

Press Release

Non-binding consultation amongst the residents of Parish of Oka

April 17, 2000

In 1999, the municipalities of the "Parish of Oka" and of the "Village of Oka" were merged. In the decree of fusion a clause was added to hold a referendum on the NIOCAN project where only the residents of the "Parish" could vote.

The consultation, which is non-binding legally, was held on April 16th and 40% of the residents of the Parish voted in favor of the project.

VILLAGE OF OKA

The residents of the Village excluded from the vote have signed a supporting document for 92% in favor of the NIOCAN project. They highly value jobs and the economic development of the municipality.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The regional Chamber of Commerce has announced publicly its support to the project.

COMMERCES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

A very strong majority of commerce have also supported the NIOCAN project.

COURSE OF ACTION

NIOCAN intends to contest the clause of exclusivity in the merger of the Parish and Village so the residents of the Village can also vote.

NIOCAN inc. also intends to exercise, if necessary, the use of the Article 246 of the "Law of Development and Urbanism", which states that, *"no zoning regulation can have as an effect to prevent the staking, the development and the exploitation of mineral substances when realized in agreement with the mining law"*.

NIOCAN inc. will review the situation with the authorities of Oka so as to agree on procedures to move toward the granting of the Certificate of Authorization by the Ministry of Environment. NIOCAN inc. will continue to work with the local residents and the council of the municipality so as to create a project, which is environmentally well adapted to the area.

Niocan inc. is a mineral resources company, which owns a deposit of niobium with proven and probable reserves for a minimum of 15 years operation **with an estimated recoverable value of \$1.0 billion**. The company is focusing on the development of its project to produce ferroniobium. Ferroniobium is used in the production of specialty alloys for aerospace, power turbines; and in high strength low alloy steel used in the automobile, construction and pipeline industries.

Richard R. Faucher, Eng.
President
Tel: (514) 288-8506
Fax: (514) 822-9686

R. Dufour, Eng.
Chairman
Tel: (514) 340-4711 ext. 4926
Fax: (514) 340-7211