



Grenville•sur•la•Rouge

DE CŒUR ET DE NATURE

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RECORD LAWSUITE AGAINST THE MUNICIPALITY OF
GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE – 96 MILLIONS \$**

GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE, March 5, 2018 - The municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge (GSLR), a gateway to the Laurentians, is facing one of the largest lawsuits to which a municipality has ever been confronted. This 2 800 citizens community is being sued by Canada Carbon Inc., a mining company from Vancouver, BC, for \$ 96 million in damages, which represents nearly 20 times the municipality's annual budget of \$ 5.5 million.

The lawsuit was launched following the decision of the *Commission de Protection du Territoire Agricole du Québec* (CPTAQ) to administratively close their application. GSLR was served with the lawsuit on March 2nd, a few days following the judgment in the case opposing Gastem and the Municipality of Ristigouche Sud-Est. In this ruling, Justice Nicole Tremblay, of the Superior Court, recognized the legitimacy of the Municipal Council to protect the interests of its citizens.

In response to the Ristigouche ruling, Prime Minister Couillard commented during a press briefing: "I think [the judgment rendered makes companies] even more aware of the importance of local communities. One cannot just show up and act as if the local authorities did not exist".

Referring to Canada Carbon's project, in an interview given in April 2017, Premier Couillard stated that the issue of "social acceptability" for GSLR residents was one of the main obstacles that could prevent the mining project from becoming reality.

Mayor Tom Arnold and City Council reiterate that their duty and legal obligations are to protect the interests and rights of their citizens, and intend to use all means at its disposal to honour these responsibilities. Steps aimed at involving different levels of governments are already under way.

– 30 –

Source : Municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge
Telephone: (819) 242-8762