

SECRÉTARIAT AUX
ALLIANCES ÉCONOMIQUES
NATION CRIE
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE



SECRETARIAT TO
THE CREE NATION
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Press release
For immediate circulation

The Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance congratulates *Northern Lights* on its 2012 edition

The only commercial and cultural fair to showcase the eastern and northern regions of the Arctic grew in size this year, with 1200 people attending in Ottawa to promote social, economic and cultural links with Nunavut, Nunavik and Labrador/ Nunatsiavut

Val-d'Or, 28 February 2012 – Approximately fifty members of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance participated in the 3rd edition of the *Northern Lights* biennial, held at the Ottawa Convention Centre from the 1st to the 4th of February, 2012. They took the opportunity to learn more about Arctic development potential in the following industries: construction, mining, transportation, telecommunications, public relations, land surveying, environment and engineering.

Organized by the chamber of commerce of the Baffin and the Labrador regions, this commercial and cultural event posted record attendance levels with over 60 conferences, 800 delegates, 165 exhibits and artwork by a dozen Canadian artists.

Highlights of this unique event

The themes chosen by the organizers were well-received by those in attendance: tourism, mining, technological development in the transportation and communications sectors, climate change, and opportunities available to developers in the Arctic.

The performances in the Arts and Culture Pavillion, as well as the speeches by David Suzuki and Premier Jean Charest, were all positively commented upon by the social media covering the event.

Dr. Ted Moses, president of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, also gave a speech on the last day of *Northern Lights 2012*. After emphasizing the success of recent developments in the transportation networks of the Cree Nation and the related positive economic spin off, Dr. Moses turned to the future: "Our constant challenge is to maximize implication of our communities in the mining and construction industries. The entire economy benefits from the arrival of a new industry in our region. The creation of sustainable jobs helps the younger generations carry on the work that we've begun."

The Secretariat continues its work

The Secretariat will pursue in its role of promoting economic development and supporting business and smaller-scale projects year-round. The next events will allow us to establish new partnerships. The Secretariat is especially keen on solidifying its links with the Inuit of Nunavik and the northern regions.

"Building the North: a mining symposium", will be held from the 31st of May to the 1st of June at the Forestel Convention Centre in Val-d'Or. The conference organized by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, in collaboration with the *Cree Mineral and Exploration Board*, will follow an event at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (<http://www.uqat.ca/cpp/>); the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic mining sector will be at the agenda. Furthermore, the 10th year anniversary of the Secretariat will be celebrated on the evening of the 31st.

Several times per year, the Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance organizes orientation trips for business-people from Abitibi-Témiscamingue, with the objective of introducing them to the various Cree communities and creating new links. Businesses interested in finding out more are welcome to get in touch with us.

About the Secretariat to the Cree Nation - Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance

The mission of the Secretariat is to develop economic alliances, in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration, between the Cree and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, in order to facilitate a harmonized economic growth.

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