

## Management's Discussion and Analysis

This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A") of Nio Strategic Metals Inc. (formerly Niocan Inc.) ("Nio" or the "Company") is a narrative explanation, through the eyes of Nio's management, on how the Company performed during the six-month periods ended June 30, 2022, as compared to the six-month period ended June 30, 2021.

This MD&A supplements the unaudited condensed financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2022. It is intended to help the reader understand and assess the significant trends, risks and uncertainties related to the results of operations. These results of operations should be read in conjunction with the MD&A, audited financial statements and accompanying notes as at and for the year ended December 31, 2021. All amounts in this MD&A are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated. This MD&A contains information available as at the disclosure date.

On May 6, 2022, the Company approved its name change for Nio Strategic Metals. The change had no impact on the trading symbol and confirms the Company's intention to expend its activities to source strategic metals and minerals essential to advancing modern life and national security in beneficially environmental, social and ethical manner.

The Company's headquarters are located in Montreal, Canada. Nio Strategic Metals Inc. (formerly Niocan Inc.) is listed on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSX-V") under the symbol NIO. Additional information relating to the Company can be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### Responsibility of Management and the Board of Directors

Management is responsible for the information disclosed in this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes, and has in place appropriate information systems, procedures and controls to ensure that information used internally by management and disclosed externally is materially complete and reliable. Nio's Board of Directors has approved this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes. In addition, Nio's Audit Committee, on behalf of the Board of Directors, provides an oversight role with respect to all public financial disclosures made by Nio and has reviewed this MD&A and the audited financial statements and accompanying notes.

### Forward-Looking Statements

This document contains forward-looking statements, which reflect the Company's current expectations regarding certain future events. To the extent that any statements in this document contain information that is not historical, the statements are essentially forward-looking and are often identified by words such as "anticipate", "expect", "estimate", "intend", "project", "plan" and "believe". In the interest of providing shareholders and potential investors with information regarding Nio, including management's assessment of future plans and operations, certain statements in this MD&A are forward-looking and are subject to the risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause the Company's actual performance to differ materially from that expressed in or implied by such statements. The Company disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements unless required to do so by applicable Securities laws. All subsequent forward-looking statements, whether written or orally attributable to the Company or persons acting on its behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements.

For information identifying known risks and uncertainties, relating to the issuance by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Fight against Climate Change ("MDDELCC") of the Certificate of Authorization ("CA") to build the mine in Oka, financial resources, market prices, exchange rates, politico-social conflicts, competition, the purchase of the old St-Lawrence Columbian mine site from the Municipality of Oka should the CA be issued, and other important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements, please refer to the



Risk and Uncertainties Section of this Management's Discussion and Analysis. Consequently, actual results may differ materially from the anticipated results expressed in these forward-looking statements.

## **Corporate Overview**

Nio's mission is to become a ferroniobium producer as soon as possible, following the issuance of a CA from the MDDELCC. In the long term, the Company plans to recover some by-products from the ore mineral resources and produce ferroalloys, as well as other related products. The Company has no significant income at this stage.

The Oka project involves the development of a mining complex based on an underground mine, a concentrator and a converter to produce ferroniobium. The project has completed all exploration phases, including two drilling campaigns in 1995, 1996, and 1997 for a total of 22,204 meters, to define two resource ore bodies: the S-60 and the HWM-2 (historical resources). Numerous metallurgical concentration tests and analyses were undertaken throughout the exploration period. These tests, on the various mineralized facies of the principal resource mineral prospect, the S-60, allow for the development of an optimal pyrochlore recovery process. Pyrochlore is the niobium-bearing mineral.

In 2004, Nio acquired a property with three mineral prospects (historical resources) of magnetite ore, located near the Great Whale River (the "Great Whale Iron Property").

Management is currently working to obtain all the required permits and authorization to develop the Oka property. Nio is of the view that its project will eventually bring significant financial returns to the local parties involved and it hopes to work with the community to eventually build a mutually beneficial project.

Management is also pursuing financing activities to get the CA in Oka and initiate exploration activities in Great Whale Iron Property.

## **Major events**

On January 17, 2022, the Company announced its intention to change its name for Nio Strategic Metals. The change would have no impact on the trading symbol but confirms the Company's intention to expend its activities to source strategic metals and minerals essential to advancing modern life and national security in beneficially environmental, social and ethical manner.

On March 1, 2022, the Company closed the conversion of \$ 3.6 million of debt into equity (the "Conversion"). The Conversion resulted in immediate interest cost savings and will place the Company in a much stronger financial position for the benefit of all shareholders. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement entered into between the Company and Nio-Metals Holdings LLC ("Nio-Metals"), one of its principal shareholders, \$ 3,578,018 in principal and accrued interest owing under the terms of a secured debenture initially issued by the Company to Nio-Metals on February 19, 2013 has been converted into an aggregate of 23,823,470 common shares of the Company (the "Repayment Shares") at an issue price of \$ 0.15 per share in full repayment thereof. Moreover, the maturity date of a loan made to the Company by Nio-Metals on March 17, 2021, in the principal amount of \$ 500,000 has been extended from March 17, 2023 to March 17, 2024. This transaction allows the Company to preserve its cash for use on its current and future projects and for working capital.

On May 6, 2022, the Company approved its name change for Nio Strategic Metals. The change had no impact on the trading symbol and confirms the Company's intention to expend its activities to source strategic metals and minerals essential to advancing modern life and national security in beneficially environmental, social and ethical manner.

## Results of Operations

### Summary

| (in \$)                                       | For the 3 months ended |               | For the 6 months ended |               |
|---|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
|   | 2022                   | June 30, 2021 | 2022                   | June 30, 2021 |
| Revenues                                      | <b>4,650</b>           | 4,350         | <b>5,400</b>           | 5,400         |
| Expenses                                      | <b>187,447</b>         | 103,449       | <b>360,338</b>         | 187,590       |
| Gain on debt settlement                       | –                      | –             | <b>(266,485)</b>       | –             |
| Net finance expenses                          | <b>7,554</b>           | 71,021        | <b>41,934</b>          | 130,769       |
| Net loss and comprehensive loss               | <b>(190,351)</b>       | (170,120)     | <b>(130,387)</b>       | (312,958)     |
| Basic and diluted loss per outstanding share  | <b>(0.00)</b>          | (0.00)        | <b>(0.00)</b>          | (0.01)        |
| Weighted average number of outstanding shares | <b>75,718,338</b>      | 25,979,868    | <b>67,821,055</b>      | 25,979,868    |

### Oka Niobium Project

The Company has for many years been awaiting the receipt of a CA from the MDDELCC which would allow it to exploit its Oka mine project. The Company considers that it has produced all information required by the MDDELCC for the issuance of a CA; however, in spite of the Company's repeated attempts to obtain an indication from the MDDELCC as to its intentions relatively to the CA, the Company has not received conclusive information to this effect. During 2010, the Company met with different stakeholders in the Oka region to obtain additional support to convince the MDDELCC to issue the CA, which would allow the Company to build its underground Niobium mine in the Ste. Sophie range of Oka, Quebec as soon as possible. In February 2010, representatives of the Company met with representatives of the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks to further discuss the issuance of the CA. While the Company believes that this meeting was constructive and positive, the Company has not received further information as to if and when the CA will be issued by the MDDELCC.

During the fourth quarter of 2009, Nio granted a mandate to Met-Chem for the formal update of the capital/operating costs of the projected mine complex in Oka. This project was completed during the first quarter of 2010 and a press release was issued on this subject in March 2010.

Moreover, the update to the 2000 socio-economic study performed by KPMG relative to the Oka Niobium Project was completed during the first quarter of 2010 to provide additional new information to all the Company's stakeholders, shareholders, government officials and departments and the regional communities. A press release was issued on this subject on March 17, 2010.

As further detailed above, the Company announced a revaluation. Nio plans to complete the remaining segments of the feasibility study as per NI 43-101 only when the CA is issued by the MDDELCC, and this information will be needed at that time for financing purposes. The Company considers that an update of the complete feasibility study which would be compatible with NI 43-101 would require approximately six (6) months and would cost over \$ 500,000.

To date, \$ 6,372,056 has been spent in the Company's financial statements relative to land, exploration and evaluation assets for this project. These essentially consist in geotechnical studies, feasibility studies and studies for the design of the Oka Niobium mining project.

### Great Whale Iron Property

On August 31, 2006, Met-Chem produced its technical report which recommends a plan of action on the Great Whale project for the period comprised between 2006 and 2008, which totalised seven million three hundred thousand dollars (\$ 7,300,000). The Company has not started this work.

In July 2009, the Company collected new drilled core samples and cores drilled in 1957-60 by Belcher Mining Corporation Ltd from the A, D and E iron mineralized (36% Fe magnetite) sites on the GWIP (17,098 acres) located 80 kilometers from the twin villages of Kuujjuarapik - Whapmagoostui on the Hudson Bay. The objective of the 2009 program, for which \$ 183,000 was spent in 2009, was to perform modern metallurgical tests to confirm the optimum ore grain size of the prospects (historical resources) for maximum iron liberation. The Company announced in February 2010 the delivery of this report, the results of which are further detailed above.

To date, \$ 975,135 has been spent in the Company's Financial Statements relatively to exploration and evaluation assets for this project. These essentially consist in the study prepared by Met-Chem and fees relating to the land survey made by the Company, as well as costs engaged during 2009 for the metallurgical testing at Corem and more recently the work program which started in the fall of 2012.

### Results of Operations for the three-month period ended June 30, 2022

Revenues for the second quarter ended June 30, 2022, were \$ 4,650 as compared to a similar amount for the same period during the previous year from the leasing of some properties.

The operating expenses incurred for the second quarter of 2022 were \$ 187,447 as compared with \$ 103,449 in the second quarter of 2021. The increase of \$ 83,998 in the operating expenses was caused by an increase of the professional fees and the share-based compensation expense of \$ 30 118.

Finance expenses for the second quarter of 2022 were \$ 7,554 as compared with \$ 71,021 in the second quarter of 2021, the decrease of \$ 63,467 in the current quarter was mainly attributable to the conversion of the debenture during the period.

The net loss and the comprehensive loss for the second quarter of 2022 was \$ 190,351 or \$ 0.00 per share, compared to a loss of \$ 170 120 or \$ 0.01 per share, for the second quarter of 2021.

### Results of Operations for the six-month period ended June 30, 2022

Revenues for the six-month period ended June 30, 2022 were \$ 5,400 as compared to a similar amount for the same period during the previous year from the leasing of some properties.

The operating expenses incurred for the six-month period of 2022 were \$ 190,351 as compared with \$ 170,120 in the six-month period ended June 30, 2021. The increase of \$ 172,748 in the operating expenses was caused by larger professional fees of \$ 64,323, share-based compensation expense of \$ 55,906 and a larger shareholders relations fees related to the special and annual general assembly held in that period.

Finance expenses for the six-month period of 2022 were \$ 41,934 as compared with \$ 130,769 in the same period of 2021, the decrease of \$ 88,835 in the first six months was mainly attributable to the conversion of the debenture during the period.

The net loss and the comprehensive loss for the six-month period ended in 2022 was \$ 130,387 or \$ 0.00 per share, compared to a loss of \$ 312,958 or \$ 0.01 per share, for the same period in 2021.

### Selected Quarterly Financial Information

The following table presents certain extracts of the unaudited quarterly financial statements:

| (in \$)             | 2022<br>Q2 | 2022<br>Q1 | Q4        | Q3        | Q2        | 2021<br>Q1 | Q4       | 2020<br>Q3 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Revenues            | 4,650      | 750        | 1,200     | 1,200     | 4,350     | 1,050      | 3,450    | 1,550      |
| Net Loss            | 190,351    | 59,964     | (481,438) | (196,624) | (170,120) | (142,838)  | (87,997) | (104,782)  |
| Net Loss, per share | 0.00       | 0.00       | (0.01)    | (0.01)    | (0.00)    | (0.01)     | (0.01)   | (0.00)     |

Since the Company has no mining operations at the present time, except for mining exploration expenses, the Company had no significant revenues over the past years. The variations in net losses result mainly from variations in expenditures relating to exploration works, professional and administration fees as well as registration fees related with claims currently held.

### Liquidity and capital resources

The Company had \$ 1,770,652 of cash as of June 30, 2022, compared to \$ 1,943,289 as of December 31, 2021.

The Company considers that these funds are sufficient to respect all its current commitments and could be sufficient to finalize the CA issuance process. Furthermore, the Company have to raise additional funds to update the feasibility study as per NI 43-101 once the CA is issued by the MDDELCC, before raising substantial funds to proceed to the construction of the mine and the plant.

### **Operating Activity Cash Flows**

Cash flow used in operating activities was \$ 172,637 for the six-month period ended on June 30, 2022, a decrease of \$ 300,796 from \$ 485,987 used in the corresponding period of 2021. The net changes in non-cash operating items following last year's financing explains the difference.

### **Financing Activity Cash Flows**

Financing activities resulted in a cash inflow of \$ nil for the six-month period ended on June 30, 2022, as compared to \$ 500,000 for the same period during the previous year following the loan issuance during that period.

### **Investing Activity Cash Flows**

Investing activities resulted in a cash inflow of \$ for the six-month period ended on June 30, 2022, as compared with same for the same period during the previous year.

### **Related party transactions**

#### *Key management personnel compensation*

Key management personnel correspond to the directors of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer who is remunerated through a salary agreement.

During the six-month period ended June 30, the Company incurred the following expenses with key management personnel:

|  | 2022   | 2021   |
|--|--------|--------|
|  | \$     | \$     |
| Salary and management fees included in office and administration | 33,394 | 33,668 |
| Directors' fees  | 13,472 | 10,725 |

The Company has the following amounts owing to related parties as at:

|                                | <b>June 30, 2022</b> | December 31, 2021 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
|                                | \$                   | \$                |
| Debentures - Major shareholder | –                    | 2,345,000         |
| Loan - Major shareholder       | <b>500,000</b>       | 500,000           |
| Accrued interest               | <b>7,479</b>         | 1,225,290         |

During the six-month period ended June 30, 2022, interest expenses of \$ 41,934 (June 30, 2021 - \$ 130,769) were incurred on the debenture, of which \$ 31,151 were paid (\$ nil in 2021).

## Going concern

The Company is in a development stage and has mineral exploration and development properties in the province of Quebec. The Company does not capitalize the exploration and evaluation expenses. As at June 30, 2022, the Oka mining property consisted of mining rights comprised of 102 claims covering 6,025 acres and the Great Whale property consisted of surface and mining rights comprised of 140 claims covering 17,098 acres on the Hudson Bay territory. Substantially, all the Company's efforts are currently devoted to financing, developing and obtaining permits for its niobium property in Oka.

Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which supposed that the Company will pursue its activities in a foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets or discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of operations. The Company is in the process of exploring and evaluating its mineral properties and projects and has not yet determined whether its properties and projects contain ore reserves that are economically recoverable. The Company does not have any revenues coming from its operations that would enable the Company to discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of its operations. The financial statements do not reflect the adjustments to the carrying values of assets and liabilities that would be necessary if the Company were unable to realize its assets or discharge its obligations in the ordinary course of operations.

With respect to the niobium property in Oka, the Company has determined in 1999 that the property contains ore resources which provide a conceptual indication of the potential of the property. The Company's application is under study with the MDDELCC and the community of Oka in order to obtain all permits, certificates and other authorizations to allow the Company to operate the niobium property. Management is currently working in order to obtain all the required permits and authorization to develop the Oka property.

The \$ 2.345 million debenture matured on December 30, 2021 and is secured by all the property and assets of the Company. Management negotiated with the debenture holders to convert the debenture at the best interest of the Company. In March 2022, \$ 3,578,018 in principal and accrued interest owing under the terms of a secured debenture initially issued by the Company to Nio-Metals on February 19, 2013 has been converted into an aggregate of 23,823,470 common shares of the Company (the "Repayment Shares") at an issue price of \$ 0.15 per share in full repayment thereof.

Although the Company has taken steps to verify title to mineral properties in which it has an interest in accordance with industry standards for the current stage of exploration of such properties, these procedures do not guarantee the Company's title. Property title may be subject to unregistered prior agreements and non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

## Basis of preparation:

### Statement of compliance

These unaudited condensed interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") under international accounting standard IAS 34, Interim Financial Reporting, using the

same basis of presentation, accounting policies and methods of computation that were applied for the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021. The financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on August 26, 2022.

#### Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

#### Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise stated, which the Company's functional currency is.

#### Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the year in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

Information about assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment within the next financial year include, but are not limited to:

#### Going concern

The assessment of the Company's ability to execute its strategy by funding future working capital requirements involves judgment. Estimates and assumptions are continually assessed and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Black & Scholes valuation

The calculation of the fair value of units, stock options and warrants granted require management to make estimates and assumptions about the fair value of the underlying common shares of the Company, expected volatility, expected life and expected forfeiture rates, which could affect the Company's results if the current estimates change. Expected volatility was based on the Company's historical volatility.

### **Significant accounting policies:**

The Company's significant accounting policies and estimates under IFRS are disclosed in the audited annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 and were applied consistently to all years.

### **Number of Shares Issued**

As at June 30, 2022 and as at the date of publication of the MD&A, the number of issued and outstanding shares of the Company was 75,718,338

### **Capital Management**

The Company's objectives when managing its capital are to safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern in order to support ongoing exploration programs and development of its mining assets, to provide sufficient working capital to meet its ongoing obligations and to pursue potential investments.

The Company's capital items are the following:

|                 | <b>As at June 30,<br/>2022</b> | As at December 31,<br>2021 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                 | <b>\$</b>                      | \$                         |
| Cash            | <b>1,770,652</b>               | 1,943,289                  |
| Debenture       | –                              | 2,345,000                  |
| Long-term debts | <b>540,000</b>                 | 540,000                    |
| Share capital   | <b>20,296,684</b>              | 16,989,649                 |

The Company manages its capital structure and adjusts it in accordance with the objectives, as well as considering changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets. To maintain or adjust its capital structure, the Company may issue new debentures, shares, acquire or dispose of assets or adjust the amount of cash and cash equivalents. There is no dividend policy. The Company is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements. The Company's management of capital remained unchanged since the last year.

### **Risks and uncertainties**

The Company needs to obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the MDDELCC in order to build the Oka mine project. There is no assurance that the MDDELCC will issue this CA or that the CA will be issued in the near future.

The Company's mining lease on the Oka Property expired in 2020 and converted in mining claims covering 60.3 acres. The Company can maintain its mineral rights by securing mining claims on the Oka Property. Since the Oka Property considers only mining claims, additional regulatory requirements will apply in order to convert the mining claims to a Mining Lease.

The Regional County Municipality of Deux-Montagnes (the "MRC") is in the process of assessing whether lands in its region could be considered incompatible with mining activities and may propose changes to its regional land use plan designating parts of its territory as incompatible with mining activities. Although, the area covered by the Company's mining lease cannot be designed as "mining incompatible" territory while the lease is in force, if the lease expires and if the Company acquires claims on the property, the MRC could initiate the process for the designation of such area as "mining incompatible" territory.

In 2001 the agricultural land use commission ("CPTAQ") authorized the non-agricultural use of specific parcels in the area of the Mining Lease. The authorization for non-agricultural use will expire on June 26, 2022. There is no assurance that the authorization will be extended, or a new authorization will be granted.

The Company needs to secure new equity and debt financing in order to ultimately realize the Oka Project and pursue the exploration/development of other properties it has acquired, particularly that of the Great Whale Iron mineral prospect. Given the nature of the speculative investment it is seeking in the capital markets, there is no assurance that the required financing will be available.

Management serves to maintain a sufficient amount of cash and cash equivalents, and to ensure that the Company has at its disposal sufficient sources of financing such as private placements. The Company establishes cash budgets to ensure it has the necessary funds to fulfill its obligations. Being able to obtain new funds allows the Company to pursue its activities and even though the Company was successful in the past, there is no guarantee that it will succeed in the future.

There are many factors that could affect the Company's results that are not controlled by management, such as market prices, exchange rates, politico-social conflicts, competition and regulatory approvals.

The Company has not renewed its option to the purchase part of the old St-Lawrence Columbian mine site from the Municipality of Oka, which expired on June 30, 2008, pending a decision from the MDDELCC relating to the issuance of the Certificate of Authorization. While the Company has a verbal understanding with the municipality of Oka that the parties will wait for the issuance of the CA before finalizing the purchase agreement, there is no assurance that the municipality of Oka will accept to extend this offer to purchase in the future should the Certificate of Authorization be issued by the MDDELCC. A letter from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources ("MENR") to the MRC dated May 9, 2017 confirms that the SLC site is included in the MENR's mine sites rehabilitation program and that rehabilitation work is planned for 2019. The letter indicates that the MENR has the intention of completing the rehabilitation of the site. The rehabilitation of the site may create an impediment to its sale.

The Company takes great care to minimize these risks by carefully choosing consultants and advisors that are experienced leaders in their field of environment, mining engineering and law.

## **COVID-19**

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic, which continues to spread in Canada and around the world. Measures taken to contain the spread of the virus, including travel bans, quarantines, social distancing, and closures of non-essential services for some periods have triggered significant disruptions to businesses worldwide, resulting in an economic slowdown. Global stock markets have also experienced great volatility. There have been business closures and a substantial reduction in economic activity in a large number of countries.

Management is closely monitoring the situation by diminishing costs where it can and believes that any disturbance may be temporary; however, there is uncertainty about the length and potential impact of the disturbance.

We have implemented capital preservation strategies to cope with the downturn of the economy, including but not limited to strengthening cost control measures. Meanwhile, the Company is exercising caution in conducting investment activities and will explore opportunities in a proactive manner. We have implemented capital preservation strategies to cope with the downturn of the economy, including but not limited to strengthening cost control measures. Meanwhile, the Company is exercising caution in conducting investment activities. Also, we are unable to estimate the potential impact on the ability to obtain further financing and on the Company's operations as at the date of these financial statements.

## **Other**

The reader is referred to financial statements and notes to financial statements for more details. Additional information relating to the Company may be consulted on SEDAR at [www.SEDAR.com](http://www.SEDAR.com).

Hubert Marleau  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
August 26, 2022