



PRESS RELEASE

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CRITICAL ELEMENTS ANNOUNCES UPSIZING OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED BOUGHT DEAL PRIVATE PLACEMENT

January 22, 2021 – MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC – Critical Elements Lithium Corporation (the “**Corporation**” or “**Critical Elements**”) (TSX-V: CRE) (US OTCQX: CRECF) (FSE: F12) is pleased to announce that in connection with its previously announced bought deal private placement offering (the “**Offering**”), the Corporation and a syndicate of underwriters led by Paradigm Capital Inc. and Cantor Fitzgerald Canada Corporation (the “**Co-Lead Underwriters**”) and including Stifel GMP and Raymond James Ltd. (together with the Co-Lead Underwriters, the “**Underwriters**”) have agreed to increase the size of the Offering to raise total gross proceeds of \$15,000,040. The Corporation will now issue 13,636,400 Units of the Corporation at \$1.10 per Unit (the “**Issue Price**”).

Each Unit of the Corporation will consist of one common share in the capital of the Corporation (a “**Common Share**”) and one-half of one common share purchase warrant (each whole warrant a “**Warrant**”). Each whole Warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase one Common Share at a price of \$1.75 for a period of two years following the Closing Date.

Given the upsize to the Offering, the parties have agreed to remove the previously announced Underwriters’ option.

The net proceeds from the Offering will be primarily used for exploration and development, and general working capital purposes.

The Offering is expected to close on or about February 11, 2021 (the “**Closing Date**”) and is subject to certain closing conditions including, but not limited to, the receipt of all necessary approvals including the conditional listing approval of the TSX Venture Exchange (the “**TSX-V**”). The securities issued under the Offering will be subject to a hold period in Canada expiring four months and one day from the closing date of the Offering. The Offering is subject to final acceptance of the TSX-V.

The securities offered have not been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of the securities in any State in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.

ABOUT CRITICAL ELEMENTS LITHIUM CORPORATION

Primero Group recently completed the first phase of its Early Contractor Involvement agreement with the Corporation and provided a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the engineering, procurement and construction of the wholly-owned Rose Lithium-Tantalum project (the “**Project**”) on a lump sum turnkey basis that is in line with the Project’s feasibility study published November 29, 2017. The Project feasibility study is based on price forecasts of US \$750/tonne for

chemical-grade lithium concentrate (5% Li₂O), US \$1,500/tonne for technical-grade lithium concentrate (6% Li₂O) and US \$130/kg for Ta₂O₅ in tantalite concentrate, and an exchange rate of US \$0.75/CA \$. The internal rate of return (“IRR”) for the Project is estimated at 34.9% after tax, and net present value (“NPV”) is estimated at CA \$726 million at an 8% discount rate. The estimated payback period is 2.8 years. The pre-tax IRR for the Project is estimated at 48.2% and the pre-tax NPV at CA \$1,257 million at an 8% discount rate (see press release dated September 6, 2017). The financial analysis is based on the Indicated mineral resource. An Indicated mineral resource is that part of a mineral resource for which quantity, grade or quality, densities, shape and physical characteristics can be estimated with a level of confidence sufficient to allow the appropriate application of technical and economic parameters, to support mine planning and evaluation of the economic viability of the deposit. The life-of-mine (LOM) plan provides for the extraction of 26.8 million tonnes of ore, 182.4 million tonnes of waste, and 11.0 million tonnes of overburden for a total of 220.2 million tonnes of material. The average stripping ratio is 7.2 tonnes per tonne of ore. The nominal production rate is estimated at 4,600 tonnes per day, with 350 operating days per year. The open pit mining schedule allows for a 17-year mine life. The mine will produce a total of 26.8 million tonnes of ore grading an average of 0.85% Li₂O and 133 ppm Ta₂O₅, including dilution. The mill will process 1.61 million tonnes of ore per year to produce an annual average of 236,532 tonnes of technical and chemical grade spodumene concentrate and 429 tonnes of tantalite concentrate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This news release contains “forward-looking information” within the meaning of Canadian Securities legislation. Generally, forward-looking information can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “scheduled”, “anticipates”, “expects” or “does not expect”, “is expected”, “scheduled”, “targeted”, or “believes”, or variations of such words and phrases or state that certain actions, events or results “may”, “could”, “would”, “might” or “will be taken”, “occur” or “be achieved”. Forward-looking information contained herein include, without limitation, statements relating to mineral reserve estimates, mineral resource estimates, realization of mineral reserve and resource estimates, capital and operating costs estimates, the timing and amount of future production, costs of production, success of mining operations, the ranking of the project in terms of cash cost and production, permitting, economic return estimates, power and storage facilities, life of mine, social, community and environmental impacts, lithium and tantalum markets and sales prices, off-take agreements and purchasers for the Corporation’s products, environmental assessment and permitting, securing sufficient financing on acceptable terms, opportunities for short and long term optimization of the Project, and continued positive discussions and relationships with local communities and stakeholders. Forward-looking information is based on assumptions management believes to be reasonable at the time such statements are made. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information.

Although Critical Elements has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking information, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from expected results described in forward-looking information include, but are not limited to: Critical Elements’ ability to secure sufficient financing to advance and complete the Project, uncertainties associated with the Corporation’s resource and reserve estimates, uncertainties regarding global supply and demand for lithium and tantalum and market and sales prices, uncertainties associated with securing off-take agreements and customer contracts, uncertainties with respect to social, community and environmental impacts, uncertainties with respect to optimization opportunities for the Project, as well as those risk factors set out in the Corporation’s year-end Management Discussion and Analysis dated August 31, 2020 and other disclosure documents available under the Corporation’s SEDAR profile. Forward-looking information contained herein is made as of the date of this news release and Critical Elements disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise, except as required by applicable securities laws.

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is described in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.