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Press Release

New Maple Research Infrastructure in Quebec.

Centre ACER is pleased to announce the construction of a state-of-the-art maple research station at St-Norbert d'Arthabaska in Quebec.

Key players in the maple syrup sector give themselves the means to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, September 22, 2003 : Centre ACER Inc. (Research & development and technology transfer for the maple syrup trade) is delighted to announce the construction of a modern maple research station at St-Norbert d'Arthabaska. The center's grand opening is scheduled for the early part of the new year (2004). This new research station is better suited to meet the needs and desires expressed by the sector for a number of years and will allow in-depth research on the natural resource, improve the commercialisation of maple products and render technology transfer, in general, more efficient and accessible.

Centre ACER, is a pivotal point and leader for maple research in North America and with its new state-of-the-art infrastructure, it is able to rise to meet the challenges of the 21st century for this industry.

This project is the result of the collaboration between the following organizations :

- Ministère du Développement économique et régional du Québec (MDER)
- Ministère de l'Agriculture des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)
- Council of Regional Concertation and Development of Centre-du-Quebec (CRCDCQ)
- Maple Producers Federation of Quebec (FPAQ)
- Maple Equipment Manufacturers Association of Quebec (LMEA)
- Citadelle, maple syrup producer's cooperative
- The Quebec Institute of Maple (IQE)
- Local Development Centers of Arthabaska and Erable (CLD)

For immediate release

end of press release

Supplementary information to the media.

We will host a press conference at the official opening at the new building at the beginning of the new year (the date will be communicated at a later time) with the participation with the key authorities of the sector . The official inauguration will be followed by a guided tour along with a few surprises.

For more information on Centre ACER's, history, mission and work, consult the web site at the internet address: <http://www.centreacer.qc.ca>

For information that may be unavailable at our website , please communicate with the general manager, Patrizia Ramacieri, during normal working hours at (450) 773-1105 ext. 186

For immediate release