

Press Release

For immediate release

CREE NATION GOVERNMENT AND SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE-JAMES JOIN FORCES TO HIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Matagami, December 14, 2017 – The Cree Nation Government (CNG) and the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) are pleased to announce a five-year agreement to share the costs associated with hiring a professional resource person to oversee the development of economic projects for the Crees.

“This agreement will enable our respective organizations to be more effective in our efforts to support growth-generating projects that contribute to the economic development of the Cree communities. It also reflects the values and principles behind the actions we undertake with our partners to develop the region’s full economic potential for the benefit of its diverse populations,” says SDBJ CEO Raymond Thibault.

Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government, is very pleased with this partnership with SDBJ, which will make it possible to develop many projects in the various Cree communities and throughout the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory. Says Mr. Petawabano, “We are delighted with this collaboration with SDBJ, as it will contribute to the economic development of the communities and the territory.”

“I am pleased with the agreement concluded with the Cree Nation Government, as it constitutes an important economic driver for the Cree communities and clearly embodies the cooperation required to ensure integrated and consistent development of the region and its communities.”

Pierre Moreau, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Minister responsible for the Plan Nord and Minister responsible for the Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region

“This announcement is a shining example of cooperation. In accordance with the commitments undertaken as part of the *Paix des Braves* agreement, we encourage initiatives that benefit economic and community development in the Cree communities. Their success reflects on all Quebecers.”

Geoffrey Kelley, Minister responsible for Native Affairs

About the CNG

The Cree Nation Government (CNG) is the administrative arm of the Cree Government. Its responsibilities include environmental protection, the hunting, fishing and trapping regime, economic and community development, the Board of Compensation, and other matters as decided by the Board of Directors. The Cree Nation Government has departments of traditional pursuits, community services, human resources development, and administrative services.

About SDBJ

The SDBJ was created under the *James Bay Region Development Act* adopted by the Québec National Assembly in 1971. Its mission is to promote, from a sustainable development perspective, the economic development, improvement and exploitation of natural resources other than hydroelectric resources falling within Hydro-Québec's mandate in the Baie-James territory. The SDBJ can also foster, support and participate in the implementation of projects having these objectives. <http://www.sdbj.gouv.qc.ca>

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Source:

Alain Coulombe, MBA
Assistant Director
Economic Development
Société de développement de la Baie-James
Tel.: 819 739-4717, ext. 1250
Fax: 819 739-4329
alain.coulombe@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

Catherine Poulin
Press Officer
Office of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources,
Minister responsible for the Plan Nord
Tél.: 418 643-7295

Mylène Gaudreau
Press Officer
Office of the Minister responsible for Native Affairs
Tél.: 418 454-1226

Information:

Michael Petawabano
Deputy Executive Director
Grand Council of the Crees
Cree Nation Government
Tel.: 418 923-2652
Fax: 819 673-2606
mpetawabano@cngov.ca

Andy Baribeau
Director
Department of Commerce
and Industry
Cree Nation Government
Tel.: 418 923-2901, ext. 222
abaribeau@cngov.ca