

SADC

Gatineau Valley Société d'aide au développement des collectivités

RELEASE

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Espace économique francophone canadien

The Gatineau Valley SADC explores Eastern Ontario for opportunities

Maniwaki, January 19, 2009 – The difficulty noted in conducting interprovincial trade in French within the country resulted in the creation of the Espace économique francophone canadien initiative. Two networks specializing in economic development, i.e., the Réseau des Sociétés d'aide au développement des collectivités (SADC) du Québec and the Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité (RDÉE) du Canada have combined their expertise to explore different avenues to meet this challenge. Under this initiative, five (5) pilot projects were selected in Canada, and the RDÉE Ontario Est, whose office is located in Ottawa, was paired up with the Gatineau Valley SADC. There is no doubt that the geographical proximity works in favour of this association, since both cities are only 140 kilometres apart.

Next February 2-4, the Gatineau Valley SADC team will travel to Eastern Ontario, intent on pursuing the exploration of their respective territories. The main objectives of this activity are to pinpoint promising opportunities to facilitate potential business relations that would enable promoters in the region to expand into new geographic markets. "This initiative is a concrete solution that will stimulate the diversification of our regional economy," said André Galipeau, the Chair of the SADC Board of Directors. A press conference is scheduled to unveil this project in Ontario, which will be followed by a networking lunch attended by economic development representatives and entrepreneurs from Eastern Ontario. In the afternoon, a presentation will be given by the following partners: the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell. A tour throughout the region is scheduled for the next day, which will include visits to various tourist, agricultural and woodwork manufacturing companies. The Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens (UCFO) will also give a presentation. The following day, a working breakfast between representatives of the Gatineau Valley SADC and the RDÉE Ontario will be held to plan the other two activities to take place by next March 31. At these activities, the entrepreneurs targeted in the respective territories will be invited to take part.

Last November 19, the SADC held its very first activity in Maniwaki, i.e., a meeting of teams to get acquainted with each other in order to target future interventions and to unveil this pilot project at a press conference. During this visit to our territory, the Gatineau Valley territory and the tourism, forestry, agriculture and business activities were introduced to RDÉE Ontario. Representatives toured the city in a van along a circuit where they could see some companies, including the two major forestry industries, Bowater and Lauzon, and paid a field visit to Les Portes Excelor, a manufacturer of wood cupboard doors. In the evening, about a dozen promoters joined SADC and RDÉE Ontario to study the possibility of commercial exchanges between both regions.

Parties interested in learning more about the terms for participating in this experimental exchange project are invited to call (819) 449-1551.

Caption:

André Grondin, promoter of Portes Excelor, André Galipeau, Chair of the SADC Board of Directors, Nathalie Patry, SADC financial analyst, Martine Plourde, Eastern Regional Director, RDÉE, Marie-Ève LaRocque, Kathy Chaumont and Alain Royer, RDÉE development officers for Eastern Ontario and Pierre Monette, Director General of the SADC.

Caption

André Riopel, vice-president of the SADC Board of Directors; Pierre Monette, General Manager of the SADC, André Galipeau, chair of the SADC Board of Directors; Luc Bessette, member of the RDÉE Board of Directors (representative of the Prescott-Russell region) and Martine Plourde, RDÉE Eastern Regional Director.

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