



# ALTIUS MINERALS CORPORATION

**Management's Discussion and Analysis  
of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations  
Three Months Ended July 31, 2012**

*This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") should be read in conjunction with the Corporation's condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the three months ended July 31, 2012 and related notes. This MD&A has been prepared as of September 12, 2012.*

*Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations contains forward-looking statements. By their nature, these statements involve risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond the Corporation's control, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these statements. The Corporation disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

*Additional information regarding the Corporation, including copies of the Corporation's continuous disclosure materials is available on the Corporation's website at [www.altiusminerals.com](http://www.altiusminerals.com) or through the SEDAR website at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).*

## **Description of Business**

Altius Minerals Corporation's ("Altius" or the "Corporation") principal business activities are focused on the generation and acquisition of natural resource projects, royalties, and investments. The Corporation pursues this objective through its two complementary business segments.

### ***Exploration and Royalty Creation:***

The Corporation conducts early stage low-cost mineral exploration and prospect generation primarily in Eastern Canada. It utilizes a team of approximately 10 professional geologists and prospectors that create mineral exploration initiatives through concept development and field-based research. Concepts of merit are advanced through to mineral rights acquisition and, upon successful early-stage exploration and prospecting, to the target generation stage. The Corporation's project portfolio currently consists of approximately 20 projects covering prospective targets for iron ore, gold, uranium, nickel, and other base metals.

Project level partnerships with a range of global exploration and mining companies are then sought as the means of further project advancement. The Corporation prefers to create agreements with other companies related to the mineral exploration opportunities it generates, which results in the Corporation carrying minority and non-operating project and/or equity interests and royalty interests. The Corporation currently has ten active exploration agreements with partners on projects located throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

### ***Investment and Royalty Acquisition:***

Building upon its success in mineral exploration and prospect generation, the Corporation has segregated the majority of its accumulated profits into a separate business segment with two primary objectives: 1) to seek out royalty based financing opportunities of top tier development stage assets and/or the acquisition of existing royalty interests under third party control on development and production stage mining assets; and 2) the selective investment in natural resource related and early stage companies with a goal of long term capital appreciation.

The Corporation currently has one producing royalty interest - an effective 0.3% net smelter return royalty ("NSR") in Vale's Voisey's Bay nickel-copper-cobalt mine. The Corporation also holds other significant pre-development stage royalty interests that include: a 3% gross sales royalty ("GSR") on Alderon Iron Ore Corporation's ("Alderon") Kamistiatasset ("Kami") iron ore project in Western Labrador; a 2% GSR on production from Paladin's Central Mineral Belt uranium project, as well as several earlier stage royalties. Additional information on the status of non-producing royalty interests is available in ***Table 2: Summary of Exploration and Pre-production Stage Royalties*** of this MD&A.

The Corporation's investments in mining and mineral resource related companies include an approximate 24.8% equity interest in Alderon and a 39.6% interest in Newfoundland and Labrador Refining Corporation ("NLRC"). NLRC's carrying value was reduced to \$nil in 2008.

The Corporation also holds 72.8% of a company it co-founded in October 2010, 2260761 Ontario Inc. ("2260761"), to portfolio invest in predominantly early stage exploration, resource related and technology companies with a goal of long term capital appreciation. This company is

managed independently by Paul van Eeden, who has a successful mining and investment industry track record and has also invested his own funds alongside the Corporation in the venture.

The Corporation has over \$287,000,000 in total assets and no debt. Current holdings include \$162,000,000 in cash and highly liquid marketable securities and several mining and mineral related investments with a current carrying value of \$108,000,000.

## **Operational and Business Overview**

The Corporation's net loss attributable to common shareholders for the three months ended July 31, 2012 was \$2,857,000 or \$(0.10) per share. The loss was generated primarily as a result of declines in the values of investments and the Corporation's share of loss in associates. Total revenue was \$1,335,000 during the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$2,156,000 for the same period last year as a result of lower royalty revenue from the producing Voisey's Bay Mine during the quarter.

During the quarter, Alderon continued progress towards potential development of its 100% owned Kami iron ore project located in the Labrador West mining district. The published resource estimate for the Kami project was updated for recent drilling to a measured and indicated mineral resource of 1.1 billion tonnes at 29.8 percent iron and an inferred mineral resource of 277 million tonnes at 29.5 per cent iron based on a cut-off grade of 20 per cent iron. A feasibility study on the project is expected in the second half of 2012.

During the quarter Alderon also announced that it has entered into an agreement with the Sept-Îles Port Authority (the "Port") to secure usage of a new multi-user deep water dock facility that the Port is constructing. Pursuant to the agreement, Alderon has reserved an annual capacity of eight million metric tonnes of iron ore that Alderon can ship through the Port. Construction of the Port is expected to be completed by 2014.

Subsequent to the quarter-end Alderon amended its offtake and financing agreement with Hebei Iron and Steel Group Co. Ltd. ("Hebei"). The total consideration from the agreement was amended to \$182.2 million from \$194 million to reflect the change in the market conditions. On September 4, 2012, Hebei made the first payment to Alderon of \$62.3 million to acquire 19.9% of the common shares of Alderon. Concurrently, Liberty Metals and Mining made an additional investment in Alderon of \$9.2 million through a private placement of 3,816,181 shares to maintain its ownership percentage in Alderon at 14.5%. Altius' percentage ownership in Alderon after these transactions was reduced from 32.8% to 24.8%.

Under the terms of the agreement Hebei will also acquire a 25% direct Kami project interest at a total cost of \$119.9 million upon completion of the feasibility study that meets certain parameters. Hebei will also enter into an offtake agreement to acquire 60% of the first 8 million tonnes of concentrate produced from the mine at near-spot market prices. Hebei will also contribute its share of development costs of the Kami project as a 25% owner and will assist in securing project debt on a "best efforts" basis. Alderon intends to use the proceeds received from these transactions to continue its development of the Kami project and for general corporate purposes.

Alderon's progress is described in greater detail on their website at <http://www.alderonironore.com/>.

During the current quarter, the Corporation signed an earn in and royalty agreement with a subsidiary of Capital Investment Partners, CIP Magnetite Limited (CIP) to explore the Snelgrove Lake property. Under the terms of the agreement, CIP may earn 100% of the property by investing \$6,500,000 in exploration expenditures over a three year period. The property will be held in an Australian Securities Exchange ("ASX") listed public entity, Mamba Minerals Limited ("Mamba") and Altius will be entitled to 20% of the shares of Mamba upon earn-in and will also retain a 3% GSR on the property. CIP is currently conducting a 3,000 metre drill program to evaluate both taconite and DSO-type targets, which represents the first drill program on the property.

The Corporation also recently formed an exploration alliance with Virginia Mines Limited to explore for base and precious metals in the southern Labrador and Quebec North Shore region. Both companies will cost-share in early stage exploration expenditures over a multi-year exploration program to evaluate this region. Early stage reconnaissance has commenced during the current field season.

The Corporation holds a 72.8% interest in 2260761, a company co-founded with Mr. Paul van Eeden to invest in early-stage companies with a goal of long term capital appreciation. The financial results of 2260761 are included in the Corporation's condensed consolidated interim financial statements by virtue of the Corporation's ownership percentage. The total asset values of 2260761 were as follows:

Amounts in thousands of dollars

\$	July 31, 2012	April 30, 2012	January 31, 2012	October 31, 2011	July 31, 2011
Cash and marketable securities	5,172	6,303	9,353	10,668	11,833
Private and public company investments	17,451	17,580	17,515	15,551	18,252
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,623</b>	23,883	26,868	26,219	30,085

The value of the portfolio declined slightly during the quarter in tandem with the broader market performance of mineral resource companies.

## Outlook

The Corporation is encouraged by the progress being made by its various partners on Altius' initiated projects in the Labrador West mining district, and in particular that of Alderon. Alderon anticipates completion of a feasibility study in the second half of 2012 which will determine mining viability and potential commercial production at its Kami project, and has taken actions to secure financing, offtake agreements and port access, and is participating in the evaluation of alternative rail access. Successful development of the Kami project should result in a significant increase in the value of the Corporation's equity stake in Alderon and significant royalty income from the project.

The Corporation currently has one wholly owned iron ore project in Labrador West for which it is seeking a partner: the Julienne Lake project. The Corporation is currently processing drill core from the spring drill program and is actively seeking a partner to co-develop this project and other prospects within the portfolio.

The value of the Corporation's shares in junior mineral exploration companies continued to decline in tandem with general equity markets during the period. The Corporation will continue to monitor investment and royalty acquisition opportunities in hope of identifying assets that meet its objectives in terms of value and underlying asset quality. Considering the Corporation's strong balance sheet, with over \$162 million in cash and highly liquid marketable securities, it is well positioned to take advantage of such opportunities should they arise.

The Corporation expects royalty revenue from the Voisey's Bay mine to continue at current annualized levels of approximately \$3.0 million based on current nickel prices and typical production volumes. Interest revenue is expected to remain low in the near term as a result of continuing low interest rate conditions.

The Corporation is also considering expanding its exploration operations into South American countries, including Chile, and is currently in the final stages of discussions with potential partners. The approach to any newly selected jurisdictions will be gradual and initial work will include compilation and early stage exploration for the first few years of operation.

The Corporation will continue to maintain its financial and technical discipline by employing the 'prospect generation' model of attracting funding partners to its projects, which has resulted in over 50 alliance/JV-earn-in/sales agreements and the creation of three special purpose companies ("spin outs") over the Corporation's fifteen year history.

**Table 1: Summary of Exploration Projects, including wholly-owned projects and those under JV/Option Agreements**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Agreement type</b>	<b>Status</b>
Alexis River – uranium (Southern Labrador)	Kirrin Resources Inc <sup>a</sup>	Earn in	Earn-in agreement extension granted to July 2013; no work planned for summer 2012.
Julienne Lake – iron ore (Western Labrador)	-	-	Property is adjacent to the historic iron ore resource held by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Gravity and magnetic survey suggest the extension of iron ore onto the Corporation’s claims to the northwest and southeast. Processing of drill core is ongoing and assays are pending on winter drill program that confirmed the extensions of the historic deposit to the northeast. Seeking a partner.
Labrador West – several iron ore projects (Western Labrador)	Rio Tinto <sup>a</sup>	Earn in (51% to 70%)	Drilling in 2011 resulted in new iron ore discovery (279m @29.8% Fe); Rio Tinto is currently undertaking a 2012 program as part of second phase earn-in for a 70% interest.
Moosehead – gold Central Newfoundland	Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.	Joint venture (51% Agnico-Eagle)	Company decided not to conduct an overburden/stripping program because of cost constraints; seeking a partner.
Newfoundland Ferro Alloys - nickel, chromium (Newfoundland & Labrador)	Cliffs Natural Resources	Strategic Alliance	Till surveys completed; conducting follow-up work to refine targets for more advanced exploration.
Notakwanon – uranium (Northern Labrador)	-	-	Drill-ready project; seeking partner; 2012 stream sediment survey and prospecting underway to locate additional drill prospects.
Rocky Brook – uranium (Western Labrador)	JNR Resources Inc <sup>a</sup>	Joint venture (73.4% JNR)	No work planned at present.

<b>Property</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Agreement type</b>	<b>Status</b>
Saglek – Iron (Northern Labrador)	Cliffs Natural Resources	Strategic Alliance	Proposed Labrador Inuit Land Use Plan restricts further work in this area ; no further work planned at this time pending finalization of the land use plan.
Snelgrove Lake - iron ore (Western Labrador)	CIP Magnetite Limited/ Mamba	Earn-in	In discussions with local interest groups on a proposed 3,000 metre drill program.
Topsails – copper- molybdenum (Central Newfoundland)	JNR Resources Inc	Alliance	No work planned; seeking senior partner.
Trough Iron - iron ore projects (Astray, Grenville, Menihek and Schefferville) (Western Labrador)	Century Iron Mines Corporation <sup>a</sup>	Earn-in( 100%) and 1% to 4% sliding scale GSR	Ground gravity and airborne EM surveys completed; partner-funded \$4.3 million program in progress for 2012.
Grenville Alliance (Quebec North Shore and southern Labrador)	Virginia Mines Inc.	Alliance (50/50)	Reconnaissance work underway.
Wing Pond – gold (Central Newfoundland)	-	-	Small scale field program underway; seeking partner.

<sup>a</sup> indicates operator

**Table 2: Summary of Exploration and Pre-Development Stage Royalties**

Property	Explorer/Developer	Royalty	Status
Kamistiatasset - iron ore (Western Labrador)	Alderon Iron Ore Corp <sup>a</sup>	3% GSR	Current NI 43-101 Resource: 1.1 billion tonnes at 29.8% iron measured and indicated and 277 million tonnes at 29.5% iron inferred; \$182.2 million equity financing and offtake agreement project equity agreement signed with Hebei Steel; secured port access for 8 million tonnes per annum; Feasibility Study is expected second half of 2012.
Central Mineral Belt – uranium (Central Labrador)	Paladin Energy Limited <sup>a</sup>	2% GSR	Contained NI-43-101 U3O8 resource: 83.8 million pounds measured and indicated, and 53.0 million pounds inferred. Operator commenced a 14,000 metre infill and extension drill program in August 2012.
Labrador West - iron ore (Western Labrador)	Rio Tinto Exploration Inc. <sup>a</sup>	3% GSR; 1% buyback	Drilling in Q3 resulted in a new iron ore discovery (279m @29.8% Fe); Rio Tinto is undertaking a 2012 program as part of second phase earn-in for a 70% interest.
Estelle Gold (Alaska)	Teck Resources/ Millrock <sup>a</sup> (partial)	2% NSR on gold; 1% NSR on base metals	1,500 metre drill program commenced in July 2012.
AUDN Copper-gold molybdenum (Alaska)	Vale <sup>a</sup> / Millrock	2% NSR on gold; 1% NSR on base metals	Surface geochemical sampling and airborne ZTEM-mag underway.
Topsails - copper-molybdenum (Central Newfoundland)	JNR Resources Inc	2% GSR uranium; 2% NSR other	Trenching program completed in 2011; seeking senior partner.
Viking – gold (Western Newfoundland)	Spruce Ridge Resources Limited <sup>a</sup>	2-4% sliding scale NSR	NI 43-101 Indicated & inferred resource total of 147,000 ounces of gold; project recently transferred to a new operator with adjacent claims

<b>Property</b>	<b>Explorer/Developer</b>	<b>Royalty</b>	<b>Status</b>
Humble - copper-gold-molybdenum (Alaska)	Millrock/ Kinross Gold Corporation <sup>a</sup>	2% NSR on gold; 1% NSR on base metals; (partial)	Recently completed a 4-hole drill program; porphyry style alterations were encountered; planning a follow-up drill program.
Saglek – Iron (Northern Labrador)	Cliffs Natural Resources	1% NSR	No further work planned at this time ; awaiting final Labrador Inuit Land Use Plan, which may prohibit further work.
Trough Iron - iron ore projects (Astray, Grenville, Menihek and Schefferville) (Western Labrador)	Century Iron Mines Corporation <sup>a</sup>	Earn-in( 100%) and 1% to 4% sliding scale GSR	Ground gravity and airborne EM surveys completed, follow up ground work in progress; Partner-funded \$4.3 million program in progress.
Various Copper-gold-moly targets (Alaska)	Millrock <sup>a</sup>	2% NSR on gold; 1% NSR on base metals	Millrock is conducting further early – stage exploration work on various properties and is seeking partners.

<sup>a</sup> indicates operator

## Results of Operations

### *Analysis of Results of Operations for the three month period ending July 31, 2012 compared with the three month period ending July 31, 2011*

The Corporation recorded a net loss attributable to common shareholders of \$2,857,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a net loss of \$1,588,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2011.

The Corporation recognized total revenue of \$1,335,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$2,156,000 for the same period last year. Royalty revenue from the LNRLP was \$572,000 during the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$1,089,000 for the same period last year. Royalty revenue was lower because of lower nickel concentrate shipments compared to the previous year and lower realized nickel prices. In addition, there were no copper concentrate shipments during the current quarter.

General and administrative expenses for the three month period ended July 31, 2012 were \$1,006,000 compared to \$861,000 for the prior period. The Corporation incurred higher salary related expenses totaling \$61,000 primarily related to higher bonus accruals, as well as higher travel and investor relations related costs of \$91,000. The travel and investor relations costs included sponsorship of the Sept Isles Aboriginal Games and an investor road trip to Europe during the period.

Mineral properties abandoned or impaired was \$1,000 for the three month period ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$54,000 in the same period last year. There were no significant write downs in both periods because the Corporation continued to evaluate all properties within the portfolio. Generative exploration for the three months ended July 31, 2012 was \$167,000 compared to \$215,000 in the same period last year. These activities included early stage evaluation of properties not yet acquired.

Stock-based compensation for the three months ended July 31, 2012 was a recovery of \$131,000 compared to an expense of \$71,000 for the same period last year. The current period recovery is caused by lower stock options awards in the current period and adjustments to share appreciation rights and deferred share unit expenses because of the change in the Corporation's share price during the period. The corporation did not grant any stock-based awards during the current period.

Amortization for the three months ended July 31, 2012 was \$270,000 compared to \$357,000 for the same period last year. The decline from the previous year is the result of lower amortization of the royalty interest, which is amortized over the life of the mine on a units of production basis.

Royalty tax for the three months ended July 31, 2012 was \$114,000 compared to \$218,000 for the prior year, reflecting the lower gross royalty revenue. The royalty tax is based on 20% of the gross royalty revenue.

The Corporation recorded a loss on the sale of investments of \$1,062,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a loss of \$70,000 recorded for the same period in the prior year. These disposals in the current year were primarily related to sale of various investments held in 2260761 Ontario Inc. There were no significant disposals in the prior period.

An unrealized gain on the fair value adjustment of warrants of \$129,000 was recorded for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a loss of \$803,000 for the same period last year. The warrants are revalued quarterly using a Black–Scholes calculation to determine the estimated market value, including such factors as share price, time to expiry and volatility of the underlying stock.

The share of loss in associates was \$2,417,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$1,362,000 for the prior year. The share of loss includes the Corporation's share of Alderon's operating loss totaling \$2,268,000 for the period.

The Corporation recorded an income tax recovery of \$373,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to an income tax recovery of \$123,000 for the same period last year. The effective tax rate is lower than the statutory rate for both periods because of transactions that are taxed at a lower effective tax rate.

## ***Cash Flows, Liquidity and Capital Resources***

### **Operating Activities**

The Corporation received cash from operating activities of \$4,647,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a cash outflow of \$6,751,000 for the same period last year. The change from the prior year was primarily due to the net receipt of corporate income taxes of \$4,011,000 in the current period compared to the payment of \$8,013,000 for the same period last year.

### **Financing Activities**

The Corporation used cash from financing activities of \$2,008,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a use of \$291,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2011. The Corporation repurchased 178,100 common shares under its normal course issuer bid during the current period at a total cost of \$1,943,000 (2011 – 19,400 shares at a total cost of \$210,000). In addition, the Corporation's subsidiary paid \$65,000 (2011 - \$81,000) in dividends to a non-controlling interest during the period. The dividend is payable on class A shares held by the non-controlling interest at a rate of 1% per annum of 2260761's calculated net asset value.

### **Investing Activities**

The Corporation used cash from investing activities of \$12,765,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to a use of \$1,633,000 for the same period last year.

A portion of the investment activities in the current period included the reallocation from marketable securities to cash totaling \$9,887,000. The Corporation classifies investments as marketable securities if the maturity date at the time of purchase is greater than 3 months. All

investments are comprised of highly liquid government guaranteed and investment grade commercial paper and are denominated in Canadian dollars.

The Corporation also used cash of \$4,013,000 for the acquisition of investments and warrants for the three months ended July 31, 2012 compared to \$1,907,000 in the prior year. The Corporation also received \$1,080,000 in proceeds from the sale of investments compared to \$1,478,000 in the prior year. Most of this activity was conducted in 2260761.

In addition, the Corporation received a net recovery of mineral properties of \$238,000 compared to a use of cash of \$896,000 in the prior year. The current year activity included a recovery from CIP of exploration costs incurred in a previous period totaling \$325,000 for the Snelgrove Lake project. The prior year's activities included exploration programs in Nunavut and Western Labrador.

### **Liquidity**

At July 31, 2012, the Corporation had current assets of \$164,639,000 and current liabilities of \$2,003,000 for net working capital of \$162,636,000, which is sufficient to meet its current requirements for operating and investing activities. The Corporation holds its cash in short-term and medium-term interest bearing Canadian government guaranteed and investment grade corporate instruments and does not anticipate any liquidity issues.

The Corporation's major sources of funding are from sales of direct and indirect exploration investments, royalty revenue and interest income. In addition, the Corporation partially funds exploration expenditures via third party agreements such as earn-in agreements or joint venture arrangements whereby exploration expenditures are cost-shared or funded by third parties in exchange for a partial ownership interest in the mineral rights to the properties. Given that the current cash level is significantly more than that required for the continuing mineral exploration operations of the Corporation, management will continue to evaluate investment opportunities in the resource based sector.

### **Commitments and Contractual Obligations**

The Corporation has obtained mineral exploration licenses by staking claims and paying refundable security deposits. Certain expenditures are required on an annual basis, from the date of license issuance, in order to maintain the properties in good standing and for refund of security deposits. If the required assessment expenditures are not met on or before the anniversary date of license issuance, the Corporation has the option of reducing claims on a property, posting a refundable security bond for the deficient amount or electing to allow title of the license to be cancelled. The Corporation is required to spend \$1,802,000 by July 31, 2013 in order to maintain all licenses in good standing, of which exploration partners have agreed to spend approximately \$1,335,000. Exploration expenditures of \$434,000 over the next twelve months are required on certain properties to receive a refund of the total of security deposits in the amount of \$109,000.

### **Contingent Liability**

On October 1, 2008 the Corporation was served with a statement of claim issued by BAE-Newplan Group Limited ("BAE"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of SNC-Lavalin Inc., in the

Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. In the statement of claim, BAE claims damages, including punitive and exemplary damages, interest and costs against the Corporation and others in aggregate. In particular, BAE claims \$20,594,000, which is also the amount of billing alleged as outstanding from NLRC to BAE for engineering services.

The Corporation believes this claim is without merit and intends to defend the claim vigorously. No provision has been recognized for this claim. The Corporation's defense of the claim is ongoing and a date has not yet been set for the trial of the matter.

### **Related Party Transactions**

Chairman of the Board and Director John Baker is a Partner of the legal firm Ottenheimer and Baker. This firm provided legal services to the Corporation in the amount of \$18,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2012 (2011 – \$6,000).

During the three months ended July 31, 2012, the Corporation's subsidiary, 2260761, paid dividends of \$65,000 (2012 - \$81,000) to a non-controlling interest.

Total salaries and benefits paid to key employees and directors during the three months ended July 31, 2012 was \$313,000 (2011 - \$484,000).

These related party transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties. It is management's estimation that these transactions were undertaken under the same terms and conditions as transactions with non-related parties.

### **Summary of Quarterly Financial Information**

The table below outlines selected financial information related to the Corporation's revenue, net earnings (loss) and net earnings (loss) per share for the most recent eight quarters. The financial information is extracted from the Corporation's interim and audited financial statements.

\$	July 31, 2012	April 30, 2012	January 31, 2012	October 31, 2011
Revenue	1,335	1,452	5,805	1,635
Net earnings (loss) attributable to common shareholders	(2,857)	(2,616)	2,461	(2,868)
Net earnings (loss) per share				
- basic	(0.10)	(0.09)	0.08	(0.10)
- diluted	(0.10)	(0.09)	0.08	(0.10)

  

\$	July 31, 2011	April 30, 2011	January 31, 2011	October 31, 2010
Revenue	2,156	1,758	1,103	1,453
Net earnings (loss) attributable to common shareholders	(1,588)	(953)	69,212	2,138
Net earnings (loss) per share				
- basic	(0.06)	(0.03)	2.41	0.07
- diluted	(0.06)	(0.03)	2.38	0.07

The Corporation does not experience significant seasonality in operations. Revenue is derived primarily from investment income and from the producing Voisey's Bay Royalty, which is contingent upon commodity prices, mine production levels, and the timing of concentrate shipments. Revenue grew to \$5,805,000 for the quarter ended January 31, 2012 as a result of the receipt of shares from an earn-in partner with a market value of approximately \$4,000,000.

Net earnings are affected somewhat by revenue net of operating expenses, but are affected primarily by the realization of gains or losses on the Corporation's investments and mineral exploration alliances. A pre-tax gain of \$84,675,000 was recognized in the quarter ended January 31, 2011 as a result of the vending of the Kami iron ore property to Alderon. Recent losses have been caused by a decline in the fair value of investments and the equity accounting of Alderon, whereby the Corporation records its proportional share of Alderon's operating loss.

## **Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Management is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a system of internal control over financial reporting. This system has been designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and that the financial reporting is accurate and reliable. The certifying officers have evaluated the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting as of April 30, 2012 and have concluded that such controls are adequate and effective to ensure accurate and complete financial reporting in public filings. The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with IFRS and in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the consolidated financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2012.

There has been no change in the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting during

the Corporation's three months ended July 31, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting.

## **Evaluation and Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Corporation has established and maintains disclosure controls and procedures over financial reporting. The certifying officers have evaluated the effectiveness of the issuer's disclosure controls and procedures as of July 31, 2012 and have concluded that such procedures are adequate and effective to ensure accurate and complete disclosures in public filings.

There are inherent limitations in all control systems and no disclosure controls and procedures can provide complete assurance that no future errors or fraud will occur. An economically feasible control system, no matter how well conceived or operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met.

## **Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent liabilities and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Areas requiring the use of management estimates include the rates for amortization of the royalty interest, deferred income taxes, assessments of the recoverability of deferred exploration expenditures, the carrying value and assessment of other than temporary impairment of investments, the recoverability of accounts receivable and loans, the determination of the provision for decommissioning and site restoration costs, the assumptions used in the determination of the fair value of share based compensation and SARs, and the assumptions used in the determination of the fair value of derivatives for which there is no publicly traded market.

## **Risk Factors and Key Success Factors**

An investment in securities of the Corporation involves a significant degree of risk that should be considered prior to making an investment decision. In addition to discussions of key success factors and business issues elsewhere in this MD&A, the investor should consider the following risk factors:

### *Operational and Development Risk*

The Corporation operates in the mineral exploration sector, which implicitly involves a high degree of risk caused by limited chances of discovery of an economic deposit and eventual mine development. The Corporation mitigates this risk by cost-sharing with exploration partners and by continuously evaluating the economic potential of each mineral property at every stage of its life cycle.

### *Development Stage Projects*

Profits from commercial operations will depend on a significant number of factors, including economic feasibility, changing market conditions, aboriginal issues, environmental and governmental regulations, labour availability, the cost of and the ability to attract external

financial capital, and the ability to attract partners with sufficient technical expertise and relevant industry experience to further develop the various projects. Any failure to meet one or a combination of these factors may result in project delays or potential cancellation and the Corporation's future operating results may be adversely affected.

#### *Issues Affecting Royalty Revenue*

The level of cash flows from the Voisey's Bay royalty are subject to various economic factors, including the underlying commodity prices and smelting and other operating costs, which are deducted from the net smelter return. Royalty payments are highly dependent on the operating and commercial success of the underlying operating company. Various factors, such as commodity price, operating costs, financing costs, labour availability, labour stability, environmental and stakeholder relations or any combination thereof could make an underlying operation unprofitable. Although short-term losses are not expected to affect the decision to keep an operation open, prolonged operating losses could induce the miner operator to close its operations, thereby eliminating such royalty revenue.

#### *Exposure to Mineral Price Fluctuations*

Changes in the market price minerals could significantly impact the Corporation's royalty revenue. The Corporation's financial results are sensitive to external economic criteria related to the mineral prices. A substantial risk of lower royalty payments arises when there is a prolonged period of lower minerals prices. Many factors beyond the Corporation's control influence the market prices of minerals, including global supply and demand; availability and costs of metal substitutes; speculative activities; international political and economic conditions; and production levels and costs in other nickel-producing countries.

#### *The Ability to Attract Partners for Exploration*

The probability of successfully progressing early stage projects is dependent on an ability to attract exploration partners to share project expenditures and to provide additional technical expertise required to develop projects. If the Corporation is unable to attract partners to cost-share project expenditures and to provide additional technical expertise, the level of exploration the Corporation could perform with limited personnel may be adversely impacted. This could affect the likelihood of discovering future commercially feasible projects.

#### *Debt and Equity Financing*

Because of their size and scale, the success of some resource-based projects depends on the ability of the Corporation, its partners or its investments to raise the financial capital required to successfully construct and operate a project. This ability may be affected by general economic and market conditions, including the perceived threat or actual occurrence of an economic recession or liquidity issues. If market conditions are not favourable, major resource based projects could be cancelled or delayed, or the expected rate of return to the Corporation may be significantly diminished.

#### *Government Regulations*

The Corporation's operations are subject to extensive governmental regulations with respect to such matters as environmental protection, health, safety and labour; mining law reform; restrictions on production or export, price controls and tax increases; aboriginal land claims; and

expropriation of property in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Compliance with these and other laws and regulations may require the Corporation to make significant capital outlays which may slow its growth by diverting its financial resources. The enactment of new adverse regulations or regulatory requirements or more stringent enforcement of current regulations or regulatory requirements may increase costs, which could have an adverse effect on the Corporation. The Corporation cannot give assurances that it will be able to adapt to these regulatory developments on a timely or cost effective basis. Violations of these regulations and regulatory requirements could lead to substantial fines, penalties or other sanctions.

#### *Key Employee Attraction and Retention*

The Corporation's continued success is highly dependent on the retention of key personnel who possess business and technical expertise and are well versed in the various projects underway and under consideration. The number of persons skilled in the acquisition, exploration and development of natural resource and mining projects is limited and competition for such persons is intense. As the Corporation's business activity grows, additional key financial, administrative and operations personnel as well as additional staff may be required. Although the Corporation believes it will be successful in attracting, training and retaining qualified personnel, there can be no assurance of such success. If the Corporation is not successful in attracting, training and retaining qualified personnel, the efficiency of operations may be affected. Additionally, should any key person decide to leave, then the success of one or more of the projects underway or under consideration could be at risk.

#### *Exploration Alliances*

The Corporation's objective is to create joint ventures or corporate structures related to the opportunities it generates, which results in the Corporation carrying minority and non-operating project or equity interests and/or royalty interests. In certain circumstances the Corporation must rely on the decisions and expertise regarding operational matters for properties, equity interests and other assets including: whether, when and how to commence permitting; feasibility analysis; facility design and operation, processing, plant and equipment matters; and the temporary or permanent suspension of operations. In some of these instances, it may be difficult or impossible for the Corporation to ensure that the properties and assets are operated in its best interest.

#### *Financial Instrument Risk*

The Corporation's financial assets and financial liabilities are exposed to various risk factors that may affect the fair value presentation or the amount ultimately received or paid on settlement of its assets and liabilities. The Corporation manages these risks through prudent investment and business decisions, and, where the exposure is deemed too high, the Corporation may enter into derivative contracts to reduce this exposure. The Corporation does not utilize derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. Hedge accounting is applied only when appropriate documentation and effectiveness criteria are met.

A summary of the major financial instrument risks and the Corporation's approach to the management of these risks are highlighted below.

#### *Credit risk*

The Corporation has some credit risk with accounts receivable balances owing from earn-in partners but the amount is not considered significant.

The Corporation's cash, marketable securities, and fixed income securities are distributed among government guaranteed instruments and investment grade commercial paper. All funds are held in fully segregated accounts and include only Canadian dollar instruments. The Corporation does not expect any liquidity issues or credit losses on these instruments.

#### *Foreign currency risk*

The Corporation is exposed to foreign currency fluctuations on a portion of its accounts receivable related to royalty revenue, which is denominated and paid in U.S. Dollars. The Corporation does not enter into any derivative contracts to reduce this exposure since the receivable is short-term in nature and the expected receivable amount cannot be predicted reliably.

#### *Liquidity risk*

The Corporation believes that on a long-term basis its revenue generating assets and net working capital position will enable it to meet current and future obligations at the current level of activity. This conclusion could change with a significant change in the operations of the Corporation or from other developments.

#### *Other price risk*

The value of the Corporation's mining and other investments is exposed to fluctuations in the quoted market price depending on a number of factors, including general market conditions, company-specific operating performance and the market value of the commodities that the companies may focus on. The Corporation does not utilize any derivative contracts to reduce this exposure.

The Corporation may be unable to sell its entire interest in an investment without having an adverse effect on the fair value of the security due to low trading volumes on some investments. The Corporation does not enter into any derivative contracts to reduce this exposure.

#### *Interest rate risk*

The Corporation does not have any debt and is therefore not exposed to interest rate risk on liabilities. The Corporation's cash and marketable securities may fluctuate in value depending on the market interest rates and the time to maturity of the instruments. The Corporation manages this risk by limiting the maximum term to maturity on invested funds or holding the investments to maturity.

### **Outstanding Share Data**

At September 12, 2012, the Corporation had 28,527,928 common shares outstanding and 707,000 stock options outstanding.