



western
COPPER AND GOLD

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

PROPOSED CASINO PROJECT
2022-2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Western Copper and Gold Corporation (Western Copper and Gold) is a Canadian advanced exploration mining company focused on developing the Casino Project towards production. The Casino Project hosts one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in Canada and ranks among the largest economically viable copper-gold deposits in the world. The Casino Project, currently in environmental assessment, will provide substantial economic and social benefits for the Yukon and Canada.

Western Copper and Gold recognizes the significance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance and its impact on investors, Indigenous peoples and interested parties. We are fully committed to implementing ESG aspects in our business operations. Our goal is to effectively manage ESG factors to increase our value proposition, attract investment, enhance employee engagement, and increase positive impacts for our communities. We are committed to continued engagement with First Nations affected by the Casino Project. Efforts are being proactively made to determine and assess the most crucial ESG impacts and advantages of our operations. We are unwavering in our dedication to conduct business in a sustainable manner.

As we advance our mining operations, which are currently in the planning stages, we are aware of the increased focus on showcasing our improved management of environmental and social impacts. We recognize the importance of demonstrating that our governance processes provide the necessary oversight and guidance to meet our objectives. Our strategy and actions will reflect our dedication to managing ESG challenges and opportunities.

2.0 ABOUT THIS REPORT

Western Copper and Gold presents this inaugural Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report with a short-term focus on current disclosure expectations, while anticipating future needs and long-term strategy development as the company and project evolves. It is informed by multiple sources such as a materiality assessment, stakeholder mapping, engagement data, metrics and key performance indicators and select standards. **This is the first ESG report by Western Copper and Gold and takes into consideration the developmental stage of the Casino Project. This report includes our ESG position, current ESG performance improvement efforts and future initiatives for the Casino Project.**

3.0 MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

3.1 Director and Interim Chairman of the Board Kenneth Williamson

During my career in the resources and investment banking sectors, I have noticed a significant rise in interest related to company environmental and social performance management. This is especially evident in the investment community, where interest in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) activity has seen exponential growth in recent years. Companies in the mining sector are under increasing pressure to meet ESG expectations, both to secure resources and capital and to demonstrate a commitment to positive environmental and social impacts.

At Western Copper and Gold, we believe that ESG leadership is not just a trend, but an integral part of being a responsible company. Our Board of Directors has a fiduciary duty to manage non-financial and financial risks and to implement a strategy for driving ESG performance. Additionally, we recognize the crucial role that many metals play in the transition to low-carbon energy systems. We pursue a vision of delivering value and prosperity to stakeholders and promoting responsible and sustainable mining development. ESG factors serve as the framework for our approach to resource development and our ESG report highlights our planning and projections for ESG performance. We recognize that to achieve our ESG goals, we need to keep a solid culture of care, ethics and innovation that will drive and oversee our performance now and in the future.

3.2 President and CEO, Casino Mining Corp., Paul West-Sells

We are committed to Yukon citizens and communities and look forward to working with individuals, communities, Indigenous peoples, businesses and governments to ensure the Casino Project can bring economic and social benefits to the Yukon. The Casino Project is one of the most significant critical minerals projects in Canada and will provide great economic benefit to the region. Additionally, the Casino Project will provide further long-term benefits such as training, education, and infrastructure enhancements. We are putting plans in place that will help us track, manage, and improve our environmental and social performance, demonstrating our commitment to environmental protection and social responsibility.

Copper is civilization's oldest metal, dating back over 10,000 years. Today, copper is critical to our lives and our livelihoods as we transition to a greener economy. More copper is needed to reach net-zero emissions targets both world-wide and within Canada. We at Western Copper and Gold will work with Yukon citizens and communities so that copper is produced to meet this demand right here at home, within a jurisdiction that upholds Indigenous rights, respects cultural and environmental values, and provides employment opportunities within the territory.





4.0 THE CASINO PROJECT

Western Copper and Gold proposes to develop the Casino Mine Project 150 km northwest of Carmacks and 300 km from Whitehorse. The Casino Project is designed to process approximately 120,000 tonnes per day in a concentrator and another 25,000 tonnes per day in a heap leach facility. During the life-of-mine operations, the project will produce an anticipated 6.95 million ounces of gold, 36.09 million ounces of silver, 4.27 billion pounds of copper, and 346 million pounds of molybdenum.

The mine site and a portion of the access road are located within the traditional territory of Selkirk First Nation. A portion of the access road is located within the traditional territory of Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, and the water supply pipeline is located within the traditional territory of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Kluane First Nation traditional territory is located downstream from the proposed mine and aspects of the project are within the asserted traditional territory of the White River First Nation.

The Casino Project, currently in the environmental assessment review process, proposes an open-pit, truck, and shovel operation. The project is expected to employ approximately 1,400 people during the 4-year construction period and another 600 to 700 annually throughout operations.

The placement of mill tailings and mine waste in the Tailings Management Facility will be consistent with the design concepts considered as part of the Best Available Tailings Technology Study.

Project Highlights (Feasibility Study, 2022):

- \$2.3 billion Net Present Value (NPV, after-tax 8% discount).
- 18.1% Internal Rate of Return (IRR, after-tax).
- Cashflow over the first four years of \$965 million per year.
- Base case development contemplates 25-year mine life.
- Payback period of 3.3 years.
- LOM strip ratio of 0.38:1.

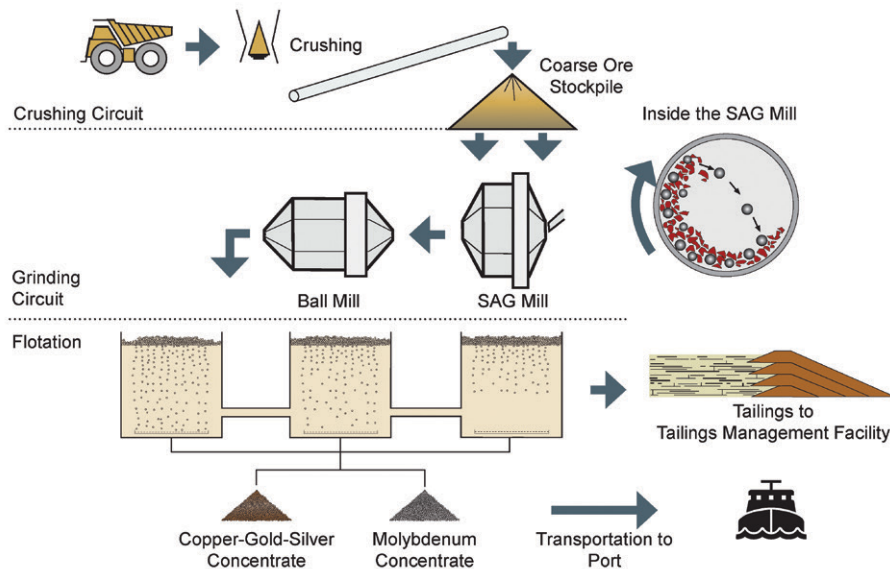
Note: Using base case metal prices of Cu: US\$3.60/lb, Au: US\$1,700/oz, Ag: US\$22/oz, Mo: US\$14/lb

HOW WOULD THE MINE WORK?

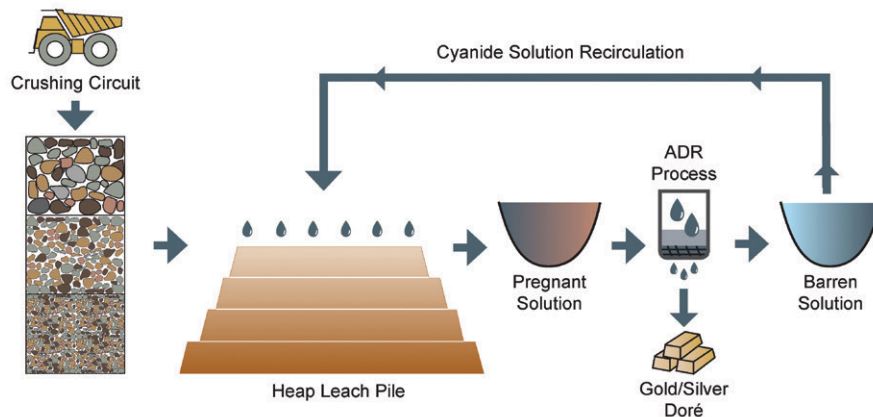
The proposed Casino Mine Project proposes a conventional open pit mine. There are three types of rock and overburden that come out of the pit:

- Sulphide ore goes through milling (crushing, grinding, flotation) to extract copper, gold, molybdenum and silver.
- Oxide ore is placed in a heap leach facility to extract gold, silver and copper.
- Waste rock is taken to the site's tailings management facility.

Crushing, Grinding, Flotation



Heap Leach Facility



Overall Model of Mine Operations

5.0 OUR WORK TO DATE

– SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH AND ESG PRIORITIES

Western Copper and Gold is committed to operating in a way consistent with the goals of sustainable development as we move the Casino Project forward today, and for the benefit of future generations. The Casino Project is being developed in a manner that respects and protects the environment and provides opportunities and benefits to Yukon citizens and communities using sound and proven technologies and industry best practices.

We promote health and safety, preserve cultural values, foster reconciliation, and look to exceeding best practices in protecting the environment, while upholding high ethical standards, and creating long-term value. We believe in strong Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance as a hallmark of responsible and sustainable business management, delivering broad social and economic benefits to the community and reliable returns for investors. Our aim is to develop the Casino Project in a manner that has a positive impact on the local economy, society, and environment, by addressing ESG impacts.

We are proud to be a member of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) and adhere to the guiding principles of Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM); MAC'S commitment to responsible mining. By supporting the principles of TSM, we turn high-level environmental and social commitments into action on the ground by:

- Engaging with communities.
- Driving world-leading environmental practices.
- Committing to the safety and health of employees and surrounding communities



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6.0 WHAT MATTERS MOST

In 2023, we initiated a materiality assessment to help better define the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) topics that we believe matter the most. The materiality assessment resulted in the identification of ESG topics that will inform future reporting. During the assessment the following guiding principles were incorporated:

- Compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Expectations of stakeholders and Indigenous peoples.
- ESG and sustainability reporting frameworks, standards and protocols, including the Value Reporting Foundation – Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, the Global Reporting Initiative Standards, Towards Sustainable Mining standard from the Mining Association of Canada and the Stakeholders Capitalism Metrics from the World Economic Forum.
- Connection to the broader context of global and societal needs through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Future-driven aspects of ESG to support leadership in ESG/sustainability through further integration into business practices.
- Market-driven, specifically customer and investor expectations.

Facilitated by an independent third-party, the comprehensive assessment examined all ESG categories across a range of protocols and guidelines. After obtaining an ESG baseline analysis, we undertook a prioritization exercise, resulting in a priority focus on 10 material ESG topics to drive our strategy and reporting going forward.

ESG MATERIAL TOPICS



Prioritized Material Topics

1 Details about the 17 sustainable development goals can be found at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

6.1 The Connection to the Global Context

In September 2015, Canada and all other 192 United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN General Assembly. This initiative is a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The UN launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) - 17 goals aimed at focusing and accelerating efforts to address global challenges and achieve an inclusive, sustainable future¹. Meeting the targets requires strong, collaborative efforts from governments, private sector entities, and civil society.

The mining sector has the potential to make a positive impact on all 17 SDGs. By providing decent employment, business growth, increased fiscal revenues, and infrastructure connections, the industry can promote economic development. Moreover, the minerals extracted by mining are crucial for various technologies, infrastructure, energy, and agriculture. Over the years, the industry has taken significant steps towards managing and mitigating negative impacts and risks by enhancing environmental and social management, safeguarding worker health, achieving energy efficiency, disclosing financial flows, and upholding human rights.



Western Copper and Gold's Prioritized SDGs



It is the desire of Western Copper and Gold to operate responsibly, in alignment with universal principles, and to take actions that support society and the environment. While we consider all 17 SDGs as important to guiding our performance, we have chosen to focus on those where we believe we can have the greatest impact. During 2023, we conducted an exercise to identify and connect prioritized SDGs based on the following criteria: (1) our material topics based on the SDG sub-goals; (2) the potential contribution of our business operations to the goals; (3) the potential contribution and impacts of the mining sector on enabling the SDGs, and (4) SDG independent country assessments for Canada. This process has led to prioritize nine SDGs.

By advancing on our material topics, connecting our performance indicators, and developing our operations in a sustainable manner, we will be delivering result on the global targets.

6.2 Environmental

Environmental stewardship is a cornerstone of our ESG strategy. Our Health, Safety, and Environment Policy is our company-wide commitment to protect and preserve the environment from the initial design of our facilities through to the operational phase. We prioritize compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and permits, and best practices. Moreover, we take positive action to protect the safety of our employees and contractors and be conscientious stewards of lands, waters, and wildlife. We are applying appropriate technology and conducting ourselves responsibly at all stages of mining: exploration, mine development, mine production and processing, decommissioning, and reclamation.

6.2.1 Climate Change

We support global, national, and regional efforts to achieve a cleaner and more prosperous economy. The Government of Canada introduced *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy* in December 2020, which aims to build on existing efforts to reduce pollution, create good jobs, and support a healthier economy and environment. In March 2022, the federal government introduced Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, providing a roadmap for the Canadian economy to achieve a 40-45% reduction in emissions below 2005 levels by 2030, building upon the actions outlined in previous climate plans. With these plans in place, Canada is aiming to reach its 2030 Paris Agreement emissions reduction target and is laying the foundation for a net-zero emissions future by 2050.

Following this path, in September 2020, the Government of Yukon released *Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy*, setting out shared objectives with First Nations and municipal partners across the territory, along with the steps the Government of the Yukon is taking to address climate change issues. The document references one of three targets that the Government of Yukon will be using to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions: "we will work with industry to set a target for greenhouse gas emissions from placer and quartz mining by the end of 2022 and will see mines in the Yukon produce fewer emissions of greenhouse gases across their lifecycle".

To align with this objective, we are working with specialists and engineering firms to understand how we can reduce the Casino Project's anticipated GHG emissions and to plan alternatives in designing phases to implement the best alternatives aimed to reduce and mitigate emissions. We have engaged an external firm to support this and assist us in developing a *Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Roadmap*. This initial document delineates next steps that will further define Casino's preferred pathway to net zero.

The roadmap outlines lower GHG emitting alternatives for the Casino Project as compared with the baseline or business as usual scenario that is based on the current mine plan, which uses liquefied natural gas for electricity generation and diesel fuel for mobile mining operations. The process of developing the roadmap included two workshops that explored alternatives with our staff and other interested parties, including Yukon Energy Corporation, representatives from the Government of Yukon, and various consultants involved with the development of the Casino Project.

As we further examine options to achieve GHG targets and ultimately net zero GHG, making decisions early to incorporate viable emerging technologies will facilitate the planning and risk mitigation required for successful deployment, as well as reduce costs associated with retrofitting a mine. Furthermore, this roadmap envisions that the Casino Project's timeline will enable it to leverage solutions that will both comply with the global industry standards on tailings management and reduce the mine's environmental impact as compared to the current mine plan. We plan to continue more detailed study on net zero GHG options and monitor evolving solutions to ensure best available technologies are adopted at the time of construction that are also consistent with the company's investment and risk profiles.

6.2.2 Biodiversity and Land Use

We recognize and respect the land, vegetation, and species native to the location of the Casino Project.

Traditional Knowledge plays a crucial role in evaluating the effects of development on land use. We prioritize understanding the value of land and minimizing impacts to culturally important areas and critical wildlife habitat. We recognize the importance of engaging with First Nations and local communities to address land use and tenure issues and concerns and ensure that our development activities align with their values and priorities.

The Casino Project is situated in the Yukon and Klondike Plateau ecoregions, characterized by landforms and geomorphic processes modified by widespread discontinuous permafrost (frozen ground) and periglacial processes (geomorphic processes associated with ice and freeze-thaw cycles). The project area is largely unglaciated with rounded, rolling hills, steep valleys, and sparsely vegetated alpine tundra hill tops.

A common and unique feature of the landscape is the tors (rock outcroppings left behind by weathering) found along ridge tops. The landscape around the proposed mine site, located in the Yukon and Klondike Plateau ecoregions, is populated with moose and woodland caribou. These animals play an integral role in the culture of the region, providing sustenance and resource opportunities for First Nations and Yukon residents.



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The Casino Project occurs within the historic range of the Forty Mile caribou herd and the current range of the Klaza caribou herd. Other wildlife in the region includes Dall's sheep, wood bison, grizzly bear, black bear, wolves, wolverine, lynx, marten, coyote, red fox, and other small mammals. Bird species in the area includes raptors, such as peregrine falcon, golden eagle and gyrfalcon, waterfowl and other waterbirds, and upland bird species including grouse, ptarmigan, kingfisher, woodpeckers, and songbirds.

We have established a Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and a Road Use Plan to monitor and mitigate effects of the Casino Project on wildlife. The plans are adaptive to allow for input from First Nations and stakeholders, and include details such as:

- Traffic management planning to avoid potential effects to wildlife.
- Strictly controlled, gated, and monitored access road.
- A no hunting policy.
- Detailed mitigations during construction, operation, and closure.
- On-going wildlife monitoring programs and support of regional wildlife studies.

Fish have ecological, cultural, recreational, and commercial value, and constitute a fundamental role in aquatic ecosystem functioning. Casino has also been conducting fish, bird and wildlife baseline studies within the proposed mine project area since 2008. These studies have shown a broad-range of species in the region including Arctic grayling, slimy sculpin, burbot, round whitefish, Chinook salmon and Chum salmon. An estimated 0.018 square kilometers of fish habitat is linked to the Casino Project. As a result, a Fish Habitat Compensation Plan has been developed to ensure a net benefit to fish populations using varying strategies such as habitat creation, restoration, or enhancement.

We are exploring ways to improve habitat for Yukon River Chinook salmon. Our team is working closely with First Nations local partners and other stakeholders to identify options to improve Chinook salmon freshwater habitat. Traditional Knowledge plays a crucial role in evaluating the effects of development on land use. We prioritize understanding the value of land to its people and minimizing impacts to culturally important areas and critical wildlife habitat. We recognize the importance of engaging with First Nations and local communities to address land use and tenure issues and concerns and ensure that our development activities align with their values and priorities.



6.2.3 Water

Water is the foundation of an ecosystem. It supports and maintains healthy ecological processes for fish, wildlife, and humans. Our priority is to be a responsible steward of the water we share through future operational efficiencies and conservation. Our commitment is to develop appropriate management and mitigation plans to protect downstream water quality. Since 2008, environmental studies near the proposed mine site have been conducted. The data collection from these studies has been used to develop a database that helps us understand the baseline conditions of the water quality in the streams around the proposed Casino Project site. These studies include:

- **Geochemistry:** Allowing us to assess the potential for metal leaching and acid rock drainage from the materials that may be exposed during mine operations at the Casino Project site.
- **Hydrology:** Examining the movement and distribution of water on the earth's surface. This is important for developing safe and effective water management plans, including the amount of water available for use by the project.
- **Surface water quality:** Helping us to ensure the protection of aquatic life, wildlife, and drinking water sources.
- **Groundwater:** Monitoring and tracking groundwater recharge rates, flows, and quality helps us to understand the baseline conditions pre-mining, allowing for a proactive approach to groundwater management.



6.2.4 Waste, Hazardous Materials and Tailings Management

We are committed to meeting and exceeding best practices in the industry related to the management of its waste and water. This includes standards set by the Canadian Dam Association and the use of proven conventional technology for the Tailings Management Facility (TMF). We have conducted a Best Available Tailings Technology (BATT) Study with the participation of Yukon First Nations, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB), and the Government of Yukon, as well as with guidance from Casino's Independent Engineering Review Panel.

Our commitment for the TMF includes:

- Physical stability of the tailings dam.
- Protection of the downstream environment.
- Restoration of the mine site area.
- Consistency with Government of Yukon requirements to ensure that long-term active care is not required.

In addition to the *Canadian Dam Association* standards, we are a member of the Mining Association of Canada, and will adhere to its *Towards Sustainable Mining* performance indicators to meet the highest level of accountability in tailings management. We also established an Independent Engineering Review Panel of international experts to focus on the tailing facilities' structural stability and integrity. The Independent Engineering Review Panel will provide our team with independent and expert oversight and advice about all aspects of the tailings management facilities design, construction, operational management, monitoring, and its eventual closure.

Best Available Tailings Technology

Best available technologies are advanced and proven technologies for the prevention and control of industrial emissions and the wider environmental impact caused by industrial installations. These technologies can be implemented under economically and technically viable conditions and developed at scale. They include technological, technical, and managerial solutions aimed to prevent or control negative impacts and provide high resource and energy efficiency of production processes and minimisation of waste.

We conducted a BATT Study targeting our tailing's management facilities to consider the best available options to support and improve our approach to responsible production. The BATT Study evaluated the design and approach for waste rock and flotation tailings. The Tailings Working Group was established to provide input as the BATT Study progressed. The Tailings Working Group included representatives from First Nations, governments, and YESAB. The BATT Study followed Environment and Climate Change Canada's Guidelines for the Assessment of Mine Waste Disposal (2016). The study identified a combined total of 495 conceptual scenarios considering 11 possible locations and 45 possible configurations for tailings and waste rock storage. The threshold criteria resulted in the elimination of the Lower Dip Creek site due to an unreasonably large upstream catchment area and further configurations with paste tailings technology. The BATT Study has identified two preferred candidates involving zoned storage of thickened non-acid generating and potentially acid generating tailings and waste rock stored behind a cyclone sand embankment located in one facility at the Middle Casino Creek site. Both candidates differ in terms of closure, and both pond water closure and water table closure being identified as viable closure alternatives.

We continue to work with communities to improve our planned operations. As an example, our tailings facility was redesigned incorporating the outcomes from the BATT Study and community consultation. In addition, we considered the input from dialogue and collaborations with First Nations, YESAB, and the Government of Yukon. This will lead to a substantial reduction in the quantity of freestanding water impounded during operations and a better placement of the tailing's facility.

Energy Solutions: Anaerobic Digestion - Assessing Mine Camp Waste to Energy Solutions

Anaerobic digestion is a proven and well-understood renewable energy technology that is gaining recognition around the world for its many sustainability benefits. Anaerobic digestion, also referred to as biogas, is a biological process whereby organic material is decomposed by microorganisms in an oxygen-free environment, known as a biodigester. The microorganisms produce biogas as a by-product of the decomposition process. Organic materials processed in biodigesters can include food waste, human waste, livestock manures, and agricultural crops and residues. Implementing a biodigester at a remote mining camp can contribute many sustainable benefits, such as generating an onsite source of renewable carbon-neutral energy, reducing the consumption of fossil fuels, and generating a digestate material that can be used for mine reclamation.

We are currently funding a three-phase research project to assess the viability of small-scale biogas technology at the proposed Casino mine camp. The phases include a waste assessment, concept design and carbon market accounting analysis, and a cost-benefit analysis. Each phase will build upon the results of the previous phase. The Casino Project is currently moving into phase 2, which will develop a conceptual design for a closed-loop waste management system at the Casino camp that uses biogas technology as the central tool. Ultimately, the results of the cost-benefit analysis will provide us with a decision-making tool for whether to initiate the next phase of the biogas project.



6.2.5 Closure and Rehabilitation

Mine Plan

We are designing our conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan to manage the impacts of mining operations and ensure a smooth transition to post-mining land use objectives. Interactions between mine components will be considered to ensure that all aspects of the mine operation are integrated and aligned with the reclamation objectives. This will involve collaborating with local First Nations, governments, communities, and stakeholders to identify their objectives for reclamation, for economic diversification and for sustainable community development.

Closure options and configurations will be evaluated to determine the best approach to mitigate potential environmental risks and achieve land use objectives such as the preservation of wildlife habitat. We aim for a stable, revegetated site that is safe for the environment and the local community. Closure objectives will be clearly defined and communicated to all stakeholders to ensure alignment and successful implementation of the plan. Timelines will be established and monitored to ensure that closure and reclamation activities are completed on schedule.

Overall, our Closure and Reclamation Plan will be a collaborative effort that involves engaging with all stakeholders to ensure that the site is restored to a beneficial state, and opportunities for economic diversification and sustainable community development are identified and pursued.

6.2.6 Exploration Reclamation and Closure Plan

In March 2023, we obtained approval for a Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) for exploration activities at the Casino Project. The RCP was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Class 4 Mining Land Use Approval LQ00510c issued for the Project site. The plan outlines the extent of exploration disturbance and associated restoration activities completed to date, as well as the specific reclamation and closure measures to be carried out. In compliance with the approval requirements, the RCP includes a cost estimate for the closure of any outstanding environmental liabilities. The closure activities will be progressively executed until the Project has fulfilled the reclamation and closure objectives.



6.3 Social

We aim to be a good corporate citizen, implementing ethical business practices and engaging with Yukon citizens, communities, Indigenous peoples, businesses, and governments. We are working in partnership with governments, Yukon First Nations, and Yukon residents to realize lasting benefits for the community. We also consult and work with employees, contractors, suppliers, environmental experts, industry, business organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure our business practices are aligned with the needs of communities.

6.3.1 People, Health & Safety, and Welfare

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At Western Copper and Gold, we believe that it is important for all workers to feel welcomed, valued, and respected so that they may realise their full potential and thrive in their work environment. To this end, we are committed to promoting, fostering, and maintaining a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusivity to create a safe and inclusive workplace that embraces diversity at every level of the company.

We respect and value all individuals, regardless of race, gender or gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation or identity, age, disability, socio-economic background, religious beliefs, or any other differentiator. We are dedicated to employing equitable and non-discriminatory recruitment and remuneration practices, as well as providing just and impartial access to opportunities and advancement based on skill and merit. We treat all persons equally with respect and dignity, and do not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, inappropriate conduct or inappropriate behaviour. We maintain mechanisms so that reports of actual or suspected incidents can be conveyed in a confidential manner without fear or concern of retribution. We provide access to training and raise awareness with regard to diversity, inclusivity, and equity in the workplace.



6.3.2 Economic Impact

Western Copper and Gold is more than a mining company when it comes to recognizing and responding to the values of the government, residents, and communities of the Yukon. We support business decisions and partnerships that make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of individuals and communities today and for generations to come.

Following the results from our study on the potential economic impact, the Casino Project will provide considerable cumulative economic benefits and opportunities, including government revenues in taxes and royalties, revenue sharing opportunities for First Nation governments, business opportunities for product and service supplier contracts, as well as employment and training.

The Casino Project is estimated to contribute \$44.3 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product, create 132,280 full-time equivalent (FTEs) positions, and generate \$12.8 billion in wages and salaries over the entire life of the Casino Project.

The estimated Gross Domestic Product generated in the Yukon during the construction phase of the Casino Project is established at \$1.7 billion. The construction phase is estimated to contribute \$3.6 billion to Canada's economy while generating 25,580 FTEs resulting in \$2.1 billion in wages and salaries across Canada.

During each of its 27 years of operation, the Casino Project is expected to contribute \$1.3 billion to the Yukon's economy while creating 3,880 FTEs positions and generating \$391 million in wages and salaries. It is also anticipated to generate \$11.2 billion in taxes and royalties to various governments during the life of the mine.

Casino manages the anticipated local employment requirements and the provision of economic development opportunities by:

- Hiring local residents including youth to gain experience in environmental testing and mineral exploration
- Actively informing the Yukon University's Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining (CNIM) on the Casino Project's projected human resource needs at industry advisory group meetings and participation on the
- CNIM Governing Council.
- Actively informing Yukon Education's Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy on the Casino Project's anticipated workforce needs ensuring the Yukon's labour market information planning needs are being met.

6.3.3 Corporate Advocacy and First Nation and Community Engagement

Our team is committed to a careful and balanced approach to advance the Casino Project in a way that is good for Yukon residents, businesses, and communities and aligns with territorial, national, and international industry standards and best practices. We believe that the Casino Project will make a significant and positive contribution to the well-being of Yukoners and will benefit Canada's social and economic development. We are committed to providing opportunities to generate wealth and establish mutually beneficial partnerships. We support community-based initiatives through financial and in-kind contributions that build economic and cultural capacity, as well as create a positive social impact in the communities where we work. We are currently supporting the following local initiatives:

- Blood Ties Four Directions
- CAIRS Society
- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Dawson City Food Bank
- The Food Bank Society of Whitehorse
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation Cultural Centre
- Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival
- Whitehorse Lions Club
- Mitacs Inc
- Northwestel Festival of Trees
- Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
- Victoria Gold Corp Charity Golf Tournament
- Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society
- Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Chamber of Mines
- Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce
- Whitehorse Firefighters' Charity
- Kluane First Nation, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Selkirk First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and White River First Nation
- Yukon Hospital Foundation
- Yukon Learn
- Yukon Quest
- Yukon River Quest
- Yukon Women in Mining

The Casino Project lies within the traditional territories of Selkirk and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations and borders Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to the north. The Casino team is working directly with these First Nation governments and their communities of Pelly Crossing, Carmacks, and Dawson City as it advances the mine project. We have developed a Heritage Resource Management Plan and previously established a Technical Working Group, made up of First Nations, territorial and federal agencies, regulators, and geo-technical experts. The Technical Working Group's mandate is to advance the Best Available Tailing Technology Study and ensure that the proposed design and operation of the mine aligns with Indigenous priorities, rights, cultures, and traditional knowledge.

Enhanced Consultation Process

Participatory and inclusive consultation practices are crucial to facilitate the exchange of information, address concerns and questions, and reach an agreement on the collaborative efforts between the company and the community. This process helps prevent negative impacts and can contribute to economic and social inclusion.

Since 2016, when the Casino Project was referred to Panel Review by the YESAB Executive Committee, we have continued to advance the project by engaging with affected Yukon First Nations governments and citizens and completing several Traditional Knowledge and environmental studies. More recently, as the project planning evolved and ESG expectations changed, we decided to conduct a full review of project information, reassessing the consultation process to ensure that all perspectives are adapted to current considerations; thus going above and beyond regulatory requirements.

6.4 Governance

Western Copper and Gold's Board of Directors has established a robust governance framework that is crucial to achieving strong ESG performance. This framework establishes corporate direction and transparency, and aligns ESG oversight, management, and integration into operations allowing for board oversight of ESG issues. In the future, the governance structure will advance its operating system development, incorporate ESG content into an enterprise risks management (ERM) system and developing a detailed board mandate ensuring sustainability oversight is aligned with and incorporated into the company's long-term business strategy.



6.4.1 Business Transparency, ESG Integration and Responsible Business Development

Various corporate governance documents for Western Copper and Gold and for the Casino Project were developed to ensure consistency in business operations. The governance framework supports social and environmental performance, health and safety standards, business transparency, and is designed to adapt to our growth while maintaining a strong focus on performance and continual improvement.

The governance framework currently includes the following policies:

Western Copper and Gold:

- Code of Business Conduct
- Corporate policies:
 - Drug & Alcohol Policy
 - Safety, Health & Environmental Policy
 - Harassment Policy
 - Whistleblower Policy
 - Majority Voting Policy
 - Advance Notice Policy
 - Disclosure Policy
 - Insider Trading Policy
 - NYSE American Statement of Governance Differences

Board mandate and committee Charters:

- Board Mandate
- Audit Committee Charter
- Compensation Committee Charter
- Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee Charter

Casino Project site policies:

- Drug & Alcohol Policy
- Firearms & Hunting Policy
- Harassment Policy
- Safety, Health & Environmental Policy
- Return to Work Policy
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Sponsorship Policy
- Western Copper & Gold Whistleblower Policy

These policies, charters and other governance related documents are regularly reviewed and updated and available on our website at <https://casinomining.com/about-us/casino-site-policies/>.



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6.4.2 Innovation

Our aim is to foster innovation within the mining industry, whether it is through enhanced consultation requirements with First Nations or analyzing the implementation of technological innovations like low-carbon mining technologies and energy solutions. For Western Copper and Gold and the Casino Project, this focus on innovation is driven by creating conditions for sustainable and inclusive business development.

7.0 FUTURE PLANS

We have established four key goals that we strive to achieve throughout the entire process of constructing, operating, reclaiming, and closing the Casino Project. These goals include prioritizing the protection of public health and safety, minimizing, or preventing any negative environmental impacts, ensuring that the project site is reclaimed to a land use state that is consistent with the surrounding conditions, and guaranteeing the long-term stability of the spent ore and waste rock storage area and site water quality. By adhering to these four goals, Western Copper and Gold demonstrates dedication to maintaining a high standard of responsibility and sustainability in all aspects of their mining operations.

We track our environmental and social performance by implementing internal metrics that allow for continuous improvement and adaptation to changing conditions while moving towards our stated goals. Communications channels are in place to keep an open and transparent dialogue with communities and other interested groups. Future reporting practice will follow the materiality assessment outcomes and the connection to the prioritized United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Future considerations as we continue with the planning phase and move into the development and operational phases include:

- Integrating material topics into our governance structure/management framework throughout each phase of the Casino Project, while adapting to the evolving expectations of investors.
- Increasing Environmental, Social and, Governance (ESG) performance transparency by disclosing future key performance indicators, establishing a robust reporting process, and identifying engagement and
- consultation processes for ongoing public input.
- Engaging with stakeholders regularly and integrating their perspectives into business development
- Advancing in First Nations consultation and engagement processes.
- Working together with communities to enhance potential economic development for the region.

We are proactively and intentionally committed to our ESG journey, and we invite you to join us in showcasing how we can responsibly mine and process our materials in alignment with the expectations of stakeholders and Indigenous groups, contributing to a more sustainable world.



western
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