



2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TERRITORY, RESOURCES, AND ALLIANCES

A stronger North, together!

June 16-17, 2026 | Forestel, Val-d'Or



SECRETARIAT AUX ALLIANCES
ÉCONOMIQUES NATION CREE
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

SECRETARIAT TO THE CREE NATION
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



Val-d'Or

DAY 1 Program

JUNE 16 09:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Forestel, Val-d'Or

Once Upon a Time in This Land... From First Contact to True Partnership

Understanding how relationships evolve between Indigenous peoples, governments, and industry in a fast-moving and complex geopolitical environment—so we can clarify each stakeholder's role and identify concrete ways to ensure successful processes and responsible project development that respects all parties.

Facilitators : Ghislain Picard et Marc Du Sault

09:00 TO 12:00



ÉCOLE DES DIRIGEANT·E·S
DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
FIRST NATIONS
EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

PROPELÉE PAR
ÉDUCATION
ÉCOLE DES DIRIGEANT·E·S
HEC MONTRÉAL

JUNE 16 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Forestel, Val-d'Or

1:00 – 1:30	Welcoming of participants
1:30 – 1:55	Opening ceremony Master of ceremony: Julie Ann Cooper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screaming Eagles
1:55 – 2:10	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lucien Wabanonik – Chief - Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe de Lac Simon Serge Allard – Mayor – City of Val-d'Or Drs. Ted Moses – O.Q. – President - SCNATEA
2:15 – 3:00	<i>Panel discussion: Territory and Resources: Building Shared Prosperity (Part 1)</i> Facilitator: Pascal Porlier – Partner, Lawyer - Cain Lamarre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bertie Wapachee – Former advisor and negotiator for the Cree Nation of Nemaska Lucien Wabanonik – Chief - Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe de Lac Simon Ghislain Picard – Associate Professor - HEC Montreal / FNEE
3:05 – 3:20	Health break
3:25 – 4:25	<i>Panel discussion: Territory and Resources: Building Shared Prosperity (Part 2)</i> Facilitator: Pascal Porlier – Partner, Lawyer - Cain Lamarre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andréanne Boisvert – Vice President, Environment and Community Relations - Gold Fields, Windfall Project François Vézina – Chief Operating Officer - Dumont Nickel Valérie Gourde – Regional Director, Public Affairs and Sustainable Development - Eldorado Gold
4:30 – 5:00	<i>Plenary session</i>
5:00 – 6:00	Break
6:00 – 9:00	Dinner & evening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentor recognition program Kelly Cooper – Ouje-Bougoumou Cellist

DAY 2 Program

JUNE 17 08:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Forestel, Val-d'Or

08:30 – 08:55	Welcoming of participants
09:00 – 09:20	Opening remarks Master of ceremony: Julie Ann Cooper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darius Neacappo-Pelchat – Deputy Youth Grand Chief - Cree Nation Youth Council • Drs. Ted Moses – O.Q. – President - SCNATEA
09:25 – 09:55	Presentation Nibiischi Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariane Leroux – Director General - Corporation Nibiischii • Jeremy Coon-Come – President – Nibiischi Park
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Mowatt – President and CEO - Nikan Construction
10:35 – 10:50	Health break
10:55 – 11:55	Panel discussion: Alliance: Models That Work Facilitator: Chantal Hamelin – Industrial Commissioner - Corporation de développement industriel de Val-d'Or (CDIVD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcel Happyjack – President - Waswanipi Development Corporation (WDC) • John Mowatt – President and CEO - Nikan Construction • Sylvain Falardeau – Owner and Manager - Rona Matagami • Ian Diamond – President and CEO - Waska Ressources
12:00 – 1:25	Networking Lunch
1:30 – 2:30	Series of presentations on mineral exploration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Development of a mining project in the Chisasibi territory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Èva Roy-Vigneault – Vice President, Community & ESG, PMET Resources • Edward Bearskin – Community Relations Coordinator, PMET Resources ❖ Development of mining infrastructure and transportation corridors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Régis Simard – Director General, Jamésie Mining Coordination Table ❖ Geosite Tourism Eeyou Istchee James Bay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youcef Larbi – General Director & Chief Geologist – Cree Mineral Exploration Board
2:35 – 2:50	Health break
2:55 – 3:55	Panel discussion: The Future of the North: Innovation, Regional Development, and Youth Facilitator: Ève Custeau-Wiscutie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Brown – Director of Professional and Continuing Education - Eeyou Istchee College of Science and Technology • Amy Kistabish – Indigenous Workforce & Partnership Coordinator - Société de Développement économique AMIK • Darius Neacappo-Pelchat – Deputy Youth Grand Chief - Cree Nation Youth Council and President, North Auto Garage
4:00 – 4:15	Plenary session
4:20 – 4:30	Closing remarks and draw

*Simultaneous translation available