FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Our First Nations Police Technology Students Are Now Graduating

Rouyn-Noranda (October 25, 2019) — The Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue is pleased to announce that its first students in a program that leads to an Attestation of College Studies (ACS) in Police Technology will receive their diplomas this Friday in the company of their family and friends. Following a request from the Cree Nation Government to overcome a lack of First Nations police officers on its territory, the first cohort includes nine new graduates (four female and five male Cree learners) that come from many Northern Quebec communities.

These new graduates have completed their 900-hour training in English with success. They have studied here, within our walls, since last January. "They will now integrate l'École nationale de police du Québec (Quebec National Police School) 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 have chosen the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue as a partner in this project: its experience with indigenous communities, its proximity to them, the opportunity to offer the program in English and its open-mindedness to implement measures that support students on their academic journey," recalls Nancy Bobbish, Director of Human Resources for the Cree Nation Government.

Through this successful endeavour, the CEGEP is once again attesting its expertise in the accompaniment of First Nations persons inasmuch as the process to increase their level of post-secondary education is concerned. "The privileged partnership between these communities and our college greatly eases their success and helps them to graduate," concludes Sylvain Blais, Director General of the CEGEP.

Congratulations and much success to our new graduates!

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