



MEDIA RELEASE

Imperial Metals Corporation's Pat McAndless Wins H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award for Excellence in Prospecting and Mineral Exploration

Vancouver, BC – January 12, 2005 – The BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines (BCYCM) has awarded Pat McAndless, Vice President, Exploration, Imperial Metals Corp., the coveted H.H. "Spud" Huestis Award for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration for his 2003 discovery of the Northeast Zone, a rich copper-gold alkalic porphyry deposit at the dormant Mount Polley mine site near Williams Lake.

Proven and probable reserves in the Northeast zone total 6.2 million tonnes of high-grade copper and gold, which lead to the reopening of the Mount Polley mine scheduled for the first quarter of 2005. The Northeast Zone discovery revitalized exploration for alkalic porphyries not just along the Quesnel Trough, but throughout other regions of the province as well.

Throughout his 30 year career, Pat has distinguished himself as an extremely motivated, diligent and capable prospector and project manager. In addition to the Northeast Zone discovery, he is credited with the discovery of a blind high-grade gold deposit at Imperial's Sterling project in Nevada, and the significant advancement of the Silvertip (midway) project in northern BC.

"Pat McAndless is a driving force behind the resurgence of mineral exploration in British Columbia," said Michael Gray, President of the BCYCM. "Pat is respected and admired in the industry for his passion and dedication to the field as well as his willingness to share his knowledge and expertise with others in the profession. He demonstrates leadership in every sense of the word."

Pat McAndless along with other award recipients will be honoured by their peers at the BCYCM's Annual Awards Dinner, January 26th at the Westin Bayshore Resort and Marina during the 22nd Annual Mineral Exploration Roundup (January 24th to 27th, 2005). The Mineral Exploration Roundup Conference is western Canada's premier mineral exploration event and one of the largest mineral exploration conferences in the world. The conference program includes high profile international speakers on exploration activities, deposit geology, First Nation issues, financing trends and the outlook for 2005 and beyond.

About the BCYCM

The BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines is an association of over 2,700 members including individual geoscientists, prospectors, entrepreneurs, suppliers and mineral producers, who are directly or indirectly engaged in mineral exploration in British Columbia and elsewhere throughout the world. Through representative action, public outreach and education, the BCYCM promotes a healthy environment and business climate for the mineral exploration industry on behalf of its members. The BCYCM is regarded as the predominant voice of mineral exploration and related issues in the province. Please visit www.chamberofmines.bc.ca

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For more information, please contact:

Dan Jepsen, R.P.F.
Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer
BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines
Tel: 604-689-5271 ext. 22
Email: djepsen@chamberofmines.bc.ca

Michael J. Gray, M.Sc., P.Geo.
President
BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines
Tel: 604-623-3333 ext. 24
Email: michaelg@rubiconminerals.com