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Cumberland Appoints Kerry Curtis as President and Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors of Cumberland Resources Ltd. (TSX: CBD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Kerry M. Curtis to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Cumberland has a 100% interest in the Meadowbank gold project located 70 kilometres north of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, Nunavut. A \$10.5 million program designed to complete feasibility and environmental impact studies at Meadowbank was recently approved by the Company's Board. The feasibility study is expected to be completed in late 2003.

"I am delighted to continue to work with members of the exploration and mining industry, investment community, the Nunavut government and the local communities. Collectively, we are focused on the responsible and sustainable development of a major gold mine in Canada's north," said Kerry Curtis. "I am excited about the opportunities that the Meadowbank project offers both the Company and the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut."

Meadowbank Gold Project – Preliminary Assessment (2002)*

Production profile	High-grade open pit
Production forecast	Approximately 250,000 oz./yr.
Cash cost estimate	US\$168 per ounce
Preliminary mine life	8.3 years

"Kerry has done an excellent job in bringing Meadowbank from grassroots to the feasibility stage" said Co-chairman Walter Segsworth. "All of us on the Board are keen to see him apply his skills, experience and tenacity to bring it the rest of the way to production, while at the same time, advancing the Company's other considerable assets".

Mr. Curtis, a professional geologist, joined Cumberland as Vice President, Corporate Development in 1995 and became Senior Vice President in 1997. He was appointed Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Cumberland in October 2002. Prior to joining Cumberland, Mr. Curtis held various positions with both major and junior mining companies including Kennecott Canada Inc., Minnova Inc. and Redfern Resources Ltd. where he was responsible for all aspects of advanced exploration programs, project evaluation and project generation across western Canada.

Cumberland is well financed with approximately \$19.25 million in its treasury and is currently conducting a bankable feasibility study on the Meadowbank gold project. Cumberland holds interests in two of the largest undeveloped gold projects in Canada: Meadowbank (100%) and Meliadine West (22% carried).

CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD.

"Kerry M. Curtis, B.Sc., P.Geo."
President and CEO

For further information contact:
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*Cautionary Note: The preliminary assessment completed in January 2002 is preliminary in nature, includes 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 includes approximately 5.9 million tonnes of Inferred Mineral Resource, or 41% of the total forecast. In compliance with National Instrument 43-101, the Company has 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.