
PRESS RELEASE

A "Northern Aboriginal Seminar" on Quebec's social, cultural and environmental issues

For the second year in a row a pioneering seminar will be held
in the North on the big challenges of modern day Quebec

Wendake, May 2, 2006 – This year again, the Corporation du Mushuau-nipi, in collaboration with Ashini Adventure, translates its mission into action by organizing the 2nd edition of its *Northern Aboriginal Seminar*.

Mr. Serge Ashini Goupil, co-organizer, mentions that, *"This year, the theme of the event is " The environmental solution will stem from the collaboration between nations" and its goal is to inform and allow for a debate on environmental issues and the importance of establishing a dialog between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.*

The seminar will be held from August 15 to 22, 2006 on the George River, one of the most mythical and important river of the Quebec and Aboriginal North. The concept is very innovative as it offers accommodations in tipis and debates under the big community Shaputuan. *"We are holding the Seminar in the Great North and in traditional facilities to get completely out of familiar frameworks thus fostering authentic discussions and in-depth reflection on the big issues facing modern day Quebec"* adds Mr. Jean-Philippe L. Messier, the other co-organizer of the activity. This river is also the host of one of the largest herd of caribou in the world.

The seminar will be co-chaired by Messrs. **Ghislain Picard**, Regional Chief of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, and **Steven Guilbeault**, director of Greenpeace Quebec. Ms. **Hélène Raymond**, environment journalist, will lead the lectures and debates, while Mr. **Florent Vollant** will attend as special guest.

It is open to anyone who is interested and will propose lectures followed by participatory exchanges on themes dealing with the environment and the Non-Aboriginal-Aboriginal social challenge. Other activities are planned outside the lectures: a hydroplane flight over the main natural sites of the North (taïga, tundra plain, river valley), a visit of the numerous archaeological assemblages of the sector (one of the most important of the Aboriginal North), a Rabaska canoe trip on the river, a tour of one of the biggest eskers in Quebec and the visit of an outfitting operation in the sector. Moreover, if participants are lucky again this time around, they will witness the caribou migration at their crossing.

All details on: www.ashini.com.

Additional information

Corporation des Amis du Mushuau-nipi

The Corporation des Amis du Mushuau-nipi **is a non-profit organization whose first mission is to enhance, promote and protect the cultural, archaeological and natural characteristics of the Mushuau-nipi in view of making it a privileged place of exchange between Quebec White people and Aboriginal people, especially on environmental and social issues.**

Its big objectives are:

- ✘ Conservation of biodiversity, archaeological assemblages and cultural values related to ancestral practices.
- ✘ Promotion of a privileged place of exchange for reconciliation between Nations and for reflection upon environmental solutions.
- ✘ Valorization of the practice of Aboriginal and eco-tourism activities in the territory.
- ✘ Increase of public awareness towards the characteristics of the Mushuau-nipi and of its peoples.
- ✘ Environmental clean up of the territory.

Ashini Adventure

ASHINI ADVENTURE offers an authentic discovery experience in an exceptional environment. A range of activities that gravitate around the traditional way of life of the Aboriginal of the Innu Nation (called Montagnais for a long time). You will discover who are these Aboriginal people, what is their history and what characterizes their rich culture and contemporary way of life. We offer our guests packages enhancing several aspects of the territory where our camp is established. The themes dealt with according to the package chosen deal with the evolution of the territory, the vegetation community and animal population, ancient human occupation as well as the traditional and current Innu way of life.

Located 250 kilometres north of Schefferville, in the area surrounding the George River, this traditional Innu camp will make you discover the authenticity of Amerindian culture. This territory is an important reference in the history of the Quebec and Labrador Naskapi and Innu. The Innu called this place the "Mushuau-nipi", the Treeless Country. On different maps, this sector is sometimes called the Lac de la hutte sauvage or Indian House Lake.

The information transmitted on our themes (packages) is an integral component of what the academic circle now calls Aboriginal Knowledge. For all Innu, it is about Innu Aitun : the Innu know-how. Packages are available for outdoors enthusiasts: hobbyist photographers, picture hunters, retirees, bush pilots, rowers, business people, couples, senior citizens.

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Source :

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