

DRAFT MINTUES of 46th Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) /43rd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly Via Zoom on August 4 & 5, 2020

Day 1: Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Meeting Begins: 9:17am

1. **Opening Prayer:** Chief Annie Mapachee Salt
2. **Quorum and Chairperson:** Quorum is met, and Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum will be chairing the two-day AGA
3. **Appointment of Recording Secretaries:**

Adoption of Recording Secretary; namely, Rachel Brien-MacLeod to record minutes of the 46th GCCEI/43rd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly

On a motion duly made by: Chief Marcel Happyjack

Seconded by Curtis Bosum

The following resolution **no, 2020-01** was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED:

that the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government 46th/43rd Annual General Assembly here by name Rachel B. MacLeod to be the recording secretary for the 2020 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government

4. Opening Remarks:

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum:

It will be different for this year's AGA due to the pandemic. It will be difficult because we are not gathered as we used to. This assembly will only two days, but we need to address the financial statements for this year's assembly.

There will be a lot of information to share from the past year. This is the first in our history to endure this pandemic. I am speaking to you from Nemaska and I would like to share the news of the birth of our Great grandchild. Let us remember our loss, our loved ones that have passed, our elders, our youth, and our members. It is difficult during this pandemic to not tend to the ones in mourning. We lost four loved ones from the COVID-19. This pandemic is dangerous for our people and it is difficult to cope during this pandemic, but we can move forward it. Our annual report has been released and we have a lot of information to share to our fellow Cree members.

I would like to acknowledge the graduates of 2020 and the future students for Post-Secondary. Even during this pandemic, we are still pursuing further. We should continue to encourage our Youth to pursue careers such as engineers, contractors, etc. So, we would not have to reach out of the community to hire professionals.

- Cree Language Law, this is a triumph to accomplish because we need to strengthen our language within our Cree Nation. In terms of housing, we are happy to announce of the changes for home ownerships.
- Cree Health Board Agreement – we are happy to announce of this new agreement and the future benefits of building more clinics.
- Youth Healing Center – this facility is based in Mistissini and this building will help our youth that need services for healing.
- I would like to thank the Cree School Board for their never-ending support and work for bettering our schools in our Cree Nation.

I am thankful of the Cree Nation, the chiefs and organizations for coming together to focus and I would like to congratulate Angel Baribeau for her achievement and our youth that are playing in the junior leagues.

Deputy Grand Chief, Mandy Gull:

I would like to thank you all for being present for this AGA. I am speaking to you from Whapmagoostui and I am sad to share of the passing of my mother-in-law, we are here to support my husband and family. I know it is efficient to meet by zoom but it is also difficult to not meet in person which is the challenging part during this pandemic. I would like to acknowledge the students for pursuing their education even during this trial period. I would like to congratulate the 2020 high school graduate for accomplishing and completing their year during this difficult time.

I would like to address the Protected Areas file, and I would like to acknowledge Flora Weistche for working hard on this file. It is important to acknowledge the importance of keeping our land safe and clean.

I very proud of my colleagues of the hard work they had accomplished. I recognize the hard work of our Directors and to Kelly Papabano who is in Montreal, she was diagnosed with cancer, please keep her in your prayers.

This pandemic has been challenging but I also acknowledge the hard work for keeping our Cree Nation safe.

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5. Introduction of Delegates

CHISASIBI	Chief Davey Bobbish Daisy House	Paula Napash Pauline Lameboy	Annie Bobbish Charles Bobbish
EASTMAIN	Chief Kenneth Cheezo Brenda Gilpin-Cheezo Denis Moses	Daniel Moses Florence Moses Dylan Mayappo	Daniel Mark-Stewart Tina Petawabano
MISTISSINI	Chief Thomas Neeposh Justus Coon-Come Justice Debassige	Mary Jane Petawabano Jerry Matoush	John S. Matoush Stacy Anderson
MOCREEBEC	Chief Allan Jolly Adam Enosse	Michael Jolly Grace Delaney	Kristin Wabano Sarah Weistche
NEMASKA	Chief Clarence Jolly Gregory Jolly	Simeon Wapachee Lillian Diamond	Matthew Tanoush Bradley Mianscum Jr.
OUJE-BOUGOUMOU	Chief Curtis Bosum Mathias Bosum Sarah Cooper	Anna Bosum Priscilla Bosum	Connie Bosum Gaston Cooper
WASHAW SIBI	Chief Annie Mapachee-Salt Jean Denis Cananasso	Andriana Trapper Freddy Mowatt	Gloria Polson Kerrie Hester
WASKAGANISH	Chief Clarke Shecapio Samson Wischee	Gordon J. Blackned Jimmy (Tim) Whiskeychan	Ethel Katapatuk-Taylor Leona Hester
WASWANIPI	Chief Marcel Happyjack Ronnie Ottereyes	Alex Moses Marlene I. Kitchen	Don Saganash Johnny Saganash
WEMINDJI	Chief Christina Gilpin Arden Visitor Elvis Hughboy	Sam Gilpin Ernest Tomatuk	Julianna Visitor
WHAPMAGOOSTUI	Chief Louisa Wynne Lucy Petagumskum	Elijah Sandy Eddie Masty	Jordan Masty Samson Petagumskum
Cree Nation Government:	Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull Bill Namagoose, Executive Director Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director Matthew Swallow, Treasurer John Paul Murdoch, Head Negotiator Donald Nicholls, Melissa Saganash, Gillman Ottereyes, Anthony MacLeod, Isaac Voyageur		

Morning break: 10:13am

Meeting commences: 10:33pm

6. Resolution committee:

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

On a motion duly made by Justus Coon-come Seconded by Mary Jane Petawabano

The following resolution **no, 2020-02** was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 46th/43rd Annual General Assembly nominate Donald Nicholls, Isaac Voyageur and Melissa Saganash

7. Adoption of the Agenda:

Minutes of 2019 AGA, in Nemaska

Others: Chief Louise Wynne - Transportation subsidy. There was a directive in Rodney's department to follow-up

JP Murdoch: There was a resolution in place for this directive. I will follow-up with the local study about this directive/mandate.

Adoption of agenda of the 46th GCCEI/ 43rd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly

On a motion duly made by Justus Coon-Come Seconded by Alexander Moses

The following resolution **no, 2020-03** was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 44th/41st Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the draft agenda for the 2020 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

8. Review and Adoption of Minutes of the 45th GCC(EI) Annual General Assembly/42nd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly

Presented by John Paul Murdoch

On a motion duly made by Davey Bobbish Seconded by Thomas Neeposh

The following resolution **no, 2020-04** was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 46th/43rd Annual General Assembly hereby adopt the minutes of the 45th GCCEI/42nd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Comments:

- Chief Thomas Neeposh: To have their first and last names for questions and on the minutes.
- Chief Christina Gilpin asked if there is a list of directives and mandates from each department.
 - John Paul Murdoch gave a brief update from the mandates/directives

9. Reception and Acknowledgement of Minutes and Resolutions of Board/Council 2019-2020 and Board of Compensation 2019-2020:

On a motion duly made by Deputy Grand Chief Seconded by Justus Coon-Come

The following resolution **no, 2020-05** was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/ Cree Nation Government 46th /43rd 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.

Lunch break: 11:05am

Meeting commences: 1:15pm

10. Review of the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements of the GCC(EI)/CNG – Presented by Matthew Swallow, Cree Nation Government Treasurer

Cree Nation Government:

Highlights of the financial audit statements – General Fund Revenue: \$263,467,396

- O&M Regional Support Funding
- Capital “A” Base Community Allocation
- Special Projects
- Others
- Eeyou-Eenou Police Force
- Administration of Justice
- Apatisiwin Skills Development

General Fund Revenue by Source:

- Capital “A” Base Community Allocation
- O&M Regional Support Funding
- Government of Quebec
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Emergency Preparedness Canada

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- Eenu-Eeyou Limited Partnership
- Cree Nation Trust
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Others

General Fund Expenditures 2019-2020: \$261,504,424

- Executive Office
- Environment and Remedial Works
- Special Projects
- Government Support Services
- Others
- Political Representatives
- Social and Cultural Development
- Capital "A" Base Community Allocation
- Commerce and Industry
- Finance and Treasury
- O&M Community Allocation
- Administration of Justice
- Eeyou-Eenu Police Force
- Capital Works and Services

Allocation of the Capital "A" Base Funding 2019-2020: \$15,089,634

Allocation of the O&M Funding 2019-2020: \$104,361,100

Allocation of the Cree Nation Trust Funding 2019-2020: \$133,884,150

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

General Fund Revenue: \$8,916,728

- Cree School Board
- Eenu-Eeyou Limited Partnership
- Government of Quebec
- Cree Canada New Relationship Agreement
- Interest and others
- Recover of bad debt

General Fund Expenditure 2019-2020: \$8,916,728

Eenu-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Financial Highlights of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year:

- Distribution of the Capital Contribution from the Government of Quebec 2019-2020:
\$102,491,088

Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.

Financial Highlights of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

Expenditure: \$427,992

- Annual Report
- Professional fees and expenses
- General Administration expenses and others
- Legal fees

Cree Nation Government/Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and related entities:

Summary of the CNG and related entities:

- Allocation of entities of funding to the communities and certain entities 2019-2020: \$360,504,914

Ending remark by Mr. Swallow: "I am always honored to present the financial reports and where the monies has been spent and invested. This is not an easy job to explain, but I believe it is important for our members to see where the money has been dispersed. I believe we have the capacity and capabilities to run our own affairs. As a Nation along with the Chiefs, we can work collaboratively to improve our operations of managing the Cree Nation monies. It is important to explain thoroughly on how the monies and expenses are displayed, so that our people can see and understand the allocation and expenditures. I could not have done this alone; I am thankful of my team that help me with this department. Our department works very hard to operate and run the finance department for the Cree Nation Government and our people."

Afternoon break: 2:28pm

Meeting commences at: 2:40pm

Question Period:

Thomas Neeposh: Eeyou Minstuk Fund Agreement, they receive \$6 million annually, where is this money dispersed?

Matthew Swallow: The council board decides where the money is being dispersed. John Paul or Bill would be able to explain further.

Bill Namagoose: The council board does decide where the money is contributed. A treaty is developed to state the disbursement of the money.

Abel Bosum: The executive committee and the council board has reviewed the statements and approved the statements.

Justice Debassige, YC: Referring to page 22, Uranium Proceedings, what is that?

Paul John Murdoch: When we closed Strateco from proceeding in opening a Uranium mine.

Bill Namagoose: These are expenditures for legal fees, because Strateco accused the Quebec government of mistreatment. Therefore, there were expenses following in legal fees.

Ratification and Adoption of Financial Statements

On a motion duly made by: Chief Thomas Neeposh

Seconded by: Chief Curtis Bosum

The following resolution no, 2020-06 was adopted and carried

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/Cree Nation Government 46th/43rd Annual General Assembly hereby taken cognizance of the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

11. Appointment of Auditors for 2020-2021

On a motion duly made by: Chief Marcel Happyjack

Seconded by: Chief Thomas Neeposh

The following resolution, 2020-07 was adopted and carried.

IT IS RESOLVED

THAT the delegates of the Grand council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee/Cree Nation Government 46th/43rd 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 Grand Thornton to act as the auditors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government.

Matthew Swallow addressed that the Annual Newsletter will be sent out to everyone within our Cree Nation. This Newsletter was requested by the people, so that they can read and be aware of the operations of the Cree Nation Government and the financial statements. We will be addressing the disbursement of monies in detail on the Newsletter.

12. Cree Nation Government Annual Report – Presented by Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director

Introduction – Role of the Office Deputy Executive Director

Major Initiatives 2019-2020

- Free Trade Agreement Summit April 2019, Vald'Or, Meeting with Local Chiefs and Councils
- Capacity Building Engagement, October 2019, Montreal with CSB, CHB, Local Chiefs and Councils

Moving Forward 2020-2021

- Capacity Building Framework
- Community Engagement Sessions for Programs and Services involving DCI, ASD, SCD and Justice
- Wildlife Protection Assistants Programs

Activities and Projects 2019-2020 – Rodney Mark, Director of Social and Cultural Development

- Funding Programs: Contributions to community initiatives
 - Cree youth Development Fund
 - Senior of Quality of Life Fund (elders)
 - Cree Alliance of Solidarity
- Cree Customary Certification Adoption Process
- Language Act; Preparations for Language Commissioner; On-going place names work
- Cree Nation Youth council; Implemented 10+ projects and initiatives
 - Special Projects Fund of the Youth

Activities and Projects of 2019-2020 – Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry

- Mining and explorations sector
- Cree Forestry Strategy
- Centralized database
- Regional Development Fund Investment
- Cree Entrepreneur Assistance Fund
- Telecommunications in Eeyou Istchee – study
- Cree working group on La Grande Alliance
- Local conferences and career fairs

Moving Forward 2020-2021

- Implement the economic recovery fund
- Support local small and medium businesses
- Maximize and diversity economic benefits
- Kickstart the Real Estate Development
- Launch our Business Hub

Activities and Projects 2019-2020 – Louise Saganash, Director of Cree Human Resources Development

- CNG summit on Building Capacity for Eeyou Istchee
- ASD CENA Reports
- Projects/Participants training and employment

Moving Forward 2020-2021

- Capacity Building Framework
- Cree Nation Government Community Engagement Sessions
- Labour Force Survey Study

Activities and Projects of 2019-2020 – Kelly Pebabano, Director of Child and Family Services

- Childcare Management training – 20 graduates ENCS
- Review of department mandate
- 2nd Annual Childcare Forum and recognition
- Updating educational resources
- Collaboration with Cree Nation leadership – COVID-19 measures

Moving Forward

- In Negotiations for our 4th childcare agreement with Minister de la Families
- Special Needs Program to start in Chisasibi – late fall
- Implementation of Regional Strategic Plan

Forestry Department Highlights – Gillman Ottereyes, Director of Forestry

Department is a newly and developed and the Director was hired last year.

- The mandate: The Forestry Department is responsible of implementing chapter 3 of Paix des Brave Agreement and the governance agreement signed with Quebec established
- Communities impacted by forestry: Within the chapter 3 of the Paix des Brave and the Baril Moses agreement. Five communities that are impacted by Forestry: Waswanipi, Mistissini, Ouje-bougoumou, Nemaska and Waskaganish
- Job Creations within the Forestry Department
- Capital Projects – support the council of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi has offered the CNG, the opportunity to move forward with a new administration building. The new office in Waswanipi will house both the Forestry Department and the Cree Quebec Forestry Board.

Moving forward 2020-21

- The forestry department has made significant progress over the last few months, and once we have the entire team in place, we will move forward with the development of a long-term comprehensive plan that will define its purposes and sense of direction.

Continuation of Cree Nation Government Annual Report 2019-2020

Presented by Bill Namagoose:

CNG Departments of 2019-2020

- Manpower Statistics
- Human Resources
- Capital Works and Services
- Environment Department
- Eenu Eeyou Police Force
- Justice and Correctional Services
- Federal Relations
- Quebec Relations

Question Period:

Don Saganash: Protected area, where are we at? You will receive your answer after the presentation of La Grande Alliance tomorrow at Day 2. What do we do with cabins that are not registered?

Chief Christina Gilpin: There had been fires in the past and when the trees grow back, we would like to know what will happen to the trees? Draft Resolution to be established by John Paul Murdoch

Ernest Tomatuk: There is concern of the water being low, is there a study being done about the water being low, because it is affecting the natural habitat, the fish?

John Paul Murdoch: There is a study being done about the water from the Protected Areas file. Further studies can be done.

Denis Moses: Capital Works: Hvac technician, can you find someone to go around communities? We need someone to inspect housing and their ventilation system. Data Program: Update the system because it is outdated. The data system is to locate houses within the communities.

Bill Namagoose: Yes, he is correct regarding Hvac

Michael Petawabano: Community employment needs assessment, these are one of the needs in our community to develop our very own technicians. This can be developed or implemented soon. On-the-job training or mentoring program to develop Cree recruiters.

Mary Jane Petawabano: There needs to be more patrol officers policing our streets throughout the week. There is a lot of drug trafficking and bootlegging in our communities. There must be something that can be done with these trafficking of substances and alcohol. There used to be special constables in the past. If we can set a budget aside to hire special constables during the high peak periods (summer). The EEPF are overworked and lack the manpower within the EEPF. We need to work together in collaboration to help and assist the EEPF, because we need them in our community. To provide more support when it comes to traumatizing situations, because we need to nurture and care for our police.

Bill Namagoose: On the JBQNA, it addresses the ratio. And on the agreement that we must have full-fledge special constables, because of the agreement, this is the reason why. However, we do have special constables within the police force. We are opening the door for non-full fledged to work with the EEPF.

Nancy Bobbish: Special Constable still need special training. They still need to be trained in order to be special constable. Due to COVID, the trainings had to be put on hold. The HR department are doing the best to recruit more officers, however, due to the pandemic, trainings and programs have been put on hold.

Concludes Day 1 of AGA.

Closing Prayer: Daniel Moses

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

Day 2: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Meeting Begins: 9:19am

Opening remarks by: Grand Chief Abel Bosum opens the meeting by reviewing the agenda for Day 2 of the AGA.

Opening Prayer: Annie Bobbish, Chisasibi Delegate

Grand Chief asked everyone to remember and send prayers to Peter Shecapio. He is currently in the hospital in intensive care.

1. Cree Nation Response to COVID-19 – Presented by Bella Moses Petawabano

a) Response DATA: From March 18 to July 30, 2020

- 45 Leadership calls on the current situation in Eeyou Istchee:
 - Regular: 43
 - Emergency: 2

- Over 79 COVID-19 related public statement and updates for the public
 - Public Updates and Community Updates: 37
 - Summary Infographics: 30
 - Emergency Public Notices: 2
 - Public Statements: 3
 - Public Bulletin: 5
 - Special Bulletin: 2

- Social Media
 - Over 130 posts on our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

- Resources and Information Online
 - Over 100 resources and posts concerning COVID-19 for Eeyou Istchee to continue to be accessible on the CNG website

- Livestream Broadcasts
 - 6 broadcasts related to COVID-19 are available on livestream
 - March 17, 2020
 - March 19, 2020
 - April 9, 2020
 - April 15, 2020
 - April 22, 2020
 - May 25, 2020

These discussions were to develop a strategic plan if there was ever an outbreak in our Cree communities. These broadcasts were to bring awareness and to address precautionary measures for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Management Plans, Policies and Guidelines

- Best Practices Administrative guide
- Travel advisories for entering and leaving the communities
- Community Emergency preparedness plans for Pandemic Template
- Covid-19 Funeral Measures
- Goose Break Protocol
- Re-Opening of Construction Industry Guidelines
- Deconfinement Plan
- Mandatory Self-Isolation Guidelines

All documents are developed in collaboration with CHB and Social Services of James Bay.

All documents are continuously evolving, and new versions being developed. All plans will be adapted as measures are de-escalated.

We reached out to our local mines to address COVID-19 measures to keep the employees safe and to address the Deconfinement Plan to the companies. We are working hard to keeping our communities and people safe from this virus.

Government Relations:

- Government of Quebec: Definition of essential services
- Government of Canada: Negotiation of funding agreement for federal assistance package
- Surete du Quebec: Negotiating with on Conditions for Authorizations of Passage at SQ check points
- “Letters for Students” – document
- “Letters for Trappers” – document
- Transport Canada and Quebec Ministry of Public Security – discussions on authorization of flights in relation to Spring Airlifts
- Makiviik: Discussion on special control measures at Whapmagoostui Airport
- Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources – Discussions on Mining Industry Protocols
- Eeyou Istchee Bay James Regional Government Relations – Development of Joint Cree Jamesian Position on SQ checkpoints under what conditions they should be lifted – June 9th, 2020

We were surprised that the mines opened without our knowledge, we had to come to an agreement with the Quebec government to notify us of changes or lifting restrictions.

Industry:

Mines:

- Negotiations Newmont: “Elenore Mine COVID-19 Management Plan” – Documents
- Assessment of “Stornoway COVID-19 Management Plan”

Mining Exploration Companies

- Review and adoption of COVID-19 Management Plans

Hydro-Quebec

- Review of COVID-19 Management Plan

The mines are cooperative in putting a machine in place at the mines, however, HQ are resistant in getting this machine. This machine would be beneficial for the employees for them to get tested before going home.

Local Mandatory Self-Isolations Laws:

- Coordination between communities for the management of local mandatory self-isolation laws – Chief’s meetings

Continued Monitoring of COVID-19 in Eeyou Istchee

- Cree Leadership continues to closely monitor Eeyou Istchee as well as the neighboring regions
- Continued collaboration with the CHBSSJB Public health team as well as local leadership is critical to providing the most up-to-date information to community members and help ensure the health and safety of all
- Washing your hands often, keeping a safe distance of 2 meters, and wearing a mask in closed public areas continue to follow important measures.

It is mandatory to wear a mask in the province of Quebec. We need to practice social distancing and to always wash our hands.

Thank you!

The leadership would like to thank all frontline, healthcare workers and public safety workers. This pandemic was not easy for everyone, but I would like to thank everyone involved to keep our communities safe. I know it was not easy to follow the self-isolation law, however, if you could cope with it for just a little bit longer until things are less risky in this pandemic.

b) Adapting our services - CHB - Bella Moses Petawabano presentation:

Thanking everyone that is part of the meeting and the people listening. Requests for people to pray for her husband, he was admitted at the hospital. She has been residing in Eastmain for the time being. We are preparing for a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not know what can happen, that is why it is important to follow the COVID-19 measures. Apologizes because they cannot translate for the upcoming speaker, Daniel St. Amour.

There were 10 confirmed cases in our Cree communities but have recovered. So far, we have not had any cases since, and we should be very thankful and lucky that we had not had any cases.

We appreciate of the Cree leadership for coming together and developing laws and policies to maintain and control of an outbreak from the COVID-19. We are not equipped and may not be prepared if we have an outbreak of this illness. We should be mindful of protecting our loved ones, our elders because they are vulnerable to the virus. Always, keep our people in mind when you are out there because we need to keep our communities safe in our Cree Nation. That is why it is necessary to always inform the checkpoints of where you are travelling to or from. This will be the only way to keep track if there is ever an outbreak. It is essential to follow the 14-day self-isolation when you are travelling outside of the safe regions. Working as a team with our Cree leaders have benefited to keeping and establishing safety measures for our people of the Cree Nation.

b) i) Adapting our Services to COVID-19 – Daniel St. Amour presentation:

There was an event that happened in Chisasibi, he was a nurse that worked for the CHB and he had passed away.

Current Situation:

- 10 Cases to date in the communities and all have recovered
- Thanks to the JBNQA, Eeyou Istchee can determine its own path – distinct from the rest of Quebec
 - Mandatory Self-isolation laws are key in preventing virus from entering our communities
 - Robust contact tracing protocols by Public Health
 - 5 phases of deconfinement (currently in phase 3)
 - Preventive measures remain in place
- We need to adapt the “new normal”

COVID-19 by the numbers

10	Cases to date in Eeyou Istchee	0	active cases
1604	COVID-19 tests to date	109	Calls to Wiichihiiwaauin Psychosocial Helpline
211	Calls to COVID-19 hotline		

Rapid Adaptation of services

- Non-clinical works telework when possible
- Screening and self-isolation protocol for workers coming from outside the region
- Adapted spaces implemented hot/cold zones
- PPE ordered the staff trained
- Increase telehealth (2391 appointments since March 1)
- Reduced non-essential services for clients (now resuming with deconfinement)
- Adapted medical charter and client lodging
- Put in place 24/7 WiichiWaauiwin help line and COVID information line (includes access to Traditional Healers) for Eeyou Istchee

The need to adapt rapidly drove lasting innovation and has accelerated the digital transformation of the CBHSSJB.

We improved that the service of food at Espresso because there were numerous complaints about the food when it came to Deconfinement and self-isolation for patients.

Partnerships and collaboration

- Approximately 41 leadership meetings since March 19
- 44 live regional radio briefings by Chairperson or Vice-Chair since March 25
- 3 livestream Q&A sessions

As a result of our close collaboration in pandemic response, partnerships between the CHBSSJB and other entities have grown stronger.

The power of teams:

- Visible and accountable and leadership
- Teamwork
- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Dedication and professionalism of our staff
- Working with Nishiiyuu in order to ensure cultural safety

The Cree Nation Government gave us the opportunity to make autonomy decisions and we are thankful for that collaboration and dedication to keep our communities safe.

Nishiiyuu is responsible for cultural safety and health.

Building resilience for the future: lessons from COVID-19

Rapid response from all partners, autonomy to be able to make decisions

- Autonomy thanks to the JBNQA
- Need for good communication structures between the CBHSSJB and other Cree entities
- Knowledge is the best tool to protect Eeyou Istchee

Strengthen emergency preparedness in Eeyou Istchee

- Fast-tracked project with Red Cross to implement mobile hospital (600 room kits)

Accelerate deployment of projects under New Agreement

- Telehealth
- Reorganization around three service poles (Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waskaganish)
- Elders' homes, birthing homes, Regional Hospital and transition home for mental health and special needs clients
 - Elders' homes will be open in 2022
 - We need to resolve the situation of having our elders in the city

With these projects, we can reduce medical travel and keep our people in Eeyou Istchee

Conclusion:

- This has been a defining moment for the Cree Health Board. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the organization has redoubled our efforts:
 - Adapting and providing services
 - Fulfilling the public health mandate of surveillance, prevention and policy guidance
 - Applying a robust risk management system
 - Implementing the strategic regional plan and projects under the new Agreement signed in October 2019
- The pandemic has confirmed that we are on the right path with our strategy strengthen infrastructure and services within our region, which is the foundation of culturally safe care.

Closing remarks of presentations - Bella Moses Petawabano:

We are thankful of Daniel St. Amour's dedication and hard work in containing the and reducing the risk of COVID-19.

We are working hard to bring more services for our people, our elders, special needs. WE are in the process of requesting money from the government so, that we can provide these services in our communities. We worked promptly to establish guidelines and laws to protect our people in the Cree Nation and to our patients in Montreal. I am thankful for all the people involved for the COVID-19 measures. Please, continue to listen to our livestreams regarding the safety measures of COVID-19. Always stay safe being out in public, please wear your masks properly. "You are protecting others when you wear your mask". We must get used to this "new normal" until a vaccine is in place. It is crucial to contain the droplets we release when coughing or sneezing, that is why it is important to wear masks or to wear them properly.

DRAFT MINTUES of 46th Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) /43rd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly Via Zoom on August 4 & 5, 2020

Abel Bosum: We need to practice staying safe by following the safety measures of the COVID-19. We need to consider the families and loved ones who are vulnerable to the virus. We had lost four elders from this illness and they were long-term patients in Montreal. We are thinking of the family who lost their loved ones during this pandemic. We should take this matter serious and be more cautious during this pandemic.

Morning break: 10:40am

Meeting commences: 10:58am

B) ii) Adapting our services for our future, Cree School Board - Dr. Sarah Petagumskum presentation:

Greetings to Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief, Chiefs and delegates.

CSB COVID-19 Response – Response Management

- Senior taskforce: Chairperson, Director General, Deputy Director General, Secretary General
- Taskforce: Director General, Deputy Director General, Directors
- Reporting and Collaborating: Cree Nation Leadership table, Regional public safety/COVID team table
- Working with regional and local level

Cree School Board COVID-19 Response

- March 13 – Closure of all schools
- April 13 – Launch of online learning platform
- April 23- In-person instruction suspended for remainder of the school year
- July 8 – 173 Secondary School Graduates in Eeyou Istchee
- July 22 – Announced back-to-school scenario and teacher return dates
- August 27 – Start of school year (elementary and secondary)

Parents were concerned of children returning to school after goose break, therefore, the CSB decided to close the schools for the remainder of the year. We are ready to open the schools back on August 27. Teachers will be returning to the community for the next two weeks to prepare for the school year. Teachers will have to respect of the 14-day self-isolation. Teachers are prepared to launch online learning platform just in case the school closes again.

Schools:

- As of June 3rd, schools have re-opened, with limited access and limited number of students, for our Secondary V students who require additional support.
- Schools will be implementing their annual maintenance and janitorial services.
- Satellite phones were ordered and sent to all the nine (9) schools.

DRAFT MINTUES of 46th Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) /43rd Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly Via Zoom on August 4 & 5, 2020

- Extra cleaning and disinfecting are continuing.
- Public Health to provide a training on disinfection to all our cleaning staff – to date Chisasibi was offered the training, and the training took place

Youth Online Learning Platform (OLP)

Government Announcement – March 13

- Decision to close schools for two weeks

Youth Sector Meeting – March 19

- Discussion of the OLP format for extended closure

Development – March 23 – onward

- Work initiated by RTI, Instructional Services and School Operations on the OLP with Communications and Web Master

OLP Launches

Youth Online Learning Platform (OLP) cont'd

Student Engagement over time:

- Only 57 of 265 students were on track to graduate in Secondary V pre-OLP with Term 1&2 marks. Now over 205 engaging/in progress
- Only 112 of 253 Secondary IV students were on track for promotion to Secondary V Pre-OLP w/Term 1&2 marks. Now over 175 in progress/engaging with the OLP
- 1100-1500 views per day, with the highest with Secondary IV and V OLP pages

2020 Graduates: 173

Fall 2020 Back to School Scenarios

Scenario A: Risk Level Low

- Regular school with modifications
- Possible class size restrictions
- Daily health questionnaire
- Increased hygiene measures
- Distancing requirements
- Ready for scenario B if necessary

Scenario B: Risk Level Medium

- Adapted school operations
- Daily health questionnaire
- Increased hygiene measures
- Increased distancing requirements
- Ready for scenario C if necessary

Scenario C – Risk Level High

- No classroom instructions
- Online learning for all grades with interactive virtual support from teachers

Cree public Health determines the risk level, confinement protocols, and health measures.

Email: schooloperations@cscree.qc.ca for any concerns or questions you may have.

There were students who found the online learning platform difficult, it did not meet their needs in learning. If we reach the high-risk level, we will have to go back to online learning platform to keep our students safe. We need to practice safety measure of COVID-19.

Adult Education classes will resume September 8

Adult General Education

- 50% in-person, 50%online
- Laptops for online learning students
- Two-week course on online learning skills plus goal setting at start of year

Vocational Training

- In-person instruction for continuing programs
- SRVTC reopening, including residence and cafeteria
- New programs

Students – Adult General Education

- Online learning: students were supported by their teachers through distance education
- Teachers collaborated through a weekly videoconference and Teams were trained by ICT
- Some students were received laptops/tablets to finish their school year

Students – Vocational training

- Upon closure, transportation for out-of-community students at SRVTC was organized by the training centre.
- Extra cleaning and sanitizing are being conducted
- ASD extended allowance for current student through May 29
- Online-compatible programs

Post Secondary Student Services

Extra funding – Supplemental Living and lodging allowances for PSSS sponsored students were provided through the summer

Online- students will be able to study online either from their place of study or from their communities

Next steps – PSSS management is now assessing the result from the recent student survey. This will help prepare the new measures and protocols that will be put in place before classes begin.

Most Universities and Colleges have gone to online learning platforms for the time being, in the meantime, the students will be receiving allowances that are registered for fall semester.

Students – Post-Secondary Student Services

- PSSS Application Update: 321 applications reviewed, plus 256 continuing students. Over 500 PSSS students
- Student travel letter system in place
- Interim measures for entry tests in collaboration with schools
- Gatineau and Montreal Offices working remotely, plans to re-open in Development
- Policy change to allow for online studies 2020-21
- Supplementary allowances provided through summer with additional funds in spring
- Survey of students to determine needs

New positions:

- COVID coordinator
- Ombudsperson

Information and Technologies Update

- 900 laptops have been ordered for students
- All sectors requested to coordinate with IT to provide loaner laptops or equipment to students

Youth Sector:

- Back-to-school scenario planning continues
- Provide clear guidelines – precautionary measures

Sabtuaan Adult Education

- Coordinate and plan for classroom spaces with the number of continuing students
- Teachers will in training to develop their digital competencies and build course materials following their return

Post-Secondary Student Services

- Approved online learning for 2020-21
- Special allowance payment to all registered in Winter 2020
- Continue to coordinate with airline to travel – Whapmagoostui students
- Contact sheet provided to students to connect with employees on their matters

Human Resources Services

- Precautionary measures are being prepared for staff and teachers

Through this time, is to see the resiliency that the students have shown during this difficult time. Students were vulnerable and were coping through this pandemic. We need to show appreciation to the teachers who were dedicated and committed to our students. There were teachers who went all out to support the students by bringing them homework, books, and printing homework. The engagement from the community, parents, members, teachers, etc. was remarkable during this pandemic. “We rise to the challenge” – Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum

Dr. Abel Bosum: Extends his gratitude to Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum and their team at the CSB for keeping our students safe and to continue their education during this trying time.

Question Period:

Irene Neeposh: Congratulating the CSB and their hard work. Is there an information kit distributed for the students, encourage parents to charge their college students rent? Concerns of sending students to school, can the students go to school part-time?

Dr. Sarah Pash: Information for students about student budget, students are adults and they should learn this on their own. In terms of part-time schooling, this can be arranged from the school. The principle can make this arrangement with the parents, student and teachers. Get in touch with the school administration.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull: Students need to learn to pay rent. They should learn to contribute to household and expenses. Presentations from Bella and Sarah were remarkable during this extreme challenging time. Happy retirement to Rodaka, a teacher for thirty years of service to the Cree Nation. She had three college students that were coping the pandemic, the allowances were a big help and ease for the stressful students. Students need to go back for their lease and what will be happen to the students going back to the south due to their lease? Will there be any local initiative, maybe through schools to use to print or to get access to the internet (remote communities)?

Dr. Sarah Pash: Students who have issues in moving back or have leases, they need to get a hold of Post-Secondary office. Students in-communities who have not access to the internet, the CSB are working with local schools in having more access for students to use their resources, such as the library, or classrooms.

Denis Moses: Are you planning on providing education for special needs students via video conference platform?

Dr. Sarah Pash: It will be difficult to search and provide training/education, because it can vary for each case. There are activities and learning materials on the CSB website. Virtual learning could be established in the future.

Chief Clark Shecapio: Expresses his gratitude to the presentations this morning, CHB and CSB. Going back to the mining work sites, you mentioned of the testing machines, the self-isolation is hard on the employees working at the mines. Could you provide more information about the test machines in terms of self-isolation because it is hard on the families?

John Paul Murdoch: This is something that is difficult and hard, especially when the mines opened, especially learning that most of the employees are based in Montreal. Therefore, we had to establish the self-isolation. We did ask for them to reduce the hiring's that come from the Montreal area, but this was not possible for companies. We were frustrated with how they operate because they were not collaborating with our expectation. The machine is accurate when it comes to testing, however, when someone is tested and is negative, it cannot be accurate because the person can become positive afterwards. This is the challenging part for having the testing machine. We have something to announce tomorrow for Osisko. Newmont will be introduced to the testing machine. The Quebec government is not working in collaboration when it comes to safety measures of COVID-19. Not all companies can afford this machine because it is quite costly. Stornoway are talking of purchasing this machine to benefit the employees.

Ernest Tomatuk: Concerned of tourists, hydro camp workers and Sarcelle, we do not know who can carry this virus when they come to our communities and Cree territories. We need to be more careful of who comes in our region, this is risky to our people from being exposed and to possibly contracting the virus because of foreign visitors.

Priscilla Bosum: Question regarding the students that received the funds, in terms of the announcement regarding fall semester students. The lodging allowance will exclude the lodging allowance from the student allowance. She sent a letter that Monday and CSB responded, she is asking if the living allowance could be reconsidered for registered students studying from the community.

Dr. Sarah Pash: Students will be receiving their allowance when studying online, however, there will be circumstances for students studying from community.

Justus Coon-Come: Asking CNG how will you stand with the people about this law, when people violate the laws of the COVID-19 measures. "People feel controlled, not protected". Question for CHB: Quote on "This is the new normal until the vaccine is widely available", we are shutting our

people's will to live freely. Will we forcing people to take the vaccine?
Concerning face masks, some people are not susceptible to wearing masks, people suffer anxieties when wearing masks.

Bella Moses Petawabano: Now, the vaccine is being tested. Also, with the COVID-19, it comes in different forms. So, with the vaccine, they are testing it to see if it is ineffective or not. Children younger than 2 do not need to wear masks, but children over two years and up need to wear them. When it comes to the vaccine, it will be up to whomever wishes to take the vaccine. But I believe that people who are vulnerable should take the vaccine.

Dr. Abel Bosum: When it comes to the violation of the law and safety measure, we are concerned of our people and keeping our people safe.

Lunch break: 12:28pm

Meeting commences: 1:46pm

Question period will resume after the presentations.

2. Economic Support and Recovery:

Federal Measures presented by Bill Namagoose:

- We received 8.5 million in relation to the COVID-19 Response plan
- National Aboriginal Capital Association
- Aboriginal Financial Institution – economic group
- Indigenous Services Canada – CSB received 1million

Canada will be in debt due to COVID-19 because of the amount of money contributed to the people and businesses in need during this pandemic. Canada has spent roughly 1 trillion during this pandemic. This could make things difficult for future grants and distribution.

Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry

Presentation on Economic Support and Recovery

There were a lot of business affected by the pandemic and we are preparing for the next wave that the world is predicting.

Initial Response:

- From the start of the pandemic we made sure that the DCI team had the resources to telework (cellphones, internet access, toll free line for entrepreneurs)
- Supporting our entrepreneurs and preparing for economic recovery became our top priorities
- We accelerated processing of payments to suppliers from Eeyou Istchee and encourage others to do the same
- We secured funding from existing programs to be ready for recovery

We processed cases that were essential and urgent and tapped into some funding that were available from our budgets. Readapted measures are for businesses and helping them to cope and operate during this pandemic.

Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises in our communities:

There are things we can do as entities and individuals to support the small and medium enterprises in our communities.

Here are some helpful measures that can be taken that will make a difference during this challenging time.

2.a) Federal and Provincial Measures for Employers:

All businesses were put on hold, those that involved with people, but not all the businesses. Essential services and businesses remained opened such as grocery stores and gas stations.

Eeyou Economic Group Measures (& NACCA)

Funding Agreement – provide support to Cree businesses through emergency loan

Do you meet the criteria?

1. Your business has lost sales due to COVID-19
2. Your business has not received any additional COVID-19 financial support

Economic Support:

Canada and Quebec have economic response plans and funds available:

- DCI continued to assist businesses by providing information to answer their questions regarding the federal programs

Since March 2020 we helped

- 52 businesses that responded to our survey we sent out around March
- 19 businesses/entrepreneurs

Local Economy

- Although all were affected by the crisis, the private sector, and particularly SMEs, were among the hardest hit and remain particularly fragile
 - Retail businesses
 - Restaurants
 - Tourism 9 (hotels and outfitters)
 - Personal Care and Esthetic Services
- On the other side of the spectrum, many Grocery and Convenience stores saw an increase of sales because people were confined in their community

Recovery, Rebuilding and Growth

Even though the pandemic has terrible negative impacts on our society and our economy

- For some companies, it is seen as an unfortunate but still useful break to think plan, reorganize, adapt to tele working and start developing e-commerce solutions

Now that federal measures are starting to phase out, we need to be ready for recovery:

- Mining, forestry, and other natural resources
- Prioritizing business projects offering goods and services that meet the essential needs of communities (food, housing, transportation)

Our Funding Programs and Services

- Regional Development Fund
- Social Economy
- FARR (Regional Outreach Fund)

2.b) Cree Nation Government Programs – Presented by John Paul Murdoch

Infrastructure in Eeyou Istchee

- Infrastructure was designed in Eeyou Istchee for the convenience of Hydro-Quebec often to the detriment of community needs and infrastructure.
- Resolution 2019-14: Infrastructure in Eeyou Istchee
- Infrastructure Plan – the development of Infrastructure Plan

The Quebec government were surprised of the amount of land we govern. Mr. Murdoch presented the transport route to the mines that were addressed concerning foreign travellers and miners travelling through Eeyou Istchee. The route was also presented of the transport for Lithium material, the transportation will be by road and train. Environmental impact assessment is also involved in the planning of transportation. It is challenging to negotiate where the transport route because of the protected areas being affected. If we eliminated 200 trucks, we could have one train in terms of transportation. Because of the existence of the JBH, it will be more beneficial to build the train beside it. However, we still need to do more studies in the infrastructure plan before pursuing this project.

Another infrastructure plan is to build a winter road to Whapmagoostui, however, there needs to be more meetings with the community of Whapmagoostui. Only in phase 3 will there be a port or a permanent access to Whapmagoostui.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Cree Quebec Sustainable Infrastructure Development Program in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Region.

- The mission of the Grand Alliance is to develop projects a mechanism in order
 - To promote predictability and stability for the economic and social development of the Territory

Objective and Purpose

1. Feasibility study on phase 1 – Transportation infrastructure
 - a. Rail from Mattagami to km 257
 - b. Internal road network
2. Pre-feasibility study on Phase 2&3 – transportation infrastructure
 - a. Rail from km 257 to km 544,
 - b. Whapmagoostui Access Road
 - c. Deep sea port at Whapmagoostui
 - d. Extension of Route 167 to Trans Taiga Road
 - e. Extension of Trans Taiga Road to Schefferville
3. Establishment of Network of Protected Areas combined with Wildlife Protection Measures
4. Forum on the prioritization and maximization of Critical Metals Development
5. Forum on the Energy Distribution Network
6. Forum on the Communication Network

The Grand Chief had some obstacles when it came to discussing the Infrastructure of the phase 1, 2 &3. The Quebec Government did not want to hear about the protected areas; however, the protected areas need to be addressed at the same time when discussing the phases of the Infrastructure plan.

Canada Government to establishment an agreement for us Crees to manage and operate the train and future infrastructure and projects.

2.c) La Grande Alliance:

CNG leaders with Quebec Government and affairs – Alliance Council

Implementation Committee – CNG leaders and Deputy Ministers

Plans to discuss:

- Transportation Infrastructure Committee
- Critical Metals Committee
- Protected Areas Network

It is difficult to negotiate with the Quebec Government because the ministers we negotiate with are not involved. We have already started the negotiations with the Quebec Government.

Priorities

1. Establishment of Network of Protected Areas combined with Wildlife Protection Measures
2. Forum on the Energy Distribution Network
3. Forum on the prioritization

Establishment of Network of Protected Areas combined with Wildlife Protection Measures:

- The Protected areas is an international treaty
- The government must register 20% of Eeyou Istchee by December 2020 to meet international commitments
- Definitive and real measures must be put in place to protected endangered species such as woodland caribou and other habitats
- Quebec has already agreed to the establishment of wildlife protection management discussions
 - Participation and coordination with tallymen and land users
 - Opening of discussion on the Cree Hunters and Trappers' Income Security Program
- The Government is proposing that the Cree Nation Government act as "Proponent" in the establishment of protected areas

Section 22 will apply to ALL projects that come out of the MOU: Grande Alliance

- Protected area
- Road
- Powerline
- Port
- Railway
- Determination of Environment and social impact assessment – Federal, provincial or both
- COMEX: Development of Directives – community consultations
- Public Hearings in Communities
- Decision on Project and establishment of Conditions

Next Steps

Implementation of forums and committees with the Government of Quebec

Cree community "Coordination"

- Cree entities "coordination"

Discussion with Federal Government concerning participation in funding of studies and investment infrastructure

Regular reporting

- Board/Council
- Eeyou Planning Commissions

We are working on managing our own affairs with these future projects. It will take time to come up with an agreement.

Afternoon break: 2:51pm

Meeting commences: 3:10pm

**2.d) Rebuilding our Economy: Cree Nation Free Trade Agreement
Presented by Anthony MacLeod and John Paul Murdoch**

Challenges:

- Achieve a balance between protecting and promoting local Cree businesses and ensuring the maximization on the use of public funds
- Regulate the identification of Cree entrepreneurs
- Promote the development of skilled Cree workforce
- Promotion of Cree economy as whole
- Implement the spirit and intent of the JBNQA

James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement

Section 28.10.4: Prioritize local person or entrepreneurs in respect to contracts and employment created by development in the Cree territory

Section 28.10.3:

Negotiations with the Government of Quebec: Treasury Board

- There is an Agreement to negotiate special legislation for Eeyou Istchee that would govern all public organization regarding contracting and procurement
- Treasury Board has agreed to base discussion on the model of the Cree Nation Free Trade Agreement
- All calls for tender would be prioritized for Cree enterprises

We need to understand, we cannot alter or amend agreements unless the people demand it.

Construction and Trade in Eeyou Istchee in 2020

Free Trade Agreement

1. Cree Government – local and regional agree that Cree entrepreneurs should have the freedom to move between Cree communities
2. Cree Government must promote local content and labour

COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Unrestricted travel between the communities was recommended by the Cree Health Board
2. Only labour from a Cree community has not been required self-isolate

With the restrictions of travel and allowing visitors, this gave us the opportunity to consider local workers and contractors to work on projects.

Challenge:

During COVID-19 why have so many contracts been cancelled without an attempt to pool Cree resources?

Why is the first instinct of our Capital Works Departments to look outside our communities instead of looking towards all our communities?

When Cree labour is the safest regarding COVID-19, how is it that we will have Cree construction workers who cannot find employment in 2020?

Question Period:

Derrick Neeposh: Concerning the COVID-19, ADC company, they are the ones who does cleaning and serving food; however, this company has been undervalued and were not considered during this pandemic. ADC is owned by the Creeco, they have the capability of working with entities and businesses. Expresses the gratitude to the Regional Entities for keeping our Cree Nation safe. We need to consider our local businesses to take part during this pandemic instead of reaching out of the communities to provide the services. Regarding the students and students, we want to offer them safe flights during their travel. Protocols are established during travelling. Now, we are looking at for regular travel the public. In terms of the testing machine, the purchase should be a secondary concern, and lives should be a priority.

Ronnie Ottereyes: Regarding CHB, requesting help from local CHB. There will be people coming from risk areas, we are asking if they could be tested when they arrive in Waswanipi. We would be assistance for the testing that needs to be required. We need to be cautious due to COVID-19, however, we must move forward. There are social factors because of the pandemic and restrictions in homes and families, however, with the jobs opening at Osisko, this could give a hopeful opportunity for our members.

Bella M. Petawabano: Referred to Daniel St. Amour to answer Ronnie's question.

Daniel St. Amour: A plan and strategy will need to develop for the request. How are you going to do it? How many people? Public health can make a recommendation, but the recommendation could not be feasible.

John S. Matoush: Greetings to everyone. Question to the CHB, regarding the capital projects, how will they be established?

Daniel St-Amour: For the capital projects, the decision has been made to prepare for projects and get authorization. Once it is authorized, then we will begin the projects. Construction will resume for spring 2021. Transits on houses, they will continue the projects.

John S. Matoush: Question to the CSB, when it comes to capacity building, we hope for our younger generation to pursue further in their education and professional careers; our high school graduates and post-secondary students. Regarding the confidentiality agreement for students studying down south, we do not see the field of study they are pursuing. Therefore, with the information of the students studying, this will allow us to prepare them for future opportunities.

Sarah Pash: Regarding the confidentiality, we asked the administration to see if this could be legal to share information about student's studies and recruitment. ASD and PSSS have a coordinator that would be able to provide information about the students.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo: Regarding the CSB presentation, acknowledging the successful of the graduate rate in Eastmain. The parent's engagement benefited the 100% success rate in Eastmain for 2020 graduates. Employment assessment report and a survey for Labour Force Survey, where or who can we select in our Cree Nation. Due to COVID-19, there were a lot of business and employment opportunities that suffered. To Wemindji, concerning the visitors and foreign visitors coming in our Cree territory, we do need to know where they come from, whether it is in high risk areas. We could consider Mattagami to have a checkpoint before anyone enters the JBH. For the leaders and regional entities, if you could provide an update of the COVID-19 safety measures.

Chief Thomas Neeposh: Expresses gratitude to the Cree leaders. Regarding La Grande Alliance, we had asked for an agreement to be established to connect an access road from the Mistissini Bridge to RDN. There are a lot of positive factors if we had this road built-in, for our visitors and others. Route du Nord is a dangerous route, therefore, if we could request the RDN to be paved. There is a lot of traffic on that road including tourists. Also, to the route to Albanel if the road could be repaired and improved. In terms of protected areas, were there further studies done with Hydro Quebec? Regarding the Free Trade agreement, we need to develop and invest in our own people. We need to push further to have more of the testing machine for the sake of the employees that work in mines.

Abel Bosum: We are working hard to eliminate the deconfinement plan, but in the meantime, it must be respected.

Deputy Mandy Gull: For the protected areas, there was a phase we could not go to due to the restrictions of travel. We need more clarity regarding about Broadback so, that further studies can be implemented. Tourism and protected areas can be contributed to the project/work, meeting and consultation need to be established. We developed some scenarios, areas of concern before development. We are still working on the

proposals, and we appreciate the tallymen and land users. Discussions need to be addressed further.

Chief Clarence Jolly: Looking at the emergency plans and job opportunities and RDN. Regarding the rail, it would benefit for the JBH, however, it will not benefit for our area (Nemaska). If the development plan could be reconsidered or to improve the route on RDN. RDN is a dangerous access road because of the loggers. If RDN can be considered for a safer route in terms of transportation.

Abel Bosum: Jeremy Diamond was asked to do a video on the traffic on RDN. We asked the Ministry of transport to look at the video because of the dangerous curves on the route.

Samson Weistche: Will there be any classroom changes and the bus transportation, will there be a reduction to the number of students on the bus. The teachers coming from the south, will they be tested?

Dr. Sarah Pash: There are social distancing guidelines that need to be followed in classrooms. We are still planning on the scheduling of classroom settings and bus transportation. Students will be asked to wear masks on the busses and in the classrooms. There will be a communication campaign within the coming weeks and parents will be able to ask questions about back-to-school procedures. The teachers return to the communities will have to follow the 14-day self-isolation.

Pauline Lameboy: Regarding La Grande Alliance, could you explain what “Other minerals”? What is the coverage for the cabins, land being affected on the development of rails (in case of accidents)? We asked for a pamphlet to be developed about the JBQNA and registering children.

John Paul Murdoch: Lithium and Vanadium minerals, these minerals are used for batteries and technology. The owner of the railway has insurance. We are working in developing a Cree “passport” for registering.

Paula Napash: La Grande Alliance, about the railroad, were the tallymen consulted, were their concerns documented, were they addressed of the environmental impacts? Was a research been done or reported to the tallymen that will be affected by the railway. Were there consultations or presentation about the development of the railway.

Abel Bosum: At the moment, we are conducting a feasible study.

John Paul Murdoch: We cannot proceed this agreement without the consent and approval from the people. Right now, we are negotiating to develop this railway. No other party is involved, this is our plan. Until we complete all the studies, environmental studies, then there is another process to proceed and consult to the people. There is another process afterwards to follow. Now, there is no project in place regarding the railway.

3. Building Wealth in Our communities: Cree nation Housing Strategy – Presented by Abel Bosum, John Paul Murdoch and Anthony MacLeod

Introduction:

The Cree Nation Housing model was based on an antiquated housing regime inherited from Indian Affairs which is applied on reserves across Canada:

- It creates and perpetuated dependency
- It did not create personal wealth for homeowners

With the independence and planning capacity that the Cree Nation is afforded by the Quebec New Relationship Agreement, the Canada New Relationship Agreement we are using provoke a revolution in housing and personal wealth as way to address our housing crisis

Creating a real Cree Real estate market will allow those that can acquire their homes to do so, while freeing up local resources so we can help those that are not their yet

We are lacking social housing in our Cree Nation. There is a lot of overcrowding in our communities due to lack of housing.

Cree Nation Housing Strategy:

- To address critical housing shortage in Cree communities, considering the unique circumstances of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee
- To propose an innovative approach based on partnerships between
- To provide the Cree Nation with tools to meet with housing needs of the Crees
- To address all sectors of the Housing Market

True Ownership

- In 2018 we eliminated the limitation that a Cree could not own a house for more than 75 years, this was a major barrier to ownership
- In 2019 a “Grants of Superficies for Private Cree Housing” template was developed and is being implemented in each community, the Grant:
 - Provides the right to sell their house to another Cree without seeking the permission of the Council so long as the sale is to another Cree residential purposes
 - Contains a waiver of exemption from seizure which is perpetually recognized by the Band, eliminating the need for guarantee by the Band. In 2020 Banks are recognizing the Grant and the Waiver and NOT demanding a guarantee

With this new program, homeowners can see their homes without the guarantor. There is better opportunities and advances with the new program.

Private Housing Initiative Fund (\$100 million)

Board/Council has authorized disbursement of the funds subjected to applicants fitting program criteria:

- Have a Grant of Superficies authorized by the Band Council?
- Do not owe rental arrears or have immediate arrangement for settling arrears with local Council
- Have necessary credit rating to secure a mortgage

The private Housing Fund will free up important CMHC and A-Base Funding that can be used on Social Housing and important renovations for existing houses.

Ongoing:

- Insurance – Private Home Insurance
- Homeowners needs to really understand the important factors of insurance for homeowners.
- Home Insurance in Eeyou Istchee: 32 insured homes
- There is a lot of competition to insurance brokers
- Consolidation of Homeowners Insurance

Ongoing Investigation:

- How do we educate insurance companies about the high quality of infrastructure in our communities so they can offer more competitive rates?
- How do we ensure local consumers can make informed choices and ensure healthy competition among companies?
- Is there anything we can do regionally and collectively?

Education – Financial Institutions:

The Grand Chief is meeting with the heads of major financial institutions to make sure that they understand how the context has changed in Eeyou Istchee and to ensure that they provide the appropriate products without asking for dated measures like Band Guarantees.

Public – Governance:

Development of Local Construction Standards

- The Capital Works and Services Department will be working with local councils to assist in the development of local construction standards that will assist in protecting homeowners and the value of homes in the future

Local Capital Planning and Zoning

- Communities will need to ensure that lots are available to ensure that demand can be met

Local Management of Rental Scales

Publication of Cree Laws through a Cree Gazette

- An independent platform is being developed so that all laws of the Cree Nation can be consulted to assure owners, renters, etc.

Challenges:

- Bring down the cost of construction in Eeyou Istchee
- Ensuring Cree Employment through Housing Industry
- Accessing Financial Products
- Promoting Future Development
 - Development of Criteria for consideration as “Cree Real Estate Developer”
 - Establishment of local rental boards and regulations

There is a Housing kit for local housing department that provides more information about the new Housing Strategy. Local housing administrator/departments will be able to provide more information.

Resolutions: (draft resolutions need to be inserted)

Resolution 2020-08: Name of the James Bay Road

Proposed by: Chief Clark Shecapio

Seconded by: Chief Clarence Jolly

Resolution 2020:09: Study on Forest Fires and the Land in Eeyou Istchee

Proposed By: Ernest Tomatuk

Seconded By: Lillian Jolly Diamond

Correction on the resolution, remove the “feasibility” on the third paragraph

Resolution 2020-10: Prioritization of Traditional Way of Life as a Profession

Proposed by: Don Saganash

Seconded by: Chief Curtis Bosum

Closing Remarks by Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull:

This is the first of using technology in our Annual General Assembly. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone listening. I would like to encourage our students to pursue careers that we need in our communities. Joey Georgekish is the liaison for Post-Secondary students and ASD. He will be able to recruit students in finding jobs. "Bring back your skills to the community". "I would like to express my appreciation to Davey Bobbish for your time and commitment you contributed for your community".

Closing Remarks by Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum:

We do need to recognize and acknowledge the hard work our people have contributed for our Cree Nation. There had been challenging times to work together in fighting to prevent outbreaks from COVID-19. We are not trying to control anyone during this pandemic, but we are trying to control from an outbreak by establishing protocols and guidelines for safety measures. Next meeting will be held in Eastmain August 3, 4 & 5, 2021, if all goes well. I would like to express everyone involvement and services for the betterment of our communities. "I wish you well in your future endeavours".

Moment of silence to remember the people who lost their lives from the COVID-19.

Chief Louisa Wynne:

We would like for Whapmagoostui to be considered for transportation subsidy. A Directive was mandated to Social Development and Culture. I would like a follow-up for this request. Regulation for transport for the use of Otters and airstrip, if someone could speak or negotiate for us in the use of Otters.

John Paul Murdoch: The study was tabled to Rodney's department.

Abel Bosum: Rodney will provide a status report

Closing prayer: Justus Coon-Come

Meeting adjourned:

5:37pm