### TAMARACK PROJECT HIGH-GRADE NICKEL-COPPER-COBALT

JUST IN TIME TO ESTABLISH A STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT SUPPLY OF BATTERY GRADE NICKEL IN THE USA

# 0 NO AD M. XU 6013 TALON METALS CORP. (TLO:TSX) **RIO TINTO (KENNECOTT EXPLORATION COMPANY) JOINT VENTURE** December 2019

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Forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements, and even if such actual results are realized or substantially realized, there can be no assurance that they will have the expected consequences to, or effects on Talon. Factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations include, but are not limited to: changes in commodity prices, including nickel; the Company's inability to raise capital and/or pay Kennecott Exploration Company pursuant to the Option Agreement dated November 7, 2018 (and the amendments thereto); the lack of electric vehicle adoption or in the event of such adoption, such not resulting in an increased demand for nickel or there being a nickel deficit; negative metallurgical results; changes in interest rates; risks inherent in exploration results, timing and success, including the failure to identify mineral resources or mineral reserves; the uncertainties involved in interpreting DHEM and MMR surveys, drilling results and other geological data; inaccurate geological and metallurgical assumptions (including with respect to the size, grade and recoverability of mineral reserves and mineral resources); uncertainties relating to the financing needed to further explore and develop the Tamarack North Project or to put a mine into production; the costs of commencing production varying significantly from estimates; unexpected geological conditions; changes in power prices; unanticipated operational difficulties (including failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate in accordance with specifications, cost escalation, unavailability of materials, equipment and third-party contractors, inability to obtain or delays in receiving government or regulatory approvals, industrial disturbances or other job action, and unanticipated events related to health, safety and environmental matters); political r

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## **TECHNICAL REFERENCE**

The mineral resource figures disclosed in this presentation are estimates and no assurances can be given that the indicated levels of nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum, palladium and gold will be produced. Such estimates are expressions of judgment based on knowledge, mining experience, analysis of drilling results and industry practices. Valid estimates made at a given time may significantly change when new information becomes available. While the Company believes that the resource estimates disclosed in this presentation are well established, by their nature resource estimates are imprecise and depend, to a certain extent, upon statistical inferences which may ultimately prove unreliable. If such estimates are inaccurate or are reduced in the future, this could have a material adverse impact on the Company.

Mineral resources are not mineral reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. Inferred mineral resources are estimated on limited information not sufficient to verify geological and grade continuity or to allow technical and economic parameters to be applied. Inferred mineral resources are too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them to enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves. There is no certainty that mineral resources can be upgraded to mineral reserves through continued exploration.

Please see the technical report entitled "NI 43-101 Technical Report Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) of the Tamarack North Project – Tamarack, Minnesota" with an effective date of December 14, 2018 (the "Initial PEA") prepared by independent "Qualified Persons" (as that term is defined in National Instrument 43-101 ("NI 43-101")) Leslie Correia (Pr.Eng), Silvia Del Carpio (P. Eng.) Tim Fletcher (P. Eng.), Daniel Gagnon (P. Eng.), Kebreab Habte (P. Eng.), Oliver Peters (P. Eng.), Tom Radue (P. Eng.), and Brian Thomas (P. Geo.) for information on the QA/QC, data verification, analytical and testing procedures at the Tamarack Project. Copies are available on the Company's website (www.talonmetals.com) or on SEDAR at (www.sedar.com). The laboratory used is ALS Minerals who is independent of the Company.

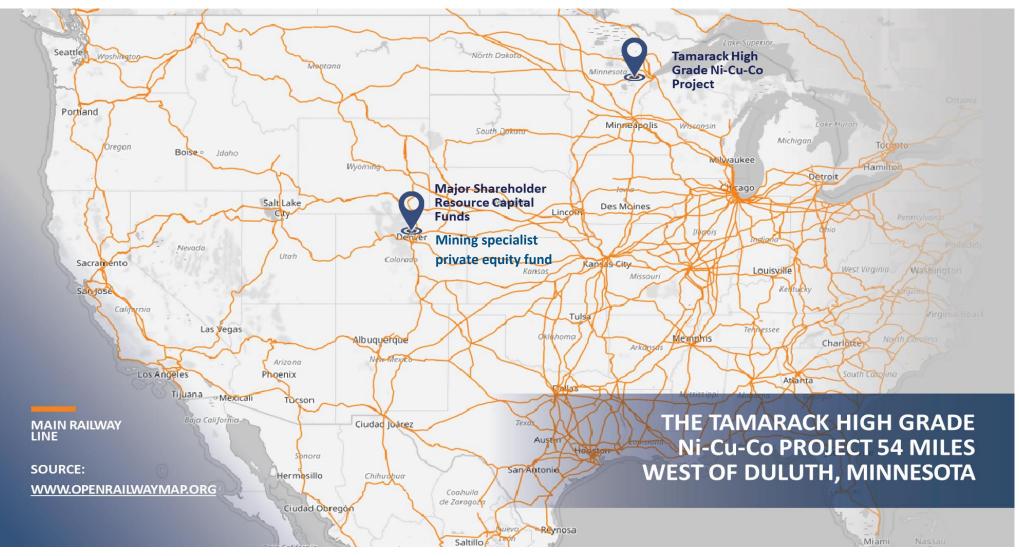
The Initial PEA is preliminary in nature. The Initial PEA includes inferred mineral resources. Inferred mineral resources are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves. There is no certainty that the Initial PEA will be realized.

The mineral resource estimate contained in this presentation was prepared by or under the supervision of Mr. Brian Thomas (P.Geo.), who is a geologist independent of Talon and an employee of Golder Associates Ltd. In addition, Mr. Thomas has reviewed the sampling, analytical and test data underlying such information and has visited the site and reviewed and verified the QA/QC procedures used at the Tamarack North Project and found them to be consistent with industry standards. For further detail please see the Technical Report entitled "Second Independent Technical Report on the Tamarack North Project – Tamarack, Minnesota", dated March 26, 2018, which is available under the Company's issuer profile on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) or on the Company's website (www.talonmetals.com).

Mike Shaw, Vice President, Exploration of Talon, is a Qualified Person within the meaning of NI 43-101. Mr. Shaw is satisfied that the analytical and testing procedures used are standard industry operating procedures and methodologies, and he has reviewed, approved and verified the technical information in this presentation, including sampling, analytical and test data underlying the technical information



### LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES ON INFRASTRUCTURE





### **TAMARACK PROJECT - KEY HIGHLIGHTS**



The Tamarack Project is one of two high-grade\* Ni-Cu-Co projects on infrastructure discovered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a resource prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 suitable for batteries (Class 1 nickel project) that is pre-development



INSTITUTIONAL PRESENCE

To date, the Company has been predominantly funded by sophisticated resource funds with specific focus on the mining or electric vehicle industries



Over 75% of the shares are held by management, board and institutions



**ANALYST** 

**COVERAGE** 

Paradigm Capital published a research report (Sept. 18, 2019) on Talon. Talon anticipates additional coverage to follow and has been recently meeting analysts

Talon management and board have previously developed, built and sold numerous companies that realized significant returns to investors. Talon is the group's sole focus



The Initial PFA shows robust economics even under low nickel prices due to the high-grade nature of the Tamarack Project





**EXPANSION** POTENTIAL The resource, prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 comprises 1 km along the 18 km Tamarack Intrusive Complex (TIC). Company's immediate focus is on expanding high-grade mineralization.



Combined Talon Metals and Rio Tinto's Kennecott Exploration (Rio Tinto) teams have a successful track record of expanding the high-grade Massive Sulphide Unit resource (NiEq pounds) at the Tamarack Project by 4x since 2015



Oversubscribed raise completed on August 29,2019.

**FIVE YEARS OF** DEVELOPMENT

**WELL FINANCED** 

Talon has worked with Rio Tinto since 2014 preparing to take the project through to Feasibility Study. Talon secured the right to operate and become the majority JV partner in March 2019

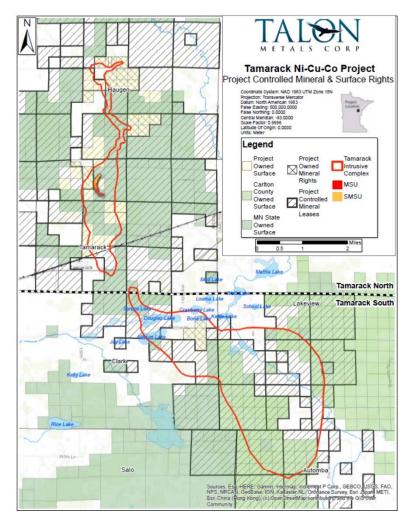
**PROVEN HISTORY OF PERFORMANCE** 

\*Grade of indicated resources exceeds 1.6% Ni

C\$11 million raised

### RIO TINTO, THROUGH SUBSIDIARY KENNECOTT EXPLORATION COMPANY (KEX), IS OUR ACTIVE JOINT VENTURE PARTNER

- The Tamarack Project is comprised of the Tamarack North Project and the Tamarack South Project with 31,000 acres of Private Land and State Leases
- To earn a 51% interest in the Tamarack Project, Talon is required to (by March 2022):
  - Pay US\$6 million in cash and US\$1.5 million in shares to KEX (completed in March 2019);
  - Spend US\$10 million on exploration & development and pay US\$5 million to KEX
- To earn an additional 9% interest for a total of 60% (by March 2026):
  - Complete a feasibility study and pay US\$10 million to KEX
- Under the Option Agreement, Talon is appointed as the operator of the Tamarack Project, with certain KEX employees being seconded to Talon on a full-time basis



Plan view of the Tamarack Intrusive Complex (TIC) showing the intrusions, the Semi-Massive Sulphide Unit (SMSU) and the Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU)



## A COMBINED TALON AND RIO TINTO\* TEAM

Henri van Rooyen CEO B. Com (Hons), CA (SA)	Previously COO at Tau Capital. Secured and managed large exploration projects across 3 continents since 2007. Started working with Rio Tinto's KEX/Tamarack team in 2014. Responsible for strategy and project delivery	Sean Werger President, Head of Investor Relations <i>(LL.B, MBA)</i>	Previously General Counsel and Director of Mergers & Acquisitions at Tau Capital, with project divestments of mining projects totalling in excess of C\$700M. Started working with Rio Tinto's KEX/Tamarack team in 2014. Responsible for corporate and legal matters and investor relations.
<b>Brian Goldner</b> Head of Exploration (Seconded from Rio Tinto together with the Tamarack team) (Bachelors in Geology and Geography, Masters in Geology)	Exploration Geologist with Rio Tinto since 2006. Completed a MSc degree on the Tamarack Intrusive Complex (TIC) in 2012. Seconded by Rio Tinto to lead exploration at the TIC	<b>Dr. Anthony J. Naldrett</b> Talon Technical Committee Member and Director) <i>(PH.D, Geology)</i>	Globally acknowledged as the leading authority on magmatic sulphide deposits: His research has covered nearly all of the world's magmatic sulphide ores with 254 referenced publications and writing or editing of 7 books. Presently Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto
Brian Bengert Head of Geophysics (B.Sc Geophysics, M.Sc)	Geophysicist 15 years- Inco (now Vale). Major responsibility was Voisey's Bay nickel project. Principal member of the team that discovered the underground deposit	Vince Conte CFO, Head of HR (B.Math, CPA, CFA)	Previously Senior Manager with Deloitte LLP in the audit and financial advisory/valuations groups. Responsible for financial modelling of the Tamarack Project since 2014 as well as Talon's accounting, financial controls, auditing, reporting and HR
<b>Dr. Etienne Dinel</b> VP Geology (Bachelor of Geology, Physics (Honours), PH.D, Economic Geology)	Twenty years of experience in structural geology, petrology and geochemistry. Since 2014, he has been instrumental in predicting massive sulphide extensions at the TIC	<b>Oliver Peters</b> <i>Head of Metallurgy</i> (Masters in Engineering, MBA)	Previously Falconbridge (now Glencore). Experience with over twenty Ni, Cu and PGM projects. Started part-time at the Tamarack Project since 2016, moving towards fulltime since March 2019

\* Through subsidiary Kennecott Exploration Company (KEX)



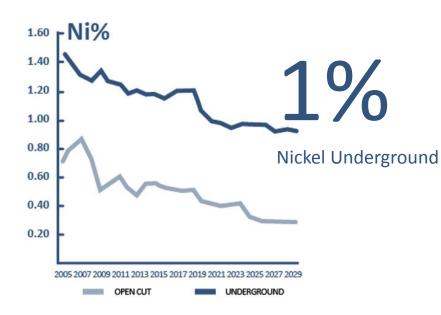
# HIGH-GRADE SULPHIDE DEPOSITS ARE THE PREFERRED, LOW COST SOURCES OF NICKEL BUT ARE DIFFICULT TO FIND

NEW HIGH-GRADE NICKEL SULPHIDE DISCOVERIES ARE DIFFICULT TO FIND

#### ONLY TWO 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DISCOVERIES WITH RESOURCES ON INFRASTRUCTURE ARE IN THE PRE-DEVELOPMENT STAGE

2008 - Tamarack Intrusive Complex (TIC) – Minnesota Talon-Rio Tinto (through subsidiary KEX) Joint Venture

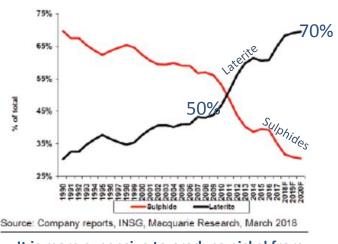
**2009** – Sakatti (Anglo-American): PFS Completed; Environmental & Social Impact Assessment submitted in 2019 AND EXISTING NICKEL SULPHIDE MINE GRADES CONTINUE TO DECLINE



Source: AME, Nickel Mine Grade Decline, November 2015

THEREFORE NICKEL SULPHIDE MINE PRODUCTION AS A % OF TOTAL NICKEL PRODUCTION WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE

SHARE OF FINISHED NICKEL PRODUCTION FROM SULPHIDE AND LATERITE ORES



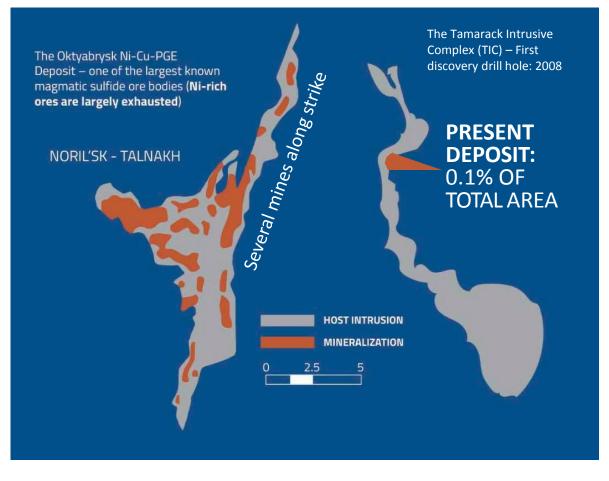
It is more expensive to produce nickel from laterites than from high-grade sulphides

High-grade nickel sulphide projects benefit from comparatively low costs while market prices are set by more expensive laterite producers



### THE TAMARACK INTRUSIVE COMPLEX (TIC) STRIKES OVER APPROXIMATELY 18 KM. FOLLOW-UP DRILLING TO THE FIRST DISCOVERY HOLE CULMINATED IN A RESOURCE\*

One of the most prolific nickel producers (Talnakh - Russia) was discovered over a century ago. It has several mines along strike



\*Tamarack North Project NI 43-101 Mineral Resource Estimate (February 15, 2018) - Tamarack and 138 Zones

Domain	Resource Classification	Tonnes (000)	Ni (%)	Cu (%)	<b>Co</b> (%)	Pt (g/t)	Pd (g/t)	Au (g/t)	Calc NiEq (%)
SMSU	Indicated Resource	3,639	1.83	0.99	0.05	0.42	0.26	0.20	2.45
TOTAL	Indicated Resource	3,639	1.83	0.99	0.05	0.42	0.26	0.20	2.45
SMSU	Inferred Resource	1,107	0.90	0.55	0.03	0.22	0.14	0.12	1.25
MSU	Inferred Resource	570	5.86	2.46	0.12	0.68	0.51	0.25	7.24
138 Zone	Inferred Resource	2,705	0.95	0.74	0.03	0.23	0.13	0.16	1.38
TOTAL	Inferred Resource	4,382	1.58	0.92	0.04	0.29	0.18	0.16	2.11

Effective date of resource estimate February 15th 2018. All resources reported at a 0.83% NiEq cut-off. No modifying factors have been applied to the estimates. Tonnage estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 tonnes. Metallurgical recovery factored in to the reporting cut-off. NiEq% = Ni%+ Cu% x  $3.00/8.00 + Co\% \times 12.00/8.00 + Pt [g/t]/31.103 \times 1,300/8.00/22.04 + Pd [g/t]/31.103 \times 700/8.00/22.04 + Au [g/t]/31.103 \times 1,200/8.00/22.04$  See Technical Reference slide for further information



\* Our focus is on expansion of the Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU)

# OUR FOCUS IS ON EXPANSION OF THE MASSIVE SULPHIDE UNIT (MSU)

### • TWO WAYS TO EXPAND:

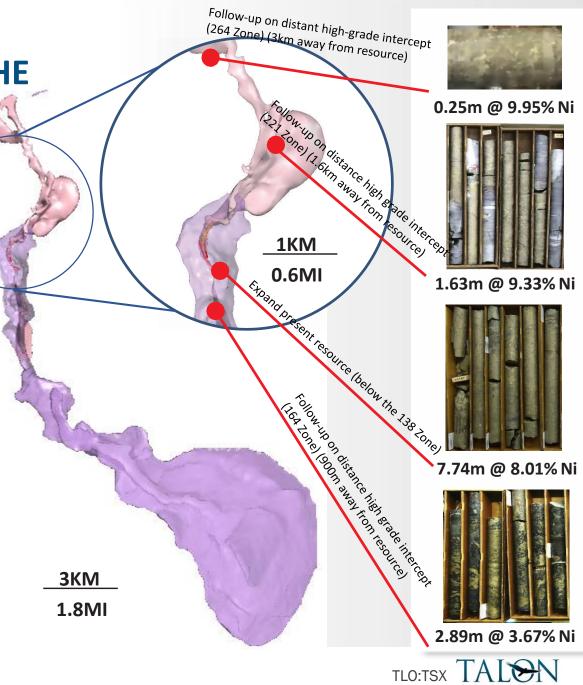
(1) Expand present resource

(2) Follow-up on distant high-grade intercepts

### • WE ARE PURSUING BOTH THROUGH:

(1) Effective drilling techniques

(2) Advanced geophysical methods



## (1) EXPAND THE PRESENT RESOURCE

### Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU) Tamarack

- MSU has grown over time and remains open in all directions:
  - Western MSU discovered in 2008
  - 138 Zone MSU discovered in 2012
  - Eastern MSU discovered in 2015
- Drill hole 12TK0160 intersected 6.67m of MMS outside of the MSU trend
- There is a 250m long gap in drilling where the western MSU is modeled

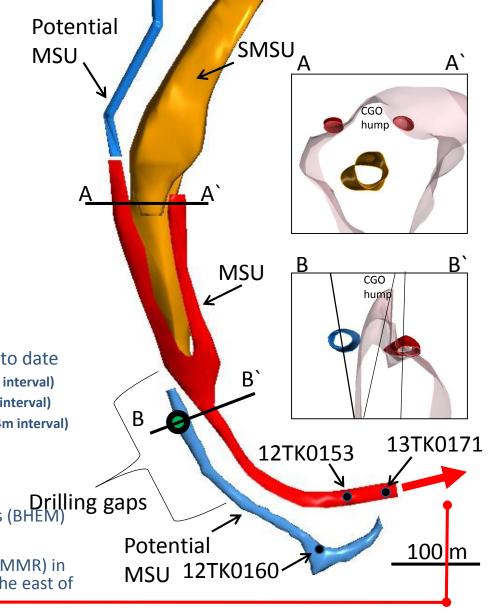
### Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU) 138 Zone



- 12TK0153: 6.16% Ni, 2.72% Cu, 0.11%Co, 0.11g/t Au, 0.44g/t Pt, 0.45g/t Pd from 554.5m to 568.05 (13.55m interval)
- 12TK0153: **6.69% Ni**, 2.25% Cu, 0.12% Co, 0.31g/t Au, 0.79g/t Pt,0.5g/t Pd from 572.75m to 575.25m **(2.5m interval)**
- 13TK0171: 8.01% Ni, 2.87% Cu, 0.14% Co, 0.21g/t Au, 0.41 g/t Pt, 0.54 g/t Pd from 573.3m to 581.04m (7.74m interval)
  - Contains highest grade sample collected on the project at 10.1% Ni

### Methodology

- Previous expansion of the MSU has successfully relied on Borehole Electromagnetic Surveys (BHEM) with a significant increase in MSU as a result
- We plan to further increase the effectiveness of BHEM by using Magnetometric Resistivity (MMR) in combination with BHEM. A previous MMR survey pointed to a possible MSU extension to the east of the 138 Zone (see red arrow pointing east)





### (2) FOLLOW UP ON DISTANT HIGH-GRADE INTERCEPTS

High grade intercepts from drill holes show potential for resource expansion over a large distance

#### 264 Zone

Drill hole 18TK0264 : 9.95% Ni, 5.4% Cu, 0.16% Co, 1.66 g/t Pd, 0.8 g/t Pt, 0.22 g/t Au over 0.25 m starting at 539.04 m



Last drill hole prior to Talon's March 2019 agreement with Rio Tinto (KEX)

#### 221 Zone

Drill holes 15TK0229: 9.4% Ni, 5.47% Cu, 0.18% Co, 1.42 g/t Pd, 2.41 g/t Pt, 0.86 g/t Au over 0.71 m starting at 702.04 m

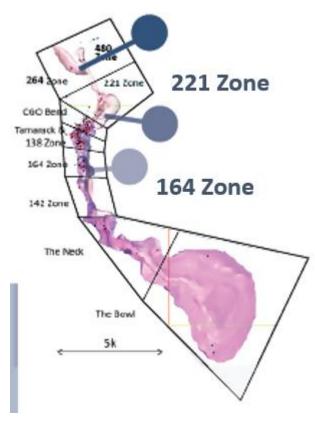


#### 164 Zone

Drill hole: 12TK0164 : 3.67% Ni, 1.97% Cu, 814 ppm Co, 0.12 g/t Pt, 0.11 g/t Pd and 0.10 g/t Au from 473.43 m to 476.32 m in the flank of the FGO keel



#### 264 Zone



We are developing a suite of advanced geophysical techniques over the Tamarack Zone where the Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU) exists. These techniques will then be tested in satellite areas where Rio Tinto has previously intersected massive sulphides.



### **EXCELLENT METALLURGICAL RECOVERIES AND LOW DELETERIOUS ELEMENTS IN CONCENTRATES\***

# Ni 85.0%

**RECOVERY** 14.5% Grade

# Cu 94.5%

TOTAL RECOVERY

28.9% Grade

# EXCELLENT QUALITY

- High quality nickel concentrates are in high demand. We expect this trend to continue
- We are therefore investigating two possibilities:
  - Producing concentrates for smelters or
  - Producing nickel sulphates for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Market

\*Initial Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), December 14, 2018



# **PRODUCTION OPTIONS**

#### **OPTION 1:** Produce Concentrates for Smelters (Traditional) MINE CONCENTRATE ockkkk 67% \* Is what the smelter typically pays the mine (of the London Metal Exchange (LME) nickel price) 3.09% Ni\* 14.5% Ni\* **OPTION 2:** Produce Sulphates for Electrical Vehicle Batteries (At Site) PRODUCE MINE **CONCENTRATE** SULPHATES AT SITE Of the LME nickel price is the estimated cost of nickel in nickel 120% 古古古 sulphates for batteries 3.09% Ni\* 22.2% Ni\*\* 14.5% Ni\*

\*NI 43-101 Technical Report, Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) of the Tamarack North Project – Tamarack, Minnesota, Effective Date: December 14, 2018

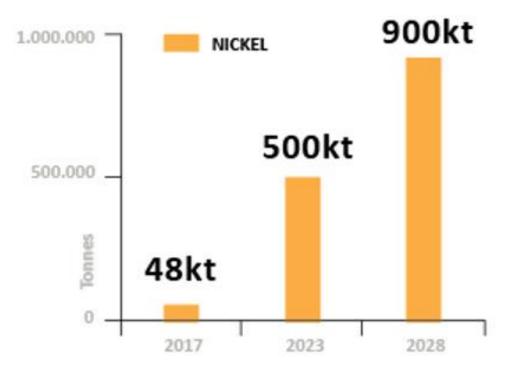
\*\* Estimates – numbers may vary for different processes and facilities

△ McKinsey & Company estimated this to be +30% premium - The Future of Nickel – A Class Act – November 2017



#### A U.S. BASED HIGH-GRADE NICKEL-COPPER-COBALT PROJECT ON INFRASTRUCTURE IS EXPECTED BE A STRATEGIC SOURCE OF NICKEL SULPHATES FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION\*

**Predicted Demand for Nickel in Nickel Sulphates** 



Benchmark World Tour 2019, May 2019, North America (Pg 20). Simon Moores, Managing Director, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence

\*See Talon press release May 7, 2019: Talon Metals Update: Strategic Importance of the Tamarack High Grade Nickel-Copper-Cobalt Project to the Future of Transportation in the U.S.A.

#### **Electric-Car Dreams Could Fall a Nickel Short**

Demand for a form of nickel needed in electric-vehicle batteries is starting to outpace supply



Nickel sulfate hexahydrate, some of the stuff electric-car batteries are made of. PHOTO: PHILIP GOSTELOW/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Wallstreet Journal September 29, 2019



# TEST PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A PROCESS TO PRODUCE NICKEL SULPHATES FOR THE EV MARKET ON SITE, DIRECT SALE

# **2** Tonnes

The amount of drill core available for metallurgical testing and process development for EV



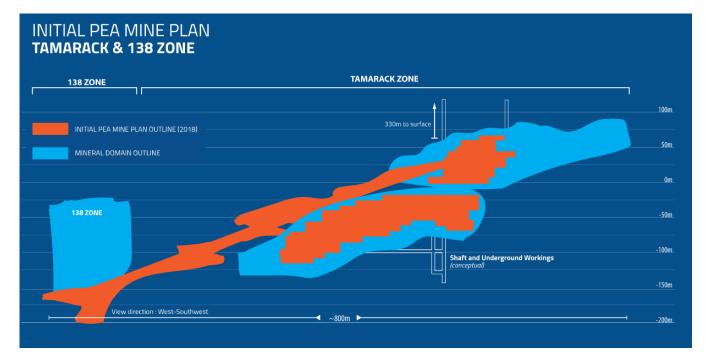
As a result we have commissioned a test program to develop a process for the production of nickel sulphates at the Tamarack Project on site

We are planning to compile an Updated Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) to trade off the following options: (A) produce concentrate for smelters and (B) produce nickel sulphate for the EV supply chain



# OUR INITIAL PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT, DATED DECEMBER 14, 2018 ASSUMED PRODUCTION OF NICKEL CONCENTRATES FOR SMELTERS FROM A SUBSET OF THE TOTAL RESOURCE

Long section looking east showing the outline of the Initial PEA mine plan against the mineral resource domain outline



*This Initial PEA showed a robust IRR even under depressed nickel prices* 

	Unit	Low	Base case	Incentive pricing
Ni	US\$/Ib	\$6.75	\$8.00	\$9.50
Cu	US\$/Ib	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.25
Со	US\$/Ib	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00
Pt	US\$/oz	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Pd	US\$/oz	\$800	\$800	\$800
Au	US\$/oz	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
C1 Cash Costs	US\$/Ib of Ni	\$2.47	\$2.20	\$1.93
Payback	Years (pre/after-tax)	2.5/2.6	1.9/2.1	1.6/1.8
				48%
IRR AFTER-TAX		28%	39%	4070

#### WE ARE THEREFORE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALREADY ROBUST BASE CASE THROUGH:

- A. EFFECTIVE EXPLORATION FOCUSSED ON EXPANSION OF MASSIVE SULPHIDES AND
- B. PROCESS DEVELOPMENT TO CAPTURE HIGHER VALUE FROM A MORE EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC U.S. SUPPLY CHAIN FOR BATTERY METALS



## **IN SUMMARY** OUR IMMEDIATE VALUE CATALYSTS ARE:



Expand the Massive Sulphide Unit (MSU), which even compared to high grade nickel sulphide mines has exceptional high nickel grades



Conduct a metallurgical test program to develop a process for a domestic US supply chain of nickel sulphates



Start to infill drill the Massive Sulphide Unit thereby moving resources from the inferred to the indicated category



Update the Initial PEA to trade-off mine-to-battery grade nickel (nickel sulphates) economics against producing nickel concentrates for smelters



# **CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

Shares issued	494.3M
Warrants outstanding	32.0M
Options outstanding	54.9M
Fully diluted	581.3M
Share price (Nov. 30/19)	\$0.155
Exchange symbol	TLO:TSX
Market capitalization	C\$76M
Cash (Nov. 30/19)	C\$8.0M
Major shareholders*	
•	
Resource Capital Funds	48.3%
Rio Tinto	6.1%
Rio Tinto Management and directors	6.1% 3.6%



\*Based on publicly available information

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**



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