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## **RIO CRISTAL ZINC INTERCEPTS 58 METERS OF 10% ZINC**

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA – (July 3, 2008) - Rio Cristal Zinc Corp. (the “Company” or “RCZ”) (TSX.V: RCZ), is pleased to announce that MVT style zinc mineralization has been intercepted in the first eight shallow drill holes completed at the Cristal project within the Company's Charlotte Bongará claim block in Peru. The Company's 6,500 meter drilling program is fully underway with 4 drill rigs working at zinc oxide and zinc sulphide targets. Twenty-two drill holes, or approximately 1,800 meters of the drilling program have been completed to-date.

### **Highlights Include:**

- **Drill hole CR-07 at Esperanza area intercepts 58.7 meters of 10.0% zinc, including:**
  - **11.1 meters grading 21.3% zinc from 16.9 to 28.0 meters depth**
  - **19.8 meters of 11.1% zinc from 44.4 to 64.2 meters depth**
- **Drill hole CR-13 at Esperanza intercepts 14.5 meters of 14.7% zinc from 12.9 to 27.4 meters depth**
- **Drill hole CR-14 at Esperanza intercepts 12.5 meters of 26.1 % zinc from 11.0 to 23.5 meters**
- **Drill hole CR-05 at Yolanda area intercepts 58.8 meters of 5.0% zinc including**
  - **15.7 meters of 9.3% zinc from 21.6 to 37.3 meters depth**
  - **4.3 meters of 14.7% zinc from 57.7 to 62.0 meters depth**
  - **Drill hole ended in 5.0% zinc at a depth of 75.0 meters**
- **Drill hole CR-09 at Yolanda intercepts 13.1 meters of 6.0% zinc from 3.0 to 16.1 meters depth**
- **Drill hole CR-12 at Yolanda intercepts 7.4 meters of 6.3% zinc from 1.7 to 9.1 meters depth**

In addition to the higher-grade intercepts, drilling also intersected 5.3 meters averaging 3.7% Zn (drill hole CR-02, Yolanda), and 4.2 meters averaging 4.0% Zn (drill hole CR-10, Yolanda), and all eight drill holes have intersected zinc grades confirming widespread mineralization in this target area. All intercepts are down-hole lengths and true widths have not been calculated.

Charles Ushela, President and CEO of Rio Cristal Zinc, said “The first results from our drilling at the Esperanza and Yolanda targets at the Cristal project are very encouraging and meet our expectations regarding the existence of a high-grade zinc oxide zone near surface. Laboratory results from additional drill holes will be announced in the coming weeks. Due to the very positive drill results in the near-surface zinc oxide zones, geologic mapping of new oxide targets is being accelerated for future consideration in the shallow drill program. In conjunction, the deep drilling program is advancing and results

are expected in the third quarter.”

A geological map identifying drill holes locations, cross-sections and table of results are available at [www.riocristalzinc.com](http://www.riocristalzinc.com)

## **QA/QC**

Shallow target diamond drilling focused on zinc-oxide targets has been performed using HQ diameter core with recoveries averaging greater than 75%. Deep targets diamond drilling program is performed using HQ diameter up to 300m depth, NQ diameter up to 470m depth and BQ diameter up to 600m depth with better than 90% recovery. Core is logged and split on site under the supervision of RCZ geologists. Sampling is done over intervals defined by geological criteria with minimum sample length of 0.5m and a maximum sample length of 2.0m. Samples are bagged, codified, sealed and transported by Company geologists directly to the Company office in Lima, Peru for standards and blank samples insertion and delivered to ALS Chemex Laboratory facilities in Lima, Peru. ALS Chemex is an ISO 9001:2000-certified laboratory and is preparing for ISO 17025 certification. Zinc and lead assays utilize Agua Regia sample digestion with Inductively Coupled Plasma Emission Spectroscopy assaying method (commercial code “ME-ICP41”). Samples grading above maximal 10% Zn detection limit of ME-ICP41 method are assayed using AAS method (Atomic absorption, commercial code AA-46). The QA/QC program for each sampling batch includes geochemical standards insertion every 20th sample, blank samples insertion every 50<sup>th</sup> sample and field duplicate insertion every 30<sup>th</sup> sample. High grade samples pulps duplicates and rejects will be re-assayed by BSE Inspectorate Laboratory facilities in Lima applying the same samples preparation procedure as that used by ALS Chemex Laboratory.

As required by the National Instrument 43-101, Rio Cristal Zinc’s designated Qualified Person for the supervision of exploration of the projects is Miroslav Kalinaj, Vice-President Exploration of the Company, who has verified the technical information, reported in this news release.

## **About Rio Cristal Zinc Corporation**

Rio Cristal Zinc is a Canadian corporation focused on the discovery and further development of zinc deposits in Peru. The principal asset of RCZ is the Charlotte Bongará claim block located in northern Peru within an emerging Mississippi Valley-type zinc district. Additional information can be found on the Company’s website, [www.riocristalzinc.com](http://www.riocristalzinc.com).

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