



## Press release

For immediate publication

### ONIMIKI: A COLLABORATING PROJECT FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE MUNICIPAL SECTOR

**Kebaowek, March 28, 2018** - Last night, an information meeting was held in Kebaowek to present the Onimiki project to elected representatives from the communities of Kebaowek, Wolf Lake and the Témiscamingue RCM.

In 2013, the two Aboriginal communities and the Témiscamingue RCM signed an agreement in principle with Innergex to develop a hydroelectric project in the south part of Témiscamingue area. Over the last five years, the file has evolved considerably and the exploratory mission carried out by a Témiscamian delegation in 2016, made it possible to take a significant turn for the realization of the Onimiki project. The project will now be developed with a community vision, with communities becoming stakeholders in project implementation, construction and management. These same communities will collect royalties from the use of the territory's resources, while decisions to reinvest the money will be made by the community and the communities affected by the project.

"This project demonstrates the importance our RCM places on the development of partnerships between the municipal and the Aboriginal communities. And more, the realization of this project will diversify and energize our territory and improve its attractiveness. Respect for the development of our natural resources, in harmony with the communities hosting this project, must reflect the desire of the players in our territory to make it a promising project for all of our communities!" said Mrs. Claire Bolduc, Warden for the Témiscamingue RCM.

"The community of Kebaowek is very keen on this project. Following the work of the Viens Commission, we are going to challenge the government on the importance of obtaining a major project in economic development that will bring a new breath, a great energy within our community," said Mr. Lance Haymond, head of Kebaowek.

Onimiki is an innovative project that will be carried out in full respect of the communities and will consolidate a territorial collaboration of the entire Témiscamian community and propel Témiscamingue in the foreground, which will generate business opportunities and positive impact through the establishment of a community hydroelectric system.

"We now have the duty to make it a territorial priority, but also a regional one! The support of our counterparts in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region will, of course, bring an even greater dimension to the relationship and possible partnerships between the aboriginal communities and the municipal sector," said Wolf Lake Chief Harry Saint-Denis.

At the end of the meeting, the MRC council will be invited to a special meeting to reiterate the commitment given to the Onimiki project, which is of utmost importance for Témiscamingue, as it marks a major priority for the Strategic planning of Témiscamingue.

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#### Sources :

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