



## **Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government**

### **Minutes of Meetings for the Fiscal Year of 2015/2016**

- 1) May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 2) June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 3) July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 4) September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 5) November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 6) December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- 7) January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- 8) March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark  
Chief Dennis Georgekish                      Christina Gilpin  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo                              Kenneth Gilpin  
Chief Davey Bobbish                              George L. Pachano  
Chief Stanley George                              Elijah Sandy  
Chief Gordon Blackned                            Gordon Blueboy  
Chief Richard Shecapio                           Thomas Neeposh  
John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Marcel Happyjack                           Mandy Gull

Also present was Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Eddie Diamond, Director General, Rodney Hester, Chief Pauline Hester, Jimmy Trapper, Chief Alan Jolly, Melissa Saganash, Isaac Voyageur, Don Nichols, Rita Blackned, Judy Cooper, Virginia Wabano, Jack Blacksmith.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 10:00am.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come acted as Chairperson and John Paul Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The Directors reviewed the agenda and on a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-08: Adoption of Agenda of May 26th and 27th, 2015***

The Directors took notice of the new additions and the re-election of representatives to the Board/Council and on a motion duly made by Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-09: Recognition of Chief Kenneth Cheezo and Kenneth Gilpin as members of the Board/Council***

Chief Dennis Georgekish welcomed the directors to the community.

The Directors then reviewed the minutes of meetings of the Board/Council and on a motion duly made by Chief Marcel Happyjack and Chief Gordon Blackned adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-10: Adoption of Minutes of March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## **2. Cree Canada Relations**

Bill Namagoose tabled and reviewed a report entitled, “Report on Cree-Canada-Governance Negotiations” a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Richard Shecapio asked for an explanation about removing Cree Local Governments from the Cree Naskapi Act. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that the idea is to have the divisions of authorities to the local level determined internally as a Cree Governance issue. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director said in principle there would be no change to local authority it is just the preface that would be changed. Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he was concerned with changing the authorities that have been granted to local governments and that he wanted it presented clearly to the local governments. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that this is a new item in discussions and will be shared with all levels of government in the Cree world and as per all previous agreements there will be consultations and consent of all council’s sought.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that it was important for him that the access road issue be addressed on a priority basis. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that governments have been claiming to use normal government infrastructure program funds when the item is a treaty issue.

Chief Davey Bobbish stated that he wants greater explanation on plans or efforts to devolved powers from the community level to the regional level.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that the governance discussions are an extension of the Cree Quebec New Relationship Agreement and that some of the points raised in Federal discussions come from the Cree Naskapi Commission. He added that it is also important to keep in mind that the Agreement was to call for a new structure and new powers, not recycling old powers or taking powers already exercised by the communities. He added that tied to the matter is the positioning with regards to the Federal government’s constant attempts to erode and evade Operations and Maintenance obligations. The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come suggested that it might be worth convening a one-day meeting on this issue alone.

Allan Jolly inquired about the changes that were being made to the 10 year clause and the impact that it would have on the working group and the commission that was formed. He was wondering if more could not be done to assist the people of MoCreebec on how they are impacted by the 10 year clause.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that while the Government of Canada was engaged in discussions with the Cree, there was an agreement that

was reached with the Inuit clarifying the application of the 10 year clause. He explained that what is being requested is not part of the New Relationship Agreement therefore Federal representatives claim not to have a mandate however the Federal Government can at the very least not deny that the Cree are entitled to the same amendments that were given to the Inuit.

John Paul Murdoch explained the deliberations of the Commission related to the 10 year clause and the hope of having a preliminary report available in the near future.

Chief Stanley George said the community has been waiting for the access road and that this was an important selling point in the last agreement. He also stated that there was no movement on the issue of category II and III lands that was supposed to be discussed. He felt that every year Whapmagoostui was being left behind in community development.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that Section 28 referred to only Waskaganish, Eastmain and Wemindji. He added that attempts have been made to add Nemaska but the Government has refused.

In regards to the access road for Whapmagoostui the Grand Chief explained that vehicles have been created in regards to the Plan Nord, where Andy Baribeau has been named and where we will be making efforts to ensure that development plans address Cree needs such as an access road for Whapmagoostui or sea harbors for the communities.

Mandy Gull stated that she would like clarification on the difference between local and regional governing bodies and the impact of the New Relationship Agreement on the Cree Naskapi Act. The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that it was for this reason that he was proposing that there be a special day reserved for discussions concerning the relationship between the regional and local government.

Chief Shecapio stated that we are only now coming to terms with changes that have been made from local to regional levels of government and that for this reason we need to exercise caution. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that the matter could also be addressed in a Cree constitution. He stated that it is important to understand that the strategy is to take powers away from DIAND and decide for ourselves how the powers would be administered, not take powers away from the communities.

Chief Davey Bobbish stated that he also wanted the corridor reserved by Hydro-Quebec in his community to be discussed.

### **3. Cree Quebec Relations**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come tabled and reviewed a document “Assessing the Plan Nord”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come added the plans of the Cree Nation Government to address specifically, energy through the adoption of a Cree Energy Policy and forestry once the Baril Moses issues are settled in response to the issues raised by the Quebec Government at their “Partners Table on Plan Nord”. At this meeting many other issues were raised such as mining however it was very reassuring to note that when the government talked about the inventory of Quebec minerals, uranium was left out of the discussion. Other issues were addressed such as health matters.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that there seemed to be a contradiction in what the Government was planning in regards to energy projects and he wanted updates shorter than 5 years in regards to Quebec’s energy plans. He added that he wanted a clear understanding of what was planned with the roads in the territory, i.e. the route du nord considering the considerable mining traffic that it might see.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reminded everyone that the development and implementation of land use plans should also be considered in Quebec’s promotion of the Plan Nord which would need to be compatible.

### **4. Baril Moses Agreement**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come tabled an reviewed documentation related to the Baril Moses Agreement and current mediation process in relation to the breaches by the Government of Quebec, copies of which are attached hereto.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director gave an update on the proposal that had been made by the Cree representatives at the mediation and the responses by Quebec. He explained that a complication is that the Innu have been involved and as their tract record has not been great for efficacy in decision-making.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that there was a request for a meeting by those communities affected by forestry operations and yet the meeting has not occurred. Isaac Voyageur sashayed to the microphone and said every effort was being made to find a date.

Chief Thomas Jolly said that the respect of the Agreement, the establishment of protected areas in particular for the protection of the woodland caribou was very important to him.

Chief Richard Shecapio inquired if there was ever any other feed back from Mashtieuyasht from the meeting that was held with them in light of the numerous issues that were raised. Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that they had named a representative and there was a meeting but they changed representatives and there was a different interpretation of where they could raise their issue: the Baril Moses mediation table or as a guest to the Cree Quebec Standing Liaison Committee. He agreed with Bill's assessment that they were difficult to involve because they were not quick to make decisions when they are need.

## **5. Eeyou Planning Commission**

Isaac Voyageur and Chris Beck of the Department of Environment and Remedial Works, joined the meeting, tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Eeyou Planning Commission", a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **6. Protected Areas**

Isaac Voyageur and Chris Beck of the Department of Environment and Remedial Works, joined the meeting, tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Building The Protected Areas Network In Eeyou Istchee", a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **7. CCQ Presentation**

John Paul Murdoch tabled and reviewed a presentation that was prepared for the Board of Directors of the Quebec Construction Commission as part of the process to have a region for the North created and specific measures put in place to ensure that the CCQ regime does discriminate against the Cree.

## **8. Eenou Eeyou Police Commission**

Reggie Bobbish reported on the act of heroism of Bruce Wapachee saving a family of three from a house fire. He was assisted by Harry Erless and Clayton Stephen.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come talked about the importance of recognizing these acts of heroism in Cree communities.

The Directors issued a Directive to Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Reggie Bobbish to find the appropriate vehicle for honoring Constable Bruce Wapachee (**Directive 2015-05**).

## **9. Justice**

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark introduced a presentation to be given by Don Nichols, Director of Justice. He explained that the Justice Committee has been working with Don to review the status of the criminal justice in our communities reviewing cases and incidents and he thought it was appropriate that there be a presentation to the Board/Council so that we know where the challenges are in our communities. He explained that the presentation would be a high level review of the situation and that more detailed information per community could be available. The goal was to assist the communities in understanding where needs are for assisting youth or health related issues. He explained that all Cree entities will need to work together to address the problems, i.e. Health Board, School Board and the Justice Department.

Don Nichols explained that despite past concerns there was no indication that the Cree Nation Government would lose funding for Justice due to past surpluses.

Grand Chief emphasized the efforts being made to secure the commitments from Quebec to ensure the construction and operation of the Women's Shelters. He stated that this was a critical and important service that was a priority for the CNG and the Justice Department.

The Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association joined the meeting and addressed the Board/Council. Delivered and issued a statement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mandy Gull stated that in regards to the Women's Shelter issue it would be important to draft a report on what has happened since the development of the Women's Shelters has been delayed. The matter is urgent. We have built prisons and court houses to deal with criminals but we need the facilities to help the victims. This file should be a priority it is critical for ½ of our population. We should support the Director of Justice in moving this file forward.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that addressing social issues was critical to the maintenance of healthy communities.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that we are still dealing with the affects of the Residential School but only now is it coming the extent to which our people have suffered. We have many people to blame for our pain and our suffering we should not pretend that it came only from Residential school. Talking about abuse, standing up to it and helping ourselves is this biggest challenge. Being there to support someone who decides to stand is what we have to do. Grand Chief informed the meeting that he has already written to Quebec that he does not accept that a bureaucrat is being an obstacle to something that has



already been agreed to. He thanked the Cree Women's Association of Eeyou Istchee for their support and stated that he would be sending the statement to be attached to the letter that has already been sent. We will be fighting very hard to ensure that it is done this summer.

#### **10. Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reviewed the governance agreement for the new members.

He explained the potential challenge in relation to the participation at the table established by the Government of Quebec – namely a working group on 30% protected areas. He explained that the Jamesiens wanted to participate at the table but he did not support participation because he would not accept taking any action that would lead the government to think that there was a cap on protected areas, i.e. 30%.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

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<b>2. Resolution to Baril-Moses Dispute .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-12: Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute     between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec.....</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Chief Davey Bobbish  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo  
Chief Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Jolly  
Chief Reggie Neeposh  
Chief Richard Shecapio  
Chief Marcel Happyjack

Kenneth Gilpin  
Gordon Blueboy  
John Henry Wapachee  
Curtis Bosum  
Thomas Neeposh  
Mandy Gull  
Christina Gilpin

Also present was Abel Bosum, Me John Hurley, Me James O'Reilly, Me Francois Dandonneau, Brian Craik and Geoff Quail.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the Bylaws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 4:00 pm.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come acted as Chairperson and John Paul Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The Grand Chief explained that there was only one issue of the agenda and on a motion duly made by Kenneth Gilpin and seconded by Chief Davey Bobbish the Directors adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-11: Adoption of the Agenda for June 30th, 2015***

## 2. Resolution to Baril-Moses Dispute

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Abel Bosum explained the background behind the Baril-Moses Agreement and the resulting dispute arising from the carrying out of forestry operations contrary to the agreed forestry regime that was contained in the letter.

Abel Bosum and John Hurley then reviewed the presentation related to the Agreement entitled, "Cree-Quebec Agreement to Resolve Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute" a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Directors also reviewed the Draft Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Happyjack stated that he felt the settlement was insufficient because it did not contain enough protected territory, which was 9,000 km<sup>2</sup>, considering Waswanipi alone had tabled a proposal for 13,000km<sup>2</sup>. He also complained that

the area identified by Quebec was a burnt out area. He requested an extension for the period to consider the Agreement because he needed to go back to consult that tallyman.

Abel Bosum responded that it was important to keep in mind that the Agreement opened doors and created opportunities to seek additional protected areas. He stated that upon signing there would be considerable work and lobbying to do on the Cree side and it was important to keep in mind that the Agreement was an opportunity. He added that there would be other political opportunities to apply pressure.

Chief Happyjack stated that he also wanted the woodland caribou protected. Abel Bosum explained that the Agreement contained a commitment to develop a plan and that the forestry roads which were held up due to a lack of caribou plan were not automatic which should apply additional pressure on Quebec to develop a viable caribou plan. Brian Craik stated that the COMEX position was that the roads would not be reviewed until there were plans for protecting woodland caribou and he has not seen anything that would lead him to believe that this would change.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he had personal knowledge of the area North of Lake Evans that was slated for protection and confirmed that it was a burnt out area. He also stated that there had been prospecting many years ago where the prospectors were told of the possible designation as a protected area for the area.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reminded everyone of the traditional practice of setting tracts of land to fire as a way of ensuring rejuvenation of an area and said that as our ancestors did we should see the potential value of burnt areas.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he was glad to see a restatement of the regime but he had hoped that there was a resolution to the issue with the Innu. He also wondered if there Federal AIP had been discussed.

Abel Bosum explained that the Innu had tried to tie the issue to the land claims but it was important the issue remain land management issue otherwise it would never get resolved because the Innu never resolving anything ever! They are still arguing over whether or not to say hello to the first white man the saw 580 years ago.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that in light of the renewed funding it was imperative that there be a review of the forestry remedial works programs to ensure that they meet the needs of the trappers. The Grand Chief agreed that it would appropriate to do so.

There was then a discussion on the resolutions that would be required from the Councils of Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini in light of the related litigation. Me Dandonneau informed the concerned Chief that they had been forwarded draft Resolutions.

Chief Reggie Neeposh stated that it was imperative that the monitoring of forestry operations be stepped to ensure that what was negotiated was being respected otherwise what was secured would be lost.

Kenneth Gilpin stated that it was also important to ensure that the matching funding commitment in the agreement be properly tracked by the Cree Nation Government when contemplating the annual allocation.

On a motion duly made by Chief Reggie Neeposh and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-12: Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec***

**WHEREAS** a dispute has arisen between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec (“**Dispute**”) regarding the implementation of the modalities set out in the letter-agreement signed by Minister Gilles Baril and Grand Chief Ted Moses on February 7, 2002, concurrently with the *Agreement concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec* (“**Paix des Braves**”), and amended on February 23, 2005 (“**Baril-Moses Agreement**”), respecting standards for forestry operations on the territory defined therein (“**Territory**”);

**WHEREAS**, more specifically, the Cree consider that certain forestry operations have been carried out in the Territory in breach of the Baril-Moses Agreement and that it is necessary to ensure compliance with the Baril-Moses Agreement in order to secure the harmonization of forestry operations with Cree hunting, fishing and trapping activities in the Territory;

**WHEREAS** certain Cree parties, including the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee), have instituted legal proceedings against Québec and certain forestry companies in respect of the Dispute in *Chief Richard Shecapio et al. v. Attorney General of Québec et al.* (S.C.M. 500-17-080315-131) (“**Legal Proceedings**”);

**WHEREAS**, however, by exchange of letters dated January 28, 2015 between Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Premier Philippe Couillard, the Cree and Québec agreed on a mediation process with Me Lucien Bouchard in order to promote the resolution of the Dispute and of certain related issues (“**Mediation**”);

**WHEREAS** the Cree and Québec have met in the context of the Mediation to consider the means to resolve the Dispute and related issues;

**WHEREAS** representatives of the Cree and Québec have negotiated a draft *Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute* between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec ("**Baril-Moses Resolution Agreement**");

**WHEREAS** the Baril-Moses Resolution Agreement provides for, among other things, the following:

- (a) the harmonization of forestry operations in the Territory with the hunting, fishing and trapping activities of the Cree and other Aboriginal users of the Territory, through the implementation and enforcement of the Baril Moses standards, subject to the provisions of that Agreement;
- (b) the establishment of the Broadback River Protected Area;
- (c) certain undertakings regarding the environmental assessment of certain forestry access roads now subject to environmental assessment under Section 22 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* ("JBNQA");
- (d) certain undertakings of Québec regarding funding in respect of the *Agreement regarding Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement* concluded on July 11, 2013;
- (e) certain undertakings of Québec regarding funding in respect of the Collaborative Forestry Management Regime set out in sections 66 to 69 of the *Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Gouvernement du Québec* signed on July 24, 2012 ("**Governance Agreement**");
- (f) the withdrawal of the Cree complaint alleging non-compliance by Québec with the Baril-Moses standards;
- (g) the withdrawal of the Legal Proceedings; and
- (h) the settlement of the Dispute;

**WHEREAS** a draft of the Baril-Moses Resolution Agreement has been submitted for review by this meeting of the Council/Board;

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate to approve the Baril-Moses Resolution Agreement and to authorize its signature for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government do hereby approve the *Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute* between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec on

the basis of the draft of such Agreement submitted to and reviewed by this meeting;

**THAT** the Grand Chief / Chairman, the Deputy Grand Chief / Vice Chairman and such other persons as the Grand Chief may designate be and are hereby authorized to sign, for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government, the *Agreement to Resolve the Baril-Moses Forestry Dispute* between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Québec substantially in accordance with the draft of such Agreement submitted to this meeting and attached hereto, with such changes, deletions and additions as the Grand Chief may in his discretion deem appropriate or useful.

Chief Marcel Happyjack and Mandy Gull voted against the adoption of the Resolution.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

<b>1. Corporate Matters .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-13: Adoption of Agenda for July 28th and 29th, 2015 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-14: Adoption of Minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 and June     30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Audited Financial Statements .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-15: 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Income Security Program .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Uranium Industry .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Cree Quebec Relations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. Cree Canada Relations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. Cree Self Insurance Program .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8. Sub-Section 3.2.7 of the JBNQA.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. Eeyou Istchee Sports and Recreation Association.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10. Other Matters .....</b>	<b>7</b>



## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark  
Chief Stanley George                      Elijah Sandy  
Chief Richard Shecapio                    Thomas Neeposh  
Chief Dennis Georgekish                Christina Gilpin  
Chief Thomas Jolly  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo                    Kenneth Gilpin  
    L. George Pachano  
Chief Gordon Blackned                    Gordon Blueboy  
    Curtis Bosum  
Chief Marcel Happyjack

Also present

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:30 am.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come acted as Chairperson and John Paul Murdoch acted as Secretary.

On a motion duly made by Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the Directors adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-13: Adoption of Agenda for July 28th and 29th, 2015***

The Directors reviewed the Minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup> ad 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and on a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Jolly and seconded by Chief Reggie Neeposh adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-14: Adoption of Minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27thm 2015 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## 2. Audited Financial Statements

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer and Sylvain Faucher of RCGT tabled and reviewed a memorandum in relation to the 2014/2015 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Swallow and Mr. Faucher also reviewed the 2014/2015 audited financial statements.

Chief Richard Shecapio inquired what was the cause of Public Works deficit. Mr. Faucher explained that it is a timing issue, as the expenditure has been made however the funds are available in the current fiscal year.

Thomas Neeposh inquired when the Pension costs could be expected to come down as it was also costing the communities a lot of money. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that the pension is doing very well and is able to be placed well enough that obligations are being covered. Bill explained that it was a matter of calculation and modeling that raised concerns however the models are improving and the liability modeling that is being done and that the requirement for the solvency payment will likely end in the short term.

On a motion duly made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Kenneth Gilpin the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-15: 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements***

**WHEREAS** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government have reviewed the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby approved the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and further mandate the Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief to sign the fore mentioned financial statements;

**THAT** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government further recommends to the Delegates at the Annual General Assembly to retain the firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton as auditors of the organization.

The Grand Chief explained that at the executive committee the auditors were asked to report on any abnormalities and the performance of CNG staff. For example are there controls on spending. The auditors have report that the staff has demonstrated capacity and cooperation during the audit.

**3. Income Security Program**

Phillip Awashish, Willie Iserhoff, Serge Lariviere and Gerald Lemoyne of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the status of the Income Security Program, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come thanked the presenters for the presentation and underlined the importance of the Income Security Program for the Cree Nation.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that there has been AGA Resolutions to review the Income Security program. One was related to the issue of equal rights between men and women and the other was “far harvesting” which was defined by period of harvesting, he also inquired about consideration being given to land users who undertake arts and crafts and then later penalized when they make revenue from these arts and crafts. The representatives of the program explained the advances that had been made in benefits especially in regards to distant traplines however they explained that the issue of enforcement of the program was putting the program in jeopardy and would be the subject of the current review of the program.

#### **4. Uranium Industry**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come introduced the issue of the public hearings and report that had been submitted by the BAPE jointly with the Special Commission of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment in regards to the future of the uranium industry in Quebec. He stated that he wished to thank Melissa Saganash and John Paul Murdoch for the work that they carried out. He explained that they faced very challenging conditions and arguments that were unreasonable. He added that they had many long meetings and arguments with Quebec representatives that were far from understanding the complexities of Eeyou Istchee.

He stated that the report clearly tells the government of Quebec that they do not have the skill, knowledge or capacity to be able to manage the uranium industry. Further Quebec has much to answer before they should even be allowed to considered opening the industry in the province. The Grand Chief stated that he was aware of their internal struggles and that he was very thankful to the two Cree representatives for their work.

The Grand Chief stated that the Government will take the report seriously and is taking it under advisement. However, the Government has not released an official position on the report. He added that the press seems to be reporting that we have killed the uranium industry in Quebec. “The arrogance of Strateco and the incompetence of Quebec” is what is being reported. He concluded that the consent of the Cree is valuable and will be required in future development and this report demonstrates it.

Chief Richard Shecapio wanted to say that the strength of struggle is very visible in the report. The path for Mistissini has been is very long and the President of Strateco received a big surprise and paid the price for under estimating the Cree. He was proud of the use that we put to Section 22 and that it is invaluable that

our people participate in any environmental review process in the territory. This report demonstrates and vindicates our people who participated in the process. At times for Mistissini it was overwhelming all the projects that were starting on our territory and the land users seemed like they were getting fatigued and had more questions than answers. It is great that the report demonstrates that the questions of the people are important and need to be answered. It was depressing when the CNSC came after the section 22 hearings as if no one was listening to us. The community was worried that with the introduction of the mandate of the BAPE, the question of uranium development would never end. He stated that he remembered at the Waskaganish AGA when all communities expressed their solidarity with Mistissini, it was a proud moment from the unity of the Cree Nation. He wanted to emphasize to all Crees how important it is to participate in the Section 22 environmental review processes when it comes to the community. He concluded that even though development isn't necessarily over at least there is a recognition that we must be listened to and cannot be ignored.

## **5. Cree Quebec Relations**

The Grand Chief explained the efforts to explain the recent Baril Moses Agreement that was recently the product of mediation with the Government of Quebec. He explained the specific consultation that had been held in Waswanipi to ensure that community members were properly apprised of the Agreement and the opportunities and efforts that would need to be made to expand on the protected areas that had been secured.

## **6. Cree Canada Relations**

Bill Namagoose reported on the current status of discussions with the Federal Government. He stated that he expected to have more tangible results to table at the next Board/Council meeting, especially in regards to governance discussions. He explained that the Federal Government seemed open to the approach to negotiating an expanded global envelope of authorities for the Cree, which the Cree Nation would be allowed to divide amongst itself levels of internal governments as it sees fit.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he is still concerned on the issue of authority or powers of the communities being altered. He stated that he really wanted to see actual text before it is presented at the meeting to ensure that there is enough time for consideration.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that he was hoping to convene a meeting in September with the DO's and Treasurers present on the issue of Governance discussion with Canada. He stated that this would allow the Board/Council to address the concerns raised by Chief Shecapio.

The meeting recessed at 5:00pm on July 28<sup>th</sup> and reconvened July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:30 am.

## **7. Cree Self Insurance Program**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled correspondence to the Cree Nation Government Board of Compensation in regards to the Cree Self-Insurance Program. Bill Namagoose explained that information had been requested to undertake a review of the program which appears may have deviated from the original plan which was to provide affordable insurance to the communities not as a profit oriented venture which makes money at the expense of local public administrations.

He explained that a report would be forth coming on the status of the program in its current form.

## **8. Sub-Section 3.2.7 of the JBNQA**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a presentation on the activities of a Commission that had been established with the Cree School Board and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, a copy of which attached hereto. Bill Namagoose and John Paul Murdoch reviewed some of the preliminary conclusions and recommendations that would be coming from the Commission on sub-section 3.2.7 of the JBNQA (10 Year Clause).

The Grand Chief stated that with population numbers fluctuating between 15,000 to 20,000 the difference and implications were very large. For example the implications on funding formulas could be significant. He thanked Bill Namagoose and John Paul Murdoch for their work and report and that concluded that it should not be rushed because the recommendations and conclusions could be far reaching. He explained that “beneficiary” status was not just a question of benefitting or residency but was more an issue about citizenship.

Chief Allan Jolly stated that there were 400 people unregistered in Moose Factory Cree members. He stated that all Cree people stood together for the adoption of the Agreement and that the government wanted Cree land and we consented and through the settlement extinguished Cree rights. He stated that the “Spirit and Intent” of the Agreement should override the Agreement and he felt like he was losing rights.

John Paul Murdoch explained that when examined in the light of the legislation and the jurisprudence as it existed in 1974 the 10 year clause offered considerable protection to Cree beneficiaries and that it should be read as widely as possible.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that the Cree did not extinguish anything under the JBNQA.

Chief Georgekish stated that his community did not deny the rights of anyone and that all were welcome to come home. He stated that his Council didn't care what the Agreement says, as it was a question of being a member of the community. He stated that we will run into problems when we use non-Native rules to fight this, and thus it should be solved internally.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that when we signed the Agreement there were only 7 communities and we have 9 today and working on helping 2 more, Washaw Sibi and MoCreebec, demonstrating that the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement should not be viewed as a static Agreement.

### **9. Eeyou Istchee Sports and Recreation Association**

Willie Iserhoff Director of Social and Cultural Development and Raymond Shanush joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the Eeyou Istchee Sports and Recreation Association Program Funding Presentation, a copy of which is attached hereto. The presentation explained the funding request that was being placed with the Government of Quebec and the potential for a Service Agreement with the Cree Nation Government to clarify how the Cree Nation Government and the Association could work together to ensure the development and delivery of quality sports and recreation programs.

### **10. Other Matters**

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

<b>1. Corporate Matters.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-16: Adoption of Agenda of September 17th and 18th, 2015.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-17: Nomination of Judy Cooper and Melissa Saganash as     Scrutineers.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-18: Nominations to the Executive Committee of the Grand Council     of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Traplines North of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Housing.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. FORESTRY ISSUES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Cree Quebec Relations.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6. Policing Ratios.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. Commerce and Trade Agreement.....</b>	<b>6</b>
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<b>9. Minutes.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-19: Adoption of Minutes of the Board/Council of the Grand     Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on July 28<sup>th</sup> and     29<sup>th</sup>, 2015.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10. Regional Government Agenda.....</b>	<b>7</b>
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<b>12. Governance Discussions with the Government of Canada.....</b>	<b>7</b>

## 1. Corporate Matters

Present:

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark	
Chief Richard Shecapio	Thomas Neeposh
Chief Dennis Georgekish	Christina Gilpin
Chief Thomas Jolly	John-Henry Wapachee
Chief Kenneth Cheezo	Kenneth Gilpin
Chief Darlene Wapachee	Gordon Blueboy
Chief Curtis Bosum	
Chief Marcel Happyjack	Mandy Gull
Elijah Sandy	

Also present were Chief Pauline Trapper-Hester, Chief Allan Jolly and Lorraine Jolly, Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Matthew Swallow, Treasurer, Melissa Saganash, Director of Quebec Relations, Harry Bosum, Jack Blacksmith.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:47 am.

Rodney Mark, Deputy Grand Chief acted as Chairperson. Judy Cooper and John Paul Murdoch acted as recording secretaries.

Announced the new chiefs to the members, Chief Cheechoo and Chief Bosum. Went over the agenda to members. Chief Georgekish added housing and Chief Cheechoo on forestry issues.

The Directors reviewed the agenda adding the items of housing and forestry issues and on a motion duly made by Kenneth Gilpin and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio the Directors adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-16: Adoption of Agenda of September 17th and 18th, 2015***

The Director proceeded to a vote by secret ballot to fill two vacancies on the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

On a motion duly made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Mandy Gull the Directors adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-17: Nomination of Judy Cooper and Melissa Saganash as Scrutineers***



The Directors voted for Chief Richard Shecapio on the first ballot and Kenneth Gilpin on the second ballot.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Dennis Georgekish the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-18: Nominations to the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominate Chief Richard Shecapio and Kenneth Gilpin to sit as members of the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

**2. Traplines North of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel**

Elijah Sandy introduced Richard Petagumskum to table his trapline matters to the members.

Richard Petagumskum stated that he was great difficulty accessing subsidies for his trapline North of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel such as income security.

Bill Namagoose responded to the matter and explained the hunting rights of the JBNQA were circumscribed by the current land regime.

Sandy Petagumskum, explained that his territory was within the current site of Whapmagoostui. He explained his concerns related to caring for the territory and other activities within his area, he was very concerned with seeing traditional food at dump sites.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that the Cree Nation Government was making plans to visit Whapmagoostui in the near future where the matters could be addressed more directly.

**3. Housing**

Chief Georgekish raised the concerns of the housing situation especially as concerns grants and other related funds within the communities. He stated that there was not enough funds to build houses and that it is very important that the matter be reviewed.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director responded that the CMHC program did not working within Eeyou Istchee and that this program needed to be re-evaluated to work within in Eeyou Istchee. He stated that the Cree Nation Government was trying to examine if there was not an industrial approach to the matter and raised the example of steel homes by a company named, Steel Hawk.

Chief Georgekish questioned if there are other entities that could invest in housing program and this could be another manner in which to approach other entities within Eeyou Istchee.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that the AFNQL brought a presentation to their community, addressing housing needs of the communities. He stated that housing was a critical issue in his community and will be brought up at another meeting in November in Mistissini. He gave examples of other ways of bringing other entities within this business of housing investments. He explained that in Mistissini people within their community use their own monies to build their own houses, using businesses within their community too. He stated that programs needed to be introduced to assist and invest in our communities to address the matter and should be done in a manner that allows community members serious about their investments to contribute to the successful development of economies in our communities.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that there was no commitment to any specific partnership to Steel Hawk or any other firm and that ultimately the desire was to work together and promote companies within our own territories.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that it was important that efforts be made to ensure that we have a clear picture of communities' housing situation and then there could be more elaborate discussions on how we can work on increasing housing investment and related issues.

Chief Thomas Jolly described the housing crisis within Nemaska. He stated that there were resources to address the matter locally and it was time to review the housing crisis as a Nation.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo, brought the same issue and commented on the housing crisis in his community. He stated that it was important to find solutions for our future housing and use own resources as they do exist within.

The Directors issued a directive to the Capital Works and Services Department and the Executive Committee to develop a report on the review of the housing crisis in Eeyou Istchee (**Directive 2015-06**).

#### **4. FORESTRY ISSUES**

Chief Darlene Cheechoo raised the impacts forestry within Waskaganish territories. She explained that the community was requesting more information on forestry related matters especially before harmonization measures are agreed to.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark explained that a meeting with communities impacted by forestry is being scheduled with the leadership and staff of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government where hopefully these matters could be addressed more concretely.

Chief Shecapio stated that he has seen the latest shots updating forestry impacts and it was very worrisome.

The adjourned at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 1:15 pm

## **5. Cree Quebec Relations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director reviewed correspondence that had been sent to the Secretary General of the Government of Quebec listing the files and mandates that need attention between the Cree and the Government Quebec, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark commented specifically on the item of Section 28, which he stated was to be addressed by a Cree Trade and Commerce Agreement, which would be an important opportunity for the Cree to decide for themselves the meaning of the preferential contracting requirements under Section 28 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

## **6. Policing Ratios**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained how the Policing Agreements were negotiated and that the ratio in the Agreement is actually among the highest in the Country. He explained further that the recent discovery that local statistics chronically underestimated the number of residents in a community resulted in a lower than normal ratio of officers in the community.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that there were problems with the officers being stretched to thin over shifts and were having difficult meeting the needs of the community. He expressed concern that Police Officers were being over worked.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the Agreement expired in 2018 and discussions on a renewed Agreement which better meets the needs of the communities would need to be discussed.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark introduced some of the coordination that would be happening with other Departments such as Justice. He explained that the criminalization of communities was not just a question of how the

communities were policed but more importantly the social and cultural health of a community.

John Henry Wapachee stated that he was a police officer at one time. He explained the personal situations of officers had a significant impact on their ability to carry out their duties. He stated that it was critical the employees have proper employee assistance programs to assist the office fulfilling their challenging roles.

## **7. Commerce and Trade Agreement**

John Paul Murdoch provided an update on the status of the development of the Commerce and Trade Agreement which was being worked on by the Director of Trade and Commerce who had come up with a better title for the Agreement namely, Eeyou-Eenou Nation Trade and Commerce Agreement (“ENaTCA”). He explained how consultation would begin on the Agreement with a presentation to the meeting of the Directors of Operations and Treasurers.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he wanted Andy Baribeau to go to the communities as consultations need to be carried out at the community level. He stated that there are local entrepreneurs that could give input on their experience and that the consultation of regional entities should also be included.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark agreed and proposed the issuance of a Directive to Andy Baribeau that a consultation plan on the Eeyou-Eenou Nation Trade and Commerce Agreement (“ENaTCA”) be developed and tabled.

John Henry Wapachee agreed that the consultation was required at the local level and that there was much experience to be shared at that level by local entrepreneurs.

Chief Davey Bobbish inquired about local By-Laws and what would happen to them in light of such an Agreement. He gave the example of the Cree School Board who follows only Quebec laws adding that he did not want to release the authority of the Local Council.

John Paul Murdoch stated that he did not expect it to be an easy exercise but that compromise would be necessary. He gave them examples of sovereign Nations, which sign Treaties to restricting their authority for the benefits under the Treaty.

On a question from Chief Georgekish, John Paul Murdoch explained that there are overlapping jurisdictions which would lead to apparent conflicts however it was within the ability of all jurisdictions to negotiate accommodation which was the ultimate goal of the Agreement.

## **8. AGA Resolutions**

The Directors then reviewed the Resolutions that had been adopted at the Annual General Assembly of the Cree Nation Government.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that his council at the Local Assembly informed the community what Councilors, and political representatives received in remuneration. He also stated that the Federal Truth and Reconciliation Committee was discussed at the local assembly.

## **9. Minutes**

The Directors reviewed the minutes of a meeting held on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and on a motion duly made by Elijah Sandy and seconded by Gordon Blueboy adopted:

***Resolution 2015-19: Adoption of Minutes of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## **10. Regional Government Agenda**

The Directors reviewed the agenda of the Eeyou Istchee Bay James Regional Government scheduled for the following day, a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **11. Administration Update**

The Board/Council meeting held an in camera session and reviewed the status of the restructuring of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 pm and reconvened at 9:00 am on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

## **12. Governance Discussions with the Government of Canada**

The Board/Council held an in camera session in regards to the status of governance discussions with the Government of Canada the presentation of which was tabled and attached hereto.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

<b>1. Corporate Matters .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-20: Adoption of Minutes of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Quebec Court Rules Presentation .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Federal Discussions .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. MoCreebec Updates .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Quebec Border .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6. Quebec First Nation Public Security Crisis.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7. Calendar of Meetings.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. Ontario Land Claim .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-21: Ontario Land Claim.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. Review of Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Agenda.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10. Forestry Harmonization Update .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11. Administrative Structure .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-22: Cree Nation Government Director General.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-23: Amendment to Management Committee By-Law.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-24: Adoption of the Agenda of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark  
Chief Richard Shecapio Thomas Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Kenneth Gilpin  
Chief Curtis Bosum  
Chief Davey Bobbish L. George Pachano  
Chief Dennis Georgekish Christina Gilpin  
Chief Darlene Cheechoo Gordon Blueboy  
Chief Stanley George Elijah Sany  
Chief Thomas Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Mandy Gull

Also Alan Jolly, Pauline Hester Trapper, Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Matthew Swallow, Melissa, Jack, Don, Rita, Judy

Minutes

On a motion duly made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-20: Adoption of Minutes of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## 2. Quebec Court Rules Presentation

Don Nichols, joined meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed rules of Procedure for the Quebec Court, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo inquired as to the time frame for the consultations. Don Nichols stated that the Quebec representatives were hoping for January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 if not it would be in October 2016.

Don Nichols and Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that the Judicial Advisory Committee would review the proposed changes and return with recommendations.

## 3. Federal Discussions

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that signs are good since the elections but there has been a time out of sorts and that the next report in

December should be substantial in regards to advancement on Cree Federal relations and Governance negotiations.

#### **4. MoCreebec Updates**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director discussed the initial negotiations were very bad and the legal proceedings were a major road block. He explained how a negotiating table has been established from proceeding that did not really have a chance of going anywhere.

Chief Alan Jolly stated that he was thankful to Bill Namagoose, Executive Director for his efforts in speaking to the government of Ontario and Canada which had been so closed initially. He remembered the early days from Mr. Penner of DIAND who was touring the country and he came to MoCreebec and asked if there was an Ontario land claim to which he responded no. This is when he realized the approach that would be needed if things were to be properly addressed for the people of MoCreebec. He stated that there is much discussion among the Youth of his community on how the Council of MoCreebec should be recognized, how it should formally be structured even questions in relation to the physical location of the community.

Chief Cheechoo stated that in light of the many Waskaganish community members associated with MoCreebec it would be important to ensure that Waskaganish was involved. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that he would be happy to provide briefing sessions to the Council of Waskaganish.

#### **5. Quebec Border**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained border dispute between Canada and Quebec tabling a report entitled, "Report On Northern Boundary of Quebec", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the Government of Nunavut has rejected the position of Quebec.

The Directors held a discussion on the implication of the protected areas in Quebec which have received considerable work.

#### **6. Quebec First Nation Public Security Crisis**

John Paul Murdoch and Melissa Saganash Director of Quebec Relations provided an update on discussion with the City of Val D'Or and the Government of Quebec in managing the Quebec First nation Public Security Crisis.

Chief Shecapio explained a meeting that happened with Chibougamou, Chapais, Mistissini, OJ and Waswanipi. They have protocols and how complaints can be



managed and brought forward. He said that there were networks for addressing women who have been victims of abuse adding that we need to look at this in our own communities. We need to make sure that this is clear in regards to our police force as there is discussion of problems in our communities in regards to behavior of specific officers.

John Paul Murdoch explained that the Grand Chief always stated that the Eeyou Eeyou Police would not be exempt from examination and that there is an internal complaint process being put together. Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark confirmed the initiative and that the matter was on the agenda of the Police Commission.

Kenneth Gilpin stated that brave women were continuing to come forward. He discussed how Val d'Or is reacting, and that they are still in shock. He raised the case of Sindy Ruperthouse and the discrimination in regards to the surveillance video that was examined because all Native people look alike anyway. He explained how he spoke to the Mayor and explained that he was bothered by the lack of initiative. Mr. Gilpin explained it was important to show that we are not happy with the discrimination. We should be investing in our own communities. He stated that action was needed and the promotion of the head of the ValD'Or SQ detachment to Rouyn as Director is unacceptable.

Chief Dennis Georgekish the discussion is open and we now have to say its enough in regards to racism. He explained that the legacy of racism goes back to Residential School. He added that we need to make sure that victims in our communities can come forward. We should not hide or cover up the things we are hearing and that a lot will come out.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he was very pleased that we were finally discussing the matter. He stated that he has experienced racism many times. He participated this morning in the meeting with the other Chiefs on what should be done in the case of racism. He raised the apparent aggressive nature of police in the region.

John Paul Murdoch confirmed that more would come out confirming that recent discussions have confirmed that there is indeed a policy in regards to stationing new recruits for four years in the North.

Chief Cheechoo stated that there will be a lot of other things that will come out such as profiling and that the current state of affairs was the tip of the iceberg.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that we need to look at all the communities and that the south act as if we contribute nothing society. The media only shows us blocking roads and protesting and there is a very narrow perception of us. He stated that he was proud to see Anthony McLeod talking about the real contribution of Aboriginal people. He shared the example of his

daughter who was treated differently once it was discovered she was Aboriginal versus a foreign student where she was treated with more openness.

## **7. Calendar of Meetings**

There was a discussion on the locations and changing of the meeting in March to a week later. Chief Georgekish pleaded to have the January meeting in Whapmagoostui for his buddy Chief George.

## **8. Ontario Land Claim**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come introduced the origin of the Ontario Land Claim which began formally under the Coon Come I proceedings and the Coon Come II Proceedings.

Me Jessica Orkin joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the land claim, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief explained that there were meetings with other First Nations, that we are not claiming exclusive rights and will be meeting with other First Nations.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that there was a call with her council but only she was able to participate and that Waskaganish would like to defer the decision as Resolutions will be needed by local councils.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come explained that the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government represents the Cree and that we can adopt the Resolution and save filing until the local resolutions are adopted.

Jessica Orkin stated that it is true that the decisions could be delayed but we do need to move if we are going to benefit from previous filings.

Chief Davey Bobbish stated he wanted to pass the Resolution immediately as he has been waiting since 1989, I am sure I will have the support of my Council.

Chief Alan Jolly stated that he would appreciate the Resolution as it would help his cause.

Chief Pauline Hester inquired as to the impact on the Algonquin in the area. She then inquired how would the land be looked as between communities in future? She stated that she could get a Resolution supporting the claim with.

Jessica Orkin explained that the full extent implications can only be known after filing. She added that the discussion on the actual status of the land were very far away.

Chief Hester asked how the other First Nations communities are approached individually or as a Nation. Jessica Orkin stated that communications have been through their respective legal counsels. Grand Chief Coon Come stated it was important to keep in mind that we will inform them but we will not ask them as we have been waiting since 1989 when the court case was filed.

Chief Hester stated that although she was proud of the decisions being taken she was saddened that elders have passed that did not see us making this stand for this land.

Chief Bobbish stated that he wanted push the Labrador claim as well.

Jessica Orkin explained that it would be a long process.

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-21: Ontario Land Claim***

**WHEREAS** the Eeyou, the James Bay Cree Nation, has owned, lived in, governed and protected Eeyou Istchee for millennia and since time immemorial;

**WHEREAS** Eeyou Istchee transcends the territorial boundaries of the Province of Quebec, and comprises the ancestral and traditional lands which have sustained us and which we have occupied since time immemorial, including lands in what is now the Province of Ontario;

**WHEREAS** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government are committed to assisting the Eeyou through all means permitted by law to affirm, exercise, protect, enlarge and have recognized and accepted the rights, claims and interests of the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** the rights of the Eeyou in Eeyou Istchee - Ontario have never been acknowledged or expressed in any treaty or governmental agreement whatsoever;

**WHEREAS** the Eeyou continue to hold such rights in Eeyou Istchee – Ontario to the present day;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government are committed to continuing to pursue the claims relating to Cree rights in Ontario that were asserted in the Coon Come No. 3 case that was commenced on behalf of the Cree Nation in 1989 in the Federal Court;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby authorizes Bill Namagoose, Executive Director to instructs legal counsel to commence and pursue proceedings in the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, in the name of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government, to assert on behalf of the Cree Nation a claim of Aboriginal title and Aboriginal rights to the lands situated in Ontario that form part of the traditional territory of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, and to continue the claims relating to Cree rights in Ontario that were asserted on behalf of the Cree Nation in the Coon Come No. 3 case in Federal Court.

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government further authorizes Grand Chief Coon Come to be named as a representative plaintiff in the said proceedings to be commenced in the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, on behalf of and for the benefit of the members of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, being all those who are Cree beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement or who are eligible to be Cree beneficiaries of the JBNQA.

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government requests and encourages the Councils of each of the ten Cree communities to pass resolutions authorizing that the said proceedings in the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario also be commenced in the names of the respective Cree communities, to continue the claims relating to Cree rights in Ontario that were asserted by each of the ten Cree communities in the Coon Come No. 3 case in Federal Court.

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government authorizes and mandates the Grand Chief, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Council of the Cree Nation Government to take all necessary and appropriate steps as may reasonably be required to pursue the said proceedings in the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario.

Thomas Neeposh stated that the height of land should be considered which has been in discussion since 1975 and the impacts are the same as those trappers being harassed on the Ontario side.

## **9. Review of Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Agenda**

The Grand Chief stated that there should be a review of what we want out of this Regional Government especially now that we are in charge. For example the previous government tried to adopt Resolution to block towns from starting. He stated that we have to make sure that the Cree Nation Government is not

displaced by the Regional Government. He stated it was important that we not let people think that Cree consent comes through the Regional Government. We have not given up our authority. He then reminded people of the not to distant pass when there was a sign in a Chibougamou business that said, "No Indians No dogs" and we should not take anything for granted.

He reconfirmed that the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement always supersedes the laws and bylaws adopted the provincial or municipal authority. The Grand Chief stated that he will be calling for two day strategy session in January on the orientation that should be taken in relation to the Regional Government.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he was also hoping for an update on Forestry Harmonization Agreement and related consultations.

Recessed at 5pm.

Reconvened at 9:30 am

## **10. Forestry Harmonization Update**

Abel Bosum pranced into the room and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Forestry Harmonization Negotiations Update" a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he had received correspondence that he was concerned that it appeared that measures were being developed and put in place without proper consultation of local representatives. He inquired as to what the future consultations would be. He also inquired as to the amendments that will be required on Forestry Legislation and why category I lands were mentioned.

Abel Bosum stated that the local joint working group members were being convened for tomorrow as part of the consultation. Under the legislation category I lands are considered private lands and it is a way of getting them removed from the calculation of forests that are available.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come explained how the issue of forestry operations was included in the Governance Agreement of 2013 as it was unresolved and then again an attempt to address it in the Baril Moses Agreement so that it could be resolved. The Grand Chief explained that the issue has always been the attempts to change the legislation which governs forestry operations to ensure that it corresponds to the Agreements that have been signed. He explained that it will be discussed in greater detail on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo thanked Abel for the presentation. She stated that her concerns came from the local coordinator who was very involved in the process and she stated that she wanted to meet with the other Chiefs impacted by forestry to arrive at an understanding. She was concerned that there would be meetings with the Joint Working Group when the Chiefs were meeting with the Regional Government.

Chief Bosum said he would invite Mr. Bosum to also do a presentation on the matter.

There was a question from the Chief of Wemindji in regards to the potential lifting of moratoriums.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated the Cree had asked for several moratoriums. Activity is suspended in Category II lands until the land use plans properly involving the Cree communities is rectified which can be expected to take 3 to 5 years. He explained this is why the work of the Natural Resource Committee and our own staff in regards to land use planning is so important.

## **11. Administrative Structure**

John Paul Murdoch, Secretary tabled and reviewed a document in relation to updates required to the administrative structure of the Cree Nation Government namely the streamlining of the offices of Executive Director and Director General and the subsequent changes required to the Management Committee, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated he remembered there was a time when we had two leaders under the GCC and the CRA and it was very problematic and caused a lot of division. He was at the meeting where the leaders were asked to leave the meeting and the organizations were merged. He stated that the Cree Nation Government is a new era and it is time to modernize. We are moving from an Authority to a Government. He stated that the change in title is reflection the manner in which we are actually running things. He gave the example of the DO's and Treasurers meetings, which are currently chaired by Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and how it is not advisable to have two chairs. He explained that we also have strong Directors and I do not expect Bill Namagoose, Executive Director to get into administrative matters. The Grand Chief stated that it was also not advisable to circumscribe the position of Executive Director because it will restrict the very power for the Government to direct the administration to act on its behalf.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that when we engage someone we usually inquire into whether the person is doing the job and who would actually being do the evaluation. The Grand Chief stated that there were three Senior Management positions that were monitored with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Chief.

There was a discussion on changes required to the draft resolution, the development of Board/Council agendas in a more timely manner and the need to generally review the By-Law of the Cree Nation Government.

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Thomas Neeposh the directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-22: Cree Nation Government Director General***

**WHEREAS** there exists the opportunity to merge the offices of Director General and Executive Director under the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government as is the case with the offices of Grand Chief/Chairperson, Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer/Treasurer and Secretary/Secretary;

**WHEREAS** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has been functioning under the administrative leadership of the Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby appoints Bill Namagoose, to the Position of Director General of the Cree Nation Government;

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government further mandates the Grand Chief and other officers of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to when possible seek and amendment of the legislation and the By-Law of the Cree Nation Government to change the title of Director General to Executive Director where applicable;

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Thomas Neeposh the directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-23: Amendment to Management Committee By-Law***

**WHEREAS** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed a proposal for the amendment of the Management Committee By-Law of the Cree Nation Government;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby amends the Management Committee By-Law to change the membership and increase the financial authorization from \$300,000 to \$500,000 under section 40.12 of said By-Law in accordance with the attached draft by-law.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-24: Adoption of the Agenda of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at noon and it was determined that the next meeting would be held December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Montreal.



<b>1. Corporate Matters.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2015-25: Adoption of the Agenda of the meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government Board/Council held on December 16th and 17th, 2015.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Cree Quebec Relations .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Quebec Gun Registry .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Land Claim.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Governance Update .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Housing.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7. Forestry Harmonization Negotiations.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. Childcare Services.....</b>	<b>5</b>
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<b>Resolution 2016-27: Adoption of Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>15. Funding Allocations .....</b>	<b>9</b>
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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark  
Chief Stanley George                      Elijah Sandy  
Chief Dennis Georgekish                  Christina Gilpin  
Chief Thomas Jolly                          John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Darlene Cheechoo                    Gordon Blueboy  
Chief Curtis Bosum  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo                      Kenneth Gilpin  
Chief Richard Shecapio                    Thomas Neeposh  
Chief Marcel Happyjack                    Mandy Gull  
Chief Davey Bobbish                        L. George Pachano

Also present was Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Matthew Swallow, Treasurer, Abel Bosum, Cree Quebec Negotiations, Melissa Saganash, Director of Quebec Relations, Don Nichols, Director of Justice, Jack Blacksmith, Chairman of the Board of Compensation, Willie Iserhoff, Director of Cultural and Social Development, Isaac Voyageur, Director of Environment and Remedial Works.

On a motion duly made by Chief Curtis Bosum and seconded by Chief Darlene Cheechoo the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2015-25: Adoption of the Agenda of the meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government Board/Council held on December 16th and 17th, 2015***

## 2. Cree Quebec Relations

Matthew Coon Come tabled and reviewed a copy of a report entitled, "Report on Cree Quebec Relations" a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief then tabled and reviewed a report entitle, "Report on Northern Boundary of Quebec" a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief concluded his presentations but sharing with the meeting the gratitude of the Indigenous people of Val D'Or who used the services at the Friendship Centre and "Chez Willie". He added that the initiatives of Val D'Or are impressive considering their initial reaction when the news story broke about the abuse of First Nations women by the SQ. He stated that across the board there was gratitude and thanks to the Cree leadership for taking a stand. He explained finally that Cree entities will no longer discouraged from holding events in Val D'Or in light of the efforts that are being made by the local leadership, he has no

illusions that the crisis is over or that problems are solved and every effort will be made to make sure Quebec does more.

### **3. Quebec Gun Registry**

The Grand Chief tabled and reviewed the legislation proposed by the Government of Quebec in regards to the maintenance of a Quebec Gun Registry Act, a copy of which is attached hereto. He explained that the Government of Quebec initiated proceedings to recuperate all the data from the failed federal gun registry. He shared the legal opinion that had been delivered on the matter and explained that more reports would be forth coming especially with the potential infringement of hunting fishing and trapping rights under the JBNQA including the right to use the instruments of hunting. He concluded that a formal Cree Nation Government position on the matter was being developed.

### **4. Land Claim**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Bill Namagoose, Executive Director gave an update of the status of discussions between MoCreebec and the Government of Ontario. They also tabled a report in regards to the Land Claim in Ontario by the Cree of Quebec entitled, "Update on the Cree Nation's Rights and Title Claim in Ontario", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that she would like that Waskaganish be included in any process between the Government of Ontario and MoCreebec as there are considerable members of MoCreebec who are Waskaganish beneficiaries.

Chief Alan Jolly explained that he was always told that without a land claim there was always little chance that the MoCreebec community would get support. He explained that in housing and other Government relations issues were very difficult but the tone has clearly changed since the re-discussion of the land claim. He stated that the ultimate goal was to include MoCreebec in the JBNQA or as part of the JBNQA. He had no issue with the Chief Waskaganish wanting to be included in the discussions adding that of the 1200 members of his community 800 are affiliated with Waskaganish. He thanks the CNG for support and the efforts of Bill Namagoose and the Grand Chief.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come explained that there was much for the MoCreebec people to decide and that it was appropriate that we support our people.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it should be understood that even though there is impact the discussion between MoCreebec and Ontario are not technically related.

## **5. Governance Update**

Bill Namagoose tabled and reviewed report in relation to governance discussions with Canada entitled, "REPORT ON CREE-CANADA GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATIONS; GCC(EI)/CNG COUNCIL/BOARD MEETING; MONTREAL – DECEMBER 16-17, 2015" a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that she would like to make sure there was not any erosion of local authorities or powers and was hoping that the leadership could be updated more often.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that there was a pause in negotiations due to the Federal negotiations but that reports should be more forthcoming since discussions have resumed.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that in regards to the Cree Quebec and Cree Canada relations that he wanted to see more than just the presentations. He wanted to see the actual text that was being exchanged. He asked for the text in June but did not get it until September. He stated that the sharing of text in a timely manner was very important because of the potential implications at the local levels.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he also wanted to make sure that there were no surprises in discussions and that documentation needed to be shared in a timely manner. He agreed that he wanted complete information as well.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that it is a difficult balance between reporting to our people and not wanting very sensitive strategies to be revealed to the Governments, which were constantly trying to gain insight into our arguments. The Grand Chief also explained that a lot of the arguments that are raised were a product of a community tours that were carried out by a number of Cree Nation Government representatives and come directly from members of our communities.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that there should be more internal meetings before we hold Board/Council meetings.

## **6. Housing**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that the item was being discussed subsequent to the issue being raised at the Waskaganish meeting. He explained that there was reason to be concerned in that there was no sign of the housing shortage in abating. He stated that estimates were that \$3 Billion was needed to address the current shortage. The concern was that this would have impact on retention of communities with members moving away as soon as they were able and that the impact of this would be quite negative considering that the first to

leave will be those with income that is then removed from the community. There is concern specifically with rent collection, which impacts that credibility of the Cree Nation when trying to impress the problem upon the Federal Government. He stated that a presentation would be brought to the next Board/Council meeting. He explained that the road ahead on this issue would be difficult with very challenging decisions that need to be made. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director concluded by saying it was very important to sound the alarm on the housing crisis.

## **7. Forestry Harmonization Negotiations**

Abel Bosum stated that he would review a presentation on the status of Forestry Harmonization Negotiations, which would be forward to the meeting shortly and then attached hereto. Mr. Bosum introduced the team of Stephan Ouellet, Forestry Engineer, Geoff Quaile and Jean Sébastien Clement, Legal Counsel.

The Grand Chief explained to the meeting that Chief Marcel Happyjack was not able to join today as he has suffered a personal loss but he did want to say that with in regards to this matter that he was hoping that there would be local consultations on the Agreement.

Chief Shecapio stated that he was very concerned that local consultations were lagging. He stated that his local representatives have been issued directives to make any local consultations a priority. He stated that he was very happy to have a meeting with Abel Bosum and team with the other Chiefs that were impacted by forestry. He added that it was important not to forget those affected traplines that are affected by forestry but not within the scope of the Baril-Moses Agreement.

Thomas Neeposh stated that he understood that there would be an update report on the height of land issue. Abel Bosum explained that it was part of the Cree Quebec relations and that there was a tabled with the Innu. He explained that further that the threat of a lawsuit from the Innu complicates matters. He stated that pressure was being applied at the level of the Premier's office. The Grand Chief then explained it a little better.

Chief Bosum thanked Mr. Bosum and his team adding that he would like to meet Mr. Bosum's team in January.

The Board/Council issued a Directive to Mr. Bosum and the team managing the forestry issue to update the 5 communities impact by forestry on the Harmonization Agreement.

## **8. Childcare Services**

Kelly Pepabano, Director of Childcare and Family Services joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, “New Rates for Subsidized Childcare Rates”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Director stated that there was a concern that the community members might be in shock by the changes in rates.

## **9. Caribou**

Isaac Voyageur tabled and reviewed a document entitled, “BRIEFING REGARDING THE STATUS OF CARIBOU, THE SPORT HUNT AND OPTIONS OF APPROACHES IN RESPONSE CARIBOU WASTAGE AND SECURITY”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Davey Bobbish stated that there was concern that Game Wardens did not have authority to penalize or stop people from leaving carcasses or other parts of the caribou on the roads or the side of the roads. He stated that there is a law on the books with regards to littering at the Regional Government level and the authority to enforce was given to the SQ. We should be looking at this law so that the authority can be extended to the Game Wardens. People are only required to produce a quarter of caribou when producing their permit in the South, this is something else that should be changed.

Chief Dennis Georgekish started by saying hello to Chief Stanley George who was sitting beside him. Chief George nodded. The Chief stated that he was concerned with the nature of the caribou hunt as well. Chief Georgekish stated that despite the fact that the JBNQA contains a broad right for the Cree to hunt throughout the territory, it is imperative that we be respectful of the traditional rules, which have always governed our people to ensure respect for the land, the animals and one another. He inquired as to the status of the discussions with the Innu who were seeking permission to come and hunt in Cree territory.

Chief Thomas Jolly explained and shared some of the difficulties that the community was having with outside caribou hunters. He was concerned by the lack of knowledge on the status of the caribou population and wanted a strong Cree position developed on the matter.

The members reviewed a draft Resolution and discussed its wording and on a motion duly made by Chief Stanley George and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the members adopted:

### ***Resolution 2015-26: Caribou Winter Sports Hunt***

**WHEREAS** the incompatibility between the Caribou Winter Sports Hunt as managed by the Government of Quebec in Eeyou Istchee and the Cree way of

life, rights and interests as guaranteed under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement;

**WHEREAS** like season after season before the 2015 Winter Sports Caribou Hunt has begun with unacceptable and disgraceful treatment of caribou and caribou carcasses being left demonstrating waste and a complete disrespect for such an important resource;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Quebec continues to allow the Winter Sports Hunt which is contrary to the James Bay Northern Quebec despite all evidence indicating that caribou populations are currently in a precarious state;

### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government seeks the closure of the caribou Winter Sport Hunt until such time as the Government can demonstrate that they have conclusive data demonstrating that the sustainability of the herds is not in jeopardy and that a proper regulatory regime is put in place to ensure that the Hunt is compatible with the rights and principles established in the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

### **10. Eeyou Planning Commission**

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark tabled and reviewed a presentation on the establishment of the Eeyou Planning Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The members issued a Directive to Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark to continue the work on the refining of the mandate of the Eeyou Planning Commission its establishment and bring back to the Board/Council for formal approval.  
**(Directive 2015-07)**

### **11. Eeyou Power**

Chief Kenneth Cheezo tabled a draft Resolution of support in regards to Eeyou Power and its development projects which the Secretary reviewed.

Thomas Neeposh asked if this could be differed to the following morning. Deferred to the morning.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo, explained that he has the support of a number of communities and a number of the communities impacted by the potential projects.

Chief Bosum stated that the impacted family tabled a letter saying that they wanted more consultation on the projects. He stated that as relatively new Chief he would have preferred there were more consultations locally.

It was agreed the issue would be discussed the following day.

## **12. Income Security Program Update**

Willie Iserhoff and Phillip Awashish tabled and reviewed a presentation on that status Income Security Program negotiations.

There was a question in regards to the status of “elder” and the implications of cutting the availability of the program. It was agreed that elders should not unfairly be denied access to the program. He stated that this was especially unfair considering how critical remaining out on the land is to the elderly.

Thomas Neeposh inquired as to when he thought the negotiations would be completed.

Chief George invited Mr. Iserhoff and Awashish to come to his community to undertake consultations.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo stated the group should review the health board report on income and ability to afford decent food of community members

Chief Bobbish also invited the presenters to his community to provide an update to community members. Chief Bobbish expressed concerns that he was hearing of cuts being carried out to the program and that this is not commensurate with the importance that we associate with the importance of the traditional way of life, for example reducing benefits because people are gaining income as instructors of traditional activities.

## **13. Eeyou Power**

Chief Stanley George raised the issue of the Eeyou Power resolution and stated that he wished to propose it.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that he was concerned that the proposed resolution went further than support, allowing the group to speak in the name of the Cree Nation Government. He also stated that there was a concern with the CNG endorsing commercial ventures and the potential impact on all communities. He gave examples where individuals or developers received Cree Nation Government supporting resolutions which enticed communities to invest in what would rather be a very risky venture. He was concerned that CNG



Resolution would give an impression that a project was more feasible than it actually was.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo stated that there are 7 communities that have invested in this venture and we have been waiting 7 years and he felt that the matter should be discussed soon.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that she was hoping to second the motion so that there could be a vote.

Chief Georgekish stated that he had questions as well and that everyone else should be allowed to speak.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark stated that the matter would be voted on the following day.

Chief Bobbish stated that there should be a meeting with the Cree leadership and this is where it should be discussed. He was very concerned on how the impact could be on community members and other communities. He stated that he last energy meeting was in 2011 and that there needs to be another one before deliberating on the Eeyou Power Resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm and reconvened at 9:30 am on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### **14. Minutes**

John Paul Murdoch reviewed the minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The members made a number of corrections and on a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the members adopted:

***Resolution 2016-27: Adoption of Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.***

#### **15. Funding Allocations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed the recommended 2016-2017 Funding Allocation, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Richard Shecapio inquired about the swimming pool of Mistissini, which seemed to be missing from the Capital projects. Chief Shecapio expressed his concern that the recommendation was delaying schedules that had been set by the community. He was concerned that the recommendation had changed from

what the original recommendation was from the technical committee that advised the DO's and Treasurers Committee.

Henry Mianscum joined the meeting and stated that every effort is being made to fit community projects within the envelope available and at times it is an issue of when a certain level of engineering class is completed.

The role of the Technical Committee was considered in regards to the programs and templates as approved by the Board/Council.

Chief Cheechoo inquired about "grant in view of user fees" on page 10 and wanted to know what the basis was for Waskaganish, namely was the new fire hall properly included. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the result is a consensus that was arrived at between the DO's and Treasurers. Chief Bobbish explained that the issue related to whether the CNG should pay user fees or not so it was agreed that they should pay but based on a local entity calculation: All CNG building owned and using Band audited operation costs.

Chief Cheechoo inquired further about the training centre that was supposed to be built in Waskaganish. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it was there as a CNG building.

Matthew Swallow then tabled and reviewed the 2016/2017 budget of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Davey Bobbish asked that it be clear that the Governance and Quebec funding be identified as revenue.

Chief Georgekish stated that there is not enough time to ask the questions that they want to ask the questions we need to ask. He was inquiring if the issue couldn't be spread out over the year so that it is not all at once. He inquired about the status of reimbursements for past expenditures, which is under consideration. He added that he wanted consideration given to the arena in Wemindji which is so old, remembers the times in it when he used to out skate Chief Bobbish as boys.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained the calendar as it relates to Capital Planning and that every effort is made to give the D.O.'s and Treasurers an idea of the funds available for the following fiscal year.

Chief Stanley George inquired if there were minutes of DO's and Treasurers meetings and questioned the coordination between DO's and Treasurers and local Councils. He added that he was very appreciative of the Director of Capital Works and Services for coming to the community to explain the status of capital plans and development. Chief George explained that his community does not

receive all the funding that is allocated because apparently they have little project management capacity which concerned him because there is a apparently a cost of run for current projects run by the Cree Nation Government.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that minutes are not taken of the D.O.'s and Treasurers as the Technical meetings are managed by rotating community representation. He added that the Cree Nation Government all got involved in the administration of community projects to preempt any Indian Affairs intervention.

The Board/Council then examined Scenarios for the allocation of Economic and Community Development Funds and finally held a vote by secret ballot on the adoption of a scenario for the allocation of the Economic and Community Development Funds from among three proposed allocations. The resulting vote was for Scenario 3 as proposed in the Funding Allocation kit.

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio the members adopted:

***Resolution 2015-28: 2016-2017 Funding Allocations and Approval of the 2016-2017 Budget of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed the proposed budgets for 2016/2017 Fiscal year of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation Trust has made available for the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year seventy five Million Dollars (\$75,000,000) from the funds reserved under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to fund the obligations of Canada under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement assumed by the Cree;

**WHEREAS** the funds payable by the Government of Quebec under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec to the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation as the Recipient of Funding under said Agreement is ***eighty nine Million three hundred and three thousand eight and five Dollars (\$89,303,805)*** for the 2016/2017 fiscal year to allow the Cree to fund the obligations of Quebec under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement assumed by the Cree through the New Relationship Agreement;

**WHEREAS** the Directors of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government have reviewed programs and projects allocation proposals developed by the Executive Director, Director's of

Operations and the Treasurers of Eeyou Istchee for 2016-2017 funds made available pursuant to the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec and the Agreement Concerning a New Relation Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee;

### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby adopts and approves the 2016/2017 Budgets of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government as presented this 17th day of December 2015;

**THAT** the Directors of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority hereby recommend and authorize the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation and the Cree Nation Government to secure, allocate and disburse 2016-2017 funds made available pursuant to the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec and the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee through the Cree Nation Trust in accordance with the attached Schedule save for the funds that in the amount of three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) which have been set aside for the Cree Development Corporation to be reallocated to community capital project in Mistissini, namely the construction of a public swimming pool, the all subject to the appropriate funding Agreements as the case may be and further authorize the Treasurer to do all things necessary to give effect to this Resolution;

**THAT** the Directors of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority hereby recommend and authorize the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation and the Cree Nation Government to secure, allocate and disburse 2016-2017 Community Economic Assistance Funds in accordance with the attached table identified as Scenario three (3).

There were four votes against the resolution.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Kenneth Gilpin  
Chief Davey Bobbish  
Chief Dennis Georgekish Christina Gilpin  
Chief Thomas Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Darlene Cheechoo Gordon Blueboy  
Chief Marcel Happyjack  
Chief Richard Shecapio  
Chief Stanley George Matthew Mukash

Also present was Matthew Swallow, Treasurer, Melissa Saganash Director of Quebec Relations, Jack Blacksmith, Chairperson of the Board of Compensation, Rita Blackned, Chief Allan Jolly, Chief Pauline Hester and Billy Katapatuk.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:30 am.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come acted as Chairperson and John Paul Murdoch acted as Secretary.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reviewed the draft agenda the items of Update on the Harmonization Agreement, Update on Eeyou Power, Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations, Housing , Cree Rights above the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel were added to the agenda and on a motion duly made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the members adopted:

### ***Resolution 2016-01: Adoption of Agenda of January 26th and 27th, 2016***

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Davey Bobbish the members adopted:

### ***Resolution 2016-02: Adoption of Minutes of meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

## 2. Update on Meeting with Premier

The Grand Chief updated the meeting on his discussions with the Premier and those that have been maintained with the Government of Quebec representatives. He explained the Premier's insistence on the need for the approval of Forestry Roads currently under evaluation by the COMEX. The Grand Chief reminded the premier a number of commitments that the

Government had made in connection with the roads among which was the development and adoption of a woodland caribou recovery plan which at this time remained and unfulfilled promise.

The Grand Chief stated that the next issue discussed was the Val D'Or crisis. The Grand Chief underlined the need for a Judicial Provincial Inquiry. The Premier responded that he wanted to see the scope of the Federal Commission before deciding and proposed Parliamentary Committee but without the power to subpoena the Grand Chief could not agree that it was a viable alternative. He added that he did not agree with what the Ministers' are saying about the Quebec investigation being combined with the Federal Commission. There is concern that because the Federal Minister opened the door to Quebec to have the Val D'Or matter addressed through the Federal Commission.

The Grand Chief then stated what exactly was hoped would be examined, namely: What happens when a First Nations woman files a complaint? Where can someone go? Who investigates the process? Compare the actions in the case of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. However the key to the whole process is the ability to subpoena people to come and testify at the Commission.

### **3. Société Plan Nord**

The Grand Chief explained that at the last meeting of the Societe Plan Nord, financing is considerable issue right now for the government with the fall in commodity prices and the falling currency making an unpredictable market and the Government is unsure as to where the financing will come from for the initiatives that they have identified.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come was asked to be the Chair and sit on the body and the Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come declined naming Manon Cyr instead who was accepted.

One of the first projects discussed by the group was the fiber optic network for the Northern Region. Alfred Loon will be asked to come and present the status of the Eeyou Communications Network to the Council/Board. Many special interest groups are forming and trying to make submissions to the entity. There is also considerable discussion on demographics and the implications of the Jamesian and Cree ratio in the North.

He added that coordination of Plan Nord activities with Government Departments is a major issue. Another issue which is very important is the public infrastructure that is identified across departments. He added that the distribution and composition of manpower is an important element because it was related to the ability of the North to respond to demands and attempts to try and track how the manpower will move. The evaluation of manpower is also critical so the groups like the Cree can be well prepared with training programs. There is also a long

discussion on what group will be responsible for championing specific projects be they energy, mining, etc. Aside from establishing the priority for specific projects their needed to be discussion on the sources of funding which was of particular concern because there tended to be an offloading of responsibilities and priorities since the signing of the Paix des Braves Agreement.

Paving and upgrading of access roads to the communities was placed high on the agenda and it was made clear that it should be Cree companies that are prioritized in the awarding of contracts and opportunities generated by the Treaty Obligations in accordance with Section 28 of the JBNQA. The same chapter is mentioned in regards to manpower training as an important element in accessing employment opportunities. There is the discussion on a special Agreement that should be negotiated on how Section 28 should be implemented.

There was considerable pressure put on the issue of tele-medicine and this is also why the issue of fiber optics network is also being pushed. This measure is seen as a major cost saving initiative while improving health and services in the North.

The next major issue discussed was housing which was last discussed with Premiers' Charest and Marois. He explained that it was imperative that a proper inventory and status report be taken of the housing situation in Eeyou Istchee be undertaken. The report is still being finalized. The Grand Chief explained that it was not as simple as saying or identifying housing needs, the infrastructure related from water, sewage, streets need to be considered simultaneously.

In regards to Protection of the Environment and the establishment of Protected Areas the Grand Chief stated that there needs to be balance in development. The preservation of the Cree way of life dictates the need for such balance. The Grand Chief stated that examples of the restructuring of the Cree Nation Government were given as a demonstration of the willingness and readiness to address development in a balanced manner.

The Grand Chief explained that the Northern Boundary became an issue when Quebec was examining harbor development investments which would result in Quebec public funds being invested in geographically federal jurisdiction. Other major infrastructure being discussed is a rail road going from schefferville and to Kuujuaq. The Grand Chief raised the needs for funds for the refurbishment of the James Bay Highway. There was an examination of the trucks that are forecast from the Nemaska Lithium mine in particular that the bridges and portions of the road will not be sufficient to support the forecast traffic associated with the mine.

He added that Forestry was discussed as well but it would be discussed in greater detail at the Harmonization Agreement discussion.



In regards to energy the Grand Chief reminded everyone that more than 40% of Quebec energy is produced in Cree territory and that Quebec is still in the process of developing a Quebec energy policy. There was discussion on the refurbishment of the La Grande Complexe turbines versus the upgrading of the La Grande Complexe turbines. It has been made clear to HQ and Quebec that there cannot be any change in installed capacity without the consent of the Cree. The Government was also reminded of the MW of energy that the Government had set aside for the Cree. It is clear however that any materialization of this commitment is tied to the energy policy as there are regions that are clearly being identified for prioritization in development throughout the province.

Chief Marcel Happyjack raised the issue of the COMEX hearings in Waswanipi and he wanted it to be clear that the community was not against development but that there were areas that the community wanted to be reserved as protected areas. He also wanted it clear that the community was always open to discussion but he was told that there would be no discussion on protected areas until 2018. He added that there should also be discussion on Cree standards and that there was a very real concern on the openness of the territory and the failure to address access as an issue.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that in regards to the issue of non-Native leases and cabins and that there should be an examination of roads no longer needed which can be closed while examining new roads that can be opened.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he wanted to ensure that the CTA were not left out of Plan Nord discussions as the impact on the members could be significant.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated he was also very concerned about the implication of disturbance in Cree territory that could be associated with the plan Nord.

Chief Richard expressed concern over implementation of Section 28 of the JBNQA as the Cree Nation was losing important development opportunities. He also stated that there should be a delegation agreement so that we exercise where and how leases are allowed throughout Eeyou Istchee.

Matthew Mukash raised the issue of previous resolutions and discussions on the establishment of a Cree Constitution. He added that a related matter to the Cree Governance was the identification resources required to fund it. He believed that the international markets existed that could provide the financing required for the Cree to ensure the development of the territory as they see fit. He gave the example of the key role that the Cree play in the environmental protection regime.

The Grand Chief stated he agreed with Chief Georgekish that the preservation of the Cree way of life was very important and should never be forgotten when contemplating development and reminded the meeting of how critical the proper application of Section 22 is in the preservation of the Cree way of life. He also informed Chief Thomas Jolly that the Cree Trappers' Association played an important role in the development of the Cree Vision of Plan Nord which had been instrumental in direct discussions with the Government of Quebec on the Plan Nord.

#### **4. Cree Rights in Ontario**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come explained the origin of the Cree Ontario Land Claim, namely that when Cree Rights in Ontario were raised at the Governance negotiations the Federal representatives stated they did not have a mandate to discuss the matter until such time as a Land Claim was filed. The Grand Chief explained that they met with First Nation leaders in Ontario and explained the non-Exclusive claim of rights being made by the Cree and that these leaders did not react immediately but stated that they wish to take the report of the Cree Land Claim to their people. The Grand Chief informed them that they would be open to any invitations to come and present in the communities the Cree Land Claim in Ontario.

Wemindji, Nemaska, Waswanipi and Oujé-Bougoumou are still requested to submit their resolutions and the Grand Chief stated that if a presentation is required they would be happy to accommodate.

#### **5. Caribou Issue**

The Grand Chief reviewed the recent scandal where caribou carcasses were left along the James Bay Highway and the Chisasibi and Wemindji access roads.

The Grand Chief reviewed the number of measures that were insisted upon regards to the caribou sports hunt and pointed out that the constant problem was related to the lack of reliable information on the health and status of the caribou herds.

#### **6. Val D'Or Crisis**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reminded everyone that the initial reaction of the Cree was related to the inappropriate reaction by the leadership of the town of Val D'Or when the revelations came about. The Grand chief made reference to the meeting with the Premier for the holidays. He then explained that the measures that had been taken by Val D'Or to face the problem which was the justification for calling an end to the cancelling of events in Val D'Or. He stated that there will be continued effort to push for the Provincial Judicial Inquiry which will be the main challenge. The Grand Chief gave examples where the "boycott"

of Val D'Or had significant impact on the businesses in Val D'Or causing a serious reflection on their relationship with the Cree. The Grand Chief thanked the many Cree entities for their solidarity in addressing the issue.

## **7. Forestry Harmonization Agreement**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that negotiating team have been to Oujé-Bougoumou, Waswanipi and Nemaska and the remaining communities were Mistissini and Waskaganish. The Chief of Waskaganish stated that she was in the process of organizing local community meetings on the matter to which the Cree Nation Government representatives would be invited. The Grand Chief explained that it is clear that the major concern is roads and the impact of opening the territory. The Grand Chief stated that there is a clear indication from the industry that the wood resources is not as good or economically viable as originally thought. He added that there is also discussion that there is no need to cross the Broadback river in light of the protected areas that are in the process of being established.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he wanted his people to be shown the actual text or regulations that are altered by the Harmonization Agreement and not just a power point presentation that gives too much of a general picture. Chief Happyjack stated that he also wants the individual tallymen met, not just a large public meeting in the community.

## **8. Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

The Grand Chief stated that the Commission is actually meeting on the day of this meeting with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and the Cree School Board.

The Grand Chief stated that considering the broad nature of the recommendations any report on the matter would have to be reported across entities and that every effort will be made to work with the Cree Board Health and the Cree School Board.

The Chief Wemindji expressed concern on how quickly the Cree side approached issues such as those raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Report. For example in the case of ValD'Or we was worried that it may have been too soon to lift the ban as there is still racism in Val D'Or and that you can feel the discrimination. He stated that should be a long term vision to the relationship with Val D'Or.

The Grand Chief responded to the issue of the Innu hunters who were not invited to come into Eeyou Istchee but there was discussions on opening discussions with them. However before any discussions could be held their hunters came in

and a mess was made of the situation. He agreed that there needed to be frank discussions on traditional values when it comes to the harvesting of wildlife.

He agreed that in Val D'Or not all problems are solved and that much work needs to be done, he explained this is why efforts were being made to push so hard for the inquiry. The Grand Chief stated that in regards to hockey tournaments in Val D'Or we should be looking at our own communities which we fought so hard to have the appropriate facilities to be able to host such events.

Chief Dennis stated that there will still be people hunting caribou in an unsafe manner. He gave examples of people taking 10 to 20 caribou at a time which goes against traditional values.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that it was imperative that we have a clear understanding of the health of the population and only then will be able to make informed decisions on what the proper harvesting rate is.

The Grand Chief stated that he wanted to the over arching theme at the next Annual General Assembly to be traditional harvest, the Cree way of life.

#### **9. Executive Committee of the EIJBRG**

The Board/Council was informed of the recommendation from the Executive Committee to nominate Chief Richard Shecapio to the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government.

On a motion duly made by Chief Marcel Happyjack and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the Directors adopted:

#### ***Resolution 2016-03: Nomination of Cree Nation Government Representative to the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Executive Committee***

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government is required to make a nomination to the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee James Baie Regional Government and the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has made a recommendation to the Board/Council;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government Board/Council hereby nominates Chief Richard Shecapio to the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government

## **10. Cree Nation Government Representative**

The Board/Council having been provided the formal results from the local election in Whapmagoostui for a Cree Nation Government Representative and on a motion duly made by Chief Dennis Georgekish and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2016-04: Recognition of Matthew Mukash as the Newly Elected Cree Nation Government Representative to the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government Board/Council***

## **11. Cree Rights of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parallel**

Matthew Mukash explained the history of occupation in the area and how it evolved due to development plans and legal arguments and was not a real reflection of actual land use where the Inuit were in fact much farther to the North. He tabled a legal opinion on the matter which he had commissioned in 1999, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief used the example of claims being made in Ontario where we are claiming title and rights. He stated that when the model is applied to the North of the 55<sup>th</sup> parallel the Cree have undeniable non-exclusive rights. Non-exclusive in this case would appear to mean similar to what we enjoy in Category III lands generally. It is an area of Primary Inuit Interest. The Grand Chief agreed that there was a significant questions concerning rights and interests in the area that need to be addressed and it was foreseen that there should be a discussion on these overlapping rights in the Cree Quebec Governance Agreement. There is a meeting being called with the representatives of Makivik this Friday to begin discussing how overlap ad regional rights can be addressed. The meeting is being called just to make introductions and to explain to the Inuit the intent behind the Regional Government Agreement so that they do not see it as a threat and formally establish a table for discussions at which time the community would be asked to nominate local representatives to participate and provide guidance.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that she would like to see formal nomination processes when the Board/Council is required to make nominations.

Meeting recessed at 5:00 pm and reconvened on January 27, 2016 at 9:30 am.

## **12. Regional Government Agenda**

The Grand Chief tabled and reviewed the agenda for the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come asked members to reflect on items that they would like brought forward to the Regional Government Agenda since for the next two years the Cree side would hold the Presidency of the Regional Government.

Kenneth Gilpin inquired as to where Eastmain could take the issue of economic development in regards to km 381, the airport of Hydro-Quebec at La Sarcelle and other opportunities related to public infrastructure. The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come explained the purpose of the Commerce and Industry Department which could provide direction and assistance in the matters.

### **13. Energy Discussion**

The Grand Chief reviewed the summary on past discussions, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo inquired if Jack Blacksmith could speak on the Eeyou Power project.

Jack Blacksmith gave a presentation on the status of Eeyou Power, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come thanked the Chairperson for the presentation. He stated that he would like to convene a meeting of the Cree leadership to discuss the matter before making any decision on the Resolution of support that had been proposed at the December Board/Council meeting.

John Henry Wapachee thanked the community of Whapmagoostui for the reception and hospitality received during the meeting.

Chief Dennis stated that he wanted access to the Executive Committee minutes to understand why there was no support for the Eeyou Power project.

Matthew Mukash stated that it came out at the economic development conference in Mistissini that the Cree Nation was working too much in a fragmented manner. He proposed the adoption of a supporting Resolution and stated that it was important that a Constitution be developed to alleviate the fragmentation of the Cree Nation. He also stated that there was considerable funding from international investors that could be invested in Eeyou Istchee so that the Cree won't need to use their Treaty funds. He stated that this would be his main focus during his mandate as Whapmagoostui representative at the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

The Grand Chief stated that he was awaiting the final report and recommendations from the conference in Mistissini and was looking forward to it being tabled.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that his community has had a wind tower many years ago to operate the radio at the Hudson's Bay Company Post. He stated that when the Rupert River was diverted there was considerable consideration given to how we stand in the face of development. He understood that the wind projects were always proposed in reaction to the Rupert project as something that we could be owners of. He stated that studies have shown that the lands of Nemaska were ripe for wind energy development and there was much enthusiasm locally. He stated that he hoped that we do not block people who are trying to advance in development.

Allan Jolly stated that in March 2016 there will be local elections for Chief and Deputy Chief and that there are currently two candidates: Alan Jolly and Richard Visitor, and two for Deputy Chief: Derek McLeod and Helen Wabano. He concluded by saying that there will be debates streamed live on the internet.

Chief Marcel Happyjack inquired about the supporting Resolution and the possibility of having it adopted.

Chief Cheechoo stated that the communities want to move forward and that there are many local resolutions demanding to move forward.

Chief Stanley George stated that the communities wanted the supporting resolution to move forward. He stated the project has been dragging on for a couple of years now and he is wondering how long it will take. He stated that all we talk about are issues that affect other communities and do not affect his community. He stated that it is not fair that opportunities are blocked for small communities like Whapmagoostui and he accused the larger communities of blocking his community. He pointed to the composition of the Executive Committee as evidence of this.

Chief Bobbish stated he was to speak for the community of Chisasibi, and that he has said many times that the Cree Nation Government cannot speak for the lands of Chisasibi without the people of Chisasibi speaking first. He stated that his community is still dealing with the impacts of the past and they will not agree to any future projects or movement forward with Hydro-Quebec until the issues of the past have been fixed. He stated that in the Rupert project the people of Chisasibi were told that they would not be impacted but this is not the case. He explained that it is not that Chisasibi wants to be an obstacle but they don't want the problems which they are facing to be aggravated. He apologized for not being able to support the Resolution at this time.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he cannot say that he has seen all the efforts that have been made to push projects forward. He stated that every effort was made to put our most viable projects forward and he did not see the final product. He did not agree that there should be a Resolution authorizing discussions with

Quebec. He explained that the Resolution was unnecessary as in the presentation from Mr. Blacksmith already gave examples of discussions with the Government and Hydro-Quebec and apparently Eeyou Power had a meeting scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, so a Resolution was not needed. He stated that business ventures should use business approaches not demanding Cree political intervention. He asked what he message would be to projects that are trying to follow a business model.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that he was uncomfortable with the adoption of a Resolution as well and he is also entertaining discussions with Eeyou Power. He stated that the energy matter should not be brought to the Executive Committee.

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come wanted to clarify that the energy file or Eeyou Power has never been discussed at the Executive Committee, it was an issue that affected too many communities for it to be discussed there. Further, there has never been a statement that the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government will not stand with a proponent or have there been efforts to try and block projects. Communities are free to invest in projects. He pointed out that no request was made to the Cree Nation Government for permission to invest in the project and it would never be required because the community can invest how it wishes. He added that no one can say the GCC(EI) has not fought for the communities, he explained that we use Section 22, our treaty rights and the ESIA structures to protect Cree rights and communities. He asked the question why should the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government be required to support a developer who has not completed all the tasks under Section 22 of our Treaty. He stated, "You don't need authorization from the Cree Nation Government". The Cree Nation Government has never told Eeyou Power that they could not speak to HQ or the Government of Quebec. He explained and reminded everyone that in his report the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has made considerable efforts to reserve a block of energy for the Cree that we would decide among ourselves. He reassured the community of Chisasibi that the Cree Nation Government would never pronounce on the upgrades or relations with HQ unless the most affected community has pronounced on the matter. He stated that in regards to the upgrades the studies and pro-forma's have not been completed.

He reminded everyone that energy is a finite resource and that there should be a discussion between leadership on how will transmission width be distributed as an opportunity between communities. He was concerned that a Resolution at this time would cause division within the Cree Nation. He stated that as Chair, all the information required to make a decision is not available at this time.

Chief Stanley George stated that he was very grateful for the visit to Whapmagoostui and he was thankful for everything he learned from sitting with is fellow leaders.



DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Whapmagoostui, Eeyou Istchee.

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The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

<b>1. Corporate Matters .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2016-05: Adoption of the Agenda of meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Resolution 2016-06: Adoption of the Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. ....</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>Resolution 2016-07: Recognition of New Members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government – Chief Louisa Wynne and Mr. Gaston Cooper.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. First Ministers’ Meeting.....</b>	<b>5</b>
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<b>17. Regional Government Agenda.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come  
Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark  
Chief Dennis Georgekish                      Christina Gilpin  
Chief Davey Bobbish                              L. George Pachano  
Chief Thomas Jolly                                John H. Wapachee  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo                              Kenneth Gilpin  
Chief Richard Shecapio  
Chief Curtis Bosum                                Gaston Cooper  
Chief Darlene Cheechoo                            Gordon Blueboy

Also present was Chief Allan Jolly, Chief Pauline Hetser, Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Matthew Swallow, Treasurer, Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director, Melissa Saganash, Director of Quebec Relations, Rita Blackned Executive Administrative Assistant.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:00 am.

The Directors reviewed the agenda adding the items of First Ministers' Meeting, Day Scholar Proposed Action, Housing, James Bay Highway, Cree Women's Association.

On a motion duly made by Chief Dennis Georgekish and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2016-05: Adoption of the Agenda of meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.***

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2016-06: Adoption of the Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.***

## 2. Cree Federal Relations

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come explained the current strategy with the Federal Government. He stated that he refrained from meeting with the Minister in light of the positive nature of the relations being maintained by Bill Namagoose, Executive Director through Mr. Wilde from the PMO.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a report on Cree Canada Relations, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that she would like to see “transfer of land provisions”. She stated that before there is an Agreement approved she wants to see the text and not just a generic power point presentation. I would like a copy of all of the work that was done on governance and a copy of the mandate of the group working on the matter. Further she suggested a meeting with all the Chiefs before it is approved.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it is standard that the draft is brought to the leadership and the leadership will be given the opportunity to accept or reject. He added that he was a little uneasy with the “Cree Constitution” because it was like boogey man or red herring form the main objective which is to bring home powers.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he was concerned about the balance of relations from local authority to regional authority. He stated that he did not want the 2008 Approval to be used as approval for what comes out of the Federal Discussions. These elements are new and require new reflection and consideration by the Cree Nation Governments, be they local or the local population in general. He wanted to know of the documentation that was shared at the September meeting if anything has changed. He was concerned about powers of the regional superseding local powers on all matters as he did not see this as maintaining a healthy balance throughout Cree governance.

Thomas Neeposh expressed concern over the taxation power that was mentioned. Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come reminded everyone that the subjects were agreed to and in some case in what was not only the Cree side identified issues to be discussed. He also stated that there would likely be a Special General Assembly including the meetings discussed. He reiterated that the main purpose of the exercise is to take powers away from the Federal Government and that this should be kept in mind. He shared the challenges the Government is having even in relation to the delimitation of category I lands. He stated that it is also important that we keep in mind the constant efforts of the Federal Government to reduce obligations like the O&M Agreement or impose policy such as Own Source Revenue where the Government unilaterally decided what the proper local taxation levels should be.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that from the ratification point of view they would be happy with Resolutions from local and Regional government approval and not insist on the need for a referendum. He stated it was legal counsels who were insisting and when they participated in our meetings they were impressed by the maturity of Cree governance to decide on its own how to approve Agreements.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that he was inquiring into the state of discussions on the improvement of community access roads. Bill Namagoose explained that the Federal Government is maintaining the position that only Cat 1 land is their obligation and it is not 50/50 as per the JBNQA and they keep directing the Cree to regular program funding. The Crees reps are maintaining their position on the Treaty nature of the obligation which extends beyond Category I lands.

Chief Allan Jolly shared the MoCreebec experiences with their Constitution which they have intentionally kept short. He stated that he is hoping that the Constitution will mention MoCreebec and not leave them in limbo as they are between the Ontario and the Federal Government. He thinks we should include everything that we possibly can in it and that it should be a reflection of all Cree who should be able to see themselves in it.

John Henry Wapachee also suggested consultation with the Cree Naskapi Commission on the matter.

### **3. Ontario Land Claim**

The Grand Chief summarized the origin of the Claim. He made the important distinction that what was claimed was Aboriginal rights and titled were being claimed on a non-exclusive basis. He underlined that it was important to understand that even though it is non-exclusive, impacts on Cree rights by industry still need to be addressed. Other groups in the press are claiming a land grab which is not the case. He stated that there are accusations that the Cree want part of the Detour Lake IBA, where he explained that there was no desire to open it but if there is a new Agreement we would want our rights considered. He talked about other groups claiming into Eastmain territory.

The Grand Chief explained that he had tried many times to meet with the Ontario First Nations leadership – they never showed up despite agreeing. Explaining when the GCC(EI) group went to Moose Factory they still wouldn't meet. We have proof of correspondence and communications of the numerous times we have tried to meet with them. Finally, the Pikogan Algonquins are behaving in the same way.

Chief Allan Jolly shared the problems that he was having with his people being blocked at times to hunt. He stated that there had been attempts to settle the matter between local leaders without involving the Governments. Chief Jolly said he had tried to participate in discussions with Detour Lake Mine executives during the development of the mine but the leader of the mining company stated he met with all the groups that he needed to. He suspected that it was Moose Cree Band that instructed the mine that did not need to meet with the MoCreebec.

The Grand Chief stated that he met with Ontario Premier Chief of Staff and Regional Chief Isidor day and that he had informed Grand Chief Sutherland that they would meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then the Regional Chief didn't show. He stated that he wanted to have a joint meeting and that he would set the agenda. The Grand Chief informed him that the agenda should be agreed upon together and this was to be discussed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March when he didn't show. The Grand Chief stated that we will continue to make every effort to meet with and that we would not comply with the request to withdraw the legal claim. He stated that he was very surprised how easily the Ontario First Nations have fallen to the politics of division that serves only the Federal and Provincial Governments. He did not expect other First Nations to stand with the Governments at maintaining their divisive actions.

#### **4. New Members of the Cree Nation Government**

On a motion duly made by Kenneth Gilpin and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2016-07: Recognition of New Members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government – Chief Louisa Wynne and Mr. Gaston Cooper***

#### **5. First Ministers' Meeting**

The Grand Chief reported to the Council on his attendance of the First Ministers' Meeting in British Columbia.

#### **6. Parliamentary Commission**

The Grand Chief tabled and reviewed the Preliminary Statement of GCC(EI)-CNG on Green Paper - MERN Guidelines on Social Acceptability, a copy of which is attached hereto.

#### **7. Day Scholars**

The Grand Chief reported to the Council/Board on the development of complaints which appear to be evolving into a formal suit related to the impacts suffered by Day Scholars in a similar manner to which native people suffered under the Indian Residential School system. It was likely that more reports would be forthcoming on the matter.

#### **8. James Bay Highway**

The Board/Council discussed the poor state of the James Bay Highway and the need for resources for it be repaired.

## **9. Management Committee By-Law**

The Secretary reviewed a draft amendment of the Management Committee By-Law, a copy of which is attached hereto.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Thomas Jolly the Directors adopted:

### ***Resolution 2016-08: Management Committee By-Law***

**WHEREAS** Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed the Management Committee By-Law of the Cree Nation Government;

### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government further amends the Management Committee By-Law to change the membership and increase the authority of the Management Committee as it pertains to lease of moveable and immoveable property under sections 40.3 and 40.12 of said By-Law respectively in accordance with the attached draft by-law.

## **10. Management Of Information**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come introduced the issue as it related to the requests by Board/Council members to have better access to GCC(EI)/CNG archives, minutes and other documentation. He explained that there was desire to be a better reflection of the Government that the GCC(EI)/CNG has become. The Secretary reviewed a report on the matter which is attached hereto.

Chief Thomas Jolly stated that he has reflected on this matter many times and said it was important considering it is the face of the Cree Government. He assisted the Cree Board of Health when managing their site. He expressed concern over the level of security of any website, you can't just set one up over night. He stated that a newsletter would be good as well.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that he was concerned that the CNG has too much in the South. He had questions on why work is going outside of Cree territory when there is tendering.

John Henry Wapachee stated we should work on an Access to Information Policy. He inquired about how Press Releases are developed and stated that they need to be available in Cree. He stated that there should also be summary reports when there are press releases. In regards to other groups and bodies we

only get information when they table it with us, there should be a group or network where we put they information so we can access it.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated he had no objection that Minutes be accessible to the whole Council. He stated that when very sensitive information needed to be discussed we should use the Chiefs Committee meetings more often to manage the confidentiality issue.

Chief Thomas Jolly said you can get people to design but the content needs to come from the staff that will use it.

The Directors issued to the Secretary for the development of a Policy for the management of information and tabled for consideration (***Directive 2016-01***).

### **11. Stats Canada**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a report related to the current census exercise of Statistics Canada a copy of which is attached hereto.

### **12. Cree Quebec Relations**

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Abel Bosum tabled and reviewed a report on the status of Cree Quebec Relations.

The Grand Chief informed the Chiefs that in regards to the Fuel Tax Settlement the distribution formula was contained in the report as between the Cree communities.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that the Chiefs should discuss this and not the DO's and Treasurers.

The Grand Chief explained that this is not a new issue.

Chief Davey Bobbish explained that there was a Resolution approving this in 2012 and his community has been waiting on the settlement. Therefore he wished to proceed with the adoption of the Resolution on the fuel tax settlement.

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio the Directors adopted:

#### ***Resolution2016-09: Cree Fuel Tax Group Claim***

**WHEREAS** in 2002, a claim was submitted to the Québec Revenue Agency (“**Revenue Québec**”) by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) on behalf of each of the nine (9) Cree First Nations and communities then existing in the total amount of \$10,372,926 (later adjusted to \$9,570,000), for the refund of



the Québec fuel tax paid by the Cree First Nations or their members for the period from January 1991 to September 2001 (the “**Cree Group Claim**”);

**WHEREAS** the Cree Group Claim was one of the issues discussed at the "Cree-Québec Tax Table" established early in 2003 pursuant to the *Paix des Braves* Agreement;

**WHEREAS** in 2003, after the Cree filed the Cree Group Claim, the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador (AFNQL) filed a class action on behalf of all First Nations in Québec, other than the Cree First Nations, seeking compensation for Québec fuel tax paid;

**WHEREAS** at the Cree-Québec Tax Table, Revenue Québec reserved its position regarding the Cree Group Claim in view of the AFNQL class action;

**WHEREAS** in June 2011 Revenue Québec announced that an agreement had been reached with the AFNQL to settle its fuel tax class action for the First Nations in Québec other than the Cree;

**WHEREAS** in view of the AFNQL settlement, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government resumed discussions with Revenue Québec regarding the settlement of the Cree Group Claim;

**WHEREAS** after lengthy discussions, the representatives of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and Revenue Québec have reached a settlement of the Cree Group Claim for an amount of \$8.5 million (plus reasonable legal fees) (the “**Settlement**”);

**WHEREAS** the Settlement is to cover all claims for the refund of the Québec fuel tax paid by the Cree First Nations and their members for the period ending on June 30, 2011 (the day before the implementation of the new fuel tax rebate system);

**WHEREAS** the Settlement is without prejudice to the right of a Cree First Nation or a Cree individual to file, with the proper receipts and documentation, a specific claim under the relevant legislative provision for any fuel tax paid before July 1, 2011 and during the four years preceding the date of his claim;

**WHEREAS** the Settlement for an amount \$8.5 million satisfies in large part the Cree Group Claim; this amount represents 31.5% of the total AFNQL settlement, and therefore compares favourably with it, given the proportion that the population of the Cree First Nations bears to that of the other First Nations in Quebec;

**WHEREAS** the amount of the Settlement will be distributed amongst the nine (9) Cree First Nations and allocated for community purposes only, in accordance with each community's respective portion of the Cree Group Claim;

**WHEREAS** each of the Chief and Council of the nine (9) Cree First Nations and communities has adopted a resolution (a) approving the Settlement, (b) undertaking to use its share of the Settlement for community purposes (within 18 months of receipt), in addition to the amounts normally allocated by the First Nation for such purposes in its annual budgets, (c) undertaking to provide to Revenue Québec (through the Cree Nation Government), a specific report on the allocation of the funds, and (d) discontinuing any notice of objection, if any, filed in connection with any fuel tax claim regarding periods covered by the Settlement; and

**WHEREAS** it is desirable to approve the Settlement and to authorize the execution with the Minister of Finance, the Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie and the Minister responsible for Native Affairs for the Government of Québec of an Agreement of Settlement and Transaction, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution (the "**Agreement of Settlement and Transaction**").

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

THAT the execution, delivery and performance of the Agreement of Settlement and Transaction are authorized, ratified and approved.

THAT Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, be and is authorized and directed, on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government, to execute the Agreement of Settlement and Transaction substantially in accordance with the draft of such Agreement attached to this Resolution, with such changes, deletions and additions not affecting the substance thereof as he may in his discretion deem appropriate or useful and to deliver all documents, instruments and other writings and to perform and do all acts and things that he considers necessary or desirable to give effect to this Resolution.

**13. Harmonization Agreement**

Abel Bosum joined the meeting and table a presentation on the Forestry Harmonization Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that he wanted consultation with land users and community members on the item and the Grand Chief and the negotiating team did come to Waswanipi. He relayed other consultations that were being carried out pursuant to the Forestry regime. He shared the experiences of how extensive

forestry operations are being carried out on his territory and it is important to look at the land with balance and the need to preserve the land and our way of life.

Abel Bosum stated that it is important that we move quickly because to wait is to give opportunity to the Government to adopt more regulations that would be problematic and contrary to the principles that we have negotiated. He underlined that accepting an Agreement doesn't mean that we accept it as the standard but rather we never stop negotiating to push and change the regime further to suit our needs.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that he had the same situation in his community where members have a hard time grasping what was negotiated and the implications of forestry operations although he appreciated the efforts of the CNG Forestry team in community consultations. He asked if it wasn't possible to have a special council board meeting on the issue and that shared that his Community members also want to see the actual text of the regulations and the Agreement present to the land users.

Chief Darlene Cheechoo stated that Waskaganish was unable to have the consultation and would appreciate the time to consult their people and therefore agreed with the request to reconvene a Special meeting on the matter.

The Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come stated that there are two things we can do. Approve subject to consultation or convene the Special meeting. Staff is ready to undertake the consultations.

The participants agreed to have a conference call on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am to decide on the Agreement.

#### **14. Eenu Eeyou Community Foundation**

Abel Bosum joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the establishment of the Eenu Eeyou Community Foundation as a vehicle for raising funds through a charitable organization for cultural initiatives, a copy of which is attached hereto.

#### **15. Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association**

Linda Shecapio, President of the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association joined the meeting giving a presentation on the activities and priorities of the Association.

John Henry Wapachee raised initiatives that could be taken to make structural changes to the Cree Nation Government with a view to ensuring gender equality in leadership.

#### **16. Weh Sees Indohoun Corporation**

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark reviewed the submission under the Regional Government Agenda in regards to the Weh Sees Indohoun Foundation. He tabled a copy of correspondence that had been sent to the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government a copy of which is attached hereto.

He explained that Cat II and III lands are affected and this is why we are asking for Regional Government's participation and that the exercise was not about establishing a protected area but more about governance and monitoring in the area.

On a motion duly made by Chief Dennis Georgekish and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2016-10: Support for the Weh Sees Indohoun Zone***

**WHEREAS** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government is currently in discussions with the Government of Quebec in regards to the maintenance of the Weh Sees Indohoun zone which was introduced to monitor wildlife and wildlife habitat in light of the presence of developers in the area;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby supports the maintenance of the Weh Sees Indohoun Zone as a method of monitoring the area in regards to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**17. Regional Government Agenda**

The Directors reviewed the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Mistissini.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned.