



North American **Palladium** Ltd.

130 Adelaide St. West
Suite 2116
Toronto, ON
M5H 3P5

NEWS RELEASE

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2002 Exploration Program Leads to Underground Feasibility Study

Highlights

- **In-fill drilling increases confidence level of resources within Main High Grade Zone.**
- **Average true width within Main High Grade zone is 11.8 metres with a palladium grade of 6.1 grams per tonne.**
- **Feasibility study to be completed on potential bulk mining underground operation.**

North American Palladium Ltd. is pleased to announce the results of its 2002 core drilling program at the Company's Lac des Iles property. The objective of the 2002 exploration program was to increase the confidence level of the defined resources contained within the Main High Grade Zone to advance to an underground feasibility study. This zone is located directly beneath the open pit (Figure 1). The program consisted of 47,160 metres of in-fill drilling resulting in 82 new intercepts as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. The new holes increased the density of the intercepts to an average spacing of 30 metres and confirmed the continuity and high grade nature of the Main High Grade Zone. Based on the results of the 2002 drill program the average true width of the Main High Grade zone is 11.81 metres with a palladium grade of 6.1 grams per tonne. Among the highlights of the 2002 exploration program were 5 intercepts greater than 10 metres in length with palladium grades in excess of 10 grams per tonne including one intercept of 19.1 metres with a palladium grade of 11.9 grams per tonne. The results of the 2002 exploration program are presented in Table 1.

The Company has decided to proceed with an independent, detailed feasibility study based on the success of the 2002 exploration program. Roscoe Postle Associates Inc. has been engaged by the Company to assess the possibility of a bulk mining underground operation. The feasibility study will commence immediately and is scheduled for completion in May 2003. The Company's resource and reserve estimates will be updated following the completion of the feasibility study.

The 2003 exploration program will balance resource development and grass roots exploration. The greatest potential to expand the resource remains within the Lac des Iles area. Consequently, core drilling will be conducted on the southeast and southwest extensions of the Roby Zone. In addition, core drilling will be performed on untested geophysical targets contained within satellite properties including the Buck Lake, North Lac des Iles and Weaver Lake properties. The Company will also commence grass roots exploration activity on recently acquired properties located within 100 kilometres of the mine.

In 2003, the Company will conduct a geophysical survey to assess the deep underground potential of the Lac des Iles mine. Previous exploration programs have revealed the occurrence of numerous precious and base metal rich massive sulphide pods injected into the host rocks in the vicinity of the Roby Zone. In the spring of 2003, the Company will perform a magnetotellurics survey capable of detecting massive sulphides to a depth of two kilometres. This survey will be conducted in an effort to locate the primary source of the massive sulphides within the Mine Block Intrusion.

Mr. Maurice J. Lavigne, Vice-President, Exploration for the Company, supervised the 2002 exploration program and is the Company's "qualified person" as defined in National Instrument 43-101, a rule adopted by Canadian securities regulators. Accurassay Laboratories Ltd. of Thunder Bay, Ontario conducted all of the assaying for the 2002 drill program. Palladium, platinum and gold were analyzed using a standard fire assaying technique with an atomic absorption spectrometry finish. Copper and nickel were analyzed using only atomic absorption spectrometry.

North American Palladium's Lac des Iles Mine is Canada's only primary producer of platinum group metals and is one of the largest open pit bulk mineable palladium reserves in the world. **Palladium** use in the auto industry continues to be an important component in controlling exhaust emissions as mandated by more stringent hydrocarbon emissions standards for cars, particularly in the United States, Europe and Japan.

For further information contact:

Maurice J. Lavigne – Vice-President, Exploration

Tel: (807) 448-2158 Fax: (807) 448-2098

or

George D. Faught - Vice President Finance & CFO

Tel: (416) 360-2650 Fax: (416) 360-7709

or

Nicholas J. Nikolakakis - Treasurer

Tel: (416) 360-2651 Fax: (416) 360-7709

or

visit our web site at www.napalladium.com.

Forward-Looking Statements - Some statements contained in this release are forward-looking and, therefore, involve uncertainties or risks that could cause actual results to differ materially. Such forward-looking statements include comments regarding milling operations, mineral reserve and resource statements and exploration program performance. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include metal price volatility, economic and political events affecting metal supply and demand, fluctuations in ore grade, ore tons milled, geological, technical, mining or processing problems, exploration programs and future results of exploration programs at the Lac des Iles Mine, future profitability and production. The Company disclaims any obligation to update forward-looking statements.

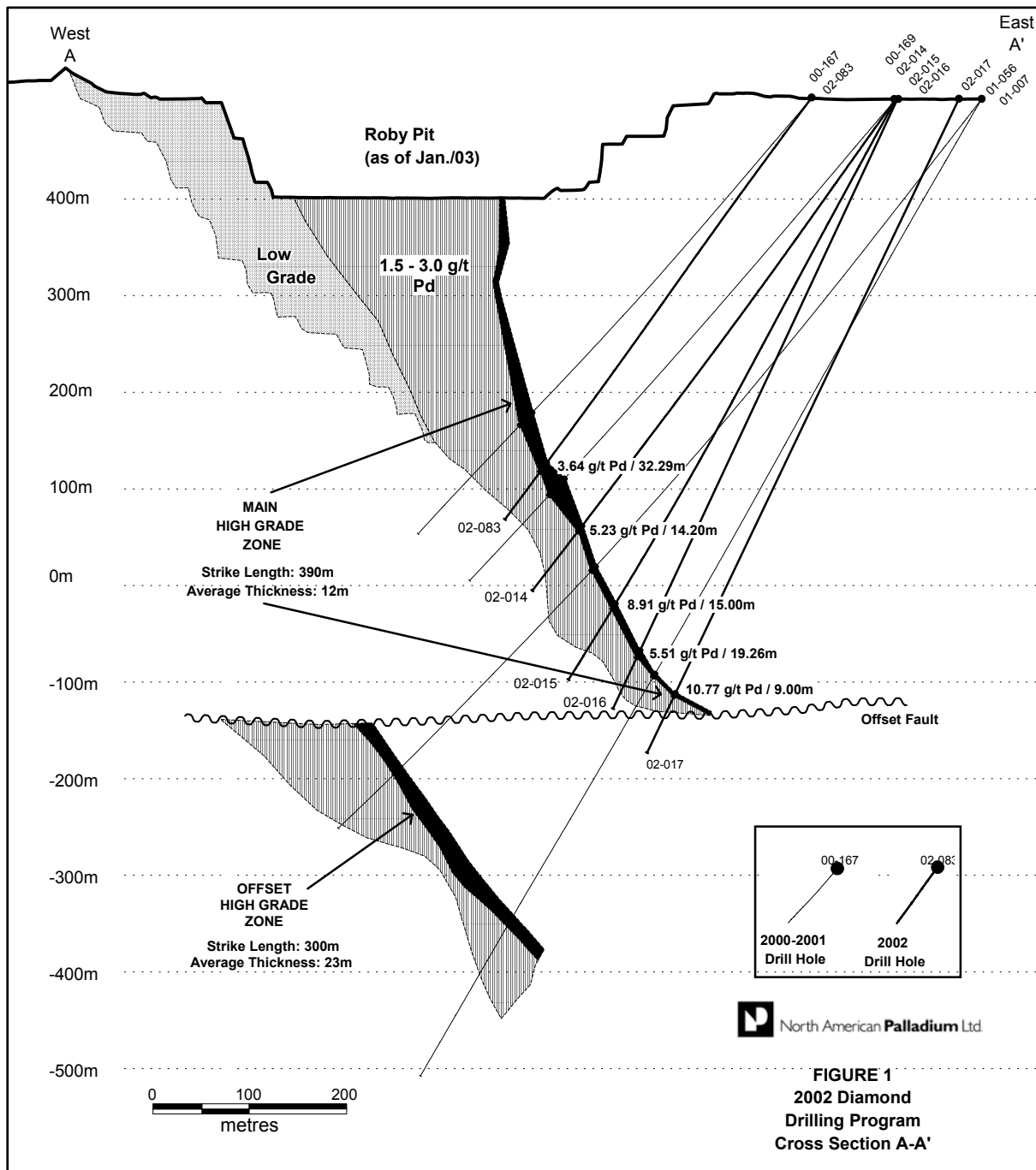
TABLE 1 – Results of 2002 Exploration Program

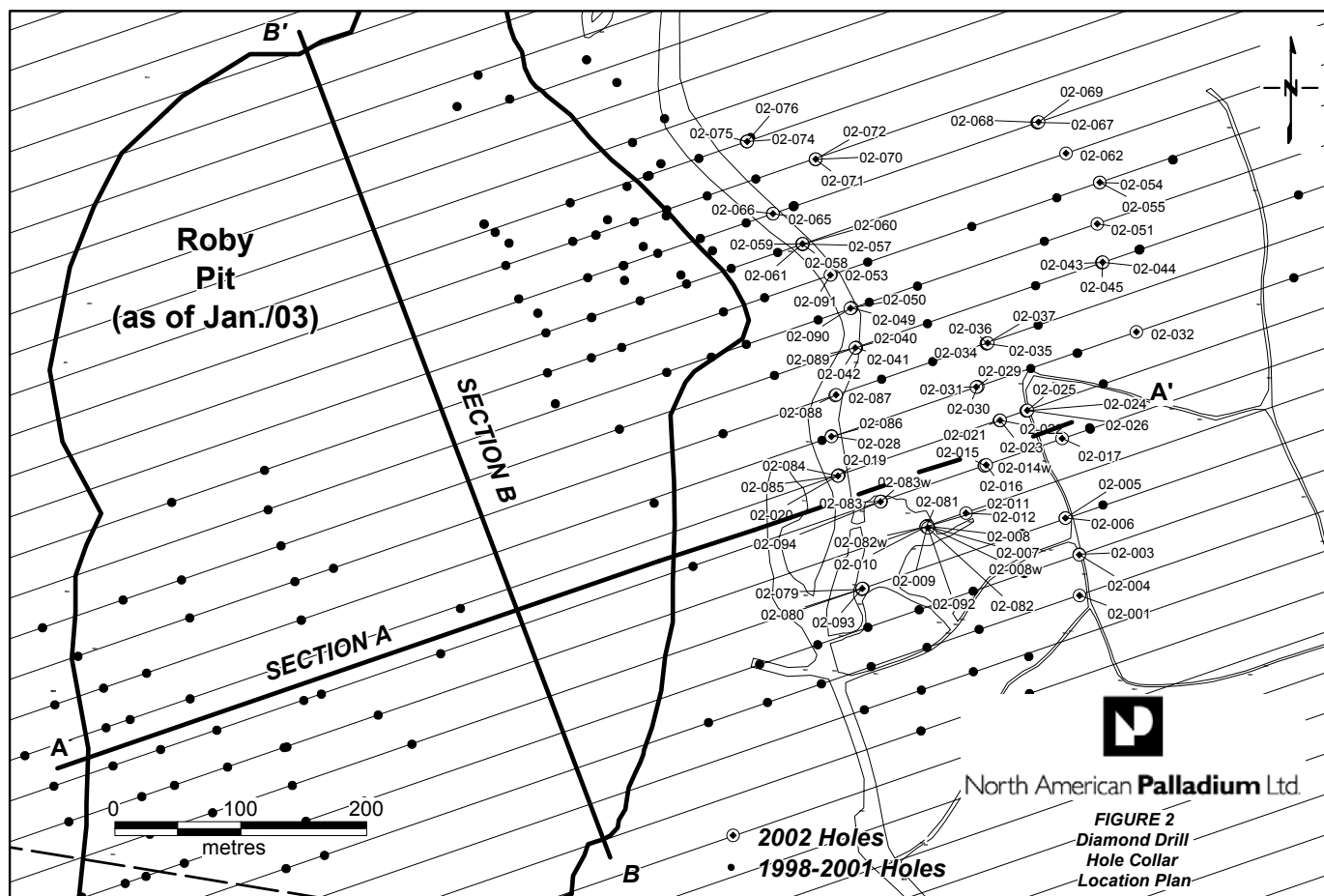
Hole No.	From (metres)	To (metres)	Length (metres)	True Width (metres)	Vertical Depth (metres)	Palladium (g/tonne)	Platinum (g/tonne)	Gold (g/tonne)	Copper %	Nickel %
02-001					ZONE NOT INTERCEPTED					
02-003	618.80	628.44	9.64	7.50	494.50	5.01	0.33	0.05	0.06	0.09
02-004	612.00	620.00	8.00	7.00	503.50	1.61	0.24	0.04	1.03	0.12
02-005	638.81	646.45	7.64	6.50	527.50	6.57	0.56	0.38	0.03	0.06
02-006	650.60	663.00	12.40	9.00	564.00	7.51	0.46	0.20	0.07	0.10
02-007	504.67	529.30	24.63	21.50	424.00	5.66	0.43	0.53	0.13	0.15
02-008	525.60	554.50	28.90	22.50	460.00	4.77	0.31	0.28	0.05	0.09
02-008W	525.00	536.00	11.00	9.50	460.50	10.97	0.61	0.26	0.07	0.11
02-009	539.00	549.00	10.00	8.00	478.00	8.95	0.44	0.36	0.07	0.13
02-010	556.00	565.00	9.00	7.50	500.50	5.68	0.33	0.28	0.06	0.09
02-011	569.75	588.00	18.25	16.00	528.50	5.25	0.44	0.40	0.11	0.10
02-012	612.00	623.00	11.00	8.50	570.50	4.30	0.40	0.14	0.04	0.07
02-014	549.80	564.00	14.20	13.00	448.00	5.23	0.37	0.32	0.06	0.09
02-014W	542.00	562.00	20.00	17.50	444.00	10.50	0.60	0.46	0.08	0.11
02-015	597.00	612.00	15.00	12.00	530.50	8.91	0.54	0.17	0.05	0.10
02-016	627.74	647.00	19.26	16.00	572.00	5.51	0.35	0.19	0.04	0.07
02-017	681.00	690.00	9.00	7.50	632.00	10.77	0.61	0.62	0.07	0.11
02-019	460.80	487.50	26.70	21.00	422.00	5.70	0.41	0.39	0.07	0.10
02-020	500.90	520.00	19.10	15.00	469.00	11.91	0.65	0.64	0.07	0.08
02-021	587.00	599.00	12.00	11.00	497.50	8.19	0.45	0.27	0.04	0.08
02-022	606.35	619.00	12.65	10.50	534.00	4.97	0.34	0.28	0.02	0.06
02-023	624.20	639.60	15.40	13.00	561.50	4.76	0.34	0.23	0.04	0.07
02-024	641.59	656.00	14.41	13.00	566.50	5.26	0.37	0.17	0.04	0.06
02-025	650.60	663.00	12.40	10.00	597.00	5.23	0.37	0.16	0.04	0.07
02-026	667.00	680.00	13.00	11.50	627.00	6.55	0.37	0.21	0.06	0.08
02-028	426.97	443.21	16.24	14.50	365.00	5.25	0.37	0.28	0.05	0.07
02-029	584.40	597.30	12.90	11.00	512.00	4.07	0.22	0.09	0.01	0.04
02-030	607.85	618.75	10.90	9.00	546.00	4.86	0.33	0.14	0.03	0.05
02-031	641.00	650.00	9.00	8.00	605.00	5.57	0.33	0.48	0.03	0.06
02-032	719.32	733.75	14.43	13.00	648.50	11.08	0.58	0.46	0.05	0.09
02-034	563.00	579.00	16.00	12.50	475.00	7.81	0.53	0.20	0.06	0.07
02-035	605.45	621.00	15.55	13.50	550.00	7.21	0.43	0.14	0.01	0.03
02-036	635.46	646.47	11.01	9.50	592.00	3.86	0.35	0.13	0.04	0.05
02-037	648.02	658.72	10.70	8.50	625.00	3.97	0.24	0.12	0.01	0.04
02-040	472.13	489.40	17.27	15.50	417.00	8.63	0.51	0.21	0.03	0.06
02-041	508.40	516.40	8.00	7.00	466.00	8.44	0.30	0.09	0.01	0.04

TABLE 1 (Cont.) – Results of 2002 Exploration Program

Hole No.	From (metres)	To (metres)	Length (metres)	True Width (metres)	Vertical Depth (metres)	Palladium (g/tonne)	Platinum (g/tonne)	Gold (g/tonne)	Copper %	Nickel %
02-042	540.00	549.00	9.00	7.50	511.00	7.64	0.46	0.15	0.01	0.04
02-043	645.00	649.00	4.00	3.50	525.00	5.95	0.30	0.10	0.01	0.04
02-044	635.00	640.00	5.00	4.00	535.00	5.58	0.36	0.17	0.02	0.04
02-045	647.00	651.00	4.00	3.50	568.50	2.00	0.20	0.02	0.00	0.02
02-049	472.00	477.00	5.00	4.00	423.50	1.98	0.18	0.08	0.03	0.05
02-050	498.21	502.00	3.79	3.50	475.00	3.41	0.24	0.05	0.01	0.02
02-051	638.20	647.00	8.80	7.50	540.00	5.63	0.25	0.08	0.01	0.03
02-053	446.00	449.00	3.00	2.50	399.00	3.35	0.28	0.16	0.02	0.03
02-054	613.00	618.00	5.00	4.50	495.50	6.19	0.34	0.32	0.07	0.06
02-055	639.00	652.00	13.00	12.00	547.50	3.92	0.24	0.09	0.01	0.03
02-057	419.00	429.70	10.70	10.50	367.50	4.82	0.27	0.03	0.00	0.04
02-058	433.40	448.00	14.60	12.50	398.00	7.51	0.43	0.16	0.01	0.04
02-059	437.10	448.00	10.90	9.50	408.00	6.13	0.36	0.04	0.00	0.04
02-060	457.00	465.00	8.00	7.50	436.50	2.01	0.18	0.03	0.00	0.02
02-061	473.34	478.64	5.30	5.00	460.50	0.97	0.14	0.03	0.01	0.02
02-062	583.00	589.35	6.35	6.00	497.00	5.54	0.22	0.06	0.00	0.04
02-065	417.00	422.00	5.00	5.00	385.00	3.16	0.28	0.23	0.02	0.06
02-066	436.00	440.00	4.00	4.00	426.50	1.92	0.23	0.04	0.01	0.04
02-067	542.75	547.00	4.25	4.25	528.00	1.94	0.17	0.09	0.01	0.02
02-068	560.00	561.00	1.00	1.00	515.00	3.28	0.13	0.52	0.00	0.03
02-069	581.00	584.00	3.00	3.00	537.00	3.06	0.17	0.04	0.00	0.02
02-070	380.00	384.34	4.34	4.00	332.50	3.38	0.16	0.13	0.02	0.05
02-071	402.00	406.00	4.00	4.00	357.00	3.42	0.13	0.01	0.00	0.02
02-072	421.00	423.00	2.00	2.00	384.00	2.35	0.29	0.02	0.01	0.03
02-074	323.80	327.00	3.20	3.00	267.00	26.99	1.45	0.61	0.01	0.03
02-075	324.12	329.00	4.88	4.50	300.00	4.25	0.34	0.04	0.01	0.02
02-076	347.00	352.00	5.00	4.50	322.00	5.48	0.28	0.14	0.02	0.04
02-079	456.00	500.00	44.00	37.50	396.00	5.11	0.38	0.48	0.11	0.13
02-080	475.00	509.20	34.20	27.00	424.50	5.76	0.46	0.32	0.10	0.12
02-081	467.40	497.00	29.60	26.50	335.00	6.04	0.43	0.60	0.12	0.12
02-082	479.52	511.00	31.48	27.00	373.00	5.19	0.39	0.64	0.10	0.11
02-082W	478.00	507.44	29.44	25.00	375.00	5.43	0.41	0.57	0.09	0.10
02-083	458.74	491.03	32.29	26.50	381.00	3.64	0.25	0.30	0.07	0.08
02-083W	455.90	470.00	14.10	12.50	372.50	8.91	0.62	0.90	0.16	0.20
02-084	430.00	451.00	21.00	19.00	357.00	4.31	0.28	0.34	0.06	0.09
02-085	444.00	456.00	12.00	10.00	382.00	9.63	0.52	0.43	0.08	0.14
02-086	415.80	429.20	13.40	11.50	337.50	8.90	0.50	0.87	0.10	0.12
02-087	384.45	411.00	26.55	23.50	281.50	6.69	0.44	0.45	0.07	0.08
02-088	408.00	420.00	12.00	10.50	313.00	8.40	0.52	0.30	0.08	0.12
02-089	434.91	447.00	12.09	10.50	323.00	7.00	0.38	0.28	0.06	0.10
02-090	428.00	438.00	10.00	9.50	302.00	11.71	0.58	0.24	0.05	0.06
02-091	420.00	442.10	22.10	20.50	327.00	8.08	0.44	0.17	0.01	0.03
02-092	482.00	513.00	31.00	27.00	371.50	7.71	0.51	0.54	0.12	0.15
02-093	469.98	502.60	32.62	26.00	414.50	6.69	0.45	0.56	0.09	0.14
02-094	457.00	487.16	30.16	25.50	377.50	6.68	0.42	0.43	0.07	0.11
02-149W	570.40	595.00	24.60	21.50	445.00	5.56	0.36	0.34	0.08	0.10

W - Wedged drill holes





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