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Sprott Equity Research	10 February 2

Ticker: NHK CN	Cash: CŞ23m	Project: Indin Lake Project
Market cap: C\$55m	Price: C\$0.45/sh	Country: Canada, NWT
REC. (unc): BUY	TARGET (+25c): C\$1.50/sh	RISK RATING (unc): SPECULATIVE

Yesterday's MRE update is a solid win, driving our PT lift today. Key to our investment thesis are the pits, which saw ounces lift +35% to **3.6Moz** @ **1.6g/t**, but even more impressive is the grade lifted net of minor parameter adjustments including a lower cut-off grade and modest gold price lift (+4%). Key take-home: 'drilling over the last 12M added quality ounces'. The punch line – our ~3.5Mtpa / 1.7Moz / 155koz pa scenario now lifts to ~4.5Mtpa / 2.3Moz / >200koz pa, taking our asset 1xNPV_{5%-1850} from C\$505m to C\$636m net of a capex and strip ratio lift. With ~250koz pa in Y1-2 @ ~2q/t, this asset should be attractive to lenders and M&A alike. Whilst these assumptions are not risk free pre-PEA, we note we exclude additional satellites outside the MRE and any future UG that could see this lift >300koz pa in our view depending on throughput / strip / scheduling, leaving plenty of upside still to our 0.25xNAV multiple. As such, we maintain our BUY rating and lift our C\$1.25/sh PT to C\$1.50/sh PT based on 0.25xNAV5%-1850 from 1Q23 OP MRE of 2.7Moz @ 1.5g/t (5.1Moz @ 1.7g/t including UG) with C\$35m (US\$10/oz) for the 2 2.8Moz outside our inventory. Whilst developers have been out of voque last year, Nighthawk continues to be the 'quiet achiever', delivering real ounce growth in back-to-back MREs over last 24M—now what? Nighthawk trades at <0.1xNAV or <US\$6/oz FD EV insitu while the peer group (i.e PEA stage 'bulk mine' developers) trade between 0.3-0.5xNAV or US\$25-30/oz FD EV insitu. So while additional ounce growth is a value driver going forward, we think 'twinned track' engineering / permitting should close this gap with the added flyer on greenfield exploration.

Indin Lake Gold	Tonnes	∆ to old	Grade	∆ to old	Ounces	∆ to old	M&I	
Colomac OP	57,129	30%	1.48	7%	2,714	39%	94%	
Satellite OP	13,590	30%	2.04	-4%	892	25%	20%	
Total open pit	70,719	30%	1.59	4%	3,606	35%	78%	
Colomac UG	18,767	-5%	1.88	10%	1132	4%	44%	
Satellite UG	5,244	37%	2.02	-8%	340	27%	18%	
Total underground	24,011	2%	1.91	7%	1,472	9%	38%	
GRAND TOTAL	94,730	22%	1.67	4%	5,078	26%	67%	
OP: Implied satellite additions	3,155	-	1.77	-	180	-	-	
OP: Implied Colomac extensions	13,330	-	1.78	-	763	-	-	
OP: TOTAL IMPLIED ADDITIONS	16,485	-	1.78	-	943	-	-	
SCPe pit inventory	46,000	31%	1.52	1%	2,250	32%		

Table 1. Indin Lake Gold '1Q23 MRE vs 1Q22 MRE'

Source: Nighthawk

>1Moz added to global MRE in 12M; >5Moz @ 1.7g/t the basis for mid year PEA; PT lifted

Nighthawk reported a mineral resource estimate lift to **~5.1Moz @ 1.7g/t** at Indin Lake (*vs. 4Moz @ 1.6g/t in 1Q22*) incorporating 40km of new drilling and very minor parameter adjustments. **Pit constrained** resources grew to **3.6Moz @ 1.6g/t** (+35% ounces, +4% grade) driven by growth at the Colomac pit (~2.7Moz @ 1.5g/t, 94% M&I) and satellites (892koz @ 2.0g/t) including high-grade pit additions at Cass (302koz @ 2.4g/t). **Underground:** Colomac UG resources lifted +4% to 1.1Moz @ 1.9g/t, while UG satellites lifted to 340koz @ 2.0g/t (+27% ounces, -8% grade). **On conversion**, indicated resources grew by +26% overall, with 742koz added to pits, including a portion of the underground at Colomac. Nighthawk plans to deliver a PEA for the project mid-2023 and will provide details on its exploration for 2023 soon.

Our view: updated MRE lifts SCPe inventory to 2.3Moz @ 1.5g/t from 1.7Moz @ 1.5g/t

Impressive net additions of 1.1koz @ 1.95g/t came from a combination of successful expansion drilling around Colomac pits and select higher-grade satellites. In our view, the pits are the engine room, so we're delighted to see ~90% of today's additions falling within the pits. These net pit additions come to 943koz

@ 1.8g/t, lifting the OP resource base to 3.6Moz @ 1.6g/t ahead of a mid-year PEA. Not only is the +35% lift impressive in itself, but lifting the grade as well is extremely impressive. Better still this was net of only slight parameter adjustments, including lower 0.45-0.57g/t cut-off grade (from 0.60g/t prior) and modest lift in Au price (+4%)—so last year's drilling delivered '*real*' ounce additions. Digging in, the Colomac pit is now an impressive **2.7Moz @ 1.5g/t with >90% in M&I**, a great result and clear 'center of gravity' in our view for the engineers to 'carve out' an optimal mine plan. This is an impressive result on a standalone basis and gets even more interesting with satellite pit contribution (892koz @ 2.0g/t). Thus we think the combined resource growth points to a much larger mill, and thus economies of scale. The PEA will provide the 'first look' at what we think is a project of scale capable of gaining market visibility.



Figure 1. V- section (A/B) Colomac / Cass deposit MRE 'new vs old' pits (C) Indin Lake regional map

Updating our model on larger endowment ahead of the mid-year PEA

Our previous valuation modelled 1.7Moz @ 1.50g/t inventory. Based on a ~65% conversion of the global 3.6Moz @ 1.6g/t OP MRE today, we now lift this to **2.25Moz @ 1.52g/t.** With tonnes lifting from prior 35Mt to 46Mt now, the obvious impact is to lift the prior ~3.5Mtpa 10Y operation – in this case we lift to a 4.5Mtpa 10Y mine. This takes our operation from 1.7Moz / 155koz pa to **2.3Moz @ >200koz pa.** This still only sees ~65% MRE conversion and excludes regional upside (*and the underground*). On that basis we see this as a very robust and defendable / beatable base case, with the potential to see 250-300koz pa, if only for a few years. We continue to model higher grades up front, prioritizing higher grade satellites up to ~2g/t Y1-2 and flat-forward thereafter for 1.5g/t LOM. To account for some UG conversion to OP, we lift our strip modestly to 8.5:1. This drives >250koz pa in Y1-2. With the mill size up ~25% we conservatively add 25% to capex for now, and exclude any satellites outside the MRE and any future UG. As such, this taking our asset 1xNPV_{5%-1850} from C\$505m to C\$636m. We look ahead to the PEA to refine our assumptions, particularly on costs, strip and schedule.

SCP				SC	P		
Colomac (100%)	Old	New	∆ to old		Old	New	∆ to old
Mining inventory (Mt)	35.0	46.0	31%	Strip ratio (x)	8.0	8.5	6%
ROM grade (g/t)	1.50	1.52	1%	LOM AISC (US\$/oz Au)	929	936	1%
Mining inventory AuEq (000oz)	1,688	2,250	33%	Total build capex (C\$m)	450	563	25%
LOM recovery (%)	94%	94%	0%	Total sust. capex (C\$m)	66	82	25%
LOM throughput (Mtpa)	3,415	4,488	31%	Gold price (US\$/oz)	1,850	1,850	0%
ROM grade Y1-3 (g/t)	1.79	1.80	0%	Discount (%)	5.0%	5.0%	-
Prod'n Au Y1-3 (000oz pa)	183	241	32%	NPV post-tax (C\$m)	505	636	26%
Prod'n Au LOM (000oz pa)	155	206	33%	IRR post-tax (%)	24%	26%	5%
Mining cost (US\$/t)	2.75	2.75	0%	Payback (years)	2.75	2.50	-9%
Processing cost (US\$/t)	14.00	14.00	0%	Source: SCP estimates			
G&A (US\$/t)	4.50	4.50	0%				

Table 2. Old and new Colomac SCP modelled assumptions and economics

Why we like Nighthawk Gold

- Control of >900km² of underexplored Archean greenstone belt
- 2Y of drilling took 1Moz pittable to SCPe 2.3Moz quickly
- UG resource has high-grade sub-sets to be evaluated
- Maiden PEA in coming mid-2023 to define strip, scheduling and stockpiling potential

Catalysts

- 1Q23: Exploration guidance for 2023
- Mid-2023: SCPe PEA

Research

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Ticker: NHK CN	Price / ml	kt cap:	C\$0.45/sh	ı, C\$55m		Project PNAV today:	0.09x		Asset:	Indin Lak	e
Author: B Gaspar	Rec/0.25	NAV PT:	BUY, C\$1.	5/sh		1xNAV _{3Q24} FF FD:	C\$2.13/sl	ו	Country:	Canada, I	NWT
Share data	Basic	FD for opt	ions	FD for bui	ild	Resource / Reserve	Tonnes	Grade	Ounces	M&I	
Basic shares (m)	122.9	145.4		278	;	Resource	71Mt	1.67g/t	5078koz	67%	
Commodity price	CY21A	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E	SCP mining inventory	46Mt	-	2248koz		
Gold price	1,788	1,760	1,873	1,798	1,850	Project: USES		-	Funding:	SOURCES	
SOTP project valuation*	·					Pre-DFS expl'n / G&A:		Ca	sh plus ITN		
		C\$m	0/ship	NAVx	C\$/sh	Build capex:					
Ungeared @ build start (1Q24)		636	100%	0.25x	1.09	- Fin. cost + WC			geared de		
3022 Cash		23.1	100%	1.00x	0.16	TOTAL USES:				OURCES:	
Cash from options		1.9	100%	1.00x	0.01	Buffer / drill budget:	-C\$5m				
, Ounces ex inventory @ US\$10	/oz	34.5	100%	1.00x	0.24	Ratio analysis	CY21A	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E
Asset NAV5% US\$1850/oz		696	1		1.50	Average shares out (m)	64.5	109.2	122.9	258.3	277.6
*Shares diluted for options mine	build		J Marke	et P/NAV5		EPS (C\$/sh)	_	_	_	_	0.26
Asset value: 1xNPV project @		(C\$m. ung			,	CFPS (C\$/sh)	-	_	-	-	-
Project NPV (C\$m)	\$1650oz			\$1950oz	\$2050oz	EV (C\$m)	15.2	27.6	14.7	263.7	403.3
Discount rate: 9%	290	391	493	594	696	FCF vield (%)	-	-	-	-	-
Discount rate: 7%	362	474	586	699	811	PER (x)	-	-	-	-	1.7x
Discount rate: 5%	446	571	696	820	945	P/CF (x)	_	_	_	_	-
Ungeared project IRR		22%	26%	29%	33%	EV/EBITDA (x)			_	_	17.7x
Project NPV (C\$/sh)	\$1650oz		\$1850oz			Income statement	CY21A	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E
Discount rate: 9%	0.80	0.98	1.15	1.33	1.50	Net revenue (C\$m)	-	-	-	-	250.9
Discount rate: 7%	0.93	1.12	1.31	1.55	1.70	COGS (C\$m)	_	_	_	_	113.5
Discount rate: 5%	1.07	1.12	1.50	1.72	1.93	Gross profit (C\$m)	-	-		-	137.4
*Project NPV, ex fin. costs and ce				1.72	1.55	D&A, attrib (C\$m)	-			-	29.8
Group NAV over time^	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-25	Mar-26	Mar-27	G&A + sh costs (C\$m)	- 5.1	- 5.9	- 20.6	- 6.9	29.8 6.9
•	549.4				1,054.6	Finance cost (C\$m)		16.0	20.0	5.9	(79.7)
Colomac NPV (C\$m) G&A and finance costs (C\$m)	(144.9)	577.0 (131.7)	605.8 (123.6)	636.1 (120.9)	(115.6)	Taxes (C\$m)	23.8	(0.2)	-	-	(/9./)
Net cash prior qtr (C\$m)	21.6	27.6	48.9	40.6	(115.6)	Net income (C\$m)	(28.9)	(21.9)	(49.8)	- (12.9)	72.8
Cash from options (C\$m)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	Cash flow, attrib.	CY21A	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25E
Resource / exlo nom. (C\$m)	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	EBIT (C\$m)	(5.1)	(6.1)	(20.6)	(6.9)	(6.9)
NAV FF FD (C\$m)	463	509	568	592	828	Add back D&A (C\$m)	-	-	(20.0)	-	29.8
Shares in issue (m)	123	147	147	278	278	Less tax / interest (C\$m)	- 23.8	- 15.8	- 29.2	- 5.9	(79.7)
1xNAV5%/sh FF FD (C\$/sh)*	3.76	4.66	3.85	278	2.98	Net change WC (C\$m)		4.1	-	-	
Geared NAV at first pour, dilu				-	2.90	Other non-cash (C\$m)	(7.3) (52.5)	(34.4)		- (8.9)	(44.8) 162.4
					¢2050a=		(52.5)		(49.5)		
NAV at first gold (C\$m) Discount rate: 9%	-	\$1750oz				Cash flow ops (C\$m)	(41.1)	(20.7)	(41.0)	(9.9)	60.7
	423	535	647	759	871	PP&E - build + sust. (C\$m)	(0.2)	(0.2)	-	(375.0) -	(191.7
Discount rate: 7%	488	609	731	853	974	PP&E - expl'n (C\$m)	-	-	-		-
Discount rate: 5%	562	695	828	961	1,094	Cash flow inv. (C\$m)	0.2	0.2	-	375.0	191.7
Geared project IRR		19%	22%	26%	29%	Share issue (C\$m)	40.3	28.6	60.0	196.9	-
VAV at first gold (C\$/sh)*	\$1650oz			1	,	Debt draw (repay) (C\$m)	-	-		243.8	121.9
Discount rate: 9%	1.05	1.54	2.06	2.59	3.14	Cash flow fin. (C\$m)	40.3	28.6	60.0	440.6	121.9
Discount rate: 7%	1.35	1.91	2.48	3.08	3.68	Net change in cash (C\$m)	(0.5)	8.1	19.0	805.7	374.3
Discount rate: 5%	1.72	2.34	2.98	3.64	4.31	EBITDA (C\$m)	(29.0)	(22.3)	(50.1)	(6.9)	130.4
^Project NPV incl grp SG&A & fin.						Balance sheet	CY21A	CY22E	CY23E	CY24E	CY25
Production	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Cash (C\$m)	13.8	21.6	40.6	96.3	87.2
	250	278	196	196	196	Acc rec., inv, prepaid (C\$m)	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	65.3
•	910	931	1,323	1,323	1,323	PP&E + other (C\$m)	18.2	18.6	18.6	393.6	555.5
AISC cost (US\$/oz)						Total assets (C\$m)	32.3	40.8	59.8	490.5	708.1
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1							-	-	-	243.8	365.6
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1			SC (RHS, U	S\$/oz Au)	1500/07	Debt (C\$m)					
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1 Gold prod'n (I BOOkoz		AI	SC (RHS, U	S\$/oz Au)	1500/oz 1200/oz	Accounts payable (C\$m)	1.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	25.3
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1 Gold prod'n (I Gold prod'n (I Cost (US\$/oz)			SC (RHS, U	S\$/oz Au)	1500/oz 1200/oz 900/oz	Accounts payable (C\$m) Others (C\$m)					25.3 6.4
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1 Gold prod'n (I 250koz 150koz			SC (RHS, U	S\$/oz Au)	1200/oz	Accounts payable (C\$m)	1.0	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.4
300koz 250koz			SC (RHS, U:	5\$/oz Au)	1200/oz 900/oz	Accounts payable (C\$m) Others (C\$m)	1.0 5.4	5.3 6.4	5.3 6.4	5.3 6.4	
AISC cost (US\$/oz) AISC = C1 + sustaining capex, Y1 300koz 250koz 100koz 100koz			SC (RHS, U:		1200/oz 900/oz 600/oz	Accounts payable (C\$m) Others (C\$m) Total liabilities (C\$m)	1.0 5.4 6.4	5.3 6.4 11.7	5.3 6.4 11.7	5.3 6.4 255.4	6.4 397.3

Source: SCP estimates

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TOTAL	55			

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