

# Press Release

For immediate release

## SDBJ INVESTS IN NEW DRIVING SCHOOL IN MISTISSINI

**Matagami, September 5, 2017** – The Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) is pleased to announce its investment of \$30,000 in a business project in the Mistissini sector, in partnership with the Cree Nation Government and the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA).

SDBJ CEO Raymond Thibault said that the opening of a driving school in Mistissini will provide residents of the community and surrounding areas with new services. He added that SDBJ's business financing proposal makes it possible to support new promoters going into business and helps create new companies.

"I would like to thank everyone who contributed in this way to advancing my project" said Blazo Voyageur, owner of the Voyageur Driving School.

"I am proud to see the Voyager Driving School business project become a reality and I congratulate Mr. Voyageur for this remarkable initiative. As one of the most promising opportunities for the Cree Nation of Mistissini, this project will create jobs, help fill the high demand for training, contribute to the community's economic diversification and promote its autonomy. Therefore, it was entirely natural for the Québec government to support the project under its Garantie de prêt du Fonds d'initiatives autochtones component, which enables business projects to see the light of day and thus, play a key role in the economic and social vitality of Aboriginal communities."

Geoffrey Kelley, Minister responsible for Native Affairs

"I am very pleased that our government actively encourages new businesses, including Mr. Voyageur's. In addition to providing a new service to the citizens of Mistissini, the driving school will help create new jobs in the community. This is excellent news!"

Jean Boucher, Member for Ungava

### **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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### **Sources:**

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](mailto:alain.coulombe@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca)

Frédérique Brais-Chaput  
Political Attaché to the  
Member for Ungava  
Tel. : 418 748-6046

Mylène Gaudreau  
Press Officer  
Office of the Minister responsible for Native  
Affairs  
Tel. : 418 643-3166

### **Information:**

Blazo Voyageur  
Voyageur Driving School  
Tel.: 418 770-3699  
[voyageur.blazo@gmail.com](mailto:voyageur.blazo@gmail.com)