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High-Grade Gold Discovery In Southern British Columbia

Almaden Minerals Ltd. (Almaden) is pleased to announce the discovery of a new high grade epithermal gold vein showing on its SAM claim group in southern British Columbia. This property is readily accessible by road, 25 kilometres northeast from the village of Lytton on the Trans-Canada Highway. The SAM prospect is 100% owned by Almaden and was acquired entirely by staking. Initial staking of 43 claim-units (1,075 hectares) was undertaken in late 2003 to cover strongly anomalous gold stream geochemistry and mineral occurrences located during earlier follow-up of a Government regional gold-in-silt anomaly. The property was substantially expanded to 140 claim-units (3,500 hectares) during November 2004, and more recently (January 2005) a closely adjacent SAMS (Sam South) block comprising 300 BCGS grid cells (~6,190 hectares) has been acquired via the new BC Mineral Titles Online system. These claims were acquired to cover additional areas of anomalous gold in stream sediment samples that have yet to be followed-up.

Limited fieldwork in 2003 outlined a 250-metre long discovery zone consisting of quartz float and a wide but low grade in-situ quartz breccia vein partly exposed by an old roadcut. Grab samples of the quartz float from this area yielded gold values ranging from 1,300 ppb (1.3 g/t) to 2,160 ppb (2.16 g/t), and three discontinuous chip/grab samples across the "Discovery Vein" showing returned a weighted average gold analysis of 467 ppb (0.47 g/t) over 6.0 metres (Ref. press release of January 7, 2004). During 2004 this showing was hand trenched, cleaned, mapped and continuous chip sampled over the estimated *true width of 4.2 metres.* The six samples collected across the vein/altered wallrock structure generated a weighted average gold value of 380 ppb (0.38 g/t).

A **new high grade zone**, called the **JJ Showing**, was revealed in the autumn of 2004 by hand trenching on a quartz rubble occurrence noted during a property-wide roadcut soil sampling program. This showing is situated nearly three kilometres to the southwest of the 2003 discovery zone, and it occurs on an apparent subparallel east-northeast structural trend. The hand excavation exposed two closely spaced moderately dipping veins, the **Jodi vein** and the **Jan vein** which is located south of the Jodi vein. The veins are separated by roughly 0.5 metres of strongly altered wallrock and the zone has an estimated combined 2.0 metre true width. Nine large sized channel samples were collected on a staggered pattern across the zone. The samples have returned (initial) gold geochemical analyses ranging from 14,930 to 55,746 ppb (14.93 to 55.75 g/t) gold from vein material and 1,245 to 8,853 ppb (1.25 to 8.85 g/t) gold from altered wallrock. These values have been confirmed by (later) metallics fire assays on reject portions of the same samples which yielded 12.79 g/t gold to 53.38 g/t gold from the vein material and 4.49 g/t gold to 9.15 g/t gold from altered wallrock.

A sample across 0.30 metres of the altered material south and above the Jan vein assayed 9.15 g/t gold. **The weighted average gold assay** from three samples at 1.0 metre spacing **across the Jan Vein is 19.28 g/t across a 0.67metre estimated true width**. One sample was taken across the clay altered material between the two veins and this assayed 5.97 g/t gold over 0.55 metres. **The weighted average for the Jodi Vein is 42.64 g/t gold across a 0.62m estimated true width. One** sample was taken of the altered footwall material below and north of the Jodi vein and this assayed 4.49 g/t gold across 0.30 metres. These samples clearly demonstrate this quartz vein system discovery is well mineralized across significant widths where exposed. A detailed mineralogic, geochemical and fluid inclusion study of the vein material is planned to better understand the nature of this high-grade mineralization.

All of the samples taken on the SAM property to date have been prepared and analyzed or assayed by Acme Analytical Laboratories in Vancouver, BC. The field programs have been designed and conducted by or under the supervision of Edward Balon, P. Geo., an employee of Almaden and the qualified person for this project under the meaning of National Instrument 43-101.

Almaden considers these initial high-grade results to be extremely encouraging. A 2005 field program is currently being planned.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Morgan J. Poliquin"

Morgan J. Poliquin, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Director

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FAX

Please deliver the following page (s) to:

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FAX NUMBER: 604-775-0313

SUBJECT: SAM Property Release

FROM: Ed Balon

DATE: JAN 21/05

PAGES (including cover sheet) 2

TEXT:

Tom, attached copy of the SAM press release. Will probably put out another one early next week concerning another two new prospects either side of PV. No longer much doubt in my mind we're onto an entirely new district.

Cheers
Eddy