

## The Project and Your Community

Wemindji

Signed in 2002, the *Boumhounan Agreement* launched the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project. Under this agreement, work is governed by a new relationship based on cooperation and mutual respect between Hydro-Québec, its subsidiary Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ) and the Cree. In addition, the Cree play an active role in project design and in the implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures: Cree companies, workers and tallymen have worked on the project. The tallymen have also participated in all the technical and environmental studies throughout the draft-design and construction phases, as well as in the environmental follow-up activities, some of which should continue until 2021.

# Trapline location



Five traplines are affected.



Goose hunting pond developed west of Sakami canal on trapline VC20

## Economic spinoffs

Since 2007, two Wemindji companies have obtained 13 contracts, including:

- Food and janitorial services at Sarcelle workcamp and operation of the convenience store and resto-bar
- Collection of wood debris on the shores of Boyd and Sakami lakes, development of ATV and snowmobile trails and various clearing contracts for the tallymen

The tallymen obtained 12 contracts and some of them have been able to develop management and construction expertise with the support of jobsite personnel.

From 2007 to 2011, nearly 3% of the Cree workers on the project were from the Community of Wemindji.

In general, the results of the follow-ups carried out with Cree workers show that they appreciated their work experience on the jobsites. In fact, 92% of them would like to have another similar experience due to the nature of the work, the knowledge they acquired and the good salaries. Furthermore, their return to their community was relatively straightforward and 81% of them found new jobs.



Installation of a beaver trap by tallyman Ronnie Georgekish

## Mitigation and enhancement measures

### Why

To maintain or improve hunting and fishing activities and access to the territory and to facilitate use of Boyd and Sakami lakes

### How

By implementing about 20 types of mitigation and enhancement measures

By the end of 2011, the vast majority of these measures had been implemented, with some still in progress. They will be completed in 2012, except for measures to facilitate access to some Boyd and Sakami lakeshore areas near navigation corridors and the final planting and seeding on affected sites.

During the fall of 2011, the tallymen were consulted on the effectiveness of close to 40 mitigation and enhancement measures carried out on their respective traplines.

The mitigation measures include the following:

- Construction of new camps
- Development of parking areas
- Construction of a boat ramp
- Construction of access roads
- Development of spawning grounds and a goose hunting pond
- Development of ATV and snowmobile trails



Boat ramp at Lac Boyd built on trapline VC22

## Environmental follow-up

Between 2007 and 2011, the tallymen concerned or their representatives participated in some of the follow-up programs carried out in Wemindji territory. They will continue to be involved as some activities are planned until 2021.

These follow-ups deal with the following areas:

- Characteristics of the ice cover on Boyd and Sakami lakes
- Use of the developed spawning ground downstream of Sarcelle powerhouse
- Use of Boyd and Sakami lakes by Canada geese
- Changes in fish mercury levels
- Land use



ATV trail built on trapline VC20

## Committees

During 2012, the transition from the construction teams to the operations teams will occur more quickly. Continuity will be provided, in part, by the Cree/Hydro-Québec joint committees that will continue their work, including the Monitoring Committee.

## Agreements

Under the agreements between Hydro-Québec and the Cree administered by the Niskamoon Corporation, several dedicated funds are available for projects designed to help the Cree pursue their traditional activities and for community projects.

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