



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Hecla Quebec and the Abitibiwinni First Nation sign a cooperation agreement

(Pikogan, Quebec, December 9, 2020) - The Council of the Abitibiwinni First Nation (CAFN) and Hecla Quebec (Hecla) are pleased to announce the signing of a Cooperation Agreement for the exploration, development and operation of the Casa Berardi mine projects, located north of La Sarre, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

CAFN and Hecla officially signed the ***Cooperation Agreement*** on December 9 during a private ceremony in Amos to highlight this important step and the continuation of a lasting and constructive relationship between the parties. This ceremony took place in the presence of Chief Monik Kistabish and the Vice-President of Operations and General Manager of the Casa Berardi mine, Alain Grenier, as well as elected officials and representatives of both parties.

The objectives of the ***Cooperation Agreement*** include developing and maintaining a long-term relationship between the parties, providing for real and meaningful participation in the Casa Berardi mine projects through among other things, training programs, employment and advancement opportunities, business opportunities and environmental protection measures.

The ***Cooperation Agreement*** also provides for a mechanism that will allow the community to benefit financially from the long-term success of Hecla's Casa Berardi mine projects, in accordance with the mining industry's best practices in terms of relations with First Nations. Under the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, the parties undertake to consolidate positive and mutually beneficial relationships based on trust and respect, in a perspective of sustainable development, in addition to reconciling their respective interests in relation to the Casa Berardi mine projects.

"It was a long process and we have consulted our members at every stage of the negotiations to reach this agreement, which will benefit our entire community. The signing of this agreement marks a new beginning and sets the table for years of collaboration to come. This agreement ensures us employment and business opportunities and will contribute to the prosperity of our community, while respecting our traditional values. Today is a great day and I am proud of what we have accomplished together for the benefit of our members and which will bring a better quality of life to future generations," said Monik Kistabish, Chief of the Abitibiwinni First Nation.

"We are very pleased to have reached this agreement, which is acceptable for all parties. Hecla is proud that this partnership is based on mutual trust, protection of the environment and respect for Aboriginal people and their traditional way of life. It is a new step towards the continuation of the Casa Berardi mine projects in order to perpetuate the mine's operations for many years to come, which will generate significant benefits for PNA, as well as for the entire Abitibi-Témiscamingue region and all of Quebec. Collaboration with stakeholders has always been a high priority for Hecla and we are committed to continuing on this same path, in a transparent manner," said Alain Grenier, Vice-President of Operations for Hecla Québec and General Manager of the Casa Berardi mine.

About the Abitibiwinni (Pikogan) First Nation

The Algonquin community of Abitibiwinni, also known as Pikogan, is located approximately three kilometers from Amos on the western shore of the Harricana River and has a population of approximately 600 residents. The Council of the Abitibiwinni First Nation is headed by a Chief, a Vice-Chief and three councillors who are elected according to local custom. The Abitibiwinni First Nation claims that it holds Aboriginal title to its unceded traditional territory, which it calls "Abitibiwinni Aki".

About Hecla Quebec

Hecla Québec Inc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hecla Mining Company, is the owner of the Casa Berardi gold project and a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding with Abitibiwinni. Hecla Mining Company (NYSE: HL) is the largest silver producer in the United States and the oldest precious metals company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. In addition to the Casa Berardi Mine, Hecla Mining Company operates mines in Alaska, Idaho, Nevada and Mexico and has several properties in the exploration and pre-development stage in North America.

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