

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF MAPLE GOLD MINES LTD.

(An Exploration Stage Company)

FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Dated: November 27, 2020

Management's Discussion and Analysis Three and Nine months ended September 30, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE THREE AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 AND THE PERIOD UP TO NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Joint Venture Partnership and Strategic Investment with Agnico Eagle Mines Limited ("Agnico")

On October 7, 2020 the Company and Agnico entered into the Agnico JV Term Sheet pursuant to which the parties propose to form a 50-50 joint-venture, which will combine Maple Gold's Douay Gold Project and Agnico's Joutel Project into a consolidated joint property package. The Douay Gold Project and Joutel Project (the latter hosting Agnico's past-producing Telbel mine) are contiguous properties located in the James Bay subregion of Northern Quebec. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Agnico JV Term Sheet, Agnico and the Company have agreed to negotiate in good faith and use commercially reasonable efforts to enter into a definitive joint venture agreement within three months of signing the Agnico JV Term Sheet. The Agnico JV Term Sheet provides, among other things, that (i) Agnico will fund \$18 million in exploration expenses over a four-year period; (ii) Agnico and the Company will jointly fund an additional \$500,000 in exploration of VMS targets on the western portion of the Douay Gold Project; and (iii) Agnico and the Company will each be granted a 2% NSR on the property that they contribute to the proposed joint venture, each with aggregate buyback provisions of US\$40 million.

On October 13, 2020, the Company issued 25,838,821 units of the Company (collectively, the "Units") to Agnico in a non-brokered private placement at a price of \$0.239 per Unit for total consideration of approximately \$6,175,478 (the "Agnico Strategic Investment"). Each Unit is comprised of one Common Share and one Warrant (a "Unit Warrant"). Each Unit Warrant entitles the holder to acquire one Common Share at a price of \$0.34 for a period of three years from issuance, subject to acceleration of the expiry date, at the option of Maple Gold, in the event the Common Shares trade on the Exchange above \$0.60 for a period of twenty consecutive trading days at any time following two years from the closing date of the Agnico Strategic Investment.

On October 13, 2020, in connection with the Agnico Strategic Investment, the Company and Agnico entered into the Agnico Investor Rights Agreement pursuant to which Agnico was granted certain rights, provided Agnico maintains certain ownership thresholds in Maple Gold, including: (i) the right to participate in equity financings in order to maintain its *pro rata* ownership in the Company at the time of such financing or acquire up to a 19.90% ownership interest in the Company; and (ii) the right (which Agnico has no present intention of exercising) to nominate one person (and in the case of an increase in the size of the Board to eight or more directors, two persons) to the Board of Directors.

Exploration highlights

- On November 12, 2020, the Company announced that results from recently completed geophysical surveys have allowed definition of a new and highly prospective target area south of the known mineral resource at the Company's Douay Gold Project. The Company now plans to incorporate drilling at this target as part of its Fall 2020 drill program which is currently underway.
- On October 22, 2020, the Company announced the initiation of the Fall Exploration program, with drilling scheduled to begin; the merged (winter 2019, winter 2020 and fall 2020) IP results were also provided for the NE IP Target where initial drilling has now begun.
- On September 9, 2020, the Company reported final results and recapped its 4,370-metre drill campaign where 11 of the 14 holes drilled intersected higher-than-deposit-average-grade gold mineralization.
- On July 7, 2020, the Company announced that it had engaged Computational Geosciences Inc. to complete a new
 and expanded Artificial Intelligence study for targeting high-grade gold at Douay Gold Project in order to generate gold
 prospectivity maps and provide additional target areas to validate and rank in advance of the Company's next phase
 of drilling later this year. This work is now nearing completion.
- On June 30, 2020, the Company announced that it had initiated line cutting at site with new Induced Polarization surveys set to commence in Q3 2020. This work is now complete.

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- The Company commenced the 2020 winter drilling program on January 20, 2020 and ceased this 2020 winter drilling program on March 24, 2020 in accordance with Provincial legislation in response to Covid-19, having drilled 4,370 metres in 13 new holes and 1 extension. See section 1.2.2 for details of results and press releases dated May 6, 2020, May 27, 2020, June 5, 2020, June 10, 2020 and September 9, 2020.
- During Q1 2020, the Company completed an Induced Polarization ("IP") survey over two areas for approximately 18 line-km, including infill 2D IP lines at the NE IP target (exploration area) and test 3D IP lines over the 531 Zone. See section 1.2.2 for details of results and press releases dated March 16, 2020 and April 8, 2020.

Corporate highlights

- On November 5, 2020, the Company appointed Michelle Roth to the board of directors.
- On September 14, 2020 and October 2, 2020, the Company announced the appointments of Timo Jauristo, Matthew Lechtzier and Egizio Bianchini as strategic advisors to provide guidance and insight on strategic corporate matters.
- On July 31, 2020 and August 10, 2020, the Company completed a non-brokered private placement for aggregate proceeds of approximately \$4.75 million through the issuance of 27,941,173 common shares at a price of \$0.17 per share.
- On June 1, 2020, the Company appointed Dr. Gérald Riverin to the board of directors and technical advisory committee. The Company granted Dr. Riverin 300,000 incentive stock options at an exercise price of \$0.10 and a 5year term upon his appointment.
- On April 28, 2020, the Company granted 9,975,000 incentive stock options to certain directors, employees and consultants at an exercise price of \$0.10 and a 5-year term.
- On March 24, 2020, the Company announced that it had stopped drilling and taken other measures to protect the
 health and safety of its employees and conserve capital in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and related guidelines
 from local government and health authorities.
- On March 2, 2020, the Company announced that it had received the first instalment of \$325,644 from Revenu Quebec with respect to the Company's 2018 tax credit refund of \$399,966.

Readers are cautioned that this Management Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") contains "forward-looking statements" and that actual events may vary from management's expectations. Readers are encouraged to read the cautionary note below regarding such forward-looking statements.

1.1.1 Date

This MD&A of Maple Gold Mines Ltd. (the "Company" or "Maple Gold") has been prepared by management to assist the reader to assess material changes in the financial condition and results of operations of the Company as at September 30, 2020 and for the three and nine months then ended. This MD&A should be read in conjunction with the condensed interim financial statements of the Company and related notes thereto as at and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019. The condensed interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard ("IAS") 34, "Interim Financial Reporting" using accounting policies consistent with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The accounting policies followed in these condensed interim financial statements are the same as those applied in the Company's most recent audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019. All financial information has been prepared in accordance with IFRS and all dollar amounts presented are Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

1.1.2 Forward-looking statements

This MD&A contains "forward-looking information" or "forward-looking statements" (collectively, "forward-looking statements") which reflect the Company's current expectations regarding the future results of operations, performance and achievements of the Company. Forward-looking statements in this MD&A include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to the Company's opinions and beliefs, financial position, business strategy, budgets, Mineral Resource estimates, ongoing or future

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development and exploration opportunities and projects, drilling, re-logging, geochemical and geological modeling plans, data from sampling programs, references to potential higher grades, references to additional potential discoveries, targeting efforts in greenfield areas, assay results, expanded mineralized zones, ground surveys, publication of updated mineral resource estimates, classification of mineral resources, and plans and objectives of management for properties and operations.

The Company has tried, wherever possible, to identify these forward-looking statements by, among other things, using words such as "plan", "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "expect", "is expected to", "budget", "schedule", "forecast", "intend" or variations of such words and phrases or state that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved" or the negative connotation thereof.

The forward-looking statements reflect the current beliefs of the management of the Company, and are based on currently available information and upon a number of factors and assumptions that, if untrue, could cause the actual results, performances or achievements of the Company to be materially different from future results, performances or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. Such statements and information are based on numerous assumptions regarding the Company's present and future business strategies and the environment in which the Company will operate in the future, including the price of gold, anticipated costs and ability to achieve goals. Certain important factors that could cause actual results, performances or achievements to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements include, among others, the Company's ability to receive mining, exploration and other permits; the impact of increasing competition in the gold business; exploration and development costs for the Douay Gold Project; anticipated results of drilling campaigns; exploration and development activities; mineral resource estimates and metallurgical recoveries; availability of additional financing; and the Company's ability to obtain additional financing on satisfactory terms. Although the Company believes its expectations are based upon reasonable assumptions and 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.

Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which could cause the actual results, performance, or achievements of the Company to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, these statements. These uncertainties are factors that include, but are not limited to, risks related to general economic conditions; actual results of current exploration activities and unanticipated reclamation expenses; fluctuations in prices of gold and other commodities; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; increases in market prices of mining consumables; possible variations in mineral resources, grade or recovery rates; accidents, labour disputes, title disputes, claims and limitations on insurance coverage and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals or financing; changes in national and local government regulation of mining operations, tax rules and regulations, and political and economic developments in Canada; unknown impact related to potential business disruptions stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak, or another infectious illness; as well as other factors discussed in the section entitled "General Development of Business - Risk Factors" in the Company's most recent annual information form available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Additional information relating to the Company and its operations is also available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com and on the Company's web site at www.maplegoldmines.com.

The Company's management reviews periodically information reflected in forward-looking statements. The Company has and continues to disclose in its MD&A and other publicly filed documents, changes to material factors or assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements and to the validity of the statements themselves, in the period the changes occur. Historical results of operations and trends that may be inferred from the following discussions and analysis may not necessarily indicate future results from operations.

The forward-looking statements contained in this MD&A are expressly qualified by this cautionary statement. Maple Gold does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

Readers should refer to the risks discussed in the Company's MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2019 and subsequent continuous disclosure filings with the Canadian Securities Administrators available at www.sedar.com.

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1.2.1 Description of business

Maple Gold is an exploration company focused on the exploration of its sole mineral property, the Douay Gold Project located in Quebec.

The Company was incorporated under the Ontario Business Corporations Act on June 3, 2010 and was continued under the Canada Business Corporations Act by articles of continuance dated June 22, 2011. The Company is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol MGM, on the OTCQB in the US under the symbol MGMLF and on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Germany under the symbol M3G. The registered office of the Company is 250 Place d'Youville, 2e etage, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 2B6.

1.2.2 Douay Gold Project ("Douay")

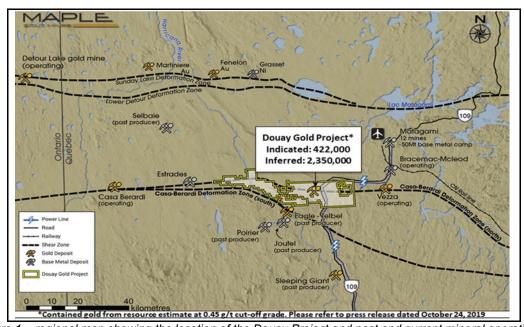


Figure 1 – regional map showing the location of the Douay Project and past and current mineral operations.

Douay is located approximately 55 km southwest of Matagami and 130 km north of Amos, Quebec by road. It is accessible by an all season paved Provincial Highway (#109), which is the major North-South regional highway linking the towns of Amos (Abitibi-Témiscamingue region) and Matagami (Northern Quebec region), and which cuts across the property. Utilities are available on site including hydro-electricity provided directly from Hydro-Quebec's power grid to the Company's on-site substation. Currently, there is a 46-person exploration camp on the property with drill core logging, sawing, sampling, storage and office facilities.

Douay currently consists of 669 claims covering approximately 357 km² along a 55 km segment of the Casa Berardi Deformation Zone ("CBDZ"), one of several metalliferous "breaks", in the Abitibi Belt of northern Quebec.

Ownership

The Company holds a 100% interest in 637 mostly contiguous claims totalling approximately 345 km² and a 75% interest (the remaining 25% interest is held by SOQUEM) in 32 contiguous claims totalling approximately 12 km². SOQUEM participated pro-rata in the 2019 drill program for the joint venture area.

There is a 1% NSR Royalty owned by Cambior Inc. (now controlled by IAMGOLD) which covers the Northwest and West Zone claims (not to be confused with the separate Douay West Zone), with 37 claims in total subject to the NSR. Approximately 130,000 ounces from the latest resource estimate (RPA 2019) are subject to the 1% NSR.

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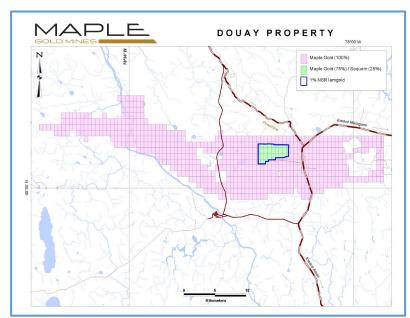


Figure 2 - Douay Project ownership map

Mineral Resources

Mineral Resources at Douay currently extend along a 6.1km corridor characterized by the presence of a large, alkalic intrusive-hydrothermal system emplaced into a sequence consisting predominantly of basalts, with lesser gabbroic and thin sedimentary and/or volcaniclastic and pyroclastic intervals (Cartwright Hills Group) on the south side, with sedimentary and lesser pyroclastic rocks (Taïbi Group) predominating on the north side with a major fault zone developed at the contact between the two Groups. While the entire current resource averages just over 1 g/t Au, there are multiple areas of significantly higher grade gold mineralization, both near surface and at moderate depths, typically hosted in pyritic mafic volcanic wallrocks and associated syenitic injections or dykes, but also within the intrusive complex itself as well as in the sedimentary rocks to the north. There is potential to discover additional higher-grade gold mineralization within and beyond this corridor, both along strike and down-plunge of known intercepts, as well as in new areas, as has been demonstrated at NW, Nika and 531 Zones with the results of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 winter drilling programs.

On October 24, 2019, the Company reported its most recent resource estimate (see press release dated October 24, 2019). As per the Roscoe Postle Associates Inc. ("RPA") 2019 estimate, Indicated Mineral Resources totalled 0.422 million ounces of gold (8.6 Mt @ 1.52 g/t Au) in addition to Inferred Mineral Resources totalling 2.352 million ounces of gold (71.2Mt @1.03 g/t Au), both using a 0.45 g/t Au cut-off grade for open pit Mineral Resources and a 1.0 g/t Au cut-off grade for underground Mineral Resources.

Further information about key assumptions, parameters, and methods used to estimate the Mineral Resources, as well as legal, political, environmental or other risks that may affect the Mineral Resource estimate are included in a NI 43-101 Technical Report of the Company filed on SEDAR.

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The 2019 Mineral Resource estimate is listed in the table below:

Category	Tonnage (Mt)	Grade (Au g/t)	Contained Metal ('000 oz Au)					
Pit Constrained Mineral Resources								
Indicated	8.6	1.52	422					
Inferred	65.8	0.97	2,045					
Underground Mineral Resources								
Inferred	5.4	1.75	307					
Total Mineral Resources								
Indicated	8.6	1.52	422					
Inferred	71.2	1.03	2,352					

Notes:

- 1. CIM (2014) definitions were followed for Mineral Resources.
- Mineral Resources are reported at an elevated cut-off grade of 0.45 g/t Au for open-pit Mineral Resources and a cut-off grade of 1.0 g/t Au for underground Mineral Resources.
- The Whittle pit shell used to estimate Mineral Resources used a long-term gold price of US\$1,500 per ounce, however the implied gold price for the Mineral Resources reported at the elevated cutoff grade would be significantly lower.
- 4. A US\$/C\$ exchange rate of 0.7, and a gold recovery of 90% were used.
 5. A minimum mining width of 3 m was used.
- 6. Open pit resources are reported within a preliminary pit shell.
- 7. Bulk density is 2.71 t/m³ or 2.82 t/m³ depending on the zone.
- Numbers may not add due to rounding.
- Mineral Resources for Douay have been updated using data available to October 23, 2019.

Table 1 - Pit Constrained and Underground Mineral Resource Estimate for the Douay project as of October 23, 2019 as prepared by RPA.

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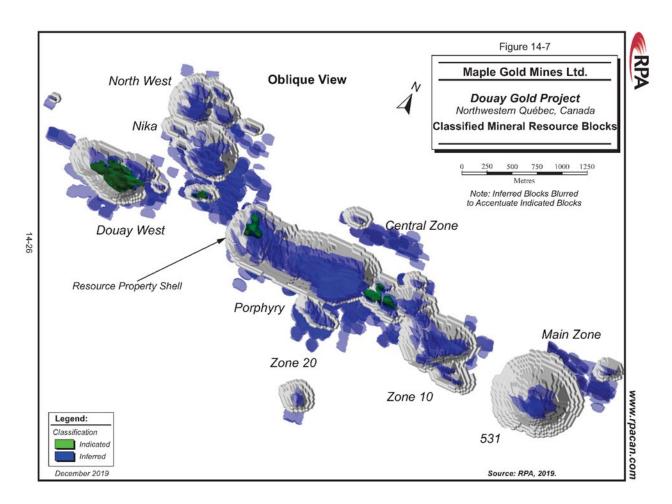


Figure 3: Indicated and inferred blocks within the limits of the optimized pit shells at the Douay Project as of October 23, 2019 as prepared by RPA.

(Note that the blocks classified as Inferred are more transparent to enhance Indicated blocks).

The new Mineral Resource estimate focus is not only on updating the resource estimate with new data from the 2018 and 2019 drill campaigns, but also on optimizing the open pit scenario, while at the same time providing an initial assessment of what minimum resources in an eventual underground expansion may be. The latter has, in Management's opinion, excellent potential for expansion given the relative scarcity of drilling below approximately 300m vertical.

The majority of the gold resources defined to-date at Douay are hosted near or within often porphyritic syenitic intrusions that have been emplaced within the broad CBDZ. This style of gold mineralization belongs to a relatively recently defined class of intrusive-related gold ("IRGS") deposits in the Abitibi, which includes Malartic, Young-Davidson, Beattie and others. In some of these cases, the association with intrusions may be largely spatial, in other cases, as at Douay, it appears to be genetic. The largest mineralized zone within the Douay intrusive-hydrothermal system is the Porphyry Zone, which represents a large prospective bulk mining target. Additional gold mineralization at Douay, generally of higher grade and typically structurally controlled, is also hosted by altered mafic volcanics with lesser syenitic injections, occurring in zones such as Douay West and 531 Zone (Figure 4). Sedimentary and/or pyroclastic host rocks, as well as a different style of mineralization, predominate at Main, Central and the northern margin of the NW Zone, i.e. along the northern margin of the current resource area. In addition, unrelated base metal (Cu, Zn) mineralization possibly of volcanogenic massive sulphide ("VMS") type also occurs on the property, particularly to the south and to the west of the resource area.

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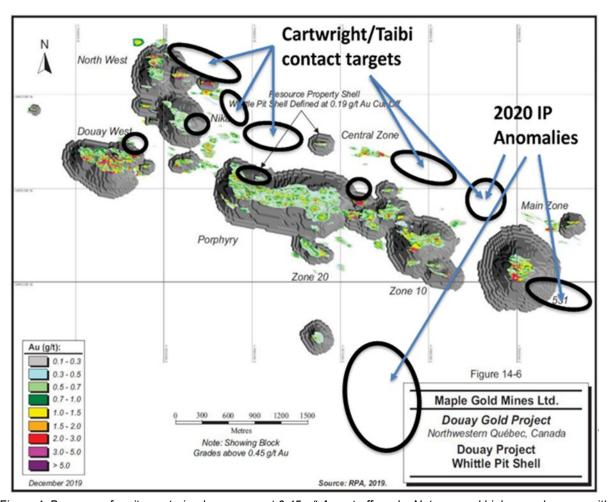


Figure 4: Base case for pit-constrained resources at 0.45 g/t Au cut-off grade. Note several higher-grade areas with insufficient drilling outlined in smaller black ellipses, and multiple drilling gaps between Zones (larger ellipses). Southernmost target, newly defined in Fall 2020, added to original figure.

Inferred underground Resources (Figure 5) are constrained to reporting shapes shown in green shading; a large volume of resource blocks were not included as there is insufficient drilling in many areas. RPA state that exploration potential within the vertical interval that is currently partly drilled could range between 0.5-1.0 Moz Au. Black ellipses in Figure 5 show further depth extension potential. The relatively low cut-off grade used for the underground resource is consistent with its inferred category; an eventual mining cut-off grade would be expected to be higher.

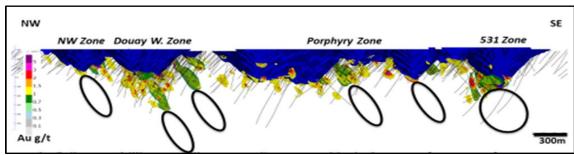


Figure 5: NW-SE longitudinal vertical section view (all zones) showing distribution of below-pit shell underground blocks above 1 g/t Au cut-off grade.

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The Company continues to leverage both the brownfields and greenfield potential at Douay in all of its exploration programs, with the current integrated approach focussing on i) property-wide exploration targets with potential for higher grade mineralization (including Vezza and Eagle-Telbel models) and ii) near-surface higher grade mineralization within the known resource area. Thorough review and analysis of all existing geological, geochemical and geophysical data is continuing, which combined with generation of new data from re-logging, as well as from the 2020 drilling and geophysical programs to date, are being used to update a comprehensive exploration strategy and diamond drilling plan through to mid 2021.

2020 Programs

Exploration program at the Douay Gold Project

Following completion of the RPA Mineral Resource update (see October 24, 2019 press release), as well as the detailed relogging and re-interpretation of 531 zone structural trends, the latter emphasizing the significance of sedimentary interflow and ultramafic units that serve as local marker horizons, additional drill targets were defined and permitted for the 531, NW, Nika and Porphyry Zones. In addition, areas with near-surface higher-than-deposit-average grades, and initial property-scale conceptual drill targets were also defined. Permits were received for a total of three sites at the NE IP Discovery Target (Vezza model), with additional sites in the process of being permitted at the present time.

Winter 2020 Drill program

The winter 2020 drill program commenced in mid-January, and was halted in late March 2020 as a result of government-mandated work stoppages related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time a total of 4,370 metres in 13 new holes and 1 extension had been completed (Figure 6).

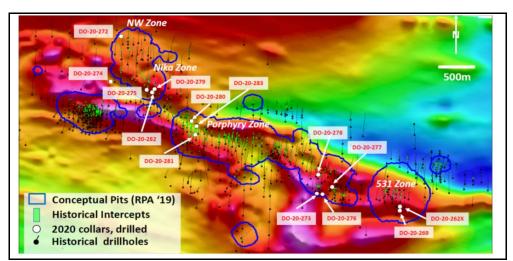


Figure 6 - Historical drill intercepts and RPA 2019 Whittle pits. Drilled Winter 2020 sites are also shown.

All drill results have been released (see press releases of March 16, May 6, May 27, 2020, June 5, 2020, June 10, 2020 and September 9, 2020). At the 531 Zone, deepening of a 2019 drill-hole (DO-19-262) that had cut very significant high grade gold mineralization, cut an additional intercept of 5.96 g/t Au over 3.5 metres, including 11.35 g/t Au over 1.7m metres from approximately 460m vertical depth. A new drill hole (DO-20-269), did not flatten as anticipated and therefore ended up approximately 150 metres away from the known zone once target depth was reached. This hole still cut gold mineralization near end of hole (1.50 g/t Au over 5.2m metres, including 2.41 g/t Au over 2.0 metres).

A single drill-hole (DO-20-272) was drilled near the limit of the NW Zone, in a sparsely drilled area; it cut 4.16 g/t Au over 3.4m (un-cut) starting from 39.6m downhole (including 7.68 g/t Au over 1.7m), and a further 1.15 g/t Au over 20m starting from 50m downhole, including 8m of 1.34 g/t Au. This near-surface zone remains open for about 200m to the west and the eastern extension of the adjacent historical intercept also remains open to the east for about 150m (see Figure 7). Mineralization is hosted in strongly deformed, distinctive pyritic sericite-Fe carbonate rocks that are believed to occur all along the northern flank of the resource area, a significant observation given the numerous drilling gaps there (Figure.6).

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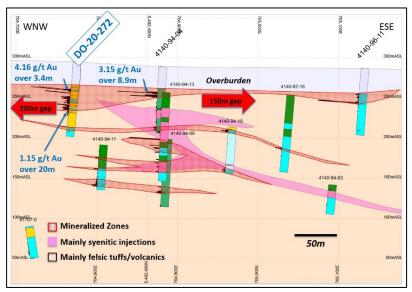


Figure 7: Interpreted ESE long section showing near-surface mineralization in DO-12-272; note sparse drilling in this area.

Three drill-holes were completed in the northwestern portion of the Porphyry Zone, in an area with higher-than-deposit-average grades and relatively sparse drilling (Figures 8 and 9). DO-20-283 cut 1.91 g/t Au over 17m, the hole ending in mineralization, with 1.06 g/t Au over the last 7.0m, including 1.6 g/t Au over the last 2.0m. This hole was ended prematurely as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown, and needs to be deepened. Hole DO-20-280, collared about 110m to the northwest, cut multiple zones within the top 90m (vertical depth) from surface, with 4m of 0.85 g/t Au, 4m of 1.14 g/t Au and 1.5m of 1.61 g/t Au. Assays for the entire hole DO-20-281, collared about 140m to the south of DO-20-283, gave 1.23 g/t Au over 75m from 108m downhole, including 1.61 g/t Au over 31m, followed by a broad slightly lower grade halo, i.e 50m of 0.30 g/t Au from 183m downhole and 38m of 0.85 g/t Au from 233m downhole, the latter including several narrow higher grade intercepts such as 5.0m of 1.71 g/t Au.

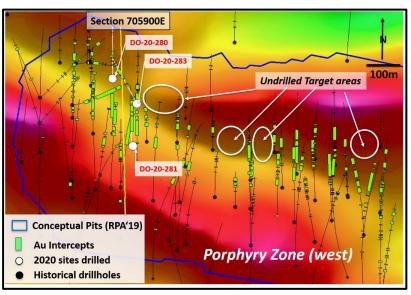


Figure 8: Drill plan showing distribution of winter 2020 holes in the western part of the Porphyry Zone. Note relatively sparse drilling along the north side of the deposit, with additional drilling gaps further east outlined by white ellipses.

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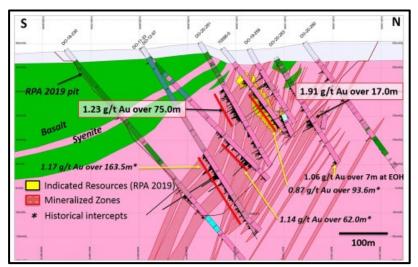


Figure 9: NS section 705900E, looking west, showing distribution of winter 2020 holes relative to nearby historical holes. Note excellent continuity of mineralization from surface to base of pit, and open mineralization on the north side of the current conceptual pit. Note also the limited extent of indicated resources due to sparse drilling in this area at the time of the resource estimation update (late 2019), prior to 2020 drilling.

Geological Modelling and Artificial Intelligence Study

Historical and more recent (2018 to 2020) drill data were used to create and update a 3D geological model as well as updated cross and long sections and level plans. These products combined allow for more precise targeting for future drilling. This modelling work includes not only updated 0.1 g/t Au wireframes, but also a higher grade 2 g/t Au wireframe within it, as well as structural and geological wireframes to allow consideration of variables that appear to be controlling the distribution of gold. The model continues to be updated, with additional lithological and structural information, as well as definition of near surface higher-grade material that the Company views as starter pit search spaces. Results show a number of new high priority drill targets within and on the edge of the current resource zones, including gaps in drilling in high priority areas, extensions of known zones as well as peripheral mineralized zones that have not received much attention to date.

An initial Artificial Intelligence Study had been done in 2008 over part of the resource area, generating gold prospectivity maps. An updated study, with significantly greater data density available as well as newer and more powerful algorithms, is currently being completed over a much larger area extending well beyond the resource area (see press release of July 7, 2020).

Geophysical Program

The Douay project area as a whole is partly covered by airborne magnetic and EM as well as ground IP surveys, that provide a solid basis for interpretation of stratigraphic and structural trends, as well as the potential for detection of gold and base metal mineralization associated with conductive, chargeablity and magnetic features. IP technology has progressed significantly since the 1990s when most of the previous IP surveys were completed on the Douay property. Modern IP technologies allow much greater depth penetration (400-500m) than historical surveys were capable of (typically <250m). The recently closed Vezza gold mine is located approximately 10km to the east of the Douay property limits and the Company believes that the results of the winter 2019 IP survey east of the resource area, as well as the winter and fall 2020 infill and extension IP work in the same area, which include an essentially undrilled 3km long chargeability anomaly, are permissive of Vezza-type gold targets in this area. A portion of this anomaly is now drill-ready (Figure 10). The significance of the anomalies defined can be placed in context, given the existence of several IP lines completed in 2013 as well as in Fall 2020, using the same methodology by the same company over part of the Porphyry Zone. In addition, a historical hole on the SW end of this anomalous trend intersected silicified sedimentary rocks with disseminated pyrite and anomalous gold, consistent with the target being sought.

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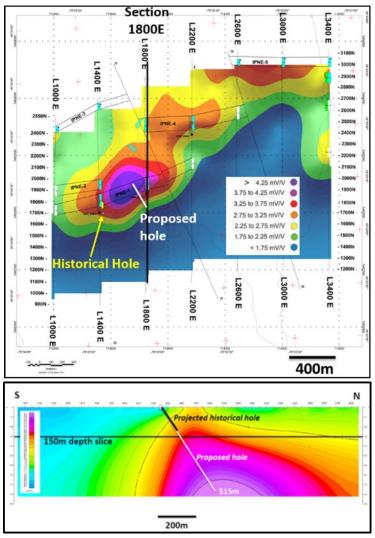


Figure 10 – Winter 2020 2D IP (chargeability) results in plan (150m depth slice) and inverted section (line 1800E) for NE (Exploration) target. Note shallow historical hole that only tested the upper parts of the large chargeability anomaly, cutting silicified sedimentary rocks with disseminated pyrite (Vezza-style mineralization) and anomalous gold throughout its length.

In addition, the test 3D IP survey performed in winter 2020 over the 531 Zone confirmed that the method could detect the mineralized zone at 531, that it was open to the ESE as previously interpreted, and also that the same chargeability anomaly was open to the West. Furthermore, this survey also showed an open anomaly in a sparsely drilled sector on its NW corner. Further follow-up work was recently completed to determine the full extent and magnitude of this new target, prior to drilltesting (Figure 11).

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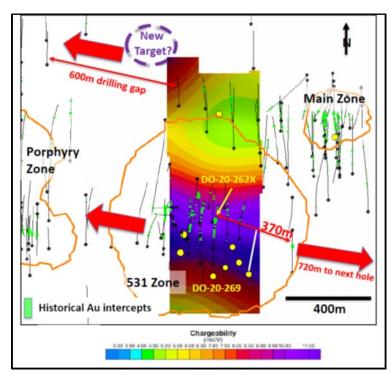


Figure 11 – Winter 2020 3D IP (chargeability) results in plan (450m depth slice) for 531 Zone. Note chargeability response of 531 Zone, open to ESE and WNW, and New target on WNW extension of Main Zone.

With the Company's considerable land package, we are dedicated to employing a discovery model on multiple fronts to build value for shareholders on a cost-effective basis and our geophysical programs are part of this plan.

1.2.3 Overall program analysis

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, the Company incurred exploration and evaluation expenses as detailed in the table below:

		months ended September 30,	Nine months ended September 30,				
	2020	2019	2020	2019			
	\$	\$	\$	\$			
Artificial intelligence study	30,000	_	30,000	_			
Camp set up, camp costs and							
field supplies	113,178	51,956	262,495	211,820			
Depreciation	63,072	59,780	188,689	179,340			
Drilling and core assaying	12,264	10,123	637,783	754,876			
Equipment rental and fuel	_	8,552	6,165	18,749			
Environmental	_	_	2,379	3,762			
Geology	_	145,490	13,125	198,656			
Geophysics	172,968	2,820	244,756	129,428			
Licences and permits	10,640	17,147	37,539	27,164			
Other exploration support costs	20,405	19,232	40,316	57,556			
Salaries and benefits	136,160	119,886	480,227	560,249			
Share-based payments	32,022	12,536	90,753	48,897			
	590,709	447,522	2,034,227	2,190,497			
Recoveries from JV partner	(48,128)	_	(48,128)	(34,687)			
	542,581	447,522	1,986,099	2,155,810			
Opening accumulated expenses	47,083,511	45,192,901	45,639,993	43,484,613			
Closing accumulated expenses	47,626,092	45,640,423	47,626,092	45,640,423			

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1.2.4 Qualified persons and technical disclosures

The scientific and technical data contained in this MD&A was reviewed and prepared under the supervision of Fred Speidel, M.Sc., P. Geo., Vice-President Exploration, of Maple Gold. Mr. Speidel is a Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects. Mr. Speidel has verified the data related to the exploration information disclosed in this MD&A through his direct participation in the work.

The Mineral Resources disclosed in this MD&A have been estimated by Ms. Dorota El Rassi, P.Eng., an employee of RPA who is independent from Maple Gold. By virtue of her education and relevant experience, Ms. El Rassi is a "Qualified Person" for the purpose of National Instrument 43-101. The Mineral Resources have been classified in accordance with CIM Definition Standards for Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves (May, 2014). Ms. El Rassi, P.Eng. has read and approved the contents of this MD&A as it pertains to the disclosed Mineral Resource estimates. Further information about key assumptions, parameters, and methods used to estimate the Mineral Resources, as well as legal, political, environmental or other risks that may affect the Mineral Resource estimate please refer to the Company's NI 43-101 Technical Report filed on SEDAR.

Cautionary Note to United States Investors concerning Estimates of Measured, Indicated and Inferred Resource Estimates

This disclosure has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Canadian provincial securities laws which differ from the requirements of U.S. securities laws. Unless otherwise indicated, all mineral resource estimates included in this disclosure have been prepared in accordance with Canadian National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101") and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum classification systems. NI 43-101 is a rule developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators that establishes standards for all public disclosure an issuer makes of scientific and technical information concerning mineral projects. These standards differ significantly from the requirements of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), and resource estimates disclosed may not be comparable to similar information disclosed by U.S. companies.

In addition, this disclosure uses the terms "measured and indicated resources" and "inferred resources" to comply with the reporting standards in Canada. The Company advises United States investors that while those terms are recognized and required by Canadian regulations, the SEC does not recognize them. United States investors are cautioned not to assume that any part or all of the mineral deposits in these categories will ever be converted into mineral reserves. Further, "inferred resources" have a great amount of uncertainty as to their existence and as to whether they can be mined legally or economically. Therefore, United States investors are also cautioned not to assume that all or any part of the "inferred resources" exist. In accordance with Canadian securities laws, estimates of "inferred resources" cannot form the basis of feasibility or other economic studies. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of "measured and indicated resources" or "inferred resources" will ever be upgraded to a higher category or are economically or legally mineable. In addition, disclosure of "contained ounces" is permitted disclosure under Canadian securities laws; however, the SEC only permits issuers to report mineralization as in place tonnage and grade without reference to unit measures.

1.3 Selected annual information

Not required for an interim MD&A.

1.4 Results of operations

Three months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019

During the three months ended September 30, 2020, the Company reported a loss for the period of \$856,352 and loss per share of \$0.00 compared to a loss for the period of \$676,748 and loss per share of \$0.00, respectively, for the three months ended September 30, 2019. The \$179,604 increase in loss for the period is driven by a \$95,059 increase in exploration and evaluation expenses (see section 1.2.3), \$228,477 increase in general and administrative expenses and \$110,262 increase in amortization of the flow through liability premium.

Exploration and evaluation expenses before JV partner recoveries increased by \$143,187 during the three months ended September 30, 2020 compared to the same period in the previous year. The Company commenced the 2020 winter drilling program on January 20, 2020 and ceased this 2020 winter drilling program on March 24, 2020 having drilled 4,370 metres. The Company commenced the 2019 winter drilling program on March 25, 2019, drilling 887 metres in Q1 2019 and 5,158

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metres in Q2 2019, ceasing the 2019 winter drilling program on April 26, 2019. During the three months ended September 30, 2020 the Company commenced new Induced Polarization surveys and commenced a new and expanded Artificial Intelligence study for targeting high-grade gold at Douay Gold Project. These programs are the main reasons for the increase in exploration and evaluation expenses compared to the three months ended September 30, 2019.

General and administrative expenditures increased by \$228,477 during the three months ended September 30, 2020 compared to the same period in the previous year. The main drivers of this increase were the increase in share-based payments of \$183,787, travel, marketing and investor relations of \$73,255, business development of \$14,283 and office and general of \$13,160 offset by decreases in salaries and benefits of \$20,270 and regulatory transfer agent and shareholder information of \$14,352. Management has implemented cost reduction programs in previous periods that have continued to have a direct impact on current period expenses.

During the three months ended September 30, 2020, the Company granted 1,525,000 stock options to directors, officers, employees and others (2019 – nil). The weighted average grant date fair value of options granted in the three months ended September 30, 2020 was \$0.09 (2019 - nil). The increase in share-based payments in the period is driven by the amortization of the stock based compensation related to these option grants.

During the three months ended September 30, 2020, the Company recorded other income of \$162,923 of which:

- \$48,866 related to the full amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$460,000 recognized in connection with the Company's March 2019 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7), and
- \$114,057 related to the amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$478,500 recognized in connection with the Company's December 2019 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7).

During the three months ended September 30, 2019, the Company recorded other income of \$52,661 related to the amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$583,331 recognized in connection with the Company's June 1, 2018 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7).

Nine months ended September 30, 2020 and 2019

During the nine months ended September 30, 2020, the Company reported a loss for the period of \$2,926,418 and loss per share of \$0.01 compared to a loss for the period of \$3,380,724 and loss per share of \$0.02, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. The \$454,306 decrease in loss for the period is driven by a \$169,711 decrease in exploration and evaluation expenses (see section 1.2.3), \$66,594 decrease in general and administrative expenses, \$90,621 increase in amortization of the flow through liability premium and a \$187,452 decrease in finance expense. The decrease in finance expense is primarily driven by the fact that in Q4 2019 the Company entered into a lease surrender agreement, at no penalty, with respect to its Toronto office and no longer records any lease liabilities or interest expense with respect to this lease.

Exploration and evaluation expenses before JV partner recoveries decreased by \$156,270 during the nine months ended September 30, 2020 compared to the same period in the previous year. The Company completed its 2020 winter drilling program of 4,370 metres on March 24, 2020 compared with its 2019 winter drilling program of 6,045 metres on April 26, 2019. As a result of the reduced drilling levels the decrease in the nine month period is driven by a decrease in geology and technical reports of \$185,531, drilling and core assaying of \$117,093, a decrease in salaries and benefits of \$80,022 offset by increases in geophysics of \$115,328 as the Company commenced additional Induced Polarization surveys during Q3 2020 and in the same period commenced a new and expanded Artificial Intelligence study for targeting high-grade gold at Douay Gold Project.

General and administrative expenditures decreased by \$66,594 during the nine months ended September 30, 2020 compared to the same period in the previous year. The main drivers of this decrease were the decreases in salaries and benefits of \$107,356, professional fees of \$60,632 and regulatory transfer agent and shareholder information fees of \$21,038 offset by increases in travel, marketing and investor relations of \$96,925 and share-based payments of \$98,020. Management has implemented cost reduction programs in previous periods that have continued to have a direct impact on these reductions.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2020, the Company granted 11,800,000 stock options to directors, officers, employees and others (2019-7,330,000). Share-based compensation expense increased by \$139,877 during the nine months ended September 30, 2020 compared to the prior year period due to the weighted average grant date fair value of options

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granted in the nine months ended September 30, 2020 being \$0.06 (2019 - \$0.06) and due to the amortization of option grants in 2019 with higher fair values that were granted during previous periods.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2020, the Company recorded other income of \$435,985 of which:

- \$321,928 related to the full amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$460,000 recognized in connection with the Company's March 2019 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7), and
- \$114,057 related to the amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$478,500 recognized in connection with the Company's December 2019 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7).

During the nine months ended September 30, 2019, the Company recorded other income of \$345,364 predominantly related to the amortization of the flow-through share premium liability of \$583,331 recognized in connection with the Company's June 1, 2018 private placement (see section 1.6/1.7).

1.5 Summary of quarterly results

	Sep	otember 30		June 30		March 31	D	ecember 31	Se	eptember 30	June 30	March 31	D	ecember 31
		2020		2020		2020		2019		2019	2019	2019		2018
Exploration and evaluation	\$	542,581	\$	526,383	\$	917,135	-\$	429	\$	447,522	\$ 1,045,989	\$ 662,299	-\$	1,433,648
General and administrative		544,017		543,596		383,359		292,135		315,540	511,491	710,535		364,829
Finance (income) and other (income)		(85,555)		(56,131)		(21,833)		(25,993)		(88,335)	(60,984)	(74,272)		(38,235)
Finance expense		18,232		20,926		29,693		64,375		54,682	92,627	108,994		46,997
Amortization of flow-through share premium		(162,923)		(87,484)		(185,578)		(47,459)		(52,661)	(191,723)	(100,980)		(125,325)
Loss on disposition of property and equipment		-		-		-		5,269		-	-	-		-
(Income) loss for the period		856,352		947,290		1,122,776		287,898		676,748	1,397,400	1,306,576		(1,185,382)
Other comprehensive (income) loss		-		-		-		-		-	-	-		-
Total comprehensive (income) loss	\$	856,352	\$	947,290	\$	1,122,776	\$	287,898	\$	676,748	\$ 1,397,400	\$ 1,306,576	-\$	1,185,382
Basic and diluted (income) loss per common share	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01	-\$	0.01
Weighted average number of common shares	25	57,431,942	23	9,186,154	2	39,186,154	2	28,455,976		227,436,954	227,406,075	210,837,610		208,468,772

The changes in the Company's financial results on a quarter-by-quarter basis are due primarily to fluctuations in the level of activity of Company's exploration programs and administration. The Company is a mineral exploration company and does not earn any revenue. The Company's current mineral property portfolio consists of the Douay exploration-stage project in Quebec, Canada.

1.6 and 1.7 Financial position, liquidity and capital resources

	September 30,	December 31,
	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	6,221,181	4,102,551
Current assets	6,697,518	5,280,753
Total assets	6,983,878	5,835,845
Current liabilities	1,388,886	2,286,076
Non-current liabilities	108,919	229,986

As at September 30, 2020, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$6,221,181 (December 31, 2019 - \$4,102,551) and working capital of \$5,308,632 (December 31, 2019 - \$2,994,677). Current liabilities that are to be settled in cash as at September 30, 2020 include accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$339,218, which were primarily incurred in connection with the work program at Douay and general and administrative costs.

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During the year ended December 31, 2019, Revenu Quebec completed its audit of the Company's 2018 METC filing. At December 31, 2019 the Company recorded a receivable of \$399,966 with respect to the 2018 METC filing and has received the full amount of this receivable as of the date of this MD&A.

The Company has received METC payments from Revenu Quebec with respect to the 2011 to 2014 tax years and these tax years are currently under audit by Revenu Quebec. Revenu Quebec has disallowed certain amounts that the Company believes are claimable qualifying expenditures. The Company intends to defend its filing positions and the Company has filed notice of objections with Revenu Quebec's Appeals Division for each of the years 2011 to 2014.

On November 24, 2020, the Company received a Notice of Assessment from Revenu Quebec, after completion of an audit of the Company's 2019 METC filing, for \$320,000 in tax refunds pertaining to the Company's 2019 METC filing. The Company has received the first instalment of \$284,370 from Revenu Quebec and expects to receive the balance in the coming weeks.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020, the Company used net cash of \$1,054,577 and \$2,367,003 in operating activities compared to \$360,111 and \$1,106,125 during the comparative periods of the prior year.

The Company used net cash of \$2,084 in investing activities during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020 compared to \$15,046 during the comparative periods of the prior year.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2020, the Company generated cash from financing activities of \$4,640,081 and \$4,487,717 compared to using cash of \$92,658 in the three months ended September 30, 2019 and generating cash of \$1,904,200 in the nine months ended September 30, 2019. Cash was generated through the issuance of shares pursuant to private placements in the three months ended September 2020 and the nine months ended September 30, 2019 and cash has been used for the payment of lease liabilities and cash has been generated by proceeds received on the Company's subleases.

On March 26, 2019, the Company announced the closing of a non-brokered flow through private placement of 18,400,000 common shares at a price of \$0.125 per common share for gross proceeds of \$2,300,000. The Company will use the gross proceeds for eligible expenditures on the Douay Gold Project.

On April 8, 2019, the Company issued 568,182 common shares at a price of \$0.11 per common share in settlement of certain outstanding obligations.

On December 23, 2019, the Company announced the closing of a non-brokered flow through private placement of 8,700,000 flow-through common shares at a price of \$0.14 per flow through common share and 3,050,000 common shares at a price of \$0.08 per common share for gross proceeds of \$1,462,000. The Company will use the gross proceeds for general working capital and eligible expenditures on the Douay Gold Project.

On July 31, 2020 and August 10, 2020, the Company closed a non-brokered private placement of 27,941,173 common shares at a price of \$0.17 per common share for gross proceeds of approximately \$4.75 million. The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the private placement to continue advancing the Douay Gold Project and for general corporate purposes.

On October 13, 2020, the Company issued 25,838,821 units of the Company (collectively, the "Units") to Agnico in a non-brokered private placement at a price of \$0.239 per Unit for total consideration of approximately \$6,175,478 (the "Agnico Strategic Investment"). Each Unit is comprised of one Common Share and one Warrant (a "Unit Warrant"). Each Unit Warrant entitles the holder to acquire one Common Share at a price of \$0.34 for a period of three years from issuance, subject to acceleration of the expiry date, at the option of Maple Gold, in the event the Common Shares trade on the Exchange above \$0.60 for a period of twenty consecutive trading days at any time following two years from the closing date of the Agnico Strategic Investment. The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the private placement for general corporate purposes.

The Company seeks to reduce or eliminate costs wherever possible. Costs are reviewed on a quarterly basis, taking into account the Company's business objectives, available cash and funding opportunities in the market. As a result of the Covid-

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19 conditions being experienced in Canada and worldwide, the Company has taken a number of initiatives to protect its treasury position. The Company's senior management team agreed to work for 50% pay during the second quarter of 2020. Upon completion of the July/August 2020 financing the senior management team returned to full salary levels.

The Company has applied for, and received, the Canada Emergency Business Account, which is a \$40,000 interest free loan that is offered through financial institutions. If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, \$10,000 will be forgiven. The Company continues to monitor other programs that have been announced to determine whether the Company will qualify for additional relief.

On July 10, 2020, the Federal Government announced that it is proposing to protect jobs and safe operations of junior mining exploration and other flow-through share issuers, by extending the timelines for spending the capital they raise via flow-through shares by 12 months. This proposal means that the Company now has to December 31, 2021 to incur qualifying expenditures with respect to its \$1,034,292 in unspent flow through funds.

The Company believes that it has adequate resources to maintain its minimum obligations, including general corporate activities, based on its cash position and ability to pursue additional sources of financing, including equity placements. However, the Company currently has no source of operating cash flow, and has no assurance that additional funding will be available to it for additional exploration programs at its property, or to enable the Company to fulfill its obligations under any applicable agreements. The ability of the Company to continue as a going concern is dependent on its ability to obtain additional sources of financing to successfully explore its property and, ultimately, to achieve profitable operations. Failure to obtain such additional financing could result in delay or indefinite postponement of further exploration of the Company's property and the possible loss of title to such property. Furthermore, during the three months ended March 31, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The situation is dynamic and the ultimate duration and magnitude of the impact on the economy and the Company's business are not known at this time. These impacts could include an impact on its ability to obtain debt and equity financing to fund ongoing exploration activities as well as its ability to explore and conduct business. As such, there is material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Common shares issued

July and August 2020 Private Placement

As noted previously the Company closed a private placement in two tranches in July and August 2020 and issued 27,941,173 common shares for gross proceeds of approximately \$4.75 million. The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the private placement to continue advancing the Douay Gold Project and for general corporate purposes.

December 2019 Private Placement

As noted previously the Company closed a private placement during Q4 2019.

	Number of	\$
	common shares	
Private placement – flow through shares	8,700,000	1,218,000
Private placement – common shares	3,050,000	244,000
Share issuance costs	-	(10,838)
Subtotal	11,750,000	1,451,162
Flow-through share premium liability	-	(478,500)
	11,750,000	972,662

The intended use of the gross proceeds of \$1,462,000 is \$244,000 towards general working capital and \$1,218,000 towards eligible exploration expenditures at the Douay Gold Project. As at September 30, 2020 the Company had incurred approximately \$244,000 of general working capital and \$290,328 of eligible exploration expenditures.

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March 2019 Private Placement

As noted previously the Company closed a private placement during Q1 2019.

	Number of common shares	\$
Private placement – flow through shares	18,400,000	2,300,000
Share issuance costs	-	(23,464)
Subtotal	18,400,000	2,276,536
Flow-through share premium liability	-	(460,000)
	18,400,000	1,816,536

The intended use of the gross proceeds of \$2,300,000 is towards eligible exploration expenditures at the Douay Gold Project. As at September 30, 2020 the Company had incurred \$2,300,000 of eligible exploration expenditures.

1.8 Off-balance sheet arrangements

As at September 30, 2020, the Company had no off-balance sheet arrangements.

1.9 Transactions with related parties

During the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2020 and 2019, compensation to key management personnel was as follows:

		months ended September 30,		months ended September 30,
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salaries and benefits	115,500	100,500	278,500	331,500
Share-based payments	48,391	(72,931)	220,477	202,582
	163,891	27,569	498,977	534,082

1.10 Fourth Quarter

Not applicable.

1.11 Subsequent events

Refer to Highlights section and sections 1.6 and 1.7.

1.12 Proposed transactions

None

1.13 Critical accounting estimates

The required disclosure is provided in Note 2 in the notes to the interim financial statements which accompany this MD&A and which are available under the Company's profile at www.sedar.com.

1.14 Changes in accounting policies including initial adoption

The required disclosure is provided in Note 2 in the notes to the interim financial statements which accompany this MD&A and which are available under the Company's profile at www.sedar.com.

1.15 Financial instruments and other instruments

As at September 30, 2020, the Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, deposits and accounts payables and accrued liabilities. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values due to their short-term to maturity. The Company's financial instruments are exposed to certain financial risks including, credit risk,

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currency risks, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and capital risk management. Details of each risk are laid out in the notes to the Company's annual audited financial statements. Management has determined that these risks, individually and in aggregate, are immaterial to the Company.

1.16 Other requirements

Additional information relating to the Company may be found on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

1.16.1 Capital structure

As at the date of this report, the Company had 293,267,848 common shares issued and outstanding, 22,730,100 common shares issuable under stock options and 56,871,971 common shares issuable under share purchase warrants. The fully diluted outstanding share count is 372,869,919.

1.16.2 Internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures

The Company has disclosure controls and procedures in place to provide reasonable assurance that any information required to be disclosed by the Company under securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the applicable time periods and that required information is gathered and communicated to the Company's management so that decisions can be made about the timely disclosure of that information.

The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over financial reporting. Any system of internal controls over financial reporting, no matter how well designed, has inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

The Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, believe that any disclosure controls and procedures or internal controls over financial reporting, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect 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, the Company's management 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 judgements in decision-making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of a 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 control system is also based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving 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.