

NEWS RELEASE**First Mining Issues First Tranche of Shares to Ausenco; Pre-Feasibility Study for Springpole Gold Project Underway**

January 15, 2020 – Vancouver, BC – First Mining Gold Corp. (“First Mining” or the “Company”) (TSX: FF) (OTCQX: FFMGF) (FRANKFURT: FMG) is pleased to announce that it has closed a private placement equity financing with Ausenco Engineering Canada Inc. (“Ausenco”), raising aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$750,000 (the “Offering”).

As detailed in the Company’s news release dated [November 14, 2019](#), First Mining has entered into an agreement with Ausenco to complete a Pre-Feasibility Study (“PFS”) for the Company’s Springpole Gold Project, located in northwestern Ontario, Canada (the “Project”). Ausenco has elected to be compensated in common shares of the Company (“Shares”) as consideration for its engineering services.

Pursuant to the Offering, First Mining issued 2,777,777 Shares to Ausenco at a price of \$0.27 per Share. The net proceeds raised from the sale of the Offering will be used by First Mining to pay Ausenco for the first half of the costs of the PFS currently underway for the Company’s Springpole Gold Project. The Shares issued under the Offering are subject to a statutory hold period of four months and one day from closing, expiring on May 16, 2020.

“We are very excited to have partnered with Ausenco as we continue to advance the Springpole Gold Project,” stated Dan Wilton, CEO of First Mining. “Work is now underway on the PFS, with an initial focus on trade-off studies and optimizations to further refine the ultimate scope of the Project. 2020 is a year of significant de-risking for the Project, with results of the PFS anticipated by year-end 2020 alongside advancement of the Project through the environmental assessment process. These advancements continue to highlight Springpole’s potential to become one of Canada’s largest gold mines.”

Further Ausenco Agreement Details

Once Ausenco has completed 75% of the PFS-related work, First Mining will issue to Ausenco a further \$375,000 in Shares. Pricing will be based on the 30-day volume weighted average price (“VWAP”) at the time, subject to the minimum pricing rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”).

Upon completion of the PFS and the announcement by First Mining of the PFS results, First Mining will satisfy the remaining amount owing for completion of the PFS by issuing a final tranche of Shares to Ausenco. This final tranche of Shares will be issued to Ausenco after at least five trading days after the date of the Company’s news release announcing the results of the PFS have passed, with pricing of the Shares based on the 30-day VWAP as of the news release date, subject to the minimum pricing rules of the TSX.

Ausenco is a global, diversified engineering, construction and project management company providing consulting, project delivery and asset management solutions to the resources, energy and infrastructure sectors. Ausenco has significant experience in the study and execution of projects similar to Springpole, with substantial recent experience in eastern Canada including the Feasibility Study (“FS”) and subsequent EPC execution of the Moose River Consolidated Gold Project for Atlantic Gold (now a subsidiary of St. Barbara), Marathon Gold’s Valentine Lake PFS and Anaconda Mining’s Goldboro FS.

About First Mining Gold Corp.

First Mining Gold Corp. is an emerging development company with a diversified portfolio of gold projects in North America. Having assembled a large resource base of **7.4 million ounces of gold** in the **Measured and Indicated categories** and **3.8 million ounces of gold** in the **Inferred category** in mining friendly jurisdictions of eastern Canada, First Mining is now focused on advancing its material assets towards a construction decision and, ultimately, to production. The Company currently holds a portfolio of 24 mineral assets in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

ON BEHALF OF FIRST MINING GOLD CORP.

Daniel W. Wilton
Chief Executive Officer and Director

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release includes certain "forward-looking information" and "forward-looking statements" (collectively "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable Canadian and United States securities legislation including the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this news release. Forward-looking statements are frequently, but not always, identified by words such as "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "plans", "projects", "intends", "estimates", "envisages", "potential", "possible", "strategy", "goals", "objectives", or variations thereof or stating that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved, or the negative of any of these terms and similar expressions.

Forward-looking statements in this news release relate to future events or future performance and reflect current estimates, predictions, expectations or beliefs regarding future events and include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to: (i) the completion and timing of the PFS; (ii) the completion and timing of optimization studies on the Springpole Gold Project as it is advanced through a PFS; (iii) the issuance to Ausenco of additional Shares in the future once it has completed 75% of the PFS-related work, and once the Company has announced the results of the PFS, and the price of such Shares; and (iv) the timing of the announcement of the PFS results. All forward-looking statements are based on First Mining's or its consultants' current beliefs as well as various assumptions made by them and information currently available to them. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Forward-looking statements reflect the beliefs, opinions and projections on the date the statements are made and are based upon a number of assumptions and estimates that, while considered reasonable by the respective parties, are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors, both known and unknown, could cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from the results, performance or achievements that are or may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements and the parties have made assumptions and estimates based on or related to many of these factors. Such factors include, without limitation: (i) the presence of and continuity of metals at the Springpole Gold Project at estimated grades; (ii) the geotechnical and metallurgical characteristics of rock conforming to sampled results, including the quantities of water and the quality of the water that must be diverted or treated during mining operations; (iii) the capacities and durability of various machinery and equipment; (iv) the availability of personnel, machinery and equipment at estimated prices and within the estimated delivery times; (v) currency exchange rates;

(vi) metals sales prices and exchange rate assumed; (vii) appropriate discount rates applied to the cash flows in the economic analysis in the 2019 preliminary economic assessment for the Springpole Gold Project; (viii) tax rates and royalty rates applicable to the proposed mining operation; (ix) the availability of acceptable financing under assumed structure and costs; (x) metallurgical performance; (xi) reasonable contingency requirements; (xii) success in realizing proposed operations; (xiii) receipt of permits and other regulatory approvals on acceptable terms; (xiv) the fulfillment of environmental assessment commitments and arrangements with local communities; and (xv) the additional risks described in the Company's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2018 filed with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities under the Company's SEDAR profile at www.sedar.com, and in the Company's Annual Report on Form 40-F filed with the SEC on EDGAR.

First Mining cautions that the foregoing list of factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. When relying on our forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to First Mining, investors and others should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other uncertainties and potential events. First Mining does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by the Company or on our behalf, except as required by law.

Cautionary Note to United States Investors

This news release has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the securities laws in effect in Canada, which differ from the requirements of U.S. securities laws. Unless otherwise indicated, all resource and reserve estimates included in this news release have been prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum 2014 Definition Standards on Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves. NI 43-101 is a rule developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators which establishes standards for all public disclosure an issuer makes of scientific and technical information concerning mineral projects. Canadian standards, including NI 43-101, differ significantly from the requirements of the SEC, and mineral resource and reserve information contained herein may not be comparable to similar information disclosed by U.S. companies. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the term "resource" does not equate to the term "reserves". Under U.S. standards, mineralization may not be classified as a "reserve" unless the determination has been made that the mineralization could be economically and legally produced or extracted at the time the reserve determination is made. The SEC's disclosure standards normally do not permit the inclusion of information concerning "measured mineral resources", "indicated mineral resources" or "inferred mineral resources" or other descriptions of the amount of mineralization in mineral deposits that do not constitute "reserves" by U.S. standards in documents filed with the SEC. Investors are cautioned not to assume that any part or all of mineral deposits in these categories will ever be converted into reserves. U.S. investors should also understand that "inferred mineral resources" have a great amount of uncertainty as to their existence and great uncertainty as to their economic and legal feasibility. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of an "inferred mineral resource" will ever be upgraded to a higher category. Under Canadian rules, estimated "inferred mineral resources" may not form the basis of feasibility or pre-feasibility studies except in rare cases. Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an "inferred mineral resource" exists or is economically or legally mineable. Disclosure of "contained ounces" in a resource is permitted disclosure under Canadian regulations; however, the SEC normally only permits issuers to report mineralization that does not constitute "reserves" by SEC standards as in-place tonnage and grade without reference to unit measures. The requirements of NI 43-101 for identification of "reserves" are also not the same as those of the SEC, and reserves reported by the Company in compliance with NI 43-101 may not qualify as "reserves" under SEC standards. Accordingly, information concerning mineral deposits set forth herein may not be comparable with information made public by companies that report in accordance with U.S. standards.