



In the Upper Gatineau Valley

## Rallye Perce-Neige de Maniwaki turns international

**Maniwaki, December 19, 2016.** The automobile rally Perce-Neige de Maniwaki will become international in 2017 while becoming the first round of the Canadian Rally Championship and the maiden round of the new American National Championship. The best rally teams for all over North America will meet to compete. Based in Maniwaki since the late Seventies and held on the Upper Gatineau road network, the 52<sup>nd</sup> running of Perce-Neige will be staged on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and was chosen for the quality of its organisation.

“This shows a lot of acknowledgement for our event,” claims Patrick Rainville, the event coordinator. “First for the quality of our organisation and the hundreds of volunteers that established the reputation of Perce-Neige. Then towards the municipalities of the Upper Gatineau, the Forêt de l’Aigle and Kitigan Zibi whose roads are among the most competitive in North America. We want to offer a flawless event, always a challenge in winter, in order to become a permanent fix for both championships.”

The red carpet

On top of the thirty plus teams that generally enter the event, more than twenty teams will cross the border to attend. A new rally authority was formed lately and regrouped the top five major events in the United States and Rallye Perce-Neige under the same umbrella. This means that the top teams are sure to enter: returning champions Antoine L’Estage and David Higgins will direly fight for the top spot on the podium, along with motocross icon and X-Games winner Travis Pastrana. Never before has Perce-Neige starting grid been so competitive.



Quite a show on February 4

Thousands of fans are expected to fill the spectator areas in the speed stages on Saturday the fourth of February. Information will be available in the central mall of the Galeries de Maniwaki shopping centre and the event web site at

[www.rallyeperceneige.com](http://www.rallyeperceneige.com). Free shuttle buses will be available for spectators. Ceremonial start is set to take place at 8:30 in the morning and arrival is expected at 9 PM.

The Rallye Perce-Neige de Maniwaki 2017 is made possible with the support of the City of Maniwaki, the Upper Gatineau Regional Municipalities, Quebec Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée, The Vallée de la Gatineau School Board, the Kitigan Zibi Community, Resto-Pub Le Rabaska and Nokian Tyres.

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