



LEADING EDGE MATERIALS CORP.

14th Floor 1040 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 4H1
info@leadingedgematerials.com | www.leadingedgematerials.com
TSX.V: LEM | Nasdaq First North: LEMSE | OTCQB: LEMIF | FRA: 7FL

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NEWS RELEASE

August 18, 2026

LEADING EDGE MATERIALS CLOSING FIRST TRANCHE OF C\$ 6,000,000 PRIVATE PLACEMENT WITH BINDING STANDBY SUBSCRIPTION AND COMMITMENT OF CORNERSTONE SHAREHOLDER

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Vancouver, August 18, 2026, Leading Edge Materials Corp. ("Leading Edge Materials" or the "Company") (TSXV: LEM) (Nasdaq First North: LEMSE) (OTCQB: LEMIF) announces that the Company has closed a first tranche of the private placement announced previously on July 12, 2026, issuing 16,032,000 common shares at a price of \$0.25/share for gross proceeds of CAD\$4,008,000. The Company's cornerstone shareholder, Mr Eric Krafft, has agreed to subscribe for any Units not otherwise purchased by investors under the private placement

The common shares were issued as part of a unit ("Unit") private placement. Each Unit will consist of one (1) common share (each, a "Common Share") in the capital of the Company and one (1) Common Share purchase warrant (a "Warrant"). Each Warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one Common Share (a "Warrant Share") at a price of C\$0.40 per Warrant Share until the date which is two (2) years from the closing date of the Private Placement (the "Closing Date").

Leading Edge Materials intends to use the net proceeds to advance the Company's projects in Sweden and Romania, as well as for general working capital and corporate purposes. In particular, following the recent award of a 25-year mining lease for the Norra Kärr Heavy Rare Earth Elements Project, proceeds will support Pre-Feasibility Study workstreams and environmental permitting for that project, alongside studies related to a possible restart of the Woxna Graphite mine and processing plant. The Company continues to seek alternative capital for its Romanian exploration activities, with on-the-groundwork focused on further definition of the most promising polymetallic targets.

A finder's fee of 6% was paid to arm's length third party on a portion of the Private Placement. The Private Placement is subject to certain conditions including, but not limited to, the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals, including the approval of the TSX Venture Exchange.

The securities issued pursuant to the Private Placement are subject to applicable statutory resale restrictions, including a hold period expiring on December 19, 2026, pursuant to applicable Canadian securities laws.

The securities have not been, and will not be, registered under the U.S. Securities Act, or any United States state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons absent registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable United States state securities laws. This press release shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in the United States, nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful.

This news release is not a prospectus under Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (the "EU Prospectus Regulation"). The Company has not authorized any offer of securities to the public (as defined in the EU Prospectus Regulation) in any EEA member state and no such prospectus has been or will be prepared in connection with the Private Placement.

The Company expects certain insiders of the Company to participate in the Private Placement. Any participation by insiders in the Private Placement constitutes a "related party transaction" as defined under Multilateral Instrument 61-101 – Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions ("MI 61-101"). However, the Company expects to rely on exemptions from the formal valuation and minority shareholder approval requirements of MI 61-101 based on the fact that neither the fair market value of the Units subscribed for by

the insiders, nor the consideration for the Units paid by such insiders, would exceed 25% of the Company's market capitalization.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Leading Edge Materials Corp.**

Kurt Budge, CEO

For further information, please contact the Company at:

info@leadngedgematerials.com

www.leadingedgematerials.com

Corporate Head Office (Vancouver, Canada): 778-686-5357

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About Leading Edge Materials

Leading Edge Materials Corp. is a Canadian-listed company focused on developing critical raw material assets across the European Union. Its primary focus is the wholly owned Norra Kärr Heavy Rare Earth Element project in Sweden — one of the world's most strategically significant heavy rare earth deposits and among the few advanced-stage projects within the EU capable of producing dysprosium, terbium, and yttrium at meaningful scale.

Situated in one of the globe's most politically and regulatory stable mining environments, Norra Kärr is well-positioned to contribute directly to the objectives of the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act, including the bloc's target of sourcing 10% of its critical raw material consumption domestically by 2030. Beyond rare earths, the Company also holds the Woxna Graphite mine in Sweden — a fully constructed and permitted facility — as well as a 90% stake in the Bihor Sud Nickel-Cobalt exploration alliance in Romania.

Additional Information

The information was submitted for publication through the agency of the contact person set out above, on August 18, 2026, at 11:30 pm Vancouver time.

Leading Edge Materials is listed on the TSXV under the symbol "LEM", OTCQB under the symbol "LEMIF" and Nasdaq First North Stockholm under the symbol "LEMSE". Svensk Kapitalmarknadsgranskning ("SKMG") is the Company's Certified Adviser for the Nasdaq First North Growth Market (Stockholm) and may be contacted via email ca@skmg.se or by phone +46 (0)8 913 008.

Reader Advisory

This press release does not constitute an offer, or a solicitation of any offer, to buy or subscribe for any securities in Leading Edge Materials in any jurisdiction.

This news release may include forward-looking information that is subject to risks and uncertainties. All statements within, other than statements of historical fact, are to be considered forward-looking, including statements with respect to the closing of the Private Placement, the receipt of regulatory approvals, and the use of proceeds from the Private Placement. Although the Company believes the expectations expressed in such forward-looking information are based on reasonable assumptions, such information is not a guarantee of future performance and actual results or developments may differ materially from those contained in forward-looking information. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking information include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in market prices, successes of the operations of the Company, the Company's ability to close the Private Placement, the Company's ability to obtain the required regulatory approvals, continued availability of capital and financing and general economic, market or

business conditions. There can be no assurances that such information will prove accurate and, therefore, readers are advised to rely on their own evaluation of such uncertainties. The Company does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking information except as required under the applicable securities laws.

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

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Any investment decision in connection with the Private Placement must be made on the basis of all publicly available information relating to the Company and the Company's shares/Units. The information contained in this announcement is for background purposes only and does not purport to be full or complete. No reliance may be placed for any purpose on the information contained in this announcement or its accuracy or completeness. This announcement does not purport to identify or suggest the risks (direct or indirect) which may be associated with an investment in the Company or the new shares/Units.

This press release is not a prospectus for the purposes of the EU Prospectus Regulation. Leading Edge Materials has not authorized any offer to the public of Units, shares or rights in any member state of the EEA, and no prospectus has been or will be prepared in connection with the Private Placement.

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