

# The Northern Eco

**Environmental newsletter**



1<sup>st</sup> edition

**OCTOBER 2018**

## Foreword

The launch of the Northern Eco environmental newsletter marks the culmination of a year of sustained efforts to improve the quality of the environment in the Schefferville region. Our communities, affected by the vagaries of mining development on their territory, as well as by their remoteness and isolation from the national road network, had been struggling for decades with massive environmental liabilities. Despite other equally pressing issues, particularly regarding public infrastructure, the three communities have decided to make it a priority to bequeath healthier living environments to our future generations. Since then, we have developed an Ecocentre to improve waste management, and we are moving forward with several other environmental initiatives such as a campaign to reduce single-use plastic bags and a community composting project.

We are therefore proud to present the first edition of this environmental newsletter, in which we offer a report on the activities of the Tricomm Ecocentre after a year of operation. This newsletter will also be a tool for communicating the latest regional environmental news and raising awareness on responsible waste management.

The Director General, secretary-treasurer



François Désy Adm.A, ASC



Jézabel Alain-Lacombe, Eco-advisor, project manager

## First-anniversary report of the Tricomm Ecocentre

It was a year ago already, on October 17, 2017, that the first Ecocentre to be developed in a remote and northern region has started its activities. To highlight the recovery efforts of our citizens and the work of our dedicated team, we present in the following lines a brief report of the materials recovered at the Tricomm Ecocentre.

### Summary table of materials recovered in one year at Tricomm Ecocentre

WASTE CATEGORY	QUANTITY RECOVERED
Drums	13 pallets (50 drums each)
Lead-acid batteries	500 units
Paints, stains and varnishes	3 bins (approx. 300kg each)
Electronic products	10 pallets
Small batteries and cellphone	5 boxes (30kg each)
Mercury-containing lights	Fluorescent tubes: 100 units Compact fluorescent light: 50 units High intensity discharge light: 10 units
Scrap metal	1200 yards



### Lead-acid batteries

The batteries recovered throughout the first year at the Ecocentre will soon be sent to a recycler in Sept-Îles. The recovery of these batteries is very positive news since they contain lead and acid, very toxic substances for the environment and human health. We encourage the public to continue their dedicated recovery effort to prevent more used batteries from being dumped at the landfill or in the wild.

### Drums

Our team emptied and crushed hundreds of drums that had been accumulated at the scrap metal yard over the years. The crushed drums will then be palletized to be sent to a recycler in Sept-Îles by November.



### Paints, stains and varnishes

Paints, stains, varnishes and their containers (from residential sources) are recovered at the Ecocentre. Full bins (see photos) will soon be sent to Éco-Peinture, the organization responsible for their recycling. Since the opening of the Ecocentre, we noticed that fewer paint containers are being dumped at the landfill, which is a great improvement! Indeed, paints, stains, and varnishes need to be properly managed since they contain toxic substances that can contaminate soil and groundwater when released in the environment.



### Electronic products

Electronic products are by far the type of waste that we have recovered the most at the Ecocentre. TV, computers, printers, sound systems and other products recovered over the year will soon be sent to the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA). Once sorted, items are shipped to an EPRA-approved recycling facility to remove substances of concern for proper downstream management. All other materials are separated to recover recyclable elements such as metals, plastics, and glass so they can be processed into new products.



### Small batteries

Boxes for the recovery of small batteries (5kg and under) and cell phones are available at the Kawawachikamach CLSC, Jimmy Sandy Memorial School, Kanatamat School and Matimekush Lake John Innu Council. These are satellite collection points, in addition to the main collection point at the Ecocentre. The battery collection boxes, once full, are sent to the organization Call2Recycle who is responsible for making sure metals and chemical by-products are recycled into new products, and that the remaining waste is safely disposed of according to international environmental standards.

### Mercury-containing lights

Several boxes of mercury-containing lights, such as compact fluorescent lights (CFL) and fluorescent tubes, were recovered at the Ecocentre in the last year. These products must be handled with care and stored safely to prevent the mercury they contain from being released in the environment. The Tricomm Ecocentre has an agreement with Recyc-Fluo, which is responsible for the mercury-containing lights recycling program.





## Know your waste !

In every issue of the Northern Eco newsletter, we will investigate the impact of a specific type of waste on the environment, and will explore how it can be reduce, reuse or recycled. In this first issue, we will tackle the topic of scrap-tire recycling!



### RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TIRE FIRES



A tire fire that burnt during 17 days  
in Hagersville, Ontario (1990).



A fire in a tire dump  
in St-Basile, QC, in 1990.

## What to do with your scrap tires?

Regular-sized tires (diameter of 48 inches and less) are recovered at the Tricomm Ecocentre. Every summer, our staff will sort, clean and load the tires in a truck or container and ship them to a recycler certified by RECYC-QUÉBEC. These operations are at the expense of RECYC-QUÉBEC, which coordinates the Quebec recovery program for scrap tires. This year, more than 2000 tires have been recovered in the Schefferville region.

Did you know that landfilling or long-term storage of tires is prohibited since 2000?

Scrap tires present a significant environmental risk because of the potential impacts in the event of a fire. The tire's primary raw material, rubber, is a petrol-based derivative, which means that a tire fire can be difficult to extinguish. Besides, the combustion of tires causes toxic fumes containing substances that are harmful to the environment and human health, such as dioxins, furans, and polycyclic hydrocarbons.

For twenty years, the Quebec government has implemented several programs to support the recovery and recycling of scrap tires, aiming at preventing the risks associated with the mismanagement of this waste. The scrap tires recovery program administered by RECYC-QUÉBEC is funded through an environmental fee of \$ 3 charged to Quebec consumers upon the purchase of each new tire.



## A second life for scrap tires

**Remolding :** Low-damage tires are usually baked and remolded to make new tires.

**Recycling :** excessively worn tires can be shredded and crushed to a fine rubber powder. It will then be recycled in a wide variety of new products: barn or factory carpet, soundproofing panels, sewer manholes, soccer fields, sports center mats, etc.

**Waste-to-energy :** Thirdly, scrap tires can be used as a replacement fuel for coal in concrete manufacturing plants. However, remolding and recycling are prioritized as treatment solutions compared to waste-to-energy methods since they are more environmentally friendly options and extend the useful life of the rubber (with waste-to-energy, rubber is destroyed through combustion and can no longer be used).

## What's new in Schefferville?

To keep you informed about the latest environmental initiatives in the region!

### End-of-life vehicles recycling operation

A broad operation to tow and recycle end-of-life vehicles is underway in the Town of Schefferville, the Innu Nation of Matimekush Lake John and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach. The many car wrecks and other abandoned vehicles will be transported to the scrap metal site, crushed and then sent to Sept-Îles to be dismantled and recycled. The presence of these vehicles on the territory poses a risk to the environment since the fluids they contain (oils, coolants) can contaminate soils and water sources. These fluids can also be a threat to public safety since they are flammable substances. Batteries and tires, once removed from vehicles, will be recovered at the Tricomm Ecocentre.



Please contact Tricomm Ecocentre  
if you want to know more about this initiative:

**418-585-2471 ext.6**

**[Schefferville.ecocentre@gmail.com](mailto:Schefferville.ecocentre@gmail.com)**



**REFRIGERATOR  
FREEZER  
WINE CELLAR  
AIR-CONDITIONNER  
DEHUMIDIFIER  
HEAT PUMP  
COMPRESSOR**

### Be «freezponsible»!

We would like to advise you to STOP bringing refrigeration and cooling appliances to the landfill. These products contain halocarbons that are present in insulating foams and coolants. Halocarbons are gases that contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer (which protects us from the sun's harmful rays) and climate change.

A pilot project for the safe recovery of halocarbons is currently underway. We ask you to contact the Ecocentre staff if you need to get rid of any of the products listed. Refrigeration and cooling appliances recovered will be stored in a designated area at the scrap metal site until a certified person comes to Schefferville to safely remove halocarbons.

We are counting on your cooperation to prevent these harmful gases from being released into the atmosphere!

### Smoke detectors

Smoke detectors are now recovered at the Tricomm Ecocentre. These products contain radioactive components that must be removed and disposed of safely. The company Uni-Vert Tech, an international leader in radiation protection, will be responsible for recycling these products. We encourage the population to bring their old smoke detectors to the Ecocentre!





### Banishing bags

Since September 30, 2018, merchants in the region have committed to reducing pollution related to single-use plastic bags. To do this, they agreed to stop the free distribution of single-use plastic bags, instead encouraging citizens to opt for a reusable bag.

The Chief of the Innu Nation of Matimekush Lac John, the Chief of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and the Administrator of the Town of Schefferville also signed a Declaration of Environmental Commitment to show their support for this initiative.

In recent weeks, there has already been a clear improvement in the visual pollution caused by the abandonment of bags in the environment. We also note that a majority of people are now using reusable bags to do their shopping.

Are you well-intentioned and wanting to participate in this movement to reduce single-use plastic bags pollution, but often forget to take your bag with you when you go shopping? Come to get your «eco-warrior» hanger at the Tricomm Ecocentre (see picture). This hanger clings to your car rear-view mirror or door handle to remind you to bring your reusable bag with you when you leave!



### Distribution of fasteners for garbage cans

Are you tired that bears and dogs spill your garbage bins and spread your waste on the ground?

We have the solution for you: the Bin-J-Clip!

This device will not prevent animals from kicking your bin to the ground, but it will keep the lid closed and prevent waste from scattering on your lawn or in the street!

Fasteners were ordered for all members of the communities of Matimekush-Lac-John, Kawawachikamach and the Town of Schefferville.

Contact the Tricomm Ecocentre team to find out how to get your Bin-J-Clip.



## DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT FOR THE REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

In the fall of 2018, the Innu Nation of Matimekush Lac John, the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, the Town of Schefferville and local merchants agreed to take action against the proliferation of disposable plastic bag waste in the region. They are thus joining a global movement committed to reducing waste at the source and protecting the environment.

Single-use plastic bags are a constant source of visual pollution in our territory. Besides, they can take up to 1000 years to breakdown in nature, contaminating our ecosystems, our soils, and our streams. Reduction at source is the best approach to managing this waste considering that there is still no cost-effective solution for the recycling of plastic bags.

As of September 30, 2018, businesses and merchants in the region, supported by local elected officials, will cease the free distribution of single-use plastic bags. All citizens will now be expected to make a habit of using reusable bags to carry their purchases.

Together, we will actively contribute to making our territory beautiful and to preserve a healthy and high-quality living environment.



**Chef Tshani Ambroise**  
Innu Nation of Matimekush Lac John



**Chief Noah Swappie**  
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach



**Ghislain Lévesque, Administrator**  
Town of Schefferville

