



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW BUS LINE SERVICE
CHISASIBI – VAL-D’OR**

Chisasibi and Val-d’Or, Wednesday, 2016 June first - Chisasibi Business Development Group (CBDG) and Autobus Maheux are pleased to announce their new partnership which is for the establishment of a regular bus service in the territory of James Bay with routes to and from Chisasibi and Val-d’Or.

This bus service will be offered twice a week and will serve the community of Chisasibi and all Cree communities of James Bay territory, with a bus stop at each intersection on the James Bay highway connecting each Cree community.

The Cree population is growing and year after year the travel needs are becoming more important. The needs are related to health, education, and recreational purposes. This new bus service will provide the communities with a new option for their transport which will be regular, reliable, safe and affordable.

FIRST DEPARTURE FROM VAL-D’OR: JUNE 8th, 2016 AT 8:00 AM

FIRST DEPARTURE FROM CHISASIBI: JUNE 9th, 2016 AT 8:00 AM

A need was expressed for many years

The idea of setting up a transport bus service was initiated several years ago. Approximately 15 years ago, the five coastal communities had a meeting with Autobus Maheux to discuss the potential bus project. Furthermore, a feasibility study was conducted in 2009 without any real results for the establishment of the service.

However, during the Economic Mission in September 2015 which was organized by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, a meeting was held between CBDG and Autobus Maheux. After that initial meeting between the respective

representatives, two other meetings were held and the project was back on the table. Several weeks later an agreement was reached between the two organizations, hence, the new partners are now ready to start the project. The service will be operated under a permit issued from the Transport Commission of Québec.

The first steps for the Partnership between CBDG / Autobus Maheux

The implementation of the project will be done in two phases. In the first phase, the role of the partners will focus on the development of the service based on the skills and knowledge of each partner.

The second phase will focus on the creation of a new corporation with Cree control in a partnership with Autobus Maheux.

Obviously, to proceed and maintain this new bus service, it is planned to request the participation of the Ministry of Transports (MTQ) through the MTQ help program for the development of the collective transportation.

The Service

- Service will be offered twice a week;
- Departure from Chisasibi will be on Monday and Thursday;
- Departure from Val-d'Or will be on Sunday and Wednesday.

Rates

<u>Examples:</u>	<u>One-way</u>	<u>Round-trip</u>
Chisasibi/Val-d'Or		
Adult:	\$191.40	\$306.24
Student & Senior:	\$162.69	\$260.30
Waskaganish/VD		
Adult:	\$139.81	\$158.08
Student & Senior:	\$87.38	\$98.80
Chisasibi/Matagami		
Adult:	\$140.00	\$224.00
Student & Senior:	\$119.00	\$190.40

Ticket Sales

The ticket sales will be available online via Autobus Maheux online sales platform www.autobusmaheux.qc.ca , and also at the Chisasibi CBDG Office and with authorized Autobus Maheux agents.

EXPEDIBUS

A courier service will also be available via the EXPEDIBUS courier service that will connect the communities of James Bay with the Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the rest of Quebec with a land courier system.

The Schedule

DEPARTURE FROM CHISASIBI TO VAL-D'OR (MONDAY AND THURSDAY)	
	Departure time
Chisasibi	08:00
La Grande Airport	09:03
LG3 (turn off)	09:38
Wemindji (turn off)	10:03
Relais 381	11:21
(30 minutes)	11:51
Eastmain (turn off)	12:04
Nemaska (turn off)	12:59
Rupert Camp	13:09
Waskaganish (turn off)	13:22
Matagami	15:52
(30 minutes)	16:22
Amos	18:18
Val-d'Or	19:04

DEPARTURE FROM VAL-D'OR TO CHISASIBI (SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY)	
	Departure time
Val-d'Or	08:00
Amos	08:45
Matagami	10:42
Lunch time (30 minutes)	11:12
Waskaganish (turn off)	13:42
Rupert Camp	13:54
Nemaska (turn off)	14:05
Eastmain (turn off)	15:00
Relais 381	15:12
(30 minutes)	15:42
Wemindji (turn off)	17:00
LG3 (turn off)	17:25
La Grande Airport	18:01
Chisasibi	19:04

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