

# Letter from Maryse Bélanger, Chair of the ESG Committee



**Maryse Bélanger**

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Equinox Gold was formed at the end of 2017 with the vision of creating a leading gold company that will responsibly and safely produce more than one million ounces of gold per year while creating value for all stakeholders. The Company's leadership team is aligned to achieve excellence in responsible mining, demonstrating leadership for health and safety practices, environmental stewardship, and the economic and social opportunities we create for local communities and our Indigenous partners.

Excellence is more than a mindset or an articulated commitment. It results from wide stakeholder engagement, the adoption and adherence to strong governance frameworks, and the implementation of protocols and systems to support our health and safety, environmental and social performance.

During 2021 we reviewed and enhanced our governance framework and approved two significant policies that support our ESG objectives. Our new Social Responsibility & Human Rights Policy expresses our commitment to respecting the rights of all peoples and contributing to improved quality of life and sustainable development where we operate. Our commitment to Indigenous and human rights is also formalized in our Code of Conduct and Business Ethics and in our Greenstone Gold Mine's Indigenous Relations Policy. In 2021, we also enacted our Environment and Climate Change Policy, outlining our commitments to environmental protection, the role we play in the global response to climate change, and our expectations of both our workforce and suppliers. We have a strong foundation of principles guiding our actions, ensuring that our ESG responsibilities and commitments are embedded into every decision we make as individuals and as a company.

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Demonstrating excellence in responsible mining is not just the right thing to do – it is fundamental to our business strategy and the long-term success of our company. As Chair of Equinox Gold's Environment, Social and Governance Committee, I help to oversee the Company's sustainability strategy and review the effectiveness of our policy implementation and ESG programs. The ESG Committee meets at least quarterly with management to review performance and discuss the Company's ESG strategy and initiatives.

We made great strides with our ESG programs in 2021. From an environmental perspective, we improved our performance by 58% compared to 2020, achieved short-term targets to reduce our energy and greenhouse gas footprint, and expanded our data collection metrics so that we can set a long-term reduction strategy and associated milestones. We achieved excellent health and safety performance, with no fatalities and nearly 20% better performance compared to 2020. I commend the Equinox Gold team for maintaining its focus on safe operations, despite increased challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report outlines our ESG achievements during 2021 and, more importantly, our commitment to continuous improvement. With mining projects in four countries, Equinox Gold can make meaningful social and economic contributions to the regions in which we operate. We have a responsibility to be a leader amongst our peers for responsible mineral development.

I am proud of the progress we achieved during 2021 and excited about the opportunities ahead.