**Metals and Mining** 

April 16, 2020

Auryn Resources, Inc. (AUG) Rating: Buy

Heiko F. Ihle, CFA 212-356-0510

hihle@hcwresearch.com

Tyler Bisset 646-975-6955 tbisset@hcwresearch.com Marcus Giannini 212-916-3978 mgiannini@hcwresearch.com

## Preliminary Economic Assessment for Homestake Ridge Project: Updated Mineral Resource Estimate: Reiterate Buy

Stock Data	04/15/2020				
Price	\$1.13				
Exchange	NYSE American				
Price Target	\$2.00				
52-Week High	\$1.84				
52-Week Low	\$0.71				
Enterprise Value (M)	\$107				
Market Cap (M)	\$118				
Shares Outstanding (M)	104.7				
3 Month Avg Volume	214,870				
Short Interest (M)	0.57				
Balance Sheet Metrics					
Cash (M)	\$11.4				
Total Debt (M)	\$0.0				
Total Cash/Share	\$0.11				

private placements.

Total Debt (M): Pro forma for bridge loan amendment.

EPS (C\$) Diluted						
Full Year - Dec	2019A	2020E	2021E			
FY	C\$(0.15)	C\$(0.16)	C\$(0.16)			



Independent preliminary economic assessment (PEA) for Homestake Ridge. On April 15, 2020, Auryn Resources released an independent PEA and updated resource estimate on the firm's Homestake Ridge project in northwestern British Columbia. The PEA lays out results at a variety of gold prices with the base case study utilizing a \$1,350 per ounce (oz) gold figure. Unsurprisingly the project is very sensitive to the price of gold utilized, and we illustrate the economic variability across multiple price scenarios in Exhibit 1 on page 2 of this note.

Strong life of mine (LOM) metrics yield operational longevity and profitability. When utilizing the aforementioned \$1,350/oz gold price, Homestake yields an after-tax NPV $_{5}$  of \$108M, an after-tax internal rate of return of 23.6%, and a 36-month payback period. Further, the project presents a robust 13-year LOM with total estimated LOM gold equivalent ounce (GEO) production of 590,040 oz, and peak annual production of 88,660 GEOs during year three of operations. From a cost perspective, pre-production CapEx represents a relatively modest \$88.0M when accounting for the fairly remote locality of Homestake and proposed underground mining technique. Additionally, all-in sustaining cost estimates for the site are only \$670/oz of gold, supporting healthy margins under the PEA gold price assumption of \$1,350/oz, which become substantially more pronounced when using current spot prices that exceed \$1,700/oz. Upon understanding the entirety of Homestake's value, we highlight the property's industry-leading exploration potential, and in turn, expansion opportunities, which remain highly characteristic of British Columbia's Golden Triangle.

Updated mineral resource highlights strong precious metal content. Auryn's mineral resource estimate for the Homestake Ridge project provides a total indicated resource of 0.7M tonnes with average gold and silver grades of 7.02 gpt and 74.8 gpt, respectively. The site therefore has a total metal content of 165,993 oz of gold and 1.8M oz of silver. Additionally, the resource estimate incorporates 2.87M pounds of copper and 1.25M pounds of lead in the indicated category. On an inferred basis, total tonnage reaches 5.5M tonnes of material with gold and silver grades of 4.58 gpt and 100.0 gpt, respectively. As total drilling at site represents roughly 90,000 meters, we emphasize the potential to continue adding meaningful nearby resources laterally and at depth, especially at the Homestake Main and Homestake Silver deposits. For additional color on the exploration potential we guide readers to Exhibit 2 on page 2 of this report.

We maintain our Buy rating on Auryn Resources and our PT of \$2.00 per share. While our overall NAV was slightly reduced due to a less favorable C\$/US\$ exchange rate, this change was offset by a slightly higher multiple on Auryn's asset base given continued success in its exploration programs. Notably, we now include ounces from Homestake based on the updated PEA results in our valuation for the firm as our overall valuation for the company remains based on an in situ valuation of the firm's resources. We further assign an unchanged \$50.0M valuation to the Sombrero property and an additional \$30.0M for Auryn's non-core assets. We then add the firm's cash and marketable securities balance to arrive at our overall valuation of \$224.7M for a rounded value of \$2.00 per share. Going forward, we continue to see substantial upside towards resource expansion at Homestake and believe that management has established a strong foundation as the company continues to pursue a series of exploration targets at its various sites.

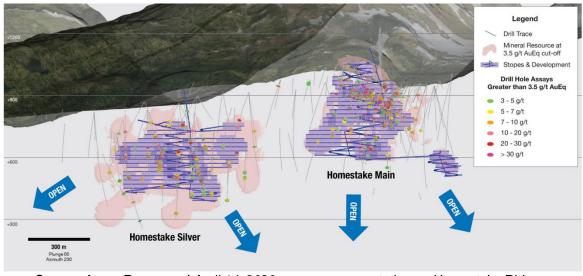
Risks. (1) Commodity price risk; (2) operating and technical risk; (3) and financial risk.

Exhibit 1: Sensitivity Analysis for Varying Precious Metal Prices Versus NPV₀ and NPV₅ Scenarios

	Gold Price (US\$/oz)	Silver Price (US\$/oz)	NPV at 0% (US\$M)	NPV at 5% (US\$M)	IRR	Payback (Mo)
40%	\$1,890	\$16.80	\$373	\$239	39.4%	31
30%	\$1,755	\$15.60	\$326	\$206	35.8%	32
20%	\$1,620	\$14.40	\$278	\$173	32.0%	33
10%	\$1,485	\$13.20	\$231	\$141	28.0%	34
Base Case	\$1,350	\$12.00	\$184	\$108	23.6%	36
-10%	\$1,215	\$10.80	\$137	\$75	18.8%	40
-20%	\$1,080	\$9.60	\$90	\$42	13.2%	46
-30%	\$945	\$8.40	\$39	\$6	6.4%	75

Source: Auryn Resources' April 15, 2020 press release.

Exhibit 2: Near-Deposit Expansion Potential Given Limited Drilling To-Date at Homestake



Source: Auryn Resources' April 14, 2020 company presentation on Homestake Ridge.

1.41 C\$/US\$ exchange rate as of 4/15/20

## **Auryn Resources**

Figures below in 000's of U.S. dollars

Value of resources at Committee Bay and Homestake Plus Sombrero copper-gold project in Southern Peru

Plus other exploration assets

Plus cash & equivalents

Less debt

Total current value

Common shares
Options & Warrants
Fully diluted shares

Auryn (AUG) Share price

Auryn (AUG) Net Asset Value

Rounded (\$0.10) price target

Source: H.C. Wainwright & Co. estimates.

\$ 133,386 valued at ~\$50 per oz (peer average \* 1.1x multiple)

\$ 50,000 increased from \$30 million as of 5/15/2019 given incremental trenching and core sampling results

\$ 30,000 includes Huilacollo, Curibaya, Sambalay, Salvador, Banos Del Indio, and Gibson MacQuoid

\$ 11,352 Pro forma for the C\$15.0M raised from non-brokered private placements.

\$ - Assumes bridge loan will ultimately be converted into equity as per February 6, 2020 amendment

\$224,737

104,682 as of 3/19/20 8,688 as of 3/19/20

113,369 as of 3/19/20

\$ 1.13 per share as of 4/15/20

\$ 1.98 per share

\$ 2.00 per share 43.5% discount to price target

## **Important Disclaimers**

This material is confidential and intended for use by Institutional Accounts as defined in FINRA Rule 4512(c). It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply to unsubscribe@hcwresearch.com and delete it from your system; you may not copy this message or disclose its contents to anyone. The integrity and security of this message cannot be guaranteed on the Internet.

**H.C. WAINWRIGHT & CO, LLC RATING SYSTEM:** H.C. Wainwright employs a three tier rating system for evaluating both the potential return and risk associated with owning common equity shares of rated firms. The expected return of any given equity is measured on a RELATIVE basis of other companies in the same sector. The price objective is calculated to estimate the potential movements in price that a given equity could reach provided certain targets are met over a defined time horizon. Price objectives are subject to external factors including industry events and market volatility.

## **RETURN ASSESSMENT**

**Market Outperform (Buy):** The common stock of the company is expected to outperform a passive index comprised of all the common stock of companies within the same sector.

**Market Perform (Neutral):** The common stock of the company is expected to mimic the performance of a passive index comprised of all the common stock of companies within the same sector.

**Market Underperform (Sell):** The common stock of the company is expected to underperform a passive index comprised of all the common stock of companies within the same sector.



Investment Banking Services include, but are not limited to, acting as a manager/co-manager in the underwriting or placement of securities, acting as financial advisor, and/or providing corporate finance or capital markets-related services to a company or one of its affiliates or subsidiaries within the past 12 months.

Distribution of Ratings Table as of April 15, 2020						
		IB Service/Past 12 Months				
Ratings	Count	Percent	Count	Percent		
Buy	379	90.89%	126	33.25%		
Neutral	35	8.39%	6	17.14%		
Sell	0	0.00%	0	0.00%		
Under Review	3	0.72%	3	100.00%		

H.C. Wainwright & Co, LLC (the "Firm") is a member of FINRA and SIPC and a registered U.S. Broker-Dealer.

I, Heiko F. Ihle, CFA, Tyler Bisset and Marcus Giannini, certify that 1) all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about any and all subject securities or issuers discussed; and 2) no part of my compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation or views expressed in this research report; and 3) neither myself nor any members of my household is an officer, director or advisory board member of these companies.

None of the research analysts or the research analyst's household has a financial interest in the securities of Auryn Resources, Inc. (including, without limitation, any option, right, warrant, future, long or short position).

As of March 31, 2020 neither the Firm nor its affiliates beneficially own 1% or more of any class of common equity securities of Auryn Resources, Inc..

Neither the research analyst nor the Firm knows or has reason to know of any other material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this research report.

The research analyst principally responsible for preparation of the report does not receive compensation that is based upon any specific investment banking services or transaction but is compensated based on factors including total revenue and profitability of the Firm, a substantial portion of which is derived from investment banking services.

The Firm or its affiliates did not receive compensation from Auryn Resources, Inc. for investment banking services within twelve months before, but will seek compensation from the companies mentioned in this report for investment banking services within three months following publication of the research report.

The Firm does not make a market in Auryn Resources, Inc. as of the date of this research report.

The securities of the company discussed in this report may be unsuitable for investors depending on their specific investment objectives and financial position. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This report is offered for informational purposes only, and does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities discussed herein in any jurisdiction where such would be prohibited. This research report is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used to provide tax advice to any person. Electronic versions of H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC research reports are made available to all clients simultaneously. No part of this report may be reproduced in any form without the expressed permission of H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC. Additional information available upon request.

- H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC does not provide individually tailored investment advice in research reports. This research report is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this research report.
- H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC's and its affiliates' salespeople, traders, and other professionals may provide oral or written market commentary or trading strategies that reflect opinions that are contrary to the opinions expressed in this research report.
- H.C. Wainwright & Co., LLC and its affiliates, officers, directors, and employees, excluding its analysts, will from time to time have long or short positions in, act as principal in, and buy or sell, the securities or derivatives (including options and warrants) thereof of covered companies referred to in this research report.

The information contained herein is based on sources which we believe to be reliable but is not guaranteed by us as being accurate and does not purport to be a complete statement or summary of the available data on the company, industry or security discussed in the report. All opinions and estimates included in this report constitute the analyst's judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice.

Securities and other financial instruments discussed in this research report: may lose value; are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested.