

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Training Program for First Nations Students Who Want to Become Police Officers

ROUYN-NORANDA, QC (November 22, 2018) —The *Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue* is pleased to announce that this institution will offer a new Attestation of College Studies (ACS) in First Nations Police Technology. "Our college is proud to host this program offered in English within its walls; this represents another way to reinforce our privileged partnership with *l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue's* First Nations communities," supports Director General Sylvain Blais.

This training program, which stems from a request of the Cree Nation Government to offset the great lack of First Nations police officers on its territory, has already assembled around 15 registrations from Cree students who come from various communities in Northern Quebec.

"These new students who will form our first cohort will begin their 900-hour training in the month of January. After their study pathway, they will integrate *l'École nationale de police du Québec* located in Nicolet and then work directly within their communities," explains Marc Bertrand, Director of Continuing Education and International Services.

"There are many reasons for which we chose the *Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue* as a partner in this project: its experience with First Nations communities, its proximity with our communities, the opportunity to have a program offered in English and the openness of the institution to organize measures that support students in their learning path," explains Nancy Bobbish, Human Resources Director for the Cree Nation Government. Furthermore, the Cree Regional Government will hire a resource in collaboration with the college to accompany First Nations students and favour their success in their new environment.

The Rouyn-Noranda Campus will offer the Attestation of College Studies (ACS, also known in French as *Attestation d'études collégiales* or *AEC*) in Police Technology since all the teaching facilities for this program are available at this location.

"By this initiative, the *Cégep* is proving once again its willingness to accompany First Nations peoples in the process that aims to increase the level of postsecondary education in their communities. The close partnership between these communities and our college greatly eases their success and attainment of graduation," concludes Sylvain Blais, Director General of the *Cégep*.

We wish much success to all these new students and we welcome them!

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