



Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter
Spring 2016



Jack R. Blacksmith
President

A word from the President

Wachiya everyone! I hope you all had a pleasant winter and are looking forward to an enjoyable spring. In early February 2016, we held our annual CREECO planning sessions. These sessions involve CREECO and all subsidiaries to set goals for the current year and objectives for the next three years. One of CREECO's goals is to strengthen our communications with all our shareholders. With this strategy, we will be releasing a printed quarterly newsletter to accompany the online version. We will continue to keep all shareholders informed of all our activities through our newsletter.

We are also working on refining our website and updating the CREECO corporate video.

Further to our communications goal, we will be hosting our first Board of Compensation & CREECO Annual General Assembly and it will be held this summer on July 13 & 14, 2016 in Chisasibi. Five delegates from each community will be invited to attend the assembly on behalf of their community. Moreover, this year we will be having our 4th annual Golf Benefit on June 16, 2016 in Val-d'Or. We will keep you updated through our website and we hope you can join us.

In closing, with Goose break just around the corner, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable time out on the land with your family and friends!

Meeqwetch!

Jack R. Blacksmith
President

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Our mission statement:

To be highly innovative in the delivery of excellent customer service and contribute to the development and self-sufficiency of the Cree Nation while maintaining long-term profitability.



The Holding Company for:



CRECO ACTIVITIES

CRECO Planning Sessions

CRECO and its subsidiaries held their annual planning sessions on February 2 & 3, 2016, to guide the companies with goals and objectives for the next three years for the general betterment of the Cree Nation.



Celebrating our Board Member's Birthday



Official inauguration of Willie's Place

CRECO was invited to attend the official inauguration of Willie's Place on Tuesday March 1, 2016, a drop-in center for the homeless in Val-d'Or. Mr. Jack R. Blacksmith, President of CRECO attended with his wife Hattie. At last year's BOC-CRECO Annual Golf benefit, \$43,000 was raised for Willie's Place.



EEG/CFDC Inc. 7th Gala Celebrating Cree Entrepreneurs



Board of Compensation meeting held February 24 & 25, 2016 in Eastmain

Chief Kenneth Cheezo and Deputy Chief Emily Whiskeychan



Thank you to the community of Eastmain for their warm hospitality and we look forward to our next visit. A special thank you to the representatives, Ms. Emily Whiskeychan and Mr. Rusty Cheezo for arranging the delicious traditional meals.



The Board of Compensation held a two-day meeting in Eastmain at the community's new hotel, Eneyaauhkaat Lodge, which was contemporary, yet cozy and with a beautiful view of the river. On day 2, a traditional luncheon was shared with members and the local Chief and Council, Elder's Council and Youth Council. A brief on the Board of Compensation and CRECO was done and Air Creebec unveiled their new corporate video to the invitees.



Some of the CRECO staff participated in the business workshops provided by EEG/CFDC Inc. on March 30, 2016 and they found them to be interesting. The CRECO Board of Directors and staff attended the EEG Business Gala. There was a silent auction held at the Gala to raise funds for the Very Small Business ("VSB") and EEG raised \$6,600. In light of encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship CRECO matched the amount raised for the VSB Fund.

The VSB program is a funding assistance for entrepreneurs that require less than \$5,000.

For further information of the VSB, please contact EEG/CFDC Inc. at 819-753-2560.

Congratulations to all the Business Gala award recipients and we wish you continued success!



Jack R. Blacksmith and Eric R. House



CREECO ACTIVITIES

CREECO Venture Capital Fund

The Fund has been created by the Board of Compensation, and it will be managed by CREECO. Our goal is to assist Cree Small Businesses through Loans and Equity Investments. Details to be provided in a future Newsletter and on our website.

The Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair 2016

CREECO attended the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair on April 5 & 6, 2016 that took place in Mistissini which was sponsored in part by the Board of Compensation. We had the opportunity to meet with many of the students and their projects were amazing! Our message to the youth, keep up the good work!



Jerome Keenan and Keanon Papatie - Jet-Powered

SUBSIDIARIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Air Creebec and Propair partnership.

Val-d'Or, February 8, 2016 – Air Creebec Inc., located in Waskaganish, and Propair Inc., situated in Rouyn-Noranda, have concluded a commercial partnership agreement to offer their aeromedical evacuation on the Quebec province but most specifically in the James Bay territory.

This agreement will allow the two enterprises to merge together in order to offer the best medical evacuation service while being most competitive. "We have decided to group our forces, our experience and our knowledge of the territory to offer the community the best service possible," commented Mr. Matthew Happyjack, President of Air Creebec. "Air Creebec and Propair worked side by side on the James Bay territory for many years, this is a natural alliance" adds Mr. Etienne Lambert, President of Propair.

Propair, a company founded in 1954, offers services of private chartered flights, aeromedical evacuations, enterprise charters & aircraft maintenance from their installations situated in Rouyn-Noranda and Montreal-Trudeau.

Quality Inn & Suites Val-d'Or WINS PLATINUM!

Local property receives 2016 Platinum Hospitality Award from Choice Hotels Canada

Toronto, Ontario... (February 23, 2016) – The Quality Inn & Suites in Val-d'Or, Quebec has been awarded the prestigious 2016 Platinum Hospitality Award by Choice Hotels Canada. Platinum recipients were chosen from among 320 properties across the country and represent the top ten percent of Choice Canada's portfolio. To qualify for this award, properties must excel in a variety of categories including guest satisfaction and independent quality reviews.

"To reach Platinum award status, a property has to not only meet the highest of standards that Choice Hotels Canada has set for its hotels, but has to far exceed them," says Brian Leon, Managing Director, Choice Hotels Canada. "Our Platinum recipients are the best that this industry has to offer. They have demonstrated not only exceptional guest service, but they have shown a passion for hospitality that exemplifies our commitment to making our guests feel welcome, wanted and respected."

"We are honoured to be counted among this year's 11 Platinum Award recipients especially in light of the fact that we are celebrating our 5th anniversary this year," says hotel General Manager Alexandre Audet. "Our team has worked very hard to maintain the highest level of professional service and to deliver an exceptional guest experience. We are proud of our team, proud of our community, and proud to be part of the Choice Hotels Canada family."

2015 was a landmark year for Choice Hotels Canada with the launch of a new corporate identity and a record year of portfolio growth. The company continues to strengthen its brands across the country, through a combination of new build and conversion

hotel entries, ongoing rejuvenation of the existing system and successful growth of the Ascend Hotel Collection.

For more information or to make your reservations at the Quality Inn & Suites in Val-d'Or, Quebec or at any of our award-winning properties, call 800.4CHOICE or visit www.choicehotels.ca.

QUALITY INN & SUITES VAL-D'OR WELCOMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER



Val-d'Or, Quebec (February 25th, 2016) - Mr. Fernand Trahan, president, is proud to announce and welcome Mr. Alexandre Audet as the hotel's General Manager.

Mr. Audet holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He initially joined our team in 2011, as the hotel's Assistant Manager. At that time, he contributed to establish the high standards that make our hotel an award-winning property.

The young manager was awarded Quebec's Upcoming Tourism Leader at Quebec's Provincial Tourism Gala Grands Prix du Tourisme Québécois in 2013.

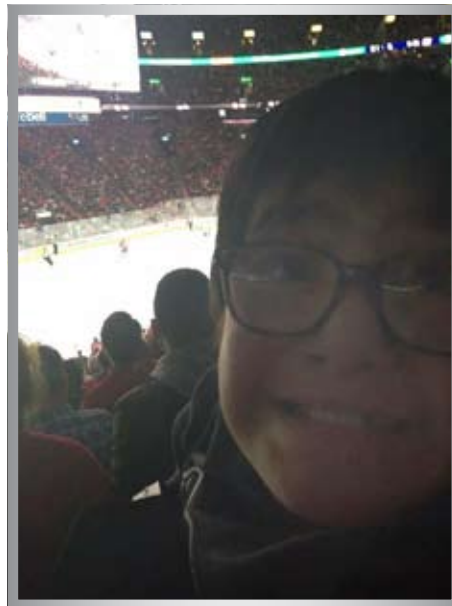
The Quality Inn & Suites Val-d'Or won a Choice Hotels Canada Platinum Hospitality Award in every year of eligibility and in 2014, won Canadian Hotel of the Year, as well as International Hotel of the Year for the Quality brand.

About the Quality Inn & Suites Val-d'Or:

The Quality Inn & Suites Val-d'Or, opened in 2011, is owned and managed by the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company (CREECO) of Eeyou Istchee and Trahan Holdings of Val-d'Or and operates under the Choice Hotels banner. The hotel has 82 rooms that can accommodate up to 256 people and two meeting rooms for up to 40 people. The hotel also operates a hot breakfast service that is free to customers.

To reach Alexandre Audet:
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E-mail : alexandre.audet@qualityinnvaldor.com





Zacharian Hester, recipient of tickets to see his favorite team play.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board of Compensation/CREECO Annual General Assembly

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Compensation and CREECO will be having their 1st Annual General Assembly on July 13 & 14, 2016 in Chisasibi. We will keep you updated on our CREECO website, Facebook page and radio.

4th Annual Golf Benefit

Our annual Golf Benefit this year will be held on Thursday June 16, 2016 at the Golf Belvedere in Val-d'Or. For more information, please visit:

www.boc-creeco-golf.ca

Monthly contests and giveaways on Facebook

We had two Facebook contests to-date and our first was in February 2016 and our online question was to name 4 Presidents of CREECO (former and or current). Our winner was Ms. Suzanne Hester from Waskaganish.

Our March 2016 giveaway was a survey and the main question was: What other service would you like to see CREECO offer? For all the answers provided, a draw was done and the winner was Ms. Charlotte Ratt from Wemindji.

Like us on our Facebook page to see our updates and to be able to participate in future contests.

OUR TEAM:

Jack R. Blacksmith, President
Albert Rondeau, Chief Accountant
Effie Mark, Office Manager
Rachel Etapp, Business Development Liaison
Christine Duff, Executive Assistant to the President
Jonathan Bechard, IT/Network Administrator
Mary Loon, Accounting Clerk
Blanche Awashish, Administrative Agent
Abel Rabbitskin, Insurance Liaison Officer
Daisy Shecapio, Assistant Insurance Liaison Officer
Sheena Napash, Receptionist/Office Agent

Like us on **Facebook** 

Visit us at www.CREECO.ca

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