



Press Release

For immediate release

TOWN OF MATAGAMI AND SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE-JAMES SIGN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR OPERATION OF MATAGAMI TRANSSHIPMENT CENTRE

Matagami, March 22, 2023 – The Town of Matagami and the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) are proud to announce the signing of an agreement in principle concerning operation of the Matagami transshipment centre.

Highlights

The signing of this agreement represents a major step in establishing a strategic northern transport hub, not only for Matagami, but for the region and Québec as whole, with the objective of furthering the development of key mining projects north of town. Among other things, such projects aim to support the electrification and decarbonisation of Québec's economy.

This agreement will enable Matagami and its mining partners to establish the terms and conditions required to establish firm, long-term contracts, and represents the final milestone in the implementation of a key program to upgrade the Matagami transshipment centre. With an estimated value of several million dollars, the program is designed to provide the Matagami sector with a highly reliable and competitive railway network. The work scheduled for spring 2024 will result in a significant increase in the capacity and efficiency of the Matagami transshipment centre.

Quotes

"I am pleased to report that our shared, global vision concerning the development of Northern Québec is becoming a reality. For the past several years, we have been implementing concrete action stemming from strategies such as the Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals, to ensure the sustainable development of a strong economy in accordance with the needs of local communities."

Maité Blanchette Vézina, Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, and Minister Responsible for the Bas-Saint-Laurent Region and the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Region

"The signing of this agreement in principle is a natural extension of SDBJ's activities and is completely in keeping with our strategic orientations that aim, among other objectives, to develop the region's transportation network and maximize regional economic spinoffs. We are proud to be part of the solution for Matagami."

Alain Coulombe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Société de développement de la Baie-James

"The transshipment centre represents a key element in the supply chain required to ensure the success of projects in our region. It is also a promising, sustainable means of ensuring the economic future of the Town of Matagami and the quality of life of its citizens. With its firm roots in the community and its continuous focus on maximizing regional economic spinoffs and furthering economic development, SDBJ is the ideal choice as a partner in helping us meet our objectives. In addition, the excellent relations SDBJ has forged with its Cree partners have opened the door to unlimited opportunities."

René Dubé, Mayor of Matagami

Created in 1971 by the James Bay Region Development Act, SDBJ's mission is to promote, from a sustainable development perspective, the economic development, development and exploitation of natural resources, other than hydroelectric resources falling within HQ's mandate, in the James Bay territory. In particular, it may encourage, support and participate in the implementation of projects aimed at these ends.

Founded in 1963, the Town of Matagami owes its origin to mining exploration. Today, forestry plays a vital role in the community's economy. As a northern hub and the starting point of the Route Billy-Diamond (Billy Diamond Road), Matagami is known for its resilience, resourcefulness and intrinsically northern character. Home to 1,300 outstanding citizens, the town occupies a geographically strategic position in Nord-du-Québec, due to both its occupation of the land and the access it provides as the gateway to the Baie-James region.

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