

# Let's Talk:

## The Côté Gold Project Community Newsletter

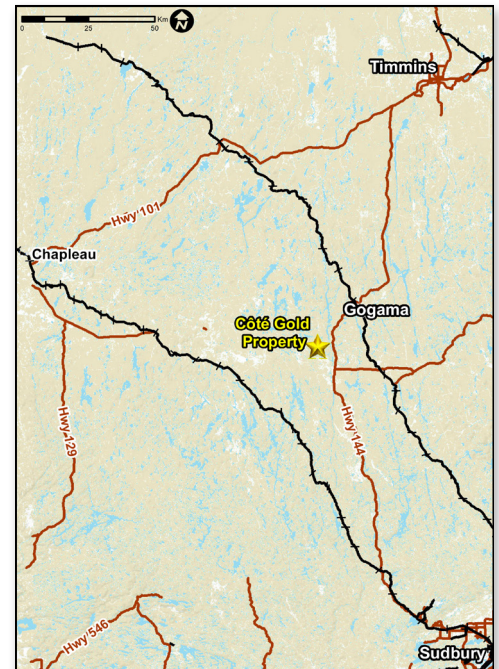
The Côté Gold Project (the Project) is a proposed open pit gold mine that is located approximately 20 km southwest of Gogama and 130 km southwest of Timmins. Currently in the early development phase, the Project will provide a positive impact on the economy of Northern Ontario by creating approximately 1,000 jobs during the construction phase and once in operation about 400-500 employees will be needed.

The Côté Gold Project is a joint venture between IAMGOLD and Sumitomo Metal Mining Co.

## Côté Project Update

### What's new?

On January 28, 2019, IAMGOLD Corporation announced that the company was deferring the construction decision on the Côté Gold Project due to current market conditions. Construction was previously expected to start this year. IAMGOLD continues to believe strongly in the Côté Gold Project and intends to continue working on the Project with Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. to advance it towards development once market conditions improve.



*Côté Gold Project Location*

### What won't change?

IAMGOLD has publicly stated that they remain supportive of the Project. However, a positive construction decision in the near future remains challenging as the equity market maintains a negative outlook on large capital expenditure projects due to execution risk and the gold price remains volatile. Nonetheless, the Company will continue to advance permitting and engineering work to ensure the Project is able to proceed expeditiously once market conditions improve. IAMGOLD will also maintain its current level of presence and activities in the region including the regional office in Sudbury.

### What's next?

IAMGOLD's current focus is to substantially de-risk the Project through obtaining necessary permitting approvals and by maintaining community engagement efforts. This will allow the company to quickly proceed to construction once market conditions are supportive.





## Current Site Activities

There will be controlled burning of slash piles within the Côté Gold Project leased property from March 4-31, 2019. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has been notified and this work is being done in accordance with the MNRF policies and guidelines for controlled burning.

A number of different drilling programs are currently being executed within the Project boundary. IAMGOLD is currently working on a geotechnical drilling investigation to support detailed engineering designs. Also, a geology grade control drilling program is underway to help better understand proposed open pit geology in targeted areas. Regional exploration drilling activities will be ongoing throughout the year.

## Closure Plan for the Côté Gold Project

IAMGOLD filed the Mine Closure Plan (as required under the *Mining Act*) with the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines in October 2018. The Closure Plan outlines how IAMGOLD will rehabilitate the affected land and identifies costs associated with the rehabilitation. Mine closure involves the completion of mineral extraction, processing and transportation activities and the removal of the site facilities and infrastructure which supported these activities. After site facilities and infrastructure have been removed, all soil cover materials, vegetation and surface water features modified during the life of the mine must be restored to a quality, quantity and appearance that is as close as possible to pre-development conditions or the baseline environmental conditions measured and described during the beginning of mine development. We received confirmation from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines that the Mine Closure Plan and Financial Assurance was approved on December 27, 2018.

## Consultation on the Closure Plan

IAMGOLD's approach to consultation focuses on building and preserving relationships with affected communities and interested stakeholders. Consultation on closure concepts which began in spring of 2013, informed the Federal and Provincial Environmental Assessments and has continued since Federal and Provincial Environmental Assessment approvals. A thorough record of our consultation with communities and stakeholders on the Closure Plan is available on the IAMGOLD website: <http://www.iamgold.com/cotegold-documents>. Open houses were held in Gogama, Timmins and Sudbury to share information on mine closure and to seek input from the public during these sessions. Consultation meetings were held with the Métis Nation of Ontario- Region 3 Consultation Committee in April 2018 and open houses were held in Mattagami First Nation in May and August 2018 and in Flying Post First Nation May and September 2018.

A 30 day public review and comment period for the Closure Plan was held from November 16, 2018 to December 16, 2018 by the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. All comments received during the comment period were considered as part of the decision-making process by the Ministry.

## How Comments Were Addressed in the Closure Plan

IAMGOLD received comments throughout the Environmental Assessment and closure planning process that informed the Closure Plan submission. Comments influenced changes to the Closure Plan in five key areas:

1. New Lake – during consultation sessions on the draft Closure Plan, IAMGOLD received feedback from Mattagami First Nation that they wished the New Lake to remain following mine closure. Previously, this New Lake was proposed to be decommissioned.
2. Closure Objective – feedback received from the technical review of the draft Closure Plan by Flying Post First Nation and Mattagami First Nation resulted in clarification of the Closure objective for the Project. The new objective reads: The primary objective of the Closure Plan is to rehabilitate the Project site area to promote endemic flora and fauna, and aquatic habitat that supports healthy fish populations. Once the open pit is flooded the open pit lake will be incorporated into the exiting watershed. Access will be maintained or re-established for traditional and non-traditional land users.
3. Revegetation – based on feedback received from Flying Post First Nation and Mattagami First Nation, IAMGOLD will include traditional plants in the seed mix for revegetation purposes. This will support the use of the land for traditional purposes, specifically plant and medicine harvesting, following Closure.
4. Language – feedback was received from Flying Post First Nation noting language used in the draft Closure Plan related to revegetation, specifically using the word “recolonization” in the context of plants. The history of colonization of Indigenous people was the catalyst for the concern over the wording in the Closure Plan. Thus it was changed to reflect a greater sensitivity and understanding of Indigenous people. The Closure Plan now refers to “revegetation” and the comment has been passed along to members of our permitting team to ensure that language use is carefully considered in all Project documentation going forward.
5. Adaptive Management – a framework for an adaptive management approach is discussed in the Closure Plan and more detail on the mine rock adaptive management plan has been added in response to requests for additional information by technical reviewers to Mattagami First Nation and Flying Post First Nation. Additional details will be developed as the Project’s management and monitoring plans are advanced.



## Community Engagement

IAMGOLD is committed to ongoing engagement with local communities and Indigenous groups (First Nations and Métis) throughout the life of the Project. IAMGOLD strives to ensure anyone interested has the opportunity to learn about the Project. Some of the ways IAMGOLD is doing this is through attending community events, hosting site visits, open houses and review sessions on various elements of the Project. By establishing positive working relationships, we are able to share information and gather valuable feedback from community members and Indigenous leaders.

Approximately 460 people participated in various community events in 2018.

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## Access to the Côté Gold Project Site

Entry to and exit from the site must occur through designated access points. This is essential for safety as current activities include the use of heavy equipment.

Project site access for individuals completing work for the Wood EPCM team will be coordinated through the Wood Site Manager. All other visitors shall contact the IAMGOLD Manager of Environment and Community Relations to make arrangements.

The Security office is currently located at the Project Exploration site and everyone accessing the site will need to sign in at this office. Access to the site is via Mesomikenda Lake Road off of Highway 144 (approximately 2 km from the turn-off).

## 4M Canoe Route

The 4M Canoe Route crosses through the Côté Gold Project property. IAMGOLD requests that users of the 4M Canoe Route reach out to the Project's Community Relations team prior to embarking on the route to ensure safe passage through the property during Project construction, operations and closure.

**Please note that the camp site at Portage 3 will no longer be available for use.**

Please contact us at [cotegold@iamgold.com](mailto:cotegold@iamgold.com) or call 705-923-3369 as part of your trip planning!

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## Future Opportunities

The Project is expected to create over 1,000 construction jobs during development and about 400-500 full time jobs during operations. It will rely heavily on northern communities for skilled jobs and expertise and we look forward to working closely with Indigenous and local communities to ensure that this is truly a northern Ontario project.

In the future, the Project will need workers to fill a wide range of positions that support mining operations, including mining and mineral processing, administration, finance, communications, human resources and information technology.

If you are interested in providing services or supplies to the Project during construction and operations, please reach out to us to share information about your business's services.



**For more information please contact us: [cotegold@iamgold.com](mailto:cotegold@iamgold.com)**

Join our Project mailing list to be kept informed about the Project and any upcoming events by sending an email to: [cotegold@iamgold.com](mailto:cotegold@iamgold.com)

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français.