



Western Canadian Coal

WTN-09-05

News Release

900 – 580 Hornby Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3B6
Phone 604-608-2692

info@westerncoal.com
www.westerncanadiancoal.com

WESTERN CANADIAN COAL ANNOUNCES 86 MILLION TONNES OF COAL RESERVES FOR THE BELCOURT PROPERTY

Vancouver, B.C. January 28, 2009 – Western Canadian Coal Corp (TSX: WTN, WTN.WT and WTN.DB and AIM: WTN) (“Company” or “Western”) announces today that the Belcourt-Saxon Coal Limited Partnership (“BSCLP”), which Western has a 50% economic interest, has completed a National Instrument 43-101 compliant technical report (“Technical Report”) regarding the Belcourt coal property. The report entitled “Technical Report Belcourt Project” and dated January 23, 2009 can be found in the Company’s filings on SEDAR (www.sedar.com). Highlights of the report include:

- 86 million tonnes of Proven Reserves of metallurgical coal in two deposits, Belcourt North and Belcourt South.
- 167 million tonnes of Measured (including 2 million tonnes thermal) and 4 million tonnes of Indicated Resources among the two deposits
- Potential production of 4 million tonnes per year of saleable clean coal
- 15 years of production from defined reserves on the property

Sandwell Engineering Inc. prepared a feasibility study that is the basis of the Technical Report. Numerous consultant specialists as outlined in the Technical Report contributed to the study. Qualified Persons who are authors of the Technical Report include:

- Geology & Resources - John H. Perry, P. Geo (internal), and Robert J. Morris, P. Geo, Principal of Moose Mountain Member Corp., (independent);
- Reserves - Jay Q.L. Horton, P. Eng., Senior Mining Engineer with Norwest Corporation (independent).

BSCLP has the Belcourt, Belcourt West, Omega and Saxon coal properties located approximately 65 to 125 kilometres south of Tumbler Ridge, BC, where Western’s Wolverine operations are located. The Belcourt property includes two deposits, Belcourt North and Belcourt South. The Saxon property consists of two deposits, Saxon East and Saxon South.

John Hogg, President and CEO of Western Canadian Coal Corp. comments, “The filing of the NI 43-101 technical report on Belcourt is a significant next step towards the development of the property and the continued growth prospects for Western. It confirms our views that Belcourt is a valuable asset in our portfolio. Western’s reserve base now increases by 50% when we include our share of Belcourt’s reserves. However, given the uncertain economic times we are currently encountering, we will carefully consider the timing of developing Belcourt-Saxon.”

About Western Canadian Coal

Western Canadian Coal Corp. produces high quality metallurgical coal from mines located in the northeast of British Columbia. The coal is sold to many of the top steelmakers in the world. The Company also has interests in various coal properties in northern and southern British Columbia and a 50% interest to explore and develop the Belcourt and Saxon group of properties in northern BC. Currently, these properties provide the company with an estimated 15 years of coal reserves at current production levels. For more information, please visit www.westerncanadiancoal.com

Forward-Looking Information

This news release contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Generally, forward-looking information can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "plans", "expects", or "does not expect", "is expected", "budget", "scheduled", "estimates", "forecasts", "intends", "anticipates", or "does not anticipate", or "believes" or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results "may", "could", "would", "might", or "will be taken", "occur", or "be achieved". Forward-looking information is based on the opinions and estimates of management at the date the information is made, and is based on a number of assumptions and subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking information. Many of these assumptions are based on factors and events that are not within the control of Western and there is no assurance they will prove to be correct. Factors that could cause actual results to vary materially from results anticipated by such forward-looking information include changes in market conditions, variations in coal recovery rates, risks relating to operations, fluctuating coal prices and currency exchange rates, changes in project parameters, the possibility of unanticipated costs and expenses, labour disputes and other risks of the mining industry, failure of plant, equipment or processes to operate as anticipated, the business of the companies not being integrated successfully or such integration proving more difficult, time consuming or costly than expected as well as those risk factors discussed in the Annual Information Form for the year ended March 31, 2008 for Western available on www.sedar.com. Although Western has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking information, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that forward-looking information will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such information. Western undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking information if circumstances or management's estimates or opinions should change except as required by applicable securities laws. The reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking information.

For further information:

David Jan, Manager, Investor Relations & Corporate Development

Phone: 604-608-2692

Email: djan@westerncoal.com