

Imperial Announces Red Chris Drill Results from 2010-2011 Program

Vancouver – **October 31, 2011 - Imperial Metals Corporation (III-TSX)** reports results from 2010–2011 exploration drilling at its Red Chris property. Results from 45 diamond drill holes⁽¹⁾, representing 49,760 metres, have completed the first pass of drilling beneath the proposed open pit to a minimum of 1,000 metres depth. The 2010–2011 drilling continued to define and extend the mineralization at depth beneath the proposed 400 metre deep open pit. Results include intervals of high-grade such as the 216.9 metre section in drill hole RC10-423 grading 1.15% copper and 2.44 g/t gold, and further long intercepts of continuous mineralization such as drill hole RC11-431 with 1,077.5 metres grading 0.44% copper and 0.29 g/t gold. Results indicate the mineralization is still open to the east and west, and holds potential for further expansion to the north and south in parts of the porphyry system. Brian Kynoch, President of Imperial stated: “We are very pleased with the results of the deep drilling at Red Chris as the results clearly continue to confirm the significant size of the Red Chris porphyry system.”

East Zone

Drilling at the East zone⁽²⁾ was successful in both extending the known size of the deep high grade core and extending the known limits of the larger mineralized porphyry system. High grade intersections include 216.9 metres of 1.15% copper and 2.44 g/t gold in drill hole RC10-423 which also featured a 59.4 metre section of 2.93% copper and 6.85 g/t gold. This mineralization starts 90 metres below an interval of 345.9 metres grading 0.68% copper and 0.94 g/t gold.

Outside of the high-grade East zone core, drilling continued to intersect long intersections of porphyry style mineralization. Drill hole RC11-409 intersected 1,007.0 metres grading 0.30% copper and 0.30 g/t gold. This intercept was uniformly mineralized over its entire length which exceeded one kilometre. This style of mineralization, which encompasses and extends outward from the East zone core, was the main focus of almost 50,000 metres of diamond drilling, aimed at delineating the size of the broader mineralized porphyry system.

While drilling was concentrated in the area of the planned open pit, a hole was drilled to test extensions of the mineralization to the east, with encouraging results. Drill hole RC10-411, collared approximately 160 metres east of the pit area, intercepted 610.0 metres of 0.43% copper and 0.41 g/t gold, establishing that mineralization continues and remains open to the east.

EAST ZONE – SELECTED RESULTS⁽⁶⁾

Drill Hole #	Zone	Total Length (m)	Interval from (m)	Interval To (m)	Interval Length (m)	Copper %	Gold g/t	Silver g/t
RC10-409	East	1361.5	297.5	1304.5	1007.0	0.30	0.30	1.44
RC10-411	East	1075.0	437.5	1047.5	610.0	0.43	0.41	1.27
RC10-423	East	1257.9	385.0	730.9	345.9	0.68	0.94	2.16
and			820.4	1037.3	216.9	1.15	2.44	5.79
including			820.4	879.8	59.4	2.93	6.85	15.44
RC11-431	East	1312.8	172.5	1250.0	1077.5	0.44	0.29	0.84

Saddle Zone

Drilling in the Saddle zone⁽³⁾, the area between the East and Main zones, intersected long intervals of good copper/gold mineralization. Historic drilling in this area stopped at a depth of about 350 metres. The 2010-2011 deeper drilling confirms the copper/gold mineralization is continuous at depth between the East and Main zones. Of note are drill holes RC10-394 which intersected 735.4 metres of 0.32% copper and 0.32 g/t gold, RC11-445 which intersected 762.5 metres of 0.43% copper and 0.48 g/t gold, and RC10-401 which intersected 637.5 metres of 0.42% copper and 0.39 g/t gold. The most northerly drill hole at Saddle zone, RC10-429, was barren in the top 750 metres before hitting 402.5 metres of 0.37% copper and 0.42 g/t gold in a strongly altered interval, indicating the excellent potential for additional deep mineralization to the north. A strongly altered 70.0 metre interval in that hole grading 0.71% copper and 0.91 g/t gold is particularly intriguing, indicating the intercept is still well within the system and not near the periphery.

SADDLE ZONE – SELECTED RESULTS ⁽⁶⁾

Drill Hole #	Zone	Total Length (m)	Interval from (m)	Interval To (m)	Interval Length (m)	Copper %	Gold g/t	Silver g/t
RC10-394	Saddle	1501.1	472.1	1207.5	735.4	0.32	0.32	1.54
RC10-401	Saddle	1038.5	347.5	985.0	637.5	0.42	0.39	1.31
RC10-429	Saddle	1251.8	750.0	1152.5	402.5	0.37	0.42	0.70
including			797.5	867.5	70.0	0.71	0.91	1.08
RC11-445	Saddle	1482.9	337.5	1100.0	762.5	0.43	0.48	0.84

Main Zone

Prior to this release, only two drill holes had tested the area deeper than the bottom of the proposed Main zone open pit, both of which were drilled by Imperial in 2007 and include 07-336 which returned 996.4 metres grading 0.40% copper and 0.38 g/t gold (NR: Oct 16/07). The current drilling⁽⁴⁾ has confirmed the continuation of the porphyry copper/gold mineralization to a depth of up to 1,000 metres in the Main zone. The presence of significant lengths of moderate but consistent grades is characteristic of the Main zone mineralization. Examples are drill hole RC10-407, which intercepted 1,026.0 metres grading 0.22% copper and 0.20 g/t gold including 57.5 metres at 0.70% copper and 0.31 g/t gold, and drill hole RC10-403 which intersected 900.0 metres of 0.25% copper and 0.22 g/t gold including 62.5 metres of 0.59% copper and 0.35 g/t gold. Hole RC10-406 intersected 592.5 metres of 0.33% copper and 0.26 g/t gold.

Similar to the test of the eastern end of the known mineralized zone, vertical drill hole RC10-412 was collared 290 metres west of the western edge of the pit and returned 444.3 metres grading 0.22% copper and 0.27 g/t gold. The rocks display strong alteration both within the mineralization and outside of it, indicating that additional work is warranted in the surrounding area.

MAIN ZONE – SELECTED RESULTS ⁽⁶⁾

Drill Hole #	Zone	Total Length (m)	Interval from (m)	Interval To (m)	Interval Length (m)	Copper %	Gold g/t	Silver g/t
RC10-403	Main	1522.5	337.5	1237.5	900.0	0.25	0.22	0.95
including			1015.0	1077.5	62.5	0.59	0.35	1.79
RC10-406	Main	986.6	15.0	607.5	592.5	0.33	0.26	0.75
RC10-407	Main	1053.7	4.0	1030.0	1026.0	0.22	0.20	0.97
including			77.5	135.0	57.5	0.70	0.31	1.14
RC10-412	Main	1029.3	530.0	974.3	444.3	0.22	0.27	1.63

The deep drilling program reported in this release was completed in April 2011. Drilling operations resumed in July with a skid steer mounted diamond drill that probed beneath the extensive cover of the Todagin Plateau where Red Chris is situated. This unit is used to assist in geologic mapping, as well as prospecting for alteration and mineralization. The results from that drilling will be compiled over the winter.

A deep diamond drilling program was initiated in August 2011 to test the continuation at depth of mineralization historically defined in the Gulley zone, located over one kilometre west of the western rim of the proposed open pit. Drilling in the area by previous operators penetrated about 350 metres in the zone with a maximum penetration of 470 metres, encountering strong alteration and widely distributed copper/gold mineralization. Geological and analytical studies of the historic drill core, and results from the Titan 24 geophysical survey completed in 2009, indicate the potential for additional deep porphyry mineralization below these zones. Three drill holes have been drilled in Gulley zone in this phase of drilling⁽⁵⁾.

Drilling is planned for the area east of the proposed pit where geological mapping, historic drilling and results of the Titan 24 survey indicates the potential to both expand the deposit further east from drill hole RC10-411 and an offset extension of the deposit. Diamond drilling will continue until the year end break.

Steve Robertson, P.Geo., the designated Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 for the exploration programs at Red Chris, has reviewed this news release. Samples for the diamond drilling reported at Red Chris were analyzed at Acme Analytical Laboratories in Vancouver. A full QA/QC program using blanks, standards and duplicates was maintained for all samples submitted to the labs. The deeper portion of the Red Chris porphyry mineralization may be irregular in shape so true thicknesses have not been estimated.

The Red Chris project is located in northwest British Columbia, and lies at an elevation of 1,500 metres above sea-level on a plateau with topography and climate favourable to mining operations. Access to the property from pavement at Highway 37 is six kilometres along the Ealue Lake Road, and 17 kilometres along the Red Chris access trail.

Imperial is a mine development and operating company based in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Company's key properties are two open pit mines: Mount Polley copper/gold mine and Huckleberry copper/molybdenum mine, both in British Columbia, as well as the development stage Red Chris copper/gold property in British Columbia and the Sterling gold property in Nevada.

Documents available on www.imperialmetals.com:

⁽¹⁾ deep drilling update Plan Map; ⁽²⁾ 3D section E-F; ⁽³⁾ 3D section C-D; ⁽⁴⁾ 3D section A_B; ⁽⁵⁾ outside target drilling Plan Map; ⁽⁶⁾ 2010/2011 drill results

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