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

Private and Public Meetings in Gaspé

Québec, September 27, 2007 – The Task Force on Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions and the New Economy continued its tour of the regions, holding meetings in Gaspé.

Private meetings

The entire morning was devoted to private meetings with six companies and an accountant who himself was accompanied by three other entrepreneurs. All are active in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region. Eight of the companies heard by the Task Force receive the tax credit for Gaspésie and certain maritime regions of Québec.

All the participants emphasized the key role played by the tax assistance measures in launching their company or companies with which they have business relations. The companies all wish that the tax assistance or equivalent support measures be maintained, in order to invest and be competitive, in particular on markets outside Québec. Many companies stressed the length of time that support measures should last, in particular because of the length of production cycles in the aquaculture and sea farming sectors.

Public hearings

During the public portion of the day, the Task Force met four organizations dedicated to the region's economic development as well as a delegation from the Parti Québécois de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The various representatives, including the mayor of Gaspé and the MNA for Gaspé, pointed out the structural disadvantages that discourage companies from locating in the region. They stressed Québec's responsibility as a state to occupy its territory. For a region as disadvantaged as Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, they indicated that they failed to understand the criticisms from many central regions, and demanded a long-term support policy.

Participants requested that tax assistance measures for regions in difficulty be extended, improved and adapted according to regional development indices. Members of the Task Force were made aware of the positive impact of investments made to develop wind power and sea farming, and the attendant issues for these effects to grow stronger over time.

The complete recording of the public hearings is available at: www.gtaf.gouv.qc.ca

The Task Force will continue its meetings on September 27 in Saguenay.

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