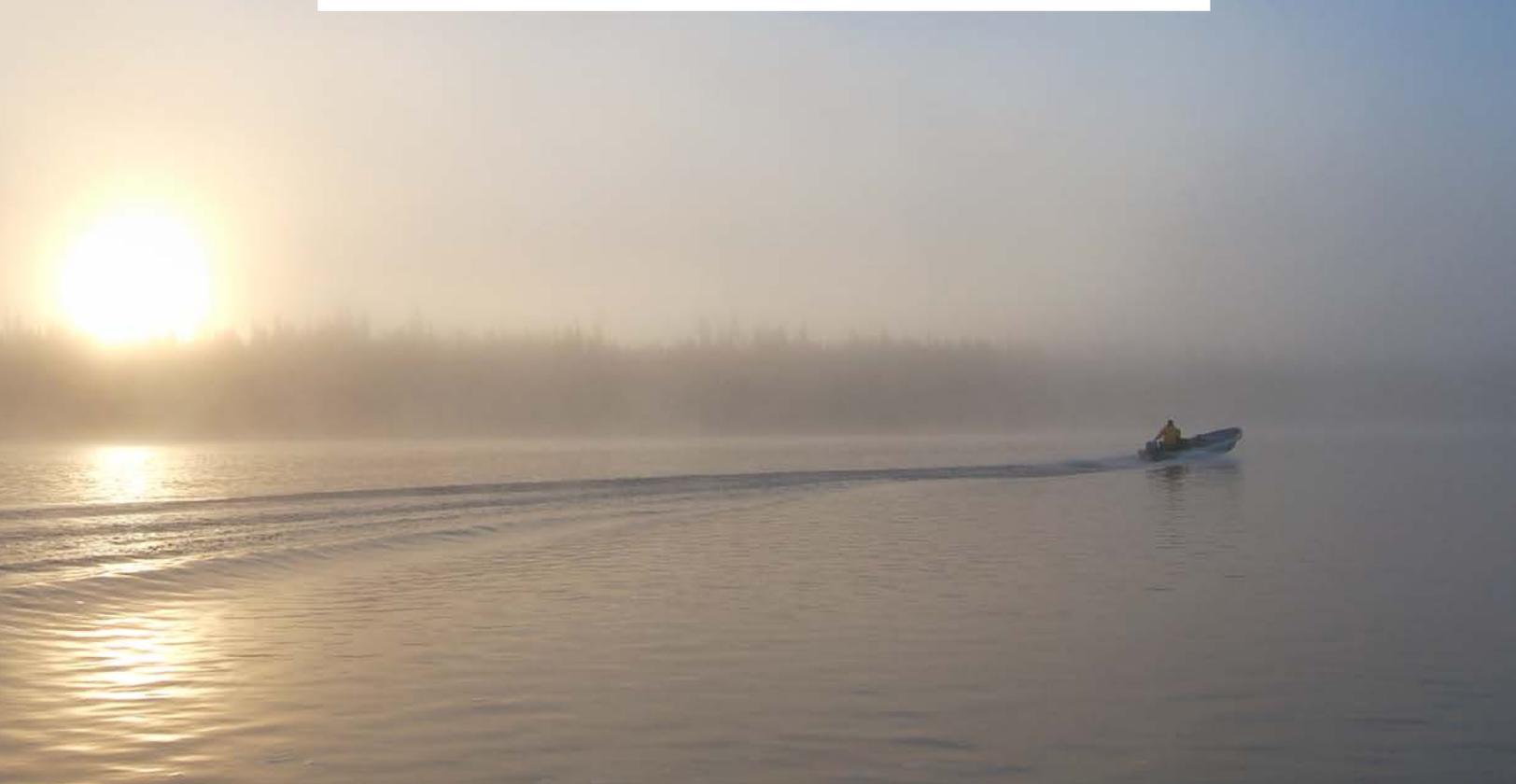


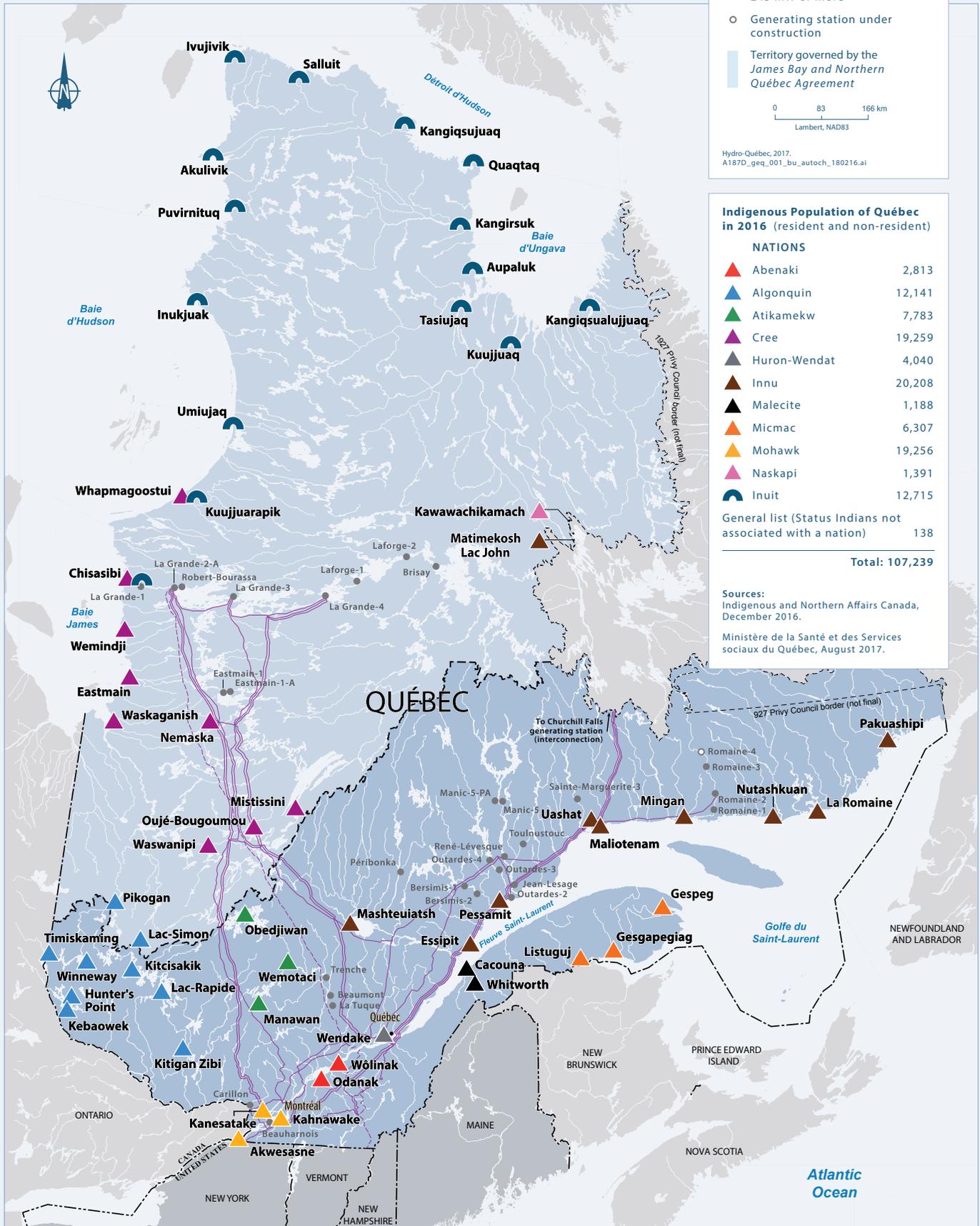


Hydro-Québec and Indigenous Communities

PARTNERS FOR OVER 40 YEARS



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENTS



Sustainable partnerships

Hydro-Québec formed its first partnerships with Indigenous communities in Québec just over 40 years ago, for the vast Baie-James hydropower development project.

Over the past four decades, we signed more than 40 agreements relating to power generation and transmission projects with five nations. We have learned a great deal from our Indigenous partners in that time and are proud of this know-how.

We aim to develop sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships with the communities and nations, based on respect for values and cultures. Communities work with us from the initial stages of a project and, together, we make sure that the facilities remain socially acceptable throughout their service lives.

Potential impacts on communities, their members and land users are addressed in numerous meetings and agreements, so that the Indigenous people can continue to use their land and practice their traditional activities. Specific mitigation and enhancement measures are developed jointly to keep any impacts to a minimum.

1975



Signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*

1999



Signing of the *Pesamit Agreement*

2008



Signing of the *Unamen-Pakua Agreement*

2009



Inauguration of the scenic lookout and transfer tunnel named in memory of Cree tallyman Tommy Neeposh

History in the making

EXAMPLES OF AGREEMENTS

First historic agreement in 1975 *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*

For the first time in history, the Government of Québec, the Government of Canada, the Crees and the Inuit signed a treaty involving the construction of a major hydropower project.

The groundbreaking *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* granted the Cree and Inuit Nations exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping rights in the territory, as well as financial compensation, funding for certain services, and mitigation measures. It also established a specific framework for environmental assessment that provided for the participation of Indigenous people throughout the process, as well as an income security program for hunters and trappers.

Unique partnerships for partial diversion projects

Hydro-Québec and three Innu communities signed the *Pesamit* (1999), *Essipit* (1999) and *Mashteuiatsh* (2001) agreements on partial diversion of rivers and, in the case of the *Pesamit Agreement*, construction of the *Toulnostouc* hydropower generating station. Under these agreements—unprecedented in Québec—the Indigenous communities concerned became true economic partners of Hydro-Québec. They invested in the projects and, in return, receive a share of the profits.

New major development phase in Baie-James

In 2002, the Government of Québec and the Crees signed a historic 50-year agreement that launched a new phase of major economic, social and community development in the Baie-James region. This agreement led to the *Nadoshtin* and *Boumhounan* agreements between Hydro-Québec, the Cree Nation and concerned communities regarding the construction and operation of the *Eastmain-1*, *Eastmain-1-A* and *Sarcelle* powerhouses and partial diversion of the *Rivière Rupert*.

These agreements set forth various enhancement and mitigation measures and provided for the awarding of contracts to Cree businesses. Funds were also created to help land users and Cree communities adapt to the changes brought on by the project.

The *Boumhounan Agreement* was especially innovative in that it called for active participation of the Crees in all stages of the *Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert* project, from the preliminary studies to facility commissioning.

2015



Signing of the Hydro-Québec–Atikamekw Nehirowisiw Agreement

Recent agreements for a major hydropower project

In 2008 and 2009, Hydro-Québec signed three agreements with four Innu communities as part of the Romaine project, which involves the construction of a 1,550-MW hydropower complex in the Côte-Nord region.

The Nanemessu-Nutashkuan (2008), Unamen-Pakua (2008) and Nishipimian (2009) agreements created funds for economic, community and cultural projects, as well as traditional activities and training programs. They also called for the allocation of contracts to Innu businesses and participation of the communities concerned in the project’s environmental follow-up.

Agreement regarding a transmission line

The Hydro-Québec–Atikamekw Nehirowisiw Agreement was signed in 2015. It relates to the construction of a 735-kV transmission line stretching 400 km from Chamouchouane substation in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region to the greater Montréal area.

This agreement granted funding for economic and community development and traditional activities. It also provided for clearing contracts to be awarded and created a joint monitoring committee.

The geography of Québec

Québec’s vast territory encompasses more than 40% of Canada’s freshwater reserves. About 80% of its 8 million inhabitants live in the southern part of the province, mainly along the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River), which flows from west to east across the province. The northern population is very sparse and resides in areas that are not easily accessible. Some of these areas have high hydropower potential.



Indigenous population

In 2016, Québec’s 11 Indigenous nations included just over 107,000 people—about 1% of the province’s population—living in 55 communities scattered throughout the territory.

The 11 nations are all different. In particular, the differences involve culture, language, geographic location and political structure.

The Indigenous communities are growing fast and their populations are young, with over half of their members under the age of 30.



Shaputuan at Mista workcamp on the Romaine jobsite in the Côte-Nord region

Customized mitigation measures

Hydro-Québec does its utmost to minimize the impacts of its projects and facilities on the environment and the communities concerned. That's why our projects always include various mitigation measures to protect natural habitats and promote the pursuit of traditional activities on ancestral lands. Our goal is to ensure that Indigenous communities can continue making use of the territory as much as, if not more, than before we implement our projects.

Instream flow regimes

are maintained and weirs are built in rivers to facilitate navigation and fishing and to preserve aquatic habitats.



Monitoring of lake sturgeon spawning in the Rupert

Pools and platforms

to facilitate fishing, as well as spawning grounds and hunting ponds are developed; boat ramps, hydroplane bases and parking areas are built.



Stocking lake sturgeon in the Rupert

Joint committees

are set up to oversee hunting and fishing by workers during construction.

Archaeological digs

are carried out in connection with the projects.



Uncovering traces of past human occupation at the Romaine-4 site

Joint businesses and committees

are created to preserve various fish species.

Funds

are established to promote traditional activities by facilitating land travel, for example, and to build and renovate camps and snowmobile trails.



Environmental follow-up activities carried out in close collaboration

For a great example of an initiative launched in partnership with the Crees during the Eastmain-1-A/ Sarcelle/Rupert project, visit

www.hydroquebec.com/hydroandfriends

Positive spin-offs

The partnerships forged with Indigenous communities make it possible for Hydro-Québec to use the province's strong hydropower potential to provide reliable, sustainable and competitively priced electricity to Quebecers and export markets. As a result, the company plays a pivotal role in the fight against climate change in North America.

Dynamic partners

We can count on well-established Indigenous business partners, including the following:

- Cree Construction and Development Company, one of Québec's largest construction companies
- Gestion ADC, which provides cafeteria and janitorial services at the La Grande complex
- Air Inuit and Air Creebec, whose activities include carrying Hydro-Québec employees to the Baie-James and the Côte-Nord regions
- The Société des entreprises innues d'Ekuanitshit (SEIE), which provides grading, cafeteria, janitorial and technical maintenance services at the Romaine jobsite workcamps



Innu worker at the Romaine jobsite

These partnerships also benefit the Indigenous communities, as illustrated by the following examples:

- Hundreds of jobs were created for Crees, and contracts worth over \$1 billion were signed with dozens of Cree businesses and independent workers between 2002 and 2011 for the Eastmain-1 and Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert projects in the Baie-James region.
- From 2009 to 2016, construction of the Romaine complex and its connection to the grid employed an average of some 100 Innu workers per year. In addition, about 40 contracts worth nearly \$500 million were awarded to Innu businesses.

Diversified benefits

- Job creation, including jobs at Hydro-Québec.
- Skills development and creation of Indigenous companies.
- Establishment of various funds for training and socioeconomic development in communities, among other things.
- Contracts awarded to Indigenous companies for construction, clearing, grading, as well as cafeteria, janitorial and air transportation services, for instance.



Indigenous employees at the Eastmain-1 jobsite



Nancy Pelchat, power system electrician at Robert-Bourassa generating station



Jasmin Mowatt, power system electrician at Sarcelle powerhouse



Forestry workers at the Eastmain-1 jobsite

A team dedicated to Indigenous relations

A team of advisors, trained in fields ranging from biology to anthropology, law and geography, to name only a few, work daily to establish and maintain good relations with Indigenous peoples throughout the province. Some have been part of the team for over 20 years. These specialists remain a constant presence for the communities and maintain ongoing communications with them, in addition to negotiating and monitoring agreements and making sure they are implemented.



Part of the Indigenous relations team



Hydro-Québec in a nutshell

For more than half a century, Hydro-Québec has generated, transmitted and distributed electricity. The Government of Québec is its sole shareholder.

The company supplies the province and its export markets with clean, renewable and reliable electricity.

The infrastructure projects we carry out in Québec must meet three fundamental criteria: they must be profitable, environmentally acceptable, and favorably received by the host communities.

www.hydroquebec.com

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Heading for Smokey Hill on the Rupert
to fish for cisco