



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OH CANADA!

*Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Participates in Arizona Delegation Trip to Montréal,
Solidifies Key Relationships and Establishes New Partnerships*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – March 14, 2018 – To establish connections with Canadian elected officials and further position the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation’s tourism venues as attractive travel destinations for our neighbors to the north, tribal council president Bernadine Burnette and representatives from the Fort McDowell Enterprises participated in a multi-city Arizona Delegation to Montréal from February 22-24.

Not only did this afford President Burnette and key management team members the opportunity to join other Valley influencers in being part of Air Canada Rouge’s inaugural flight from Phoenix to Montréal, it also allowed her to meet and share best business practices with Stephane Billette, Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, Regulatory Streamlining and Regional Economic Development.

A bonus of the two-day delegation was solidifying the [We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center’s](#) relationship with Air Canada Vacations. As a result, the AAA Four Diamond property – as well as other Enterprises of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation – are now officially part of this dynamic tourism organization.

“Air Canada Vacations will now offer us as an option for golfers and other travelers interested in planning a trip to the greater Phoenix area,” explained Burnette. “This represents a huge market potential for the resort, [Fort McDowell Casino](#), [We-Ko-Pa Golf Club](#) and [Fort McDowell Adventures](#) to attract not only Canadians but international travelers connecting in major Canadian airport hubs to our exciting, one-stop desert vacation and meeting destination.”

The new partnership was finalized days after the group was hosted on Air Canada Rouge’s inaugural flight from Phoenix on February 22, when it officially launched thrice weekly Airbus A319 service to and from the largest city in the Quebec province.

Participants in the Arizona Delegation to Montréal included Phoenix mayor Greg Stanton and mayors from other key cities in the Valley, along with emissaries from the banking, legal, tourism, and economic and business development communities. Representing the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation with Burnette were Craig Benell (We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center), Matt Barr (We-Ko-Pa Golf Club) and Russ Barksdale (Poco Diablo Resort).

Trip objectives included strengthening and expanding Arizona’s economic and tourism ties with the Montréal metropolitan area and forming connections with the business community to promote trade, foreign direct investment, and economic development opportunities.

A major Arizona trading partner with annual exports estimated at \$2.2 billion per year, Canada represents a substantive market. Approximately 290 Canadian-owned businesses provide more than 29,000 jobs in the state.

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Photo (from left to right)

Commemorating Air Canada Rouge's new service from Montreal were Wickenburg Mayor, Everett Sickles; Surprise Mayor, Sharon Wolcott; Quebec delegate, Elizabeth Mackay; Flagstaff Vice Mayor, Jamie Whelan; Tucson Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild; Air Canada SVP of Regional Markets and Government Relations, Kevin Howlett; Mesa Vice Mayor, David Luna; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President, Delbert Ray Sr.; Tolleson Mayor, Anna Tovar; Maricopa Mayor, Christian Price; Phoenix Mayor, Greg Stanton; and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation President, Bernadine Burnette.

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