

Draft Minutes and Resolutions

41st Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees

(Eeyou Istchee)

And

38th Annual General Assembly of the Cree Nation Government

Held on

August 4, 5, 6, 2015

Ouje-Bougoumou, Eeyou Istchee

**Defending: Implementing Eeyou/Eenouch Treaty
Rights**

DAY 1- August 4th, 2015

Delegates -Red fonts are extra delegates

Waskaganish

1	Gordon Blueboy
2	Wayne Cheezo
3	Ryan Erless
4	Marcus Moses
5	Jeremy Stevens
6	Tom Hester

Waswanipi

1	Chief Marcel Happyjack
2	Joseph Neeposh
3	Irene Neeposh
4	Paul Dixon
5	Alex Moses
6	Allan Cooper

Washaw Sibi

1	Chief Pauline T. Hester
2	Billy Katapatuk
3	Billy Katapatuk Jr
4	Annie Mapachee Salt
5	Bradley Hester
6	Jean Denis Cannasso
7	Fred Kistabish
8	Beatrice Trapper
9	Fred Mowatt
10	Margaret Mowatt

MoCreebec

1	Chief Allan Jolly
2	Lorraine Jolly
3	Archie Hester
4	Virginia Hester
5	Faith Jolly
6	Terry-Joe Maybe

Mistissini

1	Chief Richard Shecapio
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Eastmain

1	Chief Kenneth Cheezo
2	Daniel Mark-Stewart
3	Stanley Gilpin
4	Daniel Moses
5	Florence Moses
6	Richard Cheezo

Whapmagoostui

1	Chief Stanley George
2	David Kawapit
3	Jean Masty
4	Stella Masty
5	Elijah Sheshamush
6	Sarah Sheshamush

Ojue-bougoumou

1	Chief Reggie Neeposh
2	Anna Bosum
3	Judy Capissisit
4	Bently Mianscum
5	Louise Wapachee
6	Josee Bernier
7	Randy Bosum
8	Margo Mianscum
9	Sam R. Bosum
10	Gaston Cooper

Chisasibi

1	Chief Davey Bobbish
2	Bella Sam Bobbish
3	Lilly Napash
4	Christopher Napash
5	Betsy Snowboy
6	Daniel Snowboy

Nemaska

1	Chief Thomas Jolly
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2	Amy Linton
3	Ashley Iserhoff
4	Sandy Matoush
5	Linda L. Shecapio
6	Alfred Coonishish
7	Hattie Coonishish
8	Harriet Matoush

Wemindji

1	Dennis Georgekish
2	Ernest Tomatuk
3	Stanley Shashaweskum
4	Fred Blackned
5	Annie Saganash

2	Lillian Diamond
3	Walter Jolly
4	Nancy Wapachee Sr.
5	James Wapachee
6	Matthew Wapachee
7	Emma Wapachee
8	Eric Cheezo
9	Abel Wapachee
10	Lawrence Neeposh
11	Yvonne Neeposh
12	Stella Wapachee

GCCEI/CRA Staff

Grand Chief Matthew CoonCome, Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark, Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Eddie Diamond, Director General, Joshua Iserhoff, Youth Grand Chief, Melissa Brousseau, Director of Cree Quebec Relations, Judy Cooper, Executive Assistant to Deputy Grand Chief, Rita Blackned, Administrative Assistant to Director General.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited by Elder Anna Bosum of the community of Ouje-Bougoumou.

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Reggie Neeposh welcomed the leadership and the delegates to the community of Ouje-Bougoumou. Chief Neeposh stressed the important changes that have taken place since the last time they hosted the Annual General Assembly. In May 15, 2014, Ouje-Bougoumou gained official status of Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation, as a full and equal community in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Cree Naskapi Act. Moreover, he expressed the community's gratitude for the Cree Nation's support and the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Nation Government for providing the resources to sustain them over the course of their journey. A special gratitude to the community of Mistissini for agreeing to relinquish a portion of their land regime so that Ouje-Bougoumou could have a land base, with Mistissini, Chief Neeposh stated that they would not have been successful. Finally he welcomed everyone as partners and co-participants. Chief Neeposh looks forward to the important initiatives of the Cree Nation as our young Indigenous Nation continues on its unique and very special journey of trailblazing new territory and the advancements of Indigenous Rights.

1. APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARIES:

On a motion duly made by Chief Dennis Georgekish and seconded by Paul Dixon, it was resolved that the Assembly adopt Resolution **No.: 2015-01**

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly hereby name Tina Petawabano and Lisa Shecapio to be recording secretaries of the 2015 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

2. APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Chief Richard Shecapio, it is resolved that the Assembly adopts Resolution **No.: 2015-02**

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly hereby nominate Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Eddie Diamond, Director General, Matthew Swallow, Treasurer, Melissa Brousseau, Director of Quebec Relations and John Paul Murdoch to the Resolutions Committee of the 2015 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

3. Introduction of Delegates

4. OPENING REMARKS BY DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark welcomed everyone and wished everyone a good assembly. It the shortest welcoming remarks in the history of Eeyou Meetings, that have been recorded.

5. OPENING REMARKS BY GRAND CHIEF MATTHEW COON COME

Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come thanked Chief Neeposh and the community of Ouje-Bougoumou for hosting the 40th AGA. Grand Chief also acknowledged the presence of Fred Blackned, former Chief of Wemindji and signatory of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The Grand Chief also welcomed the delagation from Mo-Creebec. He stated that we must continue the work of our past leaders and members of the Cree Nation who have since passed on.

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed by the Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and the following items were added:

1. Income Security Program, by Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come
2. Ten year clause, by Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come
3. Elders 40 years, by Roderick Pachano
4. Wildlife Habitat Petition from Chisasibi- Status, by Chief Davey Bobbish
5. James O'Reilly special guest speaker, by Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come
6. Supporting Resolution from Grand Council of the Cree (E.I.) for the Broadback protected areas, by Paul Dixon, Waswanipi

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Robert Kanatewat and Mr. Philip Awashish, signatories of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

On a motion duly made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Chief Marcel Happyjack , it was resolved that the Assembly adopt Resolution **No.: 2015-03**

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the agenda of the 2015 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government, subject to possible additional items.

7. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Minutes and Resolutions of the 2014 Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 40th/37th Annual General Assembly were presented by John Paul Murdoch.

On a motion duly made by Allan Cooper and seconded by Chief Davey Bobbish, it is resolved that the Assembly adopts Resolution **No.: 2015-04**

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly acknowledge the Minutes and Resolutions of the 40th/37th Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government held on August 5,6 and 7th, 2014 in Waswanipi, (Eeyou Istchee) are hereby approved and adopted.

8. RECEPTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREE (E.I.) AND THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT 2014-2015

On a motion duly made by Chief Davey Bobbish and seconded by Christopher Napash, it is resolved that the Assembly adopts Resolution No.: 2015-05

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly acknowledge the Minutes and Resolutions of the 2014-2015 minutes of resolutions of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou-Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government hereby formally receive the minutes and resolutions as per the General By-Laws.

9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF COMPENSATION 2013-2014:

On a motion duly made by Paul Dixon and seconded by Chief Reggie Neeposh, it is resolved that the Assembly adopts Resolution No.: 2015-06

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 41st/38th Annual General Assembly acknowledge the Minutes and Resolutions of the 2014-2015 minutes of resolutions of the Cree Government Board of Compensation hereby formally receive the minutes and resolutions as per the General By-Laws.

10. RATIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT 2014-2015

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer of the CNG/GCCEI and Mr. Sylvain Faucher from the auditing firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, presented the financial statements of the CNG-Council Operations, GCCEI, Eenu Eeyou Limited Partnerships and the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. They presented the following materials and financial statements of:

1. Overview of the Financial Results for the year ending March 31, 2015
2. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
3. Cree Nation Government
4. Eenu-Eeyou Limited Partnership
5. Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.

Overview of the Financial Results

Matthew Swallow began with some introductory remarks before presenting the 2014-2015 Financial Results to the members. The GCCEI-CNG's Council/Board controls the four distinct entities for political, legal and for tax and income protection purposes. Following the Cree Quebec Governance Agreement, the Cree Regional Authority was renamed the Cree Nation Government. The majority of the funds received by the GCCEI-CNG are reallocated to the communities. The health and education sectors are managed and operated separately from the GCCEI-CNG. The GCCEI continues to protect the rights of the Cree Nation, such as the Uranium Proceedings. The Wyapschinigun Fund is set aside for future generations, with no capacity to disburse any funding until the end of the term of the Paix des Braves Agreement in 2052.

Mr. Swallow presented the "Overview of the Financial Results for the year ending March 31, 2015". On page 2, for the year ending March 31st, 2015, the CNG General Fund completed the fiscal year with a current year surplus of \$1,003,188. This accounting surplus relates specifically to the Eenu-Eeyou Police Force and the Childcare Centers. The surplus amounts are restricted and set aside in appropriations on an accumulated basis so that the results for CNG have no surplus or deficit. This explains the 2014-2015 column for the Unappropriated Accumulated Surplus is NIL.

On page 3, the Treasurer presented the GCCEI General Fund for the fiscal year 2014-2015, the GCCEI incurred no surplus or deficit since the amounts expended were consistent with the resources provided and the amounts were deferred for revenues received which were for future purposes.

On page 4 of the report, the combined revenues and expenditures of the CNG and the GCCEI are presented in order to compare and to reveal the importance of the financial volumes the organizations are responsible to manage. For 2014-2015, the Combined Revenues of the CNG-GCCEI were \$303,138,789 (excluding Capital Expenditures) versus \$294,800,923 for the 2013-2014 year. The total combined expenditures for 2014-2015 were 294,754,073. The main difference between the revenues and expenditures is related to the Eeyou Minstuk Marine Trust Fund.

Summary of the Financial Results of the Cree Nation Government

On pages 6-7, the CNG General Fund Revenues and Expenditures History [2006-2015], the graphs demonstrate the significant increase over time as a result of new agreements with Canada and Quebec. The increases derive specifically from the following projects: Police, Justice, Childcare and the new Governance Agreement with Quebec.

The following pages provide further graphs and charts of the CNG Results.

On page 8, the General Fund Revenues indicates the largest funding source derives from the AANDC. The special projects funding for 2014-2015 totals \$49,165,145, which funded a wide variety of initiatives from many different sources.

On page 9, the General Fund Revenue by Source and on page 10, the General Fund Expenditures for 2014-2015 depicts the most important expense relates to the O & M allocations to the communities. On page 11, similar information is shown for the fiscal year 2013-2014.

On pages 12 to 19, the allocation of funds through the CNG to the communities is presented for the fiscal 2014-2015.

On page 12, the Allocation of the O & M Funding for 2014-2015 is \$86,792,033; page 13 provides a similar breakdown for 2013-2014.

On page 14, the Allocation of the Capital “A” Base Funding for 2014-2015 is \$13,667,148, the figures do not include the 25% portion transferred directly to the communities by AANDC. Page 15 provides for similar information for the year 2013-2014.

On page 16, the Allocation of the Cree Nation Trust Funding for 2014-2015 is \$71,307,346. Page 17 provides the Allocation of the CNT funding for 2013-2014.

Cree Human Resource Development Fund

A special fund and a separate overview of the results of the CHRD Program has been developed as result of the importance of the funding and the special financial reporting obligations contained in the funding agreement.

Pages 18 and 19 provide a summary of the financial Revenue and Expenditures to allow the members to review the expenditure by community. The Cree Nation Trust Fund allocated \$7,515,026 for the Territorial Programs and Services Delivery Initiatives in accordance with the assumption of responsibilities to the New Relationship Agreement.

Summary of the Financial Results of the GCCEI

On pages 20 to 25, the Financial Highlights of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year for the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) is presented. Pages 21-22 provide a breakdown of the General Fund Revenue and Expenditure History [2006-2015] of the GCCEI. Moreover, the Treasurer pointed out that in 2011, the government gave a onetime special increase in funding for the Eeyou Communications Network Fibre Optic Network.

Page 23 provides the General Fund Revenue by source. The largest source revenue for 2014-2015 funding derived from the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership Agreement in the amount of \$4,029,155. Page 25 provides similar information for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Summary of the Financial Results of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Pages 20-25 provides the Financial Highlights of the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership. The Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership was established to act as the recipient funding following the Cree-Quebec New Relationship Agreement or Paix des Braves. The EELP was chosen to protect the tax exempt status of the payments and to allow the accumulation of the Capital in the Wyapschiniwigun Fund, our Heritage Fund. Furthermore, the EELP ensures the protection from Own Source Revenue inclusion of the revenues generated in the Wyapschiniwigun Fund for the term of the Agreement.

Pursuant to the Limited Partnership Agreement, the EELP receives and allocates the Capital paid by Quebec. Since year 3 of the agreement in 2004-2005, 15% of all capital payments, are allocated to the Wyapschiniwigun Fund and reinvested for the life of the agreement until 2052.

Page 27 provides a general breakdown of the Distribution of the Capital Contribution from the Government of Quebec in 2014-2015, in the amount of \$86,571,400. Page 28 gives a similar breakdown for the fiscal year 2013-2014.

The graph on page 29 presents the Composition of the Wyapschinigun Fund's 2014-2015 investments and their cost and market values. On page 30, the Investment History (Costs VS Market Value) for the period 2006-2015 was presented, which depicts that the funds continue to increase in the market value of \$171.3M in 2013-2014 to \$215.9M in 2014-2015.

Summary of the Cree Heritage Fund

On pages 33 and 34, the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.'s Financial Highlights for the 2014-2015 fiscal year are presented. The foundation is the General Partner responsible for administering the EELP. The expenses incurred, are recovered from the Limited Partnership in accordance with the Limited Partnership Agreement.

Cree Nation Government

Page 36 is a summary of the Cree Nation Government and related entities allocation of funding to the communities and certain entities in 2014-2015. The total allocation was \$240,235,881. Page 35 provides similar details for 2013-2014.

The Treasurer concluded that over the past years, they have been working on trying to simplify the financial reports to ensure that the members can see the overall results and the funding that is allocated to all of the communities.

The Directors of the CNG –GCCEI and related entities continue to manage their affairs within the allocated resources. Moreover, the Cree Nation continues to invest in the Wyapschiniwigun Fund for future generations.

The First Nation Financial Transparency Act, which is enforced by the AANDC, to ensure that the First Nations are accountable to their membership and to the taxpayers by disclosing financial statements. Through this act, the Federal Government also forced First Nations to disclose the remuneration and other expenses of their elected officials.

The Treasurer stated that this law does not apply to the Cree Nation Government or to our communities, however we must continue as we have always done in the past, that is to promote transparency and to report to our members the salaries of the members who are elected in public office.

The Treasurer thanks his staff for their hard work and diligence, as they ensure that the proper follow up of the decisions made by the Council/Board are successfully met, he also thanks the Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief, the Chiefs and the members of the Council Board for their support.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come thanked Matthew Swallow for his presentation. The Grand Chief informs the delegates that the presentation is a summary of the highlights, and there is a process to review in detail the financial reports by the members of The Executive Committee, who then recommends to the Council/Board.

11. CREE NATION GOVERNMENT/BOARD OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Jack Blacksmith, President of CREECO/BOC and Albert Rondeau, Controller presented the Cree Nation Government's Board of Compensation's 2014-2015 Annual Report. Mr. Blacksmith presented the corporate structure and the history of the Board of Compensation and Creeco.

1) The **Status of Investments in March 2014**, were the following:

Regular Fund Market Value	\$111.6M
Insurance Fund	\$14.8M
Growth Fund Market Value	\$72.9M
Equity Value of CREECO	<u>\$110.1M</u>
Total	\$309.4M

2) The **Status of Distributions** as adjusted to the **CPI 2015**:

Cree Rights Fund	\$16.2M
Administration Fund	\$81.5M
Community Fund	\$158.7M

Economic Development Fund	<u>\$12.6M</u>
Total	\$268.9M

3) The Summary

The current portfolio value (excluding insurance fund)	\$312.1M
Past Distributions	\$268.9M
Total Portfolio value plus Distributions	\$566.2M
Less Compensation Received	<u>-\$354.9M</u>
Additional value created	\$211.3M

Economic Development Fund Grant provided the following economic development opportunities to the communities:

- Chisasibi – 40 room Hotel project
- Eastmain – 20 room Hotel project
- Mistissini – Working on a Business Center
- Nemaska – Motel project, Tourism camps, Snowmobile facilities
- Ouje-Bougoumou – Hotel expansion
- Waskaganish – Renovated the Lodge and a grocery store
- Waswanipi – Provided needed funding to Mishtuk Forestry Company as well as various projects
- Wemindji – Tawich Clothing, Mining Clothing and Tourism
- Whapmagoostui – Restaurant and grocery store

2015-2016 Budgeted Grants

Community Fund	\$2,000,000
Administration Fund	\$2,000,000
Economic Development Fund	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
Total	\$8,000,000

Cree Collective Deductible Insurance Program (CCDIP)

- The CCDIP now obtains insurance for \$2.2 Billion in Community owned assets
- Representatives of CCDIP are: Abel Rabbitskin and Daisy Shecapio

BOC AND CREECO

- In the beginning, the funds were held in **Fixed income** instruments including **Treasury Bills** and **Debentures**. Over time, we began investing in the **Stock Market** when market conditions warranted this. In 1996-97 equities were added to the Growth Fund investments.

- The concept of investing in a **Holding Company** and to own our own businesses was always a possibility - this idea was implemented in 1982 by establishing **CREECO**.

- Surrounded by development, it was decided that in order to capitalize on the rapid change and to improve the quality of life for the Cree people, that we must participate and not stand still while the Territory changed around us.

The partnerships include the following:

Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Cree Nation of Wemindji, Cree Nation of Nemaska, Cree Nation of Mistissini and Cree Nation of Eastmain.

Cree Regional Enterprises Company (CREECO)

Mr. Blacksmith presented the social responsibility and the corporate structure.

Social Responsibility

- BOC Creeco Golf Benefit
- June 2013 raised \$55,000 for the Cree Nation Youth Council Business Fund
- June 2014 raised \$45,000 for the Kate Charl Foundation
- June 2015 raised \$43,000 for Willie's Place in Val d'Or
- Relay for Life participation in 2015, raised over \$3,300 for the fight against Cancer

Mr. Blacksmith briefly summarized the history and accomplishments of the CREECO companies: CCDC, Gestion ADC, Air Creebec, Valpiro, Eeyou-Eenou Realty Properties Inc., Quality Inn & Suites Val D'Or, Creeco Dumas Mining and Eeyou Power.

Paul Dixon of Waswanipi thanks the presenters and commented that we must ensure that the members of our Board of Directors are able to communicate in our Cree language.

Chief Richard Shecapio of Mistissini informed the assembly that their community is looking at different options to address the housing shortage and current and future office needs in their community. One of the options are to welcome real estate companies, they have a pilot project that will begin this summer.

Chief Dennis Georgekish of Wemindji stated that we should report on the status of Cree employment over the years with our Cree owned companies and the Cree Nation Government and look at how we can improve Cree employment rates within the organizations and companies.

Chief Davey Bobbish of Chisasibi stated that we should find ways to ensure that more Crees are hired to work at the hydro camps located on the territory. Grand Chief Coon-Come stated that Niskamoon Corporation is working with Cree students in preparing them to complete their high school leaving certificates in order for them to enter into the training programs that have been developed to fill the 150 jobs at Hydro-Quebec.

Chief Pauline Hester-Trapper of Wasaw-Sibi inquired on the status of their community's request to access the Economic Development Fund, since they are in the process of establishing their community. Mr. Blacksmith stated that the Economic Development is treated the same manner as community funds, however, he welcomes discussions with the community and the Board of Compensation.

Gordon Blueboy of Waskaganish inquired about the dividends payed out to Board members and the remuneration of the Chairman of the Board of Compensation. The elected Board of Compensation and Creeco board members should not be entitled to receiving dividends and that only the employees, according to policies should receive these bonuses.

Grand Chief MCC recognized two young men from Mistissini, Jonathan Linton and Shayne Rabbitskin who walked from Mistissini to Ouje-Bougoumou to raise diabetes awareness. They were both diagnosed with diabetes at an early age.

On a motion made by Chief Richard Shecapio and seconded by Paul Dixon, it is resolved that the Assembly adopt Resolution **No.: 2015-07**

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the GCCEI/CNG AGA having taken notice of the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree Nation Government hereby formally adopted the said financial statements.

12. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2015-2016

On a motion duly made by Chief Reggie Neeposh and seconded by Alfred Coonishish it is resolved that the Assembly adopts Resolution **No.: 2015-08**

RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government's 41st/38th Annual General Assembly received the recommendation of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominate the firm RCGT to act as the auditors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

13. ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) AND CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director presented the annual report for 2014-2015. Some of the major highlights presented by Mr. Namagoose were the following items:

Cree-Canada Relations

- Implementation of Federal NRA
- Cree-Canada Governance Negotiations
- Assumption of Federal Responsibilities
- Chisasibi Block “D”
- Amendments to the JBNQA
- Eeyou Marine Region Agreement
- Section 22 of the JBNQA and Bills C-38 and C-45 (p.21)
- MOCREEBEC (p.22)
- Ouje-Bougoumou Recognitions and Mistissini Lands
- Eeyou-Eenou Police Force

Cree-Quebec Relations

- Meeting with Premier Philip Couillard
- Cree-Quebec Standing Liaison Committee
- Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement
- Cree Nation Government
- Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (p. 25)
- Plan Nord (p.26)
- Forestry (p. 27)
- Energy (p. 29)
- Health and Social Services (p.29)
- Education (p. 30)
- Childcare Services
- Eeyou-Eenou Police Force
- Cree Customary Adoption and Youth Protection Matters
- Reconfiguration and Final Land Descriptions for Cree Communities
- Ouje-Bougoumou Recognition and Mistissini Lands
- Territorial Overlaps (p. 32)
- Negotiations with Mining Companies (p.34)
- Caribou (p.36)
- Taxation (p.38)
- Natural Resources (P.40)
- Operations and Maintenance and Capital Grants
- International Affairs and NGO Activities (p.43)

- Roundtable on Capacity Building- Community Tours

Furthermore, Mr. Namagoose presented the statistics on permanent employees per department, gender distributions, ethnic demographics and distribution of employees of the CNG. (P.60 & 61).

Commerce and Industry is a new department that was created this past year, and Mr. Andy Baribeau has been hired to assume the role of Director of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Alfred Loon is now leading the Eeyou Communication Network.

Mr. Namagoose briefed the delegates on the Cree Nations Government's departments' reports.

The Cree Nation Youth Council report was also presented.

14. TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

- Financial Reports
- Capital Works
- Creeco
- Board of Compensation
- Eenou Limited Partnership Agreement
- Niskamoon Corporation
- Income Security Program

Others:

Cree Health Board

Cree School Board

Wayne Cheezo of Waskaganish raised his concerns regarding the Adapted Forestry Regime – Chapter 3 of Paix des Braves. Isaac Voyageur, Director of Environment for the Cree Nation Government informed the delegates that the Chiefs will be meeting this fall, to address the issue raised by Mr. Cheezo.

Chief Marcel Happyjack of Waswanipi stated their community's support for the Broadback Protected Areas and Woodland Caribou. The ongoing issue of Territorial Overlaps (Lac Simon, Obedjiwan) and Forestry are an ongoing preoccupation for the community of Waswanipi. Grand Chief MCC explained that other First Nations have been pressuring to take the Cree to court regarding territorial overlaps, however, effort is being made to meet and find solutions outside of courts.

Chief Richard Shecapio of Mistissini inquired about the CCQ and the Regionalization of services. Grand Chief Coon-Come informed Chief Shecapio that there is a legislative committee reviewing these issues.

Bill Namagoose briefed the assembly on the current status of the Cree-Canada Governance Negotiations. Policies, Taxation, Own-Source Revenue were some of the law making authority and other powers of the CNG on category IA lands that is being discussed between the Cree and the federal government. The Chiefs will be meeting this fall, to address these issues.

Grand Chief informed the members that we have achieved another major breakthrough with regards with our relationship with the government of Canada. The position taken by the Cree in regards to not accepting the imposition of self-government policy or any other policy by the federal government. The Grand Council of the Cree took a strong stand on the issue of own source revenue, whereby we will not allow the federal government to dictate how we will manage these funds. The Grand Chief stated that our treaty, the JBNQA supersedes the Self-Government Policy. The JBNQA Treaty allows the Cree Nation the authority to create our own Laws, therefore, we will decide as a nation how we will govern ourselves. In September 2015, a meeting will be scheduled with the Chiefs, the Director of Operations and the Treasurers to present and discuss this issue in detail.

Paul Dixon of Waswanipi thanked the leadership for the work done in ensuring that we continue to protect our rights to governing ourselves on our terms, as his grand father and others before them have done.

Ashley Iserhoff from Mistissini brought the issue of Eeyou-Eenou Police Force and the allocated number of officers that are based on the agreement. Mr. Iserhoff recommended that the organization hire more officers, since it is afterall for the security of our people. Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come stated that a resolution will be drafted to this effect, as it will assist in the negotiations.

15. CREE-NASKAPI COMMISSION

Philip Awashish, Robert Kanatewat and Richard Saunders presented a brief update on the Cree-Naskapi Commission. The two principle functions of the Commission are to report every second year to Parliament and to the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee as well as to the Naskapi Nation, on the implementation of the JBNQA, the implementation of the North Eastern James Bay Agreement and the implementation of the Cree Naskapi Act. In order to complete these reports, the Commission hosts special implementation hearings. The next hearings are scheduled to be held next year 2016, where various Cree entities, such as CTA, GCCEI, Youth and Elders will be welcomed to speak. These hearings are an opportunity for the Cree to express the governance issues.

The second function is to address representations or complaints, the Commission make findings and provide recommendations. The Chiefs are instrumental in resolving some of the issues internally. The priority of the Commission is to resolve the issues internally. Mr. Saunders thanks the Chiefs for their support and intervention to resolve these issues. The Commission also provides orientation to Chiefs and Councils.

Mr. Kanatewat encourages the participation of the members in the up-coming Special implementation hearings which is scheduled to take place in February 2016. These reports will be presented to the senate.

Philip Awashish also spoke briefly about how far we have come over the last 40 years. Mr. Awashish spoke about the history of the court case in 1971, when the Cree took the province of Quebec, Hydro-Quebec, and the Federal Governments to Court. The first court case was titled: Kanatewat et Al. vs The Attorney General of Quebec. It is Robert Kanatewat who accepted to have his name appear on the court case and he thanks Mr. Kanatewat for this. If there was no court case, we would not have had the JBNQA. The Cree-Naskapi Commission Act is a result of the JBNQA. Mr. Awashish summarized the role of the Commission to the Cree communities and Cree entities.

Linda Shecapio of Mistissini commented that we should not forget the Cree Regional Elders Council and the Cree Women Associations when the Commission prepares for their hearings.

Alfred Coonishish recited the closing prayer.

Meeting ended for the day, at 5pm.

DAY 2- August 5th, 2015

Allan Jolly, MoCreebec recited the opening prayer.

The Chairman reviewed the agenda for the day.

16. CREE BOARD OF HEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES

Bella M. Petawabano, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health Social Services, presented the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations**. The Chairperson informed the members that she will report the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay's annual report at the next radio show. Moreover, Mrs. Petawabano informed the members that there will be an Eeyou-Eenou Regional General Assembly on Health and Social Services in the new year. Mrs. Petawabano briefly shared her personal experience in residential school and how her own parents had an important influence on her decision to pursue higher education. The residential school survivors and their families have all suffered as a result of the government's education policy. The youth today are impacted by the generations of residential school survivors' experience, our leadership can and will restore what we have almost lost, our language and Cree culture. Today, our communities have housing, facilities, services and programs.

In June, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted their final report which included 94 recommendations. Work has already begun by the Cree Health Board Board of Directors with regards to some of the recommendations that derived from the report. Moreover, Mrs. Petawabano informed the assembly that the Cree Health Board is working in partnership with various other regional services which include, the Cree School Board, the Cree Justice & Correctional Services,

the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force and the Cree Culture and Language Department. The TRC recommendations which have been worked on by the Cree Health Board are youth protection referred as Child Welfare in the final report, Cree Culture and Language, mental health programs and services, parenting skills and telehealth will be available once the fibre optic network is in operation. Moreover, the life expectancy for a Cree person is 4 years less than the average Canadian person, these are often a result of obesity and diabetes being increasingly high in Eeyou Istchee. The Chairperson stated that important health services have recently been made available for the members of the communities, such as the dialysis machines at the Mistissini Community Miyupimaatisiun Center, ultra-sound services for pregnant women and eye specialists are some of the services that are now available in our communities. She encourages the members of the Cree Nation to take care of their health, by exercising and choosing healthy menus. The Chairperson also addressed some recent comments that the Eeyou-Eenou never needed policies in the past, however, times have changed and the need for policies to be in place are important in order to protect the members of our nation. There will be a diabetes conference scheduled in October 2015. The Cree Board of Health also hired and mandated Mrs. Louise Valiquette, Commissioner of Complaints who is available within the CHB in regards to the quality of services. Mrs. Petawabano encourages all Cree entities and the public to work together on addressing our health matters as a result of the residential school system.

Christopher Napash of Chisasibi stated his support for a healthy Cree Nation.

Chief Reggie Neeposh of Ouje-Bougoumou informed the assembly due to the transfer of band memberships, some of their band members have had to pay for their medication. Bella M. Petawabano introduced Daniel St-Amour, appointed Interim Executive Director following the departure of Mabel Herodier, Executive Director. Mr. St-Amour will work on the issue raised by Chief Neeposh regarding members who have transferred band memberships and have had to pay to for their prescriptions.

Grand Chief Coon-Come commented that the Government of Canada is not legally required to address the 94 recommendations put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is a major problem. The Indian Residential System was designed to get rid of First Nation children off their land and its based on colonial thinking, that allowed the government to impose their policies of extinguishment, to pass legislation to govern the Aboriginal Peoples through the Indian Act. The continuing existence of the Department of Indian Affairs is still the colonial thinking. Grand Chief Coon Come states that the IRSS should be classified as a genocide under the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention. Moreover, overcoming the negative impacts of the IRS goes along with nation building, where we are reclaiming our lives, we are reclaiming our traditions and we are reclaiming our institutions.

Grand Chief requests the Resolution Committee, that we support the Assembly of First Nations Support for the *Full Implementation of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action*. Moreover, another resolution requesting the Grand Council of the Cree to review the

TRC's 94 recommendations and to see how we will implement these recommendations along with other Cree entities.

Paul Dixon of Waswanipi stated that it was not only a cultural genocide, it was human genocide that took place in the Indian Residential Schools. He fully supports the proposed resolutions to support the AFN and the Grand Council of the Cree to review the TRC's recommendations.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come reminded the members of the assembly of the upcoming Federal Elections and encouraged the members of the Cree Nation communities to vote. Grand Chief invited Mr. Romeo Saganash, Member of Parliament for the New Democratic Party to address the assembly.

17. ROMEO SAGANASH, MP, NDP

Romeo Saganash, Member of Parliament for New Democratic Party, thanked the Grand Chief for inviting him to address the assembly. He has been member of parliament for 4 years now, upon his first meeting in parliament, he inquired if he could address the parliament in his own Cree language and was informed that he could only address the parliament in English or in French. Someday he hopes to see future Cree Members of Parliament who will be able to address the parliament in our Cree language. Moreover, Mr. Saganash states that as a Member of parliament, one of their main responsibilities is to listen and to speak on behalf of the members from their respective ridings.

Mr. Saganash supports the proposed resolutions by the delegates of the annual general assembly regarding the support to the Assembly of First Nations Support for the *Full Implementation of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action* and for the Grand Council of the Cree to review the TRC's 94 recommendations and how we will implement these recommendations along with other Cree entities.

Mr. Saganash informed the delegates that if the NDP wins the next Federal Election, the party commits itself to ensuring that a national inquiry on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women will take place within the first 100 days of its office. Moreover, the NDP also commits itself to supporting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which the Grand Council of the Cree worked tirelessly to develop. He encourages the members to come out and vote during the Federal Election, and welcomes financial contributions to assist him during his electoral campaign, as his riding is one of the largest geographically, Mr. Saganash thanks everyone for their continued support.

18. ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL BY-LAWS -EPPF

Lyle Cox, Inspector/Deputy Director of Operations for the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force (EPPF) thanked the leadership for their continued support in the delivery of policing services in Eeyou

Istchee and for accepting their request to present to the assembly. The EEPF is in its 4th year of operations. Lyle Cox and Thomas Bosum, Ouje-Bougoumou Lieutenant from EEPF presented the challenges regarding the enforcement of Local Community By-Laws.

The enforcement of local by-laws has been an ongoing issue because each of the nine Cree communities have their own set of by-laws and are applied differently. There is a need to amend the local by-laws, particularly the wording, in order to support the process.

Since the creation of the EEPF, the officers are often assigned to work in any of the nine different communities. In order to be effective in their functions, the officers must familiarize themselves by studying each community's by-laws. Some of the main issues the EEPF encounters are the following:

- There is no link or communication regarding unpaid fines or paid fines from the Finance Department.
- It takes a very long time to review or update the by-laws or fines, due to the wording and the costs.
- Often, there is no full-time personnel working for the Band where fines can be paid. The office hours are not consistent, therefore, there is no link to update the paid or unpaid fines.
- There is no communication or system in place to keep track of the fines issued.
- In the past few months, the EEPF has encountered problems regarding former EEPF Officers residing outside the territory or elsewhere on the territory who have to appear to testify in court. The prosecuting firms state that they don't want to pay for travel costs of former officers for small fines since they are no longer working for the force.

Some communities adopted the highway safety code, therefore, former officers do not need to appear to testify in court. The infraction ticket is sufficient to present the evidence needed to prosecute the ticket.

Most by-laws are over 20 years old, they no longer fit today's generation. The costs haven't been updated. Elsewhere in Quebec, the by-laws regarding the highway safety code have been made. Repeat offenders are increasing because of the outdated rate of the fines and the fact that their demerit points are not affected.

- EEPF Officers are reluctant to enforce any by-law which contravenes section 24 of the Charter of Rights.

The EEPF is recommending the standardization of the by-laws, which will benefit everyone in Eeyou Istchee, as well as travelling in Eeyou Istchee. Moreover, the by-law infraction tickets could be paid at the local court houses. The offenders could also obtain advice or resources at the court houses.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark spoke about the governance and the authority to enforce the local by-laws however we should ensure that they remain consistent.

19. JAMES O'REILLY- SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come introduced the special guest speaker. Mr. O'Reilly has worked for the Grand Council of the Crees for a long time as lead counsel who stood his ground and will take issues that are not easy and is one of the principle legal advisors on the cases we have launched over the past 40 years. Grand Chief asked Mr. O'Reilly to reflect on the past 40 years.

Mr. O'Reilly thanked the Grand Chief and greeted everyone at the Assembly. Mr. O'Reilly has been asked to talk about the last forty years, but the first thing that came to mind when approached about, that this is really a Cree initiative; that forty years of success is due to the Cree people and not to the outsiders. The Cree should take collective pride with what you have accomplished as a Cree Nation.

Mr. O'Reilly will talk about the history before the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, when the white man arrived. Moreover he stated, sometimes we are so busy fighting one another that maybe we did something right together.

When the Europeans arrived on the continent and declared the ownership of the land, which is called The Doctrine of Discovery. They were the ones discovering, the First Nations were already here, who controlled their own lands, resources, peoples, customs and values. In the 17th and 18th centuries alot of Indian Nations were very powerful, militarily powerful. It was one thing to have The Doctrine of Discovery and another thing to enforce it. There were a lot of treaties that existed, peace treaties with Mohawks and Mi'kmaq. The Indian point of view was that they didn't give up anything and recognized them as Nations and the Europeans thought themselves as the bosses and were tolerating the Indian Peoples. Until the end of the French Regime and the English conquest in 1763, there was nothing dealing with land as such, where Europeans had control over the lands.

In 1670, the King of England decided that all of the Cree traditional territory was part of the Charter of the Hudson Bay Company. They made themselves proprietors, rulers and governors of the land. They never informed or consulted the Cree people. According to English Law, from 1670 to 1870 all of the Cree land and a majority of the prairies belonged to the Hudson Bay Company, which was owned by the Crown of England. This is the background leading up to the JBNQA.

The Royal Proclamation recognized Indian Territory in theory but not in practice. This did not include the Hudson Bay Company territory or Ruperts Lands which is Eeyou Traditional territory. From the 19th century and on, the courts stated that the Indians had the right to occupy the land but at the pleasure of the Crown, meaning that as long as the King said it was okay that Indians could use their land, but the crown reserved the right to take it away as they wish. This was the situation of the law, as applied by the Europeans, the political masters and the courts, the British and Canadian courts following the confederation in 1867.

In 1867 Canada was formed, and the so called power over the Indians and lands reserved for the Indians came under the federal government. That's when Indian Agents appeared in the 20th century and pretended to be the bosses. There were only two reserves, that were recognized when the famous James Bay Project was announced in 1971, these were Eastmain and Mistissini.

In 1971, when the courts across the lands were saying that according to Canadian Law, the Federal Government can take away Indian Rights at any time. Secondly, the rights that Indian people had, were considered very volatile at best, if they had any rights.

In 1969, the Federal Government presented the infamous White Paper that stated that there was no such thing as Aboriginal Rights. This was the federal government's point of view. The provincial government's point of view was that Indians had privileges but not rights.

In 1971, the Premier Robert Bourassa announced the project of the century. There was a provision in the 1912 statute, which made Cree Traditional territory supposedly part of Quebec. The statute stated that Quebec has to recognize the rights of the Cree, the same way the Federal Government and obtain surrenders of their rights. That meant for Canada and Quebec that they offered treaty number nine provisions for the east coast, but even then, Quebec never recognized this.

The Crees decided, led by Cree leaders of the time, Billy Diamond, Robert Kanatewat, Philip Awashish, Chief Smally Petawabano, Chief Fred Blackned, Chief Matthew Shanoush, Peter Gull, Joseph Petagumskum, Chief Bertie Wapachee came together. The Indians of Quebec Association, Andrew Delisle, Max Gros Louis and Aurelia Gill helped the Crees organize themselves.

It was really the Cree leadership that came together, and said we will fight, because this is a fight for our survival; and the governments of Canada and Quebec do not recognize that this is our territory and that our way of life is threatened. It is hard to imagine today what obstacles the Cree leaders were faced with at that particular time. They were going to take on the power, the might, the money of Canada and Quebec. They said "we must do it for our People!"

There were three things that struck Mr. O'Reilly at the time, the Cree leaders were mostly youth, secondly they had the highest respect for their Elders. Thirdly, the young leaders had the confidence in the future of the Cree people. All this together, helped them to confront a foreign system. There were 70 days of hearings, 70 witnesses, mainly Cree and Inuit people. The Quebec prosecution stated that the Crees had no rights, just some privileges. Justice Albert Malouf's decision was that the Cree had apparent rights.

Many experts came to help, climatologist, geologist, biologist, it was an aboriginal case but also an environmental case as well. Justice Albert Malouf stated that the Crees have rights, and that this project should stop until there is a respect for Cree rights and a full hearing on this. This resulted in the famous injunction to stop the HQ project enforced by Justice Malouf.

The message that he wishes to convey is that the agreement was born out of struggle and fight carried on with great determination by the Cree people. The appeal court reversed Malouf's decision, they were concerned now that the Cree had rights, which lead to the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

The Cree Negotiating team consisted of Rod Pachanos, late Steven Bearskin, late Billy Diamond, Ted Moses, Robert Kanatewat, late Albert Diamond, Philip Awashish and Charles Bobbish.

Mr. O'Reilly's first message, is that the very first agreement is the product of a huge battle, a fight for the recognition and respect of Cree rights.

The JBNQA is the first modern treaty, and it innovates a first Aboriginal school board, Aboriginal health and social services, a first extensive hunting, trapping and fishing regime, a first income security program for Aboriginal peoples. Billy Diamond stated that we survive off the land, people who live off the land should be recognized for their work, just as employees who work in the community. One of the ISP's goals was to ensure that Cree are able to continue to practice the Cree way of life but more importantly to make it a highly respectable profession.

"Once a Cree always a Cree", Billy Diamond, it was the foundation of eligibility of Cree membership. The Indian act does not apply to the Cree, a first in Canada. There is also a special legal regime done for Northern Quebec, the original JBNQA is a constitution for the North of Quebec, therefore, our former Cree leaders are Fathers of a Canadian confederation.

The JBNQA has 24 amendments, it was envisaged, to adapt the circumstances for the future generations, such as the justice and the policing.

The theme of the assembly, *Defending: Implementing Eeyou/Eenouch Treaty Rights*, which include the 55 agreements or more following the JBNQA, reflects on the continuing battles. There were proceedings for the federal Cree Naskapi Act, Air Creebec, health proceedings, education, hunting and fishing, and more recently the caribou, the Great Whale battle, forestry Mario Lord proceedings, the Baril-Moses agreement. All are ongoing battles, these are a result from determination and respect for principles. Where the Crees have succeeded, despite internal frictions, you have remained united, the key to your success and the single hallmark of the Cree is that they stand together.

Mr. O'Reilly is honored to address the assembly, he pays tribute to the Cree Nation and thanks the Cree people for the privilege to serve them.

The Grand Chief presented Mr. Oreilly a gift of an embroidery and a mint coin designed by our own Cree Eeyou, Tim Wiskeychan of Waskaganish.

20. SIGNATURE OF FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Bella M. Petawabano, Chairperson of the CBHSCJB, introduced the Funding Agreement for the construction and operations of women's shelters in the communities of Waskaganish and Waswanipi. Mrs. Petawabano addressed the men at the Assembly and encouraged them to respect women, as this is where we were all born from.

Virginia Wabano, President of Cree Women's Association also addressed the assembly and thanked the former staff, board members who helped to work towards the establishment of women's shelters.

Grand chief Matthew Coon Come addressed the assembly and reiterated the message which Mrs. Petawabano gave to all men in Eeyou Istchee. We need to stop this from happening, towards our daughters and mothers. The work will begin after the signing of the agreement in the construction of these facilities. He thanked the women who have come forward and want to stop this cycle, the EEPF officers, the Cree Health Board and all those who have contributed towards the result of the signing of this agreement.

21. ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOODS IN EEYOU ISTCHEE

Bella M. Petawabano introduced Paul Linton, Assistant Director Public Health- Chiiseyoo, presented the **Access to Nutritious Foods in Eeyou Istchee**. The foods being the focus of this presentation is not traditional wild food, but on the food being purchased in stores which we consume on a daily basis. The Public Health inquired what kinds of foods are being purchased at our stores.

The Cree Region pay the highest rate for food in stores, compared to Cote Nord, and the surrounding municipalities in the region.

- Cost of basic nutritious foods is higher in Eeyou Istchee than in any other studied region of Quebec.
- Nutritious food choices are limited in certain communities;
- Access to a variety of low-cost nutritious foods is difficult, especially in smaller stores;
- Eating well seems to be out of reach for low-income and single-parent families.

Accessibility to nutritious foods is essential to promote good health and prevent chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension, etc...).

We need to ensure that nutritious foods are available and affordable to all Eeyouch Families.

The Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) includes 71 food items, that are basic, nutritious and at low cost.

It costs at least \$10.00 per person per day to eat well in Eeyou Istchee.

In Eeyou Istchee, each time a low-income family earns \$100.00, about \$80.00 is needed to buy the NFB.

Transportation costs are very high in the region. The store managers in Eeyou Istchee are willing partners who can help achieve the goals of health promotion and prevention of chronic diseases.

Mr. Linton stated that its an effort that is needed by everyone in Eeyou Istchee, not just the Health Board and the Grand Council of the Crees in order to make this happen. A resolution will be drafted to support the Access to Nutritious Foods in Eeyou Istchee.

Bentley Mianscum, Ouje-Bougoumou member, mentioned that the cost of transportation to provide for lower cost foods.

Amy Linton, Youth Chief from Mistissini, suggested that perhaps we should provide food stamps for the low- income families, just like the southern towns and cities. Ms. Linton proposed that a Resolution be passed to support a pilot project to start food stamps program in our communities to assist our low-income families. The housing issue was also addressed by Ms. Linton, as young families need their own homes when they return from studies. Regarding the Board of Compensation's bonuses and honorariums, these rates should be revisited as these are the people's moneys.

Grand Chief informed the delegates that a summary on the status of housing is on page 2 in the Cree Nation Government Annual Report.

22. CREE SCHOOL BOARD

Kathleen Wooton, Chairperson and Abraham Jolly, Director General of the Cree School Board, presented the Absenteeism, Drop-Out and Graduation Rates in Education.

The presentation included:

- The overall results of absentism for all the Cree communities were presented by Mrs. Wootton, for the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.
- The result findings in order to counter absentism as reported by Dr. Thorton was presented.
- The CSB Managers/Teachers' Absenteeism. This results in students not having the chance to learn the curriculum that they are entitled to receive.
- Cree School Staff
- Youth Sector Drop-Out Rates
- Drop-out Rates. Parents are permissive in letting their childrens absence. This results in falling behind therefore affects their motivation and self esteem.
- Sabtuan Adult Education Drop-out Rates
- Parental Involvement.
- Cree School Board's Initiatives

- Youth Sector Graduation Rate
- CSB Graduation Rate Adult Education and PSSS
- The Silo Effect/Blame Game. Not working together impacts the student negatively.
- Cree Nation Government. We need to work together for the success of the student
- Working Towards 2020. We have a lot of work to do and we need your help, parents and communities.

Matthew Coon Come stated that a student is absent an average of 60 days per school year, for hockey tournaments. We are working on improving this issue. The housing issue, such as overcrowding is also a reality for most of our families, the Grand Chief asks if the Cree School Board can provide classrooms for student to do their homework. Mrs. Wootton informed the assembly that the Youth Fusion program is in the process of working with students and that it is possible to provide classrooms.

Abraham Jolly, stated that three (3) languages of instruction literacy camps are held in classrooms. After hearing Mr. O'Reilly, he is grateful how the past leaders have prioritized Education, and stated that if we cannot achieve our goals and work together in 5 five years time the succession rates will not rise. Education should be a priority in all communities. Absentism is the biggest obstacle.

23. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT –CREE SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Kathleen Wootton, Chairperson of the Cree School Board presented the Public Procurement and Contract Management.

The strategic importance of procurement functions for the Cree School Board are:

Life-long educational success of our students

- The Cree School Board has as its primary mission the life-long educational success of our students
- With our students' interests at heart, we must safeguard our financial resources for this perennial mission and ensure that contracts awarded to any suppliers are honored with high-quality service delivery and operational excellence

Two sets of rules

- As a provincial school board, the Cree School Board is subject to very different legal obligations than most other Cree entities (except CBHSSJB)

- However, as a Cree entity, the Cree School Board benefits from special rights under the JBNQA and extends all efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Treaty to reinforce the rights of all Cree individuals and Cree entities

Responsible procurement involves ongoing efforts to achieve high standards for Cree stakeholders AND complying to applicable legislation.

Public Contracting in Quebec

As a provincial school board, the Cree School Board is subject to legislation:

Act respecting contracting by public bodies (adopted in 2006)

- The Act establishes rules for contracts between Quebec public bodies and private contractors to ensure transparency, value for money and fair treatment of contractors
- Quebec public bodies are required to issue public call for tenders to award construction, services and supply contracts valued at \$100,000 or more

Policy for the Management of Supply, Service and Construction Contracts of the Public Bodies in the Education Network (issued in April 2010)

- Every school board must adopt an internal policy on contract award and management
- The policy creates an obligation for school boards to report contract information to the Minister of Education

The current procurement process and legislation prescribed by the Quebec Government provide for respectable supplier performance and treatment, but does not consider the Cree School Board's unique context.

Special Provisions Required

The Cree School Board requires more flexibility in its procurement processes.

The Cree School Board operates in a unique context where

- The Board wishes to ensure Cree priority for employment and contracts (as provided for under Section 28 of the JBNQA);
- As opposed to typical schools, Cree schools are located in remote locations with limited number of contractors (thus, higher expenditures for contracts);

- Contractors’ special knowledge and experience of the Cree context is essential for the seamless and successful execution of certain contracts.

The Act must be amended to integrate explicit provisions for Cree priority

- The JBNQA requires Quebec to take all reasonable measures to establish priority to available and duly qualified local people and suppliers in respect to contracts and employment created by development in the Territory.

As of today, the Cree School Board has limited means to give full priority to Crees for contracts. However, it is actively pursuing changes to the Act.

Cree School Board Policy

Intersecting general principles governing the Act with JBNQA obligations

Respecting the Act, the principles governing the Cree School Board Policy promote

Integrity to preserve public confidence	Effective and efficient contracting procedures
Transparency in contracting processes	Quality assurance systems
Honest and fair treatment of bidders	Accountability for proper use of public funds
Opportunity for qualified bidders to compete	

The policy includes exemptions to take into account special Cree status

- In order to ensure the proper use of public funds, the Cree School Board takes into account its particular context and its special status under the JBQNA (and related agreements), where suppliers knowledge and experience of Crees’ unique context are weighted for their value-for-money benefits
- Exceptions to be made for Cree participation provisions as set out in the JBNQA

The Cree School Board recognizes and agrees with the guiding principles governing the Act respecting contracting by public bodies. However, special provisions must be included to take into account Cree reality.

Working Together

Tender rules imposed on the Board under Quebec legislation can cause conflicts

The present context poses hard constraints on contract award and management

- We must work together to achieve desired and mutually satisfactory results
- The Cree School Board is actively pursuing the following options with the Quebec Government to gain more flexibility with the Act:
 - Demand that the Government makes regulations to exempt a body from the tender rules otherwise applicable and to enter into a contract by mutual agreement (section 23(5));
 - Demand that the Government, on the recommendation of Treasury Board, authorizes a public body such as the CSB to enter into a specific contract on conditions different from those applicable to it under the Act (section 25);
 - Demand that the Treasury Board authorizes a public body to enter into a specific contract on conditions different from those applicable to it under the Act (section 25).

There needs to be a transparent and open dialogue between the Cree School Board and Cree communities in order for Cree entities to work in the same direction and to achieve satisfactory outcome.

Responsible Procurement

Active engagement towards the Cree Nation involves all stakeholders

Educational success for our students must remain at the forefront

- The Cree School Board will focus on its primary mission: the life-long educational success of our students
- All efforts are extended to manage contracts transparently and fairly with the great consideration for safeguarding public funds
- In meeting the above procurement standards at the highest possible level, strong supplier performance and high-quality service delivery (Cree and non-Cree) plays critical roles in the Board's mission to serve our students and communities

The Act must be amended to integrate explicit provisions for Cree priority

- The Cree School Board is supporting Cree priority through working with the Quebec government to transform current legislation

Responsible procurement involves ongoing efforts to achieve high standards for Cree stakeholders AND complying to applicable legislation

Grand Chief Coon Come suggested that our future meetings be translated both in English and in French, as a youth recently approached him regarding this. The CNG has a Construction and procurement by-law, which outlines an agreement between the province and the federal governments to ensure that Cree are given priority for contracts. Section 28. This can be a starting base to work.

Chief Richard Shecapio announced that the youth of Mistissini were given international recognition for the fight against the uranium project from the Nuclear Free Foundation in October 28, 2015 in Washington, DC. Congratulates them for their hard work and dedication!

The closing prayer was recited by Jean Denis Cannasso from Wasaw Sibi.

DAY 3 – August 6th, 2015

The opening prayer was recited by Billy Katapatuk, Washaw Sibi.

The Chairman reviewed the agenda for the day and invited the representatives from the Cree School Board, Mrs. Kathleen Wootton, Chairperson and Abraham Jolly, Director General.

Sandy Matoush of Mistissini addressed the Cree School Board regarding the Cree Culture/Language classes and the importance of preserving our Cree ways and that the focus should be on the 16-18 years old youth, for a period of 2-3 years after High School. We cannot expect our young children (elementary) to be the only ones learning Cree, they are so young.

Lillian Jolly-Diamond of Nemaska has worked on the Cree School Board's Teacher training program and Alternative Education Program. The report made by the CSB regarding the students' absenteeism hasn't improved and the youth who reach secondary 3 are still dropping out at a high level. The alternative education program ran for 4 years, and 80 youth participated, there was a 74% success rate. Cree education also takes place out on the land. Absenteeism is also caused from homes, not just due to hockey tournaments. Children with special needs, such as FASD has been on the increase as well. Graduates can travel around in schools to promote and share their stories on their educational experience to encourage other Cree students.

Daniel Moses of Eastmain stated that parents should encourage their children to pursue their education beyond high school, such as college and university. There is also the fact that children are lacking sleep at night, which has an impact on their learning.

Chief Thomas Jolly of Nemaska stated that that the student cycles such as the length of class teaching time should be reviewed, as it seems too short to expect our youth to learn. Cree language is not being spoken as much as we should. Chief Jolly shared how he has only learned half of the Cree language which his late father taught him, and believes his children are learning half of what he knows. Homework is not being given to our youth in the communities, as he has seen with his grand children who are learning in the south and are given home work at an early age. French

language classes should also be given in our schools, in order to give our children more employment opportunities for the future.

Louise Wapachee of Ouje-Bougoumou stated that Cree Childrens books should be developed and made available as one of the ways to preserve our language. Education first starts at home, from the parents. Cree employment and education, some youth are discouraged because some positions are filled by non-educated members. She recommends that regional representatives who are elected locally should have the educational qualification related to the entity they are pursuing to represent.

Roderick Pachanos of Chisasibi stated that the CSB should be working closely with the Elders in the development of our curriculum, rather than depend on outside consultants.

Chief Richard Shecapio stated that the funding rules within entities such as CSB, closes opportunities for local businesses entrepreneurs whereas CHB is open to local contractors, this process takes away opportunities and experience from our people when non native enterprises are hired. Our local people can get certified by working experience. In contracts the procurement of certification of local workers should be considered. Contract work should involve training local people this issue has been previously tabled and we need to take real action now.

Grand Chief informed the assembly that a meeting is scheduled, with the Cree School Board to address some of the issues raised at this assembly.

The Economic Development Conference is planned where the issue of the concerns raised in regards to training local people through contracting work will be discussed.

24. INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

The Chairman invited the next presenters, Philip Awashish, Willie Iserhoff, members of the board of directors of the Income Security Board and Serge Lariviere, Director General of ISP. The history of the ISP was presented by Philip Awashish. The program was born from the JBNQA. The main objectives of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program are to encourage and preserve the traditional way of life of the Crees by providing Cree hunters and trappers with a guaranteed income, benefits and other incentives. Some beneficiaries of the program have been abusing the system, by declaring false dates spent out on the land, which has had an impact on those who are actually hunting and trapping. There are also hunters and trappers who are recipients of the ISP who are not hunting on Eeyou-Eenou Istchee according to the report.

The following challenges of the Income Security Program were presented:

Misuse of the Program

- Somepeople misunderstand the program

- Program to support hunting, fishing, trapping and related activities, not just «days in the bush»
 - Program for Crees who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life
 - A program that provides «economic security» for the people that do not have it
 - A program designed to help people occupy the territory
- Some exaggerate on their calendars
 - Some claim days outside of Eeyoultsee
 - Some claim pays already paid by other entities

The impacts of the challenges presented were presented:

ISP a great success so far

- This program still seen as «the best of its kind»
- Risk of losing «credibility» for ISP
- Less money available for the people that really need ISP
- The Program has to be fair to the people for whom it was designed
- Real hunters see and report the misuse

Willie Iserhoff presented some recommendations to the ISP policies.

1-Refocus ISP for people that need economic security in order to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life

- 2-Deal with the misuse: how?
 - A. Inform the people of the issues (and consequences)
 - B. Work with local committees to establish eligibility (list of active «Ndoo-WhoEenou»)
 - C. Ask more questions to doubtful declarations
 - D. Establish Sanctions and penalties

Concluding remarks were made by Mr. Philip Awashish.

Grand Chief MCC informed the assembly that since the inception of the program in 1976, our Cree population has more than doubled. We must also address those who have crawled from their basements when its time to receive the ISP payments.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo, Eastmain extended an invitation to the Cree School Board and the Cree Trappers Association to their local education assembly and find ways to help improve and support education.

Sam Bosum has hopes that the future generation will be our leaders. Mr. Bosum is thankful for the educational/training opportunities that are available for the youth in the communities. The youth who are part of the hockey programs, is what concerns him and the number of tournaments which the young students are participating in which effects them, very tired. Family breakdowns also have an impact on our youth today.

Virginia Wabano, President of Cree Native Women's Association, stated that sports was an integral part of education for students. Students travelling abroad that was abolished should be reconsidered.

Alfred Coonishish stated that the ISP abuse of the program is evident. The trappers should participate in the drafting the of the ISP policies. Cultural practices are very important and he's glad that work is still in progress to improve the policies.

Lunch break – Billy Katapatuk recited the grace for meal.

Chief Thomas Jolly, Nemaska thanked the members of the ISP for their presentation.

Paul Dixon, stated that the ISP was negotiated for the Cree Trappers and Hunters. The ISP needs more administrators to manage the calendars. Some hunters have nothing to hunt on their traplines due to resource development.

Daniel Moses, Eastmain stated that at one point he was off ISP for ten years to teach Cree Culture at their local school. He is presently a recipient of the ISP, and has had to decline offers to attend meetings, since his attendance at various meetings impacts his number of days he has to declare to ISP. He thanked the former leadership for their contribution to the Nation.

Yvonne Neeposh, Nemaska was born on her trapline, shes's 75 years old today and is a recipient of the ISP. She has been living with an illness for the past 15 years and still returns to the bush, however the doctor does not recommend her to leave for the bush for health reasons. Elderly trappers and hunters are no longer as strong as they once were. She experienced hunger/famine at a young age, and has had to help her parents find game to feed her family. Doctors recommend that she stay close to medical facilities.

Joshua Iserhoff, Youth Grand Chief addressed the assembly on the importance of education and encourages the Chiefs and Councils to continue to encourage their youth to pursue higher education. There will be a CNYC Youth General Assembly, on August 14-16, 2015 in Waswanipi.

Chief Dennis Georgekish of Wemindji shared his concerns about Cree culture and language. Our children and grand children are slowly losing their Cree language. We must ensure that we find ways to help preserve our language.

Linda Shecapio of Mistissini stated that her parents are recipients of the Income Security Program, she's aware of some of the challenges they face. She's very proud of the ISP, she proposes that more partnerships be created with other organizations and ISP, in order to help them.

Daniel Snowboy of Chisasibi talked about how grateful he was of the ISP, as a recipient himself. He has known what it was like to live through starvation. He shared his experience about starvation.

25. ELDERS: 40 YEARS

Grand Chief invited Elder Robbie Matthew from Chisasibi to address the assembly. Elder Robbie Matthew talked about the way of life prior to the JBNQA. The JBNQA would provide the Cree to choose the way of life they wish to live but according to Mr. Matthew, we have become westernized. The Cree people agreed to keep and make sure that the way of life as it was then was protected so that it would flourish. The Cree people also wanted to protect the Cree values. Meaningful consultation of the people has disappeared according to Elder Matthew. He recommends that all affected tallymen and their families must be consulted regarding resource development or any other use of land within Eeyou Istchee. He also recommends that Cree Elders representative with specific knowledge or experience on the issues be appointed to sit on the committees, task forces, commissions, research, decision making, development of policies or position papers regarding or affecting lands, hunting, culture, language, wildlife or the environment. He stated that we must work together to create a good future not only for ourselves but also for our future generations. We must do this while those who had a certain understanding of what the people wanted prior to and at the time of the negotiations of the JBNQA are still with us to contribute their knowledge as well as to inform the new generation of its history.

26. WILDLIFE HABITAT PETITION FROM CHISASIBI- STATUS

Chief Davey Bobbish of Chisasibi introduced the item: wildlife habitat petition. The guaranteed level of harvest, which derives from the JBNQA is the issue he wishes to bring to everyone's attention today.

Daniel Snowboy of Chisasibi shared his hunting experience and the way it was in the past and how it has changed since the development of the Hydro project. The goose in particular has been declining over the recent past, because their food no longer grows in their territory due to development. Certain fish species have been disappearing as well.

Christopher Napash of Chisasibi also spoke about the impacts on the wildlife habitat due to development.

The Grand Chief announced that there will be a Conference/Assembly on the Wildlife Habitat in October, 2015. He extends an invitation to the Chiefs and Councils to appoint their representatives to attend this meeting.

A gift is presented by the elder Mary Bosum, Ouje-Bougoumou to elder Robbie Matthew for his contribution and his teachings over the years, and wishes to thank him for this. Another gift is presented to Janie Pachanos for her support to the Elders Council.

27. TEN YEAR CLAUSE

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and John Paul Murdoch, Corporate Secretary of the GCCEI-CNG presented the preliminary report on the Ten Year Clause. A recommendation will be tabled at the Council/Board in December 2015. The Ten Year Clause is a positive right for the Cree.

Deputy Grand Chief, Rodney Mark invites Joanne Willis Newton, to address the assembly. Mrs. Newton presented an update on the 10 year clause Resolution 2014-10: Resolution Regarding Adoption and Implementation of Uniform Interpretation of 10-Year Clause in Section 3.2.7 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JNBQA) to promote Education of Cree Youth. Moreover, Mrs. Newton summarized the meetings that were held over the past year with the Grand Council/Cree Nation Government's Executive Committee and Board/Council and the Working Group that was created to review the Ten Year Clause. Moreover, Mrs. Newton informed the assembly that an online petition was created and a copy was provided to the Working Group, where 94 signatures were collected. Mrs. Newton, anticipates that the report will recommend additional time for the Working Group to analyze the issues and formulate final recommendations. She also expects that the preliminary findings will include confirmation that the Ten Year Clause does not limit the rights of non-resident Crees who have returned to Eeyou Istchee within 10 years. Mrs. Newton expects that the Working Group will take the position that Resolution 2014-10 is not binding on the GCCEI-CNG Board and that the CSB and other Cree entities can continue to deny eligible Cree beneficiaries JBNQA right, programs and services based on criteria set by those entities as part of "program management" and budgetary constraints. Finally, Mrs. Newton asks the assembly how we as a Nation address the claims of the beneficiaries who have been denied post-secondary education benefits by the CSB based on an incorrect interpretation of the Ten-year clause?

Deputy Grand Chief, Rodney Mark, addressed the non-binding resolution issue and his experience as former Chief and Deputy Chief.

Chief Allan Jolly, Mo-Creebec shared his experience regarding resolutions that are tabled and passed at the AGA and how they are not legally binding. He encourages the Chiefs to bring these matters to council/board in order for them to be legally binding. Chief Jolly introduced the youth delegates from Mo-Creebec. The Ten-Year Clause has also been ongoing challenge for their members. A youth from Mo-Creebec had a question regarding their application for beneficiary.

See video. Rules are not applied uniformly and this will be one of the first recommendation in the report.

Ashley Iserhoff of Mistissini stated how some families such as the Iserhoff, McLeods, and Louttits experienced the loss of their status in the 1960s and 1970s until 1984, when their status had been reinstated. The Governments of Canada and Quebec cannot dictate or decide who is Cree and who isn't Cree, as they have in the past. We should not see or treat one another differently even if they resided outside of the community. One of the Cree values is respect. We must find ways to help all our people.

Roderick Pachanos, Chisasibi introduced his grand daughter and how she worked 3 jobs while going to school. Mr. Pachanos makes reference to *Changes to Section 3 of the JBNQA* on page 19 of the GCCEI/CRA annual report. As James O'Reilly stated yesterday, "Once a Cree always a Cree". Roderick urges everyone to think of the future, as did our past leaders who negotiated the JBNQA.

Irene Otter of Waswanipi stated that the elders should be invited to participate in meetings. Mrs. Otter stated that we are inventing our own words now, we should consult the elders on the Cree language. Moreover, honorary diplomas should be given to the elders.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, stated that resolutions are respected, unfortunately it is the agreements that prolong the process through translation.

Ashley Iserhoff of Mistissini inquired about the resolution to support the EEPF. Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark informed him that the matter would be addressed at Council/Board.

The proposed motion by Joanne N Lewis, will be tabled at the next Council/Board, an AGA Resolution will not change how the CSB is administered. The resolution 2014-10 is still in effect.

28. CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF REGGIE NEEPOSH

Chief Reggie Neeposh from Ouje-Bougoumou thanked the delegation for their attendance, and acknowledged their elders who have contributed to their achievements. He reiterated the importance of our Cree value, that is Respect for one another. Chief Neeposh is thankful for the presence of all the delegates. He thanked the members of the GCCEI-CNG Council/Board and the Executive.

29. CLOSING REMARKS BY DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark thanked Chief Neeposh and the members of Ouje-Bougoumou and Sophie Bosum, and Technicians, all the Chiefs.

30. CLOSING REMARKS BY GRAND CHIEF MATTHEW COON-COME

Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come thanked the members of Ouje-Bougoumou and Chief Reggie Neeposh for his contribution to the Council/Board. We have much to be thankful for, thanks to our past leaders, their hard work, we see our communities and how they have developed. There are other first nations who envy what we have managed to achieve for our people. As a nation we should be known as the hunters, promoting our culture and protectors of the land. He thanks the elders who sit amongst us throughout the meetings. Proposes a new way to manage our future assemblies, that is having the main entities, such as CHB and the CSB hosting their own assemblies in the future.

Cree Nation Government, is representative of every member of Eeyou Istchee, we will decide together what we want as a Nation. The Grand Chief wishes everyone well.

31. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30, with a closing prayer by Daniel Moses.