

# News Release

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## Participant Funding Awarded in the Review of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project

**OTTAWA, May 16, 2003** - The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has awarded \$50,000 to assist eleven applicants in participating in the panel review of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project.

The funds will assist participants to prepare for the public consultation and review of the draft directives. The proponents, Hydro-Québec and its subsidiary, the *Société d'énergie de la Baie James*, will use the directives to determine the nature, scope and extent of the project's impact statement.

Eleven of the 13 requests for funding received approval. The successful recipients were: the Cree Trappers' Association of Wemindji, the *Fondation rivières*, the Cree Nation of Wemindji, the Municipality of Sanikiluaq, the *Groupe de recherche appliquée en macroécologie*, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, the Cree Trappers' Association (Eastmain), the Sierra Club of Canada, Révérence Rupert, the Association des ingénieurs-conseils du Québec and the Waswanipi Cree First Nation.

A funding review committee was appointed to review the applications for both the federal and provincial participant funding programs. Committee members were: Jacques Grondin, Director for Social Sciences, *Centre hospitalier universitaire du Québec*; Louisa Saganash, Coordinator of Programs and Services, Cree Regional Authority; Réal Jodry, Research Officer, *Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec*; Marc-Alain Côté, Consultant; and François Boulanger, Quebec Regional Director, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

All committee recommendations were unanimous and are contained in the [Report of the Funding Review Committee](#).

Up to \$150,000 will be available for Phase II of the federal funding program. Phase II funding will be available to assist the public in reviewing the impact statement and to prepare for their participation in the public hearings. Details on Phase II funding will be announced at a later date.

The Eastmain-1-A and Rupert diversion project is located in northwestern Quebec, east of James Bay. The project includes:

- The Rupert diversion, which consists in redirecting some of the waters (up to 800m<sup>3</sup>/s) from the Rupert River watershed into the Eastmain watershed;
- The construction of the Eastmain-1-A powerhouse (up to 770 MV) on Eastmain 1 reservoir; and
- The addition of structures at the Sarcelle site, at the outlet of Opinaca reservoir.

The project calls for the construction of four dams, 51 dikes, two diversion bays flooding an area of 395 km<sup>2</sup>, 12,000 m of diversion channels or tunnel and two permanent access roads.

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The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers the federal environmental assessment process, which identifies the environmental effects of proposed projects and measures to address those effects, in support of sustainable development.

**For more information on the Participant Funding Program or to obtain a copy of the Report of the Funding Review Committee, please contact:**

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