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**Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance
and Economic Affairs for the 2022 Pre-Budget Consultations**

Submitted by Teck Resources Limited

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January 14, 2022

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Legislative Assembly of Ontario
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Re: Teck Comments and Recommendations for Ontario Budget 2022

Dear Members of the Standing Committee:

As you advance your 2022 pre-budget consultations, Teck is pleased to submit the comments and recommendations enclosed for your consideration.

Proudly Canadian, Teck is a diversified natural resource company and global sustainability leader with business units focused on copper, steelmaking coal and zinc, as well as investments in energy assets. Headquartered in Vancouver, we own, or have interests in 11 operations in Canada, the United States, Chile and Peru. Teck directly employs over 10,000 people around the world, including more than 8,000 people across Canada, some of whom are based in our corporate office downtown Toronto.

As a company committed to the health and safety of our employees and communities where we operate, we have watched with interest as the Government of Ontario has pursued its objectives of protecting people's health, including in significant dedicated infection prevention and control in hospitals, long-term care facilities and other public settings. We also commend the government in supporting groundbreaking research to advance new discoveries and innovation in healthcare. Yet as uncertainty continues to loom due to the Omicron variant and other potential virus and disease transmissions, it remains imperative that additional solutions to protect our people and communities be considered in the upcoming Budget.

Teck – through its Copper & Health program – is proud to champion the use of antimicrobial copper as an innovative health solution to reduce the risk and transmission of disease on high-touch surfaces in busy public spaces. Already in use by the Toronto Transit Commission, Teck recommends Budget 2022 commit to deploying more of these copper products on high-touch surfaces across the province to keep Ontarians safe as we look forward to a return to public spaces. More details about the use of antimicrobial copper as an innovative health solution are outlined in the submission enclosed.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in these consultations towards a better post-pandemic province. If you have any questions about our submission or about Teck and our copper product as healthcare innovation, please do not hesitate to contact me at Marcia.Smith@teck.com.

Sincerely,

Marcia Smith
Senior Vice President, Sustainability and External Affairs

Teck Comments and Recommendations for the 2022 Pre-Budget Consultations

Recommendation: Deploy antimicrobial copper on high-touch surfaces in public infrastructure to prevent the spread of viruses across Ontario

Copper – listed by the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines as one of the proposed critical minerals in Ontario’s first-ever Critical Minerals Strategy¹ – has unique antimicrobial properties proven to continuously kill bacteria and viruses that cause infection. It is also the only solid metal touch surface registered as an antimicrobial public health product by Health Canada. When installed on high-touch surfaces, copper will eliminate up to 99.9 percent of harmful bacteria. As a result, around the world there is growing use of antimicrobial copper to reduce the spread of infections in transit, commercial spaces, airports, and most importantly, healthcare facilities.

Through Teck’s Copper & Health program,² we seek to raise awareness with the public and decision-makers about the opportunities associated with antimicrobial copper through education, advocacy and demonstration projects. Our program has two primary goals: to improve health outcomes for people and to raise awareness about the important role that metals play in protecting human health. The program provides no material commercial benefit to Teck, as the volume of copper used for these applications is negligible.

Teck has advanced this program through activities including public marketing, working with the antimicrobial supply chain, and, most notably, partnering with public organizations in the transportation, healthcare and education sectors to install antimicrobial copper to demonstrate its efficacy and durability. For example, our copper products have been involved in several high-profile transit capital projects, including with the Toronto Transit Commission and in British Columbia’s healthcare space with projects at Vancouver General Hospital, St. Paul’s Hospital, Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, the Royal Inland

¹ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines: “[Ontario’s Proposed Critical Minerals List](#)”, March 10, 2021.

² Teck Resources Limited: “[Copper & Health](#)”.

Hospital and Lions Gate Hospital. In Ontario, our partnership with the Toronto Transit Commission to install antimicrobial copper in public buses and trains launched last year with a partnership agreement in place for a pilot that examines both bacterial and viral efficacy,³ and several healthcare and long-term care facilities have expressed interest in piloting the use of antimicrobial copper surfaces.

With provincial direction and support, we believe that this solution could be used in healthcare, education, transit and cultural spaces as a part of Ontario's post-COVID-19 re-opening plans. As we all know, consumer confidence in public transit and larger public spaces will not immediately pick up at pandemic levels, meaning that investments supporting increased consumer confidence in the safety of public spaces could have a large effect on the re-opening of Ontario's economy.

More specifically, if copper were to be installed on high-touch surfaces in long-term care facilities – like counters, light switches, handrails and elevator buttons – it could yield health-related benefits by preventing the spread of viruses in these high-traffic settings.

While Teck will continue to do its part to promote and demonstrate the use and value of antimicrobial copper, we believe that the Government of Ontario can take a leading role in promoting the greater use of these products. Adopting the recommendations below would help advance Ontario's Budget 2021 commitments for protecting people's health, particularly in infection prevention and control in hospitals, long-term care facilities and other public settings⁴ as well as support the government's commitment to supporting groundbreaking research to advance new discoveries and innovation in healthcare.⁵ These measures additionally applied in strategic public settings will help build public confidence in returning to work and leisure activities as the government seeks to return communities and the economy to the post-pandemic norm.

³ Teck Resources Limited: "[Bacteria-killing Copper to be Installed on Toronto and Vancouver Transit Vehicles](#)", September 28, 2021.

⁴ Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board: "[2021 Ontario budget: Ontario's Action Plan – Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#)", 2021, page 25.

⁵ *Ibid*, page 59.

Recommendations: We recommend the Government of Ontario commit to:

- working with Teck to identify more areas for deploying antimicrobial copper in public places in Ontario – such as buses and subways, government buildings, publicly funded infrastructure – and working with partners, such as the Toronto Transit Commission, to implement those solutions
- working to embed built-environment infection controls (such as copper) as a provincial standard for buildings, manufacturing and procurement
- coordinating with health facility champions on a concerted program to install and/or retrofit antimicrobial copper into highest risk healthcare settings