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Critical Elements signs predevelopment agreement for Quebec project

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Published: 12th November 2012



TORONTO (miningweekly.com) – Montreal-based Critical Elements on Monday said it had signed of a predevelopment agreement (PDA) with the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Regional Authority and the Cree First Nation of Eastmain, with regard to development activities at its Rose tantalum/lithium deposit, located in James Bay, Quebec.

The agreement would govern a cooperative and mutually respectful relationship concerning the exploration and predevelopment activities of the

project and Critical Elements had undertaken to provide preferential treatment to Cree enterprises in the awarding of certain contracts for the supply of goods.

The Crees had agreed to cooperate with the company in the preparation of all necessary environmental and social impact assessment studies for all components of the Rose project. The Crees had also committed to use their best efforts to ensure that the project proceeds through the environmental and social assessment process and, if the environmental and social concerns are met, to assist Critical Elements in obtaining the required governmental approvals.

The parties had also agreed to continue their discussions to develop and sign an impacts and benefits agreement with respect to the Rose mining project.

"We are very proud of this agreement as it has always been a high priority of the company to collaborate with local communities towards the further development of the Rose lithium/tantalum project. The predevelopment agreement is a demonstration of the company's efforts to meet this objective" Critical Elements president and CEO **Jean-Sebastien Lavallee** said.

In the past few months, the Critical Elements team had entered into discussions with a number of potential lithium carbonate and tantalite buyers. The company is currently negotiating the terms of long-term sales and risk distribution among potential buyers.

The company's shares listed on the Toronto-bourse changed hands at 17.5 Canadian cents apiece.