

Deep Drilling at Red Chris Intersects Mineralization at Gully Zone

Vancouver – **December 7, 2011 - Imperial Metals Corporation (III-TSX)** reports Gully zone exploration drilling⁽¹⁾ results indicate the mineralized system extends at least one kilometre west of the current Red Chris project pit design. Results from three diamond drill holes, totalling 3,248 metres, represent the first significant deep drilling step out from the proposed open pit since Imperial acquired the property in 2007. Imperial President Brian Kynoch stated “recent results from the Gully zone support our belief that the exploration potential at Red Chris beyond the Main and East zones is very significant.”

The longest mineralized intercept came from drill hole RC11-477⁽²⁾ which returned 807.5 metres grading 0.31% copper and 0.29 g/t gold, including 427.5 metres of 0.39% copper and 0.35 g/t gold. Imperial’s geologists noted the presence of many strongly mineralized quartz fragments within the heavily brecciated and altered sequence intersected in RC11-477, possibly indicating a nearby fluid source such as the one discovered in the deep East zone. Drill hole RC11-539 intercepted similar mineralization returning 587.1 metres grading 0.41% copper and 0.41 g/t gold.

The third drill hole, RC11-564, was collared east of RC11-477 and RC11-539 and was mineralized at the final depth of 501.4 metres. RC11-564 will be extended when the drill is available.

GULLY ZONE – SELECTED RESULTS ⁽³⁾

Drill Hole #	Zone	Total Length (m)	Interval from (m)	Interval To (m)	Interval Length (m)	Copper %	Gold g/t
RC11-477	Gully	1482.9	172.5	980.0	807.5	0.31	0.29
including			230.0	657.5	427.5	0.39	0.35
RC11-539	Gully	1263.4	275.4	862.5	587.1	0.41	0.41
RC11-564	Gully	501.4	18.3	422.5	404.2	0.39	0.39

Historic drilling in the Gully zone had penetrated to about 350 metres in the zone, with a maximum depth of 470 metres, and had encountered strong alteration and widely distributed copper/gold mineralization.

Two diamond drill holes were also completed in the East Ridge area, which is up to 1.5 kilometres to the east of the eastern rim of the proposed open pit. Assay results are pending.

Steve Robertson, P.Geo., the designated Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 for the exploration programs at Red Chris, has reviewed this news release. Samples for the diamond drilling reported at Red Chris were analyzed both at Acme Analytical Laboratories in Vancouver and at Imperial’s Mount Polley minesite. A full QA/QC program using blanks, standards and duplicates was maintained for all samples submitted to the labs. The Red Chris porphyry mineralization may be irregular in shape so true thicknesses have not been estimated.

The Red Chris project is located in northwest British Columbia, and lies at an elevation of 1,500 metres above sea-level on a plateau with topography and climate favourable to mining operations. Access to the property from pavement at Highway 37 is six kilometres along the Ealue Lake Road, and 17 kilometres along the Red Chris access trail.

Imperial is a mine development and operating company based in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Company's key properties are two open pit mines: Mount Polley copper/gold mine and Huckleberry copper/molybdenum mine, both in British Columbia, as well as the development stage Red Chris copper/gold property in British Columbia and the Sterling gold property in Nevada.

Documents available on www.imperialmetals.com:

⁽¹⁾ deep drilling plan map; ⁽²⁾ Gully zone cross section; ⁽³⁾ updated 2010/2011 drill results

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