

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL OF QUEBEC (TAQ)
EXTENDS ITS DELIBERATIONS UNTIL MAY-10-2003**

Montreal, April 9, 2003 NIOCAN Inc. was advised by letter yesterday that *"the president of the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec extends its deliberations in the aforementioned (NIOCAN) files until May-10-2003"*.

The TAQ's mandate is the review of any decision made by the Quebec Agricultural Land Commission (CPTAQ) that is contested. After public hearings on the use of 9.4 hectares of farmland in the Oka region, the CPTAQ had authorized the use of these hectares for the NIOCAN project.

An initial decision expected by November-23rd 2002, was postponed to April 10th 2003 as a result of a request for additional details which were then promptly answered by NIOCAN's experts.

To date NIOCAN has received:

- 1- all necessary authorizations from the Ministry of Natural Resources of Quebec for the project's execution;
- 2- a positive decision from the CPTAQ for the use of 9.4 hectares of land to proceed with the project in Oka, Qc;
- 3- a confirmation from the (BAPE) Public Hearing Office on the Environment that the environmental impact associated with the project was negligible and that no impact on public health should be observed;
- 4- a confirmation from five Federal ministries including the Environment Ministry, which concluded after its analysis of the Environmental Impact Study that there were no elements requiring their intervention.

Following a decision by the TAQ, now scheduled for May-10th 2003, the Ministry of the Environment of Quebec (MENVQ) will be the last to pronounce itself. All studies completed by our experts for the hearings at the TAQ and the BAPE have been forwarded to the MENVQ. A similar operation as the one proposed by NIOCAN already exists in the province of Quebec.

Management will take advantage of this additional delay to complete its file to the satisfaction of the professionals and experts at the Ministry of the Environment of Quebec. As soon as the Certificate of Authorization is received from the MENVQ, NIOCAN intends to proceed toward the completion of its senior financing of the project.

NIOCAN inc. is a mineral resource company that owns deposits of niobium in the Oka area. Current proven and probable 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 the high strength low allow steel used in the automobile, construction and pipeline sectors.

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