



HIGH DESERT GOLD CORPORATION

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High Desert Gold Corporation Announces Engagement of Financial Advisor and Adoption of Shareholder Rights Plan

October 29, 2008

TSX: HDG, HDG.WT

High Desert Gold Corporation (“HDG” or the “Company”) today announced that Wellington West Capital Markets Inc. has been engaged as financial advisor to assist the special committee of the board of directors of the Company in considering the unsolicited take-over bid by Northern Financial Corporation (“Northern”) and to advise on alternative proposals for maximizing shareholder value.

The Company also announced that its board of directors (the “Board”) has approved the adoption of a shareholder rights plan (the “Rights Plan”) effective October 29, 2008. The Board adopted the Rights Plan to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all shareholders in connection with any take-over bid for the Company, including the unsolicited take-over bid by Northern, and to ensure that the Board has adequate time to assess and respond to Northern’s unsolicited take-over bid and any alternative proposals. The Rights Plan is subject to acceptance by the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The Rights Plan is not intended to prevent take-over bids. Those bids that meet certain requirements intended to protect the interests of shareholders of the Company are considered under the Rights Plan to be “permitted bids”. A “permitted bid” is a take-over bid made by way of a circular for all outstanding common shares to all shareholders, which remains open for at least 60 days and satisfies certain other conditions. The rights issued under the Rights Plan will become exercisable only if a person, together with its affiliates and associates, acquires or announces its intention to acquire beneficial ownership of common shares of the Company which, when aggregated with its current holdings, total 20% or more of the outstanding common shares other than by a “permitted bid”. Following such an acquisition, each right held by a holder (other than the acquiring person and its affiliates and associates) would, upon exercise, entitle the holder to purchase common shares at half the market price at the time the rights become exercisable. A copy of the Rights Plan is being filed on SEDAR at www.sedar.com, under HDG’s profile.

The rights were issued to holders of record at 12:01 a.m. (Toronto time) on October 29, 2008. A separate rights certificate will not be issued until such time as the rights become exercisable. The Rights Plan and all outstanding rights will terminate on April 28, 2009.

The Company is a mineral exploration company that acquires and explores mineral properties, primarily gold, copper and silver, in North America. The three major properties held by

HDG are the flagship Canasta Dorada gold property in Sonora, Mexico, the Gold Lake porphyry copper-gold-molybdenum property in New Mexico and the Monitor copper-silver property in Arizona.

Additional information concerning HDG may be obtained on HDG's website, www.highdesertgoldcorp.com, and on SEDAR at www.sedar.com, under HDG's profile.

For further information, please contact:

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