

Chief Billy

Grand Chief and Chief of the Rupert House Band, Billy Dia.

Chief Robert Kanatewat

The Chief of the Fort George Band, Robert Kanatewat

Chief Fred Blackned

The Chief of the Old Factory Band, Fred Blackned

L. A. S. S. S.

The Chief of the Eastmain Band, Matthew Shanush

Chief Peter Gull

The Chief of the Waswanipi Band, Peter Gull

Philip Awashish

Councillor of the Mistassini Band, Philip Awashish

Smally Petawab

Councillor of the Mistassini Band, Smally Petawab

Chief J. Petawab

Chief of the Great Whale River Band, J.

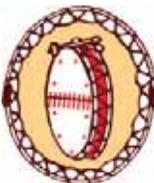
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Table of Contents



Message from the Grand Chief / Chairman, Dr. Ted Moses O.Q	2
Message from the Deputy Grand Chief / Vice-Chairman, Paul Gull	7
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)	
Message from the Executive Director	9
Working Group on Eeyou Governance	11
Cree-Québec Relations.....	12
Cree-Federal Relations	15
Forestry.....	17
Offshore Islands.....	18
Operations and Maintenance	19
Housing.....	20
International Affairs	21

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee): Thirty Years Later A Brief History of Cree Leadership	23
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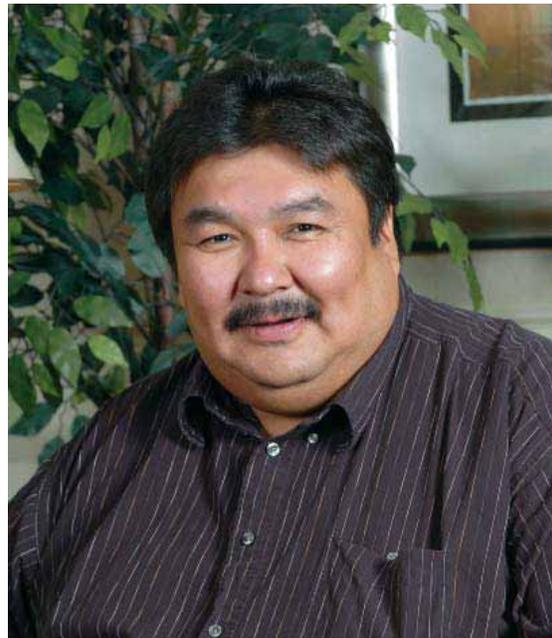


Cree Regional Authority	
Message from the Director General.....	37
Message from the Treasurer	39
Message from the Director, Office & Personnel	41
Message from the Director, Cree Human Resources Development.....	42
Message from the Director, Traditional Pursuits Department.....	45
Environmental Regime.....	46
Committees/HFTCC.....	47
Income Security Program.....	50
Forestry and GIS	51
Cree Culture/Aanischaukamikw	53
Message from the Director, Community Services.....	56
Technical Services	57
Policing.....	58
Economic Development.....	59
Arts & Crafts	
Cree Telecom	
Message from the Director, Child and Family Services Department	61
Message from the Director, CNYC.....	64
Cree Nation Youth Council.....	67
Cree First Nations.....	68
GCCEI/CRA Council/Board Members 2004-2005	68
GCCEI/CRA Executive/Executive Committee Members 2004-2005	68
Employee Recognition: 15-30 years	69
Organigram 2005.....	70

Message from the Deputy Grand Chief Paul Gull

Watchyia,
It is with great pleasure that I table my final report as your Deputy Grand Chief for this term. Over the past three years I have been truly blessed by the warmth and spirit that exists in our Nation. I know for many of us, myself included, we often get caught up in our day to day issues and concerns that it is easy to lose sight of the incredible achievements that we are making as a People. I believe the source of this progress and our success can be traced back to our strength as Eenouch. We should never forget that the same spirit that saw our ancestors through difficult times on the land also serves us in our daily efforts in the boardrooms, classrooms, clinics and the other countless jobs that Crees perform to make Eeyou Istchee a better place to live. I believe this is what has helped us stay together as a Nation through the various contemporary challenges that we have faced in the last 30 years.

As in the past two years of my term, this year has been very busy. I believe we have made significant progress on a number of files that I am involved with, in particular at the Access Coordination Table. In this past year the Crees were able to negotiate a set of specific criteria that will be used in determining where non-native cabins can be built. With the exception of parks, hydro installations and Category I and II Lands, the general public could apply to have a cabin lease anywhere in the territory: even right next to a Cree camp. Now, with the new criteria in place, there are a number of restrictions on where these cabins can be built. By way of example, there were 60 pending applications for review with the MNRW. After the new criteria was applied only 13 were approved. In the past all 60 would have received automatic approval.



The other positive development on this file was the commitment by the MNRW to put in place a permanent budget to address the problem of illegal squatter cabins that have been springing up all over the southern part of Eeyou Istchee. This past March the MNRW chartered two helicopters and was able to post notices of illegal occupation on 158 cabins throughout the territory. Once a cabin is posted, the owners have 7 months to identify themselves to the MNRW and begin the process of dismantling the site or it becomes the property of the MNRW. The MNRW is planning to follow this operation up in March 2006.

I am proud that the Crees played an important role in this operation. First, many of the illegal cabins were identified by the Tallymen and then mapped by the Cree

Local Forestry Joint Working Group Members. Then, during the posting operations, a Cree Conservation Officer was present in the helicopter to ensure that the MNRW team did not accidentally post any Cree cabins.

This example of collaboration between the Crees and the MNRW in this operation is exactly how I see our Nation to Nation relationship carrying forward into the future. There was a problem, in this case illegal cabins, and the Crees and Québec came together, shared information and then came up with a solution that meets everyone needs.

The development of an adapted forestry regime under the *Paix des Braves Agreement* posed particular challenges for our communities. In our effort to protect our lands neighboring Nations became concerned that perhaps we were claiming additional territory that they considered part of their traditional lands. I have been involved in the discussions with our First Nations neighbors to settle these issues in the best interests of the Cree communities of Mistissini, Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Waskaganish



In the discussions that were held on how to share the forestry resources that were gained under the *Paix des Braves Agreement* it is evident that we will face the difficult challenge of facilitating the practice of the Cree way of life while pursuing economic objectives in forestry development. I have accepted the nomination to the Cree Québec Forestry Board where I hope to be of further assistance in the maintaining and protecting of our culture during forestry development.

Another issue that has arisen from the *Paix des Braves Agreement* is that in relation to the labour standards which come from the Commission de la Construction du Québec (CCQ). We negotiated provisions that would facilitate Cree integration into the CCQ system so that there would be lasting benefits for those who find work at the EM 1 hydro-electric site. We have achieved a great deal in facilitating Cree participation in the CCQ system by ensuring that appropriate training is available and we have even managed to secure the cooperation of administrators of the CCQ to assist Crees to get access to unclaimed pension benefits. Despite all of these achievements there remains a great deal of work to do with the CCQ. In regard to this last issue, the Cree have requested the creation of a labour pool for the Nord-du Québec region. A similar request was also made by the Inuit and the Non-Natives living in the territory contemplated by the JBNQA.

The Québec Minister of Labour met the GCC(EI)/CRA representatives to review the Cree's position on this matter and has expressed his willingness to ensure

that the legal guarantees given by Québec to the Cree be respected. The Cree shall again meet the Minister as well as the representatives of the Inuit, the Non-Natives and the CCQ regarding the creation of a labour pool for the Nord-du-Québec in the following months. Currently discussions are being initiated to negotiate the terms and conditions under which the CCQ regime will be allowed by the Cree leadership to apply in the Cree communities. I look forward to the continued challenge that this file presents.

I believe we need to constantly remind ourselves and our counter-parts in this new relationship that a collaborative approach to most of the challenges we face will yield the most productive outcomes.

In terms of my work on the Boumhounan Niskamoon implementation, I think we have to push for more collaboration between the Cree and Hydro Québec, especially since the Environmental Impact Statement for EM1A & Rupert Diversion did not pass the conformity stage and has been sent back for revisions. One of the fundamental principles of Boumhounan is that the Crees are to be fully engaged in the research projects that are being conducted. I know that with many of the projects this has been the case. However, I have also personally seen examples where Hydro-Québec hydrologists were not using the services of Crees to help them navigate their boats while they performed their tests. I think more work needs to be done to ensure that the expertise of the Crees is used to its fullest.

Despite this, I am very satisfied with the work that the Boumhounan Office has done this past year. Glen Cooper, who oversees the Boumhounan office in Montréal, together with the efforts of the Local Community Representatives, have been instrumental in the facilitation of various community workshops to ensure that local concerns on the project's impacts are given the necessary volume to be heard by the project planners.

I would like to thank all the staff at the GCCEI/CRA who have made my job much more trouble free, and in particular, my Assistant Mandy Gull, who always made sure I was attending the right meetings, at the right time and place.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Cree Nation who welcomed me with warmth each time I visited your community. Your generosity has always sustained me, even at those times when my journey only seemed to be leading uphill.

Paul Gull
Deputy Grand Chief

Message from the Executive Director



Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

The year 2004/05 was a very busy and productive year for the Cree Nation. We made advances towards self sufficiency and reliance. There was a lot of local community development which is very evident on every visit.

After many years of efforts we have finally made progress with the Federal Government as is evident in the fact that we now have a signed "Outline for an Agreement" on Cree governance and JBNQA implementation. I give credit to Raymond Chrétien and his team for this turn of events. I also acknowledge the leadership and skill demonstrated by our Grand Chief in getting the political will and support needed in the Government and in Parliament.

The final agreement will contain implementation of a Cree justice system with proper facilities and funding, a Cree police force, as well as measures in respect to community and economic development and for environmental and social protection. Moreover the Agreement will bring about a transfer of certain federal responsibilities and obligations to the Cree Nation and the establishment of a process whereby such future transfers can continue.

After three years of further discussion among ourselves and with Canada these efforts should also result in new Federal legislation (Eeyou/Eenou Governance Act) to acknowledge the Cree Nation Government and to formalize the relations between the Cree and Canada.

This is how self government should work. One should not negotiate terms for certain aspects of self-government and then ask if the Federal or Provincial government can continue to provide services as before. We have to be responsible as a government to our citizens for providing services to them.

This year we also signed a new Operations and Maintenance Agreement which will give the com-



munities financial certainty for the next 5 years. This Agreement would not have happened without the mediation of Judge Rejean Paul of the Québec Superior Court and without the added efforts of Mr. Raymond Chrétien.

On the Québec side our relationship continues to grow. The agreed-to funding flows without any interruption since the *Paix des Braves* was signed. With the funding flowing without the constant intervention of the Government bureaucracy, the Cree Governments are able to carry out Québec obligations stemming from the JBNQA in a manner that suits our needs. For the first time, we now receive a share of the revenues created by resource development on Cree territory.

All this directly translates into jobs and opportunities in the Cree communities. Think about the number of people who are now finding employment in construction, in new businesses and in the services that are now being provided by the community, the Cree Trappers Association and the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, to name only a few.

One of the most important aspects of this development will be a growing sense of confidence for the future in our youth, who will begin to think that they can find employment in the community, in regional development or with the Cree Nation. Confidence in the future is an essential ingredient in Nation building. There are many Cree families and youth who are getting direct benefits from the new Agreement. The *Paix des Braves* is a base for this community development to continue to prosper.

While today many communities invest in community facilities with this money, we are now at a point where we will have to increase our investments in creating employment. We can build facilities for tourism, invest in forestry and mining and we can give more priority to helping Crees start new businesses and to get the training that they need to get jobs. The EM1A Project is still under review and yes, if it is approved jobs in that sector will continue. However, if it does not win approval, all of the benefits from the agreement that I referred to above will still continue. There are many Aboriginal nations in Québec, Canada and around the world who are trying to achieve what the Crees and Québec have agreed to in the *Paix des Braves*.

In spite of this, there are those who search out the problems in our community and who put these on the television across Canada in the film "Just One More River". As if these images of alcohol and drug abuse

described how most of the Cree People live! Yes, these are problems that our communities face, but how does portraying the Cree People in this way to the rest of the world help us to solve these problems that a minority of our people face?

These are changes that are occurring right across the north, in places where there are large forestry, mining and hydroelectric projects as well as in other places where development has not yet arrived.

It is the increasing demand for electricity, wood products and minerals that drives development and increases the rate of change. The rising demand in the south for the products made from these resources puts pressure on our society to adapt. But it is also the demand for the benefits of

development in our own communities that increases this impact.

If we are to continue to build the Cree Nation, we must solve our problems and we must show the rest of the world that we manage our affairs well. This is why the film, that was made on the Crees and distributed across Canada, is so damaging. It falsely suggests that the Crees are failing. To many people in Canada the film was seen as a demand to Canada or Québec to intervene and take over our affairs, such as was done in the past under the Indian Act.

Such misguided and irresponsible efforts misinformed the public about the Crees and played into the hands of our detractors in Ottawa. By falsely portraying the Cree leadership as undemocratic and not ready to take on more responsibility for the governance of our affairs, the film threatened our efforts to further implement our rights in the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* and to build our Cree Nation Government.

Our political stature in Québec and Canada is beyond our population of 14,000 and it is only made possible by the skilled effort of the past and present leadership. Our nation's political stature took many years to build and can be squandered in a very short period of time by irresponsible efforts to play politics at the expense of all Crees. The tenacity and skill with which we defend our Nation must be protected and passed on to future leaders.

Executive Director
Bill Namagoose



Working Group on Eeyou Governance

In 1998, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), by Resolution, established the Working Group on the Cree Nation Government which was mandated to establish and execute a process for the development and implementation of a Cree Nation Government. As a result of the implications of the *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec on Cree governance*, the mandate of the Working Group was reviewed by the Cree leadership. The Working Group now known as the Working Group on Eeyou Governance remains a consultative, advisory, coordinating and recommending body to Eeyou and Eeyou leadership on all matters arising from and relating to Eeyou governance.

The 2004-2005 members of the Working Group on Eeyou Governance, as appointed by Resolution of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), are: Abel Bosum (Chairman), Bill Namagoose (Vice-Chairman), Losty Mamianskum, Elder Robbie Matthew, Philip Awashish, Norman Gull, John Paul Murdoch, Irene Neeposh, Roderick Pachano, Violet Pachanos, Simeon Pash (Cree Trappers Association), Romeo Saganash, a representative of the Cree Nation Youth Council, a representative of the Cree School Board and a representative of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay.

At the 2004 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority, the Working Group presented a report on the Special General Assembly on Eeyou Governance held on November 4-6, 2003 in Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee. The Working Group also presented some designs for an Eeyou Nation flag which will have to be reviewed further by the members.

In addition, the Working Group on Eeyou Governance has decided to review the 1995 Eeyou Istchee Declaration of Principles with a view of updating these principles by taking into account the events that have occurred and implicate Eeyou rights and Eeyou governance since 1995.

The Eeyou/Eenou members of the Cree Nation attending the Special General Assembly on Eeyou Tapaytahchesouwun planned by the Working Group on

Eeyou Governance and held on November 4-6, 2003 in Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee had recommended, amongst others, the establishment of an Eeyou/Eenou government in Eeyou Istchee and the consolidation of Cree/Hydro-Québec Entities.

The James Bay Eeyou Companeé, the Nadoshtin Companeé, the Apatisiwin Corporation, the Eeyou Namess Corporation, and the Weh Sees Corporation have been consolidated into one entity entitled the Niskamoon Inc. The Niskamoon Corporation is presently functioning as the vehicle of choice when discussing implementation issues with Hydro-Québec.

With respect to matters relating to the Cree Nation Government, the Working Group has reviewed and commented on the Cree proposals prepared by the Grand Council of the Crees for submission to the federal government in the current discussions and negotiations on Cree-Federal relations. On June 30, 2005, the Crees and the Federal government signed an "Outline for an Agreement" that calls for a new relationship between the government of Canada

and the Cree Nation of Québec. Of particular interest to the Working Group is the intention of the federal government and the Crees to negotiate and "move towards a Cree Nation Government with appropriate legislative, regulatory and financial means to carry out its functions in accordance with the terms of a Cree Constitution" which will be developed and adopted by the Crees. In the final Agreement to be negotiated and determined by the parties, Canada will commit to recommend to Parliament special legislation concerning a Cree Nation Government to formally acknowledge a Cree Nation Government provided with appropriate means to carry out its functions and deliver programs and provide for the recognition of a Cree Constitution. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority will be empowered, in a manner to be described in the Agreement, to exercise all the required regional governance capacities.

The Working Group on Eeyou Governance will be closely following the Cree-federal negotiations and will be submitting its recommendations to Eeyou and Eeyou leadership on the matters relating to the Cree Nation Government and the Cree Constitution.



Cree-Québec Relations

Introduction

The relations between the Cree Nation and Québec continue to be very good and productive. Negotiations files continue to produce substantive results for the Cree Nation. In almost all files the new relationship has ensured important progress and concrete measures positively impacting the Cree communities and the Cree population.

In addition to the base funding of \$70 million in 2004-2005 flowed pursuant to the *New Relationship Agreement*, the Crees have resolved substantial Québec related files, including more particularly the following:

- a) Resolution of past obligations with Hydro-Québec and SEBJ resulting in a New Relationship Agreement with these corporations involving substantive measures such as dam safety undertakings, contracts and employment, as well as \$7 million paid and indexed annually for as long as the La Grande (1975) Project is in operations.
- b) Resolution of the funding elements related to section 14 of the JBNQA concerning health and social services. This includes new recurrent yearly development funding in excess of \$40 million each year, phased-in over five years and which should bring the operations budget of the CHB over \$120 million yearly at the end of the five year period. In addition 225 new housing units will be funded as well as \$112 million in new capital facilities.
- c) Renewal and expansion of the funding for the Cree School Board for an additional five year period. The CSB operations funding should exceed \$100 million yearly by the end of



the funding agreement, with new substantial resources being devoted to adult education and professional training. In addition a large \$18 million professional training center is being built in Waswanipi. Moreover new after school day care services will now be provided and funded by Québec in the Cree communities.

- d) Increase in funding for policing services with the complement of funded officers going from 55 to 65, and additional funding resources. Thus effective April 1st, 2005 police related funding has increased from approximately \$7,575,000 to \$9,116,364, an increase of close to \$1.6 million or over 20%.
- e) A new compensation fund for trappers affected by forestry operations has been established and is jointly financed by Québec and the Crees.
- f) A 25% reduction in the forestry harvest in the territory has been negotiated between the Grand Council and Québec. This important reduction in wood cutting will be effective for a three-year period starting April 1st, 2005.
- g) Québec has also agreed to proceed with the destruction of illegal cabins set up by non-natives over Cree traplines.

There are many other success stories. In addition many files are still on going, particularly in those areas involving federal participation. Since the federal cabinet has provided a mandate to Mr. Chretien to proceed with negotiations, we can expect some substantial improvements in all these negotiations files with Québec during the next year.

All these discussions are being coordinated through the Standing Liaison Committee. This Standing Liaison Committee is set up to ensure high level discussions between the Cree Nation and Québec. There have been numerous meetings of the Standing Liaison Committee over the past year as well as numerous meetings with various departments and representatives of the Québec government to ensure the proper implementation of the New Relationship Agreement. The process to date has been highly successful.

Follows a brief review of some of the discussions and negotiations that are on-going.

Settlement concerning health and social services

The new health agreement between Québec, the GCC(EI)-CRA and the Cree Health Board will involve huge additional resources from Québec for health and social services to the Cree population.

Some of the highlights of this major agreement include the doubling of the operations budget of the Cree Health Board over 5 years. This budget should reach \$120 million annually by the end of the agreement

period. In addition 225 new housing units for Cree Health Board employees will be funded, and most of these houses will be built by the Cree Bands with local Cree manpower. New health related capital facilities will be built for an authorized new capital budget of \$112 million over seven years.

The agreement should allow the Cree Health Board to deliver considerably improved health and social services to the Cree population.



Table concerning section 18 of the JBNQA relating to Justice

Under the provisions of sections 9.12 to 9.14 of the New Relationship Agreement, the Crees and Québec must negotiate to resolve issues related to section 18 (justice) of the JBNQA under the supervision of the Standing Liaison Committee.

Québec has announced that it is ready to provide new additional funding for an incarceration facility in one of the Cree communities. This would be a community-based facility for non-dangerous offenders. The focus of the facility would be on reinsertion of the offenders in the community through appropriate programs.

Québec has also provided a comprehensive proposal for section 18 involving substantial new justice services and related funding. Discussions on this proposal will continue with Québec in the upcoming year.

For this purpose, an amendment to the *New Relationship Agreement* has been agreed to in order to extend current delays for this matter to December 31, 2005.

Table concerning section 19 of the JBNQA relating to policing

Under the terms of sections 9.12 to 9.14 and 10.11 to 10.16 of the *New Relationship Agreement*, discussions are to be pursued with both Québec and Canada in order to proceed with amendments to the JBNQA for the creation of a new Cree regional police force.

Negotiations have proceeded with Québec and most aspects of the regional police are now agreed to. Unfortunately, Canada has failed to issue a mandate for an amendment to the JBNQA for this purpose and has not therefore participated in these negotiations. Here again we expect this issue to be resolved at the federal level through the recent negotiations process with Canada and its negotiator Mr. Chretien.

Nevertheless, after intensive discussions, the GCC(EI)-CRA has succeeded to increase funding for local Cree police forces from the current 55 constables to 65 constables effective April 1st, 2005. The yearly funding for policing has thus be increased from approximately \$7,575,000 to \$9,116,364. Moreover, discussions continue for the Cree Nation Police.

Ouje-Mistissini Land Transfer Table

Under the provisions of Schedule G to the *New Relationship Agreement*, a process has been set up to facilitate the implementation of the settlement framework related to the transfer of lands between Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou. Negotiations to complete the settlement framework are on going with both Canada and Québec.

Forum on taxation

Though not formally provided for under the terms of the *New Relationship Agreement*, a forum on taxation issues with Québec was set up in order to resolve outstanding tax questions involving the provincial authorities.

This table has a resulted in a positive development for Cree workers at construction sites located outside the Cree communities, allowing workers who maintain a residence on Category 1A lands and who work for companied located on Category 1A lands to benefit from income tax exemptions when working at temporary work sited such as construction sites.

Table with SDBJ

Under the provisions of section 10.9 of the *New Relationship Agreement*, the SDBJ was to enter into negotiations with the CRA to address relations between the Crees and SDBJ and concrete measures to encourage joint ventures and partnerships with Cree enterprises in tourism, road maintenance, fuel distribution, mining, forestry, construction, transportation and other ventures.



These discussions have been delayed because of certain uncertainties surrounding the continued existence of the SDB J.

The timeframe for these discussions has been extended to December 31, 2005.

Access to territory

Under the terms of the *New Relationship Agreement*, a special table has been set up to deal with matters related to the access to the territory by non-Crees. Three reports have been issued to date by this.

As a concrete result of the activities of this committee, Québec has agreed to proceed with the destruction of numerous illegal cabins that have been built over the years. These measures will be effective beginning next year. Additional recommendations from the committee will be reviewed in the upcoming year.

Forestry

Very substantial developments have occurred in relation to forestry matters.

First, Québec has agreed to implement a 25% reduction in the harvest for the next three years starting April 1st, 2005. This reduction can be modulated over three years by the concerned forestry companies insofar as the overall reduction in harvest remains at 25% overall.

Second, a new substantial forestry enhancement program for trappers affected by forestry operations has

been agreed to in which both the Cree and Québec will contribute. Trappers affected by forestry operations will now be able to access this program to obtain remedial measures of interest to them.

Third, access to some of the existing forestry 'mise en valeur' program monies has been secured for the Cree, and discussions are on going for a greater share for the Cree in future years.

Fourth, agreement has been reached in regard to the funding components for the committee and working groups set up in regard to forestry under the terms of the *New Relationship Agreement*.

Finally, Québec has provided an allocation of 225,000 additional cubic meters of wood to the Cree effective April 1st, 2005.

Moreover, substantial discussions are being pursued in regard to other forestry related matters and these should provide additional benefits for the Cree Nation in the upcoming year.

Land selection table

Under the terms of section 4.18 of the *New Relationship Agreement*, Québec has agreed to discuss revised Category 1 land selections for the communities of Waskaganish, Waswanipi and Nemaska in light of the canceling of the NBR project should the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert diversion project be authorized.

In addition, Québec has also agreed to discuss the Cree Category 2 land allocations that have still not been formally completed by Québec.

For these purposes a new table has been created to resolve the Cree Category 2 land allocations and to determine how to proceed in regard to new Category 1 selections for the three concerned communities.

Consultations with the concerned communities are on going.

Cree Development Corporation

The nomination of the Board of the CDC will be made once the mandate of the corporation has been defined by the Cree.

Following instructions from the Council-Board, mandates have been issued to business valutors to proceed with an assessment of the value of the CreeCo family of companies as well as of Sodab related companies. Based on these evaluations, a meeting of the Cree leadership will be held to determine the orientation for the CDC and the sources of funding for Cree economic development initiatives.

Federal Relations

New Cree Initiatives

Over the last year the main work in dealing with the Federal Government has involved discussions with the government members and with members of the opposition parties to obtain commitments from government in respect to the implementation of Canada's outstanding obligations to the Crees under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. There was support obtained from the Government for a special initiative of the same nature and financial importance as the New Relationship Agreement with Québec, except that any federal-Cree agreement would not involve any specific resource development projects, but rather would indirectly equip the Crees through training and economic development support to participate in all future developments and to initiate projects in the territory.

The NDP supported the Cree proposals and with the collaboration of the Director of Québec relations, the Grand Chief easily obtained very important support from the Bloc Québécois. Because of the wide support in Québec for the Bloc in the last election, the Bloc believes that it speaks for Québec in Ottawa and their support is important for any Québec proposal.

Despite the fact that the revelations coming out of the Gomery Inquiry took up a large part of the debate in the House over the last year, the Crees were able to obtain multi-lateral support for the new Cree initiative to implement the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* through a Cree Nation Government that would have the mandate and machinery of government essential for the long-term implementation of the Agreement according to Cree priorities.

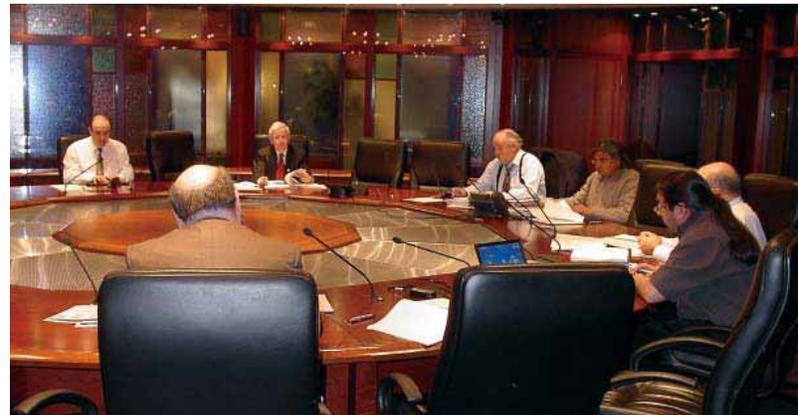
The On-Going Politics of Aboriginal Initiatives

The last year has seen a return to the politics of the 1970's and 80's in Ottawa with the accession to power of a party that was forced to form a minority government. Without a clear majority, governments must seek allies among the opposition parties and must also negotiate their policies so that a consensus has a chance of taking root. This is to some extent what happened in the last budget when the NDP got certain concessions from the Liberal Government in return for their support of the budget. Since the Bloc Québécois and the Conservatives voted against the budget, the government survived by a very narrow margin when the speaker of the House of Commons broke a tie by voting with the Government.

The NDP additions to the budget were for housing for the poor, post-secondary education, energy efficiency, foreign aid and for the protection of workers' benefits. There was little in these additions for Aboriginal

Peoples. The Liberal Government already had certain initiatives in the budget for Aboriginal Peoples, so the passing of the budget was somewhat positive from their perspective. The budget includes the following, according to the official announcement:

- "\$735 million in new investments aimed at ensuring prosperity is shared by Aboriginal people and communities" including:
- \$295 million over five years for housing construction and renovation on reserves;
- \$100 million over the next five years for early



- learning and child care on reserves;
- \$120 million over five years for special education for First Nations children living on reserves.
- \$125 million over five years for child and family service agencies;
- \$40 million to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to continue healing projects to address the physical and sexual abuse experienced by many in residential schools.

The above is in addition to the \$700 million over five years for Aboriginal health programs announced in the September 2004 Budget.

All of the items for the 2005 budget of course only add up to \$680 million, and \$640 million of that is spread over the next five years, but nevertheless, they have put more money into aboriginal initiatives.

Cree Issues with "Aboriginal Initiatives"

There are two problems for the Crees in the new programs and in the way they are to be delivered. First of all, the allocation of funding is decided using a national allocation process that does not take into account the treaty rights of the Crees to programs for many areas of community services. Rather than being decided in processes involving only the Crees, Québec and Canada, as the treaty calls for, the Federal processes include representatives of national aboriginal organizations that have little knowledge or interest in Cree rights and have



not been mandated by the Grand Council to speak on behalf of the Crees. This results in the funding being allocated through models that do not take account of Cree rights, needs or Cree requirements for participation. If the JBNQA were to be properly implemented, the Crees would sit at the table with Canada and Québec as equal partners in the decision-making process. The existing federal processes do not even include the Crees and it would probably not be worth the Crees participating in such processes if it prejudiced the Cree right to participate in such forums as an equal partner with Canada and Québec.

Secondly, the new levels of funding are not adequate to address the needs across Canada for local and regional aboriginal economic and social development. Whereas the Crees have specific commitments in the JBNQA in regard to the effectiveness of the measures to be undertaken through regular or special programs, most of the Aboriginal Nations in Canada do not have such guarantees. Moreover, as the Crees have, since the 2002 New Relationship Agreement with Québec, taken on the implementation of many of Québec's obligation to the Crees, the implementation of the Federal JBNQA obligations should now take place with the Crees and Canada at the table, but with the Crees taking the place that under the 1975 Agreement was reserved for Québec on many issues. On other issues, including justice and policing, Québec will still have to take its part in implementation arrangements worked out on a tri-lateral basis.

The Chretien Process

The present table of negotiation between Mr. Raymond Chretien and Mr. Bill Namagoose is addressing the issues that are of great importance to the Crees. The financial targets have been set and it remains to decide

on the details of implementation and the time horizons for specific implementation issues.

More importantly, the new negotiations will set the table for the Crees and Canada to discuss the structure and implementation of a New Cree Nation Government. This new government will, for the first time in Canada, be a recognition by Canada of an Aboriginal Nation, organized by the Crees, delivering programs in concert with the communities to all Crees, and set up to protect and implement Cree rights in accordance with a Cree Constitution.

Cree leaders will be responsible to their communities and to the Cree Nation once the new government is in place. Who better to judge the quality of services received if not the Cree People themselves? It is this accession to responsible government that the Cree People have called for since the Cree/Naskapi (of Québec) Act came into force in 1984. With the new government the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Ministry itself will be at arms length to the Cree Nation, as Crees will report to Crees on their successes and challenges.

Breakthrough in Cree-Canada Relations

The new process promises to deal with a number of outstanding issues between the Crees and Canada. The funding of the Cree Trappers' Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association and the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association as well as the operation of regional programs will all be determined in the process. In many areas it is expected that significant federal responsibilities will be devolved to Cree Government.

For the past 30 years the Crees have awaited a commitment of the Government of Canada to deal with the 1975 obligations. Canada has already made this commitment and the details will be decided over the coming months.

The eyes of Aboriginal Canada will be on the Crees during and after the processes of negotiation and implementation of the new Cree Government. This is a new step for Aboriginal Peoples and one made possible by the efforts of many Cree leaders and people over the years working on the functioning of Cree government at the community and Cree Nation levels. Nothing speaks more clearly and boosts the credibility of Cree Government than a record of effective and well run local and regional governments. The new Cree Government promises to be a real break-through in the governance of Aboriginal Nations in Canada.

Forestry

If the forestry report for the past year had to be summed up in two words, they would be “Coulombe Commission”. In late December of last year, the results of the Government’s *Commission for the Study of Public Forest Management in Québec*, otherwise known as the Coulombe Commission, released its final report and recommendations. Contained within the Commission’s 73 recommendations are the ingredients for a dramatic reorganization of the way the forests are managed in Québec. For the most part, the majority of these recommendations fall in line with the orientation of the new forestry regime from the *Paix des Braves Agreement*.

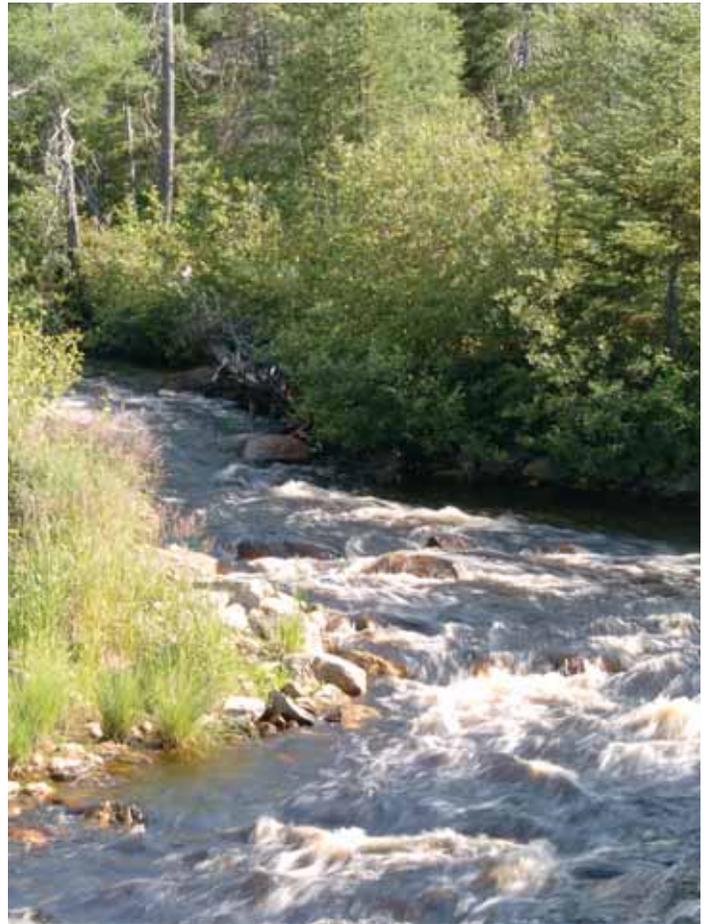
Essentially the Commission, after a year of study and public hearings, arrived at many of the same conclusions on forest management in Québec that the Crees had identified for the past 10 years or more. The Commission found that Québec’s forests have not been managed in a sustainable fashion and that forest managers had overestimated the capacity of the forest to regenerate after logging. This has resulted in logging rates that are not sustainable. To address these problems, the Commission recommended that the Government reduce the amount of trees that can be logged by 20%.

Following a series of meetings with the Cree negotiator and the Cree Forestry Implementation Team (CFIT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MNRW), the parties agreed that this reduction should be extended to 25% for the territory encompassing Eeyou Istchee. The further 5% reduction was justified because of anticipated reductions that will occur as a result of the reorganization of the Forestry Management Units that will happen in 2008. The impact of these reductions will be remarkable as the overall logging in Eeyou Istchee will decrease from about 5 million cubic meters per year to 3.75 million cubic meters. This dramatic reduction in logging only serves to validate all the various warnings that the Cree have been making in courts and in the public arena in the past 10 years. It is encouraging to finally see that the Government authorities are taking these concerns seriously.

Aside from the current and future challenges that have been brought about by the Coulombe Commission’s report, we have made progress in the ongoing implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime of the *Paix des Braves Agreement*. At the level of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board, we have had several personnel changes amongst the Cree members. Sam W. Gull has replaced Jack Blacksmith and Deputy Grand Chief Paul Gull has replaced Dr. Billy Diamond. The other three Cree members on the Forestry Board are Chief John Longchap, Allan Saganash Jr. and Sam Etapp. The

members of the Board thank those who are leaving for their service and wish them well.

The Cree-Québec Forestry Board has continued to make a valuable contribution to the implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime. A key project at the Board this year has been work on the development of a series of Wildlife and Habitat Directives that will improve field level forestry operations ensuring further protection for species of animals that the Cree Tallymen identified as meriting additional safeguards. These directives are currently entering the field testing stage and should be refined over the next year.



Another important project at the Cree-Québec Forestry Board is an evaluation of the progress of implementation at the level of the Local Joint Forestry Working members. As part of its mandate to oversee the Adapted Forestry Regime, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board has prepared questionnaires and interviews for both the Cree and MNRW Local Joint Forestry Working Group members to gauge how they feel the regime is functioning. The results from this evaluation will enable the Cree-Québec Forestry Board to recommend various measures to improve the regime’s implementation.

One factor that will help with the implementation is the signing of a three year funding agreement for the Cree Local Joint Forestry Working Groups in December 2004. Over the past year the CFIT developed a Cost Assessment Analysis tool in order to determine how much funding will be required for the Cree Local Joint



Forestry Working Groups to fully implement the Adapted Regime. After several rounds of negotiations, the parties agreed to share the funding of Cree Local Joint Forestry Working Groups which was estimated to cost \$751,000 per year. With this Agreement in place, the Cree communities affected by forestry now have certainty over the resources for their Cree Local Joint Forestry Working Group members, their offices, equipment and operating budgets. This agreement is in place until 2007, at which time it will be assessed and adjusted accordingly.

The other major initiative that the CFIT has worked on in the past year was a process to address how the parties will approach salvage logging following natural disasters. In the summer of 2002, there were several large forest fires on Mistissini's traplines. Following these fires, the Crees and the MNRW were unable to come to a satisfactory approach on how to plan for the salvage of this burned area while at the same time adhering to the basic principles of the Adapted Forestry Regime. Following this experience, the parties agreed to amend the *Paix des Braves Agreement* to establish a joint working committee to develop a process for salvage planning following natural disasters. Over the past 18 months the CFIT and representatives of the MRNW have developed a draft protocol for dealing with the salvage operations that are associated with natural disasters. This protocol has now been forwarded to the Grand Chief, the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board and the Standing Liaison Committee. The CFIT is currently awaiting further instructions on how to bring this draft protocol forward into full fledged amendments to Chapter 3 of the *Paix des Braves Agreement*.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people who have assisted in the ongoing implementation of the Adapted Forestry Regime. This includes all the members of the Cree Local Joint Forestry Working Group members, the GCCEI/CFIT team, the Chiefs for their support and most of all the Tallymen whose time and patience for this developing process has been immensely helpful to our work.

Offshore Islands

Meetings continued to be held over the past year mostly on the Federal Government's responses to the Cree proposed draft Agreement-in-Principle. This proposed draft was more comprehensive than was probably intended by the Government. This was necessitated somewhat by the advanced status of the Inuit negotiations on the offshore islands as well as the overlap agreement with the Inuit.

The Cree negotiating team is presently analysing the Government's responses and is seeking orientation/direction on some specific issues. It is hoped that the Cree responses to the Government will be provided this fall at meetings which have already been scheduled. The principal issues which need orientation or direction are:

- a) Certainty
- b) Nunavut Jurisdiction
- c) Cree self-government powers and
- d) Administrative complexity

With respect to certainty, although an Agreement-in-Principle would not have a clause dealing with the definitive resolution of the Cree Aboriginal "claims", it would provide that the final agreement would provide for certainty. The Crees are negotiating a treaty on the offshore area but Canada has recently confirmed that it wishes to achieve certainty with the Crees not only in



regard to the offshore area but also to all of Canada. The effect of this position, if agreed to, would be to put an end to Cree Aboriginal "claims" in all of Canada. The Crees have only filed a "claim" to half of James Bay and the southeast portion of Hudson Bay.

Canada has insisted that the Cree accept the laws of Canada including those of Nunavut and recognize the existence of Nunavut. The Cree have no voice in the Government of Nunavut, however the treaty would provide a significant role for the Crees in various new boards that would be created by virtue of the Treaty, under the Nunavut government in the areas of harvesting regulations, environmental assessment and land use planning. Representatives of the Nunavut government have unfortunately been unresponsive to Cree concerns.



They have refused to provide Cree employment priorities in the treaty area, but their policy is employment and contract priorities will go to Nunavut residents. They are also insisting that Crees carry identification cards while carrying out traditional harvesting activities. A major concern is that once the treaty is signed, Nunavut will not have the Cree interests in mind when making decisions affecting the offshore area.

The Cree team proposed to set up sweeping Cree self-government powers over the offshore area. Since the Crees would own most of the islands this would provide the complementary jurisdiction to the Crees to manage their islands as they saw fit. Unfortunately, both Canada and Nunavut have refused to recognize any Cree self-government powers in the offshore area. They also refuse to extend the jurisdiction and services of the Cree Police, the Cree School Board and the Cree Health Board, claiming that these services are the responsibility of Nunavut. Canada has said that if the Inuit have accepted the fact that they will not have self-government powers over their islands but that the islands would be under the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Territorial Government, then the same should also be okay with the Crees. One of the issues that the Government seems unwilling to accept is the differences between the Crees and the Inuit. This is troubling.

Canada has proposed establishing similar but separate boards to those which exist under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. The duplication and multiplication of boards could lead to further administrative complexities as already evidenced by the fact that Canada has largely refused to utilise the existing entities under the JBNQA.

It is difficult to know how the discussions will unfold as we seem to be very far apart on certain issues. The principal issues which have been previously agreed to remain, but the issue of certainty and the relinquishment of title to all of Canada is a major issue which needs a good discussion amongst the Crees.

Operations and Maintenance

A substantial portion of the funding required to carry out local and regional government services is the result of a Federal Government commitment related to the enactment in 1984 of the Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act (CNA) pursuant to Section 9 of the JBNQA. That commitment provided assurance of funding to carry out CNA responsibilities and it would be provided by unconditional grant.

This commitment is regarded as an ongoing obligation, which complements the CNA legislation, pursuant to Section 9 and Subsection 28.15 of the JBNQA. Unfortunately not long after the CNA was passed the commitment was disputed by the Department and the matter became the subject of a legal action in 1987.

In 1989 the matter was resolved in the Out-of-Court Settlement Agreement but it wasn't until 1995 that the stipulated five year agreement was entered into.

When the five year agreement was to be renewed in 2000 attempts to resolve the matter through meaningful negotiations failed. However, funding continued to flow, based on a provision for such an eventuality, for fiscal years 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04.

It was clear from discussions with the Department that there were major differences of opinion on certain fundamental principles relating to the nature of the obligation and the basis for the agreement's renewal. It was decided to trigger the Dispute Resolution mechanism provided for in the 1995 Agreement. A three person panel presided over by Judge Rejean Paul heard the Cree complaint.

The Cree proposed that the 1995 agreement be renewed with no substantive changes in the text with a base year amount of \$54,939,204 effective April 1, 2004.

The panel recommended that Canada accept the Cree proposal with the result that an agreement was finalized in February 2005 and an additional \$3.55 million in funding flowed with respect to the 2004/05 fiscal year.

The current Agreement covers the period to March 31, 2009 and eliminates what was becoming a major irritant in the Cree/Canada relationship.



Housing

An extensive report on the housing situation was provided last year, which can be summarized as follows;

- The current housing stock will have to be doubled over the next five years to meet backlog and ongoing new family formations.
- Including replacements of 137 units the total requirement over the next five years is 2360 units.
- The INAC and CMHC programs will only address 20% of that requirement based on current funding levels.
- A substantial portion of the current backlog is the direct result of the failure by Canada to provide a “fair share” of housing resources to the Cree since 1990.
- The Cree communities have the worst overcrowding of any First Nation in Québec 4.9 average persons per house as compared to 4.2 for other First Nations.
- The Cree share of CMHC funding is the result of an allocation formula which gives equal weight to a hypothetical off reserve family as an on-reserve family living in overcrowded conditions. This results in 36% less for the Cree. A protest was filed with INAC over two years ago with no result to date.
- CMHC subsidy levels for units built before 1997 have been declining in spite of increasing maintenance costs. We have requested negotiation with CMHC to address this and other operating problems. The Cree communities

have been asked to provide financial data and discussions will begin once this has been received and analyzed.

New developments since last year include:

- A new five year capital funding agreement was entered into in March 2005 which increased the Capital A-Base from \$9.9 million to \$14.9 million with an annual adjustment for inflation.
- The \$5 million increase is in recognition for a fairer share of capital program funds by INAC.
- The issue of prior years’ shortfalls is a subject for the Cree/Federal negotiations.
- In February 2005 the Government announced that \$295 million will be added to INAC and CMHC budgets for Indian housing over a five year period.
- In June we learned that the James Bay Implementation Office failed to address the Cree interest in this new funding in contravention to Section 6.1.1 of the O & M Funding Agreement. The Department determined the National/ Regional allocation with the AFN. Consequently the Cree share of the new housing money for INAC and CMHC is within that of the Québec Region. At the time of writing the Cree amounts are unknown.
- The Council/Board directed that the Minister be advised of the Cree Position and the JBIO’s incompetence in this matter, and to insist that a process be put into place to immediately determine the Cree fair share of the new INAC and CMHC funds.
- The housing issues are to be addressed in the negotiations with Canada.



International Affairs

The James Bay Cree people, and our citizens, have a wide range of economic, social, cultural, spiritual, political and environmental values that relate to our collective and individual human rights. In terms of both present and future generations, all of these concerns need to be addressed at the international level. For these reasons, the Grand Council of the Crees continues to be actively involved in international affairs.

In different global forums, vital norms relating to Indigenous peoples are being established and new international instruments are being created. It is important to ensure any new international laws that relate to our basic rights fully reflect our cultures, worldwide views and values, through our active involvement.

United Nations Working Group on the draft Declaration

In terms of the rights of Indigenous peoples, the most important international process is the standard setting process at the United Nations. With the active participation of States, Indigenous representatives and specialized agencies to the United Nations, a draft *U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was formulated and approved by a working group in Geneva in 1993. The expert members of the U.N. Sub-Commission that deals with human rights then approved this draft in 1994.

The Grand Council and other Indigenous organizations achieved a major success in regards to self-determination by proposing a “package” of amendments on this central issue and has gained the support of an overwhelming majority of Indigenous peoples and organizations from all over the world, along with endorsement from the Government of Canada.

A key challenge facing Indigenous peoples is that some countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Netherlands and France, are seeking to exclude or segregate Indigenous peoples’ collective rights from the international human rights system. A 166 page joint submission, prepared by the Grand Council of the Crees along with other Indigenous organizations worldwide, was sent to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair protesting the discriminatory positions of his government. We are

continuing to engage in international strategies to resolve this critical issue.

This year, the working group will meet for three weeks on the draft U.N. Declaration to discuss the lands, territories and resources of Indigenous peoples.

Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People

The first *International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People* came to an end on December 10, 2004. However, in the same month, The U.N. General



Assembly proclaimed a Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People beginning on January 1, 2005.

In recommending a Second Decade, the U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan relied significantly on a major submission prepared by the GCCEI together with other Indigenous organizations, which demonstrates that Indigenous peoples are making important contributions at the international level that have far-reaching, positive impacts to Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the globe.

According to the General Assembly, the goal of the Second decade shall be to further strengthen international cooperation to rectify problems faced by Indigenous people regarding culture, education, health, human rights, environment, and social and economic development. By means of action-oriented programs and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities, a wide range of issues and concerns will continue to be addressed at the international level over the next ten years.

U.N. Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)

In April 2004, the UNCHR extended the mandate of the working group that is currently considering the draft *U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, through the joint efforts of the GCCEI together with numerous Indigenous and non-Indigenous human rights organizations worldwide and guaranteed additional time to reach a consensus for a strong and uplifting U.N. Declaration.

Based on a resolution proposed by the Government of Canada and over 25 other countries, the UNCHR ensured that the working group would continue its standard-setting processes for at least one more year.



Oxford Amnesty Lectures

In February 2005, Romeo Saganash was invited to Oxford, England to deliver a lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre for the 13th series of lectures co-sponsored and published by Oxford University and Amnesty International.

The theme of this year's series was "Land Rights". Mr. Saganash spoke on the subject of "Indigenous Peoples and International Human Rights" and focused on the discriminatory positions of the UK and certain other States on the issue of the collective rights of Indigenous peoples.

Global network for cooperation on human rights

In regard to international human rights, the Grand Council of the Crees and other Indigenous organizations continue to build a global network of alliances among Indigenous peoples and strengthen our cooperation with non-Indigenous organizations.

A meeting was held in January 2005, at Window Rock, Arizona, capital of the Navajo Nation, in order to exchange ideas on legal positions and strategies with Indigenous peoples from other countries in the America's. Through such meetings, the Grand Council and other organizations are able to better prepare for the discussions with the Organization of American States on the rights of Indigenous peoples of the Americas for the draft *U.N. Declaration*.

At the international level, the Grand Council and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference are co-hosting a meeting in Montréal in August of 2005, to prepare for the upcoming session of the working group on the draft U.N. Declaration held in Geneva where Indigenous representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Pacific region and North America will gather to share human rights information and devise common strategies and positions.

An important event on Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights, took place in April 2005, at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Panelists included High Commissioner on Human Rights Louise Arbour and Special Rapporteur Rodolfo Stavenhagen, as well as distinguished Indigenous human rights experts.

All of these initiatives serve to promote human rights education, understanding and vital coordination among Indigenous peoples within the U.N. and other international institutions.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

In May of 2005, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) held its 4th session at U.N. Headquarters in New York to focus on the two Millennium Development Goals relating to poverty and education. The PFII has a broad mandate that includes issues relating to economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.

In regard to human rights, the Grand Council prepared a Joint Statement entitled "*Urgent Need to Improve the Standard-Setting Process on Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights*" and was endorsed by more than 50 Indigenous organizations and nations, as well as a few non-Indigenous human rights organizations, worldwide.

OAS Working Group on the Draft Declaration

The Organization of American States (OAS) has recently affirmed that it is a priority to adopt an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A working group is currently negotiating a draft text with OAS States and Indigenous people, however, in the view of the Grand Council of the Crees and numerous other Indigenous organizations, the draft text is still in need of major amendments.

The Grand Council remains concerned that the OAS is excessively rushing the process towards the adoption of a Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples. We firmly believe that it is critical to first agree upon a strong draft text and ensure the full recognition and respect of our human rights and we will continue our efforts regarding these issues for the survival and well being of Indigenous peoples.



Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee):

Thirty Years Later



Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee): Thirty Years Later

GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRMAN
DR. BILLY DIAMOND
Held office: 1974-1984



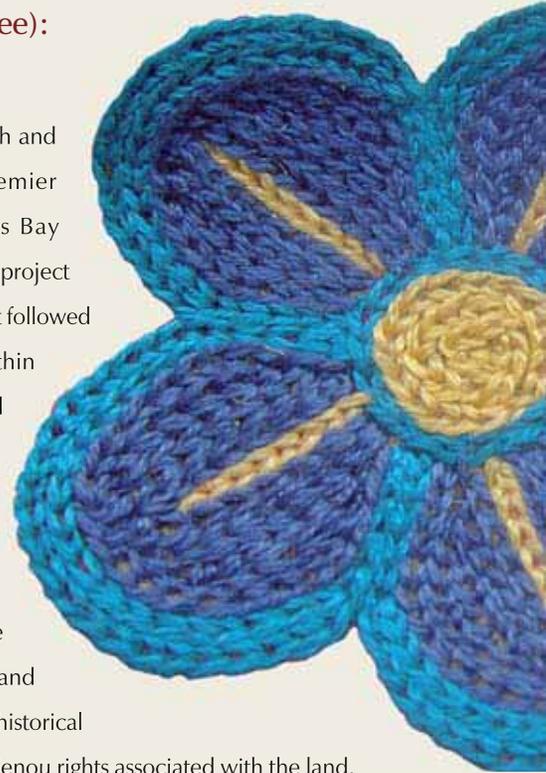
Billy Diamond was born and raised on his father's trapline until residential school. Returning to Waskaganish he was elected Chief and following the government's decision to construct the James Bay hydro development project, he and others led the fight for rights and control of Eeyou Istchee. He was a chief negotiator and signatory of the JBNQA and was a founding member of the CCCEL. Dr. Diamond became the first Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees and later Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority. He was and is a leading figure in Native politics, being instrumental in negotiating many agreements between governments and the Cree Nation. Dr. Diamond received the Order of Québec and an Honorary Doctorate in Law from Carleton University. A recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award recognizing his contribution to Aboriginal rights he was also honoured by the National Aboriginal Business Association for his astute entrepreneurship. A politician, educator, businessman and Spiritual leader, he continues to serve the Cree Nation.

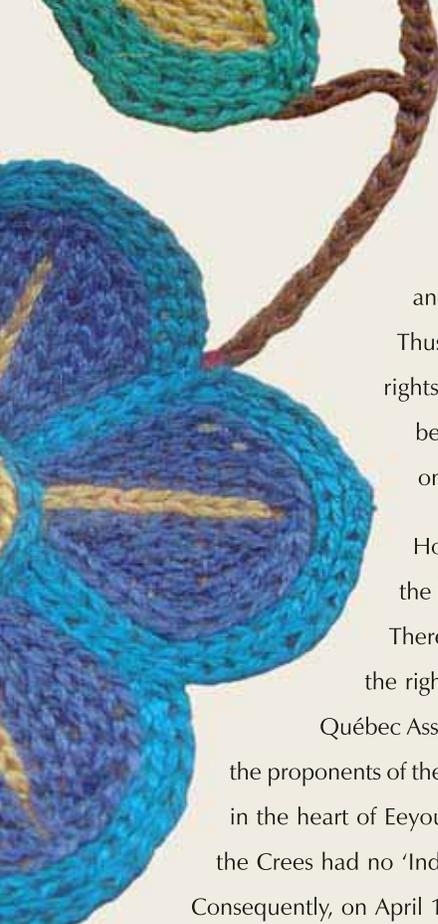
On April 30, 1971, without consultation with and consent of Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee, Premier Robert Bourassa announced the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project describing it as “the project of the Century.” Since then, the culmination of events that followed the announcement of hydroelectric development within Eeyou Istchee has dramatically changed the course and direction of Eeyou/Eenou history. These events have impacted and affected every single Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee as these circumstances have profoundly altered the social, economic and political landscape of Eeyou Istchee. The outcomes of these events were determined by the Cree Nation acting through the Grand Council of the Crees guided by the need to protect their historical and traditional territory... Eeyou Istchee and the Eeyou/Eenou rights associated with the land. The history of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) covers a thirty year period in the history of the Eeyouch/Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee. Eeyouch/Eenouch have occupied Eeyou Istchee since time immemorial.

All stories are about the activities of people; ultimately history belongs to the people who created it. The history of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) belongs to Eeyouch/Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee because the Grand Council was established by the wishes, will and decision of the Cree Nation and people. This particular history is a saga of a people in their struggle to protect their homeland... Eeyou Istchee which is central and fundamental to their rights, survival, history, identity, culture, way of life, well-being and spirituality.

Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee were represented by the Indians of Québec Association whose aim was to represent and protect the rights and interests of all Indians of Québec. At the time, the Crees of Québec were a nation of about 6,000 people living in six (6) villages with local administrations and local government conducted under the paternalistic and controlling arm of the Indian Affairs Department.

Within two (2) months after the announcement of the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project by Québec, the Cree Chiefs and representatives met together, on June 29, 1971, in Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee, for the first time in their history to discuss the implications of the proposed James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project and to determine Cree strategies and a united position. As the proposed project would have a drastic impact on Eeyou Istchee





and Eeyou way of life, the Cree Chiefs decided to oppose the project. Thus the saga of the struggle for the recognition and protection of Cree rights, particularly Eeyou/Eenou rights associated with Eeyou Istchee began with the Eenouch/Eeyouch acting in unity as one people and one nation.

However, the Indians of Québec Association continued to represent the interests of the Crees of Québec as such was the wish of the Crees. Therefore, the Indians of Québec Association was mandated to protect the rights and interests of the Crees. The Cree Chiefs and the Indians of Québec Association sought serious negotiations with Canada and Québec and the proponents of the hydroelectric development project planned for construction deep in the heart of Eeyou Istchee. However, the Government of Québec maintained that the Crees had no 'Indian' rights and that the hydroelectric project was not negotiable. Consequently, on April 19, 1972, the Cree Chiefs met in Fort George and authorized the Indian of Québec Association to act on their behalf before the courts to stop the hydroelectric project and to take whatever measures were necessary to block the project. The Inuit leaders of the Northern Québec Inuit Association arrived in Fort George to join the Eeyouch/Eenouch in their common struggle to protect their rights in and to their respective historical and traditional territories. Many Eeyou/Eenou hunters, trappers and elders came to Montréal for many months to testify in the court proceedings about the traditional way of life and the fundamental importance of Eeyou Istchee for Eeyou/Eenou.

On November 15, 1973, Justice Albert Malouf of the Superior Court of Québec rendered his historic judgement acknowledging Cree rights to the land and granting an interlocutory injunction in favour of the Crees and Inuit of Québec. The court ordered all construction works on the hydroelectric project to cease immediately. This judgement of Justice Albert Malouf is historic with respect to the recognition of aboriginal rights on a scale which surpassed the Canadian experience at the time. The judgement was also a major contribution to the protection of the environment which has had international ramifications. Québec and the proponents of the hydroelectric development immediately appealed this historic decision of the court. (Justice Turgeon, on appeal, suspended the injunction order and permitted the construction to proceed declaring that the inconvenience to the proponents because of their investment is much greater than the damage to the Crees. Justice Turgeon did not immediately deal with the question of aboriginal rights.)

EXECUTIVE CHIEF/
VICE CHAIRMAN
PHILIP AWASHISH
Held office: 1974-1988



Philip Awashish was born on the land of Eeyou Istchee and lived a traditional way of life until residential school. Following graduation he continued his studies at McGill University and upon reading about the hydroelectric project; he, with other Crees, organized and began their opposition and court action against the government's project. Philip Awashish was one of the chief Cree negotiators and a signatory of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. He also served as Chief for the Cree Nation of Mistissini and went on to hold the position of Executive Chief-Vice Chairman for the GCCEI/CRA for 14 years. Mr. Awashish has had many of his papers published and today he is a Commissioner on the Cree/Naskapi Commission. He is a Cree representative on various boards and environmental committees while serving in an advisory capacity to the Cree Nation, and continuously promotes the rights of Aboriginal peoples, as depicted by his writings.

CHAIRMAN
ABEL KITCHEN
Held office: 1982-1983



A member of the Waswanipi First Nation, Abel attended residential school and later McGill University.

Mr. Kitchen was Administrative Chief for the Grand Council of the Crees and was also a signatory of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. He served as Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority and he has held executive and management positions with Cree Entities, such as the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, Servinor and CreeCo. He has served his community as Chief and Council member for the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi.

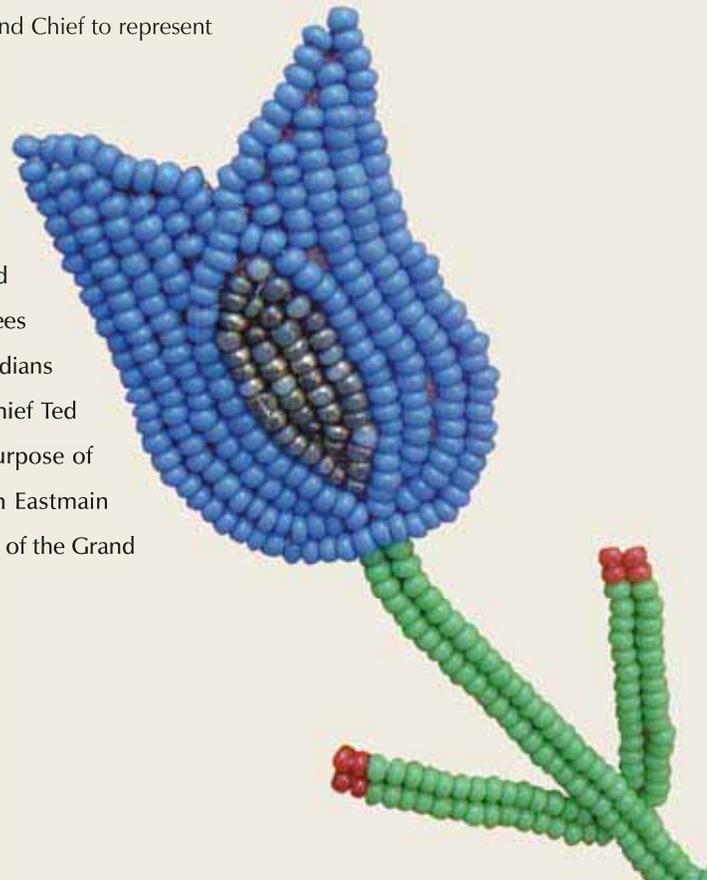
Mr. Kitchen went on to pursue his education even further in another discipline and received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Laurentian University. Today Mr. Kitchen spends much of his time on his trapline while also providing advice on many issues affecting his people.

On November 19, 1973, Premier Robert Bourassa announced his willingness to negotiate a settlement with the Crees and Inuit of Québec. To this end, the Government of Québec appointed Mr. John Ciaccia as its special negotiator and representative. Québec submitted its 11-point proposal for a settlement with the Crees and Inuit. The proposed settlement was rejected by the Chiefs and leadership of Eenu/Eeyou in spite of the tremendous pressure from the federal government for the Crees to accept the offer. For the Crees, the settlement offer from Québec and the appointment of a special representative of Québec constituted a dramatic change in the stance of Québec.

Then serious negotiations commenced with Québec, Canada and the proponents of the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project. Initially, the Indians of Québec Association was mandated by the Cree Chiefs to conduct the said negotiations. However, the Crees were dissatisfied with the progress, objectives and direction of negotiations under the Indians of Québec Association. Therefore, in April 1974, the Crees withdraw the mandate to negotiate and represent the Crees from the Indians of Québec Association. In describing the situation of the Crees at the time, the Grand Chief Ted Moses said on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in Eastmain on August 8, 2004:

“For some time we relied on our Aboriginal neighbours to give us some direction. Max Gros Louis and Andrew Delisle from the Indians of Québec Association stepped up and gave this help. We should be eternally grateful for their friendship and help at the time. But it soon became clear that their priorities were not ours. We needed our own organization, our own voice and a Grand Chief to represent the Crees.”

Consequently, in Eastmain, Eeyou Istchee, on August 8, 1974, the Chiefs of the Cree Nation and people of Eeyou Istchee decided to form and establish the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) and withdraw from the Indians of Québec Association. The Grand Chief Ted Moses describes the founding and purpose of the Grand Council at the gathering in Eastmain on August 8, 2004 for 30th anniversary of the Grand Council as follows:



“So, there we were on that day in August, like today, sitting in a school room here in Eastmain. We were ready to take a risk. We were used to being in charge here in Eeyou Istchee. We did not say it then, but we were holding our own Cree constitutional conference. Joseph Petagumskum was there representing Whapmagoostui, Robert Kanatewat from Chisasibi, Fred Blackned of Wemindji was there, as was our local chief, Matthew Shanush from Eastmain. Billy Diamond came from Waskaganish and the inlanders were well represented with Bertie Wapachee from Nemaska, Peter Gull from Waswanipi, Jimmy Mianscum from Ouje-Bougoumou and Smally Petawabano from Mistissini.

These were the founders of the Grand Council. They were a collection of coasters and inlanders who got together to find a way to help one another and to work in favour of each other’s interests. And that is what we called the Grand Council: *Winibegowiiyouch Notchimiwiiyouch Ehnatimatouch* (Coastal Eeyouch and Inland Eeouch helping each other).

It is an organization that was founded on our joint efforts and in the spirit of friendship that we shared among us. It was and is today an organization that represents the Cree communities and fights for our rights. It was born of the generous spirit of the Eeyouch and it continues today to promote cooperation among us and to protect the rights that we hold in the name of all Eeyouch.”

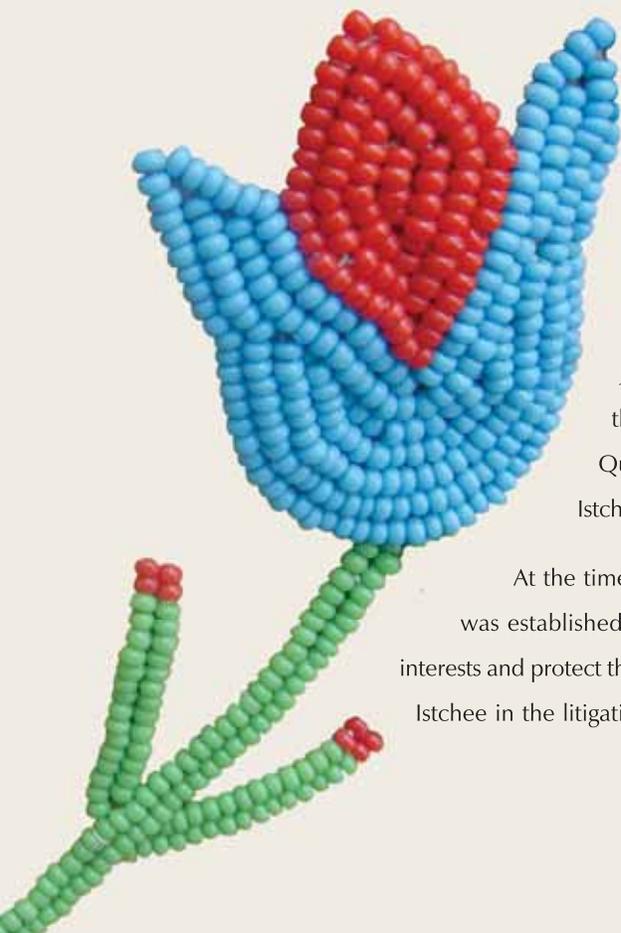
GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRMAN
DR. TED MOSES, O.Q.
Held office: 1984-1987; 1999-2005



Ted Moses was born at old Nemaska and spent his childhood years living in the bush. He attended residential school and later attended Ryerson and McGill University. He became actively involved in the legal battle over hydroelectric development and was a chief negotiator for the JBNQA. He was Director General of the Cree School Board and was elected Grand Chief in 1984, re-elected in 1999 and again in 2002. As Cree Ambassador to the United Nations, he was instrumental in obtaining NGO status for the Cree Nation, and was elected Rapporteur for the UN seminar on racial and economic relations between Indigenous Peoples and States. He served as Chief for his community of Eastmain and continues his work as Ambassador for the Cree Nation. Grand Chief Moses has received the Order of Québec and was awarded a Doctor of Laws, by the University of Saskatchewan and Concordia University. He has negotiated and served as signatory to many agreements on behalf of the Cree Nation. The Cree-Québec New Relationship Agreement (Paix des Braves) being a milestone in the history of the Cree Nation with the Government of Québec.

On August 16, 1974, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) was incorporated for the establishment of a regional council and government “to assist the Cree people of Québec through all means permitted by law to affirm, exercise, protect, enlarge and have recognized and accepted the rights, claims and interests of the Cree people of Québec.” (On June 28, 1996, the Eeyou/Eenou Chiefs changed the name of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) to the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).

At the time, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) was established as a regional entity that would represent the interests and protect the rights of the Cree Nation and people of Eeyou Istchee in the litigations and negotiations respecting the Cree land



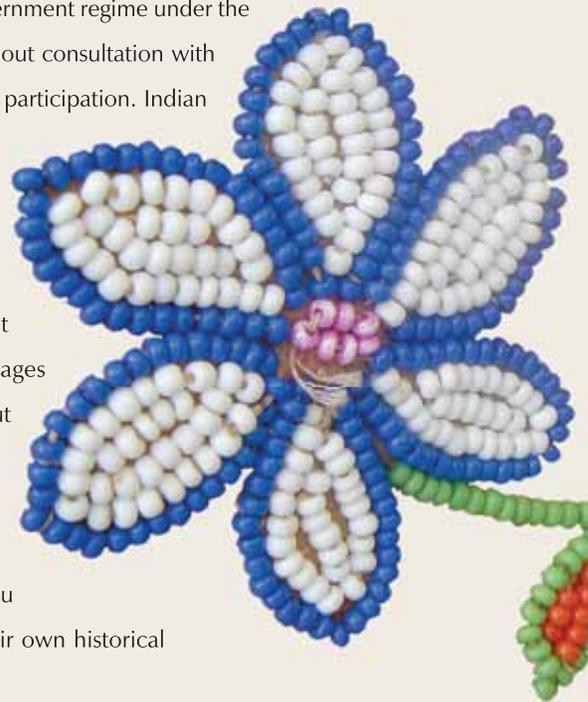
GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRMAN
DR. MATTHEW COONCOME
Held office: 1987-1999



Matthew CoonCome was born in Eeyou Istchee and lived a traditional way of life until he left the land to attend school. He continued his education at Trent University and McGill University. He was elected Chief for the Cree Nation of Mistissini in 1981 until 1986. He was later elected as Grand Chief/Chairman in 1987 and continued in this position for four terms until 1999. He went on to be elected and serve a term as National Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. Dr. CoonCome has served and represented the Cree Nation at the provincial, federal and international level for many years. He served on many Boards, Committees and Entities of the Cree Nation. His work on negotiations, particularly for the rights of the Cree Nation, as well as Indigenous peoples was widely recognized. He was awarded the Goldman Global Environmental Prize for his role and leadership in stopping James Bay II. Dr. CoonCome received an honorary Doctor of Laws from McMaster University. He presently works for the GCCEI in an advisory capacity and is also pursuing further education at university.

claims and the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project. Therefore, the Cree people and their leaders gave the mandate to negotiate and continue legal proceedings on behalf of the Crees to the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec). Thus the Grand Council of the Crees became the main political arm of the Crees and negotiations with the governments and proponents of the hydroelectric development project continued under the auspices of the Grand Council.

At the time, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee were living in a time when politics of exclusion and denial of Cree rights were the rules in Eeyou/Québec/Canada relations. The way that the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project was planned and implemented, in complete disregard of the presence and rights of Eeyou/Eenou, reflects the arrogance and attitude of the time. Important, essential and fundamental Cree rights were denied and not recognized by the governments. Cree hunters and trappers were prosecuted for pursuing a way of life based on hunting, fishing and trapping as the provincial and federal government did not recognize a Cree right to hunt and fish all species of wildlife at all times of the year. Furthermore, the Government of Canada and the Government of Québec did not recognize aboriginal rights. The Constitution of Canada was silent on the issue of aboriginal and treaty rights. Hence, Canada and Québec did not recognize the aboriginal right of self-government. In fact, the federal government and provincial government held the view that Native people had no rights of government other than that the government chooses to legislate or impose such as the supervised and federally-controlled local government regime under the *Indian Act*. Economic development was done without consultation with the Crees, without Cree consent and without Cree participation. Indian Affairs controlled the administration of local band affairs and decided on all aspects of community and economic development for the Cree villages. Health and education services and programs were administered by the federal government without Cree participation. Cree families lived in six villages with inadequate housing and in some cases without infrastructures such as water and sewage systems. The Waswanipi, Nemaska and Ouje-Bougoumou Eeyouch/Eenouch did not have their own village. (The Waswanipi, Nemaska and Ouje-Bougoumou Eeyouch/Eenouch were ironically homeless in their own historical and traditional territories.)



Therefore, the leadership of Eenou/Eeyou, under the auspices of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), decided to negotiate a treaty which would recognize Eenou/Eeyou rights, guarantees and benefits for their governments, villages, distinct society and way of life based on their central and special relationship with their historical and traditional territories – Eeyou Istchee, redefine relationships with Canada and Québec and permit with Cree consent a modified hydroelectric development project. Throughout these negotiations, the Grand Council of the Crees conducted intensive and meaningful consultations in the Cree villages and ensured the direct participation of the Eeyouch/Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee in the direction and decision-making on all aspects of the negotiations.

On November 15, 1974, the Agreement in Principle was signed by the representatives of Québec, Canada, Cree Nation and the Inuit of Northern Québec and certain crown corporations such as Hydro-Québec. The Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) continued the negotiations under the directions of the Cree Chiefs and Councils. The details of this Agreement were to be negotiated over a time period of twelve (12) months and included into a Final Agreement which is known as the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) which was signed on November 15, 1975.

After the signing of the JBNQA, the main preoccupation of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec) was to ensure the proper implementation of the said Agreement. Based on Eeyou experiences up to 2001, the signing of the JBNQA did not mark the end of conflicts, disputes and negotiations. Rather it signaled the beginning of continued confrontation between Eeyouch of Eeyou Istchee and the Governments of Québec and Canada over the proper implementation of the JBNQA. The Eeyouch/Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee, through the Grand Council of the Crees, had embarked on a difficult and arduous journey for the proper implementation of the JBNQA and for protection of Cree rights.

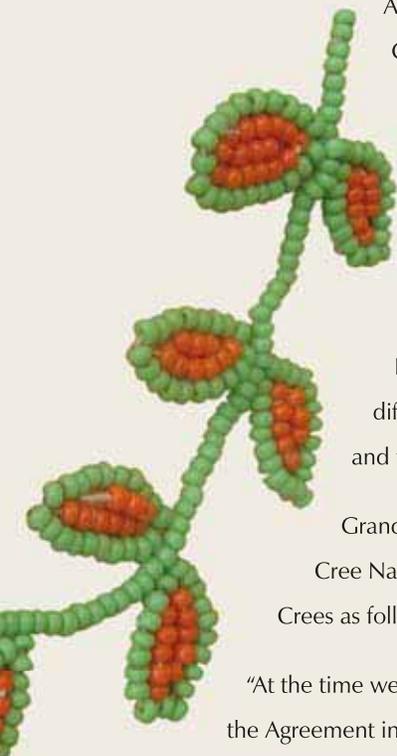
Grand Chief Ted Moses describes this difficult journey in his address to the Cree Nation at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Grand Council of the Crees as follows:

“At the time we thought that we would get through the negotiations and once we had the Agreement in hand the rest of the trip would be easy sailing. We must have been crazy to think that!! We had no idea at the time what a momentous journey we were embarking on. It is a journey that must never end. Think about the journey to date:

EXECUTIVE CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
GEORGE WAPACHEE
Held office: 1988-1990



George Wapachee lived with his parents on the land until he attended residential school. He later became very involved and worked on various portfolios for the Grand Council of the Crees. He served as Executive Chief/ Vice-Chairman from 1988-1990 for the Cree Nation. He was elected Chief by the Eenou of Nemaska and served for several terms, being instrumental in the negotiations and development of Nemaska. He has served on various Boards and Committees, and is Chairman of the Income Security Board. He continues working for the Cree Nation on negotiations and serving as an advisor.

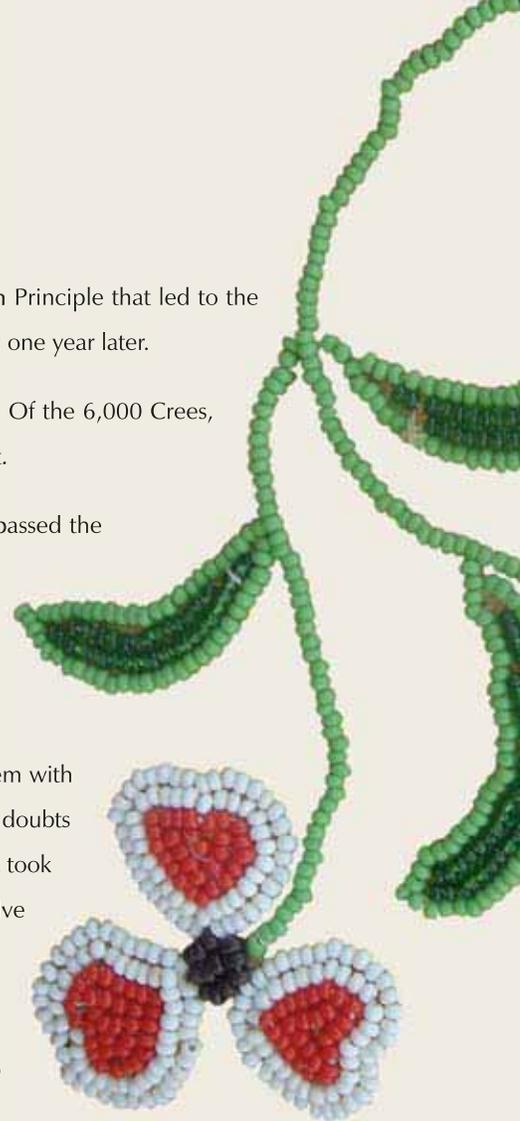


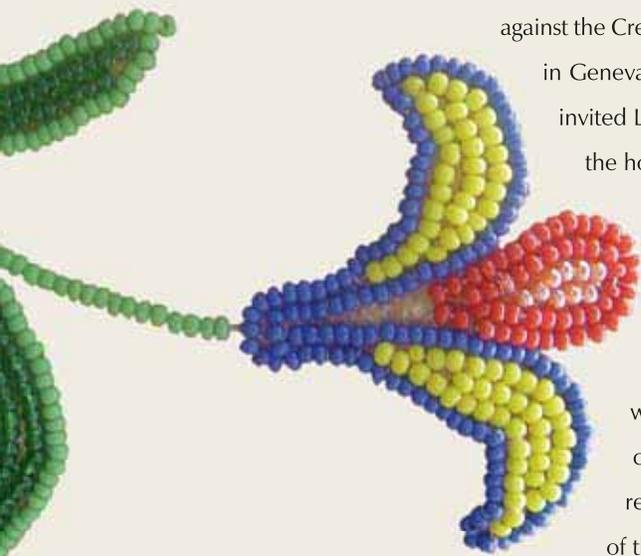
DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
DIOM ROMEO SAGANASH
Held office: 1990-1993



Mr. Saganash was born in Eeyou Istchee and at a young age was sent out to school. He attended the University of Québec in Montréal, where he obtained his degree in Civil Law. He was an active member of the Cree Youth Council and Student Association. He went on to be elected Deputy Grand Chief in 1990 to 1993, and has served on many Boards and Committees and continues to do so today. He is presently the Director of Liaison in Québec City, working very closely with government officials. Mr. Saganash also works on the international file, traveling to many indigenous forums on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees. He continues to promote aboriginal/indigenous rights for all Nations while representing the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee.

- On November 11, 1974 we signed the Agreement in Principle that led to the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* one year later.
- After we signed the Agreement our people ratified it. Of the 6,000 Crees, 922 voted in favour of the Agreement and 1 voted against.
- No sooner had Québec ratified the Agreement and passed the required legislation then they sent a letter in 1978 saying that it refused to build the Cree communities. They punished us because we opted for federal lands in the agreement.
- Then the Federal Government gave Chisasibi a problem with the construction of the bridge to the island and there were doubts that the Fort George community site was large enough. It took the Fort George Relocation Agreement of 1978 to resolve some of that problem.
- It was only in 1978 that Parliament passed the legislation approving the Agreement. The Grand Council had to lobby to get it passed.
- Then Hydro Québec went past the Sakami Reservoir flood levels that were limited in the JBNQA and this forced them to sign the Sakami Agreement in 1979.
- One year later in 1980 we realized that we had a problem with the number of people falling ill in the communities and some infants lost their lives. There were no sewers or water systems and there weren't enough houses. The Grand Council lobbied Québec and got nowhere and we lobbied Canada to get the promised community works.
- It took two years to lobby Canada. It was during that fight that we saw that we had to go to the international community to pressure Canada to respect its promises. We went to see the Pope!! None of us were members of his religion but he met us anyway. When Rene Levesque later that year also decided to go to see the Pope, there was a cartoon in La Presse newspaper that showed Levesque standing in front of the Pope and the Pope asking him: "Québec, hey do you know Billy Diamond?" When we saw this, it showed that going outside of Canada was a way to pressure politicians in Canada.
- In 1981 we attended a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland that was an historic meeting of international organizations to address the rights of indigenous peoples. Federal officials told





us not to go and said that if we went, it would cause a "backlash" against the Crees in Canada. They said that Canada's officials in Geneva would be watching us. In the same year we invited Lord Michael Morris to come over and inspect the horrible conditions in the Cree communities.

- In 1982 Canada published its report, the *Tait Report*, which said that it had not delivered on its promises. This eventually caused Canada to pay for the sewer and water systems for all communities and also caused them to construct airstrips and to renovate the clinics. It also led to the passage of the Cree/Naskapi Act in 1984. But Canada still refused to implement all of the Agreement.
- In the same year the Crees and Inuit and other aboriginal peoples across Canada fought to have our rights recognized in the Canadian Constitution. After efforts in England and here in Canada finally the rights were given the strength of the Constitution and this has helped us in every court action that we have launched since then.
- When the Cree/Naskapi Act was being considered by Parliament, it was the Grand Council that once again saved it. Parliament was about to close for a general election and the Act was one of the last two pieces of legislation to get through. If it was not for the efforts of Billy Diamond and Bob Epstein, the Act would not have passed. As a result of its passage the budgets of the Cree communities increased from about \$3.5 million to over \$11 million in 1984 and today the figure is over \$50 million. If we had not fought for the Act, the Conservative Government that was elected in 1984 would have killed it.
- Once the Conservatives were elected we began a fight to get the Cree/Naskapi Act funding promised by the previous Liberal Government. It was not until 1995, 11 years later, that we managed to get an agreement on this -- after the Conservatives lost the election.
- In 1986 the Grand Council negotiated the La Grande 1986 Agreement and also the Mercury Agreement.
- Through the Grand Council we continued to fight Canada for implementation of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. It was at this time, in 1989, that the Grand Council and

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
KENNY BLACKSMITH
Held office: 1993-1996



Mr. Blacksmith was born in Eeyou Istchee and practiced his traditional activities until pursuing his educational goals. He went on to become the School Commissioner for Mistissini and eventually he was elected Chairman of the Cree School Board, a position he held for several years. He was elected Deputy Grand Chief in 1993 to 1996, and during this time he served on the numerous Boards and Committees of the Cree Nation. Mr. Blacksmith serves as a council member for the Cree Nation of Mistissini. He has since become very active in ministry and heads the Gathering of all Nations, holding many gatherings both nationally and locally for the Cree Nation, as well as traveling to other countries to promote evangelical work.

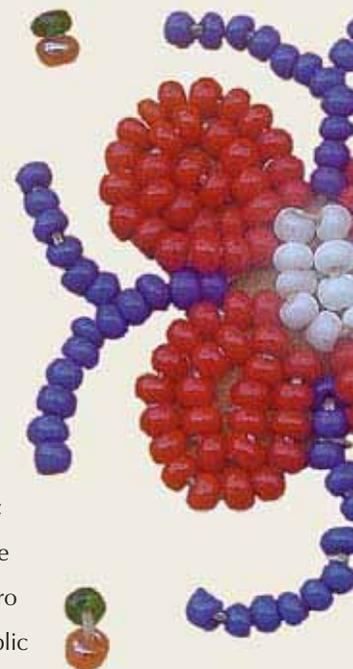
DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
VIOLET PACHANOS
Held office: 1996-1999

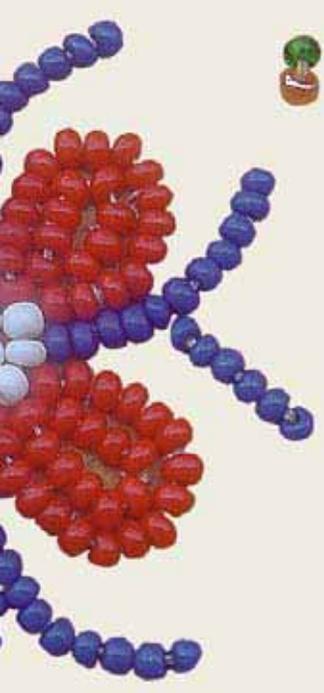


Violet Pachanos was born on traditional hunting territory in Eeyou Istchee and raised traditionally until entering the residential school system. She attended Willis Business College and started political science and sociology at the University of Ottawa. Violet joined her people in the fight for their rights in 1975. She was the first Corporate Secretary for the Cree Regional Authority and held many appointments, including that of Administrative Chief and Treasurer with the GCCEI/CRA. She was elected Deputy Grand Chief in 1996 and was a member on many Boards, Committees and Entities. Ms. Pachanos also worked at the International level on human rights. In 1989, she was the first Cree woman to be elected Chief of her community, Chisasibi and served as chief for three terms. She continues to serve her Nation, and is presently Deputy Chief and Council Member for the Cree First Nation of Chisasibi. Violet has worked, and continues to do so, in defending the rights of Cree people and to promote the role of women in society.

the Cree School Board managed to double the budget of the Cree School Board as Québec finally decided to live up to its commitments to Cree education.

- Discussions undertaken with Québec and Canada on outstanding issues in 1989, led to the first Oujé-Bougoumou Agreement with Québec.
- Also in 1989, in response to an announcement by the Province of Québec that it would go ahead with Phase II of the James Bay project, through the Grand Council we took court actions against Canada, Québec and Hydro Québec and we also brought our case to the world in our first large public relations campaign.
- In 1989, the International Labour Organization (ILO) approved Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. The Crees played a very active role in the negotiations, and in the final meeting in Geneva that approved this convention.
- In 1991 the Grand Council, for the first time, brought the issue to the UN of the protection of Cree rights in the event of Québec separation.
- In 1992 the Crees under Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Hydro Québec signed the Opemiscau Agreement on the La Forge 1 Project and on La Forge 2, an addition to the La Grande Complexe 1975.
- 1992: New York State cancelled the \$12.6 billion (US) contract with Hydro Québec. This contract was one of the main commercial deals that caused Hydro Québec to propose the Great Whale and NBR Projects and New York's review of it was a result of Cree pressure.
- 1992: The Oujé-Bougoumou – Canada Agreement is signed, which among other things called for the construction of the new village.
- 1993: The Crees attend the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and helped launch the permanent forum for indigenous peoples at the United Nations.
- 1995: The once-proposed Great Whale Hydroelectric Complex is “frozen” by Premier Jacques Parizeau of Québec.
- 1995: Cree Grand Council meets in Montréal and decides to hold a Cree referendum on Québec separation from Canada. The Cree report called “Sovereign Injustice” is released. October 24, 1995 The Crees vote on: “Do you consent as a people that the Government of Québec separate the James Bay Crees and Cree traditional territory from Canada, in the event

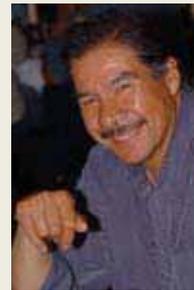




of a yes vote in the Québec referendum?" Result of the Cree referendum:
77 % voter participation, 4,666 votes for "No" versus: YES - 183 votes.

- In 1998 the Grand Council filed a major lawsuit against both governments and 26 forestry companies operating in Eeyou Istchee. The Crees maintained that forestry, as practiced, violated Cree rights under the JBNQA.
- In 1999 the Crees and Canada signed an agreement on Human Resource Development.
- 1999 - In a preliminary decision on one of the forestry injunctions, Justice Croteau rules that, as written, Québec's Forest Act did not respect Cree rights. He then ordered Québec to change its forestry regime. His decision was overturned in appeal and he was dismissed from the case. The Crees fought for his reinstatement all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, but it refused to hear the case.
- In 1999, based on a Cree submission, the UN Human Rights Committee condemned Canada for its policy of extinguishing the rights of indigenous peoples as it was against Article One of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- In 2000, the Crees intervened in the softwood lumber dispute between Canada and the United States and lobbied various U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives. This put pressure on Québec and Canada to resolve the Cree forestry issues.
- In 2001 the Mercury Agreement (2001) was signed.
- In 2002 the historic Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec was signed. This Agreement calls for the cancellation of the NBR project and went beyond the clause in the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* that prohibited the Crees from receiving royalties from development. It also calls for the review of the EM1A-Rupert Diversion Project. The Agreement was passed by community referendums in which almost 4500 voted and of those, 70% said yes to the Agreement. The New Relationship Agreement included or resulted to a number of other agreements...
- Nadoshtin Agreement
- Boumhounan Niskamoon
- Cree Employment Agreement...

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
MATTHEW MUKASH
Held office: 1999-2002



Matthew Mukash was born in the bush and followed the traditional way of life, prior to seeking his education, which he knew would help the progress of his people. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University and returned to Whapmagoostui to bring his knowledge to his people. Matthew served his community in many ways as well as serving as Chief for two terms. He was elected Deputy Grand Chief in 1999 to 2002, and during this period he served as a member on the many Boards and Committees and with the Cree Entities. He has also worked on several portfolios for the Grand Council of the Crees. He is a member of the WEEDCO Board and continues today to pursue traditional activities and to serve his people in various capacities.

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/
VICE-CHAIRMAN
PAUL GULL
Held office: 2002-2005



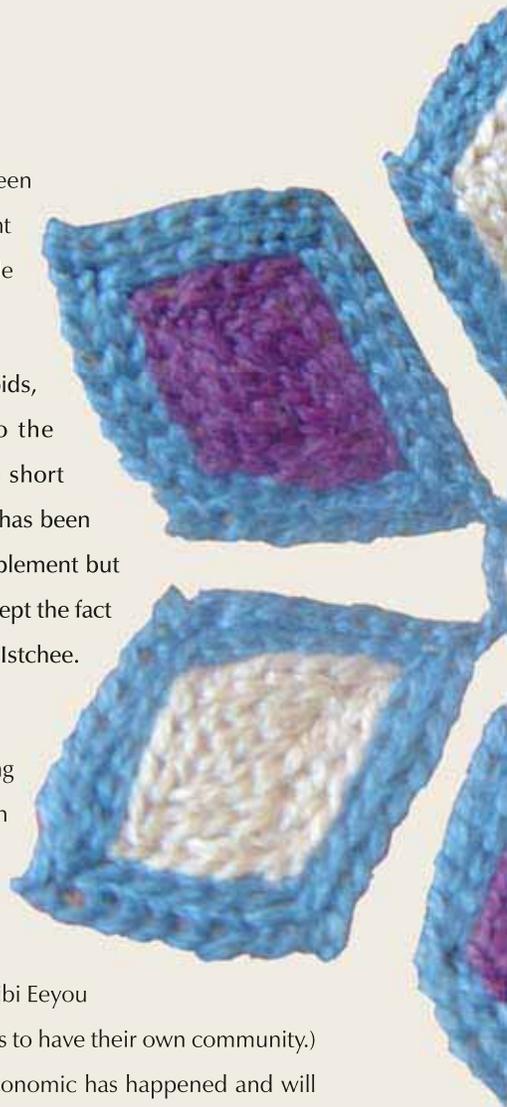
Paul Gull was born in Waswanipi and spent his primary years at his parent's bush camp. He went on to pursue his education at Northern College and later at the University of Lethbridge. He was an active student and also served as the first Youth Chief, being a founding member of the Cree Nation Youth Council. He was later elected the Waswanipi School Commissioner and became Vice Chairman until his election as Chairman for the Cree School Board from 1993-1996. Paul Gull was elected as Chief for his community of Waswanipi and also served as a Member of Council. He was elected Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairman for the GCCEI in 2002 and administers many portfolios on behalf of the Cree Nation. He presently serves as Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairman and is a member of the various Boards, Committees and Entities for the Cree Nation. Deputy Grand Chief Gull sits at various negotiating tables and remains very active in his work on the youth portfolio.

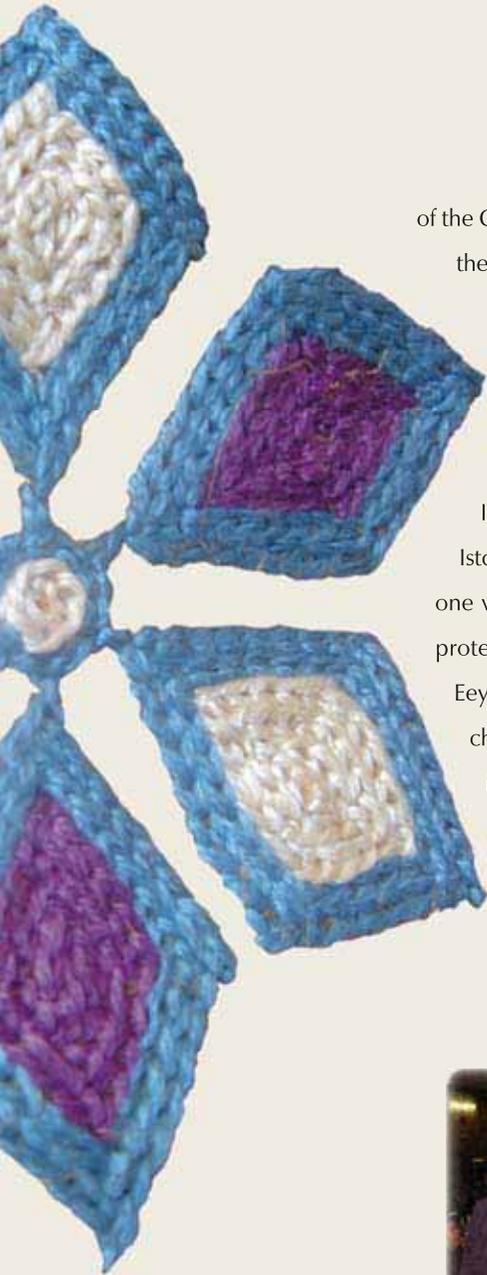
– 2004: Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between Hydro Québec and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee – an agreement which settles matters concerning the impact of the La Grande Complexe.

This is the journey so far. Sometimes there have been rapids, where we took our chances but avoided falling into the whirlpools and big waves. At other times we have had short sections of calm water. Was it worth the trip? It certainly has been worth it so far...Our treaty may have been difficult to implement but this was because we have had to force governments to accept the fact that the Cree Nation is here and will remain here in Eeyou Istchee. We will always be here..."

Over the past thirty (30) years, Eeyouch/Eenouch in exercising their right of self-determination have become a strong Nation and now consists of about fourteen thousand (14,000) people living in nine communities. The Waswanipi, Nemaska and Ouje-Bougoumou Eenouch presently have their own communities.(The Grand Council recognizes the Washaw Sibi Eeyou as members of the Cree Nation and supports their objectives to have their own community.) The standard of living has improved as community and economic has happened and will continue to happen as determined by Eeyou/Eenou. Eeyou/Eenou hunters are exercising their rights recognized by the JBNQA and by subsequent federal and provincial laws. The provision and administration of health and education services and programs are presently conducted with the participation of the Crees and under the control of the Crees.

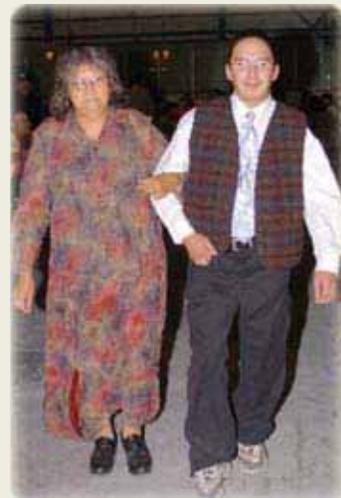
Furthermore, the practice and exercise of Eeyou/Eenou governance has evolved dramatically and tremendously over the past three (3) decades. The imposed *Indian Act* with its supervised and controlled regime for local government has been killed and buried by the Crees who are exercising their right of local government through a negotiated regime under the *Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act*. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) has evolved into a form of an Eeyou/Eenou nation government. In fact, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Government of Canada, on June 30, 2005 have signed "*An Outline for an Agreement*" for a new relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree Nation of Québec. Under this Agreement, the Crees and Canada intend to negotiate the creation of a Cree Nation Government to be acknowledged by federal legislation. The Grand Council





of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) will be further empowered to exercise all the required regional governance capacities and powers.

However, as Grand Chief Ted Moses said “This is the journey so far.” The Eeyou/Eenou journey is not over and there are many social and political challenges here today and tomorrow. But clearly the Cree Nation and people of Eeyou Istchee represented by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) over the past thirty (30) years and acting in unity with one voice have made a tremendous progress for the recognition, protection and exercise of Eeyou/Eenou rights. Most important, Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee, in meeting and overcoming many challenges, have empowered themselves and together are securing a better future for themselves and for future generations of Eenou/Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee.



Tribute to Joseph Petagumskum



The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Regional Authority honours the memory of the late Elder Joseph Petagumskum who passed away on April 29, 2005. Joseph was one of the founding members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).

Born and raised in the bush, Joseph spent most of his childhood, youth and early adult life on the land, hunting, fishing and trapping.

He became the Chief of the Whapmagoostui in 1973, serving two consecutive terms. His education from the land proved to be an asset during the negotiations that led to the signing of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. As a signatory to the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and Northern Québec Agreement, Eeyou rights to hunt, fish and trap and the provision of the Income Security Program were achievements that he proudly proclaimed.

Joseph left politics in 1976 and returned to the land. By then, Joseph's achievements for Whapmagoostui and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee were significant. Joseph Petagumskum's knowledge, wisdom and achievements remain a legacy for his family and the Eeyou/Eenouch of Eeyou Istchee.



In Memory of Robert Epstein

Robert "Bob" Epstein passed away July 29, 2004, following serious health problems. His childhood was spent in San Francisco and following his graduation, he taught at the University of Southern California at Berkley. He later relocated and taught at the University of Alaska. He and his family moved to Montréal where Bob became a guidance counselor at Loyola College and then became an advisor and friend to the Crees.



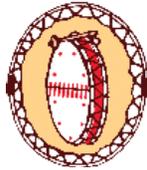
He initially worked as a director of instructional services for the Cree School Board and later he worked as an advisor for the Grand Council of the Crees. His work was instrumental on efforts to have Canada respect its obligations under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and on Cree efforts to secure international recognition for the rights of aboriginal/indigenous peoples.

He was highly respected for his work in support of indigenous people at the International level. His dedication and his contribution in the drafting of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in securing the UN declaration of a Decade for Indigenous Peoples, and in the creation of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples was well recognized and appreciated by the Crees. The recognition of the Grand Council of the Crees as having formal status in the UN human rights forums was a huge achievement at the international level.

Bob is sorely missed by many, by his beloved wife Sanni and his children Katya, Peter, Danny and Eric, and the many who have benefited from his knowledge, advocacy and determination to advance aboriginal rights.



Message from the Director General

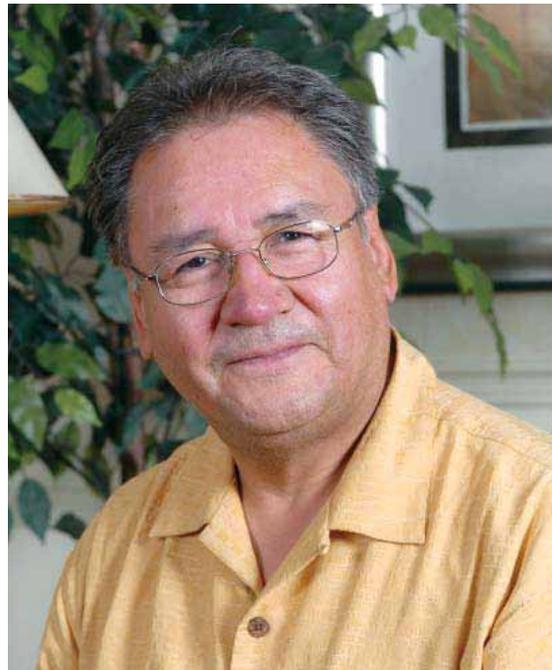


Cree Regional Authority

Wahcheh!
I am honoured to address the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee to present the reports on the work and activities of the various departments of the Cree Regional Authority for the past year.

On August 8, 2004, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) in Eastmain where the decision was made on August 8, 1974 by the Cree Chiefs to establish the Grand Council. I believe that the Cree Nation Government was born on August 8, 1974 because the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) has evolved from a political organization of the Cree Nation into a form of an Eeyou/Eenou Nation Government. It is important to note that the Grand Council did not flow from the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA)*. The Grand Council of the Crees emanated from the will and wish of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. I extend my gratitude to the Eeyou/Eenou founders of the Grand Council of the Crees for their vision and contribution to nation-building. Therefore, it is honourable to list the names of the founders of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) as follows: Chief Bertie Wapachee, Chief Jimmy Mianscum, Chief Peter Gull, Chief Smally Petawabano, Chief Robert Kanatewat, Chief Billy Diamond, Chief Fred Blackned, Chief Matthew Shanush and Chief Joseph Petagamaskum.

The current year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. I consider the recognition and protection of Eeyou/Eenou rights as one of the most important pursuits of the Cree nation and their governments. Indeed, Eeyou nationalism, cultural pride and the pursuit of self-government would be much weaker without the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. In this



regard, the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* is a charter of Eeyou/Eenou rights. Therefore, I extend my appreciation and respect to the dedicated and courageous Eeyou/Eenou leaders who against tremendous odds fought for our rights in the 1970s. In particular, it is with great respect and on the 30th anniversary of the signing of the JBNQA, I honour the Eeyou/Eenou signatories of the JBNQA as follows: Chief Billy Diamond, Chief Robert Kanatewat, Chief Fred Blackned, Chief Matthew Shanush, Chief Peter Gull, Philip Awashish, Smally Petawabano, Chief Joseph Petagamaskum, Chief Bertie Wapachee and Abel Kitchen.

The Cree Regional Authority (CRA) was established as a result of the *James Bay and Northern Québec*



Agreement to coordinate and administer programs to the Cree communities as well as to appoint Cree representatives on all the structures, bodies and entities established by the JBNQA and to give valid consent, when required under the Agreement, on behalf of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. The Cree Regional Authority also operates on the basis of mandates from the Cree local governments. It is important to note that the administrative body of the Cree Nation... the Cree Regional Authority...works jointly with the political arm of the Cree Nation...the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee). The duties and responsibilities of the Cree Regional Authority have further enhanced the exercise of Eeyou nation governance.

Furthermore, the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Québec and the Crees of Québec signed by the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec has entailed great changes in the political, social and economic landscape of Eeyou Istchee. This Agreement has also had a tremendous impact on the administration, management and control of Cree affairs. This Agreement transferred certain obligations and responsibilities of Québec under various sections of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* to the Crees of Eeyou Istchee. This transfer of responsibilities facilitates and advances the exercise and practice of Eeyou self-government over community and economic development.

Recently, the Cree Nation of Eeyou and the Government of Canada have signed an outline of agreement with the intent to settle outstanding issues respecting the implementation of the JBNQA and the establishment of the Cree Nation Government by federal legislation.

Over the three decades, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee has made tremendous progress in the pursuit of self-government particularly for nation governance. For effective and good governance, legitimacy, power and resources are essential. While financial resources are essential, human resources are fundamental in the management, administration and provision of programs and services to meet the needs and goals of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Over the past three decades, the Cree Regional Authority/Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) has been fortunate to have effective, dedicated and efficient employees. In this regard and in recognition for their many years of services, on December 9, 2004, the following employees have been honoured by the Grand Nation of Eeyou Istchee: Eddie Diamond, Alan Penn, Alayne Harrison-Awashish, Edith Martin, Brian Craik, Lillian Loon, Bill Namagoose, Edna Neeposh Sr., and Ginette Lajoie.

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) will continue its monumental task of bringing the communities together in consensus and agreement on the many Cree concerns and issues that must be addressed and resolved. The Cree Regional Authority will also continue to assist the Grand Council in meeting and overcoming the challenges of our ongoing journey to Eeyou/Eenou self-government.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to our Eeyou/Eenou leadership, to the Senior Management, to the Directors and to all the staff for their dedicated hard work in striving to meet the past challenges and the challenges ahead. Meequetch to all!

Eddie Diamond
Director General

Message from the Treasurer

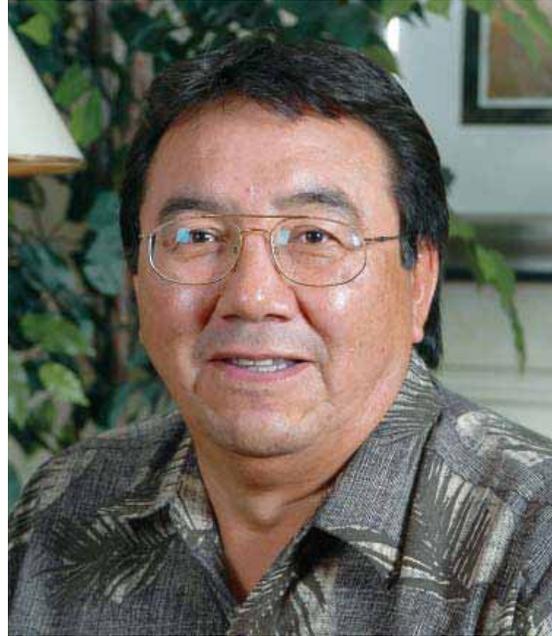
The Annual Report of the GCCEI/CRA is mainly an activity report with some financial information relating to certain of the funds under the administration of the GCCEI/CRA and/or for which the GCCEI/CRA acts as a recipient of funds with government for other Cree organizations and/or communities.

The Annual Report does not constitute a financial report on the state of Cree Nation Finances. However, it would be interesting to submit an annual financial report on the State of Cree Nation finances, as a report of this nature would help us understand how our resources are evolving and where we need to bring improvement in the areas of financial management and/or in the reallocation of resources.

The Cree Regional Authority/Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) is a partner in the administration of significant funding arrangements with the government and various financial institutions totaling approximately \$190 million dollars a year. If we consider funding levels that flow to other Cree institutions including the Cree School Board and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, then the funding levels and funds under Management exceed \$350,000,000 annually.

In addition to the responsibility for the management and administration of these annual funds, the Cree Nation also manages various Capital Pools such as the recently created Wyapschinigun Fund, the recipient of 15% of all funding to flow under the *Paix des Braves*, as well as the CRA – Board of Compensation, entrusted to manage and administer the original compensation monies paid pursuant to the JBNQA and the Eeyou Compenee, which manages and administers the funding received pursuant to the 1986 LaGrande Agreement.

It is important for all organizations to provide as much financial information as practical to our



membership since knowledge of our financial affairs is important to all aspects of governance and for the future of the Cree Nation.

The responsibility for the administration of funds has never been greater and when attending Council/ Board meetings, I am pleased to see the high level of acceptance for transparency and desire to ensure that funds are properly administered.

As Treasurer of the GCCEI/CRA since 1992, I have witnessed a transformation in many of our organizations as greater financial responsibility has been placed on all decision makers by virtue of the many agreements we have signed and the successes we have achieved. Throughout all these years, successive Council/ Boards have always supported the measures deemed necessary for accountability and have continued to support the difficult decisions respecting the administration of funds.

The Cree Nation will continue to be faced with the need to improve reporting techniques and to hopefully find means to report on the overall state of Cree Nation finances. I truly believe these to be worthy objectives.

At the level of the GCCEI/CRA, we are able to report to you on the status of the funds we receive and administer and to disclose the funding levels that flow through the GCCEI/CRA and related organizations (Eenou Eeyou L.P.).

Each year at the Annual Assembly we present for review and approval, the financial statements of the Cree Regional Authority, Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Eenou Eeyou L.P. Copies of these statements are always available for any member of the Cree Nation interested in securing a copy through the head office in Nemaska.

Overview of Certain Funding Arrangements – 2004/2005	
Government of Canada	
Cree Act Operation and Maintenance Funding	\$ 54,939,204
Federal Capital A Base Funding	\$ 14,948,000
Agreement Respecting Cree Human Resources Development	\$ 12,208,048
Canada / Québec Joint Funding	
Policing Services Agreement	\$ 7,577,452
Government Of Québec	
Agreement Concerning a New Relationship- Annual Payment	\$ 70,000,000
MOU Project Financing Arrangements	\$ 20,000,000

many funding agreements for the Cree Nation where the funding flows to the GCCEI/CRA, which then real-locates the funds in favor of the local communities and/or in conformity with agreement guidelines.

In addition to the funding described above, both Canada and Québec provide funding in relation to the Cree School Board and Québec provides funding for the Cree Board of Health and Social Services. Many other program funding arrangements exist between Canada, Québec and the Crees.

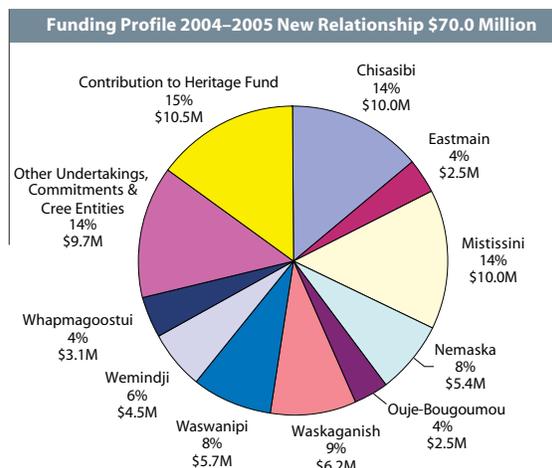
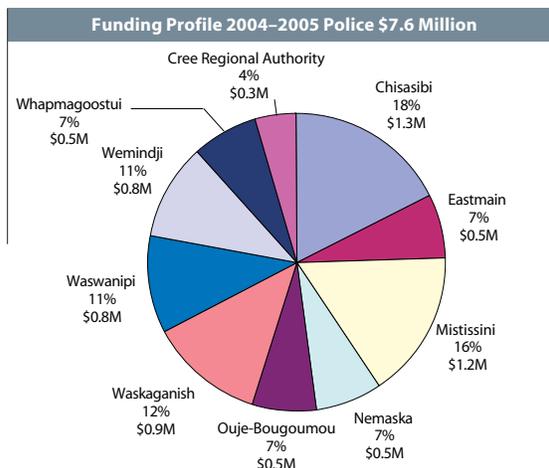
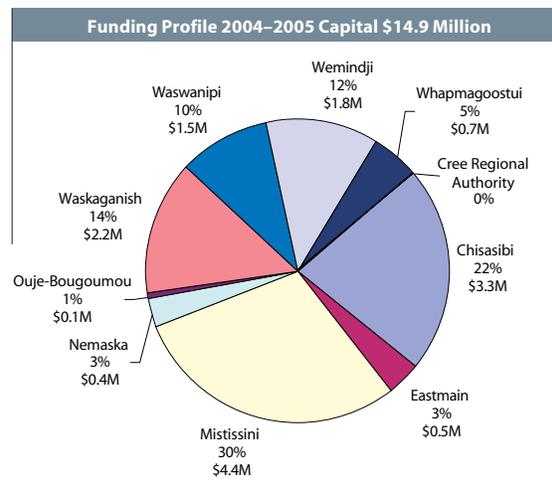
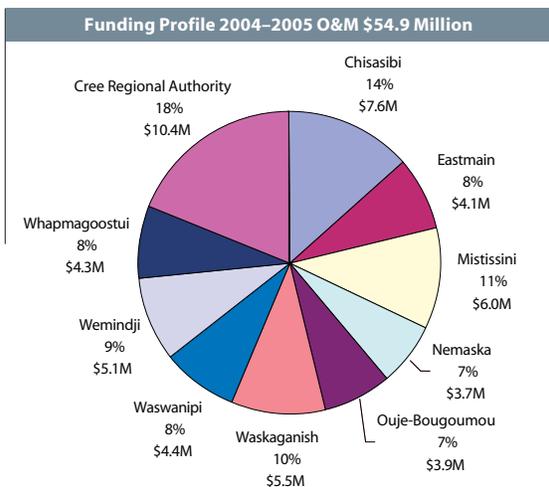
If there is one message that I continually try to convey it is the importance of taking the time to review the financial reports we provide each year.

An Overview of the Funding Flowing through the CRA/GCCEI and Eenu - Eeyou Limited Partnership

The GCCEI/CRA and the Eenu - Eeyou Limited Partnership act as Recipients of Funding pursuant to many agreements. The GCCEI/CRA have negotiated

The following series of graphs provides a general overview of the allocation of certain funding agreements and provides information as to the distribution amongst the various communities and other Cree Entities.

As these allocation summaries outline and as the financial statements detail, the financial affairs of the Cree Nation continue to develop in parallel to the emerging



structures of Cree Government. The efforts required to support the financial administration process at the local and regional levels has become very significant over time. Many of our leaders have called for a Cree Treasury Board to be created to assist with the processes and related reporting.

As Treasurer for many years, I support these evolving measures and trust that we will continue to move forward with improved accountability to our membership. This is certainly a worthwhile objective for the future.

Matthew Swallow
Treasurer

Office and Personnel

The year of 2004 marked the 30th anniversary of the Grand Council of the Crees of Québec. The GCCEI/CRA leadership also recognized its employees this past year for their years of dedicated service.



In January 2005, GCCEI/CRA created the Child and Family Services Department and subsequently engaged Ms. Tina Petawabano as its director. The said department has its office in Mistissini and will be responsible for direction and support for the daycare services in Cree Communities.

As well, this past year, the organization saw the relocation and occupation of the CHRDD Coordination office in Mistissini, in March 2005. In due time it is expected that all the CRA departments will be located in Cree Communities.

The Montréal support office continues to readily lend assistance to the leadership and senior management in the day to day operations. The office and personnel administration also appreciate the close working relationship with the Councils of the Cree Nations.

Johnny Trapper
Director

This year, the office and personnel administration wishes to acknowledge the employees who have attained fifteen years or more of service with the GCCEI/CRA. Excerpts from the employee recognition ceremony are included on page 69.

As always, the organization will not overlook expressing appreciation for the loyalty of all its employees in providing quality, efficient and effective service to the leadership and the senior management.

The office and personnel administration has continued to provide administrative support to all the CRA departments and the GCCEI in many capacities; such as recruitment, personnel management, office space and equipment acquisition.

2004-2005 Engagements

Rita Blackned	Secretary to Office and Personnel Director
Tina Petawabano	Director of Child and Family Service Department
Deborah Matoush	Inland Program Officer
Lucy Trapper	Community Youth Development Officer
Stella M. Bearskin	Coastal Career Counselor
Priscillia Wesley	General Clerk
Bernice Sam	Receptionist (Chisasibi – CHRDD)
Priscilla Mettaweskum	General Clerk
Betty Hall	Archivist

Cree Human Resources Development Department



The 2004-2005 fiscal years proved interesting with the relocation of the Cree Human Resources Development Department coordination office to Mistissini and the production of an important document illustrating the scope of the Cree labor market. There was an enhancement of the working relationship between governments, the business community, the local and regional entities, and most importantly, the clientele we serve.

A new home for the Cree Human Resources Development Department (CHRD)

The new office complex owned by the Cree Nation of Mistissini and located at 32 Amisk Street, Mistissini, is now the home of Cree Human Resources Development Department. The CHRD office in Montréal was closed in December 2004, and the positions were transferred to Mistissini. As of March 18, 2005, the regional CHRD coordination office and the local CHRD offices have relocated to this office complex. The new office location now provides the CHRD staff with ample space, user-friendly equipment and a pleasant working environment.



Personnel

The personnel situation of the Cree Human Resource Development department changed drastically over the course of the year, with some changes temporary and others permanent. These changes were due to various reasons, with one being the relocation of offices. Personnel are now settled in their new offices and human resource services are progressing rapidly.

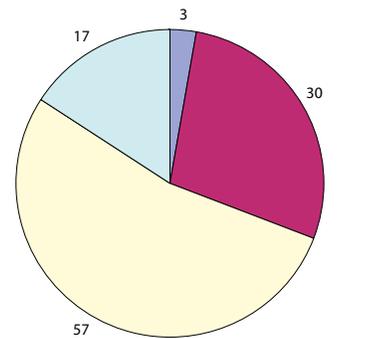
CHRD Coordination group

An internal CHRD coordination structure was devised to monitor the progress of the CHRD operations and administration. This group comprises the Director and the Coordinators of Finance & Administration, Territorial Program Initiatives and Community Based Program initiatives. They meet monthly to review issues and matters pertaining to the delivery of programs and services and to determine the appropriate action to be pursued.

CHRD Technical Group

This group is composed of the Coordinators of Finance & Administration, Territorial Program Initiatives and Community Based Program Initiatives, who meet monthly to review and determine the appropriate direction on matters related to Youth Programs, Special Programs for persons with disabilities, procedures and policies of CHRD, and the working tools of CHRD such as the computer network, newsletter and website.

Youth Programs and Persons with Disabilities Programs (PPD) 2004-2005 Participants by Program

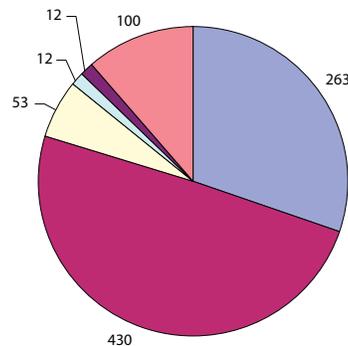


Legend: Internship Program (blue), Community Service (red), Summer Student (yellow), Programs / PPD (light blue)

Community Based Program Initiatives

There were fifty-three (53) projects recommended by the Cree Local Management Board (CLMB) for funding from the CHRD agreement. The following graph will define the recipients (see numbers) of the various programs.

Community-Based Programs Participants by Program / April 2004-March 2005



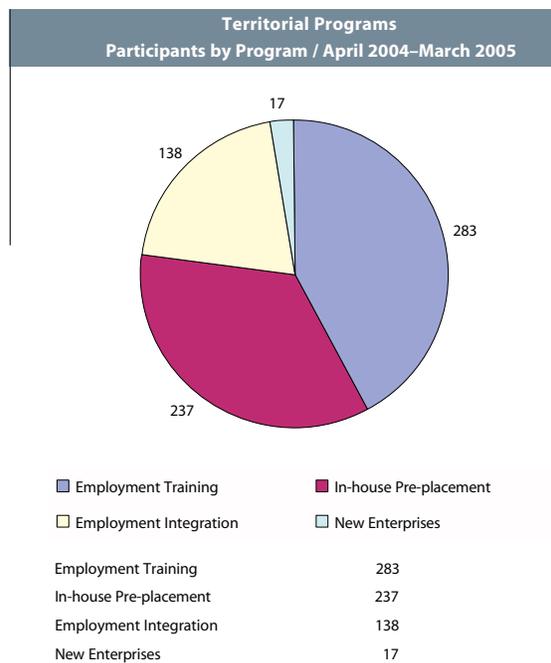
Legend: Institutional Training (blue), On-the-job Training (red), Labour Market Integrator (yellow), Short-term Job Creation (light blue), Delivery Assistance (purple), Employment Ass. Serv. (pink)

Cree Local Management Board

This is the recommending body for project submissions to the CLMB for funding. The Cree Local Management Board meets on a quarterly basis to review, discuss and render recommendations on project submissions from Cree communities, individuals and entities that enhance training and employment opportunities for Cree beneficiaries.

Territory Program Initiatives (TPI)

The CHRD TPI personnel prepare and analyze project proposals for submission to the Joint Implementation Committee for decisions on the financial assistance for these projects. They monitor the projects receiving funds from the program and ensure reports are prepared and presented. This year there were one hundred and eight (108) projects recommended by the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) for funding from the CHRD agreement. The following graph indicates the number of recipients.



Joint Implementation Committee

This committee meets quarterly to review, discuss and render recommendations on project submissions related to mining, forestry, construction, tourism, telecommunications, transportation, and hydroelectricity industries. During this fiscal year, the committee agreed to include a new industrial sector (regional sales and services) for funding recommendations.



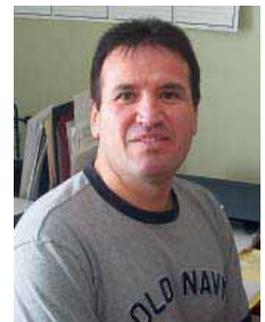
Review Committee

This committee's primary role is to monitor the delivery of the CHRD agreement. This committee comprises three (3) Federal representatives and four (4) Cree representatives. It meets at least four (4) times a year.

The assessment of the employment insurance part II workload was approved by this committee for purposes of determining the appropriate direction on the issue. This work was undertaken by Me. Kenny Loon, consultant, and funded by Canada.

The committee agreed upon the evaluation pertaining to the delivery and implementation of the current five (5) year agreement respecting Cree human resources development. This work will be conducted by Consilium Inc. and will be funded by Canada.

During this fiscal year, this committee recommended proceeding with negotiations for the renewal of the Agreement of Cree Human Resources Development. As per the present agreement, which will expire as of March 31, 2006, it is essential to proceed with this initiative.



Cree Labor Market Survey

The report on the Cree Labor Market Survey was completed in the month of March 2005. The data compiled illustrates the Cree labor market statistics as of March 31, 2003. Further updating would be required to compile recent statistical information, however the template for the Cree labor market is already developed. This report is available on the CHRD website (www.CHRD.ca).

Appreciation is extended to Mr. Frederick Moar, Labor Market Analyst, for the production of the Cree Labor Market survey, which is a highly efficient tool for the CHRD personnel.

Data Programming

A professional firm was engaged to oversee the relocation of the terminal server, originally located in

Montréal and transferred to the new office complex in Mistissini. The terminal server continues to be upgraded to ensure that local CHRD offices are served efficiently and productively according to the overall network planned for CHRD. The data programming is very much completed as planned.

Partnership

The CHRD promotion of partnership continues to be diligently pursued as a central initiative. A partnership is seen as a relationship where two (2) or more parties have compatible goals, coming to work together. In this scenario the parties would agree to share resources, work, responsibility and direction to the benefit of all involved parties.



The Cree School Boards' Continuing Education department remains a partner in the delivery of training programs. This year the CHRD had a new partner, Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance, which promoted CHRD programs in its region. It also saw the emergence of partnerships with territory, regional and local business communities.

CCQ

The CHRD continues to be active in meetings with CCQ to realize the goal of increasing the number of Cree beneficiaries obtaining their journeymen, apprentice, and occupational cards. The process to facilitate Cree workers in the hydroelectricity works is a priority of the Cree representation at this table. The Cree party has retained the services of consultants, who are experts in related CCQ rules and regulations.

The CHRD will continue to provide the necessary tools to ensure that the Cree Nation attains the expertise to progress and achieve continued success in all areas of training and development.

Henry Mianscum
Director



Traditional Pursuits Department

Kwe! Waachiya!
The Traditional Pursuits Department has now been working on behalf of the Cree First Nations for over 25 years – a quarter of a century. Much has changed since the Cree Regional Authority



and the Traditional Pursuits Department were established. The communities have grown and they have the solid footing of the Cree/Naskapi Act. There is growing interest in strengthening Cree governance, and the Traditional Pursuits Department hopes to play an important and useful role in that process.

As you can see from the reports on individual activities, the work of the TDP staff in connection

with the Eastmain-1 project and the planning and assessment of the EM-1A/Rupert project takes up a great deal of the time of our support staff. We expect this challenge to continue and to grow as preparations move ahead for the review of the project, most probably in 2006. Much of the work involves environmental issues, but I also want to stress the work on the preservation of the cultural and archaeological heritage of the Cree people in the area affected by the Eastman-1 project.

I would like to draw attention, as well, to some important emerging issues. I am thinking of the offshore islands negotiations, and the work involved in implementing an offshore agreement, as well as the need to invest effort and resources in the development of wildlife management strategies for Eeyou Istchee to take into account recent developments in forest policy and access to public lands. Lastly, but certainly not least in importance, I want to mention the work of our staff in supporting the Cree First Nations and the Local Environment Administrators on a variety of local issues, ranging from water supply to waste management and soil decontamination.

Willie Iserhoff
Director

The Traditional Pursuits Department continues to provide professional advice and technical information on a number of inter-related areas of environmental policy development affecting the Cree First Nations and Eeyou Istchee.

The Cree First Nations and the Cree Regional Authority are represented by Alan Penn on the National Advisory Committee on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA 1999). The legislation will be subjected to parliamentary review in 2005 and 2006, and much of the work in the last year, on the Cree side, has focused on the challenges of ensuring, now and in the future, effective First Nations representation and input to the CEPA implementation agenda. He also continues to represent the Cree on two of the Task Forces established under the North American Free Trade Agreement to deal with the coordination and development of environmental policies (Monitoring and Assessment, Dioxins and Furans), and on the working group involved in the development of national standards for the control of mercury releases to the environment.

The Cree Regional Authority continues to be active on the subject of environmental mercury contamination, and works closely with the Cree Health Board as it develops its own programmes and policies in this area. Both were present at the last International Conference on Mercury (in Slovenia in 2004). Mercury continues to be a challenge as the Niskamoon Corporation proceeds with the implementation of the Eeyou Names Agreement, which emphasizes the expansion of the Cree use of fisheries resources – but on the basis of a sound approach to risk assessment and risk management. This will continue to be an active area for the Traditional Pursuits Department.

The Department was active on the environmental impact assessment of the EM-1A/Rupert hydro-electric development. The TPD staff undertook a thorough and detailed review for SEBJ of the proposed text for the impact statement, and later in the year became involved in reviewing the draft impact statement at the conformity analysis stage of the review process. This work included the provision of advice and technical assistance to some of the Cree First Nations. The TPD was also extensively involved in the finalizing of the post-project social and economic impact studies for the eastern sector of the La Grande hydro-electric Complex.

HFTCC

Traditional Pursuits also provides support for the Cree representatives on the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee. One of the current files of particular interest to the Cree is the review of information on the moose populations and on moose harvests by Cree and non-Cree hunters. At a more

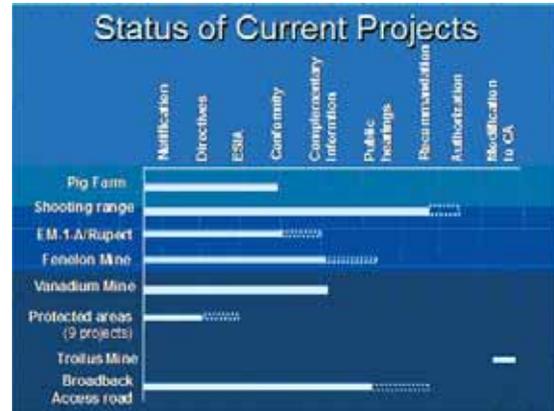
general level, the EM-1A/Rupert impact assessment raises a number of issues involving Cree land use and wildlife harvesting. One subject of growing concern and particular interest to the Cree communities is the conservation and management of sturgeon stocks – lake sturgeon has recently been classified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a ‘species of special concern’ – a conclusion which will lead probably to the development of conservation strategies for this species. Work on wildlife harvesting has also included a renewed effort to open up talks on the implementation of the Guaranteed Levels of Harvesting, the use of Cree First Nation regulatory powers in Category I and II lands, and the training and deployment of Cree wildlife protection and conservation officers (including the recognition of the role of the individual tallymen). This has been an active year for the Cree representatives. The TPD also collaborates on wildlife management issues with the team that is responsible for developing policy directions for access to public lands and the granting of leases for the construction of cabins.

The department continues to provide technical input to the negotiation of the Cree offshore agreement. Much of last year’s work involved working out the many details of the overlap agreement with Makivik, and the technical description of the area now recognized as being of common interest to the Cree and Inuit – from Chisasibi in the south to the Nastapoka Islands in the North. Support in this area has also involved extensive work on wildlife management regimes, and various aspects of land use planning.

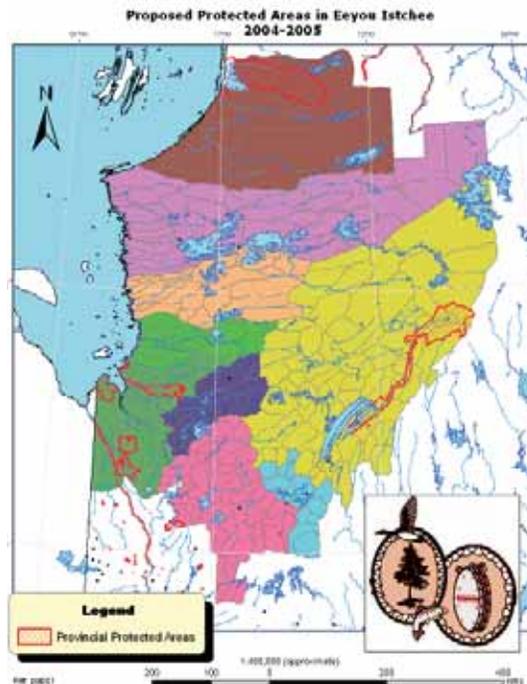
1. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW UNDER JBNQA S. 22:

It is the core responsibility of the Environment Section of the CRA to provide the necessary background analysis of all documents submitted to the evaluating and review procedure.

A total of 19 projects underwent or continued to be evaluated by the Evaluating Committee and the Review Committee during the fiscal year 2004-2005. The table below shows the current stage of review of those projects requiring full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).



The map below shows the proposed protected areas for which the Evaluating Committee issued a Directive for the EIA.



1.1 EM-1-A/Rupert Diversion Project

As for the previous fiscal year, the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert Diversion Project remained at the forefront of all activities. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted by the proponents, Hydro-Québec/SEBJ, on December 20th 2004. Both Review and Assessment



bodies, the Provincial Review Committee and the Federal Review Panel, carried out a conformity analysis of the EIS. From January to April 2005, written public consultation on the conformity of the EIS took place. Financial assistance from the Governments of Québec and Canada was available to help the public in participating in the conformity analysis of the EIS. More than \$70,000 was allocated to Cree Entities, either Band Councils or groups of interest.

The majority of the section's staff was involved in the conduct of the conformity analysis. A substantial amount of this analysis was commissioned to outside experts under supervision from the CRA. The main effort was put on the following issues:

- Social impacts
- Land use, navigation, landscape
- Cumulative impacts
- Project justification
- Economic impacts
- Fish (Sturgeon and Cisco)
- Instream flow
- Bank stability and sediment erosion

All analysis reports were filed with the CRA appointed members on the review bodies and officially posted on the public registry of CEAA. A total of 16 documents were filed. These documents were also posted on the Local Environment website at www.envcree.ca.

The Review and Assessment Bodies expect to issue (summer 2005) a conformity report containing questions and additional information requests to the proponents. The proponents will most likely have to go back in the field to do complementary studies about biophysical and social environment and revise the potential impacts of the project according to the questions and additional requests of the Panels. Answers to questions and comments will be filed by the proponents with the review bodies.

Once the EIS is considered complete by the Review and Assessment Bodies, public hearings on the impacts of the project will be called. This should start sometime in the fall of 2005 or early winter of 2006. About \$200,000 in financial assistance will be available for public hearings. The CRA will continue to inform Cree entities on this funding program. Assistance will continue to be available from the Public Information Office. Public hearings will be held in Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Wemindji, Eastmain, Chisasibi, as well as in Chibougamau and Montréal, and each of these hearings shall be preceded by a minimum of 45 days advance notice.

2. JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The CRA appoints four (4) members to the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE): these are Glen Cooper, George Diamond, Ginette Lajoie

and Romeo Saganash. The JBACE plays a key role in the development of environmental policies and legislation and also in the enforcement of the environmental and social protection regime set out in s.22 of the JBNQA. This policy advisory role however cannot be fully exercised without the collaboration of the signatories to the Agreement. Renewed efforts were undertaken to remind governmental agencies about their obligation to submit their draft policies and legislation to the Committee for comments and recommendations.

The Committee focused its action according to the strategic plan it adopted. It dealt first and foremost with (a) the review of the environmental assessment procedure as applied to category 1 lands and (b) recycling of residual waste in the territory. The annual report and the complete strategic plan can be viewed on the newly created website of the Committee at www.ccebj-jbace.ca.

(a) Revision of the Environmental Assessment Procedure

30 years after the signing of the JBNQA, the Committee decided to undertake some form of quality control and updating of the existing practices of environmental assessment to improve the efficiency of the procedure. Although well aware that any amendments to s.22 will have to be agreed to by the signatories to the JBNQA, the JBACE is bound by its obligation respecting the environmental regime and as such must provide



recommendations to the signatories for their consideration on how the regime and the assessment procedure can be improved and modernized. The CRA appointees are very closely involved in this initiative and are getting the collaboration of the members appointed by Québec and Canada.

Interviews were conducted with over 40 people directly involved in the environmental review of projects, including consultants, local proponents and local Administrators. Many issues were brought up and

recommendations are expected to be published early in 2005-2006. Two pressing issues are: the revision of the list of projects in schedule 1 and 2 of the JBNQA and the incompatibility and unnecessary duplication of processes. Early inclusion of environmental and social consideration in the planning stage of projects appears to be essential. This is particularly important when taking into account the very short timeframe allowed between funding allocation from governmental agencies and the local construction season. Extending the list of automatically exempted projects to include more types of local projects may be an option but it will not solve the problem associated with the application of other assessment procedures by the federal government. In this regards, it should be emphasized that legal proceedings instituted by the GCC/CRA regarding the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act are pending.

(b) Recycling and integrated waste management

The CRA collaborated very closely with two key undertakings of the JBACE. The first one was the development of two directories: one of recyclers for the James Bay Territory and one of educational web sites on waste management. These two documents are available on line at www.ccebj-jbace.ca. These directories were developed with the support of a summer graduate student program subsidized by the JBACE and carried out in consultation with the Cree Local Environment Administrators. The second undertaking was to promote the extension north of the 49th parallel of existing recycling programs subsidized by Recyc-Québec. Assisted by the continuing efforts of the Environment Staff of the CRA and the support of the LEAs, a first round of recovery of used tires was achieved in the majority of the Cree communities at no cost to them.

The public consultation on the Québec draft Sustainable Development Plan was the other main area of involvement of the JBACE. Concerns over the proper consideration and insertion of the guiding principles of s.22 of the JBNQA into the Principles outlined in the proposed provincial Plan were to be sent to the Minister in time for the scheduled public sessions to be held in May 2005. The plans will require that government policies and programs give due consideration to social, economical and environmental aspects. The Committee felt it was important to remind the government that the regime set out in the JBNQA already gave equal weight to the social and the environmental dimensions.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES AND TRAINING OF THE LEAS

Quarterly training for the LEAs has been ongoing, dealing with drinking water, emergency response, and other issues of local concern such as waste management

and recycling. The Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments expanded this year with hundreds of housing lots and a dozen large of institutional buildings built in the nine communities.



4. ENVIRONMENT WEBSITE

The CRA Traditional Pursuits Department continued with the environmental technologies support and transfer to the Cree Communities. The local environment website www.envcree.ca continues to be the method of drinking water information to be recorded and shared between the authorities and the local governments. The quality status of drinking water (green=good quality and red=not respecting standards) can be monitored by all members of the communities by simply accessing the website.

The site has been considerably expanded in the last year to better inform on impact assessment, especially the EM-1-A/Rupert Diversion project. Information on other projects have been developed and posted, namely, on the SNC-TEC Shooting range and the pig farm near Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou and Chapais.



Modern Drinking By-law

The CRA is currently developing at the request of the LEAs a model by-law on quality standards for drinking water. It is hoped that in the coming fiscal year a draft by-law revised by legal counsels will be made available

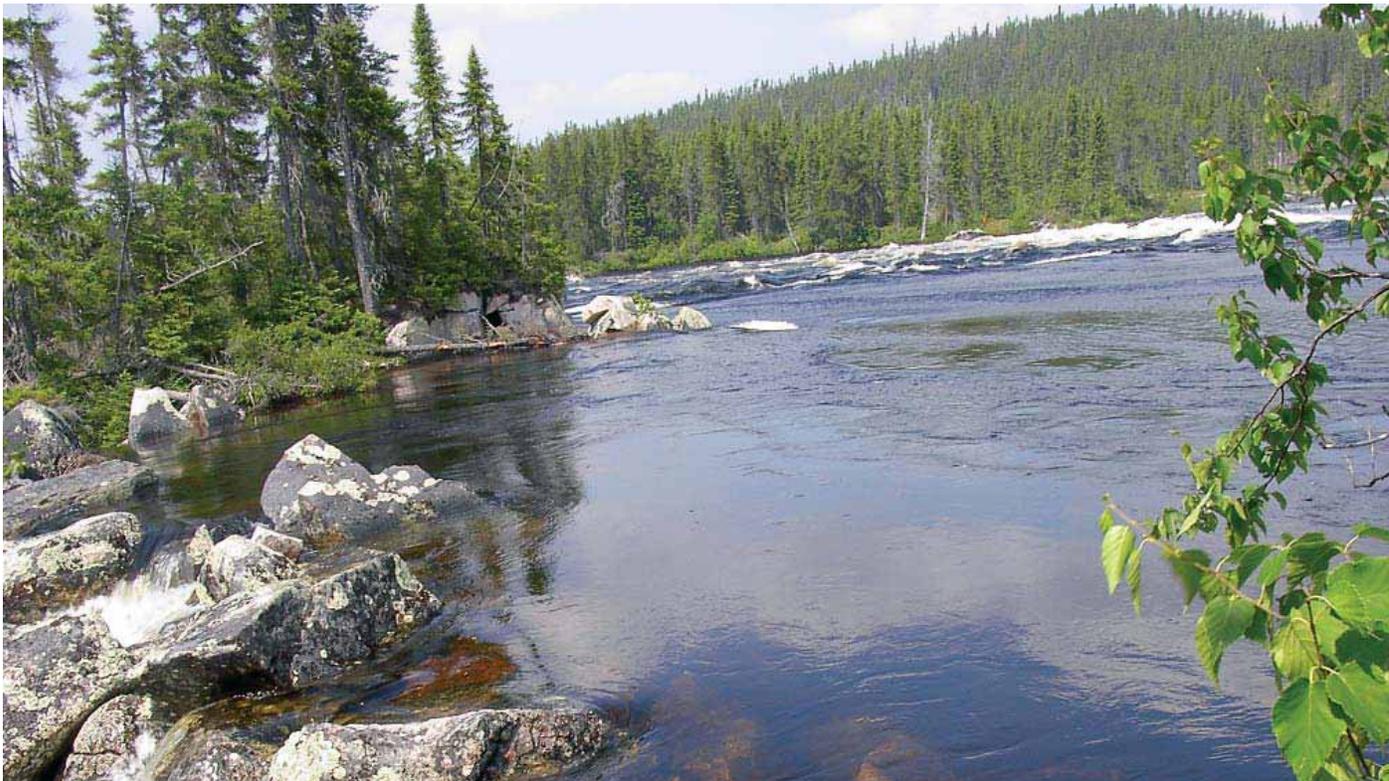
to local governments for adoption (as provided under the Cree-Naskapi Act).

**5. SPECIAL PROJECT: WORKSHOP ON
MIGRATORY BIRDS DATA COLLECTION IN
EYYOU ISTCHEE: SHARING KNOWLEDGE**

The CRA signed a four-year funding agreement with Environment Canada (Northern Ecosystem Initiative) for the implementation of an information sharing protocol and the collection of data on the Cree harvest of migratory birds. A workshop about migratory bird data collection was held in Wemindji on February 8 and 9, 2005 in collaboration with the Cree Trappers Association, the CRA and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Cree hunters and CWS biologists shared knowledge on migratory birds. Participants exchanged views on the state of knowledge (traditional and scientific) and the needs, objectives and methodology for data collection of migratory birds in Eeyou Istchee.

The workshop was well attended with funding provided for 35 Cree delegates' participation. As well another 30 people from the community also joined in during the two days. Cree elders made oral presentations and several other presentations were given by different specialists. Proceedings, as well as the electronic version of the presentations, are available at the local or regional CTA and from the CRA, or at www.envcree.ca. Next year the CTA will train and hire staff through the

project funding to test the data collection methodology developed in collaboration with the CWS. The project is bound by the terms and conditions of a comprehensive protocol on data collection and sharing developed by the CRA. The protocol also entitles the CTA and the CRA to have a say in data interpretation and in the public release of data.



Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program

Complementary Agreement No. 15 amending Section 30 (Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers) of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* was signed on May 23, 2002 by the representatives of the Government of Québec and the Cree Regional Authority. The changes to the Program came into force for the 2002-2003 Program Year. Therefore the year 2005 represents the third year of operations for the amended Program with its improved and/or new elements. Consequently and as a result of the changes to the Program, the following principle elements of the Program have been implemented:

- a) All communities including Chisasibi have established a Local Income Security Program Committee to enable a voice for the local trappers in preparing a list of persons who are recognized by community custom to be practicing harvesting and related activities as a way of life in compliance with the harvesting traditions and rules of the community. This list is essential in determining eligibility for the Program.
- b) Schedule I of Section 30 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* constitutes maps of the harvesting regions including the new far harvesting regions. In addition to the daily allowance (which is \$54.69 daily in 2004-2005 Year of the Program), the beneficiaries of the Program who harvest in the far harvesting regions are entitled to receive and have been receiving a new daily distance allowance (which is \$16.41 daily in 2004-2005 Year of the Program).
- c) The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board has established a process for the revision of the classification of hunting territories. In particular, the Board has established the Harvesting Regions Review Committee. Certain Cree trappers have requested a revision of the classification of their traplines. These requests are submitted to the Harvesting Regions Review Committee for recommendations to the Board. As a result, certain traplines have been reclassified as a far harvesting region and Schedule I of Section 30 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* has been amended accordingly.
- d) The provisions of the Program respecting sick leave, disaster and Insurance Fund are in force to provide compensation, complete or partial, for the loss of income that beneficiaries under the Program incurred as a result of not being able to conduct harvesting or related activities due



to sickness or a disaster. The Insurance Fund has been established to finance the provisions relating to sick leave or disasters. This Fund is financed through equal contributions from Québec and the beneficiaries of the Program. The Insurance Fund is administered by the Board and payments from the fund have been made to beneficiaries for the purposes of funding sick leave.

For the 2003-2004 Program Year, benefits paid to beneficiary units totaled \$16,198,877. About 94% of this amount constitutes the sum paid to hunters and trappers for days spent conducting harvesting and related activities including days spent in far harvesting regions. This new provision respecting days spent in far harvesting regions enabled the payment of an additional \$816,206 to the hunters and trappers who are beneficiaries of the Program.

In December, 2004, Monique Caron, Secretary-General of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board resigned from her position. Monique Caron has been the Secretary-General of Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board since 1983. In fact, she was the first official Secretary-General of the Board and Program. The Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee has expressed its gratitude to Monique Caron for her many years of service as the Indoh-hoh Souliyan Ouje-Maao and for ensuring the success of the Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers.

The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board has changed the title of the position of Secretary General to the title of Director General. In November 2004, Mr. Serge Larivière was engaged as the Director General of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board and Program.

Forestry and GIS

An important portion of the workload is dedicated to the implementation of the Cree-Québec New Relationship Agreement (CQNRA), chapter 3 through the Cree Forestry Implementation Team.

The Cree Forestry Implementation Team (CFIT) is comprised of Sam Etapp, Geoff Quaille, Robert Beaulieu and Jean-Sébastien Clément. The CFIT mandate is to coordinate the CQNRA chapter 3 implementation in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRFP), the Cree Forest Joint Working Group and the Cree Forestry Board, as well as to carry out various projects emanating from the Cree standing liaison committee.

The Forestry Engineer, with the assistance of Chantal Otter Tétreault (GIS Technician), is to provide professional and technical services in forestry and GIS (production of maps) related with the implementation of CQNRA chapter 3.

Support is provided on forestry policy development, implementation, advising and negotiation, for example:

- Review of the proposed Forest Act and CQNRA amendments – Bill 71
- Review of the Forest Protection and Development Objectives MNRFP proposal and develop a set of Cree criteria in collaboration with the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest, the TPD Forestry and GIS office
- Review of the Coulombe Commission report tabled at National Assembly on December 2004
- Appointed to receive data to calculate the allowable cut for each management unit as provided for under section 19, Schedule C-4 of the CQNRA chapter 3
- Implementation and extension of the CQNRA sections 3.51 and 3.52 pertaining to the Cree Forestry Joint Working Groups' funding in which the TPD Forestry and GIS coordinator developed cost assessment methods inspired from cost accounting techniques for use during negotiations with the MNRF
- Participated in the development of draft directives to be elaborated by the Cree-Québec Forestry Board, in accordance with section C-IV-59 of the CQNRA, to introduce additional strategies for the protection and development of wildlife habitats during forest management planning
- The TPD Forestry engineer was appointed as a member of the Cree working table, on natural disasters, to develop and resolve pending issues concerning the salvage and restoration of timber following natural disasters. Joint reports have

been tabled by the Cree-MNRF representatives, which integrate additional forestry amendments into the CQNRA chapter 3, such as a set of new modalities and consultation processes, to ensure that Cree rights are accommodated

- Provided professional and technical support to the Cree representatives on an access table implemented in compliance to the CQNRA chapter 3
- Attended meetings with the Cree-Québec Forestry Board, MNRF and Forestry Joint Working Groups, as scientific and technical advisors to provide professional support for the Cree members
- Provided professional support in Forestry and GIS to the Cree CQNRA chapter 7 implementation team in review of the total amount of timber harvested from the years of 1999-2003, in which discussions were initiated to improve estimation methods of the forestry annual harvest when calculating the indexation factor, in accordance with the CQNRA section 7.5

Geographic Information System (GIS) – Implementation Development

You are invited to visit the map website at www.gcc.ca, developed and implemented by the CRA/TPD Forestry and GIS office. The mapping website is accessible through the Quicklinks section under the title: Forestry and GIS Dept. Website. During the past year the website was enhanced considerably by adding features such as map tutorial pages, information pertaining to the CQNRA chapter 3 and forest management plans. Through the map server, users may obtain information concerning forest disturbances within Eeyou Istchee and perform simple geographical functions such as zooming, querying and printing simple maps.

Support was given to Cree communities with their GIS implementation and development projects, which



included troubleshooting, ordering appropriate equipment, installations, set up and training.

Expertise was requested in providing technical support and training to implement three new GIS projects initiated by the Cree Forestry Joint Working Group

For the purpose of ensuring appropriate protection to the dwelling caribou, a provincial Recovery Committee was created and the Forestry & GIS Coordinator was invited to act as an advisor.

MRNF and researchers had the opportunity to present their research proposal concerning the dwelling caribou inventory and initiated discussions with Cree representatives. The main concern with the proposed dwelling caribou recovery plan implementation is to ensure that the outcome will be compatible in accordance to the CQNRA chapter 3 provisions, as well as the JBNQA chapter 24 provisions.

The last dwelling caribou recovery meeting was held in June 2005 and a draft version of the recovery plan should be available in August 2005 for review. Points of particular concerns to the Cree will be properly documented and integrated in the final version of the recovery plan.

An implementation committee on dwelling caribou will be established to follow up the recovery plan actions

and/or recommendations. At its previous meeting the Recovery Committee recommended that the mandate of the existing members be extended to ensure their participation.

Coordination with Income Security Program (ISP)

The Forestry and GIS office provided mapping services to the Income Security Board for the purpose of implementing Schedule 1 of section 30 of the James Bay and Northern Agreement.

Collaboration with the Cree Trapper Association (CTA)

Discussions were initiated to provide mapping services to CTA by the Forestry and GIS office, towards implementing and developing a GIS at the CTA level for the purpose of providing the necessary support and training.

The development of a GIS project on Cree harvesting of the Eeyou Istchee hunting territory is in consideration in order to facilitate the tallymen's work towards delimiting their trap lines and in managing wildlife resources within their territory.



members of three communities: Mistissini, Waskaganish and Nemaska.

A three-day training program in GIS and forestry mapping was carried out for the Cree Forestry Joint Working Group members of Mistissini, Ouje-Bougoumau and Waskaganish.

Nemaska Forestry Joint Working Groups have also recently joined the GIS select club.

At the regional level, the department responds to various requests from Cree entities and provides various GIS products and by-products for:

- Mining projects
- Cree and Inuit land tenure
- Washaw Sibi and Nitaskinan land use issues
- Cree harvesting mapping
- CTA map requests
- Various projects

Innovative GIS methods have been developed and are ongoing with in-house maintenance and development of GIS workstations and the web server.

Dwelling Caribou Recovery Committee

The woodland ecotype caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) has been designated as a vulnerable wildlife species. Based on preliminary inventory research results, small groups of dwelling caribou use a portion of the territory as defined in the CQNRA chapter 3, as well as the southern portion of the caribou migratory territory.

Cree Culture

The Cree Regional Authority's cultural program is administered and carried out by the Traditional Pursuits Department. The general objective of the program is to work closely with other regional organizations and the nine Cree First Nations councils, to help preserve, promote and develop Iyiyuu / linuu culture. 2003-2004 was the second year in the current three-year funding agreement between the C.R.A. and the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Québec (M.C.C.Q.) in support of our program.

As expressed in the three-year plan, the specific goals of the CRA program are:

- Develop (in collaboration with other organizations) the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute as an instrument for Cree cultural protection, promotion and development
- Provide support for local cultural coordinators and for local cultural projects, including the development of community cultural facilities
- Continue programs aimed at recording and preserving the knowledge of the elders, including knowledge relating to Cree history and to the historical and cultural significance of places in the Cree territories
- Promote protection and management of Iyiyuu / linuu cultural heritage resources at the local and regional levels and encourage the recognition, commemoration, or enhancement of Cree heritage sites for cultural and educational purposes
- Carry out an archaeological program including research, management and enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the Iyiyuuschi;
- Provide support for the development of the arts in Iyiyuuschi
- Promote a broader understanding and appreciation of Cree cultural heritage by disseminating information amongst Cree and the general public, and, where possible:
 - Supply information on Cree history and traditions in support of local or regional tourism projects
 - Encourage the use of new media (Internet, CD-Rom, etc.) as a means of sharing information on Cree culture

Local Cultural Grants Program

The Traditional Pursuit Agency reviews community proposals for the Board of Compensation's community cultural grant program. As a result of a freeze in the disbursement of Board of Compensation funds, no local cultural grants were given out 2004-2005.

Community Development Initiatives

The C.R.A. has been working closely with the cultural coordinators in order to provide support for community cultural programs; to promote the sharing of information, ideas and resources; and to involve the communities in the development and planning of Aanischaaukamikw and its programs. Several years ago, this work led to the formation of the Cree Cultural Coordinators' Working Group (CCCWG), the purpose of which is "to promote cooperation between communities in order to better share ideas, information and resources; to better provide access to on-going training and professional development for the cultural coordinators and to organize and promote regional projects that will help to preserve and promote Cree culture..."

One meeting of the Cree Cultural Coordinators' Working Group was held focusing on local and regional cultural projects and programs. Among other things, a decision was made to proceed on development work for an accredited training program relating to Cree cultural heritage, and, as a result, a feasibility study for a college accredited program was initiated. An preliminary course outline was prepared and discussions were held with post-secondary institutions for the delivery of this program. This work, headed by Margaret Fireman (through an administrative agreement between the CRA and the Cree Nation of Chisasibi), will be continued in 2005-2006.

The Arts in Iyiyuuschi

Several years ago, with M.C.C.Q. funding, the C.R.A. established the *Mimahtaawaayihitthaaw* and Performing Arts Grant Programs for the promotion of Cree arts. In 2004 – 2005, grants were awarded to the following individuals or Cree organizations:

Artist	Project	Amount
Thelma Cheechoo	Production of CD	\$2,000.00
Ceremony	Support for travel to perform at National Aboriginal Achievement Awards	\$1,017.56
Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	Support for performances at Cree Nation Invitational Tournament	\$14,850.00
Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	Support for Cree performers at Québec Winter Carnival	\$6,000.00

Cree Archaeology

As part of its support for community cultural projects, the C.R.A. carries out archaeology projects in collaboration with the Cree communities. This year

our work focused on two communities: Eastmain and Chisasibi.

In Eastmain, an archaeological survey was carried out in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Eastmain in search of the first HBC trading post at Eastmain. Christian Roy was hired to head a local team conducting the field research. According to available documents, the first HBC post was built in 1719 near the mouth of the Eastmain River, on or near the north shore. Cartographic and other documents suggested a number of potential locations, including some thought to be of very high potential associated with an island in the Fishing River. Unfortunately, archaeological testing of the potential areas did not result in the finding of the trading post. It is hoped that follow-up work will be undertaken, and, perhaps with further help of local elders, the first post will be found.

In Chisasibi, a multi-year collaborative project between the CRA and the Cree Nation of Chisasibi was initiated. This project is focused on the first trading post at Chisasibi, known by the HBC as "Big River House" and on other historic sites located on the north shore, near the mouth of the river. Big River House was established in 1803 and used during the first few decades of the 19th century. The 2004 field project included an evaluation of this site and a search for a nearby post occupied during the same period by the competing North West Company. The work was headed by archaeologist Christian Roy with a local team including elder Bobby Pashagumskum.

The evaluation of Big River House resulted in the identification of five buildings referred to in the HBC records, including a forge, a "vault" (for food storage), a house with a stone-paved cellar built for postmaster Alder in 1816 and two other houses. Test excavations produced an interesting array of artifacts which will help tell the story of this trading establishment. Concerning the North West Company post, the analysis of historic and other documents permitted the identification of potential zones which were systematically tested in

the field, resulting in one site which almost certainly is the North West Co. post, and two locations producing evidence of historic Cree occupation. We hope that further investigation of these sites will allow us to trace social relations between Crees and traders, and to better understand the dynamics of this critical period in the history of the Chisasibi Iiyuu. It is hoped that materials from this project will be used in interpretive displays in the future Fort George Heritage Centre planned for Chisasibi, and that these will be a source of education and pride for community members.

The 2004 season also permitted the collection of numerous 19th century artifacts eroding from the bank on the north shore of Fort George Island. In future years, we will seek the collaboration of Hydro-Québec to conduct a more detailed evaluation of any intact portions of this site and to make recommendations for the salvaging or protection from erosion of these remains.

Nadoshtin Archaeology And Cultural Heritage Program

The Nadoshtin Agreement provides for the carrying out of an Cree Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program concerning the areas affected by the EM-1 project. The program includes three components: 1) archaeology, 2) Cree traditional knowledge and values and 3) burial sites.

The ACHP has been implemented for Nadoshtin Compane (now Niskamoon Corporation), by the Cree Regional Authority. In 2004-2005, an extensive program of on-the-land research, training and communication was undertaken. The program could not have been carried out without the assistance of the four communities concerned: Eastmain, Nemaska, Mistissini and Waskaganish. The training component has been supported by grants from CHRD.

The summer – fall program began with a canoe trip following the traditional route which bypasses rapids on the Eastmain River, with elder Harry Moses teaching about traditional sites. This was followed by two months of archaeological research on the Eastmain River. The seven sites excavated or partially excavated provided a mass of data relating to the ancient occupation of the Eastmain River. We currently have 13 radiocarbon dates from 7 sites ranging from about 500 BP (years before present) to 3500 BP. On almost all of these sites there is evidence of recent occupation, suggesting a degree of continuity in the use of the sites over a considerable length of time. Survey work was also carried out resulting in the recording of numerous new sites. And for the first time ever, much of the survey work was directed by a Cree, archaeological trainee, Jamie Moses.

An important part of the project was the collection of Cree traditional knowledge, carried out by Jamie





Stevens and Cindy Coonishish. This work resulted in the addition of new historical and genealogical information concerning the families who occupied the general area of the Eastmain-1 project. Training was again an important part of the program, with three Crees receiving instruction in archaeology, development of communication products (web site design) and genealogical techniques.

A major "living heritage" activity, the *Farewell Journey and Gathering at Wiishaakushiu Saakahiikan*, was carried out in March 2005. This event involved a 10 day winter walk following the traditional route taken by families from Nemaska and Mistissini hunting grounds, for Christmas visits to Eastmain hunter, David Moses's camp. Following the walk, several days of gathering at Wiishaakushiu Saakahiikan culminated in a large feast, attended by tallymen, elders and other members of families associated with the area, and other community members, including Grand Chief Ted Moses, Eastmain Chief Edward Gilpin and members of the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain.

While the Nadoshtin Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program has involved a considerable investment of time and effort, there have already been positive spin-offs in terms of training: several ACHP trainees have found employment in cultural heritage-related fields. There have also been positive results in terms of sharing of cultural knowledge for the communities directly involved (Eastmain, Nemaska, Chisasibi, and Waskaganish), which we hope will be extended to the Cree Nation as a whole in future years, with the further development of ACHP communication products.

Cree Culture Website

With the assistance of a grant from Canadian Culture Online's Gateway program, a new CRA supported initiative was begun to add considerable new content to the Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute website, www.creeculture.ca. In particular, under the "Resources" section of the site there will be three new

sections: Cree Place Names, Historic Photographs, Virtual Museum, and Cree Stories. As well, the nine community pages will be revamped and new material on local cultural programs and activities will be included. Later, the local cultural departments will take over responsibility for the maintenance and updating of these pages. Finally, new content will be added to the section on "Arts - Expression."

Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute

Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute is working hard to establish a facility that will improve and coordinate culture and language programs for the communities and bring together regional activities relating to Cree culture, history and language. Aanischaaukamikw will be a centre for cultural resources in all media relating to the history and culture of our people and a place where Cree artifacts can be repatriated and made more accessible to all Crees and the general public. Aanischaaukamikw will also promote Cree performing and visual arts and will offer a place that will help the outside world to better understand and appreciate our culture, values and traditions.

Sharing the Ways: the Campaign for Aanischaaukamikw is making progress. The campaign to date has raised more than 13 million to date. Together with Cree and non-native volunteers, we are working hard to raise the remaining funds to get Aanischaaukamikw in operation.



Aanischaaukamikw made a request for funding for the Gateway Program under the department of Canadian Heritage. Aanischaaukamikw is pleased to announce that this request was approved and is currently working on enhancing the website. As described above, the objective of this project is to add new areas of content to the website of the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, www.creeculture.ca. The expected outcome of the project will be a vastly enriched content relating to traditional and contemporary Eeyou-Eenou culture, to be presented for the benefit of Crees and the general public alike. This project will be completed in 2005-2006.

In preparation for the completion of design of the permanent exhibition, Aanischaaukamikw hired a Montréal based Museum Consultant, Diane Bélanger. Her experience and expertise makes her a great addition to the Aanischaaukamikw Team.

Community Services Department

The past year witnessed three main changes within the Community Services Department. First, the Child and Family Services sector of Community Services became a new department within



the Cree Regional Authority. The new Director of the child and family services Department since January 2005 is Tina Petawabano. Our best wishes to her in her new duties.

This year also saw the addition of Emmett Macleod to Community Services. He has been hired as the Coordinator of the Technical Services Sector of the Department.

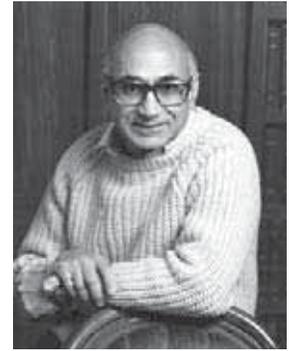
He works closely with the technical staff at the regional level, with technical people at the local community level and with Government agencies in matters dealing with housing, buildings infrastructures and water and sewer for Cree communities. As well this year, former Whapmagoostui Police Criminal Investigator, Robert Auclair was hired as the Cree Regional Police Coordinator. He has been very involved in providing support to the on-going police negotiations between the Cree and the federal and Québec governments. He has also been instrumental as a coordinator of community police events and concerns and issues.

The Community Services Department has continued to provide a wide variety of technical support, services and expertise to the local individuals who are responsible for these services in the communities. As always the work with the communities and their housing and technical people is on-going from one year to the next. This department over the past year has continued to organize a variety of training sessions for local community staff in a wide range of areas.

Each sector of the Department of Community Services is submitting a more detailed report of their respective activities for the past year.

Tribute to Dr. Vir Handa

It was with sadness that we learned in the spring of 2005 that the Cree world had lost a long time friend and advisor Dr. Virender Handa. Vir, as he often preferred, had a relationship with Cree that went back over 25 years. He was involved with Cree housing from the early days of the Cree Housing Corporation. Later, he became involved in water, sewer infrastructures and fire protection files. He was a good political ally on the Cree files in discussions with the federal government. Many who knew him respected him for his integrity, honesty, professionalism and engineering expertise. Many will also remember him as a friend with a biting sense of humor, who did not shy away from confronting individuals or issues when common sense called for it.



Dr. Handa had retired as a Professor of Civil Engineering from the University of Waterloo in 1995. His prestigious career had humble beginning however, as he was born in a mud hut in India and attended Universities in India (University of Calcutta), in England (University of London) and in Canada (Queen's University and University of Waterloo). He held degrees in mathematics, chemistry, physics and engineering.

Dr. Handa became ill in November 2004, was hospitalized and never really recovered from a variety of illnesses and medical complications until his passing in May 2005. We will miss him and we wish his surviving family well, particularly his devoted and loving wife Sylvana who stood by and cared for him through his maladies.

Norman Gull
Director

Technical Services

The technical services division of the Community Services Department provides technical assistance support and training to the Cree communities and the GCCEI/CRA in the field of infrastructure, municipal services, housing and public buildings.

This report provides a brief description of technical services in each specific field, a status report on the housing preventive maintenance plan, drinking water plant operator certification training and a list of new undertakings to be carried out this year 2005-06.

The CRA technical services team continues to provide support and professional expertise and assistance to the communities in the following areas;



Housing

- Administrative and technical support to regional quarterly meetings of Eeyou Miichuwaap
- Coordinate and perform CMHC Inspection Services and delivery of RRAP program in the Cree communities
- Coordinate the New Housing Inspector Training Program, provided by Cegep de L'Abitibi-Temiscamingue in Val d'Or, Québec
- Provide Circuit Rider Training (CRT) for housing maintenance
- Provide Circuit Rider Training (CRT) for computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) for housing maintenance
- Act as a Representative to the Organizing Committee of the First Nation Housing Workshop – First Nations of Québec
- Conduct inspections of fire damaged housing units and public buildings
- Conduct Housing Administrator Training such as - CMHC administrative support to the local housing departments
- Regularly update the inventory for housing in each community, and
- Provide training for construction contracting for First Nations - Inland

Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment

- Coordinate the Drinking Water Plant Operators Training Certification with the National Water Treatment Training Centre of Québec in

accordance with New Québec Drinking Water By-Law

- Provide local operators the necessary tools needed to adapt to the New Regulations Respecting the Quality of Drinking Water
- Provide Circuit Rider Training (CRT) for water and wastewater treatment plant operators
- Provide a Maintenance Supervisors' Workshop
- Develop the Environmental and Operator website; and
- Recommend that proper water tests be performed locally and outside by accredited laboratories as per regulations and ensure testing and chlorination equipment is available onsite

Others

- Organize an annual regional meeting on Municipal Infrastructures and Capital Project Planning – Presentations by communities on water and sewer related projects for 2005-06
- Provide information regarding the Operation & Maintenance Adjustments 2005
- Carry out inspections of public buildings and new municipal infrastructures as requested by the local administrations
- Provide technical assistance to local administrations on various files
- Assist in the estimation of capital projects for negotiation purposes and planning
- Provide technical support to GCCEI/CRA negotiation team on various technical serviced related files

Status Report on the Preventive Maintenance Plan for Housing

The Preventive Maintenance Program is in the application phase for all the communities and carrier with local maintenance technicians, supervisors and housing administrators.

An inspection report is being prepared for approximately 1000 units, which will include all repairs and renovations necessary for the short and long-term in each community. This will ensure that inspection reports are updated annually.

A computerized management system, is now being used to compile reports and better monitor and manage housing and preventive maintenance programs. At this time there are two software programs; Warehouse and the Capital Asset Inventory Programs have been developed and are being implemented.



Status Report of Drinking Water Plant Operators Certification Training

The local drinking water operators of the communities have completed the first phase of their certified training with the National Water Treatment Training Centre of Québec in Vaudreuil, Québec.

The second phase of the training program will continue in each trainee's respective community, which will allow the operators to learn the practical aspect of the equipment they operate daily. This is currently ongoing with the target completion date scheduled for the summer of 2006. This training, which will continue, is mandatory to develop certified water operators in each Cree community. The program will ensure that safe drinking water is provided to each community and that community drinking water meets government regulations.

The technical services section will continue to provide services and will continue to work with the communities in the provision of these services and projects.

The technical services team wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the community authorities for their collaboration and support.

Police Coordination Services

The Police Coordinator is a resource department for the nine (9) Cree local Police forces and acts as a liaison and representative for Cree police with other regional, national and international police forces, associations and police governing authorities as well as with the various police training institutes in Québec and Canada.

Police negotiations for regional policing commenced again in the spring of 2004 with the participation of the Québec government's Minister of Public Security representatives, the Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs and with the CRA, represented by Bill Namagoose, Robert Mainville, David Heritage and Anna Maria Fiocco along with Waskaganish Police Director Anthony Hester, Mississini Police Director Calvin Blacksmith and Police Coordinator Robert Auclair.



A one-year extension to the current agreement was signed in May-June 2005 which provided an allocated amount equivalent to ten (10) additional officers, from a previous 55 officers to 65 officers for 2005-2006. This

funding for the 2004-2005 increase is to be used as capital for the implementation and infrastructure of the Cree regional police force, to be known as the Cree Nation Police.

Regional policing means; the creation of a regional police commission or governing authority composed of a representative from each Cree community, a



representative from the CRA and the Cree Nation Police Director; a regional administrative headquarters with a support staff; the standardization of police policies and procedures, the standardization of uniform and equipment; a 911 dispatch service throughout Cree territory (Eeyou Istchee); specialized police services and the creation of new positions and ranks; and more importantly the recognition towards being the first Native or First Nations police force designated as a level 1 police service as outlined in the provisions of the Québec Police Act.

The goal is to implement a regional policing structure through a bilateral or a tri-partite agreement to be signed with the Federal and Provincial Governments. Negotiations are currently on-going.

Various pilot projects are in the research stage and with renewed and strengthened relationships with other entities these projects should come to fruition in the near future. Some projects include the creation of a web site dedicated to Cree Police Services and to Police Coordination Services, the realization of a School Resource Officer Program, and the implementation of a Justice and Police newsletter to be distributed bi-annually throughout Eeyou Istchee.

To conclude, it has been a very difficult year for Cree Police Services in Eeyou Istchee, none more difficult than the passing of a dear colleague in Cree policing, police officer Henry Wapachee who left us to be with the Creator on April 4th 2005. On behalf of all Cree and First Nations police officers, persons and entities involved with First Nations policing, our deepest heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Henry Wapachee, the Ouje-Bougoumou Police and to the community of Ouje-Bougoumou. We pray that the Creator gives us strength in our time of grief and need.



Economic Development

The economic development sector under the Community Services Agency of the Cree Regional Authority has been active in the management of the various files for the Cree communities.

Regional Agreements

A new Regional Development Fund Agreement was signed March 31, 2005, between the Québec government and the Cree Regional Authority. The six projects which were funded under the previous Regional Development Fund are all on-going and we are working with the project promoters. Additional projects will be forthcoming from the communities as we are waiting for their proposals. The adoption of Bill 34 which modified the present structures in delivering economic development programs throughout Québec, which includes our region, has been in force since April 1, 2004. The CRA will continue to cooperate under the new regime to ensure that the delivery of programs and services to the Cree communities by the Québec government will be maintained. There will be new funding programs which the Québec government will establish and we will ensure that these new funding programs will be accessed by the communities. Furthermore, we have maintained the previous structure of the Northern Québec Regional Council among the three groups—Crees, Inuit and the non-native population of the region. The purpose of maintaining the previous structure is to ensure a harmonious working relationship between the three groups that concern them or activities that will benefit them also.



Concordia University Training:

This year we did not provide any training at Concordia University for the different managerial and administrative positions, however, we have commenced discussions with Concordia University in offering a certificate in Business studies. Also we are working on a plan to deliver regional entrepreneurship training programs for any potential Cree entrepreneur.

Arts & Crafts & Wachiya

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) has been incorporated since September 2004 in conformity with the implementation of Sections 28.4 and 28.6 of the JBNQA. An interim Board of Directors has been established, consisting of three members. They are responsible for administering CNACA's affairs

until the first annual members meeting planned for early autumn, 2005. CNACA's core funding has been established and the Association is now in a position to ensure that its objectives will be achieved. CNACA and Wachiya's staff have worked to set up a data base to inventory and catalogue the over 600 active Cree artists and traditional artisans in Eeyou Istchee. The primary purpose of the inventory is for developing membership promotion, marketing and training programs. CNACA also was involved in three major Cree arts and cultural promotional activities this past year: the Cree Invitational Hockey Tournament, the Québec City Winter Carnival and the Regional Tourism Conference. We were responsible for organizing the performing arts for these three events and for arranging display areas for the sale and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.

During the coming year the Cree Arts & Crafts Association will closely examine the operations of Wachiya. The Board of CNACA will be undertaking certain measures to insure that the purpose of Wachiya still meets the need to support Cree artists in the communities and the promotion, sale and distribution of Cree arts and crafts. CNACA, together with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, is continuing to participate actively in the environmental impact assessment of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert River diversion Project.

Cree Telecom

Construction of the Fibre Optic Network is planned to begin in late 2005. Ongoing efforts to secure support from federal and provincial government agencies have required the Cree Telecom Committee to implement a new construction plan.

The committee has been incorporated into a company, Eeyou Communication Network (ECN), which will manage and operate the overall system. In addition, other crucial issues were tackled including agreements with Hydro-Québec for the purchase of its fibre lines from LG1 to the south, with Nortel Networks for engineering support and with the local telephone carrier to use an integral part of the network.

In the final stages of planning, negotiations commenced with Télébec and an MOU was prepared that outlined the conditions for a 10-year Fiber Optic Bandwidth Leasing Agreement. In it, Télébec agrees to use the ECN Fiber Optic network for the purpose of conducting its business among the Cree and non-Cree populations of James Bay and Northern Québec regions, to seek efficiency in sharing and integrating facilities, and to insure equal service offerings for all Cree communities.

ECN is composed of representatives of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree School Board, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, and the James Bay Cree Communications Society. It plans to

begin a training program in this fiscal year to introduce technology jobs in the communities and to develop a regional repair and maintenance crew; it received approval for a training proposal to CHRD under the territorial programs for a global amount of \$1.3 million.

The training will take place at the International Institute of Technology, a post-secondary teaching institution in Montréal certified in fibre-optic theory and maintenance, Internet, computer sciences, programming, software development, installation and troubleshooting. Trainee-students will graduate with a diploma in technical sciences. ECN intends to solicit candidates for this training program from all communities.

The capital cost of the proposed network is estimated at \$29.5 million. It is designed to cover a total of 2,046 km of a secure, double active network fibre and microwave regional network and a local copper cable plant to every home in every community. Its operating expenses will be covered by its revenues and will be scaled so that as usage increases, new jobs will be created.

ECN is in final discussions with both levels of governments on the financial aspects of the project. Some of these discussions have been conducted under the auspices of the office of Grand Chief Moses; both governments have clearly stated that they are very receptive to the project and are working diligently to ensure that the network will receive its financial support. Also ECN submitted a portion of its business plan to the National Satellite Initiative program under Industry Canada.

In addition, the ADGA Group Consultants firm was engaged by the Grand Council to conduct a due diligence examination of the project business, its viability and its engineering approach. It reviewed ECN documents, engineering plan and business proposal including marketing and economic studies and its predictions. ADGA concluded that the technical design is fully compatible with all of today's technology standards that the regional broadband service is urgently required and it is economically feasible. Also, ADGA compared the ECN approach with other networks in other parts of the country, which strengthened their conclusion that the network will benefit the communities in health, education, new employment and economic development. E.C.N proposes to use the network for tele-health, distance education, increased telecommunications services, delivery of high-speed internet and data for the benefit of every resident at home and in the community.

There are numerous other activities which involve the Economic Development office of the CRA, and which involves participation and membership of various Cree entities, such as the Cree Mineral & Exploration Board, the Cree Nation-Abitibi/Temiscamingue Economic Alliance to name but a few.

Cree Child and Family Services Department

As Director of the new CRA Child and Family Services Department, created by Council/Board resolution in January 2005, I am honoured to submit the 2004-2005 activity report. I extend thanks to Norman Gull, who oversaw the child and family services programs for the past ten years, his input and dedication was very appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief and all the Chiefs, partners, provincial and federal governments, and mostly the staff members and Board of Directors members of all local programs and services for their continued support and dedication in ensuring the delivery of quality services to the young children of Eeyou Istchee.

The department of Child and Family Services has the mandate to oversee the following programs and services:

1. Childcare Centers
2. Head Start Program
3. After School Program
4. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

This year has been extremely busy for all childcare centers, which undertook several projects including construction of new facilities for the centers, the start up of the after school program, and delivery of CEGEP Educators in the Native Childcare Services (ENCS) training program in most of the communities.



At the regional level, we oversee the FASD program and have started negotiations for its renewal as well as negotiations on the next 3 year Agreement with the Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition Feminine (MFACD).

Childcare Centres

In 2004/2005 the following construction projects were completed:

- Awash Childcare Centre in Mistissini: extension of the first facility (Amanda centre) from 58 spaces



to 80 spaces and construction of the third facility (Marian centre) for a total of 240 spaces

- Awash Shiishiikun Kamik Childcare Centre in Waswanipi: construction of the second facility (80 spaces) for a total of 160 spaces
- Waaseskun Childcare Centre in Waskaganish: construction of the second facility (80 spaces) for a total of 160 spaces
- Wasèyapin Childcare Centre in Eastmain: construction of a new Childcare Centre with 70 spaces
- She She Guin Childcare Centre in Nemaska: extension of the centre from 38 spaces to 68 spaces.

For Anjabowa Childcare Centre in Chisasibi (extension of the first facility from 49 to 80 and construction of the third facility with 80 spaces) as well as for Kanawhymigoo Childcare center (construction of the second facility with 45 spaces), those projects has been postponed to summer 2005 as the public tenders were too high for the funding we had and we had to rework the blueprints.

Head Start Program

The Childcare Centres continued to provide Head Start services to the young children not attending the childcare centres and to the special needs children through the home-visit program as well as various activities for the children, parents and children and parents only; such as cooking classes, first aid, sewing classes, parenting skills, etc.



Margaret Louttit, the regional Special Needs Educator visited all the special needs children in the Childcare/Head Start Programs and worked with the Special Needs Educators to offer a better service to the children and their parents. More and more of the young children with special needs are detected by the Educators but there are no trained special needs Educators to work more closely with those children and their parents. The Educators and the parents need a lot of support.

School Age Program

The after-school program is intended for children 5 to 12 years old (kindergarten to grade 6) who attend school. It provides various activities for the children during lunch time, after-school hours and during pedagogical days.

An agreement between the Cree Regional Authority, represented by the Grand Chief, Dr. Ted Moses, O.Q. and the Cree School Board, represented by the Chairman, William Mianscum, was signed on January 19th, 2005 in Mistissini stating the responsibilities of all parties on the after-school program. The Cree School Board would obtain the funding from the MEQ and would provide facilities for the program in each school when available. The CRA in collaboration with the childcare centres would administrate the program and provide the Educators to work with the children.

The program started as a pilot project in six communities, however all the communities will make the program available for the school year 2005-2006.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

For the last 4 years, the CRA is administrating the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) Health Canada program. In 2004/2005, Mary Shem was hired as a FASD Regional Coordinator and she visited all the 9 communities along with Evike Goudreault to give training to the clinics, schools, bands as well as childcare/Head Start centres staff.

Mary also gave workshops to the students in the schools in order to help prevent FASD. Local and Regional FASD Committees have been created to continue the prevention activities.



A second Cree regional FASD forum was held in Val d'Or in March. Fifty representatives from all communities attended the forum and worked on very attractive promotional documents. You will soon see posters, magnets, placemats and radio announcements designed by the Cree participants at the Forum, in all communities. Health Canada found the documents so professional that they funded the CRA to make additional copies for all Native communities of Québec.

The CRA also obtained funding from Health Canada to provide a college course (45 hours) called: Animation of Support groups for parents of special needs children, for all native communities in Québec. We held 3 training sessions: in Val d'Or, in Québec and in Montréal, which were very successful.

TRAINING

Early Native Childcare Services CEGEP Training Program

The ENCS training took place in 8 communities in Eeyou Istchee. One hundred students are registered in the program and will graduate in the coming months. Most of those students will have permanent jobs as Educators in the new childcare facilities after graduation. We are proud to mention that 4 first Nations teachers, two being Cree, were engaged by the Cegep St-Félicien to teach this program. We are proving that we have qualified Cree personnel who cannot only work as an educator but also train other Cree students. Congratulations!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the CHRD team particularly the Director Henry Mianscum for their tremendous financial support to fund this expensive training.

Other Training Programs

Manager training

Two 45 hours sessions of the Managers training program were also offered in collaboration with the Cegep St-Félicien.

Educational program

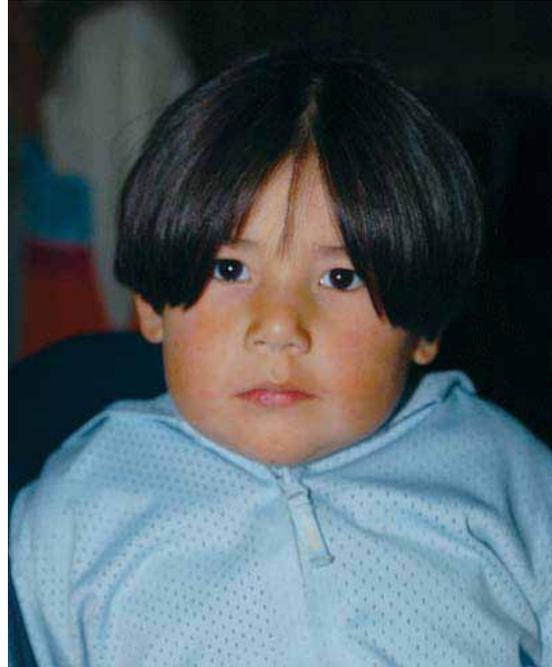
This one-week program was offered to all centres to follow-up with the educators on the educational program offered for the children.

Cook

A chef was engaged to work with the childcare centre's cooks and in collaboration with the nutritionists, to provide various quality menus for the children.

Finance and administration

Minnie Longchap is working in our department along with Josée Beaulac to support the Managers and the administration staff in the financial and administration of the centres and helping them in preparing for the auditors visits.



Agreement CRA/Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine (MFACF)

Our first 3 year agreement expired on March 31st, 2005 and was extended until September 30th, 2005 to allow our department representative the time to negotiate the new agreement.

Our principal responsibilities, as part of our mandate through this important agreement and the transfer of authority are the following:

- Renew permits to the Childcare Centers
- Provide inspection of the childcare facilities
- Oversee the complaints
- Provide technical and professional support to the centres
- Administer the funding for the operations of the centre
- Oversee the background inquiries which have to be completed for all the childcare center staff as well as for the Board of Directors members. A Cree Nation Ethics Committee has been established in order to assist the centers when they face problems in dealing with the background inquiries of their staff

We will continue to work diligently to provide the highest quality childcare and family services to the Cree Nation.

Tina Petawabano
Director

CRA Youth Department

It is my privilege to present the 2004-2005 Annual Report on the activities, special events and future projects of the CRA Youth Department and the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC). At this time I would like to extend my appreciation to the Cree Leadership and the CRA Administration for their continued support and invaluable advice.

Sources Of Funding

The Grand Council of the Cree/Cree Regional Authority (GCCEI/CRA) continues to fund the annual operation of the Youth Department through the Cree Act Operations and Maintenance Funding Arrangements. The GCCEI/CRA operating budget covers the salaries and benefits of the CNYC Chairman, the Director and the Secretary positions. The CNYC Board of Director and its Executive Budget are funded by the GCCEI/CRA operating budget as well.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

New Relationship Agreement – *Paix des Braves*

The GCCEI/CRA Executive/Executive Committee approved an allocation of one hundred thousand dollars (\$ 100,000.00) from the New Relationship Agreement to support the annual operation of the Cree Nation Youth Council special projects.

Youth Council Operations:		\$
1.	Contracted Services	15,000
2.	Travel – CNYC Chairperson	20,000
3.	General Assembly - Travel	40,000
4.	General Assembly – Office Supplies	10,000
5.	Professional Fees	15,000
Total		100,000

The funding from the New Relationship Agreement is 'essential and necessary' in order to continue mandates entrusted to the Cree Nation Youth Council and the Youth Department and shows the Cree Leadership's ongoing commitment and support towards the endeavours of the Cree Nation Youth.

Government of Québec Funding

The Financial Assistance Agreement of March 2003, recognized the CNYC as a regional youth forum by the Québec Government and an essential partner in the development of the region. As such the CNYC is part of the

Table de Concertation des Forums Jeunesse régionaux du Québec (TCFJRQ) made up of nineteen (19) regional youth forums from the seventeen (17) administrative regions in Québec. The Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Inuit of Nunavik are the only native groups represented at this table.

By virtue of this agreement, the Government of Québec has committed; 1) Funding for Annual Operations, and 2) Fonds Regional D'investissement Jeunesse (FRIJ). The grant for operations funding is committed as a subsidy to carry out certain mandates entrusted to it by the Minister Responsible Youth, Tourism, Recreation and Sport. The CNYC is responsible to screen, recommend and manage the 'FRIJ' fund which is a program dedicated to fund local and regional youth projects that meet local and regional priorities and objectives.

The following is the breakdown of the three (3) year financial assistance agreement.

FISCAL YEAR	OPERATIONS \$	FRIJ \$	TOTAL \$
2002-2003	1,028.00	56,639.00	57,667.00
Year 1	1,028.00	56,639.00	57,667.00
2003-2004	80,606.00	9,528.00	90,134.00
	0.00	330,835.33	330,835.33
Year 1	80,606.00	340,363.33	420,969.33
2004-2005	80,606.00	132,334.00	212,940.00
Year 2	80,606.00	132,334.00	212,940.00
TOTAL	162,240.00	529,336.33	691,576.33

Regional Youth Investment Fund – List of Approved Projects	
Name of Project	Sponsor
Youth Coordinator	Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi
Cultural Village	Cree Indian Centre of Senneterre
Aashuuhmiih Winter Journey	The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation
Career Enrichment Program	The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation
Feasibility Study - Wilderness Centre	CRA Youth Department
Nashabebju	Cree Nation of Wemindji
ACHP Winter Journey	Traditional Pursuits Department
Regional Music Fest	Nemaska First Nation
Mini Library Clerk	Ouje-bougoumou Eenouch Association
Canoe Expedition 2004	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Mistissini Youth Fest	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Training and Development	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Youth Week	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Cree Nation Eenouch	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Halloween Festival	Whapmagoostui First Nation
Power Skating Session	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Stay in School	Cree Nation of Eastmain
Minor Hockey	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Office Assistant	Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi
Cooperative Education	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
Internet Café Expansion	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Wiichihiitutaau	Ouje-Bougoumou Eenouch Ass.
Youth/Elders Gathering	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
National Addictions Awareness	Cree Nation of Wemindji
Science and Technology Program	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Waswanipi Snow Cross Team	Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

In November 2003, the Regional Youth Investment Fund was official launched and over the next twelve (12) months, the CNYC Executive Committee assessed and reviewed a total of thirty-seven (37) local and regional projects. The CNYC Executive Committee recommended funding for twenty-six (26) local and regional projects totalling two hundred and eighty-seven thousand and sixteen dollars (\$ 287,016.00).

The financial assistance agreement expired March 31, 2005, however the CNYC, through the Youth Department is in the process of negotiating and signing an extension of the agreement for an additional three years. The Regional Youth Investment Fund is presently under review by the Québec Government and as this plan will conclude soon, the Québec Government has developed a Youth Action Plan 2005-2008, which will be the subject of public consultation.

Youth Action Strategy 2005-2008: Consultation Tour

As a regional youth forum, the CNYC is working closely with the Secrétariat à la Jeunesse in coordinating a Consultation Tour organized by the Government of Québec to promote the Youth Action Strategy

2005-2008, and to learn more about the regional reality of the young people in Québec.

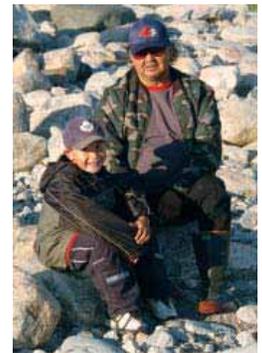
During the Consultation Tour scheduled to take place from the end of August to the end of October 2005, the Government of Québec intends to spend a full day in each region to listen to the comments of representatives from local and regional organizations dedicated to youth, followed by the comments of the young people themselves. The Cree Nation Youth Council is more than happy to be part of the planning of the upcoming Consultation Tour in the fall of 2005.

Cree Youth involvement at the provincial level was very limited due to the political climate from year's past, however since 2002, the Cree Youth have initiated greater efforts to get involved in Québec society as a whole, due in large part to the signature of the "Paix des Braves". It is our firm belief that we will find ways and means to work together with the Francophone youth for the common good of the future generations of Eenu and Québec society.

Program Officer

Following an administrative review, the Youth Department found that the Funding Agent position had become redundant and therefore recommended that the position be revised in order to streamline operations. As a result, duties and responsibilities were delegated to the current staff members.

A position was developed to engage a Program Officer who is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Regional Youth Investment Fund, to promote the fund and assist in accessing funding from the FRIJ. The responsibilities of the Funding Agent were delegated to the Program Officer who will also further assist the CNYC to screen, recommend projects and manage the FRIJ program. A secondary mandate is to work with the Communications Officer to develop a link of the Regional Youth Investment Fund under the website.





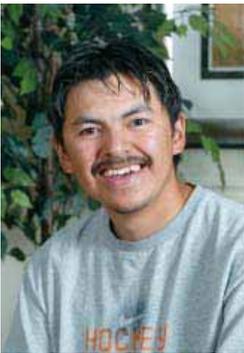
Communications Officer

The Youth Department has secured funding from the Cree Human Resources Development Program and the Secretariat a la Jeunesse for a trainee position as Communications Officer to conduct research and provide a report on a number of multi-media projects including the development of a Website for the CNYC and the Youth Department. It is our intention to officially get the Website on-line by fall 2005.



Feasibility Study – Cree Wilderness Training Centre

The Youth Department had employed the services of the Centre d'études collégiales á Chibougamau to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of setting up a 'Wilderness Training Centre' by assessing the potential of government funding. The Cree Wilderness Centre would operate as a service similar to "OUTWARD BOUND" experience and will include conventional training from various institutions including Chibougamau College, in order to certify Cree personnel to operate and manage the training centre. The CNYC will work closely with the Chibougamau College to integrate a traditional component into the curriculum to include traditional bush survival skills with emphasis on terrain and water safety. The traditional training will further include traditional portage and paddling technique unknown to the average adventurer.



The Centre d'études collégiales á Chibougamau has completed the first phase of the Feasibility Study which suggests that a 'Cree Wilderness Training Centre' has great potential and would be a viable undertaking. At their June 2005 meeting, the CNYC Board of Directors took the decision to continue with the study and to solicit potential partners to establish a working group including, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Associations, the Cree Trappers' Association, the Regional Council of Elders, Cree Human Resources Department, and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services. This working group would address details such as the concept, training programs and services, structure and operations, equipment required and all financial aspects including identifying potential sponsors.

Meetings/Gatherings

The Youth Department Director and the CNYC Chairman are ex-officio members on the GCCEI/CRA

Council Board, Executive/Executive Committee and the GCCEI/CRA General Assembly. Participation at the said meetings is, on an as-needed basis, to present and furnish reports and recommendations on the status of Youth Development files and progress.

The members of the CNYC Board of Directors have a further mandate to appoint CNYC representatives to various working groups, task forces, boards and committees. The said CNYC representatives are as follows;

Working Group on Eeyou Governance	John Matoush, Mistissini
Cree Local Management Board	Randy Bosum, Ouje-Bougoumou
Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Coordinating Committee	Marcel Happyjack, Waswanipi
AFNQL - Youth Council	Marcel Happyjack, Waswanipi
Table de Concertation des Forum Jeunesse Régionaux du Québec	Marcel Happyjack, Waswanipi Andrew Neeposh, Director
Youth Coordinators' Meeting	Andrew Neeposh, Director

The regular joint meetings initiated with the Cree Trappers' Association and the Regional Council of Elders continued this past year with substantial progress working together to plan regional activities and maintain regular communications of all projects and activities.

Highlights: Year In Review 2004-2005

15th Annual Youth General Assembly, Ouje-Bougoumou	July 13 to 15, 2004
Elders/Youth Conference 2004, Mistissini	February 15 to 17, 2005

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the Cree Nation Youth Council and the Youth Department staff, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Cree Leadership and Cree Regional Authority administration for their continued support and help. I wish to further extend our appreciation to all our partners including the sponsors namely the Government of Québec, Economic Development Canada, the Cree Regional Authority, and the Cree Communities. Without the support of the Leadership and our financial partners we would not be where we are today.

God Bless You All.
Andrew Neeposh
Director

Cree Nation Youth Council



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marcel Happyjack	Chairman
John S. Matoush	Vice-Chairman
Benjamin Masty	Member
Randy Bosum	Member
Gregory Mayappo	Member

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Cree First Nations

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GCCEI/CRA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS / CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Ted Moses.....Grand Chief/ Chairman
Paul Gull.....Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman
Abraham RupertChief, Chisasibi
Steven BearskinMember, Chisasibi
David Masty Sr.....Chief, Whapmagoostui
Losty MamianskumMember, Whapmagoostui
Reggie MarkChief, Wemindji
Danny TomatukMember, Wemindji
Edward Gilpin Jr.....Chief, Eastmain
Kenneth GilpinMember, Eastmain
Robert WeistcheChief, Waskaganish
Billy Diamond.....Member, Waskaganish
Josie JimikenChief, Nemaska
Bertie Wapachee.Member, Nemaska
John Longchap.....Chief, Mistissini
Ashley IserhoffMember, Mistissini
Sam R. BosumChief, Ouje-Bougoumou
Kenny MianscumMember, Ouje-Bougoumou
Robert Kitchen.....Chief, Waswanipi
Rhonda Oblin.....Member, Waswanipi
Billy Katapiatuk.....Chief, Washaw Sibi
Kenneth Weistche.....Member, Washaw Sibi
Bill Namagoose.....Executive Director – GCCEI
Eddie DiamondDirector General – CRA
Matthew SwallowTreasurer – CRA
Johnny TrapperDirector of Office & Personnel
Willie IserhoffDirector of Traditional Pursuits
Norman GullDirector of Community Services
Tina PetawabanoDirector Child & Family Services
Henry MianscumDirector/Cree Human Resource Development
Andrew Neeposh.....Director of Youth Development/CNYC
John Paul MurdochCorporate Secretary
Rusty Cheezo.....Chairman of the CRA Board of Compensation

EXECUTIVE/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Ted Moses.....Grand Chief/Chairman
Paul Gull.....Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman
Ashley Iserhoff.Member, Mistissini
Steven BearskinMember, Chisasibi
Losty MamianskumMember, Whapmagoostui

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Bill Namagoose.....Executive Director – GCCEI
Eddie DiamondDirector General – CRA
Matthew SwallowTreasurer – CRA
Willie IserhoffDirector of Traditional Pursuits
Norman GullDirector of Community Services
Johnny TrapperDirector of Office & Personnel
Tina PetawabanoDirector Child & Family Services
Henry MianscumDirector/Cree Human Resource Development
Andrew Neeposh.....Director of Youth Development/CNYC
John Paul MurdochCorporate Secretary
Rusty Cheezo.....Chairman of the CRA Board of Compensation

Employee Recognition: 15-30 years

ANNA H. WAPACHEE (15 years) was engaged as receptionist in 1989 at the GCCEI/CRA Head Office and this position evolved into that of receptionist/secretary. In 1993 Mrs. Wapachee was engaged as secretary to the Director of the Traditional Pursuits Department. She continues her work in this capacity and had developed and honed her secretarial skills, while working in three languages.

WILLIE ISERHOFF (15 years) was engaged as Director of the Traditional Pursuits Department in 1989, following his departure from the Cree Trappers Association. He has continued in this position and oversees a staff of 12 employees, including the environmental and forestry team, the Cree culture and archaeological staff. He was also appointed president of Aanischaukamikw (Cree Cultural Institute) and serves as a member on various Cree committees and boards.

EDNA NEEPOSH SR. (15 years) was engaged as Executive Secretary in 1989, to then Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. She served in this position for his three terms and this position evolved into that of Administrative Assistant. She continued as administrative assistant working for former Deputy Grand Chief Mukash and with Deputy Grand Chief Paul Gull. She has also provided administrative support to the Director General during interim periods. Ms. Neeposh had diligently strived to provide administrative support to her leaders and to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee.

GINETTE LAJOIE (16 years) was engaged as Environmental Analyst in 1988 for the Traditional Pursuits Department. This position evolved into coordination of the environment regime projects for the Traditional Pursuits Department. She has provided environmental analysis and direction to the Cree communities, as well as providing assistance to the Director. Her expertise in environment analysis and management has been beneficial to the Cree members of the environmental committees and extremely advantageous to the Cree Nation.

BILL NAMAGOOSE (16 years) was engaged as Executive Director in 1988 and is based at the Ottawa Cree Embassy. Mr. Namagoose oversees all matters pertaining to the political dynamics for the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee and was instrumental in the establishment of a Cree Embassy, where he oversees the operations and staff. He has played a key role in the ongoing negotiations and was particularly active with the Paix des Braves Agreement. He continues to provide leadership and interaction with the Cree community representatives and government officials, while ensuring the continuity and success of the ongoing negotiations and implementation.

LILLIAN LOON (18 years) was engaged in 1986, as receptionist/secretary for the Cree Embassy located in Ottawa. She was promoted to the position of Executive Secretary to Executive Director Bill Namagoose. Mrs. Loon has provided diligent service to the Cree Nation for 18 years and continues to do so today. As well, her administrative support services for Mr. Namagoose are not only highly appreciated but remain exemplary.

BRIAN CRAIK (20 years) worked for the Crees from 1972-74, collecting information for the court case and dealing with education issues. He commenced working in 1979, as the NBR Coordinator for the Waskaganish Band and for the Grand Council. He and his family resided in Waskaganish until 1983, at which time he accepted a position with the Federal James Bay Secretariat and worked to implement the Cree/Naskapi Act. He returned to the GCCEI in 1988, and continues today as Director of Federal Relations. He has advised on development projects and on negotiations, on education, adult training, JBNQA implementation and offshore islands. He is a member of environmental Committees and on a federal commission on the proposed EM1A Project. Mr. Craik, who has a fluent knowledge of the Cree language and speaks French, is based in Ottawa at the Cree Embassy.

EDITH MARTIN (21 years) was engaged in 1978 as receptionist/secretary at the Montréal Office. She left this position in 1982 and returned in 1987. She has worked diligently and was promoted to the position of Environment Secretary in 1996. She continues to provide support services to the Traditional Pursuits environment regime professionals and as well, works diligently providing support service to the Cree Nation.

ALAYNE AWASHISH (24 years). Her first contact with the James Bay Cree dates back to 1978. The Grand Council had its office in the building where Alayne was working for Margo Oliver, Food Editor of the Montréal Star. Grand Council support staff came to know Alayne and when the position of office manager was vacant, she was approached and, as we all know, the rest is history. In the following twenty-four years as the manager of the Montréal Grand Council office Alayne has proven, many times over, her dedication and tireless support for the Cree people. She has worked as interim OPM, worked on office policy, staffing, and annual reports, while managing the office. Working with young Cree students and/or youth has been an important focus. Many will know and appreciate her as a friend and ally to whom they could come; and many will know and appreciate the enthusiasm she has always shown in developing a true sense of teamwork and loyalty to the Cree Nation.

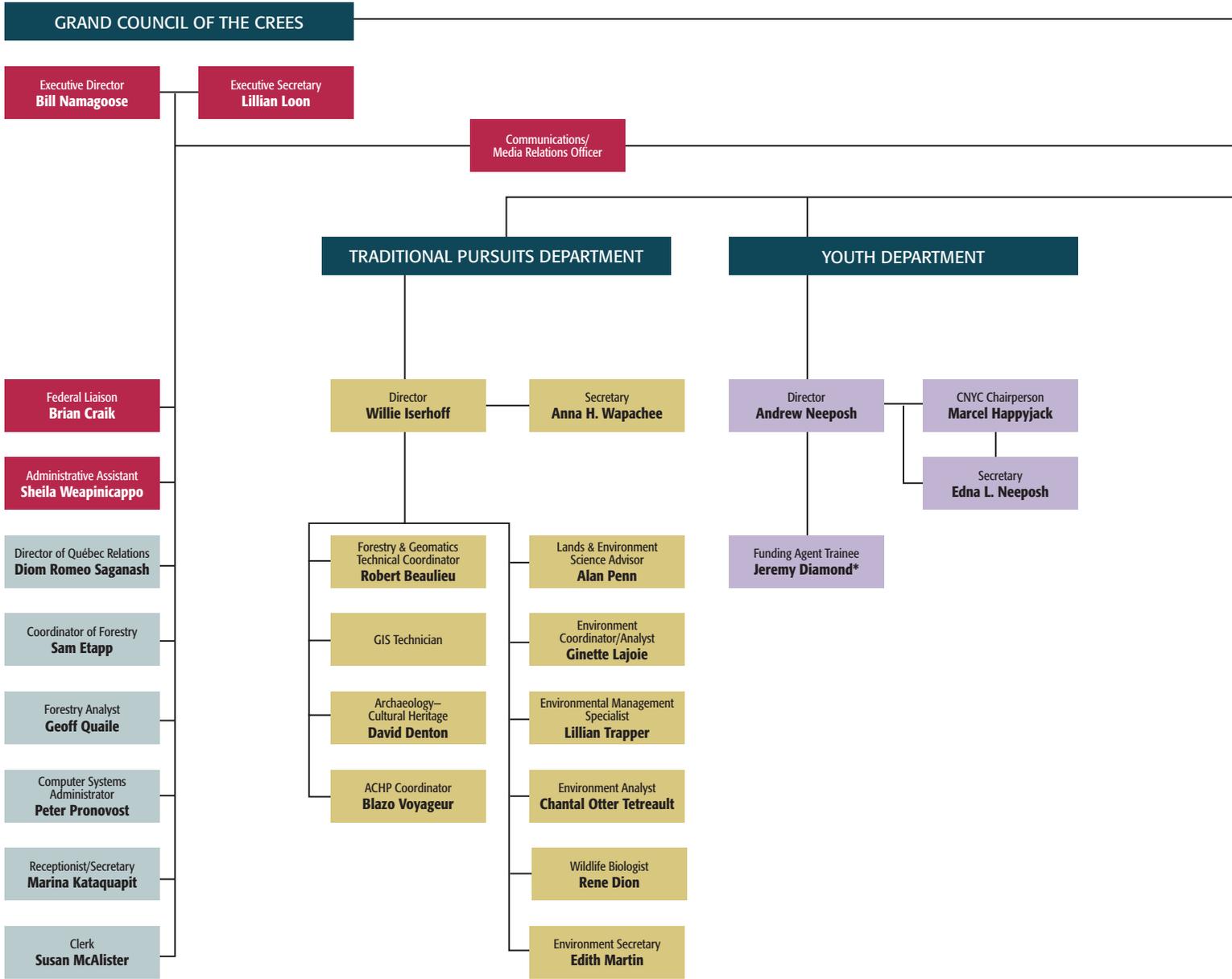
EDDIE DIAMOND (28 years) commenced working for the GCCEI from 1976 to 1978 as Director of Housing. This evolved into the establishing of the Cree Housing Corporation in 1979, at which time Mr. Diamond was appointed its President. He maintained this leadership role until the decentralization of Cree Housing Corporation to the Cree communities in 1986. He was re-engaged, in 1986, as Director of Community Services under the Cree Regional Authority, until his appointment by the Council/Board as Director General for the Cree Regional Authority in 1992. He continues his mandate as Director General, overseeing the numerous departments within the administration of the Cree Regional Authority as his vast mandate demands, while directing a staff of over one-hundred employees. He has served and continues to serve as a member on the various committees and boards for the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee.

ALAN PENN (30 years). His involvement with the James Bay Crees dates back to 1972 and the studies carried out for the legal proceedings which resulted in the decision by Judge Malouf on the La Grande project. After the Malouf judgment, Mr. Penn joined the technical support team created by the Grand Council of the Crees during the negotiations, first of the Agreement-in-Principle, and then of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. He continued to work with the Grand Council during the implementation of the Agreement and spent much of his time working on environmental mercury contamination. He continues to take an active interest in the subject of mercury. He was part of the negotiating team responsible for the land, wildlife and environment provisions in the Agreement and still works on various aspects of the implementation of these sections of the Agreement. He has been closely associated with the practice of environmental impact assessment in the territory, and has taken particular interest in the impacts of hydro-electric development. During the last ten years, Mr. Penn has been involved with the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Cooperation and with the National Advisory Committee for CEPA, in both cases with responsibilities for trying to ensure that aboriginal interests are taken into account in developing government policies for environmental contaminants. His knowledge has enriched the Cree Nation.

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ISTCHEE)

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

ORGANIGRAM: 2005.08.01



Cree Nation Office

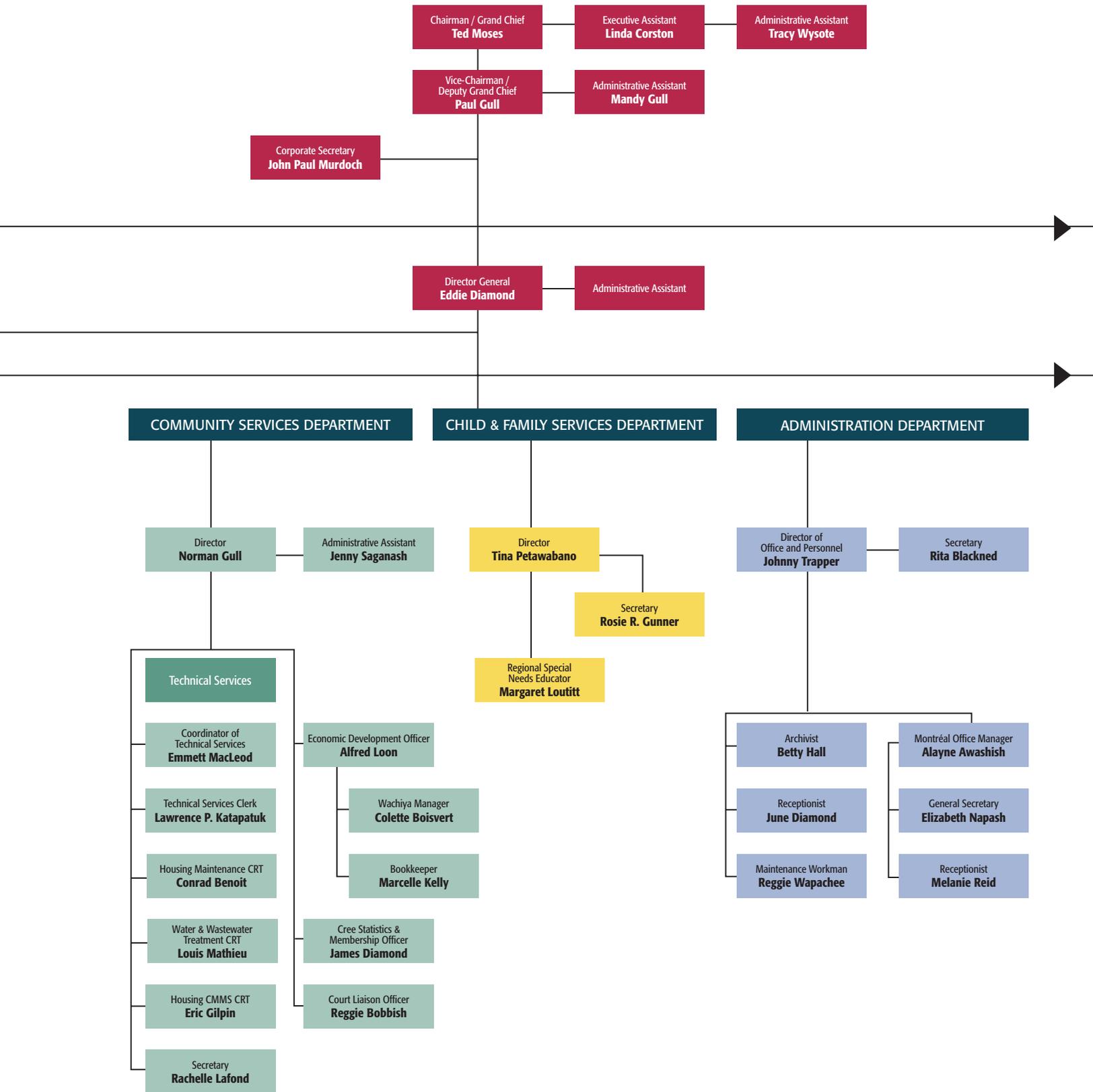
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Treasurer
Matthew Swallow

Executive Secretary
Noreen Moar

CREE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Assistant
Bella P. Loon

Director
Henry Mianscum

Head Accountant
Louise Tanoush

- Coordinator Territorial Programs
Michael Petawabano
- Career Counsellor–Inland
Ann-Marie Awashish
- Career Counsellor–Coastal
Stella M. Bearskin
- Program Officer–Inland
Deborah Matoush
- Program Officer–Coastal
Alice Nuktie
- Sectoral Employment Development Officer–Mining & Construction
Abel Trapper
- Sectoral Employment Development Officer–Forestry & Tourism
Irene Neeposh
- Sectoral Employment Development Officer–Transport & Telecom
Michael Mianscum

- Coordinator Program & Services
Louisa Saganash
- Community Youth Development Officer
Lucy Trapper
- General Secretary Mistissini
Faith Gunner
- Receptionist Mistissini
Lisa Petawabano
- Receptionist Chisasibi
Bernice Sam

- Cree Employment Officers
 - Waswanipi
Dorothy Gull
 - Nemaska
Wayne Rabbitskin
 - Eastmain
Denise Brown
 - Wemindji
Christina Gilpin
 - Waskaganish
Susan Moses
 - Ouje-Bougoumou
Lana Wapachee
 - Chisasibi
Martha Matthew
 - Chisasibi
Mabel Pepabano
 - Whapmagoostui
Margaret Audlarock
 - Mistissini
Matthew Petawabano
 - Mistissini
Norman Blacksmith

- GCCE/CRA
 - Senior Accounting Clerk
Seanna W. Rabbitskin
 - Junior Accounting Clerk
Shawnessy Jacko
 - Payroll Clerk
Suzie Wapachee
 - Assistant Payroll Clerk
Lilybelle Jolly
 - General Clerk
Priscilla Mettaweskum
 - Tax Claim Clerk

- Child & Family Services
 - Financial Advisor
Minnie C. Longchap
 - Junior Accounting Clerk
Kristen Moar

- CHRD
 - Finance Coordinator
Thomas Blackned
 - Junior Accounting Clerk
Dominic Swallow
 - General Clerk CHRD
Pricilla A. Wesley

GCCEI Founding Members

- Bertie Wapachee
- Billy Diamond
- Fred Blackned
- Jimmy Mianscum
- Joseph Petagumskum
- Matthew Shanush
- Peter Gull
- Robert Kanatawat
- Smally Petawabano



1973 Judge Malouf grants injunction ordering stoppage of work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Project

1974 Cree Chiefs establish the Grand Council of the Crees

1975 The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement is signed

1976

1977

1978 The Cree Regional Authority is established

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984 The Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act comes into force

1985

1986

1987

1988