



CDE du Pontiac

PRESS RELEASE

New Maintenance Approach for Main Forestry Roads

Cottagers and recreational users among beneficiaries

Campbell's Bay, April 18, 2008—The Pontiac Economic Development Corporation (CDE) set up an advisory committee to direct talks and negotiate the division of maintenance costs for 466 kilometers of non municipal roads in the MRC Pontiac.

Over the years, disorderly road maintenance has caused major slope stabilization problems, lake and river erosion, and treacherous driving surfaces. Some users even sustained investment losses after improving infrastructures based on their needs only to see them refitted a few months later to meet the needs of the forest industry.

“Our goal is to offer quality and safe access to cottagers, recreational users, and hunters while meeting the needs of the forest industry,” said Dean Pantalone, Director of the CDE, the non-profit corporation mandated by the MRC Pontiac to organize long-term road maintenance and stable financing.

The advisory committee is made up of representatives from the service sector (Brookfield Renewable Power, ZECs, outfitters, cottagers' association), coordinators and collaborators (Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, forest and tourism industries), municipal and MRC representatives, and the Pontiac Local Development Centre (CLD).

“The advisory committee formula will promote information sharing and expedite maintenance activities to meet the current and future needs of all interested parties,” said Pantalone. *“It will also generate economies of scale for all users.”*

A pay-per-use approach to financing is being considered for the maintenance of some roads. Mr Pantalone said that, *“traffic will have a direct impact on our maintenance efforts.”* However, the Corporation won't be managing a separate budget for each road. *“We want to provide equitable access to everyone. For example, if a road is maintained a good part of the year by the forest industry, the financial contribution the corporation receives from partners will be available for road or bridge repairs across the entire territory.”*

The Corporation is also expecting financial support from various governments.

By switching from a partially integrated road management system, which means that during harvest time, the industry in operation finances road maintenance, to a fully integrated management system, the Corporation becomes a coordination centre for maintenance, communications, complaints and all other activities related to access roads.

Concluded Pantalone, *“In addition to direct benefits for small and large businesses, the Corporation has adopted a local employment policy to stimulate the Pontiac economy.”*

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Source :

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About the CDE : The Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit corporation established in 1995 by the MRC Pontiac for the development and management of the Ottawa River Waterway and the management of the cycle path, Cyclopark PPJ. In 2007, the MRC Pontiac entrusted the CDE with the maintenance of non-municipal forestry roads on the MRC Pontiac territory.