



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18th 2011

PORTAGE MINERALS INC SIGNS LETTER OF INTENT TO ACQUIRE REMAINING 70% OF CLARENCE STREAM GOLD PROPERTY

St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, April 18th, 2011; Portage Minerals Inc. (“**Portage**” or the “**Company**”) (CNSX: RXX) announced today that it has signed a non-binding Letter of Intent with Freewest Resources Inc. (“**Freewest**”) that contemplates Portage acquiring Freewest’s 70% interest in the Clarence Stream Property resulting in Portage owning 100% of the Property. The Property, comprising 738 claims or approximately 11,500 hectares, is located proximal to infrastructure, 70 kilometres southwest of Fredericton and 10 kilometres east of the Mount Pleasant mine site in Charlotte County, southwestern New Brunswick.

CLARENCE STREAM GOLD PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hosts significant National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) mineral resources; Indicated Mineral Resources are estimated to at a cut off of 3 g/t Au total 822,000 tonnes grading 6.90 g/t Au containing 182,000 ounces of gold (241,000 ounces uncut). Inferred Mineral Resources are estimated to total 1.2 million tonnes grading 6.34 g/t Au containing 250,000 ounces of gold (313,000 ounces uncut) (See Resource table below). In addition, Indicated antimony resources are estimated to be 114,000 tonnes grading 2.9% Sb containing 7.3 million pounds of antimony.
- More importantly, the Property holds excellent resource expansion potential to increase the mineral resource to the multi-million ounce range - a realistic goal, given that most of the gold zones are open along strike and to depth. The resource defined to date is localized within a 1.8 km strike length of the defined 12 km long mineralized structure.
- Numerous untested gold-in-soil anomalies and surface showings containing visible gold located away from the known gold resource outline, offer excellent potential for the discovery.
- The last phase of drilling completed on the Property encountered significant mineralization including 7.11 g/t gold over 5.0 metres, 17.25 g/t gold over 5.0 metres, 9.71 g/t gold over 5.0 metres and 8.24 g/t gold over 5.0 metres in drill holes 273, 290, 295 and 208 respectively (Freewest News Release dated September 17, 2009). These results remain largely open for further follow-up and will be part of the Company’s resource expansion program going forward.

According to Ken Hight, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Portage, “We believe that the Clarence Stream property has large potential beyond its current published gold resources. The acquisition of Freewest’s 70% interest, which would result in Portage holding a 100% interest in the project, aligns with Portage’s strategic plan to focus on gold exploration and development. Portage currently controls approximately 600 km² containing over 50 known gold occurrences, including our three advanced staged gold projects (Clarence Stream, Golden Ridge and Golden Pike/Annidale), all within 90 km of Clarence Stream, creating some obvious synergies”.

Portage previously announced exploration success at Golden Ridge (2.76 g/t gold over 25.0m including 4.12 g/t over 15.0m and 1.47 g/t gold over 48.9m – Portage Press release dated March 2, 2011) and Golden Pike (36.26 g/t Au over 10.06 m and 8.08 g/t Au over 7.72 m – Portage News Release dated November 12, 2010).

Clarence Stream Potential and Resources

“The Company’s goal for resource expansion at the project is to increase the gold resource to the multi-million ounce range” stated Roger Dahn Vice President – Exploration “A realistic goal, given that most of the gold zones are open along strike and to depth. The resource defined to date is localized within a 1.8 km strike length of the defined 12 km long mineralized structure.”

As reported by Freewest, numerous untested gold-in-soil anomalies and surface showings containing visible gold located away from the known gold resource outline, offer excellent potential for the discovery of new gold zones as well (Freewest Press Release dated September 17, 2009).

The planned forward phases of exploration are expected to include:

- Further in-fill and resource expansion drilling along-strike and down-plunge from established resource blocks to achieve the immediate 1 million ounce resource target;
- Exploration drilling to test other defined priority targets along the proven 12 km mineralized structure which is believed to have multi million ounce potential;
- Updating the property's mineral resource estimate; and
- Completing a Preliminary Economic Assessment ("scoping study") to examine the viability of commercial production.

Mineral resources on the Property are summarized in the table below, at a cut-off grade of 3 g/t Au, and are based on information from the technical report entitled “Technical Report on the Clarence Stream Gold Project, New Brunswick, Canada” prepared by David A. Ross, M.Sc., P. Geo. of Scott Wilson Roscoe Postle Associates Inc., as the qualified person and prepared in accordance with National Instrument 43-101.

CLARENCE STREAM PROJECT - NI 43-101 GOLD MINERAL RESOURCES AS OF DECEMBER 2009 **Scott Wilson RPA for Freewest Resources Canada Inc. and Rockport Mining Corp.**

Area	Category	Tonnes	Au	Au	Uncut Au	Uncut Au
		(t)	(g/t)	(oz)	(g/t)	(oz)
Proximal	Indicated	636,000	6.71	137,000	9.28	190,000
	Inferred	991,000	6.33	202,000	7.64	243,000
Anomaly-A	Indicated	186,000	7.56	45,000	8.51	51,000
	Inferred	235,000	6.38	48,000	9.22	70,000
Total	Indicated	822,000	6.90	182,000	9.11	241,000
	Inferred	1,226,000	6.34	250,000	7.95	313,000

Notes:

- (1) *CIM Definitions were followed for Mineral Resources.*
- (2) *The cut-off grade of 3 g/t Au was estimated using an Au price of US\$1,000/oz and assumed operating costs.*
- (3) *Wireframes at 3 g/t Au and a minimum thickness of two metres were used to constrain the grade interpolation.*
- (4) *High gold grades were cut to 30 g/t prior to compositing. Uncut average grades are listed for comparative purposes only.*
- (5) *Several blocks less than 3 g/t Au were included for continuity or to expand the lenses to the two metre minimum thickness.*
- (6) *Scott Wilson RPA also estimated an Indicated antimony resource to be 114,000 tonnes grading 2.9% Sb containing 7.3 million pounds of antimony*

Proposed Transaction

Under certain of the non-binding terms of the Letter of Intent, as consideration for the sale of Freewest's 70% interest in the Property to Portage, Freewest will receive approximately \$7.6 million in cash, approximately 11 million common shares of Portage and 5.5 million common share purchase warrants. In addition, Portage will grant Freewest a 1% net smelter return royalty in respect of the Property. Neither party is under a binding obligation to enter into any agreement with respect to the sale of the Property. There is no guarantee or assurance that this proposed transaction will be completed as proposed or at all. Other conditions included in the Letter of Intent are Portage arranging appropriate financing for the proposed transaction, receipt of all applicable regulatory and stock exchange approvals, and other customary closing considerations. Included in the terms of the Letter of Intent are provisions related to the termination and release of the current litigation that Portage, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, had initiated against Freewest related to Clarence Stream.

The parties currently anticipate that the proposed transaction will be completed during the second quarter of 2011.

Golden Ridge Joint Venture Update

The Company provides an update on the Golden Ridge Property, which is a joint venture between Portage and Freewest, with ongoing exploration and development costs being shared on a 60%/40% basis, respectively.

Mercator Geological Services is completing a NI 43-101 compliant technical report which will include an initial resource estimate on the Golden Ridge Property. The Company expects to be able to release the resource estimate results by the end of April. Portage completed ~8,400m of drilling in 45 holes late in 2010. Currently one drill rig is on site completing a ~2000m winter drill program. Near surface intersections (core width; as below) indicates the potential for future development of the project through low cost surface mining methods (Portage Press Release dated December 16, 2010):

- 0.82 g/t gold over 74m including 3.39 over 10.0m (GR-10-37)
- 0.83 g/t gold over 48.0m including 1.12 g/t gold over 20.0m (GR-10-58)
- 2.76 g/t gold over 25.0m including 4.12 g/t over 15.0m (GR-10-55)
- 1.27 g/t gold over 28.7m (GR-10-31)
- 1.21 g/t gold over 25.0m (GR-10-22)
- 1.08 g/t gold over 47.2m (GR-04-014)
- 1.49 g/t gold over 30.45m (GR-04-015)
- 1.47 g/t gold over 48.9m (GR-04-011)
- 1.73 g/t gold over 18.0 m including 2.06 g/t gold over 14.0 m (GR-10-57)

Roger Dahn, P. Geo. (New Brunswick), Vice President-Exploration of Portage, is designated as the Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101 and has reviewed and approved the contents of this news release.

About Portage

Portage Minerals Inc. is a mineral exploration corporation exploring for gold in Eastern Canada. Further information about Portage can be accessed on the Company's website at www.portagemineralsinc.com and on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com. The common shares of Portage are listed on the Canadian National Stock Exchange ("CNSX") as a mining issuer under the trading symbol "RKX".

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CNSX does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Except for historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. This forward-looking information includes, among others, statements regarding the acquisition of the Property (the "Acquisition"), the receipt of regulatory approval and other expectations, beliefs, plans, goals, objectives, assumptions, information and statements about possible future events, conditions, results of operations or performance. Various assumptions were used in drawing the conclusions or making the forecasts and projections contained in the forward-looking information contained in this press release. Forward-looking information is based on current expectations, estimates and projections that involve a number of risks, which could cause actual results to vary and in some instances to differ materially from those anticipated by Portage and described in the forward-looking information contained in this press release. Undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking information. The material risk factors include, but are not limited to: the parties will not proceed with the proposed Acquisition or that the proposed Acquisition will not be successfully completed for any reason (including a failure to obtain the required regulatory approvals). Readers are cautioned that the foregoing list of risk factors is not exhaustive. The completion of the Acquisition is subject to a number of conditions including, but not limited to, the parties' completion of satisfactory due diligence, the entering into of definitive agreements with regard to the Acquisition, CNSX acceptance and the receipt of applicable regulatory approval of the Acquisition. There can be no assurance that the Acquisition will be completed as proposed or at all. The forward-looking statements contained in this news release are made as of the date hereof and Portage undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless so required by applicable securities laws.

