

TSX-V: NWST

NorthWestcopper

2023 ESG  
REPORT



# About this report

*Unless otherwise noted, all data contained in this report cover the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023*

**This is the third ESG report for NorthWest Copper Corp.** In this report, we are aligning with the following ESG standards:

- **CDP** - Carbon Disclosure Project
- **GRI** - Global Reporting Initiative Comprehensive
- **GRI** - Mining and Metals Supplement
- **ICMM** - The International Council on Mining and Metals
- **ONYEN** - Institutional and Investor Questions
- **SASB** - Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
- **UGC** - UN Global Compact

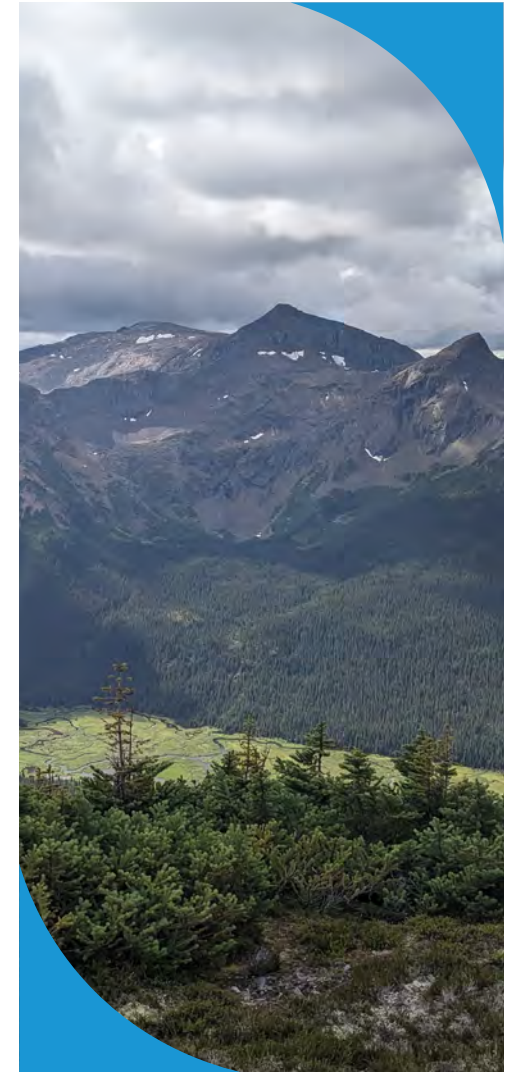
For the purpose of this report, NorthWest Copper is disclosing ESG information related to the following active projects:

- [Kwanika-Stardust](#)
- [Lorraine-Top Cat](#)
- [East Niv](#)

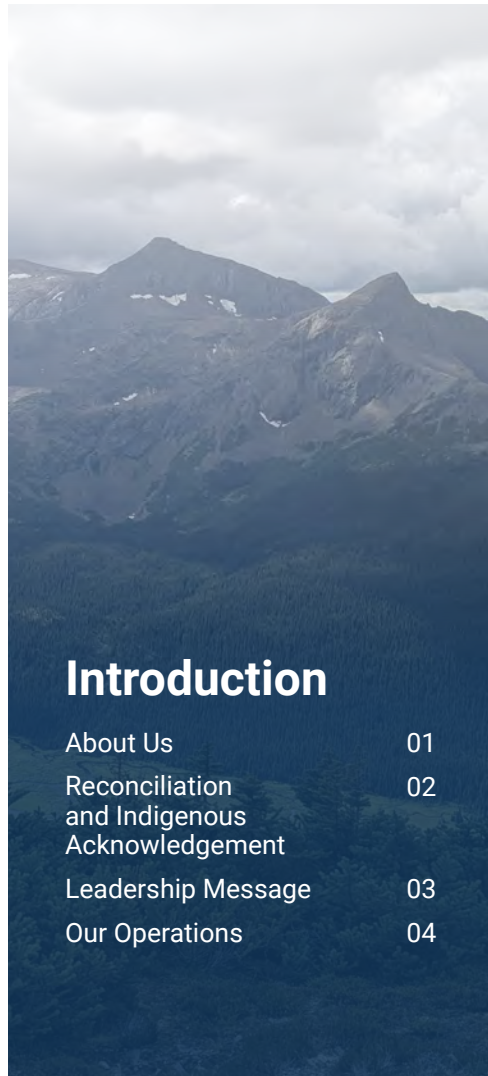
NorthWest Copper holds assets located in British Columbia, Canada, including Kwanika-Stardust, Lorraine and Top Cat, East Niv, Arjay, Croy Bloom, Tchentlo, Milligan West, and UDS.

For the 2023 ESG reporting period, Vesta Filipchuk, Vice President Sustainability and Tyler Caswell, Vice President Exploration, were responsible for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy, programs, and performance. This responsibility was delegated and overseen by NorthWest Copper's Board of Directors.

For any inquiries or comments regarding the information disclosed in this report, please send an email to [info@northwestcopper.ca](mailto:info@northwestcopper.ca)

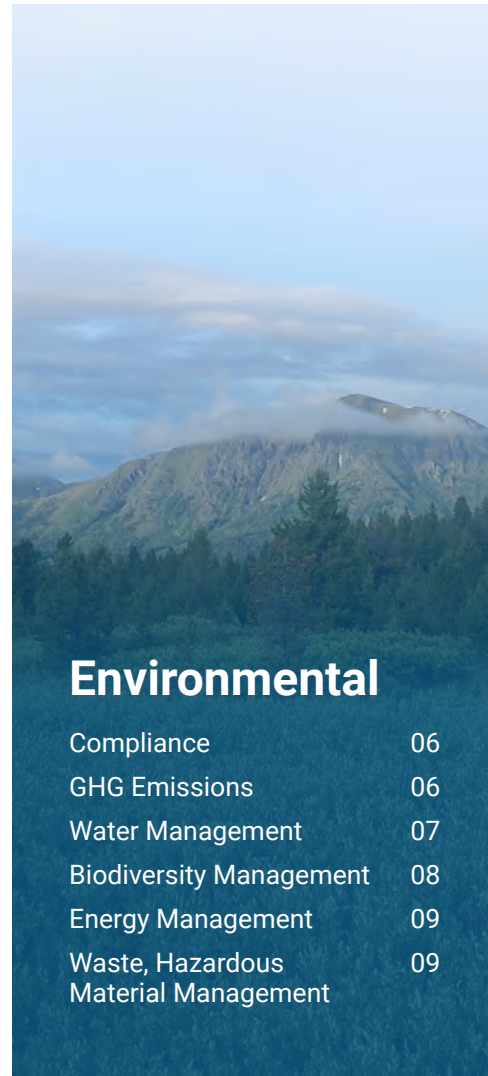


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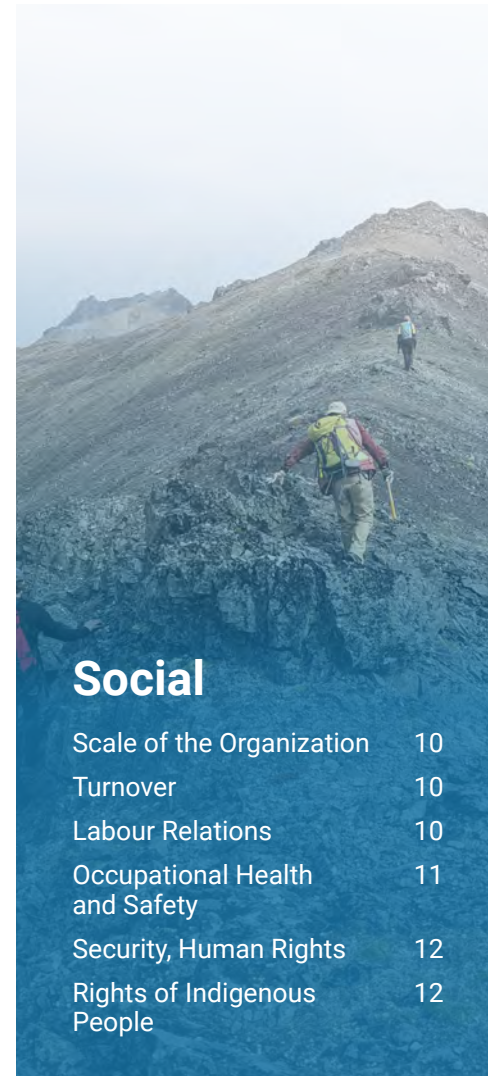
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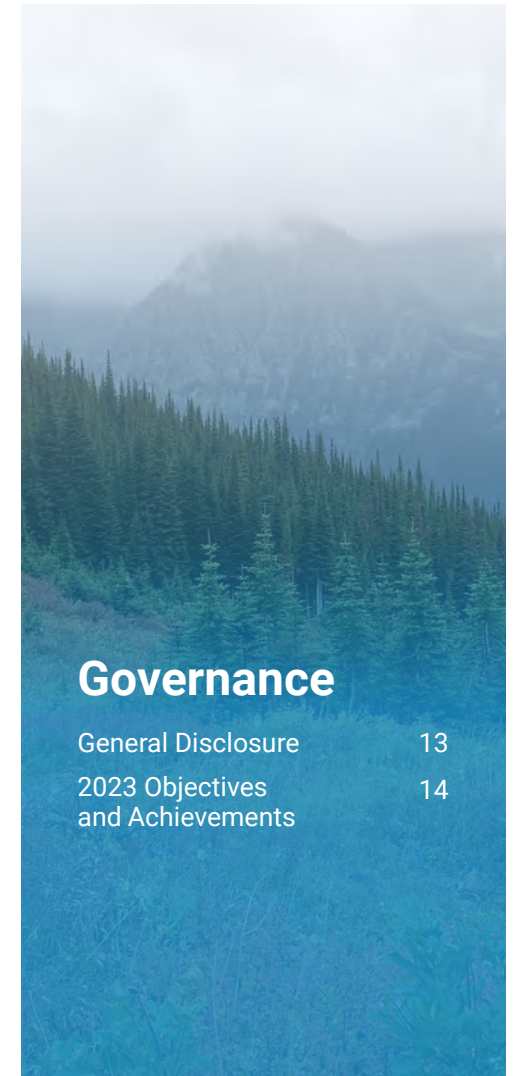
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# About us

## NorthWest Copper is a copper-gold explorer with a strong portfolio of projects in British Columbia.

With a strong portfolio in a tier one jurisdiction, NorthWest Copper is well positioned to participate in a strengthening global copper market. We are committed to responsible mineral exploration which includes working collaboratively with Indigenous leaders and communities to ensure future development incorporates stewardship best practices and traditional land use.

Our pipeline includes the advanced, high-grade Kwanika-Stardust project, the extensive Lorraine-Top Cat project with existing high-grade resources, and East Niv, a new copper-gold porphyry system.

NorthWest Copper is continuing to build on past relationships and partnerships with Indigenous leaders and communities and looking for opportunities to enhance collaboration, support stewardship practices, and contribute to building

strong communities and local economies.

With a focus on exploring for copper in an area of British Columbia with existing infrastructure, abundant hydroelectric power, and a local workforce supporting our programs, our ESG performance is core to NorthWest Copper's longer term goal to contribute to sustainable economies and encourage and promote cultural and environmental stewardship.

We seek to meet best practices in our current exploration but also in advancing and designing our future projects.

Additional information can be found on the Company's website at [northwestcopper.ca](http://northwestcopper.ca)





# Reconciliation and Indigenous Acknowledgement

NorthWest Copper is committed to reconciliation and acknowledges its mineral tenure and exploration activities occur within the unceded traditional and ancestral territories of the:

- [Takla Lake First Nation](#)
- [Tsay Keh Dene Nation](#)
- [Nak'azdli Whut'en Nation](#)
- [Gitxsan Nation – House of Nii'Gyap Hereditary Chiefs](#)
- [McLeod Lake Indian Band](#)

NorthWest Copper's corporate office in Vancouver is located on the unceded traditional and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples – the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh).

We believe by working collaboratively and empowering communities, mineral exploration can be conducted in an environmentally and culturally respectful manner.





# Leadership Message



This is NorthWest Copper's third year tracking and reporting our environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance. NorthWest Copper has established and reported our ESG systems beyond many same stage exploration companies operating in British Columbia. Since the formation of NorthWest Copper, we have supported the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been reinforced by the provincial Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – making reconciliation a cornerstone for

resource development. We believe the future of mineral exploration and resource development to meet the global demand for critical minerals will depend on ensuring people benefit directly from the wealth generated from their lands and empowering them to oversee the stewardship for future generations.

**In 2023, NorthWest Copper continued to focus on building our relationships with local communities and Indigenous leadership to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and to set ourselves apart from others in the mineral exploration sector.**

We prioritized implementing a collaborative approach to project planning early in the year to create economic opportunities for local communities and to ensure our environmental practices would meet Indigenous stewardship standards and traditional land use. Ensuring

the cultural importance of the areas we explore are understood and respected by our management team and all employees.

In 2023, our exploration goal was to advance our understanding of the geology at our projects, better define resource potential, and to deliver value to local communities and our shareholders. We shared information and engaged on a regular basis to ensure the Indigenous communities and leadership were aware of our planned field activities as well as our interactions with other Nations, government, and other communities of interest. NorthWest Copper ultimately conducted limited field work in 2023 due to market conditions and corporate governance changes.

While there was no exploration drilling completed in 2023, the NorthWest Copper team undertook some care and maintenance at both the Lorraine-Top Cat and Kwanika-Stardust projects including the removal of our camp at the Lorraine project which was under threat from





# Leadership Message

wildfire. During 2023, time was spent at Kwanika-Stardust reviewing and analysing drill core on site. There were also 5 site visits to East Niv for marketing purposes. The limited fieldwork in 2023 is reflected in our greenhouse gas (GhG) calculations and reporting and in our staff size and composition.

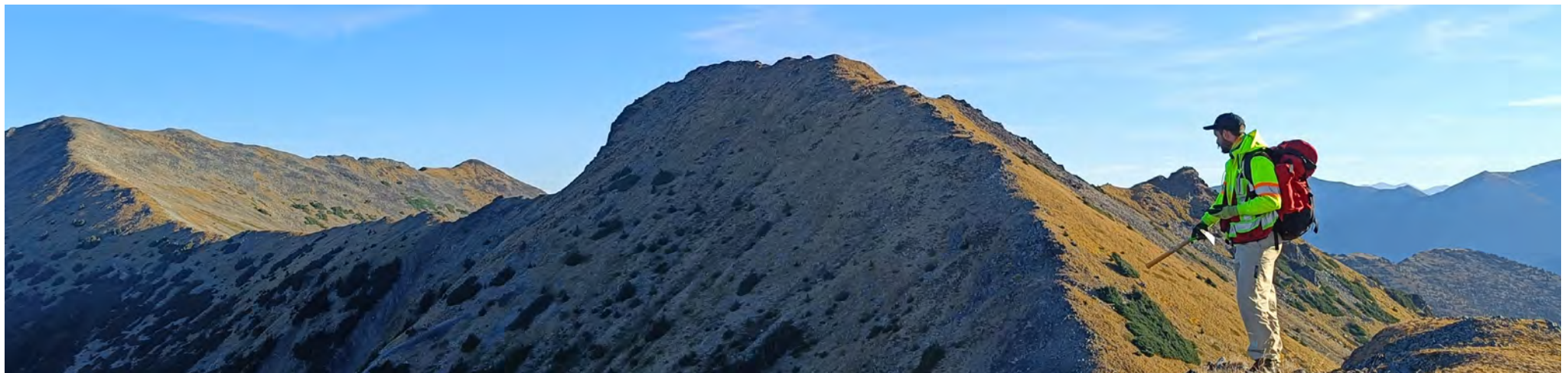
In preparation for 2023 exploration programs, we also reviewed our Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plans (WMMPs). These were prepared by registered professional

biologists working in partnership with Indigenous communities to reflect current regulatory policies as well as represent a broad spectrum of wildlife species of importance to support biodiversity and traditional use. In 2024, these WMMPs will be updated based on planned activities to ensure any sensitive wildlife species are monitored and actions are taken to mitigate any potential impacts.

As we move into 2024, we will focus on continual improvement – working

collaboratively to address the interests and goals of Indigenous communities, defining targets – leading to discovery and adding value, and improving our policies and procedures to address our ESG objectives and commitments. We are committed and optimistic for what the future may hold for local communities, our shareholders, and society. We believe with the right relationships, commitments to the environment and people, and timing - our discoveries can lead to successful projects. We are focused

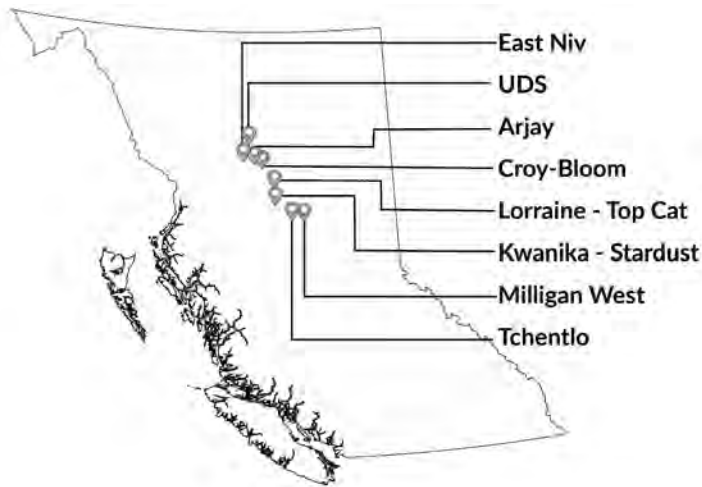
on creating value through exploration and contributing to local economies while respecting the environment and cultural land use.





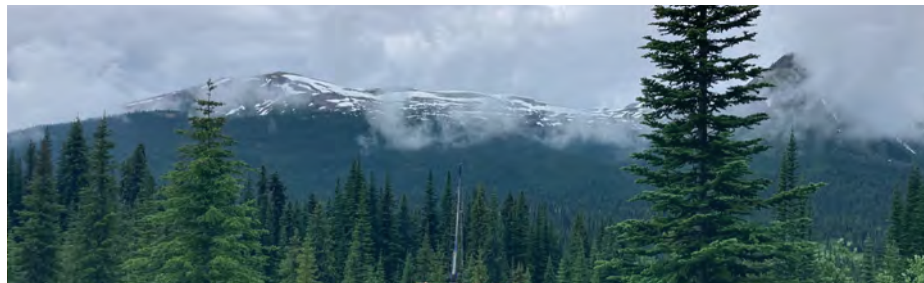
# Our Operations

## Our Growth Platform



NorthWest Copper has a strong foundation for growth and optionality, with grade as the common project denominator. We have multiple projects in our portfolio that can each create value.

NorthWest Copper's land position of >175,000 hectares is 100% owned by NorthWest Copper, and occupies highly prospective ground between the long-life Mt. Milligan Mine and the Kemess Project. East Niv, Arjay and Kwanika-Stardust have no royalties.



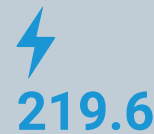
**14.67**  
Total amount of gross global Scope 1 GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>)(tonne)



**37.5% female**  
Employees per employee category (full-time/direct)



**0**  
Freshwater consumed (thousands of cubic metres)



**219.6**  
Total energy consumed, electricity and hydrocarbons (GJ) Including Fuel Types

**0** Number of fatalities as a result of work-related injury



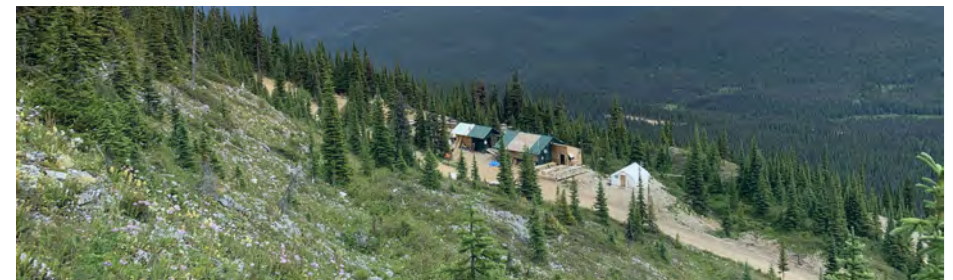
**0**  
Lost Time Injuries Rate (LTIR):



**0**  
Rate of high-consequence work-related injuries

**3.75**

Average hours of health, safety, and emergency response training (direct employees)





# Environmental Performance

## Compliance

### FINES AND NON-MONETARY SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND/OR REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF (GRI 307-1)

Total monetary value of significant fines	0
Total number of non-monetary sanctions	0
Cases brought through dispute resolution mechanisms	0

NorthWest Copper is in compliance with all federal and provincial environmental laws and/or regulations administered by the ministries of Environment, Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, and Forest Lands and Natural Resources.



## GHG Emissions

Gross global Scope 1 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere of the seven GHGs covered under the Kyoto Protocol (tonne CO<sub>2</sub>-e) (SASB EM-MM-110a.1.1)

**14.693**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
(tonne CO<sub>2</sub>-e)

The 2023 season is the third season where GHG emissions were tracked. We will continue to document and track GHG emissions and establish a baseline that relates to the level of activity for a given year.



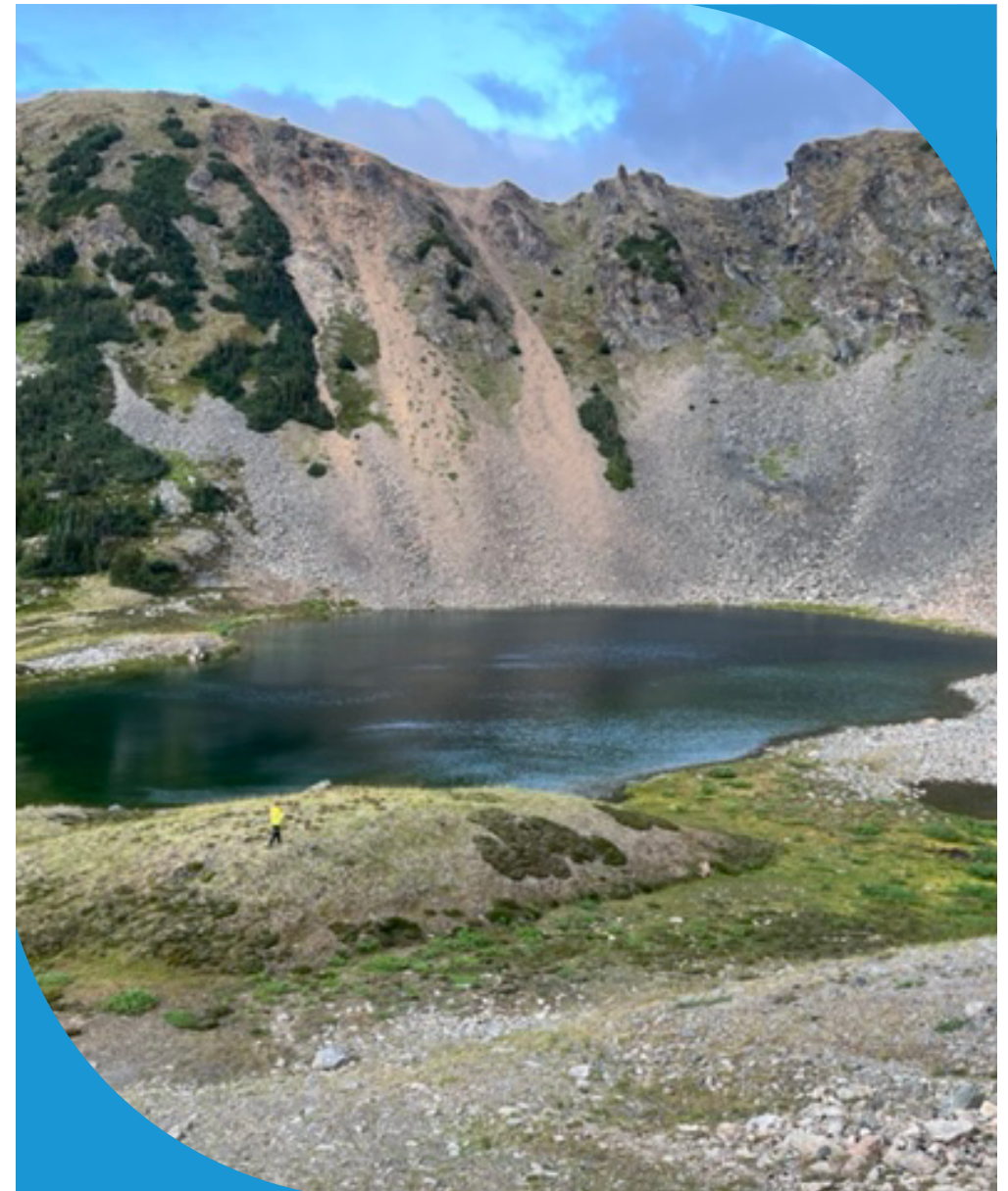
## Water Management

PERCENTAGE OF FRESHWATER WITHDRAWN IN LOCATIONS WITH HIGH OR EXTREMELY HIGH BASELINE WATER STRESSES (SASB EM-MM-140A.1.4) 0.00%

AMOUNT OF WATER THAT WAS CONSUMED IN ITS OPERATIONS (IN THOUSANDS OF CUBIC METERS) (SASB EM-MM-140A.1.2) 0

This measurement includes all water withdrawn from freshwater sources.

In 2023, NorthWest Copper did not conduct drill programs at its exploration sites.





## Biodiversity Management

NorthWest Copper uses industry best practices to minimize the impact on water quality, and biodiversity. NorthWest Copper complies with all applicable sections of the Mines Act and of the Health, Safety, and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia.

The Company utilizes programs such as pre- and post-drilling water quality sampling for all drainages potentially affected by exploration activities. We apply best practices for drill site preparation prior to drilling and rehabilitation after drilling is completed to minimize environmental impact and restore vegetation.

NorthWest Copper prepares Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plans for each of its operational projects which reference and follow provincial and federal laws and guidelines. These plans are developed by recognized industry professionals and with review and input from Indigenous communities as part of NorthWest Copper's commitments under its Exploration Agreements.

**In 2024, we plan to update and improve these plans through collaboration with Indigenous communities.**

**DOES ACCESS TO THE SITE INVOLVE TRAVERSING A PROTECTED AREA (ONYEN)**

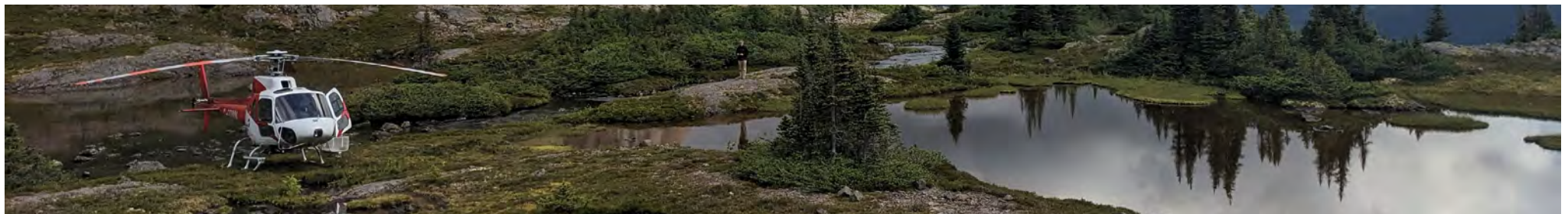
**NO**

NORTHWEST COPPER PROJECTS ARE PRIMARILY ACCESSED VIA INDUSTRIAL LOGGING ROADS. NO PROTECTED AREAS ARE TRAVERSED TO ACCESS ANY OF THE PROPERTIES.

**DO ANY OF THE ENTITIES CONCESSIONS SHARE A WATERSHED WITH A PROTECTED AREA (ONYEN)**

**YES**

NORTHWEST COPPER USES INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER A WATERSHED IS SHARED WITH A PROTECTED AREA OR NOT, THERE IS MINIMAL IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY OR BIODIVERSITY. THE COMPANY UTILIZES PROGRAMS SUCH AS PRE- AND POST-DRILLING WATER QUALITY SAMPLING FOR ALL DRAINAGES AFFECTED ALONG WITH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND BEST PRACTICES FOR DRILL SITE REHABILITATION POST-DRILLING TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. (CDP W8 | SASB EM-MM-160A.3).





## Energy Management

Total energy consumed in aggregate, in gigajoules (GJ) (hydrocarbons and electricity) including fuel types (e.g., biomass, hydroelectric or bioenergy) **(SASB EM-MM-130a.1.1)** 219.603



## Waste and Hazardous Materials Management

Total amount of tailings produced (tonne) **(SASB EM-MM-150a.5.1)** 0

Spending on Research, Development, and Technologies for waste management compliances and improvement **(ONYEN)** 0

Waste management compliance and improvement is not currently a material issue for NorthWest Copper at this stage of mineral exploration and development. The Company will evaluate opportunities for waste management and improvement as part of future feasibility studies.





# Social Performance

## Scale of the Organization


Report the total number of operations (GRI-2-6-B-1)	3
Report the total number of direct employees worldwide (exclude contractors) (GRI 2-7-a)	8
Report the total number of contract employees worldwide (GRI 2-7-b-ii)	0
Total number of employees worldwide (include contractors) (GRI 2-7-a)	8
Total number of direct female employees worldwide (exclude contractor) (GRI 2-7-a)	3
Total number of male direct employees worldwide (exclude contractors) (GRI 2-7-a)	5



## Labour Relations

# 0%

Percentage of total direct employees covered by collective bargaining agreements (GRI 102-41-a)



Each employee has a contractually specified notice period, which will depend on the role and seniority of the employee. This aligns with British Columbia's employment and labour laws.

## Turnover

Total number of turnover (the number that left during the period) (GRI 401-1-b) 9

The 2023 turnover rate resulted from a change in the Company's scope of work due to corporate and market conditions which subsequently resulted in a downsizing of the Company's staff.





## Occupational Health and Safety

### INJURIES - FOR ALL EMPLOYEES, CALCULATING PER 200,000 HOURS (GRI-403-9-A)

Rate of fatalities resulting from work-related injuries	0
Rate of high-consequence work-related injuries (excluding fatalities)	0
Rate of recordable work-related injuries	0
Lost Time Injuries Rate (LTIR)	0

### INJURIES - WORKERS WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYEES BUT WORK AND/OR WHOSE WORKPLACE IS CONTROLLED BY THE ORGANIZATION (GRI-403-9-B)

Rate of fatalities resulting from work-related injuries	0
Rate of high-consequence work-related injuries (excluding fatalities)	0
Rate of recordable work-related injuries	0
Lost Time Injuries Rate (LTIR)	0

NorthWest Copper identified operational risks ahead of the field season. When the season begins, all employees and contractors are required to take a site induction that includes a review of all potential risks. Site managers are required to identify these potential hazards and mitigate them before operation activities begin at each site.

In addition, exploration teams conduct daily safety meetings where any other previously unidentified hazards can be discussed and actions towards eliminating or minimizing these hazards are implemented.

Reporting of all incidents, hazards, equipment damage and near misses is mandatory so NorthWest Copper can continually improve to eliminate work-related hazards and minimize risk.

**In this reporting period, there were no high-consequence injuries at any of the active exploration sites managed by NorthWest Copper.**

### AVERAGE HOURS OF HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FOR:

Full-time direct employees (SASB EM-MM-000.B EM-MM-320a.1.3)	3.75
Contract Employees (SASB EM-MM-000.B EM-MM-320a.1.3)	0



## Security, Human Rights, and Rights of Indigenous People

NorthWest Copper's projects are located in the province of British Columbia, Canada, where Human Rights and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are protected by federal and provincial laws that align with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (**UNDRIP**). The latter recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (**FPIC**). In 2019, the province of British Columbia enacted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (**DRIPA**) as a provincial legal framework to establish a path for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, also commonly referred to as First Nations in Canada.

NorthWest Copper is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and to seeking their Free, Prior and Informed Consent when undertaking mineral exploration activities in their territories.

In 2023, efforts were made to engage early in a manner that provides time and opportunities to discuss activities, ways to share economic

opportunities through contracting services and employment, and steps to minimize and manage potential impacts to the environment, cultural practices and tradition use, and archaeological artifacts.

As a standard practice, NorthWest Copper reaches out early in the year to begin its engagement regarding proposed exploration activities. When seeking authorization to conduct exploration work, NorthWest Copper shares permit applications with Indigenous leadership and their lands and stewardship teams prior to sending applications to the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (**EMLI**). This provides an opportunity for Indigenous communities to consider the proposed activities and the potential impacts on ecological and cultural values and traditional use. NorthWest Copper encourages Indigenous communities to provide input and feedback on how the activities could be tailored to minimize the potential for impacts and implement sound stewardship practices. By taking this approach, NorthWest Copper can identify management plan requirements, share employment

opportunities, discuss contracting with Indigenous businesses and partnerships, and ensure field activities meet stewardship expectations and practices.

For each of our project sites, NorthWest Copper works with Indigenous leadership to establish exploration agreements that define the Indigenous communities' expectations with respect to environmental management, cultural protection, employment, contracting and engagement. To elevate the importance of our relationships with Indigenous communities, NorthWest Copper ensures the field and management team undertake cultural awareness training and

continue to stay up to date on changes to provincial policies with respect to Indigenous rights and title.

**In 2023, NorthWest Copper continued to engage and work with Indigenous communities to keep them apprised on changes within the organization.**

The development of an Indigenous Peoples Policy and Reconciliation Plan will be targeted for 2025 to enable the current leadership team to continue building the leader-to-leader relationships which will be the foundation of the Plan.



# Governance

## General Disclosure

At December 31, 2023, the Company's Board of Directors was comprised of 6 members and the following two standing committees:

- Audit Committee;
- Compensation, Governance and Nominating Committee

At the Company's 2023 Annual General Meeting, 6 new Directors were elected, replacing 6 incumbent Directors.

**The Compensation, Governance, and Nominating Committee was principally responsible for providing oversight with respect to:**

- the protection of the health and safety of the Company's employees and contractors at its project sites; and,
- the conduct of operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner through the application of prudent and sustainable design and operating practices and the education and training of employees and contractors who work for the Company.

As at December 31, 2023:

1

Number of executive members on the board

5

Number of independent members on the board

The Board was composed of 5 males and 1 female





## 2023 Objectives and Achievements

In 2023, the NorthWest Copper team continued to focus on building our relationships with communities of interest by engaging early and increasing the frequency of information sharing. We worked collaboratively with Indigenous lands and stewardship teams and Indigenous development corporations to understand and incorporate values and interests into our project planning to ensure economic opportunities were identified and sound environmental practices were put in place. We have also continued to provide monthly activities updates reporting out on field activities and engagement with government and other communities of interest.

Throughout 2023, NorthWest Copper engaged and worked closely with five Indigenous communities:

- [Takla Lake First Nation](#)
- [Tsay Keh Dene Band](#)
- [Gitxsan Nation – House of Nii'Gyap Hereditary Chiefs](#)
- [Nak'azdli Whut'en Nation](#)
- [McLeod Lake Indian Band](#)

This included implementation of existing exploration agreements, review of new agreements, in person and virtual meetings, and regular communications.

At the beginning of 2023, we reached out to provide an overview of our proposed exploration activities planned at our East Niv, Lorraine-Top Cat and Kwanika-Stardust projects. While there was community support to conduct mineral exploration in 2023, no exploration drill programs, or geological surveys were completed due to market conditions and corporate changes in governance. The management team continued to have dialogue with the communities, keeping them apprised of corporate developments and maintaining our exploration agreements.





# NorthWestcopper

## NorthWest Copper Corp.

### Contact Us

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[Visit our ESG Scorecard](#)

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[northwestcopper.ca](http://northwestcopper.ca)

