



CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

Update

Cree Nation Government

Chisasibi

August 3, 2016



ISP Mission

- « ...to provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives for Cree people that wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life... »

- **Complementary Agreement 15 (par. 30.2.1)**



Paragraph 30.2.8 : « economic security for the trappers »

- « The program shall ensure that hunting, fishing and trapping shall constitute a viable way of life for the Cree people and that individual Crees who elect to pursue such a way of life shall be guaranteed a measure of economic security consistent with conditions prevailing from time to time. »



The Income Security Program

- Launched in 1976, retroactive to 1975
- Modified in 1988
- Modified in 2002 (Comp. Agreement no. 15)
- NEW modification is now being considered
 - Consultations in 2008-2009
 - Formal document submitted to CNG and Quebec on 22 February 2012
 - Negotiations started in 2014



Negotiations Committee

- **From the Cree Nation Government**
 - Willie Iserhoff (Chairman of ISP)
 - Philip Awashish
 - Monique Caron (lawyer)
- **Quebec government**
 - 2 staff from Employment and Social Solidarity
 - 1 staff from Aboriginal Affairs
 - 1 lawyer from Department of Justice



Current negotiations

- **Main goals?**
 - **Fix existing flaws and weaknesses**
 - **Equal rights for men and women**
 - **Refocus ISP for the people that need « economic security »**
 - **Develop a YOUTH initiative**



So far, agreements reached for

- SEMI-ACTIVE STATUS
 - No time limit (originally 5-year limit)
- PATERNITY LEAVE
 - Provide paternity leave for men on ISP
- QUALIFICATION YEAR
 - Remove qualification year, but limit days during first year
- DEFINITION OF HEAD
 - Provide equal access to men and women



So far, agreements reached for

- **MEASURE FOR YOUTH**
 - Provide a new mentorship program for teenagers
- **FAR HARVESTING ALLOWANCE**
 - Maintain 180 day limit but consider all months (instead of the current 6-month period)
- **INCOME THRESHOLD FOR ELIGIBILITY**
 - Determine an income threshold to limit eligibility to those families that need « economic security »)



NEXT STEPS?

- Negotiations still in progress
- The « easy » topics all resolved
- Now tougher issues left to resolve
 - ex. Misuse of the Program
- Examine whether a new program could function without tracking « days in the bush » by using categories of hunters
- Nothing decided yet!



In conclusion

- ISP has been a success since 1976
- « ensure that hunting, fishing and trapping remain a viable way of life »
- 40th anniversary celebrations in Wemindji
August 23, 2016
- Board and staff devoted to improving and modernizing the program



EHKUDEHHMAK, MEEQWETCH!!