



Statement from the partners in the Apuiat wind farm project regarding this morning's article in *La Presse*

NITASSINAN, Quebec, October 30, 2018 – In response to the article in *La Presse* this morning, Société Apuiat and Boralex, both partners in the Apuiat wind farm project, would like to make the following statement.

- We were surprised and disappointed to learn of the government's and Hydro-Québec's intentions regarding our project in the newspapers, when we have not yet had the opportunity to present it to the newly elected government.
- We are counting on the government to meet with the project partners and all the stakeholders who stand to benefit before a decision is made. It is much easier to destroy a project than it is to build one. The Apuiat wind farm is far more important and promising than Hydro-Québec is implying.
- The Innu are no longer in a mindset of just receiving "annuity" from the government or Hydro-Québec. On the contrary, the Innu want to implement their own investment projects, to build something that is sustainable and renewable, to develop expertise and pride.
- The \$1 million that Hydro-Québec has mentioned refers only to the royalties that would be paid to the host communities, not the revenue and the economic spinoffs that the Apuiat project would generate. A project involving close to \$600 million in private investment has a far greater impact than that.
- With a project of this scale, as partners, the Innu communities would receive close to **\$10 million more annually, over 25 years**. These are significant revenues over the long term for the socioeconomic development of our communities, from what would be our first Nation project.
- Will the alternative that Hydro-Québec proposes to the Innu make up for these revenues and be equally propitious in terms of developing their heritage, expertise and pride? Will this alternative consider Apuiat's direct and indirect economic spinoffs for the Innu, the North Shore, Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent communities, and Quebec as a whole?
- Some 300 to 400 jobs would be created during the construction phase, in a region that needs economic development projects. Port-Cartier, the North Shore of Quebec and Innu workers need the quality jobs that the project would generate. The Apuiat wind farm project also means 10 to 15 permanent jobs to operate the wind farm over the long term (25 years and more), as well as considerable local direct and indirect economic spinoffs to meet the needs created during the construction and operation period (accommodation, food service, road maintenance, etc.). This alone represents approximately \$15 million in annual operating expenses that would be injected into the regional economy.
- The project involves close to \$600 million in private investment, with a commitment to meet a minimum threshold of 50% Quebec content. This would support the economic



development of regions like Gaspésie and Bas-Saint-Laurent, where Quebec's wind power expertise is concentrated.

- The Apuiat wind farm is one of the most economical energy projects in Quebec; it is less expensive than any major hydroelectric station that the Crown corporation may want to develop in the future. Hydro-Québec's reported losses remain inexplicable. Apuiat is a competitive project from which Hydro-Québec could turn a profit by reselling the electricity Apuiat produces for a good price.
- In addition, Apuiat's commissioning is slated for 2022, at a time when Quebec's energy leeway will be dwindling. Just yesterday, during the Régie de l'énergie's public hearings on the blockchain industry, Hydro-Québec stated that it was unable to meet the demand for all the projects it was receiving, and that it would only have a block of 300 MW to grant.
- We still intend to show the government that this project is much more than a simple wind farm. It is a historic rendezvous between the Innu Nation's communities, the Quebec government and all Quebecers. This is about the well-being of our communities and economic development for the North Shore of Quebec that benefits everyone.