BIG RIDGE GOLD CORP.

(An Exploration Stage Company)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the Three and Six Months Ended December 31, 2023

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") of Big Ridge Gold Corp. ("Big Ridge" or "the Company") provides information relevant to an assessment and understanding of the financial condition and results of operations of the Company. This MD&A should be read in conjunction with the Company's condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the periods ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the notes thereto, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This MD&A includes information available to February 27, 2024. Unless otherwise stated, all currency amounts are stated in Canadian dollars, and all financial information provided in this MD&A is prepared in accordance with IFRS.

FORWARD LOOKING INFORMATION

Certain information contained in this MD&A constitutes forward-looking information within the meaning of Canadian securities laws ("forward-looking statements"). All statements in this MD&A, other than statements of historical fact, which address events, results, outcomes or developments that Big Ridge expects to occur are forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements relate to future events or future performance and reflect management's expectations or beliefs regarding future events and include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to the estimation of mineral reserves and resources, the realization of mineral reserve estimates, the timing and amount of estimated future production, costs of production, capital expenditures, success of mining operations, environmental risks, permitting risks, unanticipated reclamation expenses, title disputes or claims and limitations on insurance coverage. In certain cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "expects" or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates" or "does not anticipate", or "believes", or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved" or the negative of these terms or comparable terminology. By their very nature forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, risks related to actual results of current exploration activities; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; future prices of resources; possible variations in ore reserves, grade or recovery rates; accidents, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals or financing or in the completion of development or construction activities; as well as those factors detailed from time to time in the Company's interim and annual financial statements which are filed and available for review on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.com. Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Other than as specifically required by law, Big Ridge undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, whether as a result of new information, future events or results otherwise.

QUALIFIED PERSONS AND CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING MINERAL RESOURCES

The disclosure in this MD&A of information of a scientific or technical nature for the Company's Hope Brook Gold Project ("HBGP"), including disclosure of mineral resources, is based on the HBGP Technical Report (as hereinafter defined) prepared in accordance with National Instrument 43-101 – Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("**NI 43-101**"), as summarized under "Hope Brook Gold Project" in this MD&A, and other information that has been prepared by or under the supervision of "qualified persons" (as such term is defined in NI 43-101) with the consent of such persons. The HBGP Technical Report has been filed on SEDAR+ and can be reviewed at www.sedarplus.com. Actual recoveries of mineral products may differ from reported mineral reserves and resources due to inherent uncertainties in acceptable estimating techniques. In particular, "indicated" and "inferred" mineral resources have a greater amount of uncertainty as to their existence, economic and legal feasibility. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of an "indicated" or "inferred" mineral resource will ever be upgraded to a higher category of mineral resource or, ultimately, a mineral reserve. Mineral resources that are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of a mineral deposit with resources in these categories will ever be converted into proven or probable reserves.

Except where specifically indicated otherwise, the scientific and technical information contained in this MD&A was reviewed and approved by William McGuinty, P.Geo., Vice President Exploration for the Company, a Qualified Person in accordance with NI 43-101.

CAUTIONARY NOTE TO U.S. INVESTORS

This MD&A has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the securities laws in effect in Canada, which differ materially from the requirements of United States securities laws applicable to U.S. companies. For U.S reporting purposes, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has adopted amendments to its disclosure rules (the "SEC Modernization Rules") to modernize the mineral property disclosure requirements for issuers, referred to as "mining registrants", whose securities are registered with the SEC. These amendments became effective in February 2019 with compliance required for the first fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2021. While not applicable to Big Ridge, the SEC Modernization Rules replace the historical property disclosure requirements for mining registrants that were included in SEC Industry Guide 7, which will be rescinded from and after the required compliance date of the SEC Modernization Rules. Information concerning our mineral properties has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Canadian securities laws, which differ in material respects from the requirements of the SEC set forth in Industry Guide 7. In accordance with NI 43-101, the terms "mineral reserve", "proven mineral reserve", "probable mineral reserve", "mineral resource", "measured mineral resource", "indicated mineral resource" and "inferred mineral resource" are defined in accordance with CIM standards. Whereas the terms "mineral resource", "measured mineral resource", "indicated mineral resource" and "inferred mineral resource" are recognized and required by NI 43-101, and now recognized under the SEC Modernization Rules, SEC Industry Guide 7 does not recognize them. Readers of this MD&A are cautioned that mineral resources do not have demonstrated economic viability. Inferred mineral resources have a high degree of uncertainty as to their existence and as to whether they can be economically or legally mined. It cannot be assumed that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource will ever be upgraded to a higher category. Therefore, readers are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an inferred mineral resource exists, that it can be economically or legally mined, or that it will ever be upgraded to a higher category. Likewise, readers are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of measured mineral resources or indicated mineral resources will ever be upgraded into mineral reserves.

OVERVIEW OF BIG RIDGE

Big Ridge is focused on the acquisition, exploration and development of precious-metals properties located in Canada. The Company was incorporated under the provisions of the Business Corporations Act (British Columbia) on June 6, 1987. The Company is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange as a Tier 2 mining issuer under the trading symbol BRAU and is a reporting issuer in the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

The Company is currently advancing the HBGP under the terms of an option agreement with First Mining Gold Corp., discussed below. At the date of this MD&A the Company has a 51% interest in the HBGP and may ultimately earn an interest of 80%. Big Ridge considers the HBGP its only material resource property interest.

In addition, the Company owns 100% interests in the following resource properties:

- The Destiny Gold Property in Quebec. As described under "Mineral Property interests" below, the Destiny property was the subject of an option agreement with Clarity Gold Corp., pursuant to which Clarity had the right but no obligation to earn an interest of up to 100% in the property. As described further in this MD&A, Clarity defaulted on its payment obligations in January 2022, thereby terminating the option agreement without affecting the Company's ownership interest in the project. The Company has no plans to undertake exploration activities at the Destiny property and has entered into discussions with interested parties in an effort to either sell or option the property.

- The Oxford Gold Property in Manitoba. Big Ridge has entered into an Exploration Agreement with the Bunibonibee Cree Nation ("BCN"), which will enable the Company to recommence exploration activity at Oxford once a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment can be completed. As reported below, the completion of this study and any consideration of commencing exploration activities at Oxford has been and continues to be delayed by the decision of the BCN not to allow the Company's archeological consultant to conduct in-person interviews with band elders, a critical component of the HRIA workplan.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Acquisition of Gold Island Inc.

On August 11, 2023, the Company closed its acquisition of the outstanding securities of Gold Island Inc. ("Gold Island"), an early-stage exploration company focused on exploring a portfolio of unproven, early-stage exploration and evaluation assets in Newfoundland. As set out in note 7 to the notes to the condensed interim consolidated financial statements, the Company issued securities to the securityholders of Gold Island with a closing date fair value of $5,074,330, as follows:

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	Number of instruments issued	Fair value
	#	$
Common shares	51,442,492	4,887,037
Stock options issued to replace 3,875,000 options issued by Gold Island and outstanding at the closing date, exercisable at a price of $0.15 per share and expiring on June 30, 2028	3,100,000	162,088
Broker warrants issued to replace warrants issued by Gold Island and outstanding on the closing date, exercisable at a price of $0.4375 and expiring on January 5, 2026	1,029,744	25,205
	55,572,236	**5,074,330**

The net assets acquired by Big Ridge are set out below.

	$
Current assets:	
Cash	3,834,563
Amounts receivable	23,487
Prepaids and deposits	30,479
	3,888,529
Property, plant and equipment	174,684
Exploration and evaluation assets	1,223,578
Total assets	**5,286,791**
Less:	
Trade payables	(163,336)
Lease liability	(49,125)
Net assets acquired	**5,074,330**

This acquisition followed a period of several months of discussions with existing stakeholders with respect to possible financings. Management considered this transaction to be superior to any financing that could have been undertaken in the context of the challenging capital markets faced by the Company throughout the current fiscal year. Specifically:

- The cash proceeds resulting from the acquisition, net of liabilities, amounted to approximately $3,622,000 and took the form of “hard dollar” assets.
- As mentioned in the Company’s press release dated July 17, 2023, the financing resulted in several high-profile resource sector investors either becoming new shareholders or increasing their holdings of the Company’s shares significantly.
- The portfolio of early-stage mineral properties held by Gold Island enhanced the focus of the Company on exploration in Newfoundland.

The cash component of this acquisition funds the Company’s planned exploration activities for the 2024 fiscal year.

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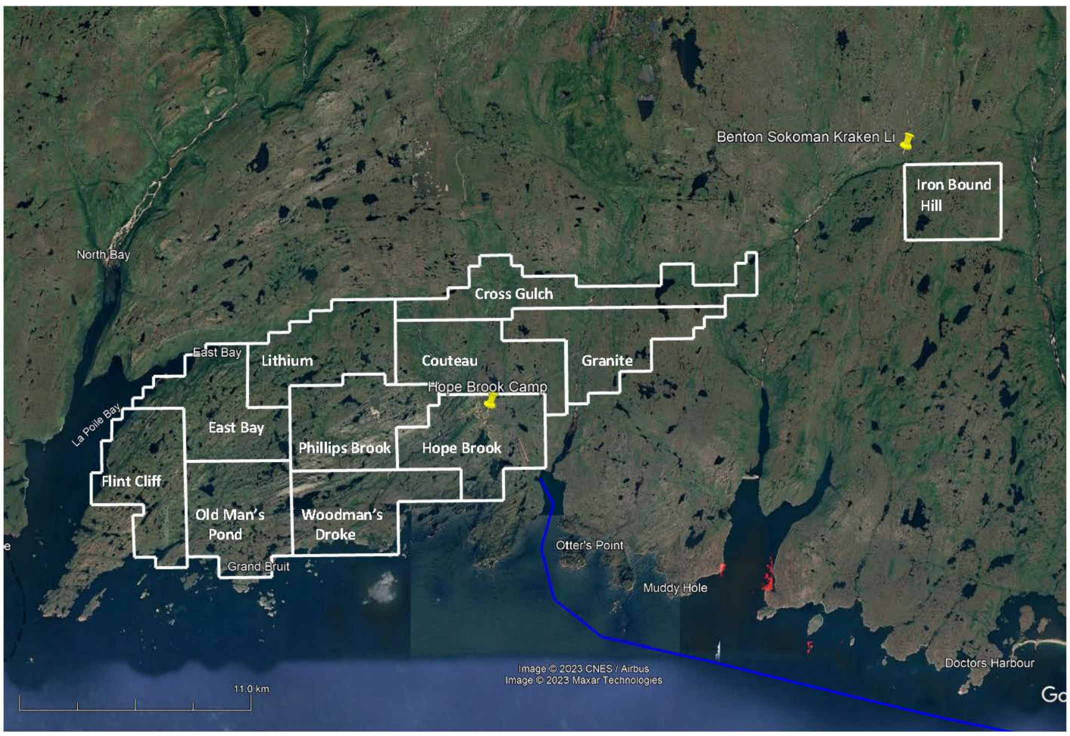
__Exploration at Hope Brook__

During the period ended December 31, 2023, the Company completed an exploration program focused on regional targets throughout the 10 mineral licenses that make up the Hope Brook property and Iron Bound Hill, which is located 15 km to the east of Hope Brook. Other than the Hope Brook license, which contains the current mineral resource estimate, and Iron Bound Hill, little exploration work had been undertaken on any of the other licenses in the past 20 years by previous operators. The purpose of this program was to establish whether a rationale existed for continuing to hold each license and to generate drill targets from new and historical information.

The map below shows the location of the ten contiguous licenses which make up the Hope Brook Gold Project and Iron Bound Hill, which is located to the east of Hope Brook.



Prospecting, mapping and sampling work was completed at each license based on a prospectivity compilation prepared in 2022 by Mercator Geological. During this program, a total of 534 grab and saw-cut channel samples were obtained. In addition, line cutting and magnetic and induced polarization surveys were completed on portions of the Hope Brook, Woodman's Droke and Old Man's Pond licenses. This work was completed in the first week of November 2023.

The prospecting program yielded actionable results, including:

- At Old Man's Pond, veining was observed with multiple directions, implying a complex structure. In addition, a strong alteration zone was observed over a one-kilometer length and 750-meter width, and the program confirmed that historical drilling on the license may have missed the zone observed at surface. The IP results seem to indicate strong easterly trending anomalies, which will be evaluated by prospecting and ground follow-up.

- At Phillips Brook, the program included resampling of old trenches. Historical drilling results support the completion of geophysics in the future.
- At Woodman's Droke, the Company revisited the sites of historical samples which had reported gold grades between 0.3-3.0 g/t and resampled the areas. Line cutting and geophysics were completed on the license. This license is considered a high priority for future exploration due to its stratigraphic continuity with the geology hosting the Hope Brook deposit.
- At Hope Brook, the license hosting the Hope Brook deposit, an IP grid was designed and extended in the southwest portion of the license, contiguous to Woodman's Droke.
- Limited prospecting work was carried out at the remaining Hope Brook licenses – Flint Cliff, East Bay, Couteau, and Lithium. No work was done at Granite.
- At Iron Bound Hill, which is located 200 meters from the Killick pegmatite zone being explored by Sokoman Minerals Corp. and Benton Resources Inc., prospecting work was completed to review the potential for gold mineralization and to evaluate the possibility of spodumene pegmatite occurrences. In addition, channel samples were taken from areas of historical trenching.

Assaying of samples collected in the course of this work program is complete at the date of this MD&A, and geophysical interpretation is underway and expected to be completed in the third quarter of the fiscal year. The results of this work will be used to downsize the Hope Brook land package. No firm decisions have been finalized as of the date of this MD&A as to which licences or claims will be abandoned, as this work will occur in tandem with the renewal of the Hope Brook licences in March and April 2024.

At December 31, 2023, the expenditures incurred to date by the Company represent approximately 55% of the outlay required under the second earn-in.

MINERAL PROPERTY INTERESTS

Hope Brook Gold Project:

On April 6, 2021, Big Ridge entered into an earn-in agreement with First Mining Gold Corp. ("First Mining"), pursuant to which the Company may earn an interest of up to 80% in the HBGP, a past producing mine located in Newfoundland and Labrador. This transaction closed on June 8, 2021.

On closing, Big Ridge paid First Mining $500,000 in cash and issued 11,500,000 common shares of Big Ridge, at which point Big Ridge became the operator of the project.

The earn-in was comprised of two stages, as described below:

- To exercise its first earn-in right to acquire a 51% interest in the Hope Brook Gold Project, the Company was required to incur and fund expenditures on the HBGP of no less than $10,000,000 by June 8, 2024 and to issue an additional 15,000,000 common shares to First Mining.

  On September 13, 2022, the Company met the expenditure requirements necessary to satisfy the first earn-in threshold set out in the Hope Brook option agreement and issued a total of 15,000,000 common shares to First Mining with an aggregate fair value of $1,950,000, completing the first earn-in related to the Hope Brook project, gaining an initial 51% interest in the project, and becoming party to a joint venture agreement for the HBGP with First Mining (49% interest). Concurrently with the creation of the joint venture, the joint venture entity granted to First Mining a 1.5% net smelter returns royalty on the HBGP, subject to a right of the Company to buy back 0.5% for $2 million.

- To earn an additional 29% interest in the HBGP, Big Ridge must incur an additional $10 million in expenditures on the project by June 8, 2026. Upon achieving this final expenditure threshold and issuing an additional 10,000,000 common shares (“Stage 2 Shares”) to First Mining, subject to the approval of the TSX Venture Exchange, Big Ridge will become the holder of an 80% interest in the HBGP. Big Ridge will solely fund all expenditures on the project up to and including the date on which Big Ridge announces the results of a feasibility study on the project, at which time First Mining’s free-carry period will terminate. If the issuance of the Stage 2 Shares would result in First Mining owning more than 19.9% of the total number of Big Ridge common shares issued and outstanding following such share issuance, the number of Stage 2 Shares shall be reduced such that First Mining will own no more than 19.9% of the total number of Big Ridge common shares issued and outstanding following the issuance of the Stage 2 Shares.

As mentioned above, the Company’s eligible exploration expenditures to December 31, 2023 represent progress of approximately 55% against the spending requirements related to the second stage earn-in.

In addition to the spending, share issuance and royalty requirements tied to the first and second earn-ins, upon the commencement of commercial production at the project, Big Ridge will pay $2 million to First Mining.

At December 31, 2023, the HBGP hosts an open-pit and underground gold resource, as described below. The resource table and the related notes are excerpted from the NI 43-101 Technical Report entitled “*Mineral Resource Estimate Update for the Hope Brook Gold Project, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada*”, prepared by Allan Armitage, Ph.D., P. Geo., and Ben Eggers, MAIG, P. Geo., issued April 6, 2023, with an effective date of January 17, 2023 (the “HBGP Technical Report”).

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Hope Brook Project Gold Mineral Resource Estimate, effective January 17, 2023

IN PIT				
Hope Brook	**Cut-off Grade (g/t Au)**	**Tonnes**	**Grade (Au g/t)**	**Contained Gold Ounces**
INDICATED				
Main Zone	0.4	14,584,000	2.14	1,002,000
UNDERGROUND				
Hope Brook	**Cut-off Grade (g/t Au)**	**Tonnes**	**Grade (Au g/t)**	**Contained Gold Ounces**
INDICATED				
240 Zone	2.0	544,000	4.31	75,000
Main Zone	2.0	1,062,000	3.78	129,000
INFERRED				
240 Zone	2.0	1,994,000	3.28	210,000
Main Zone	2.0	221,000	2.96	21,000
IN PIT AND UNDERGROUND				
Hope Brook	**Cut-off Grade (g/t Au)**	**Tonnes**	**Grade (Au g/t)**	**Contained Gold Ounces**
INDICATED				
240 Zone	2.0	544,000	4.31	75,000
Main Zone	0.4 and 2.0	15,646,000	2.25	1,131,000
INFERRED				
240 Zone	2.0	1,994,000	3.28	210,000
Main Zone	2.0	221,000	2.96	21,000

Notes:

(1) *The classification of the current Mineral Resource Estimate into Indicated and Inferred is consistent with current 2014 CIM Definition Standards - For Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves.*

(2) *All figures are rounded to reflect the relative accuracy of the estimate.*

(3) *All Resources are presented undiluted and in situ, constrained by continuous 3D wireframe models, and are considered to have reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction.*

(4) *Mineral resources which are not mineral reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. An Inferred Mineral Resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to a Measured and Indicated Mineral Resource and must not be converted to a Mineral Reserve. It is reasonably expected that the majority of Inferred Mineral Resources could be upgraded to Indicated Mineral Resources with continued exploration.*

(5) *The update MRE is based on data for 763 surface and underground drill holes representing 164,865 m of drilling, including data for 60 surface drill holes for 19,090 m completed by Big Ridge in 2021 and 2022.*

(6) *The mineral resource estimate is based on 2 three-dimensional ("3D") resource models for the Main Zone and 240 Zones.*

(7) *High grade capping was done on the 1.5 m composite data. A Capping value of 50 g/t Au was to the Main Zone and 40 g/t Au for the 240 Zone.*

(8) *Average density values were assigned per zone.*

(9) *Gold is estimated for each mineralization domain. Blocks (5x5x5) within each mineralized domain were interpolated using 1.5 metre capped composites assigned to that domain. To generate grade within the blocks, the inverse distance squared (ID^2) interpolation method was used for all domains.*

(10) ***It** is envisioned that parts of the Main Zone may be mined using open pit mining methods. Open pit mineral resources are reported at a base case cut-off grade of 0.4 g/t Au within a conceptual pit shell.*

(11) *It is envisioned that parts of the Main Zone as well as the 240 Zone may be mined using underground mining methods. A selected base case cut-off grade of 2.0 g/t Au is used to determine the underground mineral*

resource for the Main Zone and 240 Zone. The underground Mineral Resource grade blocks were quantified above the base case cut-off grade, below the constraining pit shell and within the constraining mineralized wireframes.

(12) *Base case cut-off grades consider a metal price of US$1750.00/oz Au and considers a metal recovery of 86 % for Au.*

(13) *The pit optimization and in-pit base case cut-off grade of 0.4 g/t Au considers a mining cost of US$2.65/t rock and processing, treatment and refining, transportation and G&A cost of US$15.60/t mineralized material, and an overall pit slope of 55°. The underground base case cut-off grade of 2.0 g/t Au considers a mining cost of US$54.00/t rock and processing, treatment and refining, transportation and G&A cost of US$15.55. The cut-off grades should be re-evaluated in light of future prevailing market conditions (metal prices, exchange rates, mining costs etc.).*

(14) *The results from the pit optimization are used solely for the purpose of testing the "reasonable prospects for economic extraction" by an open pit and do not represent an attempt to estimate mineral reserves. There are no mineral reserves on the Property. The results are used as a guide to assist in the preparation of a Mineral Resource statement and to select an appropriate resource reporting cut-off grade.*

(15) *The estimate of Mineral Resources may be materially affected by environmental, permitting, legal, title, taxation, socio-political, marketing, or other relevant issues. There is no certainty that all or any part of the Inferred Mineral Resource will be upgraded to an Indicated or Measured Mineral Resource as a result of continued exploration. There is no other relevant data or information available that is necessary to make the technical report understandable and not misleading.*

(16) *The Author is not aware of any known mining, processing, metallurgical, environmental, infrastructure, economic, permitting, legal, title, taxation, socio-political, or marketing issues, or any other relevant factors not reported in this technical report, that could materially affect the updated MRE.*

The details of the copper mineral resource estimate presented below are excerpted from the press release dated February 21, 2023.

Hope Brook Project Copper Mineral Resource Estimate, effective January 17, 2023

Category	In-pit @ 0.40 g/t Au cut-off		
	Tonnes	Cu (%)	Cu (lbs)
Inferred			
Main Zone	14,584,000	**0.12**	**39,328,000**
Category	**Below-pit @ 2.0 g/t Au cut-off**		
	Tonnes	Cu (%)	Cu (lbs)
Inferred			
240 Zone	2,538,000	**0.08**	**4,479,000**
Main Zone	1,283,000	**0.12**	**3,195,000**
Category	**Total**		
	Tonnes	Cu (%)	Cu (lbs)
Inferred			
240 Zone	2,538,000	**0.08**	**4,479,000**
Main Zone	15,867,000	**0.12**	**42,523,000**

Management believes the current Technical Report provides significant potential to further increase the mineral resource associated with the Hope Brook deposit, at and below, and down-plunge from, the existing Main and 240 Zones.

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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Company's consolidated results of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 are set out below.

	Three months ended December 31		Six months ended December 31	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	$	$	$	$
EXPENSES				
Exploration expense	976,985	209,694	1,918,412	2,162,287
General and administrative expense	364,169	369,611	735,527	464,824
Finance income, net	(7,859)	(44,588)	(14,446)	(36,031)
Other income	-	(11,000)	-	(11,000)
Equity loss impact of equity accounted investment	38,870	41,752	58,655	88,897
Loss and comprehensive loss	**1,372,165**	**565,469**	**2,698,148**	**2,668,977**

Three months ended December 31, 2023:

- **Exploration expenses** increased from $209,694 to $976,985. The prior period costs are associated with the completion of the Company's inaugural drilling program at Hope Brook and are not directly comparable to the expenses incurred in the current period, which relate to the regional exploration program described above under "*Exploration at Hope Brook*".
- **General and administrative expenses** increased from $369,611 to $364,169. The most significant components of this increase are set out below.
  - **Salaries, wages and benefits** charged to operations increased from $115,157 to $130,294, reflecting both changes to compensation for the Company's senior management and increased fees paid to the Company's directors following the appointment of a seventh director in August 2024.
  - **Share based compensation expense** decreased from $127,237 to $114,260. The expense for each period reflects a combination of:
    - Stock option expense, which decreased from $40,920 to $19,514 and reflected a decrease in the number of unvested options during the period.
    - Expenses related to the Company's cash- and equity-based DSU plans and its RSU plan, which increased from an aggregate expense of $86,217 to an aggregate expense of $94,746. The expense recognized in the current period with respect to these plans reflects both the recognition over the vesting periods of DSUs and RSUs to its directors and officers in prior periods and mark to market adjustments in the value of liabilities with respect to each plan, in line with movements in the price of the Company's common shares from one reporting period to another.
  - **Professional fees** decreased from $29,549 to $8,910 as a result of reduced audit fees.
  - **Investor relations** increased from $17,969 to $31,620 as a result of increased costs associated with a private market maker engaged by the Company.
  - **Amortization** increased from $22,043 to $34,740 as a result of the assets held by Gold Island at the acquisition date.

Six months ended December 31, 2023:

- **Exploration expenses** decreased from $2,162,287 to $1,918,412. The prior period costs are associated with the completion of the Company's inaugural drilling program at Hope Brook and are not directly comparable to the expenses incurred in the current period, which relate to the regional exploration program described above under "*Exploration at Hope Brook*".
- **General and administrative expenses** increased from $464,824 to $735,527. The most significant components of this increase are set out below.
    - **Salaries, wages and benefits** charged to operations increased from $230,696 to $265,534, reflecting both changes to compensation for the Company's senior management and increased fees paid to the Company's directors following the appointment of a seventh director in August 2024.
    - **Share based compensation expense** increased from a negative expense of $10,464 to an expense of $167,980. The expense for each period reflects a combination of:
        - Stock option expense, which decreased from $82,277 to $113,697, due in part to the issuance of options during the current period with immediate vesting.
        - Expenses related to the Company's cash- and equity-based DSU plans and its RSU plan, which increased from an aggregate negative expense of $92,741 to an aggregate expense of $54,283. The expense recognized in the current period with respect to these plans reflects both the recognition over the vesting periods of DSUs and RSUs to its directors and officers in prior periods and mark to market adjustments in the value of liabilities with respect to each plan, in line reporting period to another.
    - **Professional fees** increased from $$44,062 to $60,138, primarily as a result of legal fees incurred with respect to the acquisition of Gold island.
    - **Investor relations** increased from $37,136 to $70,508 reflecting increased costs associated with a private market maker engaged by the Company.
    - **Amortization** increased from $43,601 to $72,752 as a result of the assets held by Gold Island at the acquisition date.

OUTLOOK

Hope Brook

The Company's overarching objective is to advance the Hope Brook project. Prior to the start of the current period, the Company reorganized the Hope Brook claims. During this reorganization, 24 claims located either under water or in areas of unfavourable geology were abandoned and allowed to lapse in March and April 2023. The remaining 979 claims were reorganized into 10 mineral licenses and renewed on March 23, 2023.

These claims are now over 20 years old, which has resulted in the loss of any work credits earned in the course of exploration activities carried out in prior periods and significant increases in both the work requirements needed to keep the licenses in good standing and the costs to renew the licenses each year. As mentioned above under "*Exploration at Hope Brook*", the exploration program completed in the first and second quarters of the current fiscal year was oriented in part at determining the elements of the Hope Brook land package that could be abandoned. The rationalization of the Hope Brook licenses in the third quarter will mitigate the impact of these increased expenditure commitments going forward.

Gold Island

As illustrated in note 7 to the financial statements, each of the three projects acquired as a result of the acquisition of Gold Island contain significant vendor payments, both as cash payments and issuances of shares, and annual work requirements. These option agreements were negotiated in 2021, and the Company has engaged with each optionor in an effort to revise the terms of each option agreement. These efforts are in process at the date of this MD&A.

Destiny
The Company has no plans to complete any meaningful exploration work at Destiny at the date of this MD&A. The Company regards Destiny as a non-core asset, and it continues to engage with potentially interested parties concerning the farm-out or outright sale of the Company's interest in this property.

SELECTED ANNUAL INFORMATION

The following table summarizes selected financial data for the Company for each of the three most recently completed financial years. The information set out below should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited annual consolidated financial statements.

	Years ended June 30		
	2023	**2022**	**2021**
	$	**$**	**$**
EXPENSES			
Exploration expense	2,626,159	9,674,573	40,850
General and administrative expense	876,513	1,788,792	1,057,125
Finance expense, net	(110,902)	414,206	506,409
Other (income) expense	(11,000)	(496,459)	(690,900)
Impairment loss on equity accounted investment	140,877	390,128	-
Writedown of exploration and evaluation assets	-	843,520	-
Equity loss impact of equity accounted investment	159,123	109,872	-
Loss for the year	**3,680,770**	**12,724,632**	**913,484**

SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS

The table below presents selected financial data for the Company's eight most recently completed quarters:

	31-Dec 2023	30-Sep 2023	30-Jun 2023	31-Mar 2023	31-Dec 2022	30-Sep 2022	30-Jun 2022	31-Mar 2022
In thousands of Canadian dollars, except for (income) loss per share								
Financial results								
Loss for the period	1,372	1,326	490	522	565	2,104	4,931	3,211
Basic and diluted (income) loss per share	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	0.02	0.045	0.03
Exploration and evaluation expenditures	977	941	121	343	210	1,953	3,034	3,347
Balance sheet data								
Cash and short term deposits	1,089	2,416	88	262	410	1,324	1,974	4,513
Exploration and evaluation assets	5,898	5,898	4,674	4,674	4,674	4,674	2,724	3,568
Total assets	7,846	9,275	5,434	5,802	6,418	7,324	6,228	10,327
Shareholders' equity	7,271	8,623	4,792	5,251	5,741	6,266	3,995	8,747

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company has no cash flow from operations as its projects are at an exploration stage, and consequently financings and the proceeds from selling or optioning non-core mineral property interests have been the Company's primary sources of funds. Management regularly reviews expenditures and exploration programs and equity markets in order that the Company has sufficient liquidity to support its operations.

At December 31, 2023, the Company had cash, receivables and marketable securities of $1,088,913 and current liabilities of $359,093.

During the period ended December 31, 2023, the Company closed its acquisition of Gold Island, resulting in an increase of $3.6 million of cash available to the Company.

The Company will require further cash infusions, either through additional equity financings, proceeds obtained from the sale or optioning of non-core assets, or other means as it moves toward execution of its exploration plans and ultimately satisfaction of the second stage earn-in expenditure requirements set out in the Hope Brook option agreement. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in this regard.

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the three and six months ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Company incurred the following costs in respect of services provided by related parties:

	Three months ended December 31		Six months ended December 31	
	2023	**2022**	**2023**	**2022**
	$	**$**	**$**	**$**
Charged to Salaries, Wages and benefits:				
Salaries paid to key management	90,667	80,000	170,667	160,000
Director fees	35,500	30,500	69,000	61,000
	126,167	**110,500**	**239,667**	**221,000**
Charged to Share-Based Compensation:				
Stock option expense	19,514	37,622	113,697	75,717
Equity based DSU expense	25,302	-	(26,989)	-
Cash based DSU expense	43,436	(60,723)	56,396	(219,279)
RSU expense	26,008	147,040	24,876	126,538
	114,260	**123,939**	**167,980**	**(17,024)**
Management fees charged to Exploration Expense:				
OTD Exploration Inc. (controlled by the Company's Vice President Exploration)	29,113	27,200	76,075	74,800
	29,113	**27,200**	**76,075**	**74,800**

FULLY DILUTED SHARE CAPITAL

The table below presents the Company's fully-diluted common share data as at the date of this MD&A.

Common shares	188,245,827
Shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding warrants	30,401,527
Shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options, of which 5,790,747 are exercisable	9,460,348
Shares issuable upon settlement of equity-based deferred share units, none of which are vested	2,077,991
Shares issuable upon settlement of restricted share units, none of which are exercisable	1,434,486
Total - fully diluted	**231,620,179**

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

The Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements, either at December 31, 2023 or subsequently to the date of this MD&A.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Significant assumptions about the future and other sources of estimation uncertainty that management has made at the end of the reporting period, that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the event that actual results differ from assumptions made, relate to, but are not limited to, the following:

- The assessment by management of the reasonableness of the going concern assumption.
- The carrying value and the recoverability of exploration and evaluation assets, which are included in the consolidated statements of financial position based on the planned exploration budgets and drill results of exploration programs to assess economic recoverability and probability of future economic benefits.
- The assessment by management of the recoverability of the Company's investment in Caprock.
- The inputs used in accounting for share-based compensation expense included in profit or loss calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model.
- The valuation of shares issued in non-cash transactions.
- The recognition of deferred tax assets based on the change in unrecognized deductible temporary tax differences.

DISCLOSURE FOR VENTURE ISSUERS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT REVENUE

Additional disclosure concerning the Company's general and administrative expenses and mineral property acquisition and exploration costs is provided in the Company's condensed interim consolidated financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2023. These financial statements are available on the Company's website at www.bigridgegold.com or on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.com.

DIVIDENDS

Big Ridge did not pay a dividend in the period ended December 31, 2023 and has no plans to pay dividends for the foreseeable future.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

At December 31, 2023 and subsequently to the date of this MD&A, there were no legal proceedings involving the Company.

DISCLOSURES ABOUT RISKS

Big Ridge is subject to the usual risks associated with a junior mineral exploration company. The Company competes for access to financing, specialized third-party service providers and human capital against other exploration companies, some of whom may be better capitalized. The price of gold, the principal metal contained within Big Ridge's mineral exploration properties, has fluctuated significantly over the past few years and may continue to do so. Such volatility may affect the timing and magnitude of funds which the Company may seek to raise to support further exploration of its properties or may make it difficult or impossible for the Company to complete an offering of securities.

Resource acquisition, exploration, development, and mining is a highly speculative business that involves significant risks, which even a combination of careful evaluation, experience and knowledge may not eliminate. While the discovery of precious metals and other minerals may result in substantial rewards, few properties that are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines. Major expenses may be required to locate and establish economically viable mineral deposits, to develop metallurgical processes and to construct mining and processing facilities at a particular site. It is impossible to ensure that the acquisition, exploration or development programs planned by the Company will result in a profitable commercial mining operation. The potential for any project to eventually become an economically viable operation depends on numerous factors including: the quantity and quality of the minerals discovered if any, the proximity to infrastructure, metal and mineral prices (which vary considerably over time) and government regulations. The exact effect these factors can have on any given exploration property cannot be predicted accurately, but the effect can be materially adverse.

Although management has used its best efforts to ensure title to properties in which it has interests, there is no guarantee that title to the properties will not be challenged or impugned. The Company's mineral property interests may be subject to prior unregistered agreements or transfers or land claims, and title may be affected by undetected defects.

In addition to the foregoing, Big Ridge is subject to a number of other risks and uncertainties which are not discussed in this MD&A. To properly understand such risks, readers are directed to the risk factors disclosed under the heading "Risk Factors" in Big Ridge's Annual Information Form for the year ended June 30, 2023 and other filings made with Canadian securities regulatory authorities, available on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.com.

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company's financial instruments are exposed to certain financial risks. The risk exposures and the impact on the Company's financial instruments are summarized below.

Interest rate risk
The Company has no material exposure at December 31, 2023 to interest rate risk through its financial instruments.

Sensitivity analysis
Based on management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, the Company believes the following movements are "reasonably possible" over a twelve-month period. Sensitivity to a plus or minus .1% change in cash interest rates would affect net loss by $1,000 annually. The Company does not hold any material balances in foreign currencies that could give rise to exposure to foreign exchange risk.

Currency risk
As at December 31, 2023, $3,003 of the Company’s cash and cash equivalents was held in US dollars. The Company has no operations in foreign jurisdictions at this time and as such has no material currency risk associated with its operations.

Credit risk
The Company has cash balances and no interest-bearing debt. The Company has no significant concentrations of credit risk arising from operations. The Company's current policy is to invest excess cash in bank deposits or investment-grade short-term deposit certificates issued by Canadian financial institutions with which it keeps its bank accounts, and management believes the risk of loss to be remote.

Liquidity risk
The Company manages liquidity risk by maintaining sufficient cash balances. Liquidity requirements are managed based on expected cash flows to ensure that there is sufficient capital in order to meet short-term obligations. As at December 31, 2023, the Company had a cash balance of $1,088,913 (June 30, 2023: $88,379) to settle current liabilities of $359,039 (June 30, 2023: $491,607).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Company’s Annual Information Form for the year ended June 30, 2023 is available on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.com.