

News Release

NORTHGATE MINERALS CORPORATION
Stock Symbols: **TSX: NGX, AMEX: NXG**
Website: www.northgateminerals.com



Northgate Minerals Corporation

NORTHGATE ANNOUNCES CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE LOWER YD AND LOWER BOUNDARY ZONES AT YOUNG-DAVIDSON

VANCOUVER, September 26, 2006 – Northgate Minerals Corporation (TSX: NGX, AMEX: NXG) today announced assay results for four additional diamond drill holes at its Young-Davidson property near the town of Matachewan, Ontario.

Exploration Highlights

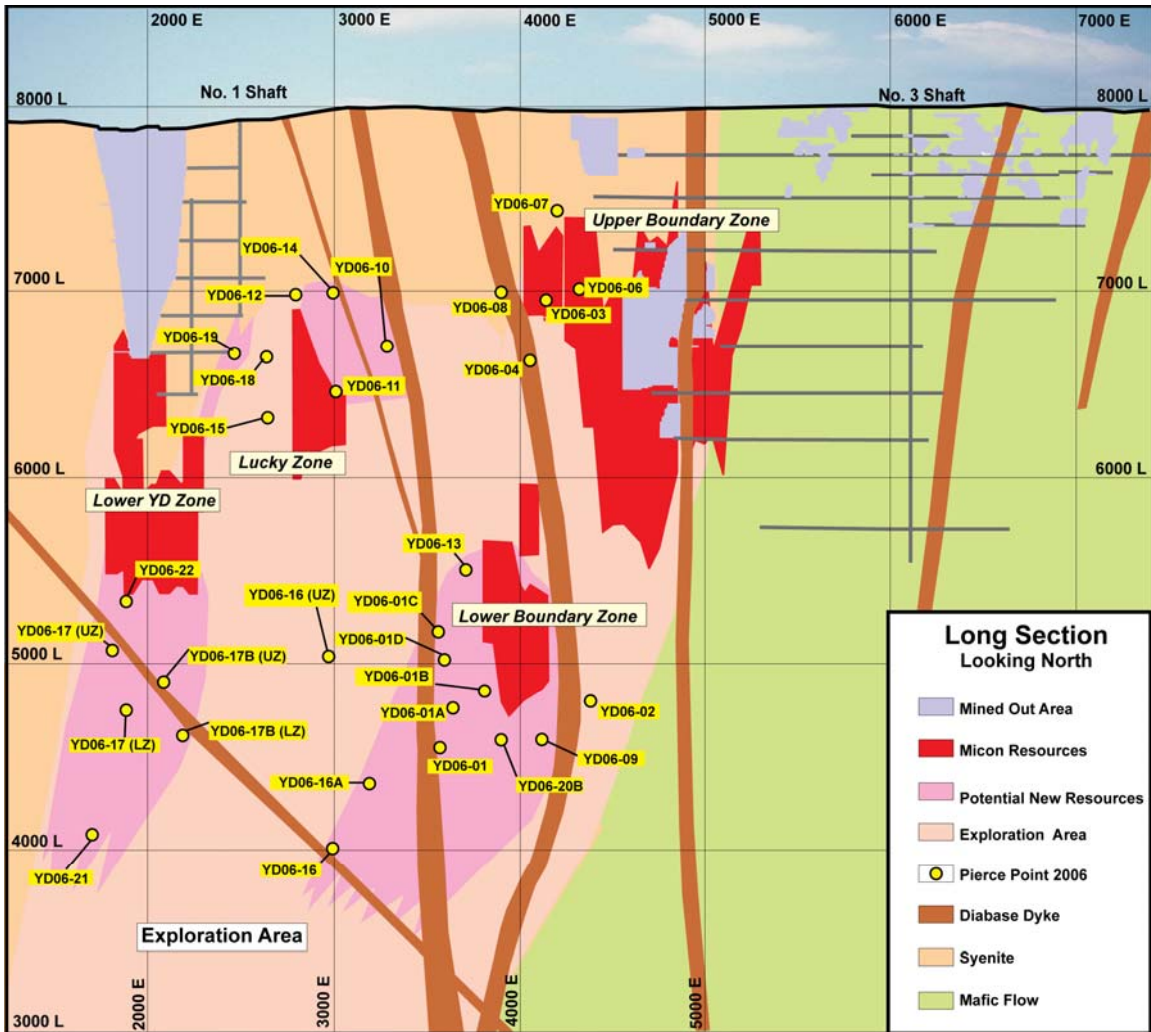
- Hole 21 in the Lower YD-Zone intersected 23.8 metres averaging 5.44 g/t, 200 metres below all previous intersections in this area. This is the second best intersection in the Lower-YD zone on a grade-thickness basis.
- Hole 17B intersected two broad zones of gold mineralization in the Lower YD zone to the east of hole 17. The upper zone included an interval of 6.4 g/t over 4.9 metres and the lower zone averaged 2.1 g/t over 75.9 metres including an interval of 4.4 g/t over 9.1 metres.
- Hole 16A filled in a large gap above and to the east of hole 16, intersecting 2.7 g/t over a 44.8 metre interval containing a section of 4.64 g/t (uncut) over 16.5 metres.

Ken Stowe, President and Chief Executive Officer, remarked, “*The most recent diamond drill results at the Young-Davidson property have substantially expanded the two core zones of mineralization we have discovered between the 5500 and 4000 levels during our 2006 exploration campaign. It is also becoming increasingly evident that the grade of the gold mineralization at the Young-Davidson property is increasing with depth and that the Lower Boundary and Lower YD zones could converge at depth. If both these hypotheses prove to be correct, the economics of the property will improve dramatically from our initial acquisition projections. In the fourth quarter of 2006, our exploration team expects to increase the number of drills active at Young-Davidson to six and more importantly we plan to release an updated NI-43-101 compliant resource estimate for the property before the end of November.*”

OVERVIEW OF YOUNG-DAVIDSON EXPLORATION AREA

Gold mineralization on the Young-Davidson property is present primarily in an intrusive syenite host rock dipping at approximately 70 degrees to the south. Figure 1, shown below, presents known resource areas (darker shaded areas), potential new resources defined by 2006 drilling (lighter shaded areas), historic mine workings and simplified geology along with the pierce points for the holes drilled so far this year. Elevations in the longitudinal section are based on an artificial mine grid where the surface is defined as 8,000 feet.

Figure 1: Young-Davidson Property (Vertical, North Looking, Longitudinal Section)



2006 DRILLING RESULTS

Collar co-ordinates for the reported drill holes are listed in Appendix 1 and assay results for selected mineralized intervals are reported in Tables 1 and 2.

Lower YD Zone

Hole YD06-17B intersected the Lower YD zone 20 metres below and 60 metres to the east of its parent hole (17). Similar to its parent hole, there are two distinct mineralized intervals (an upper zone UZ and lower zone LZ on the Longitudinal Section Figure 1). Both the upper and lower intervals of hole 17B have substantial true thicknesses of mineralization containing zones of higher-grade mineralization as shown in Table 1. Nearly 40 metres of post-mineral diabase dyke was encountered in the hole between the two mineralized intercepts, cross-cutting a portion of the zone.

Hole YD06-21 intersected the Lower YD zone 200 metres below the previously deepest intersection and returned an average gold assay of 2.75 g/t over an interpreted true thickness of 48.8 metres. This interval contained higher-grade zones of 3.79 g/t over a true thickness of 28.5 metres and 5.44 g/t over a true thickness of 14.6 metres and is the second best hole on a grade-thickness basis ever drilled in the Lower YD zone.

Hole YD06-22 intersected the Lower YD zone at the 5400 level and returned a gold grade of 5.66 g/t over a true thickness of 6.2 metres.

Hole YD06-17A was abandoned due to technical difficulties.

Table 1: Assay Results from Lower YD Zone

Hole ID	From (ft)	To (ft)	Core Length (ft)	Core Length (m)	TRUE Thickness (m)	Au Uncut g/tonne	Au (Cut to 34.28 g) g/tonne
YD06-17B	3172.2	3321.0	148.8	45.4	38.1	1.64	1.64
incl	3172.2	3191.5	19.3	5.9	4.9	3.12	3.12
incl	3305.0	3321.0	16.0	4.9	4.1	6.44	6.44
	3540.0	3789.0	249.0	75.9	65.1	2.11	2.11
incl	3540.0	3585.0	45.0	13.7	11.8	3.68	3.68
incl	3540.0	3570.0	30.0	9.1	7.8	4.41	4.41
incl	3638.6	3650.0	11.4	3.5	3.0	5.68	5.68
incl	3706.1	3789.0	82.9	25.3	21.9	2.58	2.58
incl	3735.0	3754.0	19.0	5.8	5.0	3.70	3.70
YD06-21	4136.7	4398.0	261.3	79.7	48.8	2.75	2.67
incl	4136.7	4290.0	153.3	46.7	28.5	3.79	3.66
incl	4180.0	4258.2	78.2	23.8	14.6	5.44	5.19
incl	4230.0	4245.0	15.0	4.6	2.8	15.52	14.24
incl	4380.0	4398.0	18.0	5.5	3.4	4.51	4.51
YD06-22	2728.0	2775	47.0	14.3	11.7	1.3	1.3
	2825.1	2850.0	24.9	7.6	6.2	5.66	5.66

Lower Boundary Zone

Hole YD06-16A, a wedge deflection from hole YD06-16, tested the mineralized syenite host rock approximately 130 metres above and 60 metres east of the parent hole on the western edge of the Lower Boundary Zone (as it is currently understood) and approximately 45 metres below and 60 metres east from the nearest drill hole YD06-01. The zone at this location has a true thickness in excess of 55 metres grading 2.36 g/t within which there is a higher-grade core with true thickness of 16.4 metres 4.64 g/t as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Assay Results from Lower Boundary Zone

Hole ID	From (ft)	To (ft)	Core Length (ft)	Core Length (m)	TRUE Thickness (m)	Au Uncut g/tonne	Au (Cut to 34.28 g) g/tonne
YD06-16A	4059.3	4255.0	195.7	59.7	59.4	2.36	2.15
incl	4075.0	4222.0	147.0	44.8	44.6	2.70	2.4
incl	4102.0	4222.0	120.0	36.6	36.4	3.03	2.85
incl	4102.0	4181.0	79.0	24.1	24.0	3.81	3.25
incl	4075.0	4156.0	81.0	24.7	24.4	3.52	2.98
incl	4102.0	4156	54.0	16.5	16.4	4.64	3.83
incl	4075.0	4113.0	38.0	11.6	11.5	5.40	4.24
incl	4102.0	4113.0	11.0	3.35	3.3	15.53	11.52

Quality Control – Analyses and Sample Location

Details of Quality Control and drill-hole survey methodology are reported in Northgate's April 10, 2006 news release that is filed on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) and may also be accessed on the Northgate website (www.northgateminerals.com).

Qualified Persons

The program design, implementation, Quality Assurance/Quality Control and interpretation of the results is under the control of Northgate Minerals Corporation geological staff that includes a number of individuals who are qualified persons as defined under NI 43-101. Overall supervision of the program is by Carl Edmunds PGeo, Northgate's Manager of Exploration.

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Note to US Investors:

The terms "Mineral Reserve", "Proven Mineral Reserve" and "Probable Mineral Reserve" used in this news release are Canadian mining terms as defined in accordance with National Instrument 43-101-Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects under the guidelines set out in the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (the "CIM") Standards on Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves Definitions and Guidelines adopted by the CIM Council on August 20, 2000. The terms "Mineral Resource", "Measured Mineral Resource", "Indicated Mineral Resource", and "Inferred Mineral Resource" used in this news release are Canadian mining terms as defined in accordance with National Instrument 43-101-Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects under the guidelines set out in the CIM Standards.

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About Northgate:

Northgate Minerals Corporation is a gold and copper mining company focused on operations and opportunities in the Americas. The Corporation's principal assets are the 300,000-ounce per year Kemess South mine in north-central British Columbia, the adjacent Kemess North deposit, which contains a Proven and Probable Reserve of 4.1 million ounces of gold and the Young-Davidson property in northern Ontario with a total resource base of 1.5 million ounces of gold. Northgate is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol NGX and on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol NXG.

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Forward-Looking Statements

This news release includes certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of section 21E of the *United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended. These forward-looking statements include estimates, forecasts, and statements as to management's expectations with respect to, among other things, future metal production and production costs, potential mineralization and reserves, exploration results, progress in the development of mineral properties, demand and market outlook for commodities and future plans and objectives of Northgate Minerals Corporation (Northgate). Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "believe," or "continue" or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terminology. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by management are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from Northgate's expectations are disclosed under the heading "Risk and Uncertainties" in Northgate's 2005 Annual Report and under the heading "Risk Factors" in Northgate's 2005 Annual Information Form (AIF) both of which are filed with Canadian regulators on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) and with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (www.sec.gov). Northgate expressly disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Appendix 1: 2006 Drill Hole Locations

Hole ID	Easting	Northing	Elevation	Collar Azimuth	Collar Dip	Depth
YD06-01	3500	477	7920	358.7	-70	4083.3
YD06-01A	3500	477	7920	358.7	-70	3874.7
YD06-01B	3500	477	7920	358.7	-70	3976.4
YD06-01C	3500	477	7920	358.7	-70	3897.6
YD06-01D	3500	477	7920	358.7	-70	3965
YD06-02	3997	1001	7898	7.7	-74.8	3799.2
YD06-02A	3997	1001	7898	7.7	-74.8	2204.7
YD06-03	4112	1843	7928	2.4	-55.9	1587.9
YD06-04	4112	1841	7929	353.5	-70	1617.4
YD06-05	3853	1182	7891	358	-80	1102.6
YD06-06	4302	1870	7937	1.5	-56.2	1614.2
YD06-07	4179	2404	7959	0	-55	974.4
YD06-08	3850	1700	7900	355	-55	1446.9
YD06-09	3839	1187	7895	0	-80	3914
YD06-10	3850	1700	7900	315	-55	1909.4
YD06-11	2975	1925	7901	360	-70	2110.3
YD06-12	2777	2344	7916	0	-72	1282.8
YD06-13	3500	1200	7874	0	-70	3490.8
YD06-14	2975	2000	7880	0	-50	1486.2
YD06-15	2630	1718	7880	0	-70	2181.6
YD06-16	3023	46	7826	359	-70	5223.8
(i) YD06-16A	3023	46	7826	359	-70	5098.4
YD06-17	1777	782	7920	0	-70	4133.9
YD06-17A	1777	782	7920	0	-70	1830.7
(i) YD06-17B	1777	782	7920	0	-70	3980.3
YD06-18	2630	1718	7880	0	-60	1849
YD06-19	2400	1900	7875	356	-55	1879.9
YD06-20	3700	200	7880	0	-70	95.1
YD06-20A	3700	200	7880	0	-70	4893.1
(i) YD06-21	1350	450	7920	0	-70	4724.4
(i) YD06-22	1777	1075	7920	0	-70	3454.7

(i) holes are reported herein, other holes are previously reported or still in progress.