



An investment of nearly \$6,000,000

### **Solidarity Fund QFL participates in the growth of Le Scandinave Spa™**

**Montréal, Tuesday October 3, 2006** – The Solidarity Fund QFL has announced an investment of nearly \$6 million in Gestion Rivière du Diable Inc. (GRD), which will be developing the Le Scandinave Spa™ concept in Québec, Ontario and British Columbia. Specialized in the creation of spas in natural settings, this Mont-Tremblant company will spread its banner across North America and Europe, creating a hundred direct and indirect jobs in Québec.

According to Benoît Berthiaume and Pierre Brisson, co-founders and executive directors of GRD, owners and managers of the banner Le Scandinave Spa, the Fund's financial involvement will stimulate the development of franchises and corporate projects, both within Québec and beyond its borders.

"There is no comparable offer, either in North America or Europe," explained Benoît Berthiaume. "Given current market trends toward accessible health and relaxation experiences, our offer clearly has an inside track on what consumers want, in Québec, across Canada and in the United States. The business opportunities are there, and we are happy to be able to count on a partner like the Fund to rise to the occasion."

For Gaétan Morin, Senior Vice President of Investments at the Solidarity Fund QFL, Gestion Rivière du Diable is a model worth emulating in terms of how it plans clientele and market development. "The management team is in complete control of the variables; whether you look at their knowledge of the product and their competition or demographic trends and the clientele's consumption patterns, everything points to a successful project. The GRD team's energy and desire to go that extra mile fully justify the Fund's decision to provide the company with all the expertise and resources it needs to unfurl the Le Scandinave Spa banner across new business horizons," concluded Mr. Morin.

Founded in 1999, Le Scandinave Spa is now a must-see destination for visitors to the Tremblant region. Nestled into the banks of the Diable river, Le Scandinave Spa offers a year-round and accessible experience, independent of the weather. The Scandinavian baths provide a three- stage experience centered on body cleansing and offering a distinctive sensation of relaxation and well-being. Le Scandinave Spa also offers three types of massage: Swedish, Thai or volcanic stone.

### **About the Solidarity Fund QFL**

With assets of \$6.6 billion, the Solidarity Fund QFL is a development capital fund that through its RRSP channels the savings of Quebecers into investments in all sectors of the economy to help create and maintain jobs and contribute to Québec's economic development. The organization is a partner, either directly or through its network members, in 1,681 companies. The Fund currently has over 573,000 shareholders and has helped, on its own or with other financial partners, create, maintain and support over 116,644 jobs. For more information, visit [www.fondsftq.com](http://www.fondsftq.com)

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