



The Gazette (Montreal, QC)

Order/Commande
54918

Date 03.12.2010

Circ. 133954

Page B3

1 / 1

Hotel to get Quebec's first plug-in station

TWO PUBLIC RECHARGERS

All types of electric vehicles can use outlets at Centre **Sheraton** Montreal

LYNN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Quebec's first public charging stations for electric vehicles - to be unveiled Tuesday - will be located in a downtown Montreal hotel.

And the Centre **Sheraton** Montreal will initially offer the two EV charging stations free of charge, hotel manager Didier Luneau said yesterday.

"We will offer them free to any Montreal resident with an electric vehicle ... until June or until the demand is too high," Luneau said in a telephone interview.

The **Coulomb Technologies** stations are equipped with a universal plug-in that can be used for all types of electric vehicles, including buses, **Segway** scooters and bicycles.

On Tuesday, Centre **Sheraton** and **Hydro-Québec** will formally unveil the stations, which will be located in the

hotel's VIP parking area, and provide a demonstration with a hybrid electric vehicle.

They will be the first EV charging stations in Quebec, Luneau said.

Also on Tuesday, Toronto's **Sheraton** Centre will unveil its two EV charging stations.

Although **Hydro-Québec** figures about 80 per cent of the recharging of electric vehicles will occur at the workplace or home, public recharging stations will be needed.

In the U.S., **Coulomb Technologies** is involved in a nationwide program that aims to provide 4,600 charging stations in various regions.

That program is supported in part with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

British Columbia and Quebec are seen as Canada's leading jurisdictions in preparing for widespread use of electric

and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Hydro-Québec has partnered with **Mitsubishi**, maker of the all-electric **i-MiEV**, in a three-year, \$4.5-million project involving 50 vehicles. It is also involved with **Ford Motor Co.** in a demonstration and research program of **Ford's** plug-in hybrid EV.

Most recently, **Hydro-Québec** has said it will add 20 **Chevrolet** Volts to its fleet next year in a partnership with **Chevrolet** Canada.

Communauto, the car-sharing service, has said it will offer Quebec clients all-electric vehicles next year: Fifty **Nissan** Leaf cars are to join **Communauto's** fleet in a venture that involves **Nissan** Canada, **Hydro-Québec**, the cities of **Montreal** and **Quebec**, along with the **Agence de l'efficacité énergétique** du Québec.

lmoore@montrealgazette.com

