

(Expressed in United States dollars, except per share amounts and where otherwise noted)

#### April 26, 2024

This Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 and related notes thereto which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. References to "Ridgeline" and the "Company" are to Ridgeline Minerals Corp. and/or one or more of its wholly owned subsidiaries. Further information on the Company is available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Information is also available on the Company's website at www.ridgelineminerals.com. Information on risks associated with investing in the Company's securities is contained in this MD&A. Technical and scientific information under National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101") concerning the Company's material properties are located in their respective technical reports: technical and scientific information regarding the Black Ridge project (the "Black Ridge Project") is contained in the technical report titled "43-101 Technical Report Black Ridge Project Eureka and Elko Counties, Nevada" with an effective date of December 30, 2019, prepared for the Company by John Langton (M.Sc., P.Geo.) of JPL GeoServices (the "Black Ridge Technical Report], the technical and scientific information regarding the Belack Ridge project") is contained in the technical report titled "43-101 Technical Report], the technical Report; White Pine County, Nevada" with an effective date of September 4, 2020 (the "Selena Technical Report"), prepared for the Company by John Langton (M.Sc., P.Geo.) of JPL GeoServices and technical and scientific information regarding the Swift project (the "Swift Project") is contained in the technical report titled "43-101 Technical Report; Swift Project, Lander County, Nevada" with an effective date of May 30, 2020, prepared for the Company by John Langton (M.Sc., P.Geo.) of JPL GeoServices (and echnical Report"). The disclosure

# **2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

#### Selena Project

On October 12, 2023, the Company released initial results from the first two core holes of its proposed five (5) hole, 2,000-meter ("m") drill program at the Selena ("Selena") project. Results from the Upper Chinchilla zone returned continuous intercepts of shallow-oxide, silver ("Ag") – lead ("Pb") – zinc ("Zn") – gold ("Au") containing high-grade including intervals of up to 60.7 m grading 69.8g/t Ag, 0.6% Pb, 1.3% Zn, 0.4 g/t Au (or 175.2 g/t AgEq) in SE23-047 that are consistent with nearby reverse circulation ("RC") holes. Notably, deeper drilling beneath the Upper Chinchilla zone in hole SE23-048 also intersected localized antimony-rich ("Sb") breccia intervals averaging 1-2% Sb, which are the first of its kind at Selena.

On December 6, 2023, the Company released the final drill results of its proposed five (5) hole, 2,000-meter ("m") drill program at the Selena ("Selena") project. Results from the Upper Chinchilla zone returned continuous intercepts of shallow-oxide, silver ("Ag") – lead ("Pb") – zinc ("Zn") – gold ("Au") containing high-grade including intervals of up to 0.4 m grading 570.2 g/t Ag, 20.8% Pb, 1.5% Zn, 0.3 g/t Au (or 1,299.1 g/t AgEq) within: 24.4 m grading 134.1 g/t Ag, 2.5% Pb, 2.4% Zn, 0.1 g/t Au (or 321.9 g/t AgEq) in SE23-050:

# Black Ridge Project (previously Carlin-East)

On July 17, 2023, the Company entered into a transaction with Nevada Gold Mines LLC ("NGM" or "Nevada Gold Mines"), a joint venture between Barrick Gold and Newmont Corp., pursuant to which NGM can acquire an interest in Ridgeline's Black Ridge gold project (previously known as the Carlin-East Project). NGM can incur a minimum of \$4.5 million (of which \$1.5 million is guaranteed) in qualifying work expenditures over an initial five-year term to earn an initial 60% interest in Black Ridge and will have further options to increase its interest to a total 75% interest as outlined below. NGM assumed immediate operatorship of the project.

# Swift Gold Project

On February 7, 2024 the Company announced that Nevada Gold Mines (operator of the Swift exploration earn-in agreement) had completed one of the two planned 2023 drill holes at the Swift project ("Swift") with the single drillhole being lost above its intended target depth due to difficult drilling conditions. As part of the exploration earn-in agreement, NGM can incur a minimum of \$20.0 million (of which \$5.0 million has already been spent) in qualifying work expenditures over an initial five-year term to earn an initial 60% interest in Swift and will have further options to increase its interest to a total 75% interest as outlined below.

### **Big Blue Copper Project**

On August 24, 2023, the Company announced it has acquired, at no cost to the Company, an extensive historical exploration database for the Big Blue project from an undisclosed third-party. The newly acquired data is a modern geologic database consisting of detailed mapping, surface geochemistry, drill data and multiple generations of surface and airborne geophysics. The data has been thoroughly validated and incorporated into the Big Blue geologic model and is expected to save significant time and exploration capital to advance the Project to a maiden drill program in 2024.

On September 6, 2023, the Company announced the staking of an additional one hundred and forty-one ("141") Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") lode claims (2,913 acres) at the Big Blue project. Big Blue now comprises 502 contiguous lode claims totaling 10,168 acres or 41 square kilometers ("km") and is 100% owned by the Company with no underlying work commitments or royalty obligations.

### **Robber Gulch Project**

On February 21, 2024, the Company entered into an agreement to sell its 100% interest in Robber Gulch to Scout Discoveries Corp. ("Scout") for cash and securities. The consideration received from Scout consisted of a one time payment of \$50,000 and 200,000 common shares of Scout. This transaction was completed on March 20, 2024.

# **Corporate**

On April 19, 2024, the Company announced a non-brokered private placement to raise gross proceeds of up to C\$2,200,000 through the sale of up to 18,333,333 units at the price of C\$0.12 per unit. Each unit consists of one common share of the Company and one-half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant. Each full warrant entitles the holder to purchase one additional share of the Company at a price of C\$0.18 per share for a period of 24 months from the date of issue.

On April 27, 2023, the Company closed a non-brokered private placement consisting of 22,535,000 units at a price of C0.20 per unit which raised gross proceeds of C4,507,000. Each unit consists of one common share of the Company and one-half of one non-transferable common share purchase warrant. Each warrant is exercisable to acquire one share at a price of C0.30 per share for a period of two years from the closing date. The Company paid an aggregate finder's fee of C240,958 and recognized net proceeds of C4,203,928 after deducting share issuance costs.

On February 9, 2023, the Company announced the acquisition of the Big Blue Project ("Big Blue") via low-cost staking of 361 load claims totaling 7,255 acres. Big Blue includes the past producing Delker Mine, which produced 94,434 pounds of copper at an average grade of 6.2% Cu between 1916-1917 and shares its southern boundary with Reyna Silver's Medicine Springs Ag-Pb-Zn Carbonate Replacement ("CRD") project. A total of nineteen (19) confirmation rock chip samples were collected by Ridgeline in late 2022 between the Delker Mine workings and Skarn Hill adit, returning an average grade of 1.8% oxide Cu including a highlight sample of 6.4% Cu, 0.2 g/t Au, and 53.8 g/t Ag at Skarn Hill.

The Company's financial highlights for the year included:

- Full 2023 year operating loss was \$901,685 compared to an operating loss of \$1,016,899 in 2022;
- Full 2023 year operating cash outflow before working capital was \$777,276 compared to an operating cash outflow before working capital of \$651,117 in 2022; and

• As at December 31<sup>th</sup>, 2023, cash, including restricted cash, was \$568,290 and the working capital balance was \$563,501.

# **OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS**

Ridgeline Minerals Corp. ("Ridgeline" or the "Company") is a Canadian resource company engaged in the exploration of precious and base metal deposits in the western United States. The Company controls a 163 square kilometer ("km<sup>2</sup>") exploration portfolio of five early-stage exploration projects in Nevada and Idaho.

The Company's 100% owned projects are:

- Selena (the "Selena Project") is a Carbonate Replacement Type (CRD) silver-gold-lead-zinc exploration
  project located within the southern extension of the Carlin-Trend in White Pine County, Nevada. (Figure 3).
  Ridgeline drilling in 2022 highlighted the high-grade potential at the Chinchilla zone with follow-up drilling
  in 2023 to focus on expanding the high-grade Ag-Au-Pb-Zn footprint. The claim block is comprised of 467
  BLM administered contiguous federal lode claims covering an area of approximately 9,626 acres (39 km<sup>2</sup>).
  Historic and currently producing mines in the area include Kinross Gold Corp.'s Bald Mountain, Alligator
  Ridge, Yankee and Illipah deposits, with exploration over the past 30 years restricted to surface geochemistry
  and shallow drilling.
- Swift (the "Swift Project") is a Carlin-type gold exploration project within the prolific Cortez district of the Battle Mountain Eureka Trend in Lander County, Nevada. The project covers an area of approximately 18,348 contiguous acres (75 km<sup>2</sup>) and is a mix of 785 unpatented BLM administered lode claims (14,651 acres) and private "fee" lands (3,697 acres). The project has seen limited historic exploration and is located approximately 7 km to the northwest and directly on-strike of NGM's Gold Acres, Pipeline, Cortez Hills and Goldrush deposits (Figure 8). The Swift Project is subject to the NGM Swift Earn-In-Agreement, which has seen US\$5M in NGM directed exploration expenditures to-date.
- Black Ridge (previously Carlin-East) (the "**Black Ridge Project**") is a Carlin-type gold exploration project located within the prolific Carlin Trend, a 200 km (125 mile) long, north-northwest alignment of predominantly carbonate hosted gold deposits located in northeastern Nevada (Figure 11). The 35 km<sup>2</sup> property straddles the Eureka and Elko County lines and is comprised of 427 contiguous Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") lode claims totaling 8,628 acres of surface and mineral rights on-trend of the currently producing Leeville-Turf deposit, which is owned by NGM, a joint venture between Barrick Gold Corp and Newmont Corp. The Black Ridge Project is subject to the NGM Black Ridge Earn-In-Agreement (see July 17, 2023 Press Release <u>HERE</u>).
- Big Blue (the "**Big Blue Project**") is a high-grade porphyry copper gold silver exploration prospect in Elko County, Nevada. The Big Blue Project includes the past producing Delker Mine, which produced 94,434 pounds of copper at an average grade of 6.2% Cu between 1916-1917 and shares its southern boundary with Reyna Silver's Medicine Springs Ag-Pb-Zn CRD project. The Company acquired Big Blue via low-cost staking of 502 lode claims totaling 10,168 acres (41 square kilometers). The Big Blue Project is 100% owned by the Company and retains no underlying lease payments, work commitments or royalty obligations.
- Bell Creek (the "Bell Creek Project") is a Carlin-Type exploration project located directly west of the original Black Ridge claims and adjacent to NGM's Goldstrike, Meikle-Rodeo and Ren deposits on the prolific north Carlin Trend (Figure 13). The property has seen limited historic exploration and is comprised of 1,300 acres of semi-contiguous private mineral rights totaling 5 km<sup>2</sup>. NGM recently announced a 1.2Moz maiden resource grading 7.3 g/t gold at the Ren deposit which sits only 500m west of the Bell Creek property boundary.

The Company was incorporated in British Columbia on March 18, 2019 under the name Carlin-Type Holdings Ltd. and subsequently changed its name to Ridgeline Minerals Corp. on December 11, 2019. On August 12, 2020, the Company completed an initial public offering (the "IPO") and commenced trading on the TSX Venture Exchange (the "TSX-V") under the symbol "RDG" on August 17, 2020. The Company's common shares also trade in the United States on the Over-the-Counter OTCQB Venture Market under the trading symbol "RDGMF".

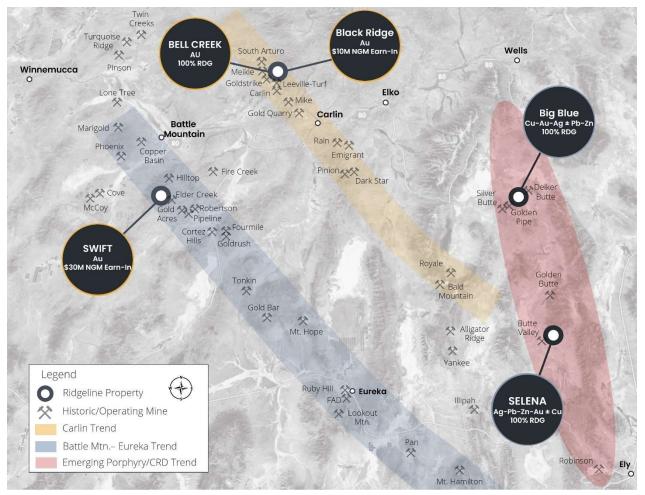
The Company's corporate headquarters is located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Field operations are conducted out of a local office in Winnemucca, Nevada, United States. The Company consolidates it's wholly-owned subsidiaries, Ridgeline Minerals Corporation ("Ridgeline NV"), Ridgeline Silver Corporation, Ridgeline Nevada Silver

Corporation, Ridgeline Carlin-East Corporation, Ridgeline Swift Corporation, Big Blue Nevada Corporation and Ridgeline Exploration Corporation.

# **PROJECT LOCATIONS**

The Company's five projects are located in Nevada, United States (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map showing location Ridgeline properties in Nevada

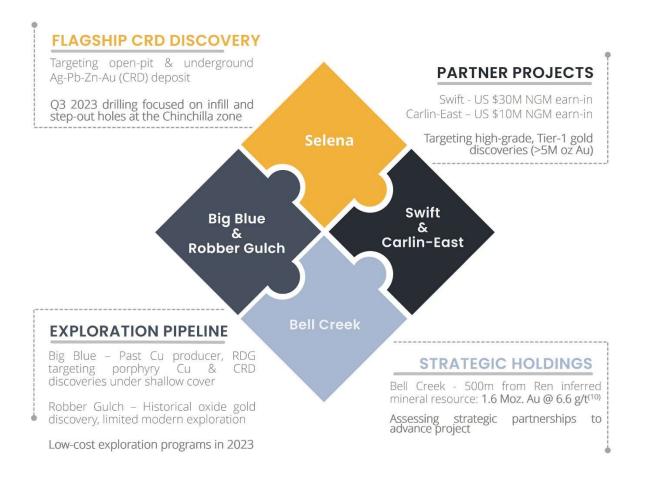


# **EXPLORATION STRATEGY AND OUTLOOK**

The Company's exploration strategy is focused on identifying underexplored precious and base metal exploration projects in the western US with potential to yield a significant discovery. The Company's portfolio is a mix of 100% owned exploration projects, exploration partnerships and strategic land holdings with the Company's flagship Selena project exhibiting significant growth potential throughout the first nine phases of drilling (Figure 2). Exploration projects are acquired with district-scale consolidation of mineral rights being an early focus, evidenced by Ridgeline's 192 km<sup>2</sup> portfolio. Each project receives systematic, science-driven exploration which begins with evaluation of historical data followed by comprehensive surface geochemistry, field mapping and geophysical surveys. This baseline data collection is crucial to the exploration process and creates a geologic framework that allows the team to identify high-priority drill targets which are then ranked at both the project and portfolio level. The technical team's proven track record of multiple discoveries in Canada and the US supports their belief that economic discoveries are typically a result of sustained exploration efforts across multiple phases of drilling. As a result, drill programs are completed in phases with each drill program having clearly defined technical goals and budget expectations to be met before additional phases of drilling are authorized. The company's 2023 exploration budget focused on its flagship Selena

project with any excess funds being allocated towards Big Blue or follow-up programs at Selena. Ridgeline's exploration joint venture with Nevada Gold Mines has returned positive initial results and the Company will continue to assess potential partnership opportunities with mid-tier and major mining companies for its other exploration assets. This strategy will allow Ridgeline to continue to focus its own exploration budget towards advancing its flagship Selena project, which exhibits potential to discover a world-class CRD system.

#### Figure 2: Ridgeline's 2023 exploration strategy



# **SELENA PROJECT**

#### **Project Description**

The Selena Project is a Carbonate Replacement Type (CRD) silver-gold-lead-zinc exploration project located within the southern extension of the Carlin-Trend in White Pine County, Nevada (Figure 3). The claim block is comprised of 467 BLM administered contiguous federal lode claims covering an area of approximately 9,626 acres (39 km<sup>2</sup>). Historic and currently producing mines in the area include the Yankee, Illipah, Bald Mountain and Alligator Ridge deposits (Kinross Gold), as well as the undeveloped Butte Valley Cu-Au porphyry, a US\$33M exploration and earn-in agreement operated by Freeport-McMoRan, which shares a property boundary with Selena. The Company's Q4, 2022 program was designed to test multiple target areas across the know mineralized footprint with the highest priority holes located at the Chinchilla target, which were designed to follow up on high-grade CRD mineralization previously drilled by Ridgeline using RC drilling methods (Figure 4). This program utilized diamond drill core methods to collect higher quality samples for assay and not only confirmed historic RC intercepts but materially upgraded Ag-Au-Pb-Zn grades in the main Chinchilla mineralized horizon. Highlight results include:

Chinchilla Oxide Target

- SE23-047: 60.7 m grading 69.8g/t Ag, 0.6% Pb, 1.3% Zn, 0.4 g/t Au (or 175.2 g/t AgEq)
- SE22-045: 32.5 m grading 153.42 g/t Ag, 2.51% Pb, 1.60% Zn, 0.09 g/t Au including 6.1 m grading 480.52 g/t Ag, 12.0% Pb, and 6.39% Zn, 0.14 g/t Au (Figure 5)
  - o and 2.7m grading 452.96 g/t Ag, 1.42% Pb, 0.54% Zn and 0.15 g/t Au
- SE22-039: 15.9 m grading 83.5 g/t Ag, 0.10% Pb, 0.14% Zn, 0.02 g/t Au, (No significant values of W) including 0.5 m grading 1,793 g/t Ag, 2.2% W, and 0.5% Cu
- SE22-039A: 1.5 m grading 580.1 g/t Ag, 1.95% W, and 0.5% Cu (failed wedge drilled off SE22-039)

#### Juniper Target

- Results A single core hole (SE22-040) returned 6.5 m grading 0.27 g/t Au starting at 43.6 m downhole and 0.7 m grading 34.44 g/t Ag, 0.25% Pb, 0.10% Zn and 0.47 g/t Au starting at 178.4 m downhole (Figure 5)
  - CRD mineralization in SE22-040 is hosted within a fault-controlled breccia zone on the footwall side of the Aurym fault (interpreted as a primary feeder fault to the Juniper target). Future drilling would focus on the hangingwall side of the Aurym fault

Broken Egg

- Results Core hole SE22-044 returned 4.4 m grading 0.68 g/t of oxide Au starting at 0.6 m below surface (Figure 5)
  - Drill holes SE22-041 to SE22-043 tested multiple outcropping Au targets across three kilometers of strike and intersected extensive alteration structure and anomalous gold grades up to 0.40 g/t Au, including:
  - SE22-042: 1.9 m grading 0.19 g/t oxide Au starting at 83.7 m downhole

Figure 3: Plan view map showing Selena property location within the historic Limousine Butte district with past and currently producing mines in the area including Bald Mountain (Kinross Gold) and Golden Butte (NevGold). Freeport-McMoRan holds a US\$33M earn-in exploration agreement on the Butte Valley project (black outline), which shares a boundary with Selena

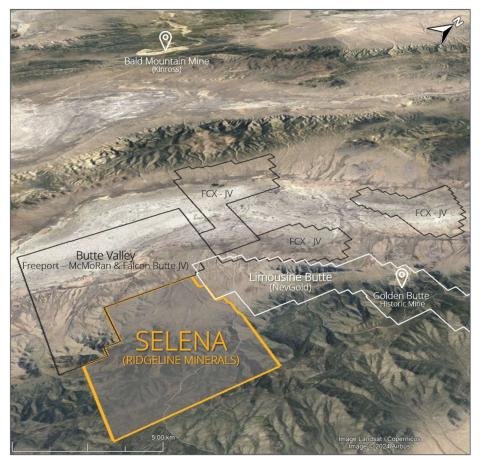
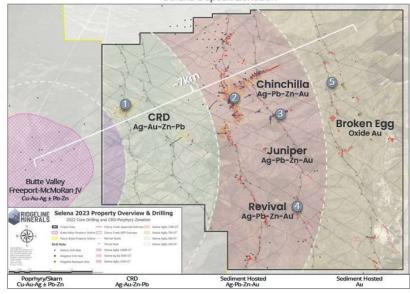


Figure 4: Plan view map showing the Chinchilla, Juniper, Revivial, CRD and Broken Egg targets at Selena. Ridgeline's Q4 2022 drill program successfully tested multiple targets with highlight results from core hole SE22-045 at the Chinchilla zone.





Selena Deposit Zonation

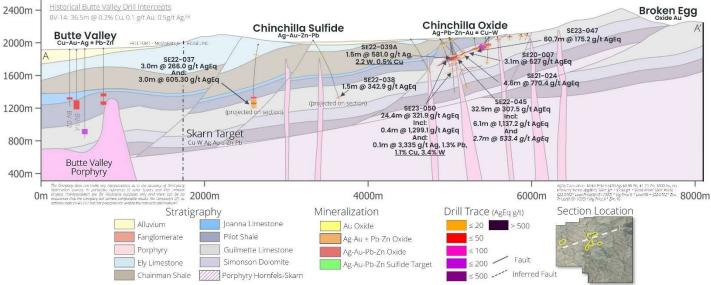
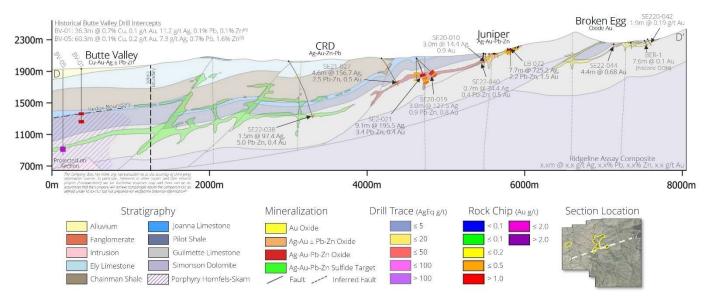


Figure 5: Long Section A-A' showing drill intercepts in hole SE22-039, SE22-039A and SE22-045 at the Chinchilla target. High-grade mineralization is located at the intersection of NW and NE fault zones (ie: chimney horizons) intruded by quartz-feldpsar porphyry dikes.

Figure 6: Long Section B-B' showing drill intercepts from Q4, 2022 program in hole SE22-040 at the Juniper target as well as a shallow oxide Au intercept at the Broken Egg target.



On September 5, 2020, the Company's Selena Technical Report was issued with an effective date of September 4, 2020. Please refer to the Selena Technical Report filed on the Company's profile on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) for more details concerning the Selena Project.

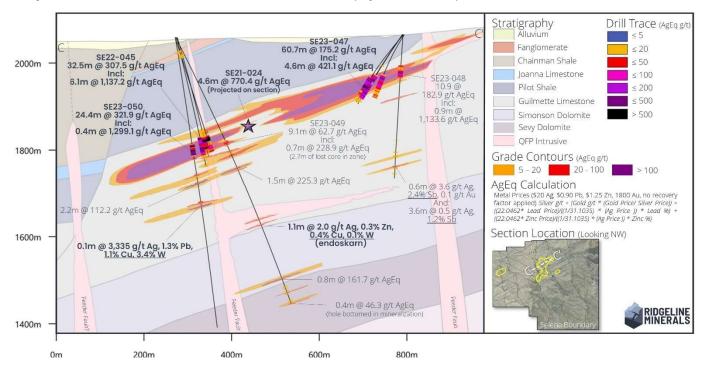
# **2023 Exploration Strategy**

Chinchilla

- The Company completed its 5-hole (2,000m) drill program at Selena in November with highlight results from initial drilling in hole SE23-047 and SE23-048 returning thick intercepts of shallow-oxide mineralization (Figure 7).
  - SE23-047 retuned a highlight intercept of 60.7 m grading 69.8g/t Ag, 0.6% Pb, 1.3% Zn, 0.4 g/t Au (or 175.2 g/t AgEq)

• The company anticipates the approval of a BLM administered Plan of Operations (PoO) exploration permit in Q2, 2024, which will allow for up to 200 acres of disturbance at Selena. The expanded program will allow Ridgeline to more effectively drill the Chinchilla, Juniper and CRD targets and advance the project to a potential maiden resource in the future.

Figure 7: X-Section C-C' at the Chinchilla Zone showing proposed 2023 drill holes with results from SE23-047- SE23-050. The program was designed to confirm the Upper Chinchilla mineralized horizon an successfully tested the down-dip potential of the feeder fault zone and intersected multiple stacked zones of mineralization in the Guilmette Limestone and underlying Simonson and Sevy dolomite units.



During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company spent \$1,794,670 related to the exploration geological work at the Selena Project.

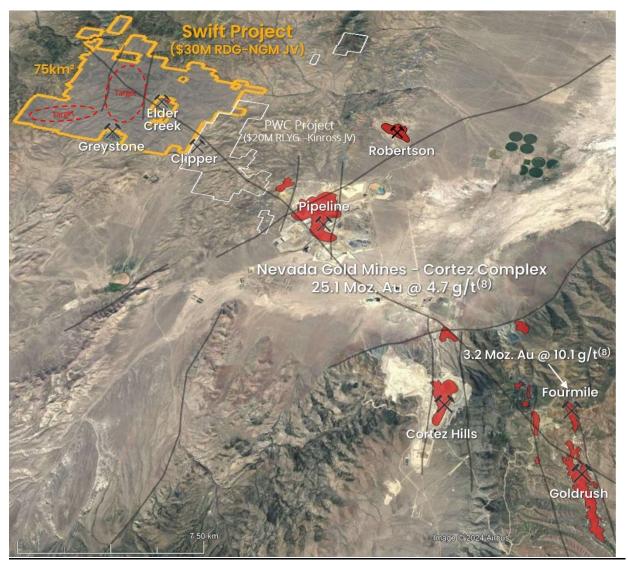
# **SWIFT PROJECT**

# Project description

The Swift Project is a 75km<sup>2</sup>, district-scale land package located within the prolific Cortez district of the Battle Mountain – Eureka Trend, which is currently under option with Nevada Gold Mines (NGM). The property is approximately 7 km northwest of and on strike to NGM's Gold Acres, Pipeline and Cortez Hills deposits (Figure 8). In 1999, Phelps Dodge drilled a single historic drill intercept at the Mill Creek target which intersected 18.3m grading 0.65 g/t Au and 0.30 g/t Ag in MCK-99-5A. The mineralized intercept was originally logged as Roberts Mountain Formation host rocks but has since been re-interpreted as the overlying Wenban formation after the Ridgeline team identified distinctive fossils and sedimentary "marker" beds that only exist in the Wenban. This was a significant development for the Company as the Wenban formation had never been identified at the Swift project by historic operators and is the primary host rock for high-grade gold deposits in the Cortez District. The Company completed two deep drill holes in Q4, 2020 (the third was lost above target) which further confirmed the Company's Wenban formation interpretation with SW20-002 returning multiple narrow intercepts of low-grade gold and high-grade silver highlighted by 0.2m of 0.22 g/t Au and 860 g/t Ag starting at 872.5m in SW20-002. The Company has since executed an Exploration Earn-In Agreement (the "Swift Earn-In Agreement") with Nevada Gold Mines in September 2021 with highlights of the agreement listed below.

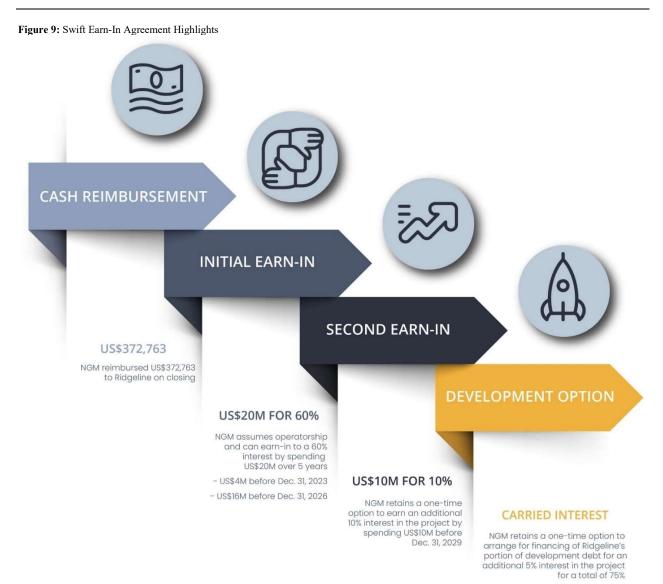
On May 30, 2020, the Company's Swift Technical Report was issued with an effective date of May 4, 2020. Please see the Swift Technical Report filed on the Company's profile on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) for more details concerning the Swift Project.

Figure 8: Modified Google Earth image showing location of Swift Project in relation to Cortez District gold mines along the Battle Mountain-Eureka Trend.



# NGM Swift Earn-In Agreement

On September 22, 2021, the Company announced that it had entered into a transaction, the NGM Swift Earn-In Agreement, with Nevada Gold Mines pursuant to which NGM can acquire an interest in the Swift Project. NGM can incur a minimum of \$20 million (of which \$4 million is guaranteed) in qualifying work expenditures over an initial five-year term to earn an initial 60% interest in Swift and will have further options to increase its interest to a total 75% interest (Figure 9). NGM assumed operatorship of the project in September 2021.



### **2022 Exploration Results**

Nevada Gold Mines commenced the next phase of its framework drill campaign in August 2022. Three wide-spaced (approximately 1 kilometer) "framework" core holes were completed by NGM between September 2022 and January 2023 for a total of 3,278m. Drill hole SW22-002 and SW22-003 intersected Lower-Plate carbonate host rocks between 570-830 m depth with widespread intervals of Carlin-Type alteration and anomalous gold mineralization intersected in both holes with individual samples grading up to 2.72 g/t Au. Highlight intercepts include 37.2m grading 0.29 g/t Au, 2.6 g/t Ag in SW22-002 and 48.8m grading 0.45 g/t Au, 0.98 g/t Ag in SW22-003. Core hole SW22-004 intersected Lower Plate host rocks at 1,065m and was drilled to a depth of 1,104m before being halted in January 2023 due to severe winter weather conditions. The hole was left cased and ready for potential re-entry at a later date in 2023. Drilling to-date has confirmed the presence of widespread gold mineralization in Lower Plate host rocks at Swift (Figure 10).

<u>Ridgeline Minerals Announces Widespread Carlin-Type Alteration and Gold Mineralization from Drill Results at the</u> <u>Swift Project, Nevada – Ridgeline Minerals</u>

#### **2023 Exploration Results**

The single drillhole in 2023 did not reach its intended target depth with plans to drill a larger program in 2024 to fully test the deep exploration targets at Swift.

NGM has spent a total of \$7.23 million on the project through Q4 2023 and has satisfied the guaranteed work commitments of \$4 million ahead of the scheduled deadline of December 31, 2023.

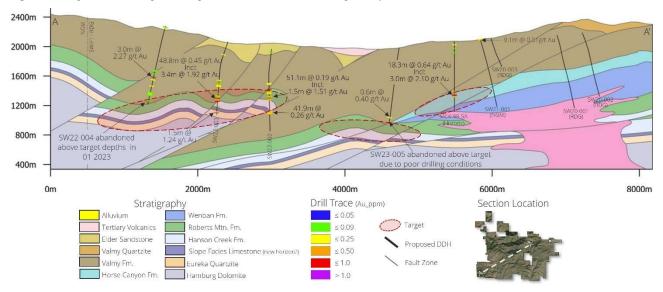


Figure 10: Long Section showing the widespread "framework" drillholes completed by NGM between Q4 2021 and Q4 2023.

# **BLACK RIDGE PROJECT (Previously Carlin-East)**

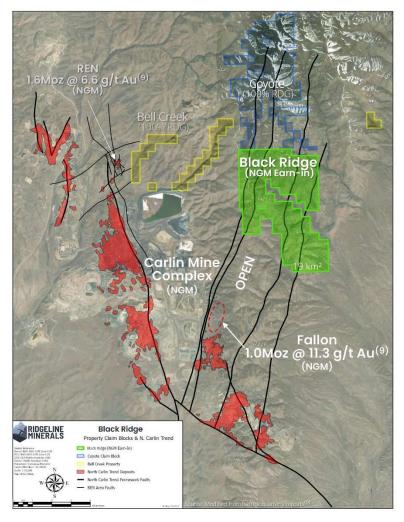
#### Project description

The Black Ridge Project is a semi-contiguous land package located on the prolific Carlin Trend, a 200 km (125 mile) long, north-northwest alignment of predominantly carbonate hosted gold deposits in northeastern Nevada (Figure 11).

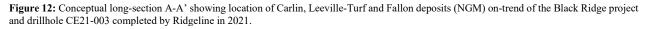
The Black Ridge claim block is directly on-trend of the NGM owned Leeville-Turf mine and North Leeville high-grade resource and is comprised of 427 contiguous BLM lode claims totaling 8,628 acres of mineral and surface rights. Ridgeline acquired the Black Ridge claims with the belief that the same carbonate host rocks (Lower Plate) that host multiple mines on the trend including the high-grade Leeville-Turf and North Leeville deposits to the south were significantly shallower than previous operators projected. The North Leeville discovery returned significant drill intercepts throughout 2021 including a highlight drill intercept in drillhole NLX-00010 of 56.7m grading 28.39 g/t Au (Figure 11). NGM announced a maiden resource at North Leeville of 1.0 Moz Au grading 11.3 g/t Au in Q1, 2022 with mineralization currently open in multiple directions (Figure 11). The Company completed a single 1,254m deep drillhole in Q4, 2021 at the Crash Zone target with details listed below.

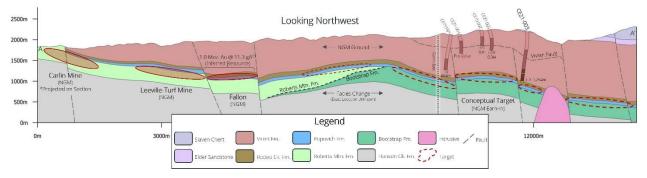
On January 30, 2020, the Company's Black Ridge Technical Report was issued with an effective date of December 30, 2019. Please see the Black Ridge Technical Report filed on the Company's profile on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) for more details concerning the Black Ridge Project.

Figure 11: Plan view map of the North Carlin Trend showing location of Black Ridge Project located directly on-trend of NGM's Fallon (previously North Leeville) maiden resource of 1.0 Moz grading 11.3 g/t gold.



The Company's 2021 drill program was initiated in September 2021 with the goal of testing the highly prospective Crash Zone target area, located approximately 4km north of the Fallon discovery (Figure 12). Drill hole CE21-003 targeted mineralized Lower Plate host rocks along the NE trending Four Corners fault zone with a proposed depth to target of approximately 900-1,100m (Figure 11). Drilling intersected the top of the Rodeo Creek formation (Lower Plate) prior to termination of the hole at 1,254m but did not intersect any significant gold values.



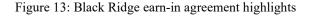


### NGM Black Ridge Earn-In Agreement

On July 17, 2023, the Company announced that it had entered into a transaction, the NGM Black Ridge Earn-In-Agreement, with Nevada Gold Mines pursuant to which NGM can acquire an interest in the Black Ridge Project. NGM can incur a minimum of \$4.5 million (of which \$1.5 million is guaranteed) in qualifying work expenditures over an initial five-year term to earn an initial 60% interest in Black Ridge and will have further options to increase its interest to a total 75% interest as outlined below (Figure 13). NGM will assume operatorship of the project immediately.

#### Earn-In Agreement Highlights

- Reimbursement of Prior Expenditures: Within 15 days of signing the definitive agreement, NGM will reimburse a total of \$100,000 to Ridgeline in consideration for recent overhead and work expenditures at Black Ridge. This amount was received in July 2023.
- Initial Earn-In Option: NGM will assume operatorship of the project and can earn-in to a 60% interest in the project by incurring a minimum of \$4.5 million in qualifying work expenditures over five years, including:
  - \$1.5 million in guaranteed work expenditures before December 31, 2025.
  - \$3.0 million in work expenditures before July 14, 2028.
  - NGM and Ridgeline will each elect two representatives to a Black Ridge technical steering committee, which will meet quarterly to review budgets and exploration progress.
- Second Earn-In Option: NGM will retain a one-time option to earn an additional 10% interest in the project by sole-funding an additional \$5.0 million in work expenditures before July 14, 2030.
- Development Funding Option: Within 90 days of a joint venture decision to proceed with development and construction of a mine and/or related processing facilities on Black Ridge, NGM will have a one-time option to elect to provide, or arrange for third-party, financing of Ridgeline's portion of debt financing required for the development in consideration, in either case, for an additional 5% interest in the project for a total of 75% (or 65% if the second option was not exercised).





# **BELL CREEK PROJECT**

# Project description

The Bell Creek Project, acquired in February 2020 from Marvel-Jenkins LLC is situated west of the Black Ridge Project and consists of 1,300 acres of private mineral rights directly adjacent to NGM's Ren deposit (1.6 Moz grading 6.6 g/t Au) as well as directly on trend of the multi-million-ounce Goldstrike and Rodeo-Meikle deposits (Figure 13).

The Company executed a surface access agreement for its Bell Creek property with NGM in January 2021. The agreement is in effect through December 31, 2024 and will allow the Company to utilize NGM's Carlin Complex Road infrastructure to access the Bell Creek property, which is located directly adjacent to NGM's development-stage Ren and Banshee underground gold deposits on the Carlin Trend.

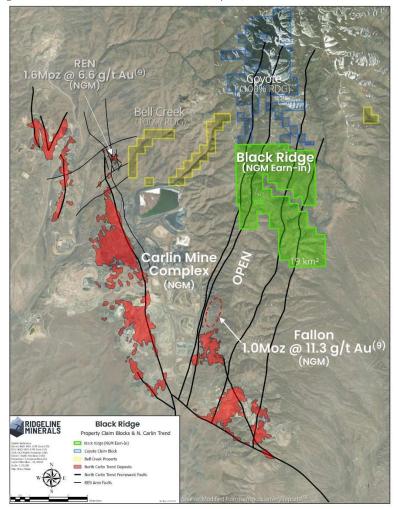
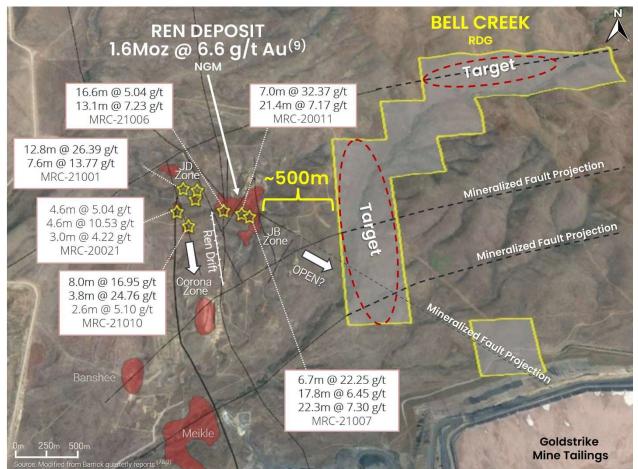


Figure 14: Plan view map of the North Carlin Trend showing location of the Bell Creek project in relation to Ridgeline's Black Ridge earn-in agreement with NGM and the NGM owned Ren deposit, which released a maiden resource of 1.6 Moz grading 6.6 g/t Au in Q1, 2022.

# **Exploration Program Objective**

The Company will maintain all mineral rights in good standing in 2023 but will not complete any further exploration activities due to the high costs of drill testing targets at Bell Creek at projected depths of 1,000+ vertical meters. The Company's technical team project's multiple fault structures known to control mineralization at Ren onto the Bell Creek property (Figure 15). The Company will continue to assess options for advancing this strategic exploration asset.

Figure 15: Zoomed in map of the Ren Deposit resource and Bell Creek project with multiple fault structures interpreted as projecting onto the Bell Creek property.



# **BIG BLUE PROJECT**

# **Project description**

Big Blue is an early-stage porphyry Cu-Au-Ag exploration prospect located in Elko County, Nevada, approximately 75 km southeast of the city of Elko, NV. The project area includes the past producing Delker Mine, which produced 94,434 pounds of copper at an average grade of 6.2% Cu between 1916-1917 1 and shares its southern boundary with Reyna Silver's Medicine Springs Ag-Pb-Zn CRD project (Figure 16).

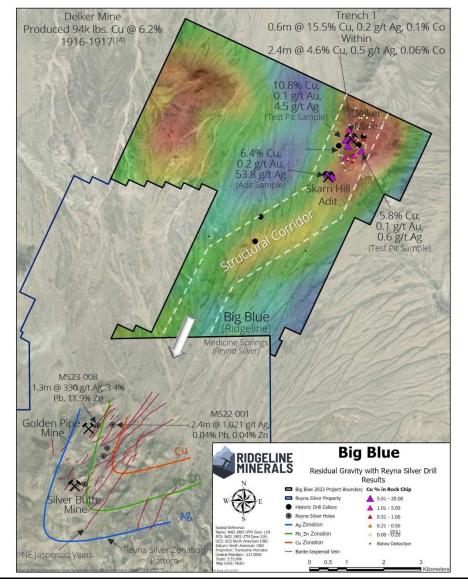
Outcropping garnet skarn with high-grade  $Cu \pm Au$ -Ag rock chip samples collected by Ridgeline occurs on the Project on two outcropping buttes surrounded by post-mineral gravels covering a roughly five (5) km target area zoning towards Medicine Springs (See September 19, 2023 Press Release <u>HERE</u>). The primary target at Big Blue is porphyryskarn  $Cu \pm Au$ -Ag mineralization, which may be the source of CRD mineralization at Medicine Springs – analogous to the Butte Valley porphyry Cu-Au system inferred to be a source of CRD mineralization at the Company's Selena project. The 100% owned Project is comprised of a total of 41 square kilometers of highly prospective exploration ground that has seen limited exploration since the early 1900's and will benefit from the Ridgeline teams systematic approach to discovery.

#### **Trench Assay Highlights:**

- Trench 1 (Delker Mine): 0.6 m grading 15.5% Cu, 0.18 g/t Ag and 0.1% cobalt ("Co") within 2.4 m grading 4.6% Cu, 0.52 g/t Ag and 0.06% Co (Figure 16)
  - Note that trench sampling was conducted across the face and roof or "back" of the Delker Mine adit with the core of the mineralized horizon mined out during historical mining activities in 1916-1917

o Trench 1 is the first instance of strongly elevated cobalt mineralization sampled on the project

Figure 16: Plan view map showing high-grade Cu-Ag-Co trench results at the Delker Mine directly over a pronounced gravity high as well as rock chips taken throughout the Delker Mine and Skarn Hill target area

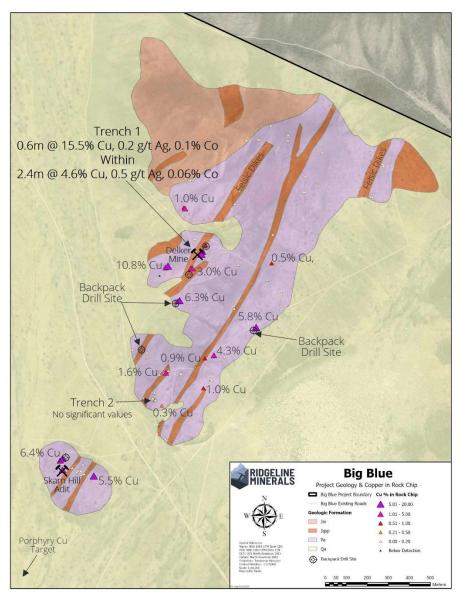


#### **Rock Chip Highlights:**

- Select rock chip samples returned grades up to 10.8% Cu, 0.10 g/t Au, 4.51 g/t Ag (sample #32) and 5.8% Cu, 0.07 g/t Au, 0.63 g/t Ag (sample #21) (Figure 17)
- A total of fourteen rock chip samples were collected in May 2023 ranging from 0.01-10.8% Cu, below detection limit ("BDL") 0.10 g/t Au and 0.10 4.51 g/t Ag (avg. 2.0% Cu, 0.02 g/t Au, 0.59 g/t Ag)

For a full table of rock chip sample assays click **HERE** 

Figure 17: Plan view map of the Delker Mine area showing high-grade trenches and rock chips (Cu%). Mineralization directly associated with NE trending felsic dike swarm



# **ROBBER GULCH PROJECT**

On February 21, 2024, the Company announced an agreement to sell its 100% interest in Robber Gulch to Scout Discoveries Corp. ("Scout") for cash and securities. The consideration received from Scout consisted of a one time payment of \$50,000 and 200,000 common shares of Scout valued at \$0.50 per share. This transaction was completed on March 20, 2024.

# **EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION ASSET EXPENDITURE**

Title to exploration and evaluation assets involves certain inherent risks due to the difficulties of determining the validity of certain claims as well as the potential for problems arising from the frequently ambiguous conveyancing history characteristics of many exploration and evaluation assets. The Company has investigated titles to its exploration and evaluation assets and, to the best of its knowledge, titles to the exploration and evaluation assets remain in good standing.

The Company's exploration and evaluation expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2023 were as follows:

	Swift / Black Ridge	Selena	Big Blue	Robber Gulch / Bell Creek	Total
Additions:					
Geophysics	\$-	\$ 51,467	\$-	\$ -	\$ 51,467
Geochemistry	-	6,967	-	-	6,967
Drilling	-	1,136,328	-	-	1,136,328
Assays	-	109,462	3,033	-	112,495
Land fees and permitting	40,938	133,972	219,564	79,451	473,925
Geology salaries and fees	-	356,474	284,457	-	640,931
Property administration	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisition payment	-	-	-	-	-
Total additions for the year	40,938	1,794,670	507,054	79,451	2,422,113
Balance at December 31, 2022	4,295,716	3,713,964	-	238,459	8,248,139
	4,336,654	5,508,634	507,054	317,910	10,670,252
Recovery of exploration and evaluation expenditures from NGM	(100,000)	-	-	-	(100,000)
Movement in foreign exchange	97,712	127,048	11,694	7,332	243,786
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$ 4,334,366	\$ 5,635,682	\$ 518,748	\$ 325,242	\$ 10,814,038

The Company's exploration and evaluation expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2022 were as follows:

	Swift / Black Ridge	Selena	Big Blue	Robber Gulch / Bell Creek	Total
Additions:					
Geophysics	\$ -	\$ 54,410	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,410
Geochemistry	-	11,734	-	-	11,734
Drilling	203	1,012,097	-	-	1,012,300
Assays	-	92,345	-	5,896	98,241
Land fees and permitting	121,938	252,349	-	25,000	399,287
Geology salaries and fees	19,827	677,246	-	16,591	713,664
Property administration	-	37,526	-	-	37,526
Acquisition payment	-	-	-	69,305	69,305
Total additions for the year	141,968	2,137,707	-	116,792	2,396,467
Balance at December 31, 2021	4,410,702	1,798,413	-	135,932	6,345,047
	4,552,670	3,936,120	-	252,724	8,741,514
Movement in foreign exchange	(256,954)	(222,156)	-	(14,265)	(493,375)
Balance at December 31, 2022	\$ 4,295,716	\$ 3,713,964	\$-	\$ 238,459	\$ 8,248,139

# SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL OPERATING RESULTS

	2023	2022
General and administrative expenses		
Administration and office	\$ 84,690	\$ 80,661
Investor relations	255,871	242,792
Personnel costs	316,128	253,225
Professional fees	94,000	100,063
Filing fees	40,713	42,950
Insurance	24,310	30,170
Depreciation	56,205	79,425
Other	12,763	17,537
Share-based compensation	17,005	170,076
Operating loss	901,685	1,016,899
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	41,076	(24,365)
Interest income	(39,076)	(22,284)
Loss for the year	903,685	970,250
Other comprehensive (gain) loss		
Foreign currency translation	(321,035)	490,217
Comprehensive loss for the year	\$ 582,650	\$ 1,460,467
Loss per common share		
Basic and fully diluted	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.02)
Total assets	\$ 11,696,869	\$ 9,745,403

The Company's operating results for years ended December 31 is as follows:

Administration and office expenses in 2023 and 2022 were costs primarily for the Nevada exploration office and have increased due to inflationary cost increases.

Investor relations in 2023 were similar compared to 2022.

Personnel costs in 2023 were higher compared to 2022 due to inflationary salary increases.

Professional and filing fees in 2023 were lower than in 2022 due to lower corporate related activities in 2023.

Depreciation expense in 2023 was lower compared to 2022 due to a lower leased property balance in 2023.

Stock-based compensation was lower in 2023 compared to 2022 due to a decrease in the granting of stock-based equity instruments to directors and management of the Company.

The foreign exchange loss was related to the movement in the foreign exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and the US dollar during the period.

The total assets as at December 31, 2023 were higher than at December 31, 2022 due to exploration and evaluation expenditures during fiscal 2023.

	Q4 23	Q3 23	Q2 23	Q1 23	Q4 22	Q3 22	Q2 22	Q1 22
Administration and office	\$ 18,850	\$ 24,022	\$ 21,128	\$ 20,690	\$ 25,729	\$ 19,089	\$ 21,156	\$ 14,687
Investor relations	39,060	69,832	82,958	64,021	55,195	65,737	69,607	52,253
Personnel costs	69,897	78,365	82,771	85,095	46,748	68,753	67,736	69,988
Professional fees	(37,360)	83,609	42,085	5,666	23,227	27,828	33,758	15,250
Filing fees	10,669	8,637	12,524	8,883	10,828	10,109	10,355	11,658
Insurance	6,116	6,183	6,254	5,757	9,807	(6,148)	14,104	12,407
Depreciation	16,342	16,341	12,677	10,845	19,077	18,538	19,988	21,822
Other	4,256	3,805	3,020	1,682	2,977	2,366	4,962	7,232
Share-based compensation	3,195	4,619	4,666	4,525	147,506	6,332	7,071	9,167
Operating loss	131,025	295,413	268,083	207,164	341,094	212,604	248,737	214,464
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	58,036	(52,846)	37,083	(1,197)	42,845	(33,372)	(37,008)	3,170
Interest income	(7,221)	(15,190)	(14,350)	(2,315)	(11,180)	(10,321)	(386)	(397)
Net loss for the period	\$ 181,840	\$ 227,377	\$ 290,816	\$ 203,652	\$ 372,759	\$ 168,911	\$ 211,343	\$ 217,237

#### **Quarterly Financial Data**

The Company's administration and office expense in Q4 2023 was consistent compared to prior quarters. Investor relations costs are due to marketing activities and fluctuate based on the Company's targeted marketing initiatives within the respective quarter. Personnel costs fluctuate between quarters with exploration activities. Certain personnel costs are capitalized to mineral properties when those employees are working directly on exploration programs. Professional fees fluctuate due mainly to timing of invoices and corporate development activities. Depreciation is related to the acquisition of property and equipment, including vehicles, for exploration activities. Foreign exchange gains and losses are related to the movement in the USD:CAD rates during each quarter.

# LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company's statement of cashflows for the year ended December 31 is as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash flow used in operating activities before non-cash working capital adjustments	\$ (777,276)	\$ (651,117)
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Decrease in receivables and prepaids	(46,331)	11,538
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,740	(34,473)
	(794,867)	(674,052)
Cash flows used in investing activities	(2,953,319)	(1,766,655)
Cash flows from financing activities	3,055,649	1,768,759
Decrease in cash	(692,537)	(671,948)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	11,554	(65,241)
Cash - beginning of year	1,186,036	1,923,225
Cash - end of year	\$ 505,053	\$ 1,186,036

For the year ended December 31, 2023:

- Cash flows used in operating activities increased in 2023 compared to 2022 due to higher administrative costs, personnel cost, and realized foreign exchange losses.
- Cash flows used in investing activities increased in 2023 compared to 2022 due to increased activities for the Selena drill program during 2023.

- Cash flows from financing activities in 2023 was due to the completed private placement in April 2023.

### **Contractual Obligations**

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had the following contractual obligations outstanding:

	Total	Less th	an 1 year	1-3 years		3-5 years		More than 5 years	
Loans payable	\$ 60,564	\$	19,482	\$	38,964	\$	2,118	\$	-

# **SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

The Company's authorized share capital consists of unlimited common shares without par value.

On December 31, 2023, the Company had 91,196,115 common shares issued and outstanding. At the date of this MD&A, the Company had 91,196,115 common shares issued and outstanding.

On April 27, 2023, the Company closed a non-brokered private placement consisting of 22,535,000 units at a price of C0.20 per unit which raised gross proceeds of C4,507,000. Each unit consists of one common share of the Company and one-half of one common share purchase warrant. Each whole warrant is exercisable to acquire one share at a price of C0.30 per share for a period of two years from the closing date. The Company paid an aggregate finder's fee of C240,958.

On September 29, 2022, the Company closed a non-brokered private placement consisting of 12,732,500 units at a price of C\$0.20 per Unit which raised gross proceeds of C\$2,546,500. Each Unit consisted of one common share of the Company and one-half of one non-transferable common share purchase warrant. Each Warrant can be exercisable to acquire one share at a price of C\$0.30 until September 29, 2024. The Company paid a finder's fee of C\$45,900.

#### **Share Purchase Warrants**

During the year ended December 31, 2023, 9,844,875 share purchase warrants with exercise prices ranging from C\$0.45 to C\$0.75 expired unexercised.

Expiry date	Exercise price C\$	Number of share purchase warrants
September 2024	0.30	6,366,250
April 2025	0.30	11,267,500
		17,633,750

At the date of this MD&A, the following share purchase warrants were outstanding:

#### **Share Options**

The Company provides share-based compensation to its directors, officers, employees, and consultants through grants of share options.

The Company has adopted a stock option plan (the "Plan") to grant share options to directors, officers, employees and consultants to acquire up to 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Company. Vesting is determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of share options granted. For employees, the compensation expense is amortized on a graded vesting basis over the requisite service period which approximates the vesting period. Compensation expense for share options granted to non-employees is recognized over the contract services period or, if none exists, from the date of grant until the options vest.

The Company uses historical data to estimate option exercise, forfeiture and employee termination within the valuation model. The risk-free interest rate is based on a treasury instrument whose term is consistent with the expected term of the share options. The Company has not paid and does not anticipate paying dividends on its common stock and, therefore, the expected dividend yield is assumed to be zero. Companies are required to utilize an estimated forfeiture rate when calculating the compensation expense for the reporting period. Based on the best estimate, management applied the estimated forfeiture rate of Nil in determining the compensation expense recorded in the consolidated financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2023.

Number of share options	Exercise price per share C\$	Expiry Date
2,050,000	0.12	Jul – Aug 2024
1,225,000	0.22	Mar – Apr 2025
270,000	0.36	Nov 2025
60,000	0.50	Apr 2026
680,000	0.37	Dec 2026
450,000	0.22	Oct 2027
250,000	0.25	Dec 2027
4,985,000		

The following is a summary of share options outstanding and exercisable as at the date of this MD&A:

# Deferred Share Units ("DSU")

DSUs are granted to the Company's directors and officers as a part of compensation under the terms of the Company's deferred share units plan (the "DSU Plan"). Each DSU entitles the participant to receive the value of one common share of the Company (a "Common Share"). The maximum number of awards of DSU's and all other security based compensation arrangements shall not exceed 10% of the Company's outstanding shares.

Participants are entitled to the value of the Common Share upon termination of their service. In accordance to the DSU Plan, upon each vesting date the Company shall decide at, at its sole discretion whether, participants receive (a) the issuance of Common Shares equal to the number of DSUs vesting, or (b) a cash payment equal to the number of vested DSUs multiplied by the fair market value of a Common Share, calculated as the closing price of the Common Shares on the TSX-V for the trading day immediately preceding such payment date; or (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

On the grant date of DSUs, the Company determines whether it has a present obligation to settle in cash. If the Company has a present obligation to settle in cash, the DSUs are accounted for as liabilities, with the fair value remeasured at the end of each reporting period and at the date of settlement, with any changes in fair value recognized in profit or loss for the period. The Company has a present obligation to settle in cash if the Company has a past practice or a stated policy of settling in cash, or generally settles in cash whenever the counterparty asks for cash settlement. If no such obligation exists, DSUs are accounted for as equity settled share-based payments and are valued using the share price of the Common Share on grant date. Since the Company controls the settlement, the DSU's are considered equity settled.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, no DSUs were granted by the Company.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company granted 300,000 DSUs to the Company's directors and executives and recorded share-based compensation of \$47,982 related to the DSUs. The fair value per DSU granted during fiscal 2022 was determined to be C\$0.22 which is the share price of the Common Share on grant date.

Number of DSUs	Weighted average grant date fair value per DSU (C\$)
570,000	0.36
300,000	0.37
300,000	0.22
1,170,000	

At the date of this MD&A, the following DSUs were outstanding:

# **Restricted Share Units ("RSU")**

RSUs are granted to the Company's directors, officers, and employees as a part of compensation under the terms of the Company's restricted share units plan (the "RSU Plan"). Each RSU entitles the participant to receive the value of one Common Share. The maximum number of awards of RSU's and all other security based compensation arrangements shall not exceed 10% of the Company's outstanding shares.

The number of RSUs awarded and underlying vesting conditions are determined by the Board of Directors in its discretion. In accordance with the RSU Plan, upon each vesting date the Company shall decide, at its sole discretion, whether participants receive (a) the issuance of Common Shares equal to the number of RSUs vesting, or (b) a cash payment equal to the number of vested RSUs multiplied by the fair market value of a Common Share, calculated as the

closing price of the Common Shares on the TSX-V for the trading day immediately preceding such payment date; or (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

On the grant date of RSUs, the Company determines whether it has a present obligation to settle in cash. If the Company has a present obligation to settle in cash, the RSUs are accounted for as liabilities, with the fair value remeasured at the end of each reporting period and at the date of settlement, with any changes in fair value recognized in profit or loss for the period. The Company has a present obligation to settle in cash if the Company has a past practice or a stated policy of settling in cash, or generally settles in cash whenever the counterparty asks for cash settlement. If no such obligation exists, RSUs are accounted for as equity settled share-based payments and are valued using the share price of the Common Share on grant date. Since the Company controls the settlement, the RSU's are considered equity settled.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, no RSUs were granted by the Company.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Company issued 75,000 RSUs to officers and employees of the Company all of which vest over 3 years. The Company recorded share-based compensation expense of \$26,636. The fair value per RSU granted during fiscal 2022 was determined to be C\$0.22 which is the share price of the Common Share on grant date.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, 108,335 vested Restricted Share Units with grant date fair value ranging from C0.22 to C0.37 were redeemed for 108,335 shares of the Company (2022 – 141,664).

At the date of this MD&A, the following RSUs were outstanding:

Number of RSUs	Number of RSUs vested	Weighted average grant date fair value per RSU C\$
24,998	-	0.37
50,000	-	0.22
74,998	-	

# **PROPERTY TERMS AND COMMITMENTS**

# Black Ridge Project, Nevada, United States

The Black Ridge Project is subject to a 3.25% production royalty and annual advance minimum royalty ("AMR") payments until commercial production is announced. The Company can purchase up to 1% of the production royalty (leaving 2.25%) for \$3,000,000 in the first eight years of the Black Ridge Option Agreement. All AMR payments will be offset against 70% of the production royalty payments as they become due.

The Black Ridge Option Agreement has an underlying term of 99 years unless sooner terminated or the option is exercised, with AMR payments as follows: \$10,000 on or before August 8, 2018 (paid); \$10,000 on or before August 8, 2019 (paid); \$20,000 on or before August 8, 2020 (paid); \$30,000 on or before August 8, 2021 (paid); \$40,000 on or before August 8, 2022 (paid); \$60,000 on or before August 8, 2023 (paid); \$80,000 on or before August 8, 2024 and \$100,000 per year on the eighth anniversary and thereafter. These AMR's will cease upon commencement of commercial production. The underlying option to acquire a 100% interest in the Black Ridge Project pursuant to the Lease and Option Agreement can be exercised prior to commercial production for \$1,000,000 (the "Purchase Price").

#### Bell Creek Property, Nevada, United States

The primary term of the Bell Creek Mining Lease will be 10 years from the effective date (the "Bell Creek Primary Term"), during which Ridgeline NV has an option and right to: (a) purchase all of the Lessor's right, title and interest in the Bell Creek Property for a purchase price of \$10,000,000, subject to the Lessor's reservation of a production royalty of 1.5% of the NSR from the production of valuable minerals (the "Bell Creek Option to Purchase"); or (b) extend the Bell Creek Mining Lease for an additional 15 years (the "Bell Creek Option to Extend Lease") for a payment of \$100,000. The Bell Creek Option to Purchase and the Bell Creek Option to Extend Lease are exercisable up to 90 days prior to the expiration of the Bell Creek Primary Term. Thereafter Ridgeline has the option to further extend the Bell Creek Mining Lease for additional one-year periods for certain cash payments.

The Company must incur \$250,000 of exploration costs during the first five years of the Bell Creek Mining Lease. The Lessor will retain a 3% NSR production royalty on the Bell Creek Property during the term of the Bell Creek Mining Lease from the sale of any valuable minerals extracted, produced and sold from the Bell Creek Property. Ridgeline NV can reduce the 3% NSR production royalty by: (a) exercising the Bell Creek Option to Purchase the Bell Creek Property and reducing the NSR production royalty to 1.5%, or (b) buy down up to 1% of the NSR production royalty at any time during the Bell Creek Primary Term for \$6,000,000 (or \$3,000,000 per each 0.5%). Ridgeline NV will also pay the Lessor a 1% production royalty for valuable minerals extracted, produced and sold from properties in the area of interest of one mile from any boundary of the Bell Creek Property (the "Bell Creek AOI Royalty").

During the term of the Bell Creek Mining Lease, regardless of whether production is occurring on the Bell Creek Property, unless Ridgeline NV exercises the Bell Creek Option to Purchase or terminates the Bell Creek Mining Lease, Ridgeline must pay the Lessor the following AMR payments on or before each anniversary of the effective date over the term of the Bell Creek Mining Lease:

- \$20,000 on the first anniversary (paid);
- \$25,000 on the second anniversary (paid);
- \$30,000 on the third anniversary (paid);
- \$35,000 on the fourth anniversary;
- \$40,000 on the fifth anniversary;
- \$45,000 on the Nineth anniversary;
- \$50,000 on the seventh anniversary; and
- \$75,000 on the eighth anniversary and each subsequent anniversary date.

All AMR payments will be offset against the NSR production royalty and the Bell Creek AOI Royalty.

### Swift and Selena Projects, Nevada, United States

The Swift and Selena projects are subject to a 3.25% production royalty. The Company can purchase up to 1% of the production royalty (leaving 2.25%) for \$3,000,000 in the first 8 years of the Swift and Selena Option Agreement. All AMR payments will be offset against 70% of the production royalty payments as they become due.

### Nevada Gold Mines Corporation Swift Earn-In-Agreement

On September 22, 2021, the Company announced that it had entered into a transaction with Nevada Gold Mines Corporation ("NGM") (the "NGM Swift Earn-In-Agreement") pursuant to which NGM can acquire an interest in the Company's Swift Project. NGM can incur a minimum of \$20 million (of which \$4 million is guaranteed) in qualifying work expenditures over an initial five-year term to earn an initial 60% interest in Swift and will have further options to increase its interest to a total 75% interest. NGM assumed operatorship of the project immediately.

- initial earn-in option: NGM will assume operatorship of the project and can earn-in to a 60% interest in the project by incurring a minimum of \$20 million in qualifying work expenditures over five years, including.
  - \$4 million in guaranteed work expenditures before December 31, 2023.
  - \$16 million in work expenditures and preparation of a technical report in compliance with the requirements of National Instrument 43-101 before December 31, 2026.
  - NGM and Ridgeline will each elect two representatives to a Swift technical steering committee, which will meet quarterly to review budgets and exploration progress.
- Second Earn-In Option: NGM will retain a one-time option to earn an additional 10% interest in the project by sole-funding an additional \$10 million in work expenditures before December 31, 2029.

As part of the NGM Swift Earn-In-Agreement, NGM reimbursed a total of \$372,762 to Ridgeline as consideration for work expenditures at Swift. This amount was received in October 2021 and recorded as a recovery of exploration and evaluation assets of the Swift Property.

# Marvel Property

In October 2019, the Company, through Ridgeline NV, entered into a mining lease ("Swift Mining Lease") with Marvel for certain mineral lands and unpatented mining claims located in Lander County, Nevada (the "Marvel Property"). The Marvel Property is part of the Swift Project and subject to the NGM Swift Earn-In Agreement.

As consideration for the first year rental payment, the Company will pay Marvel \$17,000 (paid), reimburse Marvel for the annual maintenance/holding fee obligation for the claims including an additional 5% of such costs and issuing Marvel 50,000 common shares (issued at a value of C\$11,000) in December 2019.

The primary term of the Swift Mining Lease will be 10 years from the effective date (the "Primary Term"), during which Ridgeline NV has an option and right to: (a) purchase all of Marvel's right, title and interest in the Marvel Property for a purchase price of \$10,000,000, subject to Marvel's reservation of a production royalty of 1.5% of the net smelter returns from the production of valuable minerals (the "Option to Purchase"); or (b) extend the Swift Mining Lease for an additional 15 years (the "Option to Extend Lease") for a payment of \$100,000. Thereafter Ridgeline has the option to further extend the Swift Mining Lease for additional one-year periods for certain cash payments.

The Company must incur \$175,000 of exploration costs during the first two years and an additional \$375,000 in the following three years. Marvel will retain a 3% NSR production royalty on the Marvel Property during the term of the Swift Mining Lease from the sale of any valuable minerals extracted, produced and sold from the Marvel Property. Ridgeline NV can reduce the 3% NSR production royalty by: (a) exercising its Option to Purchase the Marvel Property and reducing the NSR royalty to 1.5%, or (b) buy down up to 1% of the NSR production royalty at any time during the Primary Term for \$6,000,000 (or \$3,000,000 per each 0.5%). Ridgeline NV will also pay Marvel a 1% production royalty for valuable minerals extracted, produced and sold from properties in the area of interest of one mile from any boundary of the Marvel Property (the "AOI Royalty").

During the term of the Swift Mining Lease, regardless of whether production is occurring on the Marvel Property, unless Ridgeline NV exercises its Option to Purchase or terminates the Swift Mining Lease, Ridgeline must pay Marvel the following AMR payments on or before each anniversary of the effective date over the term of the Swift Mining Lease:

- \$20,000 on the first anniversary (paid);
- \$25,000 on the second anniversary (paid);
- \$30,000 on the third anniversary (paid);
- \$35,000 on the fourth anniversary (paid);
- \$40,000 on the fifth anniversary;
- \$45,000 on the Nineth anniversary;
- \$50,000 on the seventh anniversary; and
- \$75,000 on the eighth anniversary and each subsequent anniversary date.

All AMR payments will be offset against the NSR royalty and the AOI Royalty.

# **OTHER DISCLOSURES**

#### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

The Company had no material off-balance sheet arrangements as at the date of this MD&A.

# **Related Party Transactions**

The Company's related parties include key management personnel and directors. Key management personnel include those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Company as a whole. The Company has determined that key management personnel consists of members of the Board and corporate officers, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Exploration.

Direct remuneration paid to the Company's directors and key management personnel during the years ended December 31 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Salaries and benefits (a)	\$ 435,003	\$ 418,341
Share-based compensation	\$ 12,385	\$ 102,576
Exploration expenditure – drilling (b)	\$ 910,962	\$ -

a) Salaries and benefits are capitalized to exploration and evaluation assets or expensed to personnel costs. As of December 31, 2023, included in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities balance on the consolidated statement of financial position is C\$6,047 (December 31, 2022 – C\$9,269) due to the Company's key management personnel.

b) The Company used the services of Diamondback Drilling LLC, a company that is partially owned by Ridgeline's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Diamondback Drilling LLC is a drill services company which provided drilling services on the Selena Project in fiscal 2023. The Company incurred \$910,962 of drilling costs during the year ended December 31, 2023 (2022 - nil) which were capitalized to exploration and evaluation assets. As of December 31, 2023, included in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities balance on the consolidated statement of financial position was nil (December 31, 2022 – nil) due to Diamondback Drilling LLC. Included in prepaids was a \$75,000 prepaid deposit (December 31, 2022 – nil) for drilling services to be provided in the 2024 year.

#### Drilling Services Contract Review and Selection

The Company engaged the services of Diamondback Drilling LLC ("Diamondback") for drilling activities on the Selena Project in 2023. Diamondback is a drilling services company that is partially owned by Ridgeline's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. As part of the Company's governance mandate, an independent technical committee that comprises of the VP Exploration and an independent director was formed to review and assess the drill contract proposals, including the Diamondback proposal. The Company obtained 3 drilling proposals from drill service companies that could provide services to Ridgeline based on the parameters required (timing, cost and experience). The objective for the drill contract award was to identify ways to reduce the drilling cost to the Company while improving productivity of the drill service provider.

Diamondback was awarded the drill services contract and commenced drilling in Q3 2023. The independent technical committee remains responsible for reviewing and approving all invoices and work change orders in relation to Diamondback. Further, this independent technical committee reviews the costs on a regular basis with the objective of reducing the cost per meter drilled with Diamondback in comparison to all of the Company's past drill programs.

During 2023, Diamondback drilled 2,072 meters at a direct drilling cost of \$910,962 which was equal to \$440 per meter. The average cost of third-party contractor drilling in 2022 was \$551 per meter and in 2021 was \$1,109 per meter.

#### **Financial instruments**

a) Fair value classification of financial instruments

The fair value hierarchy establishes three levels to classify the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 inputs are other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (prices) or indirectly (derived from prices). Level 3 inputs are for the assets or liabilities that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash, restricted cash, receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, loans payable and lease liability.

The carrying values of cash, restricted cash, receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, loans payable and lease liability approximate their fair value due to their short terms to maturity.

The following tables summarize the classification and carrying values of the Company's financial instruments at December 31, 2023 and 2022:

December 31, 2023	FVTPL	Am	ortized cost (financial assets)	 ortized cost Il liabilities)	Total
Financial assets					
Cash	\$ -	\$	505,053	\$ -	\$ 505,053
Restricted cash	-		63,237	-	63,237
Receivables	-		16,210	-	16,210
Total financial assets	\$ -	\$	584,500	\$ -	\$ 584,500
Financial liabilities Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 	\$		\$ 79,028	\$ 79,028
Loan payable	-		-	60,564	60,564
Lease liability	-		-	55,553	55,553
Total financial liabilities	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 195,145	\$ 195,145

December 31, 2022	FVTPL	An	nortized cost (financial assets)	Am	ortized cost (financial liabilities)	Total
Financial assets						
Cash	\$ -	\$	1,186,036	\$	-	\$ 1,186,036
Restricted cash	-		62,727		-	62,727
Receivables	-		17,141		-	17,141
Total financial assets	\$ -	\$	1,265,904	\$	-	\$ 1,265,904

Financial liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 681,494	\$ 681,494
Loans payable	-	-	79,256	79,256
Lease liability	-	-	5,625	5,625
Total financial liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 766,375	\$ 766,375

### b) Financial risk management

i) Credit risk

The Company's credit risk is primarily attributable to cash and restricted cash.

The Company limits its credit exposure on cash held in bank accounts by holding its key transactional bank accounts with large, highly rated financial institutions.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the consolidated financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Company's maximum exposure to credit risk.

### ii) Liquidity risk

The Company manages liquidity risk by trying to maintain enough cash balances to ensure that it is able to meet its short term and long-term obligations as and when they fall due. Company-wide cash projections are managed centrally

and regularly updated to reflect the dynamic nature of the business and fluctuations caused by commodity price and exchange rate movements.

The Company's operating results may vary due to fluctuation in commodity price, inflation and foreign exchange rates.

iii) Market risks

#### Interest rate risk

The Company's interest rate risk arises primarily from the interest received on cash and restricted cash. The Company does not believe that it is exposed to material interest rate risk on its cash and restricted cash.

As at December 31, 2023, the Company has not entered into any contracts to manage interest rate risk.

#### Foreign exchange risk

The functional currency of the parent and its subsidiaries is C\$. The reporting currency is USD. A portion of the Company's operating expenses are in USD.

As at December 31, 2023, the Company has not entered into contracts to manage foreign exchange risk.

The Company is exposed to foreign exchange risk through the following assets and liabilities:

	Dece	ember 31, 2023	December 31, 2022		
Cash	\$	100,517	\$	145,573	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(11,432)		(6,087)	
	\$	89,085	\$	139,486	

As at December 31, 2023, with other variables unchanged, a 5% increase or decrease in value of the USD against the currencies to which the Company is normally exposed (C\$) would result in an increase or decrease of approximately C\$6,000 to the net loss for the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### **Capital management**

The Company considers items included in shareholders' equity as capital. The Company's objective when managing capital is to safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders. As at December 31, 2023, the Company had working capital of \$563,501.

The Company manages its capital structure and makes adjustments in light of changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets. In order to facilitate the management of its capital requirements, the Company prepares annual expenditure budgets which are revised periodically based on the results of its exploration programs, availability of financing and industry conditions. There are no external restrictions on management of capital. There were no changes to the Company's approach to capital management during the current period. The Company believes it will be able to raise new funds as required in the long term to fund its exploration programs but recognizes there will be risks involved that may be beyond its control.

# **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND POLICIES**

### Use of Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available.

Significant areas requiring the use of management estimates and judgments include:

I. The determination of the fair value of the shares of the Company for the calculation of the share-based compensation.

- II. The assessment of the Company's ability to continue as a going concern involves judgment regarding future funding available to identify new business opportunities and working capital requirements, the outcome of which is uncertain.
- III. The determination that exploration, evaluation, and related costs incurred which were capitalized may have future economic benefits and may be economically recoverable. Management uses several criteria in its assessments of economic recoverability and probability of future economic benefits including, geologic and other technical information, a history of conversion of mineral deposits with similar characteristics to its own properties to proven and probable mineral reserves, the quality and capacity of existing infrastructure facilities, evaluation of permitting and environmental issues and local support for the project.
- IV. The determination of whether a set of assets acquired and liabilities assumed constitute the acquisition of a business or asset may require the Company to make certain judgements as to whether or not the assets acquired and liabilities assumed include the inputs, processes and outputs necessary to constitute a business as defined in IFRS 3 – Business Combinations.

# **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Measurement of the Company's assets and liabilities is subject to risks and uncertainties, including those related to title to mineral properties; future commodity prices; future costs of restoration provisions; changes in government legislation and regulations; future income tax amounts; the availability of financing; and various operational factors.

Ridgeline is a mineral exploration and development company and is exposed to a number of risks and uncertainties due to the nature of the industry in which it operates and the present state of development of its business and the foreign jurisdictions in which it carries on business; some of these risks and uncertainties have been discussed elsewhere in this MD&A. The following factors are those which are the most applicable to the Company. The discussion which follows is not inclusive of all potential risks.

# Liquidity and Future Financing Risk

The Company is in the early stages of its business and has no source of operating revenue. The Company will likely operate at a loss until the Company puts a mineral property into production. The Company's ability to secure any required financing to sustain operations will depend in part upon prevailing capital market conditions and business success. There can be no assurance that the Company will be successful in its efforts to secure any additional financing or additional financing on terms satisfactory to management. If additional financing is raised by issuance of additional Shares from treasury, control may change and shareholders may suffer dilution. If adequate funds are not available, or are not available on acceptable terms, the Company may be required to scale back its current business plan or cease operating.

# Going-Concern Risk

The Company's Financial Statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis under which an entity is considered to be able to realize its assets and satisfy its liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The Company's future operations are dependent upon the identification and successful completion of equity or debt financing and the achievement of profitable operations at an indeterminate time in the future. There can be no assurances that the Company will be successful in completing equity or debt financing or in achieving profitability. The Financial Statements do not give effect to any adjustments relating to the carrying values and classification of assets and liabilities that would be necessary should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern.

# **Exploration and Development**

All of the Company's mineral projects are in the exploration stage and are without a known body of commercial ore and require extensive expenditures during this exploration stage. See "Mineral Projects". Mineral exploration and development involves a high degree of risk which even a combination of experience, knowledge and careful evaluation may not be able to mitigate. The vast majority of properties which are explored are not ultimately developed into producing mines. There is no assurance that the Company's mineral exploration and development activities will result in any discoveries of commercial bodies of ore. The long-term profitability of the Company's operations are in part directly related to the cost and success of the Company's exploration programs, which may be affected by a number of factors.

The Company does not control the surface rights over the claims which comprise its mineral properties. If a significant mineralized zone is identified, detailed environmental impact studies will need to be completed prior to initiation of any advanced exploration or mining activities. There is no guarantee that areas needed for mining activities, including potential mine waste disposal, heap leach pads, or areas for processing plants, will be available.

# Fluctuating Mineral Prices

The mining industry is heavily dependent upon the market price of the metals or minerals being mined or explored for. There is no assurance that, even if commercial quantities of mineral resources are discovered, a profitable market will exist for their sale. There can be no assurance that mineral prices will be such that the Company's properties can be mined at a profit. Factors beyond the Company's control may affect the marketability of any minerals discovered. The prices of base and precious metals have experienced volatile and significant price movements over short periods of time, and are affected by numerous factors beyond the Company's control. The market price of metals and minerals is volatile and cannot be controlled by the Company. Metal prices have fluctuated widely, particularly in recent years. Factors beyond the company may affect the marketability of minerals or concentrates produced, including quality issues, impurities, deleterious elements, government regulations, royalties, allowable production and regulations regarding the importing and exporting of minerals, the effect of which cannot be accurately predicted.

Fluctuations in the prices of copper, gold and/or silver metal prices may adversely affect the Company's financial performance and results of operations. Further, if the market price of copper, gold and/or silver falls or remains depressed, the Company may experience losses or asset write-downs and may curtail or suspend some or all of the Company's exploration, development and mining activities.

# **Estimates of Mineral Deposits**

There is no assurance given by the Company that any estimates of mineral deposits or resources will materialize.

No assurance can be given that any identified mineralization will be developed into a coherent mineralized deposit, or that such deposit will even qualify as a commercially viable and mineable ore body that can be legally and economically exploited. Estimates regarding mineralized deposits can also be affected by many factors such as permitting regulations and requirements, weather, environmental factors, unforeseen technical difficulties, unusual or unexpected geological formations and work interruptions. In addition, the grades and tonnages of ore ultimately mined may differ from that indicated by drilling results and other exploration and development work. There can be no assurance that test work and results conducted and recovered in small-scale laboratory tests will be duplicated in large-scale tests under on-site conditions. Material changes in mineralized tonnages, grades, dilution and stripping ratios or recovery rates may affect the economic viability of mineral projects. The existence of mineralization or mineralized deposits should not be interpreted as assurances of the future delineation of ore reserves or the profitability of any future operations.

# Substantial Capital Expenditures Required

Substantial expenditures are required to establish ore reserves through drilling, to develop metallurgical processes to extract metal from the ore and, in the case of new properties, to develop the mining and processing facilities and infrastructure at any site chosen for mining. Although substantial benefits may be derived from the discovery of a major mineralized deposit, no assurance can be given that minerals will be discovered in sufficient quantities to justify commercial operations or that the funds required for development can be obtained on a timely basis. The discovery of mineral deposits is dependent upon a number of factors. The commercial viability of a mineral deposit, such as size, grade and proximity to infrastructure, and some of which are more general factors such as metal prices and government regulations, including environmental protection. Most of these factors are beyond the Company's control. In addition, because of these risks, there is no certainty that the expenditures to be made by the Company on the exploration of the Company's mineral properties as described herein will result in the discovery of commercial quantities of ore.

# Management Experience and Dependence on Key Personnel and Employees

The Company's success is currently largely dependent on the performance of the Company's directors and officers. The Company's management team has experience in the resource exploration business. The experience of these individuals is a factor which will contribute to the Company's continued success and growth. The Company will initially be relying on the Company's board members, as well as independent consultants, for certain aspects of the Company's business. The amount of time and expertise expended on the Company's affairs by each of the Company's management team and the Company's directors will vary according to the Company's needs. The Company does not intend to acquire any key

man insurance policies and there is, therefore, a risk that the death or departure of any member of management, the Company's board, or any key employee or consultant, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's future. Investors who are not prepared to rely on the Company's management team should not invest in the Company's securities.

### Future Acquisitions

As part of the Company's business strategy, the Company may seek to grow by acquiring companies and/or assets or establishing joint ventures that the Company believes will complement the Company's current or future business. The Company may not effectively select acquisition candidates or negotiate or finance acquisitions or integrate the acquired businesses and their personnel or acquire assets for the Company's business. The Company cannot guarantee that the Company pursues on favourable terms, or that any acquisitions completed will ultimately benefit the Company's business.

### Negative Cash Flow and Uncertainty of Additional Funding

The Company has a limited history of operations, and no history of earnings, cash flow or profitability. The Company has had negative operating cash flow since the Company's inception, and the Company will continue to have negative operating cash flow for the foreseeable future. All of the Company's mineral properties are at the exploration stage only. The Company has no source of operating cash flow and no assurance that additional funding will be available for further exploration and development of any of the Company's mineral properties when required. No assurance can be given that the Company will ever attain positive cash flow or profitability.

The Company will require additional funding. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in obtaining the required financing(s) or that such financing(s) will be available on terms acceptable to the Company. Any future financing(s) may also be dilutive to the Company's existing shareholders.

### **Reliability of Historical Information**

The Company has relied on, and the disclosure from each of the Black Ridge Report, the Selena Report and the Swift Report, is based, in part, upon historical data compiled by previous parties involved with the Black Ridge Project, the Selena Property and the Swift Property, respectively. To the extent that any of such historical data is inaccurate or incomplete, the Company's exploration plans may be adversely affected.

#### **Operating Hazards and Risks**

Mineral exploration and development involves risks, which even a combination of experience, knowledge and careful evaluation may not be able to overcome. Operations in which the Company has a direct or indirect interest will be subject to hazards and risks normally incidental to exploration, development and production of minerals, any of which could result in work stoppages, damage to or destruction of property, loss of life and environmental damage.

The Company does not currently carry any liability insurance for such risks, electing instead to ensure the Company's contractors have adequate insurance coverage. The nature of these risks is such that liabilities might exceed any insurance policy limits, the liabilities and hazards might not be insurable or the Company might not elect to insure ourselves against such liabilities due to high premium costs or other factors. Such liabilities may have a materially adverse effect upon the Company's financial condition.

#### **Competition**

The mining industry is intensely and increasingly competitive, and the Company competes for exploration and exploitation properties with many companies possessing greater financial resources and technical facilities than the Company does. Competition in the mining business could adversely affect the Company's ability to acquire suitable producing properties or prospects for mineral exploration in the future.

#### **Title Matters**

While the Company has reviewed title to the claims comprising each of the Black Ridge Project, the Selena Property and the Swift Property in the mineral claims online registry maintained by the State of Nevada Commission on Mineral Resources Division of Minerals and, to the best of the Company's knowledge, each of such title is in good standing, there is no guarantee that title to such claims will not be challenged or impugned. The Black Ridge Project, the Selena Property and the Swift Property may be subject to prior unregistered agreements of transfer or aboriginal land claims, and title for each property may be affected by undetected defects.

#### Environmental Risks and Other Regulatory Requirements

The Company's current or future operations, including exploration or development activities and commencement of production on the Company's properties require permits from various federal and local governmental authorities, and such operations are and will be governed by laws and regulations governing prospecting, development, mining, production, taxes, labour standards, occupational health, waste disposal, toxic substances, land use, environmental protection, mine safety and other matters.

Companies engaged in the development and operation of mines and related facilities generally experience increased costs and delays in production and other schedules as a result of the need to comply with the applicable laws, regulations and permits. There can be no assurance that all permits which the Company may require for the construction of mining facilities and conduct of mining operations will be obtainable on reasonable terms or that such laws and regulations would not have an adverse effect on any mineral project which the Company might undertake.

Failure to comply with applicable laws, regulations and permitting requirements may result in enforcement actions including orders issued by regulatory or judicial authorities causing operations to cease or be curtailed, and may include corrective measures requiring capital expenditures, installation of additional equipment or remedial actions. Parties engaged in mining operations may be required to compensate those suffering loss or damage by reason of the mining activities and may have civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed upon them for violation of applicable laws or regulations.

Amendments to current laws, regulations and permits governing operations and activities of mining companies, or more stringent implementation thereof, could have a material impact on the Company and cause increases in capital expenditures or production costs or reduction in levels of production at producing properties or require abandonment or delays in the development of new mining properties.

#### Industry Regulation

The Company currently operates the Company's business in a regulated industry. There can be no assurances that the Company may not be negatively affected by changes in the applicable legislation, or by any decisions or orders of any governmental or administrative body or applicable regulatory authority.

#### Uninsured or Uninsurable Risks

The Company may become subject to liability for cave-ins, pollution or other hazards against which the Company cannot insure or against which the Company may elect not to insure because of high premium costs or for other reasons. The payment of any such liabilities would reduce or eliminate the funds available for exploration and mining activities. Payments of liabilities for which the Company does not carry insurance may have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position.

#### **Global Economy Risk**

The volatility of global capital markets, including the general economic slowdown in the mining sector, over the past several years has generally made the raising of capital by equity or debt financing more difficult. The Company may be dependent upon capital markets to raise additional financing in the future. As such, the Company is subject to liquidity risks in meeting its operating expenditure requirements and future development cost requirements in instances where adequate cash positions are unable to be maintained or appropriate financing is unavailable. These factors may impact the ability to raise equity or obtain loans and other credit facilities in the future and on terms favourable to the Company and its management. If these levels of volatility persist or if there is a further economic slowdown, the Company's operations, the Company's ability to raise capital and the trading price of the Shares could be adversely impacted.

# **Dividend** Risk

The Company has not paid dividends in the past and does not anticipate paying dividends in the near future. The Company expects to retain earnings to finance further growth and, where appropriate, retire debt.

# **Conflicts of Interest**

Certain of the Company's directors and officers are, and may continue to be, involved in the mineral exploration industry through their direct and indirect participation in corporations, partnerships or joint ventures which are potential competitors of the Company. Situations may arise in connection with potential acquisitions or opportunities where the other interests of these directors and officers may conflict with the Company's interests. Directors and officers of the Company with conflicts of interest will be subject to and must follow the procedures set out in applicable corporate and securities legislation, regulations, rules and policies. Notwithstanding this, there may be corporate opportunities which the Company is not able to procure due to a conflict of interest of one or more of the Company's directors or officers.

#### Volatility in the Worldwide Economy

Economic uncertainty in many parts of the world has adversely affected businesses and industries in almost every sector in more significant and unpredictable ways than in more stable economic times. Prolonged depressed economic conditions and volatility in the worldwide economy may continue to adversely affect individuals and institutions investing in junior mineral exploration and development companies, which could negatively affect the Company's business.

### **Public Health Crisis**

The Company's business, operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected by the outbreak of epidemics or pandemics or other health crises, including the recent outbreak of COVID-19. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a global health emergency, on March 12, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a pandemic and on March 13, 2020, the U.S. declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency. To date, there are a large number of temporary business closures, quarantines and a general reduction in consumer activity in Canada, the United States, Europe and China. The outbreak has caused companies and various international jurisdictions to impose travel, gathering and other public health restrictions. While these effects are expected to be temporary, the duration of the various disruptions to businesses locally and internationally and related financial impact cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. Similarly, the Company cannot estimate whether or to what extent this outbreak and the potential financial impact may extend to countries outside of those currently impacted. The Company is actively assessing and responding where possible to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such public health crises can result in volatility and disruptions in the supply and demand for gold and other metals and minerals, global supply chains and financial markets, as well as declining trade and market sentiment and reduced mobility of people, all of which could affect commodity prices, interest rates, credit ratings, credit risk and inflation. The risks to the Company of such public health crises also include risks to employee health and safety, a slowdown or temporary suspension of operations in geographic locations impacted by an outbreak, increased labour and fuel costs, regulatory changes, political or economic instabilities or civil unrest. At this point, the extent to which COVID-19 will or may impact the Company is uncertain and these factors are beyond the Company's control; however, it is possible that COVID-19 may have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

# Ridgeline may be subject to risks inherent in legal proceedings

In the course of its business, Ridgeline may from time to time become involved in various claims, arbitration and other legal proceedings, with and without merit. The nature and results of any such proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty. Any potential future claims and proceedings are likely to be of a material nature. In addition, such claims, arbitration and other legal proceedings can be lengthy and involve the incurrence of substantial costs and resources by Ridgeline, and the outcome, and Ridgeline's ability to enforce any ruling(s) obtained pursuant to such proceedings, are subject to inherent risk and uncertainty. The initiation, pursuit and/or outcome of any particular claim, arbitration or legal proceeding could have a material adverse effect on Ridgeline's financial position and results of operations, and on Ridgeline's business, assets and prospects. In addition, if Ridgeline is unable to resolve any existing or future potential disputes and proceedings favorably, or obtain enforcement of any favorable ruling, if any, that may be obtained pursuant to such proceedings, it is likely to have a material adverse impact on Ridgeline's business, financial condition and results of operations and Ridgeline's assets and prospects as well as Ridgeline's share price.

#### Fluctuations in currency exchange rates

Fluctuations in Canadian and United States currency exchange rates may significantly impact Ridgeline's financial position and results.

### Ridgeline is subject to anti-corruption legislation

Ridgeline is subject to the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and Canada's *Corruption of Foreign Officials Act* (collectively, "Anti-Corruption Legislation"), which prohibits Ridgeline or any officer, director, employee or agent of Ridgeline or any Ridgeline shareholder on its behalf from paying, offering to pay, or authorizing the payment of anything of value to any government official, government staff member, political party, or political candidate in an attempt to obtain or retain business or to otherwise influence a person working in an official capacity. Anti-Corruption

Legislation also requires public companies to make and keep books and records that accurately and fairly reflect their transactions and to devise and maintain an adequate system of internal accounting controls. Ridgeline's business activities create the risk of unauthorized payments or offers of payments by its employees, consultants, service providers or agents, even though they may not always be subject to its control. Ridgeline prohibits these practices by its employees, consultants, service providers and agents. However, Ridgeline's existing safeguards and any future improvements may prove to be less than effective, and its employees, consultants, service providers and agents may engage in conduct for which it might be held responsible. Any failure by Ridgeline to adopt appropriate compliance procedures and ensure that its employees, consultants, service providers and agents or restrictions on Ridgeline's ability to conduct business, which may have a material adverse impact on Ridgeline and the price of Ridgeline common shares.

#### Future negative effects due to changes in tax regulations cannot be excluded

Ridgeline runs its business in different jurisdictions and strives to run its business in as tax efficient a manner as possible. The tax systems in certain of these jurisdictions are complicated and subject to change. For this reason, the possibility of future negative effects on the results of the Company due to changes in tax regulations cannot be excluded. Repatriation of earnings to Canada from other jurisdictions may be subject to withholding taxes. Ridgeline has no control over withholding tax rates.

# Internal controls cannot provide absolute assurance with respect to the reliability of financial reporting and financial statement preparation

Internal controls over financial reporting are procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, assets are safeguarded against unauthorized or improper use, and transactions are properly recorded and reported. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance with respect to the reliability of financial reporting and financial statement preparation.

### Ridgeline's operations depend on information technology ("IT") systems

Information systems and other technologies, including those related to the Company's financial and operational management, and its technical and environmental data, are an integral part of the Company's business activities. These IT systems could be subject to network disruptions caused by a variety of sources, including computer viruses, security breaches and cyberattacks, as well as disruptions resulting from incidents such as cable cuts, damage to physical plants, natural disasters, terrorism, fire, power loss, vandalism and theft. Ridgeline's operations also depend on the timely maintenance, upgrade and replacement of networks, equipment, IT systems and software, as well as pre-emptive expenses to mitigate the risks of failures. Any of these and other events could result in information system failures, delays or increase in capital expenses. The failure of information systems or a component of information systems could, depending on the nature of any such failure, adversely impact Ridgeline's reputation and results of operations. Although to date Ridgeline has not experienced any material losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches, there can be no assurance that Ridgeline will not incur such losses in the future. Ridgeline's risk and exposure to these matters cannot be fully mitigated because of, among other things, the evolving nature of these threats. As a result, cyber security and the continued development and enhancement of controls, processes and practices designed to protect systems, computers, software, data and networks from attack, damage or unauthorized access remain a priority. As cyber threats continue to evolve, Ridgeline may be required to expend additional resources to continue to modify or enhance protective measures or to investigate and remediate any security vulnerabilities.

# **OVERSIGHT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee of the Board reviews, with management and the external auditors, the Company's annual MD&A and related annual audited consolidated financial statements. The Board approves the release of such information to shareholders. For each audit, the external auditors prepare a report for members of the Audit Committee summarizing key areas, significant issues and material internal control weaknesses encountered, if any.

# **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures, which provide reasonable assurance that material information relating to the Company and its subsidiaries is accumulated and communicated to management to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management has evaluated the effectiveness of its disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2023 and believes its disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

The Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, believe that any disclosure controls and procedures or internal control over financial reporting, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only a reasonable and not absolute assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system reflects the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, they cannot provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been prevented or detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by unauthorized override of the control. The design of any systems of controls is also based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of certain events, and there can be no assurance that any design can achieve its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Accordingly, because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

# INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Management is responsible for designing internal control over financial reporting, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS. Management evaluated the Company's internal control over financial reporting at December 31, 2023 and concluded that it is effective and that no material weakness relating to design or operations exists. No change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting occurred during the year beginning on January 1, 2023 and ended on December 31, 2023 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

# FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This MD&A contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities law and "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Forward-looking information includes, but is not limited to, statements with respect to corporate strategies and plans of Ridgeline; requirements for additional capital; uses of funds; the value and potential value of assets and the ability of Ridgeline to maximize returns to shareholders; the future prices of gold and silver; the estimation of mineral reserves and resources; the realization of mineral reserve and resource estimates; capital and operating costs, and cash flows; potential size of a mineralized zone; potential expansion of mineralization; potential discovery of new mineralized zones; potential metallurgical recoveries and grades; plans for future exploration and development programs and budgets; permitting time lines; anticipated business activities; proposed acquisitions and dispositions of assets; and future financial performance.

In certain cases, forward-looking statements and information can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budgeted", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates", or "does not anticipate" or "believes" or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might", "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved". While the Company has based these forward-looking statements on its expectations about future events as at the date that such statements were prepared, the statements are not a guarantee of Ridgeline's future performance and are based on numerous assumptions regarding present and future business strategies, local and global economic conditions, legal proceedings and negotiations, and the environment in which Ridgeline will operate in the future, including the price of gold and silver.

Other uncertainties and factors which could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by forward-looking statements and information include, amongst others, unanticipated costs, expenses or liabilities; discrepancies between actual and estimated mineral reserves and resources; the size, grade and continuity of deposits not being interpreted correctly from exploration results; the results of preliminary test work not being indicative of the results of future test work; fluctuations in commodity prices and demand; changing foreign exchange

rates; the availability of funding on reasonable terms; the impact of changes in interpretation to or changes in enforcement of laws, regulations and government practices, including laws, regulations and government practices with respect to mining, foreign investment, royalties and taxation; the terms and timing of obtaining necessary environmental and other government approvals, consents and permits; the availability and cost of necessary items such as power, water, skilled labour, transportation and appropriate smelting and refining arrangements; and misjudgements in the course of preparing forward-looking statements.

In addition, there are also known and unknown risk factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Ridgeline to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements and information. Such factors include, among others, risks related to international operations, including legal and political risk; risks associated with changes in the attitudes of governments to foreign investment; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; discrepancies between actual and anticipated production, mineral reserves and resources and metallurgical recoveries; global financial conditions; inability to upgrade Inferred mineral resources to Indicated or Measured mineral resources; inability to convert mineral resources to mineral reserves; conclusions of economic evaluations; future prices of gold and silver; delays in obtaining government approvals, permits or licences or financing or in the completion of exploration activities; environmental risks; title disputes; limitations on insurance coverage; as well as those factors discussed in the section entitled "Risk and Uncertainties" in this MD&A and in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in the Prospectus. Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Except as required under applicable securities legislation, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

# **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

John Langton (M.Sc., P.Geo.), an independent consultant to the Company and a Qualified Person as defined by NI 43-101, has approved the scientific and technical disclosure in this MD&A.

# **Cautionary Note to United States Investors - Canadian Disclosure Standards in Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves**

The terms "mineral reserve", "Proven mineral reserve" and "Probable mineral reserve" are Canadian mining terms as defined in accordance with NI 43-101 under the guidelines set out in the CIM Definition Standards - For Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves, adopted by the CIM Council on May 10, 2014, as may be amended from time to time by the CIM.

The definitions of Proven and Probable reserves used in NI 43-101 differ from the definitions in the SEC Industry Guide 7. Under SEC Industry Guide 7 standards, a "final" or "bankable" feasibility study is required to report reserves, the three year history average price is used in any reserve or cash flow analysis to designate reserves and the primary environmental analysis or report must be filed with the appropriate governmental authority.

In addition, the terms "mineral resource", "Measured mineral resource", "Indicated mineral resource" and "Inferred mineral resource" are defined in and required to be disclosed by NI 43-101; however, these terms are not defined terms under SEC Industry Guide 7 and normally are not permitted to be used in reports and registration statements filed with the SEC. Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of mineral deposits in these categories will ever be converted into reserves. "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 resources may not form the basis of feasibility or prefeasibility studies, except in rare cases.

Accordingly, information contained in this MD&A containing descriptions of Ridgeline's mineral deposits may not be comparable to similar information made public by U.S. companies subject to the reporting and disclosure requirements under the United States federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder.