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The Business Exchange Day 2011: Breaks a new record!

The Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (www.creenation-at.com) held its 9th edition of the Business Exchange Day, in Val-d'Or, December 1, in collaboration with ComaxAT (www.comaxat.com). Close to 325 delegates participated; a 44% increase in the number of registered delegates from the previous year; the Business Exchange Day has set a new record for participation. This edition is a great achievement and confirms the importance of this annual event for Cree, Inuit, Jamésiens and Abitibi-Témiscamingue companies in the context of business development between the northern regions.

Highlights on the event: The Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue highlights some themes related to economic development of the Cree Nation. This year a focus on the Cree community of Mistissini, the Satunan Adult Education / Cree School Board and finally the residents of James-Bay's perspective on the Plan Nord. *"Plan Nord is one of the biggest economic, social and environmental projects of our world economy, and a day like this one allows Northern companies to position themselves in this major project."* stated Gérald Lemoyne, Mayor of Lebel-sur-Quevillon. Additionally, the luncheon conference included the view of the Crees on the Plan Nord by Grand Chief of the Cree Nation Dr. Matthew Coon Come, who delivered an amazing speech.

Over 700 business to business meetings were scheduled: Starting in the morning, delegates were able to meet and develop business different representative of the Cree Nation. Over 700 business appointments were scheduled to promote and create alliances, agreements or strategic partnerships. It is interesting to see new contracts worth several millions of dollars being awarded following these meetings. *"The high demand is the cause of this great success and a record breaking attendance for this event. We create favorable conditions for business meetings between the two regions; the James Bay and Abitibi-Témiscamingue."*, said Pierre Ouellet, coordinator of the Secretariat.

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Gala Evening and Awards: For the first time, the Secretariat and the Eeyou Economic Group (SADC) in the James Bay territory collaborates in uniting two events. The two organizations join forces to consolidate in a single day, an event to create business relationships that promotes entrepreneurship and business relations between two regions. On December 1st was held the 4th edition of the evening gala awards to celebrating Cree companies. Drs. Ted Moses, Former Grand Chief and President of the Secretariat set the tone at the Gala, by stating: *"We are here to recognize the immense value of being entrepreneurs and to take advantage of many opportunities to create profitable businesses together."*

The mission of the Secretariat is to develop economic alliances between the Cree Nation and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration to ensure the harmonious development of all partners.

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