

Ref: 2018-001

PRESS RELEASE

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A wind of continuity and development for the Société d'aide au développement des collectivités de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (SADC)

Maniwaki, May 29, 2018 - At the opening of the SADC Annual General Meeting, president André Galipeau delivered a promising message stressing development and support for Gatineau Valley companies. In the next few months, the organization intends to pursue the work already done in developing business ties with the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, among others, by searching for potential commercial vacationing investors and by encouraging companies on the territory to use information technologies and communications to expand their geographic markets. Current technologies and methods of communication and transport have made the nearby Ottawa-Gatineau CMA far more accessible for our small businesses. It is up to us to come up with the tools and actions to support them in their development.

The May 29 AGM also provided an opportunity to present the results of the last year when investments of \$738,747 were made in businesses on the territory. As a result, 171 jobs were maintained or created and total investments of more than \$1.2M were generated. Aside from these investments, three were more than 775 direct interventions with technical support or advisory services promoters, results that contribute to the regional economy.

The two SADC investment funds, the regular fund and Youth Strategy, and the business advisory service are just some of the activities the organization is involved in. Over and above this direct assistance to business, SADC also contributes to the animation of and support for the business sector through the organization of various activities. The last year saw the third edition of the mystery customer program, two full days dealing with business succession, one information session on the businesses' presence on the web, one day on how companies can make better use of Facebook and SADC's participation in the Kitigan Zibi Careers and Employment Fair.

In 2017-2018, fourteen Gatineau Valley businesses shared \$22,298 from the small business support program (SAPE) for project development in the fields of sustainable development, succession, information technologies and innovation.

As far as the future is concerned, SADC, true to its approach, is attentive to the needs in the area and to new and better ways of doing things. In the coming year, focus will continue to be on business succession but from a new angle. More funds will be available for SAPE, support will be provided for businesses adopting new technologies, sustainable development will receive attention and carbon exchanges will be implemented, to name a few.

For Pierre Monette, the year just ended brought with it its share of work and challenges. It is interesting to see the results obtained, which show how important an organization such as SADC

is. He invites those interested to go to the organization's website at www.sadc-vg.ca for all of the details on the results of the year, and to follow current events and subscribe to the information bulletin.

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Source: Pierre Monette, General Manager, SADC