



Secrétariat  
de l'Assemblée des  
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du Québec  
et du Labrador

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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DECREE ON THE CONCERNS OF THE FIRST NATIONS CONCERNING THE SET-ASIDE MARKET OF  
250MW OF WIND ENERGY**

**“A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT MUCH STILL TO DO”  
- GHISLAIN PICARD -**

*Wendake, May 13, 2008* – Mr. Claude Béchar, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, announced this morning the adoption of a Decree aimed at identifying the concerns of the First Nations in regards to the economic repercussions associated to wind energy. This Decree concerns the set-aside market of 250MW of energy to be produced by wind power, which falls within the scope of the Quebec government’s Energy Strategy of May 2006.

The Decree allowed Quebec to fulfill one of its commitments taken at the Socioeconomic Forum of Mashteuiatsh, in October 2006. Chief Picard stated that it is a step in the right direction, but there is much still to do. “We wish to underline the openness shown by the Minister of Natural Resources in this file, and the understanding of issues we are confronted with. However, the past has taught us that many other interveners have an influence on the process, and that only the final outcome will confirm if our respective efforts have borne fruits.” Chief Picard refers to the outcome of the first and second call for tenders of Hydro-Québec in the area of wind energy, as well as the initiatives taken before the Energy Board, which have all concluded with peripheral economic repercussions for the First Nations of Quebec.

The approach advocated during the discussions between the parties aims at maximizing the economic repercussions for the First Nations of Quebec and to favorise the adoption of an approach which is more inclusive in regards to the First Nations of Quebec, in terms of consultation.

Chief Ghislain Picard indicated that the Mutual Political Commitment signed with the Charest Government, in June 2003, was meant to renew the relation between the First Nations and Quebec. On this specific aspect, everything is still to do. “The territory and its resources were at the core of the First Nations’ concerns at the signing of this commitment. The Socioeconomic Forum of Mashteuiatsh was an opportunity to reiterate these concerns. However, the First Nations of Quebec are still waiting for comprehensive discussions to begin with the government, on these matters”, emphasized Chief Picard.

### **Quebec's Energy Policy**

In May 2006, the Government of Quebec announced its new policy on energy. The latter gave a greater importance to renewable energy, by re-launching the program of smaller power plants, by setting out the objectives of wind energy production, including among others, the creation of two set-aside markets of 250MW each of wind energy for the municipal setting and the First Nations, while stating the intentions of governments in relation to biofuel and energy saving.

### **Mutual Political Commitment**

In June 2003, the AFNQL and the Government of Quebec signed a political commitment aimed at addressing numerous subjects of common interest, including among others, the territory and its resources, taxation, services to the aboriginal population living on and off-reserve, and the economic development.

### **About the AFNQL**

The Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador is the regional organization regrouping the Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

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