

**NOVAGOLD RESOURCES INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHARTER**

Effective May 12, 2021

**1. Purpose**

The members of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) have the duty to supervise the management and affairs of NOVAGOLD RESOURCES INC. (the “Company”). The Board, directly and through its committees and the chair of the Board (the “Chair”), shall provide direction to senior management, generally through the Chief Executive Officer, to pursue the best interests of the Company, its shareholders and other stakeholders.

**2. Membership**

***Number of Members***

Subject to compliance with applicable law, the Company’s Articles, and any agreements or other arrangements concerning the size of the Board, the Board shall be comprised of such number of members as determined by the Board from time to time.

***Independence***

A majority of the Board must be independent. “Independent” shall have the meaning, as the context requires, given to it in National Instrument 58-101 *Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices*, as may be amended from time to time, and the rules of the applicable stock exchange(s) on which securities of the Company are listed.

***Term of Members***

At each annual meeting of the Company’s shareholders, the Board must permit shareholders to vote on the election of all members of the Board. Each member of the Board shall serve until the member resigns, ceases to be qualified for service as a member of the Board or is removed in compliance with applicable law.

***Chair of the Board***

Subject to compliance with any agreements or other arrangements concerning such matter, the members of the Board shall designate a Chair by majority vote of the full Board membership, following consideration of the recommendation of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee.

The Chair of the Board shall be an independent director, unless the Board determines that it is in the best interests of the Company to not require the Chair to be independent, in which case the independent directors shall select from among their number, following consideration of the recommendation of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee, a further director who will act as “Lead Director.”

### **General**

Each director must have an understanding of the Company's principal operational and financial objectives, plans and strategies, and financial position and performance. Each director is expected to attend all meetings of the Board and any Board committee of which they are a member. Directors are expected to have read and considered, in advance of each meeting, the materials sent to them and to actively participate in the meetings.

Directors must have sufficient time to carry out their duties and not assume responsibilities that would materially interfere with, or be incompatible with, Board membership. Directors who experience a significant change in their personal circumstances, including a change in their principal occupation, are expected to advise the chair of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee.

The Board has approved a Board Service Policy that governs the service of directors on the boards of other public issuers so long as these commitments do not materially interfere and are compatible with their ability to fulfill their duties as a member of the Board. Directors must advise the Chair and the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee in advance of accepting an invitation to serve on the board of another public issuer.

### **3. Meetings**

The Board will meet at least once in each quarter, with additional meetings held as deemed advisable. The Chair is primarily responsible for the agenda and for supervising the conduct of the meeting. In the absence of the Chair, the Lead Director shall chair any meeting of the Board and in the absence of both the Chair and the Lead Director, the members of the Board present may appoint a chair from their number for such meeting. Any director may propose the inclusion of items on the agenda, request the presence of, or a report by any member of senior management, or at any Board meeting raise subjects that are not on the agenda for that meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with the Company's Articles.

#### ***Quorum***

No business may be transacted by the Board at a meeting unless a quorum of the Board is present, as specified in the Company's Articles.

#### ***Secretary and Minutes***

The Corporate Secretary, their designate or any other person the Board requests shall act as secretary of Board meetings. Minutes of Board meetings shall be recorded and maintained by the Corporate Secretary and subsequently presented to the Board for approval.

### ***Meetings of Independent Directors***

As part of each regular meeting of the Board, the independent members of the Board shall hold an *in camera* session, at which management and non-independent directors are not present, and the agenda for each Board meeting will afford an opportunity for such a session. The independent directors may also, at their discretion, hold *ad hoc* meetings that are not attended by management and non-independent directors.

### ***Attendance of Non-Members***

The Board may invite to a meeting any officers or employees of the company, legal counsel, advisors and other persons whose attendance it considers necessary or desirable in order to carry out its duties.

### ***Access to Management and Books and Records***

The Board shall have free and unrestricted access at all times, either directly or through its duly appointed representatives, to the Company's management and employees and the books and records of the Company.

### ***Directors' Responsibilities***

Each director is expected to attend all meetings of the Board and any committee of which he or she is a member. Directors will be expected to have read and considered the materials sent to them in advance of each meeting and to actively participate in the meetings.

## **4. Responsibilities**

The Board shall have the specific functions and responsibilities outlined below and may, subject to compliance with applicable law, delegate such functions and responsibilities to a committee of the Board. In addition to these responsibilities, the Board shall perform the functions and responsibilities required of a Board by the Company's governing corporate statute, applicable Canadian securities laws, any exchange upon which .

### ***Strategic Planning***

#### **(a) Strategic Plans**

The Board will adopt a strategic plan for the Company. The Board shall periodically review and if advisable, approve the Company's strategic planning process and, at least annually, review and if advisable, approve the Company's strategic planning process and short- and long-term strategic and business plans prepared by management. In discharging this responsibility, the Board shall review the plans in light of management's assessment of emerging trends, the competitive environment, the capital markets, significant business practices and products, the opportunities and risks for the business of the Company, and industry practices.

(b) **Business and Capital Plans**

The Board shall periodically review and if advisable, approve the policies and processes generated by management relating to the authorization of major investments and significant allocation of capital and, at least annually, review and if advisable, approve the Company's annual business and capital plans.

(c) **Monitoring**

The Board shall periodically review management's implementation of the Company's strategic, business and capital plans and review and if advisable, approve any material amendments to, or variances from, such plans.

***Risk Management***

(d) **General**

At least annually, the Board shall review reports provided by management and committees of the Board on the principal risks associated with the Company's business and operations, review the implementation by management of appropriate systems to identify, assess, manage and mitigate these risks, and review reports by management relating to the operation of, and any material deficiencies in, these systems.

(e) **Verification of Controls**

The Board shall verify that appropriate internal, financial, non-financial and business control and management information systems have been established, and are being maintained, by management.

(f) **ESG**

The Board shall review reports and recommendations provided by management and committees of the Board regarding material environmental, social and governance issues and shall provide oversight to ensure that the Company is mitigating associated risks and capitalizing on related opportunities.

***Financial-Related Matters***

(g) **Approval of Annual and Interim Financial Reports**

The Board shall review the annual audited financial statements of the Company, the auditors' report thereon and the related management's discussion and analysis of the Company's financial condition and financial performance (MD&A), as well as the Audit Committee's recommendations in respect of the approval thereof. After completing its review, if advisable, the Board shall approve the annual financial statements and the related MD&A.

Though the Board has delegated authority to the Audit Committee to review and approve the Company's interim financial statements and related MD&A and report on the same to the Board at the Board's next scheduled meeting as per the Audit Committee Charter, the Board may determine to review and approve any interim financial statements and the related MD&A at any time at its discretion.

(h) **Nomination**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Audit Committee concerning the external auditors to be nominated and if advisable, approve such nomination.

***Human Resource Management***

(i) **Chief Executive Officer**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee concerning the organizational goals and objectives relevant to Chief Executive Officer compensation and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, such goals and objectives.

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee concerning (i) the appointment and other terms of employment (including any severance arrangements or plans and any benefits to be provided in connection with a change in control) for the Chief Executive Officer, including the adoption, amendment and termination of such agreements, arrangements or plans and if advisable, approve, with or without modification, such appointment and other terms of employment and (ii) the Chief Executive Officer's compensation level and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, such compensation.

(j) **Senior Management**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee concerning the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer, all senior management reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer and all other officers appointed by the Board (collectively "Senior Management") and if advisable, approve any such appointment.

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee respective the compensation and other terms of employment (including any severance arrangements or plans and any benefits to be provided in connection with a change in control) of all senior management reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, such compensation and other terms of any employment agreements and any severance arrangements or plans.

(k) **Succession Review**

At least annually, the Board shall review the succession plans of the Company for the Chair, and if applicable, the Lead Director. The Board shall also periodically review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee with respect to succession planning matters concerning Senior Management and the Chief Executive Officer, as well as general executive development programs, and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the succession plans of the Company.

(l) **Integrity of Senior Management**

The Board shall, to the extent feasible, satisfy itself as to the integrity of the Chief Executive Officer and other members of Senior Management and that the Chief Executive Officer and other members of Senior Management strive to create a culture of integrity throughout the Company.

(m) **Director Remuneration**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee concerning the remuneration (fees and/or retainer) to be paid to, and the benefits to be provided, to members of the Board for service in applicable capacities and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, such remuneration.

(n) **Equity-Based Compensation Plans**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Compensation Committee concerning the adoption or amendment of the equity-based compensation plans of the Company and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption or amendment of such plans.

***Nomination Matters***

(o) **General**

The Board shall periodically review reports of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning nomination matters.

(p) **Nominee Identification**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning the potential nominees for election or appointment to the Board and, after considering (i) the results of the most recent Board and director effectiveness evaluation process, (ii) the competencies, skills and other qualities that the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee considers to be necessary for the Board as a whole to possess, the competencies, skills and other qualities that the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee considers each current director to possess, and the competencies, skills and other qualities each new nominee would

bring to the boardroom, (iii) the amount of time and resources that nominees have available to fulfill their duties as Board members, (iv) the objectives of the Board Service Policy of the Company, and (v) any applicable independence, residency and/or other requirements, approve, if advisable, with or without modifications, the individual nominees for consideration by, and presentation to, the shareholders at the Company's next annual meeting of shareholders or appointment to the Board between such meetings.

**(q) Committees of the Board**

The Board shall periodically evaluate the performance, and review the work, of its committees. The Board shall annually, or as otherwise required or deemed advisable, review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning the individual directors to serve on (or to depart from) the standing committee of the Board and, after considering (i) the qualification for membership on each committee, (ii) the extent to which there should be a policy of periodic rotation of directors among the committees, and (iii) the number of boards and other committees on which the directors serve, approve the appointment of such directors to (or departure from) the committees as the Board deems advisable.

**(r) Director Independence**

The Board shall periodically review the Board's and the Board committees' ability to act independently from management in fulfilling their responsibilities and in doing so the Board shall (i) review the application and evaluation by the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee of the director independence standards applicable to members of the Board and (ii) review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning a reduction or increase in the number of independent directors and if advisable, approve, such reduction or increase.

**(s) Board and Committee Size**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning a reduction or increase to the size of the Board or any Board committee and if advisable, approve, such a reduction or increase.

**(t) Board Renewal**

The Board shall review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning mechanisms of Board renewal (e.g., a retirement age or term limits for directors), and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such mechanisms.

**(u) Diversity Policy**

The Board will adopt a Diversity Policy and shall review any recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning the adoption of

measurable objectives for achieving diversity on the Board and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of a Diversity Policy reflecting any such objectives.

(v) **Majority Voting Policy**

The Board has adopted a Majority Voting Policy and shall review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning resignations of directors pursuant to the Company's Majority Voting Policy in respect of the election of directors and if advisable, accept or reject any such resignation, in accordance with the terms of the Company's Majority Voting Policy.

**Corporate Governance**

(w) **General**

The Board shall periodically review reports of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning corporate governance matters.

(x) **Position Descriptions**

The Board has approved position descriptions for the Chair, the Lead Director and the Chief Executive Officer. A position description for the chair of each Board committee is included in the charter of each such committee. The Board shall periodically review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee, or in the case of the position description of the Chief Executive Officer the recommendations of the Compensation Committee, concerning changes to such position descriptions and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such changes.

(y) **Board of Directors Charter Review**

The Board shall periodically review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning changes to this Charter and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such changes.

(z) **Committees of the Board**

The Board has established the following committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Corporate Communications Committee, the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee and the Environmental, Health, Safety, Sustainability and Technical Committee. Subject to applicable law, the Board may establish other Board committees or merge or dissolve any Board committee at any time.

The Board has delegated to each Board committee those responsibilities set out in each Board committee's charter and shall approve charters for any new Board committee. The Board shall periodically review the recommendations of the applicable committee and/or the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning changes to the



committee charters and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such changes.

**(aa) Ethics Reporting**

The Board has adopted a written Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code") applicable to directors, officers and employees of the Company, among others. The Board shall periodically review the reports of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee relating to compliance with, material departures from, and investigations and any resolutions of complaints received under the Code. The Board shall also review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning changes to the Code and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such changes.

**(bb) Director Development and Evaluation**

Each new director shall participate in the Company's initial orientation program and each director shall participate in the Company's continuing director development programs. The Board shall periodically review the recommendations of the Corporate Governance & Nominations Committee concerning proposed changes to the Company's initial orientation program and continuing director development programs and if advisable, approve, with or without modifications, the adoption of any such changes.

***Communications***

**(cc) General**

The Board has adopted a Disclosure Policy for the Company. If consensus cannot be reached at a meeting of the disclosure committee created pursuant to the Disclosure Policy, the Board shall consider the matter.

**(dd) Shareholders**

The Company will inform its shareholders of its progress through an annual report, proxy statement, quarterly interim reports and periodic press releases. Directors and management shall endeavor to meet with the Company's shareholders at the annual meeting and make themselves available to respond to questions at that time.

**5. Outside Advisors**

The Board shall have the authority to retain and terminate, from a source independent of management, external legal counsel, consultants, or other advisors to assist it in fulfilling its responsibilities and to set and pay the respective reasonable compensation of these advisors without consulting or obtaining the approval of any officer of the Company. The Company shall provide appropriate funding, as determined by the Board, for the services of these advisors.

## **6. No Rights Created**

This Charter is a statement of broad policies and is intended as a component of the flexible governance framework within which the Board, assisted by its committees, directs the affairs of the Company. While it should be interpreted in the context of all applicable laws, regulations and listing requirements, as well as in the context of the Company's Articles, it is not intended to establish any legally binding obligations.