



For Immediate Release
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News Release
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North American Palladium Ltd. Announces First Quarter 2005 Financial Results

Results of Operations

The Company realized a net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2005 of \$7,736,000 or \$0.15 per share on revenues of \$26,206,000 compared to net income of \$6,121,000 or \$0.11 per share on revenues of \$53,156,000 for the corresponding period a year earlier.

In the first quarter of 2005, the Company's palladium revenue was affected by a 42% decline in palladium production compared to the first quarter of 2004, together with a continuing low palladium price. During the first quarter of 2005, revenue was recorded for 45,022 ounces of palladium production of which 6,403 ounces were recorded at the floor price of US\$325 per ounce under the expiring palladium sales contract, while the remainder, which will be available for physical delivery after June 30, 2005, was recorded at the March 31, 2005 quoted market price of US\$199 per ounce. The blended average realized palladium price for the first quarter of 2005 was US\$224 per ounce compared to a price of US\$325 per ounce in the year-earlier period, which was the floor price under the palladium sales contract in that period. Variations from the provisionally priced sales will be recognized as revenue adjustments as they occur until the price is finalized. In addition, revenue from by-product metal declined by 27% to \$14,010,000 in the first quarter of 2005 compared to \$19,121,000 in the first quarter of 2004, reflecting the decreased production of nickel, platinum, gold and copper. Despite the lower by-product production, prices for these metals continued well above historical levels and in fact were at higher levels than the first quarter 2004. Partially offsetting the higher by-product prices was a strengthening Canadian dollar which averaged US\$0.82 in the first quarter 2005, compared to US\$0.76 in the first quarter 2004.

Production costs including overheads but excluding non-cash amortization were \$23,233,000 during the first quarter of 2005 compared to \$24,998,000 during the first quarter of 2004, while unit costs to produce palladium (production costs including overhead and smelter treatment, refining and freight costs), net of by-product metal revenues and royalties, increased to US\$253 per ounce in the first quarter of 2005 compared to US\$115 per ounce in the first quarter of 2004. The increase in unit cash costs is attributed to a 42% decline in palladium production and a 27% drop in revenue from by-product metals.

During the first quarter of 2005, the mill processed 1,156,322 tonnes of ore, or an average of 12,848 tonnes per day, with a palladium grade of 1.91 grams per tonne, producing 52,572 ounces of palladium at a recovery rate of 74.0%. This compares with the first quarter of 2004,

when the mill processed 1,348,779 tonnes of ore, or 14,822 tonnes per day, with a palladium grade of 2.72 grams per tonne, producing 91,261 ounces of palladium at a recovery rate of 77.3%. Metal production during the first quarter of 2005 was affected by lower ore grades and average daily mill throughput. With completion of the Phase 3 pit in late 2004 and the start of Phase 4 pit development, lower ore grades were anticipated in the early stages of the pit push back. The lower mill throughput in the quarter, was caused by repeated ball mill bearing failures and other unscheduled mill downtime.

Non-cash amortization expense decreased to \$4,729,000 in the first quarter of 2005 compared to \$9,846,000 in the first quarter of 2004. The reduced amortization expense is attributable to the decrease in palladium production, along with a lower unit of production amortization rate as a result of the asset impairment charge recorded in 2004, which resulted in an approximate 40% reduction in the unit amortization rate.

With the ramp-up in activity on the Company's exploration projects, exploration expense increased to \$843,000 in the first three months of 2005 compared to \$429,000 in the year-earlier period. The Company incurred interest expense on long-term debt of \$635,000 in the first three months of 2005 compared to \$487,000 in the first three months of 2004.

In the first quarter, the future tax liability arising on the renunciation of resource deductions to subscribers of flow-through shares issued by the Company in 2004, was fully offset by losses arising in the quarter. Income tax losses in excess of this liability have not been tax benefited.

Cash Flow and Financial Position

Cash used in operations (prior to changes in non-cash working capital) was \$4,199,000 for the first quarter of 2005 compared to cash provided by operations of \$19,481,000 for the first quarter of 2004. The primary reason for the decrease in cash flow was the significant decline in revenue from metal sales. Changes in non-cash working capital provided \$14,873,000 in the first quarter compared to a consumption of cash of \$7,203,000 in the first quarter of 2004. The major item affecting the non-cash working capital was a \$17,346,000 reduction in concentrate inventory awaiting settlement. The reduction was caused by a decrease in the physical quantity of palladium in concentrate awaiting settlement, which declined to 92,891 ounces at March 31, 2005 compared to 114,186 ounces at December 31, 2004. After allowing for working capital changes, cash provided by operations was \$10,674,000 in the first quarter of 2005 compared to \$12,278,000 in first quarter of 2004.

Investing activity required \$6,069,000 of cash in the first quarter of 2005 compared to \$3,727,000 in the first quarter of 2004. During the quarter, the Company continued with the underground mine development, advancing the main ramp by 247 metres and started the ventilation raise development. The underground development is progressing towards first production in the fourth quarter of this year, with full production in 2006.

The Company's long-term debt position was \$49.6 million at March 31, 2005 compared to \$50.2 million at December 31, 2004, and it had cash and cash equivalents of \$68.5 million at March 31, 2005.

Production Statistics

	First Quarter March 31	
	2005	2004
Palladium (oz)	52,572	91,261
Payable Palladium (oz)	47,924	83,367
Platinum (oz)	5,382	6,983
Gold (oz)	4,131	7,755
Copper (lbs)	1,562,040	2,141,755
Nickel (lbs)	778,200	1,321,201
Ore Tonnes Milled	1,156,322	1,348,779
Ore Tonnes Mined	1,268,875	1,283,982
Waste Tonnes Mined	3,341,433	2,594,785
Waste Strip Ratio	2.63:1	2.02:1

Exploration

During the first quarter, the Company completed two deep drill holes on the Offset High Grade Zone. These drill holes were successful in extending the lithologies that host the high grade mineralization at Lac des Iles. In the upcoming months, the exploration program will focus on expanding the known resource base around the Offset High Grade Zone, as well as advancing and drill testing other surface prospects near the mine site.

Elsewhere, the Company recently entered into an Option Joint Venture Agreement with Gossan Resources Limited on their Bird River property. The Company has the ability to earn up to a 75% interest in this property, which is located in south-east Manitoba. The Company plans to conduct a detailed airborne geophysical survey in the second quarter of this year to be followed by mapping, prospecting and diamond drilling of priority targets. In addition to Bird River, the Company has recently optioned the Tyko Bulldozer property, a new grassroots discovery in north western Ontario. An airborne geophysical survey has been completed to identify drill targets. At the Company's Shebandowan Lake Project, a ground geophysical survey and 760 metre drill program was completed. Results are currently being evaluated prior to committing further resources to this project.

Management's Outlook

Operations at Lac des Iles during the first quarter of 2005 were affected by ball mill bearing failures and other unscheduled mine downtime. Maintenance issues in the mill have continued in the second quarter requiring us to focus on an enhanced preventative maintenance program to ensure better mill availability in the future. This program will be invaluable as the limits of the mill are tested in order to increase the process efficiency and improve the cost profile. Meanwhile, the underground mine construction continues to progress towards the 2006 full production date. The main decline is down 719 metres with all of the ventilation and secondary escape raises completed to surface. The underground's first level of stoping will be under development by mid-summer of this year. In addition, the first of three new 60 tonne haul trucks is in operation and performing better than expected.

The 2005 exploration drilling program at Lac des Iles has started in earnest with \$4.5 million budgeted to be spent. Currently two drills have been assigned to expand the resource base of the Offset High Grade Zone and one drill has been assigned to the drill program on the south east extension. Additionally, there is a fourth drill scheduled to be on site shortly in an effort to

complete the program by the beginning of the fourth quarter. The joint ventures with the junior companies are progressing as planned, and we expect to have identified drill targets by the third quarter.

The palladium prices remained flat during the first four months of 2005, trading in a narrow range of US \$180 - \$208 per ounce. Even with the current depressed spot prices, management continues to remain optimistic that the price of palladium will return to sustainable levels in 2006 and trade at a more historical relationship to platinum. The recent release by Englehard Corporation, in which it is stated that their new platinum/palladium diesel oxidation catalyst will go into production this month on models from two major European carmakers, further strengthens management's beliefs for palladium's bright future.

In the meantime, the Company continues to benefit from strong by-product metal prices, particularly platinum, nickel and copper. The Company has hedged some of its 2005 metal production to provide protection if the current high prices decline. Generally, the volume of annual production hedged is in the range of 40-70%, which offers the Company a mix of downside protection and strong participation in price run-up for its by-product metals as is currently the case.

The Company will host its first quarter conference call at 11 am EDT on Tuesday May 10, 2005. The toll-free conference call dial-in number is 1-800-766-6630 and the local and overseas dial-in number is 416-695-9757. The conference call will be simultaneously web cast and archived at www.napalladium.com in the Investor Centre under Conference Calls. A replay of the conference call will be available until May 24, 2005; toll-free at 1-866-523-1010, locally and overseas at 416-695-6032, access code 2779.

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. In addition to palladium, the Company earns substantial revenue from by-product nickel, platinum, gold and copper. **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. **Palladium** is also used in the dental, electronics, jewellery and chemical sectors.

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Forward-Looking Statements – Certain statements included in this news release are forward-looking statements which are made pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. They include estimates and statements that describe the Company's future plans, objectives and goals, including words to the effect that the Company or management expects a stated condition or result to occur. When used herein, words such as "estimate", "expect", "believe", "intend", "budget", "plan", "projection" and other similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. In particular statements relating to the estimated future metal prices, cash flows, expenses, capital costs, ore production, mine life, financing, construction and commissioning are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties and are subject to factors, many of which are beyond our control, that may cause actual results or performance to differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements include among others metal price volatility, changes in the US/CDN dollar exchange rate, economic and political events affecting metal supply and demand, fluctuations in ore grade, ore tonnes milled, geological, technical, mining or processing problems, recoverability of metals, future profitability and production, availability of financing on acceptable terms and unexpected problems during the development, construction and start-up phases of the underground mine. For a more comprehensive review of risk factors, please refer to the Company's most recent Annual Report under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Results" and Annual Information Form under "Risk Factors" on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Canada provincial securities regulatory authorities. The Company disclaims any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, events or otherwise. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.

North American Palladium Ltd.
Consolidated Statements of Earnings (Loss) and Deficit
(Canadian funds in thousands of dollars, except share and per share amounts)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Revenue from metal sales – Note 9	\$ 26,206	53,156
Operating expenses		
Production costs, excluding amortization and asset retirement costs	23,233	24,998
Smelter treatment, refining and freight costs	4,673	5,331
Amortization	4,729	9,846
Administrative	1,595	1,217
Exploration expense	843	429
Asset retirement costs	124	243
Loss on disposal of capital assets	--	132
Total operating expenses	35,197	42,196
Income (loss) from mining operations	(8,991)	10,960
Other income (expenses)		
Interest on long-term debt	(635)	(487)
Foreign exchange gain (loss)	(64)	(782)
Interest income	490	47
Derivative income	--	470
Interest expense	(1)	(10)
Total other income (expenses)	(210)	(762)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(9,201)	10,198
Income tax expense (recovery) – Note 6	(1,465)	4,077
Net income (loss) for the period	(7,736)	6,121
Deficit, beginning of period	(105,644)	(13,534)
Deficit, end of period	\$ (113,380)	(7,413)
Net income (loss) per share		
Basic	\$ (0.15)	\$ 0.11
Diluted	\$ (0.15)	\$ 0.11
Weighted average number of shares outstanding		
Basic	51,741,396	50,974,943
Diluted	51,849,492	51,126,044

North American Palladium Ltd.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(Canadian funds in thousands of dollars)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operations		
Net income (loss) for the period	\$ (7,736)	\$ 6,121
Operating items not involving cash		
Future income tax expense (recovery)	(1,685)	2,797
Amortization	4,729	9,846
Unrealized foreign exchange gain	191	766
Asset retirement costs	124	243
Stock based compensation	178	46
Loss on disposal of capital assets	--	132
Derivative income	--	(470)
	(4,199)	19,481
Changes in non-cash working capital – Note 8	14,873	(7,203)
	10,674	12,278
Financing Activities		
Repayment of long-term debt	(1,724)	(9,226)
Issuance of common shares	667	2,303
Mine restoration deposit	(300)	(300)
Repayment of obligations under capital leases	(457)	(203)
	(1,814)	(7,426)
Investing Activities		
Additions to mining interests	(6,069)	(3,720)
Restricted cash equivalents	--	(7)
	(6,069)	(3,727)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,791	1,125
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	65,755	11,950
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 68,546	\$ 13,075

North American Palladium Ltd.
Notes to the March 31, 2005 Consolidated Financial Statements
(in thousands of Canadian dollars except per share and per ounce amounts)
(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

These unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared using disclosure standards appropriate for interim financial statements and do not contain all the explanatory notes, descriptions of accounting policies or other disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for annual financial statements. Such notes, descriptions of accounting policies and other disclosures are included in the Company's audited annual consolidated financial statements included in the Company's annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2004. Accordingly, these consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited annual consolidated financial statements for 2004.

2. Concentrate Awaiting Settlement

The gross value of concentrate awaiting settlement represents the value of platinum group metals and base metals from production shipped to and received by the third-party smelters between August 2004 and March 2005, which are in-process at the balance sheet date. At March 31, 2005, concentrate awaiting settlement included 92,891 ounces of palladium (December 31, 2004 – 114,186). Concentrate awaiting settlement was entirely from two domestic customers at March 31, 2005 and December 31, 2004. Revaluations of the net realizable value of concentrate awaiting settlement are included in revenue at each reporting period and are adjusted for the effects of hedging instruments, sales contracts and foreign exchange.

3. Crushed and Broken Ore Stockpiles

Crushed and broken ore stockpiles are valued at the lower of average production cost and estimated net realizable value. The amount of stockpiled ore that is not expected to be processed within one year is shown as a long-term asset.

4. Mine Restoration Deposit

As part of the expansion project, the Company established a revised mine closure plan for the eventual clean-up and restoration of the mine site with the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (the "Ministry"), which requires a total amount of \$7,802 to be accumulated in a Trust Fund controlled by the Ministry. At March 31, 2005, the Company had \$6,273 on deposit with the Ministry and has agreed to make monthly deposits of \$100.

5. Long-Term Debt

The Company's long-term debt, is comprised of a senior credit facility with a leading equipment finance company and the Kaiser-Francis credit facility. At March 31, 2005, the outstanding long-term debt, including current and long-term portions was \$43,976 compared to \$45,508 at December 31, 2004. The interest rate under both facilities is LIBOR plus 250 basis points, or 5.12% at March 31, 2005. The senior credit facility is

repayable in equal quarterly installments over a five-year period with a final maturity of November 24, 2009 and the Kaiser-Francis facility matures on June 30, 2006.

6. Income Taxes

The provision for income and mining taxes differs from the amount that would have resulted by applying the combined Canadian Federal and Ontario statutory income tax rates of approximately 38.3%.

	Three Months ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Income tax provision using statutory income tax rates	\$ (3,524)	\$ 3,927
Increase (decrease) in taxes resulting from:		
Losses not tax benefited	1,706	--
Resource allowance	332	(950)
Non-taxable portion of capital gains (losses)	(8)	(128)
Federal large corporations tax	116	216
Ontario mining taxes	(133)	986
Other	46	26
Income tax expense (recovery)	<u>\$ (1,465)</u>	<u>\$ 4,077</u>

7. Capital Stock

	March 31, 2005		March 31, 2004	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Common shares issued, beginning of period	51,709,075	\$ 322,904	50,895,338	\$ 313,489
Common shares issued:				
Pursuant to stock options exercised	52,146	431	195,006	2,088
To group registered retirement savings plan participants	23,138	236	22,753	215
Tax effect of flow-through shares	--	(1,939)	--	--
Common shares issued, end of period	<u>51,784,359</u>	<u>\$ 321,632</u>	<u>51,113,097</u>	<u>\$ 315,792</u>

At March 31, 2005, the Company had 766,184 stock options outstanding at a weighted-average exercise price of \$10.00, expiring at various dates from June 27, 2005 to November 1, 2012. No stock options were granted in the first quarter of 2005 or the first quarter of 2004. The Company recognized a stock based compensation expense of \$178 for the three months ended March 31, 2005 (three months ended March 31, 2004 - \$46).

The Company finances a portion of its exploration activities through the issue of flow through shares. Under the terms of these share issues, the tax attributes of the related expenditures are renounced to subscribers. At the time the Company renounces the tax attributes of the expenditures to the subscribers, share capital is reduced and future tax liabilities are increased by the estimated income tax benefits renounced.

8. Changes in Non-Cash Working Capital

	Three Months ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Cash provided by (used in):		
Concentrate awaiting settlement	\$ 17,346	\$ (5,990)
Inventories and stockpiles	(722)	(83)
Accounts receivable and other assets	376	284
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,011)	(2,614)
Taxes payable	(116)	1,200
	<u>\$ 14,873</u>	<u>\$ (7,203)</u>

During the three months ended March 31, 2005, mining interests were acquired at an aggregate cost of \$7,507 (three months ended March 31, 2004 - \$3,968) of which \$1,438 (three months ended March 31, 2004 - \$248) were acquired by means of capital lease.

9. Revenue from Metal Sales

	Three Months ended March 31	
	2005	2004
Palladium (a)	\$ 11,870	\$ 31,723
Adjustments for mark-to-market	326	2,312
Nickel	4,886	6,229
Platinum	4,826	5,534
Gold	1,818	3,306
Copper	1,986	2,912
Other metals	494	1,140
	<u>\$ 26,206</u>	<u>\$ 53,156</u>

(a) The Company has a Palladium Sales Contract with a major automobile manufacturer, which provides for a floor price of US\$325 per ounce on 100% of palladium production delivered by June 30, 2005. During the first quarter of 2004, revenue was recognized at the floor price of US\$325 per ounce for all of the palladium. During the first quarter of 2005, revenue on 6,403 ounces of palladium production was recognized at the floor price of US\$325 per ounce while revenue for the balance of palladium production, which will be available for physical delivery after June 30, 2005, was recognized at the March 31, 2005 quoted market price of US\$199 per ounce.

10. Commitments

The Company enters into forward contracts from time to time to hedge the effects of changes in the prices of metals it produces and foreign exchange on the Company's revenues. Gains and losses realized on derivative financial instruments used to mitigate

metal price risk are recognized in revenue from metal sales when the hedge transaction occurs.

(a) Platinum Forward Contracts

At March 31, 2005, the Company had forward sales contracts for 12,000 ounces of platinum at an average price of US\$843 per ounce maturing at various dates through December 2005. The fair value of these forward sales contracts was below their carrying value by \$334 as at March 31, 2005.

(b) Nickel Swap Contracts

At March 31, 2005, the Company had swap contracts for 1,190,000 lbs. of nickel at an average fixed price of US\$6.63 per lb. maturing at various dates through September 2005. The fair value of these swap contracts was below their carrying value by \$510 at March 31, 2005.

(c) Copper Swap Contracts

At March 31, 2005, the Company had swap contracts for 1,653,000 lbs. of copper at an average fixed price of US\$1.25 per lb. maturing at various dates through December 2005. The fair value of these swap contracts was below their carrying value by \$333 as at March 31, 2005.

(d) Gold Forward Contracts

At March 31, 2005, the Company had forward sales contracts for 9,000 ounces of gold at an average price of US\$435 per ounce maturing at various dates through December 2005. The fair value of these forward sales contracts was above their carrying value by \$10 as at March 31, 2005.

11. Comparative Period Figures

Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the classification adopted in the current period.