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Multi-Service Innovation Centre

VALLÉE-DE-L'OR

Investment:
\$15 million

FUQAT contribution:
\$1.5 million

THE PROJECT

UQAT's creation of a Multi-Service Innovation Centre (CIMS) follows in the wake of the Government of Quebec's creation of Innovation Zones in 2019. This project aims to drive the Quebec economy by the development of defined geographical areas within which various R&D ecosystems and innovative partnerships between business, institutions and communities are undertaken.

More specifically, the Val-d'Or CIMS aims to create and nurture an area in which stakeholders in research and education, as well as businesses in the forestry and mining industry, will be clustered. This will encourage a culture of strategic partnership and regional innovation that will showcase and expand the reach of the features and competitive advantages of this territory and its industries, across Canada and abroad.

TIMETABLE

September **2024**





THE OPPORTUNITY

For the city of Val-d'Or, this project is an opportunity to develop a knowledge economy on its own territory, and throughout Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Being right at the very heart of the mining and forestry industries, and northern environments, Val-d'Or fully understands the challenges and issues in these primary industries, flagship economic sectors that contribute to Quebec's reputation around the world.

With the CIMS, Val-d'Or will become a national and international centre for vital research, partnerships, and innovation in the valorization and sustainable development of natural resources in northern, boreal, and low-population areas.

IMPACT

The realization of this project means that:

- Through the projects it creates, the CIMS will establish first-class technological showcases in each of the economic sectors it intends to propel forward.
- This knowledge economy and culture of innovation will result in tool development and significant opportunities for growth for existing companies, and start-ups.
- These company-institution-community partnerships will contribute to implementing a new, collaborative research model, and be a source of innovation and sustainable development that will benefit all stakeholders.
- For UQAT students, the CIMS will create opportunities to get involved with companies, and to acquaint themselves with realities in the field.
- By putting continuing cross-sector education in place, this project will let students, who wish to do so, take vocational training that leads to university education on an academic path accredited at every institutional level, which will develop the full potential of talent already in the marketplace.
- Lastly, this project will encourage the emergence of new and strong entrepreneurs and social leaders in the community, besides contributing to the local economy by improving networking in local and regional business communities.