

Rio Tinto becomes official aluminium partner of the Montreal Canadiens

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The Bell Centre, home of the Montreal Canadiens, is set to introduce infinitely recyclable cups made from aluminium produced in the Saguenay - Lac-Saint-Jean region, in Québec, for use at sporting and entertainment events thanks to a new partnership between Rio Tinto and the Montreal Canadiens.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here:
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20231012393009/en/>

Rio Tinto is partnering with the Montreal Canadiens to introduce infinitely recyclable cups made from aluminium produced in Québec at the Bell Centre. (Photo: Business Wire)

The five-year partnership is part of the Montreal Canadiens' The Goal is Green initiative, presented by Banque Nationale, which aims to reduce the environmental footprint of the organization, support green and renewable resources and encourage fans to do the same.

Groupe CH Executive Vice President and Chief Operations & Venues Officer Daniel Trottier said: "When Montreal Canadiens fans make their way towards the Bell Centre to cheer on their favourite team, they first walk through La Cour Rio Tinto where we celebrate the Greats of our storied franchise. It is fitting to see our next-door neighbour deepen its partnership with our organization by supplying the aluminium we need in order to reduce our environmental footprint and enable our fans to do the same."

The new aluminium cups are expected to replace 1.5 million single-use plastic cups annually, which represents approximately 24 tonnes - or the equivalent of a fully loaded large truck - of plastic removed from the environment. The city of Montreal banned the use of single-use plastics earlier this year.

Sébastien Ross, Managing Director, Aluminium Atlantic Operations, at Rio Tinto said: "The low-carbon aluminium we proudly produce right here in Québec is reusable, traceable, and infinitely recyclable. Our company has deep roots in Montreal and the province of Québec, and through partnerships such as this one, we are finding better ways to provide the materials needed to make events and locations in our host communities more sustainable."

Rio Tinto's hydro-powered operations in Saguenay - Lac-Saint-Jean, carried by more than 4,000 employees, produce some of the lowest carbon aluminium in the world. While the partnership comes into effect immediately, cups made of 100% locally sourced aluminium from Rio Tinto will be available to fans by the end of 2023, and will display a new, original design.

The partnership expands the strong legacy the Montreal Canadiens and Rio Tinto have built over many years. Rio Tinto has previously supported the Montreal Canadiens' Children's Foundation BLEU BLANC BOUGE programme. Of note, Rio Tinto sponsored the construction of an outdoor, refrigerated and multisport rink in Saguenay, providing better access to sports activities for families in the region while promoting healthy lifestyles. The two organisations also share La Cour Rio Tinto, a courtyard space in front of both the Bell Centre and Rio Tinto's Montreal hub - the global headquarters for its Aluminium business, Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium, and the Iron Ore Company of Canada.

Today's announcement underlines the commitment from both organizations to move towards a greener future of low-carbon and locally sourced procurement that will help drive sustainability at the Bell Centre.

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