news afton sustainability newsletter



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We would like to acknowledge that we are located on the Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded traditional lands of the Secwépemc Nation. New Afton appreciates the partnership that we have with the Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc Nation and respect the territory and land on which we work, gather and play.

newafton.newgold.com

THE PROJECT PATH TO SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

BRIAN GAGNÉ - MANAGER, CAPITAL PROJECTS

Welcome to the Fall Edition of our Sustainability
Newsletter, where we share our journey
towards completing C-Zone Program
milestones. In this newsletter, we highlight
our recent achievements, bringing us
closer to our goal of project completion and
sustainability.

Our accomplishments are the result of dedication, teamwork, and innovation by the Capital Projects Team and our partners, including consultants, contractors, and New Afton staff from various departments.

Our progress signifies more than juswt physical projects; it represents our collective commitment. We invite you to reflect on our recent successes and upcoming challenges. Here are some key achievements:

- 1. New Afton Tailings Storage Facility Stabilization:
 - All 29 wells at NATSF Stabilization Pad were installed and commissioned ahead of schedule.
 - Cone Penetration Testing, including testing in the NATSF pond using an amphibious rig, was completed.
- 2. C-Zone Mine Development:
 - Gyratory Crusher excavation development was completed and handed over.
 - Critical Path development, with the First Bell completed ahead of schedule in September.
- 3. Mine Infrastructure (C-Zone Crush & Convey System):

- Phase 1 of the Ore Bin Reclaim Feeder concrete was completed in July.
- The reaming of the Gyratory Crusher Ore Pass was finished in September.
- The crusher chamber was handed over to the contractor for foundation preparation and concrete installation.

You might wonder, "How does this relate to sustainability?" The connection is pretty straightforward:

- The C-Zone Stabilization Project aims to stabilize our tailings facilities, which are essential for environmental protection.
- The Mine Infrastructure project, like the Stabilization Project and the Thickened & Amended Tailings project, extends New Afton's Life of Mine (LOM). This extended LOM:
 - Provides economic stability to the community and region by sustaining employment opportunities and tax revenues.
 - Ensures a stable mineral supply to the market, reducing price fluctuations and supply shortages.
 - Allows for long-term planning, investment in social programs, infrastructure, and community development, fostering stronger, sustainable relationships.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and we look forward to sharing our ongoing successes with you as we turn our vision into reality.

Brian Gagné

Manager, Capital Projects

SAFETY STATISTICS

Reportable injuries	Q3 2023	Q2 2023	Q1 2023
Lost-time injury	1	0	0
Restricted duty injury	0	0	1
Medical treatment injury	2	1	1

ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD

Incidents (3 months ended June 30)	Q3 2023	Q2 2023	Q1 2023
Environmental non-compliances	1	0	0
Externally reported spills	1	1	0
Number of fines incurred	0	0	0



HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Composition (3 months ended June 30, 2023)	Q2 2023	
Total number of employees on payroll	690	
Employees from BC	643	93%
Employees from the Kamloops region	551	80%
Employees from BC, outside of Kamloops	88	13%
Employees from outside BC	51	7%
Indigenous employees	165	24%
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Skeetchestn employees	37	5%
Female employees	121	18%
Male employees	568	82%
Average age	40	







PERFORMANCE BY THE NUMBERS

OUTPUTS	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Ore Processed (thousand tonnes)	764	806
Tailings Produced (thousand tonnes)	740	782
Average gold grade of ore (g/tonne)	0.76	0.77
Average copper grade of ore (%)	0.78	0.81
Copper Produced (million pounds)	12.0	13.2
Gold Produced (ounces)	16,645	18016



Teamwork

C-ZONE GOES INTO PRODUCTION

SUCCESSFUL FIRST BELL BLAST KICKS OFF

In October, New Gold announced completion of the first C-Zone draw bell, which signifies a transition to the production ramp-up phase. With this achievement, C-Zone remains on-track to achieve commercial production in the second half of 2024. C-Zone is the fourth block cave at New Afton, after completion of Lift 1 in 2022 and the currently producing B3 cave.

"These are important milestones for New Gold and the New Afton team," stated Patrick Godin, President & CEO. "Completing the first draw bell from C-Zone is a positive step in significantly increasing our production profile at New Afton over the coming years."

To celebrate, employees hosted a barbeque on site, with the Kamloops Rotary club running the grill and visitors from New Gold's corporate office in attendance. "I have great pride for what the team has accomplished in

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coming together to hit our goals safely. Our success is a testament to the quality of people working at New Afton," said Jeff LaMarsh, General Manager of New Afton. "It has been a long journey to get to this point, with a lot of hard work, but at the end of the day we pulled together to achieve our goals safely, which is the most important thing."

With current C-Zone mineral reserves of 486 million pounds of copper and 653,000 ounces of gold, the C-Zone production period of 2024 to 2030 is expected to increase average annual production at New Afton to approximately 90,000 ounces of gold and approximately 70 million pounds of copper, a sizeable increase in production over the last two years.

The C-Zone project also includes three major activities related to tailings management, including the thickened and amended tailings (TAT) plant, the stabilization of the Historical Afton Tailings Storage Facility (HATSF), and the stabilization of the New Afton Tailings Storage Facility (NATSF). Surface subsidence inherent in block cave mining is modelled to progress in the direction of the now-closed HATSF as well as the NATSF. The new TAT plant allows for non-flowable thickened tailings to be deposited into the Historic Afton Pit. Tailings stabilization on the HATSF was completed at the end of 2022, and stabilization of the NATSF reached an important milestone in September, with commissioning of the final dewatering wells,. The overall NATSF project is on track for completion in the first half of 2026.



ENERGY UPDATE

Commitment

SITE INITIATIVES TO REDUCE ENERGY USAGE AND EMISSIONS

At New Afton, our vision is a site where energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) management is self-sustaining. This means energy management is something done by everyone on a day-to-day basis, there is a high level of energy awareness amongst the team, and everyone is working to continually improve energy and GHG performance in everything they do.

Seeking innovative ways to reduce our societal carbon footprint at New Afton has been a priority for many years. We are proud to be a leader in the mining community by meeting and exceeding GHG emission reduction targets, primarily due to the transition from fossil fuel to greener energy sources. We replaced a portion of our diesel fleet with a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) fleet, which currently includes haul trucks, scoop trams, boom trucks and



personnel transport carriers, with plans to introduce additional BEVs over the next several years.

New Afton adopted a Thickened and Amended Tailing process with verified energy savings of 40% when compared with conventional dry stack tailings techniques. Employee-led efforts have been increasing year over year, with an estimated 25% increased enrolment in our carpool campaign and bike to work initiatives that ran throughout the last quarter.

Striving to obtain and maintain our AAA rating in the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Energy Use and GHG Emissions protocol is a testament to our commitment to practicing energy management at the highest level. As a result of our dedication and consistent efforts, New Afton was recently recognized by the Mining Association of Canada with their 2023 TSM Environmental Excellence Award. Ultimately, this award signifies New Afton's commitment to responsible mining for the future and validates our team's effort to realize the vision we have created – a site where energy and GHG management are self-sustaining.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN STEM People & Communities

FOR STUDENTS AT NORKAM SECONDARY

New Afton provided \$8,060 to School District #73 for NorKam Secondary School to acquire a comprehensive set of VEX robotics kits to accommodate between 18 and 22 students. VEX robotics is a program for students from elementary to university that provides education and competition opportunities for students interested in robotics. The funding was provided through New Afton's Community Investment Program and aligned strongly with New Gold's values of Creativity and People and Communities.

"This donation will significantly enhance our students' learning experiences," said Dewald Van Der Mewe, NorKam's Technology Teacher, adding that the investment allows for students to access "exciting opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)." With this investment, New Gold will be supporting NorKam's focus on intellectual development as a key aspect of the School District's Strategic Plan. The Stratetic Plan intends to further students' educational opportunities to strengthen literacy and numeracy, and their competencies such as critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation, which are needed for the NorKam students to further their careers in STEM.







DIVERSITY IN ACTION

People & Communities

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT THE KAMLOOPS PRIDE PARADE

In August, New Afton employees participated in the Kamloops Pride Parade which saw thousands of attendees and spectators fill the streets of downtown Kamloops. The annual event brings businesses, groups, and community organizations working in service to the two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* and queer (2SLGBTQ+) community together to show their support for equity and diversity. New Afton employees walked as part of the official parade delegations, driving a truck from New Afton's Fire and Mine Rescue and carrying a New Gold banner. New Afton held a t-shirt design contest in the weeks leading up to the parade as a way to generate both participation and conversation around diversity, equity and inclusion. "Embracing what makes us different is an integral part of our New Gold values," said Mary-Beth Harrison, New Afton's Human Resources Manager. "Participating in events like the Kamloops Pride Parade is important in showing that we acknowledge and celebrate all our employees and their loved ones".



HELPING COMBAT THE OPIOID CRISIS



NALOXONE TRAINING PROVIDED IN COLLABORATION WITH INTERIOR HEALTH

To help address the stigma related to substance use and provide training on how to respond to an opioid poisoning, New Afton coordinated off-site naloxone training sessions for staff and their families to attend. In partnership with Interior Health and co-organized by Thompson Rivers University, this hands-on training provided participants with a deeper understanding of substance use and the life-saving role naloxone plays in treating opioid poisoning. The government of Canada reports that the highest rate of opioid overdoses in the country are experienced by men, and that men employed in the trades represent 30-50% of deaths.

Participants were guided through hands-on training by an Interior Health Harm Reduction Nurse on the steps to identify a poisoning and how to respond safely and effectively.

When asked for feedback on the training, staff shared that it made a significant impact, with 92% of participants finding the training highly educational and impactful. This was evident in the percent of participants that increased their knowledge on the topic, with 41% of participants starting the session with little knowledge about naloxone and ending with 92% of participants feeling aware at the end of the session.

"The more people are familiar with and have access to Naloxone the safer our community will be," said Susan Tabor, Team Lead with Interior Health. "Overdose really can affect anyone, and naloxone is just one more tool in our first aid kit. It was an

honor to share some time, important information and resources with New Gold staff and families. We look forward to continuing to build these connections and support everyone in having access to the information they need."

The connection between safety tools and naloxone training was reiterated throughout the training. As shared by one participant, "Like CPR or a fire extinguisher, you should have naloxone training and know how to use it but hope you never need to." Taking into consideration the feedback that New Afton heard from staff, future naloxone training sessions will continue to be made available to staff moving forward.





ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE DRY



FACILITIES SUPPORTING INCLUSIVITY

We believe in strengthening our teams by embracing diversity and inclusiveness in all aspects of our operation. For a diverse workforce to be successful, we must work toward ensuring that environmental factors that impact and support our people are inclusive and equitable, no matter the person. For example, our personal protective equipment options need to be inclusive of different body types, our leave of absence types need to be inclusive of all genders and ethnic backgrounds, and our facilities need to be inclusive of gender differences and physical abilities.

In 2022, it was recognized that our Women's Mine Operations Dry facilities were at capacity and an expansion was required. This expansion project provided an opportunity for New Afton to not only increase the size of the existing women's dry facilities, but to add additional facilities that are gender inclusive and accessible for persons with mobility limitations which were not previously accommodated at our site.

The women's dry expansion saw locker, basket and shower capacities approximately doubled, with an additional fifty-seven lockers, fifty-one baskets and two shower stalls being added to the existing dry.

The accessible and inclusive dry is fully wheelchair-accessible and includes twelve lockers as well as private, fully-enclosed shower stalls and toilet spaces in both standard and wheelchair-accessible sizes. The facility is accessed by both a standard door on the north side of the building, as well as an oversized button-operated door accessed by a covered ramp on the south side of the building, making it accessible to potential users. The addition of these facilities is a significant step in supporting an equitable and inclusive environment at New Afton.



A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



FEEDBACK INFORMING ACTION

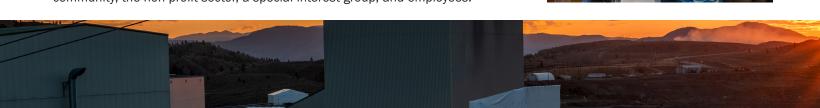
New Afton values community feedback to improve our public reporting, engagement, and operations. To ensure there is a standardized process to receive community feedback, New Afton has an established feedback mechanism, otherwise known as the Feedback Hotline.

To ensure the Feedback Hotline is properly utilized, New Afton has an External Feedback Procedure which documents the process to receive, track, and respond to incidents, concerns, and feedback from Community of Interest (COI) groups. This formal feedback system has a clear process for managing and responding to COI grievances, comments, and requests. Feedback reported though the Feedback Hotline is captured, assessed, and responded to in a timely manner and can be accessed by appropriate personnel through the review period. If necessary, there are mechanisms in place to escalate complaints if not adequately and promptly dealt with. Throughout the process, COI groups are proactively and clearly informed regularly, including

a post-follow up process to capture the effectiveness of the feedback mechanism and identify any opportunities for improvement. In addition, complainants are given the option to remain anonymous during the feedback process and all feedback is managed with discretion and in confidence.

The Feedback Hotline and External Feedback Procedure were collaboratively developed with affected COI groups and are reviewed annually with New Afton's Feedback Group. This group has representation from key COI groups, including representation from Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation (SSN), the City of Kamloops, the business community, the non-profit sector, a special interest group, and employees.





SSN & NEW GOLD ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURE



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

This November, we celebrated two years since the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN) and New Afton. The teams from SSN and New Afton continue to work effectively together in implementing the commitments. The engagement structure as shown below provides a framework where participants contribute their ideas, expertise, and perspectives, ensuring a process where collaborative and cooperative conversations can occur to achieve shared goals.

Collaboratively designed with SSN, the engagement structure demonstrates New Afton's ongoing commitment to participate in meaningful engagement, the importance of building respectful relationships, and aiming to obtain consent through the consent-based decision-making process. Further, the process seeks to understand what is important to our SSN communities, including culturally significant sites, how the rights and interests of our First Nations partners may be affected, and how to mitigate adverse impacts on those rights and interests.

Each table is co-chaired by both SSN and New Afton representatives and provides a venue for subject matter experts from the SSN, New Afton Mine, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, and Skeetchestn Indian Band to collaborate on various initiatives. This year, in-person meetings have been occurring more frequently, as they have proven ideal for maintaining and enhancing relationships, as well as contributing to increased collaboration and productivity. Currently, each of the Joint Working Groups are working diligently to finalize Annual Plans for 2024 which are presented to the Mine Management Board for further discussion and final approval.

Leadership Table Mine Management Board Joint Working Groups

STAFF EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

People & Communities

SITE CARPOOLING AND GOBYBIKE INITIATIVES

In 2023, employee-led campaigns to reduce emissions by changing the way staff commute to work demonstrated our commitment to New Gold's Values of Integrity, by doing what is right and demonstrating environmental stewardship. Both the carpooling initiative and participation in GoByBike Week aimed to empower employees to make changes in their own lives to reduce emissions.

With the engagement of 38 carpoolers, this first phase of the Carpooling Program saw 45 carpooled trips that covered an impressive distance of approximately 3,410 kilometres. That is further than the direct distance from Kamloops to Ottawa! This collective effort has translated into an estimated reduction of 656kg of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Taking lessons from this first phase, this fall saw employees initiate another phase of the Carpooling Program which is expected to make a continued emissions reduction impact.

After a successful Spring GoByBike Week earlier this year, 35 employees took part in the Fall GoByBike Week, logging over 5,163 kilometres by bike or carpool. This effort is estimated to have burned over 150,000 calories and a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction equivalent of 1,119 kg that would have been produced by commuting to work in individual vehicles. The

Spring and Fall initiatives had a combined outcome of 1,823 kg of GHG emissions reduced, a testament to our strong site participation in this excellent program.

These outcomes not only underscore the positive impact of changing how we look at commuting to work on our environment but also highlight the potential for reducing our carbon footprint through simple yet effective strategies. These initiatives made tangible contributions towards reducing emissions and promoting eco-friendly practices. As we continue to embrace these initiatives and others, these results serve as a testament to the power of collective action in creating a greener and more sustainable future for all.



2023 FALL ISSUE

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have any comments on this report or would like further information on the New Afton mine, please contact:

Renata Mrema

Community Relations Coordinator Ph: +1 250 377 2819

New Afton Mine Ph: +1 250 377 2100

Email: info.newafton@newgold.com 4050 W Trans-Canada Highway Kamloops, British Columbia

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Career Opportunities

To learn about New Afton's current career opportunities please visit: www.newgold.com/careers.

Community Investment Program

To submit an application, visit <u>communityinvestment.newgold.com</u>. If you have questions, email <u>info.newafton@newgold.com</u>

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information presented, please note that all figures are unaudited.

WATER STEWARDSHIP

New Gold released the Water Management Strategy Statement in June 2023, which demonstrates the proposed path to water stewardship across the Company. The New Afton Mine has continued a strong focus on water management this year, with the implementation of a site-wide water balance model which supports long-term decision making. Water use and risks are key areas which New Afton regularly engages on with local First Nations to broaden understanding and ensure a robust management approach.

New Afton Mine is striving to achieve a AAA rating for the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) Water Stewardship Protocol. As part of this work and to improve the standard of our external water reporting, New Gold has completed an external verification of water data reported in the 2022 Environment, Social and Governance Report. 2022 was the first year New Gold obtained external verification, completed by EMM Consultants, and the findings identified no fatal flaws with reporting. Several improvements were identified that New Afton Mine and New Gold can incorporate in future analysis and reporting. The recommendations include:

- Update the site-wide water balance model in areas such as:
 - Mass balance and calibration (completed)
 - o Defining assumptions (completed)
- Confirm intensity for new water is defined and consistently calculated, and methods for calculating water data are consistent at both the New Afton and Rainy River Mines (2023 reporting)
- Confirm calculation of change in water storage and maintain database of assumption and raw data (2023 reporting)

The external verification has added value to New Gold's water reporting, and as part of New Gold's continuous improvement efforts, these items will be addressed in the preparation of future reporting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Certain information contained in this newsletter are "forward-looking". All statements in this newsletter, other than statements of historical fact, which address events, results, outcomes or developments that New Gold expects to occur are "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and are generally, but not always, identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "plans", "expects", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "targeted", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates", "projects", "potential", "believes" or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "should", "might" or "will be taken", "occur" or "be achieved" or the negative connotation of such terms. Forward-looking statements in this newsletter include, among others, statements with respect to: the Company's goals and priorities and the expected resulting benefits; intended focus areas, projects and initiatives for the site and anticipated timing thereof; projections relating to the Company and site's mining operations and future successes; and expectations regarding production, expenses, investments and expenditures, and the factors contributing to those expected results.

All forward-looking statements in this newsletter are based on the opinions and estimates of management that, while considered reasonable as at the date of this newsletter in light of management's experience and perception of current conditions and expected developments, are inherently subject to important risk factors and uncertainties, many of which are beyond New Gold's ability to control or predict. Certain material assumptions regarding such forward-looking statements are discussed in this newsletter, New Gold's latest annual management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A"), annual information form ("AIF") and technical reports on the Rainy River Mine filled on SEDAR at www.sedar.com and on EDGAR at www.sec.gov. In addition to, and subject to, such assumptions discussed in more detail elsewhere, the forward-looking statements in this newsletter are also subject to the following assumptions: (1) there being no significant disruptions affecting New Gold's operations other than as set out herein; (2) political and legal developments in jurisdictions where New Gold operates, or may in the future operate, being consistent with New Gold's current expectations; (3) the accuracy of New Gold's current mineral reserve and mineral resource estimates and the grade of gold, silver and copper expected to be mined and the grade of gold, copper and silver expected to be mined; (4) the exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and U.S. dollar, and to a lesser extent, the Mexican Peso, and commodity prices being approximately consistent with current levels and expectations for the purposes of guidance and otherwise; (5) prices for diesel, natural gas, fuel oil, electricity and other key supplies being approximately consistent with current levels; (6) arrangements with First Nations and other Indigenous groups in respect of the New Afton Mine being consistent with New Gold's current expectations; and (7) there being no material disruption to the Company's supply chains and workforce that would interfere with the Company's antic

Forward-looking statements are necessarily based on estimates and assumptions that are inherently subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including the "Risk Factors" included in New Gold's most recent AIF, MD&A and other disclosure documents filed on and available on SEDAR at www. sedar.com and on EDGAR at www.sec.gov. Forward looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results and future events could materially differ from those anticipated in such statements. All forward-looking statements contained in this newsletter are qualified by these cautionary statements. New Gold expressly disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, events or otherwise, except in accordance with applicable securities laws.