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and weeklies in the Capitale-Nationale region

Green background

MNA PATRICK HUOT ANNOUNCES AN INVESTMENT OF CLOSE TO \$2 MILLION IN RESEARCH TO REDUCE AND RECOVER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Quebec City, April 18, 2011 – Patrick Huot, MNA for Vanier and Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board, announced on behalf of Clément Gignac, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, a non-refundable contribution of \$1.35 million to CRIQ (Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec) toward a project for the biosequestration and biofixation by microalgae of the CO₂ emitted by factories, as part of a larger project valued at close to \$2 million (\$1,950,000).

The Quebec government's financial assistance is based on Measure 20 of the 2006-2012 Climate Change Action Plan, which is financed by the Green Fund and administered by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP).

The aim of the joint project by CRIQ and INO (Institut national d'optique) is to design a procedure adapted to the Quebec climate that will reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions using microalgae. In addition to devouring the CO₂ generated by factories, microalgae multiply rapidly. With the production of biofuels and other high value-added products at a reasonable cost, it ensures that the procedure will be profitable.

"This CRIQ project in partnership with INO shows how dynamic research centres are in the Capitale-Nationale region. CRIQ and INO expertise will place Quebec companies at the forefront of the industry and create high-quality jobs, while protecting the environment," said Patrick Huot, MNA for Vanier.

"With its 2006-2012 Climate Change Action Plan, Quebec set a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target for 2020 that is 20% below 1990 levels. This target will ensure that Quebec maintains the best greenhouse gas emissions balance sheet in North America. Such a goal represents nothing less than a project embracing our entire society, since everyone in Quebec would be expected to take part in it. By carrying out large-scale projects like this one together, we will generate significant environmental gains," added MNA Patrick Huot.

“With its expertise and facilities, CRIQ turns good ideas into reality. Quebec companies will find a niche in the international market with solid partnerships and strong alliances. CRIQ’s business model is a perfect fit with our orientation toward innovation in industrial sectors that promote strategic development projects with partners,” said Minister Clément Gignac.

Renowned industrial partners are already contributing to the project’s financing package, including Aluminerie Alouette, Alcoa, Rio Tinto Alcan and Cliffs Mines Wabush.

“When processing greenhouse gases, the current technique involves using shallow ponds due to the low light penetration in solutions with high microalgae content. However, very large surface ponds are needed for the procedure to be profitable. With INO’s participation, we hope to solve this problem by developing a system to capture and diffuse natural light that can provide optimal lighting for microalgae cultures in deeper ponds,” said CRIQ president Georges Archambault.

About CRIQ

Created in 1969, CRIQ (Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec) is a public research centre that comes under the Ministère du Développement économique, de l’Innovation et de l’Exportation (MDEIE). Its mandate is to stimulate Quebec’s economic development by guiding its clients, partners and governments in their pursuit of innovation. CRIQ relies on high-calibre multidisciplinary teams that can meet industry’s needs and contribute to the transfer of expertise and know-how.

About Measure 20 of the MDDEP 2006-2012 Climate Change Action Plan

Measure 20 is part of the Climate Change Action Plan and is administered by the MDDEP. Twenty million dollars from the Green Fund will be invested over three years in research and development projects aimed at greenhouse gas reduction and sequestration in Quebec. The action plan provides for a 6% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2012 and beyond.

For more information on MDEIE programs and services, visit: www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/programmes.

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