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I am pleased to present this first issue of the Boumhounan Newsletter. Our goal with this publication is to keep you informed on the progress of the construction work and on the studies and the environmental monitoring programs to be conducted for the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert diversion project.

As described in this first issue, work on the project began in January 2007 and is moving ahead at a brisk pace. The Rupert and Nemiscau jobsites are in operation, the cisco and sturgeon environmental monitoring programs are under way and a new committee—the Monitoring Committee—has been formed to serve as a liaison with the six Cree communities concerned.

We're making sure the message gets out with this new hydroelectric project: whether it's by Web site, newsletter, radio program or blog, you'll be kept up to date in real time on the progress of the project!

Happy Reading!

www.hydroquebec.com/sebj



Normand Béchard
Director – Eastmain Projects

First meeting of the Monitoring Committee

The members of the Monitoring Committee (from left to right): **Wilbert Shecapio, A. Thomas Hester, Lawrence Jimiken, Marie-Hélène Côté, Réjean Gagnon, Robbie Tapiatic, Hélène Tellier (Secretary), Philippe Mora, Réal Courcelles, John Paul Murdoch (guest), Edward Gilpin, André Tessier, Jean-René Proulx (guest), Robert Beaudoin (guest), Marc Dunn, René Dion, Julie Sbeghen (replacing Sandie Poliquin), Martin Desgagné, Emmett Georgekish (absent)**



The members of the Monitoring Committee met for the first time in Val-d'Or on July 10 and 11, 2007. This new committee replaces the Boumhounan Committee, established for the draft-design phase, and will play a key role in the Eastmain-1-A and Sarcelle powerhouses and Rupert diversion project until its completion in 2012 and beyond.

"The Monitoring Committee serves as liaison between Hydro-Québec, SEBJ and the Cree communities," explained Réal Courcelles, Advisor, Hydro-Québec. "The Committee has fifteen members—Cree representatives and employees of Hydro-Québec and SEBJ—and its job is to ensure that Cree interests and environmental issues are duly discussed. The hope is that the Committee will foster dialogue and provide a platform for discussion, not only throughout the construction of the project but also in the operation phase."

Of the eight Cree Committee members, two are from the Niskamoon Corporation and six are from the communities. "The community representatives have a very important role to play in maintaining good relations," says Attorney John Paul Murdoch, who attended the first Committee meeting as a guest. "They are the key connecting link between Hydro-Québec and their communities, and they are crucial not only as providers of information but

also in documenting people's concerns and questions. They will also be very involved with the trappers, particularly those filing requests with Niskamoon to implement mitigation measures."

The discussions focused mainly on the conditions set by the federal and provincial governments that Hydro-Québec must meet under permits issued for construction and operation of the project.

"There are about a hundred conditions dealing with a wide variety of topics, from the environment to preservation of ecosystems and community ways of life affected by the project," explains Philippe Mora, SEBJ Project Administrator – Environment and Agreements. "These conditions and the steps that have to be taken to meet them must be discussed with those responsible in the Cree communities."

The focus of the first meeting was on the conditions governing the promotion of Cree tourism, the establishment of training programs for Cree workers, the incorporation of Cree traditional knowledge into monitoring programs and the development of an effective procedure for recording and processing complaints from land-users affected by the project.

"We are going to discuss each of these conditions with the Cree representatives on the Committee. The months ahead will be very busy. The Committee will have to examine each of the monitoring program protocols to be filed with the government in November," explained Réal Courcelles.

Val-d'Or



Discussing land-clearing contracts

The community representatives



Emmett Georgekish
Wemindji

Edward Gilpin
Eastmain

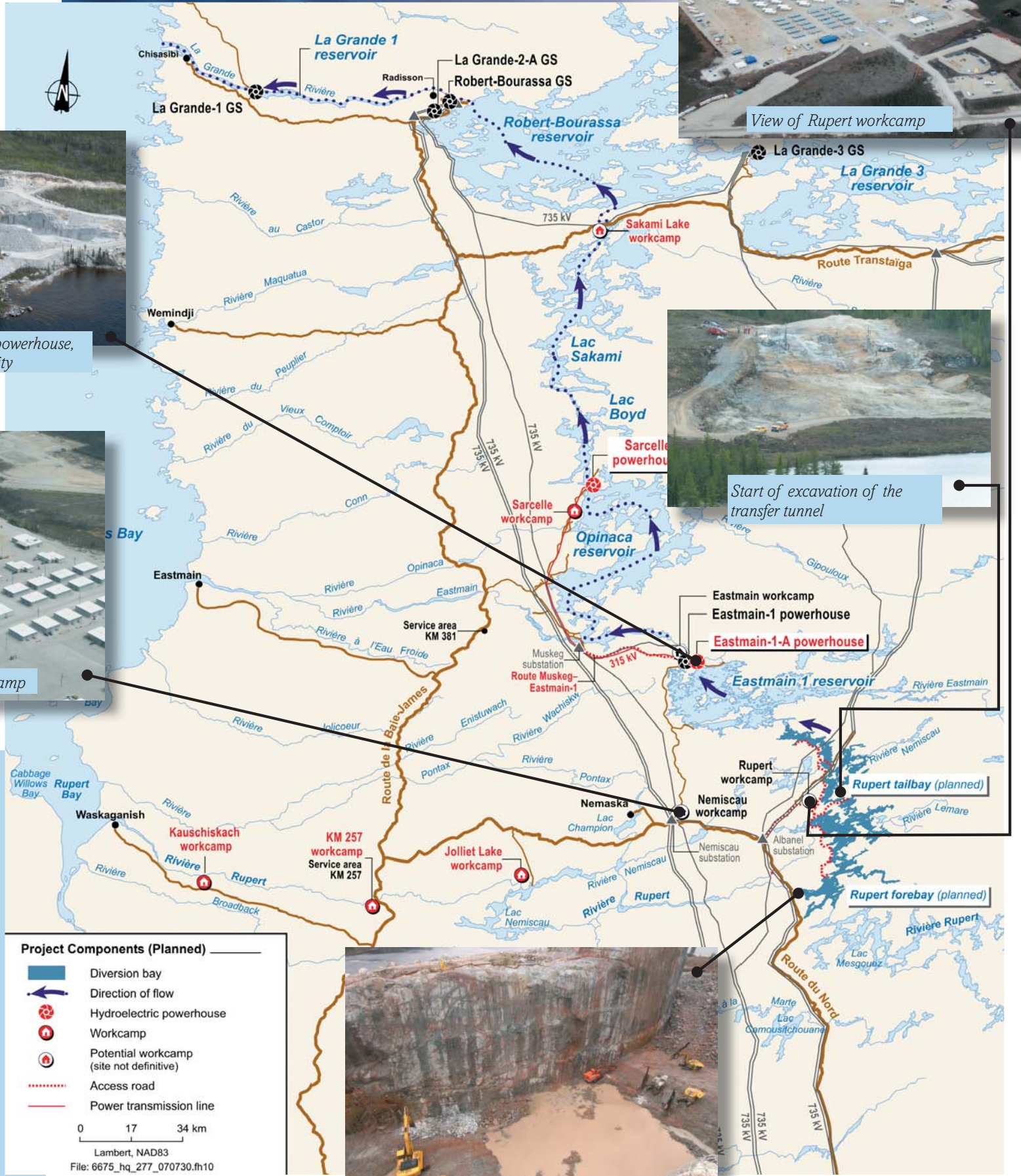
A. Thomas Hester
Waskaganish

Lawrence Jimiken
Nemaska

Wilbert Shecapio
Mistissini

Robbie Tapiatic
Chisasibi

At the jobsite



Site of the future Eastmain-1-A powerhouse, right next to the Eastmain-1 facility



View of Rupert workcamp



View of Nemiscau workcamp



Start of excavation of the transfer tunnel



By-pass canal and future spillway at KP 314 of the Rupert River



Want to contact the jobsite?

If you have any questions or comments about the work on the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project, please feel free to contact **Robert Beaudoin**, Coordinator – Agreements with the Cree Communities, Nemiscau workcamp, at **819 672-2200, ext. 3806**, or on his cell phone at **819 865-7080**. You can also contact the members of his team, **Dominick Clos (ext. 3827)** or **Sydney Loon (ext. 3610)**. The work of the team is supported by many others working in the field.



Robert Beaudoin



Dominick Clos and Sydney Loon

Members of the Monitoring Committee on the go!

May, of course, is goose month. June, however, is the month when the Monitoring Committee visits the communities!

You've see them, perhaps heard them as well. Over the course of the month of June, the members of the Monitoring Committee visited each of the six communities—Mistissini, Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi and Nemaska—to meet the tallymen affected by the project and their families and to hold public information sessions about the Eastmain-1 and Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert projects.

The Monitoring Committee thus met with almost all of the concerned tallymen to give them letters of agreement listing the mitigation measures to be implemented by Hydro-Québec and SEBJ. These letters are the fruit of many meetings held with the tallymen since 2005 for the purpose of coming to agreements on the measures required to mitigate impacts on their traplines and to facilitate the pursuit of traditional activities. The measures, which mainly consist in relocating camps and creating goose ponds and snowmobile or ATV trails, are to be implemented by 2011.



Réal Courcelles and André Tessier of the Monitoring Committee presenting Gordon Wapachee of Nemaska with a letter of agreement

The Monitoring Committee will visit the communities twice a year. "We'll be back in January 2008, to explain the work and the studies that will be carried out during the year," promised Réal Courcelles, Aboriginal Relations Advisor at Hydro-Québec. "And you'll be seeing us again in June 2008, when we'll be giving you the results of the studies conducted in 2007. In fact, you'll be seeing a lot of us," he quipped.



Millions in land-clearing contracts

Contracts worth close to \$17 million have been awarded to clear some 2,200 hectares of forest in 2007 alone. Two Cree companies and eight tallymen are involved in the diversion bay land-clearing operations, which should be completed by November 2007.

“Compared to Eastmain-1, the areas to be cleared are larger, and more tallymen are involved,” explains Robert Morrisette, Section Manager – Rupert Land Clearing. “The eight tallymen concerned will be clearing close to 600 hectares among them this year. That’s about 25% of the total area to be cleared, and contracts for this work total close to \$6 million,” he continued.

Land clearing will continue in 2008 and 2009, when an additional 3,000 hectares will be cleared. Close to 200 loggers will be hired under the contracts awarded to the tallymen for the six months of land-clearing operations.

The tallymen have gained experience since Eastmain-1. They have developed new ways of doing things and improved their techniques, which they have passed along to other trappers who are new to this type of work. Some have even formed their own companies!

“Not only are the tallymen clearly committed to completing the work on schedule, but we have also noted a real desire to innovate and excel,” explains Robert Morrisette. “It’s a huge plus for the development of Cree entrepreneurship. Trappers have an opportunity to gain experience, build contacts and learn about company management—everything from negotiating contracts to dealing with human resources.”

SEBJ has been supporting the trappers throughout this process. A team of five forestry technicians was formed to supervise all the contracts. One of the team members, Dion Michel of Mistissini, has been travelling throughout the territory accompanied by Rose Wapachee, a participant in the CRA youth training program, giving advice and making recommendations about land clearing in Cree and English.

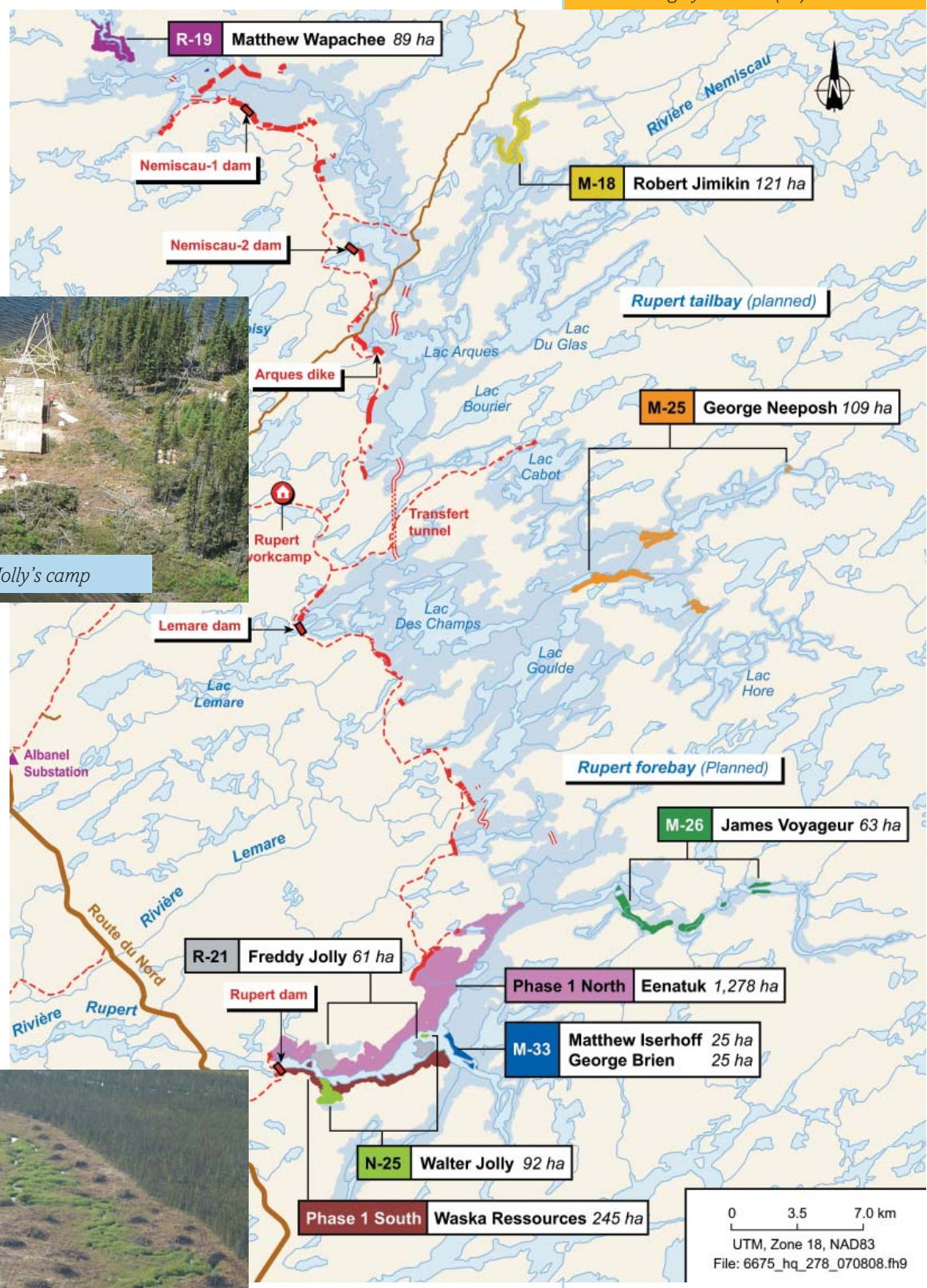
“There’s a team spirit, a feeling of partnership and, above all, a real mutual respect at the heart of our relations,” says Robert Morrisette. “The quality of the work is good, and this opens the door to other contract opportunities for the tallymen,” he continued.



Tallyman Freddy Jolly's camp



Felling and stacking on trapline M18



* As at July 31, 2007

Weh-Sees Indohoun resumes activities

Weh-Sees Indohoun has resumed activities for the fifth consecutive year. “It’s been a big year,” says André Michel, Weh-Sees Indohoun Information Officer at Nemiscau workcamp. “Here in Nemiscau, we issued about 400 passes in June alone!”

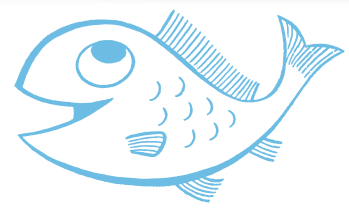
The Eastmain, Rupert and Nemiscau workcamps each employ two information officers who are responsible for issuing free passes to anglers—mainly workers at the jobsites—who want to fish in the Weh-Sees territory, which covers some 7,700 km² and includes about 250 lakes and streams.

“Catches from each fishing excursion are counted and weighed. If need be, certain lakes may be closed, to ensure fishing quotas set for each lake and stream are not exceeded and to prevent any risk of overfishing,” explains André Michel.

The biggest fish caught so far this year? “A walleye weighing 9 pounds, caught in the Nemiscau River!”, reports André Michel. And apparently the biggest trout are found off a mysterious island on a branch of the Rupert River...



André Michel, Weh-Sees Indohoun Information Officer at Nemiscau workcamp



CRA youth training program: young Crees are seeing green!



Clifford Stephen and Angeline McLeod of Waskaganish at KP 33 of the Rupert River

The Cree Regional Authority (CRA) launched its first Cree youth training program in cooperation with the Niskamoon Corporation this summer. From June to August, a handful of trainees were given the opportunity to participate in a unique work experience.

"We had two ideas in mind in setting up this program," explains Marc Dunn, Youth Training Program Coordinator for the CRA. "We wanted not only to give young people practical work experience, but also to offer those who are interested but whose families are not participating in the environmental work an opportunity to work in this field," he continued.

The trainees were given a one-week course in Montréal in June to teach them the rudiments of fieldwork—interviewing techniques, GPS orientation, taking of readings, etc. Some of them then went to Eastmain and Nemiscau workcamps and others went to Waskaganish to lend a hand to Hydro-Québec's field teams.

Angeline McLeod from Waskaganish took part in the program. "I really like doing fieldwork," she said. Angeline is planning to enrol in the environmental studies program at Algonquin College in Ottawa next year. "The training program gave me

an opportunity to take part in the Genivar cisco studies and to work in archaeology," she explained.

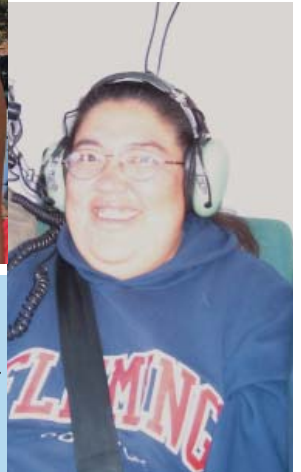
"We are very pleased," says Marc Dunn. "The response of the trainees was good, and the field teams really appreciated the helping hand! It's a first. We're gaining experience, and next year we're going to try to open the program to more young people and to improve it to respond even better to the needs and interests of the trainees."



Robbie Nicholls of Mistissini collecting a water sample near Nemiscau workcamp



Natasha Louttit of Eastmain holding a rare find: an arrowhead she found while working on an archaeological dig near Des Champs Lake.



Rose Wapachee of Nemaska flying over the Rupert River in a helicopter with the Environnement Illimité team



HQ/SEBJ takes to the airwaves!

What is amusing yet instructive, appeals to old and young alike, and is addressed to Crees as well as Hydro-Québec employees? The answer is **Hydlo & Friends**, a new radio program broadcast by Cree Radio Network and cohosted by Arnold Cheechoo and well-known Hydro-Québec Advisor Réal Courcelles.

The program is being broadcast every second Wednesday at 8 A.M. The first show was broadcast on July 4. The purpose of the program is to inform the Cree communities about Hydro-Québec's activities in the territory and in particular, to provide information about progress being made on the Eastmain-1-A/ Sarcelle/Rupert project.

Produced for the Monitoring Committee by Hélène Tellier (copy), Debby Dubrovsky (translation) and Patricia Hamilton (revision) and Ménard Design.

First study of cisco at Waskaganish

Cisco is a fish species that is highly prized by the people of Waskaganish. It is harvested mainly in the fall, at a fishing site near Smokey Hill that has been used by the Waskaganish community since ancestral times.

Hydro-Québec asked Genivar to conduct a number of studies of cisco starting in the spring of 2007. "The purpose of the studies," explained Pierre-Philippe Dupont, Project Manager at Genivar, "is to find out if the future decrease in flow in the Rupert River will affect the cisco population and its spawning habits."

To estimate the number of cisco larvae coming from the spawning ground downstream of Smokey Hill, Genivar staff used drift nets to collect larvae samples in the spring, several days after the ice break-up. These results will be

compared with data collected as of 2010, after partial diversion of the Rupert River.

Some 25 Crees from Waskaganish helped carry out the study. Every day for three weeks, field teams brought in close to fifty drift nets, the contents of which were patiently separated, weighed and identified by a team in a laboratory in Waskaganish.

The nets held cisco larvae, of course, but also the larvae of other species, including lake whitefish, sucker and walleye.

Were the results conclusive? "Yes," says Pierre-Philippe Dupont, "but adjustments are required as the project was experimental this year. Next year, for example, we want to begin as soon as the ice breaks up, to get a better picture of the larvae cycle. This will probably mean starting activities during the Goose Break, however, and we will need to find solutions with the community."



Jeanette Blueboy and Margaret Weistche of Waskaganish in the laboratory



Contest

Boumhounan Newsletter Contest entry form*

You could win one of three **\$100 gift certificates** for **Sports Plein Air Gagnon** in Chibougamau or **Canadian Tire** in Val-d'Or by listening to the radio show **Hydlo & Friends!** All you have to do is **answer the contest question** and send your completed entry form to the following address by October 1, 2007:

**Boumhounan Newsletter Contest
Société d'énergie de la Baie James
888, boul. de Maisonneuve Est
Montréal (Québec) H2L 5B2**

*One entry form per person
**You must be at least 18 years of age

Family name: _____ Given name: _____ Age**:

Address: _____

Town or city: _____ Postal code: _____

Telephone number: _____

CONTEST QUESTION: **Name one of the Cree words learned by Réal Courcelles.**

Contest rules

- 1- The entry form must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2007.
- 2- The draw will take place at noon on October 15, 2007, at SEBJ's Montréal offices.
- 3- The winners will be informed by telephone and will be asked to choose the gift certificate they want.
- 4- The prizes will be mailed to the winners.

- 5- Employees of Hydro-Québec, SEBJ and the Niskamoon Corporation, and anyone residing with them, may not participate in the contest.
- 6- Any dispute concerning the organization or conduct of a promotional contest may be submitted to the *Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux* for settlement. In case of a dispute concerning the awarding of a prize, the intervention of the *Régie* may be requested solely for the purpose of endeavouring to bring the parties to resolve the dispute.