

# NOVAWEST RESOURCES INC.

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## For Immediate Release

### NICKEL & COPPER VALUES SIGNIFICANT IN NICKEL ROYALE SAMPLING

TSX Venture Exchange Listed – Symbol “NVE”

Frankfurt Exchange Listed – Symbol “NWM”

Website – <http://www.novawest.com>

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**NovaWest Resources Inc.** (the “Company”) Symbol “NVE” on the TSX Venture Exchange and “NWM” on the Frankfurt Exchange has just completed a small phase one prospecting and surface sampling program on its 100% owned Nickel Royale Nickel-Copper-Platinum Group Metals-Cobalt Project. The Project encompasses 148.3 sq kms (approximately 916 adjoining claims) lies alongside Canada’s Trans Canada Hwy #1 approximately 15 kms north of Schreiber, Ontario, in the Thunder Bay Mining District.

Samples collected recently by Novawest’s field personnel in the initial winter 2003-2004 sampling program are as follows:

Sample Number	Nickel	Copper	Palladium	Platinum
10001	4.39 %	0.02 %	n/a	n/a
76145	1.01 %	1.02 %	81 ppb	<15 ppb
76146	0.94 %	0.83 %	43 ppb	<15 ppb
76147	2.86 %	0.39 %	492 ppb	<15 ppb
76148	3.75 %	0.13 %	225 ppb	<15 ppb
76149	1.04 %	0.35 %	152 ppb	<15 ppb
76150	1.24 %	0.60 %	90 ppb	<15 ppb
76151	1.23 %	1.00 %	92 ppb	<15 ppb
76152	0.47 %	0.53 %	26 ppb	24 ppb
76153	1.16 %	2.41 %	289 ppb	<15 ppb
76154	0.50 %	0.56 %	131 ppb	39 ppb
76155	0.51 %	0.46 %	153 ppb	20 ppb
76156	0.30 %	1.40 %	153 ppb	<15 ppb
76157	0.42 %	0.35 %	127 ppb	60 ppb
76158	3.09 %	0.91 %	609 ppb	191 ppb
76159	4.15 %	1.95 %	526 ppb	240 ppb

All samples underwent multi-element geochemical analysis at either ALS Chemex or Accurassay Laboratories and their procedures have been recognized by SSC under ISO/IEC 17025 guidelines. Palladium, and platinum determinations involved Fire-assay-ICP-OES method of analysis. The Company’s qualified Person for this press release is Dr. Mikkel Schau, P.Geol.

The basemetal sulphide mineralization in the area is comprised of pyrrhotite-chalcopyrite-pyrite-pentlandite. Pentlandite, the Ni-bearing sulphide phase from the Company’s Nickel Royale is particularly visible in cut and polished slabs and accounts for up to 15% of the sulphides. The sulphides occur as massive to net-texture and vein-like; Ni/Cu ratios exhibit a spread but average 3/1: Pd/Pt ratios average approximately 4/1. Sulphides from the Company’s Nickel Royale property recalculated to 100% (Inco 1998) yielded grades up to 7.5% Ni, 6.6% Cu and 0.3% Co. Assays up to 6.23% Ni, 2.48% Cu, 0.34% Co, with PGMs, were reported in NovaWest’s press release of January 2, 2002. It appears that no work has been done to test the economic potential of these footwall anomalies. NovaWest presently views these footwall-hosted anomalies extending from the metal-rich sulphide embayment as

expressions of footwall hosted sulphides; similar to the Cu-PGM rich sulphide deposits occurring in the immediate footwall to the massive sulphides localized within the basal embayments of the Sudbury Igneous Complex (SIC).

Positive Bismuth (Bi) and Tellurium (Te) anomalies are associated with the higher Ni grades. The company is further encouraged because of the known affinity of Tellurium and Bismuth with PGMs (Platinum-Palladium Group Minerals) in known notable deposits such as the Raglan in Northern Quebec.

In fall 2003 the Company commissioned an independent 43-101 Qualifying Report on the Nickel Royale Project and the report has just been completed. The independent Qualified Person (QP) who prepared the report was Dr. Mikkel Schau, P. Geo. For comparative reasons, on his site visit to the property in October 2003 Dr. Schau and his assistant took three fresh samples from the property and compared the assay results to those taken in Novawest's 2001 program on the property and the 1992 results reported in sampling by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. In his report, Dr. Schau states, "that the values show similar tenor. This large-scale variation, on specimens collected by different persons, and submitted to different labs suggests that the variation is real, and thus that the reported high values are real, but local, and analytical problems are not an issue." The three sets of assay results compared by Dr. Schau are as follows:

**Dr. Schau's October 2003 Check Assays**

Sample Number	Nickel	Copper	Palladium	Platinum	Cobalt	Host
C116451-01	4.0 %	0.33 %	408 ppb	118 ppb	0.12 %	Massive Sulphide
C116452-02	3.5 %	0.46 %	329 ppb	89 ppb	0.15 %	Massive Sulphide
C116453-03	5.1 %	0.09 %	151 ppb	< 2 ppb	0.10 %	Massive Sulphide

**Novawest's Values From 2001 Program (ActLabs)**

Sample Number	Nickel	Copper	Palladium	Platinum	Cobalt	Host
P163714	6.23 %	0.15 %	342 ppb	54 ppb	0.12 %	Massive Sulphide
P163715	2.31 %	1.29 %	256 ppb	108 ppb	0.10 %	Massive Sulphide
P163750	4.26 %	1.03 %	500 ppb	144 ppb	0.08 %	Massive Sulphide

**1992 Ontario Gov't Results (Lab not reported, Regional Office MNDR)**

Sample Number	Nickel	Copper	Palladium	Platinum	Cobalt	Host
92BNI-05	0.20 %	0.23 %	387 ppb	n/a	n/a	Massive Pyrrhotite
92BNI-06	3.39 %	0.68 %	193 ppb	n/a	n/a	Massive Pyrrhotite
92BNI-07	4.53 %	0.14 %	456 ppb	n/a	n/a	Massive Pyrrhotite

The Nickel Royale Property is a strategically situated land package along an important belt that is in a particularly favourable setting for base metal and PGM exploration. This belt contains the Marathon deposit (34 mt Cu-Ni-PGMs) to the east being, and the Nipigon Plate being investigated by others to the west. The belt, traditionally known for its VMS potential and the renown Hemlo gold deposits, appears to be evolving into an important locus for polymetallic sulphides rich in Ni-Cu-PGMs. The property is accessible by road and is in close proximity (10km) to the Winston Lake polymetallic VMS mine (Inmet Mining).

The Nickel Royale Property has excellent potential to host modified gabbro related magmatic sulphides. The Crossman batholith intruded into a large layered gabbro complex, the Cameron Lake complex, and sulphide ores may have been redistributed by later intrusion and metamorphism. It appears that the gabbro at Nickel Royale is Archean, i.e. greater than 2.5 billion years old, (thus similar in age to other Archean complexes such as that at Lac des Isles and Stillwater). For further detail of Novawest's sampling on the Nickel Royale Project readers are referred to the Company's news release of January 2, 2002 and June 7, 2001. The Company plans to commence diamond drilling on the Nickel Royale in March 2004.

Novawest invites the public to visit its website at <http://www.novawest.com> or e-mail us at [novawest@novawest.com](mailto:novawest@novawest.com) to be added to the Company's e-mail list for press releases and updates.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NOVAWEST RESOURCES INC.

*"Patrick D. O'Brien"*

Patrick D. O'Brien – Chairman

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