

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A TREATY

INFO NÉGO - NUMBER 1 / DECEMBER 2004

MR. BENOÎT BOUCHARD
Representative of the regions

Negotiations with the Innu

A tangible tool

It is with great pride that I am launching this first issue of our INFO-NÉGO newsletter. With the help of this new information tool, you will be able to monitor the progress of the work on the agreement-in-principle with the Innu communities of your region. It is my hope that this periodic newsletter will be an effective tool that will enable you to familiarize yourself with the work program of your regional representation team.

The Government of Québec is pursuing its objective of keeping Quebecers informed by making available to them, in a quick and easy manner, information on their various concerns. INFO-NÉGO will be a key means of sharing with you the proposals that we receive during the consultation meetings. I enthusiastically encourage the entire regional representation team to make full use of this communication channel.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send us your proposals regarding the subjects of concern to you. It is by working together that we will succeed in obtaining an agreement that is acceptable to everyone. This agreement is necessary for the continued economic development of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord regions.

Benoît Bouchard

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Over the last few months, many of you have clearly expressed your wish of being informed and consulted on the negotiations between the Government of Québec, the Government of Canada and the Innu communities of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the Côte-Nord. That is why we are making every effort to maintain an efficient regional participation structure.

The main role of the representative of the regions is to convey to the negotiating table your points of view and your particular interests.

Since being appointed, Mr. Benoît Bouchard, representative of the regions, has had the opportunity to meet with several organizations and intends to pursue this course of action. Be sure to express your point of view during the consultation meetings planned in your region!

The first consultation report of the representative of the regions will be available soon at the following web site: www.versuntraite.com

MUST READS... IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- News from the negotiating table
- Feature article “Good Neighbour Agreement”
- New publications
- “Your questions, your opinion” column

Regional consultation process

HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC ENSURE THAT THERE IS A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE POPULATIONS AT THE CENTRAL NEGOTIATING TABLE?

The following text will help you understand all of the steps in the regional participation process leading up to the signing of an agreement between the Innu, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada.

Within the context of the negotiations with the Innu, the Government of Québec has set up a team to ensure that the populations of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord regions are kept informed and are consulted on the discussions under way, and that these populations will have the opportunity to assert their interests at the negotiating table. To facilitate their participation, a regional consultation process has been set up on their behalf.

STEP ONE:

Regional organizations will have their say

The final text of an eventual treaty has yet to be determined, whether from the standpoint of the content or that of the complementary agreements, in particular concerning the questions related to the territory, taxation and Innu Aitun (traditional activities).

Discussions will continue at the central negotiating table until the final agreement is reached. Not only will the populations of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord regions be represented at the negotiating table, they will also be met

with and consulted on a regular basis by the regional representation teams to give them the opportunity to comment more explicitly on certain elements that will be the subject of discussions over the upcoming months. In some cases, preliminary consultation documents will be produced and submitted to these populations for analysis.

The organizations directly affected by a specific theme will be contacted and met with, if necessary, by the regional representation teams during special information and consultation sessions.

At the request of the regional teams, other information meetings may be held with the participation of government authorities representing Québec and Canada. The purpose of these meetings will be to address precise needs related to the progress and the results of the negotiations under way.

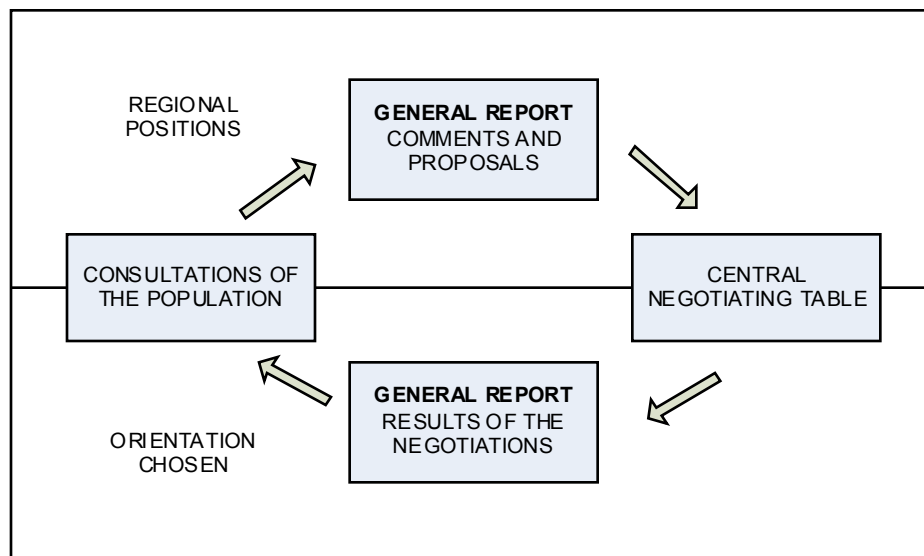
STEP TWO:

Regional representation teams will submit a report

Once the meetings have been held, each regional team will record the proposals and comments in a general consultation report that will contain, among other things:

- the recommendations presenting the regional positions;
- the summary consultation documents listing the main comments and proposals;
- the reports of the meetings held in the regions.

The representative of the region will send his consultation report to the negotiator for the Government of Québec, the regional authorities, as well as to those organizations that request a copy. The reports will contain invaluable information that will contribute to strengthening the position taken by Québec's negotiating team.



STEP THREE:

The negotiating table will make its position known to the regions

Throughout the work leading up to the signing of the treaty, the regional representation teams will inform the Saguenay– Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord regions of the orientations decided upon at the negotiating table.

However, should a decision made at the negotiating table raise concerns among the populations in question, the representative of the regions will be able to inform the negotiator for Québec or the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, as the case may be. However, it will be up to the Cabinet to make the final decision as to the outcome of the negotiations.

Regional representation team

THE TEAM IN THE REGIONS

Regional consultations: preliminary assessment

By GERMAIN SIMARD and PIERRE ROUSSEAU

It was on the “good neighbour” theme that the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte–Nord regions kicked off the regional consultations that will accompany the negotiating process with the Innu communities. Between now and the end of December, several organizations and interest groups will have the opportunity to express themselves and voice their expectations. Whether this involves political authorities at the regional (regional conferences of elected officials, RCMs) or local (municipalities) levels, socioeconomic partners or sectoral stakeholders, everyone will have access to accurate information and will benefit from an efficient liaison mechanism.

Effective immediately, we are available to take part in exchanges or information meetings on a specific aspect of the agreement that is a concern for your organization. The results of this first consultation initiative will be especially important as they will allow us to gauge your interest in this matter as well as the level of mobilization generated by the negotiations with the aboriginal communities. Moreover, these results will guide the regional team in the preparation and improvement, if necessary, of the regional communication and consultation process.

Do you or your organization want to hold an information meeting to exchange points of view or to express your concerns?

Get in touch with the delegate of your region.

info@versuntraite.com

CÔTE-NORD: 1 877 463-5781 (toll free)

SAGUENAY–LAC-SAINT-JEAN: 1 866 547-2102 (toll free)

INFORMATION MEETINGS

Organizations met with

CÔTE-NORD

Regional conference of the elected officials of the Côte-Nord region
MRC de La Haute-Côte-Nord
MRC de Minganie
The municipalities of Escoumins and Bergeronnes
Table forêt 2004
Table des préfets de la Côte-Nord
Le regroupement des locataires des terres publiques (Côte-Nord)

SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN

Regional conference of the elected officials of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region
Le Groupe faune Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean
Association des trappeurs du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean
The Chambers of Commerce of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (8)
The Member of Parliament for Chicoutimi-Le Fjord and his political staff

Meetings planned this fall

MRC de Manicouagan
MRC de Sept-Rivières
MRC de Caniapiscau
Fédération québécoise de la faune (secteur de la Côte-Nord)
The municipalities of Natashquan and Minganie
The Members of the National Assembly for René-Lévesque and Duplessis
The Chambers of Commerce of the Haute-Côte-Nord and Manicouagan

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Two new coordinators have joined the team

We are proud to announce the appointments of Mr. Alain Belley and Mr. Stéphane Boudreault to the positions of regional coordinators of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord regions within the context of the comprehensive territorial negotiations with the Innu communities.

As regional coordinators, Mr. Belley and Mr. Boudreault will be in charge of organizing meetings with the groups wishing to express their opinions on the negotiations with the Innu. They will also support the representative of the

regions and the delegates in the performance of their duties. Congratulations to Mr. Belley and Mr. Boudreault!

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QUEBECERS AND THE INNU

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A TREATY

To find out more about the negotiations, the territory concerned, the Innu, the consequences of the future treaty or to obtain the full version of the agreement-in-principle, consult the web site devoted entirely to negotiations with the Innu.

www.versuntraite.com

For more information or to contact the delegate of your region
info@versuntraite.com

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Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean: 1 866 547-2102 (toll free)