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FINAL REPORT OF BAPE'S STUDY ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE URANIUM INDUSTRY

THE STUDY'S PREDICTABLE AND DISAPPOINTING RESULTS ARE NO SURPRISE TO QMEA

Rouyn-Noranda, July 20, 2015 – After reviewing the report carefully, the Quebec Mineral Exploration Association (QMEA) disapproves the unfortunately predictable conclusions of the work performed by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) on the uranium industry, which was made public last Friday.

The Commission adopted a selective and biased approach in executing its work by choosing which briefs could be submitted and the cities where the hearings would be held. Of course, those were all cities where there is a strong opposition to the Quebec mining industry. By making these choices, the Commission discredited its consultation process, reinforced the prejudices against our industry, tried to mislead the public, created a stigma against Quebec on the international stage and wasted public funds.

“Our industry expected the works from BAPE to be absolutely neutral and impartial, but in fact the opposite occurred, unfortunately. Our Association believes that BAPE's most recent initiative is yet further proof of the urgent need to thoroughly review the province's mandate in terms of sustainable development and environmental protection, which has become ineffective and clearly tinged with ideological bias,” said Mr. Frank Mariage, chairman of the board of QMEA.

The Association believes that the Commission went far beyond its mandate from the Government of Quebec. It got significantly entangled in scientifically unfounded and abusive ideological excesses. BAPE adopted a regressive approach, supported by the public's fears and beliefs to support its theories, which had already been accepted publicly by members of the Commission. QMEA wanted the commissioners assigned to this study to adopt a rational approach and a balanced view in their analysis for the common good of all citizens of Quebec.

“Instead of addressing the improvements that should be made to the regulation of the uranium sector, the Commission chose to ignore this sector's importance to the development of Quebec. Furthermore, it lost credibility in the eyes of the international community by providing a set of recommendations that were devoid of any credible scientific basis. Unfortunately, during the hearings, this Quebec public company opted to attack, without any restraint whatsoever, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), a Canadian public institution internationally renowned for its excellent work,” said Valérie Fillion, a geologist and Executive Director of the Association.

Among the numerous aberrations found in the report, QMEA underlines the many intellectuals shortcuts taken by the authors, including the economic analysis methodology as well as the lack of credibility of its environmental case, which clearly opposes the development of the industry without knowing the specific nature of the projects to be submitted for evaluation and the highly restrictive regulatory framework that will apply to such projects.

“In this context, QMEA is offering its full cooperation to the ministre du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques in its initiatives to update the province's mission in terms of sustainable development and environmental protection and to balance the legal and regulatory framework of this mission,” added Fillion.

ABOUT THE QUEBEC MINING EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION (QMEA)

QMEA is a professional and industrial association representing players in Quebec's mineral exploration. Founded in 1975, the QMEA's mission is to increase exploration and support the development of mining entrepreneurship in Quebec. QMEA has over

2500 individual members, as well as 325 corporate members representing Quebec's mineral sector. It is run by a board of directors composed of 15 representatives from different areas of mining exploration. Each year the Association organizes Xplor, a conference that brings together the Quebec mineral industry, which will take place October 7-8, 2015.

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