



TSXV: CNC

CANYON COPPER CORP. ANNOUNCES THE PASSING OF BENJAMIN AINSWORTH

VANCOUVER, BC, April 27, 2017.

Canyon Copper Corp. ("Canyon") (TSX-V: CNC) announced today that our founding director, Benjamin ("Ben") Ainsworth passed away peacefully on April 25, 2017 at the age of 76. Canyon wishes to extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and his many business associates.

Ben earned an honours degree in geology at University of Oxford in 1962 and was soon inducted into a successful career as an exploration geologist, gaining his early experience in Ireland and Ghana, West Africa. He joined Placer Development Limited ("Placer") in 1965 and worked there for 21 years, holding assignments throughout Canada, and later in Chile. From 1968 to 1978, his principal area of work related to the research and application of geochemistry for mineral exploration. Ben carried out extensive exploration work in British Columbia and the Yukon, which led to the 1972 discovery of the world class Howard's Pass lead-zinc deposit.

In 1986, Ben and David Jenkins formed the consulting firm of Ainsworth-Jenkins Holdings Inc. ("Ainsworth-Jenkins"). The first years of the practice focused on gold and silver in Nevada and northern tier states in Mexico, drawing on experience gained from working on similar projects for Placer. Ainsworth-Jenkins was involved with the reactivation of the Huckleberry porphyry copper/gold project financed by New Canamin Resources Ltd. in the period 1992 to 1994, which was placed into production in 1997. The Ainsworth-Jenkins team was also responsible for the concept, design and implementation of a 1995 exploration program that led to the discovery of the first reported marine alluvial diamonds in the territorial waters of Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Ben's career contained many milestones in both mineral discoveries and in public service, where he acted for provincial and federal governments in mineral project assessments. He also served on many committees liaising between our industry and government agencies to promote the sustainable growth of mineral exploration and development in Canada.

Most recently, Ben and his son, Garrett Ainsworth, were jointly awarded the 2013 Colin Spence Award by the Association for Mineral Exploration, British Columbia for their role in the discovery of the Patterson Lake South uranium deposit (now the Triple R deposit) located in the Athabasca Basin, Saskatchewan. That discovery was yet another hallmark of the quality of work Ben contributed throughout his career in his quest to find world class mineral deposits.

Many will follow in his footsteps but few will fill his shoes.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

"James Yates"

CANYON COPPER CORP.

James Yates, Director

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