



## 14<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE: THE “TOGETHER” MOVEMENT IS GROWING!

**Val-d’Or, June 18, 2018. — Over 250 people took part in the 14<sup>th</sup> Northern Development Conference organized by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance in collaboration with the City of Val-d’Or, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government. Discussions centered on the need to develop a workforce and the creation of sustainable economic alliances.**

During the Conference, a number of businesspeople from the Cree, Algonquin and Inuit communities in neighbouring regions participated in various discussion panels on the forestry and mining industries and on economic development. The Honorary Co-chairs of the Conference were the President of the Secretariat, Dr. Ted Moses, O.Q., and the Mayor of Val-d’Or, Mr. Pierre Corbeil.

General Manager Sophie Bergeron of Goldcorp Inc.’s Éléonore mine, mentioned the need, “to work together to find a way to interest First Nations in mining industry jobs.” Chief Christina Gilpin of the Cree Nation of Wemindji added that first it will be necessary to put in place tools and resources to get to that point.

Numerous exchanges shed light on the search to balance economic development and environmental protection. The various speakers emphasized the importance of this issue for Québec.

To conclude, everyone agreed that constant collaboration among Indigenous nations and neighbouring regions is essential to improve economic development linked to resource exploitation, while at the same time protecting the environment and fostering social acceptability. The TOGETHER movement is growing ever stronger!

### **A Fundraising Gala Focused on Cultural Exchange**

A fundraising gala on the themes of entertainment and cultural exchange was held on June 13, 2018, with proceeds to the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute. A total of \$72,800 was raised. Participants had the opportunity to visit the travelling exhibit *Footprints: A Walk-Through Generations*, which was presented for the first time outside Indigenous nations.

“The Cree are looking for win-win partnerships that will build our economy based on a constantly improving relationship between our peoples. That’s what reconciliation looks like, and this evening’s event is an example of reconciliation in action,” the Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Dr. Abel Bosum, stated.

The Secretariat’s next event the Business Exchange Day will be held on November 28, 2018, in Val-d’Or.

### **About the Secretariat**

The Secretariat, created in 2002, gives great importance to mutual respect, good business relationships and better knowledge of the situation in the Northern Québec region. It plays an important role in the respectful integration of entrepreneurs who wish to broaden their horizons.

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