



## NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

### Ucore adds engineering strength to board with chairman, director picks

Ucore Rare Metals Inc. Nov. 22 announced the appointment of Patrick Ryan as chairman of its board of directors. He is the founder of Neocon International, a Nova Scotia-based plastics manufacturing company that serves as a tier one supplier to leading automotive enterprises such as Toyota, Nissan and General Motors. Since Neocon's inception in 1993, Ryan has been the company's strategic architect, responsible for sales growth and capital acquisitions, while directing a team of research and development engineers and promoting stringent production standards. Under Ryan's direction, Neocon was acquired in 2002 by Exco Technologies Ltd., a Toronto Stock Exchange listed company. "Tier one companies are the most technically-capable suppliers in the automotive manufacturing chain," explained Ucore President and CEO Jim McKenzie. "As chief architect of Neocon, Mr. Ryan brings a vast skill set to Ucore as we transition to a revenue business model with energy metal production. The end customers of our strategic metals complex will be tier one, two and three in a sophisticated supply chain, all of which Mr. Ryan is very attuned to serving, including such Global 1000 customers as General Motors, Nissan and Toyota among others." Ucore also announced the appointment of Steven Meister to its board. Meister is director of client development and delivery with Williams Engineering Canada Ltd., an engineering firm with offices across western and northern Canada. As a member of the senior leadership team at Williams, his key responsibilities include managing the northern Canada operating region, as well as directing business development and project management. Since 1995, Meister has been strategically involved in business initiatives throughout the mining, oil and gas, and utilities industries across northern and western Canada. He previously served as northern Canada operations manager for Stantec, and for ARDICOM, an aboriginal partnership between Northern Aboriginal Services Company, Arctic Cooperatives Ltd. and Northwestel. "Mr. Meister is a specialist in senior business development, targeting leading companies in the mining, (oil and gas), and utilities sectors. Together, these specialists make for an exceptional complement to Ucore's governance, management and advisory resources," added McKenzie.



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks at a rally after endorsing Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at Iowa State University in January.

### POLITICS

## Alaskan for Interior?

Will Trump tap Palin, Gillam to lead federal land management agency?

By SHANE LASLEY  
Mining News

The United States Department of Interior manages roughly 198 million acres of federally owned lands in Alaska, a block that is 10 percent larger than the entire state of Texas. So, it is only fitting that two Alaskans – Robert Gillam and former governor Sarah Palin – are being floated as contenders for secretary of Interior as President-elect Donald Trump builds his cabinet.

"Over 50 percent of our nation's federally protected lands are located in Alaska. This is why it makes so much sense for an Alaskan to lead the Department of the Interior and champion our great state while guiding our nation," Gillam explained

in a written statement explaining his interest in the job.

While both of these candidates would likely be more open to access and development of federal lands in Alaska than current Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Alaska's mining community would much rather see Palin take the job, or someone from outside of the state, than to have Gillam hold such a high post in the Trump Administration.

### Gillam aspirations

While Gillam may not be a household name, as founder and CEO of McKinley Capital Management, an Anchorage-based advisory firm

see INTERIOR CANDIDATES page 15

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## • COLUMN

# 'We can finally get back to business!'

*After the election, convention-going Alaska miners express relief that arduous 18-plus months of presidential campaigning is over*

By CURT FREEMAN  
For Mining News

Earlier in November, the Alaska Miners Association held its annual convention and trade show in Anchorage and as always, the well-attended convention overlapped with election Tuesday. While the lead up to, and results of, the national and state elections were hot topics throughout the week, one comment I heard from a colleague on the morning after the elections distilled the feelings of a lot of people at the conference. When asked what he thought of the election results, he said he was simply relieved that 18-plus months of campaigning was finally over, and we could finally get back to the business of business. I thought that was well put, so let's see what the business of mining has been up to in the past month or so.

## Western Alaska

**BARRICK GOLD** and partner **NOVAGOLD RESOURCES INC.** announced the appointment of Andy Cole as General Manager of the Donlin gold project. Andy will replace current General Manager Stan Foo, a 12-year veteran of the Donlin project team. Welcome to Alaska, Andy, and thank you, Stan, for your years of service to the project and to Alaska's mining industry!

**NORTHERN DYNASTY MINERALS LTD.** and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency have filed a joint notice in federal court stating their intent to enter into mediation in an effort to resolve ongoing litigation of the Pebble project under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. In September 2014, the Pebble Partnership initiated an action in federal district court in Alaska, alleging that the EPA violated FACA by its close interactions with, and the undue influence of, Environmental Non-Government Organizations and anti-mine activists in developing the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, and its unprecedented, pre-emptive regulatory action under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. While court preparations continue, the mediation notice signals both parties' interest in a negotiated settlement of the case. Selection of a mediator will be followed by mediation efforts later this fall.

**REDSTAR GOLD CORP.** updated its drilling efforts at its Unga gold project near Sand Point. The company has completed the first two holes of the drilling program, which were designed to target the expansion potential of high-grade vein/breccia mineralization below and to the southwest of the Main Zone at the Shumagin Gold Zone. Both drill holes indicate that high-grade mineralization

## The author

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CURT FREEMAN

may continue at depth along strike towards the southwest. Hole 16SH019 was drilled below rhodochrosite-bearing high-grade veins/breccias that occur along the southwestern-most surface exposures of the Shumagin Gold Zone and intercepted the targeted structure at about 265 meters below surface exposures and 80 to 100 meters away from previously drilled intercepts. Hole 16SH020 was drilled to intercept the structure some 100 meters to the southwest of the deepest historic drill intercept at roughly 215 meters below sea level (hole BMS-01 5.49 meters grading 24.02 grams per metric ton gold). This second hole also intercepted the target structure at 190 meters below sea level. Assays are pending for both holes as well as other holes drilled during the program. The second stage of the most recent drilling program is focused on the Bunker Hill Gold Zone, located on the Shumagin Trend about 750 meters to the northeast of hole 16SH019. The Bunker Hill program will consist of four to six holes at an average depth of 150 meters.

## Interior Alaska

Alaska newcomer **AVIDIAN GOLD** announced acquisition of the Amanita gold project in the Fairbanks District. The main mineralized zone at Amanita lies 3.72 miles (6 kilometers) south of the Fort Knox gold mine and hosts a 1.24 mile-by-1.86 mile (two kilometer-by-three-kilometer) gold soil anomaly. Between 1999 and 2001, 39 reverse circulation drill holes (4,700 meters) were completed along a 1.6-kilometers-long northwest trending zone. The drill holes encountered an oxide gold zone to about a 100-meter depth. Of the 39 reverse circulation drill holes completed, 30 had results greater than 1 g/t gold over widths of at least 1.5 meters, with several of the holes reported to contain visible gold. Highlighted drill intersections include:

4.57 meters grading 11.49 g/t gold, 22.86 meters grading 1.01 g/t gold, 12.19 meters grading 2.28 g/t gold and 13.72 meters grading 3.02 g/t gold. Mineralization is hosted in shear zones cutting the Fairbanks Schist and is thought to be sourced from underlying intrusive bodies. Welcome to Alaska Avidian Gold!

**NORTHERN EMPIRE RESOURCES CORP.** reported additional results from its 2016 exploration efforts at its Richardson gold project near Fairbanks. The field efforts included 277 line kilometers of ground magnetic geophysical surveys and collection of 1,297 geochemical samples. The geophysical survey validated the known northwest striking Richardson lineament and also identified several north-northeast trending structures that the company has recently identified as possible controls of high-grade mineralization. One of the north-east-trending structures coincides with previously announced sampling results of 32 meters grading 5.73 g/t gold per metric ton from a chip channel sample in the Democrat pit. Work to date has identified a 2,000-meter-long north-northeast trending gold in soils anomaly with a coincident geophysical structural signature. An additional 2,000 meters of the geophysical signature is poorly covered by soil data. A second mineralized structure trending northwest has been identified with coincident elevated gold in soils over a 1,000-meter length, with an additional 1,000 meters remaining to be evaluated by geochemical sampling. The company indicated it plans to prioritize the targets outlined to date and follow up with initial scout drilling in 2017.

**ENDURANCE GOLD CORP.** announced the first assay results from the 2016 drill program on its Elephant Mountain gold project. Results were released for the two diamond drill holes completed on the South Zone which intersected an altered zone with intervals of massive stibnite and arsenopyrite. Hole EL16-14A intersected 4.6 meters grading 4.09 g/t gold starting at 18.3 meters depth, while hole EL16-14B intersected 4.6 meters grading 3.87 g/t gold starting at 15.2 meters depth. The gold mineralization in EL16-14 A&B is related to a five-meter-wide zone of inter-layered diorite and syenomonzonite associated with pervasive pyrite-arsenopyrite, calcite and silica replacement of the diorite layer. A massive stibnite-bearing fault fill appears to parallel or sub-parallel a contact between a diorite layer and the syenomonzonite, and the associated high-grade intercepts of 20.39 g/t gold and 24.9 g/t gold can be correlated with this contact in both drill holes. The structure that hosts the stibnite is currently interpreted to be a steeply dipping structural zone striking northwest parallel to the eastern margin of the South Zone soil

anomaly. Drilling to date does not explain the size of the South zone soil anomaly, indicating mineralization remains open to expansion. Analytical results are pending for two other drill holes which tested the South Zone soil anomaly and the single hole drilled at the North Zone target.

**FREEGOLD VENTURES LTD.** provided results from its second drill hole from its Shorty Creek project near Livengood. A total of seven holes were completed for a total of 3,038 meters during the summer 2016 program. Hole SC 16-02 was collared about 120 meters southwest of previously completed hole SC 16-01 and 409 meters grading 0.29 percent copper, 5.66 grams per metric ton silver and 0.06 g/t gold starting at 88 meters depth, including 93.5 meters grading 0.38 percent copper, 8.96 g/t silver and 0.07 g/t gold starting at 135.5 meters. Limited drilling in both 2015 and 2016 has demonstrated the copper mineralization is associated with a distinct magnetic high in the Hill 1835 area. The overall magnetic signature at Hill 1835 covers a 750-meter-by-1,000-meter area. Mineralization has been intersected to a depth of 520 meters and remains open to depth. Additional assays are pending from others completed in 2016.

**CONTANGO ORE INC.** announced initial drill results from its 2016 Phase 3 drilling program at the Tetlin gold project, a joint venture with a wholly owned subsidiary of **ROYAL GOLD INC.** The partners completed 19 core holes in the 2016 phase 1 program, 62 holes in phase 2 and 37 holes in phase 3. Drilling in 2016 totaled 20,522.8 meters (67,335 feet). Significant results from the phase 3 drilling at the North Peak zone included hole 16274, which returned 8.02 meters grading 5.56 g/t gold, hole 16276, which returned 16.01 meters grading 3.23 g/t gold, hole 16281, which returned 5.49 meters grading 29.53 g/t gold, hole 16285, which returned 14.31 meters grading 11.59 g/t gold, hole 16286, which returned 18.78 meters grading 5.02 g/t gold, hole 16289, which returned 25.48 meters grading 18.73 g/t gold, and 16.58 meters grading 13.52 g/t gold, hole 16295, which returned 14.99 meters grading 11.67 g/t gold, and hole 16298, which returned 6.75 meters grading 15.53 g/t gold. The company indicated that North Peak zone remains open to expansion to the northwest and southeast.

## Alaska Range

Alaska newcomer **AVIDIAN GOLD** reported that it also acquired the Golden Zone project in the Chulitna District. The property contains numerous igneous-related prospects of Late Cretaceous-early Tertiary age in three north-northeast-aligned fault blocks which appear to become younger in age from northwest

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to southeast. The most northwesterly and probably oldest block, the Golden Zone Corridor, contains the GZ Breccia Pipe deposit that hosts an industry-compliant indicated resource of 267,400 ounces of and 1,397,800 ounces of silver in 4,187,000 metric tons of rock grading 1.99 g/t gold and 10.38 g/t gold. This corridor can be traced for over four kilometers and hosts a number of other mineral occurrences exposed in trenches and/or drill holes. The central corridor, the Long Creek Corridor, is over two kilometers long and hosts three occurrences of high grade gold-copper veins, including a drill intercept of 13.72 meters grading 7.01 g/t gold, 94.1 g/t silver and 4.0 percent copper that may relate to an underlying porphyry system. The easterly block, the Silver Dikes Corridor contains a mineralized rhyolitic dike swarm. Avidian owns 29.4 percent of the property with a purchase agreement to acquire the balance of the 70.6 percent interest for US\$875,000 in cash and US\$1.125 million worth of stock over a seven-year period ending in 2023. The agreement also carries a work commitment of US\$2 million over five years (US\$200,000 minimum per year).

**COVENTRY RESOURCES LTD.** reported results from the final 13 holes of a 22-hole, 6,520-meter drill program recently completed at its Caribou Dome copper project in the Valdez Creek district. Multiple exceptional intersections of copper mineralization have been returned from the five holes drilled in the central portion of the deposit to better define the extents of lenses 4, 5 and 6. Significant results include 11.4 meters grading 6.7 percent copper from 70.2 meters, 5.7 meters grading 7.3 percent copper from 92.4 meters, 3.5 meters grading 11.5 percent copper from 49.2 meters, 4.0 meters grading 6.4 percent copper from 156.1 meters, 4.2 meters grading 4.3 percent copper from 91.7 meters, and 5.3 meters grading 1.8 percent copper from 165 meters. These holes provide for a much better understanding of the controls on the distribution of mineralization in the central portion of the deposit where the majority of shallow, potentially open-pit minable mineralization is located. Recent drilling has increased the strike extent of mineralization at the northeast end of the deposit by more than 120 meters, while also demonstrating high-grade mineralization extends to more than 300 meters depth in this area. Three shallower holes were drilled in this area in the second part of the recent drilling program, all of which intersected significant mineralization. Significant results from recent drilling in this area, include 4.3 meters grading 5.2 percent copper from 220.5 meters, 1.1 meters grading 5.5 percent copper from 532.1 meters, 0.6 meters grading 9.1 percent copper from 528.7 meters, 0.4 meters grading 6.8 percent copper from 192.6 meters, 2.2 meters grading 1.0 percent copper from 243.8 meters and 2.9 meters grading 2.4 percent copper from 193.4 meters. Two holes were completed recently to begin evaluation of a previously undrilled 100m long corridor between Lenses 2 and 6 where mineralization outcrops at surface, in an area where a potential open pit may extend. Significant mineralization was intersected in both holes including 4.4 meters grading 1.2 percent copper from 69.2 meters and 0.5 meters grading 2.6 percent copper from 53.3 meters. Based on the encouraging results from the past drilling, a scoping study has

been initiated to help determine how best to advance the project. Initial results from this work, expected to be completed in early 2017, include metallurgical testing from a composite sample from the Lenses 4, 5 and 6 that averaged 5.03 percent copper. Conventional flotation achieved recoveries of greater than 95 percent copper, with concentrates grading up to 24.5 percent copper. In addition, samples grading 7.4 percent copper from the recently discovered Lense 7/8 area at the NE end of the deposit returned recoveries of greater than 99 percent copper with concentrate grading up to 27.4 percent copper.

Northern Alaska

**TRILOGY METALS INC.** announced drill results and provided a project update from its 2016 summer field program at the Arctic poly-metallic volcanogenic massive sulfide deposit at its Upper Kobuk Mineral project in the Ambler district. The majority of this year's US\$5.5 million project budget was spent on 3,058 meters of drilling in 13 drill holes at the Arctic project. This work included drilling for geotechnical, hydrological, waste rock characterization and metallurgical studies as well as further resource definition. Significant results include hole AR16-0155 which intersected three mineralized intervals, including 36.36 meters of 2.27 percent copper, 0.27 g/t gold, 25.3 g/t silver, 0.36 percent lead, and 2.54 percent zinc, and 8.48 meters of 6.14 percent copper, 1.32 g/t gold, 96.6 g/t silver, 1.93 percent lead, and 8.27 percent zinc, hole AR16-0148 intersected four mineralized intervals, including 21.22 meters of 3.79 percent copper, 0.85 g/t gold, 69.1 g/t silver, 0.99 percent lead, and 5.78 percent zinc, hole AR16-0150 intersected five mineralized intervals, including 16.60 meters of 5.40 percent copper, 0.20 g/t gold, 46.0 g/t silver, 1.23 percent lead, and 6.69 percent zinc; and hole AR16-0153 intersected 12.59 meters of 2.49 percent copper, 0.86 g/t gold, 56.6 g/t silver, 2.17 percent lead, and 9.64 percent zinc. The company also conducted an aquatics survey, avian survey, habitat survey, archaeological survey, and wetlands delineation survey, and continued ongoing baseline environmental data collection in 2016.

Southeast Alaska

**HECLA MINING** announced additional third quarter 2016 production results for its Greens Creek mine on Admiralty Island. Silver production of 2,445,328 ounces increased 22.8 percent and gold production of 11,988 ounces decreased 16.6 percent over the prior-year period. Increased silver production resulted from higher grades, while gold production was lower due to slightly lower ore grades and throughput. The average grade of ore mined during the quarter was 15.4 ounces per ton silver, compared with 12.68 oz. /t silver in the year previous period. Average by-product grades were 0.088 oz. /t gold, 2.92 percent lead and 6.96 percent zinc. During the third quarter, the mine produced 2,445,328 oz. silver, 11,988 oz. gold, 4,803 tons lead and 12,144 tons zinc. The cash cost per ounce silver of \$4.80, nearly unchanged from \$4.82 in the third quarter 2015. The mill operated at an average of 2,201 tons per day in the third quarter. The estimated 2016 silver production is increased to 8.5 million oz. and gold production remains unchanged at 53,000 oz. On the exploration front, definition drilling continued to refine the resources of the 9A, Upper Southwest, East Ore and NWW

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NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



Geotech Drilling Services, a British Columbia-based surface and underground drilling company, already works with a number of companies with exploration properties in the Golden Triangle region of northwestern B.C.

Tahltan, Geotech form Tahltech, preferred Golden Triangle driller

Tahltan Nation Development Corp., the business arm of the Tahltan Nation, Nov. 22 announced the formation of Tahltech Drilling Services Ltd., the preferred surface and underground drilling company for the Tahltan territory in northwestern British Columbia. This expansion of services offered by TNDC is the result of a partnership with Geotech Drilling Services Ltd., a B.C.-based, multi-discipline surface and underground drilling company. TNDC selects business partners with the expertise to strengthen its competitiveness, and commitment to establish mutually beneficial relationships that bring economic benefits to the Tahltan Nation. Benefitting from Geotech's global expertise, Tahltech Drilling Services will provide industry-leading exploration, geotechnical, environmental, construction, and geothermal drilling services to natural resource and industrial development projects in Tahltan territory. "Geotech's extensive knowledge, experience and specialized technology will be extremely valuable to companies operating in Tahltan territory, ensuring efficiency, accuracy of data collection and adherence to safety and environmental standards," said TNDC CEO Garry Merkel. "The partnership significantly strengthens TNDC's capability and competitiveness in resource and industrial development as the economic recovery unfolds." Tahltan territory, which covers most of the renowned Golden Triangle, is rich in natural resources, a catalyst for dozens of existing and proposed energy, resource and industrial development projects in the region. Geotech's exploration services include drilling for numerous mining and exploration companies, many of which have properties in the Golden Triangle. Its geotechnical services include exploratory drilling combined with testing and instrumentation installation to determine sub-surface ground characteristics for infrastructure development purposes including tailings storage feasibility or upgrades, pipeline alignment investigations, hydroelectric dam investigations, road network evaluation, liquefied natural gas facilities, foundation design for buildings, rock anchoring for transmission lines and wind turbines, and geothermal exploration investigations. Geotech also provides construction, environmental and geothermal drilling services. "Geotech has long-respected

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# NORTH OF 60 MINING

Companies involved in Alaska and  
northwestern Canada's mining industry

## NEWS

## DIRECTORY



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*Located 25 miles northeast of Fairbanks, Fort Knox is the largest gold producing mine in Alaska. During 2016, Fort Knox celebrated two milestone events, the seven-millionth-ounce of gold produced and the 20-year anniversary of commercial operations.*

#### Usibelli Coal Mine

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*Usibelli Coal Mine is headquartered in Healy, Alaska and has 700 million tons of coal reserves. UCM produces an average of 2 million tons of sub-bituminous coal each year.*

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*Calista is the parent company of more than 30 subsidiaries. In terms of land area and Shareholder base, Calista is the second largest of the Regional Alaska Native corporations established under ANCSA in 1971. Like us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/calista-corporation>) and follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/calistacorp>).*

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FREEMAN

zones. Recent definition drilling of the 9A Zone included 21.6 ounces of silver per ton, 0.03 ounces of gold per ton, 20.7 percent zinc, and 7.0 percent lead over 15.3 feet. Drilling of the southern portion of the NWW Zone defined mineralization primarily along the lower fold, spanning from the fold nose to the upper limb and is represented by multiple distinct mineralized bands near the mine contact. Recent drill intersections include 55.3 oz. /t silver, 0.51 oz. /t gold, 4.1 percent zinc, and 2.3 percent lead over 10.0 feet. In addition, definition drilling of the Upper Southwest Zone around previously mined levels has identified mineralization that could be incorporated into a future mine plan, including 46.9 oz. /t silver, 0.03 oz. /t gold, 15.1 percent zinc, and 7.9 percent lead over 13.3 feet. Revised resource models for the 5250, 9A, West, NWW and Deep 200 South zones are expected by the end of the year and all will likely contribute to increased reserves. Exploration drilling of the Gallagher Zone at the southwest corner of the mine is defining a new flat-lying zone just west of the Gallagher Fault about 450 feet beneath the current Gallagher Zone resource. This drilling also has moved the location of the Gallagher fault further east than originally interpreted, expanding the possible extent of mineralization in this area. Drilling of the upper limb of the Southwest Bench fold has defined an intermittent mineralized contact and lies along trend of the upper 5250

Zone and middle Southwest Zone trends of mineralization opening up a new area for possible expansion of resources.

**COEUR MINING INC.** announced updated third-quarter 2016 production results from its Kensington gold miner near Juneau. Third-quarter production is estimated at 26,459 oz. of gold, a slight decrease over the 28,688 oz. of gold produced in the third quarter of 2015. Average cost of production was US\$859/oz., a significant increase over the US\$740 per ounce cost in the year-previous period. Production declined 18 percent and production costs increased in the third quarter due to reduced mill throughput caused by a blocked tailings line, partially offset by a slight increase in head grades. The mine processed 140,322 tons of ore grading 0.20 oz. /t gold during the quarter. Average recovery was 94.8 percent. Work continued on the decline into the Jualin zone where production is expected to begin during the second half of 2017. Estimated 2016 total production from Kensington is 120,000 to 125,000 oz. gold at cash operating costs of US\$825-US\$875/oz. The company also reported results from its four exploration drill rigs operating in the quarter. Significant results from the Main Kensington deposit include assays from the Zone 41 gap target, which returned 12.2 feet grading 1.21 oz. /t gold and drilling in the Zone 12 target which returned 20.5 feet grading 0.37 oz. /t gold. Underground drilling at Jualin accelerated following recent underground access to exploration targets. An initial reserve from Jualin #4 vein, one of five known veins, is expected at year-end 2016. The current resource at Jualin #4 is

179,000 oz. gold at a grade of 0.619 oz. /t gold.

**ZAREMBO MINERALS CO.** announced results from analytical work completed at is Frenchie volcanogenic massive sulfide project near Wrangell. The company drilled holes in 2006 and 2007 at Frenchie containing mineralization that is characterized by bedded semi-massive to massive precious metal enriched zinc-lead-copper sulfide mineralization in pervasively quartz-sericite-altered metasedimentary rocks. Zinc to lead ratios are relatively high (roughly 10 to one) in areas with low-grade disseminated and semi-massive mineralization, while zinc to lead ratios are considerably lower (less than five to one) in areas where massive sulfide mineralization is best developed. Silver to gold ratios are highly variable and range from 5.1 to 684. Silver values appear to be closely linked to zinc and lead values, but gold is less clearly associated with elevated base metal values, partly because few gold analyses were available from previous exploration efforts. Work in 2016 was focused on better defining the grade and distribution of gold at the project by conducting metallic sieve analyses. The effort revealed that 92 percent gold in re-analyzed samples is in the coarser, plus-80 mesh-size fraction that is normally discarded when a standard gold fire assay is conducted. As a result, a previously sampled 16.-foot-thick outcrop on the project now grades 4.4 g/t gold, along with zinc to four percent and minor amounts of lead and silver. Additional follow-up work is being conducted to better define the extent of this precious-metal enrichment at the project. ●

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## NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

TNDC's efforts toward responsible and sustainable development within the Tahltan's resource-rich territory encompassing some 11 percent of British Columbia. In conjunction with the entrepreneurial nature of the Tahltan people, Tahltech looks toward a bright future respecting both the traditional values of the Tahltan people and the mission and core values of Geotech," said Geotech President Jody Lambert. TNDC and Geotech will collaborate to secure drilling work on projects in Tahltan territory. Under the agreement, Geotech also will provide subcontracting, employment and training opportunities to Tahltan members.

### 3 Aces permitted for expanded exploration

Golden Predator Mining Corp. Nov. 8 announced the receipt of a Class 4 Mining Land Use Permit that allows for a significant expansion of exploration activities at its 3 Aces gold project in southeastern Yukon. With the issuance of this five-year permit, the company is now authorized to construct up to 45 kilometers (28 miles) of roads, complete 40,000 cubic meters of trenching and extract 10,000 metric tons of bulk sample material annually. "Golden Predator commenced the application process for this permit in 2016 following the company's bulk sampling program when the need for expanded exploration became clear," explained Golden Predator CEO Janet Lee-Sheriff. "We want to thank the Yukon Government, the Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment staff and Board and the Kaska Nation for their due diligence in



With the completion of this bridge in September, Golden Predator Mining has road access to the high-grade gold zones at its 3 Aces project. The company is now authorized to build up to 45 kilometers (28 miles) of roads and complete extensive bulk sampling at the southeastern Yukon property.

the review and approval of our application." During the 2016 program Golden Predator is currently mineralized veins identified during the 2016 exploration program at 3 Aces. The Class 4 license allows the company to expand this program, including significant bulk sampling of the most promising high-grade gold targets.

### More gold targets at Committee Bay

Auryn Resources Inc. Nov. 28 posted results from a till sampling program designed to identify the highest grade gold-in-till signatures along the 300-kilometer- (185 miles) long greenstone belt at its Committee Bay gold project in Nunavut. "Auryn's belt-wide till sampling program has identified 17 significant gold-in-till anomalies that represent large-scale mineralized systems within the Committee Bay gold belt," explained Auryn COO Michael Henrichsen. Nine of these gold-in-till anomalies were identified in the southwest region of the Committee Bay project. Anuri, a 20-kilo-

meter- (12.5 miles) long north-south trending gold-in-till structural corridor identified in 2015, has been extended to 30 kilometers (19 miles) with this year's sampling. On Nov. 25, the company reported results from rotary air blast drilling targeting a set of east-west trending structures at Anuri. Highlights from this drilling include 9.14 meters of 1.04 grams per metric ton gold and 7.62 meters of 1.05 g/t gold. Based on the discovery of a new high-grade boulder train at Anuri, Auryn believes this year's drilling tapped a structure that is secondary to a prominent regional north-south trending fault zone adjacent to the 2016 drilling area. The highest grade samples from the new boulder train are: 45.9 g/t, 41.5 g/t, 33.3 g/t, and 14.55 g/t gold. In addition to Anuri, a cluster of three new till anomalies was identified in the vicinity of Quartzite Ridge and a very well defined till anomaly was identified near Four Hills, both in the southwestern region of Committee Bay. In the central region of the Committee Bay belt, near the 1.6-million-ounce Three Bluffs gold deposit, six gold-in-till anomalies were

identified. Till anomalies identified in the Three Bluffs deposit region demonstrate that there is a prominent north-south trend to mineralization situated along a set of secondary structures identified with a high resolution geophysical survey completed earlier this year. These till anomalies have demonstrated high-grade potential from both historical and 2016 boulder and rock sampling. A second prominent northeast trend of mineralization has also been discovered on a set of fault zones. The sampling program identified two other large till anomalies in the northeastern region of Committee Bay. These two anomalies, identified south of the Inuk prospect where previous drilling cut 16 meters of 12 g/t gold, are very significant in that they are located to the south of all previous historical gold bearing rock and till samples. "Our 2017 exploration program will be scaled to test each of the 17 multi-kilometer targets," Henrichsen said.

### Junior eyes wider gold potential at Indin Lake

Nighthawk Gold Corp. Nov. 24 reported another round of results from an 8,400-meter drill program completed this year at its Indin Lake gold property roughly 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. In 2013, Nighthawk reported an inferred mineral resource of 39.8 million metric tons averaging 1.64 grams per metric ton (2.1 million ounces) gold, mostly in the parallel Colomac and Goldcrest trends of dikes and sills. Earlier this year, the company reported results from Zone 1.5 at Colomac. Highlights from Zone 1.5 include 52.07 meters (40 meters true width) of 7.72 grams per metric ton gold in hole C16-03 and 31.45 meters (25 meters true width) of 4.14 g/t gold in hole C16-01. The latest batch of results are from Colomac zones 1.0 and 2.5. Highlights from drilling at Zone 1.0 include 55.95 meters (40 meters true width) of 1.09 g/t gold in hole C16-06B and 27.22 meters (20 meters true width) of 1.06 g/t gold in C16-06. Nighthawk said these results highlight the potential for discovering higher grade gold domains along the 2,000-meter stretch of the Colomac trend between zones 1.0 and 1.5. Hole C16-07B, drilled at Zone 2.5, cut 57 meters (37 meters true width) of 1.47 g/t gold; and C16-07 cut 44 meters (33 meters true width) of 1.29 g/t gold. Highlights from drilling at Goldcrest North include 6.34 meters (4.5 meters true width) of 2.22 g/t gold in G16-03 and 12.5 meters (nine meters true width) of 1.48 g/t gold in G16-05. "The current results strengthen our long held belief that Colomac offers immense opportunities for discovery of new zones, the expansion of known zones, and for continued success in unearthing additional high-grade domains," said Nighthawk President and CEO Michael Byron.

### IDM boosts gold-silver zones at Red Mountain

IDM Mining Ltd. Nov. 28 reported assays from 10 underground holes drilled this year at the Red Mountain gold project in northwestern British Columbia. This batch of drill results are primarily from JW, one of four zones that encompass 1.64 million metric tons of measured and indicated resource averaging 8.36 grams-per-metric-ton (441,500 ounces) gold and 26 g/t (1.38 million oz.) silver. Infill holes at JW were targeted to potentially upgrade areas of inferred resource to the higher confi-

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## INTERIOR CANDIDATES

that manages roughly US\$6.7 billion in investments, he is well known in Alaska business and political circles.

Though Gillam has little in the way of political experience, he believes President-elect Trump's endeavor to fill his cabinet with savvy American's outside the typical Washington D.C. political circles provides him with an opportunity to cap his successful business career with a high-level political post.

"I woke up on November 9th and realized that America voted for a change in Washington; one that perhaps favored outsiders as opposed to career politicians. I recognized that suddenly it was possible for me to serve in a role that has otherwise been one of career politicians and people (many of them talented of course) looking to use the job as a stepping stone," he explained in a statement provided by his son, also Robert Gillam.

The fact that Gillam and Trump are both Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania alma mater does not hurt the Alaska businessman's chances of gaining a post in the incoming administration.

Gillam told Alaska Dispatch News that he had been in touch with Trump over the course of the election.

Since his college days, Gillam has amassed roughly US\$320 million, enough wealth for Forbes Magazine to deem him the richest man in Alaska in 2015. The financial advisor believes the business savvy that elevated him to this status could be applied to the management of America's public lands.

"I consider land development like the professional investor that I have been all of my career, and carefully measure the cost versus the benefit of each decision," he explained.

### Anti-Pebble push

While Alaska's mining community can appreciate a business approach to land management, they are concerned that Gillam would use any influence gained in Washington D.C. to further one of his personal goals, stopping the enormous Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay region of Southwest Alaska.

From 2006 through 2008, Gillam directly spent US\$820,000 on Ballot Measure 4 in the 2008 Alaska primary election and evidence suggests his contributions were in the millions when you include the monies he donated to groups that in turn funded advertising campaigns supporting the anti-Pebble initiative.

Ballot Measure 4, also dubbed the Clean Water Initiative, was crafted to prevent development of the world-class Pebble copper-gold-molybdenum deposit. If passed, however, the stipulations of the measure made it difficult to permit large scale metal mines across much of Alaska.

It is believed that Gillam's motivation for preventing development of a mine at Pebble is the beautiful home he maintains about 25 miles away from the proposed mine site in Southwest Alaska. This wilderness retreat on the shores of Lake Clark was used as a meeting place for anti-Pebble planning and as a perk for big contributors to the "Yes on 4" campaign, according to a complaint with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, alleging Gillam violated campaign law.

The complaint was put to rest after Gillam paid US\$100,000 in a 2010 settlement with APOC.

In a separate case, APOC fined an air service owned by Gillam US\$25,500 for

charging anti-Pebble candidates only the cost of fuel for flights, an illegal contribution that could change the outcome of the initiative, according to the election watchdog group.

Though Ballot Measure 4 failed by a healthy margin, Gillam's role in promoting and funding the initiative put him at odds with Alaska's mining sector.

The investment manager, however, chalks up the experience as qualifying experience for his aspirations to serve as secretary of Interior.

"In the course of my life, and the many years I spent working on the Stop Pebble Mine initiative, I have learned a tremendous amount about our nation's land and the people who rely on it," he inked in his statement.

### Palin on the list

While Gillam's bid for secretary of Interior has gone virtually unnoticed outside of Alaska, former governor Palin's name has been in play for the post since Trump's victory in the general election.

Interestingly enough, Palin was still serving as Alaska's governor when Ballot Measure 4 was put before state voters.

On the day before the Alaska primary

election, Palin took off her governor's hat and threw it in the ring opposed to the anti-Pebble measure.

"Let me take my governor's hat off just for a minute here and tell you, personally, Prop 4, I vote 'No' on that. I have all the confidence in the world that the Department of Environmental Conservation and our Department of Natural Resources have great, very stringent regulations and policies already in place. We're going to make sure that mines operate only safely, and soundly," Palin said.

The governor's remarks echoed the sentiment of leaders from more than a dozen cities and boroughs, the majority of Alaska Native corporation leaders – with the noted exception of Bristol Bay Native Corp., which did not take a public position on the issue – as well as various business associations, including the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, Alaska Auto Dealers Association and Alaska Forest Association.

Three days after the primary, then Republican presidential candidate John McCain announced Palin as his pick as Republican running mate during his 2008 bid for the White House.

Though the McCain-Palin ticket lost to President Barack Obama in the general election, the campaign put the former Alaska governor in the national spotlight. Since that time, Palin has remained a player in national politics with her support of conservative candidates, a move that has put her in consideration for a role in the Trump Administration.

While the former Alaska governor is considered to be pretty far down on Trump's shortlist of candidates for secretary of Interior, her notoriety as a fiery pro-development conservative has environmentalists concerned.

As vice presidential nominee, Palin famously used the phrase "Drill baby drill!" as a mantra for more oil and gas production in the United States.

This call for increased domestic petroleum included a call for opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a move some Alaskans see as an answer to the dwindling flow of oil through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which has the ability to transport more than 2 million barrels of oil per day.

Palin also coined the phrase "Mine

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INTERIOR CANDIDATES

baby mine!” during the 2008 presidential campaign, as a show of her support coal mining and the sector at large.

Likely contenders

While Gillam and Palin are in the conversation, most pundits have non-Alaskans higher on the list of potential candidates to run the Department of Interior.

Those considered more likely to lead Interior are: Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, who was named vice-chair to Trump’s transition team on Nov. 29; Robert Grady, a venture capitalist who served in the George H.W. Bush White House as associate director of the Office of Management and Budget for Natural Resources, Energy and Science; Continental Resources CEO Harold Hamm, known for pioneering the development of the large shale oil resources of the Bakken formation and ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 98th richest person in the world; and Forrest Lucas, co-founder of Lucas Oil Products.

Whoever Trump picks to lead the Department of Interior, that person will be charged with overseeing nine land and resource-management bureaus, most of which have some bearing on mining in Alaska.

In addition to the two major federal land managers, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, Department of Interior oversees regulators such as the Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Last but not least for the mining sector, U.S. Geological Survey falls under the Interior umbrella.

While secretary of Interior may not be highest profile position in the Trump cabinet, with nearly 200 million acres of federal lands in Alaska and so many resource-related bureaus under its control, this post is important to Alaska’s mining community. ●



IDM MINING LTD.

IDM Mining completed 5,300 meters of underground drilling during its phase-1 2016 program at the Red Mountain gold-silver project near Stewart, B.C.

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NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

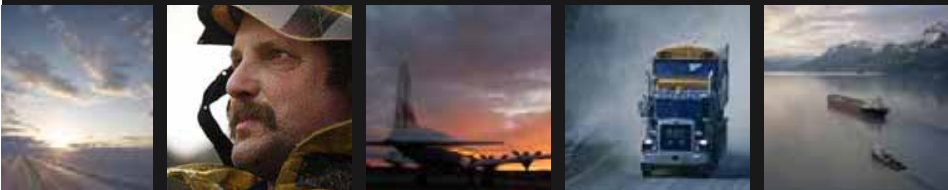
dence measured and indicated category, as well as expand the mineralized zone down-dip. Highlights from the most recent results from JW include: 6.8 meters averaging 18.7 grams per metric ton gold and 66.85 g/t silver in U16-1201, an infill hole; 10.39 meters of 4.94 g/t gold and 8.27 g/t silver in U16-1203, which tapped the JW zone below the current resource; and 8.02 meters of 6.4 g/t gold and 7.42 g/t silver in hole UR16-1210, which confirmed a new hanging-wall zone at JW. U16-1216, an

infill hole at the AV zone, cut 13.19 meters of 15.22 g/t gold and 49.85 g/t silver. “These results have been successful in identifying a new zone in the hanging-wall to the JW zone and demonstrate that mineralization remains open for expansion down-dip,” said IDM Mining President and CEO Robert McLeod. “Additionally, infill drilling continues to demonstrate continuity of the robust gold grade and structure for the AV and JW zones.” Results from 15 additional holes drilled at Red Mountain this year are pending. Following the receipt of these results, IDM plans to upgrade the resource and finalize a feasibility study for Red Mountain early in 2017. ●

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