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CUMBERLAND ANNOUNCES RESULTS FROM MELIADINE EAST KIMBERLITES

CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD. (CBD-TSX) announces that it has received caustic fusion results for samples of kimberlite from the Meliadine East Project, a 50%-50% Joint Venture with Comaplex Minerals Corp. The analysis confirmed that nine of the kimberlite bodies were barren. One kimberlite body contained three microdiamonds considered to be insignificant. The three recovered microdiamonds are clear, white stones with octahedroid shapes and are smaller than a 212 micron square-mesh screen. Cumberland will interpret these diamond results when additional petrographic and indicator mineral investigations of the Meliadine East kimberlites are complete. Until such time, no further field work is proposed.

Sampling Protocol and Results

Representative composite drillcore samples ranging in weight from 32.0 to 48.0 kg were collected from 10 of the 11 geophysical targets confirmed to contain kimberlite. The samples were processed to recover microdiamonds and macrodiamonds by caustic fusion at the Geoanalytical Laboratories of the Saskatchewan Research Council. Nine of the ten submitted samples collected from 10 of the 11 geophysical targets confirmed to contain kimberlite are reported to contain no natural diamonds larger than a 106 micron square-mesh screen. Three natural microdiamonds were recovered in sample 6-7, weighing 32.0 kg.

Dr. Herman Grutter (P. Geo.) of Mineral Services Canada Inc. participated in the logging and sampling of the Meliadine East kimberlites, and is involved in their further assessment. Dr. Grutter is a Qualified Person in terms of NI 43-101 and has extensive diamond exploration experience in Canada and South Africa.

Cumberland is well financed with approximately \$19 million in its treasury and is advancing the 100% held Meadowbank gold project in Nunavut to production. A \$10.5 million program, designed to complete a feasibility and initiate environmental permitting, is underway at the Meadowbank project and is expected to be completed in late 2003. A preliminary assessment* completed in January 2002 indicated the Meadowbank project could support a production rate of approximately 250,000 ounces per year at an estimated cash cost of US\$168 per ounce over an eight year mine life, with 85% of gold production from open pit mine designs.

Cumberland holds interests in two of the largest undeveloped gold projects in Canada: Meadowbank (100%) and Meliadine West (22% carried).

CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD.

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* Cautionary Note: The preliminary assessment completed in January 2002 is preliminary in nature, included inferred mineral resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have the economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as mineral reserves and there is no certainty that the preliminary assessment will be realized. The production forecast used in the Preliminary Assessment included approximately 5.9 million tonnes of Inferred Mineral Resource, or 41% of the total forecast. In compliance with National Instrument 43-101, the Company issued a Technical Report which is available at www.sedar.com for review.

This document contains certain forward looking statements which involve known and unknown risks, delays, and uncertainties not under the Corporation's control which may cause actual results, performance or achievements of the Corporation to be materially different from the results, performance or expectations implied by these forward looking statements.