Shareholder's adjusted cost base per common share will increase proportionately.

There can be no assurance, however, that the total market capitalization of the Corporation (the aggregate value of all common shares at the market price then in effect) immediately after the Share Consolidation will be equal to or greater than the total market capitalization immediately before the Share Consolidation. In addition, there can be no assurance that the per-share market price of the common shares following the Share Consolidation will equal or exceed the direct arithmetical result of the Share Consolidation. In addition, a decline in the market price of the common shares after the Share Consolidation may result in a greater percentage decline than would occur in the absence of a Share Consolidation and the liquidity of the common shares could be adversely affected.

In addition to the outstanding common shares, the common shares currently reserved for issuance by the Corporation pursuant to outstanding stock options, RSUs and other convertible securities, as applicable, will be adjusted to give effect to the Share Consolidation, such that, for example in the case of stock options, the number of consolidated common shares issuable will equal the number obtained when the number of common shares issuable is divided by the conversion number and the exercise prices of outstanding stock options to purchase consolidated common shares will equal the price obtained by multiplying the existing exercise price by the conversion number.

If common shares are registered in the name of a nominee (e.g. a trust company, securities broker, or other financial institution), a shareholder will not receive a Letter of Transmittal and should contact its nominee to determine if anything needs be done to effect the consolidation of the common shares.

#### Certain Risks Associated with the Share Consolidation

The Board believe that it is in the best interest of the Corporation to reduce the number of outstanding common shares by way of the Share Consolidation; however, there are certain risks associated with the Share Consolidation, including, but not limited to the following risks.

• Reducing the numbers of issued and outstanding common shares through the Share Consolidation is intended, absent other factors, to increase the per share market price of the common shares; however, the market price of the common shares will also be based on the Corporation's financial and operational results, its available capital and liquidity resources, the state of the market for the common shares at the time, general economic, geopolitical, market and industry conditions, the market perception of the Corporation's business, strategy, future prospects and other factors and contingencies, which are unrelated to the number of Shares outstanding. As a result, there can be no assurance that the market price of the common shares will in fact

increase following the Share Consolidation or will not decrease in the future. If the market price of the common shares is lower than it was before the Share Consolidation, the total market capitalization of the common shares after the Share Consolidation may be lower than before the Share Consolidation. In addition, in the future, the market price of the common shares following the Share Consolidation may not exceed or remain higher than the market price prior to the Share Consolidation.

- While the Board believes that a higher common share price could help to attract institutional investors or fund managers who have internal policies that either prohibit them from purchasing stocks below a certain minimum price or tend to discourage individual brokers from recommending such stocks to their customers, the Share Consolidation may not result in a per common share market price that will attract institutional investors or investment funds and such common share price may not satisfy the investing guidelines of institutional investors or investment funds. As a result, the trading liquidity of the common shares may not improve.
- The Share Consolidation may also result in some shareholders owning "odd lots" of less than 100 common shares. Odd lots may be more difficult to sell, or require greater transaction costs per share to sell, than Shares in board lots" of even multiples of 100 common shares.

# Shareholder Approval of the Consolidation Special Resolution

At the Meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider, and if deemed advisable to pass, with or without variation, a special resolution (the "Consolidation Special Resolution"), approving the Share Consolidation. The full text of the Consolidation Special Resolution is set out in Appendix C attached hereto.

In order to be passed, the Consolidation Special Resolution must be approved by at least two-thirds (66\%) of the votes cast by the holders of the common shares, either present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote at the Meeting. The Board recommends to shareholders of the Corporation that they vote FOR the Consolidation Special Resolution.

Unless the shareholder has specified in the enclosed form of proxy that the common shares represented by such proxy are to be voted against the Consolidation Special Resolution, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the Consolidation Special Resolution.

#### STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

# **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

# Background

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides information regarding all significant elements of compensation paid, payable, granted, given or otherwise provided by the Corporation to the following individuals (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers" or "NEOs"):

- (a) Paul Huet, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. For the most recently completed financial year, Mr. Huet became Chief Executive Officer as of July 18, 2019;
- (b) Mark Selby, former President and Chief Executive Officer. For the most recently completed year, Mr. Selby was President and Chief Executive Officer until July 18, 2019;
- (c) Timothy Hollaar, former Chief Financial Officer;
- (d) Johnna Muinonen, President, Dumont Nickel:
- (e) Graeme Sloan, Managing Director, Australia; and

(f) Alger-St-Jean, Executive Vice-President, Exploration & Resource Development, Dumont Nickel.

# Role of Human Resources and Compensation Committee

The compensation program of the Corporation is administered by the Board with the assistance of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee ("Human Resources and Compensation Committee"). The Human Resources and Compensation Committee currently consists of four directors, being Mr. Peter Goudie, as chairman, Mr. Morley-Jepson, Ms. Kei and Mr. Marzoli. All members of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee are independent directors of the Corporation. The Board, with the assistance of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, reviews and makes decisions in respect of compensation matters relating to senior executives and directors of the Corporation, ensuring consistent application of matters relating to remuneration, competitive remuneration and policies to attract and retain talent and ensuring that executive remuneration is consistent with industry standards.

The responsibilities of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee include assisting the Board with respect to, among other things: (a) developing a compensation philosophy and policies; (b) reviewing and approving goals and objectives relevant to the Chief Executive Officer's compensation, evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of those goals and objectives and making recommendations to the Board for the Chief Executive Officer's compensation based on the evaluation; (c) reviewing and making certain determinations with respect to the compensation of senior executives other than the Chief Executive Officer; (d) making recommendations to the Board with respect to the form of compensation of the directors; and (e) reviewing executive compensation disclosure.

In addition to the Human Resources and Compensation Committee members' general business experience, the following direct experience (and the skills gained from this experience) is also relevant to their responsibilities to make decisions on the suitability of the Corporation's compensation policies and practices.

- *Mr. Goudie*. Mr. Goudie has held a number of management positions throughout his career, certain responsibilities of which involved compensation matters.
- *Ms. Kei.* Ms. Kei's extensive finance, leadership and corporate governance experience within the resource and energy sectors allow her to provide the Human Resources and Compensation Committee with expertise in compensation.
- *Mr. Marzoli*. Mr. Marzoli has held a number of management positions in the mining industry throughout his career, and among other roles has served on multiple compensation committees. As noted above, Mr. Marzoli has provided the Corporation with notice that he is retiring from the Board, the Audit Committee, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, and is not up for re-election as director at the Meeting.
- *Mr. Morley-Jepson*. Mr. Morley-Jepson has held a number of management positions throughout his career, certain responsibilities of which involved compensation matters.

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee and Board recognize that RNC's NEOs are critical to the success of our business and the building of shareholder value over the long-term, and that compensation plays an important role in achieving both short-term and long-term objectives that ultimately drive success and shareholder value. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee, on behalf of the Corporation, has engaged The Human Well (the "Compensation Consultant"), an independent consulting firm with extensive experience in the mining sector, to advise and assist the Corporation in the development of compensation policies and benchmarking of executive and directors' remuneration. This includes working with the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and Board to identify an appropriate peer group to be used for bi-annual executive compensation benchmarking. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee considers the results of benchmarking exercises and makes related NEO and Director compensation recommendations to the Board. The Compensation Consultant also assists the HR&CC in fulfilling related executive and Board compensation matters.

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee in 2019 engaged the Compensation Consultant to perform a benchmarking study in 2019 and recommended updates to the comparator group for application to compensation planning for 2020. See "*Benchmarking*" below.

The table below sets forth the consideration paid to the Compensation Consultant during the two most recently completed financial years.

Fees of Compensation Consultants and Advisors	Year ended Dec 31, 2019	Year ended Dec 31, 2018
Executive Compensation-Related Fees	61,553	23,510
All Other Fees	58,821	Nil

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee develops compensation policies, which are reviewed and approved by the Board, to guide compensation decisions made by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and Board. The Corporation's policies reflect the Board's philosophy regarding executive compensation:

- competitive level sufficient to attract, retain and motivate high-performing senior executives with the skills necessary to achieve the Corporation's strategy;
- aligned directly to the successful achievement of the goals of the Corporation with personal performance objectives that cascade from the approved strategy;
- motivate execution of goals and objectives in a manner that is consistent with the Corporation's vision, mission and values; and
- align the interests of senior executives with those of the Corporation's shareholders.

# Significant Commitments and Investments made by Senior Management and Directors

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee acknowledges the significant commitments made by senior management and the Board with respect to their compensation by agreeing to, and in some cases offering to, take various measures to improve the cash flow position of the Corporation, allowing it greater flexibility to manage its affairs. These measures, which have in the past included agreements to take shares, DSUs or RSUs in lieu of cash salary and directors fees, also represent an investment by such senior management and members of the Board in the equity of the Corporation and alignment of interests with shareholders.

Notably, Mr. Paul Huet, Chairman and CEO of the Corporation, elected to receive US\$38,598 of his total 2019 base salary in the form of RSUs (in lieu of cash), and Board members together elected to receive a total of \$217,674 of their 2019 base retainer in the form of RSUs (in lieu of cash). These elections are effectively an investment in the Corporation. In addition, Mr. Huet received 51% of his total compensation as Chairman and CEO in equity-based securities (the above-described RSUs received in lieu of cash salary, and Share-based awards received as a long-term incentive award), which represents further additional alignment with the interests of shareholders. See "NEO Summary Compensation Table" below.

# **Benchmarking**

The Corporation's compensation program is benchmarked to a comparator group of mining companies primarily in North America with market capitalizations ranging from \$89 million to \$1,189 million (at the time the peer group was developed in 2019), with an average market capitalization of \$494.4 million (the Corporation's market capitalization at that time the peer group was developed in 2019 was \$349.7 million), developed by the Board in conjunction with the Compensation Consultant. The companies include Alio Gold Inc., Bonterra Resources Inc., Noront Resources Ltd., Copper Mountain Mining Corporation, Sherritt International Corporation, Polymet Mining Corporation, Sierra Metals Inc., Premier Gold Mines Limited, Golden Star Resources Ltd., Continental Gold Inc, Dundee Precious Metals Inc., Eldorado Gold Corporation, New Gold Inc., Seabridge Gold Inc., and Torex Gold Resources Inc. The policy of the Corporation is to set compensation targets at the 50th percentile of the comparator group for base pay and the 75th

percentile for pay at risk (e.g. STI and LTI) resulting in Total Compensation targets for requisite performance falling between the 50th and 75th percentile.

# Elements of Compensation

Compensation paid to the NEOs for the financial year ended December 31, 2019 comprised the following components:

Base Salary

Base salary is designed to remunerate the NEOs for discharging their duties and responsibilities and therefore takes into account the position and responsibilities of the NEO, previous experience, prior performance and anticipated contribution.

Short-term Incentive Compensation

In addition to base salary, the NEOs are eligible to receive an annual incentive based on the achievement of annual performance objectives. The Chief Executive Officer proposes annual objectives, which are reviewed and discussed with the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, and upon agreement recommended to the Board for approval. For the other NEOs, the performance objectives cascade from the Chief Executive Officer's objectives and the Corporation's strategy and key milestones and reflect the individual's position and responsibilities. These objectives are developed by the Chief Executive Officer with the Human Resources and Compensation Committee. The target incentive for each NEO is expressed as a percentage of base salary.

For 2019, the key overall corporate objectives established for the Chief Executive Officer and the other NEOs focused on (i) the performance of the Corporation's share price relative to peers, (ii) percentage reduction in total recordable injury frequency rate ("**TRIFR**") and number of reportable environmental incidents relative to 2018, (iii) the implementation of a strategic plan to reposition the Corporation as a solid investment choice for investors, (iv) the production for the year, and (v) the all in sustaining costs. See "*Performance Score*" below.

For 2019, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee reviewed the performance of the Chief Executive Officer, with input from the Board, and the performance of the other NEOs, with input from the Chief Executive Officer, based on deliverables against objectives. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee and Board considered all these factors as well as the financial position of the Corporation and the need to retain the key talent in the organization when awarding annual incentive payments. See "*Performance Score*" below.

Long-term Incentive Compensation (Share Incentive Awards Program)

Long-term incentives are intended to align the interests of NEOs with the long-term interests of shareholders by motivating NEOs to increase shareholder value over time. Such incentives also serve as an important retention tool for the Corporation's senior management. Targets for long-term incentives are benchmarked to the comparator group and are included in each NEO's employment contract. Such targets consider the value of the NEO's contribution to the long-term success of the Corporation and the percentage of compensation that the Human Resources and Compensation Committee determines should be at risk. Long-term incentive compensation may take the form of Options, deferred share units ("**PSUs**"), restricted share units ("**RSUs**"), share appreciation rights ("**SARs**") and other share-based awards (including performance-based RSUs) under the Share Incentive Plan.

For additional information regarding Options and Awards, please see "Incentive Plan Awards – Share Incentive Plan".

Perquisites and Benefits

The Corporation provides basic perquisites and benefits to its NEOs, including health and dental benefits and life insurance. All of the NEOs have termination and change of control provisions in their employment agreements. The Corporation does not provide any pension plan for NEOs.

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee manages the Corporation's compensation policies and practices and provides ongoing oversight to ensure that senior executives consider the risks associated with their decisions and actions. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee is confident that these policies and practices, along with its overview, ensure that NEO incentives do not motivate the taking of inappropriate or excessive risk. Policy features include:

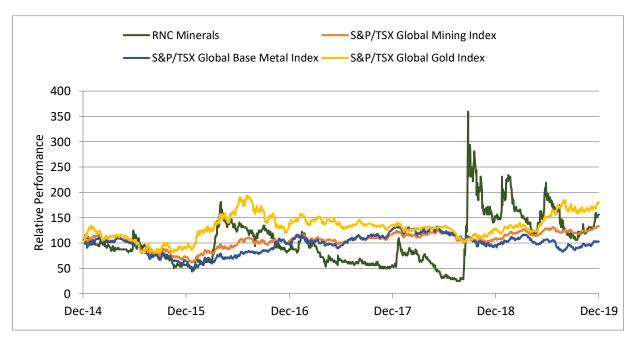
- quantitative metrics are used to determine the amount of awards to NEOs pursuant to the Corporation's Incentive Plans;
- a significant level of STI and LTI is delivered in RSUs;
- a comprehensive Code of Conduct and a Whistleblower policy that encourages reporting of imprudent corporate behaviour;
- the Human Resources and Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors; and
- NEOs are now subject to a claw-back policy providing for the recovery of certain incentive compensation paid to the executive officers and other members of management in cases of a material restatement of the Corporation's financial statements. See description of *Clawback Policy* below.

# NEO Purchases of Financial Instruments

Pursuant to the terms of the Corporation's Insider Trading Policy, all trades in the Corporation's securities by personnel, including NEOs and directors, must be pre-approved by the CEO or CFO. Personnel are also prohibited from selling securities of the Corporation short or buying or selling call or put options or other derivatives in respect of the Corporation's securities, and from entering into other transactions that have the effect of hedging the economic value of any direct or indirect interests of such personnel in the equity of the Corporation.

### **Performance Graph**

The following graph compares the total cumulative shareholder return for \$100 invested in common shares of the Corporation with the total cumulative return of the S&P/TSX Global Base Metals Index since December 31, 2014:



	31-Dec- 2014	31-Dec- 2015	31-Dec- 2016	31-Dec- 2017	31-Dec- 2018	31-Dec- 2019
Common Shares of RNC on the TSX	\$100	\$56	\$88	\$56	\$150	\$156
S&P/TSX Global Base Metal Index	\$100	\$64	\$97	\$126	\$96	\$103
S&P/TSX Global Mining Index	\$100	\$72	\$102	\$117	\$109	\$133
S&P/TSX Global Gold Index	\$100	\$89	\$133	\$134	\$128	\$179

The S&P/TSX Global Base Metals Index is a benchmark of securities involved in the production or extraction of base metals, and a subset of the S&P/TSX Global Mining Index. The S&P/TSX Global Mining Index is an investable index that provides investors with a broadly representative benchmark for global mining portfolios. The S&P/TSX Global Gold Index is both broadly representative and an investable index. As such, it is difficult to directly compare the Corporation's NEO compensation with the trends reflected in the graph above (many members of this index are diversified, dividend paying and have much larger market capitalizations).

The Corporation is of the view that compensation levels for the NEOs cannot and should not be directly compared to quarter over quarter or year over year relative share price performance. Global commodity prices, particularly the price of gold, and general market conditions) are significant factors affecting the Corporation's stock price and these are beyond the control of the Corporation's officers.

The Corporation's executive compensation package is designed to attract, retain and motivate high-performing senior executives with the skills and experience necessary to achieve the Corporation's strategy and grow the business through both adverse and favourable economic cycles. A significant portion of NEO compensation is based on long-term incentives with the ultimate value received tied directly to the Corporation's share price performance.

#### **Short-Term Incentive Awards - Performance Scores**

Individual performance is assessed on performance relative to the goals and objectives determined at the beginning of the year, based on both corporate objectives and certain individualized objectives particular to each executive.

In assessing corporate performance it is recognized that executive officers cannot control certain factors, such as interest rates and the market prices for gold produced by the Corporation. When applying the corporate performance criteria, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee considers factors over which the executive officers can exercise control, such as production targets, controlling costs, safety performance, and enhancing the competitive and business prospects of the Corporation. In determining payout amounts, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee considers other similar companies in the mining industry.

In assessing the 2019 personal performance score used for determining short term incentive plan ("STIP") awards, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee evaluated progress against the Corporation's strategic plan and the written individual objectives established for each of the executive officers. The individual objectives used to evaluate the performance of the NEOs for the 2019 year varied as between each of the NEOs to account for the different roles served by each NEO within the Company and, as a consequence, the different goals of the Corporation believed by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee to most highly correlate with the performance of such NEO. Common corporate objectives were also set by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee to factor into each of the executive officers' annual incentive awards. Each of the executive officers' STIP awards were determined based on what the Human Resources and Compensation Committee determined to be weightings between corporate and individual objectives, based on the role of the particular executive officer.

For each of the corporate objectives, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee adopted graduated scale of payout percentages based on meeting or exceeding such targets, with payout percentages for each corporate objective, based on the Corporation's performance against the specified target ranges. In all cases, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee retained the ability to make any discretionary adjustments it deemed to be appropriate, taking into account all factors and circumstances. As a result, when determining whether a goal was achieved, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee in some cases interpolated between the pre-defined payout

percentages and actual performance. Similarly, in assessing the executive officers' level of achievement in respect of their individual objectives, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee assigned a score from 0% to 150% for each objective based on how the executive officer's performance in respect of the particular target objective.

The following sets out the established corporate performance objectives for the Corporation for 2019, actual results for 2019, along with the scale (where applicable) of payout percentages for each objective and payout score assigned for each objective based on the Corporation's 2019 performance against such metrics.

	2019			Scale	of Payout l	Percentage		2019 Payout
Corporate Objective	Goal	2019 Actual	0%	25%	50%	100%	150%	Score
Share prices Comparison of share prices to share prices of comparator group	In line with the average of the peer group (Increase of 18.3%)	Increase of 4.2%, or 23% of Target	<20%	20% - 80%	N/A	80% - 120%	>120%	25%
Health, Safety & Environment the percentage reduction in TRIFR and number of reportable environmental incidents relative to 2018	Reduction of 50%	Reduction of 50%, or 100% of Target	<0%	N/A	0% - 50%	50%- 100%	>100%	100%
Company Transformation the implementation of a strategic plan to reposition the Corporation as a solid investment choice for key investors	100%	150% <sup>(2)</sup>	<0%	N/A	0%- 50%	50% - 100%	>100%	150%
Production Production (ounces)	49,000	51,090 (104%)	<90%	N/A	90%- 100%	100% - 120%	>120%	100%
All In Sustaining Costs	\$1,250	\$1,155 (92%)	>105%	N/A	100% - 105%	95%- 100%	<95%	150%

# **Notes:**

- (1) The Corporation's comparator group is Alio Gold Inc., Bonterra Resources Inc., Noront Resources Ltd., Copper Mountain Mining Corporation, Sherritt International Corporation, Polymet Mining Corporation, Sierra Metals Inc, Premier Gold Mines Limited, Golden Star Resources Ltd., Continental Gold Inc, Dundee Precious Metals Inc., Eldorado Gold Corporation, New Gold Inc., Seabridge Gold Inc., and Torex Gold Resources Inc.
- (2) A score of 150% for Company transformation was recommended by the CEO and agreed to by the Board given, among other things, the successful acquisition, financing and integration of the HGO gold mine and mill in Western Australia in 2019, and the significant and beneficial changes in management and the organization.

The following shows the weighting given by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee to each corporate objective in the table below, the score awarded by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee in respect of each objective (as determined by the scoring scale) and the resulting weighted scores and total weighted average score.

Corporate Objective	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Share Prices	20%	25%	5.0%
Health, Safety & Environment	20%	100%	20.0%
Company Transformation	20%	150%	30.0%
Production	20%	100%	20.0%
All In Sustaining Costs	20%	150%	30.0%
TOTAL	100%	_	105%

The total weighted score, based on the Human Resources and Compensation Committee's assessment of the Corporation's performance in respect of all corporate objectives was 105% for 2019.

The following tables set out the established individual performance objectives for each of the NEOs for 2019, along with the weighting given by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee to each objective, the total objective.

Paul Huet, Chairman (for the period from February 25, 2019 to July 17, 2019)

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
HGO Acquisition – Negotiations	Met expectations	25%	100%	25%
HGO Acquisition – Due Diligence	Exceeded expectations	25%	120%	30%
HGO Acquisition – Equity	Met expectations	25%	95%	24%
HGO Acquisition – Financing	Met expectations	25%	100%	25%
TOTAL	_	100%	_	104% (1)

# Notes:

(1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

Paul Huet, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (for the period from July 18, 2019 to December 31, 2019)

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Leadership Changes	Met expectations	10%	100%	10%
Equity Restructuring	Exceeded expectations	25%	150%	38%
HGO Acquisition - Integration	Exceeded expectations	25%	150%	38%
HGO Acquisition – Royalty Agreement Renegotiation	Exceeded Expectations	25%	150%	38%
Production (ounces)	Met expectations	10%	100%	10%
Beta Hunt Mine Reserves	Met expectations	5%	100%	5%
TOTAL	_	100%	_	138% (1)

#### **Notes:**

(1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

# Timothy Hollaar, Chief Financial Officer

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Public Offerings	Met expectations	25%	95%	24%
HGO Acquisition	Met expectations	20%	90%	18%
Financial Reporting	Did not meet expectations	35%	30%	11%
Cash Preservation	Partially met expectations	20%	80%	16%
TOTAL	_	100%	-	69% <sup>(1)</sup>

Notes: (1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

# Johnna Muinonen, President, Dumont Nickel

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
HGO Due Diligence	Met expectations	30%	95%	29%
2019 Feasibility Study	Met expectations	30%	95%	29%
Dumont – Dasserat Dam and Post Feasibility Work	Met expectations	20%	95%	19%
Project Technical Review	Met expectations	5%	95%	5%
Dumont Marketing and Concentrate Development	Partially met expectations	15%	75%	11%
TOTAL	_	100%		92% (1)

Notes: (1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

# Graeme Sloan, Managing Director, Australia

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Beta Hunt Mine Re-Set	Exceeded expectations	20%	150%	30%
HGO Acquisition	Met expectations	15%	100%	15%
HGO Integration	Exceeded expectations	15%	150%	23%
Production	Exceeded expectations	25%	140%	35%
Costs	Met expectations	25%	110%	28%
TOTAL	_	100%	-	130% (1)

Notes: (1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

# Alger-St-Jean, Executive Vice President, Exploration & Resource Development, Dumont Nickel

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Delivery of Beta Hunt Resource & 2P Reserve	Met expectations	25%	95%	24%

Individual Objective	Actual	Weight (A)	Score (B)	Weighted Score (A x B)
Management of Beta Hunt Specimens	Met expectations	25%	90%	23%
Dumont - Support re Delivery of Updated Feasibility Study	Met expectations	25%	95%	24%
Orford - Support re Qiqavik exploration program and acquisition of a strategic partner in the project	Partially met expectations	25%	65%	16%
TOTAL	_	100%	_	87% <sup>(1)</sup>

# Notes:

(1) Rounded to nearest whole number.

# Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts

In 2019, the Board set the target bonus rates for each NEO, representing the percentage of their base salary which their cash bonus would total assuming such NEO achieved all of such NEO's pre-determined corporate and individual objectives. Such target bonus rates, along with the calculated bonus amounts (based on the formula calculating bonus payouts and the performance scores for 2019 explained above), are shown below. Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

NEO	Reference Salary	Weighting of Corporate Objectives	Weighting of Individual Objectives	Corporate Objectives Score	Individual Objectives Score	Overall Score	Target Bonus Rate	STIP Bonus as % of Salary	Total 2019 STIP Bonus (\$)
Paul Huet (as Chairman)	US\$112,104	20%	80%	105%	104%	104.2%	100%	104.2%	US\$116,812
Paul Huet (as Chairman & CEO) (1)	US\$225,000	20%	80%	105%	138%	131.4%	100%	131.4%	US\$295,650
Timothy Hollaar	\$240,000	20%	80%	105%	69%	76.2%	60%	45.7%	\$109,728
Johnna Muinonen	\$263,100	20%	80%	105%	92%	94.6%	60%	56.8%	\$149,336
Graeme Sloan (3)	A\$360,000	20%	80%	105%	130%	125%	60%	75%	A\$270,000
Alger St- Jean	\$240,000	20%	80%	105%	87%	90.6%	60%	54.4%	\$130,464

# Notes:

- (1) Mr. Huet is compensated in US dollars.
- Ms. Muinonen was appointed as the President of Dumont Nickel on September 23, 2019. Her compensation includes both her time as Vice President, Nickel Projects and as President of Dumont Nickel. Her annual base salary as Vice President, Nickel Projects was \$240,000, and is \$295,000 as President, Dumont Nickel. Her salary and annual bonus is apportioned between these two positions in a 58% 42% ratio, respectively. Ms. Muinonen's annual bonus for 2019 is therefore based on the total bonus factor of 94.6% multiplied by 60% target base salary further multiplied by 58% of \$240,000 plus 42% of \$295,000.

(3) Mr. Sloan is compensated in Australian dollars.

# **Long-Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts**

As noted above, long-term incentives are intended to align the interests of NEOs with the long-term interests of shareholders, and serve as an important retention tool for the Corporation's senior management. Targets for long-term incentives are benchmarked to the comparator group and are included in each NEO's employment contract. For awards made in December 2019, the Board decided, based on a recommendation of the HRCC, that NEO grants would be made in the form of three-year vesting cash-settled RSUs (1/3 per year each of the first three anniversary dates of the grant), thereby avoiding the potential dilution associated with Option grants. Such targets along with the calculated grant amounts are shown below. Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

NEO	Annual Salary <sup>(2)</sup>	Target Award as % of Salary	Actual Award as % of Salary	LTI Award Value	Number of RSUs <sup>(3)</sup>
Paul Huet (1)	US\$450,000	150%	150%	US\$675,000	2,117,250
Timothy Hollaar <sup>(1)</sup>	C\$240,000	75%	75%	C\$180,000	428,571
Johnna Muinonen (1)	C\$295,000	75%	75%	C\$221,250	526,786
Graeme Sloan	A\$360,000	100%	100%	A\$360,000	771,257
Alger St-Jean	C\$240,000	75%	75%	C\$180,000	428,571

#### **Notes:**

- (1) The Corporation amended the timing of its annual long-term incentive grants, and form of award, in 2019. An award of Options was also made to Mr. Hollaar (valued at \$96,832) and Ms. Muinonen (valued at \$96,832) in February 2019. The timing and form of such annual long-term incentive grants was changed in 2019, and moved up to December (as detailed in the above table). The value of such February 2019 Option grants is included in the below NEO Summary Compensation Table (for Mr. Hollaar and Ms. Muinonen) as "Option-based awards". The value of the above-detailed December 2019 RSU grants is included in the below NEO Summary Compensation Table (for all NEOs) as "Share-based awards".
- (2) Annual salaries at the time of grant were applied for purposes of this calculation.
- (3) The number of RSUs was calculated by dividing the Canadian dollar value of the applicable award by the RNC share price at the time of grant. Where applicable, U.S. dollar amounts were converted at 1 USD = 1.3174 CAD, and (ii) Australia dollar amounts were converted at 1 AUD = 1.1114 CAD.

# **NEO Summary Compensation Table**

The Corporation became a reporting issuer on December 10, 2010. The following table (presented in accordance with Form 51-102F6 – *Statement of Executive Compensation* ("Form 51-102F6") under National Instrument 51-102 – *Continuous Disclosure Obligations* ("NI 51-102")) sets forth all direct and indirect compensation for, or in connection with, services provided to the Corporation for the financial years ended December 31, 2019, 2018, and 2017 in respect of the Chief Executive Officer, the former Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and three executive officers of the Corporation (the NEOs). Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

					Non-equity incentive plan compensation			
Name and principal position of NEO	Year	Salary	Share-based awards (1)	Option- based awards <sup>(2)</sup>	Annual incentive plans	Long- term incenti- ve plans	All other compen- sation <sup>(3)</sup>	Total compensation
Paul Huet	2019	US\$318,356	US\$675,000	-	US\$412,462	-	-	US\$1,405,818
Chairman and Chief	2018	-	_	-	-	-	-	_
Executive Officer <sup>(4)</sup>	2017	-	_	-	-	_	_	_

					Non-equity i			
Name and principal position of NEO	Year	Salary	Share-based awards (1)	Option- based awards <sup>(2)</sup>	Annual incentive plans	Long- term incenti- ve plans	All other compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	Total compensation
Mark Selby	2019	\$206,250	\$36,957		-	-	-	\$243,207
Former President and Chief Executive	2018	\$350,000	\$93,288	\$130,549	\$78,750	-	\$87,500	\$740,087
Officer <sup>(5)</sup>	2017	\$350,000	\$87,500	=	=	-	-	\$437,500
Timothy Hollaar	2019	\$240,000	\$191,087	\$96,832	\$109,728	-	-	\$637,647
Vice President, Finance	2018	\$230,000	\$36,964	\$61,806	\$23,625	_	\$52,500	\$404,895
(formerly Chief Financial Officer) <sup>(6)</sup>	2017	\$210,000	\$40,425	-	-	_	-	\$250,425
Johnna Muinonen	2019	\$263,100	\$232,337	\$96,832	\$149,336	-	-	\$741,605
President, Dumont Nickel (formerly	2018	\$230,000	\$36,964	\$75,681	\$23,625	_	\$40,000	\$406,270
Vice President, Nickel Projects) <sup>(7)</sup>	2017	\$210,000	\$40,426	=	_	=	=	\$250,426
Graeme Sloan	2019	A\$272,725	A\$360,000	-	A\$270,000	-	-	A\$902,725
Managing Director,	2018	-	_		-	-		_
Australia <sup>(8)</sup>	2017	_	_	_	_	_	_	
Alger-St-Jean,	2019	\$240,000	\$191,087	\$96,832	\$130,464	=	=	\$658,383
Executive VP, Exploration &	2018	\$230,000	\$36,964	\$23,625	=	_	\$40,000	\$330,589
Resource Development, Dumont Nickel	2017	\$210,000	\$56,174	_	-	_	_	\$266,174

# **Notes:**

- (1) This column represents RSUs granted under the Share Incentive Plan. The market or payout value was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the TSX on the last business day prior to the grant date.
- (2) This column represents Options granted under the Share Incentive Plan. The fair value of option-based awards was determined using the Black-Scholes pricing model. The Black-Scholes award valuation is determined using the exercise price or base price expected life of the award, expected volatility of the common share price, expected dividend yield and risk-free interest rate. The Corporation assigns an exercise or base price equivalent to the value of one common share on the TSX on the date immediately preceding the date of the grant. In 2017, the Corporation changed the timing of annual option-based awards from December to February, so there were no awards in 2017.
- (3) This column lists the special one-time discovery bonus granted to the applicable NEO in respect of the 2018 Father's Day Vein discovery at the Beta Hunt Mine in 2018.
- (4) The listed compensation includes Mr. Huet's compensation as both Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. Mr. Huet is compensated in U.S. dollars. Mr. Huet was not employed by the Corporation in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Huet became a member of the board of directors of the Corporation as of November 18, 2018. Mr. Huet's compensation in 2018 was received as a Director, not as a NEO, and is listed in the below table titled "Director Compensation" for 2018.

Salary. Mr. Huet served as Executive Chairman (only) from February 25, 2019 to July 17, 2019. He received US\$113,698 in base salary during this period. He was appointed interim Chief Executive Officer as of July 18, 2019 (the term "interim" was removed from his title in August 2019) at an annual base salary of US\$450,000. He received US\$204,658 in base salary during the period from July 18, 2010 to December 31, 2019. His total base salary paid in 2019 was US\$318,356, US\$38,598 of which was paid to him in the form of RSUs.

*Share-based awards*. Represents the long-term incentive award made to Mr. Huet (in the form of RSUs) in December 2019 (see above table under "Long Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts").

*Option-based awards*. None. Mr. Huet received a grant of Options in February as a director (before he was appointed Executive Chairman), which is listed in the below table titled "Director Compensation".

*Non-equity incentive plan compensation*. Represents the total short-term incentive award made to Mr. Huet (see above table under "Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts").

Incentive Sign-on Grants. In connection with Mr. Huet's appointment as Executive Chairman (as of February 25, 2019), the Corporation agreed to grant 400,000 RSUs (valued at US\$146,289) to Mr. Huet to further align his interests with those of shareholders and as a retention tool (as RSUs vest over three years). Mr. Huet was appointed Chairman and interim Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation as of July 18, 2019 (the "interim" portion of his title was removed in August 2019), and was granted an additional 200,000 RSUs (valued at US\$59,285) and 750,000 Options (valued at US\$124,549) in connection with such appointment. Given that these awards will be non-recurring in subsequent years, the award values are not included in the above NEO Summary Compensation Table (as inclusion would distort a comparison of compensation in subsequent years to current year).

- (5) Mr. Selby resigned from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation as of July 18, 2019.
- (6) Mr. Hollaar was Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation from January 1, 2015 to March 2, 2020. On March 2, 2020, he was appointed Vice President, Finance of the Corporation and Barry Dahl was appointed Chief Financial Officer.

Salary. Mr. Hollaar's annual base salary is C\$240,000.

Share-based awards. Comprised of the \$180,000 long-term incentive award made to Mr. Hollaar (in the form of RSUs) in December 2019 (see above table under "Long Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts"), and \$11,087 in RSUs granted to Mr. Hollaar to satisfy his entitlement to receive a 20% increase in share-based awards (RSUs) granted in past years provided he continue to hold the award for two years.

Option-based awards. Represents the 2019 long-term incentive award of Options (valued at \$96,832) made to Mr. Hollaar in February 2019. The timing and form of the Corporation's long-term incentive grants was changed in 2019 - an award of RSUs was made to Mr. Hollaar in December 2019 (the value of such grant is included above as Share-based awards). The result of such change in timing is that the total compensation figures in the above table are higher than these would have been in the absence of such change, as the table effectively reflects two years' of long-term incentive grants.

*Non-equity incentive plan compensation*. Represents the total short-term incentive award made to Mr. Hollaar - see above table under "Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts".

(7) Ms. Muinonen was appointed as the President of Dumont Nickel on September 23, 2019.

*Salary*. Ms. Muinonen's annual base salary as Vice President, Nickel Projects was \$240,000, and is \$295,000 as President, Dumont Nickel. Her salary and annual bonus is apportioned between these two positions in a 58% - 42% ratio, respectively.

Share-based awards. Comprised of the \$221,250 long-term incentive award made to Ms. Muinonen (in the form of RSUs) in December 2019 (see above table under "Long Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts"), and \$11,087 in RSUs granted to Ms. Muinonen to satisfy her entitlement to receive a 20% increase in share-based awards (RSUs) granted in past years provided she continue to hold the award for two years.

*Option-based awards*. Represents the long-term incentive award of Options (valued at \$96,832) made to Ms. Muinonen in February 2019. The timing and form of the Corporation's long-term incentive grants was changed

in 2019 - an award of RSUs was made to Ms. Muinonen in December 2019 (the value of such grant is included above as Share-based awards). The result of such change in timing is that the total compensation figures in the above table are higher than these would have been in the absence of such change, as the table effectively reflects two years' of long-term incentive grants.

Non-equity incentive plan compensation. Represents the total short-term incentive award made to Ms. Muinonen - see above table under "Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts".

(8) Mr. Sloan was not employed by the Corporation in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Sloan joined the Corporation in January 2019. He was initially engaged as a consultant, and then appointed Managing Director, Australia effective October 1, 2019. He is compensated in Australian dollars.

Salary. Mr. Sloan's annual base salary is A\$360,000. He was paid a total of A\$272,725 during 2019 (A\$182,725 as a consultant and \$90,000 as an employee).

*Share-based awards*. Represents the long-term incentive award made to Mr. Sloan (in the form of RSUs) in December 2019 (see above table under "Long Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts").

Option-based awards. None.

*Non-equity incentive plan compensation.* Represents the total short-term incentive award made to Me. Sloan - see above table under "Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts". His annual base salary was used as the reference salary for purposes of this calculation (as noted in such table).

Incentive Sign-on Grants. In connection with Mr. Sloan's appointment as Managing Director, Australia, the Corporation agreed to grant 500,000 Options (valued at A\$112,350) and 100,000 RSUs (valued at A\$40,561) to Mr. Sloan to further align his interests with those of shareholders and as a retention tool (as options and RSUs vest over three years). Given that these awards will be non-recurring in subsequent years, the award values are not included in the above NEO Summary Compensation Table (as inclusion would distort a comparison of compensation in subsequent years to current year).

(9) Mr. St-Jean was appointed as the Executive Vice-President, Exploration & Resource Development, Dumont Nickel on September 23, 2019.

Salary. Mr. St-Jean's annual base salary is C\$240,000.

Share-based awards. Comprised of the \$180,000 long-term incentive award made to Mr. St-Jean (in the form of RSUs) in December 2019 (see above table under "Long Term Incentives – Target Awards and Payout Amounts"), and \$11,087 in RSUs granted to Mr. St-Jean to satisfy his entitlement to receive a 20% increase in share-based awards (RSUs) granted in past years provided he continue to hold the award for two years.

Option-based awards. Represents the long-term incentive award of Options (valued at \$96,832) made to Mr. St-Jean in February 2019. The timing and form of the Corporation's long-term incentive grants was changed in 2019 - an award of RSUs was made to Mr. St-Jean in December 2019 (the value of such grant is included above as Share-based awards). The result of such change in timing is that the total compensation figures in the above table are higher than these would have been in the absence of such change, as the table effectively reflects two years' of long-term incentive grants.

*Non-equity incentive plan compensation*. Represents the total short-term incentive award made to Mr. St-Jean - see above table under "Short-Term Incentive Awards - Target Bonus Rate and Payout Amounts".

# Discussion of Summary Compensation Table

Additional factors necessary to understand the information disclosed in the Summary Compensation Table above include the terms of each NEO's employment agreement.

#### Paul Huet

Mr. Huet has been a director of the Corporation since November 19, 2018 and appointed Executive Chairman of the Board on February 25, 2019. On July 18, 2019 he was appointed Chairman and interim Chief Executive Officer when Mr. Selby resigned as President and Chief Executive Officer (the "interim" designation was removed in August 2019). Mr. Huet's base salary was USD\$450,000 as at December 31, 2019.

Mr. Huet's employment agreement provides for the payment of an annual bonus with a target amount equal to 100% of then current annual base salary. The annual bonus is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and is at the discretion of the Board, taking into account annual corporate and/or personal objectives and goals. Mr. Huet's employment agreement also provides that he is entitled to participate in the Corporation's share incentive awards program with a target amount equal to 150% of the value of then current annual base salary. The annual share incentives awards program is based on a recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approved at the discretion of the Board. See also "Performance Score" above and "Termination and Change of Control Benefits" below.

# Timothy Hollaar

Mr. Hollaar became Chief Financial Officer effective January 1, 2015. He was appointed Vice President, Finance on March 2, 2020. Mr. Hollaar's base salary was \$240,000 for the year ended December 31, 2019. Mr. Hollaar's employment agreement provides for the payment of an annual bonus with a target amount equal to 60% of then current annual base salary. The annual bonus is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and is at the discretion of the Board, taking into account annual corporate and/or personal objectives and goals. Mr. Hollaar's employment agreement also provides that he is entitled to participate in the Corporation's share incentive awards program with a target amount equal to 75% of the value of then current annual base salary. The annual share incentives awards program is based on a recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approved at the discretion of the Board. See also "*Performance Score*" above and "*Termination and Change of Control Benefits*" below.

# Johnna Muinonen

Ms. Muinonen became Vice President, Metallurgy effective August 9, 2010 and currently serves as President, Dumont-Nickel. Ms. Muinonen's base salary was \$295,000 for the year ended December 31, 2019. Ms. Muinonen's employment agreement provides for the payment of an annual bonus with a target amount equal to 60% of then current annual base salary. The annual bonus is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and is at the discretion of the Board, taking into account annual corporate and/or personal objectives and goals. Ms. Muinonen's employment agreement also provides that she is entitled to participate in the Corporation's share incentive awards program with a target amount equal to 75% of the value of then current annual base salary. The annual share incentives awards program is based on a recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approved at the discretion of the Board. See also "Performance Score" above and "Termination and Change of Control Benefits" below.

#### Graeme Sloan

Mr. Sloan serves as Managing Director, Australian Operations. Mr. Sloane's base salary is A\$360,000 for the year ended December 31, 2019. Mr. Sloan's employment agreement provides for the payment of an annual bonus with a target amount equal to 60% of then current annual base salary. The annual bonus is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and is at the discretion of the Board, taking into account annual corporate and/or personal objectives and goals. Mr. Sloan's employment agreement also provides that he is entitled to participate in the Corporation's share incentive awards program with a target amount equal to 100% of the value of then current annual base salary. The annual share incentives awards program is based on a recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approved at the discretion of the Board. See also "Performance Score" above and "Termination and Change of Control Benefits" below.

# Alger St-Jean

Mr. St-Jean became Vice President, Exploration effective April 30, 2007, and currently serves as Executive Vice-President, Exploration & Resource Development, Dumont Nickel. Mr. St-Jean's base salary is \$240,000. Mr. St-Jean employment agreement provides for the payment of an annual bonus with a target amount equal to 60% of then current annual base salary. The annual bonus is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and is at the discretion of the Board, taking into account annual corporate and/or personal objectives and goals. Mr. St-Jean employment agreement also provides that he is entitled to participate in the Corporation's share incentive awards program with a target amount equal to 75% of the value of then current annual base salary. The annual share incentives awards program is based on a recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approved at the discretion of the Board. See also "Performance Score" above and "Termination and Change of Control Benefits" below.

# **Incentive Plan Awards**

# Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards as at December 31, 2019

The following table sets forth for each NEO all awards outstanding at the end of the most recently completed financial year ended December 31, 2019, including awards granted before the most recently completed financial year that remained outstanding on December 31, 2019. All dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

			based Awards and Unvested		Share-based Awards			
Name of NEO	Number of securities underlying unexercised award (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Award exercise or base price	Award expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the- money awards	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#)	Market or payout value of share- based awards that have not vested	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed	
Paul Huet	Options 650,000 239,000 750,000	\$0.56 \$0.66 \$0.39	15-Nov- 2023 26-Feb-2024 27-Sep-2024	- \$86,250	2,717,250	\$1,358,625	\$52,226	
Timothy Hollaar	<u>Options</u>							
	525,000	\$0.35	22-May-2020	\$78,750	428,571	\$214,286	\$179,809	
	150,000	\$0.18	11-Dec-2020	\$48,750				
	750,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$172,500				
	490,000	\$0.24	06-Feb-2023	\$129,850				
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-				
Johnna Muinonen	Options							
	195,000	\$0.18	11-Dec-2020	\$63,375	526,786	\$263,393	\$300,673	
	50,000	\$0.56	16-Dec-2021	-				
	750,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$172,500				
	55,000	\$0.40	14-Dec-2022	\$5,500				
	600,000	\$0.24	06-Feb-2023	\$159,000				
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-				

		-	based Awards and Unvested		Sha	are-based Aw	ards
Name of NEO	Number of securities underlying unexercised award (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Award exercise or base price	Award expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the- money awards	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#)	Market or payout value of share- based awards that have not vested	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed
Graeme Sloan	Options 500,000	\$0.37	22-Oct-2024	\$65,000	871,257	\$435,629-	-
Alger St-Jean	Options				428,571	\$214,286	\$207,573
	225,000	\$0.18	11-Dec-2020	\$73,125			
	50,000	\$0.56	16-Dec-2021	-			
	750,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$172,500			
	55,000	\$0.40	14-Dec-2022	\$5,500			
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			

#### Notes:

- (1) This column represents options granted under the Share Incentive Plan.
- (2) The value of unexercised option-based awards was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 of \$0.50 less the exercise or base price of the award.
- (3) The market or payout value was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 of \$0.50.

# Incentive Plan Awards - Value Vested or Earned During The Year

The following table (presented in accordance with Form 51-102F6) sets forth details of the value vested or earned during the most recently completed financial year ended December 31, 2019 for each incentive plan award. All dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

Name of NEO	Option-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup>	Share-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	Non-equity incentive plan compensation – Value earned during the year <sup>(3)</sup>
Paul Huet	\$86,250	\$52,226	\$535,705
Mark Selby	\$230,775	\$1,629,835	-
Timothy Hollaar	\$80,850	\$285,222	\$109,728
Johnna Muinonen	\$138,000	\$286,641	\$149,336
Graeme Sloan	-	-	\$246,294
Alger St-Jean	101,535	272,478	\$130,464

#### **Notes:**

- (1) This column represents the aggregate dollar value that would have been realized if the options or SARs that vested during the year had been exercised or redeemed, as applicable, on the vesting date.
- (2) This column represents RSUs granted under the Share Incentive Plan and the aggregate dollar value that would have been realized if the RSUs that vested during the year had been redeemed on the vesting date.
- (3) This column represents the annual incentive plan cash bonuses paid to the NEOs in respect of 2019.

#### Share Incentive Plan

The Share Incentive Plan provides for the granting of equity-based compensation securities, including options and awards for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Corporation through the motivation, attraction and retention of senior executives, directors, employees (including prospective employees) and consultants of the Corporation and to secure for the Corporation and the shareholders of the Corporation the benefits inherent in the holding of options and awards that are tied to the long term performance of common shares by senior executives, directors, employees and consultants of the Corporation.

The Share Incentive Plan provides for the issuance of stock options ("**Options**") and other equity-based awards ("**Awards**") including SARs, restricted shares, RSUs, DSUs, performance shares and performance share units. Employees, directors and officers of the Corporation and its subsidiaries, as well as consultants (as defined in National Instrument 45-106 – *Prospectus Exemptions*) (the "**Participants**"), are eligible to participate in the Share Incentive Plan.

Common Shares Subject to the Share Incentive Plan. The Share Incentive Plan provides that the maximum number of common shares issuable upon the exercise of Options and made available as Awards, in aggregate, shall not exceed 15% of the issued and outstanding common shares from time to time. As a result, should the Corporation issue additional common shares in the future, the number of common shares issuable under the Share Incentive Plan will increase accordingly. The Share Incentive Plan is considered an "evergreen" plan, since the common shares covered by Options and Awards that have been exercised or redeemed, as the case may be, shall be available for subsequent grants under the Share Incentive Plan. As of the date hereof, up to 29,985,889 common shares (representing approximately 4.9% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Corporation as of the date hereof) are issuable under Options and Awards outstanding at the date hereof, out of a total available of 91,586,595 common shares.

Maximum Percentage of Available Securities to Insiders Under All Share Compensation Arrangements. The aggregate number of common shares issuable to insiders under the Share Incentive Plan and any other share compensation arrangement shall not exceed 10% of the common shares issued and outstanding at any time. Insiders shall not be issued, pursuant to the Share Incentive Plan and any other share compensation arrangement, within any one-year period, a number of common shares which exceeds 10% of the common shares issued and outstanding. As of the date hereof, a total of up to 22,972,237 common shares are issuable to insiders under granted Options and Awards (representing approximately 3.8% of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Corporation as of the date hereof), out of a total available to insiders of 61,057,730 common shares.

Annual Grant Limit. Each non-employee director may receive a maximum value of \$100,000 worth of Options and \$150,000 worth of share-based Awards (this provision does not apply to one-time initial grants made to a new director upon joining the Board or to cash settled RSUs or other cash settled awards).

Method of Determining Option Exercise Price. Under the Share Incentive Plan, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee has the authority to fix the exercise price of an Option at the time the Option is granted, provided that the price per common share fixed by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee is in Canadian dollars and shall not be less than the market price of the common shares immediately preceding the grant.

Vesting of Options and Option Period. At the time of the grant of an Option, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee may determine when any Option will become exercisable and may determine that the Option shall be exercisable in instalments on such terms as to vesting or otherwise, as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee deems advisable. Unless otherwise determined by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, Options will vest, as to one-third of Options granted, on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that the grantee is still a Participant at that time.

Restricted Shares Issuances. The Share Incentive Plan permits the Human Resources and Compensation Committee to grant restricted shares to Participants. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee may determine when a restricted share shall vest, or have the restricted shares vest in instalment on such terms as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee deems to be advisable. After the restricted shares have vested and the Participant executes an award agreement, the Corporation will issue the Participant a certificate for the number of common shares granted as restricted shares. Once the Participant has the certificate, the Participant shall have the rights of a shareholder with

respect to the restricted shares, subject to any restrictions or conditions as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee may in its discretion include in the applicable award agreement.

Restricted Share Units. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee may grant Awards of RSUs to Participants in such amounts and subject to the vesting provisions (time-based and / or performance-based) terms and conditions as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall determine. On the payment date, the Participant of each RSU shall receive common shares, cash, securities or other property equal in value to the common shares or a combination thereof, as specified in the applicable award agreement.

Deferred Share Units. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee may grant Awards of DSUs to Participants in such amounts and subject to such vesting provisions the vesting provisions (time-based and / or performance-based) and other terms and conditions as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall determine. A Participant is only entitled to payment in respect of the DSUs when the Participant ceases to be an employee or director of the Corporation or any affiliate thereof for any reason. At the time of grant, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall determine whether the DSUs shall be redeemed for (i) common shares only, or (ii) at the option of the Participant, common shares or the redemption value determined in accordance with the applicable award agreement.

Performance Shares and Performance Share Units. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee may grant Awards of performance shares to Participants in the form of (a) common shares or (b) performance share units, in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall determine in its discretion. A Participant who is granted a performance share unit will have only the rights of an unsecured creditor of the Corporation until payment of common shares, cash or other securities or property is made as specified in the applicable award agreement. In the event that a certificate is issued in respect of an Award of performance shares in the form of common shares, such certificate shall be registered in the name of the Participant but shall be held by the Corporation or its designated agent until the time the performance shares are earned or become vested in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreement. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall determine in its sole discretion whether performance share units shall be settled in common shares, cash, securities or other property, or a combination thereof.

Other Equity-Based Awards. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee may grant other types of equity-based or equity-related Awards to Participants (including the grant of unrestricted common shares) in such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions as the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall in its discretion determine. Such Awards may entail the transfer of actual common shares to Participants, or payment in cash or otherwise of amounts based on the value of common shares, and may include, without limitation, Awards designed to comply with or take advantage of the applicable local laws of foreign jurisdictions.

A full text copy of the Share Incentive Plan can be found on the Corporation's website at www.rncminerals.com.

# **Termination and Change of Control Benefits**

The employment agreements, as amended, between the Corporation and the NEOs contain the following termination without cause and change of control provisions.

## Termination Without Cause

In the event Mr. Huet, Mr. Hollaar, Ms. Muinonen, Mr. Sloan or Mr. St-Jean is terminated without cause, such NEO will be entitled to payment equal to twenty-four months of his or her base salary in a lump sum or by salary continuation. The NEO's benefits coverage will continue until the end of the compensation period. The Corporation will also provide certain NEOs with a lump-sum payment for outplacement services to the extent actually and properly incurred on his or her behalf. Vesting of options and other awards is accelerated on a complete or partial basis on a termination without cause.

For illustrative purposes, had a termination without cause occurred on December 31, 2019, the applicable multiple, the compensation period for benefits, the amounts payable and the incremental value of options and awards in respect

of which vesting would have accelerated would have been as set out in the below table. Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

Name	Multiple	Aggregate Amount Payable (for Base Salary)	Compensa- tion Period for Benefits	Aggregate Amount Payable for Benefits (3)	Option- Based Awards – Value Vested <sup>(4)</sup>	Share-Based Awards – Value Vested (\$) <sup>(5)</sup>	Contribution Towards Outplacement Costs <sup>(6)</sup>
Paul Huet (1)	2 times	US\$900,000	2 years	-	US\$66,407	US\$1,046,062	up to US\$15,000
Timothy Hollaar	2 times	\$480,000	2 years	-	-	1	-
Johnna Muinonen	2 times	\$590,000	2 years	-	-	1	-
Graeme Sloan (2)	2 times	A\$720,000	2 years	-	-	-	-
Alger St- Jean	2 times	\$480,000	2 years	-	-	-	up to \$20,000

## **Notes:**

- (1) Mr. Huet's compensation is in U.S. dollars.
- (2) Mr. Sloan's compensation is in Australian dollars.
- (3) The aggregate value of benefits was less than \$50,000 for each NEO for the financial year.
- (4) The value of Options in respect of which vesting would have accelerated on a termination without cause was calculated using the closing price of the common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 which was \$0.50 per share, less the exercise or base price of the award.
- (5) The value of RSUs in respect of which vesting would have occurred on a termination without cause was calculated using the closing price of the common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 which was \$0.50 per share.
- (6) Entitled to the allotted cost of outplacement services to the extent actually and properly incurred on his or her behalf.

Termination on a Change of Control (Double Trigger)

In the event of a change of control (as defined below) of the Corporation and a termination of the NEO's employment during the six month period following such Change of Control (including by constructive dismissal), the NEO will be entitled to a lump sum payment of multiple (2.5 times, or 30 months, in the case of the Chairman and CEO, and 2 times, or 24 months, in the case of the other NEOs) of the NEO's base salary and STI target. Vesting of options and other awards is accelerated on a complete or partial basis on a change of control. The NEO's are also entitled to have their benefits coverage continue until the end of the compensation period. The Corporation will also provide certain NEOs with a lump-sum payment for outplacement services to the extent actually and properly incurred on his or her behalf (see below).

A "change of control" is defined as when any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, unincorporated association, unincorporated syndicate, unincorporated organization, trust, body corporate, or a natural person in his or her capacity as trustee of any of the foregoing, alone or acting in concert with any of the foregoing or combination of the foregoing, beneficially own or control, directly or indirectly, over 40% of the outstanding common shares or the votes attaching thereto of the Corporation. The "change of control" provisions also apply to Ms. Muinonen and Mr. St-Jean if the Corporation sells its 28% interest in the Dumont-Nickel Cobalt Project, and to Mr. Sloan if the Corporation sells its wholly-owned subsidiary RNC Holdings Australia Holdings Lty. Ltd., or if the material subsidiaries of SLM are sold, or if all or substantially all the assets of SLM are sold.

For illustrative purposes, had a change of control occurred on December 31, 2019, the applicable multiple, the compensation period for benefits, the amounts payable and the incremental value of options and awards in respect of which vesting would have accelerated would have been as set out in the below table. Unless otherwise indicated, all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

Name	Multiple	Aggregate Amount Payable (for Base Salary and STI)	Compen sation Period for Benefits	Aggregat e Amount Payable for Benefits (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	Option- Based Awards – Value of Accelerated Vesting (\$) <sup>(4)</sup>	Share-Based Awards – Value of Accelerated Vesting (\$)	Contributi- on Towards Outplace- ment Costs <sup>(5)</sup>
Paul Huet (1)	2.5 times	US\$2,250,000	2 years	-	US\$66,407	US\$1,046,062	up to US\$15,000
Timothy Hollaar	2 times	\$768,000	2 years	-	\$43,283	\$214,286	-
Johnna Muinonen	2 times	\$944,000	2 years	-	\$53,000	\$263,393	up to \$15,000
Graeme Sloan	2 times	A\$1,152,000	2 years	-	A\$71,256	A\$477,558	up to A\$15,000
Alger St-Jean	2 times	\$768,000	2 years	-	\$33,478	\$214,286	up to \$20,000

#### **Notes:**

- (1) Mr. Huet's compensation is in U.S. dollars.
- (2) Mr. Sloan's compensation is in Australian dollars.
- (3) The aggregate value of benefits was less than \$50,000 for each NEO for the financial year.
- (4) The value of Options and SARs in respect of which vesting would have accelerated on a change of control was calculated using the closing price of the common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 which was \$0.50 per share, less the exercise or base price of the award.
- (5) The value of RSUs in respect of which vesting would have accelerated on a change of control was calculated using the closing price of the common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 which was \$0.50 per share.
- (6) Entitled to the allotted cost of outplacement services to the extent actually and properly incurred on his or her behalf.

# **Clawback Policy**

In 2020, the Board adopted a Clawback Policy under which it may, in its sole discretion, to the full extent permitted by governing laws and to the extent it determines that it is in the best interests of the Corporation to do so, require the recoupment of all or a portion of certain incentive compensation paid to all current and former executive officers and members of management (the "Senior Employees") in certain circumstances when the Corporation has been required to issue restated financial results. Senior Employees will be required to reimburse, in all appropriate cases as determined by the Board, any bonus, short-term incentive award or amount, or long-term incentive award or amount awarded to the executive officer or member of management and any non-vested equity-based awards previously granted to the executive officer or member of management (collectively "Incentive Compensation") if: (a) the amount of the Incentive Compensation was calculated based upon, or contingent on, the achievement of certain financial results that were subsequently the subject of or affected by a material restatement or the correction of a material error; and (b) the Senior Employees was grossly negligent, or engaged in intentional misconduct, or fraud, causing or partially causing the need for the restatement or causing or partially causing the material error; and (c) the amount of the Incentive Compensation that would have been awarded to the executive officer or member of management, had the financial results been properly reported, would have been lower than the amount actually awarded. The recoupment mechanics are contained in the Clawback Policy. All Senior Employees are required to comply with the Clawback Policy and to complete a receipt and acknowledgement of same.

# **Shareholder Engagement Policy**

In order to ensure that it is responsive to shareholders and other stakeholders, in 2019, the Board adopted a Shareholder Engagement Policy to formalize how shareholders may engage with management and the Board. The Shareholder Engagement Policy can be found at <a href="www.rncminerals.com/corporate-governance">www.rncminerals.com/corporate-governance</a>. The Corporation believes that regular and constructive engagement with shareholders is important in contributing to good corporate governance and transparency. The Corporation communicates with shareholders and other stakeholders through various channels, including annual reports, management information circulars, quarterly reports, annual information form, news releases, web site and presentations at its annual meeting of shareholders, one-on-one and group meetings, as well as at industry conferences. In addition, the Corporation's quarterly earnings call is open to all, over the phone or webcast.

The Corporation recognizes that feedback from shareholders assists management in understanding what information and disclosure is most meaningful to shareholders and the broader investment community. All shareholder inquiries and comments relating to the Corporation's business and operations, financial results, strategic direction and similar matters are to be directed to the Corporation's Investor Relations team at <a href="mailto:info@rncminerals.com">info@rncminerals.com</a>. Management engages with shareholders through one-on-one or group meetings between management and institutional shareholders and at the annual meeting, as well as by letter (via regular mail or courier), e-mail or telephone contact. This engagement is coordinated through the Corporation's Investor Relations office.

# **Share Ownership Policy**

In 2020, the Board adopted the Share Ownership Policy to align the interests of the CEO and the Directors with those of the shareholders of the Corporation, by requiring such persons to hold a significant number of common shares, RSUs, DSUs and/or SARs of the Corporation.

# Ownership Requirements

The CEO is required to hold common having an aggregate value of at least three times his or her annual base salary. Each management Director is required to hold common shares having an aggregate value of at least four times the annual Board retainer (base) paid to the Director during the applicable year.

Each subject person is required to reach the applicable threshold by the later of (i) that date which is three years following his or her appointment, and (ii) that date which is three years following the date the Share Ownership Policy was first adopted, and, with respect to any increases in base annual salary (in the case of the CEO) or in the annual Board retainer (base) paid to a Director, the subject person will be required to reach the applicable threshold within three years after the increase.

The thresholds for each subject person will be tested as at December 31 of each year, and reported in the management information circular sent to shareholders of the Corporation for the subsequent general meeting of shareholders of the Corporation. As such, the relevant thresholds will be set out in the Corporation management information circular at the Corporation's annual general meeting in 2021. Although this policy was not in effect on December 31, 2019, had the requirement been measured at such date, all non-management Directors would have exceeded the "four times" threshold and the value of Mr. Huet's holdings would have been approximately 2.3 times his annual base salary.

# **Director Compensation**

The Corporation's compensation philosophy for directors is designed to provide competitive compensation sufficient to attract, retain and motivate highly skilled directors. Directors' compensation was reviewed by the Human Resources and Compensation Committee in 2019. Directors' compensation includes the following:

- 1. An annual retainer for the Lead Director and each other director (other than the Chairman).
- 2. An annual retainer for each committee Chair.

- 3. A meeting fee for each director for each properly called and duly constituted meeting attended (in person or by phone) by such director (other than the Chairman of the Board).
- 4. An initial grant of stock options or other share-based compensation for each director upon being elected to the Board, in each case as approved by the Board.

The annual retainer may be taken in the form of cash or, subject to the limits set forth in the Corporation's Share Incentive Plan and the recommendation of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and approval by the Board, share-based compensation.

The Policy of the Corporation is that the annual retainer and meeting fees for directors be targeted at the 50th percentile of the peer group and the long-term retainer targeted at the 75th percentile causing Total Compensation to fall between the 50th and 75th percentile.

# Retainers and Fees - 2019

The Board meets annually to review the adequacy and form of directors' compensation. The following director compensation arrangements were in place for 2019 (in Canadian dollars):

Annual Board Retainer (base) (for Directors other than the CEO and the Lead Director)	\$25,000
Annual Retainer for Lead Director	\$75,000
Additional Annual retainer for Chairman of the Audit Committee	\$10,000
Additional Annual retainer for Chairpersons of other Board Committees	\$5,000
Board/Committee meeting attendance fee	\$1,250

Board members who were required to travel to Board meetings in 2019 were also paid \$1,250 per travel day.

Long Term Incentive Awards (Share Incentive Plan)

The Board also considers a long-term incentive grant to directors, in the form of Options, DSUs or RSUs. The long-term incentive grant for 2019 (made in February 2019) for directors other than the Chairman was \$96,832, and for the Chairman (Scott Hand at that time) was \$235,800. Such awards, which were approved and made in February 2019, are included in the below Director Compensation Table as Option-Based Awards.

The Corporation amended the timing and form of its long-term incentive grants in December 2019, such that the 2020 awards were made in the form of RSUs in late December 2019 at the following amounts: a value of \$100,000 for directors other than the Lead Director and \$130,000 for the Lead Director (Mr. Hand is no longer Chairman, he is Lead Director). Such awards are included in the below Director Compensation Table as Share-Based Awards. The result of such change in timing of is that the Total Compensation figures in the below table are higher than these would have been in the absence of such change, as the table effectively reflects two years' of long-term incentive grants.

#### Director Compensation Table

The following table sets forth all amounts of compensation provided to the directors for the Corporation's financial year ended December 31, 2019. All dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

Name	Fees Earned <sup>(1)</sup>	Share-Based Awards <sup>(2)</sup>	Option-Based Awards <sup>(3)</sup>	All Other Compensation <sup>(1) (4)</sup>	Total Compensation
Peter Goudie	\$67,500	\$100,000	\$96,832	\$31,250	\$295,582
Scott M. Hand	\$106,736	\$130,000	\$235,800	\$10,000	\$482,536
Paul Huet	\$7,333	-	\$96,832	-	\$104,165
Wendy Kei	\$71,250	\$100,000	\$96,832	-	\$268,082
Frank Marzoli	\$62,014	\$100,000	\$96,832	\$15,000	\$273,846

Name	Fees	Share-Based	Option-Based	All Other	Total
	Earned <sup>(1)</sup>	Awards <sup>(2)</sup>	Awards <sup>(3)</sup>	Compensation <sup>(1) (4)</sup>	Compensation
Warwick Morley-Jepson	\$65,653	\$100,000	\$96,832	\$38,000	\$300,485

#### **Notes:**

- (1) Directors may elect to receive Director fees (listed above under "Fees Earned") and the payments described in note (4) below and listed above under "All Other Compensation" in cash or RSUs. Together the directors elected to receive a total of \$217,674 of these fees and payments in RSUs.
- (2) This column represents RSUs granted under the Share Incentive Plan. Pursuant to amendments made to the Corporation's Share Incentive Plan in June 2019, each non-employee director may receive a maximum annual value of \$100,000 worth of Options and \$150,000 worth of share-based Awards. This provision does not apply to grants made prior to the amendment (i.e., the grants listed above under Option-based awards, which were made in February 2019), one-time initial grants made to a new director upon joining the Board or to cash settled RSUs or other cash-settled awards. The Corporation is in compliance with these limitations.
- (3) This column represents Options granted under the Share Incentive Plan. Pursuant to amendments made to the Corporation's Share Incentive Plan in June 2019, each non-employee director may receive a maximum annual value of \$100,000 worth of Options and \$150,000 worth of share-based Awards. This provision does not apply to grants made prior to the amendment (i.e., the grants listed above under Option-based awards, which were made in February 2019), one-time initial grants made to a new director upon joining the Board or to cash settled RSUs or other cash-settled awards. The Corporation is in compliance with these limitations.
- (4) This column ("All Other Compensation") lists travel fees (\$1,250 per day) paid to Mr. Goudie, Mr. Hand, Mr. Marzoli and Mr. Morley-Jepson. In addition, as consideration for the extra-ordinary level of work in 2019 as Chair of the Technical, Health, Safety and Sustainability Committee, Mr. Morley-Jepson also received an additional \$18,000 in compensation (satisfied with RSUs).

## Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards as at December 31, 2019

The following table sets forth for each director all awards outstanding at the end of the financial year ended December 31, 2019, including awards granted before the most recently completed financial year that were still outstanding on December 31, 2019. All dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

	Option-based Awards Vested and Unvested			Share-based Awards			
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised award (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Award exercise or base price	Award expiration date <sup>(2)</sup>	Value of unexercised in-the- money awards	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#) <sup>(4)</sup>	Market or payout value of share- based awards that have not vested	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed
Paul Huet	<u>Options</u>						
	650,000	\$0.56	15-Nov-2023	-	2,717,250	\$1,358,625	\$52,226
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			
	750,000	\$0.39	27-Sep-2024	\$86,250			
Scott M. Hand	<u>Options</u>						
	1,500,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$345,000	309,524	\$154,762	\$1,228,853
	1,200,000	\$0.24	06-Feb-2023	\$318,000			
	582,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			
	<u>SARs</u>						
	78,000	\$0.40	14-Dec-2022	\$7,800			

	Option-based Awards Vested and Unvested				Share-based Awards		
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised award (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Award exercise or base price	Award expiration date <sup>(2)</sup>	Value of unexercised in-the- money awards	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#) <sup>(4)</sup>	Market or payout value of share- based awards that have not vested	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed
Peter Goudie	<u>Options</u>						
	750,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$172,500	238,095	\$119,048	\$382,500
	600,000	\$0.24	06-Feb-2023	\$159,000			
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			
	SARs						
	52,000	\$0.40	14-Dec-2022	\$5,200			
Wendy Kei	<u>Options</u>						
	650,000	\$0.10	12-Jul-2023	\$260,000	238,095	\$119,048	\$41,538
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			
Frank Marzoli	<u>Options</u>						
	150,000	\$0.18	11-Dec-2020	\$48,750	238,095	\$119,048	\$248,877
	750,000	\$0.27	21-Dec-2021	\$172,500			
	600,000	\$0.24	06-Feb-2023	\$159,000			
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			
	SARs						
	52,000	\$0.40	14-Dec-2022	\$5,200			
Warwick	<u>Options</u>						
Morley-Jepson	650,000	\$0.56	15-Nov-2023	-	238,095	\$119,048	\$41,433
	239,000	\$0.66	26-Feb-2024	-			

# Notes:

- (1) This column represents options and stand-alone cash-settled SARs. Subject to certain exceptions relating to a change of control or ceasing to be a director, the SARs granted to the directors vest if the Human Resources and Compensation Committee passes a resolution approving the redemption of the SARs having regard to the Corporation's financial condition, project status and overall market conditions, provided that the number of SARs to vest will be dependent upon the length of service of the director as follows: one-third will not be dependent on the length of service and shall vest upon the Committee approval condition referred to above, one-third will only vest subject to the Committee approval referred to above if the director is still serving as a director on the first anniversary of the date of grant and the remaining one-third will only vest subject to the Committee approval referred to above if the director is still serving as a director on the second anniversary of the date of grant. Notwithstanding the above, in the event that the Committee approval condition is not met prior to December 14, 2022 (for SARs granted in 2012), the SARs will be redeemed on December 14, 2022.
- (2) All vested SARs must be redeemed on or before the expiration date specified above.
- (3) The value of unexercised option-based awards and unredeemed SARs was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 of \$0.50 less the exercise or base price of the award.
- (4) This represents RSUs and DSUs.
- (5) The market or payout value was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the TSX on December 31, 2019 of \$0.50.

## Incentive Plan Awards - Value Vested or Earning During The Year

The following table sets forth details of the value vested or earned by each director during the financial year ended December 31, 2019 for each incentive plan award. All dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

Name	Option-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup>	Share-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(2)</sup>
Scott M. Hand	\$30,000	\$316,101
Peter Goudie	\$20,000	\$130,269
Frank Marzoli	\$20,000	\$106,041

## **Notes:**

- (1) Represents the aggregate dollar value that would have been realized if the Options or SARs that vested during the year had been exercised or redeemed, as applicable, on the vesting date.
- (2) This represents RSUs and DSUs. The value of share-based awards that vested during the year was calculated using the closing price of common shares on the vesting date on the TSX.

## OTHER INFORMATION

# Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth all compensation plans under which equity securities of the Corporation are authorized for issuance as of the end of the most recently completed financial year.

# **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by securityholders: <sup>(1)</sup>			
Options	26,365,501	\$0.35	
Awards	5,252,384	-	
Sub Total	31,617,885 <sup>(2)</sup>		48,729,872
Equity compensation plans not approved by securityholders	-	-	-
Total	31,617,885	-	48,729,872

# Notes:

- (1) The number of common shares issuable upon the exercise of Options and made available as Awards, in aggregate, cannot exceed 15% of the issued and outstanding common shares from time to time.
- (2) Includes Options and Awards under Share Incentive Plan, which Awards include 784,343 DSUs and 4,468,041 RSUs which are redeemable in cash or common shares at the option of the holder, but exclude 182,000 SARs and 9,267,685 RSUs, which are redeemable in cash only.

# **Indebtedness of Directors and Executive Officers**

No director, proposed nominee for election as a director, executive officer, employee or associate of any such persons has been or is indebted to the Corporation, nor has the Corporation guaranteed any loans on behalf of any of these persons.

#### **Interest of Informed Persons in Material Transactions**

Management of the Corporation is not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, of any director or executive officer of the Corporation, any other informed person of the Corporation (as defined in NI 51-102), any proposed nominee for election as a director of the Corporation, or any associate or affiliate of any such person, in any transaction since the commencement of the Corporation's most recently completed financial year or in any proposed transaction which has materially affected or would materially affect the Corporation or any of its subsidiaries.

## STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

RNC considers good corporate governance to be central to the effective and efficient operation of its business and is committed to implementing high standards of corporate governance and reporting. The Board reviews and formulates policies with respect to corporate governance issues. RNC attempts, so far as is practical and reasonable given the nature of RNC's business and available resources, to seek to adhere to the guidelines outlined in National Policy 58-201 – *Corporate Governance Guidelines*.

#### **Board of Directors**

## Composition of the Board

The Articles of incorporation and Bylaws of the Corporation provide that its Board be comprised of a minimum of three directors and a maximum of ten directors. The Board has considered the independence of each of its directors. Consistent with National Instrument 58-101 – *Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices* ("NI 58-101"), to be considered independent, the Board must conclude that a director has no material relationship with the Corporation. A "material relationship" is a relationship that could, in the view of the Board, be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of a director's independent judgment and includes an indirect material relationship. The Board has concluded that all directors standing for election other than Paul Huet are "independent" as defined in NI 58-101. Mr. Huet is considered non-independent as a result of his managerial role as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

# Other Directorships

Certain directors of the Corporation who are standing for election are also presently directors of other issuers that are reporting issuers (or the equivalent) in Canada or elsewhere. Information as to such other directorships is set out below.

Director	Public Corporation
Paul Huet	1911 Gold Corporation
Wendy Kei	Ontario Power Generation Inc. (1) Guyana Goldfields Inc.
Warwick Morley-Jepson	Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.

## Notes:

(1) Ontario Power Generation Inc. is a non-venture reporting issuer.

## Independent Directors' Meetings

The Board meets at least once each quarter, with additional meetings held as deemed necessary. A session of the independent directors is held at which non-independent directors, if any, and members of management are not in attendance at the end of each regularly scheduled Board meeting. In 2019, two Board meetings were held at which such independent sessions were held.

# Chairman of the Board

The prime responsibility of the Chairman is to provide leadership to the Board to enhance Board effectiveness. Paul Huet currently serves as Chairman and is considered non-independent under applicable securities laws. The Board has ultimate accountability for supervision of management of the business and affairs of the Corporation. Critical to meeting this accountability is the relationship between the Board, management and shareholders. The Chairman oversees these relationships and acts as the presiding member of the Board with a view to ensuring that these relationships are effective, efficient and further the best interests of the Corporation.

#### Lead Director

Lead Director is a non-executive position which focuses on ensuring open and candid discussion takes place among the independent directors, and between independent and non-independent directors. The Corporation appoints a Lead Director in circumstances where the Chairman of the Board is considered non-independent under applicable securities laws. Scott Hand current services as Lead Director. To enhance the effectiveness of the Board, among other things, the Lead Director ensures that the independent directors have an opportunity to meet, without management and the non-independent directors being present at Board meetings.

## Attendance at Meetings

The Board meets regularly to review the activities and financial results of the Corporation and as necessary to review and consider significant impending actions of the Corporation. For the attendance record of each director for all Board meetings held during the financial year ended December 31, 2019, please see the table under "Business of the Meeting – Election of Directors".

## **Board Mandate**

The Charter of the Board (the "**Board Charter**") sets out the roles and responsibilities to be discharged by directors. A copy of the Board Charter is attached as Appendix A to this Circular.

# **Position Descriptions**

Written position descriptions have been developed by the Board for the Chairman of the Board, the Lead Director of the Board, the Chairs of the committees of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. These position descriptions have been approved by the Board.

## Orientation and Continuing Education

In accordance with the Corporation's policies on orientation for new directors, each new director is provided a copy of the Corporation's Director Handbook, which contains written information about the Corporation's governing documents, code of business conduct and ethics, charters and other material information about the Corporation. Directors are strongly encouraged to visit the Corporation's facilities and operations and to meet with the senior executives of the Corporation, when appropriate. Directors are also encouraged to be a member of a professional director organization and/or have a subscription with an organization that provides educational materials or corporate governance and/or director responsibilities, current trends and other relevant director information.

## Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

The Board has adopted a written Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code") to outline principles to which RNC's employees, officers and directors are expected to adhere in the conduct of the Corporation's business. The Code addresses, among other things, conflicts of interest, protection and proper use of corporate assets and opportunities, confidentiality of corporate information, compliance with laws and the reporting of illegal or unethical behaviour. All employees, officers and directors are expected to abide by the Code. Compliance with the Code is monitored by the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. In order to ensure compliance with the Code, directors, officers and other employees of the Corporation may be required to provide certificates of compliance with the Code at least annually. The Code is available on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) under RNC's issuer profile.

The Corporation has also adopted a whistleblower policy, an insider trading policy and other policies with a view to promoting a culture of ethical business conduct.

# Nomination of Directors

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (the "CGN Committee") assists in the identification of and recommends to the Board nominees for election or re-election to the Board, or for appointment to fill any vacancy that is anticipated or has arisen on the Board. The process by which the Board will identify new candidates for Board nomination will involve: periodically, or as frequently as deemed necessary, reviewing the appropriate skills and characteristics required of Board members to add value to the Corporation; periodically, or as frequently as deemed necessary, reviewing the current composition of the Board in light of the characteristics of independence, diversity, age, skills, experience and availability of service of its members and of anticipated needs; and seeking and reviewing individuals qualified to become members of the Board, in the context of the Corporation's needs and the criteria established by the Board.

The Corporation has adopted a majority voting policy that stipulates that, except in a contested meeting, if a director nominee receives a greater number of votes withheld for his or her election than for his or her election, the nominee will submit his or her resignation promptly after the meeting. Absent exceptional circumstances, the Board will accept the resignation. The Board's decision to accept or reject the resignation offer will be disclosed to the public. Subject to certain exceptions, the nominee will not participate in any committee or Board deliberations on the resignation offer. The Corporation is entitled to nominate only those candidates for election or re-election as directors who agree, prior to their nomination, to tender their resignations in accordance with the terms of the policy.

The CGN Committee also develops and recommends to the Board the corporate governance procedures, charters and policies of the Corporation, monitors compliance with such procedures, charters and policies and assesses the effectiveness of the Board as a whole as well as the contribution of committees and individual members.

# Compensation

It is the Human Resources and Compensation Committee's responsibility to: develop a compensation philosophy and policy; evaluate and make recommendations to the Board regarding cash, equity-based and incentive compensation of the Corporation's directors and senior executives; review and approve the goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of those goals and objectives and make recommendations to the Board for the Chief Executive Officer's compensation based on the evaluation; review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the compensation of directors; make certain determinations with respect to the compensation of senior executives other than the Chief Executive Officer; and review executive compensation disclosure before the Corporation publicly discloses the information.

For information regarding the process by which the Board determines the compensation for the Corporation's senior executives, please see "Statement of Executive Compensation – Compensation Discussion and Analysis". For information regarding the process by which the Board determines the compensation for the Corporation's directors, please see "Statement of Executive Compensation – Director Compensation".

# **Other Board Committees**

Other than the Audit Committee, the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the CGN Committee, the Board does not have any other standing committees other than the Technical, Health, Safety and Sustainability Committee (the "THSS Committee"). The THSS Committee is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of policies and management systems of the Corporation relating to exploration, development and operational matters, including environmental and health and safety issues in order to ensure compliance with applicable laws and best management practices. It is the THSS Committee's responsibility to ensure adequate resources are available and systems are in place for management of the Corporation to implement appropriate operational, environmental, health and safety programs and to ensure that the Corporation has implemented an environmental and health and safety compliance audit program.

#### **Board Assessments**

The Board has express responsibility under the Board Charter to assess its own effectiveness in fulfilling its responsibilities, including monitoring the effectiveness of its committees and individual directors. The CGN Committee is the committee responsible for establishing criteria and processes for, and leading the Board in, a performance evaluation (performed annually) of the Board, its committees and individual directors. The results of this evaluation are then reported to the full Board by the chair of the CGN Committee.

## Diversity Policy

The Corporation believes that decision-making is enhanced through diversity in the broadest sense. In the context of an effective board of directors, diversity includes expression of thought, business experience, skill sets and capabilities. Diversity also includes valuing an individual's race, colour, gender, age, religious belief, ethnicity, cultural background, economic circumstance, human capacity, and sexual orientation. Taken together, these diverse skills and backgrounds help to create a business environment that encourages a range of perspectives and fosters excellence in the creation of shareholder value. The Corporation further believes that diversity provides a competitive advantage and makes for better decisions, which create further value for shareholders. The Corporation supports and encourages diversity at all levels, as is reflected in its Diversity Policy. See "Canada Business Corporations Act requirements on Diversity" below.

## **Board Diversity**

The Corporation's Diversity Policy provides, among other things, that in reviewing Board composition, the CGN Committee will consider the benefits of all aspects of diversity, including gender, age, ethnicity, disability and geographical background of each candidate, in order to enable the Board to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively. Having regard to the four "designated groups" specified by the CBCA (women, members of a visible minority, persons with a disability and Aboriginal person), Board appointment recommendations look to highly qualified individuals based on their experience, education, expertise, personal qualities, and general business and sector specific knowledge. In identifying suitable candidates for appointment to the Board, the CGN Committee considers candidates on merit against objective criteria as described above and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board. The Board is committed to ensuring that gender diversity is actively pursued. When filling a vacancy, the CGN Committee generally seeks women candidates during the director identification and selection process by reviewing information sources that profile women who are currently on or have an interest in serving on public Canadian boards and also by identifying qualified women in the mining industry. Selection of female candidates to join the Board will be, in part, dependent on the pool of female candidates with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience. The ultimate decision will be based on merit and contribution the chosen candidate will bring to the Board. See "Canada Business Corporations Act requirements on Diversity" below.

## Senior Management Diversity

The Policy also covers senior executive appointments and requires the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation to have reference to the policy in selecting and assessing candidates and in presenting recommendations to the Board regarding appointments to the senior executive team. The Policy requires the Board to also consider all aspects of

diversity and the objectives of the policy when considering those recommendations. See "Canada Business Corporations Act requirements on Diversity" below.

Effectiveness of the Diversity Policy

The CGN Committee measures the effectiveness of the Diversity Policy by monitoring the initiatives undertaken by the Corporation to promote diversity within the organization, and ensuring that balanced slates of candidates are presented for board searches and senior management positions where possible and reviews the Diversity Policy and its objectives annually to assess its effectiveness and reports to the Board and recommends any revisions that may be necessary.

### Canada Business Corporations Act requirements on Diversity

Effective January 1, 2020, the CBCA was amended to require additional disclosures about diversity. Although the CGN Committee and the Board have not adopted a target number or percentage objective for each of the "designated groups" (as such term is defined in the CBCA which, in turn, is defined in the *Employment Equity Act of Canada*), the Board, its relevant committees and senior management actively consider and review whether candidates representing diversity criteria have been considered and/or appointed to senior management positions and to the Board.

In addition to the designated groups stipulated by the CBCA, we view diversity in the broadest sense and consider the following as examples of additional diversity dimensions that are equally important and necessary across our organization: diversity of thought, perspectives and life experience which can include education, socioeconomic status, language, sexual orientation, values and beliefs, among others. For these reasons and in light of all that is currently considered and actively discussed about diversity, our Diversity Policy was not amended to add (and does not include) targets and objectives for women, visible minorities, persons with disabilities or aboriginal persons (as such terms are defined in the Employment Equity Act) on its board or executive positions at this time.

As it relates to the "designated groups" specified by the CBCA (the below information is provided as of the date of this Circular):

- One (14%) of our seven directors, and one (20%) of our five executive officers, is a woman;
- One (14%) of our seven directors, none of our five executive officers, self-identifies as a member of a visible minority; and
- None of our seven directors, and none of our five executive officers, self-identifies as a person with a disability or an Aboriginal person.

# Term Limits

The Corporation is committed to ensuring that the Board at all times has the appropriate mix of skills, expertise and knowledge. It has not adopted, and is not currently contemplating the adoption of, formal term limits or a formal retirement policy for its directors. The Corporation believes that the imposition of such limits could be counterproductive as it has been the Corporation's experience that its more senior directors, who may have been forced to retire if such policies were implemented, continue to provide invaluable insight, perspectives and guidance that are critical as the Board and senior management work to achieve RNC's strategic and operational objectives. Renewal is facilitated through the annual assessments of the Board, its committees, committee chairs and individual directors (described above, in which Board members evaluate each other and the Board as a whole in order to determine whether there are areas where the Board requires improvement). The addition to the Board of Paul Huet (in 2018) and Warwick Morley-Jepson (in 2019), both highly regarded and experienced gold mining industry executives, Wendy Kei (in 2018), a highly qualified finance executive with extensive and varied experience, and Chad Williams (in 2020), with extensive mining-focused capital markets and leadership experience, are examples of the Board's commitment to renewal and improvement as circumstances warrant.

# NORMAL COURSE ISSUER BID

On April 15, 2020, the Corporation announced that the TSX had accepted its notice of intention to proceed with a normal course issuer bid (the "**Bid**") for its Common Shares. Pursuant to the Bid, the Corporation is permitted to purchase up to 30,415,198 Common Shares, representing approximately 5% of the Corporation's issued and outstanding Common Shares on April 8, 2020, during the twelve-month period commencing on April 17, 2020 and ending on April 16, 2021. Under the Bid, the Corporation can purchase up to 383,299 Common Shares on the TSX during any trading day, representing approximately 25% of 1,533,196, which represents the average daily trading volume on the TSX for the most recently completed six calendar months prior to the TSX's acceptance of the notice of the Bid. Any Common Shares so purchased under the Bid will be cancelled. As at May 8, 2020, no Common Shares have been purchased for cancellation by the Corporation through the Bid. A copy of the notice of intention to proceed with the Bid may be obtained upon request.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The CBCA, which governs the Corporation, provides that shareholder proposals must be received within sixty (60) days of the anniversary date of the Corporation's last annual meeting to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement and the form of proxy for this annual and special meeting.

Additional information relating to the Corporation is available on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) under RNC's issuer profile. Financial information is provided in the Corporation's audited annual financial statements and management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") for the year ended December 31, 2019.

In addition, copies of the Corporation's audited financial statements and MD&A may be obtained upon request to the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation. The Corporation may require the payment of a reasonable charge if the request is made by a person who is not a shareholder of the Corporation.

# DIRECTORS' APPROVAL

The directors of the Corporation have approved the contents and the sending of this Circular.

# BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

(signed) Paul Huet

Toronto, Ontario May 8, 2020 Paul Huet

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

# APPENDIX A CHARTER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 1. ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the board of directors (the "Board") of Royal Nickel Corporation (the "Corporation") is to oversee, directly and through its committees, the business and affairs of the Corporation, which are conducted by its officers and employees under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"). In doing so, the Board acts at all times with a view to the best interests of the Corporation.

#### 2. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board meets regularly to review reports by management on the performance of the Corporation with, as set out in the Board Committee Charters, the assistance of the established Board Committee. In addition to the general supervision of management, the Board performs the following functions:

## 2.1 Strategic Planning

Overseeing the strategic planning process within the Corporation and periodically reviewing, approving and monitoring the strategic plan for the Corporation including fundamental financial and business strategies and objectives.

#### 2.2 Risk Assessment

Assessing the major risks facing the Corporation and reviewing, approving, monitoring and mitigating those risks.

# 2.3 CEO

Developing the corporate objectives that the CEO is responsible for meeting and selecting, evaluating and compensating the CEO.

# 2.4 Succession Planning

Succession planning for the CEO of the Corporation. The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee oversees succession planning associated with the members of the Board (with final approval by the Board). The Human Resources & Nominating Committee oversees succession planning associated with positions that report directly to the CEO (with final approval by the Board).

# 2.5 Senior Management

Overseeing the selection, evaluation and compensation of senior management, and monitoring succession planning in respect of these roles (the Human Resources and Compensation Committee shall have direct responsibility for senior management succession planning).

# 2.6 Disclosure Policy

Adopting a disclosure policy for the Corporation which is designed to ensure the timeliness and integrity of communications to shareholders and establishing suitable mechanisms to receive stakeholder views.

# 2.7 Corporate Governance

Developing the Corporation's approach to corporate governance, including developing a set of corporate governance principles and guidelines applicable to the Corporation.

# 2.8 Financial Statements and Internal Controls

- (a) Reviewing and monitoring the controls and procedures within the Corporation to maintain its integrity including its disclosure controls and procedures, and its internal controls and procedures for financial reporting and compliance.
- (b) Reviewing and approving the financial statements of the Corporation, as recommended by the Audit Committee of the Board.

# 2.9 Maintaining Integrity

On an ongoing basis, satisfying itself as to the integrity of the CEO and other executive officers and that the CEO and other executive officers create a culture of integrity throughout the Corporation, including compliance with its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

## 2.10 Standing Committees

The Board has established the following standing committees (each, a "Committee") to assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities: (i) Audit, (ii) Corporate Governance and Nominating, (iii) Human Resources & Compensation, and (iv) Technical, Health and Sustainability. Special committees may be established from time to time to assist the Board in connection with specific matters. The chair of each committee reports to the Board following meetings of the committee. The terms of reference of each standing committee are reviewed periodically by the Board.

#### 2.11 Evaluation

The Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee performs an annual assessment of: (i) the effectiveness of the Board as a whole, the committees of the Board and the contributions of individual directors, and (ii) the skills level of Board members in various listed categories.

## 2.12 Compensation

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee recommends to the Board the compensation for non-management directors. In reviewing the adequacy and form of compensation, the committee seeks to ensure that the compensation reflects the responsibilities and risks involved in being a director of the Corporation and aligns the interests of the directors with the best interests of the Corporation.

# 2.13 Access to Independent Advisors

The Board and any committee may at any time retain outside financial, legal or other advisors at the expense of the Corporation. Any director may, subject to the approval of the Chair of the Board, retain an outside advisor at the expense of the Corporation.

## 3. COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURES

# 3.1 Size of Board and Selection Process

The directors of the Corporation are elected each year by shareholders at the annual meeting of shareholders. The Board, with the assistance of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, proposes individual nominees to shareholders for election. Any shareholder may propose a nominee for election to the Board either by means of a shareholder proposal upon compliance with the requirements prescribed by the *Canada Business Corporations Act* ("CBCA") or by complying with the advance notice requirements of the Corporation's by-laws. The Board also recommends the number of directors on the Board to shareholders for approval. Between annual meetings, the Board may appoint directors to serve until the next annual meeting.

# 3.2 Qualifications

Directors should have the highest personal and professional integrity, ethics and values and be committed to advancing the best interests of the Corporation. They should possess skills and competencies in areas that are relevant to the Corporation's activities. A majority of the directors will be independent based on the rules and guidelines of applicable stock exchanges and securities regulatory authorities.

## 3.3 Chair of the Board & Lead Director

Where the Chair of the Board is determined not to be "independent" (as interpreted under Canadian securities laws), whether by virtue of serving an Executive Chair or otherwise, the Board will appoint a Lead Director to provide independent leadership to the Board.

#### 3.4 Director Orientation

The Corporation's management team is responsible for providing an orientation and education program for new directors.

#### 4. MEETINGS

The Board has at least four scheduled meetings a year. The Board is responsible for its agenda. Prior to each Board meeting, the CEO discusses agenda items for the meeting with the Chair of the Board. Materials for each meeting are distributed to the directors in advance of the meetings. At the conclusion of each regularly scheduled meeting, the independent directors meet without management present. The Secretary of the Corporation will prepare minutes of all Board meetings, which shall be available for review by the Board. Except in exceptional circumstances, draft minutes of each meeting of the Board shall be circulated to the Board for review within 14 days following the date of each such meeting.

### 4.1 Attendance

Directors are expected to attend all properly called meetings in person or by telephone. As a minimum, directors are expected to attend at least 75% of all properly called meetings and to have reviewed meeting materials in advance.

# 4.2 Quorum

Subject to the by-laws of the Corporation, quorum for the transaction of business of the Board shall be a majority of the number of the members of the Board. If within one hour of the time appointed for a meeting of the Committee, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same hour on the next business day following the date of such meeting at the same place. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum as hereinbefore specified is not present within one hour of the time appointed for such adjourned meeting, such meeting shall stand adjourned to the same hour on the second business day following the date of such meeting at the same place.

# 4.3 Notice

Subject to the CBCA, and the articles and by-laws of the Corporation, Board meetings shall be held from time to time and at such place as any member of the Board shall determine upon reasonable notice to each of its members which shall not be less than forty-eight (48) hours. The notice period may be waived by all members of the Board, if any one of the Chairperson of the Board or the CEO considers it a matter of urgency that a meeting of the Board be convened, he or she may give notice of a meeting by means of any telephonic, electronic or other communication facility no less than one hour before the meeting. No notice of a meeting will be necessary if all the directors in office are present or if those absent waive notice of that meeting, except where a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called.

# 4.4 Participation

Members may participate in a meeting of the Board in person or by means of telephone, web conference or other communication equipment that permits all persons to participate in the meeting adequately. The Board may invite other officers and employees of the Corporation and such other advisors and persons as is considered advisable to attend any meeting of the Board. For greater certainty, the Board shall have the right to determine who shall and who shall not be present at any time during a meeting of the Board.

# 4.5 Voting

Subject to the CBCA and the articles and by-laws of the Corporation, any matter to be determined by the Board shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Board called for such purpose. Any action of the Board may also be taken by an instrument or instruments in writing signed by all of the members of the Board (including in counterparts, by facsimile or other electronic signature) and any such action shall be as effective as if it had been decided by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Committee called for such purpose. In case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the Board will not be entitled to a second or casting vote.

# APPENDIX B NAME CHANGE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

#### **Name Change Resolution**

#### "BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

- 1. the articles of the Corporation be amended (the "Amendment"), subject to any necessary regulatory approvals, to change the name of the Corporation from "Royal Nickel Corporation" to "Karora Resources Inc.", in its sole discretion determines, and as may become effective such a date in the future as the directors of the Corporation may determined, as more particularly described in the Corporation's management information circular dated May 8, 2020;
- 2. the Corporation be, and it hereby is, authorized and empowered to file articles of amendment (the "**Articles of Amendment**") with the Director appointed under section 173 of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* at any time after the date of this special resolution to give effect to the Amendment;
- 3. any one officer or any one director of the Corporation be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered, acting for, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to execute or to cause to be executed, under the seal of the Corporation or otherwise, and to deliver or to cause to be delivered, all such documents, all in such form and containing such terms and conditions, as any one of them shall consider necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing and shall approve, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution thereof by the Corporation, and to do or to cause to be done all such other acts and things as any one of them shall consider necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing or in order to give effect to the intent of the foregoing paragraph of this special resolution; and
- 4. notwithstanding that this special resolution has been approved by the shareholders of the Corporation, the directors of the Corporation are authorized to revoke this special resolution without further notice to, or approval of, the shareholders of the Corporation at any time prior to the endorsement by the Director of a certificate of amendment of articles in respect of the Amendment."

# APPENDIX C CONSOLIDATION AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

# **Consolidation Special Resolution**

#### "BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:

- 1. the articles of the Corporation be amended (the "Amendment") to consolidate the outstanding common shares of the Corporation (the "Common Shares") on such basis as the directors of the Corporation may determine, provided that the consolidation shall not be greater than on a 11-to-one basis (the "Share Consolidation"), with any resulting fractional Common Share that is held by a holder of Common Shares being cancelled and the aggregate number of Common Shares held by such holder being rounded down to the nearest whole number of Common Shares;
- the Corporation be, and it hereby is, authorized and empowered to file articles of amendment (the "**Articles of Amendment**") with the Director appointed under section 173 of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* at any time after the date of this special resolution and prior to the next annual meeting of shareholders of the Corporation to give effect to the Amendment;
- any one officer or any one director of the Corporation be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered, acting for, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to execute or to cause to be executed, under the seal of the Corporation or otherwise, and to deliver, or to cause to be delivered, the Articles of Amendment to the Director:
- 4. any one officer or any one director of the Corporation be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered, acting for, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to execute or to cause to be executed, under the seal of the Corporation or otherwise, and to deliver or to cause to be delivered, all such documents, all in such form and containing such terms and conditions, as any one of them shall consider necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing and shall approve, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution thereof by the Corporation, and to do or to cause to be done all such other acts and things as any one of them shall consider necessary or desirable in connection with the foregoing or in order to give effect to the intent of the foregoing paragraph of this special resolution; and
- 5. notwithstanding that this special resolution has been approved by the shareholders of the Corporation, the directors of the Corporation are authorized to revoke this special resolution without further notice to, or approval of, the shareholders of the Corporation at any time prior to the endorsement by the Director of a certificate of amendment of articles in respect of the Amendment."