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# News Release

## WESTMIN RESOURCES LIMITED

## 1991 RESULTS

**Vancouver, B.C. (March 5, 1992)** - Westmin's results in terms of prices, production and profits were disappointing in 1991 with the exception of Premier Gold which improved from a cash flow deficit in 1990 to cash positive before exploration in 1991. However, the outstanding exploration success achieved all year and cost reductions attained in the fourth quarter at Myra Falls Operations provide much encouragement for the future.

Myra Falls' exploration results continue to live up to their early promise. After milling 1,081,400 tonnes of ore in 1991, the Company recorded a net gain of 540,800 tonnes of significantly higher grade ore as well as adding 1.7 million tonnes of possible ore. During the first two months of 1992, Westmin's continuing exploration success is adding to these reserves.

Exploration success is being achieved in four separate areas of the Myra Falls Operations: the Gap/Battle Zone, the H-W west extension zone, the Thelwood Valley/Trumpeter Zone and the Lynx Mine. The 18 level drift, being driven to access the Gap/Battle Zone, was about 20 percent completed by 1991 year end and it is expected to be at the Battle Zone area by the third quarter of 1992. This drift has provided the ihitial drilling access to sketch out the H-W west extension.

Westmin incurred a net loss of $26.3 million ($1.02 per share after preferred dividends) in 1991 compared with a loss of $80.8 million ($2.50 per share) in 1990. The 1990 results included a non-recurring $79.0 million writedown. Revenues declined substantially in 1991 to $122.8 million compared with $139.6 in 1990 due to lower metal prices, the higher Canadian dollar and lower production at Myra Falls. These factors were offset somewhat by the very successful joint venture with Tenajon Resources Corp. that increased Premier's revenues substantially. Myra Falls' production was temporarily interrupted by a scheduled maintenance shutdown in the third quarter and a changeover to new mining methods. Cash flow from operations declined from $13.1 million in 1990 to a $7.9 million deficit in 1991, for the reasons highlighted.

During 1991, the Myra Falls Operations were largely converted to more productive long hole stoping and by year end over 70 percent of ore was being produced by this method. Since November 1991, the operating costs have averaged $50 per tonne or less and the property has achieved a modest positive cash flow. During the comparable period in 1990/1991, the operating costs averaged over $66 per tonne and the cash flow was negative.

The usual dividends were declared on each class of shares.

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