

## **Meridian Gold Inc.**

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### **MERIDIAN GOLD REPORTS NEW LOCAL ORDINANCE IN ESQUEL**

**Reno, Nevada, April 3, 2003** – As previously released, Meridian Gold Company will pause in the development of its Esquel Gold Project while it listens to the community and attempts to understand the issues important to the residents of Esquel.

On April 1, the City Council of Esquel approved an ordinance aimed at restricting industrial activity, including mining, and the use of certain chemical substances within the City boundaries.

During this pause, the Company will continue with its efforts to understand the concerns underlying the ordinance.

Meridian Gold Inc. is traded on The Toronto Stock Exchange (MNG) and on the New York Stock Exchange (MDG). For further information on Meridian Gold Inc., please visit our website at [www.meridiangold.com](http://www.meridiangold.com), or contact:

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