

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Central Gold-Trust Closes Initial Public Offering of North America's First Gold Bullion Trust Units.

Ancaster, Ontario, Canada
Thursday, July 8, 2003

Central Gold-Trust is pleased to announce the closing of its initial public offering. Two million Units were sold at C\$20.00 per Unit, for aggregate gross proceeds of C\$40,000,000.

Central Gold-Trust is a self-governing limited purpose trust established under the laws of Ontario on April 28, 2003. It was created to invest substantially all of its assets in unencumbered physical gold bullion, in 400-ounce international bars, with the primary investment objective of achieving long-term appreciation in the value of its refined gold bullion holdings.

The purpose of Gold-Trust is to provide a secure, convenient, low-cost, exchange tradable investment alternative for investors interested in gold bullion physically stored in allocated and segregated safekeeping in Canadian chartered bank treasury vaults.

Units of Gold-Trust are eligible as Canadian property for RRSPs, DPSPs, RRIFs and RESPs. Central Gold-Trust anticipates that the Units will be considered as capital property for most investors and thereby qualify for capital gains tax treatment. The Units are listed on the TSX under the symbol "GTU.UN".

Sprott Asset Management Inc. and Central Gold Managers Inc., both of which have significant experience in managing gold bullion investments, will act as Advisor and Administrator, respectively.

A syndicate of Agents was co-led by CIBC World Markets Inc. and RBC Capital Markets and included National Bank Financial Inc., Scotia Capital Inc., TD Securities Inc., Pollitt & Co. Inc., Canaccord Capital Corporation, Desjardins Securities Inc., Dundee Securities Corporation, First Associates Investments Inc., Haywood Securities Inc., HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc., Raymond James Ltd. and Sprott Securities Inc.

Gold-Trust has granted to the Agents an option, exercisable in whole or in part until 14 days following the closing date, to purchase an additional 300,000 Units of the offering at the offering price. If the over-allotment option is exercised in full, the total gross proceeds of the offering will be approximately C\$46,000,000. The net proceeds from the over-allotment option will be invested according to Gold-Trust's investment policy.

The securities offered were not registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and were not offered or sold in the United States absent registration or applicable exemption from the registration requirements. The Units may now be purchased by United States investors on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Information regarding Central Gold-Trust is expected to be available on its website this afternoon at www.gold-trust.com.

**For further information, please contact J.C. Stefan Spicer
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