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## Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory

**EYYOU ISTCHEE  
JAMES BAY**

Investment:  
**\$1 million**

FUQAT contribution:  
**\$500,000**

### THE PROJECT

Historically, the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory has found itself in a blind spot as regards public policy, which has instead focussed on Southern Quebec and, at times, on the Far North. But the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory is a separate geopolitical entity that confronts challenges of its own, such as a circular economy controlled by outside interests, low levels of socioeconomic development, and the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Balanced and sustainable territorial development must be based on conclusive data, which are often lacking, in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory.

Consequently, UQAT wishes to establish the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory whose mission will break down into three components:

1. Gathering, retaining, and making information about the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory available.
2. Generating new knowledge to overcome information gaps and recommend solutions to the regional issues specific to this territory.
3. Identify the missing data concerning the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory and the reason for these gaps.

Two full-time professional resources located in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory would ensure operation of the Observatory. Support and training will be offered by the Observatory of Abitibi-Témiscamingue to the resources of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory in order to ensure rapid and efficient development.

**TIMETABLE**

From **2023** to **2028**





## Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory

Fields:  
Human and Social  
Development  
Indigenous Studies  
Management



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Information and data concerning the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory are scattered and incomplete. The Observatory will provide conclusive data to the region's citizens as well as to public and private agencies. This information is crucial to understanding the challenges of development, informing stakeholder thinking, and coming up with solutions as well as viable projects key to the area's future.

## IMPACT

- The Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory will facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and enhance the region's visibility.
- In consultation with local and regional actors, the Observatory will generate new knowledge on priority themes.
- The Eeyou Istchee James Bay Observatory will enable regional organizations to strengthen the foundations of their strategic planning, base their decisions on evidence-based data and find effective solutions to the challenges they face.
- The Observatory will strengthen and expand the argument in favour of balanced and sustainable development for the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory, first for its residents and second, for the whole of Quebec. It will:
  - ▶ provide access to more data and knowledge about the territory at different levels (regional, communities) and in understandable, useful formats.
  - ▶ identify possible solutions to various development-related issues.
  - ▶ further build the argument in favour of balanced and sustainable territorial development.
  - ▶ create two rewarding, well-paid jobs in the territory.