

# NICO COBALT-GOLD-BISMUTH-COPPER PROJECT

Community Scoping Session April 27, 2009



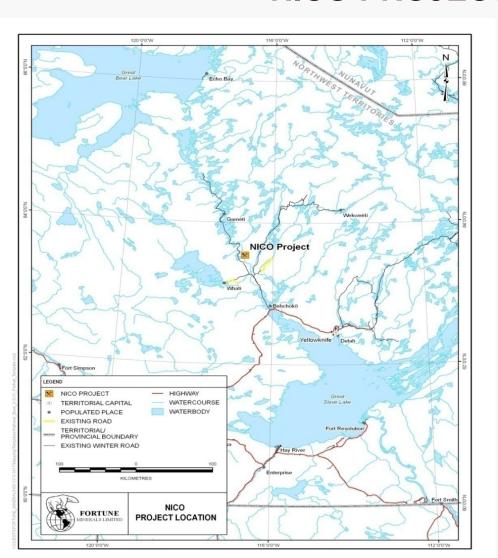
# Carl Clouter – Member of Fortune's Board of Directors and NICO Site Manager

Rick Schryer - Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs



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### NICO PROJECT LOCATION

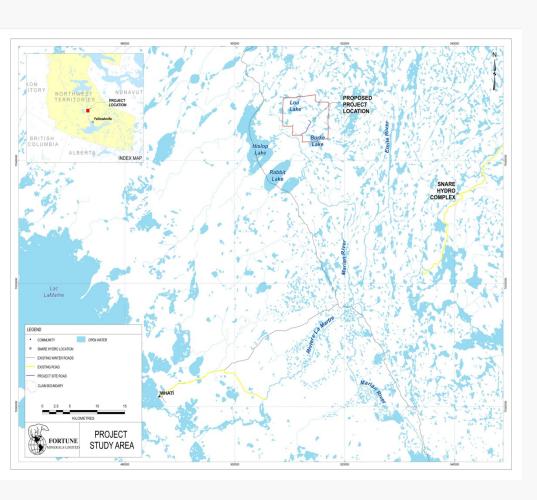


- NICO Project located 160 km NW of Yellowknife
- 85 km north of Behchoko, 50 km north of Whati, 70 km southeast of Gamèti & 150 km southwest of Wekweèti
- 22 km west of the Snare Hydro Complex
- 450 km from the railhead at Enterprise
- Current access is by winter road



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### NICO PROJECT MINING LEASES

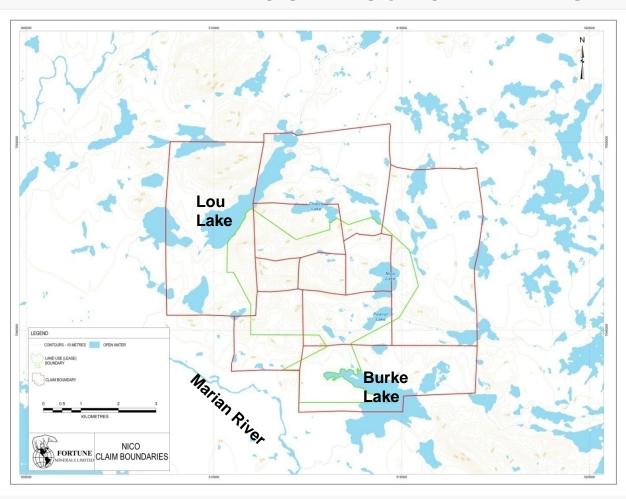


- Mining leases total 5,140 Hectares
- Lands surrounding leases
   within Tłįchǫ settlement area
   - owned & managed as fee simple lands under Tłįchǫ
   Agreement
- Mining leases owned 100% by Fortune



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### **NICO PROJECT MINING LEASES**



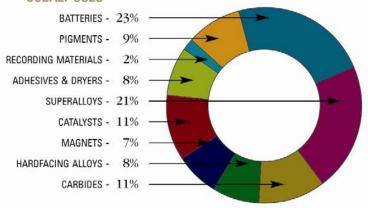
- Fortune's exploration claims staked & brought to lease prior to settlement of Tłįchǫ land claim
- All components of project, excluding access road within mining leases

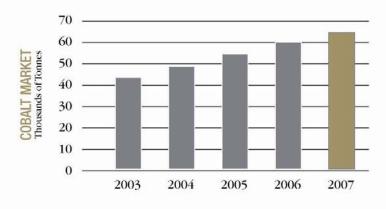
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### **GOLD & COBALT MARKETS**

- **Gold:** Gold price goes up when price of other metals goes down
- Cobalt: Consumption ~65,000T @ 8% annual growth
  - Metallurgical markets high strength alloys, cutting tools, cemented carbides
    & magnets
  - Chemical markets rechargeable batteries, catalysts, agriculture & pigments
  - Key growth areas batteries (electronic devices & hybrid-electric vehicles) & catalysts (petroleum refining)

#### COBALT USES



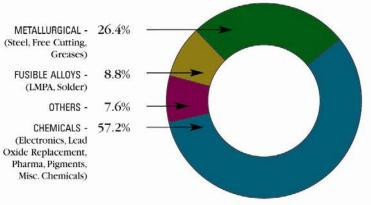


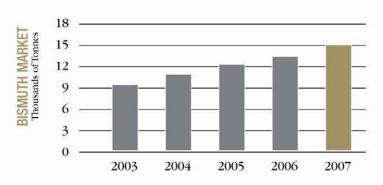
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#### **BISMUTH MARKET**

- **Bismuth:** Consumption +15,000T @ ~10% / yr annual growth
  - Traditional markets fusible alloys, cosmetics, chemicals, ointments, medicines, lubricants, electronics & flame retardants
  - New markets super conductors & replacing lead for solder (plumbing & electronics), hot-dip galvanizing, auto anti-corrosion, plumbing brasses, ceramic glazes, ammunition, radiation shielding, paint pigments & free cutting steel
  - MCP Group (World's largest bismuth consumer) will purchase all mine production

#### **BISMUTH USES**

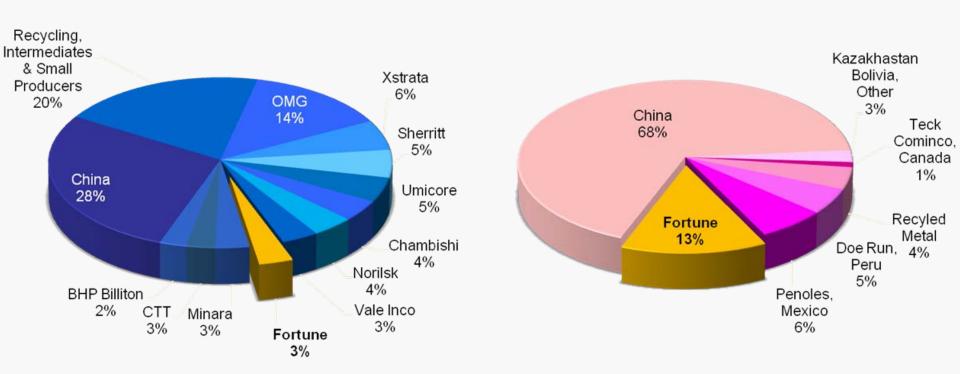






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Average Forecast NICO Cobalt Production vs. Major 2008 Producers Average Forecast NICO Bismuth Production vs. 2008 World Production



Fortune will be a major cobalt producer & the largest bismuth producer in the world



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### **UNDERGROUND TEST MINING & PILOT PLANT**





- Mining conditions & ore grades confirmed
- Portal, decline ramp & 2 mine levels established with ventilation raise to surface
- ~C\$20 million test mining and exploration completed
- C\$5 million pilot plant test completed
- Pilot plant proved metal extraction process
- Increase in recovery for all metals over feasibility study



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### **NICO EXPLORATION PROGRAM-CURRENT STATUS**

- Underground bulk sample program completed in 2007
- Renewal of Land Use Permit for exploration phase of project issued in March 2009 to accomplish:
  - Condemnation/ geotechnical drilling in areas of future site development in 2009 or 2010
  - Care and maintenance of site during permitting period
  - Baseline environmental studies including: water quality; sediment quality; aquatic insects; heritage survey; and, wildlife survey



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### **NICO PROJECT PERMITTING STATUS**

- NICO project requires two key elements to be permitted:
  - Mine site
  - All-weather access road (applications to be submitted in conjunction with Government of the Northwest Territories and Tłįcho Government initiatives)
- Original applications for permitting of project submitted in November 2007
- Updated applications for mine submitted to Wek'èezhìi Land & Water Board and Tłįcho Government in January 2008
- Production targeted in 2012, construction schedule predicated on mobilization of materials and equipment over an ice road in Feb 2011.



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### NICO PROJECT SUMMARY OF MINE

- Anticipated 15 year mine life
- Ore reserve of 21.8 million tonnes
  - 61 million pounds cobalt
  - 760 thousand ounces gold
  - 77 million pounds bismuth
- Additional lower grade ore could extend mine life
- Production: 4,650 tonnes/day (1.7 million tonnes/year)
- Mining to be combination of open pit and underground methods
- Open pit and underground mine years 1 & 2
- Open pit mine years 3 to 15
- Conventional truck & shovel





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### NICO PROPOSED MINE SITE COMPONENTS

- Open pit & underground operations
- Mill & ore processing facilities
- Tailings & rock management areas
- Waste management facilities
- Water & sewage treatment plants
- Roads within mine site
- Diesel generators for power
- Airstrip
- Access road
- Camp site for 600 people during construction & 150 during operations



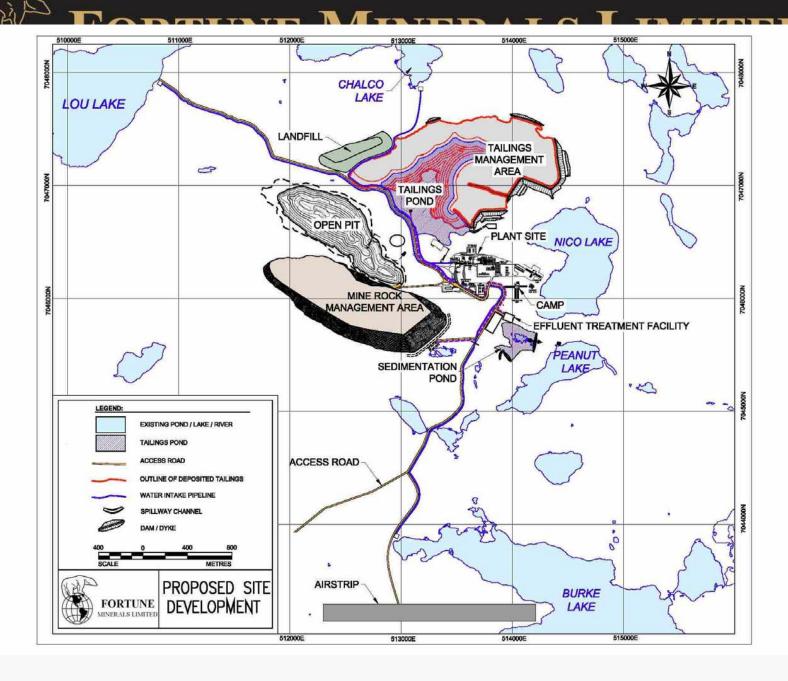


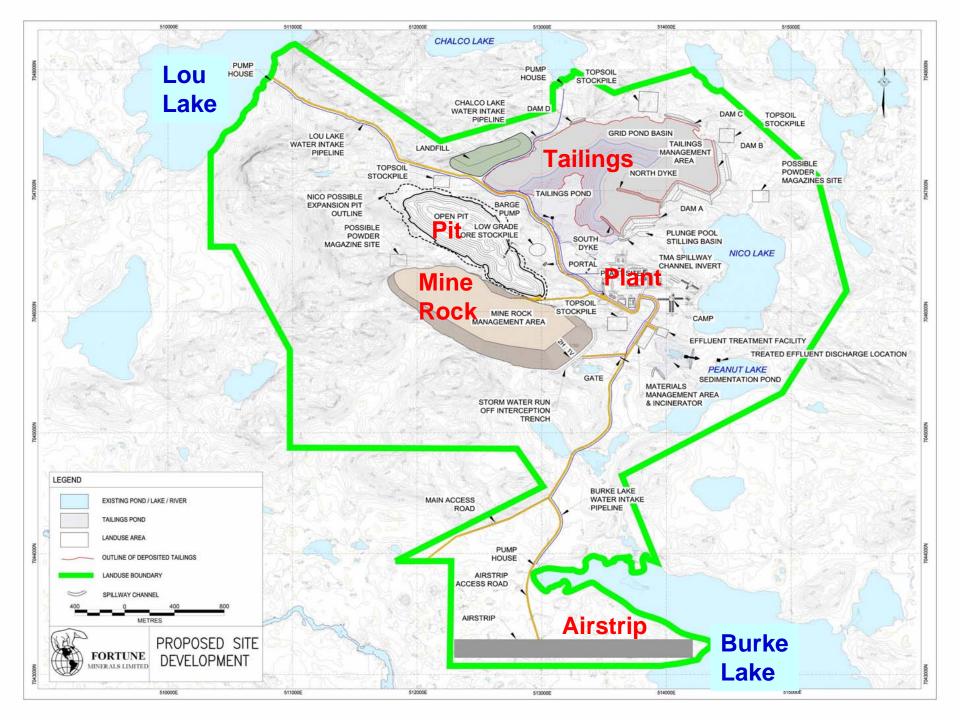
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### **GOLDEN GIANT (HEMLO) MILL PURCHASE**

- Acquired Golden Giant mill, surface facilities, equipment & C\$2 million in spare parts inventories from Newmont for relocation to NICO
- Significant reduction in capital costs & project risk
- 2-year window to relocate
- Dismantling 80% complete & sale surplus equipment & metals in progress









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### NICO PROJECT SITE AIRSTRIP



- Airstrip at NICO site will be constructed to provide alternate access to site & movement of people & equipment
- Will be built near Burke Lake in flat area close to mine site
- Strip will be 6,000 feet long & 175 feet wide

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### **NICO PROJECT - EMPLOYMENT**

- Local employment opportunity for Behchokǫ, Whatì,
  Gamètì, Wekweètì & Yellowknife
- Camp will have capacity for approximately 150 people during normal operations & 600 people during construction
- Workforce of 225 people expected to be hired for overall mining operation at NICO
- Work rotations planned to be 4, 5, 7 or 14 day periods
- Buses will transport employees to & from site & local communities

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### NICO PROJECT – EMPLOYMENT (Continued)

- Work rotations & busing options will only be available if all-weather road to mine is built
- Airport will be maintained at Burke Lake for charter transport
- Training for specific jobs will be provided
- Details on training & jobs will be laid out in Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA)
- Fortune would like to start IBA negotiations in the near future

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### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

### SUPPLIERS TO FORTUNE MAY INCLUDE:

- KeTe Whii Procon
- Tłįchǫ Power
- Tłįchǫ Explosives
- Tłįcho Air
- Tłįcho Landtran
- Tłįcho Logistics
- MÉTCOR
- Other business opportunities exist

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### SOUTHERN METALLURGICAL PROCESS PLANT

- Fortune is assessing the merits of conducting downstream processing of metals from concentrates in southern Canada
- Lower cost power & availability of skilled workforce to operate state-of-art metallurgical process plant are key factors driving this assessment
- This alternative would ship concentrate by truck from mine to Hay River or Enterprise for transfer to rail & delivery to the southern refinery
- Approximately 40 process plant jobs would leave NWT but would be offset by additional trucking handling jobs with concentrate shipping

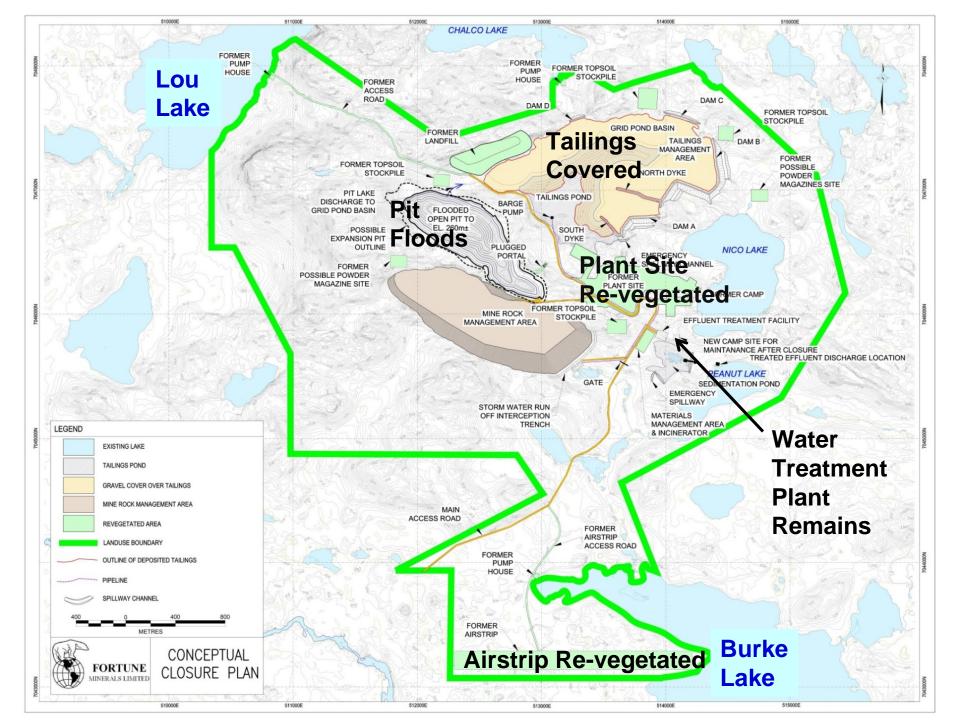


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### NICO MINE CLOSURE

- Closure of tailings management area will focus on reducing risk of wind & water erosion
- 0.5 m thick gravel cover one possibility for capping tailings
- Open pit will have a safety barrier & warning signs
- Mine openings will be closed
- Mine infrastructure will be removed & ground surface will be recontoured to promote re-vegetation
- Water quality & other environmental components will be monitored

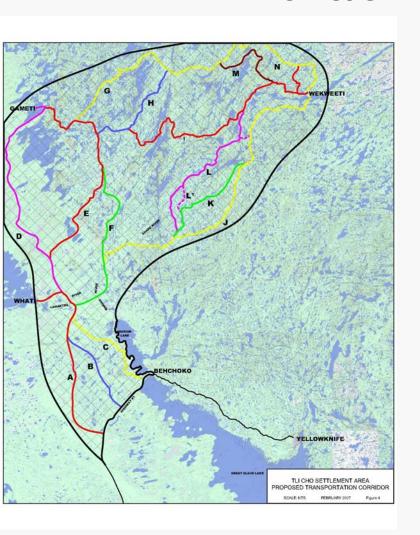






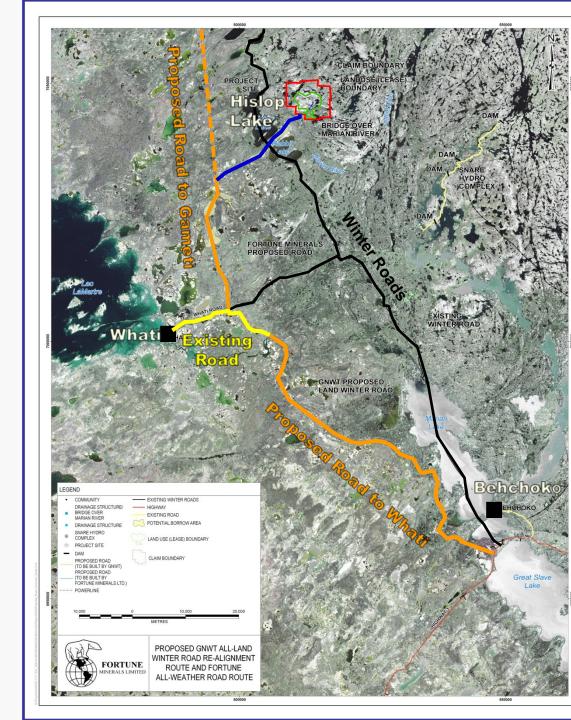
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### **TLICHO/GNWT ROAD INITIATIVE**



- All-land winter road realignment by GNWT to connect Whatì & Gamètì to Behchoko awaiting Tłįcho approval
- GNWT completed socio-economic, preliminary route & environmental scoping studies & has presented findings to Tłįcho Government
- Final route awaiting approval but general road corridor defined
- Road would improve access & quality of life in communities & economic growth in Tłjcho territory
- Fortune a third-party in Tłįchǫ/GNWT consultation process
- NICO cannot exist on separate basis

- ■Fortune had proposed a 51 km long all-weather access road between Whatì & NICO Project site
- That has changed since the GNWT now plans on moving ahead with the all-land winter road realignment from Behchoko to Gamètì
- Exact route into the mine will depend on the location of GNWT all-land winter road re-alignment
- Fortune would use the GNWT all-land winter road realignment & help upgrade to all-weather road





# Masì Cho - THANK YOU