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Permitting of Adina Advances to the Next Phase

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Adina Lithium Project advances to the next phase of the provincial regulatory process with receipt of the guidelines (the Directive) on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) from the Government of Québec.
- The Directive outlines scope and nature of the ESIA to be completed, including matters which must be addressed by the Company prior to submission, including guidance on the:
  - Adina mine site,
  - o road corridor between Adina and Renard (Trans-Atikh Project), and
  - o modification and re-use of the Renard Operation and its interrelation with Adina.
- Receipt of the Directive allows the final phases of baseline environmental studies to be planned, and a timeline developed towards completion and submission of the ESIA..
- Engagements with key representatives from First Nations and stakeholders, including communities, must occur before submission of the ESIA and the Directive provides context and discussion points for stakeholder and community meetings, especially with the Cree Nation of Mistissini whose traditional lands overlap with the Adina and the Renard sites.
- The scope and nature of the ESIA may be modified should Winsome not proceed with the acquisition of the Renard Operation, which may affect anticipated submission timeframes.

Lithium explorer and developer Winsome Resources (ASX:WR1; **Winsome** or **the Company**) is pleased to announce the Adina Lithium Project has moved into the next phase of the regulatory process following receipt of a key document from the Québec authorities. The Company has received the guidelines (the Directive) on the scope and nature of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (**ESIA**) to be completed for the Adina Lithium Mining Project (incorporating the Renard Operation; together **the Project**). Consequently, Winsome can now develop a plan and timeframe towards submission of the ESIA as well as evaluate the environmental, social and regulatory implications should the Company not proceed with the acquisition of the Renard Operation.

### WINSOME'S MANAGING DIRECTOR CHRIS EVANS SAID:

"We're delighted to share another major milestone has been achieved in the advancement of the Adina Lithium Project, recognised as one of the largest hard rock lithium resources in North America.

This achievement brings us one step closer to unlocking the full potential of Adina. As we move forward, we're eager to deepen our collaborations with local First Nations communities and engage with provincial and federal stakeholders to ensure the Project is developed responsibly."

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# **Background**

The proposed Adina Lithium Project is subject to the provincial ESIA procedures established under the provincial Environmental Quality Act (**EQA**). The Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (**MELCCFP**) is the designated authority within the Provincial Government of Québec to oversee mining project developments located in the territory governed by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (**JBNQA**).

Specifically, the Project will be planned and developed in compliance with the Section 22 of the JBNQA where the environmental and social impact of any new mining operation is first subject to a review through an established Environmental and Social Impact Evaluating Committee (**COMEV**), an advisory body composed of members appointed by Québec, Canada and Cree Nation governments.

The Directive provides feedback from COMEV on the Preliminary Information Statement submitted in January 2025 which detailed the Company's plan to develop a lithium mine at the Adina Site and integrating a modified processing plant at the Renard Operation to produce spodumene concentrate. The Directive details the scope and form of the ESIA to be completed and submitted to enable the Project to be subsequently assessed by the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (Review Committee or COMEX). It allows the Company to develop a detailed permitting process roadmap as it highlights studies which are required to be completed, along with other matters which must be addressed, prior to submission, including completion of a Feasibility Study.

## **Key Findings of the Directive**

The Preliminary Information Statement was accepted and reviewed by the COMEV without further information being requested from Winsome. The Directive sets out a description of each chapter typical of all ESIAs completed in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region.

The Directive states the ESIA must address the cumulative impacts of the components which make up the Project, not just the individual elements for which Winsome is responsible. Namely the ESIA must consider the combined impact of the Adina site including the mining operation, a road corridor (Trans-Atikh Project) between Adina and Renard, and the re-use and modification of infrastructure at the Renard Operation.

As indicated in the Directive, Eskan Company (Eskan), a 100% Cree-owned holding company with shareholders from the Cree Nation of Mistissini and responsible for economic and sustainable development in the region, is leading the planning and regulatory processes of the proposed road corridor (Trans-Atikh Project) extending land access north of the Renard site. As one of the main users of this future proposed road corridor, Winsome will provide its transportation requirements to Eskan for consideration in the development of the Trans-Atikh Project.

The Directive also indicates the justification for the proposed conversion and reuse of existing infrastructure at Renard will need to be integrated into the ESIA, outlining clearly the environmental, social and technical rationale when infrastructure is being reused as is, modified or reused/moved to Adina. Therefore, the Company anticipates several elements of the Renard Operation will need to be re-assessed as part of the overall ESIA regulatory process.

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### **Next Steps**

Winsome is currently completing a detailed project plan, workflow and budget based on the guidelines put forward in the Directive, the baseline data acquired by the Company to date and other information compiled to date.

Geochemical characterization of materials excavated at Adina is ongoing to support further evaluation of the reuse and repurposing of the existing modified processed kimberlite containment area, the development of a newly proposed processed pegmatite containment area at Renard and waste management strategies at Adina.

For the Adina Site, biophysical and socioeconomic (human) environmental baseline studies were initiated in Summer 2023 and are ongoing with support from Cree contractors. Baseline collection efforts will continue during 2025 and continue to be focussed on meeting the requirements of the Directive. Once completed the Company anticipates it will have captured most of the remaining information required to complete the effects assessment for the comprehensive provincial process.

Biophysical and human environment baseline studies followed by an ESIA were carried out for the Renard Operation in the years preceding the start of operations. These were scoped to comply with the directives issued by the provincial government at the time. The Company is assessing the guidelines put forward in the Directive relating to the re-use or modification of the Renard Operation to both quantify the costs of the required studies and assessments as well as the potential approvals timeframe compared to construction of a new processing plant in a greenfields operation (whereby the processing infrastructure is built at Adina in the absence of Renard). As previously advised Winsome is actively engaging with Stornoway, the Québec and Canadian governments and other key stakeholders and remains committed to collaborating in good faith to exploring opportunities to work together in a collaborative manner.

As alternative analysis and technical studies advance in parallel, the submission of the final ESIA to the COMEX for its review following completion of the Feasibility Study will consider all available information to develop a project which is compliant with all regulatory processes.

This announcement is authorised for release by the Board of Winsome Resources Limited.

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#### **ABOUT WINSOME RESOURCES**

Winsome Resources (ASX: WR1) is a Canadian focused exploration and development company with several projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region of Québec.

Our flagship project is Adina, a 100% owned lithium resource considered a tier-one asset in a low-risk mining jurisdiction and one of the most capital efficient projects in North America with competitive operating costs. The hard rock spodumene lithium deposit is near surface with a +20 year project life and a Mineral Resource of 78Mt at 1.15% Li2O comprising 79% classified as 'Indicated' and 21% classified as 'Inferred'. (Appendix 1)

The Company acquired an exclusive option to purchase the Renard Operation in April 2024, a mining and processing site located approximately 60 kilometres south (in a straight line) of Adina. The Renard Operation has an established airport, power station, water treatment plant, workshops, processed mineralised material storage and a substantial camp. It also has several mineral processing and operating permits which may advance Winsome's pathway to lithium production. Importantly Renard already includes extensive production facilities which consists of a primary jaw crusher, secondary cone crusher, high-pressure grinding rolls, ore sorting, and DMS circuits necessary for lithium processing and spodumene concentrate production.

In addition to its impressive portfolio of lithium projects in Québec, Winsome Resources owns 100% of the offtake rights for lithium, caesium and tantalum from Power Metals Corp (TSXV:PWM) Case Lake Project in Eastern Ontario, as well as a substantial equity stake in PWM (together with a right to be issued a further 17,650,000 common shares in PWM on completion of the sale of the Decelles and Mazerac projects).

Winsome is led by a highly qualified team with strong experience in lithium exploration and development as well as leading ASX listed companies. **More details:** <a href="https://www.winsomeresources.com.au">www.winsomeresources.com.au</a>

#### CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This document contains forward-looking statements concerning Winsome. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact and actual events and results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking information provided by the Company, or on behalf of, the Company. Such factors include, among other things, risks relating to additional funding requirements, metal prices, exploration, development and operating risks, competition, production risks, regulatory, including environmental regulation and liability and potential title disputes.

Forward-looking statements in this document are based on the Company's beliefs, opinions and estimates of Winsome as of the dates the forward-looking statements are made, and no obligation is assumed to update forward-looking statements if these beliefs, opinions and estimates should change or to reflect other future developments.

#### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED EXPLORATION RESULTS & MINERAL RESOURCES

Winsome confirms it is not aware of any new information or data which materially affects the information included in the original market announcements referred to in this announcement. Winsome confirms the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

Winsome confirms it is not aware of any new information or data as at the date of this release which materially affects the Mineral Resource or the Scoping Study for Adina. The Company also confirms all material assumptions and parameters underpinning the Mineral Resource estimate and the Scoping Study continue to apply and have not materially changed. Winsome confirms the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.

APPENDIX 1: Mineral Resources at the Adina Lithium Project stated under the JORC Code

Zone	Indicated			Inferred			Total		
	Tonnes (Mt)	Li <sub>2</sub> O (%)	Contained LCE (Mt)	Tonnes (Mt)	Li <sub>2</sub> O (%)	Contained LCE (Mt)	Tonnes (Mt)	Li <sub>2</sub> O (%)	Contained LCE (Mt)
MZ	28.4	1.19	0.84	8.7	1.39	0.26	37.1	1.23	1.10
FWZ	33.0	1.10	0.90	7.8	0.98	0.19	40.8	1.08	1.08
Total	61.4	1.14	1.73	16.5	1.19	0.49	77.9	1.15	2.21