

2017 Annual General Assembly of the 43rd Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and 40th Cree Nation Government held in Whapmagoostui, on August 01, 2017 commencing at 9:10 a.m.

Opening Prayer was done by elder, James Kawapit, Sr.

Welcoming Address was made by Chief Louisa Wynne.

Opening Remarks Deputy Grand Chief: Mrs Mandy Gull welcomes everyone for coming up to this assembly in Whapmagoostui. She briefly acknowledged everyone's participation in the Cree Nation Government elections for Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief elections and being elected and thanked all voters and looks forward to the next four(4) years.

Chair: Abel Bosum

Thank you for putting your trust in me and we look forward in working with you in the future. Working together with you will be good and I have set goals already in what needs to be done. We will work together in finding in solutions in what needs to be done in the housing situations that we have in our communities.

We can invest in our youth that are in the south for future employment once they return into their communities.

With regards to the housing crisis, we need to find funding for each community needs, and to set aside funding to start of with and be able to build housing and request Canada and Quebec to release funding.

We can also use our contractors from our communities to work with us in the future as they also need help for their businesses, if we do this we will not need southern workers to come down and work for us.

We have agreements since 1974 and we need to follow these.

He also mentioned the hunter and trapper assistance programs.

There are other subjects that need to be discussed within the week.

I believe if we can do it together and it will be better that way.....Meegwetch.

Recording Secretaries

The recording Secretaries for this assembly were appointed, namely, Clara Claire Bosum and Victoria George.

On a motion duly made by Davey Bobbish and seconded by Dennis Georgekish, the following resolution no, 2017-01 was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly hereby name Victoria George and Claire Bosum to be the recording secretaries for the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Resolutions Committee

The assembly appointed the following persons as the Resolutions Committee for the 2017 Annual General Assembly: Bill Namagoose, Matthew Swallow, John Paul Murdoch, Michael Petawabano and Melissa Saganash.

On a motion made by Joshua Iserhoff and seconded by Gaston Cooper, the following resolution no. 2017-02 was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly nominate:

- Bill Namagoose, Executive Director
- Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director
- Matthew Swallow, Treasurer
- Melissa Saganash, Director of Quebec Relations
- John Paul Murdoch

To the Resolutions Committee of the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Adoption of Agenda

The following items were added to the proposed agenda:

The Case of Candy Gunner

Language and Culture

Meetings in MoCreebec

On a motion made by Samantha Awashish and seconded by John Shem, the following resolution no. 2017-03 was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the draft agenda for the 2017 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Reception and Acknowledge of Minutes and Resolutions from 2016 Annual General Assembly:

John Paul Murdoch informed the assembly that there is a website to go to, to view and acquire information from previous assemblies.

The minutes from 2016 Annual General Assembly were tabled. It was decided to adopt them as is, due to the recent elections.

On a motion made by Joshua Iserhoff and seconded by Louisa Wynne, the following resolution no. 2017-05 was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having taken cognizance of the Minutes and Resolutions of the 42nd/39th the Annual General Assemblies of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government held on August 2nd to the 4th, 2016, in Chisasibi (Eeyou Istchee) are hereby approved and adopted.

Board Council 2016-2017

The minutes and resolutions of the Board Council for 2016-2017 were also tabled and was decided to adopt them as they are. These minutes are from meetings held in May, July, September, November, December, January and March of 2016-2017.

On a motion made by Louisa Wynne and seconded by Curtis Bosum, the following resolution no. 2017-XX was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having taken cognizance of the Minutes and Resolutions of the 2016-2017 minutes of resolutions of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government hereby formally receive said minutes and resolutions as per the General By-Laws.

CRA/Board of Compensation

The minutes of meetings of the CRA/Board of Compensation held in 2016-2017 were adopted as tabled. These meeting were held on April and July 2016, December and February 2017.

On a motion made by Darlene Cheechoo and seconded by Richard Shecapio, the following resolution no. 2017-XX was adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having taken cognizance of the Minutes and Resolutions of

the 2016-2017 minutes of resolutions of the Cree Nation Government Board of Compensation hereby formally receive said minutes and resolutions as per the General By-Laws.

Chief Richard Shecapio questioned whether they have access to the minutes of subsidiaries?

John Paul Murdoch responded that we can ask them and at the same time, Rusty Cheezo was referred with the question and answered that they can be accessible.

By-Laws Cree Nation Government

John Paul Murdoch presented the procedures that are followed in the adoption of by-laws in the Cree Nation Government.

These are presented at the Board Council meetings and when introduced and enacted by the Council, then they become law under the Cree Nation government.

At every assembly, we need to look at what was enacted at the Council level. You can also review these under the website that was provided and those that are under review and in the process of being adopted. He referred to the Policing By-law that is in the process of being amended. He also provided a list of by-laws that are in effect.

Consolidation of By-Laws

Back in December 2016, it was decided to consolidate all previous by-laws under the Cree Nation government. This was explained by John Paul Murdoch.

Chief Richard Shecapio mentioned the issue on tendering of contracts by-law for its review.

John Paul Murdoch informed the assembly that tabling of any by-law for review and amendments can only be approved by the Council Board, therefore, only recommendations can be made at this level. At this level, they can be defeated as well.

Thomas Coon questioned the jurisdiction issue on category lands

Timothy Matoush –

Chief Richard Shecapio –

Only the by-laws that are introduced in the 2016-17 ? , it applies and can only be changed by the Board.

Daniel Mark-Stewart – How will this affect the category 3 lands?

- Regional government ?

It was determined that there are no new by-laws or any amendments to be made at this time.

On a motion made by: Davey Bobbish and seconded by Curtis Bosum, the following resolution no. 2017-XX was duly adopted and carried:

WHEREAS the members of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly have been duly informed of any new or amendments to the existing By-Laws of the Cree Nation Government this 1st day of August 2017.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having taken cognizance of the By-Laws duly adopted by the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/Cree Nation Government are hereby confirmed as the 2017 Consolidated By-Laws of the Cree Nation Government.

Meeting ended at 12:00 p.m. for lunch break.

CNG Annual General Assembly continued its meeting commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Corporate Matters – Ratification and adoption of Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report 2016-2017

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer of CNG, did an overview of the financial results for the year ending March 31st 2017 for the CNG.

He presented the financial highlights, such as the general fund for Eenu Eeyou Police Force and the Childcare funds. He went on to summarize the following funds in that order:

- Capital Fund
- General Fund Revenue & Expenditures
- Allocation of O&M funding
- Allocation of Capital A-Base funding
- Allocation of Cree Trust Funding
- Cree Human Resources Development Fund

The following funds were also tabled:

- GCCQ (Eeyou Istchee)
- General Fund Revenue and expenditure history 2008-2017
- Eenu-Eeyou Limited Partnership investment history 2008-2017
- Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.
- Cree Nation Government and related entities – summary of allocation of funding to the communities and certain entities

Matthew Swallow did the closing remarks on his presentation, as well as welcoming the New Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief.

He also thanked the former Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief on their support and involvement in these funding allocations. He also mentioned his grateful acknowledgement of the support of the CNG staff.

Question period:

Joshua Iserhoff referred to page 12 of the financial statements where the population increase between Nemaska and Ouje-Bougamou are mentioned, in the years 2015-16-17, there is hardly any difference when he thought that the population of Nemaska is greater than the population of Ouje-Bougamou. He inquired what formula is in place or is there another formula that can be looked at, with respect to small communities when allocating funding?

Answer was provided by Bill Namagoose where they look at three factors: such as the index, square footage and _____? This formula was formulated in 1984 and never amended.

Thomas Coon: He remembers a time when the hunter returned from hunting, the children were told not to look out for the hunter. This is a teaching within the Cree nation. When I look at this overview, this is how I look at this. I am grateful to see this. Even though, we sacrificed a lot, I am still grateful for what I see.

William Chiskamish: This land we are occupying, this is Cree traditional hunting territory, do not listen to the government who says it's my land. It is the youth that will take over in the future, and it is slowly being sold to the government. We need the elders to teach our youth more on hunting skills and taking them out in the land and introducing them to our way of life.

Hattie Wapachee: Thinking about Niskamoon or Forestry funding, is it for everyone or just some people. Some people have lands that have not been properly cleaned around camp area especially the ones with health problems such as the elders, as for me, I have no land but what if we need help we never get the help we request for. Is there a way we can get assistance to pay our helpers? Is there a way we all can be looked at equally through Niskamoon and Forestry? That's all I wanted to say thank you.

Dennis Georgekish recommended to have the formula and the cost of living to be reviewed, such as north vs south.

Bill answered that the cost of living is supposed to be considered inside the base.

John Shem inquired whether the CNG have shares in the companies? Bill Namagoose answered him by saying that they do.

John Shem – Eenou/Eeyou Partnership – He mentioned the fact that certain entities only receive limited funds when the companies make millions, why don't they receive more when we want these entities to thrive?

Sandy Petagumskum basically thanked the CNG for their hard work after the signing of the JBNQA.

Chief Louisa Wynne mentioned that the population of Whapmagoostui is close to a thousand now, so she is questioning whether the cost of living will be considered, and whether the community will be considered as a bigger community by looking at the number in population? Chief Wynne stated that a study had been conducted by Laval University regarding the cost of living.

Chairman Abel: It is located south Chibougamau we have asked the Jamiesien and Crees

On a motion duly made by Simeon Wapachee and seconded. by: John Shem, the following resolution was duly adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having taken cognizance of the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree Nation Government hereby formally adopted said financial statements.

Appointment of Auditors

It was recommended to appoint the same auditing firm as in previous years, who are the firm of Raymond, Chabot Grant Thorton.

On a motion made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by Simeon Trapper, the following resolution 2017-XX was duly adopted and carried:

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 43rd/40th Annual General Assembly having received the recommendation of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominate the firm of Raymond Chabot Grand Thornton to act as the auditors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

Break at 2:40 p.m.

Board of Compensation

Rusty Cheezo, an observer from Eastmain, who is also the chairman on the Board presented the recommendation to the assembly regarding the Compensation Policy. This recommendation can only be adopted at this assembly.

Chief Bobbish – ?

Chief Shecapio – How much will be involved in the creation of a Compensation Policy? What is the justification on the retainer fees? How much will be needed while following the policy? In the past there were debited payments.

Rusty Cheezo advised that an amount of \$500,000 was budgeted for with respect to this policy which would be paid out in four(4) instalments.

On a motion made by Davey Bobbish and seconded by Curtis Bosum, the following resolution no. 2017-XX was duly adopted and carried with 4 abstentions:

(RESOLUTION)

At this time, John Paul Murdoch did an overview of the proposed resolution on honorarium rates for members of the Board of Directors of the GCCQ and the Council of the Cree Nation Government.

Elijah Sandy recommended an review of the fees every 5 or 10 years and shorter rates for Board of Compensation.

Susan Esau stands by the recommendation, due to inflation rate but needs to be more transparent.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stands with the recommendation made by Elijah Sandy to review the rates every five (5) years.

On a motion made by John Shem and seconded by Frank Atsynia, the following resolution no. 2017-XX was adopted and carried, with 2 abstentions (not opposed):

(RESOLUTION)

Tabling of Reports

- 2016-17 Justice Funds Annual Report
- CHBJBSS Annual Report
- Cree Hunters & Trappers Income Security Report
- Board of Compensation Annual Report
- Creeco Annual Report
- Cree-Naskapi Commission Report
- Cree Nation Government Report

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Cree Nation Government presented his message to the assembly which is contained in the annual report of the Cree Nation Government. He went on to summarize the other items in the said report.

At this time, Matthew Mukash from Whapmagoostui was given the floor to inform the assembly of the event that will take place this evening on the showing of the documentary – Journey of Niishiiyuu.

Closing remarks by Abel Bosum.

Meeting ended at 4:44 p.m.

2017 Annual General Assembly of the 43rd Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and 40th Cree Nation Government was held in Whapmagoostui on August 2, 2017.

Opening prayer was recited by Thomas Coon.

The Deputy-Grand Chief, Mandy Gull assumed the chair for today's assembly and made her opening remarks.

Cree Canada Governance Agreement

The Cree Canada Governance Agreement was circulated to the Cree Communities by way of Information Meetings starting in January 2017. The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen Cree self-government, greater autonomy and flexibility and long term predictability of funding. What it contains: jurisdiction, land regime, financial arrangements with Canada.

Mr. John Paul Murdoch did a background narration on the realization of the agreement and the highlights, with regards to purpose, territory and went on to highlight the Cree Naskapi Act.

Major benefits of the Governance Agreement is, it guarantees long-term funding security to 2040 and clarifies own source revenue (OSR). Taxation became an option, which is not an obligation for the Cree nation. He also touched on the Governance Agreement as well as the main subjects.

Question Period:

Susan Esau asked whether the information that was presented will be provided to the delegates. She was asked that the information is on the website.

Thomas Coon – 1st question: ?

2nd question: When will it take effect?

Bill Namagoose went back to the slide and showed where it states when the agreement will take effect and become legally binding at the same time as the Governance Agreement.

With respect to amending the Constitution, the Cree Nation Government does not have that authority, it is only the Cree nation as a whole that can make the amendments.

Abel Bosum –

Chief Davey Bobbish commented on the exclusions, labour relations and working conditions and questioned whether there is a _____ to regime within Cat 1 lands, does it mean that we no longer have that power?

Clarification was made by Bill Namagoose towards his question.

The other question he asked was in regards to section ___? The community of Chisasibi are encountering problems with respect to housing allocations being affected by corridors of Category 1 and 2 lands.

Chief Thomas Jolly brought up the matter where there is no curriculum in place in our schools with respect to our history. He recommends that the Cree Nation Government needs to be involved in this subject.

Mandy Gull informed the assembly that she believes that the Cree School Board is in the process of working on a text book with respect to our history as Cree people.

Annie Iserhoff –

William Chiskamish, a delegate from the Cree Nation of Chisasibi wants a verification on what can be done for us Crees, without paying taxes in Quebec.

John Paul Murdoch mentioned that the process is being started in negotiating with Quebec on this issue.

Chief Dennis Georgekish reminded the assembly that when the Cree constitution agreement was voted on, it was discussed that feedback from the local governments would be sought, will this process be followed up?

Abel Bosum –

Chief Richard Shecapio also informed the assembly that the taxation on transportation on hunting and trapping is in the process of being discussed.

Meeting recessed for break at 10:52 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

The Deputy-Grand Chief, Mandy Gull acted as the chairperson and opened the assembly.

Willard Napash, a delegate for the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, brought up the matter on taxation of employees working for Hydro-Quebec and the need for more courses under adult education in collaboration with Hydro-Quebec agreement.

John Paul Murdoch mentioned that this matter is already being looked at.

Land Claims and Legal Proceedings

John Paul Murdoch did a presentation on the above-mentioned matter.

Curtis Bosum –

John Paul mentioned that in Ontario, the Metis went to the Supreme Court of Canada for their status. He explained their case where they want to be recognized as a Metis nation.

Gaston Cooper –

Chief Richard Shecapio –

Willard Napash also mentioned the Metis people who have arrived at the trainings provided for the Crees who are taking over and occupying the positions because of their statements saying that they have status. This is creating a conflict on the Crees who are looking for employment in the territory.

John Paul Murdoch answered by mentioning the 10-year clause. He explained what was discussed at the meeting with the government in relation to the James Bay agreement. There is a clause in the JBNQA, where it states that any person who is related to only one status/beneficiary, he/she can assume beneficiary status. There was a discussion on developing a Cree beneficiary card.

Willard Napash informed the assembly that it seems these Metis people are going back and forth with respect to their status when it comes to hunting, employment and other issues that may involve status.

Thomas Coon made a recommendation to the Mocreebec litigation that its not for us to decide whether they are Metis or not. It is very clear in the JBNQA who is Cree and a beneficiary under it. They are attracted to the benefits that we are receiving under the JBNQA. Let the court decide, not for us to decide.

John Paul Murdoch brought up the subject of the 10-year clause, it is not clear in the agreement when it should apply. Even if you are a Cree, there are still steps to be applied to qualify for these programs, when it comes to education too.

Simeon Trapper - Cree/Ontario Land Claim – What is the deadline to come to an agreement?

Bill Namagoose –

Chief Allan Jolly made a comment on the Indian Act Bill C-31, with respect to loss of status due to marriage to non-natives. He reiterated the comments made by Thomas Coon.

Thomas Coon informed the assembly that whatever Metis do today, the Quebec law applies to them.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 to continue at 1:20 p.m.

The assembly continued at 1:38 p.m.

Opening remarks were made by Deputy-Grand Chief, Mandy Gull.

Eeyou Eenou Police Force

Bill Namagoose presented the Inspection Report of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force (EPPF) with respect to its operational and activities review. The police personnel and civilian staff of the EPPF headquarters and most of the detachments were met on this issue by the inspectors retained by the CNG, namely, Pierre Goupil and Dang Phuoc Nguyen. Apart from this, the court liaison officers were also met with, by the above-mentioned.

He reviewed the strong points that were determined in the regional police department. It was also determined that the activities of the Eenou/Eeyou Police Force are rather reactive than proactive, and there is a lack of accountability. Therefore, there needs to be a change of structure and management principles put in place.

There will be a level of activities to be followed and the management to go back to basics. Also, more planning, to be properly delegated. Organization and direction to mobilize the personnel in this department, taking into account leadership, ownership and accountability. More control by the senior officers. More emphasis to put into urgent issues.

There was a task force created to oversee these matters in the EEPF. There are recommendations that have been identified which need to be dealt with at that level.

Michael Petawabano continued the presentation regarding the jurisdiction, level 1 activities, incentives, adjustments on the funding level, Liaison Committee, specialized training. They will meet on these issues this coming September.

Chief Richard Shecapio addressed the contingent plan, where an assessment was done in Mistissini which has not changed. Questioning whether there is someone in the EEPF who is working in implementing these plans, and whether progress is being made.

John Petagumskum brought up the matter on doing an Inquiry on mistreatment of women by the Cree police officers. He informed that he had brought up this subject with the newly elected Grand Chief when he was doing his campaign here in Whapmagoostui.

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women

Presentation done by _____ on the above matter.

Farrah Wylde made a presentation stating that she is one of the supporters in the missing persons case of Cindy Rupertouse. If anyone wants to make a donation to this case, there is a donation on the gofundme page in her honour for the family to continue the search.

Gaston Cooper reminded the delegates about the photo shoot of all delegates at the request of Grand Chief Abel Bosum.

The meeting then adjourned for the day at 3:45 p.m. to have the delegates ready for the inauguration ceremony of the new Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief.

Continuation of the GCCQ/CNG Annual General Assembly on August 3, 2017 commencing at 9:10 a.m.

Opening Prayer was recited by Simeon Trapper.

Opening remarks by Grand Chief Abel Bosum, who assumed the chair for today's assembly.

Opening remarks were also made by Deputy-Grand Chief Mandy Gull. She is glad that she is able to work now with Abel, who will be a public servant to the Cree nation, and be open to suggestions, and her goal is to travel to all Cree communities at all times, and looking forward to serving the Cree Nation. She talked about her experiences with other nations and when she looks at our communities, she is very thankful on how far we have come as a Nation, with respect to education, employment and the youth involvement in the nation. Looking forward to the last day of this assembly and the outcome.

Nemaska Relocation Claim

Chief Thomas Jolly did a slide presentation on the history of Nemaska. In 1976, band members formally pledged to relocate to Nemaska. Every summer, they hold summer gatherings in Nemaska Lake.

Construction of a New Youth Administration Building

Simeon Wapachee did a presentation of the above-mentioned subject.

He is moving to have a resolution supported by the assembly.

Additional Resources for the Cree Nations Capital

Chief Thomas Jolly presented to the assembly on the above-mentioned subject.

Grand Chief Abel Bosum –

Nemaska Relocation Claim

Kathleen Neeposh presented the Nemaska Relocation Claim. On July 20, 2017, a meeting was held in Nemaska on the above subject, which she presented to the assembly and a resolution was proposed to that effect and requiring the support from this assembly.

Abel – this matter will be put forth in the tabling of resolutions.

Meeting recessed for break at 10:29 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

James Bay Highway

Rusty Cheezo presented this issue. Recommendation to Cree Nation government to have contracts bids for Cree contractors on the resurfacing of the James Bay highway conditions.

Resolution to be tabled.

Chief Dennis Georgekish – There was a committee that was formed who was given the mandate to discuss this matter. Funding is required to resurface the highway and he is asking for support from the coastal communities.

RESOLUTIONS

Cree Nation of Nemaska – Construction of new local youth administration building

P. by: Simeon Wapachee

S. by: William Chiskamish

Action Carried

Cree Nation Capital:

P. by: Thomas Jolly

S. by: Susan Esau

Action:Carried

Nemaska Relocation Claim

P. by: Rusty Cheezo

S. by: Susan Esau

Action: Carried

Thomas Coon reminded the assembly that the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec were not responsible for the displacement of the community, the actual threat came from Hydro-Quebec and forced them to relocate elsewhere,

He also had a question as to whether there is a claim put forth to the Hydro-Quebec?

Bill Namagoose answered by referring to the 2008 agreement that the Cree bands agreed to formally revive any claims made by any relocations.

Willard Naspash is requesting that support be given to the employees working in hydro project sites and no limit to be placed in their employment status.

RESOLUTION - Works on James Bay Highway

P. by: Kenneth Cheezo

S. by: William Chiskamish

Action: Carried

William Chiskamish – There are different companies that are working on the highway at certain kilometers, just needed to clarify this with the assembly but glad that there is progress made.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo – He verified that he has made contacts with respect to the tendering process.

Chief Dennis Georgekish – He provided information on the works of the highway.

Thomas Coon – Is there a clause in the JBNQA with respect to preferential contract?

Chief Richard Shecapio – NTQ – justification of roads

He recommended that a committee be created to have a representative from each community on the plans in the discussions of RDN and access road to Whapmagoostui.

The Board consists of the following: Davey Bobbish, Curtis Bosum and Andy Baribeau.

Mocreebec Recognition

Chief Allan Jolly – Mocreebec resolution to be recognized as the 11th Cree community, a condition was made by the Chiefs' that they visit each community to present their request. They still have 2 communities to visit, which are Waskaganish and Washaw-Sibi.

The other subject is, requesting CNG to hold a meeting in Moosonee, Ontario. To be considered, this is not a demand.

The Case of Candy Gunner

Mandy Gull presented the matter to the assembly. She informed the assembly that she will provide the information to whoever wants to make a donation to assist her in bringing her children to Canada. She did not want to provide a lot of information, considering her case is very diligent.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Opening remarks by Grand Chief.

- Added items: Emergency Plan
 - Regional Youth Council
 - Tendering By-Law
 - Cree Culture Layaway

Emergency Plan

The creation of an Emergency Preparedness Committee, support required from CNG for a regional committee.

It was stressed by Grand Chief that it is also the authority of each community to create such a committee.

Susan Esau brought up what she understood since she sits as a member of the CHB with regards to this idea. It was to come together as a nation, instead of one community taking everything in their own hands, but as a whole.

Chief Thomas Jolly questioned at what point do you declare a state of emergency? He sees the reasoning behind this recommendation when you think of what some communities encounter during an emergency. He thinks we really need to assess what courses to be taken when there is a state of emergency.

Hattie Wapachee talked about the CTA insurance program.

P. by: Thomas Coon

S. by: Kenneth Cheezo

Action: Carried

(RESOLUTION)

Regional Youth Work Experience Program

Paula Napash presented this matter for support from this assembly.

Timothy Matoush –

Lucy Trapper -

P. by: Curtis Bosum

S. by: Thomas Coon

Action: Carried

(RESOLUTION)

Review of the Cree Nation Government By-Law relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of Construction Contracts

Timothy Matoush –

Rusty Cheezo mentioned the provision in section 23.4 in the JBNQA, it's very weak but needs to be reviewed.

P. by: John Shem

S. by: Kenneth Cheezo

Action: Carried

(RESOLUITON)

Integrated strategic plan for Cree culture and land preservation

John Paul Murdoch talked about his experience when he almost lost his language and the people who helped him preserve it. He does not believe that when people say they lost their language due to the residential school program. He thanked John Shem for bringing this issue to the table.

John Shem talked about the previous agreements that have been signed and why he brought this matter to the table. What our ancestors talked about in the past, we need to put in practise and more resources to be put in place.

Susan Esau mentioned that at the Cree school board level, there are now steps taken to decrease the level of education regarding language and culture. When we talk about preservation, we need to forward this issue to the CSB, what we are trying to promote and put more emphasis on their part.

Janie Pachano stressed that the elders have been working on this issue since 1982, and now working for Niishiiyuu department on the same issue. She stated that there is no mention of elders involvement in the resolution, this is where the power comes from. She also mentioned that they are still waiting for the realization of an elders' office building.

Chief Dennis Georgekish stated that sometimes we are looking at our culture through paper, as his late father said, in order to fully say that you follow your culture, you need to occupy the land. Technology is taking over our culture, we need to put these aside and connect with our children and tell them to put down their devices and listen to us, especially our grandchildren. Is there a day coming when we can truly say that we are following our culture without coming together like this, using technology and paper?

Annie Iserhoff –

Sandy Petagumskum would like to hear the Cree Chief's speaking in Cree at their meetings. He does not see the idea of having an office for the culture.

Robbie Matthew was given the floor to state his comments as well. He is very pleased to see a man and woman being elected to the positions of Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief, once again. He talked about the teachings of the Cree, such as relationships between the male and female, which is also associated with hunting purposes.

Elijah Sandy brought up the matter on recognition of Cree hunters and trappers. He mentioned that at every meeting, we talk about funding and there is hardly any mentioning or recognition of the hunters and trappers and it's been over 40 years that the Cree have been self-governed, isn't it about time we decided to invest in them because they are the ones who continue to pursue our traditional way of life. He talked about the effects that are now seen, with respect to the game and animals out on the land.

Grand Chief Abel Bosum reiterated that this was on his platform when he campaigned and one of the issues that he will be working on.

John Petagumskum advertised that he is selling the translated version of the part of the Bible, as translated by the late David Masty.

Chief Louisa Wynne then introduced WFN elder, Andrew Natachequan, who still goes out on the land. She also mentioned that a clause be added to the resolution on land use, as well as the Lake Bienville area, and the possible effects from the La Grande Hydro project.

James Kawapit, Sr. stated his concerns on the hydro-electric project where in 1982, Hydro-Quebec did a feasibility study on the proposed GWR hydro project. He saw that within his hunting territory, they erected and build their camps in that area. So his father took his belongings due to this activity, it was after he thought he was being pushed away. After their study, they took what they still needed and burned what they left behind. (Ipshikimeesh) After the hydro project, the water levels went down and the game/animals was affected where they had to relocate due to the water decrease. He thinks that there is at least 3 trapline areas where the Great Whale River is, may have been affected. When the former Chief, Matthew Mukash was still in office, he had started the process of doing research on this matter. They were advised by Hydro officials, that they were surprised of the effects. It seems that Hydro may not have been honest with the study. The former Chief Stanley George, also did some research on this too. We would like to have this file re-opened again.

He went on to present another issue which is an access road. We have also determined that the ice conditions are not as they used to be, which may be due to the hydro projects. He is requesting that the CNG look at options on other means of transportation for the hunters and trappers.

Noah Sheshamush talked about the assistance provided to the hunters and trappers and the funding they receive which is not enough compared to the amount of airfare they have to pay to go out on the land. He reiterated what Elijah Sandy talked about with respect to the youth. He also talked about his life experiences.

Sandy Petagumskum talked about the proposed GWR project.

Daniel Mark-Stewart reminded the assembly to let us talk about what we have in store for our children and grandchildren and their future, with respect to health and well-being.

Abel –

Charlie Bosum – Cree culture and forestry

Thomas Coon -

P. by: Kenneth Cheezo

S. by: Susan Esau

Action: Carried

(RESOLUTION)

Message from Philip, Quebec Minister

Closing Remarks from Deputy-Grand Chief, Mandy Gull

Closing Remarks from Grand Chief Abel Bosum

NEXT AGA

Next annual general assembly of the Cree Nation Government will be in the Cree community of Mistissini.

The annual general assembly adjourned at 6:20 p.m. with no further matters on the agenda.