

# **Independent Auditor's Report**

#### To the Shareholders of PolyMet Mining Corp.

We have completed an integrated audit of PolyMet Mining Corp.'s (the "Company") 2012 consolidated financial statements and its internal control over financial reporting as at January 31, 2012 and an audit of its January 31, 2011 consolidated financial statements. Our opinions, based on our audits, are presented below.

## Report on the consolidated financial statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Company, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as at January 31, 2012, January 31, 2011 and February 1, 2010 and the consolidated statements of loss and comprehensive loss, changes in shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the years ended January 31, 2012 and January 31, 2011, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

## Management's responsibility for the consolidated financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("CAS") and the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement. CAS require that we comply with ethical requirements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence, on a test basis, about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting principles and policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of PolyMet Mining Corp. as at January 31, 2012, January 31, 2011 and February 1, 2010 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years ended January 31, 2012 and January 31, 2011 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

### Report on internal control over financial reporting

We have also audited PolyMet Mining Corp.'s internal control over financial reporting as at January 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

#### Management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting

Management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

#### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We conducted our audit of internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

An audit of internal control over financial reporting includes obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we consider necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our audit opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

#### Definition of internal control over financial reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that: (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations



of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

#### **Inherent limitations**

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, PolyMet Mining Corp. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as at January 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by COSO.

(signed) PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

### **Chartered Accountants**

Vancouver, British Columbia April 30, 2012