

TSX: FF | OTCQX: FFMGF | FRANKFURT: FMG

# **NOTICE OF MEETING**

and

# **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

for the

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on

**JUNE 11, 2025** 

Dated as of April 23, 2025

# **About First Mining**

Headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, First Mining Gold Corp. ("First Mining" or the "Company") is a Canadian-focused gold exploration and development company that was created in 2015 by Mr. Keith Neumeyer, founding President and CEO of First Majestic Silver Corp. and a co-founder of First Quantum Minerals Ltd.

We are a gold developer advancing two of the largest gold projects in Canada; the Springpole Gold Project in northwestern Ontario, where we have significantly advanced a Feasibility Study and permitting activities are on-going with a final Environmental Impact Statement ("**EIS**") for the project published in November 2024, and the Duparquet Gold Project in Quebec, a PEA stage development asset located on the Destor-Porcupine Fault in the prolific Abitibi region of Quebec. We also own the Cameron Gold Project in Ontario and a portfolio of gold project interests including non-controlling interests in the Pickle Crow Gold Project (being advanced in partnership with Firefly Metals Ltd.) and the Hope Brook Gold Project (being advanced in partnership with Big Ridge Gold Corp.).

First Mining is publicly listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("**TSX**") under the trading symbol "FF", on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol "FMG", and in the US on the OTC-QX under the trading symbol "FFMGF". Our management team has decades of experience in evaluating, exploring and developing mineral assets.

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#### Dear Shareholder:

It is my pleasure to invite you to our 2025 annual general meeting of shareholders to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) (the "**Meeting**"). The Meeting will be held at our offices at 1188 West Georgia Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom, Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4A2.

The Meeting is your opportunity to vote on various items of business, meet our board of directors and management team, and hear first-hand about our operations, our performance over the past year and our future plans. Please take some time to read the accompanying management information circular because it includes important information about the Meeting, voting, the nominated directors, our governance practices and how we compensate our executives and directors.

Your vote is very important. You can vote online or by phone, fax, mail, or in person at the Meeting.

If you have any questions and/or need assistance in voting your shares, please contact Paul Morris, Director, Investor Relations, at 1.844.306.8827 or by e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@firstmininggold.com">info@firstmininggold.com</a>.

Thank you for your continued support as we move our business forward.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) "Keith Neumeyer"

Keith Neumeyer Chairman of the Board

Vancouver, British Columbia April 23, 2025

# **Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders**

### When

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)

#### Where

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom at 1188 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4A2.

We will cover six items of business at our 2025 annual general meeting (the "Meeting"):

- Receive our audited consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended December 31,
   2024 and the auditor's report thereon;
- Fix the number of directors to be elected at the Meeting at five;
- Elect five directors to our board of directors to hold office until the next annual general meeting of shareholders;
- Re-appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as our independent auditor for the ensuing year and authorize our directors to set the auditor's pay;
- Approve the unallocated entitlements under our amended and restated share-based compensation
  plan, as more particularly described in the accompanying information circular (the "Circular"); and
- Transact such other business that is properly brought before the Meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

#### Record date

The record date for the Meeting is April 23, 2025. The record date is the date for the determination of the registered holders of our Common Shares entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting and any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting.

# Your vote is important

This notice is accompanied by the Circular and either a form of proxy for registered shareholders or a voting instruction form for beneficial (i.e. non-registered) shareholders. If previously requested, a copy of our audited consolidated annual financial statements and the accompanying management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") for the year ended December 31, 2024 will also accompany this notice (collectively, the "Meeting Materials"). Copies of our annual and/or interim financial statements and MD&A are also available under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>, on our website at

www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials, or by request made to First Mining Gold Corp. As described in the notice and access notification that we have mailed to our shareholders, we are using the notice and access method for delivering this notice and the Meeting Materials to our shareholders, which substantially reduces the paper used in printing this notice and the Meeting Materials as well as printing and mailing costs. This notice and the Meeting Materials will be available on our website at

<u>www.firstmininggold.com/investors/agm/agm-materials</u> and under our SEDAR+ profile at <u>www.sedarplus.ca</u>.

The Circular contains important information about the Meeting, who can vote and how to vote. **Please read the Circular carefully before voting.** 

If you will not be attending the meeting in person, we request that you read, date and sign the accompanying proxy and deliver it to our transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services Inc. ("**Computershare**"). If a shareholder does not deliver a proxy to Computershare, Attention: Proxy Department, 100 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, by 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 9, 2025 (or before 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, before any adjournment of the Meeting at which the proxy is to be used), then the shareholder will not be entitled to vote at the Meeting by proxy.

If you would like us to send you a paper copy of the Meeting Materials, please contact Paul Morris, our Director, Investor Relations, at 1.844.306.8827 or by e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@firstmininggold.com">info@firstmininggold.com</a>. In order for you to receive the Meeting Materials in advance of the proxy deposit deadline date and the date of the Meeting, we must receive requests for printed copies of the Meeting Materials at least <a href="mailto:ten">ten</a> business days in advance of the proxy deposit deadline date and time.

#### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(signed) "Daniel W. Wilton"

Daniel W. Wilton
Chief Executive Officer and Director

Vancouver, British Columbia April 23, 2025

# 2025 Management Information Circular

You have received this management information circular (the "Circular") because our records indicate you held common shares ("Common Shares") of First Mining as of the close of business on April 23, 2025 (the "Record Date") and we are sending this Circular to you in connection with the 2025 annual general meeting of our shareholders to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 (the "Meeting").

Throughout this document, the terms we, us, our, the Company and First Mining mean First Mining Gold Corp. and its subsidiaries, in the context.

We encourage you to vote at the Meeting in person or by proxy. On behalf of management of the Company, we will be soliciting votes for this Meeting and any meeting that is reconvened if it is postponed or adjourned. The cost of solicitation will be borne by the Company.

This Circular is dated April 23, 2025. Unless otherwise stated, all information in this Circular is current as of April 23, 2025, and all dollar figures are in Canadian dollars.

The notice and access notification regarding the Meeting is being mailed to you on May 2, 2025 with a proxy or voting instruction form, in accordance with applicable laws.

# **Notice & Access Process**

We are using the notice and access model ("**Notice and Access**") provided under National Instrument 54 – 101 *Communication with Beneficial Owners of Securities of a Reporting Issuer* for the delivery to our shareholders of the Notice of Meeting, this Circular, the audited consolidated annual financial statements of First Mining for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the accompanying management's discussion and analysis thereon (collectively, the "**Meeting Materials**"). We have adopted the Notice and Access delivery model in order to further our commitment to environmental sustainability and to reduce our printing and mailing costs.

Under Notice and Access, instead of receiving printed copies of the Meeting Materials, shareholders receive a Notice and Access notification containing details regarding the date, location and purpose of the Meeting, as well as information on how they can access the Meeting Materials electronically. Shareholders with existing instructions on their account to receive printed materials will receive a printed copy of the Meeting Materials.

# **How to request printed Meeting Materials**

Shareholders can request that printed copies of the Meeting Materials be sent to them by postal delivery at no cost to them up to one year from the date of the filing of this Circular on SEDAR+.

**Registered shareholders** may make their request by contacting Paul Morris, Director, Investor Relations, at 1.844.306.8827 or by e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@firstmininggold.com">info@firstmininggold.com</a>.

**Non-registered shareholders** may make their request online at www.proxyvote.com or by telephone Toll Free at 1.877.907.7643 (North America) by entering the 16-digit control number located on their voting instruction form and following the instructions provided. If a non-registered shareholder does not have a control number, please call 1.303.562.9305 (English) or 1.303.562.9306 (French).

To receive the Meeting Materials in advance of the proxy deposit deadline date and the date of the Meeting, First Mining must receive requests for printed copies of the Meeting Materials at least ten business days in advance of the proxy deposit deadline date and time.

# **About the Meeting**

#### Items of business

1. Receive our audited consolidated annual financial statements for the financial year ended December 31, 2024 and the auditor's report thereon (see page 9).

Our audited consolidated annual financial statements for the financial year ended December 31, 2024, and the auditor's report thereon are available on our website at <a href="www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials">www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials</a> and under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

Fix the number of directors to be elected at the Meeting at five (see page 9).

Our board of directors (the "**Board**") currently consists of five directors and we propose to fix the number of directors at five for the ensuing year.

3. Elect five directors to our Board to hold office for the ensuing year (see page 9).

We have nominated the following individuals for election as directors for the ensuing year:

Our transfer agent and registrar is Computershare Investor Services Inc. ("Computershare").

They will act as scrutineer of the Meeting and will be responsible for counting the votes on our behalf.

- Keith Neumeyer
- Raymond Polman
- Daniel W. Wilton
- Richard Lock
- Leanne Hall

Each of the above five director nominees is well qualified to serve on our Board and has expressed his or her willingness to do so. Our directors are elected to hold office until our next annual general meeting, unless the person ceases to be a director before then.

4. Re-appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, as our independent auditor for the ensuing year and authorize our directors to set the auditor's pay (see page 15).

We have nominated Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP ("PwC") for re-appointment as our independent auditor to serve until our next annual general meeting.

5. Approve the unallocated entitlements under our amended and restated share-based compensation plan, as more particularly described in the accompanying information circular (see page 15).

In accordance with the requirements of the TSX we are required to obtain shareholder approval of the unallocated entitlements under the amended and restated share-based compensation plan every three years. Shareholder approval was last obtained at our annual general meeting held on June 9, 2022.

#### 6. Transact such other business that is properly brought before the Meeting (see page 29).

We will also consider other matters that properly come before the Meeting. As of the date of this Circular, we are not aware of any other items of business to be considered at the Meeting, other than as set forth above.

# Quorum and approval

We need a quorum of shareholders to transact business at the Meeting. Under our articles, a quorum is two or more persons who are, or represent by proxy, shareholders holding, in the aggregate, at least 5% of the Common Shares entitled to be voted at the Meeting.

We require a simple majority (50% plus 1) of the votes cast at the Meeting to approve all items of business, unless otherwise stated.

#### Record date

We have fixed April 23, 2025 as the Record Date for determining the registered shareholders who will be entitled to notice of the Meeting, and any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting, and who will be entitled to vote at the Meeting.

# Shares and outstanding principal holders

Our authorized capital consists of an unlimited number of Common Shares without par value, each carrying the right to one vote, and an unlimited number of Preferred Shares issuable in series. On a vote by show of hands, every person present at the Meeting who is a shareholder or proxyholder and entitled to vote on the matter has one vote and, on a poll, every shareholder entitled to vote on the matter has one vote in respect of each Common Share entitled to be voted on the matter and held by that shareholder and may exercise that vote either in person or by proxy.

We had a total of 1,083,331,543 Common Shares outstanding at the close of business on the Record Date. There are no Preferred Shares outstanding.

To the knowledge of our directors and executive officers, no persons or companies beneficially own, or control or direct, directly or indirectly, Common Shares carrying 10% or more of the voting rights attached to all outstanding Common Shares as of the Record Date.

Our Common Shares are listed on:

- the TSX under the symbol "FF";
- the US OTC-QX market under the symbol "FFMGF"; and
- the Frankfurt Stock Exchange under the symbol "FMG".

# Interest of certain persons in matters to be acted upon

Other than as described elsewhere in this Circular, none of the following individuals has any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting other than the election of directors:

- each person who has been a director or executive officer of the Company at any time since January 1, 2024;
- the nominees for director; or
- any associate or affiliate of any of the above.

# Interest of informed persons in material transactions

We are not aware of any informed person (as defined in National Instrument 51-102 *Continuous Disclosure Obligations*) of the Company, or any proposed director, or any associate or affiliate of the foregoing, who has a direct or indirect material interest in any transaction we entered into since January 1, 2024 or any proposed transaction, which has materially affected or would materially affect the Company or its subsidiaries.

# **Voting**

#### Who can vote?

You are entitled to receive notice of and vote at the Meeting if you held Common Shares as of the close of business on April 23, 2025, the Record Date for the Meeting.

### How to vote?

You can vote by proxy or you can attend the Meeting and vote your Common Shares in person.

Voting by proxy is the easiest way to vote because you are appointing someone else (called your proxyholder) to attend the Meeting and vote your Common Shares for you.

There are different ways to submit your voting instructions, depending on whether you are a registered or non-registered shareholder.

The voting process is different depending on whether you are a registered shareholder or a non-registered shareholder.

You're a <u>registered shareholder</u> if your name appears on your share certificate or direct registration statement (DRS).

You're a <u>non-registered shareholder</u> if your bank, trust company, securities broker, trustee or other financial institution holds your Common Shares (your *nominee*).

This means the Common Shares are registered in your nominee's name, and you are the *beneficial* shareholder.

#### **Registered Shareholders**

You are a <u>registered shareholder</u> if you hold Common Shares registered in your name and evidenced by either a share certificate or direct registration statement (DRS).

#### Voting by proxy

Keith Neumeyer, Chairman of the Board, or failing him, Daniel W. Wilton, Chief Executive Officer, have agreed to act as the First Mining proxyholders.

You can appoint someone other than First Mining's proxyholders to represent you at the Meeting and vote on your behalf. If you want to appoint someone else, print the name of the person you wish to appoint as your proxyholder in the space provided on the enclosed proxy form. This person need not be a shareholder.

Your proxyholder must vote your Common Shares or withhold your vote, as applicable, according to your instructions on any ballot that may be called for and, if you specify a choice on any matter to be acted upon, your Common Shares will be voted accordingly. If there are other items of business that properly come before the Meeting, or amendments or variations to the items of business, your proxyholder has the discretion to vote as he or she sees fit.

If you appoint the First Mining proxyholders but do not tell them how to vote your Common Shares, your Common Shares will be voted as follows:

- **FOR** fixing the number of directors at five;
- FOR electing the five nominated directors listed on the proxy form and in this Circular;
- **FOR** re-appointing PwC as the independent auditor and **FOR** authorizing the Board to set the auditor's pay; and
- **FOR** approving the unallocated entitlements under our amended and restated share-based compensation plan.

This is consistent with the voting recommendations by management and the Board. If there are other items of business that properly come before the Meeting, or amendments or variations to the items of business, the First Mining proxyholders will vote according to management's recommendation.

If you appoint someone other than the First Mining proxyholders to be your proxyholder, that person must attend and vote at the Meeting for your vote to be counted.

A proxy will not be valid unless it is signed by the registered shareholder, or by the registered shareholders' attorney with proof that they are authorized to sign. If you represent a registered shareholder who is a corporation or association, your proxy should have the seal of the corporation or association and must be executed by an officer or an attorney who has written authorization. If you execute a proxy as an attorney for an individual registered shareholder, or as an officer or attorney of a registered shareholder who is a corporation or association, you must include the original or a notarized copy of the written authorization for the officer or attorney, with your proxy form.

If you are voting by proxy, you may vote:

- on the internet;
- by telephone;
- by fax; or
- by mail.

Computershare must receive your proxy by 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 9, 2025 or at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the province of British Columbia) prior to the time set for any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting. The Chairman of the Meeting has the discretion to accept late proxy forms without notice.

Voting your proxy using the internet

#### This is the most efficient and convenient way to vote your Common Shares.

Go to <u>www.investorvote.com</u> and follow the instructions on the screen. You will need to input your 15-digit control number, which appears on the first page of your proxy form.

#### Voting your proxy by telephone

You may vote your Common Shares using the telephone by dialling the following toll-free number from a touch tone telephone: 1.866.732.8683. If you vote using the telephone, you will need your 15-digit control number, which appears on the first page of your proxy form.

Voting your proxy by fax or mail

Complete your proxy form, including the section on declaration of residency, sign and date it, and send it to Computershare by fax to 1.866.249.7775 (within North America) or 1.416.263.9524 (outside North America) or mail it to:

Computershare Investor Services Inc. Attention: Proxy Department 100 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Toronto, ON M5J 2Y1

#### Attending the Meeting and voting in person

If you will be attending the Meeting in person, do not complete the enclosed proxy form. Instead, simply register with a representative from Computershare when you arrive at the Meeting.

# **Non-Registered Shareholders**

Only registered shareholders of First Mining, or the persons they appoint as their proxyholders, are permitted to vote at the Meeting. Most shareholders of First Mining are non-registered shareholders because the Common Shares they own are not registered in their names and appear on an account statement provided by their bank, broker or financial advisor. Common Shares beneficially owned by a non-registered shareholder are registered either:

- in the name of an intermediary ("Intermediary") that the non-registered shareholder deals with in respect of the non-registered shareholder's Common Shares (Intermediaries include, among others, banks, trust companies, securities dealers or brokers, and trustees or administrators of self-administered RRSPs, RRIFs, RESPs and similar plans); or
- in the name of a clearing agency (such as CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. or The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation) of which the Intermediary is a participant.

Non-registered shareholders fall into two categories: those who object to their identity being known to the Company ("OBOs") and those who do not object to their identity being made known to the Company ("NOBOs"). The Company will assume the costs of delivery of proxy-related materials for the Meeting to OBOs. The Company is not sending proxy-related materials directly to NOBOs.

In accordance with applicable securities law requirements, First Mining has distributed copies of the Notice and Access notification, the Meeting Materials and the form of proxy (which includes a place to request copies of this Circular and annual and/or interim financial statements and MD&A or to waive the receipt of such documents) to the Intermediaries and clearing agencies for distribution to non-registered shareholders.

Intermediaries are required to forward the Notice and Access notification to non-registered shareholders unless a non-registered shareholder has requested paper copies (in which case the Intermediary will forward

the Meeting Materials to the non-registered shareholder). Intermediaries often use service companies to forward the Notice and Access notification and Meeting Materials to non-registered shareholders.

#### Voting using the voting instruction form or proxy form

Generally, non-registered shareholders who have not waived the right to receive the Meeting Materials will either:

- be given a voting instruction form which is not signed by the Intermediary and which, when properly completed and signed by the non-registered shareholder and returned to the Intermediary or its service company, will constitute your voting instructions (often called a "voting instruction form" or a "VIF") which the Intermediary must follow. Typically, the voting instruction form will consist of a one or two-page pre-printed form; or
- be given a proxy form which has already been signed by the Intermediary (typically, by a facsimile, stamped signature), which is restricted as to the number of Common Shares beneficially owned by the non-registered shareholder but which is otherwise not completed by the Intermediary. Because the Intermediary has already signed the form of proxy, this form of proxy is not required to be signed by the non-registered shareholder when submitting the proxy.

In either case, the purpose of these procedures is to enable non-registered shareholders to direct the voting of the Common Shares of First Mining that they beneficially own.

If you are a non-registered shareholder, you should carefully follow the instructions of your Intermediary in order to submit the voting instructions for your Common Shares, including those regarding when and where the completed VIF or proxy form (as applicable) is to be delivered.

Your Intermediary may have also provided you with the option of voting by telephone or through the internet. Your Intermediary must receive your voting instructions in sufficient time for your Intermediary to act on them. We strongly encourage all non-registered shareholders to submit their voting instructions to their Intermediary online at <a href="https://www.proxyvote.com">www.proxyvote.com</a> with plenty of time before the cut-off. Computershare must receive proxy vote instructions from your Intermediary by no later than 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 9, 2025, or at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of British Columbia) prior to the time set for any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting.

#### Attending the Meeting and voting in person

If you wish to vote in person at the Meeting, insert your name in the space provided for the proxyholder appointment in the VIF or proxy form (as applicable), and return it as instructed by your Intermediary. Do not complete the voting section of the VIF or proxy form, since you will vote in person at the Meeting. Your Intermediary may have also provided you with the option of appointing yourself or someone else to attend and vote on your behalf at the Meeting through the internet. When you arrive at the Meeting, make sure you register with a representative from Computershare so your voting instructions can be taken at the Meeting.

Your Intermediary must receive your voting instructions in sufficient time for your Intermediary to act on them. Computershare must receive proxy vote instructions from your Intermediary by no later than 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 9, 2025, or at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of British Columbia) prior to the time set for any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting.

# How to change your vote?

The process for changing your vote after it has been submitted differs for registered and non-registered shareholders.

#### **Registered Shareholders**

You can revoke your proxy by sending a new completed proxy form with a later date, or a written notice of revocation signed by you, or by your attorney if he or she has your written authorization. You can also revoke your proxy in any manner permitted by law.

If you represent a registered shareholder who is a corporation or association, your written notice of revocation must have the seal of the corporation or association and must be executed by an officer or an attorney who has their written authorization. The written authorization must accompany the written notice of revocation.

We must receive the written notice of revocation any time up to and including the last business day before the day of the Meeting, or the day the Meeting is reconvened if it was postponed or adjourned.

Send the signed written notice to:

First Mining Gold Corp.

Suite 2070 – 1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4A2

Attention: Richard Huang, Vice President Corporate Development & Corporate Secretary

You can also give your written notice to the Chairman of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting. If the Meeting has already started, your new voting instructions can only be executed for items that have not yet been voted on.

If you've sent in your completed proxy form and since decided that you want to attend the Meeting and vote in person, you need to revoke the proxy form before you are able to vote at the Meeting.

#### Non-Registered Shareholders

You can revoke your prior voting instructions by providing new instructions on a VIF or proxy form with a later date, or at a later time in the case of voting by telephone or through the internet, provided that your new instructions are received by your Intermediary in sufficient time for your Intermediary to act on them before 10:00 a.m. (Pacific Time) on Monday, June 9, 2025, or at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of British Columbia) prior to the time set for any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting.

# Who processes the votes?

Our transfer agent, Computershare, or its authorized agents count and tabulate the votes on our behalf.

# Particulars of the Matters to be Acted Upon

# 1. Receipt of audited consolidated financial statements

Our audited consolidated annual financial statements for the financial year ended December 31, 2024, and the auditor's report thereon will be presented to the Meeting. A copy is available on our website at <a href="https://www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials">www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials</a> and under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

The audited consolidated annual financial statements, auditor's report thereon and management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") for the financial year ended December 31, 2024 have been mailed to registered shareholders who have indicated to us that they wish to receive these documents.

# 2. Fix the number of directors to be elected at the Meeting at five

Our Board presently consists of five directors and we propose to fix the number of directors at five for the ensuing year. If there are more nominees for election then there are vacancies to fill, those nominees receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected until all such vacancies have been filled.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, the First Mining proxyholders will vote the Common Shares represented by each form of proxy, properly executed, <u>FOR</u> fixing the number of directors at five for the ensuing year.

# 3. Election of directors for the ensuing year

We have nominated the five current directors of the Company as the five individuals to stand for re-election as directors, based on their mix of skills and experience that we believe are necessary to effectively fulfill the Board's duties and responsibilities. Each of our directors is elected annually and holds office until the end of the next annual general meeting of shareholders, unless that person ceases to be a director before then. Each of the nominated directors has confirmed his willingness to serve on the Board for the next year.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, the First Mining proxyholders will vote the Common Shares represented by each form of proxy, properly executed, <u>FOR</u> each of the five nominees for director listed in this Circular.

#### **About the Nominated Directors**

The following three pages provide information on the five director nominees as of the date of this Circular, including:

- their province or state and country of residence;
- their position with the Company;
- the period or periods during which each has served as a director of the Company;
- their membership on committees of the Board;
- their principal occupation, business or employment; and

 the current equity ownership consisting of securities of the Company beneficially owned, or controlled or directed, directly or indirectly, by each director and by each director's associates or affiliates (certain of the aforementioned information has been provided to us by the nominees themselves).

Director	Board committees	Principal occupation or employment for past fiveyears
Keith Neumeyer Zug, Switzerland	Audit Committee  Compensation Committee (chair)  Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee	Director and Chairman of First Mining since March 2015 (founder of the Company)  November 2001 to present – Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Majestic Silver Corp. (mining company)  December 1998 to present – Director of First Majestic Silver Corp. (mining company)
Chairman since March 30, 2015		
Ownership of Securities:	34,905,313 shares	5,437,500 options
	1,369,500 DSUs	6,875,000 warrants
Director	Board committees	Principal occupation or employment for past fiveyears
Raymond L. Polman, CPA, C. ICD. D British Columbia, Canada  Director since March 30, 2015	Audit Committee (chair)  Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee	Director of First Mining since March 2015  May 2022 to present – Director of First Majestic Silver Corp. (mining company)  February 2007 to December 2021 – Chief Financial Officer of First Majestic Silver Corp. (mining company)
Ownership of Securities:	2,275,333 shares	4,707,500 options
	499,500 DSUs	775,000 warrants

Director	Board committees	Principal occupation or employment for past fiveyears
	None	Chief Executive Officer and a Director of First Mining since January 7, 2019
		December 2018 to present – Director of South Star Battery Metals Corp. (mining company)
		September 2021 to present – Director of Providence Living (non-profit residential care provider)
<b>Daniel W. Wilton</b> British Columbia, Canada		August 2020 to June 2022 – Director of Treasury Metals Inc. (now NexGold Mining Corp., mining company)
Director since January 7, 2019		September 2010 to June 2021 – Director and Vice Chair of Providence Health Care (non-profit health care provider)
Ownership of Securities:	12,920,834 shares	10,150,000 options
	7,530,983 RSUs	4,103,000 PSUs
	3,000,000 warrants	
Director	Board committees	Principal occupation or employment for past fiveyears
	Audit Committee	Director of First Mining since April 2020
	Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee	Director of Intrepid Metals Corp. since December 2024 (mining company)
	(chair)	April 2022 to present – Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Oroco Resource Corp. (mining company)
		January 2020 to April 2022 – Senior Vice President and Project Director (NorthMet Project)
<b>Richard Lock</b> Montana, U.S.A.		of Poly Met Mining, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of PolyMet Mining Corp. (mining company)
Director since April 1, 2020		
Ownership of Securities:	620,653 shares	3,450,000 options

Director	Board committees	Principal occupation or employment for past fiveyears
	Compensation Committee	Director of First Mining since October 30, 2020
(0)		November 2024 to Present – Founder, SevGen Consulting
		March 2024 to Present – Independent Consultant
Leanne Hall Ontario, Canada		December 2019 to March 2024 – Chief Executive Officer of Creative Fire (100% owned Indigenous strategy, engagement, research and data analytics firm)
Director since October 30, 2020		
Ownership of Securities:	NIL shares 40,000 DSUs	3,375,000 options

No proposed director is being elected under any arrangement or understanding between the proposed director and any other person or company.

## Corporate Cease Trade Orders or Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions

#### No proposed director:

- is, as of the date of this Circular, or has been within 10 years before the date of this Circular, a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including ours) that: (a) was subject to a cease trade order, an order similar to a cease trade order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under securities legislation, that was in effect for a period of more than 30 consecutive days (an "order") that was issued while the proposed director was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or (b) was subject to an order that was issued after the proposed director ceased to be a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer;
- is, as of the date of this Circular, or has been within 10 years before the date of this Circular, a
  director or executive officer of any company (including ours) that, while that person was acting in
  that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made
  a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted
  any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or
  trustee appointed to hold its assets; or
- has within 10 years before the date of this Circular, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any

legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the proposed director.

## None of the proposed directors:

- has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority;
- has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable securityholder in deciding whether to vote for a proposed director; or
- has entered into a settlement agreement with any securities regulatory authority.

#### **Skills and Experience**

We believe it is important for directors to have experience in senior management, governance, compensation, finance, environment, health and safety, and to participate with public company boards as an advisor, director or member of management to effectively fulfill their duties and responsibilities as a member of our Board.

Our Board reviews the slate of nominated directors every year to determine whether it still reflects the mix of skills, background and experience it believes is necessary for fulfilling its duties and responsibilities in overseeing First Mining's strategic direction, management and affairs.

Experience	Keith	Daniel	Raymond	Richard	Leanne
	Neumeyer	Wilton	Polman	Lock	Hall
Accounting & Financial Literacy <sup>(1)</sup>	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	
Capital Markets, Strategic Planning,	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Corporate Finance & M&A <sup>(2)</sup>					
Executive Management / Senior Officer	X	Х	Х	Х	Х
Experience <sup>(3)</sup>					
Human Resources & Compensation <sup>(4)</sup>	Х	Χ		Χ	Х
International Business <sup>(5)</sup>	X	Х	Х	Χ	Х
Mining & Mineral Exploration <sup>(6)</sup>	Χ	Х		Х	
Mine Construction, Commissioning and	Х			Х	
Operations <sup>(7)</sup>					
Health & Safety <sup>(8)</sup>				Χ	
Risk Management <sup>(9)</sup>	Х	Х	Х	Х	
Government Relations <sup>(10)</sup>	Х	Х		Х	Х
Indigenous Relations(11)		Х			Х
Environmental, Social, and Governance <sup>(12)</sup>	Χ	Х	Х	Х	Х
Information Technology & Cybersecurity <sup>(13)</sup>		Х	Х		Х
Innovation <sup>(14)</sup>			Х	_	Х

# NOTES:

Accounting & Financial Literacy: Ability to understand: (i) financial statements and reporting (including familiarity with IFRS); (ii) financial controls and measures; and (iii) financial planning

(2) Capital Markets, Strategic Planning, Corporate Finance, and M&A: Experience analyzing, evaluating and implementing corporate development opportunities, including mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and other partnerships; experience in corporate finance with knowledge of debt and equity markets.

- (3) **Executive Management and Senior Officer Experience**: Experience leading a public or large private company, or a significant functional area or division within a large organization, with responsibility for strategic decision-making and operational execution.
- (4) **Human Resources and Compensation**: Ability to oversee executive compensation, talent management and retention, succession planning, and corporate culture, ensuring alignment with stakeholder expectations and governance best practices.
- (5) **International Business**: Experience navigating through multiple jurisdictions, regulatory difference in different country, economic factors, political stability, logistics and foreign direct investment.
- (6) **Mining Industry & Mineral Exploration**: Experience in the mining industry including commercial aspects of the business, mining markets, permitting, strategic planning, mineral analysis and exploration.
- (7) **Mine Construction, Commissioning and Operations:** Technical experience with mine engineering construction, commissioning and operations, regulatory compliance, risk management operational excellence.
- (8) **Health & Safety**: Experience in health and safety within mining operations, exploration and/or development in oversight roles at the board level, with knowledge of industry best practices and regulatory requirements.
- (9) **Risk Management**: Knowledge and experience identifying, assessing, and mitigating corporate and operational risks, including financial, regulatory, geopolitical and other risk specific to the mining industry.
- (10) **Government Relations**: Understanding of: (i) legislative and decision-making process of governments; and (ii) experience engaging with government entities, including policy advocacy and industry lobbying efforts.
- (11) Indigenous Relations: Experience in building and managing relationships with Indigenous communities, including engagement, consultation, and collaboration.
- (12) **Environmental, Social and Governance**: Experience evaluating and managing environmental risks including environmental risk mitigation, sustainability initiatives, stakeholder management. Experience in regulatory compliance within the mining industry, including, corporate compliance, and governance obligations for public companies.
- (13) **Information Technology and Cybersecurity**: Ability to understand how technology aligns with business goals, supports growth and overall governance including knowledge on cybersecurity identification, assessment and mitigation of threats vulnerabilities. Experience with data protection and privacy, technology trends and incident response and recovery.
- (14) **Innovation:** Knowledge on emerging technology, industry trends, strategic vision and creativity to inform strategic decisions. Experience with change management, integration and scalability with external entities.

In addition, Raymond Polman and Leanne Hall successfully completed the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program in 2023.

We believe that the directors who have been nominated for election at the Meeting are well qualified to represent the interests of shareholders and appropriately address our business needs, and **we recommend** that our shareholders vote <u>FOR</u> the five director nominees set out herein.

#### **Advance Notice Provisions**

Pursuant to Article 14.2 of First Mining's Articles, any additional director nominations for an annual general meeting must be received by the Company, not less than 30 nor more than 65 days prior to the date of the meeting. Unless nominations are received in accordance with our Articles by May 12, 2025, being the date which is 30 days prior to the Meeting, management's nominees for election as directors set forth above shall be the only nominees eligible to stand for election at the Meeting.

# **Majority Voting Policy**

Our Board has adopted a majority voting policy. Unless there is a contested election, a director who receives more withhold votes than votes "for", will immediately submit his or her resignation to the Board. The corporate governance and nominating committee of the Board (the "Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee") will review the matter and recommend to the Board whether to accept the resignation. The resignation will be effective once it has been accepted by the Board. The director will not participate in any deliberations on the matter. We expect to accept the resignation unless there is some special circumstance that warrants the director stay on the Board. In any case, the Board shall determine whether or not to accept the resignation within 90 days of the relevant annual shareholders' meeting and the Company will promptly issue a news release communicating the Board's decision. If the Board determines not to accept a resignation, the news release will fully state the reasons for that decision.

# 4. Appointment of auditor

At the Meeting, shareholders will be asked to appoint First Mining's auditor for the ensuing year. Our current auditor, PwC, will be nominated at the Meeting for re-appointment as the Company's auditor at such remuneration to be fixed by the Board.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, the First Mining proxyholders will vote the Common Shares represented by each form of proxy, properly executed, <u>FOR</u> re-appointing PwC as our independent auditor for the ensuing year, and FOR authorizing the directors to fix the auditor's pay.

# 5. Approve the unallocated entitlements under our amended and restated share-based compensation plan

Our amended and restated and restated share-based compensation plan (the "Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan" or the "Plan") was initially adopted and approved by our shareholders on June 25, 2019. In accordance with the policies of the TSX, we are required to obtain approval of all unallocated entitlements thereunder every three years. These unallocated entitlements were last approved by shareholders at the annual general meeting held on June 9, 2022. On April 23, 2025 our Board approved certain amendments of a "housekeeping nature" to clarify certain provisions and to confirm that Consultants are not eligible to receive Restricted Share Units, Performance Share Units and Deferred Share Units under the Plan. In accordance with Section 13 of the Plan, shareholder approval was not required for these amendments.

Directors, officers, employees and consultants of the Company or any of its subsidiaries are eligible to receive Awards under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan. As at the date of this Circular, 73,767,500 Options, 16,242,609 Restricted Share Units, 13,611,000 Performance Share Units and 1,909,000 Deferred Share Units outstanding under the Plan, representing approximately 9.7 % of our current outstanding Common Shares. Accordingly, the number of Awards remaining available for grant is 2,803,045, representing approximately 0.26% of our current issued and outstanding Common Shares.

The material terms of the Plan are set out below (we encourage our shareholders to review the full text of the Plan, which is attached as Appendix "B" to this Circular). Capitalized terms used in this section and not otherwise defined have the meanings given to such terms in the Plan.

- <u>Maximum Number of Shares Issuable</u> The maximum number of Common Shares issuable under the Plan, together with the number of Common Shares issuable under any other security-based compensation arrangements of the Company, shall not in the aggregate exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares of the Company.
- <u>Types of Awards</u> Pursuant to the Plan, the Company may issue Bonus Shares, Options, Restricted Share Units, Performance Share Units and Deferred Share Units.
- <u>Plan Limits</u> When combined with all of the Company's other security-based compensation arrangements, the Plan shall not result in:
- the number of Common Shares issuable to any one person at any time exceeding 5% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares;

- the number of Common Shares issued to Insiders within a one-year period exceeding 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares; or
- the number of Common Shares issuable to Insiders at any time exceeding 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares.
- In addition, the Plan shall not result in the number of Common Shares issuable to any one non-executive director within a one-year period exceeding an Award value of \$150,000 per such non-executive director, of which no more than \$100,000 may comprise Options based on a valuation method acceptable to the Board.

#### **Bonus Shares**

• Bonus Shares may be granted to Participants as a discretionary bonus at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution, pursuant to recommendations of the Board from time to time. All Bonus Shares shall be issued at the Market Price in effect on the date of grant.

# **Options**

- <u>Stock Option Terms and Exercise Price</u> The number of Common Shares subject to each Option grant, the exercise price, vesting, expiry date and other terms and conditions thereof will be determined by the Board. The exercise price of each Option shall in no event be lower than the Market Price of the Common Shares on the grant date.
- <u>Term</u> Unless otherwise specified at the time of grant, Options shall expire 10 years from the date of
  grant, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the Plan. Options that otherwise expire during a
  trading blackout shall be extended until ten trading days following the expiration of the blackout
  period.
- <u>Vesting Schedule</u> Unless otherwise determined by the Board, Options vest and become exercisable in 25% increments on: (i) the grant date (or the date of expiry of the probationary period for new hires); (ii) the 6-month anniversary of the grant date; (iii) the 12-month anniversary of the grant date; and (iv) the 18-month anniversary of the grant date.
- Exercise of Option A participant may exercise vested Options by (i) payment of the exercise price per Share subject to each Option (which will in no circumstances be lower than the Market Price), or (ii) if permitted by the Board, on a cashless basis by receiving that number of Common Shares equal to the current Market Price less the Option Price multiplied by the number of Options exercised as the numerator, divided by the current Market Price, as the denominator.
- <u>Circumstances Causing Cessation of Entitlement</u> If a Participant ceases to be a Director, Employee or Consultant of the Company, the Options will vest and expire in accordance with Section 5.5 of the Plan. A summary of these provisions is contained in the table below:

# (a) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	<u>Vesting</u>	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Unvested Options will automatically vest in full as of the date of death or Disability and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board.	The expiry date of the Options will be the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee.
Mandatory Retirement	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) one year from the date of retirement.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director or Consultant	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) the 90 <sup>th</sup> day following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

# (b) If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	<u>Vesting</u>	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Unvested Options will automatically vest in full as of the date of death or Disability and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee or Consultant	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Any Options held by Participant on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director which are unvested as of such date will not vest.	The expiry date of the Options will be the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Mandatory Retirement	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) one year from the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) the 90 <sup>th</sup> day following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (c) If the Participant is a Consultant:

Reason for Termination	<u>Vesting</u>	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Any Options held by a Participant on the date of death or Disability and which are unvested as of such date will not vest.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.
Ceasing to be a Consultant due to completion/termination of contract	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Consultant will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) of the Plan and (ii) the 90 <sup>th</sup> day following the date the Participant ceases to be a Consultant
Ceasing to be a Consultant due to completion/termination of contract but continues to be engaged as a Director or Employee	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to be a Consultant and concurrently hired and becomes an Employee	The Options previously granted to the Consultant will flow through to the Employee on the same terms and conditions of the original grant of Options.	The Options previously granted to the Consultant will flow through to the Employee on the same terms and conditions of the original grant of Options.

#### Restricted Share Units and Performance Share Units

- Terms Restricted Share Units and Performance Share Units are notional securities that entitle the recipient to receive cash or Common Shares at the end of a vesting period. Vesting of Performance Share Units is contingent upon achieving certain performance criteria, thus ensuring greater alignment with the long-term interests of shareholders. The terms applicable to Restricted Share Units and Performance Share Units under the Plan (including the vesting schedule, performance cycle, performance criteria for vesting and whether dividend equivalents will be credited to a participant's account) are determined by the Board at the time of the grant.
- <u>Vesting</u> Unless otherwise provided, Restricted Share Units typically vest in three equal instalments
  on the first three anniversaries of the date the Restricted Share Unit was granted. Unless otherwise
  noted, Performance Share Units shall vest as at the date that is the end of their specified
  performance cycle, subject to any performance criteria having been satisfied.
- <u>Settlement</u> On settlement, the Company shall, for each vested Restricted Share Unit or Performance Share Unit being settled, deliver to a Participant either (a) one Share, (b) a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share as of the vesting date, or (c) any combination of cash and Common Shares equal to the Market Price of one Share as of the vesting date, at the discretion of the Board.
- <u>Dividend Equivalents</u> As dividends are declared, additional Restricted Share Units and Performance Share Units may be credited to a Participant in an amount equal to the greatest whole number which may be obtained by dividing (i) the value of such dividend or distribution on the payment date therefore by (ii) the Market Price of one Share on such date.
- <u>Circumstances Causing Cessation of Entitlement</u> If a Participant ceases to be a Director or Employee of the Company (Consultants are not eligible to received Restricted Share Units or Performance Share Units under the Plan), the Restricted Share Units and Performance Share Units will be treated in accordance with Section 7.6 and 6.6 of the Plan respectively. A summary of these provisions is contained in the tables below:
  - (a) Restricted Share Units If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Restricted Share Units</u>
Death or Disability	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5 of the Plan; or (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Restricted Share Units</u>
Change in Control	Restricted Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Restricted Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director or Consultant	Outstanding Restricted Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the RSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee.

# (b) Restricted Share Units – If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Restricted Share Units</u>
Death or Disability	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Plan as of the date of death or Disability, provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Restricted Share Units
	that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Restricted Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Restricted Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the RSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Restricted Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above including Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be a Director. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (c) Performance Share Units – If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Performance Share Units	
Death or Disability	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 6.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Performance Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.	
Change in Control	Performance Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of Plan.	

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Performance Share Units</u>	
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Performance Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.	
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting date following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.	
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director or Consultant	Outstanding Performance Share Units will remain outstanding and will continue to vest pursuant to the PSU Award Agreement.	
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting date following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.	

#### (e) Performance Share Units – If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Performance Share Units</u>	
Death or Disability	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 6.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Performance Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability	
Change in Control	Performance Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Performance Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the PSU Award Agreement.	
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Performance Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.	
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above including Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting date following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, will be settled as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.	

# **Deferred Share Units**

 <u>Terms</u> – A Deferred Share Unit is a notional security that entitles the recipient to receive cash or Common Shares upon termination of the holder from all positions with the Company The terms applicable to Deferred Share Units under the Plan (including whether dividend equivalents will be credited to a Participant's DSU Account) are determined by the Board at the time of the grant.

Under the Plan, the Board may grant discretionary Deferred Share Units and mandatory or elective Deferred Share Units that are granted as a component of a non-executive director's annual retainer or an officer or employee's annual incentive.

- <u>Vesting</u> Unless otherwise provided, mandatory or elective Deferred Share Units vest immediately
  and the Board determines the vesting schedule for discretionary Deferred Share Units at the time of
  grant.
- <u>Settlement</u> Deferred Share Units may only be settled after the DSU Separation Date. At the grant date, the Board shall stipulate whether the Deferred Share Units are paid in cash, Common Shares, or a combination of both, in an amount equal to the Market Price of the notional Common Shares represented by the Deferred Share Units in the Participant's DSU Account.
- <u>Credit to Account</u> As dividends are declared, additional Deferred Share Units may be credited to a
  Participant in an amount equal to the greatest whole number which may be obtained by dividing (i)
  the value of such dividend or distribution on the payment date therefore by (ii) the Market Price of
  one Share on such date.
- <u>Circumstances Causing Cessation of Entitlement</u> If a Participant ceases to be a Director or Employee of the Company, the Deferred Share Units will be treated in accordance with Section 8.6 of the Plan. A summary of these provisions for Directors and Employees is contained in the table below:

# (a) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Deferred Share Units</u>	
Death or Disability	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Plan as of the date of death or Disability, provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability	
Change in Control	Deferred Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Deferred Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.	
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be an Employee. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will	

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Deferred Share Units</u>	
	in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee	
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director	Outstanding Deferred Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the DSU Award Agreement.	
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.	

# (b) If Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Deferred Share Units</u>	
Death or Disability	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.	
Change in Control	Deferred Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12 of the Plan.	
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Deferred Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the DSU Award Agreement.	
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Deferred Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director	
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled in accordance with Section	

Reason for Termination	<u>Treatment of Deferred Share Units</u>	
above including Mandatory Retirement	8.5 of the Plan provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participal pursuant to Section 8.5 of the Plan; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be a Director. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director	

#### **General**

- <u>Assignment</u> Awards under the Plan are non-assignable and non-transferable other than to a Participant's Personal Representatives.
- Amendments Not Requiring Shareholder Approval The Board may amend the Plan or Awards at any time, provided, however, that no such amendment may materially and adversely affect any Award previously granted to a Participant without the consent of the Participant, except to the extent required by applicable law (including TSX requirements). Any such amendment will be subject to all necessary regulatory approvals. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board may make certain amendments to the Plan or Awards without obtaining the approval of the shareholders of the Company including, but not limited to:
  - altering, extending or accelerating the terms and conditions of vesting of any Awards;
  - a change to the termination provisions of the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan or any Award which does not entail an extension beyond the original expiry date;
  - amending or modifying the mechanics of exercise or settlement of Awards;
  - effecting amendments of a "housekeeping" or ministerial nature (i.e. any amendment necessary to comply with the provisions of applicable laws or rules, regulations and policies of the TSX);
  - effecting amendments respecting the administration of the Plan;
  - effecting amendments necessary to suspend or terminate the Plan;
  - amending the change of control provisions of the Plan, provided that any amendment does not
    allow Participants to be treated any more favourably than other holders of shares with respect to
    the consideration that the Participants would be entitled to receive for their Common Shares
    upon a Change in Control;
  - any other amendment, whether fundamental or otherwise, not requiring shareholder approval under applicable law (including, without limitation, the rules, regulations and policies of the TSX)

or that is not expected to materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders of the Company.

- Amendments Requiring Shareholder Approval Shareholder approval (or disinterested shareholder approval, if required by the policies of the TSX) will be required for the following types of amendments:
  - any increase in the number of shares issuable under the Plan or the percentage limit set out in Section 4.4 of the Plan, except such increases by operation of Sections 4.1 or 11 of the Plan;
  - with respect to Options, any reduction in the exercise price of an Option or the cancellation and reissue of an Option;
  - any extension of (i) the term of an Option beyond its original expiry date or (ii) the date on which
    a Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit will be forfeited or
    terminated in accordance with its terms, except as may be effected in connection with a
    blackout period;
  - any amendment to permit the transfer or assignment of an Award other than for normal estate settlement purposes;
  - any amendment to the insider participation limits or non-executive director limits under the Plan;
  - any amendment to the amendment sections of the Plan; and
  - any amendment required to be approved by shareholders under applicable law or pursuant to the rules, regulations and policies of the TSX.
- <u>Financial Assistance</u> The Plan provides that the Company may not offer financial assistance in respect of the exercise of any Award.

At the Meeting, shareholders will be asked to pass an ordinary resolution approving the approval of all unallocated entitlements under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation in the following form:

"BE IT RESOLVED as an ordinary resolution that:

- all unallocated entitlements under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation are hereby approved;
- the Company be and is hereby authorized to grant awards under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation until June 11, 2028, being the date that is three years from the date hereof; and
- any director or officer of the Company be and is hereby authorized to such things and to sign, execute and deliver all documents that such director or officer may, in their discretion determine to be necessary tin order to give full effect to the intent and purpose of this resolution."

Shareholders may vote FOR or AGAINST the above resolution. An ordinary resolution is a resolution passed by the shareholders of the Company at a general meeting by a simple majority of the votes cast in person or by proxy. If the unallocated entitlements under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation are not approved at the Meeting, previously granted Awards will be unaffected, but the Company will not be permitted to issue any Common Shares on the settlement of any future Awards until shareholder approval is obtained.

We recommend that our shareholders vote **FOR** this resolution.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, the First Mining proxyholders will vote the Common Shares represented by each form of proxy, properly executed, FOR approving the unallocated entitlements under the Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Share-Based Compensation Plan.

#### 6. Other business

As of the date of this Circular, we are not aware of any other items of business to be considered at the Meeting other than as set forth above. If other items of business are properly brought before the Meeting, the First Mining proxyholders intend to vote on such items in accordance with management's recommendation.

# **Corporate Governance**

National Policy 58-201 *Corporate Governance Guidelines* establishes corporate governance guidelines that apply to all public companies (the "**Guidelines**") and has been used by First Mining in adopting its corporate governance practices. National Instrument 58-101 *Disclosure of Governance Practices* requires us to disclose in this Circular certain information regarding our corporate governance guidelines.

Our Board and management consider good corporate governance to be an integral part of the effective and efficient operation of Canadian corporations. Our approach to corporate governance is set out below.

#### **Our Board**

Management is nominating five individuals to the Board, all of whom are current directors of the Company.

The Guidelines suggest that the board of directors of every public company should be constituted with a majority of individuals who qualify as "independent" directors under National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* ("NI 52-110"), which provides that a director is independent if he or she has no direct or indirect "material relationship" with the Company. The "material relationship" is defined as a relationship which could, in the view of the Company's Board, reasonably interfere with the exercise of a director's independent judgement.

All current members of the Board, including the Chairman of our Board, are considered "independent" within the meaning of NI 52-110, except for Daniel W. Wilton, who is the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of First Mining.

Our Board has a stewardship responsibility to supervise the management of and oversee the conduct of the business of the Company, provide leadership and direction to management, evaluate management, set policies appropriate for First Mining's business and approve corporate strategies and goals. The day-to-day management of the business and affairs of First Mining is delegated by the Board to the CEO. The Board will give direction and guidance through the CEO to management and will keep management informed of its evaluation of First Mining's senior officers in achieving and complying with goals and policies established by the Board.

Our Board recommends nominees to the shareholders for election as directors, and immediately following each annual general meeting appoints an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee and a chairperson for each committee. The Board establishes and periodically reviews and updates the committee mandates, duties and responsibilities of each committee, elects a chairperson of the Board and establishes his or her duties and responsibilities, appoints the CEO of First Mining and establishes his or her duties and responsibilities, and on the recommendation of the CEO, appoints First Mining's senior officers and approves the senior management structure of the Company. The mandate of our Board is to manage or supervise management of the business and affairs of the Company and to act with a view to the best interests of the Company. In doing so, the Board oversees the management of First Mining's business and affairs directly and through its committees. A copy of the Board Mandate is set out at Appendix "A".

The Chairman of the Board plays a critical role in managing and supervising the business and affairs of First Mining, and in overseeing management. The Chairman is responsible for ensuring that the Board focuses on our strategic performance, ensuring the Board represents and protects the Company's long term best

interests, helping set the tone and culture of the Company, managing relationships, and ensuring the Board adopts and complies with procedures enabling it to effectively and efficiently conduct its work independently from management.

Our Board exercises its independent supervision over management by its policies whereby: (a) periodic meetings of the Board are held to obtain an update on significant corporate activities and plans; and (b) all material transactions of the Company are subject to prior approval of the Board. Our Board meets at least four times each year, and endeavours to hold at least one meeting in each fiscal quarter. In addition, the independent members of the Board meet regularly each year, at which meetings the non-independent directors and members of management are not in attendance. The Board will also meet at any other time at the call of the CEO, or subject to our Articles, of any director. In addition, in order to facilitate open and candid discussion among the independent directors of the Board, at the end of each Board meeting, the Chairman asks if any director would like to hold an *in camera* session of independent directors only, and if an *in camera* session of independent directors is requested as a result, all non-independent directors and members of management leave the meeting prior to the commencement of the *in camera* session unless any such persons are requested by the Board to remain for the *in camera* session. Since January 1, 2024, *in camera* sessions of independent directors have been held during two Board meetings, with the CEO requested by the Board to attend each of these *in camera* sessions.

# Other directorships

The following is a list of each current and proposed director of the Company who is also a director of other reporting issuers (or equivalent) in a Canadian or foreign jurisdiction:

Name of Director	Name of other reporting issuer	Listed exchange of reporting issuer
Keith Neumeyer	First Majestic Silver Corp. (director)	NYSE & TSX
Raymond Polman	First Majestic Silver Corp. (director)	NYSE & TSX
Daniel W. Wilton	South Star Battery Metals Corp. (director)	TSX-V
Richard Lock	Oroco Resource Corp. (director) Intrepid Metals Corp. (director)	TSX-V TSX-V

# **Meeting attendance**

As set out in the Board Mandate, each director is expected to attend all Board meetings. The following table below shows current director attendance at Board and Board committee meetings held between January 1, 2024 and the date of this Circular:

		Committee Meetings				
Director	Board Meetings	Audit Committee	Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee	Compensation Committee		
Keith Neumeyer	7 of 7	3 of 4	1 of 1	2 of 2		
Raymond Polman	7 of 7	4 of 4	1 of 1	N/A		
Daniel W. Wilton	7 of 7	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Richard Lock	7 of 7	4 of 4	1 of 1	2 of 2		
Leanne Hall	7 of 7	N/A	N/A	2 of 2		

### Notes:

- The following directors have served as Board committee chairs since the last AGM:
  - Raymond Polman chair of the Audit Committee.
  - Keith Neumeyer chair of the Compensation Committee.
  - Richard Lock chair of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee.

# Orientation and continuing education

Prospective new Board members are provided a reasonably detailed level of background information, verbal and documentary, on First Mining's affairs and plans prior to obtaining their consent to act as a director.

Our Board provides training courses to the directors as needed, to ensure that the Board is complying with current legislative and business requirements.

# **Position Descriptions**

A written position description has been developed by the Company for the Chairman of the Board, a copy of which is available on our website at:

www.firstmininggold.com/corporate/corporate-governance/governance-documents.

Other than with respect to the foregoing, the Board does not feel that it is necessary at this time to formalize position descriptions for the Chair of each committee of the Board or the CEO in order to delineate their respective responsibilities. Accordingly, the roles of the Chair of each committee of the Board and the role of the CEO of the Company are delineated on the basis of customary practice. The Board delineates the role and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer through its direct and ongoing oversight and assessment of management's development and execution of corporate strategy. The primary responsibilities of the CEO are to lead the general direction, development and management of the business and affairs of the Company in accordance with the corporate strategy and objectives approved by the Board, including to develop and recommend to the Board a strategic direction for the Company, and when approved, implement this direction.

### **Ethical business conduct**

Our Board encourages and promotes a culture of ethical business conduct through communication and supervision as part of their overall stewardship responsibility. In addition, our Board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code") to be followed by First Mining's directors, officers, employees and principal consultants and those of its subsidiaries. The Code is also to be followed, where appropriate, by the Company's agents and representatives, including consultants where specifically required. The purpose of the Code is to, among other things, promote honest and ethical conduct, avoid conflict of interest, protect confidential information and comply with the applicable government laws and securities rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of all directors, officers and employees to report violations, or suspected violations, of the Code to the Company's Chief Financial Officer & Corporate Secretary, who is required to report regularly to the Board on the results and resolution of complaints concerning violations of the Code.

A copy of the Code is available on our website at <a href="www.firstmininggold.com/corporate/corporate/corporate/governance/governance-documents">www.firstmininggold.com/corporate/corpor

### Director term limits and Board renewal

We have not adopted term limits for directors on our Board or other formal mechanisms of Board renewal. The Company and the Board have considered term limits and believe that:

- longer tenure does not impair a director's ability to act independently of management;
- imposing term limits could result in the loss of contributions of longer serving directors who have developed significant depth of knowledge and understanding of the Company;
- regular evaluation of Board skills and experience, as set out in our Board Mandate, rather than arbitrary term limits, will result in better Board performance; and
- experience of Board members is a valuable asset to shareholders because of the complex issues that the Board faces.

Our Board currently assesses each director in order to ensure that the Board is balanced between highly experienced directors with long-term knowledge and those with a fresh perspective.

### **Diversity**

The Diversity Policy, as adopted in 2019, sets out the guidelines by which First Mining and our Board will endeavour to achieve diversity throughout the Company. To this end, our Board is dedicated to cultivating an environment where individual differences are respected, the ability to contribute and access employment opportunities is based on performance, skill and merit, and appropriate attitudes, behaviours and stereotypes are confronted and eliminated. The Company has considered the arguments in favour of and against quotas and, at this time, has decided against adopting quotas. However, management and the Board will consider diversity as an element of the overall selection criteria of candidates and our Board is proactively monitoring the Company's performance in meeting the standards outlined in the Diversity Policy. In addition, we will attempt to interview at least one female and/or minority candidate for each vacancy on the Board.

Our Diversity Policy requires that, each year, First Mining report on the proportion of female and minority personnel in senior executive positions and on our Board in the Company's management information circular. As of the date of this Circular, one of our five directors (1/5 or 20%), Leanne Hall, is female and none have self-identified as being part of a minority. In addition, two (2) members of First Mining's management team (2/9 or 22%), namely Lisa Peterson, the Company's Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary ("CFO") and Hazel Mullin, the Company's Director, Data Management and Technical Services, are female. Three members of our management team (3/9 or 33%) have self-identified as being part of a minority, namely Lisa Peterson, the Company's CFO and Corporate Secretary, James Maxwell, the Company's Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations and Richard Huang, the Company Vice President, Corporate Development.

### **Equity Ownership Policy**

We have adopted an Equity Ownership Policy in order to align the interests of our officers and directors with those of our shareholders by requiring such persons to own a significant number of Common Shares. Each of the non-executive directors is required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least three times the value of the annual base retainer. The CEO is required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least three times his or her annual base salary, while all other Officers of the Company are required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least one times his or her annual base salary. The ownership guidelines will be deemed to be satisfied following the date on which the price paid by the director or officer for Common Shares or the fair market value of the Common Shares equals or exceeds the ownership threshold. For the purpose of calculating the value of the Common Shares held, RSUs, whether vested or not vested are included; however, unexercised stock options (whether vested or not vested) and Common Shares issuable upon the exercise of share purchase warrants or any other convertible securities of First Mining are not counted toward the share ownership guidelines set out in the Equity Ownership Policy. Individuals are required to comply with the share ownership guidelines by the fifth anniversary of the date of the individual's date of hire or appointment. If a participant fails to comply with the policy, a retention ratio requirement would apply to the participant on future vesting of stock options or RSUs. The full text of the Equity Ownership Policy is available on the Company's website at:

www.firstmininggold.com/corporate/corporate-governance/governance-documents.

### **Summary Equity Ownership Table**

The following table sets forth equity ownership information for the Directors and Named Executive Officers for the purposes of this Information Circular.

Name (1)	Number of Common Shares	Number of RSUs	Value of Common Shares and RSUs	Share Ownership Requirement	Requirement Met?	Date of Compliance Requirement
Officers						
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	12,920,834	4,630,983	\$2,124,637	\$1,170,000	Yes	January 2024
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	156,666	1,726,924	\$222,386	\$300,000	No <sup>(4)</sup>	September 2027
Stephen Lines Vice President Sustainability	32,890	1,005,128	\$110,867	\$270,000	No <sup>(4)</sup>	January 2029
James Maxwell Vice President Exploration & Project Operations	408,591	1,005,128	\$165,921	\$280,000	No <sup>(4)</sup>	January 2029
Richard Huang Vice President Corporate Development	315,261	887,607	\$142,587	250,000	No <sup>(4)</sup>	April 2030
Non-Executive Di	rectors					
Keith Neumeyer	34,405,313	Nil	\$4,128,638	\$166,500	Yes	March 2020
Raymond Polman	2,275,333	Nil	\$434,589	\$166,500	Yes	March 2020
Richard Lock	515,553	Nil	\$110,079	\$166,500	No <sup>(5)</sup>	May 2026
Leanne Hall	Nil	Nil	Nil	\$166,500	No <sup>(5)</sup>	May 2026

#### Notes:

- (1) All Common Share and RSU numbers in this table are as of December 31, 2024, and all calculations have been done based on the individual's base salary or annual base retainer, as applicable, as of December 31, 2024.
- (2) Calculated as at December 31, 2024. In the case of Common Shares, for each individual other than D. Wilton and K. Neumeyer, calculated using the higher of: (i) \$0.12, being the closing price of the Common Shares as of the last trading day of 2024; and (ii) the average price at which the individual acquired his or her Common Shares. In the case of Common Shares held by D. Wilton and K. Neumeyer, calculated using \$0.12, being the closing price of the Common Shares as of the last trading day of 2024. In the case of RSUs, calculated using the value attributed to such RSUs on their award date.
- (3) Each of the non-executive directors is required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least three times the value of the annual base retainer. The CEO is required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least three times his or her base salary, while the CFO and Corporate Secretary, Vice President Sustainability, Vice President Exploration and Project Operations, and Vice President Corporate Development are required to hold Common Shares having a value of at least one times his or her base salary. For the purpose of calculating the value of the Common Shares, RSUs, whether vested or not vested, are included.
- (4) Ms. Peterson joined the Company on September 16, 2022, and, in accordance with the Company's Equity Ownership Policy, is required to comply with the share ownership guidelines by the fifth anniversary of her date of hire. Mr. Lines and Mr. Maxwell were promoted to an Officer of the Company on January 19, 2024, and, in accordance with the Company's Equity Ownership Policy are required to comply with the share ownership guidelines by the fifth anniversary of when they were appointed an Officer of the Company. Mr. Huangwas promoted to an Officer of the Company

on April 1, 2025, and, in accordance with the Company's Equity Ownership Policy is required to comply with the share ownership guidelinesby the fifth anniversary of when he was appointed an Officer of the Company.

In accordance with the Company's Equity Ownership Policy, each of Mr. Lock and Ms. Hall are required to comply with the share ownership guidelines by the fifth anniversary of May 11, 2021, being the effective date of the Equity Ownership Policy.

### Nomination of directors

(5)

The Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee, comprised of independent directors, has primary responsibility for the nomination of new directors. New candidates are identified to the Board for nomination by an informal process of discussion and consensus – building on the need for additional directors, the specific attributes being sought, likely prospects, and timing. Prospective directors are not formally approached until consensus among the Board is reached. This process takes place among the Chairman and a majority of the non-executive directors.

## **Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee is a committee comprised of at least three directors whose primary purpose is to enable First Mining to recruit, retain and motivate employees and ensure conformity between compensation and other corporate objectives and review and recommend for Board consideration, all compensation packages, both present and future, for the Company's management and directors (including annual retainer, meeting fees, bonuses and option grants) including any severance packages. A majority of the members shall not be officers or employees of First Mining and shall be unrelated, independent directors.

Members of the Compensation Committee shall be appointed or reappointed at the Board meeting which follows the Company's annual general meeting and from among the appointees to the Compensation Committee, the Board shall appoint a chairperson of the committee (the "Compensation Committee Chairperson"). The duties of the Compensation Committee Chairperson include overseeing the proper functioning of the Compensation Committee to ensure the proper discharge of its duties, to schedule meetings and to ensure timely reporting to the Board.

The Compensation Committee meets as often as may be necessary or appropriate in its judgment.

In exercising its mandate, the Compensation Committee sets the standards for the compensation of directors, employees and officers based on industry data and with the goal to attract, retain and motivate key persons to ensure the long-term success of First Mining. Compensation generally includes the three following components: (i) base salary; (ii) annual bonus based on performance; and (iii) grant of equity incentives. The Compensation Committee takes into account the fact that the Company's operations are located in North America and that the Company is therefore subject to increased competition in the market for its key personnel while also taking into account the performance and objectives set forth for the Company.

The Compensation Committee is accountable to the Board and reports to the Board at its next regular meeting all deliberations and actions it has taken since any previous report. Minutes of Compensation Committee meetings will be available for review by any member of the Board on request to the Compensation Committee Chairperson.

The current members of the Compensation Committee are: Keith Neumeyer (current Compensation Committee Chairperson), Leanne Hall and Richard Lock, all of whom are independent.

# **Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee**

The purpose of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee is to monitor and to generally be responsible for developing the Company's governance policies and guidelines and overseeing their implementation and administration. The Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee is also responsible for reviewing the performance of individual directors, and of the Board as a whole.

Annually, following the annual general meeting of the Company, the Board elects from its members not less than three directors to serve on the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee. Each member holds office until the close of the next annual general meeting of the Company or until the member resigns or is replaced, whichever first occurs. The Board appoints one of the directors on the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee as the chairperson (the "Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee Chairperson"), whose duties include overseeing the proper functioning of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee to ensure the proper discharge of its duties, to schedule meetings and to ensure timely reporting to the Board.

The Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee meets as often as may be necessary or appropriate in its judgment.

The members of the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee are Richard Lock (current Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee Chairperson), Raymond Polman and Keith Neumeyer, all of whom are independent.

### **Assessments**

Our Board annually reviews its own performance and effectiveness as well as the effectiveness and performance of its committees. Effectiveness is subjectively measured by comparing actual corporate results with stated objectives. The contributions of individual directors are informally monitored by other Board members, bearing in mind the business strengths of the individual and the purpose of originally nominating the individual to the Board.

Our Board monitors the adequacy of information given to directors, communication between Board and management and the strategic direction and processes of the Board and its committees.

Our Board believes its corporate governance practices are appropriate and effective for the Company, given its size and operations. First Mining's corporate governance practices allow the Company to operate efficiently, with checks and balances that control and monitor management and corporate functions without excessive administrative burden.

### **Audit Committee**

As required by NI 52-110, information about our Audit Committee is provided in the our most recent annual information form dated March 28, 2025, which is available under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a> and on our website at <a href="www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/annual-information-form">www.firstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/annual-information-form</a>.

# **Statement of Executive Compensation**

## Named executive officers

During our most recently completed financial year, we had five Named Executive Officers ("**NEOs**") being Daniel W. Wilton, our CEO, Lisa Peterson, our CFO and Corporate Secretary, Stephen Lines, our Vice President, Sustainability, James Maxwell, our Vice President Exploration and Project Operations, and Richard Huang, our Vice President Corporate Development.

"Named Executive Officer" or "NEO" means: (a) our CEO; (b) our CFO; (c) each of the three most highly compensated executive officers of the Company; including any of its subsidiaries, or the three most highly compensated individuals acting in a similar capacity, other than the CEO and CFO, at the end of our most recently completed financial year whose total compensation was, individually, more than \$150,000; and (d) each individual who would be an NEO under (c) above but for the fact that the individual was neither an executive officer of the Company, nor acting in a similar capacity, at the end of our most recently completed financial year.

Unless stated otherwise, all of the information in this section "Statement of Executive Compensation" is as of December 31, 2024, being the last day of First Mining's most recently completed financial year.

# Compensation discussion and analysis

## **Executive Compensation**

Our executive compensation program is strategically designed to attract, retain, and motivate top-tier executives essential for driving sustained high performance, growth, and shareholder value. This market-competitive program emphasizes performance-based rewards and aligns executive interests with those of our shareholders. We regularly benchmark our practices against our peer group to ensure ongoing competitiveness.

NEO's compensation is comprised of salary and/or contractor payments, performance-based bonuses (paid in cash and/or shares) and grants of awards under our Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan. The objectives and reasons for this system of compensation are generally to allow First Mining to remain competitive compared to its peers in attracting and retaining experienced personnel.

All salaries and/or consulting fees are to be set on a basis of a review and comparison of compensation paid to executives at similar companies.

Our Board considers risk management when implementing First Mining's compensation program, and the Board and the Compensation Committee do not believe that our compensation program results in unnecessary or inappropriate risk-taking including risks that are likely to have a material adverse effect on First Mining.

Our NEOs are eligible to receive annual bonuses based in part on corporate objectives. The table below lists the key performance indicators ("**KPIs**") and the performance score for the year ended December 31, 2024:

Target (KPI)	Target (KPI) Weighting	Performance Score
Share price performance (versus Peer Group)	25%	12.5%
Health, safety and environmental performance	10%	10%
Final Springpole EA/EIS completed and ready for submission	25%	25%
Progress on Relationships with Local and Indigenous Communities	15%	7.5%
Execute exploration plans for Springpole and Duparquet	10%	20%
Secure non-dilutive sources of financing or strategic investor	7.5%	1.875%
Financial Stewardship and Liquidity	7.5%	5%

## **Independent Review of Compensation**

The Compensation Committee and the Board undertake periodic reviews of First Mining's compensation program, internally and externally, to assess how our program compares to industry peers, and to assess the effectiveness of the compensation program in attracting and retaining quality personnel. In 2023, First Mining retained Bedford Resources Inc. ("Bedford Resources"), an independent compensation consulting firm, to assist the Company in reviewing its compensation practices for non-executive directors, and executive officers, and to make recommendations to improve the Company's approach to compensation.

### **Peer Group**

Pursuant to independent review of compensation mandate, in 2020 Lane Caputo reviewed executive and director compensation of the Company. In 2023 the Company engaged Bedford Resources to provide a report (the "Bedford Resources Report") updating the peer group of comparator companies (the "Peer Group") to reflect the evolving business of the Company. Bedford Resources used various considerations in proposing the Peer Group, including companies of a similar size, stage of development and industry focus, with a similar market capitalization and operating in the same regional geography – all as compared to the First Mining as at the date of the report. Since the date of the Bedford Resources Report, certain companies in the Peer Group were acquired by other public companies or no longer considered development companies within similar jurisdictions. Accordingly, the current Peer Group which was considered by the Compensation Committee when reviewing executive compensation for 2024 was as follows:

Amex Exploration Inc.
Fury Gold Mines Inc.
Goldshore Resources Inc.
Liberty Gold Corp.
Mayfair Gold Corp.

NexGold Mining Corp.
Perpetua Resources Corp.
Probe Gold Inc.
Radisson Mining Resources Inc.

STLLR Gold Inc.
Thesis Gold Inc.
Troilus Gold Corp.
Vista Gold Corp.

rp. Skeena Resources Ltd. Wallbridge Mining Company Ltd.

As a result of this review, the Committee removed Integra Resources following the acquisition of an asset resulting in the Company becoming a junior producer with a development project. The Committee also removed O3 Mining Inc. as it was acquired by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited and delisted from the TSX-V in March 2025. The additions of Mayfair Gold Corp., Radisson Mining Resources Inc., Thesis Gold Inc., and Amex Exploration Inc. were made as they were advancing gold projects within similar jurisdictions and size.

The Compensation Committee considered the advice, guidance and recommendations provided in the prior year Bedford Report as part of its deliberations on its recommendations to the Board with respect to remuneration paid to First Mining's executive officers (including base salary, cash bonuses and grants of Options, RSUs and PSUs) and non-executive directors (including retainer fees, Options and DSUs) for the years ended December 31, 2024.

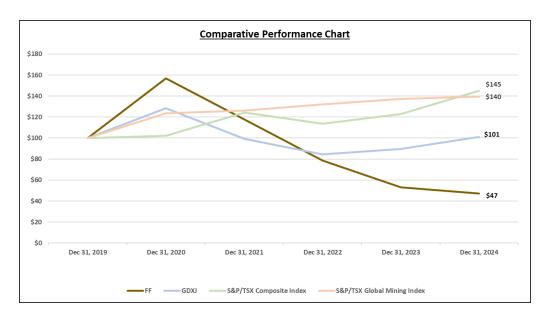
The table below discloses the fees paid by the Company for executive compensation consulting services for the two most recently completed financial years.

	Yearended	Yearended
Category	December 31, 2024	December 31, 2023
Executive Compensation Related Fees	Nil	\$22,000(1)
All Other Fees	Nil	Nil

<sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Bedford Resources.

# Performance graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total shareholder return for \$100 invested in our Common Shares from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024 (i.e. our five most recently completed financial years) against the cumulative total shareholder return of the S&P/TSX Composite Index, the S&P/TSX Global Mining Index and the Market Vectors Junior Gold Miners ETF (USD) for the same period, assuming the reinvestment of all dividends (if applicable). Cumulative Value of \$100 investment from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024:



	<u>December 31,</u>				
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
First Mining Gold Corp. % change in fiscal year	\$157	\$118	\$78	\$53	\$47
	57%	-25%	-33%	-33%	-11%
S&P/TSX Composite Index (1)	\$102	\$124	\$114	\$123	\$145
% change in fiscal year	2%	22%	-9%	8%	18%
<b>S&amp;P/TSX Global Mining Index</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	\$124	\$126	\$132	\$137	\$140
% change in fiscal year	24%	2%	5%	4%	2%
Market Vectors Junior Gold Miners ETF (USD)	\$128	\$99	\$84	\$90	\$101
% change in fiscal year	28%	-23%	-15%	6%	13%

#### Notes:

(1) The numbers for this item assume the reinvestment of all dividends.

The share price valuation of gold explorers, developers and producers fluctuates with changes in the underlying commodity prices, ETF and index rebalances and other external factors. Executive compensation was not intended to directly reflect share price performance driven by such externalities. Alignment with our shareholders is nonetheless achieved by awarding a significant portion of compensation in the form of long-term equity-based incentives.

# Share-based and option-based awards

Our Board is responsible for granting options and share-based awards to the NEOs. These grants are designed to reward our NEOs for success on a similar basis as our shareholders. When new awards are granted, the Board takes into account the previous grants, the number of awards currently held, position, overall individual performance, anticipated contribution to First Mining's future success and the individual's ability to influence corporate and business performance. The purpose of granting these awards is to assist the Company in compensating, attracting, retaining and motivating our officers, directors and employees and to closely align the personal interest of such persons to the interests of our shareholders.

Under our Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan, the Board has discretion to set the exercise price of stock options, provided that the exercise price may not be lower than the market price of the Common Shares as of the date of the grant of the stock option.

# Risk assessment and oversight

As is commensurate with companies of a similar size and at a similar stage of development, during our financial year ended December 31, 2024, our Board did not actively consider the implications of the risks associated with First Mining's compensation policies and practices.

# Prohibitions on hedging and speculation

Pursuant to our Securities Trading Policy, our NEOs and directors are not permitted to take any speculative or derivative positions or purchase financial instruments, including without limitation, prepaid variable forward contracts, instruments for the short sale or purchase or sale of call or put options, equity swaps, spread bets, contracts for different, collars or units of exchange funds or other derivative securities that are designed to or that may reasonably be expected to have the effect of hedging or offsetting a decrease in the market value of any of First Mining's securities. A copy of our Securities Trading Policy is available on our website at <a href="https://www.firstmininggold.com">www.firstmininggold.com</a>.

# **Compensation governance**

The Compensation Committee consists of three members: Keith Neumeyer (current Compensation Committee Chairperson), Richard Lock and Leanne Hall, all of whom are considered independent. The Compensation Committee, on behalf of the Board, monitors the compensation of our executive officers.

The following summary describes the mandate and responsibilities of our Compensation Committee as it relates to NEO compensation:

to review and approve corporate goals and objectives relevant to NEO compensation, including the
evaluation and performance of the CEO in light of those corporate goals and objectives, and to

make recommendations to the Board with respect to NEO compensation levels (including the award of any cash bonuses or share ownership opportunities);

- to consider the implementation of short and long-term incentive plans, including equity-based plans, proposed by management, to make recommendations to the Board with respect to these plans and to annually review such plans after their implementation; and
- to annually review any other benefit plans proposed by management and to make recommendations to the Board with respect to their implementation.

All members of the Compensation Committee have direct experience which is relevant to their responsibilities as a member of the Compensation Committee. All members are or have held senior executive roles within public companies and therefore have a good understanding of compensation programs. They also have good financial understanding which allows them to assess the costs versus benefits of compensation plans. The members' combined experience in the resource sector provides them with the understanding of First Mining's success factors and risks, which is very important when determining metrics for measuring success.

The following table contains a summary of the compensation paid or accrued to our NEOs during First Mining's three most recently completed financial years:

# Summary compensation table

					Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$)				
Name and principal position	Year	Salary <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Share- based awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Option- based awards <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Annual Incentive plans <sup>(4)</sup>	Long-term incentive plans	Pension value (\$)	All other compensation <sup>(5)</sup> (\$)	Total compensation (\$)
	2024	\$390,000	\$549,767	\$77,232	\$100,000	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$1,116,999
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	2023	\$350,000	\$452,014	\$100,508	Nil	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$902,521
	2022	\$340,000	\$254,290	\$103,533	Nil	N/A	N/A	\$12,240	\$710,063
	2024	\$300,000	\$269,668	\$66,199	\$65,000	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$700,866
Lisa Peterson  CFO and Corporate	2023	\$261,080	\$238,551	\$85,432	\$65,000	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$650,062
Secretary <sup>(6)</sup>	2022	\$72,917	N/A	\$55,195	\$18,000	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$146,112
	2024	\$270,000	\$190,011	\$55,166	\$60,000	N/A	N/A	\$9,720	\$584,896
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability (7)	2023	\$250,000	\$110,638	\$75,381	\$40,000	N/A	N/A	\$9,000	\$485,019
Sustainability V	2022	\$225,000	\$73,655	\$89,729	\$40,000	N/A	N/A	\$9,000	\$437,384
James Maxwell	2024	\$280,000	\$190,011	\$55,166	\$60,000	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$585,176
Vice President, Exploration & Project	2023	\$250,000	\$110,638	\$75,381	\$40,000	N/A	N/A	\$6,000	\$482,019
Operations <sup>(8)</sup>	2022	\$225,000	\$73,655	\$89,729	\$40,000	N/A	N/A	\$9,000	\$437,384
Richard Huang Vice President,	2024	\$250,000	\$172,893	\$55,166	\$60,000	N/A	N/A	\$11,500	\$549,559
Corporate Development (9)	2023	\$225,000	\$110,638	\$75,381	\$40,000	N/A	N/A	\$7,216	\$458,235
	2022	\$205,000	\$68,903	\$89,729	\$36,000	N/A	N/A	\$15,580	\$415,212

## Notes:

<sup>(1)</sup> All dollar amounts in this table and in the footnotes below are reflected in Canadian dollars.

<sup>(2)</sup> The fair value of share-based awards is determined as of their grant date, based on the closing price of the Company's common shares on such grant date.

(3) The fair value of option-based awards is determined by the Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model with the following weighted average assumptions:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u> 2022</u>
Weighted average fair value at grant date:	\$0.055	\$0.101	\$0.135
Risk-free interest rate:	3.57%	3.23%	1.93%
Expected dividend yield:	Nil	Nil	Nil
Expected volatility:	57.09%	65.33%	63.68%
Forfeiture rate	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Expected life of option:	5 years	5 years	5 years

The method of calculation is in accordance with IFRS 2 and is consistent with the method used in our annual audited consolidated financial statements.

- (4) The amounts in this column consist of cash bonuses granted in respect of the Company's performance that were earned during the applicable financial year and paid out in the first quarter of the subsequent year. Details on the cash bonuses for 2024 that are included in the above table are discussed further below. In 2024 and 2023, Mr. Wilton, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Lines, Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Huang elected to receive RSUs in lieu for a portion or all of their cash bonus in respect of the Company's performance in 2024, 2023 and 2022.
- (5) These amounts relate to the payout of unused vacation days that remained as of the end of the calendar year and that exceeded the number of vacation numbers permitted to be carried over into the following year under the Company's vacation policy.
- (6) Ms. Peterson was appointed as the Company's CFO effective September 16, 2022 and was appointed Corporate Secretary on July 21, 2023.
- (7) Mr. Lines was appointed as Vice President, Sustainability, and an officer of the Company effective January 19, 2024.
- (8) Mr. Maxwell was appointed as Vice President, Exploration and Project Operations and an officer of the Company effective January 19, 2024.
- (9) Mr. Huang was appointed as Vice President, Corporate Development and Corporate Secretary and an officer of the Company effective April 1, 2025.

## 2024 Cash Bonuses Paid in Q1 2025

Subsequent to the end of the Company's most recently completed financial year, on February 14, 2025, the Company granted cash bonuses to our NEOs in respect of the Company's performance in 2024. Each cash bonus was a percentage of the NEO's annual salary, and was paid out to each NEO in mid-February 2025:

Name	Bonus Amount <sup>(1)</sup>	Percentage of 2024 Annual Salary
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	\$100,000	26%
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	\$65,000	22%
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	\$60,000	22%
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	\$60,000	21%
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	\$60,000	24%

#### Notes:

(1) Elected to receive a portion of additional RSUs in lieu of full cash bonus payments for the previous year of service.

### **Options Granted in Q1 2025**

Subsequent to December 31, 2024, the Company granted the following stock options to our NEOs on February 14, 2025:

Name	Number of Options	Exercise Price	Grant Date	Expiry Date
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	1,250,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	800,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	700,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	700,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	700,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030

Each of the above stock options is subject to the following vesting schedule:

- 25% vested immediately on the grant date;
- 25% will vest on the date that is 6 months after the grant date;
- 25% will vest on the date that is 12 months after the grant date; and
- 25% will vest on the date that is 18 months after the grant date.

## Restricted Share Units Granted in Q1 2025

On February 14, 2025, the Company granted the following RSUs to our NEOs:

Name	Number of RSUs	Grant Date
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	2,900,000	February 14, 2025
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	1,650,000	February 14, 2025
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	880,000	February 14, 2025
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	930,000	February 14, 2025
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	800,000	February 14, 2025

A portion of the above RSUs were granted in lieu of a portion of the cash bonuses that would have otherwise been payable to the NEOs for their service in 2024. Ms. Peterson's, Mr. Lines', Mr. Maxwell's, and Mr. Huang's RSUs are subject to the following vesting schedule:

- one third will vest on February 14, 2026;
- one third will vest on February 14, 2027; and
- one third will vest on February 14, 2028.

Mr. Wilton's RSUs are subject to the following vesting schedule:

• one third will vest on September 14, 2026;

- one third will vest on September 14, 2027; and
- one third will vest on September 14, 2028.

### Performance Share Units Granted in Q1 2025

On February 14, 2025, the Company granted the following PSUs to our NEOs:

Name	Number of PSUs	Grant Date
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	1,000,000	February 14, 2025
Lisa Peterson CFO	800,000	February 14, 2025
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	600,000	February 14, 2025
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	600,000	February 14, 2025
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	600,000	February 14, 2025

Each of the above PSUs shall vest on February 14, 2028, in accordance with the PSU Agreement.

#### Narrative discussion

## **Employment Agreement with Daniel W. Wilton (CEO)**

On January 1, 2021, First Mining and Mr. Wilton entered into an amended and restated employment agreement (the "Wilton Agreement") which superseded the previous employment agreement between First Mining and Mr. Wilton. Pursuant to the Wilton Agreement, effective January 1, 2022: (i) Mr. Wilton's annual base salary was increased to \$340,000 per year; (ii) if Mr. Wilton is terminated for a reason other than cause, his vested options shall be exercisable until the date that is 12 months from the date of termination of his employment and the Company shall pay Mr. Wilton a lump sum equal to 12 months of his base salary at the time of termination plus an additional two months of base salary for each year of service completed after the first anniversary of his hire date up to a maximum of 24 months' base salary, plus an additional amount that is equal to 50% of the aggregate of the total cash bonuses (including, for greater certainty, the grant date value of any RSUs granted in lieu of a cash bonus otherwise payable) received by Mr. Wilton in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of his employment; and (iii) if there is a Change of Control and Mr. Wilton is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Wilton a lump sum equal to 24 months of his base salary at the time of such termination, plus an additional amount equal to the aggregate of the total cash bonuses paid to Mr. Wilton in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of his employment, and all unvested Awards held by Mr. Wilton at that time shall immediately become fully vested. If Mr. Wilton wishes to resign, he would need to provide the Company with at least 2 months' advance written notice. On February 14, 2024, Mr. Wilton received a salary increase to \$390,000 per year. On February 14, 2025, following a recommendation from the Compensation Committee. First Mining increased Mr. Wilton's annual base salary to \$400,000 per year, with such increase retroactive to January 1, 2025.

## **Employment Agreement with Lisa Peterson (CFO & Corporate Secretary)**

Pursuant to an employment agreement dated July 29, 2022, entered into between Lisa Peterson and First Mining (the "Peterson Agreement"), Ms. Peterson was hired as First Mining's Chief Financial Officer, effective September 16, 2022. Under the Peterson Agreement: (i) Ms. Peterson's received an annual base salary of \$250,000 per year; (ii) if Ms. Peterson is terminated for a reason other than cause, her vested options shall be exercisable until the date that is 12 months from the date of termination of her employment and the Company shall pay Ms. Peterson a lump sum equal to 6 months of her base salary at the time of termination plus an additional 1 month of base salary for each year of service completed after the first anniversary of her hire date up to a maximum of 24 months' base salary, plus an additional amount that is equal to 50% of the aggregate of the total cash bonuses (including, for greater certainty, the grant date value of any RSUs granted in lieu of a cash bonus otherwise payable) received by Ms. Peterson in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of her employment; and (iii) if there is a Change of Control and Ms. Peterson is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Ms. Peterson a lump sum equal to 18 months of her base salary at the time of such termination, plus an additional amount equal to the aggregate of the total cash bonuses paid to Ms. Peterson in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of her employment, and all unvested Awards held by Ms. Peterson at that time shall immediately become fully vested. If Ms. Peterson wishes to resign, she would need to provide the Company with at least 2 months' advance written notice. On July 21, 2023, Ms. Peterson received a salary increase to \$275,000 per year. On February 14, 2024, Ms. Peterson received a salary increase to \$300,000 per year. On February 14, 2025, following a recommendation from the Compensation Committee, First Mining increased Ms. Peterson's annual base salary to \$307,500 per year, with such increase retroactive to January 1, 2025.

## **Employment Agreement with Stephen Lines (Vice President, Sustainability)**

On January 19, 2024, First Mining and Mr. Lines entered into an amended and restated employment agreement (the "Lines Agreement"), which superseded the previous employment agreement between First Mining and Mr. Lines. Pursuant to the Lines Agreement, effective January 19, 2024: (i) Mr. Lines' annual base salary was increased to \$260,000 per year; (ii) if Mr. Lines is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Lines a lump sum equal to 6 months of his base salary, plus 1 month for each year of service completed after the first anniversary of his hire date, up to a maximum of 24 months' base salary, and Mr. Lines' vested options shall be exercisable until the date that is 12 months from the date of termination of his employment: (iii) if there is a Change of Control and Mr. Lines is terminated for a reason other than cause. the Company shall pay Mr. Lines a lump sum equal to 18 months of his base salary at the time of such termination, plus an additional amount equal to the aggregate of the total cash bonuses (including, for greater certainty, the grant date value of any RSUs granted in lieu of a cash bonus otherwise payable) paid to Mr. Lines in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of his employment, and all unvested Awards held by Mr. Lines at that time shall immediately become fully vested. If Mr. Lines wishes to resign, he would need to provide the Company with at least 2 months' advance written notice. On February 14, 2024, Mr. Lines received a salary increase to \$270,000 per year. On February 14, 2025, following a recommendation from the Compensation Committee, First Mining increased Mr. Lines' annual base salary to \$277,000 per year, with such increase retroactive to January 1, 2025.

## Employment Agreement with James Maxwell (Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations)

On January 2, 2024, First Mining and Mr. Maxwell entered into an amended and restated employment agreement (the "Maxwell Agreement"), which superseded the previous employment agreement between First Mining and Mr. Maxwell. Pursuant to the Maxwell Agreement, effective January 19, 2024: (i) Mr.

Maxwell's annual base salary was increased to \$280,000 per year; (ii) if Mr. Maxwell is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Maxwell a lump sum equal to 6 months of his base salary, plus 1 month for each year of service completed after the first anniversary of his hire date up to a maximum of 24 months' base salary, and Mr. Maxwell's vested options shall be exercisable until the date that is 12 months from the date of termination of his employment; (iii) if there is a Change of Control and Mr. Maxwell is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Maxwell a lump sum equal to 18 months of his base salary at the time of such termination, plus an additional amount equal to the aggregate of the total cash bonuses (including, for greater certainty, the grant date value of any RSUs granted in lieu of a cash bonus otherwise payable) paid to Mr. Maxwell in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of his employment, and all unvested Awards held by Mr. Maxwell at that time shall immediately become fully vested. If Mr. Maxwell wishes to resign, he would need to provide the Company with at least 2 months' advance written notice. On February 14, 2025, following the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, First Mining increased Mr. Maxwell's annual base salary to \$287,000 per year, with such increase retroactive to January 1, 2025.

## **Employment Agreement with Richard Huang (Vice President, Corporate Development)**

On January 19, 2024, First Mining and Mr. Huang entered into an amended and restated employment agreement (the "Huang Agreement"), which superseded the previous employment agreement between First Mining and Mr. Huang. Pursuant to the Huang Agreement, effective January 19, 2024: (i) Mr. Huang's annual base salary was increased to \$250,000 per year; (ii) if Mr. Huang is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Huang a lump sum equal to 6 months of his base salary, plus 1 month for each year of service completed after the first anniversary of his hire date, up to a maximum of 24 months' base salary, and Mr. Huang's vested options shall be exercisable until the date that is 12 months from the date of termination of his employment; (iii) if there is a Change of Control and Mr. Huang is terminated for a reason other than cause, the Company shall pay Mr. Huang a lump sum equal to 18 months of his base salary at the time of such termination, plus an additional amount equal to the aggregate of the total cash bonuses (including, for greater certainty, the grant date value of any RSUs granted in lieu of a cash bonus otherwise payable) paid to Mr. Huang in the two full calendar years immediately preceding the termination of his employment, and all unvested Awards held by Mr. Huang at that time shall immediately become fully vested. If Mr. Huangwishes to resign, he would need to provide the Company with at least 1 month advance written notice. On February 14, 2025, following a recommendation from the Compensation Committee, First Mining increased Mr. Huang' annual base salary to \$266,000 per year, with such increase retroactive to January 1, 2025.

### **Stock Options**

Calculating the value of stock options using the Black-Scholes option pricing model is very different from a simple "in-the-money" value calculation. In fact, stock options that are well out-of-the-money can still have a significant "grant date fair value" based on a Black-Scholes option pricing model, especially where, as in the case of the Company, the price of the share underlying the option is highly volatile.

Accordingly, caution must be exercised in comparing grant date fair value amounts with cash compensation or an in-the-money option value calculation.

# Incentive plan awards

# **Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards**

The following table sets out the outstanding option-based awards and share-based awards held by the NEOs of First Mining that were outstanding as at the end of our most recently completed financial year:

	Option-based Awards				Share-based Awards			
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) <sup>(1)</sup>	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the- money options (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#)	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested (\$) <sup>(3)</sup>	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed (\$)	
	1,400,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$4,200	5,405,983	\$648,718	Nil	
	5,000,000	\$0.120	09-Jan-29	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	
Daniel W. Wilton	1,000,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	1,875,000	\$225,000	Nil	
CEO	750,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	756,000	\$90,720	Nil	
	750,000	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	
	250,000	\$0.250	31-Jan-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A	
Lisa Peterson (4)	1,200,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$3,600	2,693,590	\$323,231	Nil	
CFO & Corporate Secretary	850,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	1,033,334	\$124,000	Nil	
occiviary	500,000	\$0.215	16-Sep-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	
	1,000,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$3,000	1,905,128	\$228,615	Nil	
Stephen Lines (5) Vice President,	750,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	500,000	\$60,000	Nil	
Sustainability	650,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	310,000	\$37,200	Nil	
	600,000	\$0.405	01-Dec-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	
	1,000,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$3,000	1,905,128	\$228,615	Nil	
James Maxwell (6)	750,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	500,000	\$60,000	Nil	
Vice President, Exploration & Project	150,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	310,000	\$37,200	Nil	
Operations	600,000	\$0.315	25-Oct-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	
	900,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$3,000	1,737,607	\$208,513	Nil	
Richard Huang (7)	750,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	500,000	\$60,000	Nil	
Vice President, Corporate	650,000	\$0.265	3-Feb-27	Nil	290,000	\$34,800	Nil	
Development	100,000	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	600,000	\$0.405	1-Dec-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	

#### Notes:

- (1) The Board has adopted the following vesting criteria for option grants: 25% vests immediately upon grant; 25% vests in 6 months following the date of grant; 25% vests in 12 months following the date of the grant and 25% vests in 18 months following the date of the grant.
- (2) This amount is the aggregate dollar amount of in-the-money unexercised options held at the end of 2024 based on the closing price of our Common Shares on the TSX on December 31, 2024, which was \$0.12.
- (3) This amount is the aggregate dollar amount of the market value of share-based awards that have not vested, using the year-end share price of \$0.12.
- (4) Ms. Peterson was appointed as the Company's CFO effective September 16, 2022 and was appointed Corporate Secretary on July 21, 2023.
- (5) Mr. Lines was appointed as Vice President, Sustainability, and an officer of the Company effective January 19, 2024.
- (6) Mr. Maxwell was appointed as Vice President, Exploration and Project Operations and an officer of the Company effective January 19, 2024.
- (7) Mr. Huang was appointed as Vice President, Corporate Development and Corporate Secretary and an officer of the Company effective April 1, 2025.

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

The following table sets forth details of the value vested or earned for all incentive plan awards during the most recently completed financial year by each NEO:

Name	Option-based awards - Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Share-based awards - Value vested during the year (\$)	Non-equity incentive plan compensation - Value earned during the year <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	\$21,900	\$90,500	\$100,000
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	\$5,400	\$14,000	\$65,000
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	\$4,500	Nil	\$60,000
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	\$4,500	Nil	\$60,000
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	\$4,050	Nil	\$60,000

### Notes:

- (1) This amount is based on the aggregate dollar value that would have been realized if the options under the option-based award had been exercised on the vesting date. Amounts were computed using the dollar value that would have been realized by determining the difference between the market price of the underlying securities at exercise and the exercise or base price of the options under the option-based award on the vesting date.
- (2) The amounts consist of cash bonuses granted in respect of the Company's performance in 2024 that were paid in Q1 2025.

# Termination and change of control benefits

Other than set out below, we have not entered into any other contract, agreement, plan or arrangement that provides for payments to a NEO at, following or in connection with any termination (whether voluntary, involuntary or constructive), resignation, retirement, a change in control of First Mining or a change in an NEO's responsibilities.

The NEOs in the table below have termination and change of control benefits provided for in their respective employment/consulting agreements. The terms of each of the NEO's employment/consulting agreements are described earlier in this Circular under the heading "Summary Compensation Table – Narrative Discussion".

### **Termination Without Cause (No Change of Control)**

The table below sets out the maximum amount First Mining could be obligated to pay in the event that an NEO was terminated without cause as of December 31, 2024, unrelated to a change of control. We would also be obligated to pay the NEO's actual accrued base salary and expenses up to the date of termination and continue the NEO's option entitlements for the period set out in their respective employment agreements.

Name	Payment on Termination (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Vacation Pay (\$)	Total Gross Payment on Termination (\$)
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	\$650,000	\$357,500	\$14,040	\$1,021,540
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	\$175,000	\$195,000	\$20,064	\$390,064
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	\$202,500	\$127,500	\$14,040	\$344,040
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	\$186,667	\$130,625	\$11,200	\$328,492
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	\$187,500	\$115,625	\$11,200	\$319,625

### Termination Without Cause (Following a Change of Control)

The table below sets out the maximum amount First Mining could be obligated to pay in the event that an NEO was terminated without cause as of December 31, 2024, following a change of control. We would also be obligated to pay the NEO's actual accrued base salary and expenses up to the date of termination and continue the NEO's option entitlements for the period set out in their respective employment agreements.

Name	Payment on Termination (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Vacation Pay (\$)	Total Gross Payment on Termination (\$)
Daniel W. Wilton CEO	\$780,000	\$715,000	\$14,040	\$1,509,040
Lisa Peterson CFO & Corporate Secretary	\$450,000	\$390,000	\$20,064	\$860,064
Stephen Lines Vice President, Sustainability	\$405,000	\$255,000	\$14,040 <b>\$674,</b> 0	
James Maxwell Vice President, Exploration & Project Operations	\$420,000	\$261,250	\$11,200	\$674,040

Name	Payment on Termination (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Vacation Pay (\$)	Total Gross Payment on Termination (\$)
Richard Huang Vice President, Corporate Development	\$375,000	\$231,250	\$16,500	\$622,750

# **Director compensation**

On January 26, 2022, following a recommendation from the Compensation Committee, our Board adopted a revised director compensation plan for its non-executive directors (the "**2022 Director Compensation Plan**"), replacing the previous director compensation plan that had been in effect since July 1, 2019.

The Board has established a flat fee structure for all independent directors. For 2024 the annual Board retainer paid to independent directors was \$55,500. In addition to the board membership retainer, the Chair of the Board receives an additional \$10,500 for serving as the Chair of the Board and the Chairs of each Board committee receives an additional \$5,250 annually. Additionally, each non-executive director receives a meeting fee of \$1,000 for each Board meeting and Board committee meeting attended by the director. Independent directors receive an additional \$2,000 per year as reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the director, with receipts with respect to such expenses to be provided upon request by the Company.

All fees under are paid out semi-annually, on January 1st and July 1st of each year.

No director fees were paid in 2024 to Mr. Daniel W. Wilton, the Company's CEO, for serving on the Board.

The following table sets forth the details of compensation provided to our directors, other than the NEOs, during our most recently completed financial year. The value disclosed under option-based awards for directors represents the deemed dollar value of the options granted. Except as may be noted below, no other compensation was paid to directors in their capacity as directors of First Mining or any of its subsidiaries, in their capacity as members of a committee of the Board or of a committee of the board of directors of its subsidiaries, or as consultants or experts, during our most recently completed financial year.

Name	Fees earned (\$)	Share-based awards (\$)	Option- based awards of (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$)	,	All other compensation (\$)	Total compensatio n (\$)
Keith Neumeyer	\$83,250	\$42,550	\$93,782	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$219,582
Raymond Polman	\$72,750	N/A	\$86,610	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$159,360
Richard Lock	\$74,750	N/A	\$49,649	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$124,399
Leanne Hall	\$65,500	N/A	\$49,649	N/A	N/A	Nil	\$115,149

(1) The fair value of option-based awards unexercised in-the-money is determined by the Black-Scholes Option Pricing Model with the following weighted average assumptions: (a) weighted average fair value at grant date - \$0.055; (b) expected dividend yield – nil; (c) average risk-free interest rate – 3.57%; (d) expected life - 5 years; (e) expected volatility – 57.09%; and (f) forfeiture rate – 7.50%. The method of calculation is in accordance with IFRS 2 and is consistent with the method used in our annual audited consolidated financial statements.

## **Options Granted in Q1 2025**

Subsequent to December 31, 2024, the Company granted the following stock options to our non-executive directors on February 14, 2025:

Name	Number of Options	Exercise Price	Grant Date	Expiry Date
Keith Neumeyer	1,700,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Raymond Polman	1,100,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Richard Lock	900,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030
Leanne Hall	900,000	\$0.125	February 14, 2025	February 14, 2030

Each of the above stock options is subject to the following vesting schedule:

- 25% vested immediately on the grant date;
- 25% will vest on August 14, 2025;
- 25% will vest on February 14, 2026; and
- 25% will vest on August 14, 2026.

## **Deferred Share Units Granted in Q1 2025**

Subsequent to December 31, 2024, the Company granted the following deferred share units ("**DSUs**") to certain non-executive directors on February 14, 2025:

Name	Number of DSUs	Grant Date
Keith Neumeyer	400,000	February 14, 2025

Each of the above DSUs is subject to the following vesting schedule:

- 25% vested immediately on the grant date;
- 25% will vest on August 14, 2025;
- 25% will vest on February 14, 2026; and
- 25% will vest on August 14, 2026.

# Incentive Plan Awards - Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards

The following table sets forth details regarding all option-based awards and share-based awards that have been granted to each director of First Mining who is not also an NEO or former NEO and that were outstanding as at the end of our most recently completed financial year.

	Option-based Awards			Share-based Awards			
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) (1)	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the-money options (\$)		Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested (\$)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed (\$)
	1,700,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$5,100	200,000	\$24,000	Nil
	875,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil
Keith Neumeyer	150,000	\$0.280	13-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil
Chairman	575,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	437,500	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	300,000	\$0.250	31-Jan-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	1,570,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$4,710	Nil	N/A	N/A
	875,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil
Raymond Polman	150,000	\$0.280	13-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
Director	575,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	437,500	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	200,000	\$0.250	31-Jan-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	900,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$2,700	Nil	N/A	N/A
	575,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
Richard Lock Director	575,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	300,000	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	200,000	\$0.250	1-Apr-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	900,000	\$0.117	14-Feb-29	\$2,700	Nil	N/A	N/A
	575,000	\$0.190	14-Feb-28	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
Leanne Hall Director	575,000	\$0.265	03-Feb-27	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A
	225,000	\$0.435	2-Feb-26	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil
	200,000	\$0.435	30-Oct-25	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A

#### Notes:

- (1) The Board has adopted the following vesting criteria for option grants: 25% vests immediately upon grant; 25% vests in 6 months following the date of grant; 25% vests in 12 months following the date of the grant and 25% vests in 18 months following the date of the grant.
- (2) This amount is the aggregate dollar amount of in-the-money unexercised options held at the end of 2024 based on the closing price of our Common Shares on the TSX on December 31, 2024, which was \$0.12.
- (3) This amount is the aggregate dollar amount of the market value of share-based awards that have not vested, using the year-end share price of \$0.12.

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

The following table sets forth details of the value vested or earned for all incentive plan awards during our most recently completed financial year by each director that was not also a former NEO:

Name	Option-based awards - Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Share-based awards - Value vested during the year <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Non-equity incentive plan compensation - Value earned during the year (\$)
Keith Neumeyer Chairman	\$7,650	\$48,275	Nil
Raymond Polman Director	\$7,065	\$16,863	Nil
Richard Lock Director	\$4,050	Nil	Nil
Leanne Hall Director	\$4,050	Nil	Nil

### Notes:

- (1) This amount is based on the aggregate dollar value that would have been realized if the options under the option-based award had been exercised on the vesting date. Amounts were computed using the dollar value that would have been realized by determining the difference between the market price of the underlying securities at exercise and the exercise or base price of the options under the option-based award on the vesting date.
- (2) This amount is based on the aggregate dollar value realized. It was computed using the dollar value realized by multiplying the share price on the exercise date by the vested number of share-based awards.

# **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table sets out those securities of the Company which have been authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans, as at the end of the most recently completed financial year:

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding awards (a)	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding awards (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))  (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by our securityholders	80,122,949 Common Shares	\$0.20	27,863,425 Common Shares
Equity compensation plans not approved by our securityholders	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	80,122,949 Common Shares	\$0.20	27,863,425 Common Shares

#### Note:

(1) The aggregate number of Common Shares that may be reserved for issuance under our current Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan shall not exceed 10% of First Mining's issued and outstanding Common Shares. As at December 31, 2024, we had 1,079,863,747 Common Shares issued and outstanding.

### Annual burn rate

For each of the last three financial years, the annual burn rate of our Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan relative to stock options, RSUs, PSUs and DSUs issued under the plan is:

- 4.24% for 2024 (26,907,500 options were issued in fiscal year 2024 at a 2.76% burn rate; 8,422,115 RSUs were issued in fiscal year 2024 at a 0.86% burn rate; 5,650,000 PSUs were issued in fiscal year 2024 at a 0.58% burn rate; 400,000 DSUs were issued in fiscal year 2024 at a 0.04% burn rate);
- 3.04% for 2023 (16,960,000 options were issued in fiscal year 2023 at a 2.05% burn rate; 2,817,045 RSUs were issued in fiscal year 2023 at a 0.34% burn rate; 4,900,000 PSUs were issued in fiscal year 2023 at a 0.59% burn rate; 450,000 DSUs were issued in fiscal year 2023 at a 0.05% burn rate);
- 2.62% for 2022 (16,010,000 options were issued in fiscal year 2022 at a 2.17% burn rate; 1,090,000 RSUs were issued in fiscal year 2022 at a 0.15% burn rate; 1,913,000 PSUs were issued in fiscal year 2022 at a 0.26% burn rate; 356,000 DSUs were issued in fiscal year 2022 at a 0.05% burn rate); and

The "burn rate" of our Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan for any given fiscal year is calculated by dividing the total number of stock options, RSUs, PSUs and DSUs granted in that fiscal year by the weighted average number of Common Shares outstanding for that year.

## Indebtedness of Directors and Executive Officers

None of the current or former directors, executive officers, employees of First Mining, the proposed nominees for election to the Board, or their respective associates or affiliates, are or have been indebted to the Company or any of its subsidiaries since the beginning of our most recently completed financial year.

# **Management Contracts**

Other than as disclosed elsewhere in this Circular, no management functions of First Mining are to any substantial degree performed by a person or company other than the directors or executive officers of the Company.

# **Additional Information**

Additional information relating to First Mining is available under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

You can find financial information relating to First Mining in our comparative financial statements and MD&A for our most recently completed financial year. These documents are available on our website at <a href="https://www.sirstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials">www.sirstmininggold.com/investors/reports-filings/financials</a> and under our SEDAR+ profile at <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

You can also request copies free of charge by contacting us at:

First Mining Gold Corp.
Suite 2070 – 1188 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 4A2

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Telephone: 1.844.306.8827

# **Board Approval**

Our Board has approved the contents of this Circular and authorized us to send it to you.

DATED at Vancouver, British Columbia, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2025.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD,

(signed) "Daniel W. Wilton"

Daniel W. Wilton Chief Executive Officer **Appendix A** 

**Board Mandate** 



# **BOARD MANDATE**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The First Mining Gold Corp. (the "**Company**") board of directors (the "**Board**") has the primary responsibility to foster the short and long-term success of the Company and is accountable to the Company's shareholders and other stakeholders.
- 1.2 The Board is responsible under law for the management or for supervising the management of the Company's business and affairs. In supervising the conduct of the business, the Board sets the standards of conduct for the Company.
- 1.3 This mandate is prepared to assist the Board and management in clarifying responsibilities and ensuring effective communication between the Board and management.

#### 2. COMPOSITION AND BOARDORGANIZATION

- 2.1 Nominees for directors are initially considered and recommended by the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee in conjunction with the Chair of the Board, approved by the entire Board and elected annually by the shareholders.
- 2.2 A majority of directors comprising the Board must qualify as independent directors (as defined in National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* and the rules of any stock exchange on which the Company's shares are listed ("Independent")).
- 2.3 In selecting, reviewing, and accepting candidates for nomination as directors, as applicable, the Board and the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee must consider and evaluate the composition of the Board as a whole, including considering and making a determination as to the independence of each director nominee under applicable laws, and must consider the following factors:
  - (a) The existence and the impact of any Board Interlocks or Committee Interlocks on director independence and the functioning and independence of the Board as a whole. For the purposes of this mandate, the term "Board Interlock" means when two or more directors of the Company sit together on the board (or equivalent) of another reporting issuer, and the term "Committee Interlock" means when a Board Interlock exists, and in addition, the relevant two or more directors also sit together on a board committee of the Company or the other reporting issuer; and

- (b) diversity considerations such as gender, age and ethnicity, with a view to ensuring that the Board benefits from a broad range of perspectives and relevant experience. For additional guidance in respect of the forgoing matters, see the Company's Diversity Policy.
- 2.4 No director of the Company may, without the prior approval of the Board, serve as a director (a "Directorship") on a board (or equivalent) of more than (a) five reporting issuers (excluding the Board) in the case of a director who is not the Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") or (b) two reporting issuers (excluding the Board) in the case of a director who is also the Company's CEO. In determining to recommend or accept, as applicable, a candidate for nomination as a director who exceeds the foregoing limits, the Board and the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee must consider whether or not the number of Directorships a nominee holds will prevent such director from devoting sufficient time and resources to his or her duties as a member of the Board. During the period between annual shareholder meetings, directors must advise the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee of their intention to join or be nominated for election to the board (or equivalent) or any committee thereof of another reporting issuer.
- 2.5 No person may serve as a director of the Company without the prior approval of the Board where an identifiable conflict of interest exists, including in circumstances where the proposed director (a) is the current CEO of the Company; (b) provides material consulting or other services to the Company, or is an immediate family member of such a person; or (c) engages in, or receives benefits from, commercial deals, including perquisite type grants from the Company, or is an immediate family member of such a person.
- 2.6 Each director should be elected by the vote of a majority of the shares represented in person or by proxy at any meeting for the election of directors. If, with respect to any particular director nominee, the number of votes withheld exceeds the number of votes in favour of the director nominee, the nominee shall be considered by the Board not to have received support of the shareholders, even though duly elected as a matter of corporate law. A person elected as a director who is considered under this test not to have the confidence of the shareholders must immediately tender his or her resignation to the Board in the form attached as Schedule "A" to the Company's Majority Voting Policy, and the Board shall then follow the procedures set out in the Majority Voting Policy with respect to the director's offer to resign.
- 2.7 The Company must disclose the following in its management information circular for each general meeting of shareholders at which directors are nominated for election to the Board:
  - (a) all Board Interlocks, Committee Interlocks and Directorships held by nominee directors;
  - (b) the Board's judgment as to whether any Board Interlocks or Committee Interlocks exist which could impact the independence of those directors or their ability to act in the best interests of the Company; and
  - (c) if a director nominee exceeds the limits set out in Section 2.4 above, the Board's judgment as to whether or not such director can devote sufficient time and resources to his or her duties as a member of the Board.
- 2.8 The Board shall appoint a Chair of the Board to act as the effective leader of the Board and ensure that the Board's agenda will enable it to successfully carry out its duties. The Chair shall be a duly elected member of the Board and shall be Independent as defined under applicable laws.
- 2.9 Certain of the Board's responsibilities may be delegated to Board committees, which will include an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee and

such other standing committees as the Board may from time to time designate. Each Board committee must have a written charter which will be approved by the Board and will set out the responsibilities of those committees. All members of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee must be Independent directors. Members of all Board committees are initially considered and recommended by the Board's Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee in conjunction with the Chair of the Board, and are approved by the entire Board. The responsibilities of each Board committee will be as set forth in its charter.

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

## Meetings of the Board

- 3.1 The Board will meet a minimum of four times per year and may also hold additional meetings as considered necessary.
- 3.2 The Independent directors shall hold regularly scheduled meetings to fulfill their responsibilities, including at least one annual *in camera* session without the presence of non-Independent directors and management.
- 3.3 Each director of the Company is expected to:
  - (a) attend at least 75% of all Board and applicable committee meetings, and use all reasonable efforts to attend all regularly scheduled Board and applicable committee meetings, except to the extent that any absence is due to medical or other valid reasons;
  - (b) review in advance all meeting materials and otherwise adequately prepare for all Board and committee meetings, as applicable; and
  - (c) commit the time and energy necessary to properly carry out his or her duties.
- 3.4 An *in camera* session will be available for all Independent directors at every Board meeting, if requested.

### Managing the Affairs of the Board

- 3.5 The Board operates by delegating certain of its authorities, including spending authorizations, to management and by reserving certain powers to itself. The legal obligations of the Board are described in Section 4 below. Subject to these legal obligations and to the articles of the Company, the Board retains the responsibility for managing its own affairs, including:
  - (a) annually reviewing the skills and experience represented on the Board in light of the Company's strategic direction and approving a Board composition plan recommended by the Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee;
  - (b) appointing, determining the composition of and setting the terms of reference for, Board committees;
  - (c) selecting the Board Chair;

- (d) determining and implementing an appropriate process for assessing the effectiveness of the Board, the Board Chair, committees and directors in fulfilling their responsibilities;
- (e) assessing the adequacy and form of director compensation;
- (f) assuming responsibility for the Company's governance practices;
- (g) establishing new director orientation and ongoing director education processes;
- (h) ensuring that the Independent directors meet regularly without executive directors and management present;
- (i) setting the terms of reference for the Board; and
- (j) appointing the Corporate Secretary to the Board.

#### **Human Resources**

- 3.6 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) appoint the Company's CEO and plan CEO succession;
  - (b) set terms of reference for the CEO;
  - (c) provide advice and counsel to the CEO in the execution of the CEO's duties;
  - (d) annually approve corporate goals and objectives that the CEO is responsible for meeting;
  - (e) monitor and, at least annually, review the CEO's performance against agreed upon annual objectives;
  - (f) to the extent feasible, satisfy itself as to the integrity of the CEO and other senior officers, and that the CEO and other senior officers create a culture of integrity throughout the Company;
  - (g) set the CEO's compensation;
  - (h) approve the CEO's acceptance of significant public service commitments or outside directorships;
  - (i) approve decisions relating to senior management, including:
    - (i) review senior management structure including the duties and responsibilities to be assigned to officers of the Company;
    - (ii) on the recommendation of the CEO, appoint and discharge the officers of the Company who report to the CEO;
    - (iii) review compensation plans for senior management including salary, incentive, benefit and pension plans;

- (iv) review employment contracts, termination and other special arrangements with executive officers, or other employee groups;
- (v) approve certain matters relating to all employees, including:
  - (A) the Company's broad compensation strategy and philosophy;
  - (B) new benefit programs or material changes to existing programs; and
- (vi) ensure succession planning programs are in place, including programs to train and develop management.

## Strategy and Plans

- 3.7 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) adopt and periodically review a strategic planning process for the Company;
  - (b) participate with management, in the development of, and annually approve a strategic plan for the Company that takes into consideration, among other things, the risks and opportunities of the business:
  - (c) approve annual capital and operating budgets that support the Company's ability to meet its strategic objectives;
  - (d) direct management to develop, implement and maintain a reporting system that accurately measures the Company's performance against its business plans;
  - (e) approve the entering into, or withdrawing from, projects that are, or are likely to be, material to the Company; and
  - (f) approve material mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, and divestitures.

## Financial and Corporate Issues

- 3.8 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) take reasonable steps to ensure the implementation and integrity of the Company's internal control and management information systems;
  - (b) review and approve release by management of any materials reporting on the Company's financial performance or providing guidance on future results and ensure the disclosure accurately and fairly reflects the state of affairs of the Company, and is in accordance with international financial reporting standards ("IFRS"), including quarterly and annual financial statements, information circulars, annual information forms, annual reports, offering memorandums and prospectuses;
  - (c) declare cash or in specie dividends subject to applicable laws and the best interests of the Company;

- (d) approve financings, issue and repurchase of shares, issue of debt securities, listing of shares and other securities, issue of commercial paper, and related prospectuses; and recommend changes in authorized share capital to shareholders for their approval;
- (e) approve the incurring of any material debt by the Company outside the ordinary course of business;
- (f) approve the commencement or settlement of litigation that may have a material impact on the Company; and
- (g) recommend the appointment of external auditors and approve auditors' fees.

### Business and Risk Management

- 3.9 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) ensure management identifies the principal risks of the Company's business and implements appropriate systems to manage these risks; and
  - (b) evaluate and assess information provided by management and others about the effectiveness of risk management systems.

#### Policies and Procedures

- 3.10 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) approve and monitor, through management, compliance with all significant policies and procedures that govern the Company's operations;
  - (b) approve and act as the guardian of the Company's corporate values, including the implementation of a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for the Company and management's procedures to monitor compliance with the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; and
  - (c) direct management to ensure the Company operates at all times within applicable laws and regulations and to the highest ethical and moral standards.

### Compliance Reporting and Corporate Communications

- 3.11 The Board has the responsibility to:
  - (a) ensure the Company has in place effective communication processes with shareholders and other stakeholders and financial, regulatory and other recipients:
  - (b) approve and periodically review the Company's communications policy;
  - (c) ensure the Board has measures in place to receive feedback from shareholders;
  - (d) approve interaction with shareholders on all items requiring shareholder response or approval;

- (e) ensure the Company's financial performance is adequately reported to shareholders, other security holders and regulators on a timely and regular basis;
- (f) ensure the financial results are reported fairly and in accordance with IFRS;
- (g) ensure the CEO and the Company's Chief Financial Officer certify the Company's annual and interim financial statements, annual and interim MD&A and, if applicable, Annual Information Form, and that the content of the certification meets all applicable legal and regulatory requirements;
- (h) ensure compliance with the Company's annual reporting obligations under any legislation applicable to the Company; and
- (i) ensure timely reporting of any other developments that have a significant and material effect on the Company.

#### Investor Relations

3.12 The Chair of the Board and the CEO of the Company have the responsibility to approve all investor relations materials and all such materials must be so approved before such materials are distributed.

### Access to Management and Outside Advisors

3.13 To fulfill its roles, duties and responsibilities effectively, the Board may contact and have discussions with the Company's external auditor and the Company's officers and employees and request Company information and documentation from these persons. The Board may, in its sole discretion, retain and obtain the advice and assistance of independent outside counsel and such other advisors as it deems necessary to fulfill its duties and responsibilities under this mandate. The Board may set the compensation and oversee the work of any outside counsel and other advisors to be paid by the Company.

### 4. GENERAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 4.1 The Board is responsible for:
  - (a) directing management to ensure legal requirements have been met, and documents and records have been properly prepared, approved and maintained; and
  - (b) recommending changes in the articles, matters requiring shareholder approval, and setting agendas for shareholder meetings.
- 4.2 The *Business Corporation Act* (British Columbia) identifies the following as legal requirements for the Board:
  - (a) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Company, including the

duty:

- (i) to disclose conflicts of interest;
- (ii) not to appropriate or divert corporate opportunities;
- (iii) to maintain confidential information of the Company and not use such information for personal benefit; and
- (iv) to disclose to the Board information vital to the business of the Company in the possession of a director;
- (b) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent individual would exercise in comparable circumstances; and
- (c) act in accordance with the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia) and the articles of the Company.

#### 5. FEEDBACK

5.1 The Board welcomes input and comments from shareholders of the Company relating to this mandate. Such input and comments may be sent to the attention of the Board at the address of the Company.

#### 6. ANNUAL REVIEW

6.1 The Board will review this mandate annually and will consider whether any amendments or updates are warranted.

## 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

7.1 This Mandate was implemented by the Board on June 22, 2015, as amended on June 14, 2023.

# **Appendix B**

**Amended and Restated Share-Based Compensation Plan** 



# FIRST MINING GOLD CORP.

# AMENDED & RESTATED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION PLAN

Submitted for approval of the shareholders on June 11, 2025 as amended by the Board of Directors on April 29, 2022 and April 23, 2025

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# AMENDED & RESTATED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION PLAN

#### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Plan is to attract, retain and motivate persons of training, experience and leadership as Directors, Employees and Consultants of the Corporation and its subsidiaries, to advance the long-term interests of the Corporation by providing such persons with the opportunity and incentive, through equity-based compensation, to acquire an ownership interest in the Corporation, and to promote a greater alignment of interests between such persons and shareholders of the Corporation.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 2.1 Definitions.

For purposes of the Plan, the following words and terms will have the following meanings:

"Active Employment" or "Actively Employed" means at work on a regular basis and able to perform all regular duties of the Participant's role at the Corporation, subject to and inclusive of any modification of such duties in accordance with statutory requirements, and, if (a) a Participant's employment is terminated by resignation of the Participant, inclusive of the period ending on the last date of the notice period specified in the Participant's Service Agreement, or (b) a Participant's employment is terminated by the Corporation, inclusive of the minimum period of statutory notice of termination of employment, if any, required to be provided in respect of that termination under applicable employment standards legislation, but excluding any additional period of contractual or reasonable notice of termination (whether such period is agreed or adjudicated) that is not actually worked by the Participant;

"affiliate" means, except as noted in the definition of "DSU Separation Date", an "affiliate" determined in accordance with NI 45-106;

"associate" means an "associate" determined in accordance with NI 45-106;

"Award" means an Option, Bonus Share, Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit and/or Deferred Share Unit granted under the Plan (as applicable);

"Award Agreement" means an Option Award Agreement, a PSU Award Agreement, an RSU Award Agreement and/or a DSU Award Agreement (as applicable);

"Blackout Period" means an interval of time during which (a) trading in securities of the Corporation is restricted in accordance with the policies of the Corporation; or (b) the Corporation has otherwise determined that one or more Participants may not trade in securities of the Corporation because they may be in possession of undisclosed material information (as defined under applicable securities laws);

"Board" means the board of directors of the Corporation or, if established and duly authorized to act, a committee of the board of directors of the Corporation;

"Bonus Share" means a Share granted under Article 9;

"Business Day" means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday, when banks are generally open for business in Vancouver, British Columbia for the transaction of banking business;

"Canadian Employee Taxpayer" means a Participant (other than a Consultant) who is resident in Canada for the purposes of the Tax Act or is otherwise liable to pay tax under the Tax Act in respect of an Award;

"Change in Control" means and will be deemed to have occurred if one of the following events takes place:

- (a) the sale, transfer or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Corporation's assets to any person other than an affiliate of the Corporation;
- (b) the Corporation completes a Corporate Transaction with another corporation at arm's length to the Corporation and its affiliates, other than a Corporate Transaction that would result in the voting securities of the Corporation outstanding immediately prior thereto continuing to represent (either by remaining outstanding or by being converted into voting securities of the surviving or resulting entity) more than 50% of the combined voting power (on a fully diluted basis) of the surviving or resulting entity outstanding immediately after such Corporate Transaction;
- (c) any Person or combination of Persons acting jointly or in concert acquires or becomes the beneficial owner of, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the voting securities of the Corporation, whether through the acquisition of previously issued and outstanding voting securities, or of voting securities that have not been previously issued, or any combination thereof, or any other transaction having a similar effect; or
- (d) as a result of or in connection with a contested election of directors, the nominees named in the most recent management information circular of the Corporation for election to the Board will not constitute a majority of the Board;

"Consultant" means a person who provides management or consulting services to the Corporation or any subsidiary on an ongoing basis under contract, but who is not an Employee;

"Corporate Transaction" means a consolidation, merger, amalgamation, arrangement or other reorganization or business combination involving the Corporation;

"Corporation" means First Mining Gold Corp., or any corporate successor thereto;

"**Deferred Annual Amount**" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 8.1(b);

"Deferred Share Unit" means a deferred share unit granted in accordance with Section 8.1, the value of which on any particular date will be equal to the Market Price of one Share, and that represents the conditional right, on the terms and conditions set out in the Plan, to receive a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share on settlement of the Deferred Share Unit (or its equivalent in Shares at the discretion of the Corporation);

"**Director**" means any individual holding the office of director of the Corporation or any subsidiary;

"Director Cause Event" means a Person ceasing to be a Director as the result of:

- (a) ceasing to meet the qualifications set forth in subsection 124(2) of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia), as amended, or such other qualifications required by the corporate laws in any other jurisdiction under which the Corporation is continued or amalgamated; or
- (b) a special resolution having been passed by the shareholders of the Corporation pursuant to subsection 128(3) of the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia), as amended, or an equivalent enactment pursuant to the corporate laws in any other jurisdiction under which the Corporation is continued or amalgamated; or
- (c) an order of the British Columbia Securities Commission, the Ontario Securities Commission, the TSX or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction to so order, or
- (d) his or her resignation, if he or she has been a Director for less than six months;

"**Disability**" means a mental or physical disability which permanently prevents a Participant who is a Director, Employee or Consultant from continuing as a Director, Employee or Consultant as the case may be;

"Dividend Equivalents" means a right granted under Section 14, to receive future payments in cash or in Shares, based on dividends declared on Shares;

"DSU Account" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 8.3;

"DSU Award Agreement" means a written confirmation agreement setting out the terms and conditions relating to a Deferred Share Unit and entered into in accordance with Section 8.2;

"DSU Separation Date" means, with respect to Deferred Share Units granted to a Participant, the latest date on which the Participant ceases to be any of a Director, Employee, or otherwise an employee, within the meaning of the Tax Act, of any of the Corporation, a subsidiary, or any other "affiliate" of the Corporation (where "affiliate" has

the meaning set out in CRA Income Tax Folio S2-F1-C2, Retiring Allowances (November 8, 2016) or any successor publication thereto) for any reason;

"Effective Date" means April 29, 2022;

"Eligible Person" means (a) in respect of Options and Bonus Shares, a Director, Employee or Consultant who is eligible to receive Awards under the Plan; and (b), in respect of Share Units, a Director or Employee who is eligible to receive Awards under the Plan;

"Employee" means any individual regularly employed on a full-time or part-time basis by the Corporation or any subsidiary, provided that, for purposes of determining any and all rights and entitlements hereunder (except as required by paragraph 6801(d) of the Regulations to the Tax Act), if the employment of any such individual is terminated in a circumstance under which notice of termination is required to be provided by the Corporation or any subsidiary to the individual under, as applicable, the *Employment Standards Act* (British Columbia), as amended, or an equivalent enactment pursuant to the employment standards laws in any other jurisdiction that governs such employment, then for purposes of the Plan that individual will be deemed to be an Employee through to the end of the period of notice of termination that the Corporation or subsidiary is minimally required to provide to the individual in respect of that employment under such employment standards laws, but will not be deemed to be an Employee for any additional period of contractual or common law notice of termination;

"Employee Cause Event" means the termination of an Employee's employment as the result of:

- (a) any reason that provides the Corporation with the right to terminate an Employee without notice of termination or termination pay under applicable employment standards legislation; or
- (b) an order of the British Columbia Securities Commission, the Ontario Securities Commission, the TSX or any other regulatory body having jurisdiction to so order,

"Grant Date" means the date on which an Award is made to an Eligible Person in accordance with the provisions hereof;

"Insider" has the meaning ascribed to such term in the TSX Company Manual;

"Mandatory Retirement" means (a) the retirement of an Eligible Person who is an employee of the Corporation as a result of reaching the mandatory retirement age in the jurisdiction in which the Eligible Person is employed; or (b) in the case of a Director, ceasing to be a Director as a result of any term limit applicable to the directors of the Corporation pursuant to the Corporation's policies as my exist from time to time.

"Market Price", as of a particular date, will be deemed to be the closing price of the Shares for the trading day immediately preceding such date as reported by the TSX, or, if the Shares are not listed on the TSX, on such other principal stock exchange or over-the-

counter market on which the Shares are listed or quoted, as the case may be. If the Shares are not publicly traded or quoted, then the "Market Price" will be the fair market value of the Shares, as determined by the Board, on the particular date;

"NI 45-106" means National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* of the Canadian Securities Administrators, as the same may be amended or replaced from time to time;

"**Option**" means an option to purchase Shares granted under Section 5.1;

"Option Award Agreement" means a written award agreement setting out the terms and conditions relating to an Option and entered into in accordance with Section 5.2;

"**Option Price**" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 5.2(b);

"Participant" means an Eligible Person selected by the Board to participate in the Plan in accordance with the Plan, or his or her Personal Representatives, as the context requires;

"Performance Share Unit" means a performance share unit granted in accordance with Section 6.1, the value of which on any particular date will be equal to the Market Price of one Share, and that represents the conditional right, on the terms and conditions set out in the Plan or applicable PSU Award Agreement, to receive a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share on settlement of the Performance Share Unit (or its equivalent in Shares at the discretion of the Corporation);

"Person" means any individual, partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, syndicate, sole proprietorship, corporation with or without share capital, unincorporated association, trust, trustee, executor, administrator or other legal personal representative, regulatory body or agency, government or governmental agency, authority or entity however designated or constituted;

#### "Personal Representative" means:

- (a) in the case of a deceased Participant, the executor or administrator of the deceased duly appointed by a court or public authority having jurisdiction to do so; and
- (b) in the case of a Participant who, for any reason, is unable to manage his or her affairs, the person entitled by law to act on behalf of such Participant;

"Plan" means this First Mining Gold Corp. Amended & Restated Share Based Compensation Plan as amended or amended and restated from time to time;

"**Prior Grants**" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 17.

"**Prior Plans**" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 17.

"PSU Account" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 6.3;

"PSU Award Agreement" means a written confirmation agreement setting out the terms and conditions relating to a Performance Share Unit and entered into in accordance with Section 6.2;

"PSU Service Year" has the meaning ascribed in Section 6.1;

"PSU Vesting Date" means, with respect to Performance Share Units granted to a Participant, the date determined in accordance with Section 6.4, which date, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, will not be later than the date referred to in Section 6.2(c);

"Restricted Share Unit" means a restricted share unit granted in accordance with Section 7.1, the value of which on any particular date will be equal to the Market Price of one Share, and that represents the conditional right, on the terms and conditions set out in the Plan or applicable RSU Award Agreement, to receive a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share on settlement of the Restricted Share Unit (or its equivalent in Shares at the discretion of the Corporation);

"RSU Account" has the meaning ascribed thereto in Section 7.3;

"RSU Award Agreement" means a written confirmation agreement setting out the terms and conditions relating to a Restricted Share Unit and entered into in accordance with Section 7.2;

"RSU Service Year" has the meaning ascribed in Section 7.1;

"RSU Vesting Date" means, with respect to Restricted Share Units granted to a Participant, the date determined in accordance with Section 7.4, which date, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, will not be later than the date referred to in Section 7.2(c);

"Security-Based Compensation Arrangement" has the meaning ascribed in the TSX Company Manual, as amended, restated or replaced from time to time;

"Service Agreement" means any written agreement between a Participant and the Corporation or an subsidiary of the Corporation (as applicable), in connection with that Participant's employment, service or engagement as a Director, Employee or Consultant or the termination of such employment, service or engagement, as amended, replaced or restated from time to time;

"**Share Units**" means Deferred Share Units, Performance Share Units and Restricted Share Units:

"Shares" mean common shares of the Corporation;

"subsidiary" means a "subsidiary" determined in accordance with NI 45-106, provided that, for the purposes of Options granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers, a "subsidiary" of the Corporation shall include only a corporation that does not deal at arm's length with the Corporation for the purposes of the Tax Act and further provided that, for the purposes of Deferred Share Units granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers, a "subsidiary" of the

Corporation shall only include a corporation that is "related" to the Corporation for the purposes of the Tax Act;

"Tax Act" means the *Income Tax Act* (Canada); and

"TSX" means the Toronto Stock Exchange.

# 2.2 Headings.

The headings of all articles, sections, and paragraphs in the Plan are inserted for convenience of reference only and will not affect the construction or interpretation of the Plan.

# 2.3 Context; Construction.

Whenever the singular or masculine are used in the Plan, the same will be construed as being the plural or feminine or neuter or vice versa where the context so requires.

#### 2.4 Statutes.

Any reference to a statute, regulation, rule, instrument, or policy statement will refer to such statute, regulation, rule, instrument, or policy statement as the same may be amended, replaced or reenacted from time to time.

#### 2.5 Canadian Funds.

Unless otherwise specifically provided, all references to dollar amounts in the Plan are references to lawful money of Canada. Any amounts paid on exercise or in settlement of an Award will be paid in Canadian dollars.

### 2.6 Corporate Participants.

Where a Participant is a corporation, the Participant will be deemed to have died or to have become subject to a Disability if an individual employed by the Participant who is principally responsible for providing services to the Corporation on behalf of the Participant dies or becomes subject to a physical or mental disability which permanently prevents the individual from providing the services normally provided by the Participant, if, in the opinion of the Corporation, acting reasonably, by reason of the death or disability of the individual, the Participant is no longer able to provide the services for which the Corporation has contracted.

#### 3. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN

#### 3.1 Administration.

The Plan will be administered by the corporate secretary of the Corporation on the instructions of the Board. The Board may make, amend and repeal at any time and from time to time such regulations not inconsistent with the Plan as it may deem necessary or

advisable for the proper administration and operation of the Plan and such regulations will form part of the Plan. The Board may delegate to any committee of the Board or to the Corporate Secretary or any Director, officer or employee of the Corporation such administrative duties and powers as it may see fit.

#### 3.2 Board Powers.

The Board will have the power, where consistent with the general purpose and intent of the Plan and subject to the specific provisions of the Plan:

- (a) to establish policies and to adopt rules and regulations for carrying out the purposes, provisions and administration of the Plan and to amend or revoke such policies, rules and regulations;
- (b) to interpret and construe the Plan and to determine all questions arising out of the Plan and any Award awarded pursuant to the Plan, and any such interpretation, construction or determination made by the Board will be final, binding and conclusive for all purposes;
- (c) to determine the time or times when Awards will be awarded, subject to the requirements of applicable securities laws and regulatory requirements;
- (d) to determine which Eligible Persons should be granted Awards;
- (e) to determine the number of Awards to be awarded to Eligible Persons;
- (f) to determine the term of Awards and the vesting criteria applicable to Awards (including performance vesting, if applicable);
- (g) to determine if Shares which are subject to an Award will be subject to any restrictions upon the exercise or vesting of such Award;
- (h) to prescribe the form of the instruments relating to the grant, exercise and other terms of Awards including the form of Option Award Agreements, PSU Award Agreements, RSU Award Agreements, DSU Award Agreements and all ancillary documents and instruments related to the Plan and Awards; and
- (i) subject to Section 13, to make all other determinations under, and such interpretations of, and to take all such other steps and actions in connection with the proper administration of the Plan as it, in its sole discretion, may deem necessary or advisable.

The Board's guidelines, rules, regulation, interpretations and determinations will be conclusive and binding upon the Corporation and all other Persons.

# 3.3 Interpretation.

The interpretation by the Board of any of the provisions of the Plan and any determination by it pursuant thereto will be final and conclusive and will not be subject to any dispute by any Participant. No member of the Board or any person acting pursuant to authority delegated by it hereunder will be liable for any action or determination in connection with the Plan made or taken in good faith and each member of the Board and each such person will be entitled to indemnification with respect to any such action or determination in the manner provided for by the Corporation.

### 3.4 Use of Administrative Agent.

The Board may in its sole discretion appoint from time to time one or more entities to act as administrative agent to administer Awards granted under the Plan and to act as trustee to hold and administer the Plan and the assets that may be held in respect of Awards granted under the Plan, the whole in accordance with the terms and conditions determined by the Board in its sole discretion.

# 3.5 Copy of the Plan.

Each Participant, concurrently with the notice of the Award, will be provided by the Corporate Secretary with a copy of the Plan. A copy of any amendment to the Plan will be promptly provided by the Corporate Secretary to each Participant.

#### 3.6 Notification of Award.

Following the approval by the Board of the awarding of an Award, the Corporate Secretary will notify the Participant in writing of the Award and will enclose with such notice the Award Agreement representing the Award.

# 3.7 Business Day Actions

Where any action or event to be taken or completed under this Plan or any applicable Award Agreement falls on a day that is not a Business Day, then such action or event, as the case may be, shall be taken or completed on the immediately preceding day that is a Business Day.

#### 4. SHARES SUBJECT TO THE PLAN AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION LIMITS

### 4.1 Shares Subject to Awards.

Subject to adjustment under the provisions of Section 11, the aggregate number of Shares to be reserved and set aside for issue upon the exercise, redemption or settlement for all Awards granted under this Plan, together with all other Security-Based Compensation Arrangements of the Corporation, will not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Shares outstanding at the time of the granting of the Award (on a non-diluted basis). The Plan is an "evergreen" plan. Accordingly, if the Corporation issues additional Shares in the future the number of Shares issuable under Plan will be increased accordingly.

#### 4.2 Shares Available for Future Grants.

Any Shares subject to an Award which for any reason expires without having been exercised or is forfeited or terminated will again be available for future. Awards under the Plan and any Shares subject to an Award that are settled in cash and not Shares will again be available for future Awards under the Plan.

# 4.3 Participation Limits.

The Plan, when combined with all of the Corporation's other Security-Based Compensation Arrangements, will not result at any time in:

- (a) a number of Shares issuable to any one person at any time exceeding 5% of the issued and outstanding Shares;
- (b) a number of Shares issued to Insiders within a one-year period exceeding 10% of the issued and outstanding Shares; and
- (c) a number of Shares issuable to Insiders at any time exceeding 10% of the issued and outstanding Shares.

Any entitlement to acquire Shares granted pursuant to the Plan or other Securities-Based Compensation Arrangement prior to the Participant becoming an Insider will be excluded for the purposes of the limits set out in this Section 4.3.

#### 4.4 Outside Director Limit.

The Plan will not result at any time in a number of Shares issuable to any one non-executive director within a one-year period exceeding an Award value of \$150,000 per such non-executive director, of which no more than \$100,000 may comprise Options based on a valuation method acceptable to the Board.

#### 4.5 Fractional Shares.

No fractional Shares will be issued upon the exercise of Options or the settlement of Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Units or Deferred Share Units in Shares, and the Board may determine the manner in which fractional share value will be treated, provided that fractions will be rounded-down to the nearest Share on the exercise of Options.

#### 4.6 Financial Assistance.

The Corporation will not offer financial assistance to any Participant in regards to the exercise of any Award granted under this Plan.

# 4.7 No Compensation for Downward Fluctuation

The Corporation makes no representation or warranty as to the future market value of the Shares. For greater certainty, no amount will be paid to, or in respect of, a Participant (or any Person with whom the Participant does not deal at arm's length within the meaning of the Tax Act) under the Plan or pursuant to any other arrangement, and no additional Awards will be granted to such Participant (or any Person with whom the Participant does not deal at arm's length within the meaning of the Tax Act) to compensate for a downward fluctuation in the price of the Shares or any shares of the Corporation or of a related (within the meaning of the Tax Act) corporation, nor will any other form of benefit be conferred upon, or in respect of, a Participant for such purpose.

#### 5. OPTIONS

#### 5.1 Grant.

Options may be granted to Eligible Persons at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution. The Grant Date of an Option for purposes of the Plan will be the date on which the Option is awarded by the Board, or such later date determined by the Board, subject to applicable securities laws and regulatory requirements.

# **5.2** Terms and Conditions of Options.

Options will be evidenced by an Option Award Agreement, which will specify such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including:

- (a) the number of Shares to which the Options to be awarded to the Participant pertain;
- (b) the exercise price per Share subject to each Option (the "**Option Price**"), which will in no event be lower than the Market Price on the Grant Date;
- (c) the Option's scheduled expiry date, which will not exceed ten years from the Grant Date (provided that if no specific determination as to the scheduled expiry date is made by the Board, the scheduled expiry date will be ten years from the Grant Date);
- (d) whether the Options are in respect of "non-qualified securities" (within the meaning of the Tax Act);and
- (e) such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including customary representations, warranties and covenants with respect to securities law matters.

For greater certainty, each Option Award Agreement may contain terms and conditions in addition to those set forth in the Plan, provided that all Options granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers shall have such terms as are necessary for the Options to be continuously governed by section 7 of the Tax Act.

# 5.3 Vesting.

Subject to Section 12, unless otherwise determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions hereof, or unless otherwise specified in the Participant's Service Agreement or Option Award Agreement, the Options granted will vest in equal portions over a period of 18 months:

<b>Vesting Period</b>	<b>Total Percentage Vested</b>
Grant Date (or expiration of probationary period for new hires)	25%
6 months from Grant Date	50%
12 months from Grant Date	75%
18 months from Grant Date	100%

## 5.4 Exercise of Option.

Options may be exercised only to the extent vested. Options may be exercised by the Participant by delivering to the Corporation a notice of exercise, substantially in the form attached to the Option Award Agreement, specifying the number of Shares with respect to which the Option is being exercised. Payment of the Option Price may be made by one or more of the following methods (or any combination thereof) to the extent provided in the Option Award Agreement:

- (a) in cash, by certified cheque made payable to the Corporation, by wire transfer of immediately available funds, or other instrument acceptable to the Board; or
- (b) if permitted by the Board, by a "cashless exercise" arrangement pursuant to which the Corporation will issue that number of Shares equal to the current Market Price less the Option Price multiplied by the number of Options exercised as the numerator, divided by the current Market Price, as the denominator.

No certificates for Shares so purchased will be issued to the Participant (including pursuant to Section 5.4(b)) until the Participant and the Corporation have each completed all steps required by law to be taken in connection with the issuance and sale of the Shares, including receipt from the Participant of payment or provision for all withholding taxes due as a result of the exercise of the Option. The delivery of certificates representing the Shares to be purchased pursuant to the exercise of an Option will be contingent upon receipt from the Participant by the Corporation of the full purchase price for such Shares and the fulfillment of any other requirements contained in the Option Award Agreement or applicable provisions of laws.

# 5.5 Termination of Option Due to Termination of Employment, Service or Engagement.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, or unless otherwise provided in the Participant's Service Agreement or Option Award Agreement, if a Participant's employment, service or

engagement terminates in any of the following circumstances, subject to Section 12, Options will be treated in the manner set forth below.

For clarity, any reference to any Options "not vesting" or "will not vest" means that the participant will forfeit all rights and have no entitlements with respect to such unvested Options, and no damages or compensation shall be payable to any Participant in respect of any Option that is not granted, or any Option that is, in accordance with the Plan, not exercisable by any Participant due to the cessation of the Participant's employment, service or engagement, regardless of the reason for such termination, which party initiates it, and whether lawful or unlawful, voluntary or involuntary, and whether notice is or is not given.

# (a) If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	Vesting	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Unvested Options will automatically vest in full as of the date of death or Disability and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee or Consultant	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Any Options held by Participant on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director which are unvested as of such date will not vest.	The expiry date of the Options will be the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Mandatory Retirement	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) one year from the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) the 90th day following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (b) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	Vesting	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Unvested Options will automatically vest in full as of the date of death or Disability and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board.	The expiry date of the Options will be the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee.
Mandatory Retirement	All unvested Options of the Participant will immediately vest and become immediately exercisable.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) one year from the date of retirement.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director or Consultant	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) the 90th day following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.

# (c) If the Participant is a Consultant:

Reason for Termination	Vesting	Expiry of Option
Death or Disability	Any Options held by a Participant on the date of death or Disability and which are unvested as of such date will not vest.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) one year from the date of death or Disability of the Participant.

Reason for Termination	Vesting	Expiry of Option
Change in Control	Options will vest in accordance with Section 12.	Options expire in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to be a Consultant due to completion/termination of contract	Any Options which are unvested as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Consultant will not vest, unless determined otherwise by the Board.	The expiry date of the Options will be the earlier of (i) the expiry date established under Section 5.2(c) and (ii) the 90th day following the date the Participant ceases to be a Consultant.
Ceasing to be a Consultant due to completion/termination of contract but continues to be engaged as a Director or Employee	The vesting of the Options will continue as set out in the Option Award Agreement.	The expiry date of the Options will remain unchanged.
Ceasing to be a Consultant and concurrently hired and becomes an Employee	The Options previously granted to the Consultant will flow through to the Employee on the same terms and conditions of the original grant of Options.	The Options previously granted to the Consultant will flow through to the Employee on the same terms and conditions of the original grant of Options.

#### 5.6 Conflict.

Notwithstanding the foregoing tables set out in Section 5.5, in the event the Participant is both a Director and an Employee or both a Director and a Consultant and ceases to be both at the same time, other than by death or Disability, then Section 5.5(a) will take precedence over Sections 5.5(b) and 5.5(c) unless the Participant ceases to be an Employee in an Employee Cause Event, in which case Section 5.5(b) will take precedence.

### 6. PERFORMANCE SHARE UNITS

#### 6.1 Grant.

Performance Share Units may be granted to Eligible Persons at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution, pursuant to recommendations of the Board from time to time. All Performance Share Units granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers shall be granted as a bonus for services rendered in a particular calendar year (the "PSU Service Year"). The Grant Date of a Performance Share Unit for purposes of the Plan will be the date on which the Performance Share Unit is awarded by the Board, or such later date determined by the Board, subject to applicable securities laws and regulatory requirements.

#### 6.2 Terms and Conditions of Performance Share Units.

Performance Share Units will be evidenced by a PSU Award Agreement, which will specify such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including:

- (a) the number of Performance Share Units to be awarded to the Participant;
- (b) if applicable, the PSU Service Year in respect of which the Performance Share Units were granted, provided that, if not otherwise specified in the Award Agreement, the PSU Service Year shall be the calendar year which contains the Grant Date for the applicable Performance Share Units;
- (c) the performance cycle applicable to each Performance Share Unit, which will be the period of time between the Grant Date and the date on which the performance criteria specified in Section 6.2(d) must be satisfied before the Performance Share Unit is fully vested and may be settled by the Participant, before being subject to forfeiture or termination, which period of time, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, will in no case end later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year which is three years after the calendar year which is the PSU Service Year;
- (d) the performance criteria, which may include criteria based on the Participant's personal performance and/or the performance of the Corporation and/or its subsidiaries, that will be used to determine the vesting of the Performance Share Units;
- (e) whether and to what extent Dividend Equivalents will be credited to a Participant's PSU Account in accordance with Section 14; and
- (f) such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including customary representations, warranties and covenants with respect to securities law matters.

For greater certainty, each PSU Award Agreement may contain terms and conditions in addition to those set forth in the Plan, provided that all Performance Share Units granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers shall have such terms and conditions as to ensure that such Awards are exempt from the definition of "salary deferral arrangement" in subsection 248(1) of the Tax Act by virtue of paragraph (k) thereto. For greater certainty, no Shares will be issued on the Grant Date and the Corporation will not be required to set aside a fund for the payment of any such Awards.

#### 6.3 PSU Accounts.

A separate notional account will be maintained for each Participant with respect to Performance Share Units granted to such Participant (a "PSU Account") in accordance with Section 15.4. Performance Share Units awarded to the Participant from time to time pursuant to Section 6.1 will be credited to the Participant's PSU Account and will vest in accordance with Section 6.4. On the vesting of the Performance Share Units pursuant to

Section 6.4 and the corresponding payment of cash and/or issuance of Shares to the Participant pursuant to Section 6.5, or on the forfeiture or termination of the Performance Share Units pursuant to the terms of the Award, the Performance Share Units credited to the Participant's PSU Account will be cancelled.

### 6.4 Vesting.

Subject to Section 12, unless otherwise determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions hereof, or unless otherwise specified in the Participant's Service Agreement or PSU Award Agreement, each Performance Share Unit will vest as at the date that is the end of the performance cycle (which will be the "PSU Vesting Date"), subject to any performance criteria having been satisfied and will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5.

#### 6.5 Settlement.

- The Performance Share Units may be settled by delivery by the Participant to the (a) Corporation of a notice of settlement date, substantially in the form attached to the PSU Award Agreement, acknowledged by the Corporation, provided that no such delivery will be required in connection with a settlement pursuant to Section 6.6(a) or 6.6(b) where a specific date for settlement is set out in such Section. In the event the Corporation does not receive a notice of settlement date on or before December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable PSU Vesting Date, the settlement date will be December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable PSU Vesting Date. On settlement, the Corporation will, for each vested Performance Share Unit being settled, deliver to the Participant a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share as of the PSU Vesting Date (or a Share or a combination of cash and Shares in the sole discretion of the Board). No certificates for Shares issued in settlement will be issued to the Participant until the Participant and the Corporation have each completed all steps required by law to be taken in connection with the issuance of the Shares, including receipt from the Participant of payment or provision for all withholding taxes due as a result of the settlement of the Performance Share Units. The delivery of certificates representing the Shares to be issued in settlement of Performance Share Units will be contingent upon the fulfillment of any requirements contained in the PSU Award Agreement or applicable provisions of laws.
- (b) For greater certainty, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, in no event will such settlement be later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable PSU Vesting Date nor will such settlement occur after the date specified in Section 6.2(c).
- (c) For greater certainty, no Participant shall have any right to demand to be paid in, or receive, Shares in respect of any Performance Share Unit, and, notwithstanding any discretion exercised by the Corporation to settle any Performance Share Unit, or portion thereof, in the form of Shares, the Corporation reserves the right to change such form of payment at any time until payment is actually made.

# 6.6 Termination of Performance Share Unit Due to Termination of Employment, Service or Engagement.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, or unless otherwise provided in the Participant's Service Agreement or PSU Award Agreement, if a Participant's employment, service or engagement terminates in any of the following circumstances, Performance Share Units will be treated in the manner set forth below.

For clarity, any reference to any Performance Share Units "not vesting" or will "terminate" means that the participant will forfeit all rights and have no entitlements with respect to such unvested Performance Share Units, and no damages or compensation shall be payable to any Participant in respect of any Performance Share Units that is not granted, or any Performance Share Units that is, in accordance with the Plan, not settled and paid to any Participant due to the cessation of the Participant's employment, service or engagement, regardless of the reason for such termination, which party initiates it, and whether lawful or unlawful, voluntary or involuntary, and whether notice is or is not given.

# (a) If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Performance Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 6.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Performance Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Performance Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Performance Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the PSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Performance Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above including Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Performance Share Units
	date following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be a Director, will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (b) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Performance Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 6.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Performance Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Performance Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Performance Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting date following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be Actively

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Performance Share Units
	Employed, will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director	Outstanding Performance Share Units will remain outstanding and will continue to vest pursuant to the PSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Performance Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Outstanding Performance Share Units that would have vested on the next vesting date following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, prorated to reflect the actual period between the commencement of the performance cycle and the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, based on the Participant's performance for the applicable performance period(s) up to the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed, will be settled in accordance with Section 6.5 as of such vesting date. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Performance Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.

### 6.7 Conflict.

Notwithstanding the foregoing table set out in Section 6.6, in the event the Participant is both a Director and an Employee and ceases to be both at the same time, other than by death or Disability, then Section 6.6(a) will take precedence over Section 6.6(b) unless the Participant ceases to be an Employee in an Employee Cause Event, in which case Section 6.6(b) will take precedence.

### 7. RESTRICTED SHARE UNITS

#### 7.1 Grant.

Restricted Share Units may be granted to Eligible Persons at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution, pursuant to recommendations of the Board from time to time. All Restricted Share Units granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers shall be granted as a bonus for services rendered in a particular calendar year (the "RSU Service Year"). The Grant Date of a Restricted Share Unit for purposes of the Plan will be the date on which the Restricted Share Unit is awarded by the Board, or such later date determined by the Board, subject to applicable securities laws and regulatory requirements.

### 7.2 Terms and Conditions of Restricted Share Units.

Restricted Share Units will be evidenced by an RSU Award Agreement, which will specify such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including:

- (a) the number of Restricted Share Units to be awarded to the Participant;
- (b) if applicable, the RSU Service Year in respect of which the Restricted Share Units were granted, provided that, if not otherwise specified in the Award Agreement, the RSU Service Year shall be the calendar year which contains the Grant Date for the applicable Restricted Share Units;
- (c) the period of time between the Grant Date and the date on which the Restricted Share Unit is fully vested and may be settled by the Participant, before being subject to forfeiture or termination, which period of time, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, will in no case be later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year which is three years after the calendar year which is the RSU Service Year;
- (d) whether and to what extent Dividend Equivalents will be credited to a Participant's RSU Account in accordance with Section 14; and
- (e) such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including customary representations, warranties and covenants with respect to securities law matters.

For greater certainty, each RSU Award Agreement may contain terms and conditions in addition to those set forth in the Plan, provided that all Restricted Share Units granted to Canadian Employee Taxpayers shall have such terms and conditions as to ensure that such Awards are exempt from the definition of "salary deferral arrangement" in subsection 248(1) of the Tax Act by virtue of paragraph (k) thereto. For greater certainty, no Shares will be issued on the Grant Date and the Corporation will not be required to set aside a fund for the payment of any such Awards.

### 7.3 RSU Accounts.

A separate notional account will be maintained for each Participant with respect to Restricted Share Units granted to such Participant (an "RSU Account") in accordance with Section 15.4. Restricted Share Units awarded to the Participant from time to time pursuant to Section 7.1 will be credited to the Participant's RSU Account and will vest in accordance with Section 7.4. On the vesting of the Restricted Share Units pursuant to Section 7.4 and the corresponding payment of cash and/or issuance of Shares to the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5, or on the forfeiture or termination of the Restricted Share Units pursuant to the terms of the Award, the Restricted Share Units credited to the Participant's RSU Account will be cancelled.

# 7.4 Vesting.

Subject to Section 12, unless otherwise determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions hereof, or unless otherwise specified in the Participant's Service Agreement or RSU Award Agreement, each Restricted Share Unit will vest in three approximately equal instalments on the first three anniversaries of the Grant Date provided that all applicable restrictions will have lapsed (which will be the "**RSU Vesting Date**") and will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5.

#### 7.5 Settlement.

- (a) The Restricted Share Units may be settled by delivery by the Participant to the Corporation of a notice of settlement date, substantially in the form to the RSU Award Agreement, acknowledged by the Corporation, provided that no such delivery will be required in connection with a settlement pursuant to Section 7.6(a) or 7.6(b) where a specific date for settlement is set out in such Section. In the event the Corporation does not receive a notice of settlement date on or before December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable RSU Vesting Date, the settlement date will be December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable RSU Vesting Date. On settlement, the Corporation will, for each vested Restricted Share Unit being settled, deliver to the Participant a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share as of the RSU Vesting Date (or Shares or a combination of cash and Shares in the sole discretion of the Board). No certificates for Shares issued in settlement will be issued to the Participant until the Participant and the Corporation have each completed all steps required by law to be taken in connection with the issuance of the Shares, including receipt from the Participant of payment or provision for all withholding taxes due as a result of the settlement of the Restricted Share Units. The delivery of certificates representing the Shares to be issued in settlement of Restricted Share Units will be contingent upon the fulfillment of any requirements contained in the RSU Award Agreement or applicable provisions of laws.
- (b) For greater certainty, for Canadian Employee Taxpayers, in no event will such settlement be later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the calendar year containing the applicable RSU Vesting Date nor will such settlement occur after the date specified in Section 7.2(c).
- (c) For greater certainty, no Participant shall have any right to demand to be paid in, or receive, Shares in respect of any Restricted Share Unit, and, notwithstanding any discretion exercised by the Corporation to settle any Restricted Share Unit, or portion thereof, in the form of Shares, the Corporation reserves the right to change such form of payment at any time until payment is actually made.

# 7.6 Termination of Restricted Share Unit Due to Termination of Employment, Service or Engagement.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, or unless otherwise provided in the Participant's Service Agreement or RSU Award Agreement, if a Participant's employment, service or engagement terminates in any of the following circumstances, Restricted Share Units will be treated in the manner set forth below.

For clarity, any reference to any Restricted Share Units "not vesting" or will "terminate" means that the participant will forfeit all rights and have no entitlements with respect to such unvested Restricted Share Units, and no damages or compensation shall be payable to any Participant in respect of any Restricted Share Units that is not granted, or any Restricted Share Units that is, in accordance with the Plan, not settled and paid to any Participant due to the cessation of the Participant's employment, service or engagement, regardless of the reason for such termination, which party initiates it, and whether lawful or unlawful, voluntary or involuntary, and whether notice is or is not given.

# (a) If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Restricted Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 as of the date of death or Disability, provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Restricted Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Restricted Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the RSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Restricted Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above including Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Restricted Share Units
	settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be a Director. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (b) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Restricted Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 as of the date of death or Disability, provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Restricted Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Restricted Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Restricted Share Units
	respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director	Outstanding Restricted Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the RSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 7.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 7.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Restricted Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee.

#### 7.7 Conflict.

Notwithstanding the foregoing table set out in Section 7.6, in the event the Participant is both a Director and an Employee and ceases to be both at the same time, other than by death or Disability, then Section 7.6(a) will take precedence over Section 7.6(b) unless the Participant ceases to be an Employee in an Employee Cause Event, in which case Section 7.6(b) will take precedence.

### 8. DEFERRED SHARE UNITS

#### 8.1 Grant.

- (a) **Discretionary Deferred Share Units**. Deferred Share Units may be granted to Eligible Persons at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution, pursuant to recommendations of the Board from time to time. The Grant Date of a Deferred Share Unit for purposes of the Plan will be the date on which the Deferred Share Unit is awarded by the Board, or such later date determined by the Board, subject to applicable securities laws and regulatory requirements.
- (b) Mandatory or Elective Deferred Share Units. In addition to the foregoing, on fixed dates established by the Board and subject to the timing requirements set out below and such terms and conditions and other procedures as the Board will determine, pursuant to recommendations of the Board, the Board may require a Participant to, or may permit a Participant to irrevocably elect in advance to, receive

Deferred Share Units in satisfaction of all or a portion of the following future amounts payable by the Corporation or any subsidiary of the Corporation:

- (i) Director's Retainer in the case of a member of the Board who is not also an officer or employee of the Corporation, an amount equal to all or a portion of his or her annual directors' retainer payable in cash on account of his or her services as a member of the Board (which amount will not include committee chairperson retainers, committee members retainers, Board or committee meeting fees, special remuneration for ad hoc services rendered to the Board, any expenses subject to reimbursement or, for greater certainty, any equity-based incentive awards granted to such Participant); or
- (ii) Officers' and Employees' Annual Incentive in the case of an officer or employee of the Corporation or any subsidiary of the Corporation (as applicable), an amount equal to all or a portion of his or her annual incentive bonus for a calendar year payable in cash (which amount will not include, for greater certainty, any equity-based incentive awards granted to such Participant),

(in either case, the "**Deferred Annual Amount**"). In such cases, the Participant will receive an Award of Deferred Share Units, on the date that such Deferred Annual Amount would otherwise be paid but for the election made pursuant to Section 8.1(b), equal to the greatest whole number which may be obtained by dividing (i) the amount of the Deferred Annual Amount, by (ii) the Market Price of one Share on the date that such Deferred Annual Amount would otherwise be paid but for the election made pursuant to Section 8.1(b). A Participant's election to receive the Deferred Annual Amount shall be irrevocable in respect of the calendar year for which it is originally made and will continue in effect thereafter until it is amended for a future calendar year in accordance with this Section 8.1(b) and must be made no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the Deferred Annual Amount is to be earned.

# 8.2 Terms and Conditions of Deferred Share Units.

Deferred Share Units will be evidenced by a DSU Award Agreement, which will specify such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including:

- (a) the number of Deferred Share Units to be awarded to the Participant;
- (b) for Deferred Share Units awarded under Section 8.1(a):
  - (i) the period of time between the Grant Date and the date on which the Deferred Share Unit is fully vested, subject to Sections 8.2(c) and 8.5(b) for Canadian Employee Taxpayers;

- (ii) any performance criteria, which may include criteria based on the Participant's personal performance and/or the financial performance of the Corporation and/or its subsidiaries, that may be used to determine the vesting of the Deferred Share Units (if applicable); and
- (iii) such other terms and conditions, not inconsistent with the Plan, as the Board will determine, including customary representations, warranties and covenants with respect to securities law matters; and
- in the case of Deferred Share Units awarded to a Canadian Employee Taxpayer, such terms and conditions as may be necessary for such Award to be exempt from the definition of "salary deferral arrangement" in subsection 248(1) of the Tax Act by virtue of paragraph (l) thereto and paragraph 6801(d) of the Regulations to the Tax Act.

For greater certainty, each DSU Award Agreement may contain terms and conditions in addition to, but not in conflict with, those set forth in the Plan. For greater certainty, no Shares will be issued on the Grant Date and the Corporation will not be required to set aside a fund for the payment of any such Awards.

#### 8.3 DSU Accounts.

A separate notional account will be maintained for each Participant with respect to Deferred Share Units granted to such Participant (a "DSU Account") in accordance with Section 15.4. Deferred Share Units awarded to the Participant from time to time pursuant to Section 8.1 will be credited to the Participant's DSU Account and will vest in accordance with Section 8.4. On the settlement of the Deferred Share Units pursuant to Section 8.5 and the corresponding payment of cash and/or issuance of Shares to the Participant, or on the forfeiture and termination of the Deferred Share Units pursuant to the terms of the Award, the Deferred Share Units credited to the Participant's DSU Account will be cancelled.

#### 8.4 Vesting.

Subject to Section 12, unless otherwise determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions hereof, or unless otherwise specified in the Participant's Service Agreement or DSU Award Agreement:

- (a) each Deferred Share Unit awarded under Section 8.1(a) will vest in accordance with the DSU Award Agreement; and
- (b) each Deferred Share Unit awarded under Section 8.1(b) will immediately vest at the time it is credited to the Participant's DSU Account.

#### 8.5 Settlement.

(a) The Deferred Share Units may be settled by delivery by the Participant to the Corporation, on a date prior to the DSU Separation Date, of an irrevocable notice

of settlement date (which settlement date must, for greater certainty, be within the times specified in Section 8.5(b)), substantially in the form attached to the DSU Award Agreement, provided that no such delivery will be required in connection with a settlement pursuant to Section 8.6(a) or 8.6(b) where a specific date for settlement is set out in such Section and provided further that, for greater certainty, no Deferred Share Units may be settled before the DSU Separation Date, acknowledged by the Corporation. In the event the Corporation does not receive a notice of settlement date prior to the DSU Separation Date, the settlement date will be the DSU Separation Date. On settlement, the Corporation will, for each such vested Deferred Share Unit, deliver to the Participant a cash payment equal to the Market Price of one Share as of the DSU Separation Date (or a Share or any combination of cash and Shares in the sole discretion of the Board). No certificates for Shares issued in settlement will be issued to the Participant until the Participant and the Corporation have each completed all steps required by law to be taken in connection with the issuance of the Shares, including receipt from the Participant of payment or provision for all withholding taxes due as a result of the settlement of the Deferred Share Units. The delivery of certificates representing the Shares to be issued in settlement of Deferred Share Units will be contingent upon the fulfillment of any requirements contained in the DSU Award Agreement or applicable provisions of laws.

- (b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, all settlements of Deferred Share Units granted to a Participant who is a Canadian Employee Taxpayer will take place (i) after the Participant's DSU Separation Date; and (ii) by December 15<sup>th</sup> of the first calendar year that commences after such time.
- (c) For greater certainty, no Participant shall have any right to demand to be paid in, or receive, Shares in respect of any Deferred Share Unit, and, notwithstanding any discretion exercised by the Corporation to settle any Deferred Share Unit, or portion thereof, in the form of Shares, the Corporation reserves the right to change such form of payment at any time until payment is actually made.

# 8.6 Termination of Deferred Share Unit Due to Termination of Employment, Service or Engagement.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, or unless otherwise provided in the Participant's Service Agreement or DSU Award Agreement, if a Participant's employment, service or engagement terminates in any of the following circumstances, Deferred Share Units will be treated in the manner set forth below.

For clarity, any reference to any Deferred Share Units "not vesting" or will "terminate" means that the participant will forfeit all rights and have no entitlements with respect to such unvested Deferred Share Units, and no damages or compensation shall be payable to any Participant in respect of any Deferred Share Units that is not granted, or any Deferred Share Units that is, in accordance with the Plan, not settled and paid to any Participant due to the cessation of the Participant's employment, service or engagement, regardless of the

reason for such termination, which party initiates it, and whether lawful or unlawful, voluntary or involuntary, and whether notice is or is not given.

# (a) If the Participant is a Director:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Deferred Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Deferred Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to Hold Office but continues to be engaged as an Employee	Outstanding Deferred Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the DSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to Hold Office for Director Cause Event	Outstanding Deferred Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.
Ceasing to Hold Office other than as set out above including Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be a Director will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be a Director; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be a Director. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be a Director.

# (b) If the Participant is an Employee:

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Deferred Share Units
Death or Disability	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date of death or Disability

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Deferred Share Units
	will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 as of the date of death or Disability, provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date of death or Disability; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which death or Disability occurs. Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were not vested on or before the date of death or Disability will in all respects terminate as of the date of death or Disability.
Change in Control	Deferred Share Units vest in accordance with Section 12.
Ceasing to be Employed for Employee Cause Event	Outstanding Deferred Share Units (whether vested or unvested) will automatically terminate on the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.
Mandatory Retirement	Outstanding Restricted Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee; and (iii) December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be an Employee. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be an Employee.
Ceasing to be Employed but continues to be engaged as a Director	Outstanding Deferred Share Units will continue to vest pursuant to the DSU Award Agreement.
Ceasing to be Employed other than as set out above	Outstanding Deferred Share Units that were vested on or before the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed will be settled in accordance with Section 8.5 provided that the settlement date will be the earlier of (i) the date set out as the settlement date in the notice delivered by the Participant pursuant to Section 8.5; (ii) the date that is 90 days following the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed; and (iii) December 31st of the calendar year in which the Participant ceases to be Actively

Reason for Termination	Treatment of Deferred Share Units
	Employed. Subject to the foregoing, any remaining Deferred Share Units will in all respects terminate as of the date the Participant ceases to be Actively Employed.

#### 8.7 Conflict.

Notwithstanding the foregoing table set out in Section 8.6, in the event the Participant is both a Director and an Employee and ceases to be both at the same time, other than by death or Disability, then Section 8.6(a) will take precedence over Section 8.6(b) unless the Participant ceases to be an Employee in an Employee Cause Event, in which case Section 8.6(b) will take precedence.

#### 9. BONUS SHARES

Bonus Shares may be granted to Eligible Persons as a discretionary bonus at such time or times as will be determined by the Board by resolution, pursuant to recommendations of the Board from time to time. All Bonus Shares shall be issued at the Market Price in effect on the date of grant.

#### 10. NON-ASSIGNABILITY AND NON-TRANSFERABILITY OF AWARDS

An Award, other than Bonus Shares, granted pursuant to this Plan is personal to the Participant and may not be assigned, transferred, charged, pledged or otherwise alienated, other than to a Participant's Personal Representatives.

#### 11. ADJUSTMENTS

### 11.1 Adjustments.

Subject to Section 13.4, the number and kind of Shares to which an Award pertains and, with respect to Options, the Option Price, will be adjusted, subject to prior approval of the relevant stock exchanges, if applicable, in the event of a reorganization, recapitalization, stock split or subdivision, reduction, combination or consolidation, stock dividend, combination of shares, merger, reclassification, amalgamation, distribution of evidences of indebtedness or assets of the Corporation (excluding dividends paid in the ordinary course) to all holders of Shares, rights offering or any other change in the corporate structure or shares of the Corporation, in such manner, if any, and at such time, as the Board, in its sole discretion, may determine to prevent substantial dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to, or available for, holders of Awards as compared to holders of Shares. Failure of the Board to provide for an adjustment will be conclusive evidence that the Board has determined that it is equitable to make no adjustment in the circumstances. If an adjustment results in a fractional share, the fraction will be disregarded.

# 11.2 Cumulative Adjustments.

The adjustments provided for in this Section 11 will be cumulative.

#### 11.3 Deemed Amendment.

On the happening of each and every of the foregoing events, the applicable provisions of the Plan will be deemed to be amended accordingly and the Board will take all necessary action so as to make all necessary adjustments in the number and kind of securities subject to any outstanding Award (and the Plan) and, with respect to Options, the Option Price.

#### 12. CHANGE IN CONTROL - TREATMENT OF AWARDS

### 12.1 Acceleration of Vesting.

In the event of a Change in Control, all Awards, whether vested or unvested, shall vest immediately.

### 13. AMENDMENT, SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF PLAN AND AWARDS

#### 13.1 Discretion to Amend the Plan and Awards.

Subject to Section 13.2, the Board may amend the Plan or Awards at any time, provided, however, that no such amendment may materially and adversely affect any Award previously granted to a Participant without the consent of the Participant, except to the extent required by applicable law (including TSX requirements). Any amendment under this Section will be subject to all necessary regulatory approvals. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board may make certain amendments to the Plan or Awards without obtaining the approval of the shareholders of the Corporation including, but not limited to amendments which are intended to:

- (a) alter, extend or accelerate the terms and conditions of vesting of any Awards;
- (b) change the termination provisions of the Plan or any Award which does not entail an extension beyond the original expiry date;
- (c) amend or modify the mechanics of exercise or settlement of Awards;
- (d) effect amendments of a "housekeeping" or ministerial nature including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any amendment necessary to comply with the provisions of applicable laws in Canada or in any other jurisdiction in which an Participant or proposed Participant may from time to time be resident or a citizen (including, without limitation, the rules, regulations and policies of the TSX);
- (e) effect amendments respecting the administration of the Plan;
- (f) effect amendments necessary to suspend or terminate the Plan;

- (g) amend the change of control provisions of Section 12. For greater certainty, any change made to such section will not allow Participants to be treated any more favourably than other holders of Shares with respect to the consideration that the Participants would be entitled to receive for their Shares upon a Change in Control;
- (h) make any other amendment, whether fundamental or otherwise, not requiring shareholder approval under applicable law (including, without limitation, the rules, regulations and policies of the TSX) or that is not expected to materially adversely affect the interests of the shareholders of the Corporation.

## 13.2 Amendments Requiring Shareholder Approval.

Notwithstanding Section 13.1, no amendments to the Plan or Awards to:

- (a) any increase in the number of Shares issuable under the Plan, or the percentage limit set out in Section 4.1, except such increases by operation of Section 4.1 or Section 11;
- (b) with respect to Options, reduce the Option Price, or cancel and reissue any Options;
- (c) extend (i) the term of an Option beyond its original expiry date, or (ii) the date on which a Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit will be forfeited or terminated in accordance with its terms, other than in accordance with Section 16.4;
- (d) revise Section 10 to permit Awards granted under the Plan to be transferable or assignable other than for estate settlement purposes;
- (e) revise the insider participation limits set out in Section 4.3 or the non-executive director limit set out in Section 4.4;
- (f) revise the amending provisions set forth in Section 13.1 or 13.2; or
- (g) any amendment required to be approved by shareholders under applicable law (including without limitation, pursuant to the rules, regulations and policies of the TSX)

will be made without obtaining approval of the shareholders of the Corporation in accordance with the requirements of the TSX (or disinterested shareholder approval, if required by the policies of the TSX).

#### 13.3 Amendment, Suspension or Discontinuance.

(a) No amendment, suspension or discontinuance of the Plan or of any Award may contravene the requirements of the TSX or any securities commission or other regulatory body to which the Plan or the Corporation is now or may hereafter be subject to.

- (b) The Board may terminate the Plan at any time provided that such termination will not alter the terms or conditions of any Award or impair any right of any Participant pursuant to any Award awarded prior to the date of such termination and notwithstanding such termination the Corporation, such Awards, Eligible Persons and Shares will continue to be governed by the provisions of the Plan.
- (c) Termination of the Plan will not affect the ability of the Board to exercise the powers granted to it hereunder with respect to Awards granted under the Plan prior to the date of such termination.

#### 13.4 Tax Provisions.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan:

- (a) No amendment to the Plan or adjustment to Options shall be permitted without the consent of the affected Participant if such amendment or adjustment, as the case may be, would cause Options granted to a Canadian Employee Taxpayer to cease to be governed by section 7 of the Tax Act;
- (b) no amendment to the Plan or adjustment to Performance Share Units or Restricted Share Units shall be permitted without the consent of the affected Participant if such amendment or adjustment, as the case may be, would cause Performance Share Units or Restricted Share Units, as the case may be, granted to a Canadian Employee Taxpayer to cease to be governed by paragraph (k) of the definition of "salary deferral arrangement" in subsection 248(1) of the Tax Act; and
- (c) no amendment to the Plan or adjustment to Deferred Share Units shall be permitted without the consent of the affected Participant if such amendment or adjustment, as the case may be, would cause Deferred Share Units granted to a Canadian Employee Taxpayer to cease to meet the conditions of paragraph 6801(d) of the Regulations to the Tax Act.

#### 14. DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS

The Board may determine whether and to what extent Dividend Equivalents will be credited to a Participant's PSU Account, RSU Account and DSU Account with respect to Awards of Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Units or Deferred Share Units. Dividend Equivalents to be credited to a Participant's PSU Account, RSU Account or DSU Account will be credited with additional Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Units or Deferred Share Units, as applicable, on the record date established for the related dividend or distribution in an amount equal to the greatest whole number which may be obtained by dividing (i) the value of such dividend or distribution on the record date that would have been paid if the Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Units or Deferred Share Units, as applicable, credited to the Participant were Shares, by (ii) the Market Price of one Share on such record date, and such additional Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit, as applicable, will be subject to the same terms and conditions as are applicable in respect of the Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit, as applicable, with respect to which such dividend equivalent

is granted. The crediting of any additional Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit as a dividend equivalent to any Canadian Employee Taxpayer will be credited as a bonus for services rendered by such Participant in the year of grant.

No Dividend Equivalent will be credited to or paid on Awards of Performance Share Units, Restricted Share Units or Deferred Share Units that have expired or that have been forfeited or terminated.

#### 15. MISCELLANEOUS

### 15.1 Approvals Required for Plan.

Prior to the implementation by the Corporation of the Plan, the Plan is subject to approvals by the shareholders of the Corporation at a general meeting and the TSX.

## 15.2 No Rights as a Shareholder.

Nothing contained in the Plan nor in any Award granted hereunder will be deemed to give any Person any interest or title in or to any Shares or any rights as a shareholder of the Corporation or any other legal or equitable right against the Corporation whatsoever with respect to Shares issuable pursuant to an Award until such Person becomes the holder of record of Shares.

## 15.3 Employment.

Nothing contained in the Plan will confer upon any Participant any right with respect to employment or continued employment or the right to continue to serve as a Director or a Consultant as the case may be, or interfere in any way with the right of the Corporation to terminate such employment or service at any time. Participation in the Plan by an Eligible Person is voluntary.

### 15.4 Record Keeping.

The Corporation will maintain appropriate registers in which will be recorded all pertinent information with respect to the granting, amendment, exercise, vesting, expiry, forfeiture and termination of Awards. Such registers will include, as appropriate:

- (a) the name and address of each Participant;
- (b) the number of Awards credited to each Participant's account;
- (c) any and all adjustments made to Awards recorded in each Participant's account; and
- (d) such other information which the Corporation considers appropriate to record in such registers.

#### 15.5 Income Taxes.

The Corporation or any subsidiary may withhold from any amount payable to an Eligible Person, either under this Plan or otherwise, such amount as may be necessary to enable the Corporation or subsidiary to comply with the applicable requirements of any federal, provincial, state, local or foreign law, or any administrative policy of any applicable domestic or foreign tax authority, relating to the withholding of tax or any other required deductions with respect to participation in the Plan, the issuance of any Shares pursuant to the Plan or the settlement in cash and/or Shares of any Awards under the Plan ("Withholding Obligations").

The Corporation or subsidiary may require a Participant, as a condition to exercise of an Option (including, on a cashless basis pursuant to Section 5.4(b)) or the settlement of an Award, to remit in advance, a cheque or bank draft payable to the Corporation or subsidiary in the amount of all applicable Withholding Obligations with respect to such exercise or settlement. The Corporation or subsidiary undertakes to remit any such amount to the applicable taxation or regulatory authority on account of such Withholding Obligations.

# 15.6 No Representation or Warranty.

The Corporation makes no representation or warranty as to the future market value of any Shares issued pursuant to the Plan.

# 15.7 Condition of Issue.

The Awards and the issue of Shares by the Corporation pursuant to the exercise or settlement of an Award is subject to this Plan and compliance with the laws, rules and regulations of all regulatory bodies applicable to the granting of such Awards and the issuance and distribution of such Shares and to the listing requirements of any stock exchange or exchanges on which the Shares may be listed. Any Awards granted hereunder and any Shares issued on exercise or settlement of Awards granted hereunder will be subject to such policies as the Board may adopt from time to time. The Corporation is not obligated by any provision of this Plan or any grant hereunder to sell or issue Shares in violation of any applicable law. The Participant agrees to comply with all such laws, rules and regulations and agrees to furnish to the Corporation any information, reports and/or undertakings required to comply with and to fully cooperate with the Corporation in complying with such laws, rules and regulations. Shares issued and sold to Participants may be subject to limitations on sale or resale under applicable securities laws.

### 15.8 Agreement.

The Corporation and every person to whom an Award is granted hereunder will be bound by and subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan. By accepting an Award granted hereunder, the Participant expressly agrees with the Corporation to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Plan.

## 15.9 Non-Exclusivity.

Nothing contained herein will prevent the Board from adopting other or additional compensation arrangements, subject to any required approvals.

# 16. TERM OF AWARD, EXPIRY, FORFEITURE AND TERMINATION OF AWARDS / BLACKOUT PERIODS

#### 16.1 Term of Award.

Subject to Section 16.3, in no circumstances will the term of an Option exceed ten years from the Grant Date.

### 16.2 Expiry, Forfeiture and Termination of Awards.

If for any reason an Award expires without having been exercised or is forfeited or terminated, and subject to any extension thereof in accordance with the Plan, such Award will forthwith expire and be forfeited and will terminate and be of no further force or effect.

# 16.3 Exclusion From Severance Allowance, Retirement Allowance or Termination Settlement.

If a holder of an Award retires, resigns or is terminated from employment or engagement with the Corporation or any related entity, the loss or limitation, if any, pursuant to this Plan or the Award Agreement with respect to the right to receive or purchase Shares which were not vested at the time or which, if vested, were cancelled, will not give rise to any right to damages and will not be included in the calculation of nor form any part of any severance allowance, retiring allowance or termination settlement of any kind whatsoever in respect of such holder of an Award.

#### 16.4 Blackout Periods.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, if the expiry date or vesting date of an Award is (i) during a Blackout Period, or (ii) within ten trading days following the end of a Blackout Period, the expiry date or vesting date, as applicable, will be automatically extended for a period of ten trading days following the end of such Blackout Period. In the case of a Performance Share Unit, Restricted Share Unit or Deferred Share Unit awarded to a Canadian Employee Taxpayer any settlement that is effected during such Blackout Period in order to comply with Sections 6.2(b), 7.2(b) and 8.5(b) will (subject to the requirements of applicable law) be settled in cash, notwithstanding any other provision hereof.

#### 17. PRIOR GRANTS AND PRIOR PLANS

All options, bonus shares, performance share units, restricted share units and deferred share units granted by the Corporation prior to the Effective Date (the "**Prior Grants**") will continue to be governed by the terms of the plans under which Prior Grants were granted. For greater certainty,

all Shares issuable pursuant to the terms of the Prior Grants will be included when calculating the aggregate number of Shares that may be issuable pursuant to Section 4.1.

#### 18. GOVERNING LAW

The Plan will be construed in accordance with and be governed by the laws of British Columbia and will be deemed to have been made therein.

#### 19. REGULATORY APPROVAL

The Plan will be subject to the approval of any relevant regulatory authority whose approval is required. Any Awards granted prior to such approval and acceptance will be conditional upon such approval and acceptance being given and no such Awards may be exercised or will vest unless such approval and acceptance is given.

#### 20. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PLAN

The Plan is dated with effect as of the Effective Date.



# **For More Information Contact:**

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