



## CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

### A. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Western Copper and Gold Corporation and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Company”) require high standards of professional and ethical conduct from its employees and its consultants. The Company’s reputation with its shareholders, business partners, prospective investors and other stakeholders for honesty and integrity is key to the success of its business. No employee or consultant will be permitted to achieve results through violations of laws or regulations, or through unscrupulous dealings.

The Company intends that its business practices will be compatible with the economic and social priorities of each location in which it operates. Although customs vary by country and standards of ethics may vary in different business environments, honesty and integrity must always characterize the Company’s business activity. If a law conflicts with a policy in this Code, employees or consultants must comply with the law; however, if a local custom or policy conflicts with this Code, employees and consultants must comply with the Code. If an employee or consultant has any questions about these conflicts, he or she should ask a supervisor how to handle the situation.

This Code reflects the Company’s commitment to a culture of honesty, integrity and accountability and outlines the basic principles and policies with which all employees and consultants are expected to comply. **All employees and consultants are urged to read this Code carefully.**

In addition to following this Code in all aspects of their business activities, employees and consultants are expected to seek guidance in any case where there is a question about compliance with both the letter and the spirit of the Company’s policies and applicable laws. This Code covers a wide range of business practices and procedures. It does not cover every issue that may arise, but it sets out basic principles to guide all employees and consultants of the Company. This Code does not supersede the specific policies and procedures that are covered in the Company’s operating manuals or in separate specific policy statements. Reference to “employees” includes officers and directors.

Those who violate the standards set forth in this Code will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Each employee’s and consultant’s cooperation is necessary to the continued success of our business and the cultivation and maintenance of the Company’s reputation as a good corporate citizen.

### B. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

The Company has adopted this Code of Business Conduct (the “Code”) for the purposes of fostering a climate of honesty, truthfulness and integrity. The Code outlines the principles of ethical conduct to which the Company’s directors, officers, employees, and consultants are expected to adhere in the conduct of the Company’s business, and establishes mechanisms to report unethical conduct.

The Company is committed to:

- a. Operating in a responsible manner that complies with applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- b. providing a safe and healthy workplace;
- c. operating free from favoritism, fear, coercion, discrimination or harassment; and
- d. Providing full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in reports and documents filed with any governing body or publicly disclosed.

The Company requires its directors and officers to provide leadership and direction with respect to these principles and standards.

The Company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (the "Committee") has been delegated the responsibility to oversee and monitor compliance with the Code, it is the individual responsibility of each director, officer, employee, and consultant of the Company to comply with those provision of the Code that are specifically applicable to them, and which are set out below.

#### **C. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Compliance with the letter and spirit of all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the Company's business is critical to its reputation and continued success. All employees and consultants must respect and obey the laws of the cities, provinces, states and countries in which the Company operates and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Not all employees and consultants are expected to know the details of these laws, but it is important to know enough to determine when to seek advice from supervisors, managers or other appropriate personnel. The Company may hold information and training sessions to promote compliance with laws, rules and regulations, including insider trading laws.

#### **D. FAIR DEALING**

The Company seeks to outperform our competition fairly and honestly. It seeks competitive advantages through superior performance, never through unethical or illegal business practices. Stealing proprietary information, possessing trade secret information obtained without the owner's consent or inducing the disclosures of proprietary information or trade secrets by past or present employees of other companies is prohibited. Each employee and consultant should endeavor to deal fairly with the Company's customers, suppliers, competitors and employees. No employee or consultant should take unfair advantage of anyone through illegal conduct, manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material facts or any other unfair-dealing practice.

Employees and consultants must maintain the confidentiality of information entrusted to them by the Company or that otherwise comes into their possession in the course of their employment or engagement, except when disclosure is authorized or legally mandated. Employees and consultants may be required to execute a standard form confidentiality agreement upon starting employment or the engagement, or from time to time during the course of employment or engagement. The obligation to preserve confidential information continues even after the employee leaves the Company or the end of the consultant's engagement.

Confidential information includes all non-public information that may be of use to competitors, or harmful to the Company or its customers, if disclosed. It also includes information that suppliers and customers have entrusted to the Company and its employees or consultants.

#### **E. USE OF RESOURCES**

Directors, officers, employees, and consultants are to safeguard and use the Company's assets and resources for legitimate business purposes only. Corporate assets may never be used for illegal purposes. The obligation to protect corporate assets includes proprietary information and information technology such as the corporate email accounts and internet service.

#### **F. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Directors, officers, employees, and consultants must act in good faith and in the best interest of the Company. Employees and consultants must avoid all situations in which their personal interests conflict, might conflict, or might appear to conflict with their duties to the Company or with the economic interest of the Company. All business transactions with individuals, corporations or other entities that could potentially, directly or indirectly, be considered to be a related party, must be disclosed to the Board of Directors (the "Board") or the Committee regardless of the amount involved.

A conflict of interest arises when an individual's personal economic activity conflicts with the best interests of the Company or when it adversely influences the proper discharge of his obligations, duties, and responsibilities to the Company and its shareholders.

Employees should avoid acquiring any interest or participating in any activities that would:

- a. deprive the Company of the time or attention required to perform their duties properly;
- b. create an obligation or distraction which would affect their judgment or ability to act solely in the Company's best interest;
- c. conflict with the economic interest of the Company; or
- d. violate any provision of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Under circumstances where secondary employment is desired by an employee, he or she shall disclose the interest to his or her supervisor who may grant specific approval in writing, provided that conflict of interest or interference with the performance of his or her present duties does not exist.

Every employee or consultant of the Company who is charged with executive, managerial or supervisory responsibility is required to see that actions taken and decisions made within his or her jurisdiction are free from the influence of any interests that might reasonably be regarded as conflicting with those of the Company.

No employee shall accept any appointment to membership on the board of directors, standing committee, or similar body of any outside company, organization or governmental agency (other than industry, professional, social, charitable, educational, religious, or legal political organizations) without prior approval of their supervisor whether or not a possible conflict of interest might result from the acceptance of any such appointment; provided, however, that all employees shall at all times

have and enjoy all rights accorded to them by the Canadian Bill of Rights and any similar governmental legislation existing in the area in which the employees respectively reside.

Activities that could give rise to conflicts of interest are prohibited unless specifically approved by the Board or the Committee. Employees are required to disclose to their supervisors in writing, or as may be otherwise authorized, all business, commercial or financial interests or activities which might reasonably be regarded as creating an actual or potential conflict with their duties of employment. It is not always easy to determine whether a conflict of interest exists, so any potential conflicts of interests should be reported immediately to a supervisor.

#### **G. CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES**

Employees are prohibited from taking for themselves personally opportunities that arise through the use of corporate property, information or position and from using corporate property, information or position for personal gain. Employees are also prohibited from competing with the Company directly or indirectly. Employees owe a duty to the Company to advance the legitimate interests of the Company when the opportunity to do so arises.

#### **H. DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

The Company values the diversity of our employees and consultants and is committed to providing equal opportunity in all aspects of employment. Abusive, harassing or offensive conduct is unacceptable, whether verbal, physical or visual. Examples include derogatory comments based on racial or ethnic characteristics and unwelcome sexual advances. Employees and consultants are encouraged to speak out when a co-worker or consultant's conduct makes them uncomfortable, and to report harassment when it occurs. All employees are expected to review the Company's Harassment Policy in entirety, and take part in the mandatory Workplace Violence and Harassment online training course.

#### **I. SAFETY AND HEALTH**

Everyone is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy workplace by following safety and health rules and practices. The Company is committed to keeping its workplaces free from hazards. Employees must report any accidents, injuries, unsafe equipment, practices or conditions immediately to a supervisor or other designated person. Threats or acts of violence or physical intimidation are prohibited. All employees are expected to review and abide by the Company's Safety, Health & Environmental Policy in entirety.

In order to protect the safety of all employees and consultants, employees and consultants must report to work in condition to perform their duties and free from the influence of any substance that could prevent them from conducting work activities safely and effectively. The use of illegal drugs in the workplace is prohibited. Further information and details can be found in the Company's Drug and Alcohol Policy.

## **J. CORPORATE RECORDS**

All employees and consultants have a responsibility to ensure that the Company's records, including accounting records, do not contain any false or intentionally misleading entries. The Company does not permit intentional misclassification of transactions as to accounts, departments or accounting periods. All transactions must be supported by accurate documentation in reasonable detail and recorded in the proper account and in the proper accounting period.

All corporate books, records, accounts and financial statements must be maintained in reasonable detail, must appropriately reflect the Company's transactions and must conform to both applicable legal requirements and the system of internal controls of the Company. Unrecorded or "off the books" funds or assets should not be maintained unless permitted by applicable laws or regulations.

Business records and communications may become public through legal or regulatory investigations or the media. All employees should avoid exaggeration, derogatory remarks, legal conclusions or inappropriate characterizations of people and companies. This applies to communications of all kinds, including email and informal notes or interoffice memos. Records should be retained and destroyed in accordance with the Company's records storage and retention policy.

## **K. REPORTING OF ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR**

A director has a duty to report to the Board and an officer has a duty to report to the Committee any activity which:

- a. He or she believes contravenes the law;
- b. Represents a real or apparent conflict of interest or a breach of this Code;
- c. Represents a misuse of corporate funds or assets;
- d. Represents a danger to public health, safety, or the environment; or
- e. Might result in a failure by the Company to provide full, fair, accurate and timely disclosure of financial results and material facts.

The Company encourages all employees and consultants to report promptly any suspected violations of the Code to the Committee. The Company has adopted the Whistleblower Policy to ensure that a confidential and anonymous process exists whereby persons can report a suspected violation of the Code.

Employees and consultants with concerns regarding suspected violations of the Code may report their concerns directly and confidentially to the Audit Committee Chair by sending a sealed letter by mail (or other delivery) addressed to Western Copper and Gold Corporation, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, 1040 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6E 4H1. It should be marked "Private and Confidential – Attention: Chair of the Audit Committee" and it will be delivered unopened to the Audit Committee Chair. The Audit Committee Chair may also be contacted through the whistleblower hotline by dialing 1-866-921-6714 or by email at [westerncopper@whistleblowersecurity.com](mailto:westerncopper@whistleblowersecurity.com).

The Company has a strong commitment to conduct its business in a lawful and ethical manner and strongly encourages employees and consultants to talk to supervisors, managers or other appropriate

personnel when in doubt about the best course of action in a particular situation and to report violations of laws, rules, regulations or this Code.

The Company will not tolerate retaliation for reports or complaints made in good faith. It is unacceptable to file a report knowing it to be false.

**L. WAIVERS OF THE CODE**

Any waiver of this Code for the benefit of a director or officer may be made only by the Board, or if permitted, a committee thereof. Any such waiver will be promptly disclosed as required by applicable law or stock exchange regulations.