



Critical and strategic minerals in the Chaudière-Appalaches region

A New Green Economic Hub for Chaudière-Appalaches is launched Building a Green and Prosperous Future

Thetford Mines, December 15, 2022 – A new coalition of green technology companies dedicated to the safe processing and reclamation of critical and strategic minerals in the Thetford-Beauce region are joining forces to form the Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches. In the context where several tailings reclamation projects are on the immediate horizon, the GEHCA (GEHCA) (“*Pôle économique vert de Chaudière-Appalaches*”) will work to secure a safe and prosperous future for all stakeholders in the Chaudière-Appalaches region of Quebec.

The creation of the GEHCA is based on a shared, sustainable vision for the future. Its members believe that reclamation of mine tailings is the best way to transform the landscape of the region, currently characterized by the presence of hundreds of thousands of tons of abandoned tailings. GEHCA members are convinced these mineral resources represent an untapped resource that will provide long term socio-economic benefits for the region and all of Quebec.

The GEHCA is proud to represent a new generation of entrepreneurs determined to minimize their ecological footprint with industrial operations based on science, innovation and the principles of the circular economy.

The Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches has seven (7) official members: SIGMA DEVTECH Inc., ECO₂ Magnesia Inc., KSM Inc., 3R Minéral Inc., Englobe Corp., Planetary Technologies Inc. and Les Sables Olimag Inc.

Quotes:

" The Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches is a reflection of a new era in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. The GEHCA is convinced that the mine tailings transformation and reclamation industry is the only viable, economic and environmental solution to the asbestos mine tailings issue. Our primary objective is to contribute positively to the development of a new green industry that will have significant socio-economic and environmental benefits for the region. Ultimately, the Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches wants to contribute to restoring the pride of the region and allow the community to dream of a green and prosperous economic future. »

- Chantal Gauvin, Executive Director of GEHCA

"In symbiosis with the Government of Quebec's carbon neutrality objectives, the members of the Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches represent a new generation of entrepreneurs



determined to decarbonize their technological and industrial processes to minimize their ecological footprint. The members of the GEHCA rely on innovation, technology and science to continuously improve their industrial processes in order to contribute to the fight against climate change. »

- Kathleen Verret, founding member of GEHCA (Executive Vice-President of SIGMA DEVTECH Inc.)

"The Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches wants to become a new regional economic engine that will create secondary and tertiary processing industries. The members of the GEHCA are committed to supporting, developing and training the local workforce in order to maximize the regional socio-economic benefits of the mining processing and upgrading industry. We are convinced that by working together, government, industry and the community, we will promote the Chaudière-Appalaches region. »

- Guy Bérard, founding member of GEHCA (President of 3R Mineral Inc.)

About the Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches (GEHCA)

Founded in 2022, the Green Economic Hub of Chaudière-Appalaches is a non-profit organization that acts as the voice of green technology companies for the safe processing and reclamation of critical and strategic mine tailings on the territory of the MRC des Appalaches region and the MRC de Beauce-Centre.

Highlights

In total, the companies and projects grouped under the PEVCA represent:

- Investments of nearly \$500 million;
- The processing and reclamation of more than 100 million tonnes of mine tailings;
- More than 150 new well-paying jobs for the Chaudière-Appalaches region;
- Restoration and revegetation of mining sites;
- To date, more than 125 hectares of mining piles have been sterilized and more than 20,000 trees (white spruce) have been planted.

For more information: <https://www.pevca.org/>

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