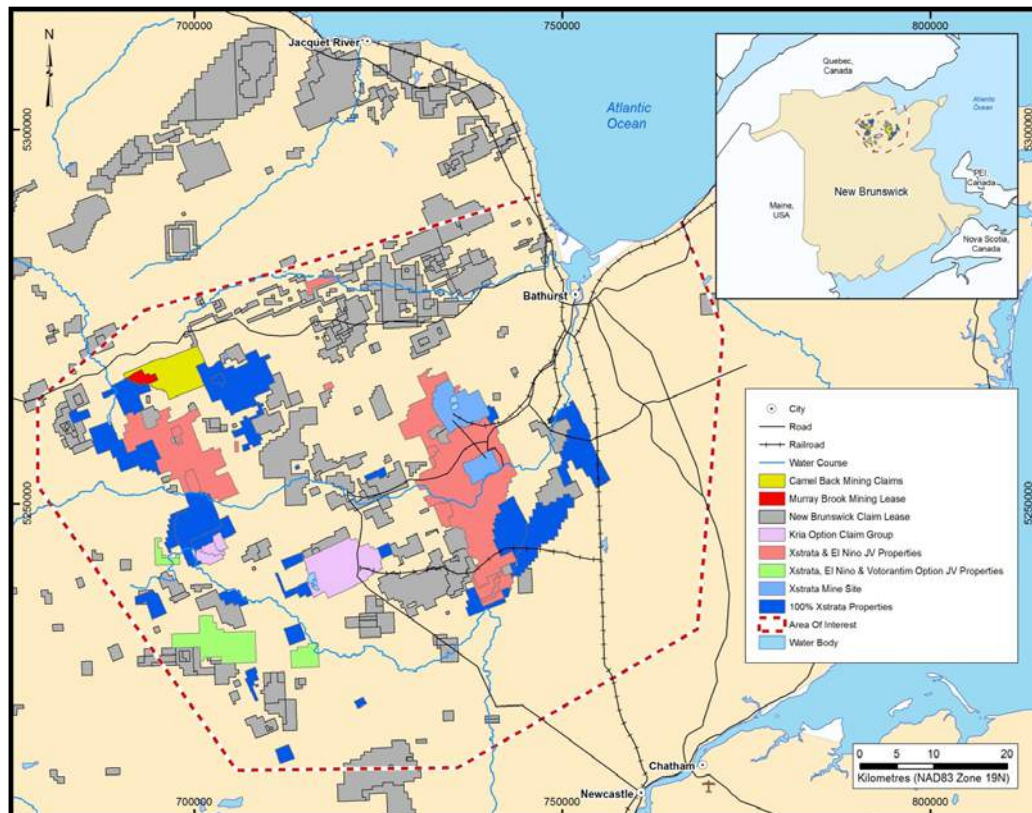


2011 Exploration Program on the Bathurst Mining Camp Base Metals Bathurst, New Brunswick

- Five million dollar exploration program planned for the next fiscal year April 2011- March 2012
- Airborne and ground geophysics, 10,000 meter drill program planned
- Drilling to begin in the spring of 2011
- Targets outlined from the 2010 and ongoing Q1-2011 exploration programs

February 23, 2011, Vancouver, Canada. – El Niño Ventures Inc. (“ELN” and the “Company”) (TSX.V: ELN; Frankfurt: E7Q) is pleased to provide an update of proposed exploration activities for its Bathurst Mining Camp Base Metals El Niño Xstrata Zinc JV project in Bathurst, New Brunswick in option/joint venture agreement with Votorantim Metals Canada Inc.



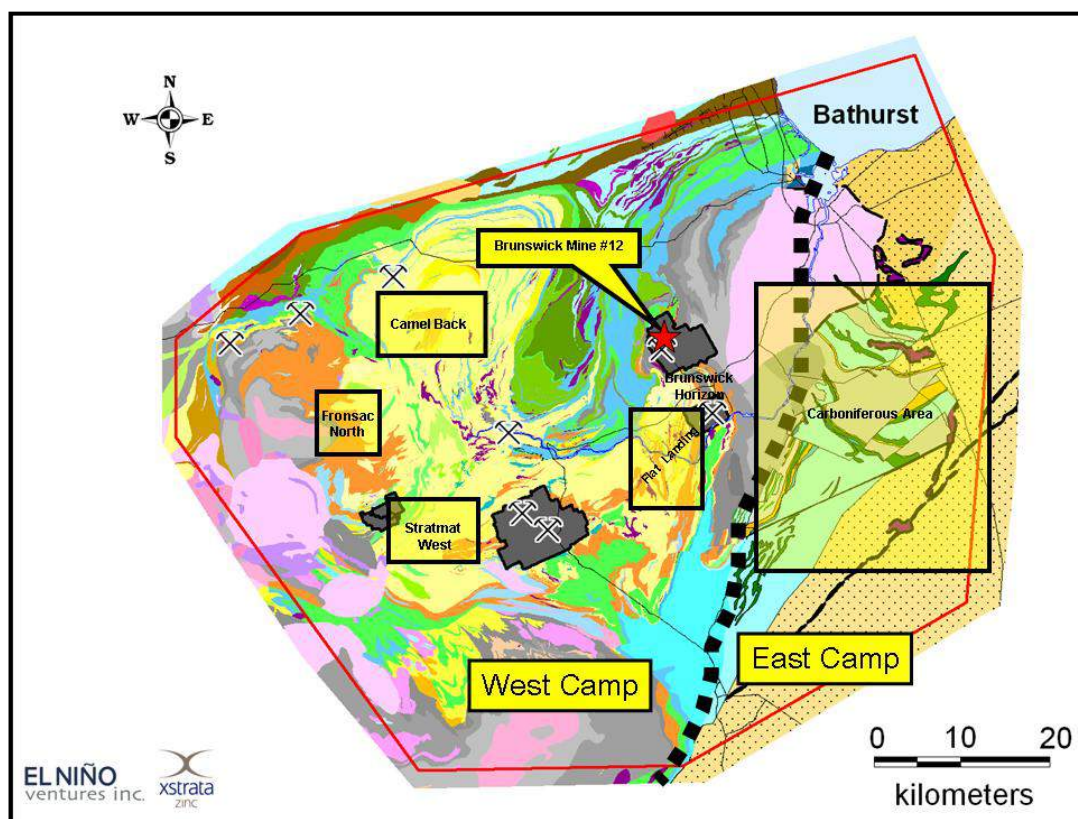
An extensive exploration program is planned for the next fiscal year April 2011 – March 2012 which will take advantage of recent technological advances in exploration and employ new methods that have seen little or no previous application in the Bathurst Mining Camp (BMC). While there remains the potential to discover near surface deposits, this program has the capability to detect large buried sulfide deposits at depths of up to 300 meters.

In May 2011, a Fugro Airborne Gravity Gradiometry survey is planned for the property. This survey will provide better resolution than earlier fixed wing gravity systems and may be able to directly detect large buried massive sulfide seposits. This survey will screen MegaTEM anomalies and help plan further detailed ground geophysical surveys, such as TEM, Titan 24, as well as prioritize diamond drilling efforts.

A focused 10,000 metre drill program is planned to commence in the spring of 2011.

The drilling program will test several specific targets that are the result of previous exploration initiatives. The fiscal 2011-2012 year program is currently budgeted at \$5.0M.

About the Bathurst Mining Camp (BMC) Project



The BMC Project is comprised of 2335 claims currently owned 50% El Nino/50% Xstrata Zinc, and 1698 claims owned 100% by Xstrata Zinc. Under the terms of the Votorantim Metals, Xstrata Zinc and El Nino option/joint venture agreement, Votorantim can earn a 50% interest in those claims by incurring exploration expenditures of \$10 million over a period of 5 years. Votorantim Metals may further elect to increase its interest to 70% by spending another \$10 million over an additional two years. The option/joint venture agreement also identifies an Area of Interest in which each of El Nino, Xstrata Zinc and Votorantim Metals can participate in acquisitions made by the other. Currently, Votorantim Metals has option agreements with 341 claims held by third parties in the Area of Interest in respect of which El Nino and Xstrata Zinc have certain unexercised participation rights. Earlier drilling campaigns delineated several historical deposits of lead, zinc and copper mineralization within the 2335 claims in which El Nino currently holds 50% interest (see June 4, 2008 press release).

About Votorantim Metals Canada Inc.

Votorantim Metals Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Votorantim Metals, a company that is part of the Votorantim Group, which was founded in Brazil in 1918 and now operates in over twenty countries and has over forty-five thousand employees. Votorantim Metals is the largest electrolytic nickel producer in Latin America and one of the world's leaders in production of zinc and aluminium.

About El Niño Ventures Inc.

El Niño Ventures Inc. is a mineral exploration company focused on base metals exploration and development internationally. In addition to its interest in the BMC Project, El Niño is also focused on a copper project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Kasala discovery is one of the first green fields copper discoveries in the last 10 years in the Central African Copper Belt.

The company is aggressively negotiating to acquire new projects to add to its current portfolio.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors,



Harry Barr, Chairman & Acting CEO

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Note: this release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results and are based on current expectations or beliefs. For this purpose, statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. In addition, forward-looking statements include statements in which the Company uses words such as "continue", "efforts", "expect", "believe", "anticipate", "confident", "intend", "strategy", "plan", "will", "estimate", "project", "goal", "target", "prospects", "optimistic" or similar expressions. These statements by their nature involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially depending on a variety of important factors, including, among others, the Company's ability and continuation of efforts to timely and completely make available adequate current public information, additional or different regulatory and legal requirements and restrictions that may be imposed, and other factors as may be discussed in the documents filed by the Company on SEDAR (www.sedar.com), including the most recent reports that identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake any obligation to review or confirm analysts' expectations or estimates or to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.