

**NIOCAN ANNOUNCES A PRIVATE PLACEMENT  
OF 800 000 UNITS**

**Montreal, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002.** The Board of Directors of NIOCAN has approved a private placement for 800 000 units consisting of one (1) share at \$0,65 and a half (½) warrant at \$0,80 per share for a period of thirty months, plus a half (½) warrant at \$1,00 per share for a period of 30 months. The closing will be completed on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002.

These additional funds will be used mainly to complete further engineering and environmental studies required for the issuance of the Certificate of Authorization (C.A.) from the Ministry of Environment of Quebec. These funds will also be used to facilitate the due diligence required by financial institutions for senior financing of production.

The inquiry's report by the BAPE (Public Hearing Office on Environment) will be issued before the end of October. Also, the decision of the T.A.Q. (Administrative Tribunal of Quebec) which heard the objection to the positive decision of the CPTAQ (Agricultural Land Commission of Quebec) authorizing NIOCAN to use 9 hectares for the infrastructures of its mining complex will be known by the end of November. These decisions should then allow the Ministry of Environment of Quebec to issue a C.A. (Certificate of authorization) at the beginning of 2003.

These decisions should be announced shortly.

**Niocan Inc. is a minerals resource company that owns deposits of niobium in the Oka area. Current proven and provable reserves point towards a minimum 17 years of operation and an estimated recoverable value of more than \$1.0 billion. Niocan is working towards a start-up of these operations and the production of ferroniobium. Ferroniobium is used in the growing production of specialty alloys used in the aerospace and power generation industries, as well as in high strength low alloy steel used in the automobile, construction and pipeline sectors.**

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For additional information, contact:

René Dufour, Eng.  
Chairman of the Board  
Tel : (514) 340-4711 ext. 4926  
Fax : (514) 340-7211

Richard Faucher, Eng.  
President & CEO  
Tel: (514) 288-8506  
Fax: (514) 843-4809  
E-mail : [niocan@niocan.com](mailto:niocan@niocan.com)