

For immediate release

ADOPTION OF SDBJ'S NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ŒUVRER AU DÉVELOPPEMENT DU PLEIN POTENTIEL ÉCONOMIQUE DE LA RÉGION
[Developing the region's full economic potential]

Matagami, June 7th, 2018 – The Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) is pleased to confirm that its Plan de développement 2018-2020 [2018–2020 development plan] has been approved by the Government of Quebec.

“In recent years, SDBJ has been able to significantly improve its financial capabilities and strengthen its relationships with its regional and government partners. We have already initiated a number of actions designed to help bring about strategic projects for the region and we intend to pursue our efforts in this direction. Therefore, it is with a great deal of determination and optimism that we are now implementing our new 2018–2020 development plan,” said SDBJ Board Chairman Gaston Bédard.

Over the coming years, SDBJ will continue to capitalize on the success of the mining industry by continuing to invest in the sector and thereby, contribute to the sustainability and growth of the territory's mineral resources. It will also support the creation of new businesses and the growth or succession of existing ones, with a view to preserving and strengthening the economic vitality of the region's towns, municipalities and communities. SDBJ also intends to work in close cooperation with its regional and government partners to further encourage and support the development and implementation of projects that are pivotal to the region's economy.

Moreover, the Québec government has increased SDBJ's intervention capabilities by adding \$10 million to the corporation's capital. “Made during the 2018–2019 Budget Speech, this announcement comes at exactly the right time, as it will enable us to increase our financing offer for businesses active in the region,” said SDBJ CEO and Director Raymond Thibault.

Developing the region's full economic potential requires preserving its strategic infrastructure. SDBJ will proceed with the project to upgrade the Route de la Baie-James (James Bay highway), which is part this infrastructure. In addition to preserving an important road link, this major project will provide better access to a number of development projects in the region. It will also facilitate the transport of merchandise through the Grande-Rivière airport to the many Nunavik communities along the coast of Baie d'Hudson (Hudson Bay).

Owned by SDBJ, the airport is not only already a major economic development tool for nearby communities, but also shows significant growth potential in terms of the volume of goods that pass through it. Therefore, SDBJ also intends to pursue development in this direction in the coming years.

SDBJ places great value on the social and economic progress of each of the towns, municipalities and communities that make up its area of intervention, and on their cultural characteristics and the development opportunities they may offer. The corporation's various business practices help stimulate the creation of wealth in the region, whether as direct economic spinoffs from its many activities or as the investments it carries out with its partners.

The aim of the strategic orientations and objectives adopted by SDBJ as part of its Plan de développement 2018–2020 is to ensure that the region's diverse populations benefit fully from the projects that will arise from implementation of the Plan Nord and any other economic development initiatives.

Mr. Thibault further stated that SDBJ personnel are already hard at work on implementing its development plan, which can be viewed (in French only) on the SDBJ Web site, at: <http://www.sdbj.gouv.qc.ca/fr/salle-de-presse/publications/>.

About SDBJ

The SDBJ, which has been in existence for over 45 years, was created under the *James Bay Region Development Act* adopted by 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.

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Source:

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