

# Appendix H

## Socio-economic Baseline Study





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## **Socio-economic Baseline Study**

### **Kami Iron Ore Project Kami Concentrate Storage and Load-Out Facility, Québec**

Prepared for

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Alderon Iron Ore Corp. (Alderon) is proposing to develop an iron ore mine in western Labrador, and build associated infrastructure at the Port of Sept-Îles, Québec. The Kami Iron Ore Project (the Project) will produce up to 16 million metric tonnes of iron ore concentrate per year. Concentrate will be transported by existing rail to the Port of Sept-Îles, where the Kami Concentrate Storage and Load-out Facility (the Kami Terminal) will be located on land within the jurisdiction of the Port Authority of Sept-Îles.

Federal approvals will be required, which trigger the requirement for a federal environmental assessment (EA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), at the comprehensive study level. The Project was registered in accordance with CEAA in October 2011. This Baseline Study Report is being submitted in support of the federal environmental assessment.

The City of Sept-Îles is one of the main population centers of the Côte-Nord region. The Innu TakuaiKAN First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam is located within the municipal boundaries and represents two native reserves: Uashat and Maliotenam. The City of Sept-Îles has a population of 25,686 inhabitants. Population growth in the region is lower than that of the province (3.4 percent versus 14.6 percent). According to population projections produced by the *Institut de la statistique du Québec* (ISQ), the population of the Côte-Nord region is expected to decline at a substantial rate over the next 20 years.

With regard to the economy, services lead other sectors in terms of employment and income. The most important service sector employers are retail trade, regional health and social services, the regional school board, federal, provincial and municipal administrative offices, and accommodation and food services. The mining and industrial sectors also represent significant sources of employment and income in Sept-Îles.



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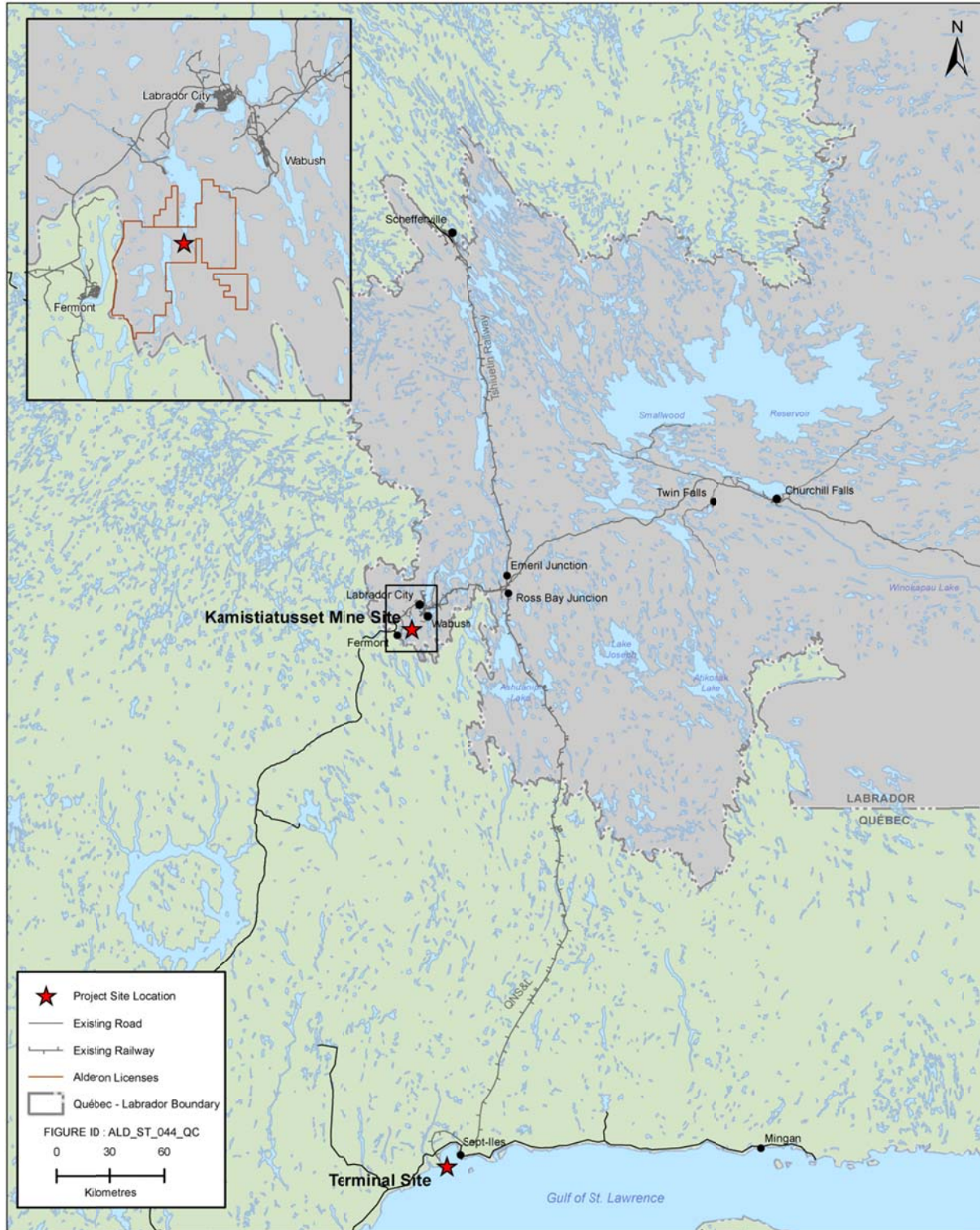


## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

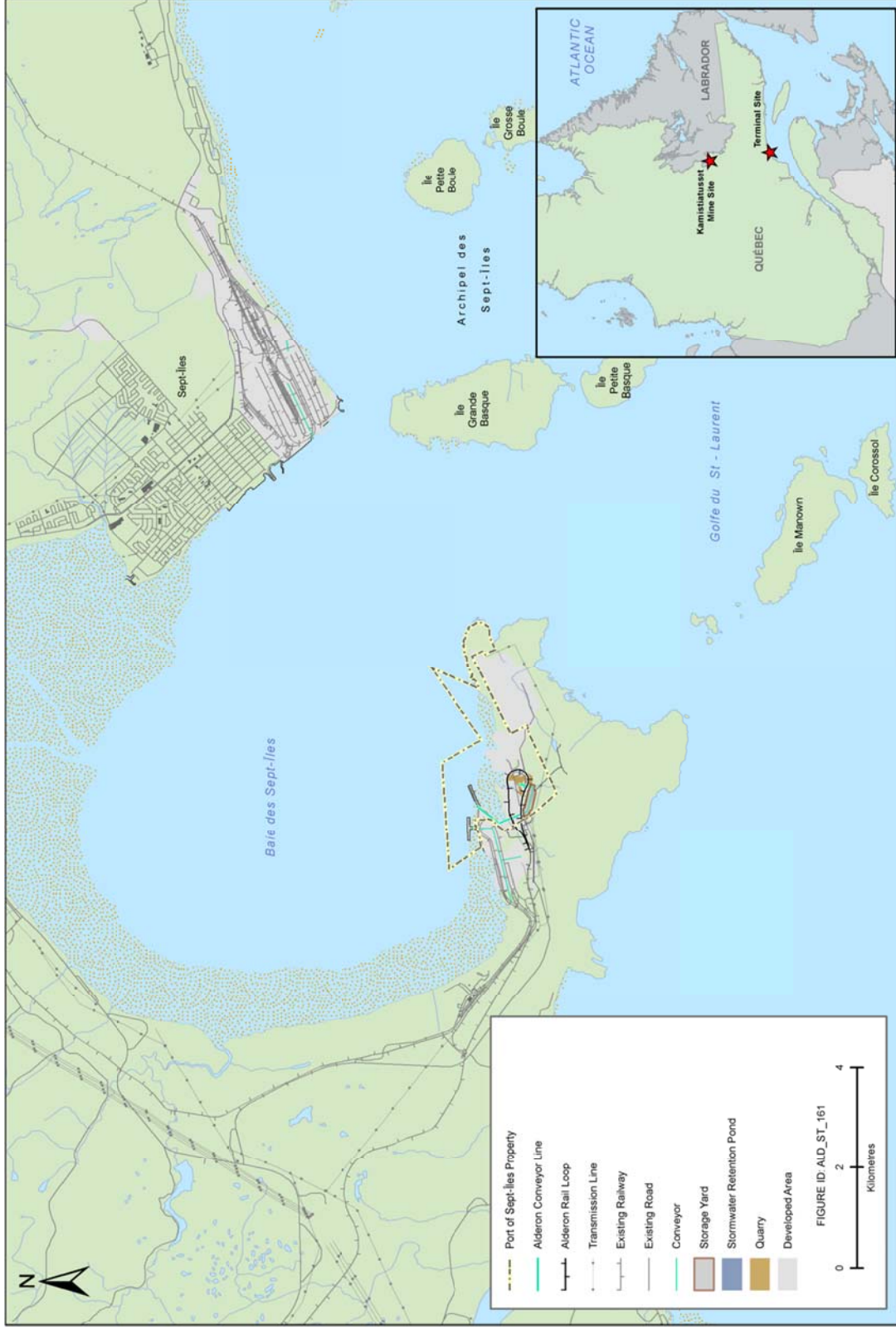
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Alderon Iron Ore Corp. (Alderon) is proposing to develop the Kamistatusset (Kami) Iron Ore Mine in western Labrador, and build associated infrastructure at the Port of Sept-Îles, Québec. Figure 1.1 shows the locations of the mine and port projects in relation to one another. The mine property is located in the vicinity of the towns of Wabush, Labrador City and Fermont. The Kami Iron Ore Mine is located entirely within Labrador, and includes construction, operation, and rehabilitation and closure of an open pit, waste rock disposal areas, processing infrastructure, a tailings management facility, ancillary infrastructure to support the mine and process plant, and a rail transportation component. The mine will produce up to 16 million metric tons of iron ore concentrate per year. Concentrate will be transported by existing rail to the Port of Sept-Îles, where the proposed Kami Concentrate Storage and Load-Out Facility (Kami Terminal) will be located. Components related to the Kami Terminal will be located on land within the jurisdiction of the Port Authority of Sept-Îles. Figure 1.2 shows the position of the project within the Port of Sept-Îles. Federal approvals will be required, which trigger the requirement for a federal environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA), at the comprehensive study level. The Project was registered in accordance with CEAA in October 2011. This baseline study report is being submitted in support of the federal environmental assessment.

Figure 1.1 Kami Mine and Port Facilities Locations



**Figure 1.2 General Project Location – Port of Sept-Îles**



## **1.1 Overview of Kami Iron Ore Project**

The Kami Terminal includes the infrastructure required to transport and store iron ore concentrate prior to shipping the product to market. This infrastructure is located on lands managed by the Port Authority of Sept-Îles. After being transported from the proposed Kami Iron Ore Mine in western Labrador using the existing Québec North Shore and Labrador (QNS&L) and Chemin de Fer Arnaud (CFA) rail infrastructure, the concentrate will be stored in a live stockpile managed by a stacker-reclaimer unit. The volume of concentrate stored at any one time will depend on the rail delivery schedule from the mine and the vessel loading schedule. Up to 16 million tonnes of iron ore concentrate may be shipped per year.

Kami Terminal activities at the Port of Sept-Îles in Québec include the construction, operation, and closure/decommissioning of the following components:

- A Concentrate Unloading, Stacking, Storage and Reclaiming Facility; and,
- Associated Rail infrastructure (Rail Loop).

## **1.2 Overview of the Socio-economic Baseline Study**

The proposed Kami Terminal will require federal approvals, which trigger the requirement for a federal environmental assessment under the CEAA, at the comprehensive study level. The Kami Terminal was registered in accordance with CEAA in October 2011. This Baseline Study Report is being submitted in support of the federal environmental assessment.

In order to satisfy Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for the Kami Iron Ore Project prepared by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation (CEA Agency and DOEC) (June 26, 2012), the socio-economic baseline study presents a portrait of the current state of factors tied to the following Valuable Ecosystem Components (VECs):

- Other current use of lands and resources;
- Community services and infrastructure;
- Health and community health;
- Economy, employment and business.

This study focuses exclusively on the Québec components, which will be located at the Port of Sept-Îles, Québec. The communities included in the socio-economic baseline study are Sept-Îles as well as Uashat and Maliotenam Reserves. Regional data for the Cote-Nord region is also included.

A wide range of baseline socio-economic data will be required in order to assess the effects of the Kami Terminal on local communities. Data collected in this report relates to population and demographics, employment and business, quality of life, public health, social problems, community infrastructure and services, and commercial infrastructure and services.

The baseline study is largely descriptive. Efforts have been made to include projections on future trends, current and potential issues related to the capacity of community infrastructure and services.

### 1.3 Study Team

The Socio-economic Baseline Study was conducted by Stantec Consulting Ltd (Stantec). The Study Team included a study manager, a senior advisor (Vincent Roquet *et associés inc.*), a data analyst and writer, and a GIS technician. All team members have in-depth knowledge and experience in their fields of expertise and a broad general knowledge of the work conducted by other experts in related fields. Brief biographical statements, highlighting Study Team roles, responsibilities, relevant education, and employment experience are provided in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Study Team – Socio-economic Baseline Study**

| Role   | Personnel  |
|--|--|
| Study Manager / Reviewer                             | Raymond Goulet   |
| Senior Advisor, Data Analysis and Report Preparation | Vincent Roquet (Vincent Roquet <i>et associés inc.</i> ) |
| Data Analysis and Report Preparation                 | Julie Massicotte   |
| Research Assistant                                   | Olive Bailey   |
| GIS  | Amber Frickleton   |

**Raymond Goulet, B.Sc.** is the Project Manager for the Kami Terminal EIS. He is an earth scientist with 32 years of experience in environmental studies conducted both in Canada (mostly northern Québec) and abroad. He has been responsible for the environmental assessment of many different international projects. Recent experiences in mining include baseline studies for Stornoway Diamond Corporation (Renard Diamond Mine project in northern Québec), managing the environmental and social impact studies for the Cross Lake Mine and access road project (Xstrata Nickel) and for the Deception Bay Wharf Refurbishment project in Northern Québec (Falconbridge / Xstrata Nickel). Mr. Goulet also provided high-level advice to Falconbridge regarding permitting activities related to the increased production of the Raglan Nickel Mine.

**Vincent Roquet** is an urban planner and socioeconomic specialist. He has acquired 30 years of professional experience in strategic, sectoral and project-specific environmental and social impact assessments, monitoring and follow-up studies, public consultations and involuntary resettlement policies and plans. During his career, he has filled various senior level positions with consulting firms and worked as a scientific advisor at Hydro-Québec. He has contributed to the planning of major infrastructure projects in the water resources, energy, transportation, agriculture, mining, and urban environment sectors. He has undertaken in-depth socio-economic studies in indigenous Cree and Innu communities in Canada. He has also administered or carried out a number of international technical assistance, institutional support and training projects, particularly in Africa, China, India and Southeast Asia. He has contributed to social research on international compensation policy for involuntary resettlement, with a focus on innovative benefit-sharing mechanisms. He has also designed and implemented training

programs in the fields of environmental and social impact assessment, public communication and consultations and involuntary resettlement.

**Julie Massicotte B.Sc., M.Sc.**, has a background in biology and a M. Sc. in Environmental Sciences. As part of the Environmental Management Group in the Montreal office of Stantec, she has been involved with many environmental assessments as a data researcher, assessor, co-author of reports and Project Manager. She plays a key role in project coordination of many EAs. Her main projects include the Renard Diamond Mine (Stornoway Diamond), the Cross Lake Mine and access road (Xstrata Nickel), the Mistissini Bridge, Borrow pit and Access (Cree Nation of Mistissini), the Deception Bay Wharf Refurbishment (Xstrata Nickel), the Rabaska LNG (SNC Lavalin), the Laniel Dam Refurbishment Project (Public Works Government Services Canada), the refurbishment of two bridges near Deception Bay (Falconbridge) and the permitting of a quarry in Whapmagoostui, Nunavik (Whapmagoostui First Nation / 6016961 Canada Inc). She also prepared terms of reference for follow up of EIA (Macal River Upstream Storage Facility, Belize). Before joining Stantec, Julie contributed to the natural resources management of the Gatineau Park through several projects (monitoring, survey, mapping). She also participated in different research projects as a research assistant (weeds, bats, spruce budworm).

**Olive Bailey, B.Sc., M.E.Des.** (Planning) is a consultant at Stantec's Montreal office. She holds a Bachelor of Science in environment and food production and a Master of Environmental Design in urban and regional planning. She has conducted research and produced reports for the Barbados Ministry of Agriculture, the Canadian Center for Architecture and the City of Calgary. Ms. Bailey has carried out socio-economic and strategic assessments in Barbados and Calgary. Through her experiences in Canada and abroad, she has collaborated on community planning and sustainable development projects in Sweden, and Tanzania and led community engagement activities and multi-stakeholder consultations in Calgary and Tanzania.

## 2.0 RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

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The present Socio-Economic Baseline Study constitutes one part of Alderon's environmental study program for the Project. As with other baseline studies, the purpose of the Socio-Economic Baseline Study is to gather and present information on important aspects of the environment, and thereby provide an satisfactory level of understanding of the existing environmental conditions with and near the Study Area for use in the EIS. The purpose of this study is to provide baseline data on the social and economic characteristics of the City of Sept-Îles and Cote-Nord Region in order to better understand the communities most likely to be affected by the Project. This baseline study is intended to support and /or supplement that contained in associated baseline studies prepared for the Project. These baseline studies will be used collectively to guide ongoing project planning, as well as to support and inform the EA for the Project.

Specific objectives of the study are to:

- Describe the salient features of the human community occupying the Study Area: Administrative Context, Land Use, Demographics and Population, Employment and Business, Social Condition and Public Health, and Community Infrastructure and Services.
- Identify future trends in demographic and economic change that may interact with project impacts.

### **3.0 STUDY AREA**

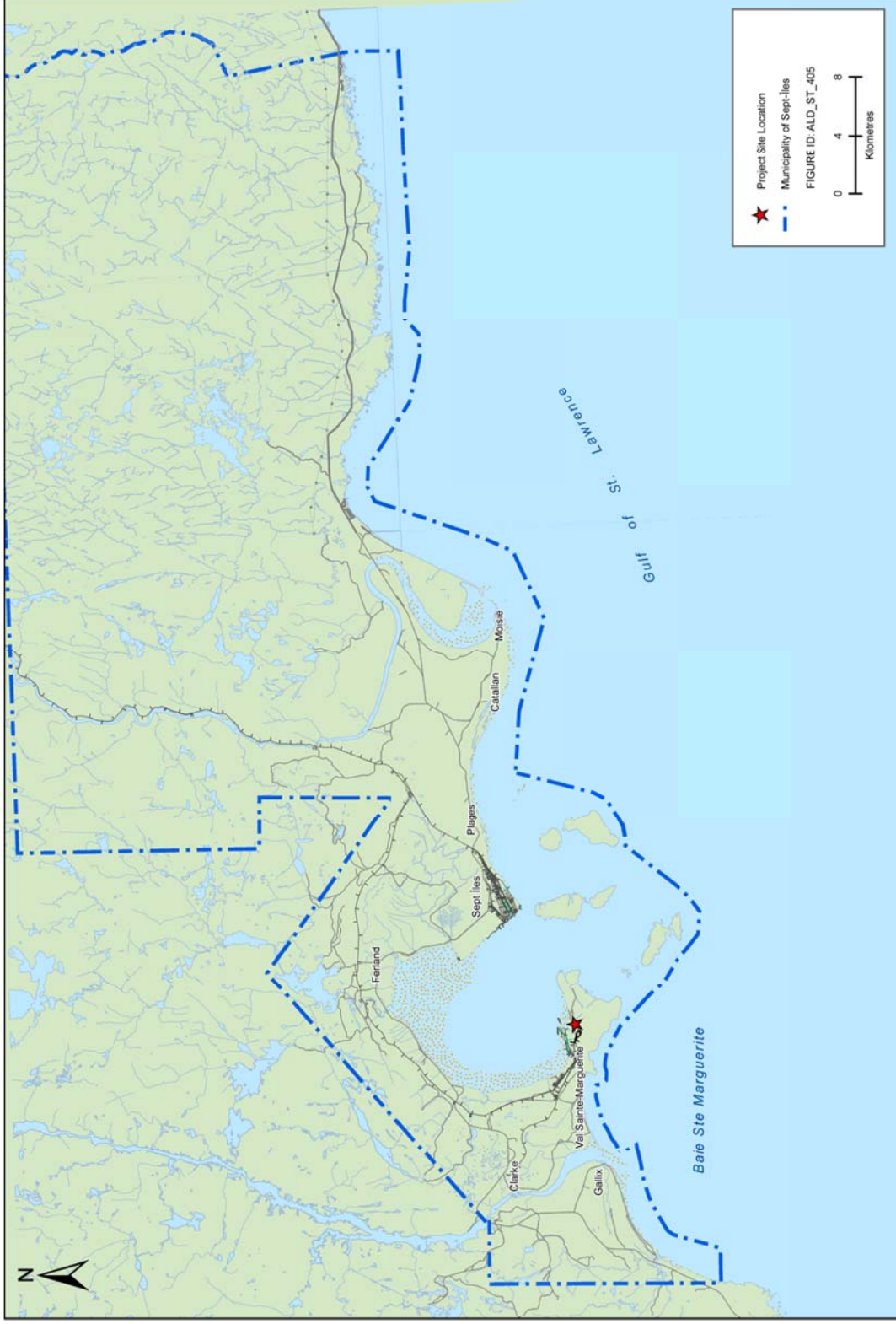
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The Kami Terminal Area is located in the Pointe-Noire industrial sector on the Marconi Peninsula, which extends into baie des Sept-Îles (Figure 1.2). The Kami Terminal is located in the Industrial Park of Pointe-Noire approximately 1.5 km from the Val Sainte-Marguerite sector of Sept-Îles, which comprises residences and cottages, a campground and a few convenience stores.

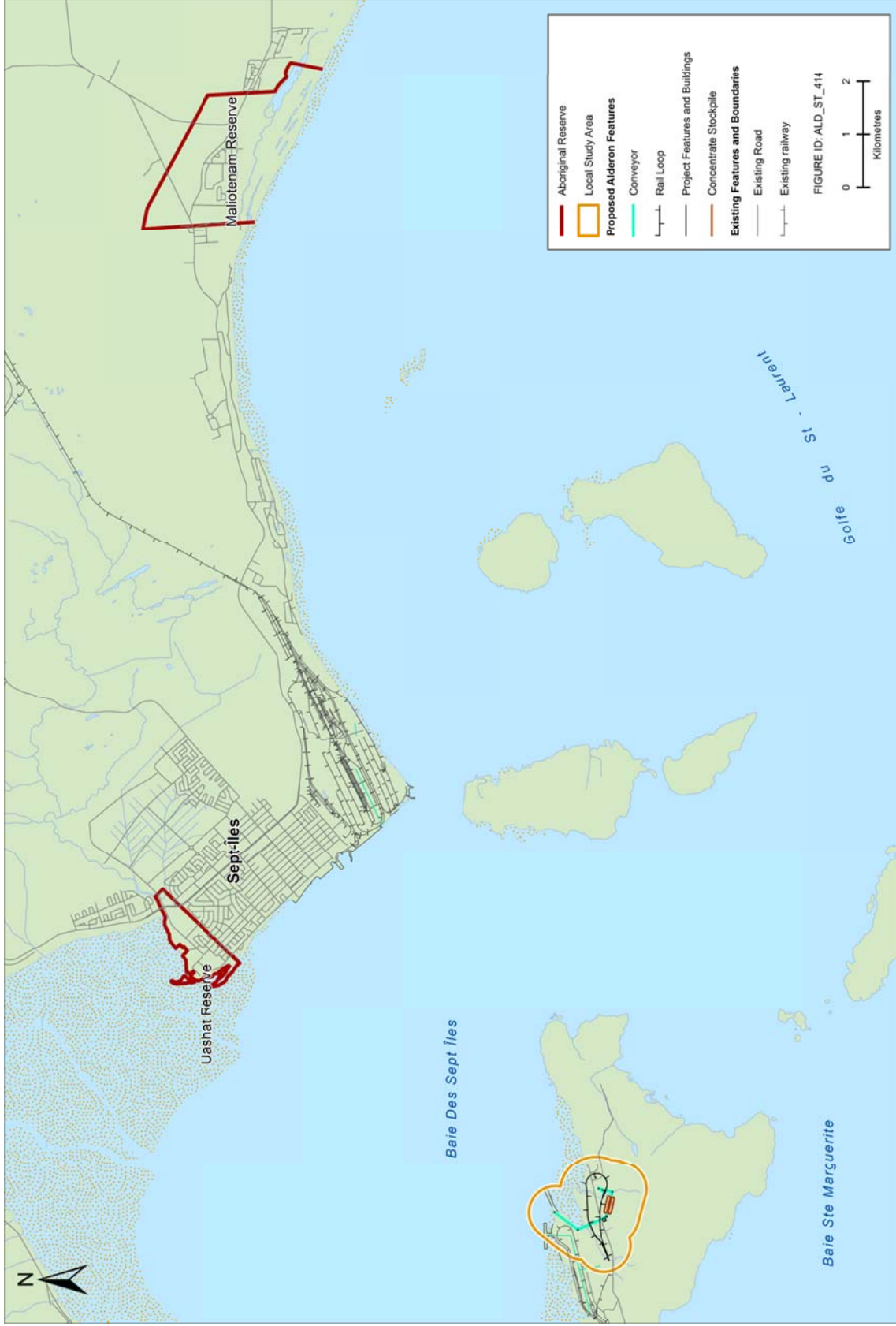
For the purposes of this Baseline Study Report, the Study Area is defined by the area within the municipal boundaries of the City of Sept-Îles (Figure 3.1). In addition to the City of Sept-Îles, two reserves, Uashat and Maliotenam, are present in proximity to the project (Figure 3.2).



**Figure 3.1 Study Area for the Socio-economic Baseline Study**



**Figure 3.2 Kami Terminal Area in Relation to Sept-îles and Uashat and Maliotenam Reserves**



## 4.0 METHODS

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The baseline data presented in this report are drawn from a wide range of secondary sources including:

- Statistics Canada and other agencies and departments of the Government of Canada;
- ISQ and other agencies and departments of the Province of Québec;
- Municipal governments;
- Economic zone boards and boards of trade;
- School and health boards;
- Police and other emergency response organizations;
- Housing agencies; and
- Power and telecommunications utilities.

### 4.1 Quality Assurance/Quality Control Procedures

This report has been subjected to an in-house senior technical review process to ensure that it adequately addresses the Kami Terminal scope and conforms to the quality requirements stipulated by Stantec.

## 5.0 STUDY OUTPUTS

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### 5.1.1 Administrative Boundaries

The Concentrate Storage and Load-out Facility is located in the City of Sept-Îles, one of the main population centers of Québec's North Shore Region in Eastern Québec. Sept-Îles is located in the *Municipalité régionale de comté* (MRC) de Sept-Rivières and in the Côte-Nord Administrative Region of the Province of Québec. Municipal amalgamation in 2003 led to an expansion of the boundaries of the City of Sept-Îles to include the agglomerations of Sept-Îles, Gallix and Moisie. The City of Sept-Îles covers an area of approximately 2,182 km<sup>2</sup> (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012) (See Figure 3.1).

The City of Sept-Îles extends around a circular bay containing seven islands, to which the city owes its name. The Port of Sept-Îles is located in the Pointe-Noire industrial area on the Marconi Peninsula and is within the municipal boundaries. With a projected tonnage of 34 million tons in 2012, it is the second busiest deep sea port in Canada in terms of annual tonnage. The Port is managed by the Sept-Îles Port Authority and its lands fall under federal jurisdiction.

The Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam is also located within the boundaries of Sept-Îles. The First Nation comprises two native reserves: Uashat, which is located along the shoreline to the west of the downtown area (Figure 3.2), and Maliotenam, which is located at the mouth of the rivière Moisie approximately 16 km east of Sept-Îles. Both reserves are under the authority of the Band Council of Innu Takuaikan Uashat mak Mani-Utenam (ITUM). In addition to the Reserve land, the Innu Takuaikan First Nation has land claims that extend far beyond the boundaries of the Sept-Îles and encompass much of western Labrador and north-eastern Québec.

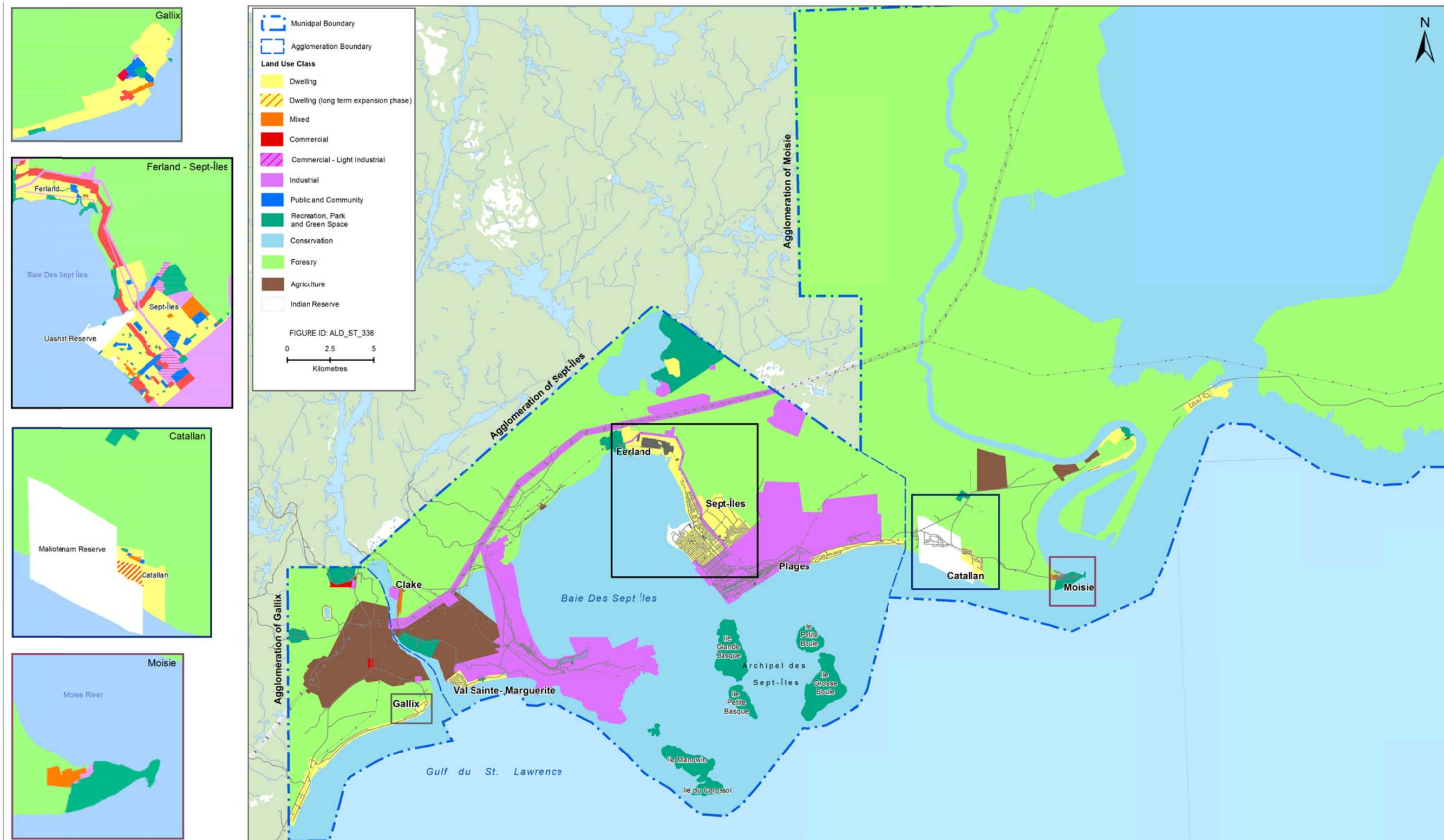
### 5.1.2 Land Use

A review of municipal zoning has shown that land use within the municipality of Sept-Îles include residential, commercial and services, commercial/industrial, industrial, public and institutional, recreation, agriculture, forestry and conservation (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012) (Figure 5.1).

#### Urban areas

The City of Sept-Îles can be subdivided into eight sectors or neighborhoods. The agglomeration of Sept-Îles comprises sectors that are part of the urban core as well as smaller sectors that are located at some distance from the principal urbanized area. These sectors differ in terms of their land use characteristics as well as their level of municipal servicing. In order to distinguish between the two types of sectors, the MRC de Sept-Rivières termed the sectors in the first group as primary centers and those in the second group as secondary centers. The primary centers are Central (main agglomeration center), Ferland (mobile home park), Catallan and Gallix.

Figure 5.1 Main Land Uses in the City of Sept-Îles



Within the primary sectors, land use activities include residential, institutional, commercial and services, industries other than heavy industry, recreational and tourism, social and community and public infrastructure. Secondary urban areas are characterized by low density residential use, small businesses (i.e. convenience stores), community buildings, places of worship, and recreational services.

Secondary urban areas comprise Clarke, Moisie, Plages and Val Sainte-Marguerite. The Val Sainte-Marguerite is located at the mouth of the rivière Sainte-Marguerite approximately 1.5 km from the Kami Terminal components. Land uses in this sector are primarily industrial, agricultural and recreational; however it also contains permanent residences and cottages, a campground, and a few convenience stores.

### Industrial Areas

There are two main industrial areas in the Study Area: the Pointe-Noire and the Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOCC) industrial parks. Pointe-Noire offers 3000 hectares of terrain, ideal for the development of heavy industries. The Concentrate Storage and Load-out Facility is located within the Pointe-Noire Industrial Park. There is also a third industrial park run by the City of Sept-Îles.

### Agricultural and Forested Areas

Forests on public domain occupy a large proportion of the municipal territory. Most of these are considered commercial, meaning they are suitable for forestry management. Land uses associated with these forests include hunting, fishing, recreational activities, and resorts. Lands dedicated to agriculture are located in the Gallix and Moisie sectors (Figure 5.1).

## **5.2 Demographics and Mobility**

### **5.2.1 Population Growth**

In the early 1950s, Sept-Îles was a fishing village with a population of approximately 1,200 non-Aboriginal residents and 700 Aboriginal residents. The town underwent a rapid expansion between the 1950s and 1970s, growing to over 30,000 residents. This growth can be attributed to two main drivers. First, the construction of the 575 km QNS&L Railway by IOCC linked the city to the northern mining town of Schefferville, Québec. Secondly, the subsequent development of the Port of Sept-Îles as a processing and export platform for iron ore produced in northern-eastern Québec and western Labrador.

In the 1980s, the population of Sept-Îles declined by approximately 15 percent. This was a result of a downturn in the mining sector and the closing of a pulp and paper mill in the adjacent town of Port-Cartier. The population of Sept-Îles has remained relatively stable since the early 1990s. According to the latest federal census, Sept-Îles had a population of 25,686 inhabitants in 2011.

Population growth rates in Sept-Îles between 1991 and 2011 show an increase of approximately 3.4 percent compared to 14.6 percent for the province of Québec (Table 5.1). This growth can likely be attributed to the extension of municipal boundaries between 2001 and 2006.

Re-adjusted census data for 2001 indicates that the rate of population increase in Sept-Îles between 2001 and 2006 was 0.7 percent.

**Table 5.1 Demographic Trends in Sept-Îles, Uashat and Maliotenam from 1991 to 2011**

| Year | Sept-Îles |            | Uashat |             | Maliotenam |             | Province of Québec |            |
|------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
|      | Number    | Growth     | Number | Growth      | Number     | Growth      | Number             | Growth     |
| 1991 | 24,848    | N.D.       | 735    | N.D.        | 826        | N.D.        | 6,895,963          | N.D.       |
| 1996 | 25,224    | 1.5percent | 880    | 19,7percent | 1,004      | 21.5percent | 7,138,795          | 3.5percent |
| 2001 | 25,392*   | 0.7percent | 1,136  | 29,1percent | 1,095      | 9.1percent  | 7,237,479          | 1.4percent |
| 2006 | 25,515    | 0.5percent | 1,190  | 4,8percent  | 1,123      | 2.6percent  | 7,546,131          | 4.3percent |
| 2011 | 25,686    | 0.7percent | 1,485  | 24,8percent | 1,316      | 17,2percent | 7,903,001          | 4.7percent |

Note:

\* The 2001 Census counts were adjusted to take into account boundary changes between the 2001 and 2006 censuses.

Source: Statistics Canada Census, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011

The 2011 census estimates the population of Uashat Reserve at 1,485 inhabitants while that of Maliotenam Reserve was estimated at 1,316 inhabitants, for a total population of 2,801. While population growth rates in Sept-Îles and the surrounding region have been relatively flat since the early 1990s, population growth in the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam over the same period has been much higher. Between 1991 and the 2006, the population for Uashat and Maliotenam reserves increased by 102 percent and 59 percent respectively.

## 5.2.2 Demographic Characteristics

The population age structure of Sept-Îles is similar to that of the province of Québec although the population of Sept-Îles is slightly younger on average. In 2006, the proportion of persons under 14 years old in Sept-Îles was 17.9 percent (down from 18.4 percent in 2001), compared to the provincial average of 16.6 percent (down from 17.8 percent in 2001). The proportion of persons aged 65 years and older in Sept-Îles was 12.6 percent (up from 9.8 percent in 2001), compared to the provincial average of 14.3 percent in 2006 (up from 13.3 percent in 2001).

In 2006, the persons aged 25 and 64, who form the bulk of the labour force, accounted for 58.1 percent of the population of Sept-Îles and 56.5 percent of the population in the province of Québec. However, the proportion of persons between the ages of 15 and 24 was lower in Sept-Îles in 2006 (11.4 percent) than the provincial average (12.6 percent). This is likely due to inter-regional migration of young people in search of better education and employment opportunities.

The rapid population growth in the Innu TakuaiKAN First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam since the early 1990s is reflected in a high proportion of young people relative to the total population. As shown in Table 5.2, the proportion of persons under 19 years old accounted for 48 percent of the population of Uashat and for 44 percent of the population of Maliotenam in 2001. In 2006, the proportion of persons under 19 years old accounted for 44 percent of the population of Uashat and for 42 percent of the population of Maliotenam, while it accounted for 24 percent of the population of Sept-Îles and for 23 percent of the population of the province of Québec as a whole.

**Table 5.2 Composition of the Sept-Îles Population by Age in 2001 and 2006**

| Characteristics                            | 2001   |         | 2006   |         |
|--|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|  | Total  | percent | Total  | percent |
| <b>Sept-Îles</b>                           |        |         |        |         |
| Total (All persons)                        | 23,790 | 100     | 25,515 | 100     |
| Ages 0-4 years                             | 1,355  | 5.7     | 1,425  | 5.6     |
| Ages 5-14 years                            | 3,030  | 12.7    | 3,150  | 12.3    |
| Ages 15-19 years                           | 1,580  | 6.6     | 1,515  | 5.9     |
| Ages 20-24 years                           | 1,540  | 6.5     | 1,385  | 5.4     |
| Ages 25-54 years                           | 11,345 | 47.7    | 11,565 | 45.3    |
| Ages 55-64 years                           | 2,610  | 11.0    | 3,270  | 12.8    |
| Ages 65-74 years                           | 1,565  | 6.6     | 2,045  | 8.0     |
| Age 75 years and over                      | 770    | 3.2     | 1,150  | 4.5     |
| Average age of the population              | 37.9   |         | 40.6   |         |
| percent of the population aged 15 and over | 81.6   |         | 82     |         |
| <b>Uashat</b>                              |        |         |        |         |
| Total (All persons)                        | 1,140  | 100     | 1,190  | 100     |
| Ages 0-4 years                             | 95     | 8.3     | 120    | 10.1    |
| Ages 5-14 years                            | 335    | 29.4    | 255    | 21.4    |
| Ages 15-19 years                           | 120    | 10.5    | 145    | 12.2    |
| Ages 20-24 years                           | 70     | 6.1     | 100    | 8.4     |
| Ages 25-54 years                           | 435    | 38.2    | 440    | 37.0    |
| Ages 55-64 years                           | 45     | 3.9     | 80     | 6.7     |
| Ages 65-74 years                           | 30     | 2.6     | 35     | 2.9     |
| Age 75 years and over                      | 15     | 1.3     | 15     | 1.3     |
| Average age of the population              | 21.1   |         | 23.5   |         |
| percent of the population aged 15 and over | 61.8   |         | 68.5   |         |
| <b>Maliotenam</b>                          |        |         |        |         |
| Total (All persons)                        | 1,095  | 100     | 1,120  | 100     |
| Ages 0-4 years                             | 120    | 11.0    | 115    | 10.3    |
| Ages 5-14 years                            | 270    | 24.7    | 240    | 21.4    |
| Ages 15-19 years                           | 90     | 8.2     | 120    | 10.7    |
| Ages 20-24 years                           | 80     | 7.3     | 75     | 6.7     |
| Ages 25-54 years                           | 405    | 37.0    | 425    | 37.9    |
| Ages 55-64 years                           | 80     | 7.3     | 80     | 7.1     |
| Ages 65-74 years                           | 30     | 2.7     | 55     | 4.9     |



| Characteristics                            | 2001  |         | 2006  |         |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|
|  | Total | percent | Total | percent |
| Age 75 years and over                      | 20    | 1.8     | 20    | 1.8     |
| Average age of the population              | 23.6  |         | 25.8  |         |
| percent of the population aged 15 and over | 64.4  |         | 68.4  |         |

Sources: Statistics Canada 2001, 2006

According to 2006 federal census data for Sept-Îles, males and females each represented 50 percent of the population and the average age for both was 40.6 years (Table 5.3). Statistics obtained for the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam indicate that females outnumbered males slightly in both populations, with women comprising 51 percent of the population compared to men at 49 percent. The average age of females was also higher than that for males (25.5 compared to 22.0 in Uashat and 28.5 compared to 23.4 in Maliotenam).

**Table 5.3 Composition of the Sept-Îles, Uashat and Maliotenam Population by Gender of the Population in 2006**

| Characteristics                 | Gender    |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                 | Male      | Female    |
| <b>Sept-Îles population</b>     |           |           |
| Average age of the population   | 40.6      | 40.6      |
| Total number                    | 12,770    | 12,745    |
| percent of the total population | 50percent | 50percent |
| <b>Uashat population</b>        |           |           |
| Average age of the population   | 22.0      | 25.5      |
| Total number                    | 580       | 615       |
| percent of the total population | 49percent | 51percent |
| <b>Maliotenam population</b>    |           |           |
| Average age of the population   | 23.4      | 28.5      |
| Total number                    | 550       | 570       |
| percent of the total population | 49percent | 51percent |

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2006

In 2006, the average number of persons per household in Sept-Îles was 2.4. Out of a total of 7,510 households, 42 percent had no children, 29 percent had one child, 22 percent had two children, and seven percent had three or more children. Comparable statistics obtained by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AANDC) for the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam reveal that the average number of persons per household was 3.27 in 2006. Out of a total of 715 households, 28 percent had no children, 36 percent had two parents with one or more children, and 36 percent had single parents and one or more children.

### **5.2.3 Future Trends**

Population projections produced by the ISQ in 2012, indicate that the population of the Côte-Nord (09) Administrative Region which includes Sept-Îles is expected to decline at a substantial rate over the next 20 years. The number of households in the region is estimated to decline at a rate of 11.6 percent between 2006 and 2031, compared to a projected increase of 15.8 percent in the province of Québec. Additionally, the number of persons per household is expected to decline from 2.39 to 2.19 over the same period. These projections are based upon current trends related to the aging of the overall population. They anticipate both a natural decrease (anticipated number of deaths greater than the number of births after 2026) and increased inter-regional migration (anticipated exodus of young people, workers and retirees).

Between 2006 and 2031, the ISQ forecasts a 12.1 percentage point decrease in 20 to 64 year olds, from 64.0percent to 51.9percent. This is compared to an anticipated 9.3 percentage point decline for the Province of Québec during the same time period (from 63.4percent to 54.1percent). This will likely contribute to existing challenges faced by regional employers attempting to recruit qualified labour from an aging workforce. (Emploi-Québec 2010).

## **5.3 Employment and Business**

### **5.3.1 Regional Context**

With a population of approximately 96,000 in 2009, Québec's Côte-Nord Region accounted for 1.2 percent of the population of the province. The region's main resource processing centers, Baie-Comeau and Sept-Îles, account for a large share of the population. The region's principal resources include:

- Boreal forests, which cover close to three quarters of the region; 2)
- Fisheries resources, which abound in the St. Lawrence River estuary and in a number of rivers and lakes;
- Mineral resources, which mainly include iron, but also ilmenite (titanium), graphite and other potential resources; and
- Recreation and tourism resources based upon outdoors activities.

The main sources of employment in the region are manufacturing, health care and social assistance, retail trade, public administration, education, accommodation and food services as well as mining (Table 5.4).

**Table 5.4 Côte-Nord Region – Industrial structure, based on jobs in workplace (2006)**

| Industries   | Côte-Nord Region |            | Québec     |
|--|------------------|------------|------------|
|  | Jobs (000)       | percent    | percent    |
| Manufacturing  | 7.0              | 17.0       | 15.4       |
| Health care and social assistance                    | 5.1              | 12.4       | 12.2       |
| Retail trade   | 4.9              | 11.9       | 12.8       |
| Public administration                                | 3.2              | 7.8        | 6.3        |
| Education  | 3.1              | 7.7        | 7.3        |
| Accommodation and food services                      | 3.0              | 7.3        | 6.5        |
| Mining   | 2.9              | 7.1        | 0.4        |
| Other services                                       | 1.9              | 4.5        | 5.0        |
| Transportation and warehousing                       | 1.9              | 4.5        | 4.0        |
| Utilities  | 1.3              | 3.1        | 0.9        |
| Construction   | 1.1              | 2.6        | 2.9        |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing                    | 0.9              | 2.3        | 2.2        |
| Professional, scientific and technical services      | 0.9              | 2.2        | 6.5        |
| Wholesale trade                                      | 0.8              | 2.0        | 4.5        |
| Finance and insurance                                | 0.8              | 1.9        | 4.3        |
| Administrative support and waste management services | 0.7              | 1.8        | 2.8        |
| Information and culture                              | 0.5              | 1.3        | 2.6        |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation                   | 0.5              | 1.3        | 1.8        |
| Real estate and rental                               | 0.5              | 1.2        | 1.5        |
| Company management                                   | 0.0              | 0.1        | 0.1        |
| <b>Total - Industries</b>                            | <b>41.0</b>      | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Canada Economic Development 2012 (Statistics Canada 2007)

Besides the region's hydro-electric complexes, which include some of the largest in Canada (Manic-Outardes complex, La Romaine complex under construction, etc.), the principal resource-based industries are based on the extraction and processing of mineral and forestry resources (Table 5.5). These include:

- Aluminum smelters, including two of the largest in Canada (Alcoa in Baie-Comeau and Aluminerie Alouette in Sept-Îles);
- Iron ore and ilmenite processing plants (IOCC and Cleveland Cliffs in Sept-Îles, ArcelorMittal in Port-Cartier, QIT Fer et Titane close to Havre-Saint-Pierre, etc.); and
- Pulp and paper mills (including Abitibi-Bowater mills in Baie-Comeau).

Natural resource industries are highly cyclical. While the pulp and paper industry is currently in difficult times, the mineral extraction and processing industry is going through a period of rapid expansion. According to provincial statistics (ISQ December 2011), this is reflected in increased

numbers of employment among adults between the ages of 25 and 64 in the RCM of Sept-Rivières, which includes Sept-Îles and Port-Cartier (+4.8 percent between 2009 and 2010).

**Table 5.5 Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec Regions – Structure of the Manufacturing Sector, Based on Jobs in Workplace (2009)**

| Industries                                      | Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec |            | Québec     |
|---|------------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | Jobs                         | percent    | percent    |
| Wood products                                   | 3,633                        | 43.0       | 8.8        |
| Primary metals                                  | 1,984                        | 23.5       | 4.7        |
| Food, beverage and tobacco products             | 943                          | 11.2       | 13.4       |
| Paper   | 800                          | 9.5        | 6.0        |
| Metal products                                  | 545                          | 6.4        | 10.2       |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing                     | 152                          | 1.8        | 4.3        |
| Non-metal mineral products                      | 112                          | 1.3        | 2.9        |
| Furniture and related products                  | 86                           | 1.0        | 6.7        |
| Printing and related support activities         | 55                           | 0.7        | 4.7        |
| Plastic and rubber products                     | 27                           | 0.3        | 6.5        |
| Clothing, leather and allied products           | 23                           | 0.3        | 5.1        |
| Transportation equipment                        | 23                           | 0.3        | 6.0        |
| Machinery                                       | 22                           | 0.3        | 6.9        |
| Electrical equipment, appliances and components | 21                           | 0.2        | 2.8        |
| Chemicals                                       | 19                           | 0.2        | 4.2        |
| Textile product mills and textile products      | 8                            | 0.1        | 2.3        |
| Petroleum and coal products                     | 2                            | 0.0        | 0.8        |
| Computer and electronic products                | 2                            | 0.0        | 3.8        |
| <b>Total – Manufacturing industry</b>           | <b>8,457</b>                 | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Canada Economic Development, 2012 (Statistics Canada, Business Register – June 2009, compiled by CED)

In 2009, tourism in the Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec regions generated 2,600 jobs and a total of 653 businesses were involved in the sector (CED 2012). In 2008, an estimated 45,000 tourists visited the Côte-Nord, spending approximately \$123 million. 38.5 percent of tourists were visitors from outside the province who accounted for 30.9 percent of total spending (CED 2012).

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the total weight of annual catches of fish in the Côte-Nord region was estimated at 12,129 tons in 2008 (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012). The most important fishing communities in the Côte-Nord region in 2008 in terms of volumes of annual catches were Sept-Îles (21.2 percent) and Havre-Saint-Pierre (9.4 Percent). For a number of years, Côte-Nord fisheries have seen a decline in the stocks of ground fish and snow crab (Service Canada 2007).

The distribution of businesses by size in the Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec regions in 2009 was similar to the province of Québec as a whole. Each region had 44.5 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) per 1,000 residents in 2009 (CED 2012). The provincial average was 37.6 SMEs per 1,000 residents (CED 2012).

In 2007, the Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec regions had 30 exporting companies and the value of exports was \$3,351.7 million, accounting for 4.7 percent of provincial exports (CED, 2012). Over the period of 2004 to 2009, public investment in the Côte-Nord region declined at an average annual rate of 0.1 percent, compared with a 12.4 percent increase in the province of Québec (CED, 2012). During the same time period, private investment in the Côte-Nord region declined at an average annual rate of 3.2 percent, compared with a 0.9 percent decrease in the province of Québec (CED 2012).

### 5.3.2 Employment, Income and Businesses in Sept-Îles Region

Between 2009 and 2010, the number of employed workers in the RCM of Sept-Rivières increased from 14,731 to 15,435, the employment ratio increased from 73.4percent to 77.5percent, and the median salary increased from \$42,567 to \$45,411 (ISQ 2011). Over the same period, provincial employment increased from 72.6 to 73.5 percent and the median salary increased from \$36,304 to \$37,173. This indicates more favourable employment and income characteristics for the region of Sept-Îles than for the province of Québec as a whole.

In 2009, the City of Sept-Îles had a population aged 15 and over of 24,700. The labour force numbered 16,900 individuals of which 15,500 were employed. The unemployment rate was 8.8 percent. The median salary for full-time male workers was estimated at \$53,023 and the median salary for full-time female workers was estimated at \$32,249 (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012). The labour force profile of Sept-Îles by sector in 2006 is provided in Table 5.6.

**Table 5.6 City of Sept-Îles – Labour force profile by sector (2006)**

| Sectors  | Sept-Îles (percent) | Québec (percent) |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Agriculture and other industry-related resources | 7.9                 | 3.7              |
| Construction                                     | 5.2                 | 5.2              |
| Manufacturing                                    | 11.9                | 14.6             |
| Wholesale trade                                  | 2.6                 | 4.4              |
| Retail trade                                     | 13.3                | 12.0             |
| Finance and real estate                          | 4.0                 | 5.4              |
| Health care and social assistance                | 12.5                | 11.2             |
| Education  | 6.9                 | 6.9              |
| Commercial services                              | 13.6                | 17.1             |
| Other services                                   | 22.1                | 19.5             |

Source: Statistics Canada (2007) in Ville de Sept-Îles (2012).

The service sector is the most important sector in the City of Sept-Îles in terms of employment and income. It is represented by a total of 862 companies employing 10,897 persons (Ville de

Sept-Îles 2012). The most important service sector employers include retail (1,835 persons), regional health and social services (1,459 persons), the regional school board (1,136 persons), federal, provincial and municipal administrative offices (995 persons), and accommodation and food services (975 persons).

In line with the importance of mineral extraction and processing industries to the economy of the region, the mining sector plays an important role in employment and income in Sept-Îles. The main employers include IOCC with a total of 510 employees in 2008 and Cliffs Resources (Wabush Mines) with a total of 350 employees in 2009. The industrial sector also plays an important role, providing a total of 1,642 jobs in 2007 (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012). The main employers in the manufacturing sector, according to the number of employees, include the Aluminerie Alouette aluminum smelter with a total of 970 employees as well as 14 other companies with a total of 642 employees (Table 5.7).

**Table 5.7 City of Sept-Îles – Main employers in the manufacturing sector, based on jobs in workplace (2012)**

| Employers                        | Jobs |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Aluminerie Alouette              | 970  |
| Métallurgie Brasco               | 150  |
| Groupe Tinor                     | 120  |
| Métal 7 inc.                     | 85   |
| UMEK                             | 80   |
| Soudo Technic. inc               | 40   |
| Spécialité Hydraulique Côte-Nord | 30   |
| Poissonnerie Soucy               | 28   |
| Imprimerie Rive-Nord médias      | 25   |
| Poissonnerie Fortier et frères   | 20   |
| Imprimerie B & E enr.            | 15   |
| Industrie de soudure Le Mineur   | 15   |
| Bouchard et Blanchette           | 12   |
| Les Industries Mingan            | 11   |
| HPC Hydraulique                  | 11   |

Source: Développement économique Sept-Îles (January 2007) in Ville de Sept-Îles (2012).

The construction industry accounted for only 5.2 percent of the labour force in Sept-Îles in 2006 (Statistics Canada 2012), however its importance to the local economy must not be discounted. Since 2010, the number of man-hours worked in the construction industry in the Cote-Nord region increased considerably due to a number of new large-scale engineering and roadwork projects (Roche, 2012). From 2006 to 2010, there was a 31.4 percent increase in the number of people employed in the construction industry with residences in the region as the number rose from 2,688 to 3,533 people (Roche 2012). This translates to an increase in local capacity in terms of diversified trades and jobs in the construction industry. Table 5.8 presents the range of

skills by number of people engaged in various construction occupations in the Cote-Nord region in 2010 as adapted from Roche (2012).

**Table 5.8 Skills by number of people engaged in various construction occupations in the Cote-Nord region in 2010**

| Trade/Occupation                               | Place of Residence |            |                 |
|--|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
|  | Cote-Nord          |            | Québec          |
|  | Number             | Percent    | Number          |
| Brick-layer/Mason                              | 23                 | 0.4        | 5,158           |
| Insulator                                      | 4                  | 0.5        | 852             |
| Tile layer                                     | 22                 | 1          | 2,064           |
| Carpenter/joiner                               | 738                | 1.8        | 41,072          |
| Boilermaker                                    | 20                 | 2.6        | 765             |
| Cement worker                                  | 28                 | 1.1        | 484             |
| Roofer   | 38                 | 0.7        | 5,484           |
| Electrician                                    | 334                | 2.1        | 15,867          |
| Tinsmith                                       | 43                 | 1.0        | 4,174           |
| Reinforcing iron worker                        | 43                 | 3.0        | 1,413           |
| Refrigerationist                               | 26                 | 0.9        | 2,971           |
| Jib-crane operator                             | 76                 | 4.8        | 1,573           |
| Elevator mechanic                              | 0                  | 0.0        | 931             |
| Millwright                                     | 78                 | 6.6        | 1,180           |
| Heavy machinery mechanic                       | 65                 | 13.6       | 478             |
| Fire protection mechanic                       | 3                  | 0.3        | 986             |
| Steelworker                                    | 94                 | 5.1        | 1,833           |
| Glazier  | 17                 | 0.9        | 1,930           |
| Shovel operator                                | 296                | 4.8        | 6,191           |
| Heavy machinery operator                       | 328                | 4.8        | 6,883           |
| Painter  | 68                 | 1.2        | 5,540           |
| Plasterer                                      | 20                 | 0.7        | 3,030           |
| Resilient flooring installer                   | 12                 | 1.0        | 1,238           |
| Interior systems installer                     | 20                 | 0.8        | 2,470           |
| Locksmith                                      | 19                 | 1.9        | 982             |
| Pipe fitter                                    | 124                | 1.5        | 281             |
| <b>Total trades</b>                            | <b>2 539</b>       | <b>2.0</b> | <b>125, 831</b> |
| Blaster and driller                            | 54                 | 8.1        | 663             |
| General laborer                                | 570                | 2.8        | 20,403          |
| Lineman  | 79                 | 3.8        | 2,074           |
| Welder   | 33                 | 4.1        | 804             |
| Other occupations                              | 258                | 8.7        | 965             |
| <b>Total occupations</b>                       | <b>994</b>         | <b>3.7</b> | <b>26,909</b>   |
| <b>Total Employed in construction industry</b> | <b>3,533</b>       | <b>2.3</b> | <b>154,470</b>  |

Source : CCQ (2012) as published in Roche (2012)

### 5.3.3 Employment, Income and Businesses in Innu Communities of Sept-Îles

Traditional activities still play an important role in the communities of Uashat and Maliotenam. These include salmon fishing, fur trapping, and hunting (e.g. caribou and waterfowl). These activities are practiced by community members throughout the territory to the north and east of the region of Sept-Îles. High unemployment rates are a significant concern in the two communities. According to federal census data, the activity rate for adults aged 20 and over in

Uashat and Maliotenam was estimated at 53.5 percent in 2006. That same year, the employment rate was at 34.4 percent, while the unemployment rate reached 35.7 percent. Average income for employed community members was estimated at \$19,517. Roughly 34 percent of this income was covered by government transfers (AANDC 2012).

The main employer in the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam is the Band Council, providing jobs directly through the Band Office and its various departments (economic development, social services, employment and training, etc.) and indirectly through related service providers (health and social services, school board, etc.) and companies. Approximately 50 companies are active in the two communities and economic activities are concentrated in the areas of forestry, fishing, trapping, construction, outfitting, art and handiworks.

Service companies in which the Band Office has an interest include the *Galeries Montagnaises* shopping center on Highway 138 as well as a number of transportation and construction firms that have developed through work on regional projects such as Hydro-Québec's Sainte-Marguerite-3 hydro-electric dam. For example, experience on the hydro-electric project has enabled a local Innu firm to be contracted by the City of Sept-Îles for the collection of municipal domestic waste and recyclable materials.

One of the biggest challenges facing the community is ensuring that the younger generations have access to jobs in the region. A number of training programs have been put into place for community members in collaboration with the Commission de la Construction du Québec (CCQ) in order to enable them to acquire marketable skills in the construction sector in areas such as carpentry and heavy machinery operation.

### **5.3.4 Future Trends**

Ongoing construction of Hydro-Québec's 1,500 MW La Romaine hydro-electric complex and the current level of regional investment in mining and mineral processing, are central to the economic development of the Sept-Îles region. Current and planned investments include Anglesey Mining (\$30 million), Consolidated Thompson Iron Mining (\$300 million) and New Millennium (\$1,900 million) (Service Canada 2007). The need to increase the capacity of port facilities at Sept-Îles to accommodate these projects has led to the recent announcement by the Sept-Îles Port Authority of a \$220 million investment in new multi-user wharf at Pointe-Noire (Port of Sept-Îles February 2012).

## **5.4 Social Conditions and Public Health**

### **5.4.1 Social Characteristics**

The population of Sept-Îles is primarily French-speaking (94.5 percent in 2006). In 2006, 3.4 percent of the population was English-speaking while less than 1 percent of the population was bilingual. Languages spoken by the population of the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam are Innu and French.



In 2006, 19.7 percent of the population in the Study Area had a technical certificate or apprenticeship diploma, compared to 15.3 percent for the province of Québec. College degrees were held by 16.9 percent of the population, compared with 16.0 percent for the province of Québec. However, the percentage of the population with a university degree was only 9.6 percent, compared to 16.5 percent for the province of Québec.

The proportion of the adult population in the Innu communities of Uashat and Maliotenam with a technical certificate or apprenticeship diploma was estimated at 18.5 percent in 2006, while the proportion of the population with a college degree was estimated at 1.9 percent and the proportion of the population with a university degree was estimated at 3.2 percent (AANDC 2012).

#### **5.4.2 Quality of Life**

The quality of life in Sept-Îles is relatively high and is enhanced by the picturesque landscape which extends along the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River. The proportion of residents of both sexes living below the before-tax low income cut-off<sup>1</sup> is estimated to have decreased from 14.5 percent in 2001 to 10.6 percent in 2006 (Statistics Canada 2006 in Ville de Sept-Îles 2012). The residents of the RCM of Sept-Rivières depend less upon government transfers as sources of income than in the rest of the province of Québec (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012).

Because resource based industries have traditionally been male dominated, there are fewer well-paid employment opportunities for women than for men due to the resource-based economy in the region. Women may also be more vulnerable to housing issues. A recent survey of 300 renters carried out in Sept-Îles revealed that renters without leases in their name represent half of all renters in the municipality. Due to the predominance of rental housing, average rental costs are 45 percent higher than elsewhere in the province of Québec. Women in Sept-Îles pay a higher proportion of their salary for their rent, however, their salaries are lower than those of men and they are often single parents. As a result, they are more likely to live under the poverty level (Conseil du statut de la femme 2012).

#### **5.4.3 Public Health**

Life expectancy has improved in the Sept-Îles region since 1984 (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012). The average life expectancy at birth for residents of the Côte-Nord region is 79.3 years, which is slightly below the provincial average of 80.7 years (Statistics Canada 2011). The annual number of deaths in the territory of the Regional health and social services center was 154 over the period of 2000 to 2003. Cancer was the main cause of death for 34.3 percent of cases, which represents a comparatively higher rate than the provincial

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<sup>1</sup> Low income before tax cut-offs (LICOs) are defined as the income levels at which families or persons not in economic families spend 20 percent more than average of their before tax income on food, shelter and clothing (Statistics Canada 2007).

average. The other main causes of death in the region were related to vascular system diseases (28.1 percent) and to accidental traumas (13.6 percent). The number of suicides in the region during the period between 2000 and 2003 was six per year, which is comparable to the average number of suicides in the Côte-Nord region and in the Province as a whole (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012).

Major risk factors for cancer are prevalent in the Côte-Nord region (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012). The region has a higher rate of smokers than the Province as a whole (29 percent compared with 24 percent). Other factors point to relatively high health risks for the population of the Côte-Nord. For instance, 41 percent of the adult population is overweight compared to 32 percent in the province of Québec. Furthermore, the proportion of adults that consumes high levels of alcohol is 28.9 percent compared to 20.2 percent in the province of Québec. However, the proportion of the adult population that suffers from stress-related problems is 18.8 percent, which is considerably lower than the rate for the province at 26 percent.

#### **5.4.4 Social Problems**

With respect to social problems, the rate of referrals to the Youth Protection Services is comparable in the Côte-Nord region to the rest of the province of Québec. However, referrals from the region's Innu communities represent a substantial portion of the total number of referrals. For instance, the communities of Uashat and Maliotenam represent just 15 percent of the youth under 17 in the territory served by the Regional Health and Social Services Center. However, in 2003-2004, 47.1 percent of the total number of referrals to the Youth Protection Services in Sept-Îles were from these communities (Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012).

In 2005, the Criminal Code offences in Sept-Îles averaged 7,035 offences per 100,000 inhabitants. This surpassed the average number of infractions in the Côte-Nord region (6,006 infractions per 100,000 inhabitants) and the average number of infractions in the Province as a whole (5,212 infractions per 100,000 inhabitants). The Côte-Nord region was ranked second behind the region of Montreal in 2005 in terms of the average number of infractions (*Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles 2012*).

### **5.5 Community Infrastructure and Services**

#### **5.5.1 Community Services and Infrastructure in the Sept-Îles Region**

The City of Sept-Îles benefits from a wide variety of community services. Available educational services include (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012):

- 7 public French primary schools and one public English primary school;
- 5 public French secondary schools, one public English secondary school and one private French secondary school;

- one public French college (i.e., CEGEP) offering a few programs in English and in Innu; and
- a branch of a public French university (i.e., Université du Québec à Chicoutimi).

### **5.5.1.1 Health and Social Services**

Available health and social services in the City of Sept-Îles include:

- a Regional health and social services center
- 5 private medical clinics;
- a center for palliative care;
- a rehabilitation center;
- 2 homes for elderly residents;
- 7 dental clinics; and
- a number of clinics specializing in chiropractic care, massage therapy and physiotherapy, etc.

The *Centre de santé et de services sociaux de Sept-Îles* (CSSSSI) constitutes the regional health and social services center for the Cote-Nord region. As such it serves a population of 50,994 people. In 2008, the CSSSSI employed 23 family doctors and 33 specialists (*Association des pharmaciens des établissements de santé du Québec* 2010). The hospital center offers a wide range of services organized under 11 departments including: anesthesia, medical biology, surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, general medicine, specialized medicine, pediatrics, pharmacy, psychiatry and radiology. In addition, the center provides community health and social services. In terms of physical capacity, the CSSSSI has 200 beds for short-term care patients and 100 beds for extended care services.

### **5.5.1.2 Other Community Services and Infrastructure**

Other services provided in Sept-Îles include a municipal library, two school libraries, two ski centers, a community recreational center, an outdoors cinema, a curling club, two museums, 23 parks equipped with playgrounds, two indoor arenas and several outdoor skating rinks, two indoor swimming pools, two running tracks, a bicycle path, a marina, three cinemas, two bowling alleys, four theatres, a baseball field, and an 18-hole golf course. There are also a variety of wildlife hunting and fishing activities nearby. Available religious services in the Sept-Îles area include three catholic churches, a Christian center, a center for Jehovahs' Witnesses, and two Baptist churches. Local news is covered by three local newspapers and three community radio stations. Close to 60 community organisations and associations are active in the city (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012).

The City of Sept-Îles benefits from the presence of four industrial parks. These include the Municipal industrial park (190 ha), the Ferco Park (320 ha), and the Downtown Sector (37.4 ha), which are designated for light industry, as well as the Pointe-Noire Sector (3,420 ha), which is

designated for heavy industry. All four of these parks are connected to Hydro-Québec's high to medium tension (735/315/161 kV) power distribution system through its regional Arnaud substation and are serviced with water and wastewater mains (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012).

### **5.5.1.3 Transportation**

Transportation infrastructure has played an important role in the development of the region of Sept-Îles since the 1950s. The transportation system includes Highway 138, which links Sept-Îles to Québec City and Montreal to the west and to Havre-Saint-Pierre and Natasquan on the Lower North Shore to the east. Highway 138 is the only road of major significance and is the only road link to neighbouring regions. The access road to Pointe-Noire connects to Highway 138. In 2007, 5 500 vehicles used the Highway 138 near the Pointe-Noire access road per day in the summer and 4,600 used it per day in winter (Roche, 2012). 8.4 percent of these vehicles were trucks (Roche 2012). These numbers underscore the traffic congestion that occurs between Sept-Îles town center and Pointe-Noire. Traffic is heaviest around the shift change at the Aluminerie Alouette aluminum smelter and the Cliffs Resources pelletizing plant. Several residents have already identified traffic as a major problem (Roche 2012).

Sept-Îles is also connected by rail through the Arnaud and QNS&L railways. QNS&L links the city to Schefferville and is run by *Transport Ferroviaire Tshinuetin*, the first First Nations company to operate a railway service in Canada. The inauguration in 2008 of a rail transshipment center in the Port of Sept-Îles and the regular service offered by the Georges-Alexandre-Lebel ferry-rail service (over 30 trips in 2008) have enabled regional firms to be connected to the North American railway network (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012).

The maritime transportation system is based at Port of Sept-Îles. This deep water marine installation is located 650 km down-river from Québec City. It contains a vast basin with a depth of 80 m and is open to navigation year-round. The Port of Sept-Îles is the most important center for the shipment of iron ore in North America, serving the Québec and Labrador mining industry. The Pointe-Noire port facilities are used by mining companies such as Wabush Mines, Bloom Lake, Rio Tinto IOCC and Cleveland Cliffs.

The regional transportation system is completed by the Sept-Îles Airport which constitutes a hub for regional air service to communities in north-eastern Québec, western Labrador, the Lower North Shore and the South Shore of the Saint-Lawrence Seaway, Anticosti Island, Québec City and Montreal. The airport can service up to a million passengers per year. Several regional airlines and helicopter rental firms offer a variety of services at the airport (Ville de Sept-Îles 2012).

### **5.5.1.4 Water**

The City of Sept-Îles has an extensive water and wastewater infrastructure. The water supply is based on several sources. Groundwater is the source of water for some 699 people. The majority of Sept-Îles residents depend on Lac Rapide for their water (*Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs* 2011). The municipal water source is

16 kilometers from the site (Gingras 2012). There are no private wells near the project site. The closest is 5 kilometers away (Gingras 2012)

### 5.5.1.5 Housing

Housing has been identified as a major issue in Sept-Îles (Roche 2012). The large number of development projects in the area and the growing global demand for natural resources, and the announcement of the Plan Nord are at the source of the pressure placed on current housing market. Over the past decade, there has been little in the way of new construction. Between 2006 and 2011, roughly 75.1 percent of new housing starts consisted of single family units and apartments and rental units constituted 15 percent of the total (Roche 2012).

In 2008, the vacancy rate in Sept-Îles dropped below one percent, over two percentage points below the three percent threshold established by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to delimit the difference between a balanced housing market and a shortfall (Roche 2012). The vacancy rate remained below one percent ever since. Vacancy rates for homes with three or more bedrooms are close to 0 percent. As the population has increased and the housing stock stayed relatively unchanged, house prices have risen. Between 2006 and 2011, the average price of a single family home in Sept-Îles rose 65 percent (Roche 2012). Rents also increased by some 15 percent on average (Roche 2012).

The City of Sept-Îles has estimated that 300 new units would need to be built in the spring of 2011 to raise the vacancy rate to three percent and to satisfy the needs of residents. The number of new houses needed to house both current residents and in-migrants tied to new projects bring the estimated need to 800 new units according to Lévesque (quoted in Roche 2012).

To alleviate the situation, the City of Sept-Îles has developed a strategy to attract developers and contractors to the area. By selling parcels of land and helping to finance construction, the City of Sept-Îles aims to add an estimated 478 new units for sale and rent as well as 200 new RV sites at the Parc Ferland. The City is speaking with the *ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune* (MRNF) to acquire public land on which to pursue residential development.

The City is also considering ways to provide temporary housing for construction workers coming to the region for work. One of the alternatives proposed has been to house temporary workers in a cruise ship.

Below is a list of on-going and future residential development projects in Sept-Îles:

- Call for tenders for the sale of 7 parcels of land for the construction of 62 new accommodations at Comeau and Humphrey streets
- Placement P. Noel Project to construct 54 new accommodations by 2013 (12 built to date)
- Development of sector north of Rochette Street to open up 50 lots in 2011 and 100 lots in 2012

- Sale of land in 2011 for the construction of 12 condominium units
- Expansion of Ferland's mobile home park to include an additional 200 lots.
- Other possible private development projects in the Sept-Îles, Gallix, Ville de Grasse and Place de la Boule

### **5.5.2 Community Services and Infrastructure in Innu Communities of Sept-Îles**

Available community infrastructure and services in the Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam include:

- an Innu cultural center (the Shaputuan Museum in Uashat);
- a community center and indoor sports arena in Uashat;
- a primary school and a secondary school in Uashat and a primary school in Maliotenam;
- a catholic church in Uashat and a catholic church in Maliotenam;
- community health and social services centers in Uashat and in Maliotenam;
- a community radio station in Maliotenam.

Other community facilities include a home for elderly residents, a youth center, a residence for mentally disabled persons, an open-air theatre, a playground, an outdoor swimming pool, and a camping area. The number of housing units in Uashat is 384 and the number of housing units in Maliotenam is 397 (Statistics Canada 2007).

The Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam has its own police force. The community of Uashat relies on the City of Sept-Îles for its fire services while the community of Maliotenam has its own. Drinking water supply and wastewater treatment services are also provided by the City of Sept-Îles through a service sharing arrangement.

## **5.6 Summary**

The Concentrate Storage and Load-out Facility is located in the City of Sept-Îles in the MRC de Sept-Rivières within the Côte-Nord Administrative Region of the Province of Québec. The Innu Takuaikan First Nation of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam is also located within the boundaries of the City of Sept-Îles. It represents two native reserves: Uashat and Maliotenam. Community land claims extend far beyond the boundaries of the City of Sept-Îles and encompass much of western Labrador and north-eastern Québec.

The study area is divided into six types of land use: 1) urban, 2) industrial, 3) recreational and forestry, 4) agricultural and forestry, 5) conservation, and 6) sanitary landfill. The Kami Terminal is located in the Industrial Park of Pointe-Noire approximately 1.5 km from the Val Sainte-Marguerite sector of Sept-Îles. The sector comprises residences and cottages, a campground and a few convenience stores.

The most recent statistics indicate that Sept-Îles has a population of 25, 686 inhabitants. Population growth in Sept-Îles is lower than the province (3.4percent versus 14.6 percent).

According to population projections produced by the ISQ, the population of the Côte-Nord region is expected to decline at a substantial rate over the next 20 years. The population of Sept-Îles is mainly French-speaking. The proportion of residents of Sept-Îles with college or university diplomas compares favourably with the rest of the province of Québec. The quality of life in Sept-Îles is relatively high. However the quality of life for women in Sept-Îles is potentially less attractive than for men as there are fewer well-paid employment opportunities for women. The City of Sept-Îles benefits from a wide variety of community services.

The service sector is the most important economic sector in the Sept-Îles in terms of employment and income. The dominant service sector employers include retail trade, regional health and social services, the regional school board, federal, provincial and municipal administrative offices, and accommodation and food services. The mining and industrial sectors also play an important role in employment and income in the city. The main employers include Rio Tinto IOCC, Cliffs Resources, and the Aluminerie Alouette aluminum smelter.

By their very nature, many of the region's industries are highly cyclical. While the pulp and paper industry is currently going through difficult times, the mineral extraction and processing industry is rapidly expanding. Ongoing construction of Hydro-Québec's 1,500 MW La Romaine hydro-electric complex and the current regional investment boom in the mining and mineral processing sectors represent significant factors in the future economic development of the region of Sept-Îles. In addition, to the major iron ore extraction projects in northern-eastern Québec and western Labrador underway, several more are planned. The need to increase the capacity of port facilities at Sept-Îles to accommodate these projects has recently led the Sept-Îles Port Authority to announce a \$220 million project to build a new multi-user wharf at Pointe-Noire.

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