



**ROYAL NICKEL CORPORATION**

**AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014



Royal Nickel Corporation

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## Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The accompanying consolidated financial statements for Royal Nickel Corporation are the responsibility of the management. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management, on behalf of the Board of Directors, in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. Where necessary, management has made informed judgments and estimates in accounting for transactions that were complete at the balance sheet date. In the opinion of management, the consolidated financial statements have been prepared within acceptable limits of materiality and are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards applicable to the preparation of consolidated financial statements.

Management has established systems of internal control over the financial reporting process, which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that relevant and reliable financial information is produced. Management has established processes, which are in place to provide them sufficient knowledge to support management representations that they have exercised reasonable diligence that (i) the consolidated financial statements do not contain any untrue statement of material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated or that is necessary to make a statement not misleading in light of the circumstances under which it is made, as of the date of and for the periods presented by the consolidated financial statements and (ii) the consolidated financial statements fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Corporation, as of the date of and for the periods presented by the consolidated financial statements.

The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing and approving the consolidated financial statements together with other financial information of the Corporation and for ensuring that management fulfills its financial reporting responsibilities. The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling this responsibility. The Audit Committee meets with management to review the financial reporting process and the consolidated financial statements together with other financial information of the Corporation. The Audit Committee reports its findings to the Board of Directors for its consideration in approving the consolidated financial statements together with other financial information of the Corporation for issuance to the shareholders.

Management recognizes its responsibility for conducting the Corporation's affairs in compliance with established financial standards, and applicable laws and regulations, and for maintaining proper standards of conduct for its activities.

/s/ Mark Selby

Mark Selby  
President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Tim Hollaar

Tim Hollaar  
Chief Financial Officer

Toronto, Canada  
February 26, 2016



February 26, 2016

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **To the Shareholders of Royal Nickel Corporation**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Royal Nickel Corporation and its subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the consolidated statements of comprehensive loss, cash flows and changes in equity for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### **Management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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"PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP/s.r.l./s.e.n.c.r.l., an Ontario limited liability partnership.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Royal Nickel Corporation and its subsidiary as at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

**Emphasis of matter**

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to note 1 in the consolidated financial statements which describes matters and conditions that indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about Royal Nickel Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> CPA Auditor, CA, public accountancy permit No. A122718



Royal Nickel Corporation

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,634	\$2,943
Amounts receivable and prepaids	690	274
Tax credits receivable	25	447
	<b>10,349</b>	<b>3,664</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Collateral investments (note 18)	-	4,000
Investment in associate (note 4)	1,525	1,476
Other investment (note 5)	20	332
Tax credits receivable	150	95
Deposits and prepaids	3	179
Property, plant and equipment (note 6)	1,151	1,495
Intangible assets (note 7)	71	101
Mineral property interests (note 8)	69,290	68,950
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$82,559</b>	<b>\$80,292</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,565	\$1,577
Deferred share units (note 11)	198	431
Restricted share units (note 11)	759	411
Flow-through share premium (note 10)	5	-
Current portion of finance lease obligation (note 9)	26	21
	<b>2,553</b>	<b>2,440</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Share appreciation rights (note 11)	38	107
Finance lease obligation (note 9)	-	26
Asset retirement obligation (note 16)	488	467
Deferred income tax liability (note 19)	11,202	10,702
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>14,281</b>	<b>13,742</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Share capital (note 10)	113,051	106,297
Contributed surplus	24,818	24,296
Deficit	(72,704)	(67,382)
Equity attributable to RNC shareholders	<b>65,165</b>	<b>63,211</b>
Non-controlling interests	3,113	3,339
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>68,278</b>	<b>66,550</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>\$82,559</b>	<b>\$80,292</b>

*The notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*

Going concern (note 1)

## Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except share and per share numbers)

	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Expenses</b>		
General and administrative (note 13)	\$5,558	\$8,288
Mineral property interests impairment/write-down (note 8)	-	1,455
<b>Operating loss</b>	<b>(5,558)</b>	<b>(9,743)</b>
Share of income (loss) of associate (note 4)	49	(54)
Unrealized loss on other investment	(50)	-
Gain on dilution of associate (note 4)	-	206
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	58	-
Gain on sale of mineral property interests	70	-
Unrealized gain (loss) on derivative financial instruments (note 5)	(332)	123
Finance income	61	163
<b>Loss before income tax</b>	<b>(5,702)</b>	<b>(9,305)</b>
Deferred income tax expense (recovery) (note 19)	(86)	667
<b>Loss and comprehensive loss for the period</b>	<b>\$(5,616)</b>	<b>\$(9,972)</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>		
RNC shareholders	(5,322)	(9,910)
Non-controlling interests	(294)	(62)
<b>Loss per share attributable to RNC shareholders</b>		
Basic and diluted (note 14)	<b>\$(0.04)</b>	<b>\$(0.10)</b>

*The notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*



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# Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars)

Cash flow provided by (used in)	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Loss for the period</b>	<b>\$(5,616)</b>	<b>\$(9,972)</b>
Items not involving cash		
Depreciation and amortization	59	71
Deferred income tax expense	(86)	667
Share of (income) loss of associate	(49)	54
Loss (gain) on derivative financial instruments	332	(123)
Gain on dilution of associate	-	(206)
Unrealized loss on other investment	50	-
Accretion of asset retirement obligation	4	3
Shares issued for consulting services	183	-
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	(58)	-
Gain on sale of mineral property interests	(70)	-
Mineral property interests impairment/write-down (note 8)	-	1,455
Share-based payments (note 11)	574	1,544
	<b>(4,677)</b>	<b>(6,507)</b>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Amounts receivable, prepaids and deposits	(240)	106
Redemption of restricted share units	(139)	(452)
Redemption of deferred share units	(86)	-
Tax credit receivable	-	(240)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(445)	507
	<b>(5,587)</b>	<b>(6,586)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net expenditures on mineral property interests ("MPI")	<b>(8,967)</b>	<b>(7,659)</b>
Collateral investment (note 18)	4,000	(2,000)
Net tax credits and mining duties received	1,190	3,314
Investment in associate	-	(1,533)
Sale of NSR, net of transaction costs (note 8)	8,653	-
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	190	-
Acquisition of intangible assets (note 7)	-	(35)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment ("PP&E")	-	(11)
	<b>5,066</b>	<b>(7,924)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Issuance of shares, net of issue costs (note 10)	7,233	5,561
Exercise of options and warrants for cash	-	7
Principal payments on finance leases	(21)	(23)
	<b>7,212</b>	<b>5,545</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>6,691</b>	<b>(8,965)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>11,908</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</b>	<b>\$9,634</b>	<b>\$2,943</b>
Components of cash and cash equivalents:		
Cash	\$530	\$323
Cash equivalents	9,104	2,620
	<b>\$9,634</b>	<b>\$2,943</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>		
Interest paid	\$20	\$27
Share-based expense (recovery) in MPI	214	423
Depreciation of PP&E in MPI	183	124
MPI included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	671	235

**The notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.**





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# Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except share numbers)

	Share Capital		Contributed Surplus	Deficit	Equity attributable to RNC shareholders	Non-controlling interest	Total Equity
	Number	Amount					
<b>Balance as at Jan. 1, 2015</b>	<b>109,656,340</b>	<b>\$106,297</b>	<b>\$24,296</b>	<b>\$(67,382)</b>	<b>\$63,211</b>	<b>\$3,339</b>	<b>\$66,550</b>
Redemption of restricted share units for shares	10,417	3	-	-	3	-	3
Increase in non-controlling interest arising from further acquisition of TNN (note 3)	-	-	(68)	-	(68)	68	-
Private placement – flow through common shares (note 10)	8,571,428	3,000	-	-	3,000	-	3,000
Flow through share premium on issuance	-	(686)	-	-	(686)	-	(686)
Share-based payments	-	-	515	-	515	-	515
Shares issued for consulting services	696,118	183	-	-	183	-	183
Private placements – units and common shares (note 10)	12,391,638	4,608	-	-	4,608	-	4,608
Private placement issue costs (note 10)	-	(273)	(6)	-	(279)	-	(279)
Warrant valuation – private placement (note 10)	-	(81)	81	-	-	-	-
Loss and comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	(5,322)	(5,322)	(294)	(5,616)
<b>Balance as at Dec. 31, 2015</b>	<b>131,325,941</b>	<b>\$113,051</b>	<b>\$24,818</b>	<b>\$(72,704)</b>	<b>\$65,165</b>	<b>\$3,113</b>	<b>\$68,278</b>
<b>Balance as at Jan. 1, 2014</b>	<b>94,212,311</b>	<b>\$98,164</b>	<b>\$21,926</b>	<b>\$(57,472)</b>	<b>\$62,618</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$62,618</b>
Redemption of restricted share units for shares	235,000	103	-	-	103	-	103
Acquisition of TNN – common shares, warrants, share purchase options and non-controlling interests (note 3)	5,594,696	3,637	204	-	3,841	2,876	6,717
Exercise of share purchase options	23,333	7	-	-	7	-	7
Fair value of share purchase options exercised (note 11)	-	21	(21)	-	-	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-	1,515	-	1,515	-	1,515
Public offering (note 10)	9,591,000	5,755	-	-	5,755	-	5,755
Warrant valuation – public offering (note 10)	-	(623)	623	-	-	-	-
Public offering – cash issue costs (note 10)	-	(643)	(75)	-	(718)	-	(718)
Public offering – compensation warrant valuation, net of issue costs (note 10)	-	(124)	124	-	-	-	-
Private placement – TNN (note 3)	-	-	-	-	-	525	525
Loss and comprehensive loss for the period	-	-	-	(9,910)	(9,910)	(62)	(9,972)
<b>Balance as at Dec. 31, 2014</b>	<b>109,656,340</b>	<b>\$106,297</b>	<b>\$24,296</b>	<b>\$(67,382)</b>	<b>\$63,211</b>	<b>\$3,339</b>	<b>\$66,550</b>

*The notes to the consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*



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# Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars, except share and per share numbers)

## 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND GOING CONCERN

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Royal Nickel Corporation ("**RNC**") was incorporated on December 13, 2006, under the Canada Business Corporations Act. RNC's registered office is located at 220 Bay Street, Suite 1200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The consolidated financial statements of the Corporation as at and for the year ended December 31, 2015, are comprised of RNC, its subsidiary True North Nickel Inc. ("**TNN**"), and the Corporation's interest in its associate Sudbury Platinum Corporation ("**SPC**") (collectively referred to as the "**Corporation**")

The principal business of the Corporation is the acquisition, exploration, evaluation and responsible development of a portfolio of base and precious metal assets. The business of mining and exploring for minerals involves a high degree of risk and there can be no assurance that planned exploration and development programs will result in profitable mining operations. The recoverability of amounts shown for mineral property interests is dependent upon several factors including, but not limited to, completion of the acquisition of the mineral property interests, the discovery of economically recoverable reserves, confirmation of the Corporation's interest in the underlying mineral claims, obtaining the necessary development permits, and the ability of the Corporation to obtain necessary financing to complete the development and future profitable production or, alternatively, upon disposition of such property at a profit. Changes in future conditions could require material write downs of the carrying values of mineral property interests.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared using International Financial Reporting Standards ("**IFRS**") applicable to a going concern, which contemplates the realization of assets and settlement of liabilities in the normal course of business as they come due. In assessing whether the going concern assumption is appropriate, management takes into account all available information about the future, which is at least, but not limited to, twelve months from the end of the reporting period.

As at December 31, 2015, the Corporation had working capital of \$7,796, had an accumulated deficit of \$72,704 and incurred a loss of \$5,616 for the year then ended. Working capital included amounts receivable and prepaids of \$690 and cash and cash equivalents of \$9,634.

The Corporation's ability to continue future operations and fund its exploration, evaluation, development and acquisition 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. If management is unable to obtain new funding, the Corporation may be unable to continue its operations, and amounts realized for assets might be less than amounts reflected in these consolidated financial statements. These circumstances indicate the existence of material uncertainties that cast significant doubt upon the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly,



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the appropriateness of the use of IFRS applicable to a going concern. These consolidated financial statements do not reflect the adjustments to the carrying values of assets and liabilities, expenses and financial position classifications that would be necessary if the going concern assumption was not appropriate. These adjustments could be material.

The consolidated financial statements were authorized for publication by the Board of Directors on February 26, 2016.

## **2. BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

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The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are described below.

### **(a) Basis of preparation**

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("**IASB**").

The accounting policies followed in these consolidated financial statements are consistent with those of the previous year, except as described below:

#### *Subsidiaries*

The Corporation's consolidated financial statements consolidate the accounts of Royal Nickel Corporation and its subsidiary TNN.

Subsidiaries are all entities, including structured entities, over which the Corporation has control. The Corporation controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date control is transferred to the Corporation and are de-consolidated from the date control ceases. Accounting policies of subsidiaries are consistent with the policies adopted by the Corporation. All intercompany transactions, balances and unrealized gains or losses from intercompany transactions are eliminated on consolidation.

#### *Non-Controlling Interests*

Non-controlling interests represent equity interests in subsidiaries owned by outside parties. The share of net assets of subsidiaries attributable to non-controlling interests is presented as a component of equity. Their share of net income (loss) and other comprehensive income (loss) is recognized directly in equity even if the results of the non-controlling interests have a deficit balance.

The Corporation treats transactions with non-controlling interests as transactions with equity shareholders. Changes in the Corporation's ownership interest in subsidiaries that do not result in loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions.

#### *Associates*

The Corporation accounts for its investment in SPC as an investment in associate using the equity method.

An associate is an entity over which the investor has significant influence but not control and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint arrangement. Significant influence is presumed to exist where the Corporation has between 20% and 50% of the voting rights, but can also arise where the Corporation has less than 20% if it has the power to be actively involved and influential in policy decisions affecting the entity.



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Under the equity method, the investment is initially recognized at cost, including transaction costs, and the carrying amount is increased or decreased to recognize the Corporation's share of profits or losses of associates after the date of acquisition. The Corporation's share of profits or losses of associates is recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss. Adjustments are made to align inconsistencies between the Corporation's accounting policies and its associate's policies, if any, before applying the equity method. The Corporation assesses at each period-end whether there is any objective evidence that its investments in associates are impaired. If impaired, the carrying value of the Corporation's investment in associates is written down to its estimated recoverable amount (being the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and value in use) and charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss.

(b) Basis of measurement

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis except for the revaluation of certain financial instruments to fair value. In addition, these consolidated financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting except for cash flow information.

(c) Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are recognized when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognized when the rights to receive cash flows from the assets have expired or have been transferred and the Corporation has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable and unconditional right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

At initial recognition, the Corporation classifies its financial instruments in the following categories depending on the purpose for which the instruments were acquired:

**Loans and receivables:** Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Loans and receivables are initially recognized at the amount expected to be received, less, when material, a discount to reduce the loans and receivables to fair value. Subsequently, loans and receivables are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method less a provision for impairment.

**Held for trading:** Financial instruments in this category include assets held by the Corporation for short-term profit. They are recognised initially and subsequently at fair value. Transaction costs are expensed in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss.

**Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL):** Financial instruments in this category include assets voluntarily classified in this category and are recognised initially and subsequently at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss.

**Other financial liabilities:** Financial liabilities at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities and finance lease obligation. Accounts payables and accrued liabilities are initially recognized at the amount required to be paid, less, when material, a discount to reduce to fair value. Accounts payables



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and accrued liabilities are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method. Finance lease obligations are recognized initially at fair value, net of any transaction costs incurred, and subsequently at amortized cost using the effective interest method. Financial liabilities are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within twelve months. Otherwise, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

The Corporation's financial instruments consist of the following:

<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	Loans and receivables
Amounts receivable and deposits	Loans and receivables
Collateral investment	Loans and receivables
Investment in Sphinx Resources Ltd.	FVTPL
<b>Financial liabilities</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	Other financial liabilities

At each reporting date, the Corporation assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset is impaired. If such evidence exists, the Corporation recognizes an impairment loss, as follows:

Financial assets carried at amortized cost: The loss is the difference between the amortized cost of the loan or receivable and the present value of the estimated future cash flows, discounted using the instrument's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced by this amount either directly or indirectly through the use of an allowance account.

Impairment losses on financial assets carried at amortized cost are reversed in subsequent periods if the amount of the loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized. Impairment losses on available-for-sale equity instruments are not reversed.

(d) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment ("PPE") are carried at cost, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of an item of PPE consists of the purchase price, any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for its intended use and an initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to the statement of comprehensive loss during the period in which they are incurred. Depreciation is recognized based on the cost of an item of PPE, less its estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life at the following rates:

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Method</b>
Land	nil	none
Building	5%	Declining balance
Vehicles	30%	Declining balance
Camp, furniture and equipment	20%	Declining balance
Computer equipment	30%	Declining balance



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An asset's residual value, useful life and depreciation method are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, on an annual basis.

An item of PPE is de-recognized upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on disposal of the asset, determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, is recognized in profit or loss in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss.

Where an item of PPE consists of major components with different useful lives, the components are accounted for as separate items of property, plant and equipment. Expenditures incurred to replace a component of an item of PPE that is accounted for separately, including major inspection and overhaul expenditures, are capitalized.

(e) Identifiable intangible assets

The Corporation's intangible assets comprise computer software with finite useful lives. These assets are capitalized and amortized at a 30% declining balance basis in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use. All other borrowing costs are recognized as interest expense in the consolidated statement of comprehensive loss in the period in which they are incurred.

(g) Mineral property interest

The Corporation is in the exploration and evaluation stage with respect to its investment in mineral properties and accordingly follows the practice of capitalizing all costs relating to the acquisition, exploration, and evaluation of mineral claims and crediting all proceeds received for farm-out arrangements, recovery of costs, and sale of a royalty against the cost of the related claims. Such costs include, but are not limited to, geological, geophysical studies, exploratory drilling and sampling.

The Corporation recognizes in income costs recovered on mineral properties when amounts received or receivable are in excess of the carrying amount.

Once the technical feasibility and commercial viability of the extraction of resources from a particular mineral property has been determined, expenditures are reclassified to "Mine development assets" within property, plant and equipment. A mandatory impairment test is required to be performed immediately prior to the reclassification. Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost until the properties to which they relate are placed into commercial production, sold, abandoned or determined by management to be impaired.

The establishment of technical feasibility and commercial viability of a mineral property is assessed based on a combination of factors, such as:

- Results of studies;
- Status of permits and rights and other agreements to allow access rights;
- Ability to raise project financing; and



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- Approval by management and/or Board of Directors to proceed to development.

Upon transfer of "Mining property interests" into "Mine development assets" in property, plant and equipment, all subsequent expenditure on the construction, installation or completion of infrastructure facilities is capitalized within "Mine development assets". After production starts, all assets included in "Mine development assets" are transferred to "Producing mines". At such time as commercial production commences, these costs will be charged to operations on a unit of production method based on proven and probable reserves.

(h) Impairment of non-financial assets

Property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and mineral property interests are reviewed for impairment if there is any indication that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If any such indication is present, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine whether impairment exists. Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the Corporation estimates the recoverable amount of the asset group to which the asset belongs.

An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value, using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset or asset group is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to the recoverable amount. Impairment is recognized immediately as additional depreciation or amortization. Where an impairment subsequently reverses, the carrying amount is increased to the revised estimate of recoverable amount but only to the extent that this does not exceed the carrying value that would have been determined if no impairment had previously been recognized. A reversal is recognized as a reduction in the depreciation or amortization charge for the period.

(i) Flow-through shares

The Corporation may finance some exploration expenditures through the issuance of flow-through shares. The resource expenditure deductions for income tax purposes are renounced to investors in accordance with the appropriate income tax legislation. The Corporation recognizes a deferred tax liability for flow-through shares and a deferred tax expense, at the moment the eligible expenditures are incurred. The difference between the quoted price of the common shares or the amount recognized in common shares and the amount the investors pay for the shares (the "premium") is recognized as another liability, which is reversed as a deferred tax recovery when eligible expenditures have been made.

(j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand and high interest savings accounts with monthly distribution of interest, which can be withdrawn at any time without any penalty.

(k) Provisions

A provision is recognized when the Corporation has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount of the obligation can be reliably estimated. If the effect is material, provisions are





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determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

(l) Restoration, rehabilitation and environmental obligations

A legal or constructive obligation to incur restoration, rehabilitation and environmental costs may arise when environmental disturbance is caused by the exploration, evaluation, development or ongoing production of a mineral property interest. Such costs arising from the decommissioning of a plant and other site preparation work, discounted to their net present value, are provided for and capitalized at the start of each project to the carrying amount of the asset, as soon as the obligation to incur such costs arises. The discount rate used is based on a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability, excluding the risks for which future cash flow estimates have already been adjusted. The related liability is adjusted each period for the unwinding of the discount rate, and if required, for changes to the current market based discount rate, amount and timing of the underlying cash flows needed to settle the obligation. The Corporation also records a corresponding asset amount which is amortized over the remaining service life of the asset.

(m) Share-based payment transactions

Share Options:

The fair value of share options granted to employees is recognized as an expense, or capitalized to mineral property interests, over the vesting period with a corresponding increase in contributed surplus. An individual is classified as an employee when the individual is an employee for legal or tax purposes (direct employee) or provides services similar to those performed by a direct employee, including directors of the Corporation.

The fair value is measured at the grant date and recognized over the period during which the options vest. The fair value of the options granted is measured using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which the options were granted. At each financial position reporting date, the amount recognized as an expense is adjusted to reflect the actual number of share options that are expected to vest.

Deferred and Restricted Share Units and Share Appreciation Rights:

A liability for deferred share units, restricted share units, and share appreciation rights is measured at fair value on the grant date and is subsequently adjusted at each financial position reporting date for changes in fair value. The liability is recognized over the vesting period, or using management's best estimate when contractual provisions restrict vesting until formal approval by the Compensation Committee, with a corresponding charge as an expense or capitalized to mineral property interests.

(n) Income taxes

Income tax on the profit or loss for the periods presented comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognized in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognized directly in other comprehensive income or in equity, in which case it is recognized in other comprehensive income or in equity, respectively.

Mining taxes represent Canadian provincial taxes levied on mining operations and are classified as income taxes since such taxes are based on a percentage of mining profits.





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Current tax expense is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at period end, adjusted for amendments to tax payable with regards to previous years. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred tax is provided using the balance sheet liability method, providing for temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. Deferred taxes are not recognized where the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that does not affect either accounting or taxable profit or loss, other than where the initial recognition of such an asset or liability arises in a business combination. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realization or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

A deferred tax asset is recognized only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilized.

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are presented as non-current. Assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets against current tax liabilities or deferred tax assets against deferred tax liabilities and the respective assets and liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities where there is an intention to settle the balances on a net basis.

(o) Loss per share

The Corporation presents basic and diluted loss per share data for its common shares, calculated by dividing the loss attributable to common shareholders of the Corporation by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted loss per share is determined by adjusting the loss attributable to common shareholders and the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the effects of all warrants, compensation warrants, options, deferred and restricted share units outstanding that may add to the total number of common shares.

(p) Share capital and warrants

Common shares and warrants are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issuance of shares or warrants are recognized as a deduction from the proceeds in equity in the period that the transaction occurs.

(q) Refundable tax credits for mining exploration expenses

The Corporation is entitled to a refundable tax credit on eligible mining exploration expenses incurred in the province of Quebec. The tax credit is accounted for against the related exploration and evaluation expenses incurred in mineral property interests.

(r) Segment disclosures

The Corporation currently operates in a single segment - the acquisition, exploration, evaluation and development of mineral properties. All of the Corporation's activities are conducted in Quebec and Ontario, Canada.



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(s) Significant judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Many of the amounts included in the consolidated financial statements require management to make judgments and/or estimates. These judgments and estimates are continuously evaluated and are based on management's experience and knowledge of the relevant facts and circumstances. Actual results may differ from the amounts included in the consolidated financial statements.

Areas of significant judgment and estimates affecting the amounts recognized in the consolidated financial statements include:

(i) Establishment of technical feasibility and commercial viability of a mineral property

The establishment of technical feasibility and commercial viability of a mineral property is assessed based on a combination of factors. By its nature, this assessment requires significant judgment.

As at December 31, 2015, management determined that the technical feasibility and commercial viability had not yet been established for the Dumont Nickel Project and as such the mineral properties are still considered to be at the exploration and evaluation stage.

If a different conclusion had been reached, certain costs included in "Mineral property interests" could have been reclassified into "Mine development assets" and a mandatory impairment test would have been performed immediately prior to the reclassification.

(ii) Impairment of non-financial assets

The estimate of recoverable amounts with respect to non-financial assets are based on numerous assumptions and may differ significantly from actual recoverable amounts. The recoverable amounts are based, in part, on certain factors that may be partially or totally outside of the Corporation's control. This evaluation involves a comparison of the estimated recoverable amounts of non-financial assets to their carrying values. The recoverable amount estimates may differ from actual recoverable amounts and these differences may be significant and could have a material impact on the Corporation's financial position and results of operations. Asset groups are reviewed for an indication of impairment at each balance sheet date or when a triggering event is identified. This determination requires significant judgment. As the Corporation's projects are in the exploration and evaluation stage, factors which could trigger an impairment review include, but are not limited to, an expiry of the right to explore in the specific area during the period or will expire in the near future, and is not expected to be renewed; substantive exploration and evaluation expenditures in a specific area is neither budgeted nor planned; exploration for and evaluation of mineral resources in a specific area have not led to the discovery of commercially viable quantities of mineral resources and the Corporation has decided to discontinue such activities in the specific area; sufficient data exists to indicate that, although a development in a specific area is likely to proceed, the carrying amount of the assets is unlikely to be recovered in full from successful development or by sale; significant negative industry or economic trends; interruptions in exploration and evaluation activities; and a significant drop in current or forecasted nickel prices.

(iii) Recognition of deferred income tax assets and the measurement of income tax expense



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Management continually evaluates the likelihood that it is probable that its deferred tax assets will be realized. This requires management to assess whether it is probable that sufficient taxable income will exist in the future to utilize these losses within the carry-forward period. By its nature, this assessment requires significant judgment. To date, management has not recognized any deferred tax assets in excess of existing taxable temporary differences expected to reverse within the carry-forward period.

(iv) Valuation of share-based payments

The Corporation records all share-based payment transactions at fair value which is estimated by using the Black–Scholes model. The Black–Scholes option pricing model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions that can materially affect the fair value estimate. These inputs involve estimates of interest rates, expected life of the share-based payment arrangements, and share price volatility. The expected volatility is determined by calculating the average historical volatility of the Corporation's, and one or a group of comparable companies', common share price over the most recent period that is generally commensurate with the expected life of the share-based payment arrangement. In addition, the Corporation is required to estimate the forfeiture rate, which impacts the timing of amounts being recorded.

(v) Income mining taxes and refundable tax credits

The Corporation is subject to income and mining taxes in some jurisdictions. Significant judgement is required in determining the total provision for income taxes. Refundable tax credits for mining exploration expenses for the current and prior periods are measured at the amount expected to be recovered, based on management's best estimate and judgment, from the tax authorities as at the balance sheet date. Uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation of tax regulations, including credit on mining duties refundable for losses and refundable tax credits for eligible exploration expenses, and the amount and timing of collection. The determination of whether expenditures qualify for exploration tax credits requires significant judgment involving complex technical matters which makes the ultimate tax collection uncertain. As a result, there can be a material difference between the actual tax credits received following final resolution of these uncertain interpretation matters with the relevant tax authority and the recorded amount of tax credits. This difference would necessitate an adjustment to tax credits for mining exploration expenses in future periods. The resolution of issues with the relevant tax authority can be lengthy to resolve. As a result, there can be a significant delay in collecting tax credits for mining exploration expenses. Tax credits for mining exploration expenses that are expected to be recovered beyond one year are classified as non-current assets. The amounts recognized in the consolidated financial statements are derived from the Corporation's best estimation and judgment as described above. However, the inherent uncertainty regarding the ultimate approval by the relevant tax authority means that the ultimate amount collected in tax credits and timing thereof could differ materially from the accounting estimates and therefore impact the Corporation's balance sheet and cash flow.

(vi) Going concern

The assessment of the Corporation's ability to execute its strategy by funding future working capital and exploration, evaluation, development and acquisition activities (note 22) involves judgment. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical



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experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

(vii) Provision for asset retirement obligations

The Corporation's exploration activities are subject to various laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. The Corporation recognizes management's best estimate for asset retirement obligations in the period in which they are incurred. Actual costs incurred in future periods could differ materially from the estimates. Additionally, future changes to environmental laws and regulations, timing of estimated cash flows and discount rates could affect the carrying amount of this provision.

(viii) Determination of significant influence

Management determines its ability to exercise significant influence over an investment in shares of other companies by looking at its percentage interest and other qualitative factors including but not limited to its voting rights, representation on the board of directors, participation in policy-making processes, material transactions between the Corporation and the associate, interchange of managerial personnel, provision of essential technical information and operating involvement.

(t) Recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted

IFRS 9 – Financial instruments, classification and measurement ("IFRS 9")

In July 2014, the IASB issued IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments. The IASB has previously published versions of IFRS 9 that introduced new classification and measurement requirements (in 2009 and 2010) and a new hedge accounting model (in 2013). The July 2014 publication represents the final version of the Standard, replaces earlier versions of IFRS 9 and substantially completes the IASB's project to replace IAS 39 – Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

This standard replaces the current multiple classification and measurement models for financial assets and liabilities with a single model that has only two classification categories: amortized cost and fair value. The basis of classification depends on the entity's business model and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset or liability and own credit. The standard introduces a new, expected loss impairment model that will require more timely recognition of expected credit losses. Specifically, the new Standard requires entities to account for expected credit losses from when financial instruments are first recognised and it lowers the threshold for recognition of full lifetime expected losses. The new standard also introduces a substantially-reformed model for hedge accounting with enhanced disclosures about risk management activity and aligns hedge accounting more closely with risk management. The new standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The extent of the impact of adoption of IFRS 9 has not yet been determined.

### **3. ACQUISITION OF AND ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN TNN**

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On June 17, 2014, the Corporation closed a transaction to acquire a 55.9% interest in TNN, a private company whose main asset is a 100% interest in the West Raglan nickel sulphide project located in Quebec. The Corporation issued the following consideration to the selling security holders: (a) 5,594,696 common shares of the Corporation, (b) 550,656 and 379,529 share purchase options of the Corporation with an exercise price and contractual life of \$1.48 and September 12, 2017, and \$0.74 and March 25,



2019, respectively, and (c) 660,787 and 249,067 warrants of the Corporation with an exercise price of \$2.07 and \$1.48 respectively, all of which expire on dates ranging from June 14, 2015, through September 20, 2015. Management could not reliably estimate the fair value of the TNN common shares received, hence it measured the fair value, and the corresponding increase in equity, indirectly by reference to the fair value of the equity instruments granted as consideration. Total consideration paid was \$3,943 and was determined using the closing share price of the Corporation's common shares on June 16, 2014, of \$0.65 per common share, including transactions costs of \$102. The weighted average fair value of the 930,185 share purchase options issued was \$0.19 each using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions: expected dividend yield 0%, expected volatility 74%, risk free rate of return 1.1%, and an expected maturity of 2.4 years. The weighted average fair value of the 909,854 warrants issued was \$0.03 each using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions: expected dividend yield 0%, expected volatility 73%, risk free rate of return 1.1%, and an expected maturity of one year.

The Corporation has accounted for the acquisition as a purchase of assets and assumption of liabilities. The transaction did not qualify as a business combination under IFRS 3, Business Combinations, as significant inputs and processes that together constitute a business were not identified, given the early stage of exploration and evaluation of TNN's property. The cost of the group has been allocated to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed based upon their estimated relative fair values at the date of acquisition. As the Corporation only acquired 55.9% of TNN, the cost of the group included the estimated fair value of the non-controlling interests of \$2,876, which was inferred from the consideration paid by the Corporation for its 55.9% interest.

Total consideration paid of \$3,943 was calculated as follows:

Issuance of 5,594,696 common shares	\$3,637
Fair value of 930,185 share purchase options issued	178
Fair value of 909,854 warrants issued	26
Transaction costs	102
<b>Purchase consideration</b>	<b>\$3,943</b>

The purchase consideration has been allocated as follows:

Current assets net of current liabilities, excluding cash of \$nil	\$(355)
Mineral property interests, including exploration supplies of \$128	6,938
Property, plant, and equipment	700
Non-current liabilities	(464)
Non-controlling interests (44.1%)	(2,876)
<b>Net identifiable assets</b>	<b>\$3,943</b>

During the period ended December 31, 2014, TNN issued 3,559,460 common shares and 1,455,059 flow-through shares, at a 5% premium to the common shares, for proceeds of \$844 and \$362 respectively. The financing was provided by its two shareholders, the Corporation (as to 55.9% or \$665) and the non-controlling shareholder (as to 44.1% or \$541), in direct proportion to their ownership interest.

TNN was required to spend the flow-through share gross proceeds of \$362 on eligible exploration expenditures, which are expected to be renounced to the non-controlling shareholder for the 2014 tax year. As at December 31, 2014, \$362 was spent.



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On June 12, 2015, the Corporation increased its investment in TNN by acquiring 12,043,356 flow-through shares and 1,475,548 common shares of TNN for \$3,076, representing an additional 12.4% interest in TNN, bringing its interest to 68.3% and resulting in an increase in non-controlling interest of \$68.

#### **4. INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATE**

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On April 14, 2014, the Corporation acquired a 24.9% interest in SPC for cash consideration of \$1,500 and incurred \$38 of transaction costs. SPC, a private subsidiary of Transition Metals Corp., owns 100% interest in the mineral rights of the Aer-Kidd nickel-copper-platinum group metals project. Aer-Kidd is a 280 hectare property covering approximately 1.3 kilometres of the Worthington Offset Dyke located near Worthington, Ontario in the Sudbury Basin area. Under the terms of the investment, the Corporation acquired 6,000,000 units of SPC at a price of \$0.25 per unit representing a total consideration of \$1,500. Each unit consists of one SPC common share and one SPC common share purchase warrant. Each warrant entitles the Corporation to acquire one common share of SPC for a period of 18 months from the date of issue, at an exercise price of \$0.45 per share. The warrants represent derivative financial instruments that are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. The fair value of the warrants at the time of acquisition was estimated at \$209 using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The remaining amount of the purchase consideration of \$1,291 represented the fair value of the common shares acquired. Based on relative fair values, the transaction costs of \$38 were allocated to the common shares and warrants on a pro-rata basis of \$33 and \$5 respectively.

Under the terms of the investment, the Corporation is entitled to appoint one director to the SPC board, provided the Corporation holds at least 15% of the equity in SPC.

In August 2014, SPC closed a non-brokered private placement of 2,550,000 common shares for gross proceeds of \$638. After giving effect to the financing, the Corporation held a 22.5% interest in SPC and recorded a dilution gain of \$20 on the deemed disposal of a portion of its ownership interest. On October 14, 2014, SPC closed an additional non-brokered private placement of 4,761,905 common shares for gross proceeds of \$2,000. After giving effect to the financing, the Corporation's ownership interest in SPC was reduced to 19.1%, and the Corporation recorded a gain on dilution of \$206.

At December 31, 2015, the Corporation held a direct 19.1% interest in SPC (2014 – 19.1%). Management has determined that its investment in the common shares of SPC gives it significant influence over SPC. As a result, the Corporation applies the equity method of accounting for its investment in SPC. SPC's financial year-end is August 31 to satisfy the reporting requirements of its majority shareholder. The Corporation's share of SPC's loss and comprehensive loss was calculated using SPC's financial results from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015, and taking into account any changes in the subsequent period from December 1 to December 31, 2015 that would materially affect the results.

Summarized financial information relating to the Corporation's investment in SPC is as follows:



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Year ended  
December 31,

	2015	2014
Share of income (loss) and comprehensive income (loss)	\$49	\$(54)

The following table reflects the continuity of the Corporation's investment in SPC common shares:

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Balance as at January 1	\$1,476	\$-
Acquisition	-	1,324
Gain on dilution of associate	-	206
Share of income (loss) and comprehensive income (loss)	49	(54)
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$1,525</b>	<b>\$1,476</b>

## 5. OTHER INVESTMENT

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Investment in SPC warrants (Note 4) <sup>1</sup>	\$-	\$332
Investment in Sphinx common shares (note 8) <sup>2</sup>	20	-
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$332</b>

<sup>1</sup> The following table reflects the continuity of the Corporation's investment in SPC warrants which expired in October 2015 without being exercised:

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Derivative financial asset at fair value through profit or loss:		
Balance as at January 1	\$332	\$-
Investment in SPC warrants (note 4)	-	209
Change in fair value	(332)	123
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$332</b>

The fair value of the SPC warrants was calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, using the following assumptions as at April 14, 2014 and December 31, 2014:





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	April 14, 2014	December 31, 2014
Share price	\$0.21	\$0.35
Exercise price	\$0.45	\$0.45
Risk free interest rate	1.1%	1.0%
Expected life	1.5 years	0.8 years
Expected volatility	77%	69%
Expected dividends	nil	nil

<sup>2</sup> The fair value of the Sphinx common shares at initial recognition was \$70 and was \$20 at December 31, 2015.

## 6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land	Buildings	Vehicles	Camp, Furniture and equipment	Computer equipment	Total
<b>Year ended December 31, 2015</b>						
Opening net book amount	\$102	\$583	\$25	\$747	\$38	<b>\$1,495</b>
Disposals	(32)	(100)	-	-	-	<b>(132)</b>
Depreciation for the year	-	(27)	(8)	(166)	(11)	<b>(212)</b>
<b>Closing net book amount</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$456</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>\$581</b>	<b>\$27</b>	<b>\$1,151</b>
<b>At December 31, 2015</b>						
Cost	\$70	\$722	\$125	\$1,068	\$145	<b>\$2,130</b>
Accumulated depreciation	-	(266)	(108)	(487)	(118)	<b>(979)</b>
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$456</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>\$581</b>	<b>\$27</b>	<b>\$1,151</b>
<b>Year ended December 31, 2014</b>						
Opening net book amount	\$102	\$613	\$36	\$151	\$41	\$943
Additions	-	-	-	-	11	11
Acquisitions (note 3)	-	-	-	700	-	700
Depreciation for the year	-	(30)	(11)	(104)	(14)	(159)
Closing net book amount	\$102	\$583	\$25	\$747	\$38	\$1,495
<b>At December 31, 2014</b>						
Cost	\$102	\$870	\$125	\$1,068	\$145	\$2,310
Accumulated depreciation	-	(287)	(100)	(321)	(107)	(815)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>\$102</b>	<b>\$583</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$747</b>	<b>\$38</b>	<b>\$1,495</b>

The carrying value of property, plant and equipment held under finance leases at December 31, 2015 was \$80 (2014: \$85).





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## 7. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Computer Software
<b>Year ended December 31, 2015</b>	
Opening net book amount	\$101
Additions	-
Amortization for the period	(30)
<b>Closing net book amount</b>	<b>\$71</b>
<b>At December 31, 2015</b>	
Cost	\$440
Accumulated amortization	(369)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>\$71</b>
<b>Year ended December 31, 2014</b>	
Opening net book amount	\$101
Additions	35
Amortization for the year	(35)
Closing net book amount	\$101
<b>At December 31, 2014</b>	
Cost	\$440
Accumulated amortization	(339)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>\$101</b>



## 8. MINERAL PROPERTY INTERESTS

The current principal asset of the Corporation is the Dumont Nickel Project (“Dumont”) where a mineral reserve has been delineated. The Corporation has other exploration assets, consisting of (i) West Raglan and (ii) Jefmar. It has not yet been determined whether these other properties contain an economic mineral reserve or resource.

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the Corporation assessed its mineral property interests for impairment and the Corporation determined that the Marbridge and Jefmar properties were fully impaired as the Corporation considered that substantive exploration and evaluation expenditures were neither budgeted nor planned. Accordingly, at December 31, 2014, the Corporation recognized in profit or loss an impairment loss of \$1,455 for the Marbridge and Jefmar properties.

On July 3, 2015, the Corporation completed the sale of its Marbridge, and all but one claim of its Jefmar, mineral property interests (Interests), in exchange for 2,000,000 common shares of Sphinx Resources Ltd., the purchaser, for a total consideration of \$70 measured at the fair value using the closing price of the shares received at the date of the transaction. The carrying value of the Interests was \$Nil at the date of sale, resulting in a gain on disposal of \$70.

On July 8, 2015, the Corporation completed a royalty financing with Orion Mine Finance (“Orion”). Under the terms of the agreement, the Corporation received gross proceeds of \$8,765, less transaction costs of \$112, from Orion in exchange for a 0.75% net smelter return royalty in the Corporation’s Dumont project. The Corporation has the right to re-purchase 50% of the royalty (0.375%) for a cash payment of US\$15,000 on the third, fourth or fifth anniversary of closing. Proceeds were recorded as a reduction to the Dumont mineral property interest.

Exploration and evaluation expenses	Dumont	West Raglan	Total
<b>Balance as at January 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$61,611</b>	<b>\$7,339</b>	<b>\$68,950</b>
Property acquisition and maintenance	828	73	901
Depreciation	43	140	183
Engineering and technical support	4,627	-	4,627
Exploration	571		3,132
Environmental, community and permitting	685	75	760
Share-based payments	214	-	214
Net Quebec refundable tax credits	(778)	(46)	(824)
Sale of NSR, net of transaction costs	(8,653)	-	(8,653)
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$59,148</b>	<b>\$10,142</b>	<b>\$69,290</b>



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Exploration and evaluation expenses	Dumont	Jefmar	Marbridge	West Raglan	Total
Balance as at January 1, 2014	\$54,384	\$294	\$1,127	-	\$55,805
Acquisition of TNN (note 3)	-	-	-	6,938	6,938
Property acquisition and maintenance	827	-	-	40	867
Depreciation	54	-	-	70	124
Engineering and technical support	2,696	1	-	-	2,697
Exploration	1,047	(10)	43	480	1,560
Environmental, community and permitting	2,077	-	-	34	2,111
Share-based payments	423	-	-	-	423
Net Quebec refundable tax credits	103	-	-	(223)	120
Impairment	-	(285)	(1,170)	-	(1,455)
Balance as at December 31, 2014	\$61,611	\$-	\$-	7,339	\$68,950

(a) Dumont property

The Dumont property is located primarily in Launay and partly in Trecesson townships in the Abitibi Region in the province of Quebec and consists of 233 contiguous mineral claims totalling 9,306.5 hectares. The mineral properties comprising Dumont 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. The Dumont mineral claims are subject to various royalty agreements arising from terms of the property acquisitions by the Corporation or through the sale of royalties. The details of the underlying agreements are described below.

(i) Griffis International mineral claims

The Griffis International Ltd. ("**Griffis**") mineral claim block was originally held by Griffis, but a 100% interest in the claims was sold and transferred to the Corporation under an agreement dated January 15, 2007. The agreement with Griffis was not subject to any further future consideration, work commitment requirement or Net Smelter Return ("**NSR**") royalty.

(ii) 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 the Corporation for future consideration under an agreement dated March 8, 2007, that included future consideration.

Future consideration consisted of the following: (1) issuance of seven million shares in the Corporation 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 to Marbaw on March 8, 2008. This amount has been paid by the Corporation.



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The Corporation also committed to incurring a minimum expenditure of \$8,000 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. The Corporation has the right to buy back half of the 3% NSR royalty for \$10,000 at any time.

This property is subject to the Ressources Québec royalty and Orion Mine Finance (“**Orion**”) royalties.

(iii) 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 they were optioned to Patrick Sheridan and Peter Ferderber under an agreement dated October 26, 2006. The option agreement was subsequently assigned to the Corporation through an agreement dated May 4, 2007.

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

The property is subject to a 2% NSR royalty payable to Terrence Coyle (1%) and Michel Roby (1%). The Corporation has the right to buy back half of this 2% NSR royalty for \$1,000 at any time. An advance royalty of \$5 per year is also payable to Coyle–Roby beginning in 2011. Advance royalty payments up to and including October 2015 have been made.

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

(iv) 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 the Corporation 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 at any time.

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

(v) 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. The Corporation purchased these claims for \$30 pursuant to an agreement dated March 18, 2013. These claims are subject to a 3% NSR royalty payable to Pershimco Resources. The Corporation has the option to buy back the NSR royalty in stages at any time by paying \$1,000 for the first percent, \$3,000 for the second percent and \$6,000 for the third percent.



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As these claims were acquired after the Ressources Québec agreement, they are not subject to the Ressources Québec royalty but are subject to the Orion royalties.

(vi) Ressources Québec royalty

On August 1, 2012, the Corporation entered into an investment agreement with Ressources Québec. Pursuant to the agreement, the Corporation 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. The Corporation 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 investment was recorded as a reduction to Dumont's mineral property interest. The Ressources Québec royalty applies to all Dumont claims except the five Pershimco claims that were acquired after the Ressources Québec agreement.

(vii) Orion royalties

On May 10, 2013, the Corporation closed a royalty financing with RK Mine Finance Fund II (subsequently renamed Orion Mine Finance Fund I ("**Orion**")). Under the terms of the financing, Orion acquired (through 8248567 Canada Limited) a 1% NSR royalty in the Dumont project for a purchase price of US\$15 million. The investment was recorded as a reduction to Dumont's mineral property interest.

On July 8, 2015, the Corporation closed a royalty financing with Orion. Under the terms of the financing, Orion acquired a 0.75% net smelter royalty in the Dumont project for a purchase price of US\$6.9 million (C\$8.9 million). The Corporation has the right to re-purchase 50% of the royalty (0.375%) for a cash payment of US\$15 million on any one of the third, fourth and fifth anniversary of closing.

The Orion royalties apply to all Dumont claims.

(b) West Raglan property

On June 18, 2014, the Corporation acquired a 55.9% interest in TNN, a private company whose main asset is a 100% interest in the West Raglan nickel sulphide project located in Quebec. 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 Smelter Returns) with respect to the Property for a price of \$2,000, 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.

(c) 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 granted 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 with a minimum of 60 days prior written notice to Jefmar.



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On September 10, 2010, the Corporation entered into a letter agreement with Glen Eagle Resources Inc. (“**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 10, 2015, the option period to complete \$450 in exploration expenditures was extended to September 10, 2017. Glen Eagle has completed a total of approximately \$343 in exploration expenditures to date, and has made the required option payment of \$10 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.

In 2013, five mining claims in the Jefmar Property 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 the Corporation's strategic objectives.

On July 3, 2015, the Corporation sold eight of its remaining claims and retained only the claim optioned to Glen Eagle.

As at December 31, 2015, the carrying value of the property is \$Nil as it was fully impaired in 2014.

## 9. FINANCE LEASE LIABILITIES

	2015	2014
<b>Gross finance lease liabilities — minimum lease payments</b>		
Within one year	<b>\$28</b>	\$28
Between two and five years	-	28
	<b>28</b>	56
Future finance charges on finance leases	<b>(2)</b>	(9)
<b>Present value of finance lease liabilities</b>	<b>\$26</b>	\$47
Present value of finance lease liabilities are repayable as follows:		
Within one year	<b>\$26</b>	\$21
Between one and five years	-	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26</b>	\$47

## 10. SHARE CAPITAL

On July 11, 2014, pursuant to an underwriting agreement dated June 26, 2014, (the “**Agreement**”), the Corporation closed a public offering of 8,340,000 units at a price of \$0.60 per unit for aggregate gross proceeds of \$5,004. On July 17, 2014, pursuant to the Agreement, the underwriters exercised their over-allotment option and purchased an additional 1,251,000 units at a price of \$0.60 per unit for gross proceeds of \$751. In total, the Corporation issued 9,591,000 units (“**Units**”) under the Agreement for gross proceeds of \$5,755 (the “**Offering**”). Each Unit is comprised of one common share of the Corporation 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. The fair value of the 4,795,500 warrants issued was estimated at \$623 using the



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Black-Scholes option pricing formula with the following assumptions: expected dividend yield 0%, share price \$0.53, expected volatility 66%, risk free rate of return 1.1%, and expected maturity of two years.

The cash expenses of the Offering were \$373. The Corporation also agreed to pay the underwriters a cash commission equal to 6% of the Offering value which amounted to \$345. In addition, the Corporation granted to the underwriters non-transferable compensation options to purchase, in the aggregate, 575,460 units (the "**Compensation Warrants**") which is equal to 6% of the number of Units issued pursuant to the Offering at a price of \$0.60 per unit for a period of 24 months from the date of closing. Each Compensation Warrant 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. The fair value of the 575,460 Compensation Warrants was estimated at \$139 using the Binomial option pricing formula with the following assumptions: expected dividend yield 0%, share price \$0.53, expected volatility 66%, risk free rate of return 1.1%, and expected maturity of two years.

On June 12, 2015, the Corporation closed a brokered private placement of 8,571,428 flow-through shares at a price of \$0.35 per flow through share and 2,391,638 units at a price of \$0.275 per unit, for aggregate proceeds of \$3,000 and \$658 respectively ("the Offering"). Each unit is comprised of one common share of the Corporation and one-half of one common share purchase warrant. Each whole warrant is exercisable at a price of \$0.375 and entitles the holder thereof to acquire one common share of the Corporation on or before June 12, 2017. In connection with the Offering, the Corporation recorded a \$686 flow-through share premium liability calculated as the difference between the share issuance price and the market price at the time of closing. The cash expenses of the Offering were \$315. The fair value of the 1,195,819 warrants issued was estimated at \$81 using the Black-Scholes option pricing formula with the following assumptions: expected dividend yield 0%, share price \$0.265, expected volatility 66%, risk free rate of return 0.7%, and expected maturity of two years.

On July 8, 2015, in conjunction with a royalty financing with Orion (note 8), the Corporation closed a private placement of 10,000,000 common shares at a price of \$0.395 per share for gross proceeds of \$3,950. The cash expenses of the private placement were \$63.

As of December 31, 2015, the Corporation had outstanding commitments to spend \$263 on eligible exploration expenditures by December 31, 2016.

In 2015, the Corporation issued 696,118 shares for consulting services for \$183 based on the value of the services provided.

## 11. SHARE INCENTIVE PLAN

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The Corporation's 2010 share incentive plan (the "**Plan**"), as amended and restated on March 26, 2013, 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 key officers, directors, employees and consultants of the Corporation. The Plan provides for the issuance of share options and other equity-based awards including share appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units, deferred share units, performance shares and performance share units. The Plan provides that the maximum number of common shares issuable upon the exercise of share options and made available as other equity-based awards, in aggregate, shall not exceed 15% of the issued and outstanding common shares from time to time.

### Share Options

At the time of grant or thereafter, the Compensation Committee (the "**Committee**") of the Board of Directors may determine when a share option will vest and become exercisable and may determine that the share option shall be exercisable in instalments on such terms as to vesting or otherwise as the Committee deems advisable subject to the rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, if any. Unless otherwise





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determined by the Committee, share options will vest and become exercisable, as to one third of the share options granted, on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant, provided that the participant is an eligible employee, eligible director, consultant or other participant at the time of vesting. Under the Plan, the expiry date of share options may not exceed ten years from the date of grant.

In 2015, 3,700,000 (2014: 7,794,685) share options were granted and the weighted average fair value of share options granted during the year, as estimated at the time of grant, was \$0.10 (2014: \$0.25). This was calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model, using the following weighted average assumptions:

	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Share price	<b>\$0.21</b>	\$0.56
Exercise price	<b>\$0.21</b>	\$0.62
Risk free interest rate	<b>0.6%</b>	1.1%
Expected life	<b>3 years</b>	3 years
Expected volatility	<b>70%</b>	72%
Expected dividends	<b>nil</b>	nil

The following table reflects the continuity of share options for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Balance as at January 1, 2015	11,987,852	\$0.64
Granted	3,700,000	0.21
Expired	(1,345,000)	0.43
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>14,342,852</b>	<b>\$0.55</b>

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Balance as at January 1, 2014	4,473,500	\$0.67
Granted	6,864,500	0.54
TNN replacement options granted (note 3)	930,185	1.18
Exercised	(23,333)	0.30
Expired	(257,000)	0.61
Balance as at December 31, 2014	11,987,852	\$0.64





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As at December 31, 2015, the Corporation had the following share options outstanding:

Options Outstanding				Options Exercisable		
Exercise Price Range	Number of Options	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years)	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Number of Options	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years)	Weighted Average Exercise Price
\$0.18–\$0.99	12,757,196	3.9	\$0.42	9,775,697	3.8	\$0.45
\$1.00–\$1.99	1,075,656	2.2	\$1.27	1,075,656	2.2	\$1.27
\$2.00–\$2.50	510,000	3.5	\$2.24	510,000	3.5	\$2.24
	<b>14,342,852</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>\$0.55</b>	<b>11,361,353</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>\$0.61</b>

### Deferred Share Units

Under the Plan, a participant is only entitled to payment in respect of a deferred share unit when the participant ceases to be an employee or director of the Corporation or any affiliate thereof for any reason. Upon redemption of a vested unit, the participant has the option to receive (i) one common share of the Corporation or (ii) an amount in cash equal to the fair market value of a common share of the Corporation on the date of redemption. The expense is recorded in the statement of comprehensive loss in general and administrative expenses or capitalized to mineral property interests, and credited to liabilities under deferred share units since the payment in cash or common shares is at the option of the participant.

In 2015, 249,000 (2014: nil) deferred share units were redeemed for cash at a redemption price of \$0.35 per deferred share unit for a total cash payment of \$86.

The following table reflects the continuity of deferred share units for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Number of Deferred Share Units
Balance as at January 1, 2015	1,346,343
Redeemed	(249,000)
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>1,097,343</b>

	Number of Deferred Share Units
Balance as at January 1, 2014	1,343,343
Granted	-
Balance as at December 31, 2014	1,346,343

As at December 31, 2015, all 1,097,343 deferred share units were vested.

### Restricted Share Units

Under the Plan, redemption of vested restricted share units shall take place no later than the third anniversary of the date of grant. The Corporation has granted the following two types of restricted share units: (i) cash settled units, and (ii) units settled in cash and/or shares at the option of the participant. Upon redemption of vested units, the participant will either receive cash equal to the multiple obtained if



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the number of vested restricted units is multiplied by the fair market value of a common share of the Corporation on the redemption date, or for restricted share units with an option, the participant may choose to receive (i) the number of underlying common shares of the Corporation or ii) a combination of common shares of the Corporation and cash. The expense for both types of restricted share units is recorded in the statement of comprehensive loss in general and administrative expenses or capitalized to mineral property interests, and credited to liabilities under restricted share units since some units will settle for cash only, while other units will settle for cash or common shares at the option of the participant.

In 2015, 3,564,690 (2014: 474,515) restricted share units were granted, 328,707 of which were pursuant to management's election to receive restricted share units in lieu of a portion of their salary and vest one year from grant, 1,685,832 of which vested immediately pursuant to management's election to receive restricted share units in lieu of a portion of an annual cash bonus, and 1,550,151 of which vested immediately pursuant to directors' election to receive restricted share units in lieu of directors fees.

In 2015, 567,339 (2014: 1,447,192) restricted share units were redeemed, 556,922 (2014: 1,212,192) of which were redeemed for cash at a weighted average redemption price of \$0.25 (2014: \$0.37) per restricted share unit for a total cash payment of \$139 (2014: \$452); and the remaining 10,417 (2014: 235,000) restricted share units were redeemed for 10,417 (2014: 235,000) common shares of the Corporation.

The following table reflects the continuity of restricted share units for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Number of Restricted Share Units
Balance as at January 1, 2015	1,284,874
Granted	3,564,690
Redeemed	(567,339)
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>4,282,225</b>

	Number of Restricted Share Units
Balance as at January 1, 2014	2,557,551
Granted	474,515
Redeemed	(1,447,192)
Balance as at December 31, 2014	1,284,874

Included in the 4,282,225 restricted share units outstanding as at December 31, 2015 are 2,449,200 units that can only be settled for cash.

As at December 31, 2015, the weighted average remaining contractual life of the outstanding restricted share units was 2.5 years and 3,953,518 restricted share units were vested.

### Share Appreciation Rights

Under the Plan, participants have the potential right to receive a cash payment on the redemption of a share appreciation right provided that such share appreciation right has vested. Such cash payment will be equal to the amount if any, by which the fair market value of a common share of the Corporation on the date of redemption exceeds the fair market value of a common share of the Corporation on the date of grant (the "**Base Price**"). The expense for share appreciation rights is recorded in the statement of



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comprehensive loss in general and administrative expenses or capitalized to mineral property interests, and credited to liabilities under share appreciation rights since these instruments will settle for cash only.

In 2015 and 2014 no share appreciation rights were granted, 218,000 (2014: nil) share appreciation rights expired, and 102,000 (2014: 731,000) were forfeited. The vesting requirements for the share appreciation rights outstanding as at December 31, 2015 are as follows:

The remaining 906,000 share appreciation rights (the “**Service Condition SARs**”) vest if the Committee passes a resolution approving the redemption of the Service Condition SARs having regard to the Corporation’s financial condition, project status and overall market conditions (“**Approval Condition**”), provided that the number of Service Condition SARs to vest will be dependent upon the length of service of the participant as follows: one-third will not be dependent on the length of service and shall vest upon the Approval Condition being met, a further one-third will vest upon the Approval Condition being met, provided that the participant is still serving as a director or employee of the Corporation on the first anniversary of the date of grant, and the remaining one-third will vest upon the Approval Condition being met, provided that the participant is still serving as a director or employee of the Corporation on the second anniversary of the date of grant. Vested Service Condition SARs shall be redeemed on the redemption date specified by the Committee. If the Service Condition SARs have not become vested and been redeemed by the expiry date, such Service Condition SARs shall be automatically redeemed on the expiry date notwithstanding that the Approval Condition has not been met. The expiry date for 620,000 Service Condition SARs is the fifth anniversary of the date of grant, while the expiry date for the remaining 286,000 Service Condition SARs is the tenth anniversary of the date of grant.

The weighted average fair value of each share appreciation right outstanding at the end of the period, as estimated as at December 31, 2015, was \$0.06 (2014: \$0.12). This was calculated using the Black–Scholes option pricing model, using the following assumptions:

	As at December 31,	
	2015	2014
Share price	<b>\$0.18</b>	\$0.32
Base price	<b>\$0.33</b>	\$0.33
Risk free interest rate	<b>0.49%</b>	1.01%
Expected life	<b>3.0 years</b>	3.0 years
Expected volatility	<b>70%</b>	75%
Expected dividends	<b>nil</b>	nil

The following table reflects the continuity of share appreciation rights for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Number of Share Appreciation Rights	Weighted Average Base Price
Balance January 1, 2015	1,226,000	\$0.33
Expired	(218,000)	\$0.40
Forfeited	(102,000)	0.34
<b>Balance December 31, 2015</b>	<b>906,000</b>	<b>\$0.31</b>



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	Number of Share Appreciation Rights	Weighted Average Base Price
Balance January 1, 2014	1,957,000	\$0.33
Forfeited	(731,000)	0.32
Balance December 31, 2014	1,226,000	\$0.33

As at December 31, 2015, the weighted average remaining contractual life of the outstanding share appreciation rights is 4.7 years and nil share appreciation rights were vested.

The expense (recovery) recognized from share-based payment transactions for services received during the year is shown in the following table:

	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Equity settled share-based payment transactions</b>		
Share options	\$300	\$1,191
Total equity settled share-based payment transactions	300	1,191
<b>Cash settled share-based payment transactions</b>		
Deferred share units	4	-
Restricted share units	636	93
Share appreciation rights	19	68
Mark-to-market adjustment for deferred and restricted share units and share appreciation rights	(385)	(192)
Total cash settled share-based payment transactions	274	353
<b>Total expense arising from share-based payment transactions</b>	<b>\$574</b>	<b>\$1,544</b>

The carrying amounts of the liabilities relating to deferred and restricted share units and share appreciation rights at December 31, 2015, are \$198, \$759 and \$38 respectively (2014: \$431, \$411 and \$107 respectively).

## 12. WARRANTS AND COMPENSATION WARRANTS

No warrants were exercised in 2015 or 2014.

The following table reflects the continuity of warrants for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	Number of Warrants	Number of Compensation Warrants	Exercise Price
Balance as at January 1, 2015	5,705,354	575,460	\$0.98/\$0.60
Expired	(909,854)	-	1.91/-
Granted (note 10)	1,195,819	-	0.38/-
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>5,991,319</b>	<b>575,460</b>	<b>\$0.72/\$0.60</b>



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	Number of Warrants	Number of Compensation Warrants	Exercise Price
Balance as at January 1, 2014	240,000	-	\$0.50/-
Expired	(240,000)	-	0.50/-
TNN replacement warrants granted (note 3)	909,854	-	1.91/-
Granted (note 10)	4,795,500	575,460	0.80/0.60
Balance as at December 31, 2014	5,705,354	575,460	\$0.98/\$0.60

As at December 31, 2015, the remaining contractual life of the outstanding warrants and compensation warrants was 0.7 years and 0.5 years respectively.

### 13. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>Expense by nature</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$1,313	\$2,364
Severance	62	196
Share-based payments (note 11)	574	1,544
Professional fees	251	495
Consulting fees	191	277
Public company expenses	111	90
Office and general	724	927
Conference and travel	125	217
Investor relations	590	898
Business development and fundraising	1,558	1,209
Depreciation and amortization	59	71
	<b>\$5,558</b>	<b>\$8,288</b>

### 14. LOSS PER SHARE

	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Loss attributable to RNC shareholders	<b>\$(5,322)</b>	\$(9,910)
Weighted average number of common shares	<b>120,830,680</b>	101,946,760
Loss per share attributable to RNC shareholders — basic and diluted	<b>\$(0.04)</b>	\$(0.10)

The effect of potential issuances of shares under share options, warrants, deferred share units and restricted share units would be anti-dilutive for the years ended December 31, 2015, and 2014, and accordingly, basic and diluted loss per share are the same.



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## 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The following table reflects the remuneration of key management, which consists of the Corporation's directors and executive officers, and other related party transactions:

Remuneration of key management	Year ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
Management salaries and benefits	\$1,142	\$1,670
Share-based payments — Management	641	600
Directors fees	18	380
Share-based payments — Directors	469	928
Mark-to-market adjustment for cash settled share-based payments	(506)	274
	<b>\$1,764</b>	<b>\$3,852</b>

### Termination and Change of Control Provisions

Certain employment agreements between the executive team and the Corporation contain termination without cause and change of control provisions. Assuming that all members of the executive team had been terminated without cause on December 31, 2015, the total amounts payable to the executive team in respect of severance and accelerated vesting of share based awards that are redeemable in cash would have totaled \$2.0 million. If a change of control had occurred on December 31, 2015, the total amounts payable to the executive team in respect of severance, if elected by each executive team member, and accelerated vesting of share-based awards that are redeemable in cash would have totaled \$2.0 million.

## 16. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

The asset retirement obligation represents the legal and contractual obligation associated with the eventual closure and reclamation of the Corporation's exploration camp at the West Raglan project. The obligation consists of costs associated with reclamation, environmental monitoring, and the removal of tangible assets. As at December 31, 2015, the carrying value of the asset retirement obligation represents the net present value of the estimated undiscounted cash flows required to settle the environmental obligations, which total \$500 (2014: \$500), using a discount rate of 0.7% (2014: 1.5%). The settlement of this obligation is estimated to occur in 2019.

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Balance as at January 1	\$467	\$-
Acquisition of TNN (note 3)	-	464
Change in discount rate	17	
Accretion	4	3
<b>Balance, end of period</b>	<b>\$488</b>	<b>\$467</b>



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## 17. COMMITMENTS

The Corporation is committed to minimum amounts under operating lease agreements primarily for office and warehouse space. As at December 31, 2015, minimum commitments remaining under these leases were approximately \$309 over the following years:

	<b>2015</b>
2016	\$285
2017	15
2018	9
	<b>\$309</b>

## 18. COLLATERAL INVESTMENT

On September 25, 2013, the Corporation entered into an agreement with Hydro-Québec 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**"), which was required to be financed and secured by the Corporation with irrevocable letters of credit.

On November 19, 2014, the Corporation suspended any additional work on the Power Line Project. Pursuant to the work suspension, all Power Line Project costs incurred by Hydro-Québec were paid by the Corporation, the letters of credit were cancelled and the collateral investments were refunded to the Corporation in 2015.

	<b>December 31, 2015</b>	December 31, 2014
Guarantee investment certificates securing letters of credit in favour of Hydro-Québec	\$-	\$4,000
	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

On November 21, 2015 the Power Line Project agreement expired.

## 19. INCOME TAX

The major components of income tax expense are as follows:

	<b>2015</b>	2014
Tax expense applicable to:		
Current Taxes	\$-	\$-
Deferred Taxes		
Income taxes — origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>(861)</b>	(2,109)
Mining taxes — origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>222</b>	507
Relating to change in tax rates/imposition of new tax laws	<b>338</b>	285
Relating to unrecognized temporary differences	<b>841</b>	2,000
Relating to amortization of flow through share premium	<b>(626)</b>	(16)
<b>Total tax expense (recovery)</b>	<b>\$(86)</b>	<b>\$667</b>



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A reconciliation between tax expense and the product of accounting loss multiplied by the Corporation's domestic tax rate is as follows:

	2015	2014
Statutory tax rate	25.63%	26.07%
Tax benefit of statutory rate	\$(1,461)	\$(2,406)
Expenses not deductible/(taxable) for income tax purposes	147	244
Tax effect of renounced flow through share expenditures	502	-
Amortization of flow-through share premiums	(626)	(16)
Quebec mining duties, net of tax	222	507
Impact of change in provincial deferred income tax rate	338	285
Tax effect of unrecognized temporary difference and tax losses	841	2,000
Other	(49)	53
<b>Total tax expense (recovery)</b>	<b>\$(86)</b>	<b>\$667</b>

The Corporation offsets tax assets and liabilities if and only if it has a legally enforceable right to set off the current tax assets and current tax liabilities or deferred tax assets and liabilities and they relate to taxes levied by the same tax authority.

The tax benefits of the following temporary differences have been recognized in the consolidated financial statements:

	Balance January 1, 2015	Recognized in Profit and Loss	Recognized in Equity	Balance December 31, 2015
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities):				
Loss carry-forward	\$11,296	\$330	\$-	\$11,626
RSU and share appreciation rights	101	(36)	-	65
Property, plant and equipment	(19)	(23)	-	(42)
Financing costs	234	(92)	41	183
Mining property interests	(22,327)	(722)	-	(23,049)
Other	13	2	-	15
<b>Net deferred tax liabilities</b>	<b>\$(10,702)</b>	<b>\$(541)</b>	<b>\$41</b>	<b>\$(11,202)</b>





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	Balance January 1, 2014	Recognized in Profit and Loss	Recognized in Equity	Balance December 31, 2014
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities):				
Loss carry-forward	\$8,406	\$2,890	\$-	\$11,296
RSU and share appreciation rights	-	101	-	101
Property, plant and equipment	25	(44)	-	(19)
Financing costs	354	(120)	-	234
Mining property interests	(18,881)	(3,446)	-	(22,327)
Other	77	(64)	-	13
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$(10,019)	\$(683)	\$-	\$(10,702)

The tax benefits of the following unused tax losses and deductible temporary differences have not been recognized in the consolidated financial statements:

	2015	2014
Tax loss carry-forwards		
Expire 2032–2035	\$31,974	\$28,554

The Corporation is subject to federal income taxes, provincial income taxes, and provincial mining taxes. Tax laws are complex and can be subject to different interpretations. Uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation of tax regulations, including the determination of which mining exploration expenditures are eligible for refundable tax credits, and the amount and timing of collection. The Corporation has prepared its tax provision based on the interpretations of tax laws which it believes represent the probable outcome. The Corporation may be required to change its provision for income taxes if the tax authorities ultimately are not in agreement with the Corporation's interpretation.

## 20. FINANCIAL RISK FACTORS

### Financial Instruments

The Corporation is exposed to various financial risks resulting from both its operations and its investment activities. The Corporation's management manages financial risks. The Corporation does not enter into financial instruments agreements, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes. The Corporation's main financial risks exposure and its financial policies are as follows:

### Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of loss associated with a counterparty's inability to fulfill its payment obligations. The Corporation's credit risk is primarily attributable to amounts receivable and cash and cash equivalents. Amounts receivable mainly consists of interest receivable from Canadian chartered banks, goods and services tax due from the federal and Quebec governments, and mining tax credits due from the Quebec government. Management believes that the credit risk concentration with respect to financial instruments



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included in amounts receivable is minimal. The Corporation reduces its credit risk by diversifying its cash and cash equivalents investments with several major Canadian chartered banks rated “A” or higher.

### ***Liquidity Risk***

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Corporation will not have sufficient cash resources to meet its financial obligations associated with financial liabilities as they come due. The Corporation's liquidity and operating results may be adversely affected if the Corporation's access to the capital market or other alternative forms of financing is hindered, whether as a result of a downturn in stock market conditions generally or related to matters specific to the Corporation. The Corporation has historically generated cash flow primarily from its financing and investing activities. As at December 31, 2015, the Corporation had cash and cash equivalents of \$9,634 to settle current financial liabilities of \$2,553. All of the Corporation's financial liabilities have contractual maturities of less than 30 days and are subject to normal trade terms with the exception of obligations under finance leases. The Corporation regularly evaluates its cash position to ensure preservation and security of capital as well as maintenance of liquidity. As at December 31, 2015, Management estimates that funds available will not be sufficient to meet the Corporation's obligations and expenditures through December 31, 2016 (Note 1).

### ***Interest Rate Risk***

The Corporation has cash balances and the Corporation's current policy is to invest excess cash in certificates of deposit or high interest savings accounts of major Canadian chartered banks. As of December 31, 2015, the Corporation had \$9,104 invested with various Canadian chartered banks bearing interest at variable rates. Sensitivity to a plus or minus 1% change in the rates would affect the reported annual finance income by approximately \$91.

### ***Fair Value Risk***

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, amounts receivable, collateral investment, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and obligations under finance leases approximate their fair values due to their relatively short periods to maturity.

## **21. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

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The capital of the Corporation consists of items included in RNC shareholder's equity of \$65,165 as at December 31, 2015 (2014: \$63,211). The properties in which the Corporation currently has an interest are in the exploration and evaluation stage. As such, the Corporation is dependent on external financing to fund its activities. In order to carry out the planned exploration and evaluation program, complete acquisitions and pay for administrative costs, the Corporation will spend its existing working capital and raise additional amounts when economic conditions permit it to do so.

Management has chosen to mitigate the risk and uncertainty associated with raising additional capital within current economic conditions and manages its capital with the following objectives by:

- (i) minimizing discretionary disbursements;
- (ii) reducing or eliminating exploration and evaluation expenditures which are of limited strategic value; and
- (iii) exploring alternate sources of liquidity with an objective to minimize cost of capital.



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In light of the above, the Corporation will continue to assess new properties and/or targets and seek to acquire an interest in additional properties if it believes there is sufficient potential and if it has adequate financial resources to do so.

Management reviews its capital management approach on an ongoing basis and believes that this approach, given the relative size of the Corporation, is appropriate.

There were no changes in the Corporation's approach to capital management during year ended December 31, 2015. The Corporation is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements. Changes in capital are described in the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity.

## **22. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

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On January 30, 2016, the Corporation entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100% interest in VMS Ventures Inc. (“**VMS**”) by way of a plan of arrangement in consideration. Under the terms of the agreement, the Corporation will issue VMS shareholders 36,000,000 common shares of the Corporation and pay cash consideration of \$3,507, funded by a \$3,507 loan to be provided by VMS from its cash balance. Prior to closing, VMS will distribute its investment in North American Nickel Inc. to VMS shareholders. This transaction, which is expected to close in April 2016, remains subject to customary conditions including court approvals, VMS shareholder approval, and the receipt of all regulatory and stock exchange approvals.

On February 1, 2016, the Corporation acquired a 20% interest in Salt Lake Mining Pty Ltd (“**SLM**”), a private company whose main asset is the Beta Hunt nickel-gold mine in Western Australia, for cash consideration of \$2,500.

The Corporation also agreed to acquire a further 47% interest in SLM in exchange for 32,500,000 shares of the Corporation. This transaction, which is expected to close in March 2016, remains subject to regulatory approval, a shareholder pre-emption process and other customary closing conditions.