



WORLD BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WBDB) and RESSOURCES ET ÉNERGIE SQUATEX sign a \$10-million agreement for hydrocarbon (HC) exploration in the Gaspé region

Montreal, Kuujuarapik-- The *World Business Development Bureau* and *Ressources et Énergie Squatex* have just concluded a three-year agreement, worth \$10 million, that is made up of two components. The objective of the first component is to confirm a hypothesis suggesting the existence of HC reserves in Squatex land in the Lower St. Lawrence-Gaspé region. The second portion of the agreement will see distinct partnership agreements being signed with holders of exploration licenses in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

“Our organization was the first to believe in the potential of the territories operated by Squatex. We are fully aware that within today’s market globalization context, Quebec is a *trading hub* that can offer HC raw materials of uncontested quality, particularly in the Témiscouata-Matapédia region,” explained **Horace Sirois**, president and chief executive officer of the **World Business Development Bureau (WBDB)**, a private political border-free organization that helps business people to expand their operations – a *free zone* in the Asian market facilitating access to trade opportunities between Quebec, Canada and the global markets.

Ressources et Énergie Squatex specializes in HC exploration using state-of-the-art concepts and technology that help speed up the discovery of exploitable deposits in Quebec that have a potential for profitability. The company holds licensing rights to over 400,000 hectares of territory in the Gaspé region. The first drilling initiatives are expected to target deep deposits in a hypothetical hydrothermal dolomitization zone in the Sayabec limestone formation. Subsequent work is expected to include seismic surveys over a few hundred kilometers, as well as a determination of the number of wells needed in order to enable exploitation of any reservoir that might be discovered.

“After four years of intensive exploration, working with some of Quebec’s most renowned professionals and despite a very tight budget, Squatex needed an association with a strong partner that could help us achieve our objectives. For us, this agreement with the *World Business Development Bureau* is the light at the end of the tunnel,” said **Jean-Claude Caron**, president of **Ressources et Énergie Squatex**. “Many specialists expect that we should be able to announce a significant hydrocarbon discovery, in the very near future, in the Lower St. Lawrence-Gaspé region.”

The WBDB-Squatex agreement stipulates a \$10-million investment over a mutually-defined timeline, which will be spread over a three-year period. Drilling of the first well – which will serve to confirm the still-hypothetical existence of an oil deposit – is expected to be completed by the end of 2005 or no later than the spring of 2006, subject to various conditions, including climate. Seismic surveying on a minimum of 200 kilometers is also expected, in addition to drilling on other identified target zones.

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