

The Naskapi Nation Backs the World's Leading Primary Source of Scandium

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July 24, 2025 – In Quebec's sub-arctic taiga, the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach has done more than permit a mine on its ancestral land—it has bought into the metal that could lighten every jet, satellite, and electric vehicle now on drawing boards around the world. [Scandium Canada Ltd.](#) (TSXV: SCD), which is advancing the Crater Lake deposit as what it calls “the world's leading primary source of scandium,” confirmed last week that the community-controlled Taasipitaakin Trust [invested](#) C\$334,000 for 16.7 million units—enough for a 5% equity stake in the junior miner.

“It's a very important milestone that we just reached,” CEO Guy Bourassa told InvestorNews host Tracy Hughes. The transaction caps a year-long courtship that began with an April 2024 pre-development agreement, paused for a band-council election, and resumed only after newly elected leaders had, as Bourassa put it, “the time that they need to understand what you're about, what scandium is all about, why should it be moved out of the earth.”

The answer, he argued, lies in aluminum. “When you explain that it completely transform[s] aluminum and [is] strong as steel and as resistant as titanium... you can help the world reduce its GHG,” he said. Quebec already smelts more aluminum than any other North-American jurisdiction; adding a whisper of scandium creates alloys that are lighter, corrosion-proof and electrically conductive—attributes coveted by aerospace primes, automakers, and, increasingly, defense contractors.

Such commercial promise helped persuade Naskapi Elders and youth alike that equity, not just royalties, offered the surest path to “jobs and a say in the development of a project.” “We were able to strike an initial deal for 5% of the company and we’re very, very glad,” Bourassa said, noting that the structure echoes Washington’s own decision this year to take a direct stake in MP Materials Corp. (NYSE: MP).

The partnership extends beyond rocks and shares. Three years ago, Scandium Canada began working with McMaster University to design scandium-aluminum powders for 3-D printing. “We have now decided to put a division specifically on developing and commercialization,” Bourassa revealed, citing early demand for extrusions, welding wire and additive-manufacturing feedstock that could underwrite a future construction decision at Crater Lake.

For the Naskapi, the investment is a bet on both geology and leadership. “They haven’t just invested in an exploration company,” Hughes observed. “They’ve invested in a CEO who has a track record of taking exploration companies to production.” Bourassa, who once shepherded Nemaska Lithium from concept to construction, seemed unfazed by the parallel: “We are definitively very, very active, strongly active on this as we speak,” he said, moments after recalling the community meeting where he described scandium’s potential to “bring something good” to humanity.

Whether the next milestone arrives in a boardroom, a pilot plant, or the vast spruce-lined corridor north of Schefferville, both partners now hold an equal incentive to reach it—one share certificate at a time.

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Scandium Canada (TSXV: SCD) is a public company whose ultimate goal is to bring the world's leading primary source of scandium into production, enabling the development and commercialization of aluminum-scandium (Al-Sc) alloys. The Corporation is leveraging its Al-Sc alloy development division and the development of its Crater Lake mining project to meet the growing need for lighter, greener, longer-lasting, high-performance materials. The Corporation aims to become a market leader in scandium, while committing itself to building a more responsible economy through innovation and agility.

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