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Hard Creek Nickel

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December 8, 2005

Trading Symbol: TSX.V – HNC

Drilling significantly expands Horsetrail Zone

Hard Creek Nickel Corporation (TSX.V – HNC) is pleased to report analytical results from an additional eight diamond drill holes, totaling 1671m, from the Phase 2 Drill Program on its 100% owned Turnagain Nickel Project, located in northern British Columbia, 70km east of Dease Lake.

Seven holes were drilled on three sections, spaced 100m apart and were located 125m to 325m west of previous drill holes in the Horsetrail Zone. The remaining hole, 05-90, was drilled on an existing section 175m north of the other seven holes. The holes were drilled to the south at -50° to intersect a steeply, northerly dipping ultramafic sequence. All holes intersected dunite and wehrlite containing disseminated pyrrhotite and pentlandite mineralization, similar to previous intersections in the Horsetrail Zone. Significant intersections include:

- 0.27% Ni over 80.8m, from 6.0m to 86.8m, in hole 05-90
- 0.25% Ni over 79.4m, from 11.0m to 90.4m, in hole 05-97
- 0.27% Ni over 101m, from 5.0m to 106.0m, in hole 05-98
- 0.26% Ni over 61.6m, from 84.0 to 145.6m, in hole 05-103
- 0.33% Ni over 65.9m, from 6.1 to 72.0m, in hole 05-104
- 0.25% Ni over 141.6m, from 22.0 to 163.6m, in hole 05-105

“These holes extend the Horsetrail Zone by 350 meters to the west,” said Mark Jarvis, President of Hard Creek Nickel. “The mineralized deposit remains open to the west, northwest, north, south and at depth. Hole 05-90 also indicates the presence of a sulphide nickel halo around the Horsetrail Zone. This pentlandite dominated, low sulphide mineralization was not detected by our electromagnetic survey. Soil geochemical surveys indicate that this halo could extend over a large area and it will be further investigated by drilling in 2006.”

Analytical results for the eight holes are summarized in the table below. True widths are estimated to be approximately 80% of the intersections reported above. In those intervals not reported, disseminated sulphide mineralization is generally present, but with lower nickel content. A map showing hole locations can be viewed at www.hardcreek.com/horsetrailwest.htm.

<u>Hole #</u>	<u>From (m)</u>	<u>To (m)</u>	<u>Length (m)</u>	<u>Ni %</u>	<u>Co %</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
05-90	6	86.8	80.8	0.27	0.016	0.03
05-97	11	90.4	79.4	0.25	0.019	0.04
	118.1	185.3	67.2	0.21	0.012	0.02
05-98	5	106	101	0.27	0.017	0.00
	132	163.3	31.3	0.20	0.015	0.03
	187	199.65	12.65	0.21	0.016	0.03
05-99	8	5.5	67.5	0.20	0.012	0.01
	89	130.1	41.1	0.23	0.018	0.03
	149	187.15	38.15	0.20	0.011	0.03
05-100	14	85	71	0.19	0.014	0.01
	95	155	60	0.23	0.018	0.02
	166.8	171.7	4.9	0.16	0.011	0.01
	187.3	190.8	3.5	0.16	0.008	0.03
05-103	6.5	12	5.5	0.36	0.017	0.03
	16	26	10	0.31	0.016	0.02
	39.5	58	18.5	0.16	0.015	0.01
	84	145.6	61.6	0.26	0.017	0.02
incl.	112.9	123	10.1	0.47	0.013	0.02
	154.4	187	32.6	0.18	0.010	0.01
05-104	6.1	72	65.9	0.33	0.014	0.01
incl:	18	28	10	0.53	0.016	0.03
	76	90	14	0.29	0.017	0.03
	100	142	42	0.30	0.009	0.04
incl:	112	124	12	0.48	0.017	0.06
	146	160	14	0.25	0.016	0.01
	164	228	64	0.18	0.016	0.02
05-105	22	163.6	141.6	0.25	0.017	0.03
	175	256	81	0.24	0.018	0.02
	274	288.05	14.05	0.18	0.013	0.03

Samples for analysis were generally 2 metres in length of split NQ-size core. Reference pulps with known nickel and copper values were inserted every 25 core samples and rock blanks every 30 samples to monitor laboratory performance as part of the QC/QA program.

Total nickel, copper, and cobalt values were determined by ICP emission spectrometry following four acid digestion of a representative pulp sample. Total nickel includes nickel in both sulphide and non-sulphide minerals.

All analytical work was conducted by Acme Analytical Laboratories Ltd., an ISO 9001 registered facility, located in Vancouver. ALS Chemex, an ISO 9001 registered facility, also located in Vancouver, is carrying out check analyses on ten percent of the samples.

This press release has been reviewed and approved by Chris Baldys, P.Eng. a qualified person consistent with NI 43-101

This news release includes "forward looking statements", the outcome of which are subject to risks, both known and unknown, which may materially affect the projected outcome. Risks include, but are not limited to, geological risk, commodity price uncertainty, financing risk and adverse weather conditions.

This press release has been reviewed and approved by Chris Baldys, P. Eng., a Qualified Person consistent with NI 43-101.

"MARK JARVIS"

**MARK JARVIS, President
HARD CREEK NICKEL CORPORATION**

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