



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**RECOMMENDATION:** invest in **INV Metals Inc.** as it demonstrates the largest risk adjusted return

#### • Strength of Asset

- Target NAVPS 145% higher than current share price
- Value of asset justifies market value in low case

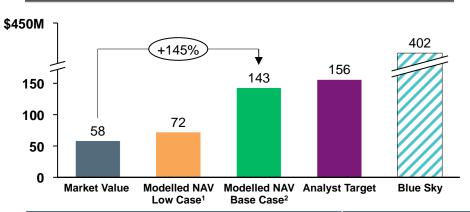
#### • Ecuador: An Improving Mining Jurisdiction

- Windfall tax eliminated
- Aims to double mining contribution to GDP to US\$4.6B by 2021
- Major mining companies investing in Ecuador

## • Exploration Upside

- Potential for resource conversion
- Strong evidence of extension to deposit boundary, increasing Resources and Reserves portfolio
- Improvement in mining laws offers opportunity to begin drilling at 4 regional properties

#### INV METALS INC. VALUATION



Loma Larga: Key Figures <sup>2</sup>	Base Case	
Reserves (Eq. Au)	2.6 Moz	
Grade (Eq. Au)	5.8 g/t	
Annual Production (Eq. Au)	144 koz	
AISC (Eq. Au)	\$764/oz	
Mine Life	12 Years	
Post-tax NPV (\$1,300/oz, 5%, +2022)	\$143M	
Post-tax IRR (\$1,300/oz, 5%, +2022)	16%	
Payback Period (\$1,300/oz, 5%, +2022)	4 Years	



## **Evaluation Method**

## **Gold Market**

**Evaluation:** Wallbridge Mining Co Ltd.

**Evaluation:** Reunion Gold Corp.

Evaluation: INV Metals Inc.

**Investment Valuation** 

**Risk Analysis** 

# **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**



**Valuation Based on Minimum Speculation** 



**Provides the Largest Risk Adjusted Return** 



**Long-term Investment** 

# **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Strength of Asset	Resources & Reserves, Grade, Operating Cost
Management Team	Experience to Execute Strategy
Social License to Operate / Location	Jurisdiction, Country Risk
Capital Structure/Markets	Share Structure, Capital Requirement, Ability to Raise Capital
Financial Position	Balance Sheet, Cash, Debt
Long-term Shareholder Growth	Exploration Program, Permits, Milestones, Cost Reduction







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# GOLD OUTLOOK: BULLISH; \$1,300/OZ AU









# LOOMING RECESSION TO IMPROVE GOLD PERFORMANCE

- High debt, soaring dollar, and rising interest rates could trigger recession<sup>1</sup>
- Balance sheet for Federal Reserve has fallen >7% since 2014¹
- Gold price bottomed out at beginning of current rate hike cycle<sup>1</sup>
- Average gold price improvements of 20.8% during US recessions<sup>1</sup>

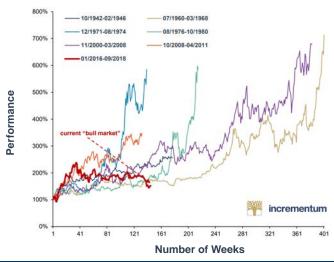
#### GOLD PERFORMANCE DURING US RECESSIONS<sup>1</sup>

Decade	Gold Start (USD/oz)	Gold End (USD/oz)	Change (%)
11/1973 – 03/1975	100	178	78.0
01/1980 - 07/1980	512	614	20.0
07/1981 – 11/1982	422	436	3.3
07/1990 - 03/1991	352	356	1.0
03/2001 – 11/2001	266	275	3.5
12/2007 - 06/2009	783	930	18.8
Mean			20.8

#### CENTRAL BANKS TO DECREASE LIQUIDITY<sup>1</sup>



#### **GOLD BULL MARKET: BARRON'S GOLD MINING INDEX**<sup>1</sup>



# RENEWED INTEREST THROUGH M&A AND INCREASING GOLD RESERVES

- Recent mining M&A might have marked bottom of bear market<sup>1</sup>
- Increase in gold reserves indicate growing distrust in the US dollar<sup>1</sup>
- Gold reserves of emerging markets have increased consistently (90%) since 2006 (from 4,600 tons to 8,800 tons in 2017)<sup>1</sup>
- China, Russia, and Turkey have increased their bank gold holdings since 2007 by 310% (China), 410% (Russia), and 490% (Turkey)<sup>1</sup>

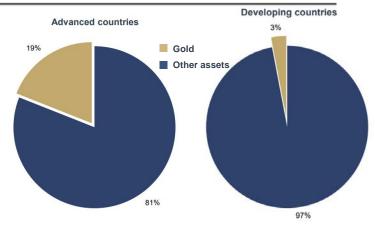




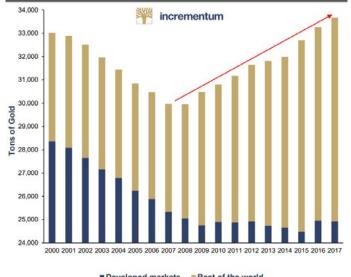




#### CENTRAL BANKS TO DECREASE LIQUIDITY<sup>1</sup>



#### **GOLD HELD BY EMERGING COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>**



■ Developed markets ■ Rest of the world



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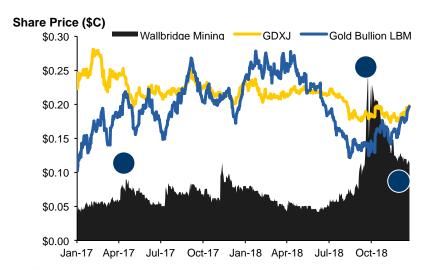
# **WALLBRIDGE MINING**

## **ASSET HIGHTLIGHT: FENELON**



Ownership	• 100%
Mining Claims	• 1,052 ha
Stage	Developer
Location	Northwestern Quebec, 75 km NW of Matagami
Geology & Mineralization	Proximal to the Sunday Lake Deformation Zone
Work to Date	<ul> <li>Two bulk samples have been mined and processed (total of ~7 koz Au)</li> </ul>
Pre-Feasibility Study Highlights	<ul> <li>Post-tax NPV<sub>5%</sub>: \$2.8M</li> <li>Post-tax IRR: 60%</li> <li>Initial Capex: \$5.2M</li> <li>Mine Life: 18 months</li> <li>Resources: 38 koz at 12.8 g/t Au</li> <li>Reserves 29 koz at 9.3 g/t Au</li> </ul>
Financial Information	<ul><li>TSX: WM</li><li>Market Capitalization: \$96M</li><li>Share Price: \$0.25</li></ul>

## SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE



- 1 Intersection of 7 m @ 149 g/t Au
- Successful drilling campaign; Investment from Eric Sprott
  - o 138 g/t at 4.85 m; 122 g/t at 2.95 m
  - o Purchase of 54M common shares by Eric Sprott
- 3 Further drill results were not aligned with market expectation

# **WALLBRIDGE MINING:** THE STREET VIEW

#### WHAT THE ANALYSTS ARE SAYING

#### • Current share price C\$0.245

## • Average target price C\$0.26

- SADIF Investment: C\$0.32

- ValuEngine: C\$0.20

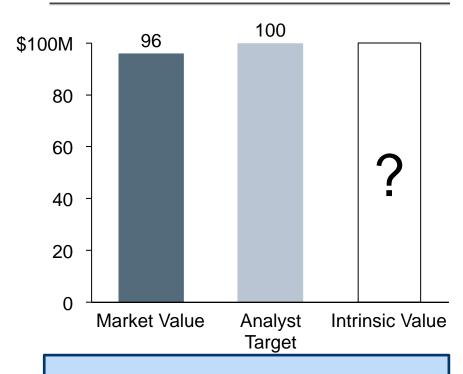
#### • Future Key Catalysts

- Completion of Bulk Sample
- Production decision
- Permitting for commercial operation
- 50-75 km Drilling campaign

## Key Strengths

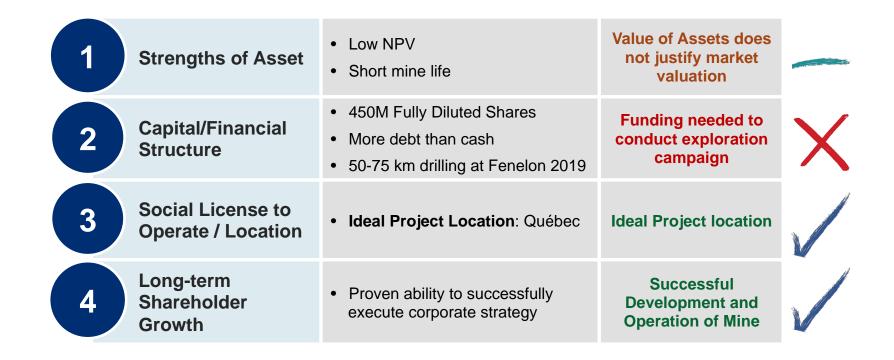
- Low capex projects with high margins
- Proven success of executing strategy to operate low capex projects: Broken Hammer Mine
- Additional upside from secondary assets

## **COMPANY VALUATION**



Valuation of main projects does not justify current market valuation

# **EVALUATION: WALLBRIDGE MINING**



**Conclusion:** Proven success of developing and operating low capex mining projects, however, a small project NPV and adequate financial position does not justify current value





Neutral



#### **Evaluation Method**

## **Gold Market**

**Evaluation:** Wallbridge Mining Co Ltd.

**Evaluation:** Reunion Gold Corp.

Evaluation: INV Metals Inc.

**Investment Valuation** 

**Risk Analysis** 

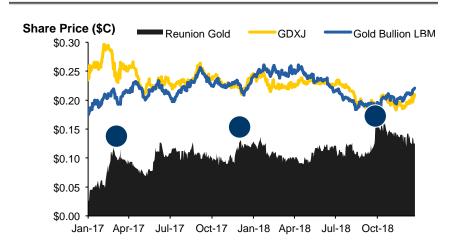
# **REUNION GOLD:** JUNIOR EXPLORATION IN FRENCH GUIANA

## **ASSET HIGHLIGHT: DORLIN GOLD**



<ul> <li>Earn-in agreement to acquire 75% through:</li> <li>Completion of Feasibility Study</li> <li>Spending of US\$3M</li> </ul>
• 8,400 ha
Central West Region of French Guiana, 190 km SW Cayenne
Mineralization associated with tourmaline quartz bearing gold deposits
<ul> <li>Measured &amp; Indicated: 779 koz at 1.1 g/t Au</li> <li>Inferred: 793 koz at 1.1 g/t Au</li> </ul>
<ul><li>TSX: RGD</li><li>Market Capitalization: C\$120M</li><li>Share Price: \$0.19</li></ul>

## SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE



- 1 Approval for Sale of Matthews Ridge
- 2 Private Placement with Barrick Gold Corporation
- 3 Historical data validation: 2.54 g/t Au @ +85 m

Near-term driver expected to come from exploration program

## **REUNION GOLD:** THE STREET VIEW

#### WHAT THE ANALYSTS ARE SAYING

• Current Share Price: C\$0.19

• Average Target Price: C\$0.38

Cormark Securities: C\$0.35

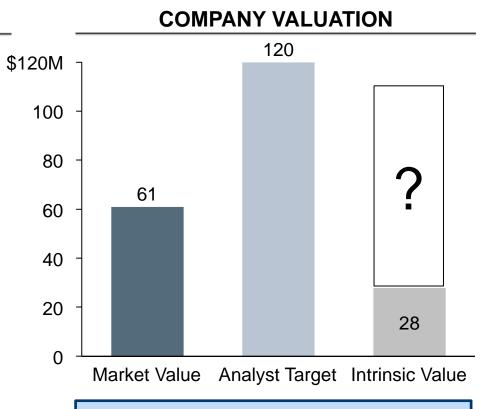
o Paradigm Capital: C\$0.40

#### Future Key Catalysts

- Updated resource estimation in early 2019
- 1,500 m drilling campaign in Q2 2019; 10,000 m drill program in 2019
- Re-interpretation of project geology
- Additional geophysical surveys

## Key Strengths

- Barrick and Dundee maintained their respective
   15% and 16.5% equity stakes in a recent C\$15M private placement
- Induced polarization survey at Dorlin outlined anomalies extending for 4km



A 2001 non-compliant resource estimate in an unproven jurisdiction introduces significant risks

# **EVALUATION: REUNION GOLD CORP.**

1 Strength of Asset	<ul> <li>Historical resource of ~1.6 Moz; must consider risk adjustment</li> <li>No successful large scale mining operation in French Guiana</li> </ul>	Non-compliant Resources	X
2 Capital/Financial Structure	<ul><li>Key strategic shareholders</li><li>383M Fully Diluted Shares</li></ul>	Exploration Programs Fully Funded	
Social License to Operate / Location	Remote jurisdiction; permitting and access risk	Remote Location; Sovereign Risk	X
Long-term Shareholder Growth	<ul> <li>Option to acquire project in Feb. 2017</li> <li>Obtained exploration permits</li> </ul>	Ability to achieve major milestones	

**Conclusion:** Unproven jurisdiction and non-compliant resource estimate <u>introduces significant</u> speculation and risk





## **Evaluation Method**

## **Gold Market**

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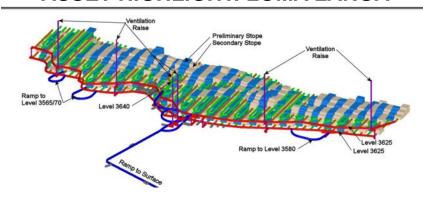
Evaluation: INV Metals Inc.

**Investment Valuation** 

**Risk Analysis** 

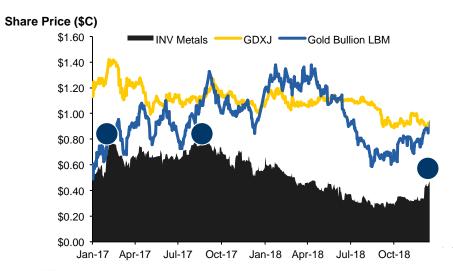
# INV METALS INC.

## **ASSET HIGHLIGHT: LOMA LARGA**



Ownership	• 100%
Mining Claims	• 7,960 Ha
Stage	Developer
Location	Southern Ecuador, 30 km SW of Cuenca
Geology & Mineralization	High sulphidation epithermal systems
Feasibility Study Highlights	<ul> <li>Post-tax NPV<sub>5%</sub>: US\$356M</li> <li>Post-tax IRR: 24.7%</li> <li>Initial Capex: US\$309M</li> <li>Mine Life: 12 year</li> <li>Resources: 3.6 Moz at 4.75 g/t Eq. Au</li> <li>Reserves 2.6 Moz at 5.81 g/t Eq. Au</li> </ul>
Financial Information	<ul><li>TSX: INV</li><li>Market Capitalization: \$72M</li><li>Share Price: \$0.63</li></ul>

## SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE



- 1 Exploration Concessions Awarded
- 2 Commencement of Feasibility Study
- 3 Positive Feasibility Study: Post-tax NPV US\$356M

Recent share price appreciation coming from Feasibility Study results

## **INV METALS INC:** THE STREET VIEW

#### WHAT THE ANALYSTS ARE SAYING

### • Current share price C\$0.63

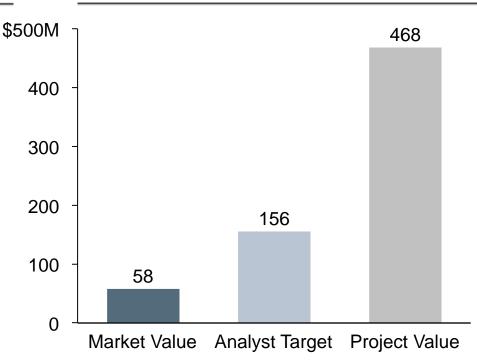
#### Average target price C\$1.68

- GMP Securities: C\$1.60
- BMO: C\$2.00
- Eight Capital: C\$1.60
- Clarus Securities: C\$1.50

#### Future Key Catalysts

- Results from referendum
- Permitting
- Financing Options for project development
- Construction of Loma Larga
- Production in late 2021
- Risk of equity financing to meet capital for development and exploration at Loma Larga

## **COMPANY VALUATION**



Near-term share price appreciation expected to come from exploration upside

# **EVALUATION: INV METALS**

1 Strength of Asset	<ul> <li>Reserves: 2.6 Moz at 5.8 g/t</li> <li>AISC: \$609/oz</li> <li>Feasibility Stage Level</li> </ul>	Top Tier Deposit	
2 Capital/Financial Structure	<ul> <li>Ability to raise capital</li> <li>Capital development of US\$300M requires significant debt and equity financing</li> </ul>	Further Dilution Expected Prior to Production	
Social License to Operate / Location	<ul> <li>Historically challenging mining jurisdiction</li> <li>Opportunity to leverage success of Fruta del Norte and Sol Gold's Cascabel project</li> </ul>	Historically Challenging Jurisdiction	
Long-term Shareholder Growth	Success of growing Resources & Reserves portfolio while achieving development milestones	Strategy to increase Resources & Reserves	

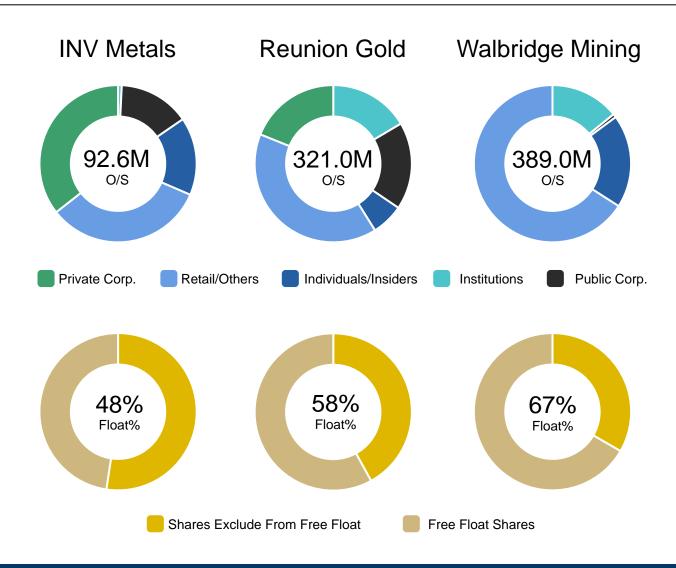
**Conclusion:** Top tier deposit showing favourable economics despite large mining tax





## **OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE SUMMARY**

- INV Metal's shares are closely-held by institutional investors and insiders
- Relative to it's peers, INV trades at a low-float
- INV provides the least downside risk but also the highest upside potential



# **EVALUATION: INV METALS IS THE BEST FIT TO OUR INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

**REQUIRES FURTHER INVESTIGATION** 







**Strength of Asset** Capital/Financial Structure **Social License to Operate / Location** Long-term **Shareholder Growth** 







Neutral

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# MANAGEMENT: PROJECT TEAM WITH GLOBAL MINE DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

#### **Terrance MacGibbon - Chairman**

- Canadian Mining Hall of Fame Inductee
- Founder of FNX Mining, co-founder of Torex Gold and founder of TMAC Resources
- +30 years experience with Inco Limited

#### Candace MacGibbon - CEO

- +25 years experience in Mining & Capital Markets
- Former Institutional salesperson at RBC
- 4.5% ownership (4.1M shares)

# Darren King – VP Exploration

- +20 years experience in mineral exploration in South America
- Highly experienced in world class high sulphidation deposits:
  - Pueblo Viejo
  - · Lagunas Norte
  - Pascua-Lama
  - Veladero



#### Bill Shaver – COO

- +40 years experience in constructing mines
- Former COO of FNX Mining
- Former President and CEO of DMC Mining Services

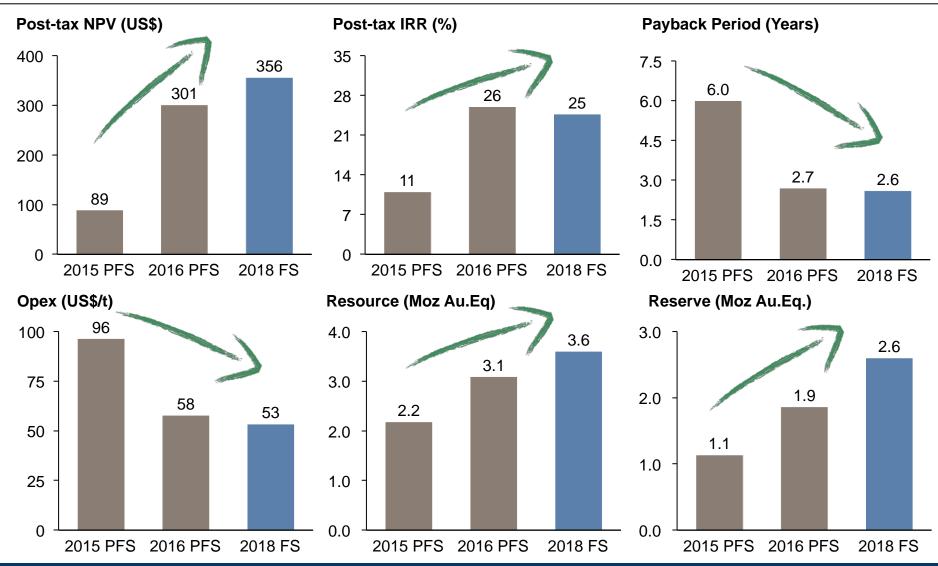
## Doug Flegg – Capital Markets Advisor

- +30 years of experience in mining and mining finance
- Former Managing Director at BMO Capital Markets

#### Simon Meik - Mineral Processor Advisor

- +40 years experience in mineral processing
- Ph.D. in Minerals Engineering from University of Birmingham

# ABILITY TO GENERATE VALUE OF PROJECT AND RESOURCES AND RESERVES PORTFOLIO



# TWO LOMA LARGA CONCENTRATES

Two streams come out of the mill that will be sold to markets

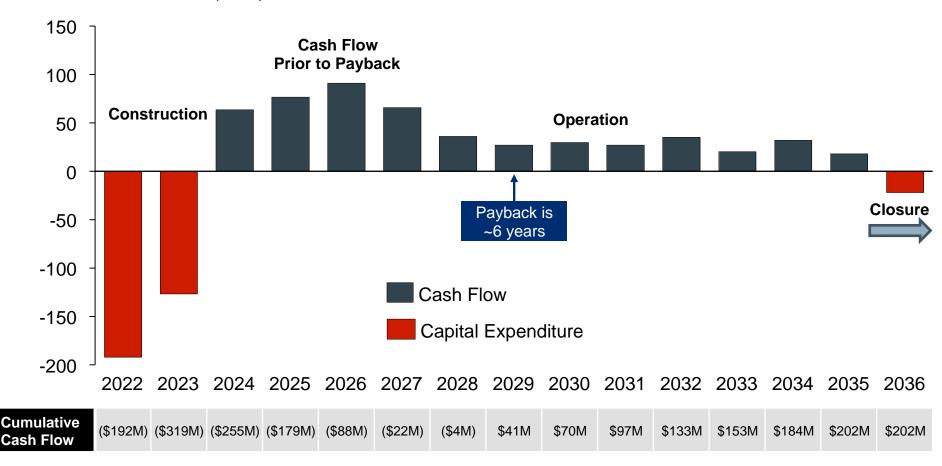
Pyrite Gold Concentrate		
Concentrate Produced	161,000 t/year	
Gold Grade	28 g/t	
Silver Grade	102 g/t	
Copper Grade	0.3%	
Arsenic Grade	0.08%	
Revenue Split	73%	

Copper Gold Concentrate		
Concentrate Produced	9,600 t/year	
Gold Grade	93 g/t	
Silver Grade	1860 g/t	
Copper Grade	30%	
Arsenic Grade	8.5%	
Revenue Split	27%	

# INV REMAINS PROFITABLE UNDER WORST CASE ARSENIC ASSUMPTIONS



Post Tax Net Cash Flow (CAD)



## **METALLURGY**: BLENDING THE ARSENIC

#### ADDITIONAL VALUE THROUGH ARSENIC

- Loma Larga forecast a small-tonnage copper concentrate of 8.5% As (9,600 tonne/annum)
- Expected **arsenic penalty** represents only **6% of concentrate revenue** (US\$370/tonne at 8.5% As, revenue of \$5,900/tonne copper concentrate)

#### **NOT A UNIQUE SITUATION**

Mining Projects	Arsenic Grade	Tonnes of Concentrate (ktonne)
Marcupanta, Peru	8.0%	70
Chelopech, Bulgaria	6.0%	22
Ministro Hales, Chile	4.0%	215
Timok, Serbia	1.4%	77
Chuquimata, Chile	1.2%	330

- Smelters in China, Namibia, and Chile are known to take high-arsenic concentrates
- Reduction of arsenic through blending
- Opportunities for additional smelters through sufficient blending (Trafigura Group Pte. Ltd, Ocean Partners)

#### Abatement Plant, Chile - Ecometales Limited



- 5-17% As
- Capacity: 7.5 kt/annum As

#### **Tsumeb Corporation, Namibia – Dundee Precious Metals**



- Capacity: 370 kt/annum
- Supporting Chelopech mine (6% As)

#### Guixi Smelter, China - Jiangxi Copper



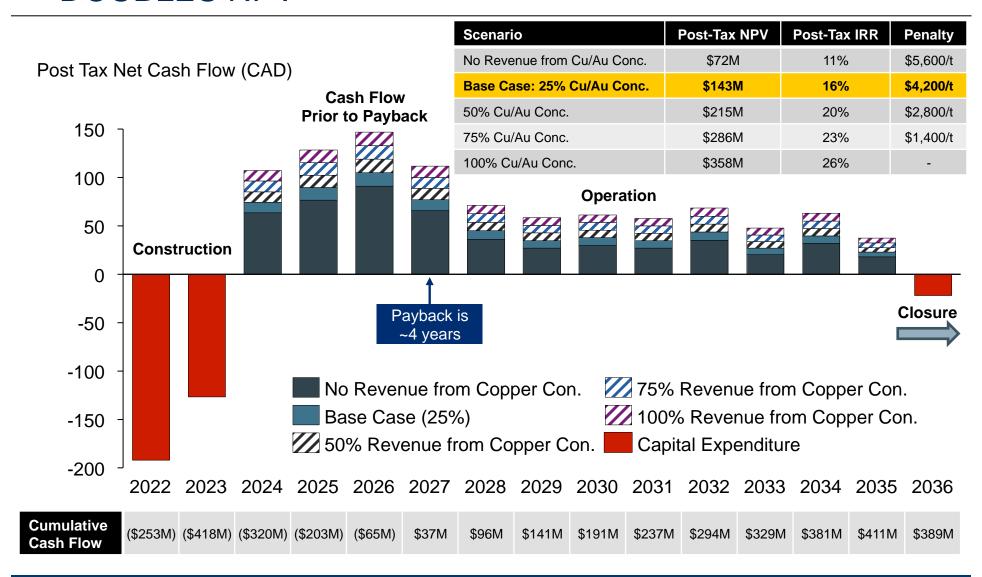
- 2.1 Mt concentrate smelter capacity
- +10 kt/annum As

## Horne Smelter, Canada - Glencore



• 840 ktonne smelter capacity

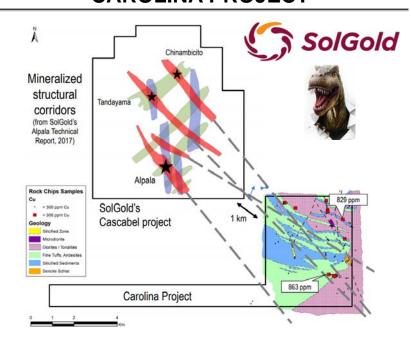
# RECEIVING 25% VALUE OF TOTAL CU/AU CONC. DOUBLES NPV



## **ADDITIONAL EXPLORATION: BEYOND LOMA LARGA**

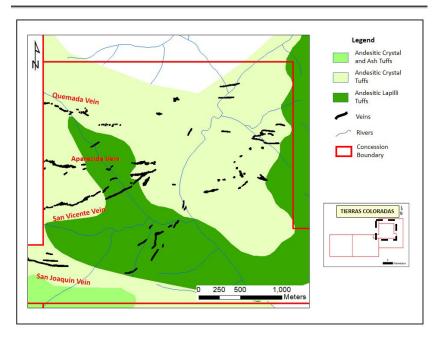
Exploration upside to develop new assets aided by recent changes to mining laws

#### **CAROLINA PROJECT**



- **1 km from Cascabel**: Top Tier porphyry coppergold deposits (>US\$2B NPV)
- 3,040 ha land package
- Samples graded at >4.0 g/t Au

### **TIERRAS COLORADAS**



- Epithermal Gold quartz veins outcrop on surface
- 6,955 Ha land package
- Samples graded at 240 g/t Au with silver values

#### **Evaluation Method**

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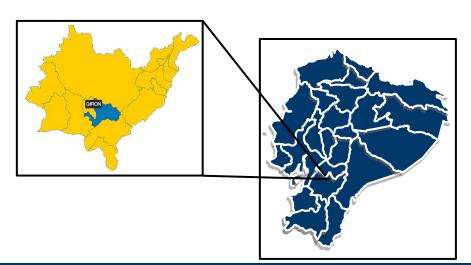
Evaluation: INV Metals Inc.

**Investment Valuation** 

**Risk Analysis** 

# **ECUADOR – THE REFERENDUM**

- A referendum is taking place on the municipality of Giron on March 24 of this year
- The referendum is not legally biding
  - Political move to gain national visibility
  - Most opposition coming from environmentalists and indigenous group from Cuenca
- In 2018, a national referendum took place asking the population if they agree with mining activities in cities and protected areas
  - Did not stop mining companies to invest in the country





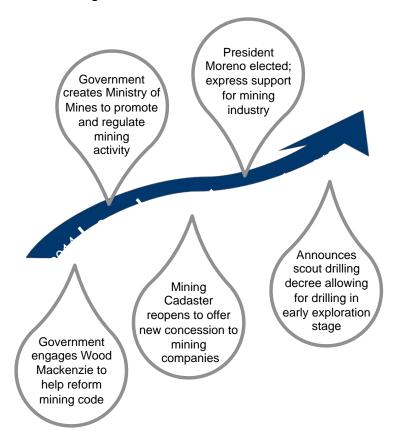




# ECUADOR – THE OPPORTUNITY IS HERE

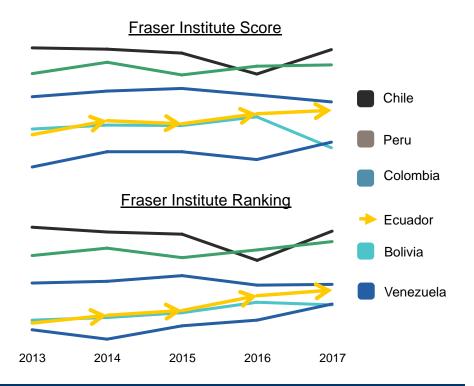
#### AN IMPROVING MINING JURISDICTION

- The right time to be in a resurgent Ecuador
  - Ecuador will go from having no large scale mines to having two constructed in 2020



## **GEOPOLITICAL RISK**

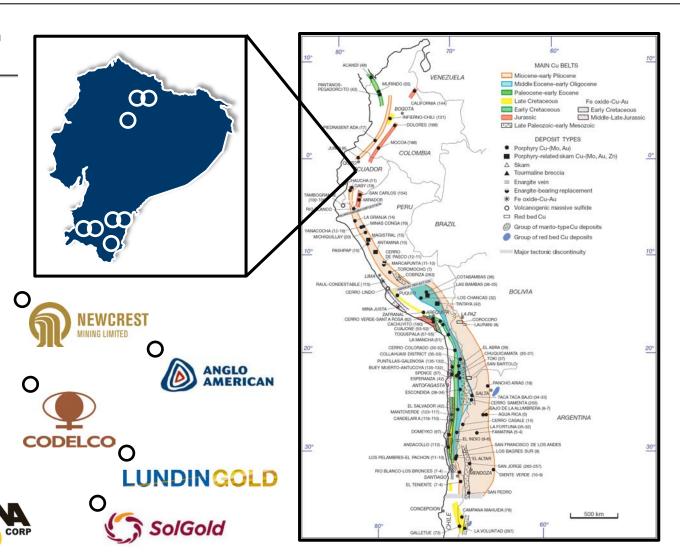
- According to the Fraser Institute, Ecuador' geopolitical risk has decrease significantly; going from position 105 to 70 in only 5 years
- In 2012, Ecuador scored 40 in Fraser Institute's annual report, it's score increase to 52 by 2017



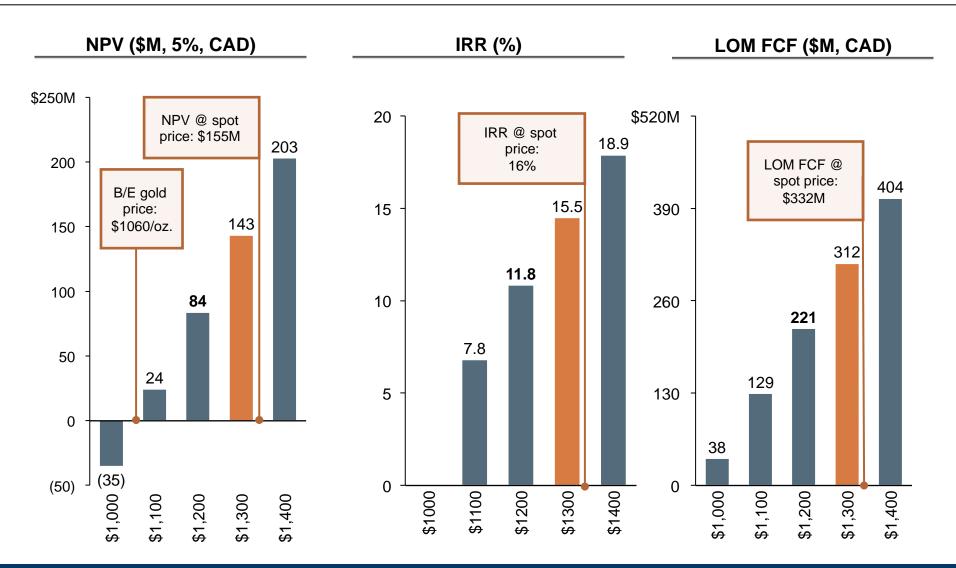
# ECUADOR – THE NEXT MINING FRONTIER

# BLOSSOMING MINING INDUSTRY

- Over the past two years the mining industry has grown from 0.8% to 1.55% of GDP, Ecuador has plans to goal is to grow that to 4% GDP by 2021
- Ecuador released a formal Government policy to make the mining industry a long-term key economic driver
- In 2017, mining majors such as BHP Billiton, Newcrest and Hancock open offices in Ecuador



# **NPV AND IRR SENSITIVITIES**



## **Evaluation Method**

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# **CONCLUSION: BUY INV METALS**



## **Strength of Asset**

- Post-tax NPV of \$143M in low case scenario using reduced Au/Cu concentrate production, and high tax
- High grade deposit with low AISC



## **Improving Jurisdiction**

- Elimination of windfall tax, import tariffs
- Ecuador aims to attract US\$4.6B mining investment by 2021
- Major companies are already investing



## **Experienced Management Team**

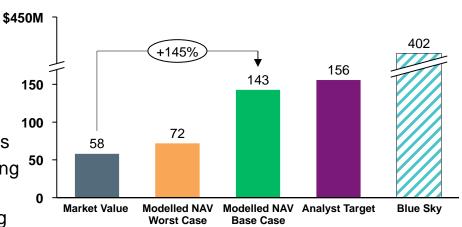
- Success in growing value of asset
- Ability to raise capital with limited options and warrants



## **Exploration Upside**

- Geology indicate potential to grow Resources & Reserves portfolio
- Changing mining laws offers opportunities for regional exploration

## INV METALS INC. VALUATION















**Lassonde** Mineral Engineering Program