

ASX RELEASE 24 January 2025

# Key Permitting Milestone for Adina with submission of Preliminary Information Statement

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Winsome has submitted the Preliminary Information Statement for the Adina Lithium Project (including the Renard Operation) with the Quebec authorities.
- This filing officially commences the well defined provincial regulatory process in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region associated with permitting the proposed mine at Adina, as well as the proposed modifications to the Renard Operation.
- Following review of the Preliminary Information Statement over upcoming months, the Quebec authorities will provide guidelines on the nature and scope for the future filing of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including the required studies in support of the ESIA.
- The Company has a substantive dataset to inform the studies typically prescribed by the Québec authorities due to the long operating history of Renard and early commencement of baseline environmental studies at Adina.
- The filing of the Preliminary Information Statement provides additional opportunities for sharing the latest Project details with various stakeholders and communities within the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region, especially the Cree Nation of Mistissini whose traditional lands overlap with the Adina and the Renard sites.

Lithium explorer and developer Winsome Resources (ASX:WR1; “Winsome” or “the Company”) is pleased to announce that it has submitted the Preliminary Information Statement for its Adina Lithium Mining Project (incorporating the existing and well maintained Renard Operation; together **the Project**) with the Ministère de l’Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (**MELCCFP**), the designated authority within the Provincial Government of Québec to oversee mining project developments located in the territory governed by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (**JBNQA**) and situated south of the 55th parallel.

## WINSOME’S MANAGING DIRECTOR CHRIS EVANS SAID:

*“The filing of the Preliminary Information Statement is another key milestone on our pathway to production for the Adina Lithium Mining Project and in many ways is considered significant for the Company in the same way as the update to the Mineral Resource Estimate and the completion of our Scoping Study.*

*“For stakeholders, investors and prospective partners it represents the commencement of a well defined regulatory review process. For our neighbours in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region, it provides the details on our proposed development based on technical studies completed to date and allows us to collaborate with all parties in the region to maximise benefits.”*

*"I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our VP Sustainable Development and Regulatory Affairs Dr Geneviève Morinville and our Project Manager, Environment and Authorisations Dr Mariana Trindade in the preparation of this document and look forward to working with them on the next phase of the Project's development."*

### **Preliminary Information Statement**

The proposed Project is subject to the provincial ESIA procedures established under the provincial Environmental Quality Act (**EQA**). Specifically, Adina will be planned and developed in compliance with the Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (**JBNQA**) where the Preliminary Information Statement of any new mining operation is automatically subject to a review through an established Environmental and Social Impact Evaluating Committee (**COMEV**), an advisory body composed of members appointed by Quebec, Canada and Cree Nation governments.

The Preliminary Information Statement details the Company's plan to develop a lithium mine at Adina and modify the processing plant at the Renard Operation to produce spodumene concentrate as set out in the Scoping Study<sup>1</sup>. The Scoping Study highlighted the benefits of the existing and well maintained infrastructure at the Renard Operation which both reduces the Start Up Capital Cost for the project as well as the environmental and social impact. The potential financial benefits to all parties are quantified in the Scoping Study.

The Preliminary Information Statement is filed with the Administrator through Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (**MELCCFP**) who coordinates review by the COMEV. The Company expects to obtain a directive before the end of Q2 2025.

The framework for the ESIA for Adina and the studies required to be completed as part of the ESIA process are determined based on established regulatory guidelines as well as COMEV's review of the Preliminary Information Statement. The COMEV will issue its recommendations for a directive to the Administrator outlining the scope and nature of the studies to be undertaken for the Project, providing the foundation for developing a detailed permitting process roadmap in the coming months/years.

As alternative analysis and technical studies advance in parallel, the submission of the final ESIA to the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (COMEX) for its evaluation will consider all available information to develop a project that is compliant with all regulatory obligations.

Submission of an Initial Project Description in support of federal regulatory processes are currently being coordinated in collaboration with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

### **Baseline environmental studies**

Biophysical and human environment baseline studies followed by an ESIA were carried out for the Renard Mine in the years preceding the start of Renard's operations. These were scoped to comply with the directives issued by the provincial government at the time and project authorisations were received in 2012. Numerous authorisations and permits were obtained for the site's construction and operations phases remain applicable based on infrastructure functionality and activities (e.g., airport, power generation, water treatment plants).

Due to the proposed modifications to existing mining activities, the Renard Operation is expected to benefit from the substantial datasets from the existing operation to assist completion of the required studies under

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<sup>1</sup> Refer ASX Announcement 17 September 2024 "Scoping Study shows Capital Efficient Solution Li Production"

the regulatory process. Geochemical characterisation of materials excavated at Adina are ongoing to further investigate the reuse and the repurposing of the existing modified processed kimberlite containment area and for a newly proposed processed pegmatite containment area at Renard.

For the Adina Site, biophysical and socioeconomic (human) environmental baseline studies were initiated in Summer 2023 and are ongoing with support from Cree contractors. Physical baseline data collected to date include hydrology, surface (stream and lake) and ground water quality, geochemistry, soil quality and local climate (incl. precipitation, temperature) using an on-site meteorological station. Biological field studies completed to date comprise fish and fish habitat, wetlands, vegetation, fauna (small mammals, chiropterans, herpetofauna, moose and caribou), as well as avian fauna. Socio-economic baseline data collection efforts will consider landscape, archaeology and traditional land use.

A first round of consultations, including validation interviews, with local land users from 9 traplines overlapping proposed Project infrastructure and activities, as well as those in proximity, were completed in August and October 2024. Baseline collection efforts will continue into 2025 and will be adjusted if needed to meet the requirements of the directive, which should capture most of the remaining information required to complete the effects assessment for both provincial and federal processes, pending additional guidance received by regulatory authorities.

**This announcement is authorised for release by the Board of Winsome Resources Limited.**

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## ABOUT WINSOME RESOURCES

Winsome Resources (ASX:WR1) is a Canadian lithium focused exploration and development company with several projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region of Québec.

Our flagship project is Adina - a 100%-owned lithium resource considered a tier-one asset in a low-risk mining jurisdiction and one of the most capital efficient projects in North America with competitive operating costs.

The hard rock spodumene lithium deposit is near surface with a +20-year project life and a JORC Mineral Resource of 78Mt at 1.15% Li<sub>2</sub>O comprising 79% classified as 'Indicated' and 21% classified as 'Inferred'.

The Company recently acquired an exclusive option to purchase the Renard Operation, a mining and processing site located approximately 60 kilometres south (in a straight line) of Adina.

The Renard Operation has an established airport, power station, water treatment plant, workshops, processed mineralised material storage and a substantial camp. It also has several mineral processing and operating permits which may advance Winsome's pathway to lithium production.

Importantly, Renard already includes extensive production facilities which consists of a primary jaw crusher, secondary cone crusher, high-pressure grinding rolls, ore sorting, and DMS circuits necessary for lithium processing and spodumene concentrate production.

In addition to our portfolio of lithium projects in Québec - Adina, Cancet, Sirmac-Clapier and Tilly - Winsome Resources owns 100% of the offtake rights for lithium, caesium and tantalum from the Case Lake Project in Eastern Ontario, owned by Power Metals Corp (TSXV:PWM), as well as a 19.6% equity stake in PWM.

Winsome is led by a highly qualified team with strong experience in lithium exploration and development as well as leading ASX listed companies. More details: [www.winsomerresources.com.au](http://www.winsomerresources.com.au)

## CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This document contains forward-looking statements concerning Winsome. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact and actual events and results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to business, economic, competitive, political and social uncertainties and contingencies. Many factors could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking information provided by the Company, or on behalf of, the Company. Such factors include, among other things, risks relating to additional funding requirements, metal prices, exploration, development and operating risks, competition, production risks, regulatory, including environmental regulation and liability and potential title disputes.

Forward-looking statements in this document are based on the Company's beliefs, opinions and estimates of Winsome as of the dates the forward-looking statements are made, and no obligation is assumed to update forward-looking statements if these beliefs, opinions and estimates should change or to reflect other future developments.

## PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED EXPLORATION RESULTS

Winsome confirms it is not aware of any new information or data which materially affects the information included in the original market announcements referred to in this announcement. Winsome confirms the form and context in which the Competent Person's findings are presented have not been materially modified from the original market announcements.