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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government  
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

**2021-2022 Minutes  
Of the  
Board/Council  
Of the  
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
Cree Nation Government**

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum  
Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Chief Curtis Bosum Gaston Cooper  
Chief Christina Gilpin Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clarke Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh Richard Shecapio  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Robbie Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Alan Jolly  
Chief Annie Mapachee Salt Jean Denis Cananaso

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:30 am.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The Directors reviewed the agenda adding the items of Gaston Cooper and on a motion duly made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by Chief Clarke Shecapio the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-09: Adoption of the Agenda for a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

## 2. COVID-19

The Council discussed the implication of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the construction industry in Eeyou Istchee. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that Capital Works was report an apparent increase of 30-40% on the cost of capital projects. He explained that this result was preliminary and that a more detailed report would be forth coming. He stated that it was believed that the cost overrun was likely due to lumber costs or cost of material which was expected to be temporary.

John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services explained that there would have to be an examination of the potential impact on the capital projects of the Cree Nation Government.

## 3. Cree Canada Relations

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a report entitled, “Report on; Cree-Canada Relations; GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government; Board/Council Meeting; May 25-26, 2021”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Irene Neeposh inquired about the implications of the harmonization of funding agreements on the reporting requirements. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that he was not expecting that all Agreements that come to the Cree worked would go through the Cree Nation Government but rather it would be an amalgamation of the Agreements that currently go through the Cree Nation Government.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated that he was concerned that people may find themselves in trouble because they access COVID-19 funds to which they might not have been eligible and who could now be seeing penalties and it was hope that something could be done to protect these people.

John Henry Wapachee inquired about the potential consolidation of discussion on access roads to the communities under the JBNQA.

On a motion duly made by Gordon Blackned and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-10: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Advance Discussions on the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement***

**WHEREAS** the Crees and Canada have had different views with respect to the application of federal environmental assessment legislation in Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of Canada stated in Québec (Attorney General) v Moses (“Moses (2010) Decision”), that “common sense as well as legal requirements suggest that [such federal assessment] will be structured to accommodate the special context of a project proposal in the James Bay Treaty Cree Territory, including the participation of the Cree”;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Moses (2010) Decision, Canada and the Cree Nation Government initiated discussions with a view to developing a process to ensure special Cree participation in environmental assessments conducted under federal legislation in the James Bay Treaty Cree Territory;

**WHEREAS** on September 20, 2013, the Cree Nation Government filed a “Formal Notice of Dispute concerning Bill C-38, the Jobs, Growth and Long-Term Prosperity Act, and Bill C-45, the Jobs and Growth Act” (“Dispute”) following the enactment of the CEAA, 2012 (replaced by the Impact Assessment Act of 2019 (“IAA”)) and referred the Dispute to the Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee for resolution under the dispute resolution process set out in Chapters 8 and 9 of the

Agreement concerning a New Relationship, concluded on February 21, 2008, by the Cree and Canada;

**WHEREAS**, consequently, representatives of the Cree Nation Government and Canada have negotiated the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Advance Discussions on the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (“JBNQA”) appended hereto as Schedule 1 (the “Proposed MOU”);

**WHEREAS** the Proposed MOU provides, among other things, that:

- the Parties seek to co-develop one or more mutually agreed upon proposal(s) to amend Section 22 of the JBNQA to ensure special Cree participation in external federal assessments for projects in the Territory;
- the Parties also seek to discuss the instruments that the IAA offers that could be considered, among others, as complementary measures to an amendment to Section 22 of the JBNQA in order to ensure special Cree participation in external federal impact assessments for projects in the Territory;
- these solution-oriented discussions pursuant to the dispute resolution process set out in Chapters 8 & 9 of the Cree-Canada NRA are intended to inform the request of a federal mandate to negotiate and/or conclude an agreement to give effect to any mutually agreed upon proposal to amend Section 22 of the JBNQA and to any such complementary measures, if applicable, the whole in order to ensure special Cree participation in external federal impact assessments for projects in the Territory and to resolve the Dispute.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Advance Discussions on the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement is approved, substantially in the form appended hereto as Schedule 1;

**THAT** the Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government be and he is hereby authorized to sign for and on behalf of the Cree Nation Government the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Advance Discussions on the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Process and Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement appended hereto as Schedule 1 with such changes not affecting the substance thereof as he may deem appropriate.

#### **4. Section 24 Negotiations**

Nadia Saganash, Senior Advisor Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement Implementation presentation joined the meeting, tabled and reviewed a document entitled, “Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA Regarding the Renewal of the Right of First Refusal provided in Chapter 24”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Council discussed the times in the past that the concerned sections had been amended to prolong the right. There was a discussion on the challenges related to administering the current regime.

On a motion duly made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-11: Complimentary Agreement to Amend the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement in Relation Outfitting Regime***

**WHEREAS** Section 24 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “JBNQA”) provides for an outfitting regime in favour of the Crees, the Inuit and, pursuant to subsection 2.15 of the Northeastern Québec Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “NEQA”), the Naskapi, for the territory covered by the JBNQA and the NEQA, including a right of first refusal in favour of the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapi to operate as outfitters in Category III lands;

**WHEREAS** this right of first refusal, of an initial duration of forty (40) years, or ending on November 10, 2015, was renewed for an additional period of six (6) years following the signature of Complementary Agreement No. 26 (2018);

**WHEREAS** paragraph 24.9.3 of the JBNQA, as amended by Complementary Agreement No. 26 (2018), provides that, within their respective areas of primary and common interest for the purposes of the hunting, fishing and trapping regime, the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapi shall have the said right of first refusal to operate as outfitters in Category III lands until November 10, 2021;

**WHEREAS** paragraph 24.9.4 of the JBNQA provides that, before the expiry of the period stipulated in paragraph 24.9.3, or, in accordance with Complementary Agreement No. 26 (2018), before November 10, 2021, Québec, the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapi shall negotiate on the basis of past experience and actual and future need, whether the said right of first refusal shall be renewed;

**WHEREAS** the Parties have agreed to renew the right of first refusal provided for in paragraph 24.9.3 of the JBNQA for an additional three (3) years, until November 10, 2024, in order to continue the negotiations already begun pursuant to paragraph 24.9.4 of the JBNQA;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to paragraph 24.15.1 of the JBNQA, paragraphs 24.9.3 and 24.9.4 may be amended, as a matter of provincial jurisdiction, with the consent of Québec and of the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native parties;

**WHEREAS** the Parties wish to amend the JBNQA in the manner set forth hereunder;

## **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby authorizes the Grand Chief and or Deputy Grand Chief sign of a Complimentary Agreement to the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement that:

1. Paragraph 24.9.3 of the JBNQA be amended by replacing “2021” by “2024”;
2. Paragraph 24.9.4 of the JBNQA be amended by replacing “2021” by “2024”;

### **5. Cree Quebec Relations**

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed a report entitled, “Cree Quebec Relations May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry tabled and reviewed and tabled a report entitled, “Cree Nation Free Trade Agreement; Implementation of Section 28”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum emphasized that the neighboring regions such as Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean would be opponents to the Cree securing their own CCQ region because they would be consider about maintaining access to contracting opportunities in our region. He added that it is also not a reflex of the Jamesians to push for powers or jurisdiction to enhance their governance as they saw them subject to the priorities of the Government of Quebec. He emphasized the inability to assume MRC jurisdictions under the Cree Quebec Governance Agreement.

John Henry Wapachee explained that he understood the Cree Nation Free Trade Agreement to unify the Cree Nation in realizing the prioritization for the Cree that is foreseen under Section 28 of the JBNQA.

Richard Shecapio stated that he has seen many communities undertake initiatives to ensure the prioritization of local companies and that the efforts should be collected and reviewed in the current efforts to negotiate the implementation with Quebec. He stated particular effort needs to be taken to consider smaller Cree businesses and ensure that contracts were tailored accordingly.

The Grand Chief agreed that there was a great value in implementing Section 28 among the Cree Nation which would lend more credibility when getting Quebec to implement the Section.

Richard Shecapio agreed and stated that the Council could start with amending the Cree Nation Government procurement law which he felt fell short of Section 28 providing a 10% Cree content recognition which he felt could be much better.

Chief Thomas Neeposh stated that the use of tendering documents and emphasizing the need for Cree content needed to be examined. He stated that there has to be a broader examination of how communities are locked out of development due to concession restrictions or Chibougamau being granted the only right to sell in the region which was very problematic. He saw the Cree Nation Free Trade Agreement as an important tool against this practice.

Irene Neeposh expressed concern for the competition that existed between local entrepreneurs and local development corporation against whom small business had a challenge competing. She also raised the issue of the need to address consumer protection in Eeyou Istchee. She also emphasized the need for industry sector studies and analysis.

Chief Happyjack stated that the considering that Category I lands will not grow the Cree leadership needed to be imaginative about the economic initiatives that can be pursued on the other categories of land under the JBNQA. Chief Happyjack stated that it was important that when we are looking at economic development in contracts we should keep in mind the administrative activities related to contracts which too often are kept outside of our communities.

The meeting recessed at 5pm May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 am May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **6. Desautels Proceedings**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and Jessica Orkin joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "R. v. Desautel: Report to Board/Council regarding the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated that as a member of the Cree School Board Post Secondary Review panel he was wondering what implications the judgement would have on Crees who do not live in Quebec who wanted to access the Post Secondary Program. He stated that the leadership should examine how the 10 year clause could be adapted to assist those Crees that no longer live in Quebec.

Jessica Orkin explained that having Cree rights recognized in Ontario will assist the MoCreebec community. She added that the 10 year clause will be challenging as it is contained in a Treaty and that the judgement excluded Treaty rights from the application of the judgement whereas the Desautels was concerned with unceded Aboriginal rights.

Derrick Neeposh discussed the implication on the status of a person in relation to provincial borders which had little impact on how the communities themselves identify community members.



Jessica Orkin explained that the issue was at the heart of the contradiction between inherent Aboriginal Law and Governance and the laws of Canada or the provinces.

## **7. Uranium Consolidated.**

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed Resolution in relation to opposition of the Matoush Uranium project, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Thomas Neeposh stated that the Cree Nation of Mistissini remained opposed to the Matoush project.

The Grand Chief stated that it was important for the Cree Nation to make public its continued opposition to the project.

On a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Board/Council adopted:

### ***Resolution 2021-12: Affirmation Of The Cree Nation's Continuing Opposition To Uranium Mining Development In Eeyou Istchee***

**WHEREAS** we, the Eeyou, have owned, lived in, governed and protected our lands of Eeyou Istchee for millennia and since time immemorial, and will always continue to do so;

**WHEREAS** we, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, possess and exercise our inalienable and fundamental Aboriginal and human rights, including the right of self-determination;

**WHEREAS** the Council, people and youth of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, the Cree community most immediately impacted by uranium mining development, have provided important leadership to the Cree Nation in mobilizing awareness and action regarding the risks of uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** the Council, people and youth of the Cree Nation of Mistissini have long made clear their opposition to uranium mining development on their territory, and sought the support of the Cree Nation as a whole on this issue;

**WHEREAS** on August 8, 2012, at the Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority held in Waskaganish, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee declared a permanent moratorium on all uranium exploration, mining, milling, refining, transport and uranium waste emplacement in Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** on November 7, 2013, the Quebec Minister of the Environment refused to authorize Strateco Resources Inc.'s Matoush advanced uranium exploration project, located on the family

hunting territory of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, on the basis of the obvious and determinative absence of social acceptability for the project on the part of the Cree community;

**WHEREAS** in May 2015, following a joint inquiry regarding the uranium industry in Québec, the Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'environnement, the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment and the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee recommended that no uranium mining should be permitted to proceed in the territory subject to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement unless social acceptability was present with respect to uranium mining development;

**WHEREAS** in his judgment dated June 21, 2017 in *Strateco Resources c. Québec*, 2017 QCCS 2769, Justice Denis Jacques of the Superior Court of Québec confirmed that social acceptability must be considered in deciding whether to permit a mining project to proceed within Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** the judgment in *Strateco Resources c. Québec*, 2017 QCCS 2769 was upheld by the Québec Court of Appeal in its judgment dated January 13, 2020 (2020 QCCA 18), and the Supreme Court of Canada denied leave to appeal by order dated October 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS** on May 11, 2021, International Consolidated Uranium issued a press release announcing that it had entered into a definitive share purchase agreement to acquire the Matoush Uranium Project, previously owned by Strateco Resources Inc.;

**WHEREAS** in its press release dated May 11, 2021, International Consolidated Uranium stated that "We look forward to bringing a fresh perspective to development of the Matoush project with a focus on engagement with the local indigenous stakeholders before undertaking any project level activity. We recognize that uranium mining can be a lightning rod issue and, as such, it is incumbent on us to garner social acceptance before attempting to advance a project."

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government hereby affirms the continuing opposition of the Cree Nation to uranium mining development within our territory of Eeyou Istchee, including any further development of the Matoush Project.

**8. Cree Development Corporation**

Davey Bobbish, Chief Executive Officer of the Cree Development Corporation tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Cree Development Corporation; Activity Report", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Thomas Neeposh inquired about the inclusion of the proposed second access road of the Cree Nation of Mistissini could be included in the transportation network that is being

considered. He stated that the community has considerable information that could be included in the study for the access road and the paving of the Route du Nord.

Davey Bobbish stated that as community consultations are underway as to what should be part of the transportation program the documentation and proposals referred to would be very welcomed. He stated that with regards to Route 167 it would be challenging because we did not want to facilitate development of the uranium projects in the area. Chief Neeposh stated that there is a desire to facilitate tourism projects in the area.

Chief Christina Gilpin inquired about the coordination with Federal negotiations on the enhancement of community access roads. Paul John Murdoch explained that any success in securing funding for improving roads whether it is from the province or the federal government the Cree Nation Government and the Cree Development Corporation will have to work together to ensure that arguments under the JBNQA are not prejudiced. He gave examples of how in the past the Cree Nation Government had secured alternate sources of funding for improving access roads without prejudicing the Treaty obligations of the Governments.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull stated that she was concerned with the community members who still don't understand the purpose of the MOU and what is actually being pursued. She stated that she would like to see a consultation plan beyond just the land users as there were a lot of questions and concerns. She stated that it was also important that the information officers be neutral in their role and be careful not to sound like project promoters. She emphasized the need for community engagement and the importance communication.

## **9. Transport Quebec**

Phillip Lemire of Transport Quebec joined the meeting tabling and reviewing a presentation entitled, "Creation of Ministère des Transports Regional Office for the Nord-du-Quebec Region", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum inquired if the new office will result in the change of the status of some of the roads in Eeyou Istchee with an improvement in maintenance to a standard more like roads in the South. He gave the specific example of the Billy Diamond Highway and its potential to become a provincial highway. Mr. Lemire stated that the office could provoke review of such issues in the future. He explained that the North faces challenges as the windows for construction were also challenging. The hope was that the office would have staff dedicated to the North.

Irene Neeposh inquired how the government determines which roads get repaired and which ones don't. Mr. Lemire explained that the entire Quebec Road network is analyzed each year in determining what roads will be a priority, he stated that the question is needs based. He reminded everyone that the Ministry does not have responsibility for all roads, for example except for the community access roads MTQ has no responsibility for roads in Eeyou Istchee. He stated that the MTQ was examining investing in their portion of the Route du Nord.

Derrick Neeposh inquired about the management of the status of access roads. Mr. Lemire explained that the issues raised are not under MTQ but rather MERN or the Ministry of Forestry and agreed that a table was needed to address the issue and was hoping that the new office presented would provide this opportunity.

The Grand Chief thanked Mr. Lamire for the presentation.

#### **10. Cree Development Corporation....continued**

Davey Bobbish explained that although subcommittees were created for specific issues, the local information officers would be participating at all levels to ensure that they had access to all the information they needed to raise concerns and access information for the communities. He added that the CDC could give a presentation to MoCreebec.

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed the Governance and Ethics Committee terms of reference of the Cree Development Corporation, a copy of which is attached hereto. It was explained that the final version would be tabled at a future meeting.

#### **11. Cree School Board**

Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Chairperson Update to Council Board", a copy of which is attached hereto. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that the schools have been working closely with Public Health to have the vaccination campaign for those students eligible to receive the vaccine.

#### **12. Annual General Assembly**

The Grand Chief explained that the issue had been discussed at the Executive Committee and that according to practice the next assembly would be held in Eastmain. However, the larger question was whether it should be held in person or virtually in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chief Cheezo stated that his community had limited capacity as the hotel was being used to assist people who needed to isolate, he added that his Council would meet on the matter and be in contact with the Grand Chief.

#### **13. CNYC**

Kaitlyn Hester joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Cree Youth Strategic Action Plan", a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief thanked Kaitlyn Hester for her presentation and stated that an implementation plan would be very important and that the Department of Social and Cultural Development would

be available to assist in the plan. The Grand Chief stated that he supported in particular the capacity building elements of the Plan, especially since the COVID-19 Pandemic there is clearly a need for greater capacity required within the Cree Nation so that we are not so reliant on outside expertise.

#### **14. Private Housing Initiative**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, “Local Government Program 1.3A Community Private Housing Initiative Proposed revisions – May 2021”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Clarence Jolly inquired if smaller units could be considered for the subsidy as it started at 1,200 square feet. John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services explained that the issue was examined but it was considered but there was a concern on promoting units that are too small.

Chief House stated that there was a demand for small units that should be considered. She stated that she had sent a number of questions to Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services on the current Private Housing Initiative.

Irene Neeposh agreed that smaller units should be eligible for the subsidy. She also inquired where the 12% figure was coming from for the increase in cost when reports are actually more around 5% as she was worried that the fund would be depleted more quickly. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the Building Construction Price index was used and not CPI.

Chief Jolly inquired if the “additional living space” could be applied to older unit. John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services explained that this would only be applied to new units.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull stated that she was concerned that if a person developed multiple units the regime to manage rental units must be addressed, such as enforcement of leases. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that there should be little impact on the matter of accessing the subsidy and that the management of relationship between a landlord and tenants would be contractual. Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull gave the example of the Regie de Logement de Quebec was an example of regime that is missing at the local level and must be addressed. She added that a Cree version of this entity should be available.

Chief Gilpin inquired about the removal of Local Development Corporations from being eligible to access the funds. She also expressed concern about individuals acting as land lords and generating revenue and how it would be treated by government revenue agencies. It was for this reason that she thought that 2 of the 3 changes were acceptable at this time as the other issue needs more work.

John Longchap, Director of Capital Works and Services explained that by an individual owning and renting does not create a corporation nor are they exposing themselves to a tax assessment.

Robbie Tapiatic stated that considering the extreme shortage of housing Cree people needed to be prioritized as tenants and he was concerned that units would be allocated to outside companies bringing in workers which would just compound our development problems.

The Grand Chief suggested following the recommendation of the Executive Committee and that the remaining issue could be discussed at another forum.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarence Jolly and seconded by Gaston Cooper the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-13: Revisions to Local Government Program 1.3A re: Community Private Housing Initiative***

**WHEREAS** on May 27, 2020, the Cree Nation Government approved the Local Government Program 1.3A respecting the Community Private Housing Initiative (“Program”);

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate to make certain revisions to the Program based on the experience acquired since its initial approval, including revisions to the subsidy amounts and annual indexation thereof;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has considered the revisions to the Program substantially in the form appended hereto;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby approves of the revisions to the Program provide additional subsidy amount for subsequent addition to Living Area and the integration of a new indexation formula to reflect increase or decrease in cost of residential construction.

**15. EIBJRG**

The Council reviewed the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

The Grand Chief high lighted the issue of a change to the name referencing non-Native residents of the region which demonstrates that there is a desire to change the designation of “Jamesian” to “resident of Baie James” which would result in the removal of “Eeyou Istchee” when referring to the region which he found acceptable. He explained further that under the governance

agreement adding “Baie James” was a compromise which the “Jamesians” appear to be trying to undo.

## 16. Minutes

The Board/Council members reviewed the minutes of previous meetings make some corrections and on a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Board/Council adopted:

***Resolution 2021-14: Adoption of Minutes of Meetings of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020***

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum  
Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Chief Curtis Bosum Gaston Cooper  
Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clarke Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh Richard Shecapio  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Robbie Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Alan Jolly  
Chief Annie Mapachee Salt Jean Denis Cananaso

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:00 am.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Clarke Shecapio the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-15 Adoption of the Agenda of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

## 2. COVID-19 Briefing

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay joined the meeting introducing the COVID-19 issue.

Paul Linton reviewed the status of COVID-19, world-wide, North America and within the different regions of Quebec. Dr. Bonnier-Viger stated that there is growing evidence that those that are fully vaccinated are protected from the Delta variant but there is growing evidence that they still may be able to contract and transmit the Delta variant of COVID-19. He emphasized that for this reason the vaccine campaign is very important.

Dany Gauthier provided an update on the status of the vaccination campaign and the challenges in motivating community members to get vaccinated.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that it was very important realize that there is a significant reduction in health care resources in Eeyou Istchee. He explained that this was a normal phenomenon in the summer but that it was of particular concern during the current pandemic and for this reason it was important that everyone do what they can to reduce the potential burden on the health care system.

Daniel St-Amour explained that testing capacity is also currently negatively impacted by the shortage of staff. He added that the construction of elders' homes is very important considering how much safer it is to be in the communities than in a southern facility. He added that healing centres and hemodialysis units was also very urgent in the current context.

Paul John Murdoch reviewed the draft COVID-19 Bulletin, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that his Council had reviewed the Mandatory Self-Isolation Law and that the journey has been very difficult for the community. He stated that as regions and the community seems to be doing well the Council decided to put the Mandatory Self-Isolation law aside and that should the situation deteriorate, the community would reinstate the law.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that he understands that communities have the authority to determine restrictions and conditions in their community, but he stated that coordination between communities and entities was very important. He was concerned because Public Health was caught of guard by the decision of Council. He stated that is important that entities and Council work closely with one another. He added that the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay is not able to increase testing capacity but experiencing a reduction in testing in capacity due to the shortage of human resources at the time. He was concerned that an increase in demand from one community could negatively impact the healthcare resources in other communities. He added that an outbreak in one community right now would be very detrimental for health care in all communities in Eeyou Istchee.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired about the projections of the Cree Health Board as services are reduced and it is important the community knows when normal levels of services can be restored.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that it is hard to determine when services can be restored to normal levels as pressures are very high on the staff currently. He is hoping to have better projections subject to the recruitment efforts that will be undertake in the coming month.

### **3. Financial Statements**

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer tabled and reviewed a memorandum entitled, "Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021", a copy of which attached hereto.

Sylvain Faucher of RCGT, auditors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government joined the meeting and tabled the 2020/2021 audited financial statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

Chief Daisy House congratulated the Treasurer and the auditor on the completion of the audited financial statement. She stated that she would like to see more details on the territorial programs and the use of ASD funds which are very important to the communities. She added that it is important the funds are maximized for childcare centres and policing services. She stated that it is important that the interests of each community are addressed as much as possible.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum asked Bill Namagoose, Executive Director to explain in greater detail MoCreebec proceedings and how it is managed. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that not all the funding is for legal proceedings but also relates to research work that is needed to substantiate or defend legal proceedings and land claims discussions with the Government of Canada.

Chief Thomas Neepoosh stated that he would have liked that more time could be made available to review the financial statements.

Richard Shecapio stated that it is important that there be an examination of the obligations of our different governments both at the local and the regional level. He stated that he wanted to see a discussion on how funds are distributed throughout Eeyou Istchee for economic development. He also added that there should be an examination of how revenues from Impact Benefit Agreements are distributed throughout the Cree Nation.

Daniel Mark-Stewart stated that it might be necessary to undertake greater efforts at sharing and explaining the financial statement beyond the audit so that people can see for themselves the transparency.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the Board/Council adopted:

***Resolution 2021-16: 2020-2021 Adoption of Financial Statements***

**WHEREAS** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government have reviewed the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby approved the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council

of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and further mandate the Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum and Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull to sign the fore mentioned financial statements.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Daniel Mark Stewart the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-17 Recommendation of Auditors for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year***

**WHEREAS** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government have reviewed the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby recommends to the Delegates at the Annual General Assembly to retain the firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton as auditors of the organization.

**4. Cree Trappers' Association**

Thomas Jolly, President of the Cree Trappers' Association joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Eeyou Ituun – College Program", a copy of which is attached hereto. He wanted to thank all the leaders and land users that came before to ensure that the Cree way of life continued. Mary Jane Salt, Eeyou Ituun Coordinator reviewed the presentation.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull inquired if the Treasurer could be requested to see if amounts from the surplus could be redirected to the program. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that in light of the amount sought the Management Committee could address the funding shortfall.

**5. Minutes**

On a motion duly made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by Chief Robbie Kawapit the Board/Council adopted:

***Resolution 2021-18: Approval of Minutes of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

## **6. Annual General Assembly**

Michael Petawabano, Deputy Executive Director explained that in the COVID-19 context there was a capacity constraint for Eastmain and Waskaganish however Mistissini has demonstrated an interest to hosting the Annual General Assembly but that there would be challenges.

Chief Daisy House that her preference would be that it remain virtual considering this is how plans have been made. She stated that the presence of the Delta variant was also of concern.

Gaston Cooper stated that he also preferred that the event remain virtual especially given the current context.

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull proposed adjusting the date for the Assembly and possibly moving it to the following week.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated there should be an assembly in the fall as well and he supported the idea of postponing the AGA by one week.

Chief Thomas Neeposh stated considering the importance of this Assembly which is combined with an inauguration he felt it was important that it be held in person and for this reason Mistissini was open to hosting as large events have been held in Mistissini without incident but he had no objection with holding the meeting virtually if this is what the other leaders wanted.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that he would prefer that the Assembly be moved a month that would allow his community to better prepare for the event.

Stella Masty stated she favoured a face to face meeting but that there was a concern that a three day event can be a bit long for elders.

Chief Marcel Happyjack agreed that it would be best to consider changing the date to permit a better organization.

Stella Masty asked that the week of August 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> be reserved for the elders' gathering.

Chief Allan Jolly stated that he preferred moving it by a month to the end of August or the first week of September.

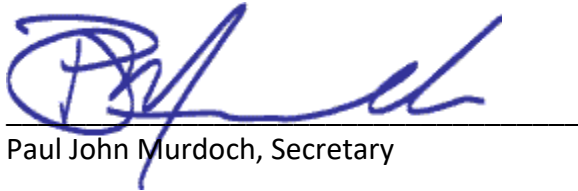
Chief Robbie Kawapit agreed that moving it by one month would be preferable and that he would prefer a face to face meeting as well.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo agreed that a face to face meeting was preferable.

On a motion duly made by Chief Kenneth Cheezo and seconded by Chief Robbie Kawapit the Board/Council adopted:

***Resolution 2021-19: Re-Scheduling of the 2021 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to the Week of August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Waskaganish subject to the Recommendations of Public Health***

There being no further matters to discussed the meeting adjourned at 5pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty  
Deputy Grand Norman A. Wapachee  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Chief Curtis Bosum Gaston Cooper  
Chief Christina Gilpin Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clark Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh Richard Shecapio  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Robbie Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Alan Jolly  
Chief Annie Mapachee Salt Jean Denis Cananaso

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:00 am.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

On a motion duly made Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-20 Adoption of the Agenda of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

The Grand Chief asked communities to provide brief updates on their communities.

Chief Kawapit explained that for Whapmagoostui housing development is proceeding while COVID-19 makes it challenging. He explained also that the local arena has been opened. He explained that water quality of the river is a concern due to recent landslides.

Chief House shared that for Chisasibi it was the end of local festivities related to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community, graduations, weddings and the local Assembly. She explained the challenges of pursuing the various construction projects in the context of COVID-19.

Chief Gilpin explained that Wemindji also completed their local assembly recently. She added that there would be local elections held soon.



Chief Cheezo explained that in Eastmain there were works on their local airport and arena. He also congratulated Waskaganish on winning the fastball tournament that was held. He stated that the community was managing COVID-19 well despite a recent case in the community.

Chief Shecapio explained that the community had graduation ceremonies and a local assembly. He explained that the community was planning transportation remedial measures in relation to the Rupert River. He explained the special measures that were put in place to assist Public Health in completing contact tracing after cases had been discovered in the community and that things were back to normal as of Monday. He added that he was very grateful for the local team that managed local mental health issues.

Chief Jolly explained that in Nemaska construction was proceeding on local construction projects. He explained that the community was doing well managing COVID-19 and the community events such as weddings were still proceeding.

Chief Neeposh explained that Mistissini is doing well despite recent cases in Mistissini and that local leadership was advising communities to remain vigilant. He stated that he was thankful for the visit of the Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief, Premier and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He explained the different construction projects that were proceeding in the community.

Chief Bosum explained that Oujé-Bougoumou recently completed its local Assembly and that the community is hard at work at developing their capital plan.

Deputy Chief Ronnie Ottereyes explained that in Waswanipi the community was planning a local graduation ceremony for Secondary school graduations. He explained that community members who had participated in a tournament had contracted COVID-19 and isolated outside the community and that the community fared the event very well without needing to lock down and that contact tracing had been completed. He added that construction projects in the community are proceeding well.

Chief Annie Mapachee Salt explained that Washaw Sibi are preparing their presentation for the Annual General Assembly and that they have met with 7 Chiefs and Council in the pursuit of the development of their community.

Chief Allan Jolly stated that there was strict control on access in MoCreebec which was causing travel problems but explains the very good record the community has in keeping COVID-19 at bay. He shared the process that the community was following in identify the location of their community in the future.

Youth Grand Chief Adrian Neeposh Gunner stated that he looked forward to sitting with the Cree leadership.

## **2. Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay**

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, “Memorandum of Understanding for Process to Revise Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Me John Hurley tabled and reviewed the, “Memorandum of Understanding On a Process to Revise the Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Paul John Murdoch presented and reviewed the draft Resolution for the Memorandum of Understanding.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated that any legislative changes or changes to the delivery of important services the communities and community members need to be properly informed. He also stated that he was not comfortable with recognizing Quebec as Nation when they are only a province.

The Grand Chief explained that the MOU is just to allow for discussions and that nothing would be changed as far as legislation or Treaty rights. She stated that on a “Nation” issue she wished to consult with legal counsel especially considering past agreements were precisely worded.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Gaston Cooper the Board Council adopted:

***Resolution 2022-21: Memorandum of Understanding on a Process to Revise the Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay***

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2005, the Government of Québec, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), the Cree Nation Government (previously, the “Cree Regional Authority) and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (“CBHSSJB”) concluded the Agreement to Resolve the Issues relating to Section 14 of the JBNQA (“2005 Health Agreement”);

**WHEREAS** pursuant to the 2005 Health Agreement, subsequent successor agreements and other instruments, these parties undertook to discuss the legislative framework applicable to the CBHSSJB with a view to amending it and presenting new legislation to the National Assembly;

**WHEREAS** the various undertakings set out in these agreements and other instruments to amend and modernize the legislative framework applicable to the CBHSSJB still remain to be fulfilled;

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate to establish a table for high-level, Nation-to-Nation discussions between the CBHSSJB, the Cree Nation Government and the Government of Québec in order to revise and adapt the legislative framework applicable to the CBHSSJB by means of a

Memorandum of Understanding, including the process and parameters for the process of revision of this framework;

**WHEREAS**, on July 28, 2021, the Board of Directors of the CBHSSJB reviewed and approved the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on a Process to Revise the Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, dated 2021 07 21;

**WHEREAS** the Board-Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government (“Board-Council”) has reviewed this proposed Memorandum of Understanding, attached and dated 2021 07 21;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board-Council hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding on a Process to Revise the Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay substantially in the form and on the terms of the attached draft, dated 2021 07 21 (“MOU”);

**THAT** the Board-Council hereby authorizes the Grand Chief/Chairperson to sign the MOU for and on behalf of the Cree Nation Government; and

**THAT** the Grand Chief/Chairperson and the Executive Director are hereby authorized and mandated to do such things as they may deem necessary or useful to give effect to the MOU and to this resolution.

**3. Cree Federal Relations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a document entitled, “Report on Cree Canada Relations; GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government; Board/Council Meeting; August 31, 2021”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

**4. Fort George Residential School Gathering & Day Scholar Suit**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that there was a request from George E. Pachanos for funding of the Fort George Residential School gathering. He explained that a budget and formal funding request was being awaited.

He explained further that the National Indian Brotherhood Trust could be possible source of funding and that Quebec communities have not be accessing the 130 Million legacy fund.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a “Day Scholars Claim – Update” and “Update on Band Class Claim”, copies of which are attached hereto.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that the community has been having difficulty with the implementation of the rapid housing program. He stated that the issue related to elders need homes immediately but who require live in assistance and that there needs to be discussion on how housing units are allocated. He also raised the issue of the Eeyou Marine Region Agreement and the capital needs of the organizations created under the agreements such as office space and housing.

#### **5. Address From Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee**

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee stated that he was thankful the Cree Nation chose him to act as the Deputy Grand Chief and the opportunity to collaborate with Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty. He stated that they have visited a number of communities since taking office and held meetings with other leaders such as the CTA. He hopes to continue visiting communities and leaders after the Annual General Assembly. He also looks forward to working with local leadership. He thanked past leaders of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government who have fought so hard so that the Cree Nation can have such an advanced governance structure.

He stated that he was thankful for the opportunity to work with the Grand Chief with whom he has worked on files in the past like the Eeyou Planning Commission. He stated he wanted to speak for the land and the wildlife so that we do everything we can to protect it and that there is a balance. He added that this was the only way to perpetuate the Cree way of life. He also agreed that governance transparency would be very important as well. He stated that it would be important the Cree Nation properly assess and understand the cumulative impacts of development to properly identify remedial measures. He added that economic development would be a very important part of self-governance. He also wanted to revive the Cree Research Institute to ensure the preservation and integration of traditional knowledge in all aspects of governance. He added that he would like to create a forum of Deputy Chiefs to contribute to strong governance at all levels.

#### **6. Address From Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty**

Grand Chief Mandy Masty Gull Masty stated that she was grateful for the election of Norman A. Wapachee as Deputy Grand Chief. She stated that since their election there has been a lot of work in collecting information and examining how past Grand Chiefs have carried out their mandates. She stated that a lot has changed and evolved in the Cree Nation and that she wanted to work in a very transparent and open way with the Deputy Grand Chief. She explained that she had contacted Abel Bosum to thank him and get his input on some matters related to the direction of the Cree Nation Government. She was thankful for his leadership and the support of his family during his term.

She explained the visit of Premier Legault and the meeting with him in Mistissini. She stated that it was important for her that he come to Cree territory and she thanked Chief Thomas Neeposh

in receiving him. She invited the Chiefs to the meeting however only two were able to participate; Chief Clarke Shecapio and Chief Neeposh. She stated that housing and policing were addressed. She explained to the Premier the importance of Cree identity and culture. She also shared the importance of the Cree Nations autonomy.

He asked what her position was on the Grande Alliance and she responded that it was too early to respond as she has not had the opportunity to meet with local leaders on the matter. She is also scheduling briefings and meetings on the Grande Alliance. She stated that it was important that people understand the Grande Alliance was not an Agreement but a MOU for how to work together and she saw her role as to be neutral on the matter. Premier Legault appeared to understand that more consultations and meetings were needed and it could be discussed more thoroughly at their next meeting. She stated that after 50 years of development there has been significant impacts throughout Eeyou Istchee. She stated there was no agreement on anything with the Premier but rather a discussion.

She stated that she also met Adrian Neeposh Gunner the Youth Grand Chief that she knew well, she wished all the best to Stacy Anderson and Kaitlyn Hester Moses.

She explained the unfortunate need to hold the Annual General Assembly virtually and that the inauguration would be rescheduled.

She stated that she had organized a briefing session with all the Directors through Bill Namagoose, Executive Director.

Her priority as Grand Chief would be the protection of Cree rights under the JBNQA. She stated that much has changed in the Cree Nation since the signing of the JBNQA.

Her priorities would be the Cree way of life, the preservation of language and culture, the animals and the ability to harvest wildlife in a traditional way and finally the health of Eeyou Istchee. She stated that the JBNQA provides for tools and mechanisms for addressing these issues.

She stated that it was important that there be a review of how we work together, how we govern ourselves and the tools that we use, keeping in mind that the Cree Nation derives its strength from its unity. A Comprehensive and cumulative impact cultural base line study of Eeyou Istchee would be a priority for her administration. She stated that this would be a very important exercise in knowing and preserving the information that explains where we have come from. She added that preserving our culture and our language is the cornerstone of Cree identity.

In regards to governance and finance she wanted to ensure that the Cree Nation Government is responding to the needs of the Cree Nation and we have to make sure that services and programs reflect these needs. She stated that we should be looking at 7 generations in this assessment.

She stated that a governance review would be useful in explaining to those how our government works, beginning with an examination of our governance model as compared to our historic governance model. We should also examine the policies and procedures of Board/Council. She stated that it was time to examine the role of Corporate Secretary but rather establish corporate services. She stated that job descriptions are being worked on and presented at a future meeting. She also talked of the impending departure of the Executive Director and the need to establish a working committee to prepare for a transition for this very important role which will be posted. She stated that there will also be an examination of how negotiators are named and how the Cree Nation Government approves Agreements. She stated that it was important to explain to people how Agreements come to be. She also wanted to review appointments and examined the process for how appointments are made. She stated that she wanted to establish an Advisory Committee of former Grand Chiefs, signatories of the JBNQA to see what their vision was and how far we must go. She also wanted to name elders to assist as an advisory council.

She stated that she would like that Board/Council members and Chiefs to be active participants in working groups to collaborate with negotiators and staff to provide direction. She felt that this would contribute greatly to transparency. She stated it was important the proper conflict of interests policies be adopted which should include the nomination of an Ombudsman.

She stated that it was important to review the mandates of the JBNQA entities and Associations.

When it comes to governance and financial planning, she wanted a review of how funding allocations are made which was a very important part of transparency, an important part of this exercise would be a bi-annual Board/Council and DO's and Treasurers meeting.

She stated it would be important to set aside funds for the preservation of the Cree language and culture and that money should be set aside to prioritize these issues. She underlined the hiring of Jamie Moses as Cree Language Commissioner and added that more people and more resources would be needed, because not one person can preserve our language on their own.

She wanted to see greater diversification of the Cree economy. She looked forward to bringing more information and presentations to future meetings. With regards to negotiations she stated that it was time to have more than just one Cree Quebec negotiator and would be proposing four negotiators: 1 Inland and 1 coastal negotiator on natural resources and sustainable development, 1 negotiator for economic development culture and language and finally 1 negotiator on Federal negotiations and indigenous relations, and implementation of previous agreements and provincial negotiations.

She added that she wanted Board/Council members to name individuals that would act as community liaison officers that could bring matters to Board/Council from community members. This would be to support Chiefs in bringing local matters to Board/Council.

She wanted to reiterate her thanks to the Cree Nation for choosing her to act as Grand Chief.

## 7. Calendar

The Board/Council review the proposed calendar for the current year through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The members discussed the calendar and made some adjustments.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Clarke Shecapio the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-22: Adoption of the 2021-2022 Calendar of Meetings for the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

## 8. Minutes

Paul John Murdoch, Secretary tabled and reviewed minutes from previous meetings of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

On a motion duly made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-23: Adoption of minutes of a meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

On a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Setwart and seconded by Chief Thomas Neeposh the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-24: Adoption of minutes of a meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

## 9. Remuneration

The Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief excused themselves from the meeting and on a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-25: Nomination of Chief Daisy House to act as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

Paul John Murdoch, Corporate Secretary and Matthew Swallow, Treasurer tabled and reviewed proposed amendments to the “Law Respecting the Remuneration of the Chair and the Vice Chair” as a First Reading.

The Board/Council held a discussion on how other employment conditions matters such as holidays were managed. The approval process of the law in relation to the Annual General Assembly scheduled for the following day was clarified explaining that it would only be ready for ratification at the 2021/2022 Annual General Assembly.

Paul John Murdoch and Matthew Swallow explained that if there were any suggested changes to the proposed amendment they could be sent to either of them for consideration.

The Board/Council also discussed the reimbursement in relation for travel, which is addressed through other policies namely the provision of vehicles to elected officials.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary



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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty  
Deputy Grand Norman A. Wapachee  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Chief Curtis Bosum Gaston Cooper  
Chief Christina Gilpin Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clarke Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Robbie Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Alan Jolly  
Chief Annie Mapachee Salt Jean Denis Cananso

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 1:30 pm.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The Directors reviewed the agenda and on a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by Chief Marcel Happyjack the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-26: Adoption of the Agenda for a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

## 2. COVID-19

Paul Linton of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay joined the meeting providing the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Paul Linton explained that it might appear that there was a significant change in vaccination rates which is not the case as the Health Board has updated the population data that was being used to measure vaccination rates.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that they have been monitoring the recommendations and getting ready for the eventual call for a booster (third) shot. He also shared that the support of all leadership was required in making staff feel welcomed and safe because acquiring and holding on to staff was particularly challenging during these times.

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board provided an update on procedures and protocols being followed by the Cree School Board to ensure the maintenance of in class instruction in Eeyou Istchee.

The Grand Chief inquired as to the status of vaccination for 5 to 12 year old children and what impact that this will have on measures and risk analysis in the future. Paul Linton stated that there would be new recommendations coming in the near future with regards to measures and initiatives to control COVID-19 hopefully to ease restrictions and burdens on the population. He added that considering that 30% of the Cree population is under 12, their eventual vaccination will have an enormous impact on the protection level for the Cree Nation.

Gaston Cooper inquired what the implications of the mandatory vaccination were expected to be on health workers. Paul Linton stated that the impact would be challenging and was being evaluated.

The Grand Chief inquired if the matter was being discussed at the Cree School Board with regards to staff. Caroline Mark stated that the Cree School Board was monitoring closely regulations that could be coming out from the Government of Quebec. She stated that parental consent was required for the vaccination of children and that some communities were doing well while others were having a challenging time.

Irene Neeposh stated that she was uneasy with the vaccination of children. She stated that the messaging was very confusing because you can still catch COVID and transmit COVID when vaccinated so how are we protecting people. She stated that it needs to be made clear how we are helping by taking the vaccine and that there is so much pressure that it is challenging for everyone. She questioned if there could not be more creative ways than managing everything through restrictions.

The Grand Chief agreed that leadership is obligated to ensure that people have the best information available in helping them manage and understand risks. She added that it was important that leadership work together and coordinate policies at all levels of government.

Ronnie Ottereyes stated that it feels at times that the solutions provoke more problems which was the concern of the mandatory vaccination being planned by the government.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that his community has been considering adapting restrictions for teachers because the community was losing teachers due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on them. Chief Happyjack shared the strategies of other communities which focused on education and properly instructing on protocols that will keep people safe.

Caroline Mark stated that there was no mandatory vaccination order for Teachers and that the Cree School Board would wait for instruction from the Ministry of Education before considering the matter.

### **3. Cree School Board**

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board, Caroline Mark, Director General and Shawn Iserhoff, Coordinator of Strategic Planning & Projects joined the meeting and provided a presentation entitled, “2021-2026 Strategic Action Plan; Presentation to Board/Council”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Richard Shecapio stated that “student pathways” should be developed identifying career pathways to employment, professions and even traditional practices related to being on the land. He stated that it would be very helpful in understanding prerequisites and areas of assistance.

John Henry Wapachee stated that it was very important to keep in mind the importance of retaining the Cree language. He also mentioned the importance of recreation and sports for mental health of young people and suggested the establishment of a task force to investigate the matter.

Irene Neeposh stated that she was very pleased with the presentation and in particular the “mission statement”. She expressed concerns over the performance standards and the need to ensure that students were properly challenged and suggested the establishment of a private school in one of the Cree communities.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated that the Cree Education Act was need so that the Cree Nation could determine what was taught in Cree schools. He stated that it was probably overdue that the Act be reviewed and revised.

Caroline Mark stated that there were preparation courses for CEGEP and that higher learning courses were being implemented. She agreed with the recommendation to identify “pathways” for students.

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board stated that a lot of work went into the development of an Education Act and that discussions have been had with the Minister to ensure the Cree Nation has greater control over education in their communities.

Caroline Mark added that there was an examination of introducing the semestrial system to provide better integration with traditional or land-based learning.

Thomas Jolly inquired if the needs of the education systems of each community were evaluated for needs and capacity.

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that joint studies were carried out with ASD which should be coming soon. Caroline Mark agreed and reinforced the

need for coordinating education with community profiles. Sara Pashagumskum, reiterated the discussions with the Cree Nation Government on the development of labour market projections.

Chief Gilpin stated that there needed to be greater emphasis on vocational training.

#### **4. EEPF Police Commission**

William MacLeod, Chairperson of the Police Commission joined the meeting and presented and tabled a presentation entitled, "Report of the Eeyou Eenu Police Commission", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Gilpin informed the Council that Wemindji had nominated Stella Lameboy Gilpin to fill the vacancy for the Wemindji representative. The Grand Chief stated that the ratification of the nomination could be addressed at the current meeting.

There was a discussion on the functioning of the recently reconstituted HR Committee of the Police Commission.

Daniel Mark Stewart inquired about apparent shortages of officers and a high turnover rate among the police force. William MacLeod stated that the job of police officer is very challenging and that a high turnover rate was being witnessed. He explained that the current police force is 50% Cree and 50% from outside Eeyou Istchee. He stated that a lot of the outside workers were only staying a couple or few weeks. He stated that efforts were being made to see how retention could be improved. He concluded by saying that the challenge was going to require the help of leadership at all levels of Cree Government, especially when it comes to recruitment. He wanted to make the suggestion of using housing as an incentive to attract local candidates.

Chief Christina Gilpin inquired into the effects of the unionization on the satisfaction of workers which was the promise of unionization to begin with. She inquired if more resources can be dedicated to the HR side of things to manage the challenge. She also shared concern that there was not enough public support for the profession and making them feel appreciated as a way of retaining and attracting candidates.

Chief Jolly inquired if the Police Commission managed complaints on police conduct. William MacLeod explained that the Commissioners did accept and investigate complaints. Chief Jolly also stated that exit interviews would be an important tool in identifying the retention challenge sources. Chief Jolly also inquired if Police Officers were aware of local laws and requirements being demanded locally such as also making sure that officers work in pairs and never alone.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired if there was an action plan or a strategy for how to improve collaboration with local governments. He also inquired as to what was the biggest challenge for Cree candidates that were trying to become officers or what explained that loss of Cree officers that had succeeded in becoming officers.

William MacLeod stated that an action plan would be a very good initiative and could fit with the prioritization exercise that the Police Commission undertakes, identifying 5 priorities.

Chief Daisy House stated that the joint meeting with the Judicial Advisory Committee was very beneficial. She stated that at the local level the Council has a lunch with the local police officers as a way of making a connection and ensuring that there is support. She stated that policing was a very important job in light of the rapid growth of our communities and she agreed with using housing as an incentive to attract candidates.

The Grand Chief thanked Mr. MacLeod for his presentation.

## **5. Appointments**

The Grand Chief introduced a number of appointments that needed to be made.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-27: Recognition of the Re-Election of Chief Christina Gilpin as Chief of the Cree Nation of Wemindji and membership to the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

Chief Gilpin stated that she was grateful for the opportunity to continue working with other Cree leaders, her Deputy Chief and new Councillors at the local level. She concluded by stating that she was also grateful to the people of Wemindji.

On a motion duly made by Gaston Cooper and seconded by John Mamianskum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-28: Nomination to Eeyou Eenou Police Commission – Stella Lameboy Gilpin***

**WHEREAS** the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed recommendations from the local council of the Cree Nation of Wemindji concerning representation on the Eeyou Eenou Police Commission;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominates Stella Lameboy Gilpin to the Eeyou Eenou Police Commission.

On a motion duly made by Chief Curtis Bosum and seconded by Chief Thomas Neeposh the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-29: Eeyou Planning Commission Nomination and Chairpersonship***

**WHEREAS** the Eeyou Planning Commission was established pursuant to Resolution 2017-80 nominating Mandy Gull Masty as Chairperson for a period of four (4) years;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominates Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee to act as Chairperson of the Eeyou Planning Commission for a four (4) year term.

On a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by Chief Daisy House the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-30: Judicial Advisory Committee – Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee***

**WHEREAS** Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty has decided to step down from the Judicial Advisory Committee;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominate Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee to sit on the Judicial Advisory Committee created pursuant to the Justice Agreement with the Government of Quebec.

On a motion duly made by Chief Christina Gilpin and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-31: Nomination to Board of Directors of the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ)***

**WHEREAS** section 174(a) of the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory provides that the board of directors of the SDBJ shall be composed of seven (7) members including the chief executive officer, who shall be appointed by Québec taking into account the recommendations of the Cree Nation Government regarding the appointment of three (3) of these members and the chief executive officer;

**WHEREAS**, in the same regard, section 8 of the James Bay Region Development Act provides that the affairs of the SDBJ shall be administered by a board of directors composed of seven members, including the chief executive officer, appointed by the Government, taking into account the recommendations of the Cree Nation Government with respect to the appointment of three of the members;

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate for the Cree Nation Government to submit its recommendations to the Government of Québec regarding the appointment of three of the directors;

**WHEREAS** Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty and Davey Bobbish have decided to step down from the nomination to the Board of Directors of the Société de développement de la Baie-James;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Cree Nation Government recommends the nomination of Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee and Mr. Gaston Cooper in replacement of Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty and Davey Bobbish, respectively to the Government of Québec for appointment to the Board of Directors of the Société de développement de la Baie James as per the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory.

On a motion duly made by Chief Curtis Bosum and seconded by Chief Christina Gilpin the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-32: Regional Government Executive Committee – Chief Clarke Shecapio***

**WHEREAS** the election of Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty has left a vacancy at the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Executive Committee;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominates Chief Clarke to be the Cree Nation Government representative on the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Executive Committee to fill the vacancy left by the election of Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Irene Neeposh the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-33: Chairperson of the Cree Mineral Exploration Board***

**WHEREAS** a seat and the Chairpersonship Cree Mineral Exploration Board was left vacant by the passing of the late Reggie Mark;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominates Andy Baribeau to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Cree Mineral Exploration Board and to assume the role as Chairperson for said Board of Directors.



The Grand Chief stated that she would be bringing to future meetings changes to the Corporate Services of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government as a way of improving services. She wanted to increase the team and capacity and make changes to the team she thanked Paul John Murdoch who has been acting as Corporate Secretary who would become Corporate Legal Counsel and that she had approached Edna Neeposh Senior as someone with the capacity and located in Nemaska to assume the role as Secretary. She thanked Edna Neeposh for demonstrating an openness to assuming this new challenge. She explained that a transition plan would be coming in the near future.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired if the meetings with all the Corporate Secretaries of Eeyou Istchee would continue. Paul John Murdoch explained that all the meetings were interrupted by COVID-19 and the meetings in question would resume shortly and would be enhanced by the chances being proposed by the Grand Chief.

The Grand Chief explained that the demand is high on the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and that there is a need for capacity building to ensure that we have strong teams in our discussions with the Government Quebec. She stated that she was intending to recruit 4 additional people to assist and was ready to identify two of them at this time. First, she named Stella Masty who has demonstrated herself very capable as a negotiator and spokesperson who she was hoping would assist in representing coastal interests. She also was pleased to announce that Richard Shecapio was another person who would assist greatly in addressing Resource and Sustainable Development.

Chief Gilpin inquired about the role of previous negotiators and that we did not want to lose the experience gained. The Grand Chief explained that for the sake of continuity she had spoken to Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and Paul John Murdoch as examples where they would continue to play a central role on certain files but more importantly it was incumbent among all negotiators that we share knowledge, transfer knowledge, to build capacity and build all the team over all.

## **6. Naskapi Amendment of Section 13 of the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement***

The Board/Council held an in camera session on the Naskapi Amendment of Section 13 of the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement*.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a draft resolution in relation to a proposed amendment of the JBNQA by the Naskapi Nation.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-34 Consent of Cree Nation Government concerning the repeal of subparagraph 13.1.5.1 of the Northeastern Quebec Agreement***

**WHEREAS** the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (“**Naskapi Nation**”) and the Governments of Canada and Quebec have agreed to replace the current Section 13 of the *Northeastern Quebec Agreement* (“**NEQA**”) respecting the Naskapi Police;

**WHEREAS** the replacement of the current Section 13 of the NEQA will result in the repeal of all its provisions, including subparagraph 13.1.5.1 referring to the “Police Advisory Committee”;

**WHEREAS** any amendment of subparagraph 13.1.5.1 of the NEQA, including its repeal, requires the consent of the Cree Nation Government;

**WHEREAS** the repeal of subparagraph 13.1.5.1 of the NEQA will have no impact on the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Nation Government or the Eeyou Eenou Police Force, and such repeal will also eliminate the requirement to obtain the consent of the Cree Nation Government for any future amendment of Section 13 of the NEQA;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Cree Nation Government hereby consents to the repeal of subparagraph 13.1.5.1 of the NEQA as part of the proposed replacement of Section 13 of the NEQA;

**THAT** the Grand Chief and/or Executive Director be and are hereby authorized and instructed to do all things useful or necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**7. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty took a moment to underline the importance of the first Nation Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the importance of honouring the survivors of the residential system and its legacy.

Elder Saunders Weistche was invited to the meeting to do a special opening prayer on this important day.

Charlie Ottereyes was then invited to play the traditional drum.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay explained that the Health Board would be planning activities around the first day for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and that he hoped that the Government of Quebec would do more to recognize the importance of the day. He stated that we should examine the social problems that plague our communities and how we can work together to fight against violence and especially the abuse of children. He stated that efforts will be made to accelerate the development of healing centres.

## **8. Moose Harvest**

Isaac Voyageur, Director of Environment and Remedial Works and Nadia Saganash, Senior Advisor Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement Implementation joined the meeting and provided a presentation entitled, "Moose Survey Results – 2021", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Thomas Jolly, President of the Cree Trappers' Association stated that he was raised on the land by his parents and every year he was sent to residential school and it was so hard for him and the other students. He stated that it was so hard to share the pain with parents and family of what students went through. He stated that returning to the land was healing and very important for personal wellbeing. This is why he explained that we have to take very seriously any threat to the continuation of the Cree way of life such as the current threat to moose population that we are seeing today.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that moose is probably one of the most important animals in Cree tradition and that the affected traplines in Waskaganish territory are actively occupied and used by families all season long. He was also concerned that the problem of a low moose population in one zone would likely cause pressures in neighboring zones if restrictions are imposed.

Chief Curtis Bosum stated that he was concerned at the far reaching impacts of such a dramatic decline on the moose population. Chief Bosum stated that his community supported the need to intervene and that there was a need for all organizations to work together to remedy the situation.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that his community adopted a resolution supporting the need for the closure of the sport hunt and for all organization to work together to address the situation.

Allan Saganash joined the meeting and explained that already there is enormous pressure in the area due to the impacts of forestry and that people should not underestimate this in considering the poor state of the moose population. He compared the early days of forestry operation and the current modern operations which have become more and more sever over time. He stated that he was disappointed that the efforts to prioritize the preservation of species like moose in adapted forestry regimes has not materialized as expected when past agreements were negotiated on forestry. He stated that he did not agree that the opening provision of the Forestry Agreement where traditional activity is to be taken into consideration is being applied or that the Agreement was being implemented in accordance. He talked about the challenge of expanding corridors on water ways which was important to wildlife and Cree traditional homes. He stated that he did not believe that forestry and the Cree way of life would ever be compatible. He stated that the vast majority of Waswanipi traplines were severely impacted by forestry and forestry roads. He added that mining companies are quick to follow after forestry roads have been built, including vacation leases. He stated that for him there was a clear link between forestry and the state of the moose population. He stated that greater connections were required between residual forests and greater sylvicultural works for habitat purposes not just to have more trees

to cut tomorrow. He stated that conservation measures like shooting only males did not solve anything as males are needs for the reproduction of moose.

Johnny Cooper talked about all the ceremonies, songs and lessons that accompanied the taking of a moose. He was concerned over the moose festivals and fishing derbies which did not respect traditional conservation values. He talked about how important the moose was to the traditional way of life.

The Grand Chief stated that she really appreciated the speakers and that there was no denying how difficult the times were. She added that we have to acknowledge that there are very important changes on the territory. She stated that the environment is and will remain an important component of her mandate. She believed that it was clear that everyone agrees that an upper limit of kills should be established. She also stated that a Working Committee should be established to assist in bringing together representatives and entities in the development of a moose management plan.

Chief Thomas Neeposh stated that Mistissini was greatly affected by forestry and that we have agreements and rules but what was the point of them if there was no monitoring. There used to be monitoring but it is sporadic and the position of Quebec seems to be that monitoring will only be carried out on the days we demand it. He talked about the danger of being on the land during forestry operations which took the width of the road. He stated that people should not underestimate the quantity of roads in Eeyou Istchee and how problematic they are. He stated that there needed to be better management of the access issue and that he stood with the call to protect the moose.

Irene Neeposh inquired if there were other species that we should be concerned about. The Grand Chief stated that the issue could be addressed in the review of wildlife directives generally.

Chief Happyjack stated that he was concerned that the way the woodland caribou issues was similar.

The Secretary tabled and reviewed a Draft Resolution. Isaac Voyageur, Director of Environment and Remedial Works stated that he strongly recommended the adoption of the Resolution.

There was a discussion on when the Resolution should come into effect.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that it was very important that hunters show restraint this season because the moose population is so fragile and to be respectful of the role of tallyman and family traplines. She added that reporting kills was equally important if we to have a chance at doing everything we can to help the population recover.

The Resolution of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi on the matter was reviewed by the Council. The Council also reviewed the Resolution of the Cree Trappers Association.

Chief Jolly stated that he was concerned that the measure was going to put a great deal of pressure on Zone 22, with hunters to trying to hunt in other zones.

Chief Curtis Bosum stated that there was concern among the Ouje-Bougoumou population that there would be a back lash from non-Native hunters who may vandalize Cree cabins as had happened in the past. However, his community members were in support of the measure.

Thomas Stevens of the CTA joined the meeting and described the efforts employed by the CTA to record Cree harvesting such as the development of an app which is currently available on smart phone platforms.

On a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by Chief Clarence Jolly the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-35: Moose Decline and Harvest Management In Buffer Area (Zone 17)***

**WHEREAS** concerns on the health of the moose populations have been raised in the last years, and the recent population census conducted in the winter of 2021 has confirmed an important reduction in the level of the moose population in zone 17;

**WHEREAS** since the latest survey conducted in 2009, the survey results show a decline of the population to 1036 moose, representing a 35% reduction. The results also record the lowest productivity level of females (30 calves/100 females) and the lowest number of males recorded (27 males/100 females).

**WHEREAS** the state of the moose population in zone 17 is critical and immediate measures are required to protect the species and give effect to the principle of conservation, the priority of harvest and the guaranteed level of harvest for the Cree as provided under section 24 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;

**WHEREAS** precautions are required to ensure harvesting does not further jeopardize the state of the population, and as such the total harvest of moose should be kept below 104 moose (representing 10% of the current population estimate);

**WHEREAS** the vulnerability of the moose in zone 17 is high and calls for the close monitoring of the harvest on the population and the implementation of interim measures to require all hunters in this zone to report their moose harvest;

**WHEREAS** the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating committee has binding authority to establish the upper limit of kill for moose in the buffer area for both Cree and non-Cree as per paragraph 24.4.30 of the JBNQA;

**WHEREAS** the Cree benefit from guaranteed levels of harvest which is set at 158 moose in the buffer area;

**WHEREAS** the JBNQA provides under section 24.6.3d) of the JBNQA that "if game populations do not permit levels of harvesting equal to the guaranteed level established pursuant to paragraph 24.6.2, the Native people shall be allocated the entire harvest and may allocate a portion of this kill to non- Natives through recognized outfitting facilities"

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government supports the call of the Cree Trappers Association to initiate immediate communication to the Cree hunters to inform them on the state of the population in zone 17 and urge that precautionary conservation measures be undertaken by the tallymen and cree hunters;

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby demands that the sports hunt be closed as soon as possible to protect the moose population and the guaranteed level of harvest which is constitutionally protected under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement;

**THAT** that Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby mandates the Cree representatives on the Hunting Fishing and Trapping and Coordinating Meeting of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement to immediately establish an Upper Limit of harvest of 104;

**THAT** that Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government call for the formation of a Working Committee with the Cree Trappers Associations' in collaboration with local governments to develop guidelines and put in place the appropriate monitoring mechanisms.

## **9. Cree Federal Relations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a report entitled, "Report on Cree-Canada Relations GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government", a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **10. Housing**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and Martin Desgagné of Capital Works and Services tabled and a reviewed a power point presentation entitled, "Cree Nation Housing Strategy - \$200 Million Federal Funding", a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief stated that it was her understanding the Private Housing Fund had grown since it was established. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director confirmed that he had grown to \$114

Million. The Grand Chief inquired if the presentation/proposal on the addition \$200 million had been presented to the DO's and Treasurers Committee. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it had been presented and that there was consensus on the approach which was mainly secure the funding and the Cree Nation would decide how to allocate it and develop the program.

The Grand Chief appreciated the efforts and stated that considering the implications it is important that the leadership be provided information in as timely a manner as possible to ensure that all leaders can contribute to how the funds will be allocated and managed.

Chief Neeposh stated he was pleased with the news but inquired as to what the Government of Quebec would be contributing considering the commitments made by the Premier when he visited Mistissini.

Irene Neeposh inquired as to the size of the homes that were contemplated as she was concerned for the single parents and those that need starter homes. She also inquired about the status of the private real estate initiative that had been discussed.

The Grand Chief wanted to stress the importance that what was being tabled was projections only and that the purpose was to secure funding. In regard to real estate the Grand Chief stated that we were at a crossroads and that we need to decide on priorities such as; is it to build quickly or build with 100% Cree content.

Chief Curtis Bosum stated that he understood that what is tabled are projections but that the number of houses identified for Ouje-Bougoumou was too low.

Chief Daisy House agreed with Irene Neeposh that we needed to be careful on where the needs are, such as homes for single parents and be cautious on square footage criteria. She was happy with the progress and looked forward to being able to help those in need in the communities.

Chief Clarence Jolly inquired about the source of the estimated community contributions in the proposal. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that there was no limit as to the sources that could be used whether it was O&M, Paix des Braves funding or some other source.

Daniel Mark Stewart stated that examination had to be given to the lots required for the projected houses especially in light of the implication of Category I lands and stated that we should open discussions with the Governments to increase the size of Category I lands as it will become an issue.

Chief Christina Gilpin stated that she was also concerned with lot development and the resources required and how the funds would be managed in coordination with the \$100 Million private fund that had been created. She was also concerned what would happen with those that had

credit problems and that the real solution to housing will be employment as people with steady incomes will be able to pay rent or invest in housing.

The Grand Chief stated that these were all very important items that require proactive discussions and reminded everyone that the current exercise is to secure funding and the real work will come in the development of a Cree Nation Housing strategy.

On a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Neeposh and seconded by John Mamianskum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-36: Resolution supporting the submission to Canada***

**WHEREAS** the lack of access to affordable housing in Eeyou Istchee continues to be a major crisis in Eeyou Istchee linked to challenges in economic development, educational success, health problems due to overcrowding and social tensions and conflicts;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed a proposal for submission to the Government of Canada for the investment of two hundred million (\$200,000,000.00) dollars to be invested in urgently required social housing in Eeyou Istchee;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby endorse the submission of the two hundred million (\$200,000,000.00) dollar proposal for investment in social housing so that the Cree leadership of Eeyou Istchee can begin immediately designing a four (4) year housing program to meet the urgent housing and employment needs of the people of Eeyou Istchee.



## **11. Cree Quebec Relations**

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed a report on Cree Quebec Relations entitled, “Quebec Relations; September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021” a copy of which is attached hereto. He emphasized the section in relation to discussion with the CCQ on the regulation of access to the construction industry.

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed a report in relation to the implications of the recent contract announcement between Hydro-Quebec and New York City entitled, “Impact of New York City Contract; with; Hydro-Quebec; in; Eeyou Istchee”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Richard Shecapio stated that there should be an inventory of companies that are genuine in working to get Crees meaningful employment in the construction industry and the ones that are not, so that we can determine how to promote those companies that are doing a good job. He stated that there were companies that were investigated by the CCQ and it was reported that separate payrolls are managed for Cree and non-Cree and that the Cree hours were not reported or integrated into the CCQ system. He stated that we should be supporting those companies that treat our people fairly when awarding contracts.

## **12. Grand Chief**

The Grand Chief tabled and reviewed a report entitled, “Mandate Report; Office of the Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **13. Caribou**

Chief Daisy House stated that there was a meeting locally to discuss how they felt about caribou hunting and the possible arrival of outside hunters. She stated that considering the status of the herd everyone was advised to be cautious and conservative when harvesting caribou and moose. She stated that it was very important that traditional values of conservation be respected. She added that the elders stated that they were also concerned about safety in hunting near roads, camps or at dusk. There was also a concern that the traditional traplines system was being respected less and less.

## **14. Resolutions Eastmain (Fires and Taxation)**

Chief Kenneth Cheezo tabled and reviewed two resolutions that had been tabled by the Eastmain delegation at the Annual General Assembly, which are attached hereto.

The first was in relation to the deduction of sales tax at the point of sale and the second was in relation to assistance requested resulting from the 2013 forestry fire and the desire to investigate the source of the fire.

The Council issued a directive to the Director of Environment and Remedial Works and the Director of Commerce and Industry to examine the concerns of the Cree Nation of Eastmain in regards to the impact of the 2013 forest fire on wildlife and the possible remedial measures available to those affected by or who suffered loss from the 2013 forest fire (Directive 2021-01).

With regards to taxation the Grand Chief explained that this was challenging considering that it was outside Cree Nation Government jurisdiction. She stated that the issue could be raised with Quebec but that it would be challenging.

### **15. Working Committees**

The Grand Chief stated that she would be excusing herself with the Deputy Grand Chief from the deliberation of the next issue and that she wanted to inform the Board/Council that she would be creating three working committees to address specific issues.

First, she would be creating a working committee to address the issue of recruiting an Executive Director considering the imminent retire of Bill Namagoose. She would be proposing that the Committee be composed of: The Director of Human Resources, Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, the Grand Chief and Curtis Bosum who had agreed, Chief Thomas Neeposh also agreed to assist on the Committee.

In regard to the Moose Management issue she also proposed a Moose Management Working Committee composed of:

President of the Cree Trappers' Association

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty

Clarke Clarke Shecapio

Chief Marcel Happyjack also volunteered to assist

The Director of Environment and Remedial Works

In response to a question of representation on the Committees the Grand Chief wanted to make it clear that the working committees would not actually be deciding anything but rather their work and recommendations would always be brought to Board/Council for consideration before they could be acted upon.

The Grand Chief also stated that she would create a Working Committee to address Policing matters:

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee

Irene Neeposh

The Grand Chief thanked the Committee members and volunteers for their commitment and that every would be made to make efficient use of their time.

## **16. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the Board/Council adopted:

### ***Resolution 2021-37: Nominating Chief Daisy House as Chairperson of the Meeting***

The Secretary proceeded with the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that we should make it clear to the public how they can participate or send in the questions or inquiries when adopting laws in the future. Paul John Murdoch stated that this was the type of issue that the Grand Chief wanted to make sure was clear and the role of elected officials in ensuring that the concerns of the public reach the Council and that likely this would be raised in the Governance Review that the Grand Chief was planning.

## **17. Minutes**

Paul John Murdoch, Corporate Secretary tabled and reviewed the minutes of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

On a motion duly made by Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Curtis Bosum the Board/Council adopted:

### ***Resolution 2021-38: Adoption of Minutes of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021***

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary

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## 1. Corporate Matters

Present: Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty  
Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Masty  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Chief Curtis Bosum Gaston Cooper  
Chief Christina Gilpin Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clarke Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh John Matoush  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Alan Jolly  
Chief Annie Mapachee Salt Billy Katapatuk

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the By-Laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 1:30 pm.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The members reviewed the draft agenda and, on a motion duly made by Daniel Mark-Stewart and seconded by Gaston Cooper the Directors adopted:

***Resolution 2021-39: Adoption of the Agenda for a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

The members reviewed the minutes from a previous meeting and on a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Chief Marcel Happyjack the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-40: Adoption of Minutes from a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

Chief Robbie Kawapit gave an update on the situation in Whapmagoostui discussing the challenges of transportation and the negative effect that it had on housing development. He stated that the pandemic has been very challenging in Whapmagoostui. Despite the challenges the community has moved forward in addressing roads, drainage systems and other important works that will allow for greater housing development. He stated that communications were improving in Whapmagoostui.

Chief Daisy House announced that Robert Kanatewat would be getting a special recognition from the Government of Quebec for important contributions as a First Nations leader in Quebec. She stated that the community was working hard and concerned with the Omicron variant was gaining attention in the news and was impacting the communities planning of sporting events or tournaments. She also addressed the challenges with implementing the rapid housing initiative. She also shared that a residential school gathering had been held in Chisasibi last November.

Chief Christina Gilpin explained that works were proceeding such as the arena and rapid housing initiative. She was concerned about the status of the pandemic, but she was grateful and confident in the strong Public Safety team that she had locally.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo stated that a local assembly was being planned in March. He added that he hoped that people were careful when travelling on the land as rivers and lakes froze over. He also wanted to thank his local public safety team that was doing an excellent job protecting the community.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that it has been a year of first with the cancellation of Canada Day activities, the imposition of curfews. Chief Shecapio stated that it has been a particularly difficult year for his family with the loss of important family members. He stated that everything has been especially hard on children, and he wanted to thank all the fellow leaders for their expressions of sympathy, solidarity and support. He explained that the community continues to pursue capital projects such as paving and the sports complex. He stated that the pandemic has forced an examination of how the community manages specific concerns such as alcohol. He also talked about the importance of local food and gift drives at this time of year.

Chief Clarence Jolly stated that the community was proceeding with rapid housing, 2 five plex units where families would be able to move in before the holidays. He stated that the construction would close in the coming week for those workers working on roads and other infrastructure. He stated that the local public safety team was working hard managing traffic and the check point.

Chief Thomas Neeposh stated that were delays in projects caused by COVID-19 but the community was still able to move forward with some housing and commercial space development. He stated that some paving had to be deferred to the following year. He was happy that the community was able to safely have a music festival in November without incident. He stated a hockey tournament was planned for the first week of January.

Gaston Cooper explained that the community had cancelled some events which had been planned in the South considering the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant in the South. He said of lot of people have safely come home without incident. The community was focusing on holding local events safely within the community.

Chief Marcel Happyjack was happy to report that all those tested at a gathering where there was someone who tested positive have all tested negative. He stated that local leadership was working closely with the Health Board, Police, and the local safety committee to protect the community. He stated local festivities such as a gathering for elders was proceeding as planned. He stated that a local assembly was being planned mid-January in Waswanipi. He added that works were ongoing on for the construction of housing and training facilities.

Chief Annie Mapachee Salt stated the community was still committed to establishing the Washaw Sibi community and that she was thankful for the opportunity to stand with and have the support of the other leaders.

Chief Allan Jolly wished everyone a happy holiday and reiterated his joy over having clear direction in the recent referendum on the location of the future community.

Adrian Neeposh Gunner, Youth Grand Chief joined the meeting and gave an update on the activities of the Cree Nation Youth Council. He explained that the leadership of the CNYC has been going through an orientation and briefings since being elected. He also appreciated all the updates received from Departments and advisors of the Cree Nation Government. He stated that the youth also appreciated the presentation on the Grande Alliance from the research teams hired to do the studies such as Ian Diamond and Bradley Mianscum Jr.. He stated that they organized break out rooms to discuss the studies. He stated that the exchanges were positive, but that youth were concerned with the implication of the studies and a resolution was adopted asking that youth also be included in all aspects of consultations on the feasibility study and be part of the meaningful discussions. He stated that upcoming projects are a call for proposals for use of the Cree Youth Regional Development funds. He stated it was difficult to plan meetings in light of the pandemic.

## **2. Federal Relations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Report on Cree Canada Relations; GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government; Board/Council Meeting; December 9-10, 2021", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Daisy House stated that it was imperative that people be informed of the CERB benefit and the possible tax implications. She also inquired if the Eeyou Marine Region Agreement was to be reviewed collaboratively or separately from the Federal Court.

Chief Allan Jolly stated that he was very pleased with the work being done by Bill Namagoose, Executive Director and the Cree Nation Government on behalf of MoCreebec and looked forward to hosting the Cree leadership to plan next steps.

Grand Mandy Gull Masty stated that she has instructed staff to find a date for the meeting.

### **3. Childcare Agreement**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director, Melissa Saganash, Director of Cree Quebec, Kelly Pepabano, Director of Child and Family Services relations tabled a document entitled, "Briefing Notes: Board-Council Approval of Cree-Quebec Childcare Agreement 2021-2026", a copy of which is attached hereto.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by John S Matoush the Members adopted:

#### ***Resolution 2021-41: Cree-Québec Childcare Agreement 2021-2026***

**WHEREAS** the Government of Québec (Québec) and the Cree Regional Authority concluded childcare Agreements since 2003, which were extended until March 2013;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Regional Authority and the Ministry of Families (MF) negotiated a new form of Agreement with an adapted funding framework to support childcare services in Cree communities for 2013-2019, which was concluded by Québec and the Cree Regional Authority;

**WHEREAS** since the end of that Agreement in March 2019, MF continued to fund Cree childcare services while the Cree Nation Government and MF negotiated a new childcare Agreement to resolve certain outstanding issues;

**WHEREAS**, further to these negotiations, substantive changes are proposed to the childcare Agreement between the Cree Nation Government and Québec, including to address:

- salary increases for Cree childcare personnel;
- additional regional support for childcare services in Eeyou Istchee;
- delegation of additional powers and responsibilities of MF to the Cree Nation Government; and

mechanisms for the Cree Nation Government and MF to address other issues that may arise in the term of the new Agreement, including for legislative changes, new MF programs or policies, as well as funding for additional childcare services or childcare facilities, if required;

**WHEREAS** the Board-Council has reviewed the proposed Agreement appended to this resolution, and dated 2021 11 29 for reference;

#### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board-Council hereby approves the Agreement respecting delegation of the exercise of certain powers in the area of childcare services and related matters for the period of April 1,



2021 to March 31, 2026, in English and French, substantially in the form of the Agreement attached to this resolution, and dated 2021 11 29 for reference;

**THAT** the Board-Council hereby authorizes and instructs Chairperson Mandy Gull Masty to sign this Agreement on behalf of the Cree Nation Government; and

**THAT** the Board-Council mandates the Executive Director to ensure that relevant Directors take all required actions to implement this Agreement as soon as possible.

The Grand Chief wanted to issue a special thanks to the childcare center workers during these especially challenging times.

The Council held a discussion on the proper Cree name for the Department ultimately recommending that the Director work with the Cree Language Commissioner on a proper Cree name.

#### **4. Housing Funding**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a brief entitled, "Amendment of Capital Grants Agreement Re \$200 million for Cree Social Housing", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that there needed to be a working session on housing so that it could be clear on how to coordinate and maximize funding like such as the one being contemplated here. She thanked Bill Namagoose, Executive Director for his efforts in securing the funding.

On a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Chief Christina Gilpin the members adopted:

#### ***Resolution 2021-42: Amendment of Capital Grants Agreement re \$200 million for Cree Nation social housing***

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada and the Cree Nation Government have entered into an Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants to the Quebec Cree Communities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 to 2027-2028 ("Capital Grants Agreement");

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation Government has successfully negotiated funding in the amount of \$200 million for the Cree Nation Government to support the Cree Nation Housing Strategy in the Cree communities, particularly the social housing component thereof;

**WHEREAS** Canada and the Cree Nation Government wish to amend the Capital Grants Agreement in order to include therein the said funding;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Cree Nation Government hereby approves a proposed Agreement to Amend the Capital Grants Agreement in order to provide therein the new federal investment of \$200 million to support the Cree Nation Housing Strategy, substantially in accordance with the draft of such Agreement reviewed by this meeting and appended hereto;

**THAT** the Executive Director or such other person as he may designate be and are hereby authorized to sign the said Agreement for and on behalf of the Cree Nation Government substantially in accordance with the draft of such Agreement submitted to this meeting, and to do all things useful or necessary to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Irene Neeposh inquired if this was new funding or existing funding. It was confirmed that it was new Funding.

**5. Cree Board of Health**

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the activities of the Cree Board of Health, entitled “Treaty and Legislative Framework of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay – Memorandum of Understanding and Revision Process”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Clarke Shecapio and Chief Neeposh raised concern over services not being available in the community such as dentistry which was a serious problem considering we were trying to restrict travel towards the south.

Irene Neeposh raised the concern that workers were overloaded with case files under youth protection and that something needed to be done. Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated it was an important challenge that needed to be addressed with more financial and human resources. He stated that this is a specific issue he was hoping would be addressed with Quebec. She stated that this was a very serious problem affecting the development of Cree youth with long term repercussions.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that what was identified was a serious challenge that the health board is committed to addressing. He stated that all entities would need to come together to address the problem.

Adrian Neeposh Gunner stated that he was thankful for the opportunity to participate at a Cree Board of Health meeting and wanted to share that the youth were concerned that although there were many skilled in social work, they had challenges integrating in the Health board workforce due to seniority requirements.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay explained that they would be working with the Cree School Board to gain access to the information of what fields that youth are studying in so that the recruitment and integration can be planned. Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that this was a very important and challenging issue that she was committed to working on with fellow regional leaders.

The Council had a discussion on the different aspects of capacity building that need to be addressed.

## **6. Cree School Board**

Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board joined the meeting and delivered a presentation entitled, "Cree School Board's Update".

Upon a question from the Council Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that special provisions were being made such as a special allowance to help address the challenges of students studying in the South during a pandemic. She added that a collaborative approach is being developed with the Cree Board of Health to assist staff and students when it comes to mental health and that she agreed this would require collaboration of multiple organizations.

Irene Neeposh explained that it was imperative that the issue of gaining access to the field of study of youth so that Cree entities can actively recruit Cree candidates. Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that the Cree School Board is working on addressing the issue.

Chief Curtis Bosum inquired what specifically was being done for Special Needs students. Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that Special Needs is indeed a priority and a special department has been created to address the issue, entitled Department of Complementary Services. She added that a regional conference was being planned for the fall with consultations planned in every community.

Derrick Neeposh stated that same information in regards Cree areas of study was important for CREECO that would also like to recruit Cree students and inform them of an internship program being developed.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that the issue is being addressed and every effort is being made to connect with students and be able to share information for their benefit while respecting confidentiality.

John Henry Wapachee inquired if there would be a preventative plan for dealing with high-risk kids in regards to mental health matters in particular during these very trying times. Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board gave examples where the School Board was working with Justice on anti-bullying programs as an example and agreed that it was an important area to focus on.

The Grand Chief introduced an initiative to pay special attention to those with Special needs in our communities by adopting the following Resolution.

On a motion duly made by Chief Curtis Bosum and seconded by Chief Clarke Shecapio the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-43: Declaration of 2022 for Special Needs Members and the Their Families***

**WHEREAS** it is a fundamental value of a Cree culture that all members of the Cree Nation are valued and must be nurtured and protected to ensure the future of the Cree Nation;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation has had limited resources and at times challenges in meeting the basic health and welfare requirements of communities of Eeyou Istchee, often resulting in Children or Members with Special Needs failing to be identified, leaving them and their families to suffer not being able to reach their full potential;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation has demonstrated that when leadership at all levels and between entities work together in prioritizing and addressing a challenge, collaborating in the design of infrastructure programs, social assistance programs, environmental programs, educational programs, traditional programs and economic development programs we have been able to make the Nation stronger and address short comings of the past to ensure a brighter future;

**WHEREAS** the leadership of the Cree Nation would like to dedicate a year to the particular challenge of improving the situation for all Special Needs Members and Children in Eeyou Istchee by calling for a concerted effort between all levels of Government and entities in Eeyou Istchee to develop and undertake initiatives to address the plight of Special Needs Members, Children and their families so that we begin and for years to come assist them in realizing their full potential and assume their meaningful role in a stronger Cree Nation;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby declare 2022 the year of Special Needs Members and Children of Eeyou Istchee and call upon all Departments, Governments and entities to develop and collaborate in the development of infrastructure programs, social assistance programs, environmental programs, educational programs, traditional programs and economic development programs designed to assist the Special Needs Members and Children of today and tomorrow in realizing their full potential.

## **7. Cree Language Commission**

Jamie Moses, Cree Language Commissioner joined the meeting and provided an update of the Cree Language Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto.

John Henry Wapachee stated that he was happy to see the cultural exchanges and presentation of traditional values coming from the Cree Language Commission.

The Grand Chief stated that she was very supportive of the work of the Commission and thanked Mr. Moses for his hard work.

## **8. Working Committees**

The Grand Chief gave updates on the Working Committees that were struck at the last meeting of the Board/Council.

### *Moose Management Committee*

- Participation of Chief Happyjack, Chief Bosum and Chief Shecapio have met with the assistance of the CTA;
- Monitoring will be an important challenge
- Monitoring and inventories should be examined for all of Eeyou Istchee not just Zone 17
- Coordination with the Jamesian community

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated his local Cree Trappers Association has been meeting to address the challenging situation with the moose population in Zone 17. He stated that tallymen are also examining the option of sharing the limit resource with the Jamesian community.

Chief Marcel Happyjack stated that all aspects that affect the moose population need to be examined, not just the sports hunt, for example forestry operations, vacation leases and other disturbances to their habitat.

Chief Curtis Bosum stated that the important thing will be to change the paradigm by being proactive instead of always being in reactive mode. He stated that he would have more to share after more local consultations.

#### *Executive Director Recruitment Committee*

- The Committee has examined the nature of the job in developing a more complete job description.
- Bill Namagoose, Executive Director has agreed to postpone his retirement date to January 2023 which would allow for a longer and better transition period.
- It is hoped that the March meeting there could be a recommendation on how to proceed with the transition.
- She explained that posting would be happening in the near future

#### *Police Working Committee*

- The Committee is working with the Police Commission and is not replacing it;
- The recruitment of a permanent Director will be prioritized;
- Report from the Police Commission is expected for the March Board/Council meeting;
- Recruitment in Eeyou Istchee needs to be reinforced;
- There needs to be coordination with local public safety committees;
- Assessment on policing services needs to be examined.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that he was happy that the committee was created as policing is a very challenging file in Eeyou Istchee.

Irene Neeposh stated that the inter organizational aspect of the Policing services was critical.

The Grand Chief reported that she begun convening the Chiefs that are impacted by forestry with a view of addressing common issues and she was thankful for the collaboration. She also reported on the collaborative meetings with the Chairperson of the Cree School Board and the Cree Board of Health.

The Grand Chief also shared the experience of participating at an AFNQL economic summit.

The Grand Chief explained that she has also asked the Elders' Council to create an Advisory Panel that could work with the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

The Grand Chief further reported that a planned visit to the Vatican in regards to the legacy of residential schools will be deferred to a future date when there are fewer travel restrictions.

The Grand Chief reported that a report or proposal for Corporate Services would be coming soon.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty and Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee excused themselves from the meeting.

Chief House chaired the discussion on the third and final reading of a proposed amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government

On a motion duly made by Robbie Tapiatic and seconded by Chief Christina Gilpin the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-44: Amendment of the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government***

**WHEREAS** the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government was last reviewed and amended in 2005 and a review of the provisions was carried out by the Department of Finance and completed prior to the 2021 Cree Nation Government Elections;

**WHEREAS** on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Treasurer and Secretary proposed and carried out a First Reading of an Amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government simplifying the manner in which the remuneration for the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government is calculated for application to the current terms of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government;

**WHEREAS** the Second Reading of the Amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government was carried out on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021;

**WHEREAS** the Third and Final Reading of the Amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government was completed on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby approves and adopts the Amendment to the Law Respecting the Remuneration and the Working Conditions of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Cree Nation Government for immediate application to the full term of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson and further instructs the Treasurer and the Secretary to do all things necessary to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the Law.

The meeting recessed at 5:30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 am on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **9. 2022/2023 Funding Allocation**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed the recommended 2022/2023 Funding Allocation as recommended from the meetings of the Director Generals and Treasurers of Eeyou Istchee, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief House inquired if fire prevention is treated equally among communities and if it shouldn't it be adjusted for the size of the community and that the same argument could be applied to the Housing Inspector and animation.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director stated that the argument could be examined and determined how it will be treated in the future. He also explained where the estimated amounts for distribution from the Cree Nation Trust funds came from.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that his community is trying to determine how to address the paving of the Waskaganish access road. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it was an issue which could be managed by the allocations over a greater length of time.

Irene Neeposh shared questions that were answered by the Treasurer in writing. There was an exchange on the opening for setting a standard for culturally and socially sustainable projects in the community. There was also an opening to set appropriate construction standards so that we were not always fixing deficiencies.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that she wanted a review on how we manage our governance and our resources. She stated that this was critical considering the fast approaching date for the renewal of the Federal New Relationship Agreement where we will be required to account for our decisions.

Chief Gilpin inquired about the permissible subsidy for local housing.

On a motion duly made by Chief Christina Gilpin and seconded by Chief Marcel Happyjack the members adopted:

#### ***Resolution 2021-45: 2022-2023 Funding Allocations***

**WHEREAS** the estimated allocation from the Cree Nation Trust is one hundred and two million eight hundred and twenty three thousand five hundred and sixty Dollars (\$102,823,560.00) from the funds reserved under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to fund the obligations of Canada under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement assumed by the Cree;



**WHEREAS** the funds payable by the Government of Quebec under the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec to the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation as the Recipient of Funding under said Agreement is estimated at one hundred and three million nine hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and forty two dollars (\$103,980,942.00) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year to allow the Cree to fund the obligations of Quebec under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement assumed by the Cree through the New Relationship Agreement;

**WHEREAS** the Directors of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government have reviewed programs and projects allocation proposals developed by the Executive Director, Director Generals and the Treasurers of Eeyou Istchee for 2022-2023 funds made available pursuant to the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec and the Agreement Concerning a New Relation Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government hereby recommend and authorize the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation and the Cree Nation Government to secure, allocate and disburse 2022-2023 funds made available pursuant to the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec and the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Crees of Eeyou Istchee through the Cree Nation Trust in accordance with the attached Schedule.

**10. 2022/2023 Consolidated Budget of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government**

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer joined the meeting and tabled the proposed budgets for the 2022/2023 fiscal year of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government, copies of which are attached hereto.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Christina Gilpin the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-46: Adoption of the 2022-2023 Budget of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government***

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government has reviewed the proposed budgets for 2022/2023 Fiscal year of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby adopts and approves the 2022/2023 Budgets of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government as presented this 10th day of December 2021.

**11. Permanent Forum Resolution Between the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi**

Tina Petawabano, Director of Federal and Indigenous Relations joined the meeting and table and reviewed the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Forum, a copy of which is attached hereto.

On a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by John Henry Wapachee the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-47: Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Forum***

**WHEREAS** as part of Nation-to-Nation discussions with the leadership of the Inuit and the Naskapi, also signatories to the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement a proposal has been in development for the establishment of a permanent forum to allow the leaders of the three Nations to share priorities and concerns with a view to seeking indigenous initiatives and strategies;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council has reviewed proposed protocol and recognizes the value of Indigenous Communities coming together to develop strategies for the enhancement of their communities and the well-being of the land, animals and the people;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government authorize Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on a Permanent Forum Between the Cree Inuit & Naskapi to strengthen the solidarity of the Native Parties who signed the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

## **12. Harvesting Caribou in Cree Traditional Territory**

Tina Petawabano, Director of Federal and Indigenous Relations and Nadia Saganash, Senior Advisor Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement Implementation tabled and reviewed an Understanding on the harvest of caribou in Cree traditional territory of Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee, a copy of which is attached hereto.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Robbie Kawapit the members adopted:

### ***Resolution 2021-48: Understanding on the harvest of caribou in Cree traditional territory of Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee***

**WHEREAS** the Crees of Eeyou Istchee constitute an Indigenous society and nation and in the exercise of their right of self-determination and self-government, have maintained their own traditional land and wildlife management system;

**WHEREAS** the Cree traditional land and wildlife management system is strong and efficient, and based on fundamental principles and values that govern our practices and ensure respect for the land and good management of our harvest on populations;

**WHEREAS** the Cree traditional system of land and wildlife management recognize the leadership role and responsibilities of the Cree nations, the tallymen and land users to maintain the traditional land and wildlife management system as well as conservation efforts needed to sustain the health of wildlife populations;

**WHEREAS** the caribou population is a shared resources amongst several indigenous nations in northern Quebec and have mutual responsibilities and interests with respect to the conservation, management and harvest of the caribou

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee have acknowledged the request of the Innu Nation in Quebec for a mutual understanding to hunt caribou in the traditional territory of Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee for this coming 2021-2022 winter season;

**WHEREAS** in accordance with traditional practices the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee have met with all concerned tallymen which have guided the development of an Understanding on the harvest of caribou in Cree traditional territory of Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Innu Nation in Quebec.

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby authorizes Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty to sign the Understanding on the harvest of caribou in Cree traditional territory of Chisasibi, Eeyou Istchee between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the Innu Nation in Quebec.

### **13. Establishment of Cree Language Month**

Paul John Murdoch reviewed a Draft Resolution which had been prepared with the Cree Language Commissioner.

On a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by Gaston Cooper the members adopted:

#### ***Resolution 2021-49: Establishment of Cree Language Month***

**WHEREAS** the Cree language is one of the most important aspects of Cree culture and identity and is critical for the communication of Cree values, lessons and teachings;

**WHEREAS** the Cree language has survived and thrived for centuries and all governments, entities and people of Eeyou Istchee have the responsibility and mission that Cree remains a vibrant part of Cree culture and Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Language Act was the first law adopted by the Cree Nation Government and the Cree Language Commissioner established under the Act has recommended the dedication of one month every year to emphasize the preservation and promotion of the Cree language which is of critical importance all year long;

#### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby declares the color green and the month of March of every calendar year as Cree language Month where all Departments, Governments and entities are requested to emphasize the importance of promoting and prioritizing the Cree language that we should all be working towards all year long.

### **14. Nomination to Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government**

The Board Council considered the need to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by John Mamianskum the members adopted:

***Resolution 2021-50: Nomination of representatives to the EIBJRG Executive Committee***

**WHEREAS** for the 2022 Calendar Year the Chair of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government shall be held by a representative of the Jamesian representatives of Eeyou Istchee requiring the nomination of two representatives from the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to be named to the Executive Committee of the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby nominates Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty and Chief Curtis Bosum to the Eeyou Istchee Baie James Regional Government Executive Committee for the 2022 Calendar year.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary

1. CORPORATE MATTERS	2
<b>Resolution 2022-01 Adoption of the Agenda of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on February 8th, 2022</b>	<b>2</b>
2. COMMUNITY UPDATES	2
3. FEDERAL RELATIONS	3
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5. MINUTES AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS	4
6. CREE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION/SODAB	4
<b>Resolution 2022-02: Management and Reporting of Funds Allocated to the Development of a Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Program</b>	<b>6</b>
7. CORPORATE SERVICES	7

**1. Corporate Matters**

Present: Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty  
Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Masty  
Chief Daisy House Robbie Tapiatic  
Chief Marcel Happyjack Irene Neeposh  
Chief Kenneth Cheezo Daniel Mark-Stewart  
Gaston Cooper  
Chief Christina Gilpin Frank Atsynia  
Chief Clarke Shecapio Gordon Blackned  
Chief Thomas Neeposh John Matoush  
Chief Clarence Jolly John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Robbie Kawapit John Mamianskum

Observers Chief Annie Mapachee Salt  
Chief Allan Jolly and Michael Jolly

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 1:pm.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Gaston Cooper the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-01 Adoption of the Agenda of a Meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on February 8th, 2022***

**2. Community Updates**

Chief Thomas Neeposh began his update by thanking all the regional entities in helping the communities address the challenges present by the pandemic. He shared the current challenge as the community experiences outbreaks. He explained that the community is planning on a big construction season because so many projects had been deferred from the previous year.

Deputy Chief Lance Cooper thanked everyone for the sharing of condolences in the loss of Sophie Bosum. He explained that the community slowly recovering from having a major outbreak of COVID-19 this winter. He was thankful to those communities that were doing everything they could to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He explained the way the community was trying to deconfine.

Chief Marcel Happyjack explained the challenges the community was facing in trying to re-open and resume operations after the last challenging outbreak. He summarized the important work

that was being done by local public health and security teams. He also shared that measures were putting in place to allow construction to move forward. He stated that the community was planning on a reopening of the local mill for the fall of 2022.

Chief Clarence Jolly expressed his condolences for the community of Ouje-Bougoumou and the Bosum family. He explained the challenges that Nemaska was facing into getting out of the recent outbreak of omicron.

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee joined the meeting to express the condolences of the Grand Chief and himself to the community of Ouje-Bougoumou and the Bosum family for the loss of Sophie Bosum. In his tribute to Sophie Bosum the Deputy Grand Chief underline her professional achievements and never ending effort to defend the Cree culture and the Cree way of life.

The Grand Chief shared news that the community of Ouje-Bougoumou land allocation and recognition has been completed by the Government of Quebec. She also wanted to thank tallymen from Chisasibi that had shown an openness to receiving guests from the Innu Nation in an effort to share and conserve that valuable caribou. She also thanked Tina Petawabano, Director of Federal and Indigenous Relations and Nadia Saganash, Senior Advisor Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement Implementation for their efforts in bring the Innu Nation and the Cree together. She also highlighted an event to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paix des Braves Agreement the day before with the Government of Quebec. She explained that the Agreement represented a very important moment in Cree history when things began to improve significantly in our community especially the quality of our communities and the quality of government services we provide. She stated she would like an evaluation of where the implementation challenges, such as forestry. She stated that the Premier agreed that these issues would be examined including the need for a Cultural Base Line to show how much culture and language have suffered and are threatened today. She explained that it is imperative that we hold on to cultural and traditional values which was the purpose of signing the agreements that we did. The Grand Chief expressed her deep personal condolences to Chief Bosum, Abel Bosum and the community for the loss of Sophie Bosum.

### **3. Federal Relations**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director joined the meeting and stated that he would always be thankful for the work and influence of Sophie Bosum in advancing the cause of Ouje-Bougoumou and the Cree Nation as a whole, he expressed his sincere condolences to Abel and his family. He tabled and reviewed a report entitled, "Report on Cree-Canada Relations GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government; Board/Council Meeting; February 8-9, 2022", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained the water shed moment that was the Paix des Braves Agreement and the positive impact it had on Cree Canada relations despite Canada initially being very upset that the Paix des Braves Agreement was signed.



#### **4. Community Updates...Continued**

Deputy Chief Jean Denis Cananaso stated that there remains but one community to provide a presentation with what Washaw Sibi is trying to achieve and they were thankful for all the support from communities as they pursue the future.

Chief Allan Jolly discussed the challenges that were being faced due to the omicron variant. He stated that he was cautiously optimistic that land selections discussions seemed to be going in the right direction.

#### **5. Minutes and Annual General Assembly Resolutions**

Paul John Murdoch explained that as minutes represented complex and lengthy discussion on financial matters the minutes were being tabled and could be adopted at the next meeting to ensure that members had the time to send corrections.

Paul John Murdoch then tabled and review the Resolutions adopted at the previous annual general assembly, copies of which are attached hereto.

#### **6. Cree Development Corporation/SODAB**

Davey Bobbish, Chief Executive Officer of CDC/SODAB joined the meeting and table and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Status of Pursued Projects Report; Cree Development Corporation", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. Bobbish then tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, "Implementation Update on Infrastructure Program Status of Feasibility Studies", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired about the status of appointments by the Government of Quebec to the Board of Directors and explained that the Quebec vetting process is complicated and that discussions continued with Quebec to get people named quickly.

The Grand Chief inquired as to the status of consultation and working with communities on community engagement. Davey Bobbish explained that the Local Information Officers were doing incredible jobs in encouraging community engagements. He explained that the research teams composed of local expertise was also very helpful. He also explained that the pandemic did pose challenges but that people were pleased to be getting information and learning that nothing was being imposed but rather asking for land user and community input in identifying potential transportation network.

Chief Daisy House was grateful for the report and stated that more regular reporting would be greatly appreciated.

The Grand Chief wanted to make it clear that what is being carried out are studies and that no one, including the Cree Development Corporation were actually mandate to initiate a project would always have to come back to the people and the community. She then asked Mr. Bobbish to share explain the different resource to ensure that people are informed. He explained that there was a web-site ([www.grandealliance.qc.ca](http://www.grandealliance.qc.ca)) , a Facebook page and a weekly news letter.

Chief Christina Gilpin inquired where the financial assessments had come from when estimating the costs of the studies. She understood the size and the challenge of the study was properly reflected in the budget that was tabled. Davey Bobbish explained that the firms were awarded through a tendering process to ensure that the best price was secured for the different studies. He reviewed the cost associated with the new components being requested by the communities to ensure that their specific plans are complimented or are taken into consideration.

Chief Gilpin inquired about the relationship between the studies and the Cultural Base Line Study being discussed. The Grand Chief stated that there could be some coordination but that the Cultural Base Line Study was much broader and was concerned with development generally.

Richard Shecapio saw the two exercises very differently and it was important that the CNG maintain control over them. He explained that even once the studies are completed there would be a consultation process on the conclusions. In regard to the Base Line Cultural Study it would be an important tool for assessing the impact of development generally. He also explained the duration of the Cultural Base Line Study was much more long term that those pursued under the Grande Alliance.

Daniel Mark Stewart inquired what an approval process would like. Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty stated that the results of the study would need to be brought home and proper consultations carried out and that there was an important opportunity for the Cree Nation Government develop a policy so that there is a clear description of steps required before the Cree Nation signs Agreements.

John Matoush stated that the studies being discussed will be very helpful in sorting what the nature of the relationship should be between local governments, tallymen, land users and industry.

John Henry Wapachee explained that discussions would lead to important land and cultural laws that the Cree Nation will have to develop and adopt.

The Grand Chief agreed with the importance of the traditional and modern governance issue that will need to be addressed and it will be challenging as we try and define roles and we will need advice from entities like the CTA.

The Grand Chief thanked Mr. Bobbish for his presentation.

Paul John Murdoch reviewed the draft Resolution associated with the presentation.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-02: Management and Reporting of Funds Allocated to the Development of a Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure Program***

**WHEREAS** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government signed a Funding Agreement with the Government of Quebec for the contribution of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000.00) to the development of a sustainable infrastructure program in accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Cree-Quebec Sustainable Infrastructure Development Program in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Region* subject to a matching contribution;

**WHEREAS** the nominations were made by the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and the James Bay Eeyou Companeé to the Board of Directors of the James Bay Native Development Corporation (SODAB) in anticipation of the James Bay Native Development Corporation being rolled into the Cree Development Corporation as per the *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec* and were mandated to participate and manage the studies required for the development of a sustainable infrastructure program including the dedication of funds which had been set aside for the Cree Development Corporation;

**WHEREAS** through the management committees created pursuant to the Funding Agreement signed with the Government of Quebec, an Agreement has been reached with representatives of the Government of Quebec on how the funds from both parties towards the development of a sustainable Infrastructure Program should be allocated in a manner which is a reflection of Cree Nation and communities' priorities and values is attached hereto as Schedule 1;

**WHEREAS** it is preferable that the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government retain the funds allocated by the Government of Quebec and set aside for the Cree Development Corporation until such time as the financial matters of James Bay Native Corporation and the Cree Development Corporation have been regularized as per the *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Agreement Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec*;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government mandates the Treasurer of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government to retain the funds of the dedicated to the Cree Development Corporation and the Funds received from the Government of Quebec under the Grande Alliance Financing Agreement which shall be disbursed upon resolutions from the Board of Directors of the James Bay Native Development Corporation in accordance with the allocation agreed to with the Government of Quebec and attached hereto as Schedule 1;

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government further mandates that the funds referred to in be the subject of a distinct and separate financial reporting under the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

## **7. Corporate Services**

Paul John Murdoch tabled and reviewed a report entitled, "Proposal for Establishment of Corporate Services of the Cree Nation Government", a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Grand Chief thanked all the staff that were assisting in drafting the plan for expanding Corporate Services.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired about the housing program that was discussed with Bill Namagoose, Executive Director where there is a reference to a 4 year term. He inquired if the funds could be held beyond 4 years if construction was not completed. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that Canada was informed that it would take 4-7 years to implement the housing plan.

There being no further matters the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary

1.	CORPORATE MATTERS	3
	<b>Resolution 2022-03: Adoption of Agenda for a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>	<b>3</b>
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5.	FORESTRY ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT	6
	<b>Resolution 2022-04: 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement</b>	<b>7</b>
6.	CREE NATION DAY OF MORNING	8
	<b>Resolution 2022-05: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Cree Nation Day of Mourning</b>	<b>8</b>
7.	REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	8
	<b>Resolution 2022-06: Special Community Social Housing Program</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Resolution 2022-07: Special Funding Allocation for Operations and Maintenance of New Social Housing</b>	<b>11</b>
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8.	CREED	14
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11.	PRICING OF MILK	16
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Minutes of a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 via video conference.

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14. INFLATION 17

15. MINUTES 18

**Resolution 2022-10: Adoption of Minutes of meetings of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022** 18

## 1. Corporate Matters

Present:

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty	
Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee	
Chief Daisy House	Robbie Tapiatic
Chief Marcel Happyjack	Irene Neeposh
Chief Kenneth Cheezo	Daniel Mark-Stewart
Chief Curtis Bosum	Gaston Cooper
Chief Christina Gilpin	Frank Atsynia
Chief Clarke Shecapio	Gordon Blackned
Chief Thomas Neeposh	John Matoush
Chief Clarence Jolly	John Henry Wapachee
Chief Robbie Kawapit	John Mamianskum

Also present were Chief Annie Mapachee Salt, Chief Allan Jolly and Michael Jolly.

Notice having been delivered in accordance with the laws and there being a quorum the meeting was duly constituted and commenced at 9:30am.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty acted as Chairperson and Paul John Murdoch acted as Secretary.

The members discussed the agenda adding the issues of discussions with the Government of Quebec and the implication of inflation.

On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by Chief Clarke Shecapio the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-03: Adoption of Agenda for a meeting of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

## 2. Community Updates

Chief Allan Jolly explained the recent effort of his community to finalize the location of the community of MoCreebec which entailed more detailed studies and meetings concerning relocating the community adjacent to the Moosonee municipality.

Chief Annie Mapachee Salt share the continued efforts of Washaw Sibi to seek support from the communities of Eeyou Istchee in the realization of the own community.

Chief Marcel Happyjack shared the recent hardships suffered by the community with the loss of important community members but we was happy to see that with the easing of restriction youth and social activities were beginning to resume. He also shared the local planning and assemblies that were being planned.

Chief Curtis Bosum explained that the community still had a heavy heart but that planning efforts were underway for summer activities, gatherings and capital projects expected to begin this summer. He stated that considering we are coming out of a pandemic, efforts were being made to concentrate on mental health services and activities.

Chief Thomas Neeposh shared the different community activities such as skidoo racing which were welcomed coming out of the recent COVID-19 restrictions. He explained that the community was gearing up to undertake important housing and other renovation and construction projects that were delayed by COVID-19. Chief Neeposh explained the efforts for working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> access road for the community, the development of a local cultural centre and local capital planning.

Chief Clarence Jolly shared the efforts for planning capital projects and activities for the community which would be considerable considering the impact of the pandemic. He explained that the community is also preparing to consider how to help people preparing for goose break which will be challenging considering the concerns over the impacts of inflation.

Chief Clarke Shecapio explain the current efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 which was hitting the young population the hardest currently. He explained the current housing program in the community which is expected to accelerate in the coming months with 30 units being planned over the next 5 years.

Chief Kenneth Cheezo shared the efforts of the community to overcome the current COVID-19 outbreak in his community. He shared the community efforts to prepare for goose break and hope that everyone would be careful this year as they travel on the ice.

Chief Christina Gilpin shared the capital planning and program development efforts being undertaken by local leadership and administrative staff. She stated that there was a concern locally on the availability or the development of housing programs but there may have been insufficient planning for the development of residential lots. She explained further that a local assembly was being planned and wished everyone a safe and fruitful goose break.

Chief Daisy House stated that consideration needed to be given to the residual cumulative impacts of the pandemic on our communities and education. She shared the community activities such as skidoo races and other community activities which were good to see. She explained that decisions that were being taken to facilitate the investigations on the former residential school site on Fort George Island, which she expected to be very challenging. She



also shared the important housing initiatives and capital works projects that were being undertaken in the community in relation to the construction of schools.

Chief Robbie Kawapit discussed resumption of important community projects that were interrupted by the pandemic which is complicated by interruptions in the transport services by Moosonee Transport. He explained continued efforts to complete the community arena and provide important facilities for the youth. He stated that there was also concern for those preparing for the Spring Hunt because the quality of the snow was very poor. He also wanted to thank his local public safety team in managing the COVID-19 restrictions and regulations to protect the community.

Deputy Grand Chief wished all families and hunters a fruitful and safe upcoming goose break. He shared the environmental protection initiatives that he was currently working on with the Environment Department of the Cree Nation Government. He also shared the efforts undertaken at the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee where wildlife matters under the JBNQA are addressed. He stated that at these tables the position is that community members must always be consulted concerning potential impacts on traditional activity.

Corrina Napash joined the meeting to share the activities of the Cree Nation Youth Council which involved mainly the planning of upcoming meetings and gatherings such as the 2022 Assembly. She also shared that the office of the Youth Grand Chief would be moving to the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty congratulated a number of Cree individuals and program cohorts in achieving important milestones, referring specifically to a cohort in conflict resolution training which she felt was very important. She also reported that efforts were continuing on the Moose Management file and that there was an additional round of interviews planned for the position of Executive Director which was a challenging position to fill. She also shared that there would be a signing of an MOU that was previously presented to Board/Council with the Inuit and the Naskapi on creating a forum for collaboration between Indigenous leaders of the JBNQA. She also stated that there would be funding agreements signed with Cree entities as well in the community months especially where the preservation and promotion of Cree language, traditions and way of life are involved.

### **3. COVID-19**

The Grand Chief reminded everyone, of the important date of March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 when travel and COVID-19 restrictions would change from isolation requirements to a testing protocol allowing for greater mobility. She reminded everyone that there were no travel restrictions as such, but that people were being asked when traveling to an area of risk to exercise caution and follow the appropriate testing procedures to protect their communities and their families.

#### **4. AFN Vatican Delegation**

The Grand Chief shared the efforts that had been undertaken by the AFN in organizing a visit with the Pope to address the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. She explained that the initiative began with the Truth Reconciliation Commission call to action number 58 which was renewed by the discover of unmarked graves in Kamloops which has begun a series of tragic discoveries since and renewed efforts to implement that calls to action including called to action number 58. She explained that the association of Catholic Bishops lobbied the Pope to visit Canada in light of what was being experienced to which the Pope has agreed. She explained that the AFN, Inuit and Metis planning accordingly and organize a visit with the Pope prior to visiting to Canada, it is a part of this delegation that the Grand Chief is being invited to participate, specifically by the AFNQL. She was concerned that of the perception of the visit on social media which was very mixed, she wanted to explain that although not a solution in itself she felt that the initiative might help some begin their healing journeys. She explained that the purpose of the visit is not to seek an apology as such but rather share a diplomatic message to the Pope on the efforts required of the church to accept their responsibility for the terrible legacy of Indian Residential Schools. She understood that this was a very emotional issue for everyone and stated that it was important to have mental health support available during all activities related to addressing the impacts of Indian Residential Schools.

Chief Daisy House discussed the current efforts to address the legacy of the Fort George Island Indian Residential school and to gather and support survivors. She also stated that local groups would be monitoring and watching for how they could assist or participate in the upcoming visit with and from the pope.

Irene Neeposh also understood that call to action 58 of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee was related to the Vatican visit in relation to the impacts of Indian Residential Schools. She added that the visit was related to matters of reconciliation and decolonization. She added that it was related to self-determination which required a lot of preparation and internal work to define the objectives of the First Nations. She added that reparations for subsequent generations of survivors would be very important as the cumulative impacts (generation effects) that our people have gone through are looked or not dealt with. She added that for communities the problem is large that we often don't know where to start. She stated that a potential apology should not be seen as healing act but an opportunity to begin healing as healing must come from within.

#### **5. Forestry Enhancement Agreement**

Richard Shecapio joined the meeting presented the recent Forestry Enhancement Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto. Gillman Ottereyes explained the considerable efforts to resolve the issue and arrive at consensus.

Chief Marcel Happyjack thanked Richard Shecapio and Gillman Ottereyes for the presentation and stated that there was a concern that were traplines that North of the Broadback which were previously considered in the program, but which had recently removed from eligibility. Richard Shecapio explained that there was a possibility under the Agreement to assist those traplines mentioned by Chief Happyjack.

Chief Clarence Jolly stated that he was pleased that the Agreement has been resolved and concluded but expressed concern on the restriction that if there has not been forestry on a trapline within the last 5 years a trapline would not be eligible which he felt did not reflect the actual needs of the land users or the impacts on traplines.

Chief Clarke Shecapio also expressed concern on the “area of application” criteria of the program and hoped that a more appropriate criteria be considered. He also supported Chief Jolly’s comments regarding the 5 year restriction.

Chief Curtis Bosum supported the comments made by Chiefs Clark and Jolly and hoped for greater local autonomy in managing the funds. He stated that it was important to keep in mind the cumulative impacts of other industries that are felt on the local traplines.

Chief House raised administrative concerns on ensuring that the resources were available for community members when wanting to access program such as that contemplated by the program in consideration.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarence Jolly and seconded by Chief Marcel Happyjack the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-04: 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement***

**WHEREAS** the Crees and Québec agreed, a few years after the 2002 Paix des Braves, to enter into the Agreement regarding Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement (“Enhancement Agreement”) in order to complement the Paix des Braves adapted forestry regime;

**WHEREAS** Québec and the Crees renewed the Enhancement Agreement in 2013 for the 2012-2018 period, which was then renewed until year 2021 through the 2015 Agreement to resolve the Baril-Moses Dispute between the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and the Gouvernement du Québec;

**WHEREAS** the proposed 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement was reviewed by the Board-Council;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government hereby approve that the proposed 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement, substantially in the form reviewed by the Board-Council;

**THAT** the Cree-Québec Negotiator of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government may authorize changes to 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement not affecting the substance thereof and in accordance with Cree rights and interests;

**THAT** the Grand Chief / Chairperson and the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government be authorized to sign the 2021-2026 Enhancement Agreement on behalf of the Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).

## **6. Cree Nation Day of Mourning**

The Grand Chief introduced the importance of recognizing all the community members that the Cree Nation lost during the recent pandemic which was especially cruel considering the inability to mourn or grief due to the imposition of COVID-19 restrictions. She stated at a National day of mourning would be very important in honoring those we lost and helping communities and community members move forward.

The Board/Council held a discussion on a potential date.

On a motion duly made by Chief Curtis Bosum and seconded by Chief Kenneth Cheezo the members adopted:

### ***Resolution 2022-05: June 22nd, 2022 Cree Nation Day of Mourning***

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation has suffered greatly, and families had lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic and were prevented from grieving and honoring their loved ones due to COVID-19 restrictions;

### **IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government hereby designates June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 as a Cree Nation Day of Mourning for all those that were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic that was devastating to communities and families as an important step to healing and renewal of the vibrance and strength of the families and communities of Eeyou Istchee.

## **7. Report from Executive Director**

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a report entitled, "Report from Executive Director, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed an issue sheet on the Special Community Social Housing Program, a copy of which is attached hereto. He explained the adjustments that needed to be made to the Program Structure considering the funds that had been negotiated with the Government of Canada.

Chief Clarke Shecapio inquired about the RBQ license requirement as per the program. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the requirement of an RBQ license requirement was a manner of ensuring quality control, such as housing inspectors. Chief Shecapio stated that there were other manners in which to manage quality control and he was worried that this would be a barrier for Cree entrepreneurs. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director agreed that alternative manners in managing quality control should always be examined.

Chief Marcel Happyjack asked for confirmation that the communities would be required to provide additional funding considering the proposed funding levels. He also expressed concern that his community was being assessed at lower contraction rates which may not reflect the reality. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that 75% of the cost would be provided by the program and the remaining 25% would need to be funded from an alternative source, which was also the subject of further discussion with Federal representatives.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that he supported the Resolution but wanted a more thorough discussion on the program structure.

Chief Christina Gilpin also expressed concern on the requirement of loans and guarantees for the construction of the units, she also expressed concern on the lack of lots and infrastructure for social units. She was also very concerned with the rapid rise in housing costs. She was not opposed to the program but she was concerned with the financial burden that the proposed program would be placing on local administrations.

Chief Daisy House stated that she supports the programs but shares the concerns of Chief Gilpin.

Irene Neeposh expressed concern with the emphasis on social housing and that the need for proper management of social housing, i.e. the management of rent levels which is not associated with rent geared to income which results in great inequity for those that really need help.

The Grand Chief agreed that it was appropriate to pass the resolution but that a meeting be convened with the participation of Housing Administrators and DO's would be appropriate. Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the matter had been presented to the DO's and Treasurers who supported the program.

John Matoush stated that it was also important to include regional entities such as the School Board and the Health Board because their needs will sometimes compete with local interest on lots for example. Chief Neeposh agreed it was best to approve the program at this time and continue monitoring and adjusting as we move forward.

The Grand Chief wanted it noted in the minutes that a special housing meeting would be called.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Thomas Neeposh the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-06: Special Community Social Housing Program***

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation Government has successfully negotiated with the Government of Canada funding for \$200 million to support the social housing component of the Cree Nation Housing Strategy;

**WHEREAS** this new federal funding will be used to subsidize the construction of at least 750 new social housing units in the Cree communities for low-income Cree individuals and families, in accordance with the four-year Action Plan that was reviewed by Board/Council and submitted to Canada in October last year;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation Government, in consultation with the Cree communities, has developed a Special Community Social Housing Program to facilitate and coordinate the construction of the new 750 social housing units;

**WHEREAS** the said Program forms part of the broader “Program Structure” regarding the implementation of various responsibilities and matters under the Federal New Relationship Agreement and the Paix des Braves;

**WHEREAS** the said Program sets out broad parameters to ensure equity and accountability, while providing flexibility for each Cree community to build their own units in accordance with their specific needs and circumstances;

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2022, the Executive Committee reviewed the said Program and recommended that it be referred to this meeting of the Board/Council for approval;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council has reviewed the said Program substantially in the form appended to this resolution;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

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**THAT** the Board of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Council of the Cree Nation Government (“Board/Council”) hereby approves the Special Community Social Housing Program substantially in the form appended hereto;

**THAT** the Executive Director be and is hereby authorized to do all things useful or necessary to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director tabled and reviewed a document on the source of Operations and Maintenance funds in relation to Social Housing he explained the source of supplementary funding being offered by the Federal Government.

Chief Christina Gilpin how the funds would be allocated and Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that the suggestion was to distribute it in proportion to social housing units held by each community.

On a motion duly made by Chief Thomas Neeposh and seconded by Gordon Blackned the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-07: Special Funding Allocation for Operations and Maintenance of New Social Housing***

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation Government has successfully negotiated with the Government of Canada funding for \$200 million to support the social housing component of the Cree Nation Housing Strategy;

**WHEREAS** this new funding will be used to cover a large portion of the capital requirements for the construction of at least 750 new social housing units in the Cree communities for low-income Cree individuals and families, in accordance with the new Special Community Social Housing Program;

**WHEREAS** it was agreed with federal officials that discussions would continue regarding the funding required for the operation and maintenance of these new social housing units in order to avoid “stranded assets”;

**WHEREAS** Cree and federal representatives have now identified new funding that can be used to support the operations and maintenance of the new 750 social housing units to be built under the Special Community Social Housing Program;

**WHEREAS** this funding comes from a special funding allocation set aside in Budget 2019 to enhance support for the operation and maintenance of certain infrastructure in First Nation communities across Canada, particularly water and wastewater systems;

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**WHEREAS** it is understood with federal officials that the Crees would use this new funding instead to support the operations and maintenance of the new social housing units built under the Special Community Social Housing Program;

**WHEREAS** as part of this special funding allocation, Canada has set aside for the Crees the amounts of \$7,433,496 for 2020-2021 and \$7,726,177 for 2021-2022, and it is expected to set aside a comparable amount each year until 2027-2028 without indexation;

**WHEREAS** the funding for 2021-2022 shall be provided by Canada to the Cree Nation Government as a grant through an amendment of the Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council has reviewed an amendment of the Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement (Amendment #1) related to this new funding for 2021-2022, substantially in the form appended to this resolution;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Council of the Cree Nation Government (“Board/Council”) hereby approves an amendment of the Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement (Amendment #1) substantially in the form reviewed by this meeting and appended hereto;

**THAT** the Grand Chief / Chairperson and such other persons as the Grand Chief may designate be and are hereby authorized to sign the amendment of the Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement (Amendment #1) for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government substantially in accordance with the draft of such amendment submitted to this meeting and appended hereto;

**THAT** the special funding allocations from Canada of \$7,433,496 for 2020-2021 and \$7,726,177 for 2021-2022, and the comparable funding allocations for each year until 2027-2028 shall be set aside in the Cree Nation Housing Fund and restricted for the exclusive use of the communities for the new Community Social Housing Program;

**THAT** the rules governing the allocation of such funding shall be submitted to the Board/Council before any funds are further allocated and distributed.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director presented additional funds that were received for infrastructure. John Matoush inquired about the projected level of funding in the future and Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that it was tied to inflation so the past would be an indication of future levels.



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On a motion duly made by John Henry Wapachee and seconded by John Matoush the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-08: Special Funding Allocation for Community Infrastructure***

**WHEREAS**, as part of Budget 2017, Canada set aside a special funding allocation to support community infrastructure in First Nation communities across Canada, including Modern Treaty and Indigenous Self Governing groups;

**WHEREAS**, from this special funding allocation, Canada has set aside \$940,833 in 2021-2022 for the Cree Nation Government to address critical infrastructure gaps in the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** Canada has set aside \$1,639,890 in 2021-2022 for the Cree communities, as part of a standing allocation, initially provided under Canada's Gathering Strengths Program;

**WHEREAS** this new funding for 2021-2022 shall be provided by Canada to the Cree Nation Government as a grant through an amendment of the Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants to the Quebec Cree Communities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 to 2027-2028;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council has reviewed an amendment of the Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants to the Quebec Cree Communities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 to 2027-2028 (Amendment #3) related to this new funding, substantially in the form appended to this resolution;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Council of the Cree Nation Government ("Board/Council") hereby approves an amendment of the Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants to the Quebec Cree Communities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 to 2027-2028 (Amendment #3) substantially in the form reviewed by this meeting and appended hereto;

**THAT** the Executive Director be and is hereby authorized to sign the amendment of the Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants to the Quebec Cree Communities for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 to 2027-2028 (Amendment #3) for and on behalf of the Cree Nation Government substantially in accordance with the draft of such amendment submitted to this meeting and appended hereto.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained additional labour development funds that were being made available by the government of Canada.

On a motion duly made by Chief Clarke Shecapio and seconded by Chief Clarence Jolly the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-09: Special Funding Allocation for Apatisiwin Skills Development***

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**WHEREAS**, in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, Canada announced enhanced funding for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year for Skills and Employment Training programs and services for Indigenous Peoples;

**WHEREAS**, as part of this enhanced funding, Canada set aside funding in the amount of \$2,438,719 for the Cree Nation Government to support skills and employment training programs in Cree communities;

**WHEREAS** this new funding for 2021-2022 shall be provided by Canada to the Cree Nation Government as a grant through an amendment of the Funding Transfer Payment Agreement regarding Sections 4.11 and 4.12 of the New Relationship Agreement;

**WHEREAS** the Board/Council has reviewed an amendment of the Funding Transfer Payment Agreement regarding Sections 4.11 and 4.12 of the New Relationship Agreement (Amendment #2) related to this new funding, substantially in the form appended to this resolution;

**IT IS RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Board of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Council of the Cree Nation Government (“Board/Council”) hereby approves an amendment of the Funding Transfer Payment Agreement regarding Sections 4.11 and 4.12 of the New Relationship Agreement (Amendment #2) substantially in the form reviewed by this meeting and appended hereto;

**THAT** the Executive Director be and is hereby authorized to sign the amendment of the Funding Transfer Payment Agreement regarding Sections 4.11 and 4.12 of the New Relationship Agreement (Amendment #2) for and on behalf of the Cree Nation Government substantially in accordance with the draft of such amendment submitted to this meeting and appended hereto.

The Grand Chief stated that it was very important that Council maintain the issue of housing on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 and reconvened at 9:30 am on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**8. CREED**

Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry with the assistance of Shawn Iserhoff joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a report entitled, “Cree Real Estate Entrepreneurship Development (CREED) Program”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Irene Neeposh advised that it would be important to make a careful distinction between private housing initiatives and real estate development as it might cause confusion. She also suggested adding insurance and mortgage brokers to the list of potential ‘impacts’ and the addition of the

need to work with the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre to develop training programs that are in line with the program and finally that there is an important need for administrative support for small businesses.

The Grand Chief wanted to it clear that the program will be brought back to introduce the Residential Real estate portion when the legal environment is clearer for renters and landlords. She stated that how residential leases are regulated are very important questions that must be addressed in our communities.

Daniel Mark Stewart inquired about the status of the Trade Agreement that was discussed at a previous meeting as he was eager to have it adopted. Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry explained that the recent outbreaks caused delays in community consultations which he expected to be resolved quickly and his department took the opportunity to complete other matters such as the Business Registry which he would be reporting on soon.

Chief Gilpin expressed concern that entrepreneurs still could not access the funds for building residential units as guarantees were still being demanded from Bands and she saw this as a potential way of alleviating this pressure on local councils.

Chief Clarke Shecapio stated that it would be a good to establish clear goals, criteria for evaluation and the collection of sufficient data to ensure informed decisions and management of programs and Agreements.

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee stated that a Regional Conference on the matters raised by the CREED Program would be very beneficial. Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty agreed that a Regional Town Hall type meeting would be a very good idea.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that a Working Technical Meeting on the Land Registry system was being developed and it was key to providing security or financial guarantee as an individual. He further explained that the "Seizure Exemption" could easily be waived by an individual in Eeyou Istchee which retailers might not be aware of.

## **9. Financial Update**

Matthew Swallow, Treasurer tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Cree Nation Government; Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee); Financial Update; For the Period Ending February 28, 2022", a copy of which is attached hereto.

## **10. Corporate Services Update**

Paul John Murdoch, Secretary tabled and reviewed a document entitled, "Update on Establishment of Corporate Services" a copy of which is attached. He further explained the

steps that have been taken and the potential for a final decision to be made at the next Board/Council meeting.

The Grand Chief invited anyone who had comments or recommendations to raise them or feel free to send them in at their earliest convenience.

### **11. Pricing of Milk**

Rodney Mark, Director of Social and Cultural Development tabled and reviewed an issue sheet in relation to “Inclusion Of The Cree Communities Under The Application Of The Regulation On The Price Of Milk”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Irene Neeposh inquired of what the grocers are paying now was investigated as perhaps the Commerce and Industry Department could provide assistance if they were being treated unfairly. Chief Bosum stated that he would appreciate a presentation to his local Council if a Resolution was required at the local level.

The Council agreed that the issue would be addressed through multiple phases with Resolutions being sought at the local level for inland communities of Mistissini, Ouje-Bougoumou and Waswanipi. Once these communities approve the initiative a Resolution would be sought at the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government. Meanwhile the initiative would be pursued in the other communities of Eeyou Istchee.

### **12. Miiupiatuwiin Committee**

Rodney Mark, Director of Social and Cultural Development joined the meeting and provided an update on the establishment of the local Miyuupimaastiuun Committees which were key to implementing many program initiatives.

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee discussed the detrimental impacts of colonialism and industrialism on the community of Ouje-Bougoumou which the community continues to work to overcome by planning their future and their community.

Bertie Wapachee, Chairperson of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay stated that have active communities was very important to the health of the communities, households and the ability of entities such as the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay to be development and deliver programs effectively and efficiently. He stated that the communities were very important for prevention and postvention initiatives and programs.

The Board/Council raised a number of programs and initiatives from traditional adoption, diabetes prevention and treatment to land based healing programs which dependent on the proper functioning and establishment of these committees.

### **13. Cree School Board**

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board joined the meeting and tabled and reviewed a presentation entitled, “Cree School Board Update; March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Irene Neeposh stated that she was very intrigued by the “trauma-informed” approach and that all service delivery entities need to be considering this. She inquired if the Cree School Board had a Post pandemic plan, that will evaluate recovery and finally what the status of the capacity building plan.

Sara Pashagumskum, Chairperson of the Cree School Board explained that a “Recovery Plan” was being developed focus on supplementary for assistance for students.

Irene Neeposh raised the issue of community welcoming initiatives as a way of contributing to teacher retention. She also expressed concern on how attendance is managed.

John Henry Wapachee inquired for clarification to what grades the recovery plan applied. Sara Pashagumskum explained that it applied to all grades.

### **14. Inflation**

Chief Clarence Jolly expressed concern over the current rate of inflation and that impact it would have on individual households and local governments in the delivery of programs and construction of capital projects. He stated that should be examination on how funds can be directed to individuals to overcome the impacts of inflation.

Chief Shecapio stated that he was also concerned about the issue and is worried about the families that were already struggling. He stated that this would compound the problem of people who could not find employment because capital projects were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee stated that it was an issue worth examining and should be examined by all agencies that manage funds or deliver benefits.

Bill Namagoose, Executive Director explained that there were provisions in the JBNQA that prevent the distribution to individuals of actual payments and rather was meant for the creation of programs and capital projects for assisting community members.

Gordon Blackned inquired about the Wyapstchinigun fund (heritage fund) which had been created for future generations and if it couldn't be used for the current situation.

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Paul John Murdoch explain the origin of the fund which was meant to be a source of funding at the end of the Paix des Braves Agreement and that the fund had restrictions on the ability to access it before the fund matured at the expected date.

Derrek Neeposh, Chairperson of the CNG Board of Compensation stated that there was a Growth Fund that could be considered as part of the annual allocations (Regular Fund) that are granted to communities and he could raise it at a future meeting. He stated that the Youth Council had been asking about the status and the ability to access the fund as well. He stated that it was being analysed and could be raised at a future meeting.

### **15. Minutes**

The Board/Council reviewed the minutes of previous meetings and made a number of corrections and on a motion duly made by Daniel Mark Stewart and seconded by Irene Neeposh the members adopted:

***Resolution 2022-10: Adoption of Minutes of meetings of the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government held on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

There being no further matters the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.



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Paul John Murdoch, Secretary