

**QUEBEC ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL DELIVERS 156  
PAGE DECISION**

**THE QUEBEC ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL FINDS  
NIOCAN MINING PROJECT COMPATIBLE WITH  
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ACTIVITIES IN OKA  
REGION.**

**Montreal, June 18, 2003** — The agricultural and environmental division of the Quebec Administrative Tribunal (TAQ) has made a significant decision concerning the Niocan Inc. mining project, following 32 days of hearings over a period beginning on December 11, 2001 and ending August 23, 2002. In its decision, rendered by the members of the TAQ, Me Louis Cormier and Dr. Yvan Rouleau, DVM, the tribunal concluded that "the operation of a niobium mine did not create a risk of contamination for the sector and its agricultural activities." (Paragraph 627). Following a careful review of the Quebec Agricultural Land Protection Commission's (CPTAQ) earlier decision, the TAQ brought some corrections to their decision. Although it reaffirms the approval of all aspects of the project, including the use of all property required, put forward by the CPTAQ, it excludes the need for a monitoring committee.

In light of the many unfounded worries generated throughout the community, the TAQ recommends that all parties participate in a comprehensive information campaign, under the auspices of Niocan, to put the question of radioactivity from the project into its proper perspective.

Niocan Chairman of the Board, Professor René Dufour, was extremely satisfied with the TAQ's decision and added that it imparts a high degree of credibility to the project.

*"From the outset, Niocan demonstrated a very high degree of transparency on all aspects of its project and it has provided area residents with numerous open-houses to share information on the impact of all aspects of its mining project. The TAQ encourages us to continue these exchanges and we are delighted that the TAQ has expressed its confidence in us."*

Following 32 days of expert testimony, the TAQ concluded that "this mining operation will have no unacceptable impact on the region or the agricultural activities in the sector." Niocan is pleased that this decision will reassure area residents on all aspects of the project.

*"There is no reason that people who are adequately informed of the relative impact of radioactivity from the proposed operation fear the presence of this mining operation in the region." (Paragraph 566)*

The project, with an anticipated lifespan of 17 years, will undertake a \$1.1 million training program to meet its needs for a skilled workforce. One hundred and sixty (160) direct jobs will be created at the site. Niocan has already received over 300 job applications from area residents anxious to work for the new company and benefit from the project's economic spinoffs in the region.

Following this positive decision from the TAQ, Niocan needs to finalize its discussions with the Quebec Ministry of the Environment, leading to its Certificate of Authorisation for the project. Niocan has some 700 shareholders, of which 90% are Quebec residents.

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