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TSX Venture: WTN

WESTERN ADVANCES WOLVERINE COAL PROJECT

Vancouver, BC, February 13, 2003 Western Canadian Coal Corp. (TSX Venture: WTN)

Western Canadian Coal Corp. (Western) announces that work is progressing well towards a production decision for the Wolverine Project, Western's first coal project in northeast BC. Highlights of recent progress include:

- Successful completion of Perry Creek geological drilling program with significant increase in potential tonnage amenable to open-pit mining
- Receipt of favourable coal quality test results from the 2002 bulk sample
- Advancement of open-pit mine plan for initial annual production of 1.6 Mt of clean coal
- Accelerating discussions with major mining and plant contractors interested in project financing and contract operations
- A Wolverine "Project Development Document" detailing new mine plans for Perry Creek and EB deposits scheduled to be completed by March 31st
- Initial construction scheduled for the fall of 2003, with production by 4th quarter of 2004.
- Production target expanded to 3 Mt from Wolverine property within 3 to 5 years.

The Company has completed the drilling program undertaken to demonstrate recoverable open-pit resources for its Perry Creek deposit, the first of three deposits to be developed as part of the Wolverine Coal Project. The new drilling included 19 holes, increasing the total drilling for the Perry Creek deposit to 58 holes totalling 7649 metres. The new drilling confirms the availability of open-pit tonnage east and west of the previously-planned small Perry Creek open-pit and the underground mine areas.

Management's preliminary tonnage estimates indicate a Perry Creek open-pit run-of-mine (ROM) tonnage of about 16.5 million tonnes (Mt) at a strip ratio of 7.4:1 BCM:tROM, or 10.5:1 BCM:tProduct with an average plant yield of 71 % (dry basis), based on J and F Seam recovery and taking into account out-of-seam dilution.

Confirmation of the expanded open-pit tonnage increases total tonnage for the Perry Creek deposit from about 11 Mt clean coal to about 20 Mt clean coal, including both the tonnage from the larger open-pit plus about 8 Mt clean coal which remains recoverable from the adjacent underground mine area. The Company is evaluating the potential to further increase resources and reduce strip ratios by recovering additional tonnage from the E and G Seams within the proposed pit.

Birtley Coal & Industrial Minerals Testing has completed washability and analytical work on the J Seam bulk sample. Product coal analyses are better than expected, and include: ash content (dry basis - db) – 8.2 %; volatile matter content (db) – 22.9 %; sulphur content – 0.44 %; free swelling index (FSI) - 8; and Gieseler fluidity - 106 ddpn. As expected, product yields from the raw bulk sample were high, with a reported 93.6 % yield (air-dried moisture basis). Bulk sample product is now at CANMET in Ottawa for pilot-oven coking tests, the results of which are expected in about 3 weeks.

Western is proceeding to finalize a development plan for the Wolverine Mine based on open-pit mining of Perry Creek pit for 8 years and of EB pit for 4 years with annual production of 1.6 Mt of coking coal product. A "Geology Report" is being prepared by an independent third-party to document and classify the Perry Creek resources, and an internal "Project Development Document" is being prepared to detail and confirm the feasibility of the open-pit plan. Both reports are scheduled for completion by March 31st.

Construction and development planning is also moving forward. Western is in discussions with contractors who would provide the capital for the wash plant and mine development in return for life-of-mine contracts. Response to date has been very encouraging; Management is pursuing detailed discussions with interested parties with a goal of concluding preliminary agreements over the next two months. Site development is scheduled to begin this fall, with production by the 4th quarter of 2004.

Expanded production of the Wolverine Coal Project remains the longer-term project goal. Production expansion and mine-life extension beyond the currently targeted 12-year production of 1.6 Mtpa could be supported by the Perry Creek underground mine (available for production in Year 8), and by the large Hermann deposit to the south (27 Mt raw, as previously reported). Western's objective is to achieve annual production of 3 Mt of product from the Wolverine property within 3 to 5 years.

Western Canadian Coal Corp. is a Vancouver based coal company with a large portfolio of coal properties in northeast British Columbia, three of which have advanced exploration and feasibility completed. The Company currently has more than 250 million tonnes of coal under exploration and development planning, with priority on the Wolverine Coal Project, which is based on initial commercial production from Perry Creek in 2004.

Contact Barry Girling or David Fawcett, President, at 604-608-2692 or info@westerncoal.com for further information. Website www.westerncoal.com

WESTERN CANADIAN COAL CORP.

"Charles Pitcher"

Chief Executive Officer

The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the accuracy or adequacy of this release.