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**Task Force on Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions
and the New Economy**

Day of meetings in Beauce

Québec, September 21, 2007 – The Task Force on Tax Assistance for Resource Regions and the New Economy visited Saint-Georges for a September 19 meeting with nearly twenty companies and organizations. This was the third day of its tour, after the hearings organized on September 11 in Val-d'Or and September 12 in Montréal.

Private meetings with companies

The Task Force devoted the morning and part of the afternoon to meetings with eight companies, all established in the Chaudière-Appalaches region.

Six of them discussed the effects the tax assistance measures for resource regions have had on manufacturers in the central regions. They strongly noted the competition from companies in the resource regions, and its consequences as it applies to them with respect to the Québec, Canadian and international markets. One of the companies met by the Task Force, Groupe Canam, made its brief public.

However, two companies which are part of the new economy presented the positive effects of the tax assistance from which they benefit.

Public consultations

During the public part of the consultations, the Task Force members received the comments and suggestions of the Mayor of Saint-Georges, CRE de la Chaudière-Appalaches (regional elective council), and the principal economic grouping and organizations in the region (Local Development Centres, Conseil économique de Beauce, Chambre de commerce régionale de Chaudière-Appalaches, Fédération de l'UPA de la Beauce, MRC de l'Amiante), as well as the representative of a manufacturing SMB.

In-depth analyses and specific recommendations were formulated concerning financial assistance to the resource regions, financial assistance to the new economy, support for the manufacturing sector and support for wealth creation. As in the private discussions, the various representatives were very critical of the financial assistance to resource regions, while insisting on the positive effects of financial assistance to the new economy. The audio files of the public consultations held during the day are available at the following address: www.gtaf.gouv.qc.ca

The Task Force continued its meetings on Friday, September 21 in Québec.