



PRESS RELEASE
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**OPTIMISTIC SPEECH IN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE FROM THE NEW GRAND CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (Eeyou ISTCHEE) / Cree Nation Government,
DR. ABEL BOSUM**

Val-d'Or- November 30th, 2017. It was during the Business Exchange Day of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SCNATEA) where more than 300 business people gathered yesterday, that Dr. Abel Bosum delivered his very first speech in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. It is therefore through unifying remarks that the new Grand Chief has announced that he is optimistic about the economic development of the Cree Nation.

" When I look at where we are today, I continue to be very hopeful. The future has always looked bright for the Crees, for the North, and for our neighbors. But I'm not satisfied, hopeful, but not satisfied.", says Dr. Abel Bosum at the 14th edition of the Secretariat's Business Exchange Day.

With this same spirit, VCC General Contractor Inc., a Cree company who demonstrated its involvement in creating economic spin-offs and, above all, for its desire to transfer expertise to the Cree communities. *"A construction company that wants to be sustainable in Cree communities must invest in transferring expertise and ensuring economic spin-offs,"* says Stéphane Poulin, Vice President Finance and Administration for VCC General Contractor Inc.

For the past 10 years, this company has provided \$ 30 million in contracts to Cree companies. Nearly 650 Cree families have been affected positively. The company has demonstrated that it walks the talk.

The next economic development event of the Secretariat will be held in Val-d'Or on June 13 and 14 2018.

About the SCNATEA

The Secretariat's mission is to promote sustainable relations and socio-economic alliances between the Cree Nation (Eeyou Istchee), Jamésie, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nunavik regions in order to foster their harmonious development.

To learn more about the Secretariat, please visit our web site www.creenation-at.com.

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