



**Cree Nation Governance Agreement**

**Cree Constitution**

**Cree Community Information Meetings**

**January - March 2017**

# Outline

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- **Subjects**
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- **Highlights**
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## Purpose

- **Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution will:**
  - **Strengthen Cree self-government** on Category IA lands under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA)*
  - Provide the Cree with **greater autonomy and flexibility** in governance on Category IA lands
  - Provide **long-term predictability of funding** for the Cree First Nations and Cree Nation Government

# Subjects

- **Jurisdiction**
  - Power of Cree First Nations and Cree Nation Government to **make laws (instead of by-laws)** on Category IA lands
  - **Existing arrangements** will be maintained, save that Cree laws will not have to be submitted to Minister of Indigenous Affairs
- **Land regime** on Category IA lands
  - Including **access** and **grant of rights** in lands and buildings
  - **Existing arrangements** will be maintained
- **Financial arrangements** with Canada, including long-term commitments for, among others:
  - **Operations and Maintenance** funding, and
  - **Capital Grant** funding

## Background

- The *New Relationship Agreement* between the Cree and Canada (“**Federal NRA**”) was signed in 2008
- The Federal NRA was the object of extensive **consultations** with the Cree communities and approved by the Cree by **referendum** in 2008
- **Chapter 3** of the Federal NRA addresses Cree Nation Governance; it has two parts:
  - **Part 1** provides for amendments to the *Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act* (“**CNQA**”) for **by-law powers** of the Cree Nation Government on Category IA lands to enable it to carry out the **Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities**
  - **Part 2** sets out process leading to Cree Nation Governance Agreement (“**Governance Agreement**”) and **Cree Constitution**

# Background

- **Impasse** regarding federal policy from 2010 to 2014
- **Real discussions** with senior federal officials start in January 2015
- **Major issues**
  - **Scope of governance** – local and regional governance on **Category IA lands**
  - **Fiscal relations**
  - **Transparency** and accountability
  - Role of **Québec**
  - **Ratification**

## **Purpose**

- Set out Cree local and regional governance arrangements on Category IA lands in accordance with JBNQA treaty and other agreements
- Exercise of Cree right of self-government
- Greater autonomy and flexibility
- Long-term funding arrangements

## **Territory**

- Limited to Category IA lands (and Category III enclaves)
- Does not affect Cree governance on Category II or III lands

### ***Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act***

- **Cree local and regional governance on Category IA lands** is transferred from *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* into Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution
  - Limited adjustments for greater autonomy and flexibility
  - Similar sequence and architecture – ease of reference
- *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* **will no longer apply** to Crees, Cree First Nations, Cree Nation Government and Category IA Land **after Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution take effect**



## Highlights

- **Cree First Nations will retain the same local government powers**, functions and responsibilities on Category IA lands
  - **Balance** between **local and regional Cree governments** will remain **unchanged**
  - **No transfer of powers**, functions or responsibilities between Cree entities
- **Cree governance powers on Category II lands are not affected**
- **Cree institutions** and their existing powers and responsibilities are **protected**
  - Cree School Board
  - Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay
  - Eeyou Eenou Police Force

## Major Benefits of Governance Agreement

- Power to make **“laws”** replaces power to make **“by-laws”** under CNQA
- **Increased autonomy** for Cree First Nations
  - **Removal of Minister’s oversight** or approval for exercise of law-making power (e.g. elections)
- **Increased flexibility** for Cree First Nations in making laws
  - Requirements for **referendum** for long-term borrowing, land planning and management, grant of rights in land, etc.
    - **Will now be provided for in Cree Constitution**
    - **Can be changed in future** by Cree Nation to take account of different context and conditions
    - **Referendum** requirement has been **removed for long-term borrowing**, but only for **housing**

## Major Benefits of Governance Agreement

- **Guarantees long-term funding security to 2040**
  - Operations & Maintenance
  - Capital Grants
- **Clarifies Own Source Revenue (OSR) scope of application and terms and conditions until 2040**
  - Included and excluded revenues

## Major Benefits of Cree Constitution

- **Increases flexibility and autonomy for Cree First Nations**
- **Focuses on Cree internal self-government** on Category IA lands
- Imports **existing procedures** from *Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act*
- But **Cree Constitution** will be internal instrument of **Cree self-government, under full Cree control**
- Cree Constitution may be **amended in future by Crees alone, without participation of Canada**
  - To adapt to context, changed conditions



# Governance Agreement

## Main Subjects

- Principal Provisions
- Cree First Nations and their law-making powers on Category IA lands
- Cree Nation Government and its law-making powers on Category IA lands
- Land regime – provisions of *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*
- Fiscal Relations
- Constitution and legal matters (e.g. rules of priority, enforcement of laws)
- Other matters
  - Tax exemption
  - Seizure exemption
  - Implementation and Liaison
  - Dispute resolution
  - Ratification

# Governance Agreement

## Part I – General

- **Interpretation and Definitions**
- **Principal Provisions**
- Governance Agreement sets out Cree **local and regional government arrangements on Category IA land** (s. 2.1)
- Cree Nation **acts through** Cree First Nations and Cree Nation Government for Jurisdictions (law-making powers) and Authorities (other powers) provided for in Governance Agreement
- **Jurisdictions, Authorities**, rights, powers and privileges set out in Governance Agreement shall be exercised **in accordance with the JBNQA**, Governance Agreement, Cree Constitution, and Cree Laws (s. 2.3)

# Governance Agreement

## Part I – General

- **Chapter 1 – Interpretation and Definitions**
- **Chapter 2 – Principal Provisions**
  - **JBNQA prevails** over Governance Agreement in case of inconsistency or conflict (s. 2.4)
  - **Governance Agreement does not amend, affect, modify, limit or prejudice the JBNQA, Federal NRA, Eeyou Marine Region Agreement,** related agreements and legislation or **Cree rights** under same, unless expressly provided (s. 2.5)
  - **No effect on Quebec obligations toward the Crees**, including those listed in the JBNQA, the *Paix des braves* and the *Cree-Québec Governance Agreement* and any related agreement, legislation or undertaking (s. 2.6)



# Governance Agreement

- **Chapter 2 – Principal Provisions**
- Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution shall have **force of law** and be **binding** on Parties and **all persons** (s. 2.10)
- ***Indian Act will not apply*** to Cree First Nations or Category IA lands, save to determine which Cree beneficiaries are “Indians” per *Indian Act* (s. 2.13)

# Governance Agreement

## Part II – Cree Constitution, Laws and Courts

- **Chapter 3 – Cree Constitution**

- Cree Nation shall develop Cree Constitution providing for matters specified in Federal NRA (s. 3.10)
- JBNQA, Governance Agreement and related legislation prevail over Cree Constitution (ss. 3.2, 3.3)

- **Chapter 4 – Laws and Courts**

- Governance Agreement prevails over Governance Legislation if conflict
- Governance Legislation prevails over federal laws, except *James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act*, if conflict (s. 3 CNQA)

# Governance Agreement

- **Chapter 4 – Laws and Courts**

- Territorial limits of laws
  - Category IA lands and Category III enclaves
- Enforcement of laws
  - EEPF – same jurisdiction as in CNQA
  - Cree First Nations and CNG may hire additional officials to enforce more specific rules e.g. building inspectors
- Challenges to laws and resolutions – *same as in CNQA*
- Offences
  - Maximum fines and term of imprisonment – not greater than the general limit under *Criminal Code*, i.e. currently \$5,000 and 6 months imprisonment
  - New summary process i.e. ticketing scheme

# Governance Agreement

## Part III – Cree First Nations

- Cree Bands will be separately continued under Governance Agreement as **Cree First Nations (CFN)** and as **same legal entities**
- **Change of band name**
  - No longer subject to approval by CFN electors and Governor in Council
  - Instead, it will be subject to approval by **special majority** of 2/3 of the votes of all council members in office
- **Membership** of Cree First Nations – *same principles as in CNQA*
- **Objects** of Cree First Nations – *same as in CNQA*
- **Legal capacity** and restriction on commercial activities – *same as in CNQA*

# Governance Agreement

## Cree First Nations – Law-Making Powers on Category IA Lands

- **Same as existing by-law powers** of Cree bands under *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*
  - Laws of local nature for **good government** of Category IA land and inhabitants of such land
  - Administration of band affairs and **internal management** of band
  - Regulation of **buildings** for protection of public health and safety
  - **Public order** and safety
  - Protection of **environment**
  - Local services and **user charges**
  - **Roads, traffic** and transportation
  - Etc.

# Governance Agreement

## Cree First Nations – Law-Making Powers on Category IA Lands

- **Taxation** for local purposes
  - Same power as now, but no longer subject to
    - Governor in Council regulations, or
    - Approval by band electors
  - Law will subject to **approval** by **special majority** of 2/3 of votes of all council members in office
- **Hunting, fishing, trapping** and wildlife
  - Same power, but Minister will no longer have power to disallow
- **Exclusions** - No Cree law in respect of criminal law, criminal procedure, intellectual property, official languages, aeronautics, navigation and shipping, or labour relations and working conditions

# Governance Agreement

## Part IV – Cree Nation Government on Category IA Lands

- **Objects** of CNG – *same as in CNQA*
- **Existing powers** per CNQA (public health and safety, essential sanitation services, fire departments, environment)
- **Additional law-making powers** per Part 2 of Ch. 3 of Federal NRA
  - **Direct Taxation**
    - **Power, but not obligation**, to levy direct tax, such as income tax, sales tax, on Crees
    - **In addition** to existing powers of Cree bands to impose property tax
  - **Solemnization of marriage**
  - **Matrimonial property**
  - **Cree language, culture** and heritage (only to complement functions of CSB)
    - Last three powers subject to implementation **agreements with Quebec**

# Governance Agreement

## Part V – Land Regime

- Provisions of *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* are imported into Governance Agreement
- **Residence and access rights** (Ch. 8 – *same as in CNQA*)
- **Rights of CFNs, Quebec and others** (Ch. 9 – *same as in CNQA*)
  - Quebec retains **bare ownership**
  - Commercial exploitation of **forest resources** subject to approval by electors (25%) and Quebec
  - Quebec retains ownership of **mineral rights** and subsurface rights
  - Grant of mineral rights subject to consent and compensation of Cree First Nation, save exceptions, as approved by electors (25%)
  - **Pre-existing rights** and interests are maintained



# Governance Agreement

## Part V – Land Regime

- **Expropriation** by Quebec, compensation and related matters (Ch. 11 – *same as in CNQA*)
- **Grant of rights** by CFN (Ch. 12 – *same as in CNQA*)
  - **Category IA land:** Lease, servitude, superficie or other right of use or occupation
  - **CFN Buildings:** Lease, usufruct, other right of use or occupation
- **Cession** of Category IA land (Ch. 13 – *same as in CNQA*)
  - **Clarification: Land reconfiguration** that does not reduce the total area of all Category IA lands of all Cree First Nations will **not constitute a “cession”**

# Governance Agreement

## Part V – Land Regime

- **Chapter 14 – Land Registry System**
  - Integrated into Governance Agreement as **Schedule B**.
  - Canada and Crees will determine, within three (3) years of Effective Date, suitable arrangements for **transfer of control** of land registry system **to CNG**
  - Until then, land registry system will remain under federal responsibility
- **Chapter 15 – Expropriation by CFN's** (*same as in CNQA*)
  - But **no longer subject** to Governor in Council **regulations**
  - Instead, expropriation will be subject to **CNG law** respecting substantive or procedural aspects of expropriation, including determination of compensation

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapters 16, 17 – Funding Commitments**
  - **O&M Funding Agreement** will be renewed until **March 31, 2028** (expiry of Federal NRA) (s. 17.1)
    - **Same terms and conditions** as current O&M Funding Agreement (2013-2018), including
    - **Same OSR provisions** *per Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* (user charges, fees for licences and permits and local property tax)
  - **Capital Grants Agreement** will be renewed until **March 31, 2028** (expiry of Federal NRA) (s. 17.1)
    - **Same terms and conditions** as current Capital Grants Agreement (2013-2018)

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapters 16, 17 – Additional Twelve-Year Funding Agreement (2028 to 2040) (ss. 16.2)**
- In 2026, in conjunction with negotiation of successor agreement to Federal NRA, Canada and Cree will negotiate **twelve-year funding agreement (2028 to 2040)** for:
  - **Additional costs for governance functions** *per* Governance Agreement (ss. 17.4 ff.)
  - **Assumed Federal JBNQA Responsibilities** during the term of successor agreement to Federal NRA (*Federal NRA, section 10.13*) (s. 17.8)
  - Capital costs, operations and maintenance and all other costs for **Band Facilities** after term of the Federal NRA (*Federal NRA, section 10.14*)
  - **O&M Funding (same terms and conditions as to 2028)** (s. 17.2)
  - **Capital Grants Funding (same terms and conditions as to 2028)** (s. 17.2)

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapter 18 – Other Provisions**

- A. Own Source Contributions (OSR)**

- Funding required from Canada for following items will be subject to Cree OSR Contribution applied, for period between 2028 and 2040, in accordance with specific OSR parameters defined in Schedule A of Governance Agreement
  - Cree Trappers Associations (*JBNQA, par. 28.5.6*)
  - Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (*JBNQA, par. 28.6.2*)
  - Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (*JBNQA, par. 28.7.5*)
  - Community centres (*JBNQA, sub-par. 28.11.1(a)*)
  - Essential sanitation services (*JBNQA, sub-par. 28.11.1(b)*)
  - Fire protection (*JBNQA, sub-par. 28.11.1(c)*)
  - New governance functions *per* Governance Agreement

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapter 18 – Other Provisions**

- **Own Source Contributions (OSR)**

- Funding from Canada for above expenditures will be subject to potential deduction of any applicable Cree OSR Contribution
  - **Applied between 2028 and 2040** in accordance with **specific OSR terms and conditions** defined in **Schedule C** of Governance Agreement
  - **After 2040**, in accordance with **OSR parameters to be negotiated then**

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapter 18 – Other Provisions**

- **Own Source Contributions (OSR)**

- **Specific OSR terms and conditions for 2028 to 2040 per Schedule C**
    - **Eligible OSR revenue shall consist of following revenues actually received by CNG**
      - **Tax revenues** (only if levied)
      - CNG's share of **distributed profits** from businesses controlled by CNG
      - **Net income** (losses) from **business activities** conducted by CNG and net realized income (losses) from **property owned** by CNG
      - Certain **fees and charges** levied by CNG
    - **No deemed revenues** or “OSR capacity”

# Governance Agreement

## Part VI – Fiscal Relations

- **Chapter 18 – Other Provisions**

- **Own Source Contributions (OSR)**

- **Specific OSR terms and conditions for 2028 to 2040 per Schedule C**

- For greater certainty, list of **revenues** to be **excluded** from calculation of OSR Contribution
      - *e.g.* IBA payments, compensation<sup>0</sup> for claims, program transfers, provincial transfers, etc.
    - **Basic exemption**
    - **Phase-in** after five years, ramp-up over 15 years to maximum of 50%



# Governance Agreement

## Part VII – Other Matters

- **Tax Exemptions (Chapter 19)**

- Governance Legislation will include the tax exemptions stated in sections 187 and 188 of CNQA, subject to Section 9 of JBNQA

- **Seizure Exemptions (Chapter 20)**

- Governance Legislation will include the seizure exemptions stated in sections 189 to 193 of CNQA, subject to Section 9 of the JBNQA
- **New:** A waiver by a Cree beneficiary or Indian ordinarily resident on Category IA land of the exemption from seizure of a right or interest in Category IA land will still require the consent of the CFN, but this consent will no longer be subject to approval by the CFN electors

# Governance Agreement

## Part VII – Other Matters

- **Liaison and Implementation (Chapter 21)**
  - Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee of Federal NRA will apply
  - Implementation Committee – under Standing Liaison Committee
- **Dispute Resolution Process (Chapter 22)**
  - Same as under Chapter 9 of Federal NRA
- **New Cree First Nations (Chapter 23)**
  - Formal establishment of new Cree band will be subject to agreement with Canada and Québec

# Governance Agreement

## Part VII – Other Matters

- **Cree-Naskapi Commission (Chapter 26)**
  - Cree-Naskapi Commission will, with respect to the Crees, investigate any representation relating to implementation of Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution
  - No more reporting to Parliament on implementation
  - Canada and Crees will examine, with the Naskapis, the role of the Cree-Naskapi Commission, in particular, to avoid duplication



# Cree Constitution

## Main subjects addressed in Cree Constitution

- Cree Values and Principles
- Cree First Nations – provisions of *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*
  - General: objects, powers, council meetings, committees
  - Procedure for making laws and resolutions
  - Elections
  - Meetings and referenda
  - Financial administration
  - Internal appeal, access to information
- Cree Nation Government on Category IA land
  - Procedure for making laws
  - Internal appeal, access to information
- Ratification and amendments

# Cree Constitution

## Preamble

- The Crees of Eeyou Istchee constitute an **Indigenous society and nation** with rights, values and principles set out in the Cree Constitution
- The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development
- The Declaration states that Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the **right to autonomy or self-government** in matters relating to their internal and local affairs

# Cree Constitution

## Preamble

- The Crees of Eeyou Istchee, in the exercise of their right of self-determination and self-government, have entered into various **agreements and treaties** with non-Indigenous society and government, including the JBNQA, the Paix des Braves, the EMR Agreement, the Cree – Québec Governance Agreement
- It is appropriate to set out in the Constitution **arrangements** regarding the exercise of the Cree right of self-government in relation to the **administration and internal management** of the Cree First Nations and the Cree Nation Government on Category IA Land
- The **Constitution** is an instrument of **internal self-government** of the Cree Nation and is **subject to its full control** with regard both to its adoption and to its **future amendment** to take account of the context and changing conditions

# Cree Constitution

## Cree Values and Principles (Chapter 1)

- Since time immemorial, the **Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee** has continuously
  - functioned as a **distinctive Indigenous people and nation** with its own social organization, distinctive culture, language, spirituality, values, institutions, laws, practices, customs and traditions;
  - **governed itself** in accordance with its **own values, laws and institutions** in the exercise of its inherent right of self-government and self-determination;
  - used, occupied and managed the **land and resources** of the territory of Eeyou Istchee
  - carried on, and continues to carry on, activities which express practices, **customs and traditions** integral to its distinctive culture and self-government



# Cree Constitution

## Cree Values and Principles

- The Cree Nation has **never surrendered** its **inherent right of self-government** and self-determination
- The Cree Nation **continues** the process of asserting, affirming and defining its **inherent right of self-government** and self-determination to take account of the context and changing conditions
- The Cree Nation subscribes to the **fundamental values** of freedom, human dignity, equality, justice, mutual care and assistance, respect for individual and collective rights, protection of the environment and wildlife, and honour for the Creator, Cree ancestors and Cree traditions
- The **principles and values** set out in the Cree Constitution are critical to the conclusion of agreements and treaties in support of the **process of reconciliation** between the Cree Nation and non-Indigenous society and government

# Cree Constitution

## Purpose and Priority (Chapter 2)

- Cree Constitution sets out **arrangements** to which the Cree Nation has consented regarding the exercise of the **Cree right of self-government** and self-determination in relation to the **administration and internal management** of the Cree First Nations and the Cree Nation Government on Category IA Land
- Provisions of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*, the Governance Agreement and the CNG Act shall **prevail** over the provisions of the Constitution to the extent of any **inconsistency** or conflict
- **Cree Laws shall be subject to** and consistent with the **Governance Agreement** and the **Constitution**

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **General – (Chapters 3, 4)**
  - Head office
  - Chief and deputy chief
  - Council meetings
  - Conflict of interest
  - Committees of council
  - Bodies, officers, employees and agents
  - Procedure for making laws and resolutions
    - In future, copy of CFN laws will no longer be sent to Minister

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Elections (Chapter 5)**
  - **Election laws**
    - Same principles and level of elector approval as in CNQA
    - **However**, approval of Minister will no longer be required
  - Provisions of existing *Cree-Naskapi Band Elections Regulations* SOR/88-315 are incorporated into the Constitution as **Appendix A**:
  - **Eligibility** to be elected and serve as council member – *same as in CNQA*
  - **Returning officers** – *same as in CNQA*
  - **Calling of elections** – *same as in CNQA*
  - **Contestation** of election results – *same as in CNQA*

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Meetings and Referenda (Chapter 6)**
  - **Same principles** as in CNQA, **except** that:
    - Copy of laws respecting special meetings and referenda will **no longer** be required to be **sent to Minister**
    - **Governor in Council** will **no longer** have the power to **make regulations** respecting special meetings and referenda

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Financial Administration (Chapter 7)**
  - **Same principles** as in CNQA, **except** that:
    - Copy of **budget** and supplementary budget will **no longer be sent to Minister**
    - Minister will **no longer have access** to books of account and **financial records** for inspection
    - Minister will no longer have the **power to appoint auditor**
      - Instead, the CNG will appoint auditor where no auditor has been appointed by the CFN electors or where a vacancy has not been filled by the CFN
  - Copy of the **auditor's report** will no longer be sent to the Minister

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Financial Administration (Chapter 7)**
  - **Borrowing powers (ss. 7.9 – 7.11)** – same principles as in CNQA, except:
    - Approval of CFN electors will still be required for **long-term borrowing**
    - **Except** for long-term borrowing related to **housing**
  - **Contracts (s. 7.12, similar to CNQA s. 99)**
  - **Administrator (s. 7.13)**
    - Instead of Minister, CNG will have power to **appoint administrator**, if needed

## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Financial Accountability (s. 7.8)**
  - Within 180 days after end of each fiscal year, each Cree First Nation shall distribute free of charge to every member, or publish in community newspaper, a summary report of financial position of the Cree First Nation dealing with following elements:
    - Latest audited financial statements
    - Auditor's latest report
    - Remuneration received by each Council Member from Cree First Nation and its subsidiaries



## Cree First Nations (Part II)

- **Other matters**
  - **Internal appeal** and redress mechanism
    - Each Cree First Nation shall establish a mechanism for internal appeal and redress for decisions taken under the Governance Agreement
  - **Access to information**
    - Each Cree First Nation shall establish procedures on access to information in its control in relation to the exercise of its Jurisdictions and Authorities set out in Governance Agreement

## Cree Nation Government (Part III)

- On Category IA lands
- Provisions of *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* – same principles
  - Procedure for Making Laws (Chapter 11)
    - Adoption of laws
    - Coming into force of laws
    - Register of laws
    - Copies of laws
      - Copy of laws will no longer be sent to the Minister

## Cree Nation Government

- **On Category IA lands**
- **New provisions**
  - **Internal appeal and redress mechanism (Chapter 12)**
    - CNG shall establish mechanism for internal appeal and redress for decisions taken under Governance Agreement
  - **Access to information (Chapter 13)**
    - CNG shall establish procedures on access to information in its control in relation to exercise of its Jurisdictions and Authorities set out in Governance Agreement

## Ratification and Amendments

- Cree Constitution shall **come into effect** and be legally binding **at the same time** as the Governance Agreement
- Cree Constitution may be amended from time to time in accordance with the following procedure:
  - **Step 1 – Initiation of amendment**
    - Resolution adopted by council of CNG
  - **Step 2 – Development of draft amendment**
    - CNG develops draft amendment to Constitution
  - **Step 3 – Information**
    - CNG makes available or publishes draft amendment
  - **Step 4 - Approval**
    - GCC(EI)/CNG and each Cree First Nation approve amendment by resolution

# Next Steps

## Next Steps

### Ratification of Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution

- **Text of Governance Agreement and Cree Constitution has been finalized**
- **Consultation** with Cree authorities and Cree beneficiaries, including information meetings in each Cree community
- **Formal Cree approval** of Governance Agreement and Constitution by GCC(EI)/CNG and each Cree First Nation
- **Federal Cabinet approval** of Governance Agreement (**not** Constitution)
- **Signature** of Governance Agreement
- **Governance Legislation - adoption** and coming into force

# Questions/Comments