

Ref: 2017-003
PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Thanks to our dynamic entrepreneurs in the region, the Société d'aide au développement des collectivités de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (SADC) turned in a record year -

Maniwaki, May 31, 2017 - At its annual general meeting on May 30, 2017, the Gatineau Valley SADC announced record results for the year ending last March 31. Loans totalling close to \$1.5M were issued to companies in the last year, which is double the annual average amount of investment in the past ten years.

According to SADC President André Galipeau, a 2015 survey of companies on the territory revealed that they were entering an investment phase, as 27% of the firms surveyed indicated that they intended to invest over the coming years. These intentions came to fruition, as we have just seen.

These substantial investments in our area resulted in the retention or creation of 146 jobs in 21 Gatineau Valley businesses.

In addition to these record investments, the SADC team has continued to offer advice to entrepreneurs already in business or to those putting together their business plans.

During the year, various interventions were undertaken to support entrepreneurs (in the areas of information technology and communications, sustainable development, business succession and innovations), and SADC intends to pursue its work in these fields over the coming year.

In 2017-2018, investments will naturally continue to be made in business and advisory services. However, the innovation program will be renewed. It provides \$1,500 in assistance to hire a professional to help in the planning of an innovation project. The "mystery shopper" operation will be back this year, but this time, it will not only include in-store visits but also an evaluation of omnichannel communications. Later in the year, specific actions to support the development of information technologies and communications, sustainable development and vacationer-related initiatives will be revealed. As for business succession, the groundwork of a project with partners has been designed, and an activity day on this subject should be held in the fall of 2017.

In conclusion, SADC had an excellent year in 2017. Pierre Monette, the General Manager of SADC, says this success mirrors the vibrant business community in the region, and the coming year promises to bring as many challenges and projects to be achieved collectively.

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Source: Pierre Monette, General Manager