

Benton Confirms New VMS Copper Discovery at End Zone and Delineates Gold and Copper Horizon at South Pond Gold-Copper Deposit

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Thunder Bay, January 27, 2026 - [Benton Resources Inc.](#) (TSXV: BEX) ("Benton" or the "Company") is pleased to announce that it has received encouraging copper results from two widely spaced drill holes in the End Zone area within the South Pond Gold-Copper Project in Newfoundland.

These holes were drilled to test geological stratigraphy, geophysical anomalies, and locally anomalous copper prospecting samples in the area. Both holes intersected wide zones of anomalous VMS stringer-style copper mineralization, with values ranging from trace up to 1.6% copper (Cu) over 0.70 m (See Table 1). The mineralization is associated with highly altered volcanic rocks similar to that of the main Great Burnt Copper deposit located 6.5 km to the south. The Company is excited about this potentially large and underexplored system as it plans for the next phase of drilling.

Table 1: End Zone Drilling Results.

DDH #	From (m)	To (m)	Length (m)	Cu (%)	Au (g/t)
EZ-25-01	99.00	157.00	58.00	0.11	0.01
	incl 135.00	149.06	14.06	0.23	0.01
	incl 140.00	149.06	9.06	0.27	0.01
	incl 140.00	141.00	1.00	0.58	0.02
EZ-25-02	61.90	76.00	14.10	0.12	0.003
	incl 61.90	65.33	3.43	0.40	0.01
	incl 61.90	62.90	1.00	0.57	0.02
	and 89.70	92.93	3.23	0.13	0.007
	and 102.30	105.37	3.07	0.67	0.18
	incl 102.30	104.37	2.07	0.99	0.27
	incl 102.30	103.00	0.70	1.60	0.40

Note: True widths estimated to be ~60-80% of reported core lengths.

The Company has also received additional gold results from the final five drill holes at the South Pond Gold-Copper deposit. Of particular interest, the southernmost drill hole at South Pond encountered multiple intervals with highly anomalous concentrations of nickel, chromium, and cobalt. (see Tables 2, 3, Figures 1, 2 and 3). Management is currently planning follow-up drilling.

Table 2: South Pond Drilling Results.

DDH #	From (m)	To (m)	Length (m)	Cu (%)	Au (g/t)
SP-25-56	42.00	57.05	15.05	0.05	0.96
	incl 45.05	55.05	10.00	0.07	1.39
	incl 50.05	55.05	5.00	0.09	2.36
SP-25-57	77.70	90.40	12.70	0.06	0.64
	incl 85.60	90.40	4.80	0.08	1.47
	incl 86.60	87.60	1.00	0.16	4.55

SP-25-58	57.55	91.40	33.85	0.03	0.23
	incl 57.55	61.55	4.00	0.01	0.41
	incl 73.40	78.40	5.00	0.10	0.73
	incl 89.40	91.40	2.00	0.02	0.97
SP-25-59	21.00	35.25	14.25	0.03	0.70
	incl 21.00	31.40	10.40	0.03	0.83
	incl 25.00	30.40	5.40	0.04	1.05
	incl 25.00	26.00	1.00	0.003	3.05
SP-25-60	9.00	36.82	27.82	0.05	0.44
	incl 16.82	32.82	16.00	0.05	0.62
	incl 16.82	20.82	4.00	0.06	1.52
SP-25-61	72.00	73.00	1.00	0.02	0.12

Note: True widths estimated to be ~60-80% of reported core lengths.

Table 3: South Pond Drilling Nickel, Cobalt, Chromium Results.

DDH #	From (m)	To (m)	Length (m)	Ni (%)	Co (%)	Cr (%)
SP-25-61	14.79	30.46	15.67	0.07	0.009	0.09
	incl 16.79	21.79	5.00	0.10	0.01	0.13
	incl 17.79	19.79	2.00	0.13	0.02	0.18

Note: True widths estimated to be ~60-80% of reported core lengths.

Figure 1: South Pond Gold-Copper Deposit and End Zone Target Plan Map

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:

https://images.newsfilecorp.com/files/3657/281743_670b6bdc94feb854_005full.jpg

Figure 2: South Pond Drilling Plan Map with Drilling Highlights

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:

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Figure 3: South Pond Longitudinal Section

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:

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Stephen House (P.Geo.), Vice President of Exploration for Benton Resources Inc., the 'Qualified Person' under National Instrument 43-101, has approved the scientific and technical disclosure in this news release and prepared or supervised its preparation.

QA/QC Protocols

Core and rock samples, including standards, blanks and duplicates, are submitted to Eastern Analytical Ltd., Springdale, Newfoundland for preparation and analysis. All samples were acquired by saw-cut (channels/drill core) with one-half submitted for assay and one-half retained for reference, or hand (rocks) and delivered, by Benton personnel, in sealed bags, to the Springdale lab of Eastern Analytical, which is an accredited assay

lab that conforms to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. Samples are analyzed using Eastern's Au (Fire assay) @ 30g + ICP-34 method that delivers a 34-element package utilizing a 200 mg subsample totally dissolved in four acids and analyzed by ICP-OES analytical technique. Overlimits are analysed with Eastern's atomic absorption method, using a 0.200 g to 2.00 g of sample, digested with three acids. All reported assays are uncut. Eastern Analytical Ltd. achieved ISO 17025 accreditation in February 2014 (for more details on the scope of accreditation visit the CALA website). Grab samples are selective in nature and may not represent the average mineralization of a bedrock exposure.

About Benton Resources Inc.

Benton Resources is a well-financed mineral exploration company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange under the symbol BEX. Benton has a diversified, highly prospective property portfolio and holds large equity positions in other mining companies that are advancing high-quality assets. Whenever possible, BEX retains net smelter return (NSR) royalties with potential long-term cash flow.

Benton is focused on advancing its high-grade Copper-Gold Great Burnt Project in central Newfoundland, which has a Mineral Resource estimate of 667,000 tonnes @ 3.21% Cu Indicated and 482,000 @ 2.35% Cu Inferred. The Project has an excellent geological setting covering 25km of strike and boasts six known Cu-Au-Ag zones over 15km that are all open for expansion. Further potential for discovery is excellent given the extensive number of untested geophysical targets and Cu-Au soil anomalies. Phase 1 and 2 drill programs returned impressive results including 25.42 m of 5.51% Cu, including 9.78 m of 8.31% Cu, and 1.00 m of 12.70% Cu. Drilling at the South Pond Gold Zone, approximately 7.5 km north of the Great Burnt Copper-Gold Zone, has confirmed a robust gold-mineralized system over 2.5 km with results of 74.20 m of 1.43g/t Au and 43.75 m of 1.62g/t Au and is open for expansion in all directions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Benton Resources Inc.,

"Stephen Stares"

Stephen Stares, President

Parties interested in seeking more information about properties available for option can contact Mr. Stares at the number below.

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