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## Optimization of UQAT Infrastructure in Abitibi-Ouest

**ABITIBI-OUEST**

Investment:  
**\$10 million**

FUQAT contribution:  
**\$1 million**

### THE PROJECT

This project aims to create a unique university space, bringing all of UQAT's teaching and continuing education activities in the Abitibi-Ouest territory together under one roof. It is also intended to consolidate the Biomaterials Laboratory infrastructure and set up a new cross-sector 3D printing laboratory.

\*The three options currently being studied are the construction of a new building in downtown La Sarre, acquisition of the regional Ryam offices in La Sarre, or the rental of additional space at the current location.

### TIMETABLE

Start of construction:  
**2022 or 2023**  
depending on  
the option selected

Anticipated occupancy:  
**2023 to 2025**  
depending on  
the option selected



## THE OPPORTUNITY

To keep growing and contributing to the region, UQAT must provide itself the means to consolidate:

- **The teaching, continuing education, and distance education activities provided in the different programs delivered in the Abitibi-Ouest area** (preschool education and elementary teaching, vocational education, administration of educational institutions, management, arts, health, and others).
- **The biomaterials lab infrastructure** by acquiring cutting-edge technology for the advanced characterization of natural fibres, polymers, and biomaterials. This lab is used by some 20 graduate and postgraduate students annually.

- **The new cross-sector 3D printing laboratory**, the goal of which is to develop innovative solutions and new, eco-responsible practices for the recycling of industrial forestry waste in Quebec, within the context of a circular economy. This lab will enable UQAT to accommodate at least 10 additional students per year.

Overall, this project will position UQAT in several niche, growth-generating research areas that hold promise for the region's future, in particular, use of biomaterials, renewable energy, nanotechnology, biorefinement, additive manufacturing, and 3D printing.

## IMPACT

- This centralization will enable significant improvement in the quality of life and synergy between the student community, technical staff, members of the faculty, and researchers, as well as institutional partners, who are currently scattered across the territory.
- The Biomaterials Laboratory's research work will contribute to clean growth, reduction of GHG emissions, carbon sequestration, and the fight against climate change, by developing bioproducts and low-impact environmental solutions for the disposal of forest industry waste.
- The 3D printing lab will contribute to the recovery of industrial forestry and mining wastes. It will also give life to a dynamic cross-sector synergy between the arts, natural sciences, and engineering.
- Teaching and research activities will consolidate university activities in Abitibi-Ouest and will position the region as a key player in the new circular economy and in protection of the environment, as well as the transformation of practices in various key sectors.
- This optimization will help attract new professors, researchers, and students who will settle in the region and contribute to the territory's socioeconomic development.

