

# Gaspé student starts Yukon guiding company

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GASPE: - Christophe Marie hails from the Chamonix Valley in France. He came to Canada and more specifically to Gaspé much like the explorers of old, chasing a dream. His dream of experiencing the North of Canada in a very personal way was made possible by the Guide d'Adventure program offered through Gaspé Cegep. A student in the relatively new program, it took Chris eleven months of intense studying and hands-on canoeing, hiking and sea kayaking before he was ready to start out on his journey. Certified in wilderness and remote first aid as well as whitewater rescue, the Cegep program allowed him to acquire and perfect the skills and abilities he would need to set out on a business venture of an extraordinary



*Christophe Marie took the Guide d'Adventure program offered at Gaspé Cegep.*

caliber.

In 2009 the North whispered his name and Chris founded the 'Compagnie Boreale des Guides' in Whitehorse Canada. The Yukon with its wild and untamed nature and rich historic and cultural in-

igenous background was exactly what he had dreamed of for his guiding company. The first to cater to a predominantly French (France) clientele, his activities attract those searching for a unique adventure 'pure and untouched'.

Catering to small groups and with a family-like atmosphere, the company offers expeditions with themes such as author Jack London and explorers Lewis and Clark. The remote area the likes of which are not readily found in France, combined with the expertise of bilingual guides offering a quality experience is making for a successful combination for the young entrepreneur.

The company's activities are available in four categories; River expeditions by canoe or kayak on rivers such as the Yukon and Big Salmon, and multifaceted camps with initiation to indigenous activities such as trapping and tracking. Exclusive fishing expeditions are also possible on Lakes Dezadeash and Klaune. Hiking expeditions are available on the Chilkoot trail, Kluane National Park and the Tombstone

Mountains.

Chris says the driving force behind his idea was knowing that a simple and organized life wasn't enough for him, and that he wanted to live a little closer to reality of his passion for the North. "I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I also knew that when you want something bad enough you can move mountains."

Chris is working on a book and being sponsored by Oradéa Vie in France which gives him a greater visibility when it comes to film opportunities, photographs and media coverage.

Chris also plans to develop his product in Montana, Alaska, Vermont and Québec and is therefore looking for certified Canadian guides to join his team.

For information visit [www.guidesboreal.com](http://www.guidesboreal.com).