



PRESS RELEASE
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Collaboration Agreement between GNL Québec and Three Innu First Nations

Saguenay, 26 May 2015 – The GNL Québec Inc. Corporation and the Councils of three Innu First Nations – Mashteuiatsh (Pekuakamiulnuatsh), Essipit and Pessamit – are pleased to announce the signing of a Collaboration Agreement for the Planning Phase of the *Énergie Saguenay* Project.

The Project involves a natural gas liquefaction complex with two or three liquefaction trains and a jetty for loading seagoing vessels, to be constructed by GNL Québec at the Port Saguenay site. For its part, the Collaboration Agreement is a process by which GNL Québec will consult with the three First Nations during the Planning Phase of the Project, in consideration of their interests, concerns, and ancestral and treaty rights, with the purpose of accommodating them as far as practicable. The Agreement will also allow just and proper participation in the benefits of the Planning Phase for the First Nations, according to their qualifications and project needs, particularly in terms of jobs and contracts.

Monitoring Committee

Over and above the cooperation aspect of the Agreement, the Parties agree to develop and propose solutions to any coexistence issues that may arise during the Project's Planning and/or Implementation Phases. It should be noted that the Planning Phase includes, notably, technical-economic and engineering studies, environmental and social assessments, as well as fundamental research pertaining to the various agreements required for the Project as a whole. In this respect, a Monitoring Committee was set up to facilitate communications between GNL Québec, Mashteuiatsh, Essipit and Pessamit representatives. The aim of the Committee is to support GNL Québec through the development and preparation of the *Énergie Saguenay* Project. Thus, the First Nations representatives will be in a position to quickly report any concerns in line with their traditional knowledge of the territory and its resources, potential environmental impacts on sites with cultural, ecological and/or archaeological significance, as well as their traditional and socioeconomic activities. The Committee will further see to the proper sharing of any regulatory, economic and social information pertaining to the Project among its members.

Further Negotiations

After signing the Collaboration Agreement, the Parties will continue to negotiate an *Impact and Benefit Agreement* (IBA) to be implemented before the end of the Planning Phase and brought into force following a positive investment decision by GNL Québec for the continuance of the Project.

Dialogue with the Innu Nations

“Throughout this dialogue, we will put into practice the agreed-upon collaboration and mutual respect principles,” stated GNL Québec President Mr. Michel G. Gagnon. “I am confident that these discussions will be instrumental for the *Énergie Saguenay* Project, along with the implementation of best practices

that will help to improve the Project and lead to social acceptability. As regards the Chief of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation, Mr. Gilbert Dominique, he is pleased to have entered into a Collaboration Agreement with GNL Québec, as it not only opens the doors to a future IBA, but also to fair job and contract allocations between Innu and Quebec workforces. “This Agreement is based upon a concept of fair relations between two Nations,” he said. “It applies to the southwest part of the Nitassinan, shared by the Mashteuiatsh, Essipit and Pessamit Nations, a territory that we have long been occupying and sharing with Saguenay, Charlevoix and Côte-de-Beaupré communities. GNL Québec’s desire to come to an “upstream” agreement with our First Nations gives promise to further amicable agreements with other organizations that will have seen the advantages of creating a dialogue with the Innu Nations.”

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