



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Rooted in First Peoples Culture and Values, the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan Officially Inaugurated**

Baie-Comeau, September 27, 2024 – Nearly a year after the announcement of its opening, the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan was officially inaugurated today. Located in Baie-Comeau, this major development is an essential service hub that meets the needs of the region's Indigenous people in a culturally relevant and secure setting. The Centre works to improve the wellness of First Peoples, whether long-time residents or temporary visitors.

Since the Centre opened, Indigenous people in Manicouagan have received support in various areas, including health, education, culture and social services. Its service offering has grown consistently over the past year. The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan quickly became known as a resource centre focused on support, listening and respect for Indigenous cultural values.

A living environment, service hub and cultural anchor for First Nations and Inuit in this urban area, the Centre also builds bridges between Peoples and strengthens the ties between Baie-Comeau's Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

#### **Quotes**

"The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan is much more than just a service centre, says Jessica Nanipou, executive director of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan. "It's a place where the region's Indigenous people can come together, share their culture and receive the support they need to live in an urban environment, while also forging strong ties with the local community."

Tanya Sirois, executive director of the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, goes on to say that "The official inauguration of the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan marks an important turning point for our Movement. A symbol of solidarity and commitment to First Peoples, the Centre offers a place where Indigenous people can reconnect with their roots and also find the resources they need to thrive in their daily lives."

#### **About the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan**

The Centre d'amitié autochtone de Manicouagan aims to improve the living conditions of Indigenous people in urban areas by offering support, guidance and information services through programs specially designed for Indigenous families living in or passing through the Côte-Nord region.

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