



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 9, 2009

Symbol:	NOT:TSX-V
Shares Outstanding:	163,631,957
Fully Diluted:	173,461,957

**FREEWEST SHAREHOLDERS HAVE A CHOICE:
TENDER TO NORONT OFFER NOW AND RETAIN UPSIDE
EXPOSURE TO THE RING OF FIRE**

- **NORONT SEEKS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BY FREEWEST AS TO THE REASONS FOR SETTING A RECORD DATE OF DECEMBER 10, 2009 AND WHETHER CLIFFS WILL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE ITS SHARES**
- **NORONT'S OFFER EXPIRES AT 11:59 PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009**

Toronto, Ontario, December 9, 2009. Noront Resources Ltd. ("Noront" or the "Company") (TSX Venture: NOT) requests Freewest Resources Canada Inc. ("Freewest") to publicly disclose:

- The reasons for setting the record date of December 10, 2009 for its special meeting of shareholders on January 15, 2010, where a resolution to approve the December 3, 2009 plan of arrangement between Freewest and Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. ("Cliffs") will be considered;
- Whether Freewest intends to permit Cliffs' wholly owned subsidiary to vote the shares acquired as a result of the private placement announced in connection with its offer for Freewest ; and
- Why Freewest's senior management and Board of Directors would agree to reduce the C\$6.5m change of control payment due to senior management under the Cliffs deal to C\$2.5m and not reduce those same payments under the Noront Offer or any other offer

Noront calls on Freewest to be transparent and to dispel the reasonable inference that it is employing tactics to limit its shareholders' ability to make choices that are in their best interests.

Noront's President and CEO Wes Hanson notes: *"Freewest's management appears to be purposefully employing defensive tactics to frustrate Noront's Offer at the expense of Freewest's shareholders. Noront's Offer is a simple, unconditional offer predicated on the fact that Freewest shareholders should have the right to participate in any significant upside of the Ring of Fire."*

Additionally, Noront has asked the Director appointed under the Canada Business Corporations Act to consider whether any form of initial order sought by Freewest in connection with the special meeting is fair and reasonable in the circumstances of a pending takeover offer and that Cliffs be prevented from voting its Freewest shares at the special meeting of shareholders on January 15, 2010.

Record Date

It does not appear to Noront that there is a legitimate purpose for Freewest to set the record date one day before Noront has the opportunity to take up shares tendered to its Offer. There is no urgency for the special meeting of shareholders to be held, nor the corresponding record date set as it has been; Freewest and Cliffs have until March 31, 2010 to hold a shareholder meeting. Freewest's decision appears entirely a defensive tactic designed to assist in Freewest management's opposition to Noront's right to vote, as an owner, any shares it may own at the special meeting on January 15, 2010.



Voting of Cliffs Shares in Freewest

In a recent high profile ruling, with respect to the combination of Hudbay Minerals Inc and Lundin Mining Corporation, the Ontario Securities Commission stated that "an acquirer should not generally be entitled, through a subscription for shares carried out in anticipation of a merger, to significantly influence or affect the outcome of the vote on that transaction". Cliffs has increased its ownership in Freewest by way of a recent private placement. It should not be permitted to vote its shares at the special meeting of shareholders. Cliffs does not have the same economic interest as other Freewest shareholders and should not be permitted to influence the vote as a result of its opportunistic acquisition of additional Freewest shares.

Freewest Change of Control Payments

Mackenzie Watson stated in the December 8, 2009 shareholder conference call, "*I will note that when Cliffs and Freewest entered into a definitive agreement on November 23, Freewest's senior management agreed to reduce the change of control payments due to us from C\$6.5 million to C\$2.5 million. We did so to help secure a deal that we absolutely believe is in the best interest of Freewest and its shareholders. We did not initially advertise this part of the deal, but now we feel that it is necessary to set this record straight. In contrast, a deal with Noront would result in the full C\$6.5 million in change of control payments to management.*"

Noront believes that Freewest's management and Board of Directors willingness to reduce these change of control payments in order to **secure** a deal with Cliffs is evidence that these payments are excessive and significantly out-of-line as Noront stated in its Offer to Purchase dated October 13, 2009. Further, Noront feels that by holding these payments in force under the Noront Offer, Freewest's management and the Board of Directors are attempting to use these payments to lessen the value of the Noront Offer at the expense of Freewest's shareholders.

Noront's Offer for Freewest

Under the current Offer, for each seven (7) Freewest shares held, Noront will issue two (2) freely tradeable Noront shares and one (1) five-year (5) purchase warrant with a strike price of C\$4.00. The implied value at the time of the offer was estimated to be C\$0.86 per Freewest share and is currently valued at C\$0.90 per Freewest share, based on the closing price of Noront's shares on December 9, 2009.

Noront believes Cliffs' Offer does not allow shareholders to continue to benefit from the exciting exploration potential of the Ring of Fire. Additionally, Freewest's management has:

- Negotiated for themselves and at the expense of the of its shareholders, preferential treatment with respect to their options by receiving cash at a premium to the current Freewest share price;
- Undertaken a private placement from Cliffs at a discount to both of Cliffs' offers; and
- Agreed to conditions with Cliffs, such as the break fee, and a timetable for completion that frustrates and hinders other potential competing offers.

Noront's Offer expires at 11:59 p.m. on December 11, 2009. All Freewest shareholders are urged to tender their shares to the Noront Offer, the only offer that will provide all Freewest shareholders with the opportunity to partake in the upside of the Ring of Fire.

For more information on the Freewest Offer, please visit Noront's website at www.norontresources.com or contact Noront's Investor Relations Department at +1 (416) 367 1444. ext 126

To tender your Freewest shares, please contact:
Laurel Hill at Laurel Hill Advisory Group
North American Toll Free Phone: +1 (888) 882 6742
Email: assistance@laurelhillag.com
Outside North America, Banks and Brokers Call Collect: +1 (416) 637 4661



About Noront

Noront Resources Ltd. is focused on its significant and multiple, high-grade nickel-copper-platinum-palladium, chromite, gold and vanadium discoveries in an area known as the "Ring of Fire", an emerging multi-metals district located in the James Bay Lowlands of Ontario, Canada. Noront is the dominant land holder at the Ring of Fire and continues to delineate and prove up its discoveries with NI 43-101 technical and economic reports and an aggressive and well financed drill plan for the remainder of 2009 and 2010. All material information on Noront can be found on the Company's website at www.norontresources.com or at SEDAR at www.sedar.com

For further information regarding this Offer, please contact Wes Hanson, President and Chief Executive Officer or Joanne Jobin, Vice President Corporate Communications at (416) 367-1444, or visit Noront's website at: <http://www.norontresources.com>.

Wesley (Wes) Hanson President & Chief Executive Officer

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of applicable Canadian securities legislation, including predictions, projections and forecasts. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements that address activities, events or developments that the Company expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including such things as future business strategy, competitive strengths, goals, expansion, growth of the Company's businesses, operations, plans and with respect to exploration results, the timing and success of exploration activities generally, permitting time lines, government regulation of exploration and mining operations, environmental risks, title disputes or claims, limitations on insurance coverage, timing and possible outcome of any pending litigation and timing and results of future resource estimates or future economic studies.

Often, but not always, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "plans", "planning", "planned", "expects" or "looking forward", "does not expect", "continues", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "potential", "anticipates", "does not anticipate", or "belief", or describes a "goal", or variation of such words and phrases or state that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might" or "will" be taken, occur or be achieved.

Forward-looking statements are based on a number of material factors and assumptions, including, the result of drilling and exploration activities, that contracted parties provide goods and/or services on the agreed timeframes, that equipment necessary for exploration is available as scheduled and does not incur unforeseen break downs, that no labour shortages or delays are incurred, that plant and equipment function as specified, that no unusual geological or technical problems occur, and that laboratory and other related services are available and perform as contracted. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, future events, conditions, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, prediction, projection, forecast, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, the interpretation and actual results of current exploration activities; changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined; future prices of gold; possible variations in grade or recovery rates; failure of equipment or processes to operate as anticipated; the failure of contracted parties to perform; labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry; delays in obtaining governmental approvals or financing or in the completion of exploration, as well as those factors disclosed in the company's publicly filed documents. Although Noront 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.

Neither TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.