



Looking Ahead Together

Understanding one another and building trust

Mistissini, June 14, 2016 – The first annual conference of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SCNATEA) to be held in a Cree community, Mistissini, took place on June 6 and 7. This 13th edition of the “Looking Ahead Together” conference presented over 20 speakers, brought together over 180 participants, and revolved around three key topics: tourism, mining development in the Northern Quebec region, and economic development.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), under the honorary co-chairmanship of Dr. Ted Moses, President of the Secretariat, and Richard Shecapio, Chief of the Cree Nation of Mistissini. For Chantal Hamelin, SCNATEA Director of Operations, having the conference in a Cree community had an unprecedented effect. “My first impression is that we succeeded in creating a real dialogue between participants. The event enabled the people of the Cree Nation of Mistissini and area to make their voices heard and reaffirm the role of Cree Nation members as major players in northern development.”

The conference was an opportunity for the Cree community (Eeyou Istchee) as well as businesses and organizations operating in the Northern Quebec region to reaffirm their commitment to working together in all business segments through organizations such as the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance and other collaborative measures for planning and building solid partnerships and alliances. “We are here today to work with you, to find common goals that can benefit all of us. The commitment of the Cree Nation is to protect our heritage, our valued resources and our traditions. We are equally committed to jobs for our youth and for our families. We know that you share these values and we invite you to see your future as a part of our future,” said SCNATEA President, Dr. Ted Moses during the conference.

The event program was designed to strengthen partnerships, business dialogue, and cultural awareness between Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Eeyou Istchee James Bay, and Nunavik. The conference was a unique networking opportunity sincerely appreciated by all stakeholders present, including during the banquet dinner and a tour of the onsite booths.

We would like to thank all our valued sponsors: Cree Human Resources Development, Cree Mineral Exploration Board, Goldcorp – Eleonore, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, Youdin CMAC-Thyssen, Youdin Rouillier Drilling, Desjardins Entreprises, Petronor, SNC Lavalin, Blais Industries, Energie 102.7, and SADC Chibougamau-Chapais.

Highlights

- *Keith Henry, President and CEO, Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada: “It’s important to know what clients are looking for. We simply want these companies to be prosperous and viable while preserving the authenticity of the experience.”*
- *Ghislain Poirier, Vice President, Public Affairs, Stornoway Diamond Corporation: “Following the Mecheshoo Agreement, it’s important to maintain good relations and establish trust, just like in a marriage.”*
- *Rusty Cheezo, President, Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company: “Gestion ADC (1996) Inc. and its partnerships provide more than 450 jobs each year. Most of them are held by Native employees.”*
- *Jimmy Jean, CFA, Senior Economist, Desjardins: “The economy of the Northern Quebec region will grow in 2017 thanks in part to the price of base metals, which may increase slightly, and development of the tourism industry.”*



What to watch for at SCNATEA:

Take part in the Business Exchange Day at the Hôtel Forestel in Val-d'Or on November 29. For more information, visit www.creenation-at.com or follow SCNATEA on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

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Source:

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