

# THE SPRINGPOLE

## ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2021



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Dan Wilton Chief Executive Officer, First Mining Gold

At First Mining Gold, we are committed to fostering real partnerships with the neighbouring communities of our Springpole Gold Project. Our hope is to create meaningful engagement and respectful dialogue in the years to come.

You are a vital partner in this development. Through this newsletter,

we strive to provide open and transparent communication that keeps you informed about the Springpole Gold Project.

We look forward to working together to ensure the Springpole Gold Project is developed in a way that minimizes environmental impact, pays respect to the land that we are privileged to work on, and contributes to the wellbeing of local communities.

It is our honour to be entrusted with this responsibility and we look forward to living, working, and sharing together on this journey.

Please be on the lookout for future opportunities and dates for consultation, dialogue, and information exchange.

Thank you <Miigwetch>.

### FIRST MINING GOLD NEWSLETTER

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## ABOUT FIRST MINING GOLD

First Mining Gold (FMG) is a Canadian gold developer focused on the development and permitting of the Springpole Gold Project. Located approximately 110 km northeast of Red Lake and 140 km north of Sioux Lookout, Springpole is one of the largest undeveloped gold projects in Canada with Mineral Reserves of 3.8 million ounces of gold and 20.5 million ounces of silver.

In March 2021, FMG filed an independent, pre-feasibility study technical report for the Springpole Gold Project. A pre-feasibility study is an early-stage analysis of a potential mining project, providing an overview of a mining project's logistics, capital requirements, and other technical information that is important to decision-making.

Construction on the Springpole Gold Project can begin after the necessary environmental approvals and permits have been obtained. The environmental assessment (EA) process will take approximately 2–3 years to complete. Mine operations are currently expected to last approximately 12 years.

#### First Mining Gold's commitment to stakeholders is guided by its core values:

- We are driven by integrity, transparency, and respect
- We continue to build relationships and partnerships for future success
- We work responsibly to achieve safe and sustainable operations at our projects
- We embrace challenges and continuously strive for optimal solutions
- We value the strength of our talented and diverse team
- We respect our shareholders' investment – in our projects, in our people and in our communities

## THE SPRINGPOLE GOLD PROJECT Timeline at a Glance

#### 2015

FMG completes acquisition of Gold Canyon Resources Inc., which wholly-owns the Springpole Gold Project.

#### 2017

FMG announces a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment.

#### 2018

FMG submitted the Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now called the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada). Based on the Project Description, a Federal Environmental Assessment was required, and the government issued Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for the Project.

#### 2019

FMG announces the positive results of an updated Preliminary Economic Assessment.

#### **MARCH 2021**

FMG announces positive pre-feasibility study for the Springpole Gold Project.

#### **APRIL 2021**

FMG submitted the Project's Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The ToR is the framework for the preparation and review of the provincial Environmental Assessment.

#### Working Together to Responsibly Develop the Lands

FMG will continuously engage and consult with Indigenous communities, government, and the public through the life of the Springpole Gold Project. We are developing innovative ways to continue to connect with our audiences, including launching a Springpole Project website, as well as social, digital, and traditional media channels.

The Springpole Environmental Assessment Portal can be found under Environmental Assessment & Permitting at: <u>firstmininggold.com/</u> <u>projects/springpole-project/</u>. You can always connect with us, and we want to hear from you.

The Springpole Gold Project includes the development, operation and eventual decommissioning and rehabilitation of mining and milling facilities, along with the supporting infrastructure. The existing infrastructure includes a camp to house exploration, maintenance, and environmental workers.

We believe the Springpole Gold Project can play a meaningful role in encouraging the development of the road network in the area. For example, an all-season road would provide Cat Lake First Nation and communities to the north with reliable access to the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, a major services hub for Northern Ontario.

We look forward to the Project's continual improvement through collaboration with our local and Indigenous communities and stakeholders as we advance the Springpole Gold Project through the federal and provincial EA processes.

## MORE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The next step in the planning process is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) study. One of the main goals of an EA is to ensure that a development is carried out in a way that minimizes negative impacts and maximizes benefits to the surrounding environment and communities. This study is used to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and, where required, identify mitigation measures for potential effects.



#### Key components of an environmental assessment include:

- Consultation with government agencies, local municipalities, Indigenous communities, and the general public;
- Consideration and evaluation of alternative methods and locations for project components; and,
- Assessment of potential environmental effects and outcomes.

To ensure that this process is carried out with consideration of the views of all parties, FMG will engage and consult with our federal, provincial, and Indigenous communities to develop a comprehensive EA report.

Once finalized, the EA report will be used by the federal and provincial governments to determine the potential environmental effects, and development of enforceable conditions to be included in the decision report. This whole process can take over two years to complete, and we feel it is important to work collaboratively throughout the process to shape the Project in a constructive manner.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES**

Environmental baseline studies support the EA process by understanding the conditions of the project area before a development takes place. This provides a benchmark of information from which the effects of a development can be measured, as well as a road map for how the land can be returned as closely as possible to its natural state after the life of the development. Environmental baseline studies have been carried out at the Project for almost 10 years, providing useful information for the EA. The current baseline reports can be found on the Springpole Environmental Assessment Portal. To access the portal, find the link under Environmental Assessment and Permitting at: firstmininggold. com/projects/springpole-project/.

## The baseline reports can be broken down into 3 categories:

**Physical Environment:** The study of the physical conditions of the area, including:

- air quality,
- ambient light,
- geochemistry,
- hydrogeology (groundwater),
- sound and vibration, and
- surface water.

**Biological Environment:** The study of biological conditions that support:

- aquatic biology,
- terrestrial plants and vegetation, and
- wildlife.

**Human Environment:** The study of the socio-economic conditions of the area, including:

- archaeology,
- cultural heritage,
- human health,
- land and resource use,
- socio-economics, and
- traditional knowledge.

We recognize the deep traditional and cultural ties to the region, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn more, from you. FMG is working to ensure that the Springpole Gold Project is undertaken such that it will provide lasting benefits to the local communities and economy, while protecting the environment for future generations as well.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

#### **Project Newsletter Naming Contest**

First Mining Gold is holding a contest to name our Springpole Gold Project newsletters!

You can win a \$250 gift card!

The winner will be judged unanimously based on originality and best suited name for the Springpole Gold Project newsletter.

Please send your newsletter name to **communityrelations@firstmininggold.com** to enter.



#### DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS

July 15, 2021

We look forward to your participation!

To be added to the electronic distribution list for this newsletter, please email communityrelations@firstmininggold.com

You can also follow First Mining Gold on Facebook for the latest news and updates.





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# If you have questions or comments about the Project, contact us at:

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