

Press Release

For immediate release

SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE-JAMES EXTENDS SINCERE CONDOLENCES FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF FORMER WEMINDJI CHIEF FRED BLACKNED

Matagami, May 19, 2020 – Following the announcement of the death of former Wemindji Chief Fred Blackned on May 9, the Board of Directors and entire personnel of the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) would like to offer their sincere condolences to the Blackned family, the community of Wemindji and the members of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee.

Chief Blackned was one of the original signatories of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* ratified in 1975.

“Through his dedication and courage, Mr. Blackned contributed to a major turning point in the history of the Crees. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.”

Alain Coulombe, President and Chief Executive Officer of SDJB

“I was very saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Blackned, a community builder who left an unmistakable mark on the history of the Cree people. On behalf of myself and all the members of the SDBJ Board of Directors, I wish to offer my sincere condolences to all those affected by his passing.”

Gaston Bédard, Chairman of the Board of Directors

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.

www.sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

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Source:

Alain Coulombe, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Société de développement de la Baie-James
Tel.: 819 739-4717, ext. 1250
Fax: 819 739-4329
alain.coulombe@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca