

Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government  
Annual General Assembly  
Mistissini, Qc.

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Meeting begins: 9:41am

Opening prayer: James Kawapit, elder from Whapmagoostui

Welcome address was newly elected chief, Thomas Neeposh – we have the capabilities to run our own affairs in our Cree Nation. There are many employments that involve traditional practices, to pass down our traditions to our children and grandchildren. There is a constant battle of substance abuse, to find ways for our youth to turn to substance abuse. Always remember our roots from our traditional practices. There is still a lot of jobs that need to be implemented, there will be networking with our neighbouring organizations, CSB, CHB. To collaborate to create more positions and employment. To improve the deficiencies of housing and it is due to the lack of employment because ppl cannot pay their rent without a job. I thank you all for being here.

Quorum & chairperson: Chiefs, delegates (council members) and Grand Chief, Dr. Abel Bosum – the meeting has reached its quorum to begin the meeting

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Appointment of Recording Secretaries:

**The recording secretaries for this assembly were appointed, namely, Rachel B. MacLeod and Priscilla Bosum.**

On a motion duly made by Justus Coon Come

Seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum

The following resolution **no, 2018-01** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED:

that the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly here by name Rachel B. MacLeod and Priscilla Bosum to be the recording secretaries for the 2018 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government

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Resolution Committee:

**The resolution committee were appointed, namely Donald Nicholls, Isaac Voyageur, and Melissa Saganash.**

On a motion duly made by Davey Bobbish

Seconded by chief Thomas Neeposh

The following resolution **no, 2018-02** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly nominate:

- Donald Nicolls
  - Isaac Voyageur
  - Melissa Saganash
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Introduction of Delegates:

**Cree Nation of Mistissini:**

Chief Thomas Neeposh  
Mary Jane Petawabano  
John S. Matoush  
Justus Coon-Come  
Samuel Mianscum

**Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou:**

Chief Curtis Bosum  
Lance Cooper  
Johnny Bosum

**Cree Nation of Nemaska:**

Chief Thomas Jolly  
Edna Neeposh Sr.  
Deborah Wapachee  
Matthew Wapachee  
Joshua Iserhoff

**Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui:**

Chief Louisa M. Wynne  
James Kawapit Sr.  
Annie Petagumskum,  
Joseph George  
Curtis Pepabano  
John Petagumskum Jr.

**Cree Nation of Waswanipi:**

Rosie Jolly, Waswanipi  
Mary Ann Kitchen Otter, Waswanipi  
Ronnie Otter  
Marcel Happyjack  
Don Saganash Sr.  
Louise B. Saganash

**Cree Nation of Waskaganish:**

Chief Darlene Cheechoo  
Gordon Blackned  
Simeon Trapper  
Neesha-Chanan Shecapio

**Cree Nation of Eastmain:**

Chief Kenneth Cheezo  
Daniel Mark Stewart

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Brenda Cheezo  
Denis Moses  
Brandon Moses  
Edward Gilpin

**Cree Nation of Wemindji:**

Chief Christina Gilpin  
Arden Visitor  
Ernest Tomatuk  
John Mark  
Frances Mark

**Cree Nation of Chisasibi:**

Chief Davey Bobbish  
Bella Sam  
William Chiskamish  
Elizabeth T. Chiskamish  
L. George Pachano  
Nellie Pachano

**Cree Nation of MoCreebec**

Chief Allan Jolly  
Archie Hester  
Victor Weapenicappo  
Adam Enosse  
Lindsay Carey  
Shaynah Wesley

**Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi:**

Chief Pauline Trapper-Hester  
Nicholas Cananasso-Trapper  
Louise Trapper-Gilpin  
Annie I. Weistche  
Jean-Denis Cananasso

**Cree Nation Government:**

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer  
Paul John Murdoch  
Mandy Gull  
Bill Namagoose  
Michael Petawbano  
Opening Remarks:

Grand Chief/Chairperson, Dr. Abel Bosum – 472 employees working at the CNG, 70% are female employees. Bella Petawabano, Chairperson of the CHB. Kathleen Wootton, CSB chairperson. I thank you all for being here.

Deputy Grand Chief/ Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Mandy Gull – I thank you all for being here. I have serving you all for one year now, and I want to thank everyone for listening. I have learned a lot during this past year as deputy Grand Chief. I

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wanted to teach myself by working with my coworkers and the staff that work under the CNG. There is a lot of work that needs to be done when you lead the people as deputy Grand Chief. There are a lot of messages and concerns that I receive. There are approved and disapproved areas that are looked at. To build relationships with the communities, build network. It is important for me to continue building the relationships. I know it is very important to learn and speak our language. There are critics that praise me how I have improved on my Cree language, thank you for encouraging me. I learned so much when I travel and learn our Cree practices and traditions, thank you for teaching me. I had so much fun learning how to dance in Chisasibi. The people of Chisasibi invited me to dance and I have really improved on fiddle dancing. Eeyou planning commission, we will discuss more on Day 3. There is a lot to present of what the commissioners have worked on. Cree Quebec table on Environment and protected areas – There is a lot to do to protect our environment. I know a lot of Waswanipi people have been affected by this. Justice committee – I am starting to learn more of what their role is from the justice committee. There is a lot to be done within the Cree Justice department. Transitional housing, to help our people reintegrate back into the society. Service of Excellence was awarded to Donald Nicholls by the governor general. Mandy congratulates him for his award.

There are a few topics that I wanted to discuss, ceremony of recognition. Cree governance agreement and government in Ottawa, meeting with the Senate. I was honored to receive a gift, a red dress. I wanted to acknowledge students, post secondary, elementary, high school students, teachers. best of luck for this upcoming school year. “I admire you the courage you have to sit here as the grand chief”, referring to Dr. Abel Bosum.

Grand Chief, Dr. Abel Bosum – thanking Mandy for her welcoming remarks. I am thankful for you all for standing beside me during this difficult time. My son was the youngest of all my children, Irene, Curtis, Reggie. I raised them all equally and it was difficult to lose your youngest. We were very proud of him of all his accomplishments. His life was an inspiration. It was difficult to come back from residential school. We made a commitment for our children to be independent and we vowed for our children not to attend residential schools. When my son, Nathaniel came of an age to participate in sports; hockey. But he had a passion for racing in motocross. We saw that he was a good man, he was good to all nationalities growing up. He was admired by so many, people expressed their admiration and condolences and how much my son have touched a lot of lives.

We could work together to create employment for our people. I spoke to our people and how we could improve our Cree Nation. I met with the Cree organizations, CHB, CSB, board of compensations. We agreed to collaborate and work together and not work independently. We all work and serve for our Cree Nation and I am thankful that they all agreed to work together as a Nation. And I met with other organizations such as; Niskamoon, CANACA, etc. We developed, Eeyou Indigenous Business relationships. There are relationships set in place for all to work together.

We will try to finish early today at 4:30 because a feast will follow. We will be recognizing our former Grand Chief, Matthew Coon-Come.

There are topics that will be discussed; housing crisis, employment opportunities.

Elections will be done;

We will be meeting in Ottawa, concerning the Cree Governance agreement. Address your concern so that we can work together to find a solution. We should remember the families that have lost a loved one.

A moment of silence for the members that have lost a loved one.

Moment of Silence:

His wife is doing well. She will be joining us shortly. I am thankful for your prayers for our family and wife.

Chairperson, Dr. Abel Bosum review the agenda for the week. He mentioned that there would have been a recognition for Romeo Saganash.

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Others to be added on the agenda:

Chief, Darlene Cheechoo – Cree beneficiary registrar or registry to be added on the agenda

Transportation subsidy to be added on the agenda

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**Adoption of agenda of the 44<sup>rd</sup> GCCEI/ 41<sup>st</sup> Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly**

On a motion duly made by Simeon Trapper

Seconded by Justus Coon-Come

The following resolution **no, 2018-03** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the draft agenda for the 2018 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Morning break: 10:40am

Meeting commence: 11:08am

Reviewed and adoption of the minutes from 43<sup>rd</sup> GCCEI/40<sup>th</sup> Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly -  
Presented by: John Paul Murdoch, Corporate Secretary

The agenda and the minutes could be seen on Creegovernment.org. I will not present the whole document because it is very long but will briefly go through the topics discussed in Whapamgoostui.

**Adoption of the minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GCCEI Annual General Assembly/40<sup>th</sup> Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly**

On a motion duly made by Chief of Whapmagoostui Louise M. Wynne

Seconded by Deputy Grand Chief, Mandy Gull

The following resolution **no, 2018-04** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> GCCEI/40<sup>th</sup> Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Review and adoption of the minutes from the Board of Compensation – presented by John Paul Murdoch, Corporate Secretary and Rusty Cheezo, Chairman of BOD. Rusty Cheezo addressed that the annual report was distributed; BOD and CreeCo. Rusty Cheezo – opening remarks and a brief statement from the annual report(s)

**Adoption of the minutes of Board of compensation**

On a motion duly made by Christina Gilpin

Seconded by John S. Matoush

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The following resolution **no, 2018-05** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the minutes of the Board of Compensation of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

**Adoption of the laws (bylaws): Laws of the Cree Nation**

Presented by: JP Murdoch - When the Cree Governance was passed, the “bylaws” were replaced with “laws”. Transparent governance, the Canada and Quebec government. The bylaws are now referred to laws. We are more transparent in Canada.

Adoption procedure – how we go about adopting laws in the Cree Governance, it is tabled on the board council meeting. It will all be recorded, it’s live and presented. A law must be read three times at three different meeting in order to be adopted. This is to amend, change or new laws. All the information is under Creegovernment.ca. It is easy to pass a law, and it is easy to discuss a law. We need to be careful and not rush it. A law must be read and discussed three times in order to be passed.

- Youth Council Law
- Community Fire Department law
- Public Health and Safety Law
- EEPF working conditions
- CNG forestry program law
- EEPF law
- Policing law
- General law
- Tendering and construction contracts law

Discussion/under review:

- Water law
- Traditional adoption law

Question by Thomas Neeposh – amendment process. We need more clarification.

JP: When you want to amend a law, we need to look at it as a new law. We still must present the law three times (3 meetings).

Question by: Don Saganash Sr. – CTA, there was an amendment - board of directors amended a law, there was a draft and it should be presented here for it to be passed.

JP: The laws that are recognized are under CNG, other organizations could have their own process of passing their laws. We do not have the authority to amend other laws from other organizations.

Dr. Abel Bosum: there is still a gray area in order to recognize laws from other organizations. Option, how can we recognize them as a Cree Nation law, but we could always discuss this until further.

Don Saganash – I though the CTA was recognized under CNG.

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John S. Matoush – when a law is developed (CNG), do you sit down with the local band, organizations, regarding drafting a law, did you discuss this with the local people on how the process is done. People should be informed of who will be affected by new law. Regarding the tendering and construction law, this is affected by the local contractors.

JP: If you look at the law, water quality bylaw. Local departments were informed and were involved in the development of the new laws. Traditional adoption – CHB were involved in the development of the new laws. There were other departments involved in the implementation of the laws. Its always open to the public to discuss these laws. Consultation are thorough in all the laws, that is why there are three meetings to present the laws.

AB: There will be other laws that need to be discussed, consulted and reviewed. Regarding the construction, it is an area that complex, we try to respect the local laws to collaborate with the process. We have to consider other organization on how their process is in terms of tendering and construction bids. It is open for discussion.

On a motion duly made by Chief of Ouje-bougoumou Curtis Bosum

Seconded by Mary Jane Petawabano

The following resolution **no, 2018-06** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the laws (bylaws)/Laws of the Cree Nation of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Cree Beneficiary

Darlene Cheechoo: To recognize beneficiaries of local people that have been living in the reserve. The process is hard when it gets to the Quebec office. Their application is denied at the Quebec office. As a Cree Nation we should support our people.

JP: Past 3 years, we had been working on this topic, and the Quebec government is aware of list of our people that should be entitled to beneficiaries. Federal status – Canada. Band status – Quebec. Beneficiary list – as a Cree Governance, we are working in the process of working on our beneficiary list. We are working on getting recognized of working on our own affairs so that the Quebec government could recognize. The beneficiary was once run by the social services, but now the Ministerie d’civil, they are now taking over the process of beneficiaries. This past year, the birth registration forms are specified if you are Cree beneficiaries.

It is open for discussion with the Quebec Government to discuss this topic – beneficiaries. We have to be careful on how we negotiate with the Quebec Government.

The Quebec beneficiary, JBNQ, Band list. The Quebec manages the beneficiary list. Serious problems on how the list is managed. There is improvement on how the process is done by the Minister of civil l’etat.

Allen Jolly lead the group in prayer.

Lunch break: 12.03pm

Meeting commences at: 1:26pm

**Review of the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government**

Presented by Matthew Swallow, Treasurer – Sylvain Brocher is the one he worked closely with the annual audit report. Eeyou Eenou limited partnership, not to get taxed when we receive the funding.

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Highlights of the financial audit statement – General Fund:

- O&M Regional Support Funding
- Capital “A” Base Community Allocation
- O&M Community Allocation
- Special Projects
- Others
- EEPF capital fund
- Childcare centres – maintenance and replacement fund
- Administration of Justice
- Cree Heritage Fund foundation

Page 20 of the financial report shows the amount of funding that we received.

Any source of funding, it goes to the Eenou/Eeyou limited partnership fund – therefore, we do not get taxed. Funds are in an investment fund so that money could increase within time.

We are careful of how we report the financial audit report because of Quebec Government. We are still in the process of finding ways to avoid paying taxes. We are currently not paying taxes.

Summarizing of the financial report. How the agreement was presented, we are following the criteria as follows. We are careful of how we disburse the monies, because the tax association is always questioning our funding. For the past three (3) years, we have disclosed on how the monies are spent to the public/Cree Nation. According to page 25, the monies should be disbursed as shown on the report/diagram. All of my colleagues help me do my job accordingly. The staff at the finance department are doing a terrific job and most of them are women. Give a round of applause.

Question Period:

Member from Nemaska, John Mark asked about the Day Scholar law suit. This is in regards of the residential schools’ survivors and CNG are the third member involved in the lawsuit.

Bill: It is a new agreement. Local Chief and council have that agreement for you to review.

On a motion duly made by Chief, Kenneth Cheezo

Seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum

The following resolution **no, 2018-07** was adopted and carried;

Darlene Cheechoo abstain from April 19<sup>th</sup> minutes.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly hereby taken *cognizance* of the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements of the Cree Nation of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

### **Appointment of Auditors**

### **Recommendations to use Raymond Chabot**

On a motion duly made by Davey Bobbish

Seconded by Marcel Happyjack



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The following resolution **no, 2018-08** was adopted and carried;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> 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 same auditing firm, Raymond Chabot Grand Thornton to act as the auditors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Afternoon break: 2:25pm

Meeting commences at: 2:42pm

Grand Chief, Dr. Abel Bosum announces there will be Kashtin concert tonight at the track'n field.

Bill: Welcomed and acknowledged the police force.

Michael Petawabano, Executive Director

Melissa Saganash, Director of Cree Quebec Relations

Nancy Bobbish, Director of HR

Louisa Saganash, Director of CHRD

Isaac Voyaguer, Director of Environment and Remedial Works

Donald Nicholls, Director of Justice and Correctional Services

Vacant, Director of Social Development – acknowledged Willie Iserhoff for his many years of services

Vacant, Director of commerce – acknowledged Andy Baribeau for his services

Kelly Pepabano, Director of Child and welfare services

Acknowledged Reggie Bobbish and Interim Director of EEPF Lyle Cox

Bill gave a welcoming statement for the newly hired, Director of EEPF, David Bergeron.

New orientation of the EEPF – review and restructuring process of EEPF.

Presented by: David Bergeron, Director of EEPF and Deputy Director, Jim Hester

David Bergeron gave a brief welcoming statement and Jim Hester will present in Cree for their presentation.

Jim Hester presents the following report;

1. EEPF new chart since April 2018 – Approved permanent positions (101), Senior officers (15), Professionals (7), Patrol officers (79). Each community's department presented individually
2. Administrative department – Inspector Sherman Masty, he's responsible for the administration including the disciplinary process. Recruitment with the HR/Cree Nation Government. Regular assessments of officers.
3. Investigation department – Inspector Lyle Cox – preparing the statistics and case load per investigators. Sexual assault files and applications of all the C15 protocols. Drug investigations.
4. Operational Department - Capt. Shawn Coonishish, responsible for intervention planning course, basic management
5. Orientation of the EEPF – this is for the new officers. They each receive an orientation for their roles of services as patrol officers.
  - a. Accountability
  - b. Communications – every week they have a conference call with the police officers
  - c. Policing Services – the CNG provided funding for ten more positions for patrol officers
  - d. Investigations -

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- e. EEPF image – The police officers to always to maintain their image even off-duty. To be an example and be professional to the public.  
College Ellis will now be held in Rouyn. August 16 – a physical assessment test will be done in Chisasibi. August 21 – there will be another physical assessment test. August 28 – another test will be held in Waskaganish. We encourage each community to take advantage of these tests offered for the physical assessment test.
6. Review of the inspection report 2017 – needs to assess
7. Varia – social media – 2 videos of officers promoting recruitment

We will be doing a tour to meet with local chief and council to meet with each community's expectations

Questions:

Ronnie Otter: Police force in the Cree communities started back in the early 80's. The beginning, the police had "poor administration". Training came from Surete Quebec. It was hard to administer the Cree Communities; it was hard to determine what is breaking the law. We never been recognized, the first officers in the Cree Nation. We have a big problem with drugs and alcohol

Chief Darlene Cheechoo: people of Waskaganish passed a resolution to have a K-9 unit. If EEPF plan to have this unit. The unit can be used for search and rescue, drug investigation, etc. Waskaganish would host this K-9-unit training and other communities are welcome to join.

Chief Christina Gilpin: Recognizes their services for the communities. Who determines the need of officers per community? There are only 6 officers working in our community. There are a lot of people with learners permit driving around the community; what can EEPF do improve

David: Learners permit; highway safety code, some communities accepted. If the community want us to enforce the highway safety code. There is a responsibility for driving around without a valid license. In communities we use bylaws, which makes it difficult. Cree constitutions, do we use bylaws, or laws? EEPF will work with every kind of law that is put in place as long as it falls in the Canadian constitution.

Chief Marcel Happyjack: Who will the new Lieutenant be in Waswanipi? We ask of you to visit us.

David: The new Lieutenant will be commencing for work on August 20<sup>th</sup> and will be receiving an orientation.

Cree Nation Government Annual Report;

Bill presented the Cree Nation Government Annual report 2017-2018.

In the annual report, there is a table of contents.

Questions:

William Chiskamish: What is the status of the firearms permits?

Jim Hester: There are application forms for the firearms permit. In the highway safety code, there is a procedure and process on how individuals can get their driver's license.

William: Proposing for the police to take care of the firearms permit.

Closing remarks by Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum

Matthew Wapachee (Nemaska) lead the closing prayer.

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Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Meeting begins: 9:32am

Opening prayer: Mary Jane Petawabano

Chairman: Grand Chief, Dr. Abel Bosum – opening remarks and informing the passing of late John Ciaccia and Abel invited Robert Kenatawat to share a bit about his services to the Cree Nation. Review of today's agenda.

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**Supporting the Traditional Way of Life**

Abel: we will save the questions towards the end of the day. We will be presenting first, and you can ask your questions at the end of the day. To talk about these topics at a local level and to bring them at the regional level.

Question:

Louisa Wynne: ??

Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement Program – Presented by Isaac Voyageur and Jimmy Iserhoff. Hard copy of the report was distributed to all the delegates. The report presented was the same as the hard copy that was distributed. In closing remarks, he informed that there is a more detailed report, due to time, his presentation was brief. “We will be visiting communities to provide more information”.

Question Period put on hold for now until the very last presentation, so everyone is aware of the types of services available to the public and communities. Abel encourages the communities to invite Mr. Voyageur to receive detailed information regarding these programs.

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James Bay Benefit Agreements: Presented by JP Murdoch

Highlights of projects with agreements:

- Bachelor – Metanor is in a different agreement
- Windfall James bay Lithium
- Whabouchi
- Renard
- Elenore
- Troilus
- Black rock – Ouje-Bougoumou Territory
- Rose Lithium – Eastmain territory

Project description: It is important to clarify how big the mine is, this is where we negotiate for an agreement. If we do not carefully look at the size of the mine, the government can just run it without an agreement.

Morning break (power went off): 10:18am

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Meeting commences at: 10:45am

Continue of Paul John's presentation:

Governments are targeting funds from mining companies and new laws have been adopted forcing companies to report directly to the Government how much they distribute to Native Peoples.

Even without an agreement, they still need a permit to start the mine. The permit is always included in the agreement.

Training and employment – training program

- Provisions related to targeted training program
- Access to on site training programs
- Funds and programs for encouraging students

Financial compensation:

Funds flow directly to communities through the CNG. JBMQA – compensation and the revenues therefrom may be used only for community purposes.

Funding from mining: Governments are targeting funds from mining companies and new laws have been adopted forcing companies to report directly to the government how much they distribute to Native peoples.

1. Funds that come from a mining company straight to a tallyman are taxable
2. Negotiating funds on the basis of the needs of the community as a whole versus only one individual ensure that we do not forget ppl
3. Cree history has proven the value of unity when arguing for, securing and managing funds

Other provisions:

Access to site;

- Land users are usually granted access to the site subjects to safety and operational considerations
- Good neighbour provisions
- Provisions related to providing one another mutual assistance
- Communications – provisions related to communications in cases of emergencies

Abel: To discuss this on a local level, to go through the agreements. These can be brought up again when we come together. There are ways to improve these negotiations/agreements when it comes to mining companies. We can improve on the areas of where we do not agree. We should always consider the trappers that are affected by these mining companies and agreements. This includes the forestry agreements; to consider the tallyman that is affected on their trapline.

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**Niskamoon Corporation:** Presented by William MacLeod

William presents the Board of Directors for Niskamoon Corporation using a PowerPoint presentation  
Marc Dunn and Robbie Tapiatic are present to assist him.

Presenting the board of directors, the staff and staff that are branched to the corporation.

Marc Dunn – introduction about Niskamoon and their roles of their corporation.

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Robbie Tapiatic – presenting in Cree for their presentation

Mission statement: Niskamoon provides an efficient framework for cooperation between the Crees and Hydro-Wuebec in respect to the implementation of the Cree HQ agreements, by continuously facilitating and simplifying access to funds a program for Crees, Cree communities and Cree entities.

Funding core values: Funds are used mainly to improve and enhance Cree harvesting on the land

Funds projects:

Programs: Remedial Works, Cultural Programs, Fisheries and Health

Remedial Works program: Goal – to alleviate the negative impacts of hydro-electric development through the funding of projects identified, developed and implemented by Cree land users themselves.

Examples of projects:

Goose ponds and corridors

Wildlife feeding areas

Boar landing areas

Traditional shelters

Wood cutting

Spring and fall airlifts

Trans-eeyou Trail

Remedial Works Program – by each community

Social Innovation Fund

- Innovative projects that ensure the next generation of Cree land users
- Priority to programs given in the bush with an emphasis on the traditional Cree way of life
- Emphasis on transfer of knowledge and participation of elders
- Promoting partnerships with regional and local Cree entities

The Social innovation fund is to encourage people to use more of the land for healing, culture, knowledge, unifying force, and key to the future.

Call for proposals – we ask for communities to get their innovative projects to use this fund.

Fisheries Enhancement Program

Projects that promote the continuity of Traditional Cree fisheries

Emphasis on transfer of Traditional knowledge

Long-term infrastructure and seasonal harvesting techniques

Research Programs: Why research?

We want to better understand the impacts of hydroelectric development on resources important for Crees

To combine western science with Cree knowledge (Traditional and “Modern”)

To better target Niskamoon projects for all Cree beneficiaries

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Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program:

Eelgrass ecosystem an important coastal habitat used by many invertebrates, fish, waterfowl species

“There has been a concern and a decline of eelgrass”.

Due to climate change, there has been environmental change as well including habitat.

What are the main factors affecting the current growth of eelgrass along the eastern coast of James Bay?

What is the impact of the current state of eelgrass beds on waterfowl presence along the coast of James Bay and subsequently, Cree hunting activities?

Five research components:

1. Coastal oceanography
2. River inputs
3. Eelgrass beds
4. Waterfowl
5. Cree and use and harvesting activities

CWS: Canadian Wildlife Service

Integration of Research results:

Integration of different research studies and Cree Traditional knowledge to answer main research questions

- Collaborative efforts by researchers
- Coordination by steering

Collaboration and partnership: Niskamoon corporation believes that partnerships with Cree and non-Cree entities are essential to building sustainable programs for land users

- Local government entities
- CTA
- CSB
- St. Felicien CEGEP
- Hydro

To build sustainable relationships with different organizations within the Cree Nation;

William: We have a more detailed report, annual report with a detailed list of expenditures and revenues. We will be here if you have any questions.

Abel: To consider on how we can improve on our tallyman and traplines. If people want to find out more information, if you have questions, please speak to your local people, trappers, and CTA.

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Samuel Mianscum lead the group in prayer

Lunch break: 11:56am

Meeting commences at: 1:10pm

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Abel greets the assembly again and gives a brief account of late John Ciaccia who served as a member of Quebec's National Assembly from 1973 to 1998, representing the Quebec Liberal Party in the Mount Royal riding. He was the acting Minister of Indigenous Affairs during the Oka Crisis of 1990, and was actively involved in the resolution of the

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issues. At the beginning of his career, in 1975, Ciaccia was appointed the government's chief negotiator with the Cree and Inuit communities in what became the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Robert Kenatewat: Discussion of the passing and in memory of John Ciaccia. Robert expressed how he felt privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him and that our Cree people were very fortunate to have such a great negotiator. We wouldn't have had everything we have now if it wasn't for this man. He also shared a bit about the agreements that were signed by the Cree people. Mr. Ciaccia paved the way for our children and grand children. He goes on to express how proud he is of the whole Cree Nation for their many accomplishments throughout the years, and many more achievements to come. He mentions how John Ciaccia was involved in the negotiations and agreements with Quebec government along with late Billy Diamond and Ted Moses. "Hopefully in the future, our children and grandchildren will carry on with the best of our abilities. We have more good leaders and they will carry on for Nation". Robert acknowledges how this man was a great man and that the Cree nation remembers him.

Abel requests for a Moment of silence in remembrance of late John Ciaccia

Abel announces that a member of Ouje-Bougoumou, Alice Mianscum had passed away this morning and that members and delegates had gone back home to support the family.

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There is an agreement recently passed; **Maamuu Wiicheutuwin Treaty**: An agreement that was signed June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The following presenters will disclose the report; Chief Clifford Moar

Chief Clifford Moar addresses the assembly by expressing how honoured he is for been here. He goes on to explain about how history did some damage to the land. He is also happy that he is grateful to be able to fix those bridges and have a good working relationship with other nations. Ouje-Bougoumou came to our community on June 21, 2018 and it was a good day for everyone. Thanks all the Chiefs who are present and welcomes everyone to stop in, in their community when passing by. "Build bridges and bring our people together". The agreement brought a lot of our neighbour communities together; Mistissini and Ouje-bougoumou. Expresses his gratitude.

Representative: Thanks everyone for being here. When we came together, we came a long way. Our government takes our land, and if we don't do anything, we will lose our culture and our language. We can stand together and create a strong nation.

Chief Thomas Neeposh, happy to see the chief of Pointe Blue and the steps taken shows that we will all work together and continue to help one another trying to make this right. We can do this, we don't need the government to tell us how to do it as we are able to do this our way the way our grandfathers did.

Curtis Bosum: Meegwetch. They had already said what I wanted to say. I thank you all. This agreement has taken long for it to pass. As Thomas mentioned, we can make it work for all of us to make this agreement pass. Our youth should be educated about the agreement so that they can understand this agreement because this agreement is historical. It was an honor to pass this agreement with you and to stand with you. We will continue to work together.

PJ Murdoch: Agreement between the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. There was a recognition that the agreement was worked on very hard. Kevin Rucell, and Melissa Saganash drafted the agreement. Also helped out with the agreement. Along with Tina Petawabano, John Longchap, Norman Wapachee, they put in a lot of their time on the agreement and negotiations. I want to recognize Carl Cleary, he worked hard for this agreement to come to pass.

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“Very thankful to the grand chief. It was scary to work on the agreement, was worried of not meeting the expectation.”  
“A diplomatic solution”.

Representative thanking everyone (in French); JP Murdoch translated for him.

JP Murdoch gives a brief overview of the Agreement:

- The Cree have a long history with the Innu of Mashteusiatsch
- There is a long history of trade, cultural exchange and inter marriages between the Cree and the Pekuakamiulnatsh
- Over the years many Chiefs on both sides have initiated discussions
- Recently after an exchange between Cree and Innu leadership Dr. Abel Bosum
- Developing Common Goals:
- Through the sharing our stories our common values came into focus and common goals more easily identified: Protect the land and traditional way of life
- For the Pekuakamiulnatsh they are under enormous pressure from the dis-appropriately large non-Native community that they must live with.
- Protect the land and traditional way of life
- Joint Cree-Innu strategy for an adapted forestry regime
- Cooperation between the Cree-Innu
- The Road ahead – Maamuu Wiicheutuwin – walking together is an appropriate name for this agreement.

Purpose of the Agreement

*Section 2 of Agreement*

- Establishing a Nation to Nation relationship
- Managing wildlife and development in the overlap area with Aboriginal Rights
- Assisting in the Innu and in the discussions with Canada and Quebec
- Open the door to inviting each other to hunt
- Promote economic development

*Section 3 Mutual Nation to Nation Recognition*

*Section 4 Cree Innu Wiicheutuwin Standing Liaison Committee*

*Section 5 Cree Innu Forestry Committee*

*Section 6 Wildlife and Traditional Activities*

*Section 7 Economic Development*

*Section 8 Dispute Resolution*

*Section 9 Representation to third Parties*

*Section 10 Review*

*Section 11 Final Provisions*

After each agreement a meeting will be initiated to ensure that the agreement is understood from both sides. All government figures are surprised that this agreement and working relationship was signed and agreed from both parties with so many details as to how this agreement is covered. This is the first agreement that has ever been signed by any First Nations people.

- Wildlife and Traditional Activities – this is to monitor the habitat and wildlife of the territory. The parties will have to address the enforcement of common rules and will recognize the role of the Innu agents in the area to protect Cree harvesting rights which have been



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- Economic Development – Development opportunities, training, employment, contracting, subject to the priority of Cree and Innu families of the area. The agreement will apply to the trappers that are affected by Stornoway.
- Dispute resolution
- Representations to third parties – any discussions with government on the agreement will be done
- Review – are there any changes that need to be made?
- Final Provisions – the agreement does not affect any rights under the JBQA
- A beginning – meetings will be initiated

We sat down with James O'Reilly and another Quebec representative. They were surprised to see an agreement such as this. There is no agreement like this in Canada. We asked Quebec and they replied that people will be scared of this agreement because this will open opportunities for other tribes to develop a similar agreement.

Abel: Premier of ....., told him there is an agreement. We know that if we are precise and proper with this agreement, they will recognize that negotiations will be done further and that the tribe. There are no more obstacles for them to stop them (Mashteusiats). Lucien Bouchard was involved. I informed him to recognize this agreement and to have it passed.

Curtis Bosum: thanked the representatives from Mashteusiats for their accomplishments.

Abel Bosum; Acknowledges the past chiefs for participating during the negotiations and discussions for this agreement, Henry Mianscum, Richard Shecapio, John Longchap, others.

Afternoon break: 2:12pm

Meeting commencing at: 2:39pm

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**Cree Trapper's Association** – Presented Joshua Iserhoff, Clark Shecapio, and Marc Dunn

Vice-President, Joshua Iserhoff – He thanks everyone for being here. Fred Tomatuk is not here to join us today, they lost an elder, Winnie Mark-Stewart; on behalf of the CTA, we send our condolences to our president. Joshua continues to do the opening of the presentation. Programs and services, we have in the CTA, the structure of the association. There will be an AGA meeting in Mistissini on August 28-30<sup>th</sup>, 40 years of service will be celebrated for the CTA. In 2017 there was a restructuring of the Cree Trappers Association, also informs the assembly about the up-coming Cree Trappers Association AGA which will be held in Mistissini.

Clark Shecapio wants to thank the newly elected chief of council in Mistissini. I am very happy to visit Mistissini, it is a very beautiful community. And I have many friends here.

CTA: the structure of CTA has evolved through out its existence since March 10, 1978. We need to highlight the founding members for their vision

Funding for CTA:

- Eenou Eeyou Limited partnership
- Federal New Relationship Agreement
- Board of Comp
- Eeyou marine region wildlife
- Memberships

Program expenses:

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- Allocations to local CTA:
- The more members, the more they distribute to the community
- Programs and services;
- Harvest database – this important data can be a contributor to wildlife management
- Firearms safety course and intro to hunting with firearms course in Eeyou Istchee
- In 2017 new instructors were trained and are certified.
- Cabin program – 27 cabins this year, 3 cabins per community
- Cabin insurance program – 252 cabins that are insured
- Trapping, training course
- Original objective of program – to develop a training program designed to each Crees not experienced in bush life the skills to practice Eeyou Ituun
- Existing programs – trapping program, Cree science and technology, communities have short training programs. Obtaining long-term funding
- In 2014 – planning session
- Documents were reviewed by CTA and Niskamoon
- Basic concept of program presented to representatives from college
- Eeyou Ituun – Job analysis
- Educational intentions
  - Cree traditional practices
  - Working methods
  - Awareness of the impacts and consequences of quality work
  - Develop professional skills
- Courses
  - Stewardship profession
  - Cree culture
  - Build camp
  - Traditional cooking
  - Crafting tools
  - Outing and survival
  - Wildlife inventory
  - Wildlife illness
  - Cultural activities
  - Harvesting activities fall-winter
  - Harvesting activities spring-summer
  - Negotiations for land use
  - Surveillance of territory
  - Habitat management
  - Management of natural resources
- Competencies
  - It has been an accomplishment to come this far
- Pilot project – Eastmain: recruit instructors, land users, train instructors

Thank you.

Abel: There has been some changes throughout the years. It is an area that could be improved but have come a long way. This association is beneficial to our trappers. Please, ask us what doesn't work or what works? This question will be useful for our upcoming AGA meeting in Mistissini. There are issues that could be discussed, it is regarding the income security overlapping people's salaries.

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Willie Iserhoff, will discuss the process of receiving more income security. Philip Awashish was supposed to join us; however, he is having other engagements.

Willie Iserhoff, Negotiator

Philip Awashish, Negotiator

Serge Lariviere, Director General

Background: the results of ten-year process of reflection and negotiation. Process of revision started in 2006

Mission of ISP: to provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives for Cree ppl who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life – Section 30

The program shall ensure that hunting, fishing and trapping shall constitute a viable way of life for the Cree ppl – economic security consistent with conditions prevailing

Past revisions of ISP:

- Created in 1975
- First revision in 1988
  - Maternity leave

Second revision 2002

- Far harvesting
- Semi-active status
- Insurance fund (disasters, sick days)
- New demand without qualification for graduates (college/university)
- Process initiated in 2006
- Community consultations in 2008-2009
- Internal analyses and community interviews 2010-2011
- ISP recommendations submitted to in 212
- Negotiations from Dec 2013 to May 2018
- Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program – New name, “Iiyiyiu Intuuhuusiu Shuuyaan”
- Economic Security Program for Cree Hunters
- Emphasis on economic security

Proposed changes:

6.1.: Providing equal access to women and men

- “Head of family” almost always a man
- Some cases cause discrimination against women
- Head of the family redefined as “the person recognized as the most active in the pursuit of traditional activities”
- Result – equal access to men and women

6.2.: Improving the program for elders

- Semi-active status offers elders a special measure to remain on the program
- Before? 5-year limit
- Now – lifetime eligibility once they qualify

6.3.: Easier access to the program

- Before? One full year of qualification and NO payments
- Removal of qualifying year

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- New demands and reinstatements limited at 120 days

6.4.: Focus on economic security – A) Limit on other income

- Before – no limit on family income
- Some families already have “economic security”
- ISP for families who depend solely on benefits of the program
- Allowable income of \$35,000 per adult and \$2,000 per child
- Over that, ISP benefits reduced dollar for dollar
- Trappers that harvest “Close to the community” within 50km do not need as much economic security as others
- Also, their activities more difficult to monitor
- Finally, more short-day trips
- The maximum numbers of days will be limited at 160 for each adult in this situation
- Monday saved here used to increase daily rate

6.5.: Improving economic security – increased daily allowance

- Money saved from “near trappers” measure is estimated at \$1.6 million annually
- This money used to increase daily amount for all beneficiaries
- Proposed increase of 9.6%
- From \$68,89 (2018-2019) to \$75,50 in 2019-2020
- Pay more money to the people that really need economic security

6.6.: Far harvesting allowance

- Currently – far regions payable 6 months, maximum of 180 days
- Proposition – far regions payable 12 months. All months eligible. Max 180 days remains
- Far region allowance gives an additional 30% of the daily amount
- Far is defined >200km by road
- Or > 50km

6.7.: Greater community involvement

- Before? Local committee list of hunters
- List often failed to differentiate between hunters and those who rely on hunting as their lifestyle
- Local committee will serve as advisory board
- List of compiled by ISP then submitted to local committee for advice and comments
- Greater local implication
- Greater decisional power

6.8.: Special consideration for Whapmagoostui

- Entire Whapmagoostui area considered as eligible for the far region provision
- Each day granted 30% additional amount for a maximum of 180 days
- Approx. \$90 per day instead of \$70

6.9.: Increase youth participation

- New incentive provisions for youth
- 30 days payable for adults who take teenagers in the bush (at 40% of the daily rate + Far harvesting allowance if applicable)
- Approx. \$50 per teen per day
- Maximum of two teens per family unit
- Outside of school calendars

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- Great way of encouraging and promote youth participation

6.10.: Easier Administration

- Program will be structure and based on monthly payments and direct deposit
- Insurance funds for sick days and disasters abolished
- Measures will remain – but administered differently
- No more deductions from ISP benefits
- Existing funds returned to beneficiaries
- Leftover money (\$400,000) used for activities to promote the lifestyle and traditional activities

7.0.: Conclusion

- The new program will be refocused on providing economic security
- Adapts the program to modern times
- Increases community involvement a better program for all beneficiaries

Willie Iserhoff did his closing remarks on his presentation.

Willie mentioned there is a draft resolution that needs to be reviewed and approved.

Abel: I thought the resolution was passed, however, it was not. “We will table it at our next meeting”. It looks promising to see that there are changes made for our trappers and hunters.

At our next council board meeting, we will review it and pass the resolution tomorrow.

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Bella Petawabano: Thanks everyone for being here today. Supporting the traditional way of life, and CHB has a file that we support this value. Traditional medicine; this is a file that we have been working on, and we are eager to help our elders with this program. We would like to work together.

Bush Kit Program:

The program will be offered in the 299 traplines

- According to the ISP: 192 remote traplines and 107 road accessible traplines
- We estimate 900 bush kits to be active on the territory

The cost of the bush kit

- 1<sup>st</sup> year: \$378,270
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year: \$154,395

This project offers capacity building for our Hunters to have them a way to stay longer in the bush.

This is all that I wanted to present. Thank you.

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Meeting commences at: 4:33pm

Questions period:

Abel: If you have questions, please inform your chief, so that he/she can ask the question.

Chief Thomas Neeposh: Regional CTA, there are a lot of hunters/trappers, to have a municipal/facility for CTA. To have arts and crafts in the building.

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ISP:50 days in the bush, how will you look at their status. We should consider ppl that are less mobile or sick, that we could consider their eligibility.

- Chief Louisa Wynne: ISP program, to promote health and safety for our local trappers/hunters. How did you come up with the \$20 increase? Location for CTA regional office in Eeyou Istchee.
- Chief Thomas Jolly: Concerning the mines and camps, it is time to review and see how people are affected in traplines. Form a mining forum committee group – to follow a criterion; How we could handle our own affairs in terms of negotiating. Propose on a regional form on mining, to have the policy in place on how to propose negotiations/agreement. A base front, to carry all of our programs and activities.
- Lastly, I would like to ask why we can't have an ISP office on Cree territory?
- Chief Christina Gilpin: There is a lot that has been developed in our Cree Nation. Regarding Niskamoon, the program that ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, why did it end? We should continue the program where Hydro-Quebec offers these programs, and since hydro Quebec receives most of their fortune from Cree territory. ISP – when a youth is under care, and that the guardian will receive funding. When elders have the guardianship, if it is their grandchild, will they still receive boarding if they're grandchild is not in school? Annual report – the annual expenditure, it did not show the surplus or arrears. Where did the money go to after the fiscal year if there is a surplus? Does it go back to the government. 6.3 – When a trapper/hunter receives pension, do they still look at this for eligibility? Limit of \$35,000, is this including pension.
- John Petagumskum: CTA – regarding the cabins or disbursing money, why didn't they negotiate more for Whapmagoostui. When a person is retired, they try to find out if they're eligible for ISP. When comparing the old age, pension and ISP, you make more than working. Concerning the transportation for elders/trappers
- Chief Davey Bobbish: ISP – Why is a beneficiary penalized earning a fee when they participate in a program that teaches Cree Traditions?
- Paul John Murdoch: Employment agreement, JBNQA states to 1986 La Grande agreement. Cree employment agreement, 15-year agreement has come to an end. There was an area where we struggled, Bill Namagoose and I will review agreements and see which agreements have expired. This September, we will be coming together in a meeting to review the expired meetings and possibly renegotiate – employment agreement. Abel was supposed to meet with them but could not meet due to the tragedy that occurred in his family.
- Willie: 50km radius, to consider within the radius, when these changes come into effect, these will have to be reviewed and approved by the board.
- Serge: the teenager boarding measure is a new policy, this is to allow children that do not have the privilege that cannot go in the bush. This is to encourage ppl to take youth out in the land, this includes grandchildren. As long as they are legally under their care. We do not encourage children to drop out school. Considering drop-outs, we did not consider this. It is something to look at it. There will be some gray areas. This is for the best of the children/youth to spend more time in the bush.
- Cost of measures, near trapper's measure, we want to make that money spent. The overall cost of the program, it will take time to measure the costs and expenditures. Eligible income, if someone has a big pension, then they will not be considered for the ISP. If their pension is less, then they are eligible for the ISP.
- Christina: Is this a household, is it individual income?

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- Serge: This has always been a household income, if a family makes more than \$35,000, they will not be eligible for the program.
- Willie: The family should consider the school calendar when taking a child/youth out in the bush. He elaborated on the criteria of eligibility for the ISP.
- Willie: responding to Louisa Wynne's question, we used this increase trying to consider every community including Whapmagoostui.
- Willie: locating the head office within the Cree communities. We are waiting for a directive to see how this process will be done, if we need a resolution? For sure, the head office will be within the Cree Nation.
- Clark Shecapio: We had already made the arrangements for Whapmagoostui and Wemindji.
- Clark: Responding to Thomas' question, we are still in the restructuring process. Community structure, local CTA. We are willing to work with Mistissini, to offer programs and services (local CTA members). Recommendations to be considered within the restructuring process.
- Abel: the purpose of the conference. We could build a capacity and find solutions – centralizing all trappers.
- Thomas Neeposh: To be fair, to support
- John Matoush: CTA – the monies for the Cree Hunters training program. When you look at an experienced hunter, they could pass on their knowledge to our youth. To pass their experience, we do not recognize their experience. How do you look at an individual who has years of hunting experience? How much would they receive? When you look at a hunter, considering the mining, to recognize the traditional knowledge in hunting, language. It will benefit to have a regional conference to discuss further topics.
- Joseph George Sr.: To consider percentage in disbursing the ISP. When can we see cost of statistic project report? The government won't ever understand, but we have to make them understand our ways. To continue our traditional values and culture, so that we can continue to keep our identity. ISP they want a statistic report in general concerning the Income Security Program. even Serge Lariviere admitted its been awhile since these were made. Percentage of ISP should be reconsidered. When someone receives welfare, they also add tax, their incomes are followed closely, everything is reported, and it should be the same for ISP. The funds spend on things needed for the bush can be costly and those amounts should be considered and other monthly necessities such as rent, hydro and other monthly bills. Far distant beneficiaries don't have the same advantage as the one who live closer to the community, such as bridge making and repairing road access to their camps. Some of these things are what cause young people to decide to quit living out on the land because of lack of services that are needed. The main reason that statistics were mentioned is to give a brief overview of the financial struggle for the ISP recipients.
- Denis Moses: Concerning Niskamoon
- Darlene Cheechoo: Who sits on the forestry program?
- Simeon Trapper: There are two questions, one is for Niskamoon, back in June, there was a gathering with youth and the trapper was concerned of the youth going hunting by boat. Program, concerning the equipment, when we lost the four men, the man that was found, he was wearing a suit that was supposed to keep him a float, however he did not wear it properly. Regarding the safety equipment, there should be a subsidy program to help hunters purchase proper gear when it

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comes to hunting and safety. If these men wore the proper safety gear, they would have survived the accident. This is another concern regarding equipment, to provide a hub for cell phones because we could not use bush radios when it came to incidents.

- Clark: College in St. Felicien, a lady from the college will speak to answer your question.
- Lady: The program is an accredited program – we look at the education and experience of the teacher
- Abel: Responding Joseph’s question,
- Robbie Tapiatic: Responding to Denis Moses in Chisasibi there are 10 traplines, at times it can be challenging when we don’t have enough workers. There are a lot of agreements in the Cree Nation and this is what we have to really look at when Niskamoon funds projects, it’s a process that requires a lot of attention to certain agreements to avoid conflicts.
- Robbie Tapiatic: Responding to Simeon Trapper’s question the monitoring companies can write to us and Ernie Moses is your representative and your request will be looked at.
- Abel Bosum: the annual general assemblies is more for reporting. We will have a conference on how we could discuss topics.
- Isaac Voyageur: Who are on the forestry committee- a smaller committee was formed, an administrative committee; a treasurer, Isaac and a forestry advisor. Responding to Mr. Trapper, there was a list, on what was disbursed. Regarding the radios, there is a cost factor to get a hub for cell phone service is roughly \$90 grand. This will be costly to get cell phone hubs.
- Daniel Mark-Stewart: I want to understand, they asked for an agreement to be negotiated with the minister/government. Why weren’t the chiefs informed of this negotiation? Who gave that directive for negotiations to take place? Should the directive come from the council board, educate the people on how directives are enforced? What is the process, how do we establish a negotiating table? Who gives the mandate?
- Mary Jane Petawabano: Comment about the CTA, regarding the youth, we all know that our youth do not want to go school anymore. That the youth could take advantage of the program under the CTA subsidy program. There was this young man that lived with his grand parents, eventually knew the knowledge of the land and became a very experienced hunter. He could not attend school because he was used to be in the bush. He even won an award, “trapper of the year”. We should give our youth the opportunity to choose whether they want to go to school or go in the bush. Some communities are fortunate
- Abel: Regarding mandates, this is to negotiate with Quebec, Canada, Cree mining table, Cree forestry table. When we are given information, we report to the council board. IF there is a change in a project or a change in an agreement, then a mandate is directed to someone. When there is a new project, then a table is placed, and a directive is given.
- Daniel: Issues are raised when negotiations are taken place. I understood the way you explained it and I am happy that you explained it but again as mentioned before it was surprising that three (3) chiefs were not aware, that’s all.
- Abel: We are still waiting for Hydro-Quebec to respond. There is a delay. Abel explains again that when it comes to Council we talk to the communities that are affected and the Chiefs take it back to their council.



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Simeon Trapper lead the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned: 6:22pm

Day 3

August 9, 2018

Opening Prayer: Justice Coon-Come

*Meeting commences at 9:32am*

Welcoming Address from Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum explains that CHB (Bella Petawabano) will come present on behalf of Cree Health Board. Today is also UN declaration day, and also Michael Petawabano's birthday and the assembly sings for him. Daily agenda is reviewed, and Dr. Abel Bosum informs the delegation that if questions arise from yesterday's meeting, there will be a time open for it.

The signing agreement of CHB the signing provides better terms to manage on their own the first responders. CHB is financing this and the ministry as well. Bella and I couldn't wait any longer to provide inadequate care for, 2 ambulances were purchased, one coastal (Chisasibi) and inland. Proud of this agreement it shows that we are working together.

Thomas Neeposh: Fixing a road; We ask of you to support our second exit road to connect to RDN. We ask of you to support this project. Where is the Uranium update?

Dr. Abel Bosum the resolution committee will be given the floor this afternoon. Abel gives the floor to Deputy Grand Chief, Mandy Gull.

DGC Mandy Gull expresses her gratitude for the song shared by Mr. Justice Coon-Come. Encourages the delegation to read the report that was distributed on the Cree Language conference which took place in February 2018. It was a great way to promote our language and preserving our language is a very important thing for me. I will be presenting about the Eeyou Planning commission.

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**Eeyou Planning Commission:**

DGC Mandy Gull presents the report and informs the assembly that the question period will take place after the report is done since one of them have to fly back to Montreal in the afternoon.

We have a new logo made by Natasia Mukash, which reflected a lot on our mission for this commission. The presentation is divided into four sections.

The agreement was signed in 2012, to decide on land use planning and resource development (Category 2 Lands)

We have the vision of the Cree people in mind, this is our mission. Always inform our people and making them aware as we progress in our work. In September we will be meeting in Waskaganish.

**The team leading the file:**

Christopher Beck  
Merlin Whiskeychan  
Sarah Ann  
Jessica

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**Merlin Whiskeychan** continues providing the report for the EPC, shares the importance of the work that they provide. Mentions that there is still a lot of work needed to be done in able to follow through on this working document. We want to ensure that we have a good working relationship with other companies. We have done community consultations, which means each community has been consulted.

**DGC Mandy Gull**, there were community consultations and in 2018 thy will work on the goals and objectives that the people gave during the consultations. Thanks, the workers for all their hard work concerning this commission and looking forward to their next meeting in September in Waskaganish. Informs the assembly that Merlin will be available in hid booth for questions.

**Chief Pauline Hester:** Wachiya everyone and thankful for been given the opportunity for been able to speak. This is in regard to some of the presentations that were done yesterday, in regard to CTA and Niskamoon. As you are aware Washaw-Sibi also has a map/traplines that they use for hunting. We have about 14 traplines, and as discussed yesterday about the supporting the traditional way of life, to encourage the youth to practice our culture. In the past my people were put under the Algonquin band but still hung on to their lands. I am grateful that CTA has helped my people, and today I am wondering if my people can be recognized and that the traplines be recognized. My people want to be acknowledged as well when it comes to highlighting Cree traplines. Can the CNG and its components perceive a process to recognize Washaw Sibi Process.

**DGC Mandy Gull**, when the agreement was signed it only reflected Category 2 Land but its not to say that we will eventually include Washaw-Sibi.

**Chief Darlene Cheechoo:** Waskaganish should participate when it comes to overlapping traplines and recommending my community to help in that process.

**GC Dr. Abel Bosum** explains that there is a process for Category 3 land, the work of the commission covers Category 2 Lands. Bill will answer Chief Thomas's question regarding the status of the Uranium file.

**Bill Namagoose, Executive Director:** Strateco file, Chapter 22 was used in public hearings in Ottawa. Both agreements conflicted each other, so one agreement had to be made. The money given is what we want refunded, Strateco is not financially stabled and have a company that they work with that is from Australia. The mine will not be reopened, they are more wanting the funds spend to be reimbursed.

**GC Dr. Abel Bosum:** Important victory for the Crees, we cannot stop something from happening that we oppose to.

*Break: 10:23pm*

During the break Abel announces that a youth is in process of fundraising and a bid will be made available of the painting of walleye.

*Meeting Resumes at 10:42am*

**GC Dr. Abel Bosum** announces that a video will be shown regarding Waswanipi land (protected area)

**Chief Marcel Happyjack**, talks about the Waswanipi land on which they want to protect, will be shown on video.

Video plays.

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GC Dr. Abel Bosum announces that at 1pm there will be signing of the agreement related to clean up mining site. He also mentions that Paul John Murdoch will present on the Cree Nation Housing.

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**Building Wealth: Cree Nation Housing Strategy**

Paul John Murdoch and Bill Namagoose, Executive Director

**Working together**

The Cree Nation Housing Strategy seeks a new approach to the housing crisis. This strategy relies on the Cree Nation assuming all responsibilities of governments with agreed funding agreement to funding arrangements and working with the communities to address all needs.

**Vision**

Thriving Cree communities where ever member of our Cree First Nations has an opportunity to live well, work and succeed.

**Mission**

Provides access to affordable and adequate housing to Cree members while maximizing opportunities and benefits for Cree workers and entrepreneurs across the housing sector

**Core Values**

- Care
- Inclusion
- Self determination
- Shared Successes
- Pride

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director continues to make his presentation on the Housing Strategy reading from a PowerPoint.

Paul-John Murdoch explains that we have to understand that we don't own the houses. There will always be housing crisis in our communities. 60% of wealth in a family down south is in their houses

- With a viable Real Estate Market this value grows every time.
- IN Cree Nation, the value of the houses decreases
- We don't have a real estate market
- Loans are not freely given to buy a house for the Cree people where the percentage of loan to pay back is higher than what is given in the south.
- We are trying to find a way, where the value of our houses increases each year.

Paul John continues to present in a detailed format on the housing strategy continuing from the same PowerPoint that Mr. Bill Namagoose used.

For us to have this, we need to all work together. Local zoning by-laws become extremely important and need to be followed. At the CNG level we can continue to meet with the federal government to find out about how this process can be done. For the federal government to give our people to be able to buy and sell their homes. Paul John shares his personal experience about his first home purchase, about how credit and loans are processed depending on your address or where you purchased your home.

Consultations will start in September and October 2018, and Irene Neeposh will lead this project.

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GC Dr. Abel Bosum shares a bit about what he has learned the past 40 years. One of the things that stood out the most is the size of vehicle we own, car dealers love us. The monies used to buy and trade vehicles over the years, they could own a beautiful home.

John Petagumskum: Regarding the elders for the elders, ISP recipients used to have to pay rent every 3 months. I owe money every month on my house. The value of the house in one month,

Ronnie Otter: The difficulty with Waswanipi is the people that have private housing is that there are no qualified construction workers and many times the residents have to look out of town for someone.

Chief, Marcel Happyjack: Its so easy to get loans for cars, boats and 4wheelers, but when comes the time to ask for a loan for housing their credit has reached the max and this is where we need to educate our people. Often times my people come to me asking these questions.

Johnny Saganash: I have always been working since I was 14, I often think of helping youth. The same thing that what happened with JP, I have purchased many payments, but the rating of my credit was not going up. At 18 I purchased my first house, the doctor who sold me his house even told me he would co-sign my house. In the end he decided he could not co-sign me because I was a native. During my retirement I wanted to buy a house and again the Caisse Populaire offered to help me purchase a used pre-fab house. He continues to share about his house purchase and the land needed to put his house.

Gerald Longchap: If we all look at the whole Cree Nation and if you see all the houses in Mistissini, find out the value of the community. If we all stand together under the Cree Regional Government, we should look for banks that are willing to loan us money to build more houses. The houses that we now have, don't have a waiver of release. First Nation Mortgage have reached out to the community of Mistissini.

GC DR. Abel Bosum mentions that the government officials have now arrived for the signing of the agreement.

*Prayer for food: Chief, Darlene Cheechoo*

*Lunch Break at 12:09pm*

1:04 pm

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*Signing of the Agreement Related to Clean up the Mine Site*

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Presentation of signatories done by Joanne Lacasse

Abel Bosum, *CNG Representative*

Goffrey Kelley, *Minister Responsible for Native Affairs*

Manon Cyr, *President of EIJBRG*

Andree Gaumond, *Representative for Fonds-Restor-Action Cri*

Jean Boucher, *Ungava MNA*

Opening remarks by Chief Thomas Neeposh

A signing agreement related to clean up mine sites was done, an agreement that will last 10 years and give employment to many and a cleaner environment.

*Break is called at 1:32pm*

Meeting resumes at 1:39pm

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**Cree School Board presentation**

Presenters: Kathleen Wooten  
Dr. Sarah Pash  
Abraham Jolly

Kathleen Wooten, former Chairperson of CSB introduces the new chairperson of Cree School Board Ms. Dr.Sarah Pash

Dr. Sarah Pash, thanks Kathleen for the hard work she has done for the Cree School Board. Expresses her gratitude in been the chairperson as the Cree School Board and is looking forward to beginning working. Summarizes the types of talks and works that will be done under the Cree School Board and thanking the assembly for welcoming her today.

Abraham Jolly, there is a transition in the school board, the transition is done in a respectful manner, working with Kathleen has been quite a journey and have accomplished a lot for the School board. Greetings to all the chiefs and acknowledges all the work they do for their communities. The video that will be presented will show all the work that has been done during the past 10 years. (2008-2018) Abraham summarizes about the work done

Video is played

GC Dr. Abel Bosum asks if they have a final comment, thanks Kathleen for the years she has worked with the Cree School Board and all the effort put in her work will still be useful for our Cree Nation. He is very thankful to have had the video shown, and a message to Dr. Sarah Pash, she will have a big job ahead but she will never be alone as will stand by her.

He announces that someone approached him about a research needed from each community, therefore we will let Chief, Christina Gilpin speak about it.

Chief Christina Gilpin, in Wemindji our community was approached by some non-native students to inquire if a research can be done for their community. They were let to conduct this research, you have to be careful who you allow, as they

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leave they take our Cree knowledge with them. The deputy chief went to a gathering on my behalf. The reporters can switch things around about the type of information they gather. Just giving out a warning about the type of information we give out to these people.

GC Dr. Abel Bosum responds to Christina, that yes, we have spoken about this before and it does show that we are giving away our own knowledge by them taking away our culture and beliefs. These people come in and take away our knowledge to gain a higher education.

Ronnie Otter: Thanking the School Board for the past 40 years and the presentation was a great one. He shares a bit of what he sees in his community, and happy that the children now have a school in their community and are able to be with their parents on a daily basis, unlike the way we were brought up through the Residential School system. Cree School Board has improved a lot.

Paul Dixon: Our culture and language to always be made available, would like to request for a law to protect our way of living and language.

Ted Moses: Greets the assembly and informs them that he has been since the beginning, I have taken time to attend as much meetings as I could and missing only a few. Thankful to see everyone doing well, the work is never done and there is always a lot to do. Working together makes us a greater nation and a lot of people envy our way of living. Many times, other nations have approached us and asked how we came to be, we are not poor people.

Presentation and Passing of Resolutions. (following page)

Closing Remarks by Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull, thanks the assembly for been here and been so patient. Thanking her staff from the Eeyou planning commission, as they worked really hard. She expresses her gratitude for been able to partake this event and thankful to have been invited at the local YES young entrepreneurs. Welcomes Dr.Sarah Pash as the chairperson of the Cree School Board and thankful that Kathleen took part of this. Thanking everyone for partaking at the Annual AGA. Congratulating the newly elected chief and council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

Closing Remarks by Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum, thanking the assembly for been here. Thanking the livestream viewers and those listening on the radio. Thanking Matthew Coon-Come for his years of services.

Final Closing Remarks from Chief Thomas Neeposh, Thomas asked for forgiveness from neighbouring communities (Oj and Nemaska)

Closing Prayer: James Kawapit Jr

Next Annual Assembly August 6-7-8, 2019 in the Nemaska, Quebec

Meeting Adjourned at 3:37pm

Resolution No.: 2018-XX

RE: REINTEGRATION OF MOCREEBEC EYUUD WITHIN CREE NATION GOVERNANCE ENTITIES

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WHEREAS the MoCreebec Eeyou are members of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government, as well as each of the ten communities of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, have formally affirmed their recognition of MoCreebec Eeyoud as the eleventh community of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government support the development and self-determination of MoCreebec Eeyoud, and in particular support the MoCreebec Eeyou in their struggle to achieve proper recognition of their community of MoCreebec Eeyoud and of its place within the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee; and

WHEREAS the MoCreebec Eeyou, acting through their Chief and Council, have requested that further steps be taken to assist in the political and cultural reconnection of MoCreebec Eeyoud with the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, by enabling greater participation by MoCreebec Eeyoud within the governance entities of the Cree Nation;

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby affirms their intention to support the progressive political and cultural reconnection of MoCreebec Eeyoud within the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby affirms their support for MoCreebec Eeyou to be granted observer status on the Board of Directors of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the Council of Commissioners of the Cree School Board, the Board of Directors of the Cree Nation Youth Council, and the Board of Directors of the Cree Trappers' Association;

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby authorizes and mandates the Board-Council and the Executive Director to take all necessary and appropriate steps as may reasonably be required to give effect to this Eeyou Assembly Resolution

Proposed by Kenneth Cheezo

Seconded by: Davey Bobbish

Resolution 2018-09: Board of Compensation Chairperson Term Extension

WHEREAS the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation is currently at two (2) years;

WHEREAS the term of the Board of Compensation members is at four (4) years;

WHEREAS the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation should be consistent with the terms of the elected members;

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WHEREAS it is deemed appropriate that the term of the Chairperson should four (4) years;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly approve the recommendation and mandate the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to examine and develop the most efficient manner for adjusting the term for the Chairperson of the Board of Compensation from two (2) years to four (4) years and direct the do all things necessary to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Lance Cooper

Seconded by Christina Gilpin



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DRAFT RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS as early as 1974 representatives of the Cree people identified income security as a principal element of any treaty with Canada and Quebec;

WHEREAS at the time of the negotiation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement – (“JBNQA”) in 1974-1975 there was serious concern among the Cree people that

- their territory was being increasingly occupied by non-Crees and industrial development could result in displacement of Cree families within their traditional territory;

- the economics of the fur trade was not sufficient to provide economic security to maintain a way of life based on hunting, fishing and trapping and was also making it increasingly difficult for Cree families to travel to their hunting territories;

- sedentary pressures were risking the loss of Cree cultural understanding and spirituality particularly among the young;

- there was a need to reinforce the family as the centre of Cree nationhood;

WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA was designed to counter these trends and provide security for individual and collective Cree rights;

WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA provides for the establishment of a program to provide an income guarantee and benefits and other incentives for Cree people who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life;

WHEREAS Section 30 of the JBNQA also provides that the program shall guarantee a measure of economic security consistent with conditions prevailing from time to time;

WHEREAS the program was revised in 1988 (Complementary Agreement no 8) and in 2002 (Complementary Agreement no 15) to keep it updated;

WHEREAS the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board (the “Board”) made recommendations to the Cree Nation Government and Quebec in 2012 to proceed to a new revision;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government recognized the necessity for a revision, approved the recommendations of the Board and mandated its representatives to enter into discussion with Quebec representatives; 2

WHEREAS discussions involving representatives from the Cree Nation Government, the Quebec Government and the Board were carried out from December 2013 to May 2018;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government representatives in the discussions support the changes proposed, believe the modifications represent appropriate evolution of the Program and recommend that Section 30 of the JBNQA be revised accordingly;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government agrees that the proposed changes meet the original objectives of the program, offer updated economic security to Cree hunters and answer some of the main concerns expressed by the Cree trappers over the years;

WHEREAS the Cree Nation Government approves the recommendations made and wishes to enter into an agreement to amend Section 30 of the JBNQA accordingly;

WHEREAS it is imperative that the modifications be in place for the program year 2019-2020, starting July 1, 2019;

IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

The delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby approve and recommend to the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government the proposed text of a Complementary Agreement to modify the JBNQA as appears in Annex 1 to the present, which includes the new version of Section 30 of the JBNQA replacing present Section 30;

The delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby mandate the Grand Chief/ Chairman to communicate the recommendation for approval of the Cree Nation Government to the responsible Quebec Minister(s) and to request the signing of a Complementary Agreement to that effect as soon as possible;

The delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby request that the changes be effective for the program-year 2019-2020, starting July 1, 2019.

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Proposed by: Don Saganash

Seconded By: John S Matoush

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Draft resolution

Subject: Request for a transportation subsidy from the Whapmagoostui First Nation

Whereas the Whapmagoostui First Nation is situated within the 55th parallel and the cost of living is exorbitantly high and is only accessible by airplane or barge;

Whereas all perishable goods and non -perishable goods are transported by airplane on a weekly basis;

Whereas all major purchases made by the WFN community members such as construction material, trucks and other vehicles are transported by barge from Wemindji to Whapmagoostui;

Whereas the average transportation costs for a vehicle is currently 2,500.00 per person;

Whereas the Whapmagoostui First Nation members request that the Cree Nation Government consider granting a transportation subsidy to offset the high cost of living in Whapmagoostui;

Resolved:

That at delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby agree to the consideration of a granting of a transportation subsidy to the Whapmagoostui First Nation members subject to a study on the actual transportation costs which assist in determining the subsidy amount;

That the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly further mandate the Executive Director to do all things to give effect to the foregoing.

Proposed by: Thomas Neeposh

Seconded by: Daniel Mark-Stewart

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SUBJECT: Support for the Construction of a Second Exit Road West of Mistissini to Connect to the Route-du-Nord for Safety Reasons

WHEREAS the Cree Nation of Mistissini is requesting for support to construct a second exit road west of Mistissini connecting to the Route-du-Nord;

WHEREAS in 2005/2006 the community of Mistissini was threatened by two forest fires, one from the East and one from the West;

WHEREAS the second exit road is necessary for the safety of the residents of Mistissini;

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby support the development and construction of a second exit road west of Mistissini to connect to the route-du-Nord for safety reasons.

Proposed by: Thomas Jolly

Seconded by: Johnny Bosum