The Plan Nord
Building Northern Québec Together
The Project of a Generation

September 2011
Québec
The territory that the Plan Nord covers

North of the 49th parallel

- 72% of Quebec's geographic area (1.2 million km², twice the size of France)
- 1.6% of the population of Québec
A space to be developed

• This promising territory offers potential for the Aboriginal nations and northern communities

• Over 120,000 inhabitants

• Four Aboriginal nations reside in 31 communities in the territory that the Plan Nord covers:
  – THE INUIT
  – THE CREE
  – THE INNU
  – THE NASKAPI

• 32 communities in the James Bay, Saguenay, and Côte-Nord regions
An approach centred on an innovative partnership

• The Plan Nord is the outcome of over 60 meetings in which nearly 450 people participated in order to develop the approach:
  – the government, communities, the private sector, the institutional sector and the environmental sector

• The Plan is a project that will span 25 years and comprise five five-year action plans
  – The 2011-2016 action plan is presented in the Plan Nord document
An exemplary sustainable development project that integrates energy, mining, forest, bio-food, tourism and transportation development, the development of wildlife, environmental protection and the preservation of biodiversity.

It will foster development for the benefit of the communities concerned and Québec as a whole, in a spirit of respect for cultures and identities.
Respect for commitments to the Aboriginal peoples

- **Respect for existing and future agreements**
  - The *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (1975) and the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement* (1978)
  - The *Peace of the Braves* (2002), the *Sanarrutik Agreement* (2002) and the *partnership agreement* on economic and community development between the Naskapi and Québec (2009)

- **Pursue the initiatives undertaken**

- **Be receptive to the partners' aspirations to establish effective partnerships**
The objectives of the Plan Nord

• To ensure socially responsible, sustainable development, the Plan Nord will seek to:

1. ensure community well-being and development
2. harness Northern Québec's enormous economic potential
3. make Northern Québec accessible
4. protect the environment.
Ensure community well-being and development

• Dynamic communities
  – Roughly 30% of the residents of the James Bay, Saguenay and Côte-Nord regions and over 50% of the Aboriginal peoples are under 24 years of age

• Existing local and regional organizations
  – Regional conferences of elected officers
  – County regional municipality
  – Band councils and Northern villages

• The challenges to be met
Harness Northern Québec's enormous economic potential

- The territory that the Plan Nord covers has outstanding potential for development in the following sectors:
  - energy
  - mining
  - forestry
  - wildlife
  - tourism
  - bio-food

- The development of Northern Québec will engender investments, jobs and other spinoff in the other regions.
The impact of development of natural resources

- In 2010, there were **almost 160,000 jobs** directly linked to the development of natural resources, nearly 5% of all jobs in Québec.

- If indirect jobs are taken into consideration, that is, all the suppliers, the natural resources sector there were more than **250,000 jobs created** in Québec in 2010.
The impact of development of natural resources

In Québec:

• The forest industry still holds first place with more than 60,000 direct jobs and more than 45,000 indirect jobs, totalling more than 105,000 workers;

• The mining sector creates more than 72,000 direct and indirect jobs in Québec, in other words, more than 43,000 direct jobs and nearly 29,000 indirect jobs.

• Energy development provides employment for more than 75,000 people, 52,000 through direct jobs and 23,000 through indirect.
Hydroelectric development in Northern Québec

- 30,000 MW are already installed in the territory that the Plan Nord covers
  - 76% of the installed capacity of big hydroelectric power plants in Québec

- Some 97% of the proposed 4,500 MW under the Québec Energy Strategy 2006-2015 are located in the territory that the Plan Nord covers
  - Including the La Romaine project
  - 100,000 jobs (man-years)
  - $25 billion in investments
Plan Nord: 3 500 additional MW of renewable energy

- 3 000 MW of hydroelectricity
- 300 MW of wind power
- 200 MW from other renewable sources
  - Underwater generators
- All told:
  - $25 billion in investments
  - The equivalent of 75 000 jobs (man-years)

The plan reflects our determination to make Québec the world leader in clean energy
Develop Northern Québec's energy for Northern Québec

• Some examples:
  – implement a linked wind power-diesel project in Kangiqsualujjuaq
  – carry out a pilot project to ascertain the efficacy of an underwater generator in the northern environment
  – support the development of industrial projects not connected to the main grid
  – pursue the realization of the projects described in Hydro-Québec's strategic plan.
Mining development is central to the Plan Nord

- Ensure a mining development oriented toward sustainable development.
  - This sector generated investments of almost $1G in 2009, which represents nearly 50% of investments in Québec.
  - The Plan Nord territory is responsible for the total Québec production in nickel, cobalt, elements from the platinum group, zinc, iron ore and ilmenite. It also contains gold, lithium, vanadium and rare metals.
Mining development is central to the Plan Nord

• Already, **eleven new development projects** in the Plan Nord territory over the next few years, which:
  
  – Will generate **more than $8 G** in investments
  – Will create 11,000 jobs during the construction period and almost 4,000 jobs during the operational period.

• These projects are spread throughout all the regions of the Plan Nord.
A crucial forest environment

• Harvesting of the boreal forest north of the 49th parallel accounts for just over 50% of the volume of wood harvested in Québec and creates 15 000 jobs.

• The forest-related measures proposed will be included in the new forestry regime.

• Among the 14 commitments of the government:
  – Develop and promote northern architecture
  – Establish local forests in the regions concerned
  – Reforest the forest heaths south of the boundary of attributable forests (100 M trees)
Outstanding wildlife resources

• The resources offer hunters and fishermen memorable experiences:
  – two herds of migrating caribou
  – internationally renowned salmon rivers
  – 186 outfitting operations, 12 ZECs and four wildlife preserves.

• The government hopes to establish a wildlife development and enhancement program specific to the northern environment (knowledge acquisition, the development of activities, community participation).
Tourism north of the 49th parallel

- The assets of the territory that the Plan Nord covers are especially attractive to an international clientele seeking new, unusual destinations.

A tourism strategy poses a challenge that is commensurate with the North

By 2021, make the North beyond the 49th parallel a world-class destination that provides a genuine, safe and outstanding experience that combines the cohabitation of the northern peoples and respect for nature in a perspective of sustainable economic development and collective enrichment.
The bio-food sector has a promising future

- **Climatic conditions** in the territory lend themselves to the development of a diversified bio-food industry, e.g. blueberries and cloudberries. Climate change could have a positive impact on the sector.

- The government will support projects, in particular those related to the development of local products and the establishment of northern greenhouses.
Make Northern Québec accessible

- Integrated development of the transportation network
- Establishment of partnerships with investors that require transportation infrastructure
- Projects are already under way or impending:
  - upgrading of northern airports
  - construction or rebuilding of four major roads
  - studies to link the North from the 55th parallel to the South (Kuujjuaq and Whapmagoostui-Kuujjurapik).
Protect the environment

• A fragile, changing territory

• Each development project will hinge on the principles of sustainable development

• 50% of the territory that the Plan Nord covers will be devoted to purposes other than industrial ones, environmental protection and safeguarding biodiversity

• Round out the network of protected areas to reach the target of 12% by 2015
Establishment of the **Société du Plan Nord**, with a mandate, in particular, to:

- coordinate public investment in strategic infrastructure and in the social sector
- coordinate the implementation of projects included in the first five-year action plan
- negotiate financing packages in respect of the projects for which it is responsible
- offer local and Aboriginal communities guidance and support to carry out their own community and social development projects.
The Plan Nord financial framework

- Innovative funding
  - Contribution of private-sector partners will be required
  - Reinvestment of a part of the tax revenues
  - Use of direct and indirect tax spinoff
  - Hydro-Québec’s annual contribution

- Establishment of a direct link between economic activity and resources invested

- Protection of the government’s financial framework
2011-2016 five-years action plan

- Realization of the first five-year action plan: investments totalling $2.1 billion
  - $1.2 billion for infrastructure
  - $382 million for socioeconomic measures
  - $52 million for the administration of the Société du Plan Nord and to solicit investment abroad.
  - $500 million for equity participations in projects, managed by Investissement Québec
Benefits for all Quebecers

- During the next 25 years, the returns from the Plan Nord will be set out as follows:
  - A minimum of $80 G in private and public investments;
  - $14 G in government taxes;
  - An average of 20,000 jobs created or maintained per year, totalling the equivalent of 500,000 man-years;
  - Major impact on GDP with economic spin-offs of $162 G.
For more information

www.plannord.gouv.qc.ca