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

**Day of Meetings in Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski**

Québec, September 26, 2007 - The Task Force on Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions and the New Economy has begun a week of meetings in Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski. In both Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski, the Task Force divided its time between private meetings with companies and public hearings open to organizations and representatives of local and regional interests.

**Rivière-du-Loup**

The Task Force met with representatives of three companies and groups of companies located in Rivière-du-Loup and the region. The discussion focused chiefly on tax assistance for the resource regions, which the companies want to see maintained.

During the public hearings, the Task Force welcomed the Chambre de commerce de Rivière-du-Loup. The chamber of commerce asked that the assistance for the resource regions be maintained until the scheduled expiry and that assistance be renewed thereafter. Should the assistance measures be redefined, the chamber expressed the hope that they be made simpler and that they foster exports and improved productivity. A discussion was held on the reasons for providing support for the resource regions.

**Rimouski**

The Task Force then travelled to Rimouski where it began by holding public hearings with four groups and organizations from the region. The Conférence régionale des élus du Bas-Saint-Laurent, the Centre de recherche sur les biotechnologies marines, the Comité de concertation et de démarchage stratégique de la région de Matane and the CLD Rimouski-Neigette – together with the mayors of Matane and of Rimouski – all agreed on the necessity to maintain and improve assistance to the resource regions, and that assistance concerning the new economy be maintained and expanded. The Task Force then received the MNAs for Matane, Matapédia and Rimouski, who supported the views expressed during the morning and reiterated their opposition to the elimination of assistance to the resource regions.

Late in the afternoon, the Task Force held private meetings with representatives of two companies and a business group receiving tax assistance for the resource regions or assistance for the new economy.

The complete recording of the public hearings is available at: [www.gtaf.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.gtaf.gouv.qc.ca)

The Task Force will resume its meetings on September 26 in Gaspé.

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