



**ROYAL NICKEL CORPORATION**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2015**



Royal Nickel Corporation

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information .....	3
Description of Business .....	4
First Quarter and Recent Highlights .....	6
Operational Review .....	6
Nickel Industry Trends .....	9
Mineral Exploration Properties .....	10
Outlook .....	16
Results of Operations .....	17
Summary of Quarterly Results .....	18
Cash Flows, Liquidity and Capital Resources .....	19
Contractual Commitments .....	21
Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.....	21
Proposed Transactions .....	21
Outstanding Share Data.....	21
Disclosure Controls and Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting .....	22
International Financial Reporting Standards .....	22
Risk Factors .....	22



Royal Nickel Corporation

## INTRODUCTION

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The following management's discussion and analysis ("**MD&A**") of the financial condition and results of the operations of Royal Nickel Corporation ("**RNC**", "**Royal Nickel**" or the "**Corporation**") constitutes management's review of the factors that affected the Corporation's financial and operating performance for the three months ended March 31, 2015. This MD&A, dated May 8, 2015, is intended to supplement and complement the Corporation's unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements – prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("**IFRS**") applicable to the preparation of interim financial statements including IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting – and related notes for the three months ended March 31, 2015, and should be read in conjunction with both the audited consolidated financial statements and MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the Corporation's most recent Annual Information Form on file with Canadian provincial securities regulatory authorities and available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Unless otherwise noted, all amounts presented are in Canadian dollars.

## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

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This MD&A contains "forward-looking information" which may include, but is not limited to, statements with respect to targeted milestones to achieve development of the Dumont Nickel Project, successfully obtaining project financing, successfully obtaining permitting, the future financial or operating performance of the Corporation and its projects, the future price of and supply and demand for nickel, the estimation of mineral reserves and resources, the realization of mineral reserves and resources estimates, the timing and amount of estimated future production, costs of production, capital, operating and exploration expenditures, costs and timing of the development of new and existing deposits, costs and timing of future exploration as well as the potential of exploration properties, requirements for additional capital, government regulation of mining operations, environmental risks, reclamation expenses, the success of mining operations, permitting, economic return estimates and potential upside. Often, but not always, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates", or "does not anticipate" or "believes" or variations (including negative variations) of such words and phrases, or state that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved. Readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Corporation to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Even with the completion of the positive feasibility study, there are no assurances that the Dumont Nickel Project will be placed into production. Factors that could affect the outcome include, among others: inability to raise the funds necessary to achieve the milestones or complete development; the actual results of development activities; project delays; general business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties; future prices of metals; availability of alternative nickel sources or substitutions; actual nickel recovery; conclusions of economic evaluations; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; the future cost of capital to the Corporation; possible variations of ore grade or recovery rates; failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate as anticipated; accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; political instability, terrorism, insurrection or war; delays in obtaining governmental approvals, necessary permitting or in the completion of development or construction activities, as well as those factors discussed in the section entitled "*Risk Factors*" in the Corporation's most recent Annual Information Form. Such forward-looking statements are also based on a number of material factors and assumptions, including: the availability of financing at rates and on terms and conditions otherwise acceptable to the Corporation; future nickel prices; permitting and development consistent with Royal Nickel's expectations; foreign exchange rates; prices and availability of equipment; that contracted parties provide goods and/or services on the agreed timeframes; that the current tax credit receivable from the Quebec government is collected in a timely manner; that on-going contractual negotiations will be successful and progress and/or be completed in a timely manner; and that no unusual geological or technical problems occur.



Royal Nickel Corporation

Although the Corporation has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results to differ from those anticipated, estimated or intended. Forward-looking statements contained herein are made as of the date of this MD&A and the Corporation disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise, except as required by applicable securities laws. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements.

The use of the term “bankable” in this MD&A should not be construed as an indication that RNC has arranged or will be able to arrange project financing.

## **DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS**

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Royal Nickel is a mineral resource company primarily focused on the acquisition, exploration, evaluation and development of mineral properties. The Corporation is currently considered to be in the exploration and evaluation stage and its current principal asset and sole material property is the Dumont nickel project (the “**Dumont Nickel Project**”), strategically located in the established Abitibi mining camp, 25 kilometres northwest of Amos, Quebec, Canada. In addition to its Dumont Nickel Project the Corporation holds certain other properties, as set out below under “*Mineral Exploration Properties*”. The Corporation’s common shares and warrants are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“**TSX**”) (TSX symbols RNX and RNX.WT).

Since acquiring the Dumont Nickel Project in 2007, Royal Nickel has undertaken an aggressive exploration and evaluation program to evaluate and develop the mineral resources. In detailed evaluation of the Dumont Nickel Project, Royal Nickel has completed the following successive National Instrument 43-101 (“**NI 43-101**”) technical reports:

- Preliminary Economic Assessment – September 3, 2010
- Pre-feasibility Study – December 16, 2011
- Revised Pre-feasibility Study – June 22, 2012
- Feasibility Study – July 25, 2013

These technical reports were supported by detailed exploration and evaluation work including over 171,000 metres of diamond drilling at regularly spaced sections in order to delineate the mineral resource, assess geotechnical properties of the rock and evaluate regional exploration targets on the Dumont property. In addition to the resource definition, several programs intended to characterize the deposit and its environment have been undertaken to support development studies. These include geological interpretation studies, deposit and geotechnical modeling, and sampling for metallurgical testing. Detailed laboratory scale metallurgical testing on representative samples from the Dumont Nickel Project has been undertaken leading to a standard flowsheet design and estimate of nickel recovery and concentrate quality.

### **Feasibility Study**

On June 17, 2013, the Corporation released the results of a bankable feasibility study (“**feasibility study**”) based on a startup scenario of production of 52,500 tonnes per day (“**tpd**”) with a subsequent expansion to production of 105,000 tpd in year five. A bankable feasibility study is a comprehensive analysis of a project’s economics (to an accuracy of +/- 15%) and is used by the banking industry for financing purposes. The results from the feasibility study demonstrate RNC’s potential to be among the top five nickel sulphide operations globally (by annual nickel production) and that the Dumont Nickel Project has the third largest nickel reserves in the world. Highlights of the feasibility study include:

- After tax net present value (“**NPV**”) of US\$1,137 million at a discount rate of 8% from commencement of construction;
- After tax internal rate of return (“**IRR**”) of 15.2%;



Royal Nickel Corporation

- Simple payback period of 6.1 years;
- Initial capital expenditure estimate for the 52,500 tpd startup scenario of US\$1,191 million;
- Expansion from 52,500 tpd to 105,000 tpd in year five is estimated to require an additional US\$891 million investment;
- Initial nickel production of 73 million pounds (Mlbs) (33 kt) annually, expanding in year five to an annual average of 113 Mlbs (51 kt) for the remainder of the 20-year mine life and average production over the 33-year project life of 90 Mlbs (41kt) annually;
- C1 cash costs<sup>1</sup> of US\$4.01/lb (US\$8,840/t) during initial phase and US\$4.31/lb (US\$9,502/t) over 33-year life-of-project (low 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile of cash cost curve);
- Ore reserves of 1.2 billion tonnes at a 0.27% nickel grade containing 6.9 billion pounds of nickel to support a 33-year project life including 1.3 billion pounds of nickel in proven reserve;
- 1 million ounce PGE (platinum + palladium) reserve established;
- Estimated annual average of US\$427 million earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization and US\$238 million free cash flow over the 20-year mine life; and
- Nickel price assumptions used: US\$9.00/lb long term and US\$9.50, US\$10.00 and US\$10.50/lb in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Additional potential opportunities exist to improve the economics of the project that have not been included in the feasibility study at this time:

- **Alternate Downstream Processing Option:** The feasibility study economics assume selling nickel concentrate to a third party, but an alternate downstream processing option of producing nickel oxide or ferronickel could be utilized as well. This may improve the economics as a result of lower costs, more payable nickel and a larger customer base.
- **Trolley Assist – Mining Cost Improvements:** The feasibility study pit design allows for the potential to improve the overall mining costs for the Dumont Nickel Project by installing trolley assist during the expansion in year five and utilizing electricity to replace a portion of the diesel fuel consumed by trucks.
- **Iron Ore (Magnetite) Concentrate – Potential Additional By-product Credit:** The Dumont Nickel Project also has the potential to produce a 63.5% magnetite concentrate by-product that could be sold to steel producers to improve the revenue stream for the project.

All of these options will continue to be evaluated and may be included in the project at a later time if supported by the economics.

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<sup>1</sup> C1 cash costs are defined as the cash cost incurred at each processing stage, from mining through to recoverable nickel delivered to the market, net of by-product credits.



Royal Nickel Corporation

The NI 43-101 compliant feasibility study technical report on the Dumont Nickel Project dated July 25, 2013, is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## FIRST QUARTER AND RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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- On March 2, 2015, the Corporation announced that Sudbury Platinum Corporation (“**SPC**”), a private company in which RNC has an approximate 19% interest, had released initial results from its on-going drill program at the Aer-Kidd Project, located on the Worthington Offset Dyke of the Sudbury Igneous Complex. Two of SPC’s first three holes returned significant intersections of Totten-style Ni-Cu-PGM mineralization.
- On May 5, 2015, the Corporation was awarded the provincial Silver Medal for small and medium businesses in the Innovation category at the “Les Grands Prix santé et sécurité du travail” ceremony sponsored by the Quebec Occupational Health and Safety Commission (CSST). The Corporation was recognized for the development and implementation of a system that reduces the exposure of workers to vibrations during drilling.
- The Corporation incurred a net loss of \$0.3 million (\$0.00 per share) for the three months ended March 31, 2015, compared to a net loss of \$2.3 million (\$0.02 per share) for the same period in 2014.

## OPERATIONAL REVIEW

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The Corporation’s primary objective continues to be the development of its current principal property, the Dumont Nickel Project.

### Dumont Nickel Project

During the first quarter of 2015, the Corporation continued its activities in support of the development of the Dumont Nickel Project. The work program focused on supporting and following up on the ESIA filing.

The following were the major activities and accomplishments during the first quarter of 2015:

- **Stakeholder Relations:** Negotiations continued with the Abitibiwinni First Nation (“**AFN**”) to establish an Impact and Benefits Agreement within the framework of the memorandum of understanding (“**MOU**”) signed on April 4, 2013. The MOU will serve as a framework to govern the relationship between RNC and the AFN in accordance with our mutual intentions to further build on a relationship characterized by cooperation and mutual respect, in connection with the development of the Dumont Nickel Project. The MOU sets out the areas in which RNC and the AFN have agreed to work together and maintain effective avenues of communication to support mutual goals such as environmental responsibility and the enhancement of training, employment and business opportunities for Abitibiwinni community members.
- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment:** Analysis of the ESIA for the Dumont Nickel Project has been completed by the Quebec Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment, and the Fight against Climate Change. The next and final step in the permitting process is ministerial approval of the main environmental permit.



**Mineral Reserves and Resources – Dumont Nickel Project:**

The mineral reserves and resources for the Dumont Nickel Project shown below are extracted from the feasibility study technical report dated July 25, 2013, and filed under RNC's profile on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

The tonnages and grades for the Mineral Reserve and Resource estimates are summarized in the tables below. The mineral resource estimate includes mineral reserves:

**Mineral Resources**

**Mineral Resource Statement\*, Dumont Nickel Project, Quebec (SRK Consulting Canada, 30 April, 2013<sup>1</sup>)**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Quantity (kt)</b>	<b>Grade</b>		<b>Contained Nickel</b>		<b>Contained Cobalt</b>	
		<b>Ni (%)</b>	<b>Co (ppm)</b>	<b>(kt)</b>	<b>(Mlbs)</b>	<b>(kt)</b>	<b>(Mlbs)</b>
Measured	372,100	0.28	112	1050	2,310	40	92
Indicated	1,293,500	0.26	106	3,380	7,441	140	302
<b>Measured + Indicated</b>	<b>1,665,600</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>9,750</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>394</b>
Inferred	499,800	0.26	101	1,300	2,862	50	112
<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Quantity (kt)</b>	<b>Grade</b>		<b>Contained Palladium</b>		<b>Contained Platinum</b>	
		<b>Pd (g/t)</b>	<b>Pt (g/t)</b>	<b>(koz)</b>		<b>(koz)</b>	
Measured	372,100	0.024	0.011	288		126	
Indicated	1,293,500	0.017	0.008	720		335	
<b>Measured + Indicated</b>	<b>1,665,600</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>1,008</b>		<b>461</b>	
Inferred	499,800	0.014	0.006	220		92	
<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Quantity (kt)</b>	<b>Grade</b>		<b>Contained Magnetite</b>			
		<b>Magnetite (%)</b>		<b>(kt)</b>	<b>(Mlbs)</b>		
Measured	-	-		-	-		
Indicated	1,114,300	4.27		47,580	104,905		
<b>Measured + Indicated</b>	<b>1,114,300</b>	<b>4.27</b>		<b>47,580</b>	<b>104,905</b>		
Inferred	832,000	4.02		33,430	73,702		

**Notes:** 1. \*Reported at a cut-off grade of 0.15% nickel inside conceptual pit shells optimized using nickel price of US\$9.00 per pound, average metallurgical and process recovery of 40%, processing and G&A costs of US\$6.30 per tonne milled, exchange rate of C\$1.00 equal US\$0.90, overall pit slope of 42° to 50° depending on the sector, and a production rate of 105 kt/d. Values of cobalt, palladium, platinum and magnetite are not considered in the cut-off grade calculation as they are byproducts of recovered nickel. All figures are rounded to reflect the relative accuracy of the estimates. Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. The Measured and Indicated Mineral Resources are inclusive of those Mineral Resources modified to produce Mineral Reserves.



**Mineral Reserves****Mineral Reserves Statement\* (Snowden, 17 June 2013)<sup>1</sup>**

Category	(kt)	Grades				Contained Metal			
		Ni (%)	Co (ppm)	Pt (g/t)	Pd (g/t)	Ni (Mlb)	Co (Mlb)	Pt (koz)	Pd (koz)
Proven	179,600	0.32	114	0.013	0.029	1,274	45	77	166
Probable	999,000	0.26	106	0.008	0.017	5,667	233	250	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,178,600</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>6,942</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>716</b>

**Notes:** 1. \*Reported at a cut-off grade of 0.15% nickel inside an engineered pit design based on a Lerchs-Grossmann (LG) optimized pit shell using a nickel price of US\$5.58 per pound (62% of the long-term forecast of US\$9.00 per pound), average metallurgical recovery of 43%, marginal processing and G&A costs of US\$6.30 per tonne milled, long-term exchange rate of C\$1.00 equal US\$0.90, overall pit slope of 42° to 50° depending on the sector, and a production rate of 105 kt/d. Mineral Reserves include mining losses of 0.28% and dilution of 0.49% that will be incurred at the bedrock overburden interface (which corresponds to mining losses of 1 metre and 2 metres of dilution along this contact). The Proven Reserves are based on Measured Resources included within run-of-mine (ROM) mill feed. Probable Reserves are based on Measured Resources included within stockpile mill feed plus Indicated Resources included in both ROM and stockpile mill feed. All figures are rounded to reflect the relative accuracy of the estimates.

**Technical Disclosure**

Unless otherwise indicated, the Corporation has prepared the technical information in this MD&A ("**Technical Information**") based on information contained in the technical reports and news releases (collectively the "**Disclosure Documents**") available under Royal Nickel's company profile on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Each Disclosure Document was prepared by or under the supervision of a qualified person (a "**Qualified Person**") as defined in NI 43-101. Readers are encouraged to review the full text of the Disclosure Documents which qualifies the Technical Information. Readers are advised that mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. The Disclosure Documents are each intended to be read as a whole, and sections should not be read or relied upon out of context. The Technical Information is subject to the assumptions and qualifications contained in the Disclosure Documents.

The disclosure in this MD&A of all Technical Information has been approved by Alger St-Jean, P.Geo., Vice President Exploration of the Corporation and Johnna Muinonen, P.Eng., Vice President Operations of the Corporation, both Qualified Persons under NI 43-101.

**Exploration Properties****West Raglan Property**

On June 18, 2014, the Corporation announced that it had acquired an approximate 56% interest in True North Nickel Inc. ("**TNN**"), a private company whose main asset is a 100% interest in the West Raglan nickel sulphide project located in Quebec. On July 29, 2014, a NI 43-101 compliant technical report for the West Raglan Project was filed under RNC's profile on SEDAR.

West Raglan is a mature nickel sulphide exploration project located in the centre of the Cape Smith Belt in northern Quebec, Canada. The Cape Smith Belt is home to prolific, high-grade nickel sulphide deposits, including two producing mines; Glencore's Raglan Mine and Jilin Jien Nickel's Nunavik Mine. Over \$50 million has been spent in exploration at West Raglan including the drilling of over 200 diamond drill holes. Seven zones of Ni-Cu-PGM sulphide mineralization have been found to date on the 400-square-kilometre West Raglan property. One of these zones, the Frontier Zone, includes five key high-grade lens clusters. TNN's exploration model is based on the potential to build a resource out of the mineralized lenses at Frontier, exploring for additional lenses at Frontier, and for new lens clusters across the other zones of the property. The neighbouring Raglan Mine hosts similar clusters of mineralized lenses in 12 distinct zones, four of which are currently in production and feeding a central mill facility. TNN completed an airborne geophysical survey on the property in December 2014. Analysis of this airborne geophysical data along with satellite remote





Royal Nickel Corporation

sensing data analysis and remodeling of historical borehole geophysics in the first quarter of 2015 have yielded several high-quality exploration targets. These targets include extensions to known mineralised Ni-Cu-PGE lenses at the Frontier Zone and regional exploration targets at other prospective locations within the 60-kilometre long property. Planning of an exploration program for the summer of 2015 is ongoing.

As at the date of this MD&A, West Raglan is considered to have longer term potential. Geological and geophysical compilation and drill target development work, designed to develop a drilling program to be carried out during the 2015 summer field season, are planned for West Raglan in 2015, subject to financing.

#### ***Marbridge Property***

No significant work was completed by the Corporation on the Marbridge property during the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

#### ***Jefmar Property***

No significant work was completed by the Corporation on the Jefmar property during the quarter ended March 31, 2015.

### **NICKEL INDUSTRY TRENDS**

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After strong global growth in nickel consumption in 2014, consumption in the first quarter of 2015 was muted, largely due to a period of destocking in the stainless steel industry, exacerbated by some dislocation in the market caused by an EU decision to impose anti-dumping duties on imports of cold-rolled stainless steel from China and Taiwan. Global output of stainless steel, which accounts for approximately 70% of nickel use, is expected to rebound in the second quarter of 2015, driven by higher production in Asia and the United States, according to CRU. Also according to CRU data, the nickel market is set to swing from a small first quarter surplus in 2015 to a small deficit in the second quarter. RNC believes that the combination of the Indonesia ore export ban and structural supply shortfall will lead to multi-year deficits by mid-2015. The limited available supply of nickel will not be able to meet underlying demand and nickel prices will have to rise to force demand in line with supply, similar to the situation in 2006–2007 when nickel prices averaged approximately US\$14 per pound and reached highs of well over US\$20 per pound.

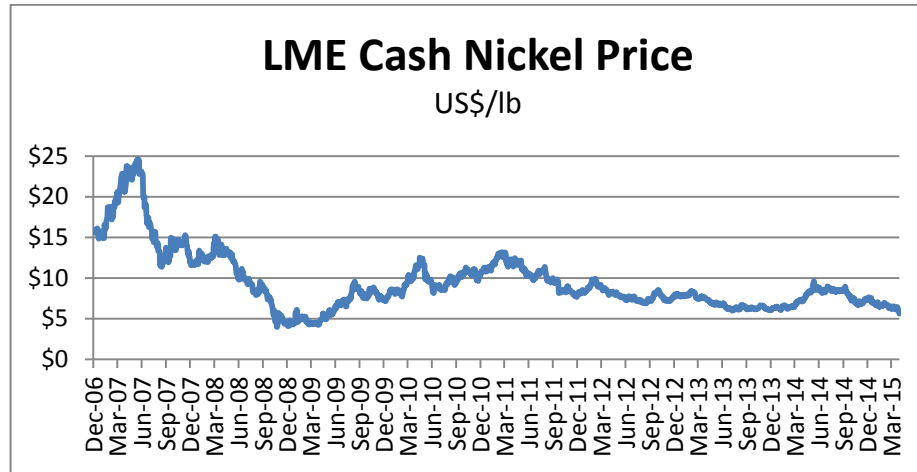
The dominant theme in the nickel market continues to be a constraint in nickel supply due to a lack of suitable feed for China's nickel pig iron ("NPI") industry, which accounted for approximately one quarter of global supply in 2014. China's NPI output has contracted as their main source of high grade nickel ore, Indonesia, is no longer an exporter of nickel ore as a result of the ban on exports of unprocessed nickel ore implemented on January 12, 2014. Chinese imports of Indonesian ore reached record levels in 2013 as Chinese consumers not only increased production, but stockpiled ore in advance of the Indonesian export ban. RNC believes that the Indonesian government will continue to strictly enforce the ban on unprocessed nickel ore exports resulting in a 25–30% reduction in world mined nickel supply and the potential for nickel shortages by the second half of 2015. The resolve of the Indonesian government to maintain and enforce a ban on raw material exports in an industry where they believe they have a competitive advantage is not without precedent. In 2002, the Indonesian government put in place a ban on tin concentrate exports that remains in effect today. The Indonesian government subsequently added additional restrictions to create additional tin processing in the country with the latest requirement that all exports first be traded on the Indonesian Commodity and Derivatives Exchange and meet minimum purity standards taking effect in 2013.

With lower nickel output from China, coupled with a drop in investment in new nickel projects following the market peak in 2007, there are very few large-scale projects with the potential to start production within the next few years. RNC believes its Dumont project is well positioned to take advantage of the developing nickel market supply shortfall.



## Nickel Prices

### Nickel Price Trend



Source: metalprices.com

Note: Nickel trades primarily on the LME and all references to nickel prices are based on trading on the LME.

Nickel opened the first quarter of 2015 at US\$6.75 per pound, reached a high of US\$7.01 on January 7, 2015, a low of US\$5.65 on March 31, 2015, and finished the quarter at US\$5.65 per pound. Nickel prices averaged US\$6.50 per pound in the first quarter of 2015, compared to US\$6.64 in the same period of 2014. During the first quarter of 2015, LME nickel inventories increased by approximately 5% (21 kilotonnes) to 434 kilotonnes.

## MINERAL EXPLORATION PROPERTIES

The current principal asset of the Corporation is the Dumont Nickel Project, where a mineral reserve has been delineated. The Corporation has other exploration assets, consisting of (i) the Jefmar property; (ii) the Marbridge property; (iii) a 19% interest in SPC, which holds a 100% interest in the mineral rights of the Aer-Kidd property and (iv) a 56% interest in TNN, whose main asset is a 100% interest in the West Raglan property. It has not yet been determined whether these other properties contain an economic mineral reserve or resource.

### The Dumont Nickel Project

The Dumont Nickel Project is located in the western portion of the province of Quebec. Specifically, the property is located in the Launay and Trecesson townships in the Abitibi region. The property is located approximately 25 kilometres west of the city of Amos, approximately 60 kilometres northeast of the industrial and mining city of Rouyn-Noranda and 70 kilometres northwest of the city of Val-d'Or.

The Dumont Property consists of 233 contiguous mineral claims totalling 9,306.5 hectares. The mineral resource is located mainly in Ranges V, VI and VII on Lots 46 to 62 of Launay township, and in Range V on Lots 1 to 3 of Trecesson township.

### Mineral Tenure

The mineral properties comprising the Dumont Nickel Project are all mineral claims. RNC holds 100% beneficial interest in five claims. Beneficial interest in the remaining 228 claims is held 98% by RNC and 2% by Ressources Québec Inc., a subsidiary of Investissement Québec, and held under the terms of the agreement entered into by the Corporation and Ressources Québec Inc. on August 1, 2012.



Royal Nickel Corporation

### ***Underlying Agreements***

The Dumont mineral claims are subject to various royalty agreements arising from terms of the property acquisitions by RNC or through the sale of royalties. The details of the underlying agreements are described below.

### ***Marbaw Royalty***

The Marbaw International Nickel Corporation ("**Marbaw**") property comprises an area totalling 2,639.0 hectares. This area originally consisted of 65 claims. Thirty-four of these claims were ground-staked claims that were converted to map-staked claims by the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources ("**MNR**") in 2013.

This property was originally held by Marbaw but a 100% interest in the claims was sold and transferred to RNC under an agreement dated March 8, 2007, for consideration that included future consideration.

Future consideration consisted of the following: (1) issuance of 7,000,000 shares in RNC to Marbaw upon the property being placed into commercial production or upon transfer of the property to a third party; (2) payment of \$1,250,000 to Marbaw on March 8, 2008. This cash amount has been paid by RNC.

RNC also committed to incurring a minimum expenditure of \$8,000,000 on the property prior to ceasing operations. This commitment was met in 2008. The Marbaw property is subject to a 3% NSR royalty payable to Marbaw. RNC has the right to buy back half of the 3% NSR royalty for \$10,000,000 at any time.

This property is subject to the Ressources Québec royalty and the Orion royalty.

### ***Coyle-Roby Royalty***

The Sheridan-Ferderber property comprises an area of 256.47 hectares corresponding to six historical contiguous ground-staked claims. The claims corresponding to the Sheridan-Ferderber property were converted to map staked claims by the MNR in 2013.

The property was originally held 50% by Terrence Coyle and 50% by Michel Roby, but it was optioned to Patrick Sheridan and Peter Ferderber under an agreement dated October 26, 2006. The option agreement was subsequently assigned to RNC through an agreement dated May 4, 2007.

RNC's option to acquire 100% interest in this property was exercised by the completion of \$75,000 in work on the property before October 26, 2008, and by paying \$10,000 to Coyle-Roby by October 26, 2007, and \$30,000 to Coyle-Roby by October 26, 2008. The claims were transferred 100% to RNC on August 25, 2008.

The property is subject to a 2% NSR royalty payable to Terrence Coyle (1%) and Michel Roby (1%). RNC has the right to buy back half of this 2% NSR royalty for \$1,000,000 at any time. An advance royalty of \$5,000 per year is also payable to Coyle-Roby beginning in 2011. Advance royalty payments up to and including October 2014 have been made.

These claims are also subject to the Ressources Québec royalty and the Orion royalty.

### ***Frigon-Robert Royalty***

The Frigon-Robert property comprises two contiguous claims totalling 83.84 hectares. The claims were originally held 50% by Jacques Frigon and 50% by Gérard Robert. They were transferred to RNC through a purchase agreement dated November 1, 2010.

The property is subject to a 2% NSR royalty payable to Jacques Frigon (1%) and Gérard Robert (1%). RNC has the right to buy back half of this 2% NSR royalty for \$1,000,000 at any time.

These claims are also subject to the Ressources Québec royalty and the Orion royalty.



Royal Nickel Corporation

### ***Pershimco Claims (Pershimco Royalty)***

The Pershimco mineral claim block comprises five claims totalling 195.64 hectares. The claims were originally held 100% by Pershimco Resources. They were transferred to RNC through a purchase agreement dated March 18, 2013, for \$30,000. These claims are subject to a 3% NSR royalty payable to Pershimco Resources. RNC has the option to buy back the NSR royalty in stages at any time by paying \$1,000,000 for the first percent, \$3,000,000 for the second percent and \$6,000,000 for the third percent. As these claims were acquired after the Ressources Québec agreement, they are not subject to the Ressources Québec royalty.

These claims are subject to the Orion royalty.

### ***Ressources Québec Royalty***

On August 1, 2012, RNC entered into an investment agreement with Ressources Québec. Pursuant to the agreement, RNC received \$12 million and Ressources Québec became entitled to receive 0.8% of the net smelter return from the sale of minerals produced from Dumont and acquired a 2% undivided co-ownership interest in the property. RNC has the right to repurchase, at any time after the fifth anniversary, all or any portion of Ressources Québec's interest for \$10 million for each 0.2% of the net smelter return, to a maximum consideration of \$40 million for the entire interest (including the 2% interest in the property). The Ressources Québec royalty applies to all Dumont claims except the five Pershimco claims that were acquired after the Ressources Québec agreement.

### ***Orion Royalty***

On May 10, 2013, RNC closed a royalty financing with RK Mine Finance Fund II (subsequently renamed Orion Mine Finance Fund 1). Under the terms of the financing, Orion (through 8248567 Canada Limited) acquired a 1% net smelter return royalty in the Dumont Nickel Project for a purchase price of US\$15 million. The Orion royalty applies to all Dumont claims.

### ***Permits and Authorizations***

Exploration work on public land ("Crown Land") is conducted under a forestry operational permit granted by the MNR and renewed periodically. Exploration work on agricultural zoned lands is conducted under a permit granted by the Quebec Agricultural Land Protection Commission (CPTAQ). Exploration work on private surface rights not owned by RNC is conducted under the terms of access agreements between RNC and individual land owners. Stream crossings have been constructed under permits issued variously or jointly by the MNR, CPTAQ and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks. There are no known formal native land claims on the territory of the Dumont Nickel Project within the St. Lawrence drainage basin. Algonquin First Nations do, however, assert aboriginal rights over parts of western Quebec and eastern Ontario. Consultation with First Nations is a responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. Nonetheless, RNC has initiated discussions with the local Algonquin Conseil de la Première nation Abitibiwinni and in April 2013 entered into a MOU for cooperation regarding the development of the Dumont Nickel Project.

### ***Environmental Considerations***

The Corporation is unaware of any outstanding environmental liabilities attached to the Dumont Nickel Project and is unable to comment on any remediation that may have been undertaken by previous companies. In order to limit environmental impact to one drainage basin, RNC has elected to contain feasibility study project infrastructure within the St. Lawrence drainage basin.

### ***Mining Rights in Quebec***

Under Quebec Mining Law, the holder of a claim has the exclusive right to explore for mineral substances (other than petroleum, natural gas and brine, sand, gravel and other surface substances) on the parcel of land subject to the claim. A claim has a term of two years. It may be renewed for additional periods of two years by completing minimum exploration work requirements and paying renewal fees. The holder of one or more claims may obtain a mining lease for the parcels of land subject to such claims, provided that the holder can prove the existence of a workable deposit on the property.



Royal Nickel Corporation

The mineral claims confer subsurface mineral rights only. Approximately 40% of the surface rights for the property are held privately by a number of owners, resident both in the area and outside the region. Of these privately held surface rights approximately 1,409 hectares are required for the development of the Dumont Nickel Project. To date, RNC has purchased or acquired options to purchase 100% of the private surface rights required for the development of the Dumont Nickel Project. The remainder of the surface rights are Crown Land.

A portion of the Dumont Nickel Project claims underlie surface rights that are classified as an agricultural zone within the meaning of the *Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities*, RSQ, c P-41.1. Exclusion of these lands from the agricultural zone, which is required to conduct mining activity on these lands, has been granted by the CPTAQ. Exclusion of adjacent lands that form a buffer zone to the project is pending.

Use of surface rights for mining and associated activities under the terms of a mining lease is subject to environmental permitting and public consultation. Access to surface rights for private lands has been obtained by negotiating purchase thereof from private surface rights holders. Access to surface rights for Crown Land would be obtained through the mining lease process and Crown Land leases. Prior to commencing any mining, the operator of a mine or mill on the land subject to a lease must submit a rehabilitation and restoration plan for the site and deposit a financial guarantee. No compensation may be claimed by the holder of a mining claim from the holder of a mining lease for the depositing of tailings on the parcel of land that is subject to the claim. As a result of recent amendments to the Quebec mining act, granting of a mining lease by the Ministry of Natural Resources requires prior granting of the environmental certificate of authorization, public consultation conducted by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), approval of the mine site rehabilitation and restoration plan and submission of a scoping and market study on the processing of ore in Quebec.

#### ***Dumont Nickel Project 2015 Program and Estimated Expenditures***

The current estimate for expenditures on the Dumont Nickel Project (\$2.6 million) and corporate expenditures (\$3.6 million) for 2015 is dependent upon additional financing as outlined in the "*Liquidity and Capital Resources*" section.

#### **Aer-Kidd Project**

On April 14, 2014, RNC announced that it had gained exposure to the highly prospective Aer-Kidd nickel-copper-platinum group metals project in Sudbury through the acquisition of a 25% interest in SPC for cash consideration of \$1.5 million. SPC, a private subsidiary of Transition Metals Corp., holds a 100% interest in mineral rights of the Aer-Kidd property.

Aer-Kidd is a 280-hectare property covering approximately 1.3 kilometres of the Worthington Offset (Worthington offset) Dyke located near Worthington, Ontario, in the Sudbury Basin area. Past production on the Aer-Kidd property has come from numerous shallow underground and surface workings (Howland Pit, Rosen and Robinson Deposits). The Aer-Kidd property is located centrally between two significant known resources also on the Worthington offset, Vale's Totten mine and KGHM's Victoria project. At Aer-Kidd, there has not been any significant testing of mineralization at depth.

On March 2, 2015, the Corporation announced that SPC had released initial results from its ongoing drill program at the Aer-Kidd Project. Two of SPC's first three holes returned significant intersections of Totten-style Ni-Cu-PGM mineralization.

Highlights from these results include:

- Hole AK-14-01A intersected 8.1 metres containing 1.04% Ni, 0.75% Cu and 2.40g/t PGM (Pt+Pd+Au) from 900.8–908.9 metres including a higher grade section of 2.47% Ni, 2.47% Cu and 10.18g/t PGM over 1.65 metres from 907.25–908.90 metres
- Hole AK-14-001 returned a 1.75-metre zone of 1.37% Ni, 0.50% Cu and 1.64g/t PGM from



Royal Nickel Corporation

960.1–961.85 metres including a higher grade section of 2.34% Ni, 0.5% Cu and 2.43g/t PGM over 0.80 metres from 961.05–961.85

- High grade gersdorffite-bearing mineralization returned PGM values of 2.97g/t Pt, 24.20g/t Pd and 1.94g/t Au over a 0.40-metre interval in AK-14-001A
- Host geology is consistent with the reported host geology of Vale's Totten deposit located 2.0 kilometres southwest of the Aer-Kidd Property
- Borehole geophysics indicates that the mineralized zones remain open to the east as well as both up-dip and down-dip of the reported intersections

Drill intersection results from AK-14-001 and AK-14-001A

Hole Number	From (m)	To (m)	Length* (m)	Ni wt. %	Cu wt. %	Pt g/t	Pd g/t	Au g/t	Ag g/t	PGM g/t
<b>AK-14-001</b>	<b>960.10</b>	<b>961.85</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>1.64</b>
including	961.05	961.85	0.80	2.34	0.50	0.32	2.04	0.07	2.76	2.43
<b>AK-14-001A</b>	<b>900.80</b>	<b>908.90</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>2.40</b>
including	900.80	903.80	3.00	1.39	0.43	0.35	0.25	0.05	2.88	0.65
including	900.80	901.15	0.35	1.78	0.61	0.65	0.24	0.06	3.00	0.95
including	902.00	902.60	0.60	2.23	0.67	0.34	0.19	0.01	4.00	0.54
including	903.00	903.80	0.80	2.48	0.23	0.42	0.19	0.02	2.80	0.63
including	907.25	908.90	1.65	2.47	2.47	2.67	6.72	0.79	10.46	10.18
including	907.25	908.10	0.85	3.60	4.12	3.69	1.24	0.46	15.70	5.39
<b>including</b>	<b>908.50</b>	<b>908.90</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>24.20</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>7.90</b>	<b>29.11</b>

Note: \* All intercepts reported are down hole lengths, not true thicknesses. Insufficient drilling has been completed to date to define the orientation of the mineralized zone in space.

Source: Sudbury Platinum Corporation news release dated March 2, 2015

**RNC's Investment in SPC**

Under the terms of the investment, RNC has acquired 6 million units of SPC ("Unit") at a price of \$0.25 per Unit representing total cash consideration of \$1.5 million. Each Unit consists of one (1) SPC common share ("Common Share") and one (1) SPC common share purchase warrant ("Warrant"). Each Warrant entitles the holder to acquire one (1) Common Share of SPC for a period of eighteen (18) months from the date of issue, at an exercise price of \$0.45 per share. Currently, SPC's main asset is an option to earn up to 70% interest in the Aer-Kidd property, which is 100%-owned by Canickel Mining Company Limited.

Additional Information:

- Provided RNC holds at least a 10% equity position in SPC, RNC will have a pre-emptive right to maintain its pro rata share position on all subsequent equity financings for a period of 18 months from the closing of the financing.
- Provided RNC holds more than 15% of the equity of SPC, it is entitled to appoint one director to the SPC board.

**West Raglan Nickel Project**

On June 18, 2014, the Corporation announced that it had acquired an approximate 56% interest in TNN, a private company whose main asset is a 100% interest in the West Raglan nickel sulphide project located in Quebec. On July 29, 2014, a NI 43-101 compliant technical report for the West Raglan Project was filed under RNC's profile on SEDAR.

A Net Smelter Royalty of 1.5% is payable to Anglo American Exploration (Canada) Ltd. for mineral production from the West Raglan Property. TNN has the right to repurchase one-third of the Royalty (or 0.5% of Net





Royal Nickel Corporation

Smelter Returns) with respect to the Property for a price of \$2.0 million reducing the Royalty from 1.5% to 1% of the Net Smelter Returns from the Property. There are no other royalties, back-in rights, payments, or other agreements or encumbrances.

West Raglan is a mature nickel sulphide exploration project located in the west central portion of the Cape Smith Belt in northern Quebec, Canada. The Cape Smith Belt is home to prolific, high-grade nickel sulphide deposits, including two producing mines; Glencore's Raglan Mine and Jilin Jien Nickel's Nunavik Mine.

Over \$50 million has been spent in exploration on the 400 square kilometre West Raglan property including the drilling of 229 diamond drill holes totaling over 43,541 metres. Seven zones of Ni-Cu-PGM sulphide mineralization have been found to date on the West Raglan property. One of these zones, the Frontier Zone, includes five key high-grade lens clusters. Highlights from Frontier Zone drilling include:

- Seahawk A: 28.28m grading 3.21% Ni, 1.32% Cu, 2.43g/t Pd and 0.65g/t Pt
- Frontier Central: 10.50m grading 2.78% Ni, 1.21% Cu, 2.78g/t Pd and 0.80g/t Pt
- Frontier East: 7.62m grading 2.54% Ni, 1.42% Cu, 1.56g/t Pd and 0.39g/t Pt
- Frontier South: 20m grading 2.41% Ni, 0.92% Cu, 2.28g/t Pd and 0.66g/t Pt

These intersections occur in the same geological setting as the Raglan Mine in ultramafic intrusions and flows occurring stratigraphically below the Chukotat Group basalt. The mineralization is also very similar to the typical ores from the Raglan Mine, which is among the richest Ni-Cu-PGM mines in the world.

The technical report indicates significant potential to expand the lenses at the Frontier Zone based on the quality of the mineralization identified to date at surface and by drilling, the large volume of fertile ultramafic rocks, the numerous discrete electromagnetic conductors, the strong similarities with other published mineral deposits in the belt, and the fact that the deepest drill intercepts are less than 250 metres below surface and strong potential has been identified in the next depth slice (250–400 metres).

Six other zones on the property, in addition to the Frontier Area, have good indications of prospectivity as illustrated by the presence of disseminated nickel sulphide mineralization in surface rock samples and in limited reconnaissance drilling.

TNN's exploration model is based on the potential to build a resource out of the mineralized lenses at Frontier, exploring for additional lenses at Frontier, and for new lens clusters across the other zones of the property. The neighbouring Raglan Mine hosts similar clusters of mineralized lenses in 12 distinct zones, four of which are currently in production and feeding a central mill facility.

On October 14, 2014, TNN announced the completion of a \$0.8 million financing and the commencement of a helicopter-borne VTEM geophysical survey over portions of the West Raglan property, which was completed in December 2014. Analysis of this airborne geophysical data along with satellite remote sensing data analysis and remodeling of historical borehole geophysics in the first quarter of 2015 have yielded several high-quality exploration targets. These targets include extensions to known mineralised Ni-Cu-PGE lenses at the Frontier Zone and regional exploration targets at other prospective location within the 60-kilometre long property. Planning of an exploration program for the summer of 2015 is ongoing.

### **Marbridge Property**

On April 22, 2009, the Corporation entered into an agreement (the "**Marbridge Agreement**") to acquire a 100% ownership interest in the Marbridge Property from Xstrata for a total cash consideration of \$1,000,000. On July 31, 2009, the Corporation completed the acquisition pursuant to the terms of the Marbridge Agreement and acquired a 100% interest in the Marbridge Property.

The Marbridge Property is located 60 kilometres by road southeast of the Dumont Nickel Project and 40 kilometres northwest of Val-d'Or, Quebec. The deposits on the property are komatiite-hosted and lie within the broad La Motte ultramafic belt within the eastern Abitibi Greenstone Belt. The Marbridge Property comprises two mining concessions totalling 240 hectares in La Motte township.





Royal Nickel Corporation

The four deposits at the Marbridge Property were discovered by prospecting and surface drilling during the period 1957 to 1966. The deposits were previously operated under a joint venture between Falconbridge Nickel Mines and Marchant Mining, which produced 702,366 tonnes of ore grading 2.28% nickel and 0.1% copper over a five-year period between 1962 and 1968.

An airborne electromagnetic survey was conducted over the Marbridge property in January 2014. No high priority drill targets were identified by the airborne survey.

As at March 31, 2015, the carrying value of the property is \$Nil as it was fully impaired in 2014 and no expenditures were incurred in 2015.

### **Jefmar Property**

On March 26, 2008, the Corporation signed a formal property acquisition agreement (the “**Jefmar Agreement**”) with Jefmar Inc. (“**Jefmar**”) relating to the acquisition of a 100% interest in 14 mining claims totalling 586 hectares (the “**Jefmar Property**”) in the La Motte and Figuery townships, in the province of Quebec.

Pursuant to the terms of the Jefmar Agreement, the Corporation gave the following consideration for the acquisition of the Jefmar Property:

- a) Payment of \$70,000 to Jefmar;
- b) Issuance of 150,000 common shares to Jefmar; and
- c) A 2% NSR royalty granted to Jefmar. The Corporation has the right and option to buy back 1% of the NSR royalty for a price equal to \$1,000,000 with a minimum of 60 days prior written notice to Jefmar.

On September 10, 2010, the Corporation entered into a letter agreement with Glen Eagle on Jefmar property claim number 2116146 Lot 8, Range 6, La Motte township whereby Glen Eagle can earn 70% interest in this claim by completing exploration expenditures and making option payments to Royal Nickel over a three year period. The option and joint venture agreement was finalized in April 2011. On September 1, 2013, the option period to complete \$450,000 in exploration expenditures was extended to September 10, 2015. Glen Eagle has completed a total of approximately \$343,000 in exploration expenditures to date, and has made the required option payment of \$10,000 by the extended due date of November 14, 2014, to keep the option in good standing. Glen Eagle has completed a NI 43-101 Preliminary Economic Assessment dated January 22, 2013, for a lithium deposit that occurs partly on claim 2116146. On September 11, 2014, Glen Eagle announced plans for a 2,000-metre drill program on the Authier Lithium project that includes claim 2116146.

In July 2013 five claims in the Jefmar claims group were allowed to expire as they were considered to have limited geological prospectivity for nickel and maintaining these claims was not consistent with RNC’s strategic objectives.

As at March 31, 2015, the carrying value of the property is \$Nil as it was fully impaired in 2014 and no expenditures were incurred in 2015.

### **OUTLOOK**

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Royal Nickel’s current strategic focus is to develop the large ultramafic Dumont Nickel Project and to acquire highly prospective assets, preferably cash-producing, in base and platinum group metals.

With the completion of the Corporation’s economically and technically sound feasibility study for the Dumont Nickel Project in 2013, the focus for 2014 shifted to accelerating financing discussions with potential strategic or financial partners and to the permitting process. Royal Nickel continues to work with its financial advisor,



Royal Nickel Corporation

Rothschild, to arrange financing to fund all stages of the development of the Dumont Nickel Project. Royal Nickel continues active discussions for financing through a combination of strategic partnerships, joint venture arrangements, project debt finance, offtake financing, royalty financing and other capital markets alternatives. Royal Nickel believes it can successfully implement its corporate strategy because of its unique strengths, depth of management experience and well-developed relationships in the nickel industry. However, current economic conditions are impacting the timing of the financing process and, while RNC remains optimistic that partnership and financing arrangements will be achieved in a timely manner, there is no assurance that any of the proposals or discussions held to date will lead to a binding proposal or to the signing of definitive agreements. During the second quarter of 2015, efforts and resources are being concentrated on arranging financing and on the permitting process. Royal Nickel has the following targeted key milestones to achieve the development of the Dumont Nickel Project:

- Completion of partnership and financing arrangements;
- Receipt of main permit during the second quarter of 2015;
- Estimated construction schedule of 24 months post successful permitting, securing of financing and completion of detailed engineering;
- Project commissioning is expected to begin in ten to eleven quarters after permits and financing are in place.

The Corporation continues to evaluate the additional upside opportunities of alternative downstream processing, and is engaged in discussions with several parties about utilizing a roasted nickel concentrate as feed. In addition, trolley assist and the magnetite concentrate by-product have the potential to add additional value to the project. None of these potential upsides were included in the feasibility study in order to simplify the project and reduce implementation risk.

RNC will continue to work with the local community to maintain excellent communications and relationships throughout all phases of the project development.

In addition to the work on the Dumont Nickel Project, the Corporation will continue to investigate acquisition opportunities of highly prospective assets, preferably cash-producing, to grow the business in base and platinum group metals. The Corporation will focus on jurisdictions where it believes the risk is manageable.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

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### **Three months ended March 31, 2015, compared with three months ended March 31, 2014**

The Corporation's net loss totalled \$0.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015, (with basic and diluted loss per share of \$0.00). This compares with a net loss of \$2.3 million (with basic and diluted loss per share of \$0.02) for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The net loss decrease of \$2.0 million is due primarily to lower general and administrative expenses (\$1.1 million) and a higher deferred income tax recovery (\$1.1 million) partially offset by a higher unrealized loss on derivative financial instruments (\$0.2 million).

The decrease in general and administrative expenses (\$1.1 million) is due primarily to a lower non-cash share-based payments expense (\$0.4 million), salaries wages and benefits (\$0.4 million), severance costs (\$0.1 million) related to the reduction in the workforce, and business development (\$0.1 million). The decrease in the non-cash share-based payments expense (\$0.4 million) is due primarily to a mark-to-market recovery for deferred share units ("**DSUs**"), restricted share units ("**RSUs**") and share appreciation rights ("**SARs**") (\$0.1 million) for the three months ended March 31, 2015, compared to a mark-to-market expense (\$0.5 million) in



the same period last year. The mark-to-market recovery in the current period reflects a decrease in the Corporation's share price from \$0.32 as at December 31, 2014, to \$0.30 as at March 31, 2015.

The higher deferred income tax recovery (\$1.2 million) is primarily due to a reduction of deferred tax liabilities for Quebec mining duties resulting from confirmation received in the current period of the amount of eligible expenditures that can be carried forward to future periods for Quebec mining duties purposes

## SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS

### Summary of Quarterly Results

(expressed in thousands of dollars except per share amounts)

	2015				2014			2013
	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2
Loss attributable to RNC shareholders	<b>\$(251)</b>	\$(3,008) <sup>1</sup>	\$(1,591)	\$(3,006) <sup>2</sup>	\$(2,305) <sup>3</sup>	\$(1,592)	\$(1,433)	\$(1,932)
Basic and diluted loss per share attributable to RNC	<b>\$(0.00)</b>	\$(0.04)	\$(0.01)	\$(0.03)	\$(0.02)	\$(0.02)	\$(0.02)	\$(0.02)

1. The higher than normal loss for the quarter of \$3.0 million was due primarily to higher mineral property interests write-down (\$1.3 million).
2. The higher than normal loss for the quarter of \$3.0 million was due primarily to a higher non-cash share-based payments expense of \$1.3 million. The higher non-cash share-based payments expense is due primarily to a vesting expense of \$0.8 million and a mark-to-market expense for deferred share units, restricted share units and share appreciation rights of \$0.3 million.
3. The higher than normal loss for the quarter of \$2.3 million was due primarily to a higher non-cash share-based payments expense of \$0.6 million. The higher non-cash share-based payments expense is due primarily to a mark-to-market expense for deferred share units, restricted share units and share appreciation rights of \$0.5 million.

**CASH FLOWS, LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

	Three months ended March 31,	
<b>Sources and Uses of Cash</b> (in thousands of dollars)	<b>2015</b>	2014
Cash used in operations prior to changes in working capital	<b>\$(857)</b>	\$(1,575)
Changes in non-cash working capital	<b>(578)</b>	(217)
Cash used in operating activities	<b>(1,435)</b>	(1,792)
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<b>1,077</b>	(397)
Cash used in financing activities	<b>(5)</b>	(5)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	<b>\$(363)</b>	\$(2,194)

**Operating Activities**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, cash used in operating activities, prior to changes in non-cash working capital, was \$0.9 million compared to \$1.6 million in the same period last year. The decrease in cash used is due primarily to lower general and administrative cash expenditures as outlined above under the "Results of Operations" section. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, non-cash working capital increased by \$0.6 million compared to an increase of \$0.2 million in the same period last year. The increase in non-cash working capital (\$0.4 million) is due primarily to a decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities (\$0.4 million) during the three months ended March 31, 2015. For the three months ended March 31, 2015, cash used in operating activities was \$1.4 million compared to cash used in operating activities of \$1.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014.

**Investing Activities**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, cash provided by investing activities was \$1.1 million, which reflects tax credits received (\$1.0 million) and reduction in collateral investment (\$1.0 million) partially offset by expenditures on mineral property interests (\$0.9 million). For the three months ended March 31, 2014, the total cash used in investing activities was \$0.4 million, which reflects expenditures on mineral property interests (\$1.6 million), partially offset by tax credits received (\$1.2 million).

**Financing Activities**

For the three months ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014, the only financing activity was minor principal payments on finance leases.

For the three months ended March 31, 2015, the net cash used in operating, investing and financing activities was \$0.4 million, compared to net cash used of \$2.2 million in the same period last year.



Royal Nickel Corporation

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

(in thousands of dollars)

	March 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,580	\$2,943
Current portion of tax credits receivable	\$140	\$447
Working capital <sup>1</sup>	\$990	\$1,224
Collateral investment	\$3,000	\$4,000
Mineral property interests	\$69,312	\$68,950
Total assets	\$78,709	\$80,292
Equity attributable to RNC shareholders	\$63,166	\$63,211

1. Working capital is a measure of current assets less current liabilities.

The mineral exploration properties in which the Corporation currently has an interest are in the exploration and evaluation stage and as a result the Corporation has no current source of operating income and is dependent on external financing to continue operations and fund its exploration, evaluation and development activities. Historically, the Corporation's principal sources of funding have been the issuance of equity securities for cash, the sale of NSR royalties, funds from the government of Quebec with respect to mining tax credits received based on eligible exploration expenditures, interest income and funds obtained from the exercise of stock options and warrants.

The Corporation's future financing efforts may be affected by several factors including, but not limited to, general economic conditions and volatility in the capital markets.

As at March 31, 2015, the Corporation had working capital of \$1.0 million compared to \$1.2 million as at December 31, 2014. The decrease in working capital as at March 31, 2015, reflects primarily the continued investment in the Dumont Nickel Project and expenditures on general and administrative activities offset by the recovery of tax credits receivable and collateral investment. The working capital of the Corporation as at March 31, 2015, includes a current tax credit receivable from the Quebec government of \$0.1 million.

As at March 31, 2015, the Corporation had cash and cash equivalents of \$2.6 million. Management estimates that these funds will not be sufficient to advance the Dumont Nickel Project, meet obligations and cover general and administrative expenses for the ensuing twelve months. Until such time that financing becomes available on acceptable terms, the Corporation has taken action to limit the ongoing exploration and evaluation work and reduce its operating costs. Accordingly, these conditions indicate the existence of material uncertainties that cast significant doubt upon the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. The Corporation's ability to continue future operations and fund its exploration, evaluation and development activities is dependent on management's ability to secure additional financing in the future, which may be completed in a number of ways including, but not limited to, the issuance of debt or equity instruments, expenditure reductions, or a combination of strategic partnerships, joint venture arrangements, project debt finance, offtake financing, royalty financing and other capital markets alternatives. While management has been successful in securing financing in the past, there can be no assurance it will be able to do so in the future or that these sources of funding or initiatives will be available for the Corporation or that they will be available on terms which are acceptable to the Corporation. The Corporation's financial instruments credit risk is minimal as, in accordance with the Corporation's investment policy, excess cash is principally invested in high interest savings accounts at major Canadian chartered banks. In addition, amounts receivable are composed mainly of mining tax credits due from the Quebec government and sales tax receivables from government authorities in Canada.

The collateral investment of \$3.0 million as at March 31, 2015, relates to an agreement with Hydro-Québec, entered into on September 25, 2013, for the construction of a high voltage power transmission line to connect the Corporation's planned Dumont Nickel Project to Hydro-Québec's existing electricity distribution network (the "Power Line Project"). Further details are provided in Notes 14 and 15 to the March 31, 2015, unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.



**CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS**

(in thousands of dollars)	Payments due by period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1–3 years	4–5 years	After 5 years
Finance leases	\$42	\$22	\$20	\$-	\$-
Operating leases	501	379	122	-	-
<b>Total contractual obligations</b>	<b>\$543</b>	<b>\$401</b>	<b>\$142</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>

In addition to the commitments in the table above, an annual advance royalty payable of \$5,000 per year commenced in October 2011 as discussed under the section “*The Dumont Nickel Project*”.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

As of the date of this MD&A, the Corporation does not have any off balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future effect on the results of operations or financial condition of the Corporation, including, and without limitation, such considerations as liquidity and capital resources.

**PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS**

There are no proposed transactions of a material nature being considered by the Corporation. However, the Corporation continues to evaluate properties that it may acquire in the future. See “*Outlook*” above.

**OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA**

As at May 8, 2015, the Corporation had 109,810,189 common shares issued and outstanding.

As at May 8, 2015, the Corporation had the following securities outstanding, which are exercisable for common shares:

	Number of Securities	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Stock options	12,491,185	\$0.62
Warrants	5,705,354	\$0.98
Compensation warrants <sup>1</sup>	575,460	\$0.60

1. Each unit is comprised of one common share and one-half of one common share purchase warrant. Each whole warrant is exercisable at a price of \$0.80 and entitles the holder thereof to acquire one common share of the Corporation on or before July 11, 2016.



Royal Nickel Corporation

As at May 8, 2015, the Corporation had the following securities outstanding, which are redeemable, at the option of the holder, in cash or common shares:

	Number of Securities
Deferred share units	1,166,343
Restricted share units	838,201

Under the agreement dated March 8, 2007, pursuant to which Royal Nickel acquired a 100% interest in the Marbaw Mineral Claims, the Corporation is required to issue 7,000,000 common shares in RNC to Marbaw upon the property being placed into commercial production or upon transfer (including through a merger, consolidation or asset purchase) of the property to a third party.

### **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting. Any system of disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting, no matter how well designed, has inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. There have been no changes in the Corporation's internal controls over financial reporting during the quarter ended March 31, 2015, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal controls over financial reporting.

### **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS**

The accounting policies applied by the Corporation in the unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2015, are consistent with those applied by the Corporation in the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.

### **RISK FACTORS**

The corporation is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. The risk factors are discussed in the Corporation's most recent Annual Information Form on file with Canadian provincial regulatory authorities, available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).