

LEADER MINING INT'L. INC.

[LMN-CDNX] 17,491,065 SHS.

IMPERIAL METALS CORP.

[IPM-T] 79,880,578 SHS.

LEADER TO BUY SIMILCO MINE- Jasi Nikhanj, chairman, reports Leader Mining International Inc. has signed a letter agreement to buy all the outstanding shares of Similco Mines Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Imperial Metals Corp., and the Invermay mineral property, subject to favorable due diligence; approval of regulatory

authorities; and approval of Leader's board of directors. The closing will take place no later than 15May2000.

Consideration for the purchase of Similco Mines Ltd. and Invermay property is: payment of \$3,000,000 over 18 months; 1% NSR to Imperial Metals; and warrants to Imperial Metals to buy 1,000,000 shares of Leader Mining at \$1.00 per share for 24 months.

Similco Mines Ltd. is a debt free company and owns the following assets:

- 100% interest in an open pit copper, gold mine (Similco Mine), located 14 km south of Princeton, southern BC, and 250 km east of Vancouver, directly accessible via paved highway.
- Fully permitted 27,000 ton/day mill and infrastructure. Operations ceased in Nov. 1996 due to copper price uncertainty, and is currently on a care and maintenance basis.

To date Similco has produced 1.74 billion pounds of copper, 9,100,000 ounces of silver and 730,000 ounces of gold. Current open-pit resources are at 142,407,000 tons grading 0.397% copper (1.13 billion pounds copper). The majority of these resources can be classified into reserves upon a production decision.

The Similco Mine acquisition provides an excellent growth opportunity to Leader Mining by offering a short-term production scenario and excellent exploration potential within a large copper, gold, silver mineralization system.

The initial objectives are to:

- Position the re-start of operations to coincide with projected up swing in copper demand in late 2000 and 2001.
- Re-engineer operations, and apply larger more efficient mining and milling technologies, to re-start open pit mining to produce in the order of 80,000,000 pounds of Copper per year.
- Define new resources, which may be exploited by open-pit and underground mining to augment the existing open pit mine production. The potential to discover additional mineable resources is excellent.

Several Copper mining operators have expressed interest in developing the Similco project. The exploration potential for additional open pit and underground resources is high, in view of certain deep intercepts, such as:

- Below the bottom of the Pit No.3 expansion, an intercept of 100 feet grading 3.38% copper.
- Below the Ingerbelle Pit, an intercept returned 156 feet grading 1.25% copper and near surface intercepts such as:
- Alabama/Oronaco area western most step-out drill hole returned 260 feet of 0.42% copper, and drill hole 96A-37 returned 125 feet of 0.55% copper and 0.239 grams gold/tonne.

In addition, the 2,880 hectare Invermay property (formerly called Giant Copper property) located 50 km west of the Similco Mine, contains an open pit resource of 41,200,000 tonnes grading 0.47% copper, 0.38 grams gold/tonne, and 11.2 grams silver/tonne. Leader believes the property offers potential for delineating a higher-grade resources which can be processed at the Similco concentrator. In addition, numerous known copper prospects over 75 square km around the Similco Mine will be explored for new copper deposits. (SEE GCNL NO.15, 24Jan2000, P.3 FOR KNIFE LAKE PROJECT INFORMATION)

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