

## 15.0 SUMMARY OF BENEFITS TO CANADIANS

### 15.1 Changes to the Project Since Initially Proposed

As per the Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines, the Environmental Assessment (EA) includes, a summary of the changes that have been made to the Project since originally proposed, and the benefits of these changes to the environment, Aboriginal peoples, and the public. A summary of the changes to the Côté Gold Project (the Project) since it was presented to the Federal and Provincial authorities, as well as Aboriginal communities and the general public, is provided in Table 15-1.

Changes to the Project were triggered by the following:

- comments received to date during the Federal and Provincial Project definition process, open houses and consultation with Aboriginal communities;
- additional baseline and other relevant information; and
- additions to, and changes based on engineering design and further definition of the Project, environmental effects, mitigation measures and management plans.

**Table 15-1: Changes to the Project since Initially Proposed**

Changes to the Project	Comment	Benefits to the Environment, Aboriginal Groups and Public
Modifications to on-site access roads	Reflects further engineering design and reflects the location of other Project components.	None
TMF layout refined	Reflects increased engineering knowledge.	None
MRA alternatives modified	A single MRA is now considered to the south-west of the open pit, reflecting further engineering design to minimize the Project footprint, reduce potential effects on the environment and to address concerns about the proximity of the MRA to local cottagers. The public had also indicated that the other MRA locations were too close to the cottages.	Reduced potential for environmental effects on local receptors (air quality, noise and visual aesthetics).
Addition of ditching and associated seepage collection ponds at the MRA	Design optimized with overall Project design to reflect proposed water management practices (allows for monitoring and treatment options).	Reduced potential for environmental effects (water quality).
Water management and treatment options defined	An integrated water management system has been designed, reflecting further engineering design to reduce freshwater needs and potential effects on the environment.	Reduced potential for environmental effects (water quality and hydrology).

Changes to the Project	Comment	Benefits to the Environment, Aboriginal Groups and Public
Definition of the minewater pond, TMF reclaim and TMF polishing ponds	Reflects further engineering design and proposed water treatment / supply management, including maximized water re-use.	Reduced potential for environmental effects (water quality and hydrology).
Preferred effluent discharge location selection – Bagsverd Creek	Location selected to reflect increased engineering knowledge to reduce potential effects on water flow changes caused by watercourse realignments. The public also indicated a preference to avoid direct discharge to Mesomikenda Lake.	Reduced potential for environmental effects (water quality, hydrology and aquatic biology).
Optimization of the proposed watercourse realignments	Proposed watercourse realignments for the Mollie River system have been adapted. Additional realignments are proposed for Three Duck Lakes, Chester Lake and Clam Lake to reflect further engineering design to accommodate and allow for safe development and operation of the open pit and associated infrastructure.	Proposed watercourse realignment plan improves the offsetting loss of fish habitat.
Minor routing change of 230 kV Cross-Country transmission line alignment alternative	Routing optimized to reflect further engineering knowledge and comments from the government agencies to minimize overhead crossings over watercourses/lakes.	Reduced potential for environmental effects (aquatic biology). Maintain recreational and commercial float plane access to Kenogamissi Lake.
Expansion of a landfill – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Neville Township Landfill acquisition	An existing landfill selected off site has been included to meet non-hazardous solid waste management needs for the Project.	Maintain access for local users. Reduced potential for environmental effects (terrestrial biology).

## 15.2 Benefits of the Project

IAMGOLD has received inquiries and comments regarding the Project through the various consultation activities held to date. Most inquiries and comments centre on employment, business, and training opportunities. The region has experienced declines in employment and population, as people relocate for other opportunities. Employment has decreased in the region in large part due to shutdowns in the forestry industry.

Construction and operations are expected to have a net positive effect on the regional economy, as well as encouraging population growth. This is due to the expectation that employment opportunities arising from the Project's development and operation will encourage skilled and non-skilled workers to remain and/or return on both the short- and long-term. Construction and operational activities will stimulate the economy by expenditures and service requirements,

generating jobs and income in local industries and Ontario at large. This effect to both regional and Provincial economies will be continuous during the construction and operation phases.

During the construction and operations phases, people directly employed are expected to earn a wage of approximately 3.0 times the urban regional study area average median earnings of those working full-time.

The Project, which is to procure approximately \$648 million in goods and services during the construction phase, will have a positive and highly distinguishable effect on businesses in the local and regional study areas. The effect on government revenues is also expected to be positive and outside normal variation: \$160 million in provincial and federal government revenues through direct economic activity and \$240 million through direct, indirect and induced economic activity is expected.

The Project is estimated to create an annual average of \$177 million in contracted expenditures on goods and services during the operations phase. The Project is also estimated to generate \$483 million in government revenues for the Federal government and \$241 million in government revenues for the Provincial government over the operations phase.

Work experience, training and other skill-development through direct or indirect involvement in the Project is expected for Project employees and participants. These experiences and skills are expected to allow them opportunities for employment or business development in similar or other economic sectors beyond the life of the Project.