

Management's Discussion and Analysis

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A") of Niocan ("Niocan" or the "Company") is a narrative explanation, through the eyes of Niocan's management, on how the Company performed during the three-month and the twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2021, as compared to the three-month and the twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2020.

This MD&A supplements the audited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2021. It is intended to help the reader understand and assess the significant trends, risks and uncertainties related to the results of operations. These results of operations should be read in conjunction with the MD&A, audited financial statements and accompanying notes as at and for the year ended December 31, 2020. All amounts in this MD&A are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated. This MD&A contains information available as at the disclosure date.

The Company's headquarters are located in Montreal, Canada. Niocan is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSX-V") under the symbol NIO. Additional information relating to the Company can be found on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Responsibility of Management and the Board of Directors

Management is responsible for the information disclosed in this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes, and has in place appropriate information systems, procedures and controls to ensure that information used internally by management and disclosed externally is materially complete and reliable. Niocan's Board of Directors has approved this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes. In addition, Niocan's Audit Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, provides an oversight role with respect to all public financial disclosures made by Niocan and has reviewed this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes.

Forward Looking Statements

This document contains forward-looking statements, which reflect the Company's current expectations regarding certain future events. To the extent that any statements in this document contain information that is not historical, the statements are essentially forward-looking and are often identified by words such as "anticipate", "expect", "estimate", "intend", "project", "plan" and "believe". In the interest of providing shareholders and potential investors with information regarding Niocan, including management's assessment of future plans and operations, certain statements in this MD&A are forward-looking and are subject to the risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause the Company's actual performance to differ materially from that expressed in or implied by such statements. The Company disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements unless required to do so by applicable Securities laws. All subsequent forward-looking statements, whether written or orally attributable to the Company or persons acting on its behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements.

For information identifying known risks and uncertainties, relating to the issuance by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Fight against Climate Change ("MDDELCC") of the Certificate of Authorization ("CA") to build the mine in Oka, financial resources, market prices, exchange rates, politico-social conflicts, competition, the purchase of the old St-Lawrence Columbian mine site from the Municipality of Oka should the CA be issued, and other important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements, please refer to the Risk and Uncertainties Section of this Management's Discussion and Analysis. Consequently, actual results may differ materially from the anticipated results expressed in these forward-looking statements.



Corporate Overview

Niocan's mission is to become a ferroniobium producer as soon as possible, following the issuance of a CA from the MDDELCC. In the long term, the Company plans to recover some by-products from the ore mineral resources and produce ferroalloys, as well as other related products. The Company has no significant income at this stage.

The Oka project involves the development of a mining complex based on an underground mine, a concentrator and a converter to produce ferroniobium. The project has completed all exploration phases, including two drilling campaigns in 1995, 1996, and 1997 for a total of 22,204 meters, to define two resource ore bodies: the S-60 and the HWM-2 (historical resources). Numerous metallurgical concentration tests and analyses were undertaken throughout the exploration period. These tests, on the various mineralized facies of the principal resource mineral prospect, the S-60, allow for the development of an optimal pyrochlore recovery process. Pyrochlore is the niobium-bearing mineral.

In 2004, Niocan acquired a property with three mineral prospects (historical resources) of magnetite ore, located near the Great Whale River (the "Great Whale Iron Property").

Management is currently working to obtain all the required permits and authorization to develop the Oka property. Niocan is of the view that its project will eventually bring significant financial returns to the local parties involved and it hopes to work with the community to eventually build a mutually beneficial project.

Management is also pursuing financing activities to get the CA in Oka and initiate exploration activities in Great Whale Iron Property.

Major events

On March 22, 2021, the Company entered into an agreement with Nio-Metals Holdings LLC for an unsecured loan facility of \$ 500,000. The loan has a 24-month term to maturity, bears interest of 6% per annum payable quarterly, and is not convertible. The loan may be repaid at any time prior to maturity without penalty. The purpose of the loan is to allow the Company to renew claims at its Great Whale iron property and to continue to work towards a significantly larger financing.

On March 23, 2021, the Company paid \$ 375,000 to the MERN for claims renewals.

On August 27, 2021, the Company announced that it has engaged Palos Wealth Management (the "Agent") in connection with a best effort private placement of a minimum of 12,500,000 units (each, a "Unit") and a maximum of 21,500,000 Units at a price of \$ 0.10 per Unit (the "Offering"), representing aggregate gross proceeds to Niocan of a minimum of \$ 1.25 million and a maximum of \$ 2.15 million. Each Unit will consist of one common share of the Company (each a "Common Share") and one-half of one Common Share purchase warrant (each full warrant, a "Warrant"). Each Warrant will be exercisable to acquire one Common Share for a period of 24 months following the date of its issuance at an exercise price of \$ 0.12. The net proceeds of the Offering will be used for general corporate purposes.

On October 18, 2021, the Company announced that it has completed its previously announced private placement of units through its Agent. Pursuant to the Offering, Niocan has issued an aggregate of 25,915,000 Units at a price of \$ 0.10 per Unit for gross proceeds of \$ 2,591,500. Each Unit consisted of one common share of the Company and one-half of one Common Share purchase warrant. Each Warrant is exercisable to acquire one Common Share until October 15, 2023 at an exercise price of \$ 0.12.

On October 26, 2021, the Company announced the grant of incentive stock options under its stock option plan, to officers, directors and consultant of the Company, to purchase up to an aggregate of 3,550,000 common shares. The stock options are exercisable at a price of \$ 0.15 per share expiring October 25, 2026.

Subsequent events

On January 17, 2022, the Company announced its intention to change its name for Nio Strategic Metals. The change would have no impact on the trading symbol but confirms the Company's intention to expend its activities to source strategic metals and minerals essential to advancing modern life and national security in beneficially environmental, social and ethical manner.

On March 1, 2022, the Company closed the conversion of \$ 3.6 million of debt into equity (the "Conversion"). The Conversion resulted in immediate interest cost savings and will place the Company in a much stronger financial position for the benefit of all shareholders. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement entered into between the Company and Nio-Metals Holdings LLC ("Nio-Metals"), one of its principal shareholders, \$ 3,578,018 in principal and accrued interest owing under the terms of a secured debenture initially issued by the Company to Nio-Metals on February 19, 2013 has been converted into an aggregate of 23,823,470 common shares of the Company (the "Repayment Shares") at an issue price of \$ 0.15 per share in full repayment thereof. Moreover, the maturity date of a loan made to the Company by Nio-Metals on March 17, 2021, in the principal amount of \$ 500,000 has been extended from March 17, 2023 to March 17, 2024. This transaction allows the Company to preserve its cash for use on its current and future projects and for working capital.

Results of Operations

Summary

(in \$)	For the 3 months ended		For the 12 months ended	
	December 31,	December 31,	December 31,	December 31,
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Revenues	1,200	3,450	7,800	10,100
Expenses	426,764	32,340	740,467	199,308
Net finance expenses	55,874	59,107	258,353	233,355
Net loss and comprehensive loss	(481,438)	(87,997)	(991,020)	(422,563)
Basic and diluted loss per outstanding share	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.03)	(0.02)
Weighted average number of outstanding shares	47,669,596	25,979,868	31,466,868	25,979,868

Oka Niobium Project

The Company has for many years been awaiting the receipt of a CA from the MDDELCC which would allow it to exploit its Oka mine project. The Company considers that it has produced all information required by the MDDELCC for the issuance of a CA; however, in spite of the Company's repeated attempts to obtain an indication from the MDDELCC as to its intentions relatively to the CA, the Company has not received conclusive information to this effect. During 2010, the Company met with different stakeholders in the Oka region to obtain additional support to convince the MDDELCC to issue the CA, which would allow the Company to build its underground Niobium mine in the Ste. Sophie range of Oka, Quebec as soon as possible. In February 2010, representatives of the Company met with representatives of the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks to further discuss the issuance of the CA. While the Company believes that this meeting was constructive and positive, the Company has not received further information as to if and when the CA will be issued by the MDDELCC.

During the fourth quarter of 2009, Niocan granted a mandate to Met-Chem for the formal update of the capital/operating costs of the projected mine complex in Oka. This project was completed during the first quarter of 2010 and a press release was issued on this subject in March 2010.



Moreover, the update to the 2000 socio-economic study performed by KPMG relative to the Oka Niobium Project was completed during the first quarter of 2010 to provide additional new information to all the Company's stakeholders, shareholders, government officials and departments and the regional communities. A press release was issued on this subject on March 17, 2010.

As further detailed above, the Company announced a revaluation. Niocan plans to complete the remaining segments of the feasibility study as per NI 43-101 only when the CA is issued by the MDDELCC, and this information will be needed at that time for financing purposes. The Company considers that an update of the complete feasibility study which would be compatible with NI 43-101 would require approximately six (6) months and would cost over \$ 500,000.

To date, \$ 6,372,056 has been spent in the Company's financial statements relative to land, exploration and evaluation assets for this project. These essentially consist in geotechnical studies, feasibility studies and studies for the design of the Oka Niobium mining project.

Great Whale Iron Property

On August 31, 2006, Met-Chem produced its technical report which recommends a plan of action on the Great Whale project for the period comprised between 2006 and 2008, which totalised seven million three hundred thousand dollars (\$ 7,300,000). The Company has not started this work.

In July 2009, the Company collected new drilled core samples and cores drilled in 1957-60 by Belcher Mining Corporation Ltd from the A, D and E iron mineralized (36% Fe magnetite) sites on the GWIP (17,098 acres) located 80 kilometers from the twin villages of Kuujuarapik - Whapmagoostui on the Hudson Bay. The objective of the 2009 program, for which \$ 183,000 was spent in 2009, was to perform modern metallurgical tests to confirm the optimum ore grain size of the prospects (historical resources) for maximum iron liberation. The Company announced in February 2010 the delivery of this report, the results of which are further detailed above.

To date, \$ 975,135 has been spent in the Company's Financial Statements relatively to exploration and evaluation assets for this project. These essentially consist in the study prepared by Met-Chem and fees relating to the land survey made by the Company, as well as costs engaged during 2009 for the metallurgical testing at Corem and more recently the work program which started in the fall of 2012.

Results of Operations for the three-month period ended December 31, 2021

Revenues for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2021 were \$ 1,200 as compared to a similar amount for the same period during the previous year from the leasing of some properties.

The operating expenses incurred for the fourth quarter of 2021 were \$ 426,764 as compared with \$ 32,340 in the fourth quarter of 2020. The increase of \$ 394,424 in the operating expenses was caused by exploration expenses of \$ 157,772 and share-based compensation expense of \$ 134,572.

Finance expenses for the fourth quarter of 2021 were \$ 55,874 as compared with \$ 59,107 in the fourth quarter of 2020, the decrease of \$ 3,233 in the current quarter was mainly attributable to an increased value of debentures and long-term debt following the cash injections in 2021 and 2020 reduced by a year-end adjustment following a lower interest rate for the year.

The net loss and the comprehensive loss for the fourth quarter of 2021 was \$ 481,438 or \$ 0.01 per share, compared to a loss of \$ 87,997 or \$ 0.01 per share, for the fourth quarter of 2020.

Results of Operations for the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2021

Revenues for the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2021 were \$ 7,800 as compared to a similar amount for the same period during the previous year from the leasing of some properties.

The operating expenses incurred for the twelve-month period of 2021 were \$ 740,467 as compared with \$ 199,308 in the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2020. The increase of \$ 541,159 in the operating expenses was caused exploration expenses of \$ 157,772, share-based compensation expense of \$ 134,572 and a larger mining rights expense due to latest renewals.



Finance expenses for the twelve-month period of 2021 were \$ 258,353 as compared with \$ 233,355 in the same period of 2020, the increase of \$ 24,998 in the first twelve months was mainly attributable to an increased value of debenture following the cash injections in 2021 and 2020 combined with an additional loan received during the course of the year.

The net loss and the comprehensive loss for the twelve-month period ended in 2021 was \$ 991,020 or \$ 0.03 per share, compared to a loss of \$ 422,563 or \$ 0.02 per share, for the same period in 2020.

Selected Quarterly Financial Information

The following table presents certain extracts of the unaudited quarterly financial statements:

(in \$)	2021				2020			
	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Revenues	1,200	1,200	4,350	1,050	3,450	1,550	4,050	1,050
Net Loss	(481,438)	(196,624)	(170,120)	(142,838)	(87,997)	(104,782)	(113,217)	(116,567)
Net Loss, per share	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)

Since the Company has no mining operations at the present time, except for mining exploration expenses, the Company had no significant revenues over the past years. The variations in net losses result mainly from variations in expenditures relating to exploration works, professional and administration fees as well as registration fees related with claims currently held.

Liquidity and capital resources

The Company had \$ 1,943,289 of cash as of December 31, 2021, compared to \$ 11,240 as of December 31, 2020.

The Company considers that these funds are not sufficient to respect all its current commitments but could be sufficient to finalize the CA issuance process. Furthermore, the Company have to raise additional funds to update the feasibility study as per NI 43-101 once the CA is issued by the MDDELCC, before raising substantial funds to proceed to the construction of the mine and the plant.

Operating Activity Cash Flows

Cash flow used in operating activities was \$ 815,536 for the twelve-month period ended on December 31, 2021, an increase of \$ 682,881 from \$ 132,655 used in the corresponding period of 2020. The current expense spending combined with the mining claims renewal and the explorations expenses explain this variation in cash flows from operating activities.

Financing Activity Cash Flows

Financing activities resulted in a cash inflow of \$ 2,747,585 for the twelve-month period ended on December 31, 2021, as compared to \$ 115,000 for the same period during the previous year following the receipt of subscriptions from its Offering and the loan issuance during the period.

Investing Activity Cash Flows

Investing activities resulted in a cash inflow of \$ nil for the twelve-month period ended on December 31, 2021, as compared with same for the same period during the previous year.

Related party transactions

Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel correspond to the directors of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer who is remunerated through a salary agreement.



During the twelve-month period ended December 31, the Company incurred the following expenses with key management personnel:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Salary and management fees included in office and administration	67,880	64,822
Directors' fees	21,602	26,758

The Company has the following amounts owing to related parties as at:

	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
	\$	\$
Debentures - Major shareholder	2,345,000	2,345,000
Loan - Major shareholder	500,000	-
Accrued directors' and management fees	-	77,966
Accrued interest	1,225,290	967,037

During the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2021, interest expenses of \$ 258,353 (2020 - \$ 233,355) were incurred on the debenture, of which \$ nil were paid (\$ nil in 2020).

Going concern

The Company is in a development stage and has mineral exploration and development properties in the province of Quebec. The Company does not capitalize the exploration and evaluation expenses. As at December 31, 2021, the Oka mining property consisted of mining rights comprised of 102 claims covering 6,025 acres and the Great Whale property consisted of surface and mining rights comprised of 140 claims covering 17,098 acres on the Hudson Bay territory. Substantially, all the Company's efforts are currently devoted to financing, developing and obtaining permits for its niobium property in Oka.

Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which supposed that the Company will pursue its activities in a foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets or discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of operations. The Company is in the process of exploring and evaluating its mineral properties and projects and has not yet determined whether its properties and projects contain ore reserves that are economically recoverable. The Company does not have any revenues coming from its operations that would enable the Company to discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of its operations. The financial statements do not reflect the adjustments to the carrying values of assets and liabilities that would be necessary if the Company were unable to realize its assets or discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of operations.

With respect to the niobium property in Oka, the Company has determined in 1999 that the property contains ore resources which provide a conceptual indication of the potential of the property. The Company's application is under study with the MDDELCC and the community of Oka in order to obtain all permits, certificates and other authorizations to allow the Company to operate the niobium property. Management is currently working in order to obtain all the required permits and authorization to develop the Oka property.

The \$ 2.345 million debenture matured on December 30, 2021 and is secured by all the property and assets of the Company. Management negotiated with the debenture holders to convert the debenture at the best interest of the Company. In March 2022, \$ 3,578,018 in principal and accrued interest owing under the terms of a secured debenture initially issued by the Company to Nio-Metals on February 19, 2013 has been converted into an aggregate of 23,823,470 common shares of the Company (the "Repayment Shares") at an issue price of \$ 0.15 per share in full repayment thereof.



Although the Company has taken steps to verify title to mineral properties in which it has an interest in accordance with industry standards for the current stage of exploration of such properties, these procedures do not guarantee the Company's title. Property title may be subject to unregistered prior agreements and non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Basis of preparation:

Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB"). The financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on April 7, 2022.

Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise stated, which the Company's functional currency is.

Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the year in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

Information about assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment within the next financial year include, but are not limited to:

Going concern

The assessment of the Company's ability to execute its strategy by funding future working capital requirements involves judgment. Estimates and assumptions are continually assessed and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Black & Scholes valuation

The calculation of the fair value of units, stock options and warrants granted require management to make estimates and assumptions about the fair value of the underlying common shares of the Company, expected volatility, expected life and expected forfeiture rates, which could affect the Company's results if the current estimates change. Expected volatility was based on the Company's historical volatility.

Significant accounting policies:

The Company's significant accounting policies and estimates under IFRS are disclosed in the audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 and were applied consistently to all years.

Number of Shares Issued

As at December 31, 2021, the number of issued and outstanding shares of the Company was 51,894,868. As at the date of publication of this MD&A, the number of issued and outstanding shares of the Company was 75,718,338.

Capital Management

The Company's objectives when managing its capital are to safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern in order to support ongoing exploration programs and development of its mining assets, to provide sufficient working capital to meet its ongoing obligations and to pursue potential investments.

The Company's capital items are the following:

	As at December 31, 2021	As at December 31, 2020
	\$	\$
Cash	1,943,289	11,240
Debenture	2,345,000	2,345,000
Long-term debts	540,000	40,000
Share capital	16,989,649	15,352,101

The Company manages its capital structure and adjusts it in accordance with the objectives, as well as considering changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets. To maintain or adjust its capital structure, the Company may issue new debentures, shares, acquire or dispose of assets or adjust the amount of cash and cash equivalents. There is no dividend policy. The Company is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements. The Company's management of capital remained unchanged since the last year.

Risks and uncertainties

The Company needs to obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the MDDELCC in order to build the Oka mine project. There is no assurance that the MDDELCC will issue this CA or that the CA will be issued in the near future.

The Company's mining lease on the Oka Property expired in 2020 and converted in mining claims covering 60.3 acres. The Company can maintain its mineral rights by securing mining claims on the Oka Property. Since the Oka Property considers only mining claims, additional regulatory requirements will apply in order to convert the mining claims to a Mining Lease.

The Regional County Municipality of Deux-Montagnes (the "MRC") is in the process of assessing whether lands in its region could be considered incompatible with mining activities and may propose changes to its regional land use plan designating parts of its territory as incompatible with mining activities. Although, the area covered by the Company's mining lease cannot be designed as "mining incompatible" territory while the lease is in force, if the lease expires and if the Company acquires claims on the property, the MRC could initiate the process for the designation of such area as "mining incompatible" territory.

In 2001 the agricultural land use commission ("CPTAQ") authorized the non-agricultural use of specific parcels in the area of the Mining Lease. The authorization for non-agricultural use will expire on June 26, 2022. There is no assurance that the authorization will be extended, or a new authorization will be granted.

The Company needs to secure new equity and debt financing in order to ultimately realize the Oka Project and pursue the exploration/development of other properties it has acquired, particularly that of the Great Whale Iron mineral prospect. Given the nature of the speculative investment it is seeking in the capital markets, there is no assurance that the required financing will be available.

Management serves to maintain a sufficient amount of cash and cash equivalents, and to ensure that the Company has at its disposal sufficient sources of financing such as private placements. The Company establishes cash budgets to ensure it has the necessary funds to fulfill its obligations. Being able to obtain



new funds allows the Company to pursue its activities and even though the Company was successful in the past, there is no guarantee that it will succeed in the future.

There are many factors that could affect the Company's results that are not controlled by management, such as market prices, exchange rates, politico-social conflicts, competition and regulatory approvals.

The Company has not renewed its option to the purchase part of the old St-Lawrence Columbian mine site from the Municipality of Oka, which expired on June 30, 2008, pending a decision from the MDDELCC relating to the issuance of the Certificate of Authorization. While the Company has a verbal understanding with the municipality of Oka that the parties will wait for the issuance of the CA before finalizing the purchase agreement, there is no assurance that the municipality of Oka will accept to extend this offer to purchase in the future should the Certificate of Authorization be issued by the MDDELCC. A letter from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources ("MENR") to the MRC dated May 9, 2017 confirms that the SLC site is included in the MENR's mine sites rehabilitation program and that rehabilitation work is planned for 2019. The letter indicates that the MENR has the intention of completing the rehabilitation of the site. The rehabilitation of the site may create an impediment to its sale.

The Company takes great care to minimize these risks by carefully choosing consultants and advisors that are experienced leaders in their field of environment, mining engineering and law.

COVID-19

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic, which continues to spread in Canada and around the world. Measures taken to contain the spread of the virus, including travel bans, quarantines, social distancing, and closures of non-essential services for some periods have triggered significant disruptions to businesses worldwide, resulting in an economic slowdown. Global stock markets have also experienced great volatility. There have been business closures and a substantial reduction in economic activity in a large number of countries.

Management is closely monitoring the situation by diminishing costs where it can and believes that any disturbance may be temporary; however, there is uncertainty about the length and potential impact of the disturbance.

We have implemented capital preservation strategies to cope with the downturn of the economy, including but not limited to strengthening cost control measures. Meanwhile, the Company is exercising caution in conducting investment activities and will explore opportunities in a proactive manner. We have implemented capital preservation strategies to cope with the downturn of the economy, including but not limited to strengthening cost control measures. Meanwhile, the Company is exercising caution in conducting investment activities. Also, we are unable to estimate the potential impact on the ability to obtain further financing and on the Company's operations as at the date of these financial statements.

Other

The reader is referred to financial statements and notes to financial statements for more details. Additional information relating to the Company may be consulted on SEDAR at www.SEDAR.com.

Hubert Marleau
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
April 7, 2022