

## THE COMPANY SKYJET/AIR LIAISON GETS THE CONTRACT FOR THE AIR TRANSPORT OF EMPLOYEES, USERS AND THE POPULATION OF THE LOWER NORTH SHORE

**Blanc-Sablon, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de la Côte-Nord will use the services of the company Skyjet/Air Liaison to transport its employees, the population and users from the Lower North Shore having to travel to Blanc-Sablon, Sept-Îles and Québec for medical appointments.

After a lengthy process supported by an advisory committee composed of local intervenors and air transport experts, a call for tenders was launched on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Following this procedure, the company Skyjet/Air Liaison was chosen, being the lowest compliant bidder and having successfully completed the service quality and safety audits. An eight-year contract has been signed with the CISSS de la Côte-Nord in order to provide air transport on the main network, which includes the villages of Blanc-Sablon, Saint-Augustin, Chevery, La Romaine and Natashquan. The type of aircraft used will be a Beechcraft 1900D which can accommodate 18 passengers.

### Secondary network

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the CISSS de la Côte-Nord will use a helicopter from the company Héli-Express Inc. to transport its employees and users from Tête-à-la-Baleine and La Tabatière having to travel for medical appointments. The helicopter will bring them to an airport of the main network, in Chevery or Saint-Augustin, in order to take a Skyjet/Air Liaison airplane.

The aircraft used will be a two-engine BK-117 helicopter which can accommodate 10 passengers. In Medevac mode, it allows for a safe and easy boarding with a cargo door meeting all medical evacuation needs.

Available 6 days a week, this helicopter transportation service will also be accessible to all the population from these villages. The rates will be fixed, regardless of the number of places available in the aircraft and of the number of days before departure. Schedules and rates will be available at [www.airliaison.com](http://www.airliaison.com) on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It will also be possible to book a flight on the company's website or by telephone at 1 888 589-8972.

### Working Committee

Over the last few days, the CISSS de la Côte-Nord created a new Working Committee to address the concerns of the elected representatives of the Lower North Shore, to ensure follow-up on the deployment of the new transport organization and to find solutions to all problems encountered.

Residents of the Lower North Shore who want to get more details or to share their concerns on air transport may do so by email at [09ciSSSprojethelico@SSSS.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:09ciSSSprojethelico@SSSS.gouv.qc.ca) or by telephone at 1 877 962-9761, ext. 455057.

The CISSS de la Côte-Nord would like to thank everyone involved in the steps prior to the award of the contract.

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