



## Core Nickel Corp.

CSE: CNCO

### Management Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations For the three and six months ended October 31, 2024

This Management's Discussion and Analysis (“**MD&A**”) compares the financial results of Core Nickel Corp. (“**Core Nickel**” or the “**Company**”) for the three and six months ended October 31, 2024 (“**second quarter 2025**” and “**six months fiscal 2025**”). No comparison is available for the results for the three and six months ended October 31, 2023 (“**second quarter 2024**” and “**six months fiscal 2024**”). In order to gain a more complete understanding of the Company’s financial condition and results of operations, this MD&A should be read in conjunction with the April 30, 2024 audited financial statements and accompanying notes which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“**IFRS**”) and filed with the appropriate provincial regulatory bodies. The Company discloses additional information through press releases and financial information available on the Company’s website at [www.corenickel.com](http://www.corenickel.com) and on the SEDAR+ website, [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

Core Nickel was incorporated on May 2, 2022, under the laws of Canada Business Corporation Act and commenced trading on the Canadian Securities Exchange (the “**CSE**”) on November 27, 2023 under the symbol “**CNCO**”. The Company’s head office and principal address is suite 204, 75 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7K 1K3. The Company’s registered and records office is 600 - 890 West Pender Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6C 1J9.

The Company is considered to be in the exploration stage with respect to its mineral properties. The Company prepares its financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“**IFRS**”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“**IASB**”) and Interpretations issued by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (“**IFRIC**”).

The information contained in this document is provided as of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (the “**Report Date**”).

#### **OVERVIEW**

Core Nickel is principally engaged in the evaluation, acquisition and exploration of nickel properties that are located in the Thompson Nickel Belt in Northern Manitoba, Canada. The Company’s projects range from early-stage grassroots exploration through advanced-stage resource delineation. The Company’s business model is to build shareholder value through systematic project advancement while concurrently maintaining an opportunistic approach to the acquisition of additional nickel properties. Core Nickel actively manages its property portfolio. The Company may farm out or relinquish properties when exploration results suggest that further expenditures by the Company are unwarranted.

Core Nickel has no producing operations and as a consequence, the Company does not generate any operating income or a positive cash flow. Exploration of its properties is therefore entirely dependent on the Company’s ability to access public equity markets to raise sufficient capital and/or its ability to attract joint venture partners to finance further work on its



properties. With a working capital of approximately \$2,989,954 at October 31, 2024, Core Nickel is well financed to support its anticipated exploration programs in 2024 and 2025.

### **Exploration Projects**

The Company currently holds interests in five exploration projects located in the Thompson Nickel Belt in northern Manitoba, totaling 26,992 hectares of exploration ground. The company's current project portfolio was generated by CanAlaska Uranium Ltd, ("CanAlaska") and all five properties held by the company were included in the spinout arrangement between CanAlaska and the Company on November 11, 2023. The majority of the Company's land is classified as greenfield or early-stage exploration, with the exception of the Mel property, which hosts the Mel deposit.

#### ***Mel Project, Manitoba***

The Mel project is located in the northeastern portion of the Thompson Nickel Belt, approximately 20 kilometres northeast of the city of Thompson, Manitoba. The Mel project comprises one mineral lease and ten mineral claims covering a total of 2,613 hectares, with a carrying value of \$979,309. The property is 100% owned by the Company, subject to a 10% net profit royalty to Vale, and the Company has a milling agreement with Vale at cash cost plus 5%.

The Mel project was initially explored by Canada Nickel Co. Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of INCO). INCO (now Vale) discovered the Mel deposit in 1961, and exploration on the property continued into the early 1970s. Exploration ceased until the late 1990s, when INCO entered into a joint venture agreement with Victory Nickel Inc. (previously Nunisco Resources). Victory Nickel Inc. primarily focused its exploration efforts on the Mel deposit, with minimal exploration on the remainder of the property. In 2007, Victory Nickel Inc. acquired the Mel property and completed a NI 43-101 resources estimate on the Mel deposit, indicating a historical indicated resource of 4,279,000 tonnes at 0.875% nickel and a historical inferred resource of 1,010,000 tonnes at 0.839% nickel (refer to the "Technical Report on the Mel Deposit, Northern Manitoba" prepared for Victory Nickel Inc. by Shane Naccashian (P. Geo) of Wardrop Engineering Inc. dated March 9, 2007). CanAlaska completed the acquisition of the Mel Deposit, the Mel mining lease, and ten mineral claims on May 15, 2023, through the receivership responsible for liquidating Victory Nickel's assets. On November 11, 2023, CanAlaska included the Mel deposit, the Mel mining lease, and ten mineral claims in the spinout arrangement with the Company. Dr. Chris Beaumont-Smith prepared a 43-101 technical report for the Company on the Mel property in 2023, the [Technical Report on the MEL Property Thompson Region, Manitoba](#). The report is filed under the Company's profile on SEDAR+ [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca).

#### ***Hunter Property, Manitoba***

The Hunter property is 100% owned by the Company and has a carrying value of \$28,885. The property consists of eleven claim blocks and one mineral exploration lease (MEL) covering a total of 8,232 hectares and is located approximately 20 kilometres north from the city of Thompson, Manitoba. The Hunter property was explored by various companies including INCO from the 1950s to the early 1970s. Exploration on the Hunter property ceased until the late 1990s, when INCO entered into a joint venture agreement with Victory Nickel Inc. In 2018, CanAlaska staked the mineral exploration lease and ten claim blocks that make up the Hunter project. CanAlaska conducted a property wide airborne VTEM survey over Hunter and included the Hunter project in the spinout arrangement with the Company.

#### ***Odei River, Manitoba***

The Odei River has a carrying value of \$5,107 and consists of one mineral exploration license for a total of 9,411 hectares. The property is located in the Thompson Nickel Belt, Manitoba and is situated approximately 20 kilometers north of the City of Thompson, Manitoba. The property was explored in the 1960s by Canadian Nickel Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of INCO) and Merrit Copper. In 1999, the property was staked by Victory Nickel and INCO, and exploration activities were carried out under a JV between Victory Nickel and INCO until 2007. In 2022, CanAlaska staked the Odei River property and in 2023, the property was included in the spinout arrangement between CanAlaska and the Company.



### ***Resting Lake Project, Manitoba***

The Resting Lake project consists of eleven claim blocks covering a total of 2,322 hectares in the southern portion of the Thompson Nickel Belt situated approximately five kilometres to the southwest of Wabowden, Manitoba. The property was covered by a regional electromagnetic survey by INCO in 1949 and was later explored by Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. and Bowden Lake Nickel Mines Limited in 1959 to 1975 and in 1994. CanAlaska staked the Resting Lake claims in 2021 and conducted a property wide aeromagnetic survey in 2022. The property was included in the spinout arrangement between CanAlaska and the Company. Dr. Chris Beaumont-Smith prepared a 43-101 technical report for the Company on the Resting Lake property in 2023, the [Technical Report on the Halfway and Resting Lake Properties Thompson, Manitoba](#). The report is filed under the Company's profile on SEDAR+ [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca). Core Nickel completed a property wide airborne electromagnetic (VTEM) survey in 2024. The Resting Lake property has a carrying value of \$17,505.

### ***Halfway Lake Property, Manitoba***

The Halfway Lake property consists of twenty-one mineral claims covering a total of 4,414 hectares in the southern portion of the Thompson Nickel Belt, Manitoba, situated approximately 12 kilometres to the northeast of Wabowden, Manitoba. The property was explored by National Malartic in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and by Falconbridge from 1962 to 1975 and in 1994. CanAlaska staked eight of the Halfway Lake claims in 2021 and another twelve claims in 2022 to form a contiguous land package, while also conducting a property wide aeromagnetic survey in 2022. In 2023, the property was included in the spinout arrangement between CanAlaska and the Company. Dr. Chris Beaumont-Smith prepared a 43-101 technical report for the Company on the Halfway Lake property in 2023, the [Technical Report on the Halfway and Resting Lake Properties Thompson, Manitoba](#). The report is filed under the Company's profile on SEDAR+ [www.sedarplus.ca](http://www.sedarplus.ca). Most recently, Core Nickel completed just under 800 m in 3 diamond drillholes and a property wide airborne electromagnetic (VTEM) survey in 2024. The Halfway Lake property has a carrying value of \$104,998.

For additional information please visit the Company's website [www.corenickel.com](http://www.corenickel.com).

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

### **For the three months ended October 31, 2024**

The loss for the three months ended October 31, 2024 was \$463,447.

A summary of the costs is described in the paragraph below.

- Mineral property expenditures in the amount of \$70,303 were incurred.
- Insurance in the amount of \$7,795 were incurred.
- Interest income in the amount of \$8,841 was earned.
- Legal, audit, and accounting fees in the amount of \$56,012 were incurred.
- Management fees in the amount of \$54,020 were incurred.
- Office and miscellaneous costs in the amount of \$3,816 were recovered.
- Regulatory and transfer agent fees in the amount of \$24,291 were incurred.
- Rent costs of \$8,494 were incurred.
- Share-based compensation in the amount of \$196,354 were incurred.
- Flow through premium in the amount of \$15,534 was recognized.
- Investor relations and presentations expenses of \$69,018 were incurred.
- Wages and benefits in the amount of \$5,352 were incurred.



**For the six months ended October 31, 2024**

The loss for the six months ended October 31, 2024 was \$765,475.

A summary of the costs is described in the paragraph below.

- Mineral property expenditures in the amount of \$169,432 were incurred.
- Insurance in the amount of \$15,654 were incurred.
- Interest income in the amount of \$15,612 was earned.
- Legal, audit, and accounting fees in the amount of \$73,834 were incurred.
- Management fees in the amount of \$110,500 were incurred.
- Office and miscellaneous costs in the amount of \$10,008 were incurred.
- Regulatory and transfer agent fees in the amount of \$31,986 were incurred.
- Rent costs of \$9,859 were incurred.
- Share-based compensation in the amount of \$247,487 were incurred.
- Flow through premium in the amount of \$15,534 was recognized.
- Investor relations and presentations expenses of \$105,372 were incurred.
- Travel and accommodations costs of \$5,686 were incurred.
- Wages and benefits in the amount of \$16,803 were incurred.

**Summary of Quarterly Results**

The following table summarizes information derived from the Company's financial statements for each of the eight most recently completed quarters.

Year: Quarter Ended:	2024 Oct 31	2024 Jul 31	2024 Apr 30	2024 Jan 31	2023 Oct 31	2023 Jul 31	2023 Apr 30	2023 Jan 31
Net sales or total revenue	\$Nil	\$Nil	\$Nil	\$Nil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total Assets	\$4,972,687	\$1,708,356	\$2,047,983	\$2,436,578	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01
Net income (loss):								
(i) in total	\$(463,447)	\$(302,028)	\$(554,967)	\$(145,835)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(ii) per share <sup>(1)</sup>	\$(0.01)	\$(0.01)	\$(0.02)	\$(0.02)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

(1) Basis and diluted loss per share are the same as the Company has losses and they are anti-dilutive, hence not disclosed.

While the information set out in the foregoing table is mandated by *National Instrument 51-102*, it is management's view that the variations in financial results that occur from quarter to quarter are not particularly helpful in analyzing the Company's performance. It is in the nature of the business of junior exploration companies that unless they sell a mineral interest for a sum greater than the costs incurred in acquiring such interest, they have no significant net sales or total revenue.

In addition, the Company incorporated on May 5, 2022 and has limited history of operations to compare.

Significant variances in the Company's reported loss from quarter to quarter most commonly arise from several factors that are difficult to anticipate in advance or to predict from past results. These factors include: (i) level of exploration and project evaluations expenses incurred, (ii) decisions to write off acquisition costs when management concludes there has



been an impairment in the carrying value of a mineral property, or the property is abandoned, and (iii) the vesting of incentive stock options, which results in the recording of amounts for share-based compensation expense that can be quite large in relation to other general and administrative expenses incurred in any given quarter.

### **Plan of Arrangement Spin-out transaction**

On November 10, 2023, a plan of arrangement spin-out transaction was completed by the Company.

The arrangement agreement dated September 1, 2023, entered into between CanAlaska Uranium Ltd. (“CanAlaska”) and the Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of CanAlaska), was approved by the shareholders of CanAlaska on October 25, 2023, by a Final Order granted by the Supreme Court of British Columbia on October 31, 2023, in accordance with Part 9 of the Business Corporations Act (British Columbia), and accepted by the TSX Venture Exchange and the Canadian Securities Exchange (“CSE”).

Pursuant to the Arrangement Agreement and on the effective date:

- a) CanAlaska transferred the following assets to Core Nickel in consideration for 24,997,482 common shares of Core Nickel (the “Core Nickel Shares”);
  - i) The five (5) mineral properties commonly referred to as the Halfway Lake Property, the Resting Lake Property, the Hunter Property, the Odei River Property and the Mel Property;
  - ii) \$1,000,000 cash
- b) the existing common shares of CanAlaska were re-designated as Class A Shares (“the CVV Class A Shares”) and CanAlaska created a new class of common shares known as the “New CVV Common Shares”;
- c) each CVV Class A Share was exchange for one New CVV Common Share and 0.19987 of one Core Nickel Share
- d) the CVV Class A Shares were cancelled;
- e) all outstanding warrants of CanAlaska were adjusted to allow holders to acquire, upon exercise, one New CVV Common Share and 0.19987 of one Core Nickel Share, such that an aggregate of 4,565,469 Core Nickel Shares may be issued if all outstanding warrants are exercised;
- f) all holders of the outstanding options of CanAlaska received 0.19987 of one Core Nickel option with whole option entitling the holder therefore to purchase one Core Nickel Share, such that an aggregate of 2,416,393 Core Nickel Shares may be issued if all such options are exercised; and
- g) Core Nickel became a reporting issuer in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Company has determined that the transfer of assets to Core Nickel does not meet the definition of a business combination. As such, the transfer of assets has been accounted for as an acquisition of mineral property interests and cash in the financial statements.

### **Financing Activities**

During the six months ended October 31, 2024, the Company issued 20,253,572 common shares from private placement financings for gross proceeds of \$3,481,875, 847,642 common shares from the exercise of stock options for gross proceeds of \$43,932, 40,804 common shares from the exercise of warrants for gross proceeds of \$5,443 and received \$69,100 from the Manitoba government related to the second tranche of the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund, which is a nonrepayable grant.

During the six months ended October 31, 2023, the Company did not have any active operations.



### Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

### Transactions with Related Parties

#### *Key Management Personnel*

Key management personnel include those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Company as a whole. The Company has determined that key management personnel consist of executive and non-executive members of the Company's Board of Directors and corporate officers, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

The Company entered into the following transactions with related parties and key management personnel during the six months ended October 31, 2024.

Paid or accrued the following to Misty Urbatsch, the President, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Company:

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>
Management fees	\$	76,500	\$	-
Share-based compensation		83,489		-

Paid or accrued the following to Harry Chan, the Chief Financial Officer of the Company:

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>
Management fees	\$	34,000	\$	-
Share-based compensation		21,399		-

Paid or accrued the following to Caitlin Glew, the Vice-President of Exploration of the Company:

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>
Wages	\$	75,000	\$	-
Share-based compensation		65,072		-

Paid or accrued the following to CanAlaska Uranium Ltd., a company with common directors and/or officer:

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>
Rent	\$	9,859	\$	-
Accounting, geology & other		4,466		-

Paid or accrued the following to the non-executive directors of the Company:

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>
Share-based compensation		64,196		-

Included in trade and other payables at October 31, 2024 is \$1,475 (October 31, 2023 - \$nil) due to officers and directors and companies with directors and/or officers in common.



## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Core Nickel has no operations that generate cash flows and the Company's future financial success will depend on the discovery of one or more economic mineral deposits. This process can take many years, can consume significant resources and is largely based on factors that are beyond the control of the Company's management.

For the foreseeable future, Core Nickel will rely upon its ability to raise financing through the sale of equity. This is dependent on positive investor sentiment, which in turn is influenced by a positive climate for nickel exploration generally, a company's track record and the experience and calibre of a company's management.

There is no assurance that Core Nickel will be able to access equity funding at the times and in the amounts required to fund the Company's activities. The outlook for the world economy remains uncertain and vulnerable to various events that could adversely affect the Company's ability to raise additional funds going forward.

### **Cash and Financial Condition**

The Company had a working capital of approximately \$2,989,954 at October 31, 2024, which is sufficient to cover anticipated operating costs and expenditures on the exploration programs on its properties for the near term for its planned exploration programs. Nevertheless, the Company will evaluate offers of financing to enable the Company to maintain a strong balance sheet while continuing to fund exploration projects that are generating positive results.

Core Nickel has no other debt, does not have any unused lines of credit or other arrangement in place to borrow funds, and has no off-sheet balance arrangement. The Company has no current plans to use additional debt financing and does not use hedges or other financial derivatives.

### **Financial Instruments**

The Company's financial instruments currently consist of cash and cash equivalents, prepaid and deposit, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The fair value of cash and cash equivalents and prepaid and deposits are measured based on Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their book values because of the short-term nature of these instruments. Moreover, it is management's opinion that the Company is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

## **OUTSTANDING SECURITIES DATA**

On the Report Date, the Company had the following securities outstanding:

Common Shares	51,570,475
Options	3,569,784
Warrants	<u>20,602,350</u>
Fully Diluted	<u>75,742,609</u>

## **OUTLOOK**

The Company received geophysical interpretation and integration of the data collected from the time domain electromagnetics (VTEM) and horizontal magnetic gradiometer surveys that were completed in July 2024 by Geotech Ltd. over the Halfway Lake and Resting Lake projects. The surveys successfully delineated several electromagnetic (EM) and magnetic anomalies on the Halfway Lake and Resting Lake projects and revealed a strong correlation between the interpreted geology and geophysical data, encompassing both electromagnetic and magnetic responses. The survey has outlined northeast-southwest trending magnetic lineaments associated with variably conductive electromagnetic responses, which are associated with and extend along strike from historical nickel intersections and known nickel deposits. Balch Exploration Consulting Inc. completed the geophysical interpretation and integration of the VTEM and





identified fourteen high-priority drill targets on the Company's Halfway Lake project. Of the fourteen high-priority drill targets, one was identified along the extension of the conductive trend interpreted to host the Halfway Lake nickel deposit (historic estimate of 900,000 tonnes grading 1.2% nickel), located 600 metres to the northeast of the Company's Halfway Lake project. A second target was identified 150 m to the north of the W62 Zone, where the Company focused its inaugural drill program in the Winter of 2024, successfully intersecting 91 metres grading 0.37% Ni, from a vertical depth of approximately 120 metres. Three of the twelve high-priority drill targets occur on 2.4 km of conductive trends that have yet to be tested, and nine are situated on under-explored conductor trends. These fourteen high-priority drill targets form the basis of the Company's fully funded 2025 exploration program, which will be drill tested between January and March 2025.

The Company also completed a community visit to the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) in November 2024 to participate in a Community Forum hosted by the NCN Resource Management Board. Core Nickel management presented to and met with NCN community and Resource Management Board members to discuss exploration plans on the Company's three northern projects (Mel, Hunter, and Odei River) that are located in the NCN's resource management area. The Company was granted permission to conduct the planned property-wide airborne electromagnetic (VTEM) surveys over the Mel and Odei River projects, which is scheduled to be completed in January 2025 by Geotech Ltd. using the using the VTEM™ Plus geophysical system. Obtaining VTEM data over the Mel and Odei River projects will result in Core Nickel's entire land portfolio having the same high-resolution electromagnetic data, which will allow for optimized drill target prioritization across the entire land package portfolio. The Company continues to evaluate and discuss potential nickel projects with other parties for possible acquisition, transactions, and corporate opportunities to add to its current portfolio.

#### **FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

Certain of the statements made and information contained herein is "forward-looking information" within the meaning of the British Columbia Securities Act. This includes statements concerning the Company's plans at its mineral properties, which involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Company, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking information. Forward-looking information is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties which could cause actual events or results to differ from those reflected in the forward-looking information, including, without limitation, the ability of the Company to continue to be able to access the capital markets for the funding necessary to acquire and maintain exploration properties and to carry out its desired exploration programs; competition within the minerals industry to acquire properties of merit, and competition from other companies possessing greater technical and financial resources; difficulties in executing exploration programs on the Company's proposed schedules and within its cost estimates, whether due to weather conditions in the areas where it operates, increasingly stringent environmental regulations and other permitting restrictions, or other factors related to exploring of its properties, such as the availability of essential supplies and services; factors beyond the capacity of the Company to anticipate and control, such as the marketability of mineral products produced from the Company's properties, government regulations relating to health, safety and the environment, and the scale and scope of royalties and taxes on production; the availability of experienced contractors and professional staff to perform work in a competitive environment and the resulting adverse impact on costs and performance and other risks and uncertainties, including those described in each management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations. In addition, forward-looking information is based on various assumptions including, without limitation, assumptions associated with exploration results and costs and the availability of materials and skilled labour. Should one or more of these risks and uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in forward-looking statements. Accordingly, readers are advised not to place undue reliance on forward-looking information. Except as required under applicable securities legislation, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.