

# XXIX Expands Drill Program at Cooke and Saddle Zones Following Encouraging Early Results at Opemiska

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## Highlights:

- Cooke drilling outperforming expectations, with broader mineralization than the current model.
- Cooke budget and metres doubled to fast-track resource growth and test a new mineralized horizon.
- Expanded drilling at Saddle to connect and define the copper-gold zone.
- Both areas lie outside the current MRE/PEA, offering meaningful step-out growth for XXIX.
- Total program now 10,000 metres, split between Cooke and Saddle.

Toronto, December 8, 2025 - [XXIX Metal Corp.](#) (TSXV: XXIX) (OTCQB: QCCUF) (FSE: 5LW0) ("XXIX" or the "Company") announces an expansion of its 2025 drill program at the Opemiska Project, driven by stronger-than-expected results from the Cooke Zone and growing confidence in the Saddle Zone.

## Cooke Zone: Outperforming Early Expectations

Drilling at Cooke has confirmed a more extensive mineralized horizon than modeled. Based on these encouraging results, XXIX is doubling the Cooke drill budget and metre count, targeting both the near-surface crown pillar of the former Cooke Gold Mine and step-outs along a newly identified horizon. Cooke is not included in the current MRE or PEA and represents a significant opportunity to add new, near-surface ounces to the project.

## Saddle Zone: Advancing Toward Resource Definition

The Saddle Zone has delivered strong copper-gold intercepts in previous campaigns, but drill density has not yet been sufficient for resource inclusion. The expanded program will increase drilling aimed at connecting and upgrading known high-grade areas. Like Cooke, Saddle lies entirely outside the current MRE/PEA and offers substantial upside.

## Driving Growth Beyond the October PEA

The expanded drill program is designed to build on XXIX's recently announced robust PEA, which demonstrated compelling economics and rapid payback. Resource additions from Cooke, Saddle, and other near-pit targets have the potential to strengthen project scale and further improve the upcoming Pre-Feasibility Study.

"Cooke continues to exceed expectations, and the identification of a new horizon adds another layer of potential," said Guy Le Bel, CEO of XXIX. "By expanding our work at Cooke and increasing metres at Saddle, we are positioning XXIX for meaningful near-term resource growth and long-term value creation."

XXIX will provide further updates as drilling progresses and assay results are received.

## Figure 1) Location of Cooke Gold Zone & Chibougamau Copper Zone

- Cooke drilling to date includes visible gold in two of the initial six holes.

- Cooke lies 2.5 km east of the envisioned Opemiska pit and historically produced 1.97 Mt at 5.04 g/t gold and 0.66% copper.
- The Saddle Zone continues to deliver strong step-out potential within the broader open-pit environment.
- A second drill rig was mobilized end of November to accelerate progress across priority targets.

Figure 2) Collar locations of the Cooke Mine drilling program

#### QP Statement

The technical information contained in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Denis McNichols, P.Geo and g  o., Vice President Exploration for XXIX Metal, a Qualified Person, as defined in "National Instrument 43-101, Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects."

About XXIX Metal Corp&Irm;.

XXIX is advancing its Opemiska and Thierry Copper projects, two significant Canadian copper assets. The Opemiska Project, one of Canada's highest-grade open pitable copper deposits, spans 21,333 hectares in Quebec's Chapais-Chibougamau region, with strong infrastructure and nearby access to the Horne Smelter. An October 2025 Preliminary Economic Assessment outlined a 12,500 tpd open pit operation over a 17-year mine life, generating an after-tax NPV8% of \$505M, IRR of 27.2%, and a 2.3-year payback period (\$4.35/lb copper price, \$3,000/oz gold price, \$30/oz silver price). The Thierry Project hosts the K1 (near-surface) and the past-producing K2 (underground & surface) zones (see XXIX news release dated October 1, 2024 for details regarding resources). Thierry has significant infrastructure in place including an all-season road, an airport within 5km, a provincial power grid within 8km, and nearby rail. With these two high-potential projects, the Company has solidified its position as a key player in the Canadian copper sector and has established itself as one of Eastern Canada's largest copper developer.

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#### Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains certain forward-looking statements, including statements about the Company's belief that Opemiska has potential for continued growth, various cost, price and production assumptions used to inform the PEA, and outstanding risk factors, including Opemiska's proximity to the Town of Chapais, Historical Assay validation, Geotechnical considerations of open stopes in the eastern pit wall, the Venture sill, the Gwillim fault, host rock competency and Historical Stope Modeling. Wherever possible, words such as "may", "will", "should", "could", "expect", "plan", "intend", "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "predict" or "potential" or the negative or other variations of these words, or similar words or phrases, have been used to identify these forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management's current beliefs and are based on information currently available to management as at the date hereof.

Forward-looking statements involve significant risk, uncertainties and assumptions. Many factors could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results discussed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among other things: risks related to uncertainties inherent in drill results and the estimation of mineral resources; and risks associated with executing the Company's plans and intentions. These factors should be considered carefully, and readers should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements. Although the forward-looking statements contained in this news release are based upon what management believes to be reasonable assumptions, the Company cannot assure readers that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this news release, and the Company assumes no obligation to update or revise them to reflect new events or circumstances, except as required by law.

The reader is advised that the Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) summarized in this news release is

intended to provide only an initial, high-level review of Opemiska's economic potential. The PEA mine plan and economic model include numerous assumptions and the use of inferred mineral resources. Inferred mineral resources are considered to be too speculative to be used in an economic analysis except as allowed for by NI 43-101 in PEA studies. There is no guarantee that inferred mineral resources can be converted to indicated or measured mineral resources, and as such, there is no guarantee Opemiska's economics described herein will be achieved. XXIX may be eligible for Clean Technology Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit (CTM-ITC). This legislation has been enacted on June 20, 2024. There is no guarantee the Company will be able to access the CTM-ITC.

#### Non-IFRS Financial Measures

XXIX has included certain non-IFRS financial measures in this news release, such as C1 Cash Cost which are not measures recognized under IFRS and do not have a standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS. As a result, these measures may not be comparable to similar measures reported by other corporations. Each of these measures used are intended to provide additional information to the user and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures prepared in accordance with IFRS.

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