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**NEWS RELEASE****SOUTHERN RIO**

RESOURCES LTD.

**January 19, 2004****www.southernrio.com****NR: 04-02****TSX Venture: SNZ****TED VEIN DRILL RESULTS – 3TS PROJECT**

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to announce additional results from the recent resource definition drilling program on the Ted Vein, an epithermal gold-silver vein on the Company's 3Ts Project, located 125 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof, British Columbia. The program was designed to extend and better define the Ted Vein mineralization, and provide data to allow the calculation of an inferred mineral resource.

Eight holes totaling 1730 metres were completed. Results from the first two holes of the program were released on December 11, 2003. The additional drilling was designed to further test the Ted Vein to the south of and at greater depths than previous drilling. Results are listed below; true widths are estimated to be approximately 80% of the downhole width listed.

| Hole #   | Comment         | Interval (m)           | Width (m)   | Au (g/t)                    | Ag (g/t)     | Au Equiv @ 60:1 |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| TT 03-30 | <b>Ted Vein</b> | <b>147.30 – 151.05</b> | <b>3.75</b> | <b>3.34</b>                 | <b>194.4</b> | <b>6.68</b>     |
| TT 03-31 | Ted Vein        | 186.06 – 194.34        | 8.28        | 6.32                        | 145.1        | 8.74            |
| Incl     | <b>Ted Vein</b> | <b>187.06 – 193.06</b> | <b>6.00</b> | <b>8.31</b>                 | <b>181.0</b> | <b>11.33</b>    |
| TT 03-32 | Ted Vein        | 137.50 – 141.88        | 4.38        | 1.13                        | 50.2         | 1.97            |
| Incl     | Ted Vein        | 137.50 – 140.30        | 2.80        | 1.54                        | 73.1         | 2.76            |
| TT 03-33 | Ted Vein        | 192.34 – 208.88        | 16.54       | 1.04                        | 23.8         | 1.44            |
| Incl     | Ted Vein        | 193.24 – 200.20        | 6.96        | 1.66                        | 30.3         | 2.16            |
| TT 03-34 | Ted Vein        | 190.17 – 199.00        | 8.83        | Max 0.45 g/t Au, 7.8 g/t Ag |              |                 |
| TT 03-35 | Fwall Vein      | 187.66 – 188.66        | 1.00        | 3.83                        | 7.7          | 3.96            |

The drilling has better defined the southern portion of the Ted Vein system, and with the excellent gold grades in hole TT-31, one of the deepest intersections to date, provides strong support for further drilling to test the system at greater depths.

The drill has now been moved to commence testing of several nearby targets generated from the 2003 field program. These include the Ringer Zone and Adrian Creek, where clusters of high grade boulders with values up to 84.3 g/t gold and 1032.0 g/t silver were located. The physical character and geochemical signature of these boulders suggests that they are derived from sources other than those currently identified on the properties.

*The TSX-V has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of the content of this news release*

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All assays for the current program have been carried out at Eco Tech Laboratories in Kamloops, BC. The field program was carried out under the supervision of David Pawliuk, P.Geo., who is a Qualified Person as defined in NI 43-101.

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**SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD**

*"Lindsay Bottomer"*

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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# NEWS RELEASE



**January 15, 2004**

**[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)**

**NR: 04-01**

**TSX Venture: SNZ**

## EXPLORATION DRILLING COMMENCES AT 3Ts

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to announce that exploration drilling has restarted at the 3Ts Project, located 125 km southwest of Vanderhoof in central British Columbia.

In late 2003, the Company completed an eight hole, 1730 metre program of diamond drilling on the Ted Vein to provide additional data to facilitate an initial resource calculation, which will commence shortly.

The upcoming drill program will focus on exploration targets on the Tam and Taken properties, where prospecting during the summer and fall of 2003 located several clusters of mineralized boulders with gold and silver values up to 84.3 g/t gold and 1032.0 g/t silver. The best defined of these is the Ringer Zone, where the mineralization is unusually gold rich, and with a much higher gold/silver ratio than in any of the currently known zones, lending support to the interpretation that the boulders represent a new, undiscovered zone of gold-rich mineralization.

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# NEWS RELEASE



December 11, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-19

TSX Venture: SNZ

## INITIAL TED VEIN DRILL RESULTS

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to announce initial drilling results from the current resource drilling program on the Ted Vein, an epithermal gold-silver vein on the Company's 100% owned Tam Property, located 125 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof, British Columbia.

Limited previous drilling on the Ted Vein has returned a number of potentially economic gold-silver intersections within zones of silicification and quartz veining over true widths of up to 14 metres and along a strike length of approximately 250 metres. The current drilling is designed to extend and better define the Ted Vein mineralisation, and facilitate the calculation of an inferred mineral resource.

Results from the first two holes of the program are listed below. True widths are estimated to be 75-80% of the downhole interval listed.

| Hole #      | Comment              | Interval (m)           | Width (m) | Au (g/t)    | Ag (g/t)     | Au Equiv @ 60:1 |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| TT 03-28    | Hwall Vein           | 146.0 - 151.0          | 5         | 1.88        | 16.1         | 2.15            |
|             | Ted Vein             | 153.4 - 164.9          | 11.5      | 3.22        | 86.1         | 4.66            |
| <b>incl</b> | <b>Ted Vein</b>      | <b>154.4 - 159.4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6.51</b> | <b>173.5</b> | <b>9.4</b>      |
| TT 03-29    | Ted Vein             | 117.32 - 134.37        | 17.05     | 3.84        | 364.6        | 9.92            |
|             | <b>incl Ted Vein</b> | <b>121.32 - 131.32</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>4.65</b> | <b>552.7</b> | <b>13.86</b>    |

Hole 28 is one of the deepest intersections on the property to date, and continues the trend of higher grade gold values at depth. The hole was designed to test the downdip continuation of mineralization on Section 101N. Based on the Hole 28 results the mineralization remains open both downdip and to the south.

Hole 29 is located midway between previously drilled sections spaced 50 metres apart. The high grade 10 metre interval grading 4.65 g/t gold and 552.7 g/t silver is one of the best to date. This intersection reaffirms the silver-rich character of portions of the Ted Vein – the intersection includes a one metre section grading 1780 g/t silver.

The current phase of drilling consisting of eight holes is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that full results will be released early in the New Year. Drilling of a further eight to ten holes on the Ted Vein and other targets, including the newly discovered Ringer Zone, will take place in January.

Primary assays for the current program have been carried out at Eco Tech Laboratories in Kamloops, with check assay determinations being undertaken by Acme Analytical Laboratories in Vancouver. The field program is being carried out under the supervision of David Pawliuk, P.Geo. and Robert Weicker, P.Geo., both of whom are Qualified Persons as defined in NI 43-101.

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### SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD

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# NEWS RELEASE



December 3, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-18

TSX Venture: SNZ

## PROPOSED NON-BROKERED PRIVATE PLACEMENT

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to announce a proposed non-brokered private placement of up to 1,500,000 flow-through units at a price of \$0.32 per unit. Each unit will consist of one flow-through common share and one half of one non-flow-through share purchase warrant. One whole warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one additional common share of the Company for a period of 24 months from the date of closing of the transaction at a price of \$0.42 per share if exercised during the first year and at a price of \$0.50 thereafter.

The proceeds from this private placement will be used for exploration on the Company's Canadian properties.

All shares issued in connection with this transaction will be subject to a four month hold period trading restriction. This transaction is subject to acceptance by all regulatory authorities having jurisdiction.

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### SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD

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## NEWS RELEASE

  
SOUTHERN RIO

November 24, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-16

TSX Venture: SNZ

### RINGER ZONE TARGET DEFINITION AT 3Ts

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to announce initial results from recent programs of trenching, sampling and mapping of the glacial sediments, which enclose the high grade Ringer Zone boulders (Press Releases October 23, 2003 and September 24, 2003). This work was done to better define possible drilling targets in the area of this newly discovered zone.

During the Ringer Zone trenching program, numerous samples of mineralized quartz boulders from Trench 1 returned excellent gold values. Eleven (11) samples of quartz vein material from Trench 1 averaged 14.01 g/t gold (0.41 oz/t) and 114.7 g/t silver (3.35 oz/t) with individual sample results ranging from 0.14 g/t to 53.7 g/t gold and 4.0 g/t to 332.0 g/t silver. Sample number 20420, located 14 metres west of the main Ringer Discovery at 1.5 metres depth, assayed 53.7 grams per tonne (g/t) gold (1.57 oz/t) and 332.0 g/t silver (9.68 oz/t).

In addition to the boulder samples in Trench 1, strongly anomalous values were received from several samples of glacial till including 0.99 g/t gold in sample 20402 and 0.89 g/t gold in sample 20424. Two smaller trenches were also completed in the same area, with anomalous values of gold in both boulders and till samples.

Based on the recent program, a classic glacial dispersion train has been identified with the possible bedrock source of the Ringer Zone boulders interpreted to be within 100 to 200 metres "up-ice" from (i.e. west of) the discovery location. The Company is now awaiting the assessment of recently completed seismic and ground-penetrating radar geophysical surveys. Following receipt of this data, and integration with the trench and mapping results, initial drill targets will be proposed to test for an in-situ source of the Ringer Zone boulders. Drilling of this and other targets is planned for January 2004.

With a resource already established on the Tommy Vein, and additional resource definition drilling currently underway on the Ted Vein, the discovery and advancement of the Ringer Zone adds value and enhances the potential of the 3Ts Project.

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# NEWS RELEASE

  
SOUTHERN RIO

November 17, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-15

TSX Venture: SNZ

## RESOURCE DEFINITION DRILLING COMMENCES AT 3TS PROJECT

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to announce the commencement of a resource definition drilling program on the 3Ts epithermal gold-silver project located 125 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof, British Columbia. The program will target the Ted Vein, where previous drilling has returned a number of significant gold-silver intersections (refer to April 28, 2003 news release). Drilling will continue until mid-December, and resume in January.

The Ted Vein is currently defined along a strike length of approximately 350 metres from surface to a depth of 120 metres, with estimated true widths ranging up to 14 metres. The resource drilling program will better define the geometry and grade of the Ted Vein, and provide data for a resource calculation under NI 43-101 guidelines. In addition, the drilling will test for extensions of the Ted Vein to the north and south, and a parallel vein system ("East Ted Zone") indicated through soil geochemistry and boulder sampling (values up to 3.60 g/t gold and 871 g/t silver).

Any resources defined by the current drill program will augment those already defined on the nearby Tommy Vein (inferred resource of 470,700 tonnes grading 7.4 g/t gold and 65.2 g/t silver).

Several new zones of high-grade mineralized boulders were identified during the summer and fall field programs (refer to September 12 and October 14 news releases). The Company is awaiting final results from these programs, which included backhoe trenching and ground geophysics (seismic and ground penetrating radar), to help define additional drill targets at the newly discovered Ringer Zone (grab samples up to 78.50 g/t gold and 282.5 g/t silver) and at the Mint Zone, where limited previous drilling returned 2 metres grading 8.00 g/t gold and 80.4 g/t silver. Further follow-up, including drilling, on these targets is planned for early 2004.

The drilling program is being carried out under the supervision of David Pawliuk, P.Geo and Robert Weicker, P.Geo.

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# NEWS RELEASE

SOUTHERN RIO

October 23, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-14

TSX Venture: SNZ

## ADDITIONAL HIGH GRADE BOULDERS AT 3Ts

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to provide further assay results from samples collected during the recent prospecting program on the 3Ts Project southwest of Vanderhoof, BC, as well as an update on current work.

A total of 233 rock samples were collected during the program. Thirty eight of these contained gold values greater than 1 gram per tonne, while 26 contained silver values of greater than 50 grams per tonne.

Further to the Company's news release of September 24, 2003, which reported high grade gold assays from the newly discovered Ringer Zone, additional assay results have now been received from work on the eastern part of the project area, mainly in the Triple Junction and Adrian Creek areas. Eight of 55 boulders from the **Adrian Creek** area contain gold values of greater than 1 gram per tonne, with peak values of 84.3 grams per tonne gold and 592 grams per tonne silver. Eight of 38 boulders from the **Triple Junction** area returned values of greater than 1 gram per tonne gold, with peak values of 49.9 grams per tonne gold and 372 grams per tonne silver.

The Company is very pleased with the results of the prospecting program, which has now identified strong gold and silver values in five separate clusters on the eastern half of the 3Ts Project. From east to west, the zones are designated Triple Junction, Adrian Creek, Ringer, Adrian West and Corner. The recent prospecting has returned some of the highest grade surface gold values found to date. These include:

| Sample # | Au g/t | Ag g/t | Target          |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 21658    | 84.30  | 592.0  | Adrian Creek    |
| 21578    | 78.50  | 282.0  | Ringer          |
| 21679    | 49.90  | 372.0  | Triple Junction |
| 21582    | 24.40  | 172.0  | Ringer          |
| 51577    | 22.90  | 158.0  | Ringer          |
| 21579    | 12.80  | 80.6   | Ringer          |
| 21565    | 9.23   | 48.3   | Triple Junction |
| 21698    | 8.23   | 80.9   | Triple Junction |
| 21580    | 7.70   | 27.6   | Ringer          |
| 21536    | 5.15   | 1032.0 | Adrian West     |

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Follow-up programs of backhoe trenching, glacial mapping, and seismic and ground penetrating radar geophysical surveys are currently being implemented to help define the source or sources of the mineralized boulders. The results of this work will be used to optimize drillhole locations for a planned 2000 metre drill program to commence shortly.

The prospecting program was carried out under the supervision of David Pawliuk, P.Geol. All assays were performed by Eco Tech Laboratory in Kamloops, BC.

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# NEWS RELEASE



**October 7, 2003**

**[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)**

**NR: 03-13**

**TSX Venture: SNZ**

## NEW DIRECTOR AND STOCK OPTIONS GRANTED

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Robert Watts as a director of the Company. During his 40 year career in the mining industry, Mr. Watts has held senior corporate positions with a number of mining groups including Placer Dome Inc, Pegasus Gold Inc, Orvana Minerals Corp and Princeton Mining Corp. Since 1994 he has been a consultant providing corporate advice and acting as a director of a number of publicly listed mining and exploration companies. He is currently a director of First Quantum Minerals Ltd, First Point Minerals Corp, Apollo Gold Corp., Orvana Minerals Corp. and Dynasty Gold Corp.

Mr. Simon Ridgway has resigned as a director, but will continue to be associated with the Company as an advisor to the board. The Company wishes to thank Mr. Ridgway for his contributions and advice over the years and is pleased that he will remain associated with the Company in an advisory role.

The Company also wishes to announce the granting of incentive stock options to certain directors, officers and employees to purchase up to 600,000 common shares under the Company's Incentive Stock Option Plan. The options will be granted for a period of five (5) years, commencing on October 7, 2003, exercisable at a price of \$0.15 per share. The granting of the said options is subject to acceptance by the TSX Venture Exchange.

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## SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD

Per "*Lindsay Bottomer*"

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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# NEWS RELEASE



September 24, 2003  
[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-12  
TSX Venture: SNZ

## NEW GOLD-RICH BOULDERS DISCOVERED AT 3TS

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to provide assay results for samples collected from the recently discovered Ringer Zone during the Company's prospecting and mapping program on the 3Ts Project southwest of Vanderhoof, BC. Assays are also provided for samples from two other nearby zones. None of these three zones have been drill-tested.

The Ringer Zone consists of several large, adjacent, angular boulders of quartz vein material up to 2 metres in maximum dimension. The Ringer Zone is located on the southwestern portion of the Taken property. Eight samples returned an average of **19.01 grams/tonne gold and 140.1 grams/tonne silver**, with individual values ranging from 0.95 to 78.5 grams/tonne gold and 6.9 to 282 grams/tonne silver. Three semi-continuous chip samples from the three largest boulders returned the following results:

| Sample # | Length     | Gold Grade       | Silver Grade    |
|----------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 21577    | 1.8 metres | 22.9 grams/tonne | 158 grams/tonne |
| 21581    | 0.6 metres | 0.95 grams/tonne | 6.9 grams/tonne |
| 21582    | 1.1 metres | 24.4 grams/tonne | 172 grams/tonne |

These results are some of the highest gold grades obtained from the property to date. Because of the location, physical character and geochemical signature of the mineralized boulders, the Company considers it unlikely that they are sourced from any of the known outcropping veins. The most likely source is an undiscovered mineralized bedrock vein or veins located up-ice to the southwest. The Company plans to further test this area with backhoe trenching, seismic surveying and diamond drilling in an effort to locate the mineralized source.

Significant assays were also returned from the nearby Adrian West and Corner Zones, both of which are located away from any known bedrock source.

Four samples of angular vein float from the Adrian West Zone, which overlaps the boundary between the Tam and Tsacha properties, returned gold values ranging from 0.08 to 5.15 grams/tonne, and silver values ranging from 21.2 to 1032 grams/tonne. Two of ten samples from the Corner Zone, which also overlaps the Tam and Tsacha property boundary, returned values of 1.26 grams/tonne gold and 331 grams/tonne silver, and 1.58 grams/tonne gold and 304 grams/tonne silver respectively.

The program was carried out under the supervision of David Pawliuk, P.Geo. All assays were performed by Eco Tech Laboratory in Kamloops, BC.

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The Company is very encouraged by these results, and is planning follow-up work on all the zones described above to define targets for future drill testing. The Company is also planning a fall drilling program on the Ted property which will focus on resource drilling of the Ted Vein as well as step-out drilling on the Ted and Mint Veins, and initial drilling of the Ted East Zone.

In addition to the results reported in this release, assays for a large number of samples from the eastern portion of the 3Ts project (Triple Junction and Adrian Creek areas) have yet to be received.

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**SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD**

Per "*Lindsay Bottomer*"

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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## NEWS RELEASE



**September 18, 2003**  
**[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)**

**NR: 03-11**  
**TSX Venture: SNZ**

### PROPOSED BROKERED PRIVATE PLACEMENT

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to announce that it has engaged Canaccord Capital Corporation (the "Agent") to act as agent for a brokered private placement of up to 5,100,000 units at a price of \$0.15 per unit for gross proceeds of up to \$765,000. Each unit will consist of one common share of the Company and one-half of one non-transferable share purchase warrant exercisable for a period of 12 months after the date of closing at a price of \$0.20 per common share.

The Agent will be paid a commission on all arms-length participants equal to 8% of the gross proceeds, of which the Agent may elect to be paid half in cash and half in units. The Agent will also receive an administration fee and Agent's warrants equal to 20% of the commission paid, exercisable for a period of 12 months from the date of closing at a price of \$0.20 per common share.

The terms of this private placement are subject to regulatory approval.

The proceeds of the issue will be used for exploration on the Company's current properties, the acquisition of new properties, general working capital and debt reduction.

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### SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD

Per "*Lindsay Bottomer*"

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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# NEWS RELEASE



September 4, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-10

TSX Venture: SNZ

## NEW DISCOVERY ON 3T'S PROPERTY, PRIVATE PLACEMENT CLOSES AND DEBT SETTLED

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to give an update on activities on all four of its gold-silver properties located in the Nechako Plateau region of Central BC.

Following on from the successful winter drilling program on the 3Ts Project, the Company contracted David Rhys, P.Geo. to report on the structural and geological setting of the mineralization. His work demonstrated that the Tommy and Ted Veins are classical shear-veins within a much larger epithermal alteration system. Mapping of the alteration suggests that the Tommy Vein is displaced at its southern end, and that the mineralized vein structure may continue across the fault. A prospecting program to further investigate this idea is currently underway.

In addition, the current prospecting and mapping program, under the direction of David Pawliuk, P.Geo., is focusing on the eastern part of the project area, where a number of mineralized boulders of vein material occur with values of up to 19.2 grams/tonne gold and 148 grams/tonne silver. To date the program has confirmed most of the known occurrences as well as defining several new locations. Of particular note is the discovery of a new occurrence on the southwestern part of the Taken Property. The *Ringer Zone* consists of several adjacent large, angular boulders of quartz vein material up to 2 metres in maximum dimension, variably mineralized with base metal sulphides. Base metal sulphides have proven to be an excellent indicator of the presence of associated precious metals elsewhere on the project. Initial samples from the Ringer Zone and other mineralized boulders have been submitted for assay. Additional prospecting and sampling is underway, with trenching planned to better define this new target for initial drill testing.

Elsewhere in the region, the Company has carried out further reconnaissance work on the Uduk Lake, Sam and Trout properties. *Uduk Lake* covers a large alteration system in felsic volcanics, with widespread anomalous gold values in a setting analogous to the Round Mountain gold deposit in Nevada. Several E-Scan geophysical anomalies have been interpreted as possible mineralized alteration pipes, and represent high priority drill targets. At *Sam*, plans for gridding and geophysics to better define the undrilled anomaly along strike from the known mineralized zone await the completion of clear-cut logging operations currently in progress. At *Trout*, reinterpretation of previous drilling results has defined possible untested extensions of the known breccia-hosted gold mineralization, which returned intersections of up to 20 metres grading 3.82 grams/tonne gold and 20.7 metres grading 3.42 grams/tonne gold. The Company is planning additional drilling to test the new interpretation.

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The Company also wishes to announce the closing of a private placement with Contrarian Resource Fund 2003 No. 1 Limited Partnership for 1,000,000 units (the "Units"), each Unit comprised of one flow-through common share (the "FT Shares") and one-half (½) of one non-flow-through non-transferable share purchase warrant (the "Warrants") of the Company at \$0.10 per Unit to net the treasury an aggregate of \$100,000. One whole Warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one additional non-flow-through common share (the "Warrant Shares") of the Company for a period of 18 months from the date of closing of the transaction at \$0.125 per share.

A finder's fee comprising (i) 8% of the value of the gross proceeds in the form of cash, and (ii) 10% of the number of Units placed in the form of non-transferable share purchase warrants having the same terms and conditions as the Warrants, will be paid. All shares issued in connection with this transaction are subject to a hold period of four months plus one day from the date of issuance.

Further to the news release dated July 17, 2003, the Company wishes to announce that it has settled in full indebtedness in the aggregate amount of \$45,292.56 with a trade creditor (the "Creditor") by the conversion thereof into 377,438 units at a price of \$0.12 per unit in accordance with the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange. Each unit is comprised of one common share and one non-transferable share purchase warrant entitling the Creditor to purchase one additional common share for a period of 24 months at a price of \$0.15 during the initial 12-month period and at a price of \$0.18 during the remaining 12 months of the 24-month period. All of the shares and warrants will be subject to a hold period of four months plus one day, expiring on January 3, 2004. Effective September 2, 2003, such indebtedness has been extinguished.

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#### SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD

Per "*Lindsay Bottomer*"

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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# NEWS RELEASE



April 28, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-06

TSX Venture: SNZ

## New Gold Zone Discovered On 3Ts Property

Southern Rio Resources Ltd. (the "Company") is pleased to report the remaining results from the recently completed diamond drill program on the 100% owned Tam property in central BC. The Tam property forms part of the 34 square kilometre 3Ts gold-silver project, consisting of the contiguous Tsacha, Tam and Taken properties. Detailed assays, an updated drill plan and cross sections will be posted on the Company's website at [www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com).

The recent program tested the Ted Vein, where the Company has previously reported (April 2, 2003) very encouraging results (e.g. hole TT-16 - 28.0 metres grading 3.78 grams/tonne gold and 137.5 grams/tonne silver, gold equivalent grade 6.07 grams/tonne using a 60:1 silver to gold ratio) and the Mint Zone, located approximately 500 metres to the northeast. Multiple mineralized vein intercepts were encountered in the Mint Zone area, which was previously untested by the Company. Both of these targets are low sulphidation, epithermal-style systems similar to those that host some of the most productive precious metal mines around the Pacific "Rim of Fire".

On the Mint Zone, six shallow holes were drilled in two fences in an area where numerous mineralized boulders occur on surface. Drilling encountered wide zones of quartz-veins in altered rhyolite host rocks, with the best values occurring along the western side of a strong resistivity geophysical anomaly. At a depth of 59.0 metres, hole TT-27 returned 2.0 metres grading 8.08 grams/tonne gold and 80.4 grams/tonne silver (gold equivalent grade of 9.42 grams/tonne). Hole TT-25, located 100 metres to the south of TT-27, returned 2.0 metres grading 5.48 grams/tonne gold and 127.3 grams/tonne silver (gold equivalent grade of 7.60 grams/tonne) from 28.0 - 30.0 metres, and 1.5 metres grading 3.89 grams/tonne gold and 42.6 grams/tonne silver, (gold equivalent grade of 4.60 grams/tonne) from 55.2 to 56.7 metres. These high-grade intervals occur within more extensive lower grade material in a wide zone of altered, quartz-veined rock. The zone is open along strike and at depth, and could represent a potential bulk mining situation given the shallow overburden and 150 metre wide alteration zone.

On the Ted Vein system, hole TT-17 returned a 17.7 metres grading 0.89 grams/tonne gold and 170.7 grams/tonne silver, (gold equivalent grade of 3.73 grams/tonne). The estimated true width of this intersection is approximately 10 metres. Step-out drilling to the south (holes TT-18 to 20) showed that the zone is disrupted by faults, and further work is needed to determine the continuation of the main vein. Hole TT-18 returned 2.9 metres grading 1.44 grams/tonne gold and 151.0 grams/tonne silver (gold equivalent grade of 3.96 grams/tonne) in strongly faulted vein material.

In an initial attempt to confirm the northern continuation of the Ted Vein, hole TT-21 encountered deep overburden before coring a 40cm interval of vein material prior to passing into intrusive rock. This vein interval appears to represent the northern continuation of the Ted Vein, and this interpretation will be tested with additional drilling during the next program.

The Ted Vein has now been traced for over 300 metres along strike, with true widths between 8 and 14 metres. Mineralization is potentially economic for either open pit or underground mining scenarios,

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providing additional tonnages of similar material can be defined. The best potential for gold-dominant mineralization is interpreted to be at depth – gold values in surface exposures of the Ted Vein are anomalous, but rarely exceed 1 gram/tonne, while several of the deeper drill intersections have significantly higher gold grades. For example, hole TT-16 in the current program returned 16.0 metres of 5.96 grams/tonne and 136.6 grams/tonne silver (gold equivalent grade of 8.24 grams/tonne) at a vertical depth of approximately 100 metres.

The Company will use these drill results to focus the summer work program, which is now being planned. The success of this drill program on the Tam property adds to the potential of the 3Ts Project to host a mineable precious metal deposit, and augment the currently defined inferred resource of 470,700 tonnes grading 7.40 grams/tonne gold and 65.2 grams/tonne silver on the adjoining Tsacha property.

All assays for the current program have been carried out at Eco Tech Laboratories in Kamloops. Check assays will be sent to a second independent laboratory. The field program was carried out under the supervision of Robert Weicker, P.Geo. and Duncan McIvor, P.Geo., both of whom are Qualified Persons as defined by NI 43-101.

The Company also wishes to announce that it has retained Jeffrey Wilson to provide investor relations service to the Company for an initial period of two months at a salary of \$4,000 per month. Mr. Wilson is based in Vancouver, BC.

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**SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD**

Per "Lindsay Bottomer"

Lindsay Bottomer  
President

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# NEWS RELEASE

S O U T H E R N R I O

April 2, 2003

[www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com)

NR: 03-05

TSX Venture: SNZ

## 3T's PROGRESS REPORT AND TROUT PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Southern Rio Resources (the "Company") is pleased to provide a progress report on its current diamond drilling program on the 3Ts epithermal gold-silver project located 120 kilometres southwest of Vanderhoof, BC. The 3T's project covers 34 square kilometres, and consists of three contiguous properties, Tsacha, Tam and Taken. Drilling on the Ted Vein on the Tam Property has encountered significant gold and silver mineralization in the two holes for which assays have been received. Detailed assays, a drill plan and cross sections will be posted on the Company's website [www.southernrio.com](http://www.southernrio.com).

Hole TT-16, drilled on the same section as hole TT-11, is the deepest intersection on the Ted Vein to date, returning an intersection of 28.0 metres grading 3.78 grams/tonne (0.11 oz/t) gold and 137.5 grams/tonne (4.01 oz/t) silver, for a gold equivalent grade of 6.07 grams/tonne (0.18 oz/t) using a 60:1 silver to gold ratio. The estimated true width of the intersection is approximately 12 metres, and it is located 65 metres below the TT-11 intersection which returned 11.35 metres grading 1.43 grams/tonne (0.04 oz/t) gold and 360.2 (10.5 oz/t) gram/tonne silver (gold equivalent grade of 7.43 grams/tonne or 0.22 oz/t). A higher grade portion of the TT-16 intersection returned 16.0 metres (estimated true width 6.9 metres) grading 5.96 grams/tonne (0.17 oz/t) gold and 136.6 grams/tonne (4.0 oz/t) silver (gold equivalent grade of 8.24 grams/tonne or 0.24 oz/t).

Holes TT-14 and TT-15 were drilled on a section located 85 metres north along strike of the Ted Vein from hole TT-16. Hole TT-14 intersected intrusive diorite in the projected position of the Ted Vein, while Hole TT-15 intersected the Ted Vein cut by a diorite dyke. The 10 metre portion of the Ted Vein below the dyke assayed 1.08 grams/tonne (0.03 oz/t) gold and 198.6 grams/tonne (5.8 oz/t) silver, for a gold equivalent grade of 4.39 grams/tonne (0.13 oz/t). Estimated true width of this intersection is approximately 7.5 metres.

The style and character of the Ted Vein intersections is typical of low sulphidation epithermal vein mineralization, which is the host for many of the most productive precious metal mines around the Pacific "Rim of Fire". Further work to characterize the nature and character of the Ted Vein system and other zones on the 3Ts Project is being carried out under a partnership arrangement with the BC Geological Survey.

Four additional holes spaced at 50 metre intervals have been completed to define Ted Vein along strike to the south. At its southern extent, the mineralization appears to change in character from a discrete epithermal vein to a wide zone of altered volcanics with disseminated sulphides. The drill has now moved to the Mint Zone approximately 600 metres to the north, where six holes are planned to test a second mineralized vein system on the Tam Property

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The Company is very pleased with the recent results, which appear to define significant extensions to the Ted Vein along strike to the south and at depth. The Company will initiate plans for additional drilling once all results from the current program are to hand. Success on the Tam Property adds to the potential of the 3Ts project to host a mineable precious metal deposit, and may lead to definition of additional resources to augment the currently defined inferred resource of 470,700 tonnes grading 7.40 grams/tonne gold and 65.2 grams/tonne silver on the adjoining Tsacha Property located approximately one kilometre to the west of the Ted Vein.

All assays for the current program have been carried out at Eco Tech Laboratories in Kamloops. Check assays will be sent to a second independent laboratory. The field program is being carried out under the supervision of Robert Weicker, P.Geo. and Duncan McIvor, P.Geo., both of whom are Qualified Persons as defined by NI 43-101.

The Company is also please to announce the closing the transaction to acquire a 100% interest in the Trout Property located in the Nechako Plateau region of central BC. The Company will acquire its interest in the property by issuing a total of 175,000 shares, making cash payments totaling \$25,000 and incurring \$200,000 in exploration expenditures within three years of regulatory acceptance. The vendor will retain a 2% NSR royalty, half of which may be purchased at any time by the Company for \$750,000. No finders' fee is payable in connection with this transaction and all shares issued under the agreement will be subject to a four month hold period from the date of issuance.

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**SOUTHERN RIO RESOURCES LTD**

Per "Lindsay Bottomer"

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President

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