

INTERNATIONAL TOWER HILL MINES LTD
Form 8-A12B
August 02, 2007
UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

INTERNATIONAL TOWER HILL MINES LTD.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

British Columbia, Canada
(State or jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

Not Applicable
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**1901 - 1177 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada**

V6C 2K3

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class
to be so registered
Common Shares, no par value

Name of each exchange on which each class is to be
registered
American Stock Exchange

Edgar Filing: INTERNATIONAL TOWER HILL MINES LTD - Form 8-A12B

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), please check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), please check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: N/A (if applicable)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

(Title of Class)

1

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

Share Capital

The authorized capital of International Tower Hill Mines Ltd. (the "Company") consists of 500,000,000 common shares without par value (the "Shares"). The rights and restrictions pertaining to the Shares and holders thereof are set forth in the articles of the Company (the "Articles"), which govern the affairs of the Company (subject to any applicable laws). The Shares are represented by a form of share certificate approved by the Board of Directors and acceptable to any stock exchange where the Shares are listed. As of July 30, 2007, 38,251,507 shares are issued and outstanding, all of which are fully paid. None of the Shares are owned by the Company.

The holders of Shares are entitled to one vote for each Share held on all matters to be voted on by the shareholders. Generally, most matters required to be voted upon are ordinary resolutions, which require the affirmative vote of a simple majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast by shareholders present at a meeting and entitled to vote on the resolution to pass. However certain matters representing fundamental changes must be approved by a special resolution, which presently requires the affirmative vote of a special majority (66 2/3%) of the votes cast by shareholders present at a meeting and entitled to vote on the resolution to pass. The holders of Shares are entitled to receive notice of all meetings of shareholders and to attend and vote, in person or by proxy, at such meetings.

Edgar Filing: INTERNATIONAL TOWER HILL MINES LTD - Form 8-A12B

Each Share is equal to every other Share, and all Shares participate equally on liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, and any other distribution of the assets of the Company among its shareholders for the purpose of winding up its affairs after the Company has paid all of its liabilities.

The holders of Shares are entitled to receive *pro rata* such dividends as may be declared by the Board of Directors out of funds legally available therefor. No dividends have been paid by the Company on any Shares since incorporation, nor does the Company intend to pay a dividend on any of its Shares in the immediate future. The Company anticipates that it will retain all earnings to finance the further growth and development of the Company's business. The directors of the Company will determine if and when dividends should be declared and paid in the future, based upon the Company's financial condition and requirements at the relevant time.

No Shares have been issued subject to call or assessment. There are no pre-emptive or conversion rights attached to the Shares, and there are no provisions for purchase or cancellation, surrender, or any sinking fund or purchase fund.

Provisions as to the modification, amendment or variation of such rights or such provisions are contained in the Articles and the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia). Generally, substantive changes to the share capital of the Company require the approval by the shareholders by special resolution.

There are no restrictions on the transferability of the Shares contained in the Articles of the Company. Requirements as to the applicable documentation to be submitted in connection with any transfer are set out in the Articles. There are no provisions in the Company's Articles

2

discriminating against any existing or prospective holder of Shares as a result of any such holder(s) owning a substantial amount of Shares. There are no provisions in the Articles that would have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of the Company and that would operate only with respect to an extraordinary corporate transaction involving the Company such as a merger, reorganization, tender offer, sale or transfer of all or substantially all of its assets or liquidation.

Exchange Controls

Canada has no system of exchange controls. There are no Canadian restrictions on the repatriation of capital or earnings of a Canadian public company to non-resident investors. There are no laws in Canada or exchange restrictions affecting the remittance of dividends, profits, interest, royalties or other payments to non-resident holders of Shares, except as discussed below under "Taxation". Any such remittances to United States

Edgar Filing: INTERNATIONAL TOWER HILL MINES LTD - Form 8-A12B

residents, however, will be subject to a Canadian domestic withholding tax at the applicable withholding rate under the *Canada - U.S. Income Tax Convention* (1980) (the *Convention*), as amended.

Restrictions on Share Ownership by Non-Canadians

There are no limitations under the laws of Canada or in the Articles on the rights of foreigners to hold or vote Shares, except that the *Investment Canada Act* (Canada) (the *Investment Act*) may require review and approval by the Minister of Industry (Canada) of certain acquisitions of control of the Company by a non-Canadian . The following discussion summarizes the material features of the Investment Act, in its present form, for a non-resident of Canada who proposes to acquire Shares.

The Investment Act regulates the acquisition of control of a Canadian business by a non-Canadian as defined under the Investment Act. With respect to the Company, an acquisition of control is considered to be the acquisition of the majority of the Shares. However, if a non-Canadian acquires more than one-third of the voting shares of the Company, but less than a majority, there is a presumed acquisition of control unless it can be established that the Company is not controlled in fact by the acquirer. All acquisitions of control of a Canadian business are notifiable (which requires that a notification form be submitted to Investment Canada within thirty days after the implementation of the investment) unless the investment is reviewable. If the investment is reviewable, the investment may not be implemented until the Minister of Industry (Canada) is, or has been deemed to be, satisfied that the investment is likely to be of net benefit to Canada.

Where either the acquirer is, or the Company is presently controlled by, a WTO investor (as that term is defined in the Investment Act), a direct acquisition of control of the Company will only be reviewable if the value of the Company's assets, as shown on its audited financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, is equal to or greater than CAD 281 million. This amount varies each year based on the rate of growth in Canadian gross domestic product. Other direct acquisitions of control are reviewable if the value of the assets of the Company, as calculated above, is equal to or greater than CAD 5 million. The CAD 5 million threshold for review also applies with respect to the acquisition of control of any Canadian business that provides any financial services or transportation services, is a cultural business, or is engaged in the production of uranium and owns an interest in a producing uranium property in Canada.

3

Indirect acquisitions of control (acquisitions of control of an entity which in turn controls the Company) are not reviewable under the Investment Act if the acquirer is a WTO investor or if the Company is controlled by a WTO investor. Otherwise, an indirect acquisition will be reviewable if the value of the Company's assets is CAD 50 million or more, or if the value of the Company's assets acquired in the total transaction is in Canada or the acquisition is not effected through the acquisition of control of a foreign corporation.

Certain types of transactions are exempt from application of the Investment Act including acquisitions of control of the Company:

- (a) by the acquisition of voting shares or the voting interests by any person in the ordinary course of that person's business as a trader or dealer in securities;
- (b) in connection with the realization of security granted for a loan or other financial assistance and not for any purpose related to the Investment Act;
- (c) for facilitating its financing and not for any purpose related to the Investment Act on the condition that the acquirer divest control within two years after control was acquired; or
- (d) by reason of an amalgamation, merger, consolidation or corporate reorganization following which the ultimate or indirect control in fact of the Company through the ownership of voting interests remains unchanged.

Taxation

The discussion under this heading summarizes the material Canadian federal income tax consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of Shares by a person who is not resident in Canada but is resident in the United States and who will acquire and hold the Shares as capital property for the purpose of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the Tax Act). This summary does not apply to a shareholder who carries on business in Canada through a permanent establishment situated in Canada or performs independent personal services in Canada through a fixed base in Canada if the shareholder's holding in the Company is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base.

This summary is based on the provisions of the Tax Act and the regulations thereunder and on the Company's understanding of the administrative practices of the Canada Revenue Agency (the CRA) and takes into account all specific proposals to amend the Tax Act or regulations made by the Minister of Finance of Canada prior to January 12, 2005 (the Tax Proposals), but does not otherwise take into account or anticipate any changes in law, whether by judicial, governmental or legislative decision or action, or changes in administrative practices of the CRA. No assurances can be given that the Tax Proposals will be enacted as proposed, if at all. This summary does not take into account the tax legislation of any province or territory of Canada or any non-Canadian jurisdiction. Provisions of provincial income tax legislation vary from province to province in Canada and in some cases differ from federal income tax legislation. The provisions of the Tax Act are subject to income tax treaties to which Canada is a party, including the Convention, and the Protocols to the Convention. Limited liability companies (LLCs) which are treated as partnerships or as disregarded entities for purposes of domestic United States taxation laws are not entitled to the benefits of the Convention.

The Tax Act contains certain provisions relating to securities held by certain financial institutions (the mark-to-market rules). This summary does not take into account the mark-to-market rules and investors that are financial institutions for the purposes of those rules should consult their own tax advisors. This summary is not applicable to investors an interest in which would be a tax shelter investment, as defined in the Tax Act, and any such investor should consult their own tax advisers.

This summary is of a general nature only and is not, and should not be interpreted as, legal or tax advice to any particular United States holder and no representation is made with respect to the Canadian income tax consequences to any particular person. Accordingly, United States holders are advised to consult their own tax advisors with respect to their particular circumstances.

Dividends on Shares

Under the Tax Act, a non-resident of Canada is generally subject to Canadian withholding tax at the rate of 25% on dividends paid or deemed to have been paid to him by a corporation resident in Canada. The Convention limits the rate to 15% if the shareholder is resident in the United States and the dividends are beneficially owned by and paid to him, and to 5% if the shareholder is a corporation that beneficially owns at least 10% of the voting shares of the payor corporation.

The Convention generally exempts from Canadian withholding tax dividends paid to a religious, scientific, literary, educational or charitable organization or to an organization constituted and operated exclusively to administer a pension, retirement or employee benefit fund or plan, if the organization is resident in the United States and is exempt from income tax under the laws of the United States and not related to the dividend payor.

The tax payable on dividends is to be withheld at source by the Company or any other person remitting such amounts to a shareholder. The Company is liable for the amount of the tax if it fails to so withhold. The taxpayer is liable in any event if the Company fails to withhold.

Disposition of Common Shares

Under the Tax Act, a taxpayer's capital gain or capital loss from a disposition of Shares is the amount, if any, by which his proceeds of disposition exceed (or are exceeded by) the aggregate of his adjusted cost base of the Shares and reasonable expenses of disposition. One-half of any capital gain (the taxable capital gain) is included in income, and one-half of any capital loss in a year (the allowable capital loss) is deductible from taxable capital gains realized in the same year. The amount by which a shareholder's allowable capital loss exceeds the taxable capital gain in a year may be deducted from a taxable capital gain realized by the shareholder in the year or in the three previous or any subsequent year, subject to certain restrictions in the case of a corporate shareholder.

In the case of a shareholder that is a corporation, the amount of any capital loss otherwise determined may be reduced, in certain circumstances, by the amount of dividends previously received in respect of the shares disposed of, unless the corporation owned the shares for at least 365 days prior to sustaining the loss and (together with corporations, persons and other entities with whom the corporation was not dealing at arm's length) did not, at the time the dividends were received, own more than 5% of the shares of any class of the capital stock of the corporation from which the dividend was received. These loss limitation rules may also apply where a corporation is a member of a partnership or a beneficiary of a trust that owned the shares disposed of.

A non-resident of Canada is not subject to tax under the Tax Act in respect of a capital gain realized upon the disposition of shares unless the Shares represent taxable Canadian property. Shares will not generally constitute taxable Canadian property. Shares of the Company will constitute taxable Canadian property of a shareholder at a particular time if the shareholder holds the shares as capital property and used the Shares in carrying on a business in Canada, or if at any time in the five years immediately preceding the disposition the shareholder owned, either alone or with persons with whom the shareholder did not deal at arm's length, 25% or more of the issued shares of any class of the capital

stock of the Company.

5

Where a United States resident realizes a capital gain on a disposition of shares that constitute taxable Canadian property, the Convention relieves the United States resident from liability for Canadian tax on such capital gains unless:

- (a) the value of the Shares is derived principally from real property in Canada, including the right to explore for or exploit natural resources and rights to amounts computed by reference to production,
- (b) the shareholder was resident in Canada for 120 months during any period of 20 consecutive years preceding the disposition, was resident in Canada at any time during the 10 years immediately preceding the disposition and the Shares were owned by him when he ceased to be resident in Canada, or
- (c) the Shares formed part of the business property of a permanent establishment or pertained to a fixed base used for the purpose of performing independent personal services that the shareholder has or had in Canada within the 12 months preceding the disposition.

At the present time the value of the Shares is not derived principally from real property in Canada.

Under the Tax Act, the disposition of a share by a holder may occur in a number of circumstances including on a sale or gift of the share or upon the death of the holder. There are no Canadian federal estate or gift taxes on the purchase or ownership of the Shares.

Notwithstanding the potential exemption from Canadian tax provided under the Convention, where a non-resident of Canada disposes of Shares that are taxable Canadian property, the non-resident is required to file a Canadian income tax return in respect of any such dispositions.

All non-resident shareholders who dispose of taxable Canadian property are also required to obtain an advance clearance certificate in respect of their disposition under section 116 of the Tax Act (the Section 116 Certificate). The purchaser of the Shares is obligated to withhold 25% of the gross proceeds on the acquisition of the Shares from a non-resident shareholder except to the extent of the certificate limit on the Section 116 Certificate. A Section 116 Certificate is required even where the gain is exempt from Canadian income tax under a provision of an income tax treaty with Canada, such as the Convention. If the non-resident shareholder does not provide a Section 116 Certificate to the purchaser, then the purchaser will be required to withhold and remit to the CRA 25% of the proceeds on account of the non-resident shareholder's tax obligation, on or before the end of the month following the date of the sale. The non-resident shareholder may then file a Canadian tax return to obtain a refund of excess withholding tax, if any.

Repurchase of Common Shares

If the Company repurchases its common shares from a holder of common shares (other than a purchase of common shares on the open market in a manner in which shares would be purchased by any member of the public in the open market), the portion, if any, of the amount paid that exceeds the paid-up capital of the shares purchased will be deemed by the Tax Act to be a dividend paid to the holder of common shares. The paid-up capital of the common shares may be less than the holder's cost of its common shares. The tax treatment of any dividend received by a non-resident shareholder of common shares has been described above under "Dividends on Shares".

A holder of Shares will also be considered to have disposed of its Shares purchased for proceeds of disposition equal to the amount received or receivable by the holder on the purchase, less the amount of any dividend as described above. As a result, the holder of Shares will generally realize a capital gain (or capital loss) equal to the amount by which the proceeds of disposition, net of any costs of disposition and less the amount of any deemed dividends, exceed (or are exceeded by) the adjusted cost base of the Shares. The tax treatment of any capital gain or capital loss by a non-resident shareholder has been described above under "Disposition of Common Shares".

Item 2. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed as a part of this Registration Statement:

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Specimen of Common Share Certificate |

6

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

International Tower Hill Mines Ltd.

By: /s/ Lawrence Talbot
Name: Lawrence Talbot
Title: Vice President and General Counsel

Dated: August 2, 2007

7

Exhibit List

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Specimen of Common Share Certificate |

8
