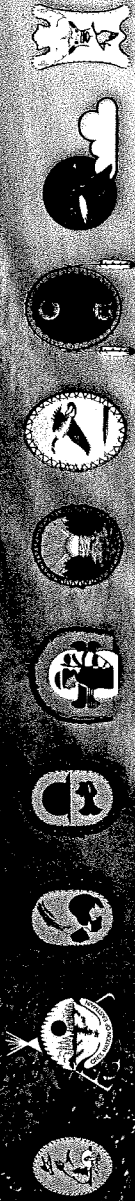
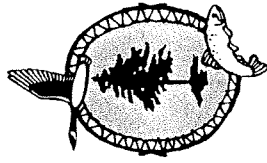


GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHIEE)
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2008-2009





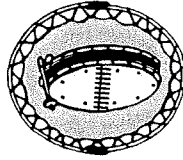
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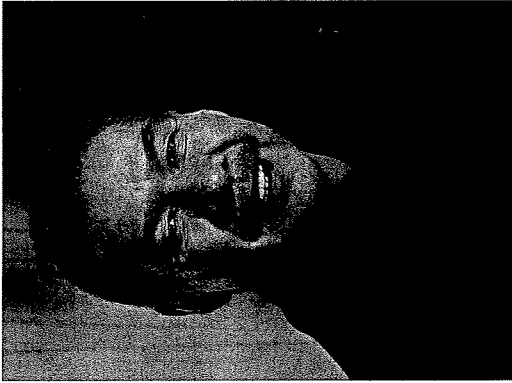
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Message from Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

It has been my honour to serve as Grand Chief for another year and as it is an election year it is fitting to reflect on the past four years. When I came to office the Cree Nation was divided as the issues before us at the time did not have universal acceptance. Over the past few years however, people have come together to find ways through these issues and to continue to care for their families and to build their communities.

We have moved on as a People and as a Nation as we always do. We are now implementing not only the Quebec-Cree Agreement that was signed in 2002, but also the Canada-Cree New Relationship Agreement that I signed on February 9, 2008. Both of these Agreements have given us financial resources and call for action in many areas of our lives; new justice facilities must be built and services put into place; funding for community sanitary infrastructure is now more available; funding for the Cree Trappers Association, for the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association and for the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is now assured; and the new Eeyou Enou Cree Nation Police Force is going to be implemented. Also, governance legislation has just been passed by which Canada for the first time will recognize the role of the Cree Regional Authority in regional governance.

These new agreements with Canada and with Quebec resemble one another because they reflect our will as the Eeyou Enou People to take charge of our own affairs. Over the past four years we have held several special general assemblies in order to determine the general direction of our Cree institutions. We have done this in regard to education, health and social services, economic development (tourism, arts and crafts) and in respect to the services provided by the Cree Regional Authority (justice and policing, training and employment services, etc.). We created these departments so that we may better serve our people. We have encouraged our departments to adopt common approaches to addressing the issues that affect our communities and our Nation.

As your Grand Chief I have met with the Premier of Quebec and with the Ministers involved in our affairs to impress upon them our views on the many issues. It has also been important to ensure that the Quebec opposition parties understood and supported our initiatives. Similarly with Canada I have met with the Ministers of Indian Affairs and with other Ministers concerned with our issues, as well as with leaders of the opposition parties, members of parliament and senators in order that our agreements were accepted and to ensure that the commitments that have been made to us were honoured.

From the earliest years of the Grand Council we have contributed to the international debate on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. I have continued this support. Our efforts and those of Indigenous Peoples from around the world culminated in 2007 with the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This important piece of international legislation was passed at the UN General Assembly by a vote of 143 in favour versus 4 against (Canada, the United States, New Zealand, and Australia). Australia has since changed its mind

and has also adopted the Declaration. This law is one of the few international guarantees that Indigenous Peoples have against human rights abuses by states. States need to have the international community looking over their shoulders, as Canada must know from the historical tragedy of the residential schools. I have, during my term in office supported materially and otherwise all efforts to encourage states to adopt the Declaration and we must continue to encourage Canada to adopt it in the near future.



In our talks with both Quebec and Canada we are finding new ways to develop and enhance our Cree Nation Government. After years of fighting in the courts and years of negotiation, we now finally have the resources and powers promised in 1975 in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and other agreements, but full realization must come incrementally and over time from good governance at the community and regional levels. It is now time to rise up to face and resolve the problems of governance in the region by taking our place in it.

We speak for ourselves as we have our roots in the territory and it is our right to govern here. Others cannot speak for us. We signed the JBNQA to take our place in the region, in Quebec and in Canada and no undemocratic organization will keep us from doing this.

Enhancing Cree Nation Government will mean gradually increasing our government's jurisdiction and responsibilities as we have the capacity to take these on. Experienced people and people with special training will be needed at the community and regional levels. They will work with the communities to ensure that all Crees have access to equivalent services, to guarantee proper building standards are in force and that professional advice is available to help defend the interests of the Cree Nation. Cree interests in development, in social and environmental protection and in matters concerning police services, the administration of justice, human resource development, and economic development must be actively promoted at all times.

We, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, will have to position ourselves to benefit from all types of developments that will come to our territory in the future. Road infrastructure is now being built to support mining and I hope that we will soon see a road to Whapmagoostui. As the north develops due to increased shipping and transport, we will be in a good position to benefit from the opportunities that this will create.

As Grand Chief one sees what is going on all over Eeyou Istchee and it leads you to think about the big picture, the future of our nation. In fact, I have a dream for the nation. We all have dreams of what we want for our families and for the future of the communities where our grandchildren and their children will live. We each have our own visions of these goals and our strength as a people lies just there, in the fact that we each have different talents and points of view to bring to the determination of our common future.

Not too many years ago people thought of themselves as coming from the land. They would tell you about the lake, river or bay where they were born, where they came into being, their "eetahwin". Our diversity as people has always to some extent been based on the land.

Our ancestors paddled each year, some of them hundreds of miles, to the places that they knew and that provided them food for their families. They were part of the land that sustained them.

Our people spent so much time in small groups in the past that they developed slightly different cultural practices and differences in language. This is an important source of our strength as a People. Governance must be based on diversity of opinion and on respect for your fellow citizens.

We continue today to occupy all of Eeyou Istchee. The Cree hunters adapt to changing circumstances and continue to occupy the land. So far the Cree Trappers Association has built over 600 camps on our traditional family hunting lands. I believe that it is our continued use and occupation of the land that will be the most important factor in maintaining a sense of who we are as the Cree Nation in the future. We will use new ways to derive a living from the land, but this too, our ability to adapt, is part of our inheritance.

In my view, we owe it to our children to provide them more opportunities to live on the land. Every year they need to spend at least two months learning our language and traditions where most of us learned them: in the bush. We need to invest in making this the everyday reality in our communities by providing those who go into the bush means to take children with them and to teach them our traditional way of life.

My vision is this: to strengthen our occupation of the land by ensuring that our children also dream of the land. But we must also strengthen our Nation by putting more emphasis on formal education in English and French in our schools to ensure that our children can become highly qualified professional workers in our communities or elsewhere, if they so choose.

As part of increasing our capacity to govern, we must find ways to use our financial resources to strengthen our Nation. We must continue to derive our knowledge from the land and use this and our presence there to defend our rights, as we have always done. But we must also have trained and educated Crees to plan and promote future developments and to defend our rights when others bring their proposals to this land. Our strength is in our past and also in our ability to participate in the future, whatever we may make of it.

I wish the best of luck to those who seek office in the coming elections! I thank Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff for his efforts over the past four years. The Grand Council and Cree Regional Authority employees also deserve my thanks for their excellent efforts and I also extend my gratitude to our financial and legal advisors for their advice and hard work.

I also would like to thank the former Grand Chiefs and the other members of the Cree Nation Trust for having taken on the responsibility of ensuring that the funding for the assumed federal obligations is managed the best way possible. In the rough economic waters we are going through we need your firm hands to steer our canoe.

Finally, I wish the Cree People success in the coming year. I have confidence that we can resolve the challenges that we face and I am sure that the Cree Nation will continue to thrive in the future, in Chisheymanitou We Trust.

Matthew Mukash





Message from Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff

This past year, and for the past four years of my term, it has been an incredible honour and opportunity to serve the Cree Nation and people. The Cree Nation accomplished so much, and I have had the pleasure of being a part of so much growth within our communities. In the past four years, we have negotiated a number of new agreements for the Cree Nation and its' entities. We have also had more meetings and assemblies within the communities looking at many subjects such as education, health, social services, economic development, governance and the environment. Looking back, we continue to stride forward as a Nation.

One of the milestones this past year has been the signing of the Policing Agreement. As Chair of the Eeyou Police Commission, I have seen this representative body form from members of the nine Cree communities. We have seen debates and given testimony on the structuring of our police services in Northern Quebec, and even discussed expanded jurisdictions. With a multi-year funding agreement in place, and the Commission, we can now set out the task of realizing an Eeyou regional police service throughout Eeyou Istchee.

We have also seen more implications of the New Relationship Agreement that we signed with Canada this past year. The Cree Nation Trust was formed, and money was invested in numerous portfolios on our behalf, to last for the twenty year duration of the agreement. We started restructuring our internal CRA organization in order to take into account new obligations transferred to us under the agreement. Essentially we are in the driver's seat for the next twenty years on delivery of federal obligations in a number of areas. Further, amendments to the Cree Naskapi Act were passed in the Senate and House of Commons in Parliament, meaning we now have completed the second stage of the New Relationship Agreement. Therefore, new powers and recognitions are given to the Cree Regional Authority as a regional government, and an additional \$100 million has been transferred to us for these purposes. The Cree Nation Governance Working Group has also been formed and negotiations have ensued covering a number of areas with the federal and provincial governments.

In the Special General Assembly on Education, we had the opportunity to gather and review how education is being delivered within our communities. It was the chance for representatives of each community, the school board and other entities to gather and discuss the issues and how we might improve upon the delivery of services. Each community formed resource teams to identify the issues, make an action plan detailing who would be responsible for implementing certain actions, and a timeline for both the actions and future meetings of the local resource



groups. If we are to make a difference in education for our children, we all need to take an active role, and do our part. Since we have completed a review of our education system, and created local resource teams with a plan of action and timelines – it is up to us to ensure that the necessary changes are achieved successfully.

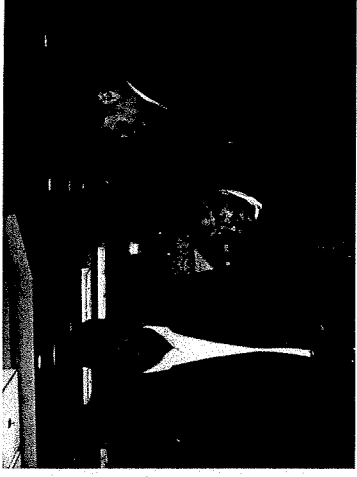
Internationally, the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples Rights formed as a new body to do special research and reports for the United Nations on issues facing Indigenous Peoples. This is a body that will feed information into the newly created Human Rights Council. Further, internationally, we were represented at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues which is the highest United Nations body on Indigenous peoples. The sessions this year focused on Indigenous women, climate change and the impact of extractive industries on Indigenous traditional territories. On behalf of the Cree Nation and a number of other organizations, the GCC(EI) intervened to encourage all member states to adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

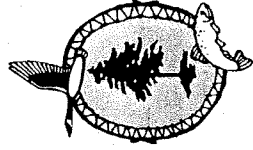
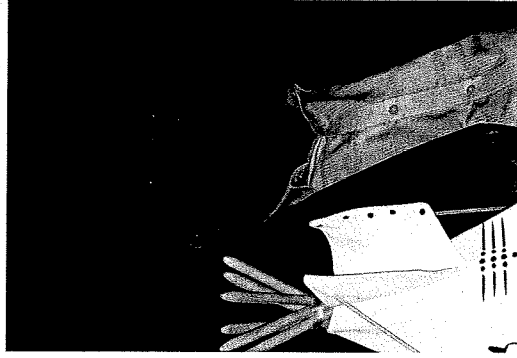
In terms of government relations, we have been in discussions over the MBI issue and legislation which sought to empower it, however it is in contravention of existing laws and agreements. The Premier commissioned a judge to investigate the situation, and we are told the report is consistent with our rights and interests. Further, there has been an announcement of a Northern Development Plan which would significantly impact our area. We remain vigilant that nothing will go forward without our input and consent. We are not opposed to development but we are also not open to having outside interests impact our lands and resources without including the Cree Nation throughout any discussions, processes and participation. Cree rights and interests will always be present in our traditional territories, and the GCCEI is empowered to protect and promote those rights and interests.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your confidence and support throughout these past four years that I have held office as your Deputy Grand Chief. I have strived to work diligently and give the best of myself in service to you, the Cree people. I believe that together we have accomplished a lot, and I am proud to have worked closely with many of you on our mandates for the Cree Nation, and I look forward to continuing to serve the Nation.

May we all continue to encourage each other daily. God bless all you.

Ashley Iserhoff





Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Message from the Executive Director, Bill Namagoose

The past year has been a good year for the GCCEI/CRA. We received the largest payment ever from the Federal Government that settles our past grievances with respect to the non-implementation of the JBNQA. This settlement, which will run for twenty years, will allow the communities to catch up on their community development needs.

This catch up in community development, which has been progressing since the Paix des Braves was signed in 2001, is clearly visible in the Cree communities. We now have most of the facilities required for a viable community.

From year to year we, of course, will have some of our members who feel that the distribution of the financial resources from the agreements is not equitable and some would not accept any methodology other than the one they themselves would devise for others. The wisdom of the collective is always the best method when allocating resources. The present methodology in allocating resources is based on a five-year forecast of community needs including the housing backlog. This method which is based on need is the only method to ensure that no community is left behind. The tone of the discussions on the allocations of resources at the Council Board level was difficult this past year as some wanted to have more funding for their community projects. This is part of self-governance and must be recognized as such.

The inability of some Tribal Councils to have a rationale debate and discussions on the allocation of resources is the main reason that they have ceased to exist and their decisions are once again being made by the Federal government. At times the Crees' determination to remain united might be tested as well, but with good leadership and sound planning this hurdle will always be overcome. With the acceptance of resources required over long-term periods, we must live with the decisions made from year to year as these determine how much funding will be available for the future years. This is why we must plan and execute projects in a transparent way that makes sure that the needs of all communities, all Crees, are covered in a roughly equivalent manner. Those who provide good levels of service to their people in the most cost efficient way must be used as examples for all of us to follow.

Since the two governments are vacating the roles they played in our lives we will probably need others to blame when we are not happy with the outcome of leadership decisions. Unfortunately the CRA/GCCEI officials will be the most convenient persons to cast blame on. We must recognize this phenomenon for what it is and deal with it in an appropriate manner.

The first step under the Canada-Cree New Relationship Agreement towards improving Cree governance has been completed with the passage of the amendments to the Cree/Naskapi of Quebec Act so that Canada now, for the first time recognizes the Cree Regional Authority. The changes allow the CRA to oversee the application of standards to the services that all Crees receive in their communities and to ensure that the funding for these is fairly distributed.

We also saw the preparations for the second step in improving Cree governance, which will be done through the negotiation of a Cree governance agreement with Canada and Quebec. The Working Group on Cree Governance has been setup for the purpose of consulting and getting feedback from the Cree Nation on what type of structure they wish to see in place to run the Cree Government and how this government will interface with the other two governments. Getting a consensus on a model of Cree government will be a serious challenge and one that will require rational debate, thought and strategy.

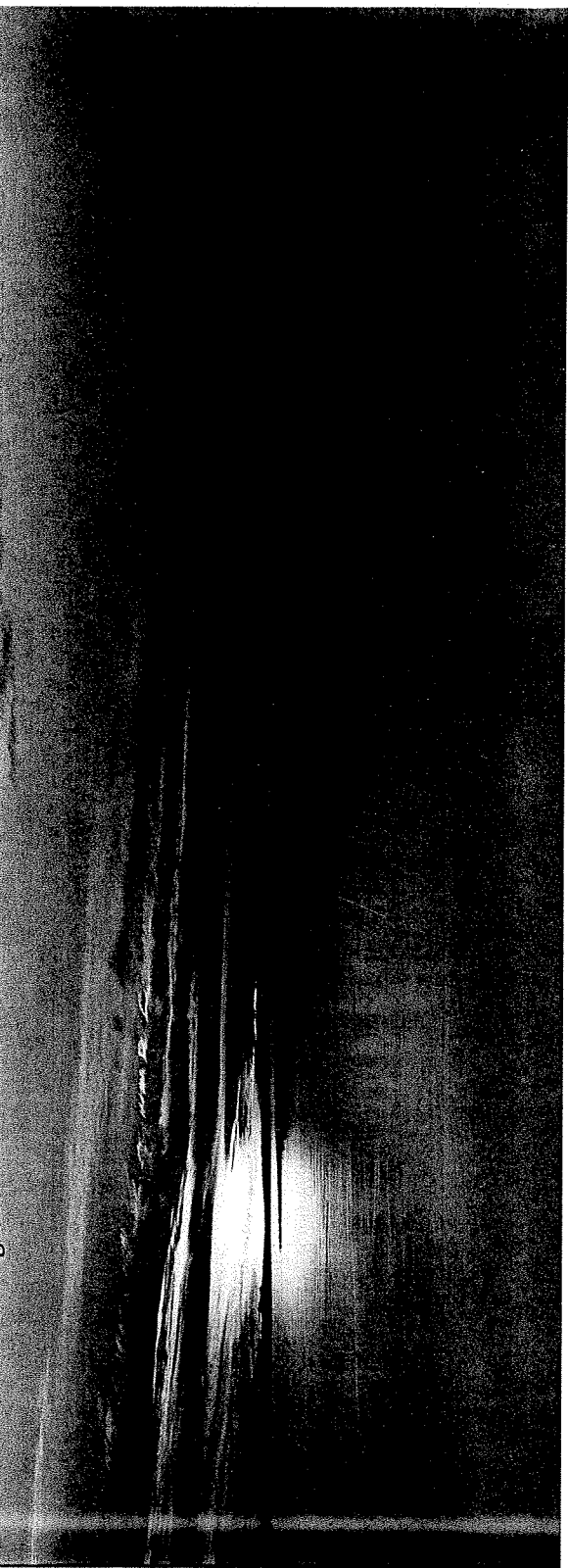
This is not the last chapter or last chance for Cree governance but will be the next incremental step towards greater autonomy in the contemporary context. The Cree Nation is in fact more self-governing than any other Aboriginal Nation in Canada. We have assembled many organizations over the years to manage the many facets of our operations and this in fact already constitutes a self-governing nation. We have irritants in our relations with other governments but those can be resolved by asserting our rights and using our demographics in northern Quebec. We will always have issues that we want to address with other governments, that is why we organize our own government, to act as our voice in the governance of our affairs and to ensure that this Cree voice is heard by other governments.

The models that will be chosen in the next step of improving Cree government will not be accepted by all of our members which is normal in any society. Some cannot accept anything less than the Crees becoming the fourth independent state beside Canada, USA and Mexico in North America, while others still prefer that the Federal Government would help us make decisions. We will not make an incremental step towards greater self-sufficiency if we table proposals that are not achievable or that do not now allow us to move ahead in taking more control over our own affairs.

We have also achieved a treaty on the use and occupation of the offshore islands, which has been outstanding since the JBNQA was first signed. It is very unique in that it includes a zone where there will be joint ownership shared by the Cree and Inuit Nations. This is a better model to pursue instead of the one that has forced Aboriginal groups to draw borders on a map that defy the continuation of the traditional use of the territory and its resources.

The signing of new agreements helps us to deal with the challenges that we face together. We have never accepted that others come to Eeyou Istchee and dictate to us what will happen here. As individuals and collectively, we are part of the governance of this land. It is up to us to ensure that our voice is strong and expresses the will of the people. Our language and culture are very strong and this helps carry our Nation as we deal with the many issues we have confronted over the years and will continue to do so. At the same time our people have diverse points of view that we must respect and use as a source of strength. We have diversity in our culture but we have adapted to modern means of living without losing a sense of Greenness in the things that we do on daily basis. As free people we have the right to individually and collectively define ourselves with reference to our pasts, but also in new ways that we will develop and recognize as ours as we move forward.

Bill Namagoose



Cree Nation Governance Working Group

In light of the rapidly expanding demands on Cree government arising from the Cree nation-building efforts of the past 20 to 30 years – and arising out of the current Cree-Federal negotiations agenda – the GCC(EI)-CRA has resolved to establish a “Cree Nation Governance Working Group” (CNGWG) under

the Chairmanship of Dr Matthew Coon Come.

As every JBNQA beneficiary now knows, the James Bay Crees have entered into a *New Relationship Agreement* with the Government of Canada, in which it was agreed that the JBNQA would be implemented for the next 20 years in a number of significant ways.



Under the terms of the Cree-Canada *New Relationship Agreement*, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority have agreed to proceed with discussions over a three to five year period in order to develop a Governance Agreement, Governance Legislation and possible amendments to the JBNQA and to the *Cree Naskapi (of Québec) Act* concerning a Cree Nation Government with powers and authorities beyond the scope of the *Cree Naskapi (of Québec) Act*.

The Federal Government and GCC(EI)-CRA have established their respective negotiations teams, under the leadership of Chief Cree Negotiator Bill Namagoose, GCC(EI) Executive Director, and Chief Federal Negotiator Me. Jean Bazin, a former Conservative Senator. The two negotiating teams have already held some meetings to scope out the negotiations and identify key issues and challenges.

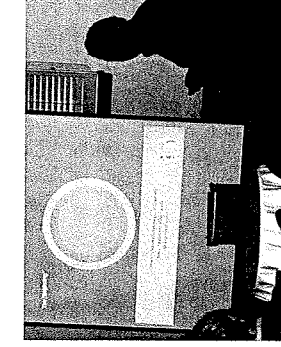
Grand Chief Matthew Mukash has indicated that “The principal purpose of these negotiations will be to expand Cree Nation governance by establishing a framework for a Cree constitution setting out the relationship between the eventual expanded Cree Nation Government, the Cree bands, other Cree entities and the federal and provincial governments.”

The CNGWG is mandated to advise the GCC(EI) through the Executive Committee on matters relating to the development of a new model for Cree Nation government. This will include providing advice on some very important matters including:

- the development of a Cree Constitution;
- the relationship of Cree Nation Government Laws to the laws of other governments, including those of Cree Bands;
- the application to the Cree governments of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- tax treatment matters
- Cree own-source revenues;
- geographical scope of powers;
- own source revenues;
- clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all Cree local and regional entities;
- a review of the possible consolidation of various Cree entities; and
- a review of the role of the Cree-Naskapi Commission.

Appointed members of the Working Group include the Cree School Board Chair Gordon Blackned, the Cree Health Board Chair James Bobbish, the Board of Compensation Chair Jack Blacksmith, the Cree Trappers' Association Chair Isaac Masty, Chief John Longchap of Mistissini, Chief Roderick Pachano of Chisasibi, Chief Louise Wapachee of Oujé-Bougoumou, Chief Losty Mamianskum of Whapmagoostui, Cree Nation Youth Grand Chief Stacy Bear, Commissioner Philip Awashish of the Cree-Naskapi Commission, Donald Nicholls of the Grand Chief's Office, and Elders' Council Representative Robbie Wabimawskum Dick. The CNGWG will be coordinated by William Mianscum.

Regarding the composition of the CNGWG, Working Group Chair Dr. Matthew Coon Come “noted the distinguished group of Cree Nation individuals that have been appointed to the Cree Nation Governance Working



Group. This is a most representative group of people, and I look forward to working with them – and indeed with Cree entities and Cree people in the communities and elsewhere – during the mandate of the CNGWG, to constructively advise the GCC(EI) concerning the next evolution of our Cree Nation government.”

The CNGWG has already held two initial meetings in Montreal, the first to set the stage for the Working Group's efforts, and the second to consider the historical and human rights underpinnings of the Cree Governance process and commence development of a Workplan for the first year or so.

In his appointment acceptance letter to the Grand Chief, Dr Coon Come concluded that “This process will be meaningful and no doubt occasionally challenging. It will hopefully make a contribution to the development of an even stronger, effective, accountable, respected, and capable Cree government for our people in coming years and decades.”

Cree-Canada Agreement

Implementation of the Cree/Canada New Relationship Agreement 2008-2009

On February 21st, the Crees and Canada signed the Cree-Canada new Relationship Agreement and the related Community Specific Agreement. The Agreement was the resolution of a number of disputes with Canada that the Crees had taken to court concerning Canada's lack of implementation of certain obligations to the Crees in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and concerning other agreements and undertakings. The New Relationship Agreement provides for funding of up to \$1.4 billion to the Cree for a period of 20 years. Of this total funding package, \$1.1 billion was released by Canada shortly after the signature of the Agreement.

Under the Agreement the Cree assumed responsibility for implementing certain of what were formerly federal obligations. Consequently the Crees had to increase their administrative capacities to implement what Canada had failed to put into place in the past and to assume the responsibility for certain programs that were devolved to the Grand Council/Cree Regional Authority by Canada. The Cree Regional Authority will coordinate with the communities, on the design and delivery of programs and develop and enforce standards for the construction of buildings, sewer and water systems, fire-stations and for the protection of the environment. To accomplish this, Canada agreed to amend the Cree/Naskapi Act to empower the Cree Regional Authority to undertake these responsibilities. \$100 million will be paid by Canada after these amendments become law.

Canada also accepted that there would be a second step in the development of Cree governance. Not only would the Crees continue to develop their own programs and administer federal programs, they would also write their own constitution. This would guide the development of Cree internal institutions and rights and its content would be acknowledged by Canada. Cree People have also expressed great interest in taking a more important role in the administration of the region and for these purposes Canada, Quebec and the Crees will discuss the available alternatives. The Agreement acknowledges this interest of all three parties and provides for a further \$200 million to be paid by Canada if there is an agreement reached.

Amendments to the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act

Under Part 1 of Chapter 3 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada committed to recommend to Parliament amendments to the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* within eighteen (18) months. These amendments will provide the Cree Regional Authority ("CRA") with the legal

authority to act as a regional government on Category IA lands.

The amendments were developed with the Federal Government during 2008 and into 2009. They were presented to the Council-Board during the process and at completion were finally approved. The amendments implement the commitments of Canada in the Agreement for the first phase of the recognition of Cree Nation Government. They passed second reading in Parliament in April 2009 and were sent to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development where hearings were held on May 14, 2009. After passing review by the Standing Committee the bill will go back to the House of Commons for third reading and from there will be referred to the Senate for further review and from the Senate they go to the Governor General for final sanction.

For some years now certain technical amendments to the Cree/Naskapi Act have been discussed by the Crees and the Naskapis. These are still outstanding and should be addressed with the Federal Government after the present amendments are made and the \$100 million in funding received. It is probably best to review the technical amendments internally to ensure that they are complete and meet the present day needs of the communities. Since the present amendments are only required to implement the Canada – Cree Agreement and do not affect the Inuit or Naskapis we have proceeded with them as part of the Phase 1 governance discussions with Canada.

Canada has agreed to seek an additional mandate for new amendments to the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* concerning specifically the elimination of the requirement of band referenda to approve borrowings by bands and to approve land leases on Category IA lands, particularly those required for Cree entities.

Cree nation Governance Negotiations

Under Part 2 of Chapter 3 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, negotiations are to be carried out with both Canada and Québec concerning a variety of issues leading to a Cree Nation Governance Agreement. The time frame for such negotiations is set at 3 to 5 years after the coming into force of the Federal New Relationship Agreement.

DIAND has established its negotiations team consisting of their Chief Negotiator Mr. Jean Bazin, Guylaine Ross, Anne Huxtable, Melissa Yu-Shott, John Ellis and Rachelle Dubois. The Cree negotiators have met with Mr Bazin's team and the Quebec Team; former Justice of the Quebec Court of Appeal, Judge René Dussault; formerly Co-Chairman of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Mr. Gilles Harvey from the Secretariat of Native Affairs and Madame Elizabeth Mackay from the Quebec Privy Council, all appointed by Quebec. The subject areas to be discussed will be determined by the Crees, Canada and Quebec. Canada's primary concern is with the programs

and interests it has in respect to areas of federal jurisdiction including those on Category 1A lands. Quebec will also be interested in its areas of jurisdiction in Eeyou Istchee while the Crees are interested in all that touches Eeyou Istchee and the implication of the Crees in the decisions that affect its future. The issue of the MBI and its inconsistency with the JBNQA being of primary concern.

Human Resources Development Funding Arrangements

Under section 4.3 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, the CRA assumed the federal share of capital costs, operation and maintenance and programs and services listed under paragraphs 28.9.1 and 28.9.2 of the JBNQA regarding training courses, job recruitment and placement relating to Territorial Programs and Enhanced Delivery Structure.

That assumption in relation to paragraphs 28.9.1 and 28.9.2 of the JBNQA was however premised under section 4.12 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement on the continuation by Canada of the additional funding for training programs and facilities and of job recruitment and placement services in the Territory on terms reasonably comparable to those provided to the CRA for 2008-09 by the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development pursuant to the agreement between that Department and the CRA dated April 25th, 2007. This HRD regular funding agreement was successfully extended for one year: 2009-2010. Negotiations will be held very soon on this matter with HRD Canada. Canada has acknowledged that the Cree situation is special because of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and it is seeking a mandate to continue the present agreement for 5 year periods. Canada has also set up a new National Program to bring Aboriginal people into employment on large projects.

Washaw Sibi Eeyou

Pursuant to section 5.4 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, the CRA committed itself to initiate exploratory discussions with the Washaw Sibi Eeyou in order to identify possible options for their future development.

The Washaw Sibi community is currently planning a final site selection for the new village to take place over the summer 2009. This will be based on a number of alternative sites proposed by the Town of Amos. The Grand Council/Cree Regional Authority and Washaw Sibi, have agreed that the planning and construction of the new Washaw Sibi village will be a Grand Council/CRA project. A comprehensive plan for Washaw Sibi remains to be developed.

Chisasibi Block "D"

Under section 5.5 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada agreed in principle to the transfer of the Block "D" lands in Chisasibi, subject to the restoration

of such lands. Québec had also agreed to the transfer of these lands in 2002.

The matter appears to be stalled over the costs of the land restoration required and who will pay for these.

Oujé-Bougoumou

Pursuant to section 5.6 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, the GCC(EI), the CRA and Canada committed to sign a Complementary Agreement regarding the establishment of the Oujé-Bougoumou Band and its land regime through amendments to the JBNQA. Canada also committed to recommend to Parliament amendments to the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* regarding the establishment of the Oujé-Bougoumou Band.

All elements of such a Complementary Agreement have been agreed to and the required federal legislative amendments are part of the amendments package recently submitted to Parliament with the other amendments to the Cree-Naskapi Act.

Amendment to the JBNQA amending formula

The general amending provisions for the JBNQA set out in paragraph 2.15 thereof require that barring a specific amending procedure set out in specific sections, an amendment to the JBNQA requires the consent of all Parties, namely the CRA, Makivik Corporation, Canada, Québec, SEBJ, SDBJ and Hydro-Québec.

Under sub-paragraph 5.8 a) i) of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada committed itself to discuss with the CRA a Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA to modify this general amending provision so as to allow future amendments to be made without the consent of all the parties to the JBNQA when such amendments do not affect the interests of a party, and to ratify any past amendments to the JBNQA which may have been made without the consent of all the parties thereto.

Québec, Canada and the Crees and the other parties to the JBNQA must also participate in these discussions for them to succeed.

Amendment to the JBNQA regarding eligibility

Under sub-paragraph 5.8 a) ii) of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada committed itself to discuss with the CRA a Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA in order to modify Section 3 of the JBNQA relating to eligibility in a manner similar (but not identical) to those agreed to with the Inuit under Complementary Agreement number 18 to the JBNQA.

Complementary Agreement number 18 to the JBNQA provided, among other things, for the following:

- a) the taking-over by the Inuit of the responsibility for the JBNQA membership lists;
- b) the limitation of the so-called "10-year clause" in order to exclude from its application beneficiaries

residing outside the Territory for purposes related to education, health or employment with an organization whose mandate is to promote the welfare of Inuit;

- c) the right to withdraw as a beneficiary of the JBNQA.

Discussions on these matters are planned for the fall of 2009

Amendment to the JBNQA regarding land descriptions

Under sub-paragraph 5.8 a) iii) of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada committed itself to discuss with the CRA a Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA in order to incorporate therein the final territorial descriptions of the Cree Category I lands.

There have never been any final territorial descriptions for Cree Category I lands incorporated into the JBNQA, though the Inuit of Québec have agreed to such final descriptions for their Category I lands through Complementary Agreement number 6 to the JBNQA.

Incorporating such final territorial description in the JBNQA would be important in order to ensure clear treaty protection for Cree lands.

Moreover, under the 2002 *Paix des Braves* with Québec, in light of the cancellation of the NBR project, the communities of Waskaganish, Nemaska and Waswanipi have been provided with an opportunity to redefine their Category I lands in order to select for such purposes those areas which had been previously withdrawn from selection for the purposes of constructing the NBR project. To date, both Waskaganish and Nemaska have agreed to a new selection of Category I lands and discussions are well advanced with Waswanipi.

A table for this purpose already exists with Québec, and Canada has appointed various representatives to join in these discussions.

CEPA, SARA and Fisheries Act discussions

The administration of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* ("CEPA") may be delegated to an aboriginal government pursuant to section 9 of that Act. Likewise, the powers and functions of the minister under the *Species at Risk Act* ("SARA") may be delegated to an "other government" pursuant to section 8 of that Act.

Under section 5.9 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada agreed to address the feasibility of delegating to the CRA responsibilities under CEPA and

SARA as well as reviewing the feasibility of transferring certain authorities under the *Fisheries Act* to the CRA and under other federal authorities related to the environment and wildlife.

At the same time, in the Vanadium Case, the Government of Quebec appealed the decision of the courts to the Supreme Court of Canada. The decision by the Quebec Court of Appeal confirmed the Cree right to a federal review process under the terms of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and stated that this process could be triggered by federal laws such as the Fisheries Act, Marine Mammals Act, Migratory Birds Act, and the



Navigable Waters Act among others. Canada and the Crees agreed on a way to implement this decision. Further discussions will take place to complete the assumption by the Cree Regional Authority of some of the Federal Environmental responsibilities once the Supreme Court makes a final decision on the Vanadium case. The decision is due this year.

Criminal Code of Canada and Canada Evidence Act Amendments

Paragraph 18.0.19 of the JBNQA reads as follows:

"18.0.19 The provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act shall be amended, insofar as this may be necessary to adopt such provisions to the circumstances, usages, customs and way of life of the Crees and in order to deal adequately with the difficulties of the "judicial district of Abitibi". In particular, for cases where a Cree is the defendant or the accused, amendments shall be adopted to qualify Crees as jurors, notwithstanding that such Cree might not qualify accordingly to the applicable laws and rules and notwithstanding that such Cree might not speak French or English."

No amendments consistent with this provision have been brought to either the *Criminal Code* or the *Canada*

Evidence Act. However, Canada claims that generic amendments to these laws have achieved the same purposes.

Under section 5.10 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, Canada and the CRA agreed to discuss this paragraph of the JBNQA in order to reach an agreement on its implementation. We have three (3) years to come to an understanding.

Cree Nation Trust

Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement provide that the amounts paid by Canada under that Agreement to cover the twenty year period are to be received, held and managed by a "Recipient of Payments".

The GCC(EI)-CRA has decided to use the Cree Nation Trust to receive the funding. At the first meeting of the Trustees in May 2008, the trustees adopted its investment policy. With the Trust in place the CRA has created programs to guide the communities in the use of the funding so that the rights of the Crees in the James Bay Agreement, for which the funding is to be used, will be protected and is consistent with the assumed obligations.

Discontinuances to Legal Actions

Chapter 7 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement requires that, within three (3) months following the coming into force of that Agreement, discontinuances be filed with the pertinent courts in regard to the *Coon Come #1*, the *Coon Come #2* and Part B of the *Coon Come #3* proceedings.

These discontinuances have been completed and filed with the appropriate courts.

Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee

Under chapter 8 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, a Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee is established comprising the Lead Federal Representative at an Assistant Deputy Minister level designated by the Minister of Indian Affairs and the Lead Representative of the Cree Nation designated by the CRA.

To date three meetings have occurred, the latest in June, 2009 and they have helped to make progress in the resolution of several issues.

Complementary Agreement SECTION 19 - Cree Police

Pursuant to section 10.3 of the Federal New Relationship Agreement, the CRA and Canada, subject to the consent of Québec, undertook to execute a Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA to amend Section 19 of the JBNQA to provide for a Cree Regional Police Force. The Complementary Agreement has now been signed by all parties but is not presently in effect. One of the main obstacles to implementing the Complementary Agreement has been the finalization and approval of the

five year funding agreement which was negotiated and agreed to many months ago but which has been stalled at the bureaucratic level in Quebec.

These delays have resulted in NO funding being provided to the local police forces by Canada and Quebec for some 15 months and necessitated that the Cree Regional Authority bridge finance the local police operations through the provision of an advance for last year in the range of \$10M. For the current year no funding has been provided by either Canada or Quebec since Quebec has failed to sign and execute the funding agreement despite commitments from the Premier of Quebec.

The amendments to Section 19 will place the Cree Nation at the forefront of aboriginal police forces in Canada. The Cree Nation will have one unified Police Force and a Police Commission has been established to oversee the police force. The regional structure will provide the professionalization of Cree Policing and allow for the concentration of specialized services, not normally available for small communities. It will enable further career development of local constables who will now be able to develop areas of specialization within the Cree Regional structure. Another advantage is that local constables will have greater mobility to move within Cree communities and actually accept placements in other communities. The difficulties inherent in policing family and friends of a home community will also be minimized.

Most aboriginal policing in Canada started only after 1990 when Canada changed its policy to provide for funding for aboriginal police forces. However the Crees secured the right to policing in 1975 under a treaty and not as a benefit dependent upon any revocable federal policy. Despite the Treaty obligation to provide funding, Canada failed to implement this obligation until the early 1990s when it established its regular program, and then limited its implementation to the structures of the program.

Over time it became clear that regional type services would be required for effective policing, such as investigators and detectives and central dispatching. For more than a decade, the Crees and governments have worked towards a Cree regional policing model.

This model was confirmed in the 2002 Paix des Braves which provided for the eventual creation of a Cree regional police into which the local Cree police forces would be merged. However this new model of policing was made subject to an agreement with Canada.

That agreement was finally reached in the wake of the federal New Relationship Agreement of 2008. For this purpose a new Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA was signed to replace section 19 concerning Cree policing with the new regional policing concept. Subsequently, the Quebec National Assembly amended the Quebec Police Act to make way for the Cree Regional Police Force.

Report on Quebec Relations

MBJ and report from Judge Paul

As previously reported, the GCC(EI)-CRA had raised a formal dispute with Quebec pursuant to the dispute resolution process under the *Paix des Braves* challenging the Quebec legislation delegating to the non-native mayors of the southern municipalities the control of the MBJ.

The Quebec government reacted by appointing Judge Réjean Paul to submit a report on the situation.

Judge Paul has finally submitted his report to the Quebec government. Provincial elections were called shortly after the report was tabled and the government decided to keep the report confidential until after the elections. Consequently the GCC(EI)-CRA has yet to receive a copy of the report.

Although this report is not yet available, there is a strong belief that it states that Quebec did not act properly in granting control of the MBJ to the non-native mayors without the consent and involvement of the Crees. If this is indeed the conclusion of the report, this will force the Premier to confront the issue of having to withdraw authority from the MBJ mayors and recognizing the injustice done to the Cree Nation.

We are very familiar with the problem, as Quebec devolved its authority over the MBJ to the local non-native mayors in 2002. In practice, Quebec has disenfranchised the Cree from the governance of the territory.

Insofar as the context would be favourable for Quebec to review its position in regard to the MBJ, the Cree Nation will need to clearly state its own position on regional governance. Thus, insofar as the report from Judge Paul concludes that the current MBJ structure is not in conformity with the JBNQA (a conclusion which remains to be seen), then the Cree Nation will need to express clearly to the new government what are the options to resolve this issue.

At this point in time, various short-term solutions appear available:

- Option1: Return the MBJ to its previous status under SDBJ with a board of high level civil servants appointed by Quebec.
- Option2: Enlarge the MBJ to include equal Cree and Jamesian representation (mayors and chiefs).
- Option3: Modify the MBJ to include equal elected Cree and Jamesian representation.

All options have strong advantages and disadvantages which need to be taken into account.

However, any short-term solution to the MBJ problem should not be an impediment to the larger governance discussions involving Canada, Quebec and the Cree pursuant to the Federal New Relationship Agreement.

At the February 16th meeting between Premier Charest, Minister Corbeil and the Grand Chief, the Premier indicated that the report from Judge Paul was being reviewed by the departments and Ministers implicated and that a "Cabinet Submission" was being prepared and that the Quebec Cabinet would decide on the government's course of action.

To date we have not received any news from Quebec on the position the Quebec government intends to pursue. Moreover, no copy of the report of Judge Paul has been provided to us.

Recently, the Quebec government appointed Me René Dussault as their spokesperson to the governance table established pursuant to the terms of the federal New Relationship Agreement. Me Dussault is a retired judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal and was the co-Chair of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. This is a positive sign that Quebec is taking seriously the governance concerns of the Cree Nation, including the MBJ issue.

Northern Development Plan

The Premier has placed much emphasis before and during the election on his Northern Development Plan ("NDP"). This Plan has become a very high priority for Premier Charest personally. Though the actual text of the NDP has yet to be made public, the main components have been discussed abundantly by the Premier in all his important speeches. There is little doubt that this Plan will constitute one of the cornerstones of the new government's policy for the upcoming years.

At a recent meeting of the Quebec Liberal Party, the Premier has announced that he intends to launch a vast hydroelectric building program in Northern Quebec in the context of this NDP.

This intensive hydroelectric development has been severely and publicly denounced by Ghislain Picard of the AFNQL, since the Premier seems to ignore aboriginal interests in such developments.

Moreover, the SAA has provided to the Cree leadership a copy of a "Consultation Document"¹ on the NDP dated May 2009. This indicates that Quebec is now proceeding to consultations on the plan but outside any formal consultations framework. The Cree Nation must be very careful about these "consultations" and the way they are being carried out by Quebec.

Though the development plan has not been made public, some of its broad orientations are known and these

¹ a copy may be obtained from the GCCEI

elements are confirmed in the Consultation Document of the SAA.

The NDP will essentially seek to maximize the development of Northern Quebec principally in the energy, mining, forestry and transportation sectors. The area contemplated by the NDP includes both Nunavik and the James Bay Territory as well as all of the Lower North Shore of the St-Lawrence River.

In mining, the NDP will seek to favour and increase mineral development in the North, by encouraging the swift realization of the Eleonore project and of the Fox trot -Stornoway diamond project. Additional geological surveying resources should be allocated by Quebec to further develop the mining potential of the North and important new road infrastructure should be built in the territory for this purpose. The Consultation Document points out that mining could result in \$6 billions in investments and the creation of 2,400 jobs.

In energy, the NDP will be very ambitious. The NDP will call upon the building of an additional 8,000 MW in the North. 1,500 MW will come from the La Romaine project on the Lower North Shore. The rest will come from as yet undisclosed projects. Hydro-Québec will identify 3,000 MW of projects by the end of this year and the other 3,500 MW by the end of 2010. The building program associated with these projects should last until 2035.

In discussions with government officials, it is clear that the first 3,000 MW should come in majority from the Lower North Shore. The remaining will probably have to come from James Bay or Nunavik. When asked if the government is going to revive the Great Whale Project, officials stay silent. They only state that no project will be built without community involvement and acceptance.

In any event, there is no doubt that the Premier will be seeking new hydro projects in James Bay, either through Great Whale or through other hydro developments. This could include small hydro, large hydro or a combination of both. As one civil servant put it, "everything is on the table."

Additional wind energy production will be associated with this new hydro development. Taking as a yardstick the current ratio rule between hydro and wind, at least 450 MW of new wind projects could be associated with this new hydro, and probably much more (perhaps over 1,000 MW). Quebec intends to develop this wind power through a public tender process by 2015. Quebec claims it will develop the tender process so as to facilitate local community participation.

Obviously, the energy aspect of the NDP will present new important challenges as well as opportunities for the Cree Nation.

In forestry, Quebec intends to institute the new plan as set out in its "Green paper". As you know, the GCC(EI) is opposing this "Green Paper" as contrary to the measures

concerning forestry agreed in 2002 with Quebec. Moreover, the Consultation Document from the SAA indicates that the Northern limit for forestry harvesting may be pushed even further to the North, thus opening up new territories to forestry activities.

Again, this aspect of the NDP will present challenges as well as opportunities for the Cree Nation.

In transportation and communications, the NDP will seek to develop major road infrastructure including the following projects of particular interest to the Cree:

- Radisson – Whapmagoostui road if hydro and mining development justify such road;
- Otish Mountains road to facilitate mining development and particularly the Fox trot diamond project of Stornoway and the Matoush uranium project of Strateco Resources Inc;
- Caniapiscau reservoir - Kuujuaq road if the hydroelectric potential of the Caniapiscau river can be exploited and also to assist in mining development.

The NDP will also refer to the Cree sponsored fibre optics communications project.

The Consultation Document of the SAA also vaguely refers to possible housing programs for the Inuit and Cree communities as well as potential training initiatives.

The energy development issues will remain the most sensitive issues. With 8,000 MW of new hydro being proposed and a substantial new wind energy portfolio, it will become urgent for the Cree Nation to "get its act together" on these issues.

First, the fundamental issue of participating in hydro development or opposing such development needs to be addressed. What type of new hydro developments is the Cree Nation ready to live with, if any? Is there a Cree will to consider the Great Whale project, and, if so, on what terms and upon which conditions?

These are difficult questions, which cannot remain unanswered.

If the Cree Nation is going to oppose new hydro, then the GCC(EI)-CRA needs to get organized now for such purpose and the Premier needs to know well in advance that he must forget Great Whale or hydro development in James Bay. This way, the Premier will be able to concentrate on developing the Lower North Shore and Nunavik hydro where the concerned populations appear receptive. In addition, forewarning the Premier of the Cree Nation's opposition could possibly avoid an ugly confrontation on the issue.

If, on the other hand, the Cree Nation wants to pursue hydro development in partnership with Quebec then, here again, the GCC(EI)-CRA needs to get organized now by identifying the right type of hydro projects and the right

partners. The problems encountered in regard to wind energy have to be avoided. Moreover, the Premier needs to know well in advance of the terms of any partnership with Quebec over hydro development since there will be very large legislative, regulatory and political hurdles to overcome in order to make such a partnership a reality.

At the February 19th meeting, the Grand Chief and the Premier agreed to have the principal components of the NDP reviewed by the Standing Liaison Committee. We are still awaiting a date to proceed with such a review.

Health Funding Negotiations

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Paix des Braves*, a table was set up to resolve the long outstanding funding shortfalls for the Cree Health Board. This resulted in an agreement signed in 2005 between Quebec, the GCC(EI)-CRA and the Cree Health Board providing for very substantial funding increases for Cree health and social services in order to implement an ambitious development plan. Consequently a five year operations funding package was agreed to until March 31, 2009 and a seven year capital plan was to be funded until March 31, 2011.

Though the full implementation of the development plan was contemplated to be completed by March of 2009, there have been some difficulties encountered in implementation resulting from the ambitious nature of the plan and difficulties in recruiting qualified staff for its implementation. This has resulted in the Cree Health Board accumulating a large surplus.

Though the current agreement expired last March, the Department has indicated it is prepared to proceed with the extension of the current operations funding package with indexation for the next two years, namely until March 31, 2011, in order to coincide with the agreed capital plan.

This is indeed very good news since it ensures important financial resources to the Cree Nation in order to improve health and social services delivery to the population. This development is also very encouraging in that it shows that though there has been a deterioration of the Cree-Quebec relationship in certain sectors this is not the case in all matters. The Cree-Quebec relationship seems

largely dependent on the approach taken by each department of the Quebec government.

Funding for Cree Education

The funding arrangements related to Cree education will be coming to an end on June 30th, 2009. Consequently, pursuant to the terms of Section 16 of the JBNQA and related provisions of the *Paix des Braves*, Quebec, Canada, the GCC(EI)-CRA and the Cree School Board have initiated discussions in order to renew the Cree education funding envelope for another five year period.

A formal table has been set up at which Bill Namagoose and Reggie Neeposh act respectively as co-spokespersons for the GCC(EI)-CRA and the Cree School Board. Negotiations are now completed.

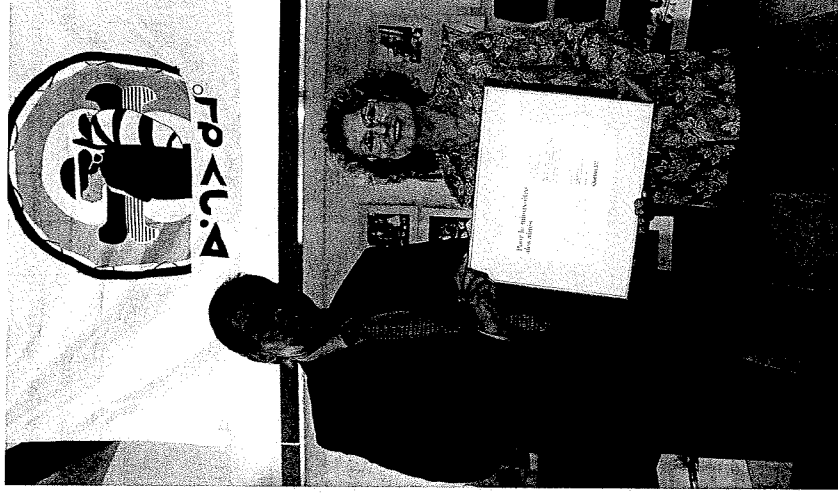
The negotiations have resulted in a five-year renewal of the funding rules for the Cree School Board with substantial increases in numerous sectors, most notably in regard to students with special needs. In addition, a new elementary school has been approved for Chisasibi as well as the renovation of the existing school facilities in Chisasibi.

Eeyou Eenou Police Force

Quebec, Canada and the GCC(EI)-CRA have agreed to an amendment to Section 19 of the JBNQA in order to replace the concepts of the Cree Units of the SQ and the local community police forces by a new Cree regional police force.

A Complementary Agreement to the JBNQA was negotiated and signed for these purposes and agreed to by Quebec. At the same time we also negotiated a five year funding agreement for the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force which was agreed to by both Canada and Quebec officials.

After these events, Minister Pelletier presented draft legislation to the Quebec National Assembly in order to amend the Police Act so as to provide a legislative framework for the operations of the Eeyou-Eenou Police Force. As you will remember, the MBJ then made strong public statements opposing this legislation and any role for the Cree police outside of Category 1 lands. The MBJ was also successful in securing the support of the ADQ for its bigoted positions.



Since this MBJ intervention, it is clear that the Quebec Department of Public Security has been attempting to backtrack on the Eeyou Eenu Police Force. In particular, last October the Quebec Department of Public Security informed the Cree representatives that it was reneging on the previously agreed to funding agreement for policing and seeking changes in order to restrict the activities of the Cree police to Category 1 lands and to ensure the presence of the SQ within the Cree communities! In addition, Quebec has been withholding funding for Cree police operations since last March, forcing the GCC(EI)-CRA to fund policing operations until this matter is resolved.

This matter was discussed at the meeting between the Premier and the Grand Chief at which the Premier committed to resolve the issue. The Funding Agreement was finally signed by Quebec late this May and a first payment was finally effected by Quebec. Thus, the Cree policing funding issues now appear resolved. In the next few months, work will be required in order to organize and put in place the new regional Cree Police Force.

Forestry roads

Difficulties have also been encountered with the Quebec Department of Natural Resources which is responsible for the implementation of the new forestry regime for the James Bay Territory.

The attitude of this Department has become more arrogant towards the Crees, and it appears clear that many of the civil servants entrusted with the implementation of forestry have decided to try to marginalize the Cree in the implementation of the regime to the benefit of industry interests.

Matters have come to a confrontation in regard to the unilateral decision of the Department to grant a permit to Chantiers Chibougamou in order to harvest new territories located on traplines in the traditional territories of Oujé-Bougoumou. These new grants of forestry rights seem closely tied to the road blockage Chantiers Chibougamou and its employees carried out a few months ago. It is our belief that a deal was made with this company to grant it new rights in exchange for lifting the blockade even if this meant over-riding Cree rights.

The Department of Natural Resources did a fast run in regard to all the Cree processes and Cree consultations required under the JBNQA and the *Paix des Braves* in order to grant the new wood allocations. In addition the Department totally ignored Section 22 of the JBQA and proceeded to grant a permit to Chantiers Chibougamou for the construction of a Class 1 forestry roads for a total of some 200 km in length. This was done without proceeding with the required social and environmental impacts assessment and review process under Section 22 of the JBNQA.

Oujé-Bougoumou, with the support of the GCC(EI)-CRA, initiated court proceedings seeking an safeguard

order to halt the road construction pending a judicial resolution of the issue concerning the application of the Section 22 review process to the road as well as the proper implementation of the consultation processes involving the Crees.

The Quebec government, shaken by the Cree reaction has agreed to set up a table with the Cree to resolve the issue of forestry roads and their environmental assessments.

Following the court proceedings, a successful resolution to the forestry road issue was agreed to with MNR. This resolution agreement puts an end to the litigation while providing that all major forestry access roads will be subject to environmental review as the Crees originally requested.

Cree Quebec Table on Transport issues

A Steering Committee with representation from Quebec, Canada, Jamesiens, Inuit and the Cree was established to oversee the planning of major roads in Eeyou Istchee. Some of the projects include the following.

1. Access Road to Otish Study project: The study project is completed and the government of Quebec has announced and committed to partially finance the construction of the road as soon as it has received authorization from Quebec's Environment Administrator and upon securing all the necessary financial resources for its construction. A number of mining projects are anticipated to benefit from the road as well as accessing to the future Otis park. The project will be subjected to the environmental impact assessment and consultations will be conducted in the neighbouring communities of its impact.
2. Access Road to Whapmagoostui Study project: MTQ has retained a consulting firm to carry out a study similar to the 'Access Road to Otis Study Project'. A Steering Committee with Cree participation was established to oversee the study. Members from Whapmagoostui and Chisasibi are included in the Steering Committee along with representation from GCCEI. Five sub-committees were created to provide technical and advisory role to the consulting firm. These sub-committees cover issues related to environment, economic impact, social and cultural impact, natural resources and transportation and inter-modalities. Cree members were appointed in all these sub-committees.
3. Northern Transportation Development Strategy: The original intent of the Regional Steering Committee was to oversee the development of a "northern development plan" however due to the change in the orientation by the government of

Quebec, this is now part of the strategy to develop Quebec's Plan Nord.

4. Maintenance Services of Northern Roads: Through the Steering Committee, Cree members are able to monitor the annual budgets set aside for road improvements in Eeyou Itchee. One of the objectives is transfer the classification of the access roads to the Cree communities to be under the responsibility of MTQ similar to all roads connecting municipalities in the province of Quebec. The change in classification will result in improved services and an increase in maintenance budgets for these roads.

Members from all the Cree communities on a "working committee" continue to provide an advisory role in matters related their respective communities.

Cree Quebec Table of Section 4.18 of Quebec New Relationship Agreement

At the time of the negotiation of the JBNQA in 1975, there was a strong possibility that Hydro-Québec would go ahead with the Nottaway-Broadback-Rupert ('NBR') hydro-electric project. When lands were selected for Waskaganish, Waswanipi and Nemaska, the reservoirs and powerhouses of the project were taken into account, with important practical consequences. The agreement reached in 2002 – the QCNRA or the 'Paix des Braves' – which included the construction of the Eastmain 1-A and La Sarcelle powerhouses, and the diversion of the Rupert River, made it possible to cancel the NBR project as it was defined in the JBNQA.

This decision, by Hydro-Québec, resulted in an agreement with the Government of Québec to review and modify the boundaries of Category I and II lands for these three communities. Negotiations on these boundary changes proceeded in 2008, and the parties are making solid progress. The terms of this agreement are described in section 4.18 of the QCNRA and in Complementary Agreement no. 13.

In the cases of Waskaganish and Waswanipi, the changes mainly involve extending the boundaries of Category I A and I B lands down to the river bank in those areas where the boundaries were originally shaped by reservoirs. In this process, an effort is also being made to cancel the corridors of Category II lands which originally separated all major bodies of water from Category I lands. Eventually, the Grand Council seeks to eliminate these two hundred foot corridors from all Category I A and I B lands, and the Québec representatives have shown willingness to explore with us this objective. In the case of Waswanipi, it is intended that the island on which the Old Post was located will become Category I A lands.

In the case of Nemaska, the objective is to create a block of Category II land, triangular in shape and located south of the highway to Matagami so that it encloses and includes Lake Némiscau. An additional objective is to create a block of Category I B lands at the site of the Old Post – the former Némiscau trading station.

Consultations have taken place with the affected communities, and the Québec's Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife is undertaking consultations with the other interested parties who signed the JBNQA, including Hydro-Québec. In the case of Canada, we have provided



information about the work done so far, and we are seeking the agreement and support of Canada, because the boundary changes in the case of Waswanipi and Waskaganish affect the boundaries of Category I A lands, for which the federal government has responsibility. We are optimistic that this work can be brought to a successful conclusion in the 2009 operating year.

Access to regular programs

Discussions have been carried out with the SAA to ensure Cree access to regular programs and pursuant to these discussions, Cree access to most regular Quebec programs has been facilitated.

However, for reasons which are difficult to understand, the Quebec government has indicated that it has excluded the Crees from access to the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund established at the time of the First Nations Socioeconomic Forum held in October 2006.

In essence, Quebec argues that sufficient socioeconomic funding is being provided to the Cree under the *Paix des Braves*, and that the funding under the Aboriginal Initiatives Fund should consequently be reserved for other aboriginal groups.

This approach by Quebec may be contrary to both the terms of the JBNQA and the *Paix des Braves* which specifically guarantee Cree access to all regular programs. A decision must be made on whether to challenge the Quebec governments position in court.

TERRITORIAL OVERLAP DISCUSSIONS

Atikamekw of Opitciwan

In February 2004 the Opitciwan, Wemotaci and Manawan Bands, as well as the Council of the Atikamekw Nation, and several Chiefs and council members filed a law suit against Canada and Québec.

In their law suit, the Atikamekw claim Aboriginal rights and title in JBNQA territory including a large segment of the southern traplines of Oujé-Bougoumou, including O-60, O-61 and O-62, as well as a large segment of the southern traplines of Waswanipi including W-25B, W-26 and W-23A.

The Atikamekw are asking the Court to declare that the JBNQA and its implementing legislation did not extinguish the Aboriginal claims of other Nations. Alternatively, if their rights were extinguished, the Atikamekw claim damages.

The GCC(EI)-CRA and the Grand Chief intervened in this case to ensure that the GCC(EI)-CRA be full party to any negotiations and to reserve rights of the Cree inside and outside of JBNQA territory.

Court proceedings have been suspended by the Atikamekw and Quebec since 2007, with Cree consent, in order to attempt to negotiate a settlement of the case. The suspension will expire in April 2010.

Grand Chief Mukash met with Atikamekw Grand Chief Eva Ottawa twice in 2008, during which they acknowledged the desire of both nations to negotiate a settlement of the overlapping claims of the Cree and Atikamekw.

Since then, a table was set up to discuss the Cree-Atikamekw overlaps, with representatives from Canada, Québec, the Atikamekw and the Cree. The GCC(EI)-CRA appointed Abel Bosum, Roméo Saganash and John S. Matoush as negotiators. Oujé-Bougoumou has appointed Sam R. Bosum, and Waswanipi has appointed Paul Gull and Stanley Saganash. In January 2009 a Confidentiality Agreement was signed by all representatives to ensure the discussions were confidential and would not affect the legal proceedings.

The table is presently in its first phase of discussions, which involves reviewing the scope and nature of the overlaps, and deciding on preferred approaches to this file.

Innu of Takuikan Ushat Mak Mani-Utenam et Bands

Ushat Band is seeking numerous declarations and orders from the Superior Court of Québec. The territory claimed by the Ushat Band is huge. It includes a large segment of the JBNQA territory most notably around the Caniapiscow reservoir and northward up to Kujuuaq. Many Mistissini traplines are included in this territory. In addition, the Ushat Band is claiming the entire Eastmain

River basin as a travel route and they claimed a gathering site in the James Bay coast near Eastmain.

The GCC(EI) was made party to these proceedings. The proceedings are under case management.

On June 14, 2005, la Bande Innu Takuikan Ushat Mak Mani-Utenam was granted a suspension in these proceedings for five years. However, despite the suspension, the Innu presented a motion to have these proceedings jointly managed with other related proceedings (the McKenzie proceedings) This motion was accepted on December 4, 2008.



During 2008-09, several communications and meetings were held between Innu (including Ushat and Matimekoshe Innus), Cree, Québec, Canada, Inuit and Naskapi representatives in an attempt to initiate settlement discussions notably through the conclusion of a Confidentiality Agreement and a Work Plan. The discussions on these issues have

materialized.

However, two significant events are important to note. First, following several Court initiatives taken by the Innus and a request made by Canada, the suspension of the proceedings was lifted on January 27th, 2009. The proceedings are therefore presently active. Second, the Inuit party has decided to withdraw from the discussion

Concluding remarks

There is no doubt that the Cree-Quebec relationship has ensured huge benefits for the Cree Nation in the seven years which have elapsed since the conclusion of the *Paix des Braves*. The yearly payment of the \$70 million, the important funding agreed to for Justice, the large funding increases for Cree health and social services, the new Forestry regime, etc. are all testaments to an important and fruitful relationship.

However in the past year this relationship has deteriorated notably in certain sectors. Of particular concern are the MBJ matters, the Cree regional policing initiative, the arrogant attitude of the Department of Natural Resources and the lack of fulfillment of the wind energy commitments of the Premier.

It appears that the success or failures of the relationship vary from Department to Department. There does not appear to be a concerted government effort to renegotiate on the relationship, but in some Departments certain civil servants are pursuing a different agenda with the Cree. It will be the challenge of the upcoming year to resolve these issues with the new Charest government.

Obviously the biggest challenge will be for the Cree Nation to decide how it will react to the Northern Development Plan and particularly to the massive hydro development which is contemplated within this plan.

Cree Forestry Implementation Team (CFIT)

The Cree Forestry Implementation Team (CFIT) is dedicated to the task of ensuring that the provisions of the Adapted Forestry Regime contained within Chapter 3 of the *Paix des Braves Agreement* are followed in the strictest terms. This work occurs at the regional level with ongoing support provided to Abel Bosum (Cree negotiator with Quebec) who has an open channel on forestry and mining with the MRNW ADMs and at the level of the Cree Quebec Forestry Board. This work also occurs at the local level with ongoing support and coordination provided for the local Cree Forestry Joint Working Groups.

This past year marked a return to court in an attempt to resolve conflicts in forestry. The last time the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (GCCEI) filed legal action related to forestry was in 1998 with a multi-million dollar case that eventually became part of the Paix des Braves settlement in 2002. This led to what has become known as the Adapted Forestry Regime (Chapter 3 of the *Paix des Braves Agreement*).

The Adapted regime set up a new consultation process to review forestry management plans at the level of the trappers and forestry companies. It was intended to insure that the Cree Tallymens' voices were heard when it came to field level forestry planning. Thus far this has been a "give and

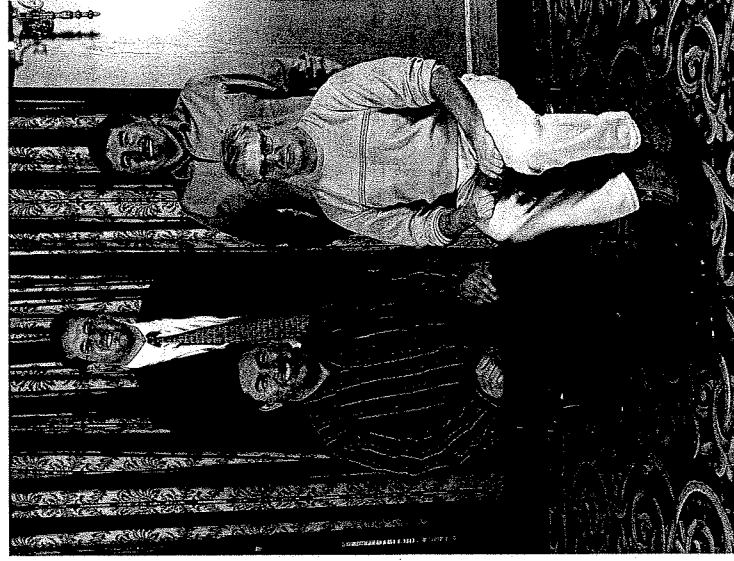
take" experience with measured levels of improvement over forestry planning in the past. However, one key limitation of the consultations under the Adapted Forestry Regime is that they are focused on individuals—individual traplines and individual Tallymen and their families. This has often meant that large scale forestry developments such as major roads are not assessed for their collective impacts.

The negotiators of the Adapted Forestry Regime were aware of this limitation but reasoned that the environmental section of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (Section 22 of the *JBNQA*) would be available to bring broader community-wide analysis to large scale forestry proposals such as roads. This past year, Quebec took the categorical position that forestry roads were exempt from the environmental assessment process set out in Section 22, suggesting that the consultations under the Adapted Forestry Regime were sufficient enough to gauge the impacts of proposed new forestry road projects.

This was the case for a 100 kilometre plus road proposed by Chantiers Chibougamau Ltee in heart of Oujé-Bougoumou's traplines. After eight months and numerous formal and informal inquiries with both the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MNRW) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Quebec finally answered by indicating that it was not necessary to trigger an Environmental Review under Section 22 of the *JBNQA* because the road was temporary in nature and was already subject to review under the consultation process of the Adapted Forestry Regime. Following this decision, the MNRW then abruptly approved the road in advance of receiving formal recommendations from the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board. It was at this stage the GCCEI filed a request for a legal injunction on this road on the grounds that it must be subjected to a Section 22 environmental review before it can be approved by the Minister.

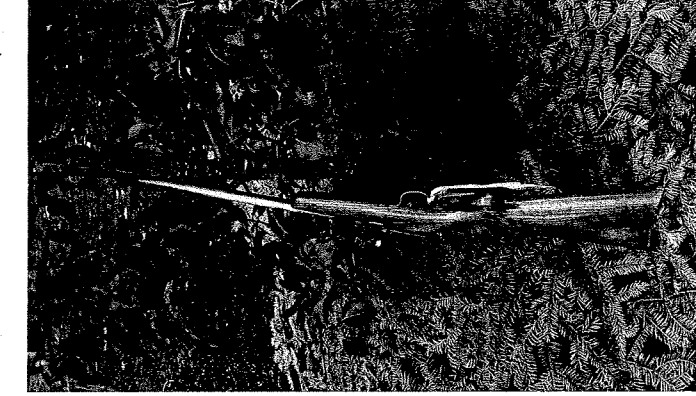
The case was before the courts this past fall and after an initial loss and an appeal, the courts granted the Crees a safeguard order preventing further construction activities until the following April. While this case was winding through the courts, the Forestry companies tabled a series of amendments to their 5 year General Forest Management Plans (GFMPs) based on revised timber allocations of the Chief Forester. These amended plans call for the construction and upgrading of over 7000 kilometres of new roads in southern Eeyou Istchee in the next two years.

In many cases these new roads are necessary due to the trapline logging limitations that were established in the Paix des Braves. In the past, forestry companies could log as much of a trapline as they pleased. Now, under the rules of the Adapted Forestry Regime, forestry companies can only log up to 40% of a trapline. This results in less intensive logging over wider area with more roads. Even so, the proposal for over 7000 kilometres of new roads in such a narrow timeframe is unprecedented, particularly when the short



term outlook for the forestry industry is grim. After some investigation it became clear that the impetus behind this unprecedented road development was a Quebec subsidy program that covers 90% of the costs of all forestry road construction. With this subsidy program ending in 2010, it is not surprising to see the forestry companies rushing to build these roads far ahead of their scheduled usage.

With these developments on the horizon, it was important for the GCCEI to take a firm position on the application of the environmental review process under Section 22 for many of these roads because a key aspect



of the environmental review process is project justification. In other words, the companies will be required to justify their need to build this extensive network. Hopefully this will insure that the roads that are ultimately built are actually required and not constructed due to the arbitrary conditions of a government subsidy program.

Another ongoing challenge faced by CFIT this past year were the MNRW plans to revise their forest regime in Quebec. As mentioned in last year's annual report, the government has dubbed these efforts as the "Green Plan" in Forestry. As reported last year, the Plan presented a number

of serious challenges to the current status quo of the Paix des Braves Forestry Regime because the government planned to transfer the authority for the regional forest management and monitoring over to an agency that was largely under the guidance of the Municipality of James Bay (MBJ).

In order to address the concerns brought forth by this Plan, the GCCEI made two separate presentations in the National Assembly this past fall. One was by Grand Chief Matthew Mukash, and the other by the Director of Quebec Relations, Romeo Saganash. In each of their presentations, they made the forceful case that the Crees would not agree to allow Québec to nominate the MBJ as their proxy when it came to the management of natural resources in Eeyou Istchee—emphasizing once again that the *Paix des Braves Agreement* is a nation to nation agreement and that MBJ has no status in this partnership.

One positive outcome of these presentations was that in February of this year, officials from the MNRW indicated that there had been further revisions to their Green Plan and that they no longer plan a complete transfer of management

and monitoring authority to municipal authorities. Thus far, the MNRW has not released any formal documentation of this change of heart and so the GCCEI will have to remain vigilant on this matter as Quebec plans to introduce the Green Plan as legislation in the next year.

Forestry Program funding became problematic this past year as the MNRW froze its 1 million dollar contribution to the Trappers Forestry Enhancement Funding and the Cree share of the Volet II funding. The MNRW sited problems with the financial reporting at the community level for Volet II project funding and indicated that the funding would be reinstated once they were satisfied that all the project money could be accounted for. Currently officials from the GCCEI treasurer's office are in negotiation with the MNRW to resolve this problem.

Another funding related problem came up this past year when the MNRW failed to renew its commitment to assist in the funding of the Cree members of the local forestry Joint Working Groups. According to their perspective, the *Paix des Braves Agreement* is clear that Quebec is not responsible for this funding, whereas it has been the position of the GCCEI that the financial costs for establishing five separate local Cree Joint Working Group offices with staffing creates an unequal financial burden on the Crees. In the search for a resolution to this matter, CFIT discovered that forestry related provincial funding for the region is unfairly balanced in favour of the MBJ. Currently the MBJ receives about 70% of the region's forestry funding that is made available by the MNRW each year with the Crees receiving the other 30% through the Volet I and II and Cree Trappers Enhancement Programs. In the discussions with the MNRW to resolve the Cree Joint Working Group Funding matter, the members of CFIT have taken the position that the MNRW should restore balance to the regional funding formula with this new inflow of funding being directed at the Cree Joint Working Groups. When the MNRW failed to respond to this proposal the matter was then referred to Council/Board in December 2008.

Even with all these political challenges, the members of CFIT regard these events as positive steps toward the full implementation of Chapter 3 of the *Paix des Braves Agreement*. In closing, the members of CFIT, Isaac Voyageur (Natural Resources Coordinator), Geoff Quaille (Natural Resources Advisor/Analyst), Matthew Longchap (Forestry Programs Officer) and Jean-Sebastien Clement (Legal Advisor) wish to thank all of the Joint Working Group members for their continued support and coordination. The members again thank the support staff in all the GCCEI/CRA offices who ensure that we are organized and well prepared for our engagements. Finally, the members of CFIT would like to thank Stephan Ouellet who has provided much need support for Robert Beaulieu who left last year to pursue other professional endeavours.

Mining

Mineral exploration and mining have become increasingly important issues for the Cree population in the last few years. The year 2008/9 saw some dramatic changes in the face of the minerals industry in Eeyou Istchee. A severe economic downturn brought sharp declines in metal prices and substantial financial difficulties at many levels. The surge in mineral exploration activity which had become a serious preoccupation for several communities came to an abrupt end. We expect recovery to take place, but we do not know how long it will take.

Work related to the minerals industry involves both the Cree Regional Authority and the Grand Council; mining is a good example of a cross-cutting issue. In 2008/2009, the GCOEI-CRA became involved in talks with several companies about possible agreements involving training, employment and service contracts. The largest of the potential mines is the Éléonore mine, in Wemindji territory – but there are a number of other potential operations in the Waswanipi, Nemaska and Mistissini territories. In particular, the proposed Stornoway diamond mine, and Strateco's uranium exploration programme in the Otish Mountains are being taken seriously, knowing that their feasibility depends on substantial investment in road building northeast of Mistissini. The Cree Regional Authority is involved in both environmental and socio-economic aspects of the planning of mining operations, and provides where possible support services and advice to the communities in this area.

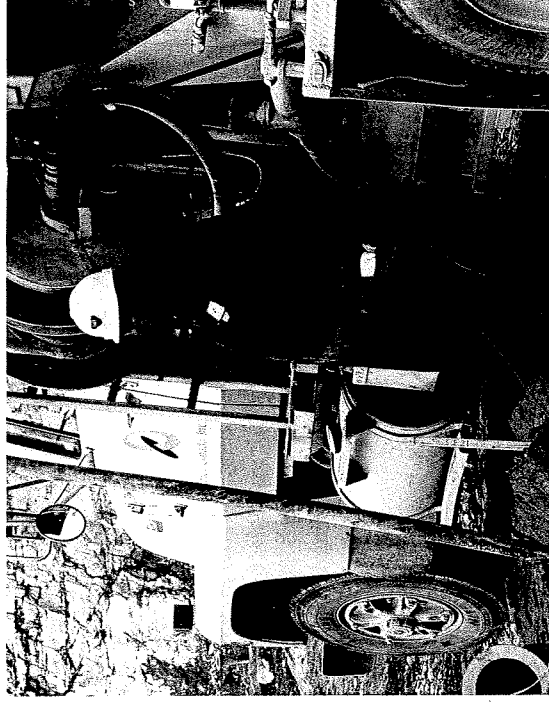
One illustration of what this role means in practice is the involvement of the Cree Regional Authority in a case study of the implementation of the Troilus Agreement (Mistissini – Inmet – Cree Regional Authority). This study was completed in 2008 and covers the 15 year history of the development and operation of the Troilus Mine, and the experience gained by the Crees in the mining industry during this period. This study is intended as a source of advice and guidance as other agreements are developed in the coming years with other mining companies operation in the region.

Another illustration is provided by the case of the environmental impacts of mining in the Chibougamau region, a subject which has been of considerable concern to Oujébougomou in recent years. In this case, personnel from the Cree Regional Authority have been working closely both with the community and the concerned government agencies on risk assessment, and the development of appropriate remediation strategies. This experience is also being applied now to the planning of remediation down-river

from the site where a tailings dam broke near Chapais in the summer of 2008. In this case, as well, the Cree Regional Authority is working with the responsible government agencies to develop a coordinated approach to the planning of remedial works and to communications related to the ecological effects of the release of mine tailings.

The impact of the economic downturn

As the economic downturn curbs investing, mining and exploration companies are reassessing their development plans. A combination of factors including, the totally



unexpected loss of previously raised exploration and development capital through defaults of several mutual funds and other short term credit instruments; huge increases in costs without corresponding increases in metal prices; a period of brutal declines in the prices of both base and precious metals; and the immense difficulty in raising cash from a moribund international community; has led a horrendous declines in the quotes for many junior mining shares. Resulting in junior exploration companies simply not having sufficient capital to continue exploration and development work, these factors have exacted a severe toll on the junior mining activities.

Jobs and Training

This past summer (2008) there were more than 90 High Quality Junior and Senior Companies active in the Cree territory. In addition, there were 67 junior prospectors who were also active in Eeyou Istchee and helped to create around 120 jobs. The majority of these jobs were with Opinaca Mines at the Eleanore Property in Wemindji territory.

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board has funded 13 Cree individual prospectors on Cree lands and has also been involved in training. In the summer of 2008 the

communities of Whapmagooostui, Wemindji, Waskaganish and Mistissini were involved in these programs.

Recent developments in mining in Eeyou Istchee

Mining operations, and in many cases advanced exploration activities, require ground transportation. The likelihood that several of the major mineral exploration programmes now under way will develop into operational mines depends directly on the availability and costs of ground transportation. This has been an important factor in the complex advanced exploration work at the Éléonore property, east of the Opinaca reservoir. However, it is in the Mistissini region, and in particular the Otish Mountains, that the issue of road access has become particularly important. There are at least three substantial development projects whose feasibility depends on what is termed a 'multi-service' road from highway 167 NE of Mistissini to the Otish Mountains region.

Discussions are proceeding with the Ministry of Transport on the planning of this road. It is one of the projects being considered as part of Québec's 'Plan du Nord'; but questions remain about project funding. It is likely that the road will be submitted to environmental and social

contract, and this is a factor which directly affects the feasibility of several projects in the Oujébougamau, Nemaska and Waswanipi region. Further to the west, the Metanor project at Bachelor Lake, which processes gold-bearing ore from outside the Cree territory, is quite successful, and Xstrata Zinc opened the Perseverance mine near Matagami – an operation which will provide opportunities for Cree experience with underground mining in the coming years.

Cree Mining Policy

The growth in exploration activity in recent years, and the experience with the Éléonore gold-bearing property in particular, have stimulated interest in developing a distinct Cree mineral policy. Work has begun on the development of that policy, the intention being that it will help to define the respective roles and responsibilities of the individual Cree First Nations, the Grand Council, and other Cree administrative entities (including the Cree Regional Authority). The work on this file is continuing, and specific objectives will likely be reviewed in the light of Québec's mineral development strategy for northern Québec, which will be made public this summer.

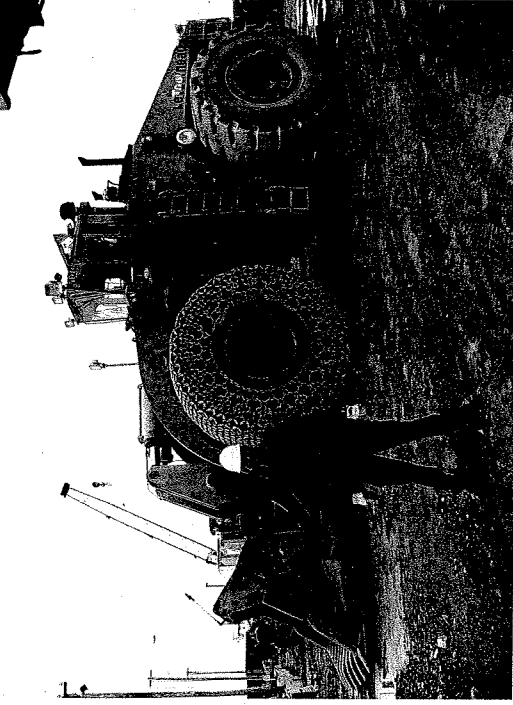


Table on Mining Exploration

Not long after the Paix des Braves was signed in 2002, Cree trappers began to enquire about mining exploration activities that were occurring in areas on their traplines that were now under full protection from forestry development. The trappers were surprised because they assumed these areas (approximately 1% of each trapline within the Adapted Forestry Regime) were protected from all development activities. As this is not the case, the parties agreed to establish a table on mining exploration to discuss how these activities could be done in a manner that does not infringe upon the traditional activities of the Crees.

This table was formally launched in July 2008 in a meeting between Abel Bosum, the Cree-Québec Negotiator, and Jean-Sylvain Lebel, the Associate Deputy Minister for Mining (MNRW). At this meeting it was agreed that the table's mandate would assess mining exploration in the context of the forestry provisions of the Paix des Braves. The parties also agreed to use this table as the contact point for the evaluation of the MNRW's upcoming release of Québec policy on Mineral Development. During the meeting the MNRW requested Cree engagement for the improvement of this policy once it was made public.

This mandate was further refined at a second meeting in November to include both parties working together to establish a standardized process to guide mining exploration companies on how to engage the Crees and work in Eeyou Istchee. The MNRW was informed that the GCCEI/CRA was currently working on a Cree policy on mining that would address these issues. The participants at this meeting

impact assessment and review later this year; schedules for construction are uncertain, but a functional all-season road is probably at least five years away.

In the meantime, Stornoway Diamonds and Strateco are actively pursuing their own exploration programmes. In the Strateco case (see also the following section), an existing winter road is being upgraded to a basic all season road to support exploration work in the Otish Mountains. Western Troyd, with a copper and molybdenum property north of Lake Mistissini, is also actively interested in road access.

Elsewhere in the Cree region, the last mine in the Chibougamau region has now closed its doors. As a result, there is no longer a functioning mill to process ores on

agreed that mining table would be an appropriate forum to ensure that the MNRW is well informed of the Cree policy. The parties also agreed to use the table to begin working on a program to begin cleaning up old mining exploration sights that are scattered through the territory. The Cree members assigned to this table are Jack Blacksmith, Isaac Voyageur and Geoff Quaile.

Strateco's Matoush project

The environmental staff of the CRA and GCC held a meeting on March 17, 2009 with officials of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding the Matoush uranium advance mining exploration project. This project is located at about 250 km north of the Mistissini community in the Otish Mountains. The objective of the meeting was to develop a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of the CNSC within the context of the environmental review and licensing processes of this project. This mining exploration project has been subjected to environmental assessment and review under the process set out in Section 22 of the JBNQA. It is also subject to review under the provisions of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) because of the licensing requirements under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. Issues relating to environmental and social impacts associated with uranium development were also discussed using comparison with existing uranium mines in Saskatchewan that were licensed by the CNSC. The proponent is currently preparing an impact statement that will be reviewed by both the Provincial Review Committee and the Federal Review Panel established under the JBNQA. The CRA has appointees on both of these panels. This impact statement will have to meet the requirements of the directives developed by the Evaluating Committee and approved by the Federal and Provincial Administrators of section 22. The CRA is also exploring with the CNSC the possibility of organizing a public information meeting in Mistissini on environment, health and safety issues, as overseen by the Commission.

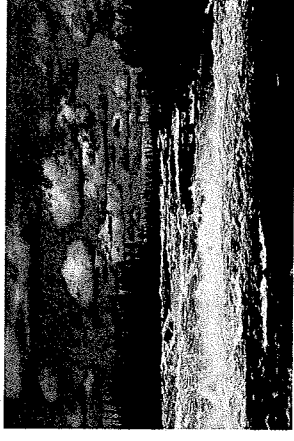
Outlook

The global financial crisis has spared no one and the mining and exploration industry is clearly feeling the impact. The precipitous decline of most metals prices over the last year and the general market and the economic uncertainty in the short- to - midterm make it very difficult to accurately forecast how mining and exploration companies will be affected. Many companies are shelving their development projects and suspending their operations and exploration plans. This may be an opportunity for the Cree Nation to evaluate, prepare and plan to seize the probable future upswing in mining development.

Offshore Islands Negotiations

The negotiations with the Government of Canada were concluded this past winter and an Agreement has been reached. This proposed Agreement was formally approved by the Cree leadership early this spring. We are now awaiting approval by the Government of Canada.

The Agreement itself will be a Treaty with Canada. It will also include an implementation plan detailing each Treaty obligation, the steps to meet these obligations, the time frame and funding related to these obligations. In addition, Canada has



provided additional funding for the Crees to acquire third-party interests in lands on the offshore islands in the settlement area and will also provide other implementation funding if the Agreement is approved.

The Treaty provides that the Crees will retain ownership of 80% of the land on the islands and in a certain area, jointly with the Inuit. These are virtually all of the islands closest to the coast. Canada will pay \$50 million to the Crees in compensation. The other major components of the Treaty are a Wildlife and Harvesting Board, a land regime and a Land-Use Planning Commission, a Development Impacts Review Board, commitments for other benefits to be derived from development, financial matters and a separate implementation agreement. Institutions of Public Government will be established, as mentioned above, where the Crees will participate with representatives of the Governments of Canada and Nunavut to jointly manage matters in the areas specifically provided for in the Treaty. There are also specific responsibilities provided for the Cree Trappers Association. The proposed Treaty also provides for other matters which are of importance to the Crees such as: preferential Cree employment, archeological and linguistic rights and other matters.

The Treaty sets out certain regimes relating to harvesting activities. In this regard the Cree negotiators have tried to have the Treaty recognize present Cree harvesting practices as much as possible so the Cree will not have to change their present practices significantly. Under the Treaty, the Crees will have the right to continue harvesting where they have already done so, and including the whole of James Bay

The matter which took the longest to resolve was certainty. Certainty is the term used to ensure that matters which may be brought up in respect to who has what rights in the settlement area have been dealt with and resolved so that there will be no questions as to who has what rights and who has the right, subject to the terms of the Treaty, to carry out activities in the settlement area without fear of valid contestations based on claims to unknown rights by the Crees over the territory. The reason this took so long was that the Cree negotiators proposed a new concept and wording given that there has been a lot of criticism with the existing surrender and certainty provisions in Treaties between Canada and Aboriginal groups. The Federal Party carried out a thorough and time-consuming consultation and approval process. This certainty model involves no outright extinguishment of aboriginal rights but rather recognizes Cree rights as coming through from the past to the present day and continuing into the future.

Also, the Overlap Agreement between the Cree and Inuit will form part of this Treaty.

These negotiations and the Treaty, if approved, will satisfy the undertakings of the Government of Canada given in 1975 to settle the offshore area.

Once the Government of Canada has approved the proposed Treaty, the negotiators will initial the document. Following the initialing, there will be consultations carried out with the Crees followed by a referendum to accept or reject the Treaty. Canada requires that an absolute majority of the total voting Cree population – 50% of all eligible Cree voters – must vote in favour of the Agreement for approval to take place. It is not known when this will happen. When the Treaty is approved, the Government will submit a Bill to Parliament to approve the Treaty. After that, the Government will fix a date for the Treaty to come into force. We can't say at this time when all this will take place.

Many people, on both sides, have been involved in the discussions and negotiations, some of whom are no longer living. Each has made a contribution to the negotiations and the outcome. In our opinion, the efforts of those Crees who came to meetings, took the Federal and Cree negotiators to see the islands and our way of life there and who participated in the negotiations made the biggest contribution towards the success of this negotiation process and allowed us to arrive at this proposed Agreement. We thank each and every one of you for your commitment and contribution to resolving this important matter.

The negotiations have not been easy to say the least. Once the Treaty has been approved and is in force, work can begin to implement it. The negotiators have recommended the acceptance of this Treaty as the Canadian Constitution will protect these Cree rights. We believe we have been able to preserve Cree rights as the Cree have desired.

Operations & Maintenance and Capital Grants

This funding and the grant arrangement was originally negotiated in conjunction with the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act which was passed into law by Canada in 1984. This was the realization of Chapter 9 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) which called for the creation of local governments to replace the Indian Act. Now twenty-five years later the Cree remain a small exclusive minority freed from the Indian Act. It has also provided the stepping stone to achieving a functioning Cree Nation Government.

Both the Operations and Maintenance Funding Transfer Payment Agreement, as it is officially called, and the Agreement regarding Annual Capital Grants were renewed last year for a five year period covering fiscal years 2008-2009 to 2012-2013. This was done to better coincide with the twenty year Cree/Canada New Relationship Agreement signed February 21, 2008.

The Operations & Maintenance funding totalled \$68,156,053 for 2008-2009. This is considerably higher than the initial 1984 level of approximately \$11 million and is a reflection of the substantial growth in population and facilities in the Cree communities. Prior to 1984 the Cree Bands received less than \$2 million in total from the Indian Affairs programs at that time. This funding combined with locally generated user fees and other local revenues is the principal source of funding for local government operations and services as well as regional support.

The capital funding totalled \$16,181,382. It is meant to reflect the fair share of normal housing and infrastructure programs. Funding from the Cree/Canada New Relationship Agreement and Paix des Braves for the assumed obligation for essential sanitation services is applied in addition to this amount. This is a classic example of how the JBNQA is to operate as a "Programs plus" deal.

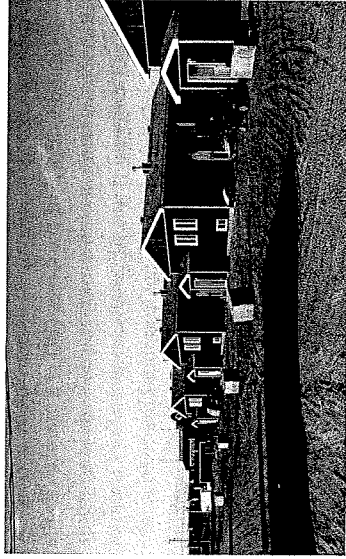
The capital funding is adjusted for price each year. The Operations & Maintenance funding is also adjusted for price and is further adjusted by the growth of the "in territory" Cree Beneficiary population. It is extremely important to keep these records up to date as this has a significant impact on the funding increases.

Housing

The housing component of the Capital A-Base is approximately \$9.6 million and the CMHC program will only support about 25 new housing units a year. Given our current backlog in excess of 1300 units it is clear that we can not rely completely on government assistance to solve our housing problem.

The Council/Board allocated a total of \$16,172,000 in equal amounts from the Cree/Canada New Relationship Agreement and Paix des Braves for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and elected to do the same for 2009-10 fiscal year for the purposes of improving the housing situation. This funding is to be used as follows;

- support of the CMHC social housing program
- support of a local private home ownership program
- support of a local Rent-to-Own housing program
- contribution to a local Housing Revolving Fund to initiate ownership programs
- assist in the carrying out of a housing renovation program



Negotiations are currently underway with CMHC and INAC to bring about changes to their programs to reflect the new relationship with Canada. In particular we are conducting a joint financial analysis to determine what adjustments are required by all three parties to maintain twenty year sustainability in the social housing program while facilitating a transition to private housing for those who can afford to do so. It is a very complex and challenging matter which is absolutely critical for the future of the Cree communities and the Cree Nation. The housing crisis can not be solved solely through these initiatives. Every Cree household must be prepared and committed to pay a reasonable portion of their disposable income towards this normal cost of living otherwise this problem will continue to worsen with each passing year.

Indian Residential Schools

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is a component of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement which was to have been launched in early 2008. The TRC was officially established on June 1, 2008 with Justice Harry Laforme as Chair and Claudette Dumont-Smith and Jane Brewin Morley as Commissioners. The TRC was to initiate and encourage reconciliation among former students, their families, and all Canadians. In doing so, the TRC would complete an accurate and public historical record of the past, thereby promoting awareness and public education about the IRS system, and its impacts on the human dignity of former students. On grounds that he could not work with the other two commissioners, Justice Harry Laforme abruptly resigned last October. Four months before the anniversary date of June 1, 2009 the other two commissioners also resigned. To many IRS survivors, this was a great disappointment, knowing that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was now reduced to performing administrative functions with no major decisions to be made until the appointment of new commissioners. There was also the concern of extending the commission's five-year mandate to make up for the lost time.

After the commission's chairman and two members all said they would step down the signatories to the settlement agreement agreed to appoint a retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci to chair a selection committee. This committee has now invited nominations of individuals to serve as Commissioners. It is not known when the selection committee will be ready to announce the new commissioners but INAC has indicated that everyone is hoping that selection can be done before or on June 1, 2009.

Independent Assessment Process

The IAP is the new process to help former students settle their claims for abuse they suffered at Indian Residential School. The IAP replaces the former Alternative Dispute Resolution program that was previously used to settle the claims. Former students who settled their Indian residential schools abuse claims in the Alternative Dispute Resolution process after May 30, 2005, may be eligible to apply to reopen in the IAP. The IAP compensates former students for sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and certain other wrongful acts which caused serious Psychological consequences for the Individual. This compensation is available in addition to the Common Experience Payment. To assist former students who wish to apply for this compensation,

the Grand Council of the Crees covered the costs for Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Legal Counsel, Diane Soroka to visit Cree Communities to explain the IAP and assist the students in completing the IAP application forms. These community trips were done in the fall and winter of this year. In regards to former teachers, former clergy, staff and students who have been named as perpetrators in several thousand compensation claims, the Federal government has hired 10 Private Investigators to track down the abusers. These investigators are to find anyone accused of abuse and to give them a chance to respond. It will be the investigators' job to track down alleged perpetrators and inform the Indian Affairs Department on how to contact them. If they've died, the investigators will provide the department with death certificates.

List of schools/hostels

Almost 18 months after the coming into force of the Agreement, the list of eligible schools and hostels has still not been finalized.



Requests were made to have hundreds of schools added. Most of these (about 80%) were not eligible because they were day schools, or provincially-operated schools, or were not eligible for other similar reasons. To date, only three schools have been added to the list. There are still dozens of outstanding requests across Canada.

In the Cree area, we requested the addition of the hostels at Moose Factory, Fort George and in Mistissini. The request to have the hostels at Moose Factory added was turned down on the grounds that they were supposedly operated by the Band and not by Canada. We are looking into this and will try to collect the necessary evidence to have these hostels added to the list. We have had no news regarding the hostels at Fort George and Mistissini which are still under review.

The process for appealing a decision not to add a school or hostel to the list of eligible institutions is not clear. There is presently a test case going forward in Ontario to try to determine the correct procedure for doing so. This is complicated because notices should be given to any person who may have an interest in seeing a school or hostel added to the list. This would include all former students at that institution. Part of the court's decision will have to deal with these issues.

Boarding Homes

There is still an ongoing effort to have students who lived at boarding homes while attending a residential school

added to the class of Plaintiffs. This would allow them to claim CEP payments for the years they were at the boarding homes.

In fact, it may be necessary to use a test case to see if the supervising judges (the judges who approved the Settlement and who are overseeing its implementation) would interpret the Settlement so as to include these students. If any individual wants to act as the test case, he/she should apply for the CEP for the years he/she lived at a boarding home while attending residential school, and, when turned down for those years, he/she should appeal that decision. After that, it may be possible to take a test case to the supervising judges.

Independent Counsel Meetings

Diane Soroka has been attending meetings of the Independent Counsel which is a group of individual lawyers (not class action lawyers) who are involved with residential school claims. These meetings are held every few months to discuss issues related to implementation of the Settlement. The Independent Counsel have a representative on the National Administration Committee which is the group of representatives of the various parties to the Settlement Agreement who deal with implementation of the Settlement as well as appeals and other issues.

Settlement Agreement Community Impacts Working Group

Grand Council of the Crees (EI) is a member to the settlement agreement community impacts working group. This working group was originally known as the Common Experience Payment Working Group and has been established to:

- Determine the potential positive and negative impacts on Aboriginal communities and individuals of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA).
- Recommend measures to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts of the IRSSA.
- Coordinate and support local, regional and national efforts to maximize the positive impacts and mitigate the negative impacts of the IRSSA.

As a participant to this working group, Grand Council participates in efforts to address the community impacts and to act as a vehicle of support among communities and other stakeholders. Grand Council also brings the IRS stories and shares experiences in developing communication strategies to reach the disenfranchised segments of the population and to address community interests.

International Affairs

Introduction

During the past year, a main focus at the international level has been implementation of the historic *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. As described below, this is occurring in various forums.

In terms of measuring progress on Indigenous issues, various bodies and mechanisms are increasingly involved and are contributing in significant ways. These include: the UN Human Rights Council; Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and Organization of American States.

The following is a brief description of new developments and the challenges ahead. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (or “GCCEI”) continues to be involved in many of these ongoing initiatives. As in previous years, the Grand Chief and the Deputy Grand Chief have taken an active role in the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous peoples on the world stage.

1. *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

Since the *UN Declaration* was overwhelmingly adopted by the General Assembly on September 13, 2007, a crucial objective now is to ensure the full and effective implementation of this universal human rights instrument. At the same time, efforts continue to be made to convince the four States that voted against the *Declaration* – Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States – to reverse their positions. Should this occur, the *Declaration* would become a consensus instrument. It would have even greater weight both internationally and domestically.

On April 3, 2009, the new Labour government in Australia endorsed the *Declaration*. In addition, the new governments in New Zealand and the United States have indicated that they are in the process of reviewing their positions. If these two governments were to reverse their current positions, then Canada would be the only State in the world to oppose the *Declaration*.

In view of the Canadian government’s rigid opposition, the international reputation of Canada continues to suffer. On April 8, 2008, a Motion was adopted in the House of Commons that calls for the government and Parliament of Canada to “fully implement” the standards contained in the *UN Declaration*. Members of Parliament from all three opposition parties voted in favour of this Motion. The GCCEI will continue its efforts to convince the Canadian

government to endorse the *Declaration* and, in regard to its implementation, to engage in a collaborative, human rights-based approach.

An ongoing positive development is the growing reliance on the *Declaration* by UN treaty monitoring bodies, in order to interpret core international human rights instruments. These bodies include the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and Committee on the Rights of the Child. This latter Committee issued General Comment No. 11 entitled “Indigenous children and their rights under the Convention”, which makes multiple references to the *Declaration* in interpreting the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

2. UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

In his August 2008 report to the UN Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, S. James Anaya, highlighted the far-reaching significance of the *UN Declaration*:

During the last three decades, the demands for recognition of indigenous peoples across the world have led to the gradual emergence of a common body of opinion regarding the content of the rights of these peoples on the basis of long-standing principles of international human rights law and policy. ... The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most important of these developments globally, encapsulating as it does the widely shared understanding about the rights of indigenous peoples that has been building over decades on a foundation of previously existing sources of international human rights law.

In his May 2009 Statement to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, James Anaya further emphasized that the “Declaration represents the global common understanding about the minimum content of indigenous peoples’ rights, building as it does upon a well-established body of international human rights law”.

In his Statement, Anaya stressed that “the Human Rights Council directs the Special Rapporteur to promote the Declaration in carrying out the work of the mandate”. As Special Rapporteur, he has promoted the *Declaration* in all States worldwide. No exception has been made for Canada and the other two States that have not endorsed the *UN Declaration*.

3. UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In October 2008, the newly-created Expert Mechanism held its first session in Geneva. Representatives of the Grand Council of the Crees participated in this three-day meeting and the two-day Indigenous Caucus meeting that preceded it.

The Expert Mechanism provides the Human Rights Council with “thematic expertise” on the rights of Indigenous peoples. The Mechanism focuses mainly on studies and research-based advice. The first study that has been initiated relates to “lessons learned and challenges to achieve the implementation on the right of indigenous peoples to education”.

In his first statement, the Chair John Henriksen underlined that “the Expert Mechanism has an important role in promoting the rights affirmed in the Declaration, and in mainstreaming them into the Human Rights Council’s overall efforts to promote and protect all human rights.”

The second session of the Expert Mechanism will be taking place on August 10-14, 2009. The agenda will include an item on the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the following specific themes: (a) Implementation of the Declaration at the regional and national levels and (b) adjudication, remedies, repatriation, redress and compensation.

4. Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review Process (UPR)

Every four years, each of the 192 member States in the UN will have their human rights record assessed by the Human Rights Council’s Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. This UPR process is a part of the institutional reforms of the United Nations.

On February 3, 2009, Canada’s performance on human rights was scrutinized in Geneva by this UPR Working Group. In order to contribute to this important process, a Joint Submission on Canada’s actions on the *UN Declaration* was sent by the Grand Council of the Crees and other Indigenous and human rights organizations to the Working Group.

In addition, the GCCEI provided information to many States in different parts of the world so that they may be better informed on Indigenous issues and concerns. Over 70% of the 68 States that participated in Canada’s UPR raised concerns relating to Indigenous peoples. Eighteen States referred to the *UN Declaration*, some of which recommended that Canada reconsider its opposing position.

In the preparation of Canada’s National Report for the UPR, the government did not engage in any consultations with Indigenous organizations or civil society. In its Report, the government omitted any mention of the *Declaration*. Follow-up meetings to Canada’s UPR were convened by the government in Gatineau, Québec in April 2009. However,

federal officials engaged in little or no genuine dialogue. In relation to the *Declaration*, they refused to discuss the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous peoples.

In April/May 2009, representatives of the Grand Council of the Crees and other Indigenous and human rights organizations appeared as witnesses before the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights. A key purpose was to raise basic concerns regarding the follow-up to Canada’s UPR process and the need for major reforms in the domestic context. A joint recommendation was also proposed to the Committee, with a view to substantially improving Canada’s UPR process.

In early June, Canada submitted its report to the Human Rights Council. The main purpose of the report is to indicate whether the government accepts the recommendations made to Canada by different States during its UPR process.

5. Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In regard to the draft *American Declaration*, a Special Meeting was held on December 9-12, 2008, at the Headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. A stated objective of the Special Meeting was to evaluate and strengthen the negotiations and propose specific actions to address the issues in the draft Declaration.

In particular, the various paragraphs remaining to be agreed to were compiled in a Chart prepared by the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus. The Chart listed those paragraphs in the draft text that have been approved, as well as those that were close to agreement and those that were not (e.g. right of self-determination, as well as rights relating to lands, territories and resources). In order to build further positive momentum, the next negotiations session will focus on the provisions that are close to agreement.

Participants at the Special Meeting also considered how the draft *American Declaration* could build upon the *UN Declaration* and add new provisions to address the human rights challenges in the Americas. The draft *American Declaration* could also fill in gaps or address any insufficient provisions existing in the *UN Declaration*. Unless the draft *American Declaration* could provide value-added significance, many State and Indigenous representatives questioned the value of having a regional Declaration.

In order to justify the adoption of a new regional instrument, new subjects were identified for possible consideration in future negotiations. These matters include: the situation of urban Indigenous populations; Indigenous migrants; impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters; persecution of Indigenous leaders for asserting their rights; food security, including traditional food sources; and Indigenous persons with disabilities.

Distinctive topics already introduced in the draft *American Declaration* include: recognition of juridical personality; and recognition of the right of Indigenous peoples to remain in voluntary isolations or initial contact. This latter issue constitutes a growing concern in the Americas, in view of the ongoing human rights violations.

At the Special Meeting, it was re-stated from a previous meeting that the majority of States and all of the indigenous representatives supported the use of the *UN Declaration* as “the baseline for negotiations and indicated that this represented a minimum standard for the OAS Declaration. Accordingly, the provisions of the OAS Declaration ha[ve] to be consistent with those set forth in the United Nations Declaration.”

At the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, many States reaffirmed their commitment to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples. In the *Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain*, these States added that they “will promote the successful conclusion of negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. Despite such commitments, many challenges remain in relation to the realization of a strong and effective *American Declaration*.

6. UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

On May 18-29, 2009, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held its eighth session at UN Headquarters in New York. Approximately 2,000 indigenous representatives from all regions of the world registered for the meeting. Other participants included the representatives of States, civil society, academia, UN specialized agencies and other bodies or mechanisms.

A key item on the agenda was implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and other Indigenous and human rights organizations submitted a joint statement addressing the central issue of effective implementation of the *Declaration*. The statement also underscored the growing momentum towards global consensus on this human rights instrument.

Other issues on the Forum’s agenda included the relationship between indigenous peoples and industrial corporations, and the need to promote corporate social responsibility, climate change, the Arctic region and land tenure. Issues relating to Indigenous women, such as violence against women, were also part of the agenda.

On January 14-16, 2009, an international expert meeting was organized by the Forum at UN Headquarters in New York concerning “Implementation of Article 42 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. The recommendations from the expert meeting relate to the UN and its bodies and specialized agencies, as well as to States. All of these entities are required under article 42 to

“promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.” As reflected in the *Declaration*, Indigenous peoples, in a spirit of partnership, have a crucial and ongoing implementation role.

On May 29, 2009, the Permanent Forum decided to take further action to ensure the *UN Declaration* is considered worldwide as “living law”. In closing its session, the Forum adopted a text that invited States to adopt or endorse the document, substantively inform the Forum about its implementation and effectiveness locally and nationally, and recommended that they do the same in core reports to human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review.

7. Climate change and Indigenous peoples

Climate change is a matter of global concern for Indigenous peoples. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has cautioned that “emerging evidence suggests that the livelihoods and cultural identities of indigenous peoples of North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific are already being threatened by the impact of climate change.”

The OHCHR has studied the relationship between climate change and human rights. Its January 2009 report concludes:

International human rights law complements the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by underlining that international cooperation is not only expedient but also a human rights obligation and that its central objective is the realization of human rights.

The *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* includes numerous provisions that may be highly significant in the climate change context. Yet, at the world climate talks in Poland in December 2008, Canada’s Environment Minister announced at a press conference that the *UN Declaration* “has nothing whatsoever to do with climate change.” Such statements unfairly politicize Indigenous peoples’ human rights and undermine global attempts to respond effectively to climate change.

The Minister’s statement that the *UN Declaration* has no relevance to climate change runs directly counter to the positions and approaches taken by numerous institutions and mechanisms. These include the OHCHR; UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people; Australian Human Rights Commission (Social Justice Commissioner); and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The GCCEI is increasingly involved in climate change issues. For example, this crucial subject was discussed at the May 2009 session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. At the Organization of American States negotiations on a draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, representatives of States and Indigenous peoples will be examining the possibility of including explicit provisions on climate change.

In addition, in April 2009, a Global Summit on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change was held in Anchorage, Alaska. The Global Summit was mainly organized by the International Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC). At the Summit, the *Anchorage Declaration* on climate change was agreed to by consensus by all participants. This Declaration describes the concerns and challenges facing Indigenous peoples, as follows:

We are deeply alarmed by the accelerating climate devastation brought about by unsustainable development. We are experiencing profound and disproportionate adverse impacts on our cultures, human and environmental health, human rights, well-being, traditional livelihoods, food systems and food sovereignty, local infrastructure, economic viability, and our very survival as Indigenous Peoples.

8. Extractive industries and corporate social responsibility

A growing issue of concern globally relates to extractive industries and corporate social responsibility. In this important context, experts have commented on the range of human rights violations committed by transnational and other corporations against Indigenous peoples especially in developing countries. In many instances, these violations relate to Indigenous peoples' right of self-determination, rights to lands, territories and resources, health and culture, food and water, as well as displacement and violations of the most basic civil and political rights, such as arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, enforced disappearances and killings.

In March 2009, the Tebtebba Foundation, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, organized an international expert group meeting in Manila, Philippines on Extractive Industries, Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility. A report from this meeting was submitted to the Forum, elaborating on how extractive industries, such as mineral, oil and gas extraction, disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples. At this meeting, Indigenous peoples and support organizations signed the "Manila Declaration of the International Conference on Extractive Industries and Indigenous Peoples".

Recently, the Canadian government adopted a new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy for the

Canadian International Extractive Sector. Regrettably, the Strategy falls far short of upholding Canada's international commitments on human rights, Indigenous peoples and the environment. By relying on voluntary guidelines, instead of imposing binding, regulatory requirements, the Strategy will do little to stop abuses by Canadian extractive companies from continuing unabated and unpunished.

These and other concerns were expressed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a joint letter sent on March 29, 2009 from the Manila meeting. The GCCEI is a signatory to this letter, along with many others from different regions of the world.

9. Human rights education

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and other Indigenous and human rights organizations have continued to distribute the pocket-sized copies of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* that were printed last year. This initiative is intended to promote human rights education on Indigenous peoples' rights and it continues to be highly successful. Both English and French versions of the *Declaration* are available.

The pocket-sized booklets on the *Declaration* are shared with UN departments, States, Indigenous peoples, and students. For example, 5,000 copies were given to high school students in New Brunswick that are taking law courses.

In addition, a book is slated to be published this summer relating to the *UN Declaration* and its implementation. The book is based on the presentations made at the international Symposium that took place on February 19-20, 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Symposium was entitled "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: 'the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world'". Two representatives of the GCCEI were presenters at this important forum, and one is a co-editor on the book.

In order to foster increased learning and understanding of the *Declaration* and Indigenous peoples' human rights, the GCCEI and other Indigenous and human rights organizations work together and participate in major presentations. Of particular note was the presentation by Romeo Saganash, GCCEI Director of Québec Relations and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa last September. He had the honour of giving the keynote address to students on the opening day of the Faculty of Law's 2008 orientation. Similarly, the Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) and Amnesty International have participated in diverse public forums in Canada and internationally. The GCCEI continues to partner with the Quakers and Amnesty International, as well as working on public human rights education with labour unions in Canada.

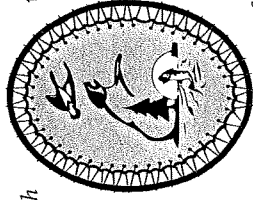
Faculty Profiles



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Chisasibi

Wachiya! Chisasibi is a vibrant community which has continued to flourish since its relocation from the island of Fort George in 1979-80. The population comprises approximately 3800 Cree beneficiaries, and about 250 Inuit and 300 non-native people who have decided to experience living and working in the north. An elected Chief and Council help administer The Cree Nation of Chisasibi Office (CNC).

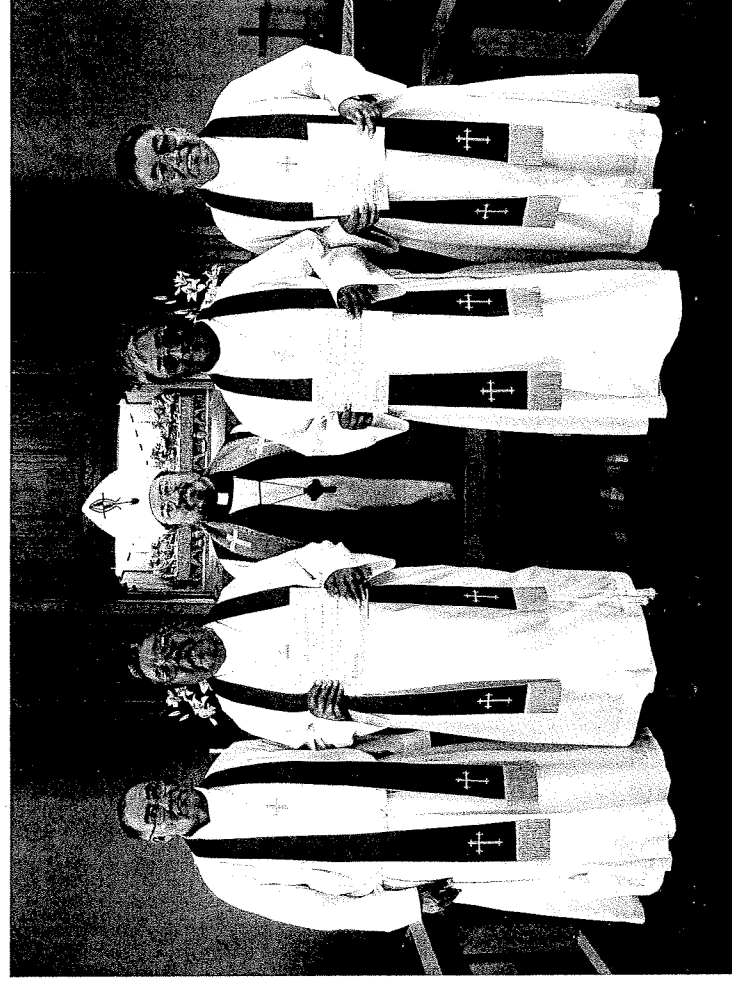


working and focusing our energy and resources on social issues in the community.

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the Quebec government and the Crees concerning the to-be share funding for the creation of CAVAC's in Eeyou Istchee. Chisasibi was proud to host the Cree Arts Festival, an entertainment event that will provide opportunities

for future and present musicians and artists to showcase their talents. Four of our community Elders, who speak only in Cree, ordained into the Holy Orders of Priest was also one of our highlights, a church first.



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Rev. Clifford Bearskin, Rev. Abraham Cox, Rev. Stephen Pepabano, Rev. Samuel Bearskin, and centre, Most Reverend Bishop Mark MacDonald.

Wachiya! For this annual report the Cree Nation of Chisasibi would like to highlight a historic milestone that will remain one of Chisasibi's crowning achievements; one that addresses the spiritual needs of the community. This article will therefore focus primarily on the ordination in Chisasibi of four (4) local non-English speaking Cree Elders; who have officially been inducted to the Holy Orders of Priest and recognized by the Anglican Church worldwide.

This quotation probably more or less encapsulates a certain time past in the imbalanced relationship between the Anglican Church and native people. The phrase referred to a past ill-fated event, whereupon stoles (priest's scarf) were prepared for an impending ordination at a (Moosonee) Synod, but the ordination was then cancelled due to some members' reluctance and unwillingness to accept a Cree candidate's English language shortcomings.

Regardless, many Cree men and women, past and present, have nonetheless continued to pursue their spiritual calling as catechists, lay people, choir members or served at their church

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Chisasibi ("La Grande River"). The two storey structure has 40 offices, 2 conference rooms, an archives, and a staff kitchenette. For years we have welcomed many local and out-of-town guests for meetings, building tours, seeking information, and for various other reasons.

Recent completed projects include the Cree Construction/Chée-Bee Construction office building; the Anjabowa Childcare Centre facilities (one new and one extension/renovation); and the community expansion area (lots and infrastructure); new housing units, as well as those on our ongoing housing renovations program.

Planned community projects (some completed) consist of: a new cultural centre; a swimming pool; community pavement; community landscaping; forty (40) units consisting of 20 new housing units and 20 renovations; and special needs housing unit(s).

James Bay Eeyou School administered by the Cree School Board, now has over 1,000 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Secondary 5. Cree is the language of instruction up to grade two, then either English or French is introduced as a second language. Cree language and culture is taught at all levels.

A 28-bed regional hospital is administered by the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB). The CBHSSJB also manages many programs related to public health. One important aspect is providing information about the disease – diabetes – which affects many people in the Cree communities.

We have two church buildings, St. Philip's Church and Ste. Therese Roman Catholic Church. Job's Memorial Garden's is the venue for many community events such as hockey tournaments; figure skating shows; dance

in other capacities. One letter (as early as the 1820's) even accounts of a request to the Church of England for a community-based clergyman, but the request was denied for one reason relevant for those times. But despite the long history with the Anglican Church, since its establishment at the Fort George Island community, two locals, and only recently, had ever reached the position of an ordained minister. The previously-ordained obviously met the aforementioned language prerequisite.

Fast forward... Spring 2008

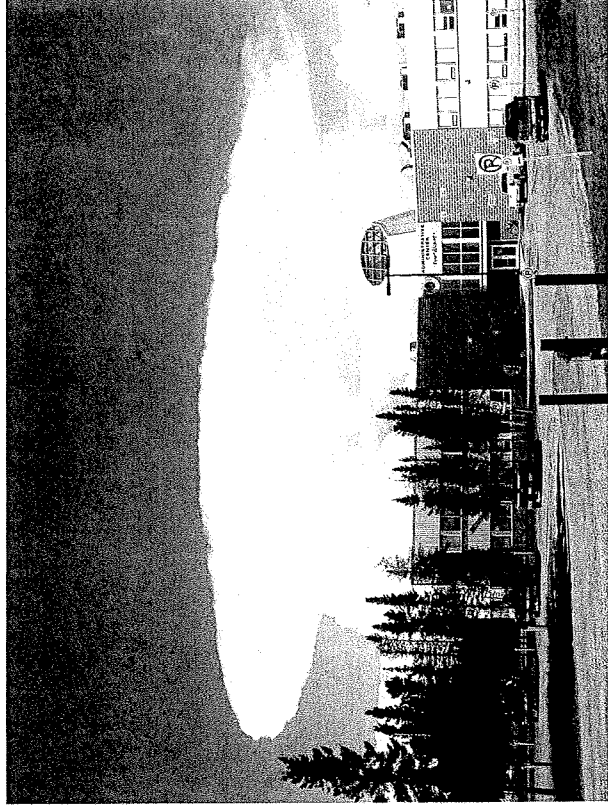
A well-organized post-ordination feast and celebration in Chisasibi was attended by Most Rev. Bishop Mark MacDonald and wife, Virginia. On February 18, 2008, Bishop MacDonald had celebrated his first four ordinations as the first National Anglican Indigenous Bishop, and as the appointed Bishop-interim of Eeyou Istchee. Also, among those in attendance

competitions; wedding feasts and dances; truckload sales; huge assemblies, etc. The Chisasibi Centre houses the Chisasibi Co-op; Canada Post; Northern Stores Ltd; CIBC; Court Room; CHRD Offices; the CNC Cultural Dept; and the Social Security Office.

The Administrative Building houses the Cree School Board, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, as well as the offices of James Bay Eeyou Compane, the Income Security Program, Niskafe restaurant and the First Nations Bank.

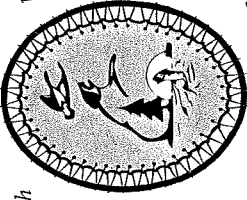
The Chisasibi Police and the Chisasibi Fire Department share a building, built in 2001. Both departments have a young dynamic team and effectively look after all safety aspects for the people of the community.

The familiar Mitchuap Building contains the Chisasibi Telecommunications Radio Station; Ginwat Cable; a recently opened restaurant operated by ADC; Chisasibi Business Service Centre, a banquet hall, an auditorium, a tourism office and a fitness centre. The Chisasibi Airport is owned and operated by Cree Nation of Chisasibi. The airport serves regional air transporters at certain periods on a daily basis, such as Air Creebec, Air Inuit, Propair, Whapchiwen Helicopters, etc.



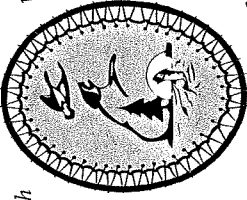
were Chief Roderick Pachano and Mrs. Janie Pachano; Robert Kanatawat and other church leaders and members; family members and others from Chisasibi and other communities. The four Cree Elders who were ordained as priests are Clifford Bearskin, Samuel Bearskin, Abraham Cox and Stephen Pepabano. Each had waited decades to be ordained.

During his brief address, Bishop Mark MacDonald thanked the four newly-ordained priests, the community and church leadership for this historic initiative. He remarked that this endeavor would be a model and example for other communities and people of all ages, especially the youth, to follow.



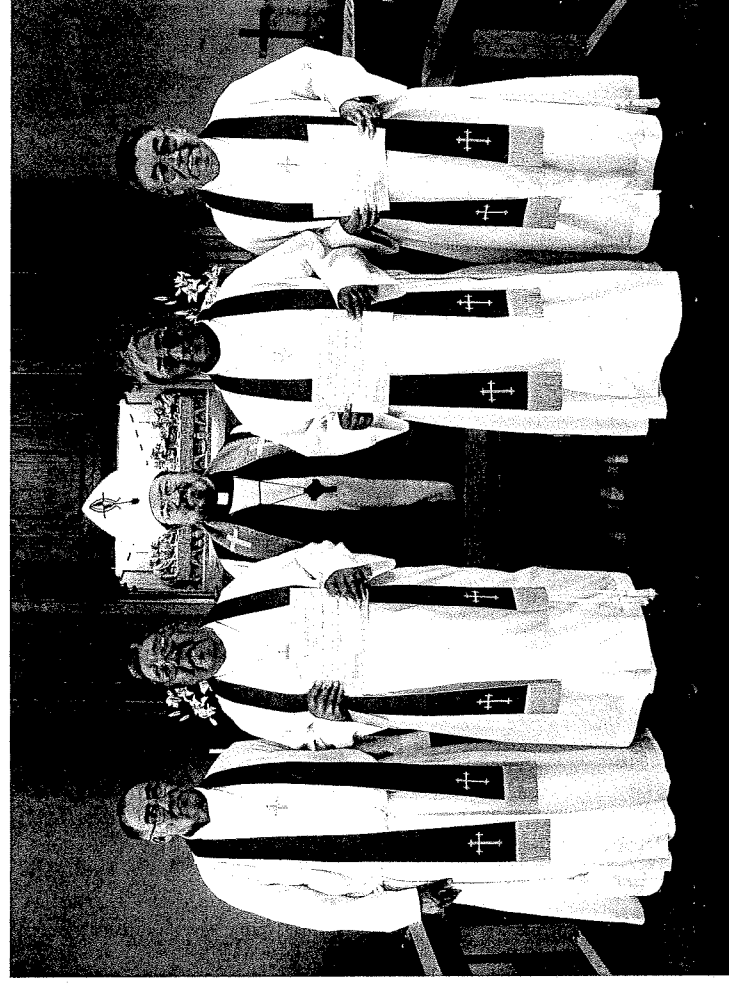
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Chisasibi was one of the communities most directly affected by the massive hydroelectric projects. The people have experience colossal changes due to flooding of their traditional territories. The relocation has had an impact on the cultural, social, educational and economic structure and fabric of the community. The Rupert River diversion will also compound the present effect on the community's water flow and quality. We are continuously



working and focusing our energy and resources on social issues in the community.

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A 28-bed regional hospital is administered by the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB). The CBHSSJB also manages many programs related to public health. One important aspect is providing information about the disease – diabetes – which affects many people in the Cree communities.

We have two church buildings, St. Philip's Church and Ste. Therese Roman Catholic Church. Job's Memorial Garden is the venue for many community events such as hockey tournaments; figure skating shows; dance

in other capacities. One letter (as early as the 1820's) even accounts of a request to the Church of England for a community-based clergyman, but the request was denied for one reason relevant for those times. But despite the long history with the Anglican Church, since its establishment at the Fort George Island community, two locals, and only recently, had ever reached the position of an ordained minister. The previously-ordained obviously met the aforementioned language prerequisite.

Fast forward... Spring 2008

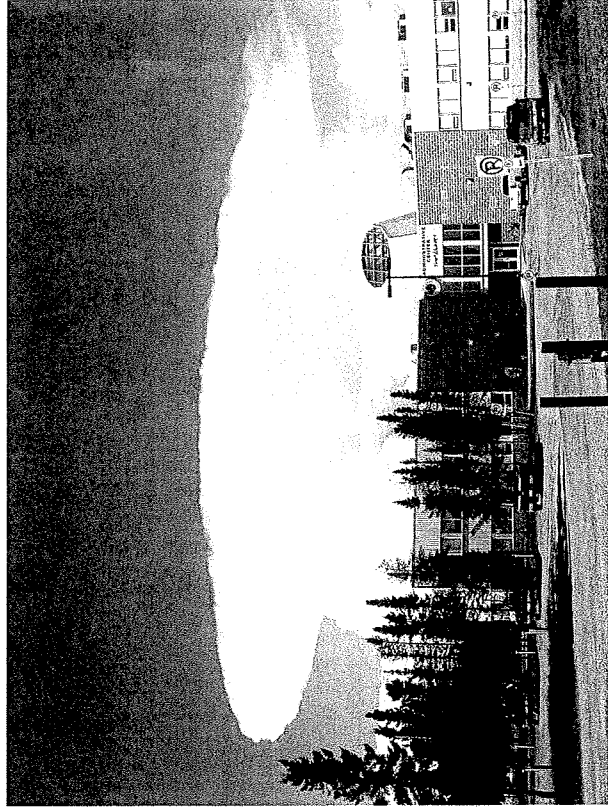
A well-organized post-ordination feast and celebration in Chisasibi was attended by Most Rev. Bishop Mark MacDonald and wife, Virginia. On February 18, 2008, Bishop MacDonald had celebrated his first four ordinations as the first National Anglican Indigenous Bishop, and as the appointed Bishop-interim of Eeyou Istchee. Also, among those in attendance

competitions; wedding feasts and dances; truckload sales; huge assemblies, etc. The Chisasibi Centre houses the Chisasibi Co-op; Canada Post; Northern Stores Ltd; CIBC; Court Room; CHRD Offices; the CNC Cultural Dept; and the Social Security Office.

The Administrative Building houses the Cree School Board, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, as well as the offices of James Bay Eeyou Compane, the Income Security Program, Niskafe restaurant and the First Nations Bank.

The Chisasibi Police and the Chisasibi Fire Department share a building, built in 2001. Both departments have a young dynamic team and effectively look after all safety aspects for the people of the community.

The familiar Mitchuap Building contains the Chisasibi Telecommunications Radio Station; Ginwat Cable; a recently opened restaurant operated by ADC; Chisasibi Business Service Centre, a banquet hall, an auditorium, a tourism office and a fitness centre. The Chisasibi Airport is owned and operated by Cree Nation of Chisasibi. The airport serves regional air transporters at certain periods on a daily basis, such as Air Creebec, Air Inuit, Propair, Whapchiwen Helicopters, etc.



were Chief Roderick Pachano and Mrs. Janie Pachano; Robert Kanatwat and other church leaders and members; family members and others from Chisasibi and other communities. The four Cree Elders who were ordained as priests are Clifford Bearskin, Samuel Bearskin, Abraham Cox and Stephen Pepabano. Each had waited decades to be ordained.

During his brief address, Bishop Mark MacDonald thanked the four newly-ordained priests, the community and church leadership for this historic initiative. He remarked that this endeavor would be a model and example for other communities and people of all ages, especially the youth, to follow.

These four priests each bring many decades of faithful service and spiritual guidance to their congregation (totaling over one hundred years of combined experience). They have been invited to participate at other Cree communities, providing moral and spiritual support for other fellow churches and clergy when so required. Not limited to the foregoing, their newly-acquired roles and licenses enable the four as fully-ordained Priests to perform much more than they were previously granted as laypersons or 'catechists'. Since then, they have conducted weekly services; baptisms; weddings; funerals, memorial services; confirmation teachings; and other related duties. Most of all, they have become living witnesses to the fact that the Cree Nation will have its own Eeyou Anglican Church and not be dependent upon others for spiritual guidance and leadership, but dependent on God.

Despite their official duties and obligations - which may oftentimes bind them to the community and Church - all possess Cree traditional knowledge and continue to actively participate in a way of life and culture passed down throughout the generations. Since they do not speak - but do understand some - English, it is bit ironic that the work they do is conducted in a language that was once officially prohibited by past policies. Even more ironic is the fact that their many years of hands-on experience and leadership were considered on their merit and substituted for a formal education, bypassing a rigid process that would have otherwise stymied or even eliminated their chances of becoming ordained priests...because they only speak their God-given tongue, Cree.

Whereas these four had been ordained as priests since, it is also noteworthy that Reverends Annie Herodier and Eliza Webb were also included in the initial August 2006 diaconate ordinations of six local candidates. Mrs. Herodier and Mrs. Webb now tend to their respective roles as vocational deacons in the community and church.

If this extraordinary event <an achievement formerly denied to many other Cree> is an indication of real change, then perhaps this is the invisible hand of God turning a page on a sad chapter of the Church's history. One can only hope this will open a new chapter to a new relationship, involving more direct and active participation and full partnership between Eeyouch and other brothers and sisters in Christ to serve within His spiritual realm in their God-given language, without discrimination. If this is God's will, then it shall be done.

In collaboration with CNC administration and departments, Chee-Bee Construction and Cree Construction and Development Company, in partnership as CBCC, direct local projects such as housing and commercial construction and seasonal contracts such as road maintenance. Two newly-formed Bear Construction and ConCREte, companies also bid or receive contracts or sub-construction since the start of their operations. The Chisasibi Business Development Group (CBDG) is the holding company for all CNC subsidiaries.

CBDG as a holding company, also has joint ventures with Kepa Transport, Legault Transport, Beesum Petroleum, Air Wemindji and Whapchiwem Helicopters (in partnership with Canadian Helicopters). In addition, CNC also runs the municipal garage.

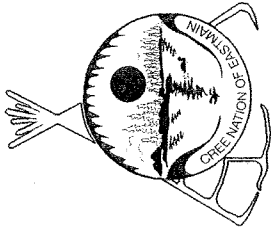
Several private businesses, such as VJ's Video; Chisasibi Enterprises General Store; Chistapatin True Value Hardware; Pash-Moar Pizza; 44 Canteen; Pachanos Auto Repairs (formerly "Eeyou Whiskeychan Garage" now transferred to private owner); and Pimiulikimw (Gas Station); also contribute to the town's prosperity.

The elected Chisasibi Sports and Recreation Association, in collaboration with CNC Recreation Dept. staff, sponsors and oversees local sporting events (i.e. hockey and broomball tournaments), as well as other events. There is an organized Summer Camp for children and a Water Safety Program, which teaches swimming and water safety to our youth. The Chisasibi Skating Club also provides activity for the community's youth.

The Fort George Island still holds a special place in our hearts. Every summer there is a Mamoweedow Minstutukh gathering, usually held in July, which gives people a chance to mingle together and reminisce about old times. During this time, there are organized games, feasts, dances, talent and variety shows, and competitions for all to enjoy, as participants or spectators. In addition, the annual summer pow-wow is held in the community, whereupon previous events have seen participants and visitors coming from many parts of the country and beyond the borders.

The Chief and Council of The Cree Nation of Chisasibi acknowledge that our Cree culture and language must always remain strong, active and forefront, and that we must also support further training for our people, to ensure our community's growth and progress towards self-determination. We always remember that we are people of the land, who are endowed with knowledge and traditions of our Elders, but that we must also continue to adapt to the effects of modernization and other influences. All our Cree communities are one family and we will continue to support one another. Standing united, we know that we will not fail but stand tall and meet the challenges and overcome the obstacles, a strong Nation united by the will and strength of our people.

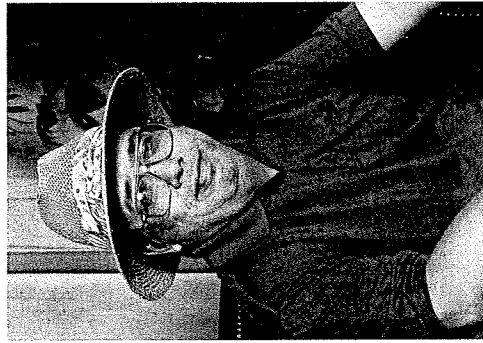
Chief Roderick Pachano



Wachiya, "beam me down Scotty" to Lat.

52 14 29, 8North and Long. 078 30 33West would transport you somewhere in central but not exactly in exciting downtown Eastmain. Ease-Mhen Eeyou Istchee traditional hunting territory extends inland over an area of slightly more than 16,000 square kilometres. Our community occupies a small part of approximately 554 square kilometres of Category I lands with our registered population now being over the 660 mark.

The Hudson Bay Company established a trading post near the mouth of the Eastmain River in 1739, hence the name of Eastmain came into being. At that time, this post was the headquarters of trading activity on the eastern shores of James Bay and Hudson Bay.



Over the years, accessibility to our community has continued to grow and since 1995 it has been accessible year-round by road, as well as by a daily air service, six days a week, provided by Air Creebec out of Montreal.

Our community has a young population which is evolving very rapidly, health and social services for the community are provided by the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, the Cree School Board provides educational services through Wabannutao Eeyou School up to the Secondary V level, child day care services are provided by the Wasayapin Daycare Centre. Mandow Inn provides lodging for visitors, and other community

infrastructures, include a gas station, grocery store and a community radio station. The Cree Trappers' Association have their head office located in Eastmain.

At the community level, we will have undertaken the necessary steps to formulate and implement the Cree Nation of Eastmain Development Plan and we diligently explore ways of developing a sustained local economy to provide employment for our ever growing young population. Natural resource development and tourism, as well as the production of arts and crafts are among our numerous priorities, as we address various employment creation ventures. We realize that there still remains much to be done to ensure that our young people can look forward to enjoyable lives in our community and become productive members of the Cree Nation.

Through the traditional Cree way of life, our lives as hunters, fishermen and trappers, remains very important to us and we continue to respect and act as stewards over Ease-Mhen Eeyou Istchee. We share this traditional path with our families and hope to maintain it for our youth, our future.

You have honoured me by allowing me to serve as your Chief, I will continuously strive to meet our aspirations and meet objectives of our Nation within the Nation.

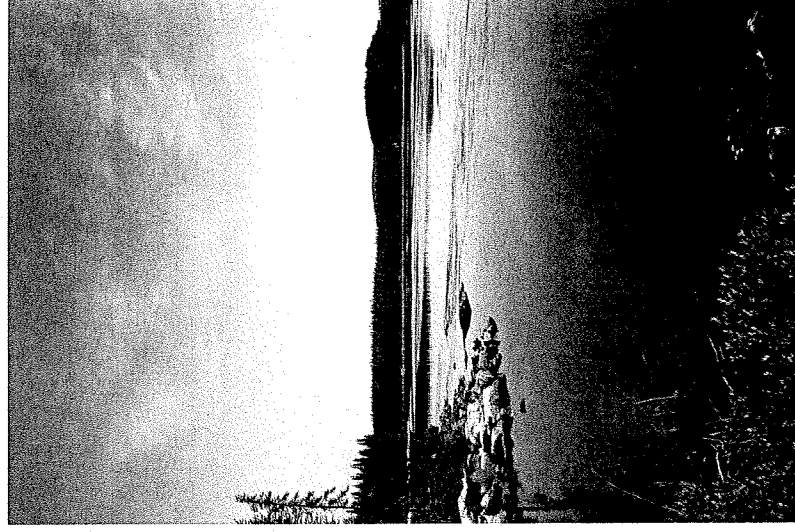
Meegwetch
Chief Rusty Cheezo

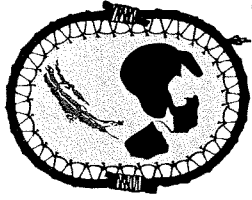
Gawalhiichiwatch

On behalf of the Council of the Cree Nation of Eastmain, I also want to offer our gratitude, extend our appreciation of and honour the many people in Eastmain who have given so much of their valuable time and energy so freely to our community, working for the community events and in many other needful areas, their voluntary services are greatly appreciated.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge and honour all of our Elders and grandparents for it is the values that they have instilled in us, which allows us to continue the pursuit of the traditional Cree way of life and to pass on that knowledge to our children and to the future generations of our Nation.

Meegwetch.





Karen T. Matoush is a young woman who is a very involved with the community events held in our community, Mistissini. Karen is married and is the mother of three sons. One of her sons has global development delay-autism and yet with this additional responsibility she gives so much of herself toward our community events. Karen began working in 1999 under the Mistissini Local Low Employment Program and with this work experience her knowledge and skills developed from there. She is the daughter of parents who are 'trappers' out on the land and she has attained considerable knowledgeable of her culture and traditional values. Initially she worked as a casual laborer in several positions; a retail clerk, a data entry processor, a brighter futures worker, an Educator and a Genealogy Assistant Researcher for the Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini. These experiences allowed her to explore her options for opportunities available in the Cree Nation. Karen not only enjoys and works with her family but also enjoys participating in activities and meetings in the community and she serves others when they are in need. She was taught to respect people and to work diligently in all that she does. Karen had worked as the Mistissini Native Women's Administrator in our community. At the Native Women's Association she worked in many areas; fundraising for people, helping at the feasts, and initiating projects for the community's well being. She consistently displays her involvement in community events and always lends a helping hand to many people who need assistance. Karen is currently furthering her education to expand her knowledge and will bring back her expertise to benefit the people of Mistissini. The Community of Mistissini recognizes her Community involvement and she is a great example and role model to the many working woman to keep participating in community events. To make family values and community service a priority in one's life is an invaluable attribute. ("For all you give comes back to you ten-fold")



Kwaay.

I am pleased to again present a profile of Mistissini and I will share some history and our community's accomplishments to the present time.

The Cree people have occupied Eeyou Istchee since time immemorial. The Mistissini people and neighbouring Cree hunting groups, the Nitcheqoun and Neosweskauu people came together to make up the Mistissini population in the 1930's. Some Nemaska and Ouje-Bougoumou people later joined our population for a period of time. Mistissini was a summer encampment with the establishment of the Hudson Bay Company and their initiation of a fur trade. A provision of Government food rations began in the early 1940's, but it was only in the early 1960's that government assistance was available to the Cree population. This was very limited and our people depended upon their traditional activities to take care of their families.

Following the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) on November 11, 1975, the Cree Nation of Mistissini and other communities finally had the opportunity to develop their respective communities.

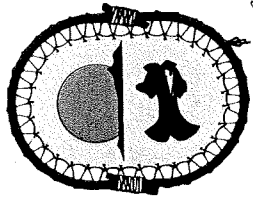
Our community now comprises a population of approximately 3400 registered members. Many public facilities have now been constructed to meet our needs. We now have an Elders Transitional Home, the Mistissini Motel is available to our many visitors. Mistissini is also host to numerous entities such as the Cree School Board Head Office, James Bay Cree Communications Society, Cree Health Board Inland Office and the Re-adaptation Center for the Cree Health Board. We also house departments of the Cree Regional Authority which includes the Cree Human Resource Development Office. We have opened our new Neosweskau Sports Complex which offers many activities and hosts many community events for the Cree Nation.



Our economy continues to grow with many businesses that meet the needs of our community. This provides employment and income for our people, not to mention the pride of having undertaken a business, for some the first time, and watching it ultimately achieve success. This is challenging for our administration in providing funding, infrastructure and commercial lots, however, our people work diligently to overcome the many obstacles. The Quebec-Cree New Relationship Agreement has also opened the door for economic ventures presently being realized. Now with the signing of the new Cree-Canada Agreement, we will have the tools to achieve greater autonomy and self- government for our people.

The past 45 years have seen many changes in our community; we have grown and developed from our limited resources to become a large modern community offering many services and products to our people. I am proud of our community members and our many accomplishments together. We will continue on our journey and overcome the obstacles; we must strive to create a positive environment in all aspects for the Mistissini Nation. Our positive work can contribute to the future growth and prosperity which will provide for and benefit our children in the generations to come.

Chief John Longchap



Wachiya, I am honoured to present some highlights and reflections concerning events and milestones for the community of Nemaska this past year.

More than thirty years ago, members of the Nemaska Band re-established their community. Our cultural identity was reaffirmed as "the people of the land of plentiful fish." Prior to this our forefathers were living a nomadic existence and existing solely off the land, however, the time came when they knew that a permanent community was necessary to meet the changes and the needs of our people. The location of our community was chosen by one of our Elders, and with persistence, diligence and dedication our community had a plan.

Today we number more than 700 and are a thriving community with numerous businesses. We also are proud to house the Nation Office for the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority.

While disbursements, from the Cree-Quebec New Relationship Agreement have been allocated to our community's expansion, upgrade and new infrastructure, we are now addressing the allocation resulting from the Cree-Canada Agreement which brings improved funding but more responsibility. With the monetary disbursements, we will be able to continue to provide an improved quality of life by investing in our community and more importantly in our people. We assume more responsibility on this journey of governing ourselves and building upon our people and community, and we do this with pride and perseverance.



Relevant to the social issues; we must undertake all measure and means to address them. We now have the Nemaska Sports Complex, which offers many activities for the community. As well, the wellness of our youth and activities pertaining to their growth are foremost in our planning. We have a Wellness Department who are actively involved in the community and at the same time are addressing the many issues affecting our youth and community.

We must diligently address the promises that we made to our people, we must be accountable and prudent as we manage the great responsibility of our mandate. That is to govern and ensure that all measures are in place for the present and future generations of Nemaska people.

The Council of the Cree Nation of Nemaska looks forward to enhancing, maintaining and strengthening our working relationships with the Cree communities, the GCCEI/CRA and governments to ensure that there will always be benefits for the community and the Cree Nation.

As I have previously noted, good relations are based on mutual respect and "the keeping of promises to keep promises."

Wachiya
Chief Josie Jimiken



One Exceptional Woman

The best way to greet Roselynn Rabbitskin is to give her a smile and she'll present you with more than you had bargained for, a big smile that can light up the darkest room. Born in the early seventies to Bella and Tommy Jolly, she became a single parent to Jeremy, now nineteen, life was not easy for Roselynn. Like many single parents she had to take the necessary steps and sacrifices to greet parenthood with dignity and dedication. With her little family she has also embraced all the little ones in Nemaska as her own and she has several godchildren! She has been a social butterfly, and indeed a continuous joy for the people of Nemaska.

For many years, Nemaska has been enriched by her effortless work volunteering in many committees and events within the community. She has been involved in the social field for a long time working as the Community Worker for the Nemaska Social Services. This field has taken much of her personal time because people come first. She has dedicated herself to better the lives of her people, clients, friends and colleagues. Roselynn has been a pioneer for volunteer work in every aspect in Nemaska, and she is always there working in the front lines at every event. Many people leave when the event is over, but not Roselynn, she will stay with the cleaning crew to the very end. She has become such a reliable person that every active committee wants Roselynn.....with her lively joyous character and enthusiastic spirit.

On many occasions, along with her mother Bella Jolly Sr, they host gatherings on social matters within the community. Nemaska has had a difficult past with tragedies and many turbulent times. We had almost lost teenagers last year, but who - organized and sat until the end of the community gathering? It was Roselynn. It is her heart for the people that draw people to her. Roselynn has practiced her expertise and helps the healing process of our people. She has attended several counselling workshops and received many certificates of achievements. With this certification, she has poured her knowledge into everything she has ever been involved with.

Through the years of her work, and travelling all the time, Rose has kept her faith in God and continues to live her life to the fullest. Her active lifestyle has been an inspiration to all of us. Truly Roselynn is a remarkable young woman and a true role model for the community. Nemaska is fortunate to have such a dear lady of strength, kindness and wonderful moral character.





Claude St-Pierre

We are very pleased to introduce Mr. Claude St-Pierre to the Cree Nation. Claude St-Pierre is one of Oujé-Bougoumou's most respected hunters and trappers and is an exemplary model of the true meaning of "gawahwiichiwatch".

Claude has not only learned and practiced the techniques and methods of our traditional Cree way of life, he has also absorbed the important Cree values of sharing, caring and respect which he incorporates into his life in the community in addition to his life on the land.

In the community, Claude gives expression to Cree values through his willing and consistent involvement in many community activities. For many years, Claude has been actively involved in local Oujé-Bougoumou CTA committee where he is recognized as an outspoken and effective contributor assisting in the guidance of these important Cree entities and programs. Claude is also currently a member of the local Cultural & ISP Committees.

Because of his skills on the land Claude often volunteers to be involved in search and rescue missions. He is also a member of the local Emergency Preparedness Committee. Being trilingual has proven to be an important asset for Claude in many of his community volunteer activities.

In addition to his traditional pursuits, Claude is an exceptional carpenter and is the co-owner of a local enterprise, Nawestanan Enterprises, which specializes in renovation and repair work related to housing and public buildings.

Although he is not yet an Elder, Claude St-Pierre has the wisdom of the Elders, and in that way, he serves as an exceptional bridge in our community between the Elders' traditional way of life and our youth.



Kwaay!!

I am very pleased to pass along the greetings of the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation to the readers of the GCC(EI)/CRA Annual Report.

In Oujé-Bougoumou, we are continuing with our efforts to develop our community in the direction of what many observers have described as a model aboriginal village. We constructed our village according to the principle of "sustainable development" and we have attempted to orient our future development according to the same approach.

We have conducted an important round of community planning sessions with the objective of renewing our vision and to set clear objectives to guide us for the next number of years. Our community members addressed all areas of community life indicating key priorities for action. We remain optimistic and confident that we will be able to enter the future with the same enthusiasm that our Elders had in bringing us to our new village.

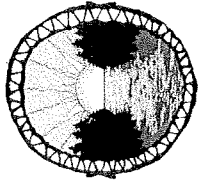
We believe that our ability to continue along this path has now been greatly enhanced by the conclusion of a "New Relationship Agreement" between the Cree Nation and Canada. Our Cree Nation is now poised to chart new grounds in the area of self-governance and we hope that we will be able to establish important new benchmarks for First Nations peoples across Canada. We look forward to working together with the Grand Council and the other Cree First Nations in ensuring that this Agreement is successfully implemented and that we, together, will establish creative and effective new governance structures.

Together with the New Relationship Agreement with Quebec our Nation is now on the brink of playing the central economic, political and social role our people have long dreamed of. We look forward to this challenge of combining all the potential benefits of these two historic agreements in a way that holds a great deal of promise for Oujé-Bougoumou to continue our effort to build a healthy and secure community—not only for ourselves but for the future generations of our people.

We applaud the leadership of the Cree Nation for its bold vision and initiative in concluding this historically important milestone in the development of our Nation. We also thank the Creator for the guidance provided to our leaders and to our communities over this last historic year.

Chief Louise Wapachee





Wachiya

The community of Washaw Sibi Eeyou comprises approximately 350 Cree people who live throughout their traditional territory in the Abitibi region of Quebec, but who reside primarily in the Abitibiwinni Algonquin First Nation (Pikogan Reserve) and in Amos, Quebec. Historically, a number of groups of Cree families, including the Washaw Sibi Eeyou, traditionally hunted and trapped in the southern James Bay area. These families congregated during the summer months in Waskaganish and Waswanipi for the purpose of selling fur. At a certain point in their history, the Washaw Sibi Eeyou chose to bring their furs down the Harricana River to trade at various outposts

in the southern part of the territory. Washaw Sibi is the Cree name for the Harricana River and, literally, means "the river that runs into the bay." The Washaw Sibi Eeyou met during the summertime in the southern part of their traditional hunting grounds near what is now the town of La Sarre. This tradition continued until the late 1950s.

An historic resolution recognizing the Washaw Sibi Eeyou as the tenth Cree First Nation was passed in September 2003 at the Annual General Assembly of the Cree Nation held in Waskaganish. With assistance provided by the Grand Council of the Crees, the Washaw Sibi people are now striving to obtain their rightful recognition of their distinct Cree status and rightful recognition of their traditional hunting territories as Cree territory. The Grand Council is taking an active role in facilitating Washaw Sibi's integration into all Cree entities so that programs and services may be provided to the people of Washaw Sibi. The Grand Council, the Board of Compensation, the Cree Trappers Association and several Cree communities – notably Waskaganish and Waswanipi – provided concrete financial support for the Washaw Sibi community in addition to ongoing technical advice and support.

The Washaw Sibi Eeyou now have their local administration and are progressing forward with the overall responsibilities of governing. Responsibilities which they will have as they are to be recognized by other governments as a Cree First Nation, the tenth Cree First Nation.

As well, on behalf of the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi, I am proud to honour Mrs. Dorothy Reuben Polson, who has made many contributions to our community and indeed to the Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee. She has provided for her family and learned the traditional skills of survival on her family's trapline and has passed this knowledge down to her children and grandchildren. Dorothy continues to teach and guide the young with her considerable experience. We are honoured to have her as a member of the Washaw Sibi Cree Nation and extend our deepest appreciation to her for her many acts of kindness and the work she has done for our people.

Meegwetich

Chief Billy Katapatuk Sr.



Mrs. Dorothy Reuben Polson

My name is Mrs. Dorothy Polson (born Reuben), my ancestors came from Waskaganish, Eeyou Istchee. My father was George Reuben of Waskaganish, and my mother was Maggie Blackned of Eastmain. My parents married in 1914, and they lived on their traplines in James Bay during most winters, until they decided to move to La Sarre, Quebec. In the fall, my parents would leave from La Sarre, to live in the bush for ten months then return back for the summer months.

I did not have an academic education, because my parents did not want to send me to school. However, as I grew up I was taught day by day by my parents, Elders and the people around me. That is how I was taught and learned what I know today. I was taught the life skills of survival such as trapping, hunting, fishing, skinning and tanning hides, sewing, cooking and as well, many more life skills.

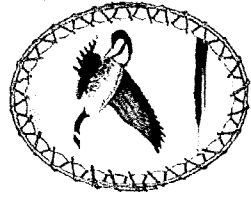
In 1952 I met and married Hector Polson of the Alonquin Nation and became Mrs. Dorothy Reuben Polson. We had thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters and we were proud of our family. My husband, Hector Polson was Chief of Pikogan for eight years, in 1985 he attended an All Chiefs Meeting in Quebec City, where he had a heart attack and passed away on May 22nd, 1985.

From that time on, I did what I could do to provide for my family by working. I took several courses on how to set traps and how to handle furs. In 1987, I took an instruction course for teaching trapping and passed. With this knowledge I was able to teach other trappers how to set up the new models of traps. I then went to other communities, Lac Simon and Maniwaki in Quebec and Wahgoshig in Ontario, where I was able to teach the people these new skills, there were other communities that unfortunately I was unable to travel to.

Today, I am a proud mother, I am a grandmother of thirty-nine grandchildren and also a great-grandmother of thirty-nine great-grandchildren.

When I think of all the struggles and all the hurts that I have been through in my life where my family is concerned; and with what I have seen and felt, God's blessings were always there for me. I believe... God is always with me during my life and He continues to bless me, my family and all the Cree Nation.





Volunteers

How do you define a volunteer? Someone who gives of their time freely and many times, sacrificially to provide a service. Many people in Waskaganish did just that when we were involved in search, rescue and recovery operations. In the fall of 1999, in what was referred to as the "James Bay Tragedy" 8 people lost their lives in a boating accident while on their way to their hunting camp. Volunteers came forward to offer their services and did not quit until the desired objective was met.

Volunteers again came forward in 2006 & 2007 and worked tirelessly for many hours until the bodies of two young men were recovered.

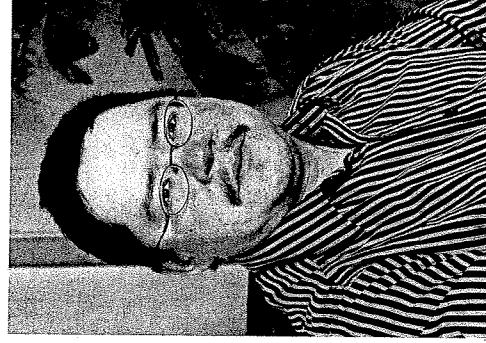
There are also the volunteers who give of their time during the Christmas season, who provide baskets to families in need, the volunteers who work with children and the youth, the volunteers who organize special events for the community. These volunteers are to be commended for giving of themselves to meet the needs of others.

It is difficult to recognize just one individual when so many from the community are involved in volunteer work in some way.

So, this is to recognize those men, women, youth, elders, and children who volunteer when they are needed. WE SALUTE YOU ALL, for your dedication and willingness to give of yourselves for the betterment of people in need and our community!

Wachiya and greetings to all.

My name is Steve Diamond, Chief of Waskaganish and it is an honour for me as Chief to provide this profile for your enjoyment and information. The people of Waskaganish have occupied this area of land — that stretches from beyond the Ontario border to the west, south as far as Grasset Lake, which itself lies Northwest of Matagami, roughly along the James Bay Highway to the East, and along the Jolicoeur River to the North — for thousands of years and while our ancestors lived primarily a nomadic existence even well into this century, the present settlement of Waskaganish, in one form or another, has been here for over 340 years. The community is situated at the mouth of the Rupert River which flows into James Bay. It began as a trading post for European traders seeking out the high quality beaver pelts that the area with its numerous creeks and streams provided and it has evolved into a community which presently has close to 2000 residents. Like most Cree communities we have experienced very rapid changes within the last few years. We have faced many unexpected challenges as a community and while they are sometimes difficult to deal with, it provides an opportunity to come together as a community and work to overcome any issue, just as our ancestors did in times of hardship or difficulty.

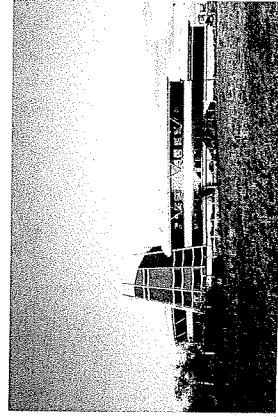


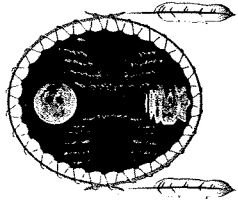
One of the major achievements for this year was the formation of a partnership with three construction companies (EBC, Neilson, Waska Resources) and two communities (Waskaganish and Nemaska) which managed to procure a sizable contract in relation to the Rupert River Diversion. Although this project is a sensitive issue for most Waskaganish residents, the Council felt that the only option available to us is to maximize the benefits that we can from an otherwise negative impact on our community. We continue the work on expansion of our community infrastructure to accommodate our rapid growth and enable us to have the necessary lots to catch up on our housing backlog. This past year we have taken a major step in opening up our eastern expansion of our community for development. This global plan will see the addition of over 300 lots for future housing. We continue working on other projects, including: the development of a heritage area located by our waterfront, a location for all our local cultural activities; the building of a larger and upgraded terminal at our airport which is the hub of air transport in the Cree territory; the building of a higher capacity water treatment plant to address our increased needs for water; upgrade and renovation of various community facilities and systems, and many other prospective projects in the works. With the signing of the New Agreement with Canada and the funding it provides, we strive to make continuous improvements to our community and also in our organization for the betterment of our people and the services we provide to them.

In a social aspect, we are currently conducting a review of bylaws with other concerned stakeholders to better deal with the issues that we continue to face in relation to drug and alcohol, security and general well-being of all our residents. One of the focuses in the coming years will be to devote more time and energy to other sectors of our local economy in an effort to increase our economic base and have a greater variety of employment opportunities for our community members. We will also invest in getting our organization better skills and knowledge to provide the best quality of service to our public.

In closing, I would like to state that in spite of the many social, economic and developmental challenges that we face, we continue to grow and strive for better days for ourselves and our future generations. We invite you to experience the beauty and history of Waskaganish for yourself, and you will be greeted with our warm hospitality. With that, I wish you all good health and happiness and may God bless you all.

Chief Steve Diamond





Community Profile

I am pleased to present this overview of our community, the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, which means "Light on the Water". This refers to the traditional way of catching fish at the Old Post by holding a lantern or fire over the water at night and luring the fish toward the light on the water.

We have occupied these lands since time immemorial and have survived from generation to generation by following our traditional way of living with subsistence from the land. Our ancestors travelled throughout the territory with birch bark canoes in the summer periods and on snowshoes and toboggans during the winter period. To subsist on the bounty of the land, fishnets were made from roots and babiche to capture the fish and, to hunt wildlife our ancestors used bow and arrows, snares, deadfalls and bird bolas. Today our hunting and fishing techniques have evolved with new technology but the lessons taught by our Elders from generation to generation remain the same, we are stewards of our land and as such we must respect the land and the wildlife.

Every summer we return to our roots at the "Old Post" which we call GEEWETAU..... this is a time when our people gather to celebrate together, our history and our knowledge. A time to remember our ancestors and to honour our Elders who continue to share their knowledge and skills with our members, from the very young to the older. We are grateful for the gifts from the Creator, the many types of fish; sturgeons, walleyes and white-fish, which swim in our lakes and rivers, the moose and black bear that inhabit our forests, and they are joined by other species, such as rabbits, partridge, geese, ducks, loons and beaver, all placed here for our subsistence. We give thanks to the Creator for all that is provided to us from the land.

Waswanipi has grown rapidly and we now have approximately 2,000 members today. Over the years our community has developed, we have built new homes for our people, with plans to continue these efforts for our ever increasing needs. We have also completed 12 log homes for our Elders to enjoy and our beautification project has provided a healthy and conducive environment. We offer health services, day care services and educational services for our members. The Cree School Board Vocational Centre and Residence is very effective and not only provides educational opportunities but employment opportunities as well. As our population increases, economic development is a major initiative, and we are addressing this matter in-depth. We want to develop community businesses which can provide opportunities for our members and our youth. Given the signing of the new Canada Cree Agreement, we will now have more of the necessary tools to initiate and to achieve many of the needs of our community and members. There is much work ahead of us but if we stand together, united with perseverance and diligence we will succeed.

At this time we want to recognize Gloria Jolly for her many benevolent contributions for our community and members. I want to thank the members of Waswanipi for their support, as well as the employees of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi Administration Office and Entities for their hard work and commitment to our community. I also thank the Council of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi for their contributions and dedication to our members. Meegwetch.

Chief John Kitchen

Gloria Jolly

After many struggles and determination, Gloria Jolly can proudly say that she overcame many obstacles in her life's journey. At a young age, it took a change in lifestyle to help her move forward and to live as an example for her daughters, Savannah and Kerishia.

Gloria's work in the community, whether it was in the area of recreation, social community events such as sporting tournaments, traditional gatherings, community celebrations and weddings, she has been there to lend a helping hand and ensure that everything ran smoothly. Her active role in the Pentecostal Church's Women's Ministry has been extraordinary in reaching out to the women of Waswanipi and implementing local outreach programs for her church.

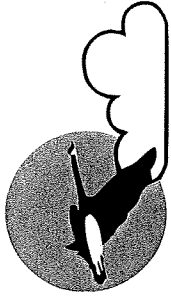
Gloria Jolly's work experience has always evolved around helping other people. She has worked as a Community Social Worker, Youth Protection Worker and a Homecare Worker. To follow her heart's desire, Gloria left a job that she had for many years with the Cree Health Board to become the Recreation Director for the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi. Her desire to see people of all ages take part in community sporting events is vitally important for the health and well-being of each participant. In her first summer as Recreation Director, many projects and activities are in progress.

Adversity is a part of everyone's life, and Gloria is no stranger to adversity. As a young single mother of two daughters, Gloria was determined to make a change and to be the best that she could be for her daughters. Steps had to be taken to make that change, and being a new born-again believer in Christ at the age of 23, her healing journey began.

For many years she held her anger towards herself, her parents and her family. As Gloria recalls in those tough times, her Savior began to deal with her emotions and hurts and pointed out the areas in her life where change was absolutely necessary. Her faith heeded to the call of deliverance and healing in her life. She chose to let go of the past, she chose to forgive and she chose to move on.

Today, Gloria lives a wonderful and positive life with her two daughters, Savannah and Kerishia. Gloria is an example of how one must have determination and perseverance. From a young mother with many obstacles, to a woman of faith, love and hope for her community, Gloria has come a long way. It is Gloria's desire that her story be an encouragement to many young women in the Cree Nation, to let them know that whatever you are going through in life, hang on, press forward, never give up and to also remember the great promise that *Nothing Is Impossible*.





Raymond Atsynia

A Recognition should be extended to Raymond Atsynia for his contribution and collaboration to the development of the community.

He was instrumental in the idea for the Incinerator Project and from this came the Recycling Program which is being used today. This has and will set a higher standard to ensure a clean, healthy and attractive community.

The Cree Nation of Wemindji took the initiative to move to an incinerator instead of only a waste disposal site which would have only lasted 15 to 20 years. His idea for this venture was eventually followed with our current Recycling Program and a sustainable waste management program which will last us at least 40 years. We are realizing the importance of recycling and managing our waste effectively.

As a result, the Cree Nation of Wemindji has been honored with the Phoenix Award, which was accepted by Mr. Johnny Mark.

Chief Rodney Mark

Wachiya!

First, I would like to extend my gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve my Community as Chief. I also want to thank all of our staff for their diligence and loyalty in serving our Community.

The past years were trying with the ongoing ventures, housing infrastructure and the signing of the Cree-Canada Agreement at the Regional level. However, with this new agreement in place we are able to progress forward in developing our community and improving the lives of our people.

There has been much development of natural resources and one of the major issues facing our Community is mineral exploration and mining activities which are presently occurring in Category I, II and III lands of the Cree Nation of Wemindji. We must be increasingly diligent regarding these issues, taking into account the needs of our people and the future of our community while maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Our economic development ventures, which includes our local construction company, Tawich Constructions Inc., continues to grow and show profit. As well, our Joint Ventures between the Cree Nation of Wemindji and the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, which include Kapa Transports Inc., Besuum Petroleum Inc., and Air Wemindji Inc. are proving very successful.

We have undertaken the development and implementation of our governance project. The spirit and intent of our government is to cultivate a Government of the People, by the People and for the People. An effective local government that is fair, transparent and accountable to the Cree Nation of Wemindji.

We have successfully been able to have Old Factory River Shed recognized as a possible Biodiversity Reserve Park and in the coastal area a potential National Marine Park. This has been an achievement in partnership with McGill University and the local tallymen as well as with the support of the Grand Council of the Crees.

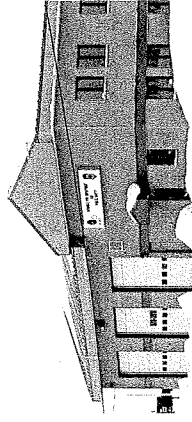


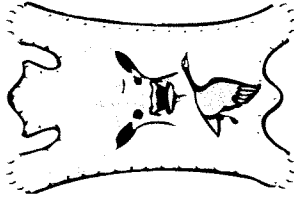
I would also like to this opportunity to mention the 50th Anniversary of the Cree Nation of Wemindji, and the events planned for July 1 to 15, 2009. We have indeed grown as a Nation and our community has developed and progressed dramatically over the past fifty years. We will re-enact the 1959 arrival and traditional feast on Day 1, the following days will comprise community activities and games, traditional ceremonies and feasts, cultural demonstrations, celebrating our past music and bringing in today's music with a music festival. We plan to have many activities focusing on our health and well-being of our Nation. We also will have tributes to the many who served and worked for our Nation, as we know that we would not be where we are today without their vision and dedication to our Eenou/Eeyou rights. Last but not least we plan an Elders Day to honour and recognize our Elders, who have taught us and transferred their knowledge so that we may continue to live within the Eenou/Eeyou traditional way of life.

Before closing I must also extend appreciation, on behalf of the Cree Nation of Wemindji, to Mr. Raymond Atsynia for his distinguished contribution to our community.

I am honoured and deeply privileged to represent the people of Wemindji. The well being of our people, of our community and the Cree Nation remains my priority and I will strive to serve you with not only diligence, but with perseverance and with honour.

*In friendship and peace
Chief Rodney Mark*





Whapmagoostui is the most northern Cree community in Eeyou Istchee, and the population has more than doubled within the past twenty-five years. Whapmagoostui

First Nation continues to improve our programs and services for our community members. There is still a huge backlog of housing and we are working diligently to improve this situation. With the new Cree/Canada and the previous Cree/Quebec agreements in force we will be able to accomplish obligations and needs to improve our community member's quality of life. Economic development remains a priority and is ongoing, as we must ensure the future of our youth and ensure that they will find employment within our community. Entrepreneurs will be able to receive technical and financial assistance.

Our multi-service building houses various services for the community such as: special services for diabetics, physiotherapy, and other health services. This facility also serves as a day center for the elderly where they can meet to socialize and to engage in activities such as sewing, playing activity games. A Homecare program is also housed in this facility, which is vital for our people. Our community members benefit from our multi-service center and this has also provided much needed employment opportunities to our members.

A majority of our Whapmagoostui people still practice their traditional way of life, and more community members continue participating in the Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program. Upon the arrival of spring the community members go to the bush for the Goose break leaving the community veritably empty. This is a strong reflection that our traditional way of life remains strong and the preservation of our cultural practices and values as espoused by our Elders and their fore fathers continues as a main focus of our every day lifestyle. Our youth enjoy and benefit from our traditional practices and rituals and our Elders continue to provide guidance and knowledge to our people.

Meegwetch

Chief Losty Mamianskum



Gawahwiichiwatch

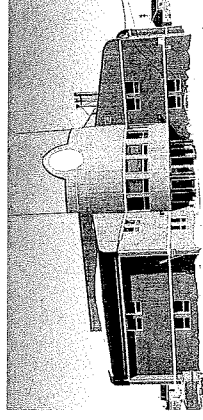
I consider that our people have always acted in a sharing society, sharing and helping one another has always been a priority and a mission of Whapmagoostui Eeyou. There are many ways that we volunteer and give of ourselves. I will share some of my ideas on the many Eeyou who give of themselves continuously.

My first thoughts go to our Elders who share on a daily basis with their legends and stories of the past, with their knowledge handed down to our young people, with their guidance as we continue to acknowledge and practice the important rituals which have been handed down from generation to generation. We thank our Elders for this wonderful opportunity to learn and to participate in our traditional practices.

My second thoughts go to our hunters and trappers, who spend their time out on the land, and upon their return home from a successful hunt share their bounty with families and with the community at large. My thoughts also go to our women who maintain our homes and who cook and serve at our feasts, who give to the children unconditionally. Their strength is our lifeline.

Last but not least I think of all the community members involved in activities for our youth, for our Elders and for community members at large, I thank all of you for your benevolent services – Gawahwiichiwatch – to our people.

Chief Losty Mamianskum



In Remembrance...

Steven Bearskin
1946-2009

Steven assisted in the original JBNQA negotiations, and he later worked in various positions with the GCCEI and CBHSSJB. He served as president of CCDC and later became president of James Bay Eeyou. He went home January 20, 2009, but is remembered for his many contributions to the Nation and is sadly missed.

Johnny Jolly
1947-2009

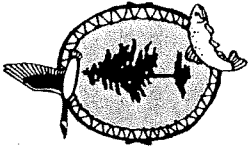
Johnny worked for the GCCEI in various capacities. He worked on the implementation of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program and served as a Board member, he also assisted in negotiations for the Cree/Naskapi (of Quebec) Act. Johnny left us May 27, 2009, he is sadly missed.

Allen Neacappo
1945-2008

Allen, well known as The General, served the Cree Nation for nearly 30 years as an employee of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program in Chisasibi. His passing on December 9, 2008, leaves a void and much sadness.

William Pashagumskum
1946-2008

William began working with the GCCEI in the late 70's organizing and managing the office. He worked as a liaison officer and served in several capacities to assist the Cree Nation. William left us on July 16, 2008, and is sadly missed.



Cree Regional Authority

Message from the Director General, Eddie Diamond

Wahcheh!

This past year, 2008-2009 was a challenging year and as Director General of the CRA I have strived to ensure that the administrative work is successfully completed to meet the responsibilities and goals of our Nation. I am proud to present the following reports which will provide further insight into the ongoing work of the Cree Regional Authority.

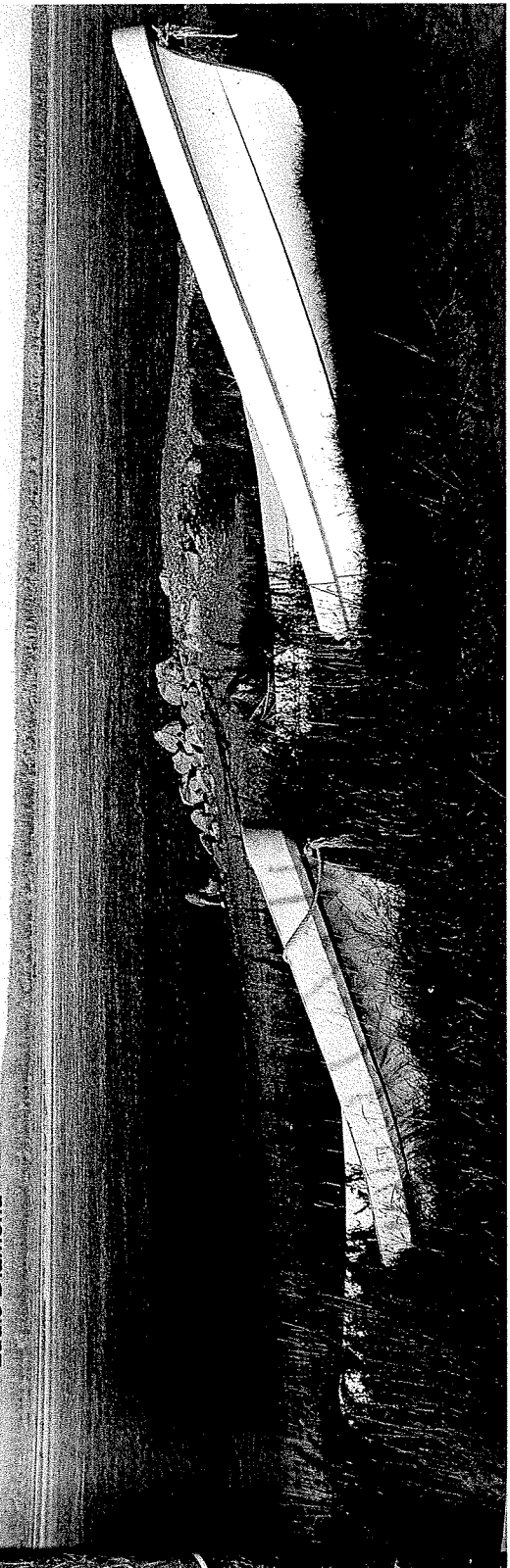
Our responsibilities have increased tenfold following the signing of the Cree-Canada Agreement, This Agreement transferred certain Federal obligations and responsibilities to the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and this transfer advances the exercise and practice of Eeyou governance. We are up to this challenge and we understand that it is only by our consistent and distinct hard work that we will be successful in meeting the needs of our Nation. The administrative body is complementary to the political body and as such our role is highly important to provide support services for our governing needs.

There have been many changes at the administrative level as we undertake the implementation of the new organizational structure. There have been internal promotions as well as new engagements, and this is only the beginning of what will be a complete reorganization of our administrative body, to implement and provide administrative services to our Eeyou-Eenou Nation. I am honored to be a part of this historical change as we advance our own self governing Nation. We have many youth coming into the work force, at many levels, and we have a responsibility to provide and serve as role models and also to transfer our knowledge to our younger employees, to allow them to expand their knowledge and to grow as we also have grown in our nationhood.

I would like to express my appreciation to our leadership, to Grand Chief Mukash, and particularly to Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff who has diligently exercised his mandate to oversee many of the administrative files. I also thank our Senior Management, our Directors and all our support staff for their continuous and dedicated work in meeting the many and continuous challenges, without their hard work we could not have accomplished what we have achieved to date.

We must strive, as our former leaders did, to maintain recognition and protection of Eeyou/Eenou rights, this is one of the most important pursuits and achievements of the Cree Nation, to progress forward in our governance and with utmost confidence.

Eddie Diamond





Message from the Treasurer, Matthew Swallow

As Treasurer of the CRA/GCCEI for the past seventeen years I have reported to our members on the significant financial issues which we have faced as a Nation and the difficulties we have endured in trying to manage our very limited resources in an effort to have both Canada and Quebec respect the rights and promises of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. I have explained these challenges at many Annual Assemblies and I believe that most of our members understand that we have a come a long way in a very short time thanks to the continued strength of our leadership.

The resolution of the legal proceedings against Canada and Quebec and the agreements established to implement various obligations and responsibilities pursuant to the JBNQA through the transfer of responsibilities and resources to the Cree Nation has marked an important turning point in Cree governance and in the role of the Cree Regional Authority.

The resources now under administration of the Cree Regional Authority and other Cree entities entrusted with the implementation of the JBNQA are very significant. At the same time the responsibilities and needs of our communities are equally significant. The role of Cree Regional Government is changing and this change was approved by our members pursuant to the referendum on the Cree Canada New Relationship Agreement.

This past year marked the first year of implementation of the Agreement. The role of the CRA in implementation is fundamental both presently and for the future of Cree rights and benefits contained in the JBNQA. The manner in which the Cree Nation implements the Agreement will dictate to a large extent the renewal provisions of the next agreement. As a result we are now charged with the responsibility of defining the agreement for future generations. Our responsibilities to our people have never been greater.

As Treasurer I take this responsibility very seriously. The Council Board recognizes the importance of the new responsibilities and authorized significant changes to the organizational structure and budgets applicable to the implementation of the Cree Canada New Relationship Agreement. The Accounting Department is now the Department of Finance and Treasury. The Department is responsible for the management and coordination of all funding received by the CRA from all sources. An important responsibility related thereto is the management of and reporting on all major funding agreements.

In order to implement these new responsibilities we have been fortunate to engage qualified professional individuals who will play a key role in both the internal management of our resources as well as in the reporting and compliance functions between the CRA and recipients of funding from the CRA in relation to the various agreements.

Over the past year we have worked diligently to establish new reporting regimes and have assisted in the development of programs and reporting criterion with respect to the use of funding under the various agreements signed with the Governments of Canada and Quebec. The CRA has entered into funding agreements to support the implementation of these arrangements with all Cree communities and all Cree entities in receipt of funding from the CRA. In this respect, the CRA essentially acts as the government authority on the allocation and use of the resources entrusted and as a result we have developed similar reporting and compliance regimes which both Canada and Quebec themselves have put into place to responsibly manage financial resources.

In implementing the Cree Canada NRA, the Cree Nation has entrusted the financial management of the settlement amounts to be paid out over the twenty year period to the Cree Nation Trust. The Trust will flow funding

every year to the CRA or the Cree Nation Government once established for the implementation of the assumed obligations and responsibilities. The Department of Finance and Treasury plays a key role in dealing with the Trust on the annual financial requests and on reporting and compliance to the eligible expenditures for which funding is approved. The CRA developed various programs in consultation with the communities to implement the obligations and the Cree Nation Trust has approved these programs. The CRA will now be charged with reporting on the use of such funds annually to the CNT.

As the role of Finance and Treasury has evolved I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the staff in our department who have grown with the evolution of our responsibilities and who have continually accepted the challenges they have faced in adapting to the changes which we continue to implement. Our staff are the cornerstone of our government and I want to recognize their efforts in support of the continued development of our organization.

An Overview of certain of the Funding flowing through the CRA/GCCEI including funds allocated by the Cree Nation Trust and Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

The CRA/GCCEI and the Eenou - Eeyou Limited Partnership act as Recipients of Funding pursuant to many agreements. Pursuant to the New Relationship Agreement with Canada, all payments are made to the Cree Nation Trust which provides annual disbursements to the CRA which is entrusted with the implementation of the Assumed Obligations and Responsibilities. The CRA/GCCEI have negotiated many funding agreements for the Cree Nation where the funding flows to the CRA/GCCEI, which then reallocates the funds in favor of the local communities and/or in conformity with agreement guidelines.

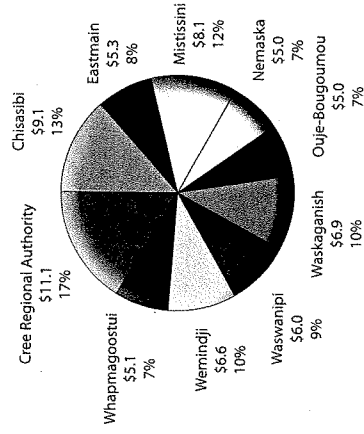
The following summarizes certain of these arrangements:

Government of Canada	
Cree Act Operation and Maintenance Funding	\$ 68,156,053
Federal Capital A Base Funding	\$ 16,181,382
Agreement Respecting Cree Human Resources Development	\$ 7,221,197
Canada / Quebec Joint Funding	
Policing Services Agreement	\$ 13,753,826
Government of Quebec	
Agreement Concerning a New Relationship-Annual Payment	\$ 73,242,393
Agreement Concerning the Administration of Justice	\$ 13,532,740
Cree Nation Trust	
Implementation of Assumed Obligations and Responsibilities	\$ 50,000,000

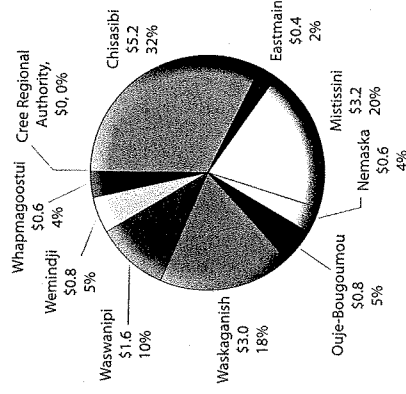
In addition to the funding described above, both Canada and Quebec provide funding in relation to Cree Education to the Cree School Board and Quebec provides funding for Health and Social Services to the Cree Board of Health and Social Services. Many other program funding arrangements exist between Canada, Quebec and the Crees to implement other special and regular program funding arrangements.

The following series of graphs provides a general overview of the allocation of certain funding arrangements and provides information as to the distribution amongst the various communities and other Cree Entities.

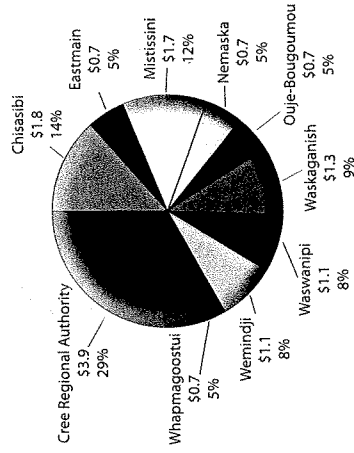
O & M Funding Allocation 2008-2009
\$68.2 Base Including Outstanding Adjustments
(Million \$)



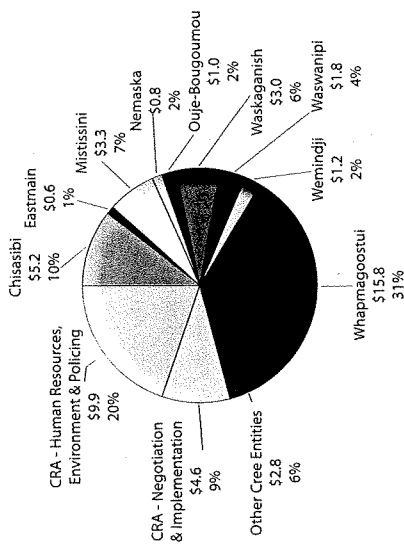
Capital Funding Allocation 2008-2009
\$16.2 Million



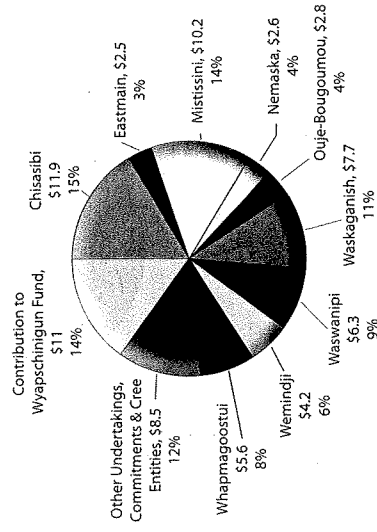
Policing Services Funding Allocation 2008-2009 Agreement \$13.8 Million



New Relationship Agreement CANADA Funding Allocation 2008-2009 \$50 Million

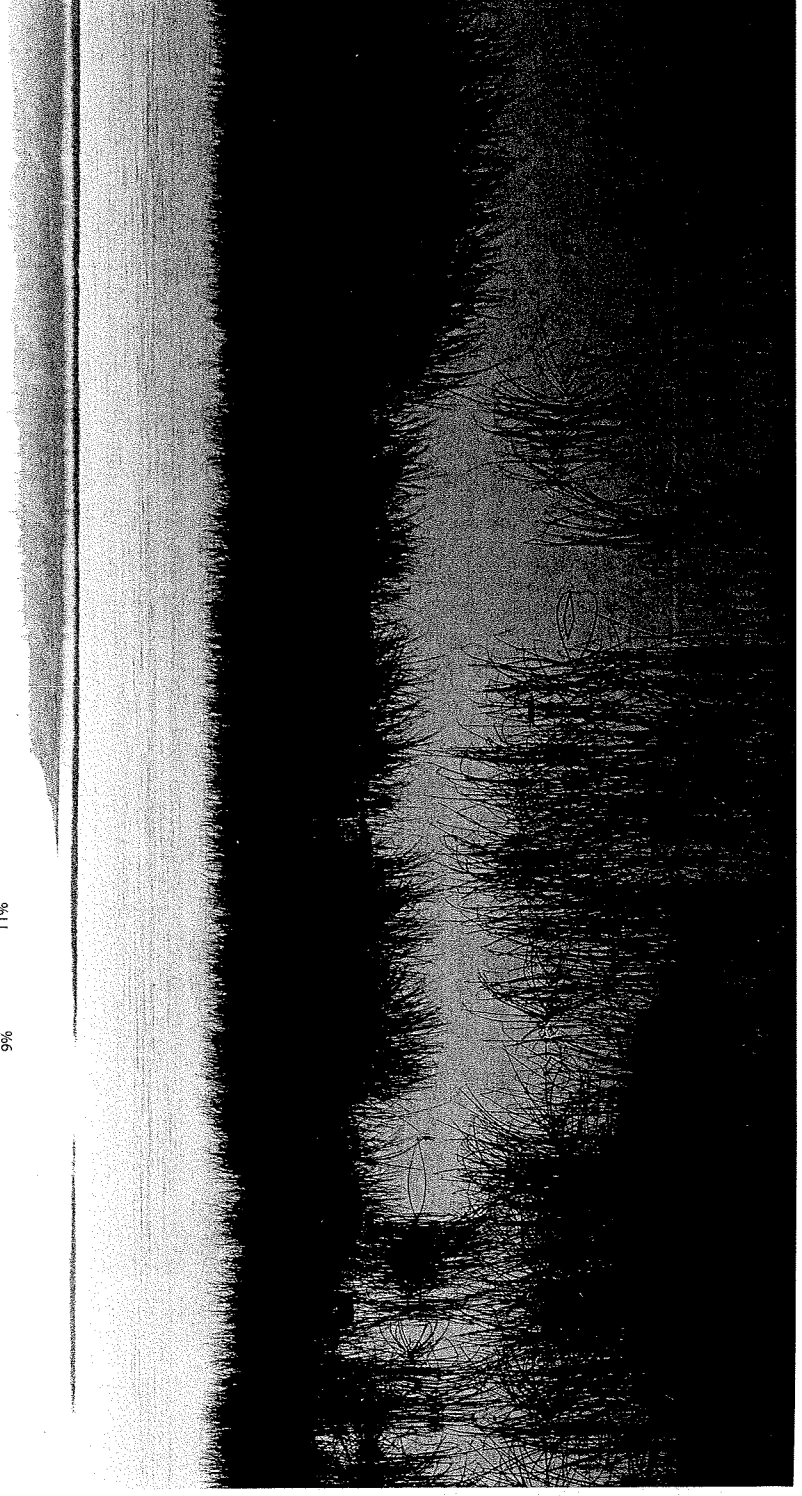


New Relationship Agreement QUEBEC Funding Allocation 2008-2009 \$73.2 Million



As the CRA continues to evolve we need to find the most appropriate basis of reporting on our financial results to ensure that we provide the information our membership needs to access our financial performance. As Treasurer I am committed to this objective and trust that the information in this Annual Report in addition to the series of financial statements and other annual reports which we present each year to our members at the Annual General Assembly provides the information which everyone needs to help assess the performance of the Cree Regional Authority and related entities.

Matthew Swallow





Director of Office & Personnel, Johnny Trapper

This past year was a challenging and busy year for the Office and Personnel Administration. It continued its vital administrative government support services to the organization's political wing and CRA departments in meeting its goals and objectives.

In June 2008, the CRA/GCCEI Council/Board approved the new organizational structure as submitted by the Working Group on the Implementation of the New Relationship Agreement, signed with Canada in February 2008. The Office and Personnel Administration is to be replaced by the new Government Support Services Department. Also, two other departments are slated for change; these include Community Services and the Traditional Pursuits Department which will evolve into six other departments.

Subsequently, there has been much work involved in developing job descriptions and proceeding with recruitment of personnel for the move towards the new organizational structure. Some positions were filled immediately within the newly created departments. However, this process is lengthy and will continue into 2009-2010. All human resources are targeted to be within place in the new structure by the end of 2009-2010.

The office and personnel administration spends at least 80% of its time managing human resources and about 20% in office administration. Human resource activities and relevant matters are managed by the personnel administration department. This includes custodianship of all personnel files and management of the compensation policy in close collaboration with the Treasurer.

The general office administration involves supervision of certain staff at the Main Office in Nemaska and Support Office in Montreal. This also includes management of the housing units assigned to the organization's personnel in Nemaska, with the collaboration of the Director General. This past year we requested that additional units be

provided to the organization, however this is still ongoing with the Cree Nation of Nemaska. The present occupied units will require maintenance and repairs from normal wear and the maintenance of these units is assumed by the organization.

The office administration also includes the maintenance of the Main Administration Office. We have managed to provide a comfortable working environment by installing air conditioning in the office building and also replaced all windows with new ones. We continue to maintain the office building with upgrades of equipment and furnishings.

The GCCEI/CRA Executive will table to the Council/Board, in the coming year, the creation of a separate department dealing in human resources administration exclusively. This department

will focus on providing an efficient HR Department managing all HR related matters and issues.

As we progress into 2009-2010, the office and personnel administration will continue to manage under the present status quo until it is determined otherwise by the Council/Board. We will continue to assist the newly created department by putting human resources in place.

The organization's compensation policy was adopted and passed in 2006, and over time the management has received requests from employees to further explain the policy's rules and applications. Information sessions were held in all GCCEI/CRA offices for employees. These sessions provided a better understanding of how the salary administration policy is managed. The CRA has also



assisted other Cree entities in developing compensation management policies.

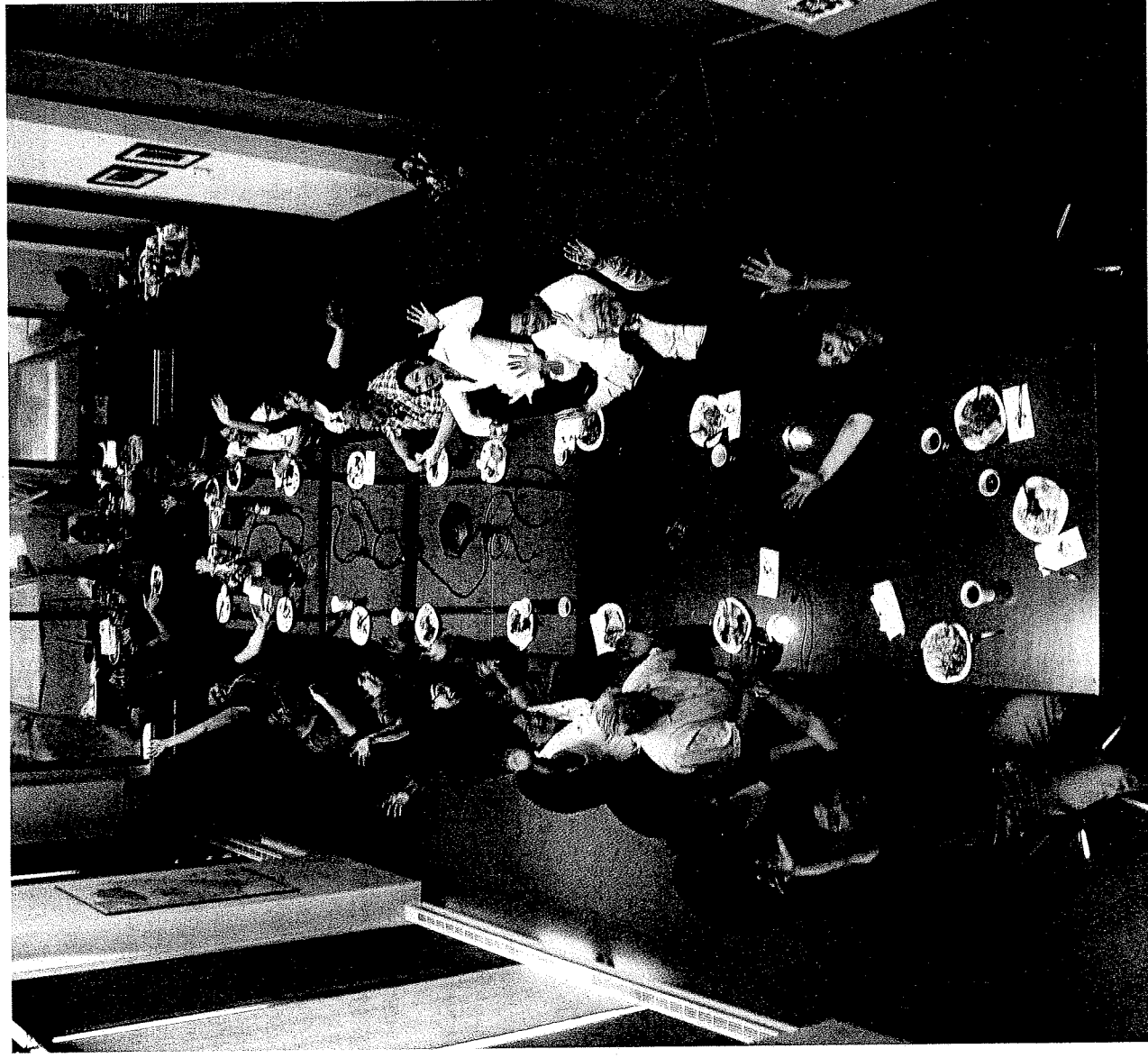
As we move closer to the full operation of the new structure, we will provide the employees with updated versions of the office policies and procedures reflecting the organizational changes.

The Archives section of office and personnel administration continues to strive toward its goals and objectives. Our Archivist is tirelessly working on the policies which will provide the organization with uniform records keeping and management of documents and files. We will provide our administrative support staff with the necessary records management training to utilize their skills successfully.

The past year also brought in a new Office Manager for the Montreal Support Office. Elizabeth Napash brings in a wealth of experience and knowledge of the organization to assume the role of Office Manager. This office and personnel continued to provide the administrative support bringing quality service to the users of this support office.

On the last final note, we welcome all personnel that were engaged within the past year and we look forward to their contribution to the success of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority.

Johnny Trapper





Director, Cree Human Resources Development, Henry Mianscum

Extension of 'Agreement respecting the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Program and Related Services'

The anticipation of a new federal employment and training strategy program did not materialize as the federal government continued its consultation with the First Nations of Canada for the modality of such a program. The federal elections compounded the ambiguity of the new strategy and further delayed the federal commitment to the new strategy. As a result, the 'Agreement Respecting the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Program and Related Services', which expired as of March 31, 2009 was extended for the 2008-2009 financial year.

This one year extension featured a new funding approach. As of April, 2008, the Council/Board approved the appropriation of funds for the delivery of 'Territorial Program Initiative and enhanced service delivery'. This was in lieu of *article 4.12, Training Courses, Job Recruitment and Placement*, of the 'Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee'.

The service delivery initiative, community based human resources development programs initiative and the community based employment insurance programs initiative continued to receive funding from the extended agreement.

Cree Human Resources Development continued its participation in national and provincial consultations on the new federal employment and training strategy throughout the 2008-2009 financial year.

Administration

The Cree Human Resources Development department coordinating office, located in Mistissini, Quebec, supervises the nine (9) local CHRD offices and personnel for the delivery of the programs and services it administers

and manages. This includes monitoring, dissemination of information and advising the clientele.

There are twenty nine employees employed in the department. The department administers and manages the territorial programs initiative which is applied to projects outside Category I lands but could also be situated within these lands providing the projects are regional serving the whole Cree territory. It also administers and manages the community based human resources development programs initiative, which is designed to develop and support the productive use of the local labour market and which includes the youth at risk program, the special program for persons with disabilities and the community based employment insurance programs initiative, which is designed for human resources development purposes addressing beneficiaries of measures funded by employment insurance in the geographic area serviced by the Cree Regional Authority. The department administers and manages the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada youth employment strategy program which is separate from the 'agreement respecting the aboriginal human resources development program and related services' from which the department derives its mandate for the delivery of programs and services for the Cree and other community residential population.

Personnel

Ms. Christina Gilpin, Cree Employment Officer for the Cree nation of Wemindji was promoted and engaged as the Career Counselor for the coastal communities as of November 17, 2008.

Ms. Bernice Sam, Receptionist for the Chisasibi CHRD local office was promoted and engaged as the Cree Employment Officer for Chisasibi as of January 7, 2009.

Mr. Benjamin Loon was engaged as the Territorial Programs Initiative Sectoral Officer for the tourism and forestry industrial sectors as of February 16, 2009.

Ms. Elsie Neeposh was engaged as the Cree Employment Officer for Mistissini as of December 1, 2008.

Reporting

The quarterly reports contained the activity and financial reporting related to the administration, capacity building, community based programs, youth initiative programs, special program for persons with disabilities, territorial programs, data uploads, and an overview of its activities.

The quarterly reports which must be submitted to Canada conform to the department's progress in implementing its annual work plan, expenditure plan, cash-flow plan, capacity building plan and carry forward fund plan. The quarterly timelines of April-June, July-September, October-December and January-March covers the period that is submitted to Canada.

Funding for the employment and training programs as well as the service delivery depends on the issuance of these reports to Canada as per the terms of the agreement.

Monitoring

- a) The joint committee met on May 29, 2009 in Montreal, Quebec and this was the only meeting scheduled during the 2008-2009 financial year. This committee was unable to meet as required by the agreement respecting aboriginal human resources development program and related services.
- b) The technical group is an internal body that meets as often as necessary and mostly on monthly basis for expediency of determining the funding and internal monitoring of the projects being approved for funding. This group met once in the first quarter to review five applications, reviewed seven projects in the second quarter, reviewed thirteen applications in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter the technical group met on January 12, February 3 and on March 20, 2009 to review and recommend ten applications for funding. The projects reviewed and recommended for funding were applications to the community based programs initiative and valued at less than twenty five thousand dollars respectively. The technical group met in the first quarter to recommend twenty-one projects for funding from the territorial programs initiative and recommended ten project submissions for funding in the second quarter. The Apatisiwin and skills development advisory committee met twice and reviewed twenty-nine (29) project submissions each valued over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). It also held a conference call on July 28, 2008 and met in September, 2008 in Val d'Or. Six (6) projects were reviewed, valued at over twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000). At the December meeting in Gatineau eight (8)
- c)

applications were tabled, the March meeting was postponed to April 1-2, 2009, in Val d'Or. This committee reviews and makes recommendations on project submissions valued at over twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to the community based programs initiative.

- d) The audit committee which met twice, monitors the financial management of the programs and services including the administration of the delivery services and make relevant recommendations on the foregoing. The fiscal budget submission is reviewed by this committee and monitors the financial monthly balance sheets.

Cree Human Resources Development Information System

The participant database is used to complete and send the client files through the HRSDC Gateway site for the accountability process. The CHRD database is also a key tool to provide statistics and reports upon requests.

In the first quarter there were five hundred and thirty-one (531) participant records sent to HRSDC gateway, and in the second quarter there were three hundred and eighty-eight (388) participant records sent. In the third quarter there were two hundred and twenty-eight (228) participant records and in the fourth quarter there were two hundred and twenty (220) participant records accepted on HRSDC Gateway for the programs and one thousand four hundred and eleven (1,411) participant records for Cree labor market survey accepted on HRSDC Gateway.

In total there were two thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight (2,778) participant records submitted to HRSDC Gateway.

Capacity Building

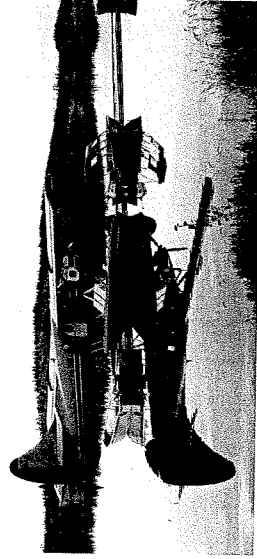
Capacity building is an annual activity that must be initiated for the enhancement of the work skills of the employees responsible for the delivery of the programs and services of the agreement.

In the first quarter, the general secretary and the program financial officer attended a 'Minute taking and business writing course' in Ottawa, and the Cree employment officers, program officers, sectoral officers received 'Data training' in June 2008, in Montreal. On June 19-20, 2008 the CHRD employees participated in the workshop 'Creating harmony in the workplace'. In the second quarter there were no capacity building session undertaken. In the third quarter the CHRD employees participated in the December, 2008 planning session of a new strategy in the delivery of programs managed by CHRD. In the fourth quarter the CHRD management attended the 'Cree nation executive leadership training session' on February 25-27, 2009.

Related activities

During the course of the financial year CHRD personnel participated in various events to enhance their knowledge of other entities fiscal issues and to promote CHRD programs and services. These events included; human resources conferences, trade shows, First Nations seminars, National Aboriginal Trades Symposium, nursing programs, career fairs, health conferences, construction conferences, special assemblies on education and social issues, as well as staff internal training and planning sessions.

These events were an excellent forum to enhance our employees skills and knowledge in their delivery of services to the Cree Nation.



Service Canada

Pursuant to the *Cree/Adga report* related to the Cree nations level of awareness on information of federal programs and services being disseminated through Service Canada throughout the Cree Nation territory, CHRD received a mandate from the office of the Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority to meet and work with Service Canada to initiate exploratory work to determine the scope of dissemination of government services and programs as coordinated by Service Canada. These include service centers, satellite offices and mobile services which could be considered for the Cree territory.

The first meeting on April 3, 2008, set the stage of initiating a fact finding mission for Service Canada in lieu of the *Cree/Adga report* recommendations which was the basis of the work plan.

CHRD planned and coordinated community tours to Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou and Mistissini in May, 2008 and community tours to Chisasibi, Wemindji, Waskaganish and Nemaska in July, 2008. Unfortunately, due to time and distance the community tour plan and schedule did not include Eastmain and Whapmagoostui.

The success of the community tours resulted in Canada rejecting the recommendations suggested in the *Cree/Adga report* and gain new perceptions given the advanced development of the Cree communities whereby

Service Canada now considered the possibility of Cree communities having service centers in some communities and satellite offices in others.

The federal elections delayed further advancement of this matter.

PROJECTS SPONSORED BY CHRD

Special projects

Second Career Fair

CHRD successfully planned and coordinated the second career fair that promoted employment opportunities and career opportunities for the spectators who attended the July 8-10, 2008 event. Mistissini was the host community and welcomed hundreds of people to its community and site of the second career fair. Many regional entities, organizations, government services, private sectors and motivational speakers made the career fair a success. The career fair successfully introduced new career awareness to many of the youth who attended.

Construction Industry Conference

CHRD was the host of the first ever Construction Industry Conference to be coordinated and financed by the territorial programs initiative. The conference was held on March 11-12, 2009 in Val d'Or, Quebec and was attended by hundreds of people in the construction industry, local Cree governments, local entrepreneurs, Cree business community, regional business community and boosted by the presence of Mr. Mike Holmes, a television celebrity from the 'Holmes on Homes' television program.

This conference was a great success as it achieved great results in terms of realizing business and employment opportunities to the participants.

Community Based Programs Initiative

In the first quarter there were twenty-nine (29) project submissions valued over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). During the second quarter the Apitisiwin skills development advisory committee recommended six (6) project submissions.

In the third quarter the Apitisiwin skills development advisory committee recommended eight (8) project submissions for funding. There were no project submissions recommended for funding in the fourth quarter.

Youth Initiative Program

In the first quarter CHRD received ten (10) project submissions valued over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) which were submitted to the Apitisiwin skills development advisory committee for its recommendation for funding. There were also twenty-six (26) project

submissions received valued under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and which were submitted to the technical group for its decision.

In the second quarter CHRD received one (1) project submission valued over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) which was submitted to Apitisiwin skills development and advisory committee for its recommendation for its funding. There were two (2) project submissions valued under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). These were submitted to the technical group for its decision.

In the third quarter CHRD received two (2) project submissions valued over twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) which were submitted to the Apitisiwin skills and development advisory committee. There were nine (9) project submissions valued under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) which were submitted to the technical group for their approval.

In the fourth quarter the technical group reviewed five (5) project submissions.

Special Program for persons with disabilities

In the first quarter the technical group reviewed two project submissions, and in the second quarter reviewed two project submissions for recommendation.

In the third and fourth quarters there were no project submissions received. It was recommended that a person be engaged to manage this program. This is on-going.

Territorial Programs Initiative

There were forty-six project submissions received in the first quarter under the territorial programs initiative. The Apitisiwin skills development advisory committee met April 23, 2008, June 5, 2008 and a conference call on July 8, 2008 to dispense these submissions.

In the second quarter the Apitisiwin skills development advisory committee held a conference call on July 18, 2009 and met on September 10-11, 2008 to recommend eleven project submissions for funding from the territorial programs initiative.

In the third quarter, and including the fourth quarter, the CHRD discontinued its reporting to Canada of the territorial programs initiative as per the agreement. The obligation to report to HRSDC was fulfilled accordingly.

Summary of sponsored project distribution

CHRD in collaboration with Cree nation authorities, institutions and employers continues promoting partnerships creating employment opportunities throughout Eeyou Istchee. The department maintains its focus on helping individuals prepare for, find and keep employment through programs it delivered throughout the Territory.

CHRD received many projects submissions in 2008-2009. A total 242 projects receiving support from CHRD carried out activities throughout the communities and

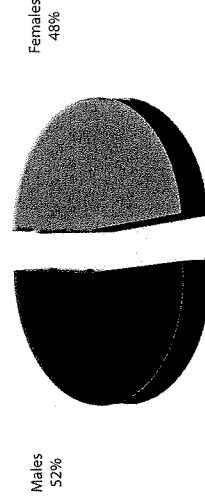
territory during the fiscal year. There were 2,595 participants in these projects.

CHRD projects and participants by program

Community-based Programs	Projects	Participants
Institutional Training	13	448
On-the-job Training	16	83
Labour Market Integration	6	21
Targeted Wage Subsidies	35	185
Self-employment Assistance	5	9
Short-term Job Creation	0	0
Delivery Assistance	2	23
Employment Assistance Serv.	1	83
Special Programs / Disability	4	7
Total for Community-based	82	859
HRSDC Youth Programs		
Internship Program	0	0
Community Services	1	1
Summer Student Program	10	86
Total for HRSDC Youth Programs	11	87
Territorial Programs		
Employment Training	41	496
In-house Pre-placement	30	105
Employment Integration	16	105
New Enterprises	9	16
Youth Territorial	5	27
Total for Territorial Programs	101	749
INAC Youth Programs		
Summer Student Program	11	109
Cooperative Education	10	698
Science and Technology	7	168
Work Experience	23	69
Total for INAC Youth Programs	51	1044

Notes: Projects with employment and training activities in the fiscal year based on the contract dates. All programs may include clients with disabilities.

Distribution by Gender of CHRD Participants with Employment and Training Activities in 2008-09

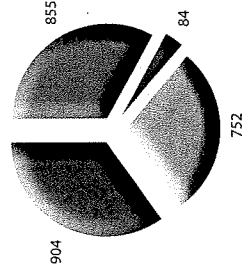


CHRD employment and training programs – Projects and Participants by Community in 2008-09

	Community-based			HRSDC Youth			Territorial			INAC Youth			All Programs		
	Total of Projects	Part.		Total of Projects	Part.		Total of Projects	Part.		Total of Projects	Part.		Total of Projects	Part.	
Chisasibi	7	65	1	9	2	14	6	486	16	574					
Eastmain	4	14					4	32	8	46					
Mistissini	17	65	2	23	9	83	8	122	36	293					
Nemaska	5	6	1	7	1	6	2	9	9	28					
Ouje-Bougoumou	16	88	1	7	4	23	4	17	25	135					
Waskaganish	2	3	1	9	2	8	4	18	9	38					
Waswanipi	6	76	1	8	3	23	2	16	12	123					
Wemindji	6	54	1	10	8	71	7	93	22	228					
Whapmagoostui	9	56	1	4	1	1	3	22	14	83					
Abitibi Region					6	131			6	131					
Regional	8	428	2	7			9	78	19	513					
Territorial					50	354			50	354					
Out of Province					14	38	2	11	16	49					
Total	80	855	11	84	100	752	51	904	242	2595					

Note: Projects with employment and training activities in the fiscal year based on the contract dates.

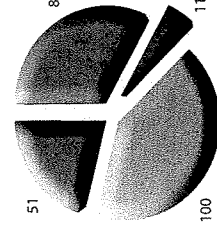
Participants by Program Type



■ Community-based Programs
■ HRSDC Youth Programs
■ Territorial Programs

Note: All programs may include clients with disabilities

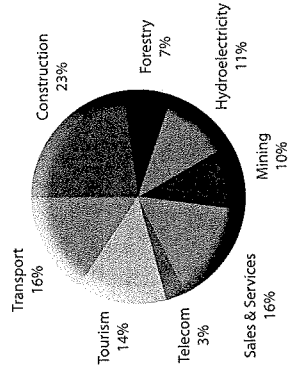
2008-2009 Projects by Program Type



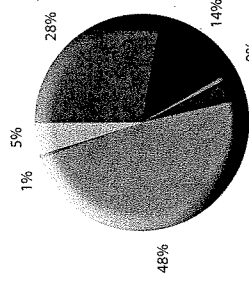
■ Community-based Programs
■ HRSDC Youth Programs
■ Territorial Programs

Note: All programs may include clients with disabilities

2008-2009 Territorial Programs Distribution of Projects by Industrial Sector



2008-09 Distribution of CHRD Yearly Program Budgets (Without Previous Year Deferred Amounts)



■ CRF Community-based Programs
■ El Community-based Programs
■ Special Programs / Disability
■ HRSDC Youth Programs

■ Territorial Programs
■ Special Programs / Disability
■ INAC Youth Programs

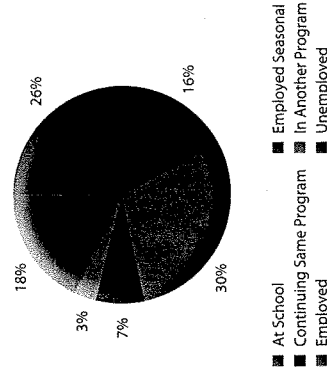
Client Accountability and Post-training Results

During the fiscal year 2008-2009 (and until June 8, 2009 which was the deadline for sending 2008-09 records), the CHRD sent a total of 1,119 client program intervention records to HRSDC through the Gateway website.

A labour force survey was also carried out in 2008-09 and the CHRD sent the client interviews from people who were not participants in the programs. A total of 1447 records from this survey were uploaded on the HRSDC Gateway site.

The post-training outcome for the 2008-09 participants under the programs was as follows:

2008-2009 Participants' Post-training Results in CHRD Programs



CHRD information system / 2008-2009

The CHRD Information System includes several databases keeping all data relating to the program budgets, the employment and training contracts with sponsors and individuals, the financial commitments and payments, the participant interventions, the client files and other program and labour market information.

The server is located in Mistissini and the employees in the other communities can connect to the multi-user system with a remote access. Almost all the CHRD employees work on the database every day: Cree Employment Officers, Program Officers, Program Coordinators, Career Counselors, Financial Officers, etc.

The CHRD Information System generates the quarterly and yearly financial reports for Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). We extract different program and client statistics from the Contract and Participant databases (such as the ones in this annual report). We use the Participant database to complete and send the client files through the HRSDC Gateway site for the accountability process. Our database is also a key tool to provide statistics and reports upon requests.

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, we kept improving the CHRD Information System with adjustments in the Contract, Participant and Labour Force databases. We also created new features in the Contract database to facilitate the payment conciliation with the CRA Finance Department and we adapted the program budget reports as well.

Technical support has been provided all year to the database users and specific meetings and training sessions were done with Program Coordinators and the CHRD database users.



Director, Traditional Pursuits Department, Willie Iserhoff

The Traditional Pursuits Department has now been at work for about 30 years, and many changes have taken place in the Cree world during that time. The Cree Regional Authority is service agency for the Cree First Nations, and its success depends on its evolving relationships with the individual communities.

The implementation of first the Québec-Cree New Relationship Agreement (QCNRA) and now the recent agreement with Canada are bringing about changes in the role and mandate of the Cree Regional Authority, and as it moves in the direction of regional government, its responsibilities to the individual Cree communities will also change.

In certain ways, 2008-2009 was a year of transition, as the Cree Regional Authority adapts to these changing responsibilities. It was also the year when negotiations were concluded on the Cree offshore agreement.

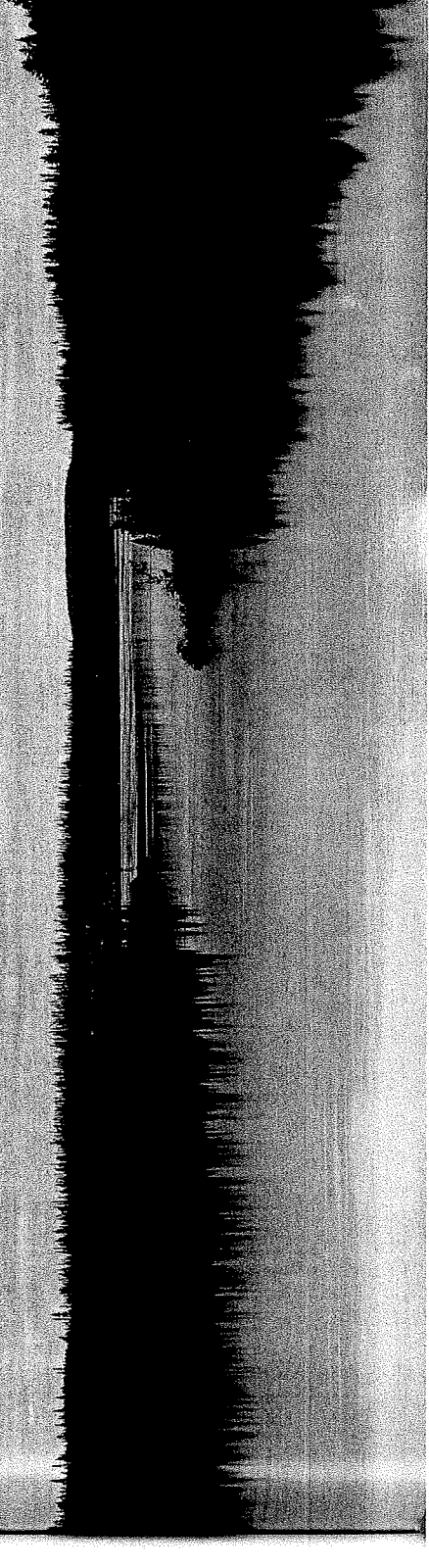
I would like to stress that the Traditional Pursuits Department continues to work with the communities on a wide range of environmental management issues, including impact assessment and the implementation of the forestry management regime established by the QCNRA. We also recognize that wildlife management is a priority and this will be a very important area of work in the coming years.

I would like to acknowledge the considerable work involved in the planning and developing of Aanischaaukamikw. The development of this centre is of great importance for our Department and we will continue to give it high priority.

Last but not least, I want to acknowledge my staff who have been extremely diligent and continue to give their valued expertise to the Cree Nation. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Meegwetchi; Kwe

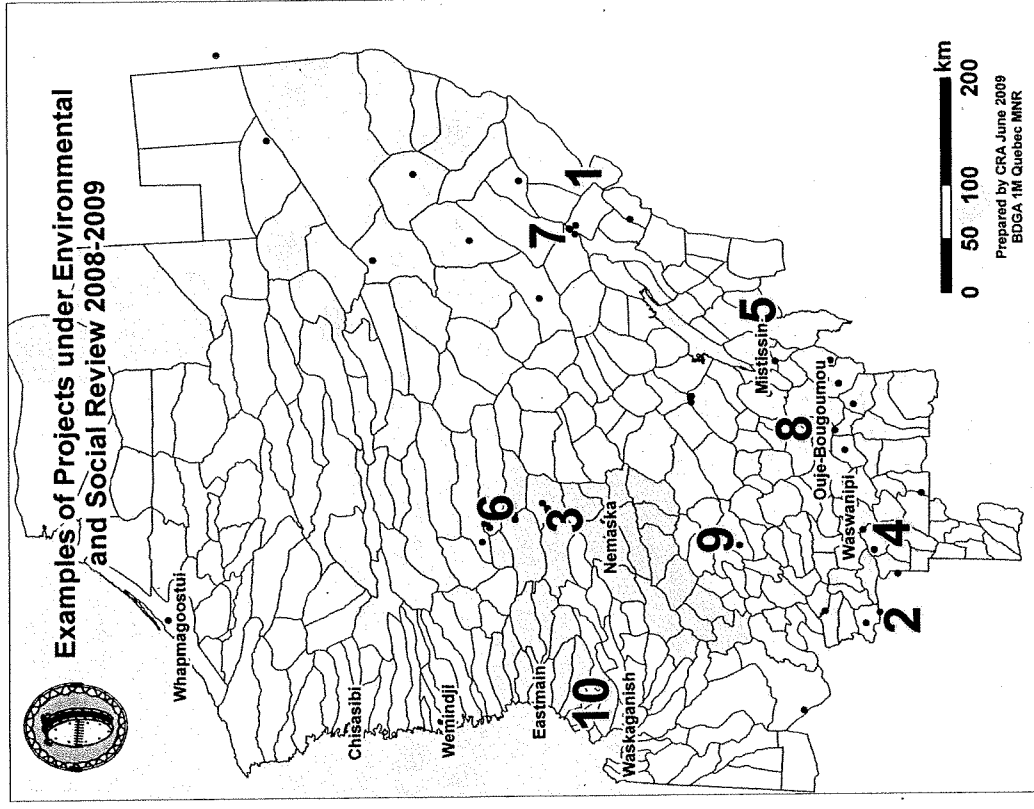
Willie Iserhoff



ENVIRONMENT UNIT

Environmental Assessment and review under the JBNQA section 22

The environment unit is responsible in the evaluation of projects under development in Eeyou Istchee that are submitted for environmental and social review under section 22 of the JBNQA. This past year, projects ranged from mining exploration such as the Matoush project in the Otish Mountains, protected areas where the impact statement for seven protected areas within the Waskaganish territory was submitted for approval. Our department ensures that proper analysis and technical support is provided to the CRA members of COMEV, COMEX and COFEX-south.



	Proponent	Project	Community	Status
1	Abitex	Abitex Winter road	Mistissini	Under review
2	Candisor	Candisor mining exploration	Waswanipi	Under review
3	Hydro-Quebec	121 kv transmission Line	Wemindji-Nemaska	Approved
4	Metanor	Lac Bachelor Mining (exploit-gold)	Waswanipi	Approved
5	Mistissini	Borrow pit and bridge	Mistissini	Under review
6	Opinaca	Permanent Airstrip	Wemindji	Under review
	Opinaca	winter Road for mining exploration	Wemindji	Certificate
	Opinaca	underground shaft-roads at camp – temporary airstrip	Wemindji	Exempted
	Opinaca	Opinaca Mine (explore-gold)	Wemindji	Under review
7	Strateco	Strateco-Winter road (explore-uranium)	Mistissini	Exempted
	Strateco	Strateco mining exploration	Mistissini	Under review
	Strateco	Strateco airstrip	Mistissini	Under review
8	Tawsho	Chevrier mining exploration	Ouje-Bougoumou	Under review
9	Victory Nickel Inc	Lac Rocher Property (exploit-Nickel)	Waswanipi	Under review
10	Waskaganish Band	Drinking water treatment plant	Waskaganish	Certificate

Protected Areas

The Quebec Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks (MDDEP) has reached its goal to designate 8% of Quebec's public lands into protected areas. Furthermore, it has recently increased its objective to 12 %. The MDDEP has been working diligently with the Cree communities to locate suitable areas for protection by means of consultation with tallymen and the Band Councils along with an open invitation to all Crees. Within Eeyou Istchee, there are 21 proposed protected areas, approximately 44 000km² in total within Cree traplines, equivalent to 10% of Cree territory. These protected areas range in category status from national park (provincial), to aquatic reserves and to biodiversity reserves. Currently, six (6) areas from the Waskaganish territory (Boatswain Bay, Ministikawatin peninsula, Waskaganish, Missisicabi plain, Muskuchii hills and Niquet stream proposed biodiversity reserves, along with the north Harricana River proposed aquatic reserve) are undergoing environmental and social review pursuant to section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Directives were transmitted to the proponent and the impact statements were submitted in early spring of 2009.

Other areas proposed by the communities that were not selected as proposed protected areas will be set aside by the MDDEP until the location for the additional 4% protection is finalized. In the meantime, the MDDEP is in the process of finalizing two impact studies for the Alband Temiscamie Otish (ATO) National Park in Mistissini lands and other protected areas within Waswanipi territory.

Mining activities in Eeyou Istchee

Mining activity in Eeyou Istchee was relatively steady throughout the year until the economic crisis struck in the fall of 2008, whereby the previous year of 2007 experienced a mining boom in the territory. Mining industry representatives are optimistic that mining development will prosper once again. This was echoed at the *Quebec Exploration 2008* conference in Quebec City in December which had the privilege of having Grand Chief Matthew Mukash express his support on partnerships between Crees and mining companies.

There has been an increase in the exploration of uranium due to the rising price of this mineral, located around the Otish Mountains, there are approximately 20 ongoing exploration sites. The Matoush project by Strateco has been exceptionally active in its exploration. The proponent is seeking approval to expand its exploration with an underground ramp, an all season road over the existing winter road and an airstrip. The environment unit have been actively involved in ensuring that this project follows the proper procedure not only within section 22 of the JBNQA but also that they adhere to the regulations to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, who oversees the

protection of the health and safety of the public and the protection of the environment.

Eastmain 1A Rupert Diversion Project

Since the EM1A Rupert project received its certificate of authorization in November 2006, the Environment unit has been working on assuring that the proponent is complying with the 97 conditions of the Certificate of Authorization. Many of these conditions require that the proponent continue submitting documents for approval to the s. 22 Review Committee. These conditions range from, tourism, economic aspects, inputs from territory users, traditional activities, archaeology, fish communities, wildlife, eelgrass beds, safety of people and workers and so on. Some of follow-up programs or studies must be submitted to the Administrator for authorization or others for information purposes and some will have to be implemented until 2023. A number of modifications to the Certificate of Authorization were granted after review mostly in relation to borrow material for construction, hydraulic structures and water crossings, the details of which were unforeseen during the environmental review. The environment unit have been assisting the members of COMEX, whom the Administrator seeks recommendations on these changes, by providing technical support in evaluating these requests.

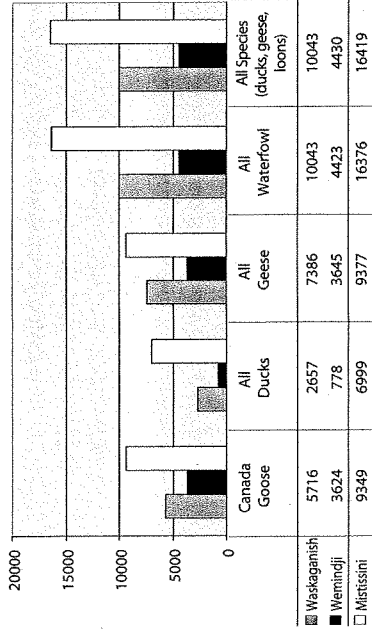
Special projects

Aside from working with communities concerning environmental issues and emergency measures, the Environment unit participates in research projects involving the communities and government agencies. These projects rely heavily on funding from governmental programs or when possible from Cree funding.

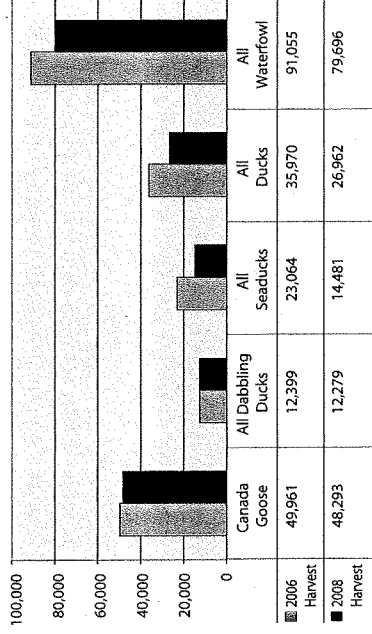
Migratory bird data collection and information sharing in Cree communities:

After the completion of a successful four year project between the Cree Regional Authority, the Cree Trappers Association and the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada's *Northern Ecosystem Initiative*, had decided to extend it's funding for another year to the migratory bird data collection and information sharing project. Tables below summarize the results. Communication of results to communities is done by way of workshops and posters.

Estimated harvest levels of waterfowl species in Waskaganish, Wemindji and Mistissini 2008



Estimated harvest for Canada Geese and grouped species



This project began a few years ago with a mandate to develop and implement an information sharing agreement.

This protocol had two objectives, which were to address Cree concerns about data collection and to get a meaningful Cree involvement in data collection that would agree with Cree requirements and intentions (Cree owned data and consent needed by Crees for use of data). The years that followed observed the success of training and hiring Cree interviewers to conduct the survey within their communities. Due to limited funding, Mistissini, Wemindji and Waskaganish were selected as the communities to be involved in the project. With three years of results from three communities and participation of all the Cree communities from many meetings, reports and workshops, a final report and posters were prepared to be distributed to all the communities. An additional project, which is ongoing, was created with the help of funding from the Canadian Wildlife Services in the identification of duck species. This project required the help of the top duck hunters from Mistissini to record their duck hunt by photographs to be analyzed by the CWS biologist.



Life Cycle Analysis with CIRAIG

The JBACE has been bringing together material on waste management and addressing the challenges that the remote region of James Bay faces. From designing a directory on waste management and a tutorial on waste management, to developing a Waste Management Plan with the cooperation of Wemindji, the JBACE has been at the forefront of advising on waste management issues in the territory. Over the past year the Life Cycle Analysis of waste in the James Bay region has been launched by the JBACE, in full support of its members and actively seeking their participation and information.

CIRAIG is translated as the Center of Inter University Life Cycle Analysis, and is an organization of the faculties who concentrate on researching the field of Life Cycle Analysis. Founded by the l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in collaboration with the University of Montreal, and the Montreal School of High Commerce, and now in collaboration with various universities they are the only type of center in Canada.

The objective is for CIRAIG to help determine the 'Cradle to Grave' of the waste streams and material in the James Bay region, in order to better determine and provide advice and options on ways of reducing and recycling as a regional approach which includes the Cree Communities, Hydro Quebec, the MBI, and the communities in the territory.

This ongoing exploration of the life cycle of waste includes the idea of operating an In-trench landfill, and the effect of burning, recycling, sorting, and shipping, as well as the, the origin of the waste, and the costs of shipping this waste. The expected outcome is to have an idea of the most efficient, environmentally and economically determined to respond to the waste issues in the territory.

Support to Local Environment Administrators

The CRA TPD has worked in cooperation with the LEAs and the Cree Communities in various capacities as support including the organizing of the quarterly meetings where the LEAs attend in a community, in Montreal or Val d'Or. These meetings help bring the LEAs up to date on changing regulations and matters of concern in the communities, the territory or the province.

Other ongoing support is with the Cree Environment Website, www.envcree.ca which is the portal for drinking water results, and has environment information relating to the Cree Communities and people interested in the environment. The GEDICC environmental database is continuing to be consulted for information on spills and various environmental studies. The NIMONIK system of managing the various environmental laws and regulations is to be implemented in the following year and this will assist in keeping the LEAs and the CRA up to date on best practices.

On of the major undertakings is the implementation of the Drinking Water By-Laws. It is vital that the communities provide safe drinking water to their citizens, and the CRA has worked with the LEAs as well as the various departments like the Cree Health Board, and the Technical Services Department of the CRA in designing the by-law. It is important that all the communities pass this by-law in order to ensure that the level of protection is maintained at the level equal to or greater than the Provincial or Federal requirements.

Providing environmental advice to the LEAs is a large share of the work that the Environmental Unit carries out. The staff is consulted on topics ranging from waste management, environmental emergency response, impact assessment to waste management plans, to issues regarding contamination and overall environmental awareness. As the speed of development in the communities continues at such a brisk pace, there are more requests for assistance than ever before, and it can be a challenge with available staff and resources to respond effectively to each and every environmental challenge that the communities face.

The Environment Unit is also promoting the smooth transition of responsibility of Administrator under Section 22 of the JBNQA that was brought about by the New Relationship Agreement. By coordinating discussions of the meetings with the LEAs, and ensuring that all entities understand that even when the responsibility of the LEA expands much further afield from that of impact assessments. The LEA has always been the point person for permits and inspections of construction of projects, as well as a litany of day to day environmental needs at the community level. The office of the LEA will remain essential in the front lines of environmental management at the community level, and with the speed of

development the duties the requests to the environmental unit will get even more complex.

Waskaganish Air Terminal Reconstruction: Environmental Screening Report

Transport Canada contacted the CRA in order to establish linkages that would have the CRA contract out the Environmental Screening Report for the Waskaganish Air Terminal Reconstruction and Expansion of the Apron. The current facility is inadequate for the demands of a modern Airport Terminal, including the lack of seating space, over-crowding, and no drinking water and inadequate sewage capacity.

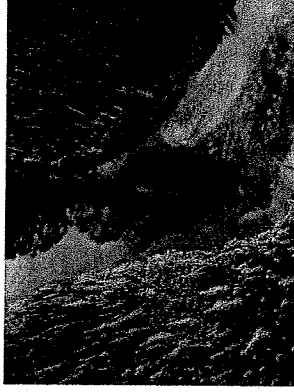
The Environmental Screening Report is prepared to address the major issues that could come out of a project like this and propose mitigation measures that will minimize or eliminate those projected impacts and make the projects more environmentally suitable. This is also to meet the requirements of Section 22 of the JBNQA and the LEA because it is on Category 1A lands, while at the same time with TC meeting the environmental review requirements of the federal government in place because of federal funding.

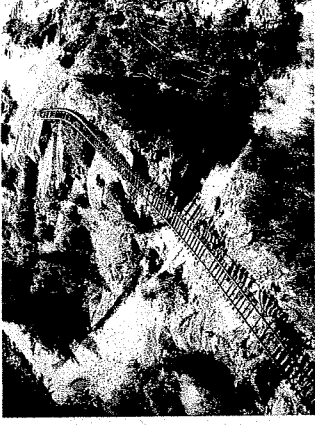
Dyke failure of the Chapais / Opemiska Mine Tailings

June 2008, a dyke containing a tailings pond collapsed at the former Opemiska Mine, just outside of Chapais. The wall of mud, water and trees, swept away the road, and the rail road, and went down Slam Creek taking out a forestry road. Emergency response involved the SQ and helicopters and environmental damage was surveyed by government authorities. An estimated one million cubic meters of water and 40 000 to 60 000 cubic meters of sediment flowed very quickly downstream from the site.

The Communities of Waswanipi and Oujé-Bougamou, along with the GCC/CRA were able to establish contact with the MDDEP and the MNRF in order to track this emergency as it unfolded. The MNRF and the CBHSSJB issued notices to the community, regarding the health risks known at the time.

All of these parties continue having regular conference calls (every two weeks), and the MDDEP and MNRF have gone to the community to explain what happens and what





the ongoing measures will be to follow the situation, as well as the remediation measures. The CRA has committed to carrying out a monitoring program over the next two years in close collaboration with the Waswanipi Council. This will involve Waswanipi residents in sampling in key areas and make sure that the interests of the community and especially that of the trappers in the area, are taken into consideration.

Community Waste Analysis

The CRA contracted a consulting firm to assist in an evaluation of the waste sites in each community. Although the methods range from Incineration to In-trench, with a variety of recycling and hazardous materials diversion programs in place, a uniform best-practices checklist was utilized that was able to assess and demonstrate the strengths, and identify the weaknesses of the sites. This included a preliminary life expectancy assessment for each site.

This should be an effective guide in starting the more comprehensive management roles that are needed for these sites and prioritize the areas that are more in need of dedicated resource for upkeep and to meet the best practices and match the regulations for these sites. In parallel, out of the 8 sites in the Cree Communities, there are four (4) of these that need to be re-certified in order to comply with new provincial standards in 2009.

Conclusions include the acknowledgment that most of the waste management sites can be brought up to provincial standards if some key areas being addressed and the resources and public education were put into them. Each site is different and has different concerns and surroundings however the following are generally the points that need improving: the burning of waste in the in-trench sites is not permitted, fences and locking gates as well as supervision and dedicated machines are mandatory for the site manager to get and keep the sites in order. It is also important that volumes and estimates of waste produced, as well as the success of the Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling programs be evaluated. Mandatory sampling of groundwater wells should be carried out at least four times a year. Although only sites located on category 2 and 3 lands are subject to the Quebec regulations, it has always been the policy of the communities and the CRA to match

those provincial standards on category 1 lands. All sites on category 1 lands receive a permit under the local by-law and conditions and requirements for their construction and operations are listed and compare to Canadian and provincial standards.

The James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE)

The JBACE plays many roles under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA). It reviews and oversees the administration and management of the environmental and social protection regime established in section 22 of the JBNQA, it is consulted on proposed laws, regulations, policies or other measures that may affect the regime, including land use regulations, provides assistance to local communities and is responsible for the administrative supervision of the Evaluating Committee (COMÉV). The 13 members that make up the committee emerge from Canada, Quebec and Cree governments and departments such as the department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Quebec, Indian and Northern Affairs, Environment Canada, Cree Regional Authority and so on, each bringing their expertise to ensure that the JBACE meets its objectives of protecting the rights and interests of the Cree people established by and in accordance with the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regime of the JBNQA.

This past year, The four members appointed by the CRA, Glen Cooper, Ginette Lajoie, Chantal Tetreault and recurrent president of the JBACE Ashley Iserhoff along with the provincial and federal members tackled issues such as climate change, revised forest management plans, implementation of forestry roads for environmental and social review, waste management, proposed protected areas, Cree participation on environmental and social assessments and so forth.

Revised General forestry management plans 2008-2013

The signing of the New Relationship Agreement in 2002 saw an increase of Cree participation in the forestry regime such as the involvement by the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) in the five communities affected by the development of General Forestry Management Plans (GFMPs). The Cree- Québec Forestry Board (CQFB) provided assistance

before the preparation of the plans began and has a mandate to review the submitted GFMPs.

The JBACE is required to conduct an analysis of the plans as per section 22.3.34 of the JBNQA. The plans, as outlined in the MNR guidelines, are not designed to meet the requirements of an Environmental Impact assessment and therefore are limited in scope when trying to understand such impacts. This has always and will continue to pose a challenge for the JBACE when reviewing plans. The JBACE adopted a review methodology that intends not to duplicate the analysis done by the JWG and the CQFB but to complement their analysis. The previous year, the JBACE conducted a review, distinct from the objectives of the CQFB, where it determined whether the forestry plans respected the Cree input such as economic spinoff, ensuring the integrity of the family traplines, Cree land use, support inclusion of the Crees' ecological knowledge in forest management planning and consultation. These criteria were used again for the revised forestry plans compared to last years analysis which rated that 5 out of 15 plans were unsatisfactory; this year's analysis showed that 3 out of 12 plans were unsatisfactory. Three plans were never provided to the JBACE.

Forestry Roads

The issue of forestry roads was a major topic of concern for JBACE on two different occurrences. As the JBACE forwarded its recommendation of the revised forest management plans to the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, it brought up the subject of how the five year plans will see the creation of over 4000km of forestry roads, accompanied by culverts and bridges, which should be under environmental and social review due to the impact it will have on Cree traditional activities from the opening of the territory. The JBACE concluded that forest companies were not complying with the environmental review process by not submitting their projected roads (as required under schedule I of the section 22). This has been a position of the JBACE for many years.

This problem was echoed once again when the JBACE was approached by the CRA concerning a 150km proposed road that met the criteria of undergoing environmental review. After much correspondence between the JBACE and the Ministry of Natural Resources with no success, the Grand Council of the Crees and the affected community of Ouje-Bougoumou took legal action and had the construction of this road halted in December while the court case concerning the applicability of section 22 to forestry roads be respected, which is a position that the JBACE have supported for many years.

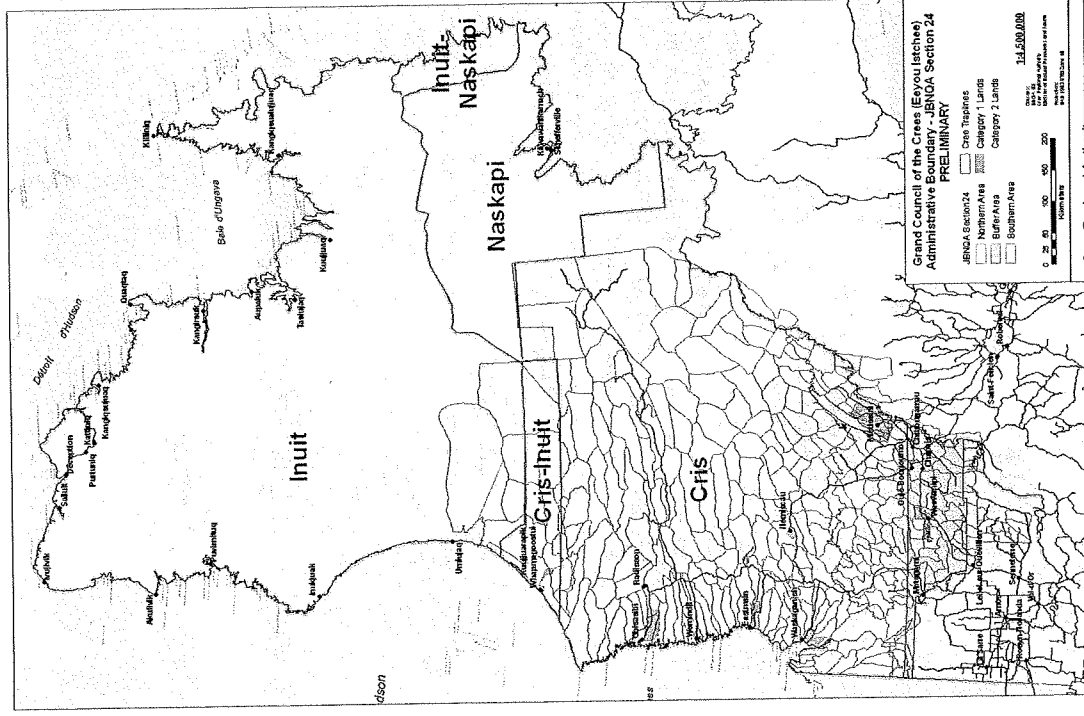
Cree participation in environmental and social assessment

The public consultation process within section 22 of the James Bay and northern Quebec agreement is distinct for each project as there is little structure for proponents and the review committee to follow. The role of the Review committees COMEX and COFEX-South is to recommend to the responsible administrator (Local, provincial or federal) the projects acceptability by environmental and social standards. Another key responsibility of the review committees is to conduct public consultations concerning a project under environmental and social review. In southern Quebec, authorities rely on the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) to deliver proper information to the public and to ensure that the public is consulted regarding development projects.

The JBACE commissioned to Université de Montréal a study on the analysis of Cree participation to determine how the current public consultation under section 22 is meeting international principles of public participation as those set out by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IALA). This research was based on using four projects as case studies, the Waskaganish permanent road, the Eastmain 1A Rupert diversion project, the Troilus project and the shooting range project that was rejected by the government, therefore never developed. This research relied on the participation of those who were involved in this project, such as the members on the evaluating and review committee, promoters and the public. This research will lead to the adoption of an organized and culturally adapted consultation process by means of a register of projects under review and the creation of a good practice on public participation that proponents must adhere to.

Identification of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Measures for the Hunters, Trappers and Communities of Eeyou Istchee

The JBACE tackled the issue of climate change by publishing a report on the state of knowledge in James Bay and a poster on the scientific findings of climate change in northern Quebec. These results were made available to all communities. The second phase of this assignment was to obtain feedback from Cree land users on their experiences with climate changes. The JBACE partnered with the Cree Trappers Association to develop a research proposal to document local knowledge and to help in defining adaptation measures to changes. The collaboration of both the CTA and the JBACE will complement the project by utilizing the expertise of members from both groups. The heart of this project will be the participation of land users to share their local knowledge by means of workshops within the selected communities made possible by funding made available through the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's climate change adaptation program.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regime of the JBNQA

Chapter 24 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) provides for the establishment of a Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regime for the territory covered by the Agreements (JBNQA and NEQA). The regime is the legal foundation by which native harvesting rights are recognized, protected and prioritized (over non-natives and commercial harvest) on the territory.

The Coordinating Committee is recognized as “the preferential and exclusive forum for Native people and governments jointly to formulate regulations and supervise the administration and management of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regime”. More information on the Coordinating committee and its activities is available on the HFTCC website; www.cccpp-hftcc.com.

The coordinating committee is composed of representatives from Inuit, Naskapi and Cree territory as well as provincial and federal representatives. Cree members appointed to the committee are Isaac Masty (CTA), Simeon Pash (CTA) and Willie Iserhoff (CRA).

The Traditional Pursuits Department of the CRA provides the support for the Cree members, through its staff advisers; Rene Dion, Alan Penn, and Nadia Saganash, who participate both in regular meetings and working groups, but also carry out much of the research and analysis which is needed to support continuing active Cree participation in wildlife management in the region.

The role of the Cree Regional Authority in representing the interests of the Crees in matters relating to wildlife will remain important as discussions continue on the changing structure and responsibilities of the CRA in relation to the needs of the communities. We also wish to emphasize the necessity of continuing close collaboration with the Cree Trappers’ Association, at both the regional and local level.

Wildlife management covers a wide range of topics and responsibilities. In 2008/9, we can draw attention to the continuing concerns about big game management: caribou, moose and black bear. The relationship between Cree and sport hunters in and along the Trans-Taiga highway continues to be a sensitive issue, and a source of particular concern for Chisasibi. Caribou management is likely to become a growing challenge, as it seems that we can now see signs of a significant population decline. The CRA is actively involved in the planning of a workshop on caribou management which will be held in January 2010, an opportunity for Cree input to management decisions for the coming years.

The situation for moose, however, is more promising and it seems that populations are increasing in the Cree territory. The Québec government wishes to review the rules which have governed moose hunting in Zone 17 the area south of the 50th parallel – in order to accommodate both Cree and non-native moose hunting. A major aerial survey was carried out last winter, and discussions are planned in 2009 on the use of the results to decide how to address moose management policy in the coming years.

Discussions have continued on the future of outfitting in the region. This remains a subject which will need more work and coordination between different Cree departments. In addition to the status of the current moratorium on new operations, it will soon be necessary to decide what form of outfitting regime is appropriate when the right of first refusal no longer applies – after 2015.

We also draw attention to the growing importance of management issues involving wildlife species considered vulnerable and in need of conservation measures – under both federal and provincial legislation. Lake sturgeon and woodland caribou are two species which are going to need



particular attention from the Cree population in the coming years, but we also need to keep in mind the freshwater seals in the Whapmagoostui territory, and several bird species which require protection. Developing and implementing conservation strategies will also require a close working relationship between the communities and the Cree Regional Authority.

In closing, wildlife management and conservation will become increasingly important as development on the territory continues. Working together to ensure an integrated management that is well-balanced and respects Cree rights and interest is fundamental to the health of the land, the nation and future generations.

FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Cree Forestry Implementation Team (CFIT) is responsible for implementation of Chapter 3 under the QCNRA which balances forest activities and practices with the interests and needs of the Crees. CFIT also works closely with the local Cree Forestry Joint Working Groups (JWG), the Cree/Quebec Forestry Board (CQFB), the Cree/Quebec negotiator and the regional local Leadership.

CFIT has also worked in the preparation and elaboration of the fifteen (15) GFMP's. This past year, numerous modifications were introduced, some of which resulted in conflicts. The most apparent being the road penetrating Ouje-Bougomou traplines which eventually led to a court case. The Cree party argued that given the length and years of usage of the proposed road, it should be subjected to a full review under section 22 of the JBNQA. At the time of this report, there are 7000 kilometers of new roads as well as road improvement proposals. There have been negotiations over the past year in attempts to resolve this matter.

Mining Table

The work of this table has been ongoing especially with respect to the development of the Mining Policy. At the

time of this report, there is a draft being circulated by the working group to ensure that all aspects are addressed.

Working Group on the Opinica Agreement

An important agreement was reached in July 2008, subsequently there have been a series of meetings held in which areas of training and employment have been identified.

There are also discussions being held with other companies interested in mineral exploration in Eeyou Istchee. Negotiations are presently taking place with various companies on how Cree communities can benefit from the ongoing work with respect to employment, training and other business opportunities.

Field Monitoring

This past year, the department equipped its field monitor with a truck, GPS unit and camera in order to conduct various field monitoring activities. These activities not only include monitoring for problem areas in forestry implementation but also include the validation of various regionally funded projects carried out by the trappers and the communities.

Forestry Enhancement/Volet II Programs

Relevant to the Paix des Braves Agreement, under the forestry regime (chapter 3), funding for the forestry programs should be 50/50 (CRA/Government of Quebec). This year the government withheld its' funding until the submission and/or completion of required reporting is received. We are in the process of requesting these reports from the communities. At the December CRA Council/Board meeting a directive was given to release CRA's share of funding. Therefore, only some requests to the forestry enhancement program were partially funded (50%) from the Cree Regional Authority. The CRA continues its discussion with the communities and Quebec in order to receive the balance of the funding.

GIS Department

The Geographical Information System (GIS) department of the Cree Regional Authority consists of two GIS personnel, Jonathan Bosum, GIS Technician, located at the Mistissini TPD/GIS office and Maxine Mark-Stewart, Junior GIS Technician based at the Montreal GCCEI/CRA Office.

The GIS department has had numerous mapping requests for many different projects. Mapping requests for the analysis of the General Forest Management Plan (GVMP), overlaps of traplines boundaries and of other First Nation maps, which were requested for negotiations.

The GIS department provides ArcGIS and GPS training to the Joint Working Group members, communities that are affected by forestry (Chapter 3) of the Paix des Braves Agreement. Waskaganish, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Nemaska and Mistissini, are those affected by forestry and they are given priority for training, these training sessions are open to all Cree communities upon request.

The GIS department also updated their geographical data (BNDT) Base national de donnees topographiques, or National Topographic Database. The Department also updated its forestry road database.

Both GIS technicians have attended ongoing training sessions and continue research on the ArcGIS Web Server software. ArcGIS Web Server enables the CRA to create a visual map using a link at the GCC website on the internet and this can be viewed nationwide.

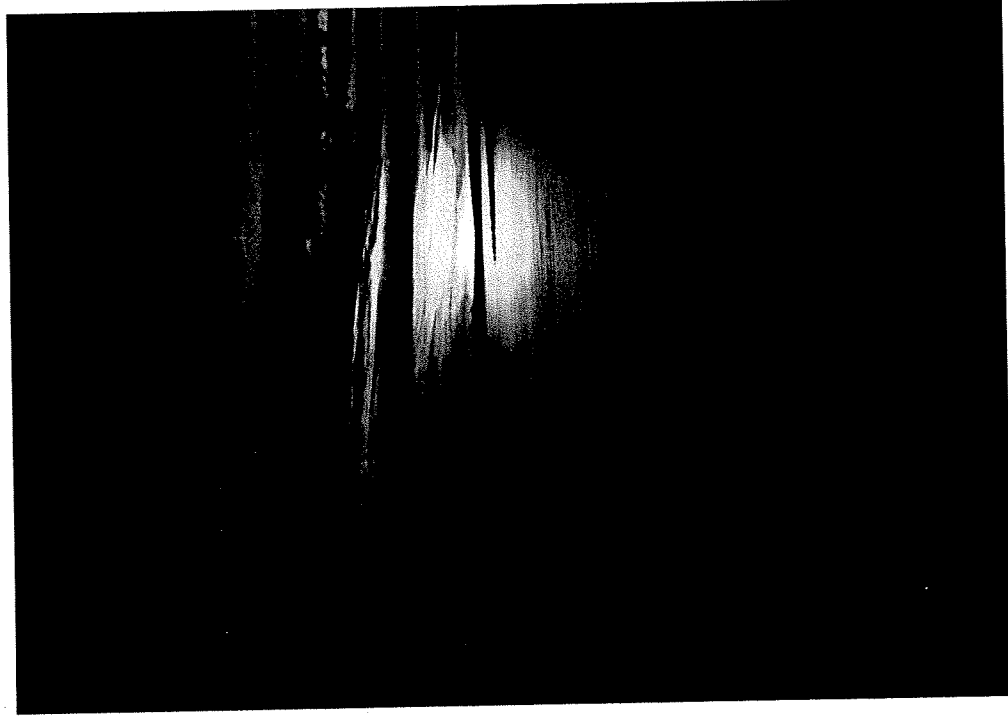
CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The Traditional Pursuits Department of the Cree Regional Authority is involved in a growing number of 'cross-cutting' issues which do not always fit clearly and easily into existing categories of work and often involve working closely with the Grand Council of the Crees. Here we will explain briefly what this means in practice.

The Department is, of course, involved closely in implementing Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement – the provisions which deal with the development of environmental management as well as environmental and social impact assessment. Our staff is therefore routinely involved in providing technical support in these subject areas for the Cree representatives involved in the impact assessment procedure, Brian Craik and Philip Awashish. Often this work also involves working with individual communities and their staff to address environmental issues arising from local development projects in Category I lands. In 2009, the work of impact assessment tended to focus on a wide range of issues arising from the authorisation of Eastmain 1-A/Rupert diversion project, as well as the planning of further mining development, notably in the Waswanipi and Mistissini territories.

The Department is also involved in the implementation of the adapted forestry management regime for the Cree territory, agreed upon in 2002. We therefore maintain the mapping and GIS capacity to provide the necessary cartographic support to the Grand Council and the affected communities for their involvement in forestry management. The Department is also involved in the continuing talks with Québec about access to public lands and issues arising from the extension of the forest road network in the territory. These are all matters which involved shared responsibility with the Grand Council and the affected Cree communities.

In the Whapmagoostui traditional territory, plans are moving ahead to develop a provincial park in the Richmond Gulf – Clearwater Lake region. This project will involve working closely with the Inuit agencies, notably the Kativik Regional Government – both at the local and regional level. The finalizing and then the implementation of the Cree offshore agreement is a further illustration of a subject on which both the Grand Council and the Cree Regional Authority have been working together, and this coordination will continue to be necessary during the implementation phase.



INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM FOR CREE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS

The Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers (ISPCHT) was established by and in accordance with Section 30 of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* for Cree beneficiaries who wish to pursue or continue a traditional way of life based on hunting, fishing and trapping within the Indoh-hoh Istchee (hunting territories) of Eeyou Istchee. Over the years, it has been modified by Complementary Agreement No. 8 in 1988, which included several changes, especially the introduction of maternity benefits. In 2002, Complementary Agreement No. 15 brought many other amendments to the Program. Among the many changes, the daily allowance was increased and a new allowance was provided for days spent by beneficiaries in far harvesting regions.

Paragraph 30.10.1 of section 30 (Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers) provides for a periodic review of the operation, procedures and benefits of the Program by Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority. Therefore, the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board has, in the summer of 2008, commenced to conduct consultations with the Cree beneficiaries of the Program and members of the ten Cree communities on the review and revision of the Program. The Board will prepare and submit a report on the results of its consultations to Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority.

The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board administers the Program. For this purpose, the Board exercises the powers and duties provided for by the *Act respecting the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board* (R.S.Q., chapter O-2.1). The Government of Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority each appoint three members to the Board.

With much gratitude from the Board for the devotion of its employees, the benefits of the Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers are delivered to the Cree beneficiaries. The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board has nineteen (19) employees, including full-time, part-time and occasional staff. Thirteen (13) employees are stationed in the Cree communities and six (6) employees work at the head office in Québec City.

During the Program year 2007-2008, 1,225 beneficiary units composed of 1,747 adults and 694 were enrolled on

the Program. The greatest number of beneficiary units come from Chisasibi (487 units), followed by Mistissini and Waswanipi (143 units each). The smallest number of beneficiary units come Nemaska (32 units) and Eastmain (39 units). The three communities with the greatest number of beneficiary units, Chisasibi, Mistissini and Waswanipi, make up 63% of the beneficiary units enrolled on the Program.

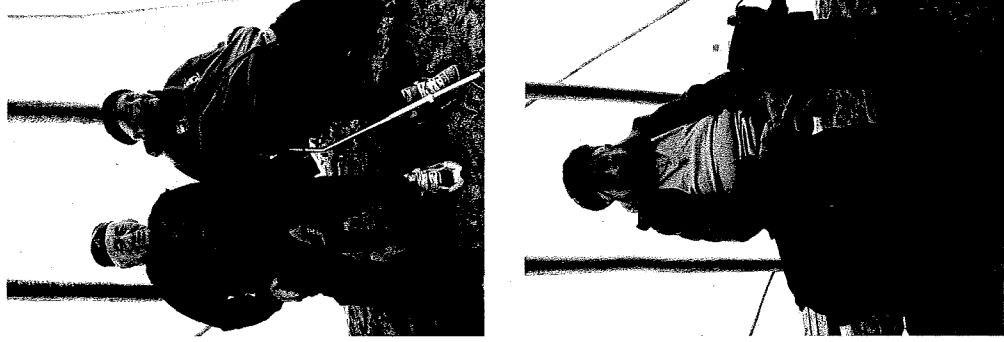
Participation in the Program varies according to the age of the head of the unit. In the 2007-2008 Program year, 45% of the heads of beneficiary units were 57 years or over and 33% were aged 36 years or less. This bimodality repeats itself annually. This trend suggests that the Program attracts mainly two major groups of participants: those who have consistently relied on the traditional way of life for numerous years, and a second group of young adults who practice the traditional lifestyle for a transitional period between their academic education and their entry into the work force. However, the traditional way of life remains at the heart of the Cree culture and identity.

Program Year 2007-2008 saw an increase with 1,225 beneficiary units, compared to 1,210 in 2006-2007 and 1,142 in 2005-2006. Beneficiary units for 2007-2008 surpasses the average annual number of beneficiary units since the inception of the Program and the average amount paid per beneficiary unit under the Program for all the Cree communities was \$15,338.

For the said Program year, the benefits paid to the Cree hunters and trappers who are beneficiaries of the Program totaled an amount of \$18,877,443. The Program benefits represented 71.3% of the total income of the beneficiaries enrolled in the Program.

Since its inception in 1976 up to and including the Program year 2007-2008, the Program has paid out a total of \$404,986,278 in benefits to Cree beneficiaries enrolled in the Program.

The pursuit of the Cree traditional way of life continues to constitute an essential component of Cree culture and Cree life. The existence and successful application of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Program continues to be an essential factor for the continuance of the Cree traditional way of life.



CREE CULTURE

The Cree Regional Authority's cultural program is administered and carried out by the Traditional Pursuits Department. The general objective of the program is to work closely with other regional organizations and the nine Cree First Nations councils, to help preserve, promote and develop Iyiyuu / Innuu culture.

New Agreement With MCCCC

A new three year agreement was negotiated with the *Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec* (MCCCCF) in support of the CRA's cultural programs. The new agreement will provide \$172,000 per year for cultural development. The principal mandates of the CRA under this agreement are as follows:

1. *Offer expertise and advice concerning culture to Cree entities and citizens.* Under this mandate, the CRA will help provide training for cultural workers, technical support for community heritage projects and financial support through the CRA Board of Compensation, community cultural grants program. The CRA will also initiate long-term projects for the archiving of sound and video tapes and the reproduction of items of Cree material culture for educational and display purposes.
2. *Promote cooperation and collaboration relating to cultural development at the local and regional levels, within the Cree territories.* Under this mandate, the CRA will develop Aanischaaaukamikw Cultural Institute, collaborate closely with the communities through the Cree Cultural Coordinators' Working Group, and improve communication and collaboration with the Cree School Board with respect to Cree culture.
3. *Protect, develop and promote specific elements of Cree culture.* Under this mandate the CRA will continue its work on cultural protection in the context of hydroelectric development and will further develop projects aimed at protecting and promoting Cree cultural heritage within new conservation parks in Eeyou Istchee. The CRA will carry out activities to present the results of heritage research projects for educational purposes. Finally, it will use MCCCCF funding to promote artistic development in Eeyou Istchee.
4. *Develop and make available knowledge related to the cultural development of the Crees of northern Québec.* Under this mandate, the CRA will, upon request, provide information or recommendations relating to culture and cultural development issues, to provincial government officials.

Local Cultural Grants Program

An amount of \$150,000 was granted for community cultural projects under the local cultural grants program of the CRA – Board of Compensation. These funds were used for a wide range of cultural projects at the local level.

Community Development Initiatives

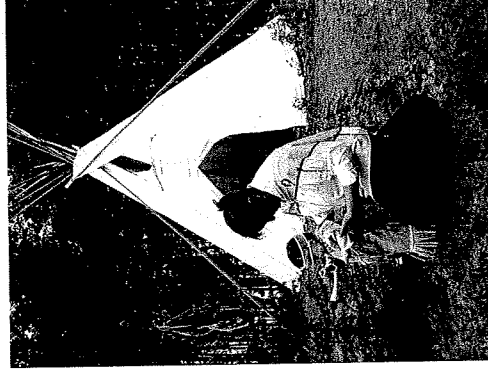
The CRA works closely with the Cree Cultural Coordinators' Working Group, "to promote cooperation between communities to better share ideas, information and resources; to improve access to on-going training and professional development for the cultural coordinators and to organize and promote regional projects that will help to preserve and promote Cree culture..."

This body is at the core of the Aanischaaaukamikw Cultural Institute's "community network" and, as such, it is overseen by Aanischaaaukamikw Coordinator, Margaret Fireman. Meetings of the Working Group in 2008-2009 were focused both on Aanischaaaukamikw development issues and on the Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Program (see section on Aanischaaaukamikw Cultural Institute, below).

The Arts In Iyiyuuschii

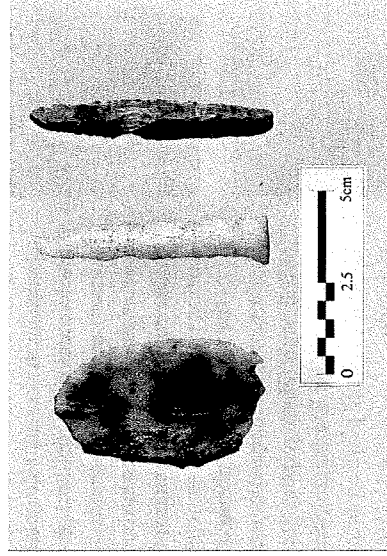
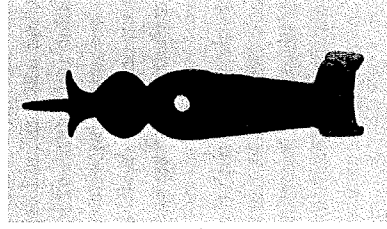
Several years ago, with M.C.C.Q. funding, the CRA established the Mimahtaawaayihititaaw and Performing Arts Grant Programs for the promotion of Cree arts. In 2008-2009, funds were awarded to Cree artists or organizations for the following projects:

Name	Project	Grant
Darryl S. Hester – Waskaganish Cree Youth Music Program	Recording project, "Rain: Songs of Hope"	\$3,000
Cree Native Arts and Handicrafts Association	National Aboriginal Day Celebration: "Honouring Life"	\$3,500



Cree Archaeology

As part of its support for community cultural projects, the CRA carries out archaeology projects in collaboration with the Cree communities. It also carries out work related to Cree cultural heritage in the context of conservation parks in the process of being developed. Two such projects were carried out with funding from the *Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs* in 2008-2009. The first relates to the proposed Assinica Cree Heritage park, in the Oujé-Bougoumou territories, and the second to the Temiskamoy post in the proposed



Albanel-Temiscamie-Otish park (Mistissini territories). A third community archaeology project was carried out in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Chisasibi. These three projects are presented below.

Proposed Assinica Cree Heritage Park

The area of the proposed Assinica conservation park is almost completely unexplored, archaeologically, and little has been documented of its history. In July 2008, a first archaeological survey was carried out under the direction of Francis Marcoux, assisted by John Bosum. The team also included elder Jean-Pierre Bosum and his brother Solomon, as well as Gerry Bosum, Mario Bosum and Tim Bosum. The study area included lakes Assinica, Comencho, Waposite, Cachisca and Opataca. Some 15 sites, most dating to the period from 1900 to 1950 as well as three dating to the pre-European contact era, were recorded during the reconnaissance. The study also allowed us to document some important aspects of the Bosum family history relating to these lands. This project, which could not have taken place without the assistance of the community of Oujé-Bougoumou, will be continued in 2009-2010.

The Temiskamoy Post

With the collaboration of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, a preliminary archaeological evaluation of the Temiskamoy Post was carried out. Memory of the site has been preserved in Cree oral tradition and its location is well known to the Gunner family, upon whose trapline the site is

located – on Temiscamie Lake, about 140 km northeast of Mistissini. It was here that the HBC erected a trading post in 1822 to defend its frontiers from the encroachment of the King's Post Co. established to the south of the height of land. The Temiskamoy post remained in operation until the end of the 1870's. Archaeological tests were excavated in order to get a better understanding of the stratigraphy and to locate the old buildings. Two stone mounds mark the location of fireplaces and nearby depressions are likely root cellars. Various artifacts dating from the 19th century were found, including glass beads, clay tobacco pipe fragments, ceramic sherds, nails, gun parts, window glass and animal bones. Other sites relating to Cree occupation were tested nearby.

Fort George

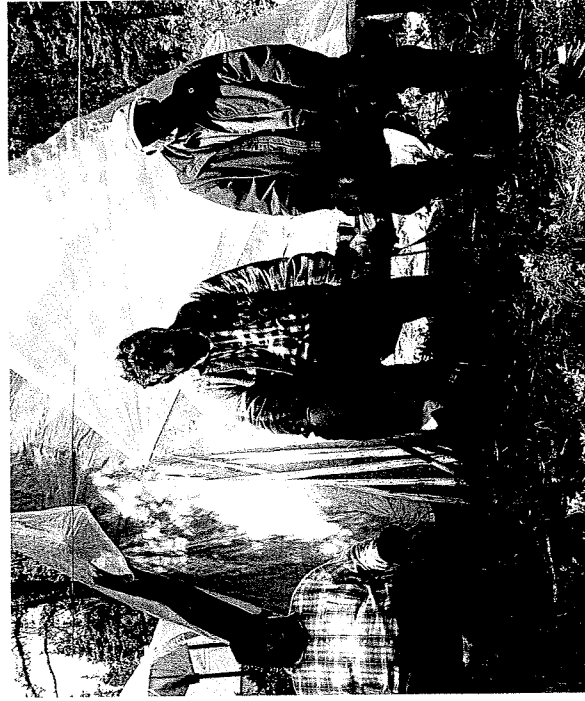
This is the fourth season of the Chisasibi Archaeological Project, a joint project of the CRA and the cultural department of Cree Nation of Chisasibi. Work in 2008 focused on Fort George Island and on the FlGr-3 site, located on the north shore of the La Grande. The goal

of this project was to salvage as much archaeological data as possible from the old HBC compound of Fort George, which as been strongly affected by the erosion of the riverbank, and to complete the excavation of FlGr-3, a small site occupied during the first quarter of the 19th century.

The HBC first settled on the north shore of the La Grande River in 1803 and called their trading establishment *Big River House*. In 1824, the company abandoned this post only to return 13 years later to build a new one on the island of Fort George. Known as Fort George, this post was in operation from 1837 to the late 1970's.

In order to continue the salvage of the cultural resources on the site of the old HBC precinct at Fort George, visual inspection of the shoreline was undertaken and test pits excavated. A large quantity of animal bones and artifacts (forged and cut nails, clay pipe fragments, ceramic materials, glass beads, etc.) was recovered. A much larger sample was recovered from the eroding bank, where





the wooden remains of a disturbed outhouse were identified. Whole ceramic tableware sets, including plates, cups and saucers, were found here, some of them showing the crest of the HBC.

On the north shore of the La Grande River, at Fl(Gr-3, the investigations helped to better define the old building located here. The associated artifacts support our previous interpretation: that this building was the “log tent” referred to in the post journals, used by some Cree hunters while at the post.

Cree Heritage and Hydroelectric Development

The Nadoshtin and Boumhounan agreements provide for the carrying out of a Cree Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program (ACHP) concerning the areas affected by the Eastmain-1 and the EM-1A – Rupert Diversion

hydroelectric projects. The ACHP is implemented by the CRA with funding from Niskamoon Corporation. Funding from the MCCCCF grant has been applied to certain activities under this program.

The major objective of the ACHP has been to allow Crees to explore their heritage associated with the lands and waters affected by the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric project, to commemorate this heritage and to transmit it to future generations. An advisory body (Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee) plays a major role in determining the general values and orientation of the program, especially the emphasis on land-based activities and a “living heritage” approach, the crucial role of elders and tallymen, and the involvement of youth, through training and the transmission of knowledge and skills. Archaeology, an important part of the program from the outset, has involved close collaboration with the elders, using their knowledge as a starting point for investigations.

The ACHP is coordinated by Jamie Stevens, with the support of CRA archaeologist, David Denton. The work of P. Bosum (ethnographer), Sophie Blacksmith (research assistant) and Dario Izaguirre and Francis Marcoux (archaeologists) plays an important role in the annual program.

Nadoshtin ACHP (EM-1)

Since the flooding of the EM-1 reservoir in 2005, the focus of the Nadoshtin ACHP has been the compilation and analysis of the masses of information and materials collected from this portion of the Eastmain River, the preparation of educational products, and the commemoration of the area and the people buried there.

In 2008-2009, collaboration continued with the SEBJ and archaeologists from Arkéos, inc. in preparing a joint synthesis of the results of archaeological and historical studies for the EM-1 reservoir. Conceived as a collection of articles, this will be published by the CRA in 2010-2011 and will be an important resource for producing educational material on Cree history.

Work also continued on a major exhibition of the materials collected in the EM-1 area. Funded by the Museum Assistance Program (Department of Canadian Heritage) and Niskamoon Corporation, this exhibition will tell the story of the flooded lands from the perspective of the elders and land-users and will present the results of research on the history and the archaeology. It will be the first such exhibition to have been prepared for presentation in the communities. In 2008-2009, the content for the exhibition was finalized and the overall design and graphic design concepts were prepared. The exhibition will be completed and will tour in several communities in 2009-2010.

One of the most important accomplishments of 2008-2009 was the completion of the landscaping at the EM-1 commemorative monument, the preparation

and installation of a dedication plaque and the official inauguration of the memorial. Funded by Niskamoon Corporation, the commemorative monument was created by sculptors Tim Whiskeychan and Robert Nepveu. The memorial is perched dramatically on a hill overlooking the EM-1 reservoir. It tells the story of the flooded lands and commemorates those buried in the area. The inauguration took place October 30, 2008 and some 75 people were in attendance. Jamie Moses, Chairman of the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, acted as MC and Eastmain Elder Florrie Mark-Stewart said prayers in honour of Crees buried under the reservoir. Grand Chief Mukash spoke as did the Eastmain-1 Site Manager, Denis Groleau. A plaque with the dedication text was unveiled by the Grand Chief and Jamie Moses. A *mishitukhkaan*, or ceremonial pole was erected in front of the memorial to symbolize respect and thanks for the animals. After this event a feast was held in the nearby *shaapuktuwaan*.

The ACHP has created two films related to the EM-1 work. In 2008-2009, the first of these, entitled *The Last Walk*, played at the Weeneebeg Aboriginal Film & Video Festival, in Moose Factory, and was extremely well received.

Bomhounan ACHP (Rupert Diversion)

2008-2009 was the second full year of operation of the Bomhounan ACHP, funded by Niskamoon Corporation with complementary funding from the MCCCFC. Additional funding was obtained for a portion of the archaeological survey and excavation work within the Rupert Forebay and Rupert Tailbay through a service agreement with the SEBJ. As with the Nadoshin ACHP, the MCCCFC also contributed to the funding.

Archaeological surveys and visits with local elders or land-users resulted in the recording of 28 new sites, most of which date to the "modern period" (1900-1950). Three new sites dated to the pre-European contact era (before AD 1600) were found. A sample of modern sites was excavated under the supervision of elders who lived at these places. Many of the recent sites are of historical interest to members of the Neeposh family.

ACHP teams excavated some 18 other sites dating to the pre-contact era or the historic period. Most of these date to the period from about 3000 years ago to AD 1600. A few date to the AD 1600-1900 period.

One of the highlights of 2008-2009 was a 125 km canoe expedition from the Route du Nord to Lake Nemiscau with a group of eight Cree youth. The Cree Nation Youth Council contributed additional financial assistance for this activity. The objective of this survey was to document archaeological sites and areas of cultural significance to



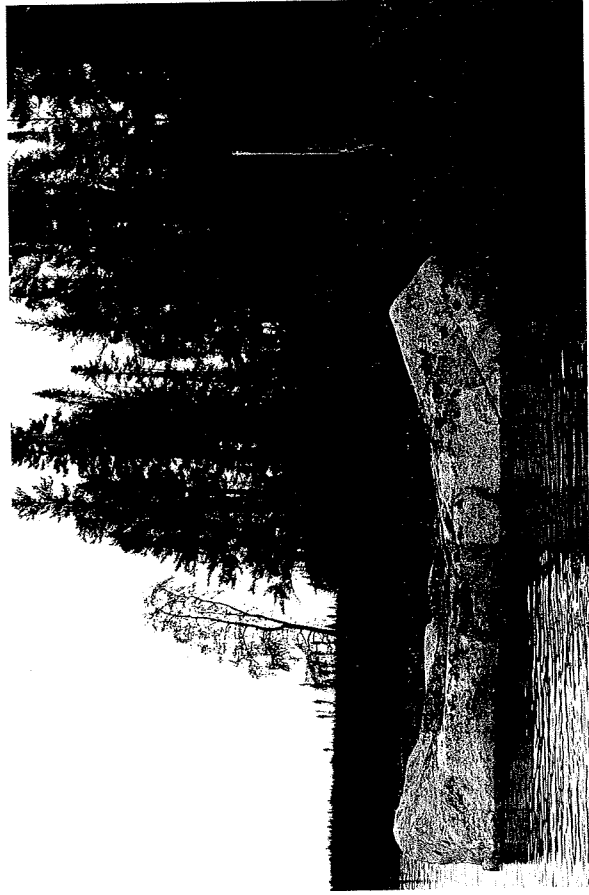
the Cree, and to record any stories or historic information relating to these locations. The resulting identification of many recent, historic and pre-European occupations throughout the central Rupert River reflects its long-term importance as a Cree resource area and avenue for travel, trade and communication. This project also represented a unique opportunity for young Crees to experience the living history of the river, and to highlight its past significance, in the face of the fast approaching changes to the landscape resulting from hydro development.



Other educational activities included a summer "heritage Camp" for children from ages 8-12 organized at our base camp on Kaa Paschisuweyaaau (Lac des Champs). Four, five-day sessions were held, with up to four children at each. Participating children were able to spend time in the bush, to carry out traditional activities with Elders and to learn about archaeology. Another educational activity involved bringing people to see *Chisayaatiskaau*, a extraordinary Cree heritage site located within the area to be flooded. Several visits were made to the site, involving primarily Crees from Nemaska.

Stories from Whapmagooostui

Some years ago, a manuscript entitled *The Mind's Eye: Stories from Whapmagooosti* was prepared by Susan Marshall and Emily Massty. The manuscript is based upon a remarkably rich corpus of stories from Whapmagooostui Elders, most collected and translated into English by Emily Massty. In 2008-2009, additional editing was done to ready the manuscript for publication in 2009-2010.



AANISCHAAUKAMIKW

Administration

The Aanischaaukamikw Executive Committee provided leadership in preparing Aanischaaukamikw for the opening of the new Aanischaaukamikw building and the start up of full operations in 2010/11. The Committee was comprised of Dianne Reid, President; Janie Pachano, Vice President; and Willie Iserhoff, Secretary.

The Building Committee oversaw the development of the Aanischaaukamikw building project design, budget and construction schedule. The Committee is comprised of the members of the Executive Committee, with the addition of Abel Bosum, representing the Aanischaaukamikw Foundation. The Committee thanks Clotilde Quentín, P. Eng, for her professionalism and commitment to Aanischaaukamikw as project manager.

The Aanischaaukamikw Technical Team managed on preparations for the construction project, program development and increasing administrative capacity in preparation for the 2010/11 opening. The team was comprised of Edith Sam, Elder; Margaret Fireman, Coordinator; Nancy Hushion, Museologist; Ross Clark, Campaign Director; Nora Otter Tetreault, Administrative Assistant and Beverly Cox, Assistant to the Coordinator.

The Executive Committee thanks the team for their dedicated work, and in particular Margaret Fireman for her vision and dedication to realizing the Aanischaaukamikw project and assuring that it will benefit the whole Cree Nation.

Programming

Most of Aanischaaukamikw's programming efforts for this year were focussed on translating the program plan into an actionable set of staffing, funding, and scheduling plans in preparation for the start up of full operations with the opening of the Aanischaaukamikw building.

Aboriginal Heritage Training Program

This was the first year of operations of the Aboriginal Heritage Training Program, and it is seeing great success. 15 Crees from 6 Communities participated in the program this year, attending the formal training sessions and workshops jointly organized by Aanischaaukamikw and Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario.

Aanischaaukamikw thanks Niskamoon Corporation and the Cree Human Resources Department for their invaluable support for the program.

Aanischaaukamikw Construction Project

The Aanischaaukamikw technical team worked with Groupe Aecon, the Douglas J. Cardinal/Rubin Rotman architectural consortium, the Cree Construction and Development Company, Dessau and SNC-Lavalin to assure that the Aanischaaukamikw project will be delivered on budget. Consultations with the professionals and the sub trades confirmed that the initial project budget of \$14.7 million was still valid.

Aanischaaukamikw and Aecon made preparations to finalize tender documents in time for a Summer 2009 construction start

Fundraising Campaign

Over the last several years the Aanischaaukamikw Foundation has raised \$11.1 million for the Aanischaaukamikw construction project.

In the current year the fundraising team made new funding proposals to several Cree entities, the private sector and the federal government to raise the remaining funds needed for the construction project.

This year has seen strong collaboration between Aanischaaukamikw and the federal government. Following a series of meetings and exchanges of correspondence, we submitted a request for a contribution of several million dollars to a consortium of federal government departments for the Aanischaaukamikw construction project. Our request is timely, as the government has prioritized construction projects in order to stimulate the economy and create jobs during the recession.



Director, Community Services Department, Norman Gull

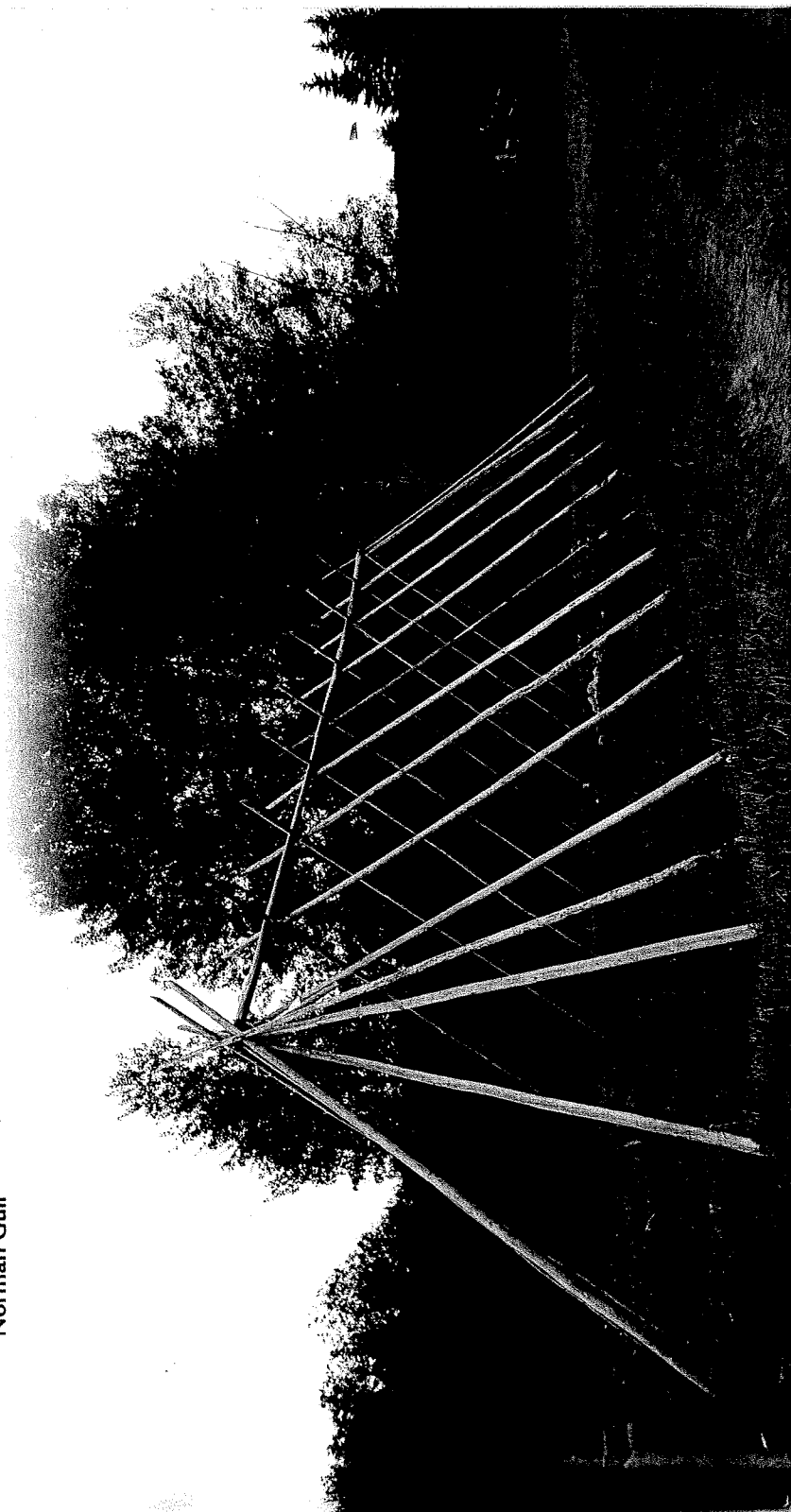
This year has been a busy, exciting and an interesting one as we experienced several changes within the organization of the Cree Regional Authority. The old Department of Community Services became the new Department of Public Works and Services as well, new departments were created, namely; Economic and Sustainable Development, Public Security Eeyou Eeenu Police Force, Justice and Correctional Services and Leisure, Sports and Recreation. This change brought about new challenges and new opportunities for most of us.

Over this past year the efforts and energies of Community Services and the Departments of Public Works and Services have focused on the design and construction of the Community court houses and Justice buildings. Another ongoing initiative has been the Quality Drinking Water and Waste Water projects for some communities, where we try to implement new regulations and standards.

We have also increased our efforts in fire prevention awareness for community members; children, adults and Elders. The fire assessment and analysis studies for each community have also been completed and have been distributed to each community. These studies will be helpful in our future plans for community fire protection and prevention services.

As always, more details of each sector of the Department are provided below.

Norman Gull



CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES

A major change within the organization of the Cree Regional Authority occurred this past fiscal year. The Department of Community Services became the new Department of Capital Works and Services, as well as new departments were created, namely; Economic and Sustainable Development, Public Security Eeyou, Police Force, Justice and Correctional Services and Leisure, Sports and Recreation. These changes brought about new challenges and opportunities for many of us.

This past year the efforts and energies of Community Services and the Departments of Capital Works and Services have focused on the design and construction of the local community justice facilities. Another ongoing initiative has been on identifying the need of improvements and upgrades of Quality Drinking Water and Waste Water projects for some communities, including new regulations, standards and best practices in operations and maintenance.

We have also increased our efforts in fire prevention awareness for community members; children, adults and elders. The fire assessment and analysis studies for each community have been completed and distributed. These studies will be helpful in our future plans for community fire protection and prevention services. These studies will also be used in the analysis of future fire protection standardization in collaboration with local fire protection offices. Within the new developments, the department of Capital Works and Services will still maintain previous mandates of technical assistance and training to the nine Cree communities and for housing and public buildings.

This report provides a brief description of ongoing developments of structure and services as it relates to the following areas: Capital development and structures, Water operator certified training, housing initiatives, and other areas of development within the delivery of the department.

Capital Planning & Services

Within the development of the new department of Capital Services & Works, most of the services require our team to support, develop and provide expert opinion of development of new program structures, as setup by the new Cree Regional Authority Technical Committee, and also the development of regional studies and projects. The following sections outline areas of development;

Program Structures

The Council/Board has approved the program structures with the implementation of the New Relationship Agreement with Canada; these include essential sanitation, housing, study funds and contingency funds. These program details have been presented to local management

levels. This will be a continuing process on an annual basis to ensure that all necessary local needs are met within the local five (5) capital plans, which are relevant to the obligations of the New Relationship Agreement.

Cree Regional Authority – Technical Committee

The Council/Board has approved the creation of a new Cree Regional Authority – Technical Committee; members have been identified with the adoption of the new structure and the new positions with the Cree Regional Authority.

The main role of this committee is to develop and design guidelines which would establish minimum regional standards that meet or exceed generally applicable federal and provincial standards with regard to essential sanitation services and housing as well as to regulate buildings for the protection of public health and safety, including the construction, maintenance and repair and demolition of buildings, but only with respect to housing and buildings that are used for regional governance.

Regional Projects

The regional projects listed below indicate the technical tools needed at the regional level to identify and assess capital projects within each of the nine (9) Cree Communities;

- Development of five (5) Capital Plans – This project was carried out closely with local management and capital department to ensure the five (5) year capital plans identified their communities' needs. This procedure is developed in the five (5) year capital funding plan and was presented at Council/Board with approval of year 1. There will be an annual updating process with each community and their professional firms
- Hydraulic Balancing – This study reviewed the existing water distribution systems and plans for future expansion needs and takes into account needs for general water distribution for houses and other buildings as well as fire protection requirements.
- Wastewater Facilities Assessment – This Study reviewed the existing wastewater disposal facilities and evaluates when and what interventions will be required to increase capacity, more specifically, focuses on the state and capacity of sewage pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants
- Regional Municipal Standards – The on-going work on the elaboration of general standards to be followed as a "best practice approach" in the elaboration of projects for the benefit of the Communities. Those include general standards as well as specific requirements for essential sanitation services and infrastructure projects. These standards are to reflect and refer to established standards

while taking into account local realities and experience and know-how. The goal of promoting these standards is to ensure that local projects are designed and carried out in a cost effective way in the interests of health and public safety, both in terms of construction and ongoing maintenance

- Landfill Study (Solid Waste) – This specific project was coordinated under the Environment department of the Cree Regional Authority, however the results of the life spans and conditions of the landfills will assist in the long term planning

We are assisting other departments within the Cree Regional Authority in the planning, project management and delivery of the new facilities in Justice and Regional Policing. We oversaw the installation of the Cree Justice and Correctional Services Department in Amos this past year.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment – Certificated Training

The certified water operator training has been delivered throughout the Cree Nation for several years now and we have provided this program to all the Cree communities. This training is on-going in some communities, but is completed in Whapmagoostui, Wemindji, Waskaganish, Nemaska, Ouje-Bougoumou and Waswanipi. The training varies in duration as each program is different in relation to the type of water system the community has. The theoretical component of the training consists of 90 to 125 hours of class time, followed by a provincial exam and also evaluation in the field or simulated tasks by a certified Journeyman. The remaining communities will be completed by fall 2009; however, due to turnover and other reasons, we still continue to provide training to new operators. This is currently being planned with the department and vocational training centers.

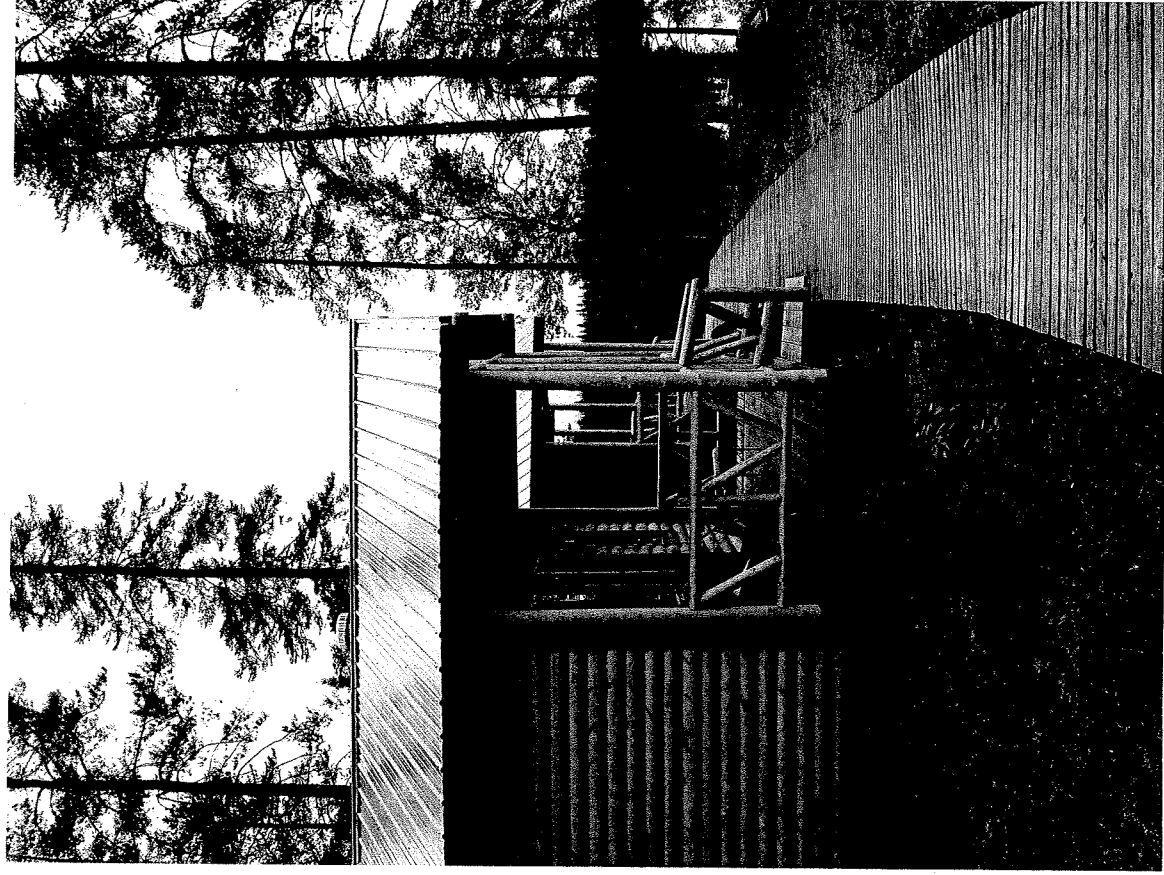
Technical Services also provides assistance and administrative support to the regional committee of water operators, consisting of members from each community and CRA representatives. Through this committee, we are able to provide the communities with information of on-going projects, updating of training programs and also allow the communities to provide feedback to us on the quality of our services. The importance of the regional committee is to establish protective measures for these

facilities as the communities are growing at a rapid pace. Also, identifying human resource needs is important, as these water distribution systems can only be operated by a certified water operator in the near future.

With the assistance of the local water operators, we are able to develop a mapping system of each community with the existing infrastructure and color coded to identify each line water, sewer or drainage. This will be useful information for planning, operation and maintenance and possible use of automated systems.

Housing

The administrative and technical support we provide to the Eeyou Michuwaap is the main function of our services. It is composed of local housing administrators, CMHC representatives, and others involved in the housing field. Through this regional committee the allocation of the



CMHC funding programs such as Article 95 social housing and RRAP are presented and discussed. The following is an exhaustive list of the services provided:

- Administrative and technical support to regional quarterly meetings of Eeyou Miichuwaap;
- Coordination and performance CMHC Inspection Services in the Cree communities;
- Circuit Rider Training (CRT) for housing maintenance;
- Circuit Rider Training (CRT) for computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) for housing maintenance;
- Implementation of the Eeyou Miichuwaap Housing Data Base System;
- Implementation of the Housing Tenant Profile Data Base System;
- Involved in the First Nation National Buildings Officers Association;
- Inspection of fire damaged housing units for the self-insured program with the Board of Compensation;

Others

The regional and local sectors of administration request our services on specific issues and we provide technical support and information from our databases upon approval of the communities or CRA authorities.

- Members of the CRA/INAC Technical Committee
- Conduct inspections of Public buildings
- Technical assistance to local administrations on various files
- Estimation of capital projects for negotiation purposes and planning
- Technical support to GCCEI/CRA negotiation team on various files
- Development of a Capital Works & Services website www.cracapital.ca (Not launched yet)
- Capital Assets Inventory – Cree Nation

The department of Capital Works and Services has organized and coordinated the delivery of a Project Management Program with Algonquin College. This was the second time we have delivered this program in the Cree Nation and from the success of the first program; we decided to create two groups, inland and coastal. These trainees are in the final stage of this program with a subtotal of their final projects.

In conclusion, the technical services team wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the community authorities for their collaboration and support.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development sector, under Community Services, is pleased to report its activities for the year 2008-09.

Regional Development Fund Agreement

The Regional Development Fund Agreement has been in existence for the past five years when the Quebec government decided to modify the method of delivering local and regional programs and services throughout Quebec. The Quebec government created the Conference of elected officials (CRE), of which the Cree Regional Authority is a part.

Since the program has been revamped by the province of Quebec, under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Regions, the annual allocation for the Cree Regional Authority has reached \$2M, a very significant increase considering only a few years ago the CRA allocation was just over \$900,000.00 annually. The present Agreement will expire on March 31, 2012, and Quebec has commenced discussions with the regions regarding the new modalities on the Regional Development Fund program.

For the fiscal year 2008-09, eleven (11) projects received financial support for a total amount of \$2.0 million. These projects ranged from tourism and economic development facilities, to the upgrading of local telecommunications systems.

Specific Agreements for the Elderly & Gender Equality

Under the Regional Development Fund program, the Cree Regional Authority can initiate various types of partnership Agreements with Quebec and other organizations for a specific type of endeavour. This year the Quebec government conducted various types of consultations with the regions regarding the elderly and women. Under the Ministry of Family & Elderly care, a five-year plan funding plan and policy was developed and Quebec signed Agreements with the regions, including the Cree Regional Authority. The value of the Agreement is \$ 1.3M and the CRA allocated \$750,000.00 from the Regional Development Fund for the next five years and Quebec's contribution towards the Agreement is \$ 595,000. Furthermore, the CRA will be responsible for administering and managing the Agreement and we will be required to develop a strategic plan outlining the types of events and activities to be undertaken for elders over the next few years.

The Quebec government also approached the CRA concerning the Policy on gender equality. After we examined the Policy, we decided to enter into another Specific Agreement with Quebec on Gender Equality. Although the duration of the Agreement will be two years, Quebec has indicated that they will extend the program for a longer

period. The main reason for a short duration is the regions have two years to set up women's associations/groups. I would like to report that the Cree Regional Authority commenced the process of setting up the Cree Regional Women's Association of Eeyou Ischtee and that this association will have the mandate to discuss and address the issues/concerns that affect the women of Eeyou Ischtee.

Eeyou Communications Network

For the past few years we have always reported on the design and planning aspects of ECN; but this year will be different. All of the hard work in planning the project has begun to produce real results and benefits. We are pleased to report that the government financing has been completed and secure for the total amount of \$19.2M. Other Agreements have also been finalized or will soon be finalized so that we can deploy the network by the year 2010.

The proposed 2,400 km Network is designed to serve the Cree entities and the non-Cree communities of Eeyou Ischtee. It will support communications, telephone companies, enterprises, and communications services as a broadband network system of 2.5 Gigabit/second for voice, image and data.

ECN is more than the delivery of telecommunications services. It is Internet Protocol (IP) technology with a social dimension. It is also about employment, about creating technical and management positions. ECN means new jobs and new types of employment in the communities: computer engineering, LAN and networking management, local access and distribution network deployment, software development, language development programming, entrepreneurial opportunities for new business, support services and an avenue for experimental services and pilot projects.

The first stage of the project will cost \$22.7 million and will provide broadband service to the six communities located near the Hydro-Québec installations. In the second stage, services will be extended to all Cree communities.

Regional Strategy on Economic Development

The Economic Development office has been working over the past few years on possible structures, policies and strategies that will help to build a strong economy for the entire Cree Nation across the region. As part of this process, a Strategic Plan was developed that sets out a vision, mission statement and objectives for economic development. Six principles are outlined that reflect the core Cree values of our Nation, and will guide all future economic development projects. The plan and principles were approved by the Council / Board of the GCCEI-CRA in February 2007. Since that time, a regional economic development conference was also held that produced a series of recommendations from the delegates from all Cree communities.

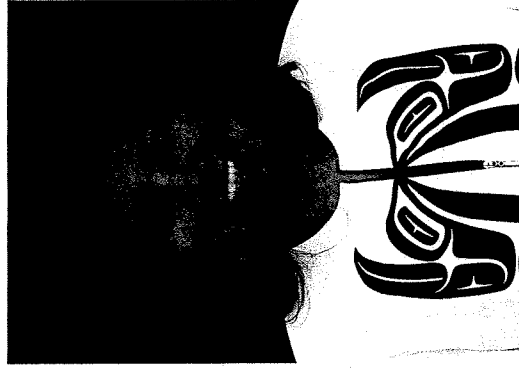
The past year has seen the beginning of the implementation of some of the intervention strategies suggested by both the conference recommendations and the strategic plan. With the amendment to by-laws regarding the organizational structure of the CRA, a Department of Economic and Sustainable Development was established this year to support the region. Economic Development will continue to be delivered at the community level and local EDO's will get additional support and assistance through the new department.

Native Nations Institute: Governance, Leadership and Economy

As part of the training and professional development needs identified in both the Strategic Plan for Economic Development and recommendations from the regional Economic Development Conference held in fall 2007, a special gathering took place in February of this year. Facilitators from the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona delivered an Executive Education Seminar on Leadership, Governance and Nation Building for over 100 Crees, including the Chiefs, Managers and EDO's from all communities as well as from all Cree entities. The two-day seminar focused on the best strategies to follow to build strong local communities, a supportive regional administration, and a sound economy for future generations.

Cree Development Corporation: Working Group

Another component of building a strong economy for the Crees of Eeyou Ischtee is the establishment of a regional investment corporation that will support major projects of a regional nature. The Cree Development Corporation was identified in the Paix des Braves agreement of 2003 as a central element in promoting strong, long-term growth of the Cree economy. Last year saw the establishment by the CRA of a Working Group on the Cree Development Corporation to be known as the Wiikaapuu Companeec. The Working Group has conducted research, reviewed legal files, discussed financing options, and has issued its report to the Council / Board of the GCCEI-CRA. In the past year, the Economic Development Office has participated in the Working Group discussions, fine-tuned the proposed structure and potential operation of the Wiikaapuu Companeec with the intention of moving forward on the establishment of this organization in the coming year.



Director, Cree Child & Family Services Department, Tina Petawabano

I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 report on the activities and achievement of the Child and Family Services Department.

First, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my staff at the Child and Family Services Department. They are showing great professionalism and dedication to our nine childcare centres.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank the Cree leadership for their continued support in the work that we do for Cree children and families throughout Eeyou Istchee.

On behalf of our team, I am proud to report that our Cree childcare centres offer more services than most other centres across the country, be they aboriginal or non-native. We offer integrated services that include the following programs: Childcare, Head Start, First Nations/Inuit Childcare Initiative, School Age and Special Needs programs.

Among the major highlights for this year, our Department established a close working relationship with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services regarding the implementation of the Public Health Department's Amasquupimatiset Awasch Program. This program, which is gradually being implemented throughout the Cree communities, aims at providing services to new mothers and young children. Our Child and Family Services and this new Program are natural complements to each other, and our working together fosters better services for all Cree families in Eeyou Istchee.

We recently held a strategic planning session for the next few years, and developed a new mission statement for the Child and Family Services Department:

Our Mission

We are the team that provides support to Childcare Centres in Eeyou Istchee, that listens, guides and communicates, so that children and families may get quality services that respect our Cree values, culture and language.

We support all staff and board members of Centres so that they can do the best possible work. We make funding flow, and we ensure that it is used well. We network within our sector and with other organizations, to make sure that children's needs are met. "We're there for them!"

Tina Petawabano

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CREE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN FOR 2008-2009

For fiscal year 2008-2009, the activities of the Child and Family Services Department have included the following:

1. Implementation of Programs and Agreements

The Department channelled funds from a number of programs and agreements to local Childcare Centres, in order to support their operations.

- We have just completed the third year of our second *Agreement respecting Childcare Centres between the Government of Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority*. This Agreement gives us various responsibilities, including renewing Childcare Centres' permits, carrying out inspections, facilitating the implementation of background

inquiries for all staff and board members of Childcare Centres, dealing with local and regional complaints and providing technical and professional support to the Centres. We currently are in the process of negotiating a new agreement with the Provincial Government.

- The *Cree Childcare Program* is funded through an Agreement between the Cree Human Resources Department (CHRD) and Service Canada. This program allows local Childcare Centres to improve the ratio of children to educators, thus improving the quality of services.
- The *Cree Head Start Program* is funded by Health Canada. Through this Program, Educators facilitate educational home visits for families of children who do not attend the Childcare Centres. Home visits are a great way to introduce developmental activities for young children and to help parents discover the joys of 'learning through play'. Many families took part in home visits in 2008-2009.



Other activities offered through the Head Start Program included services for children who have special needs, parent-child playgroups, parenting workshops, nutrition workshops, first aid training for parents and various events to highlight the special bond that connects the Cree communities with young children.

- The *FASD program* is also funded through Health Canada. In partnership with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, it allowed us to hire one professional to train and support our Regional Cree Special Needs Advisor as well as to train and support the local Special Needs Educators working in the Childcare and Head Start programs. In 2008/2009, we also obtained funding from this program for our special needs conference.
- The *School-Age Program* is funded through the Quebec Ministry of Education/Cree School Board. This Program enables Childcare Centres in most communities to provide School-Age Programs for children from kindergarten to grades 3 or 4, in close cooperation with local schools. The children enrolled in the Programs participate in daily activities that focus both on recreation and on support for homework during lunch, after school as well as during pedagogical days.

The pooling of resources and funding from all of the agencies listed above enables us to offer many services that would not be available otherwise. In coordinating federal, provincial, regional and local funding programs, we can improve the overall quality of our services without creating any duplication or overlapping.

2. Support to Childcare Centres in the nine Cree communities

- We provided support to the nine existing local Child and Family Service Boards of Directors, and facilitated training sessions for a number of them as well. We assisted local Boards in the supervision of the operations of their childcare programs and services.
- We provided technical and professional support to all Directors and staff members of the Centres involved in Childcare, Head Start and School-Age programs, including matters dealing with legal aspects, building maintenance, materials, human and financial resources, training, educational activity programs, promotion, general co-ordination of the Centres and assistance in problem-solving.
- We reviewed and analyzed childcare information from various sources (governments, associations, agencies) and distributed relevant documents and information to Childcare Centres.
- In the summer and fall of 2008, we finalised two playgroups in Chisasibi and one in Wemindji.
- We provided a regional maintenance service for our childcare facilities, mainly in Waskaganish, Nemaska, Waswanipi and Oujé-Bougoumou.
- We developed Cree resource materials for young children, which are more culturally appropriate and reflect the Cree way of life (books, music, songs, toys). We completed three Cree young children's books in the two Cree dialects.

3. Accessibility and affordability of child and family services

- At the end of fiscal year 2008-2009, there were 1208 funded full-time childcare spaces available in the nine communities through the \$7.00/day program. Free spaces were available for children whose

Center - Community	Spaces	Occupancy			Comments
		F1	F2	F3	
Awash Estchees CCC - Whapmagoostui	80	76%			estimated
Anjabowa CCC - Chisasibi	240	93%	89%	80%	91 children on waiting list - 60 of which are infants (0-17 mos.)
Kanawhymigoo CCC - Wemindji	110	96%	94%		
Waseyapin CCC - Eastmain	80	87%			18 children on waiting list
Waaseskun CCC - Waskaganish	160	57%	66%		14 children on waiting list - 9 of which are infants (0-17 mos.)
She She Guin CCC - Nemaska	68	60%			
Awaash Shiishikunkamikw CCC - Waswanipi	160	65%	71%		estimated
Waspshooyan CCC - Oujé-bougoumou	70	79%			
Awash CCC - Mistissini	240	93%	89%	93%	161 children on waiting list - approx. 60 of which are infants
Total Spaces	1208				

parents are receiving social assistance benefits. The Department's role included ensuring that the Childcare Centres meet the needs of all children, regardless of level of ability or special need in each Cree community.

- With the Head Start Program, more than 100 families whose children do not attend the Childcare Centres on a regular basis benefited from various services. The Head Start Program is free of charge and tries to meet the needs of low-income families and of families with children who have special needs.
- More than 200 children attended the School-Age Programs, also through the \$7.00/day program offered in the communities in 2008-2009.

4. Training of Childcare/Head Start and School-Age workers

In order to promote the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of children in the context of Cree heritage and culture, it is important for the Department to provide opportunities for training and development for staff members.

FASD Workshops

At the request of Health Canada, our Department coordinated a two-day FASD workshop, held on September 9 and 10, 2008, in Montreal. This successful workshop was attended by two Educators per Cree community, but was also open to all First Nations and Inuit communities of Quebec.

Maternal and Child Health Program Consultation

In partnership with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, we coordinated a Cree Regional Consultation on a new Health Canada Program, which was held from September 30 to October 2, 2008. The goal of this consultation was to bring together front-line workers, professionals and administrators involved in programs and services for expectant mothers and families with young children, in order to:

- Develop a local and regional portrait of the present situation of programs and services aimed at mothers, children and families in the Cree communities;
- Meet, share and develop strategies for integrated services that would better support children and families;
- Develop a three-year plan of action to implement the Amasquupimatiséat Awasch services in each of the nine Cree communities.



A total of 125 representatives of the Clinics, Bands, Wellness Centres, Childcare and Head Start Programs, CHRs, Welfare and Schools participated in the consultation.

Second Regional Special Needs Conference

Held on November 18 to 20, 2008, the conference brought together parents of Cree children with special needs and professionals working in various fields who are dealing with the needs of these children. The goal of this conference was to give families another opportunity to have a voice – to share their precious knowledge with us so that we could learn from them in order to better support them. An estimated total of 200 participants attended this event. We are very proud of the success of this conference, and wish to thank the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and Health Canada for their financial support.

CEGEP Educators in Native Childcare Services

In 2008-2009, one graduation was held in Waswanipi for 14 students who completed the CEGEP de St-Félicien's *Educators in Native Childcare Services* training program. This year, the same training program also started in Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui, Ouje Bougoumou, Mistissini and Wemindji.

This training is still much needed because of local needs for trained Educators in the communities. Each Childcare Centre is required to meet the provincial Act and Regulations ratios that stipulate that two out of three Educators working in Childcare Centres need to be trained.

CEGEP Special Needs Education - Aboriginal and Inuit Children

This Program was created in 2006 by the CEGEP de St-Félicien upon the request of the Cree Child and Family Services Department. In the fall of 2008, eighteen students

graduated from this program in Chisasibi, and ten more graduated in Wemindji.

This training program enables graduates to foster the overall development of children who have special needs by applying activities related to the children's intervention plans, and by conducting regular assessments to chart children's progress.

The CEGEP reports that Cree participation in the two college programs is still very high, and reflects both the wonderful dedication of students and the strong support of all stakeholders at the local and regional level. We send our congratulations to all graduates who, thanks to their hard work and commitment to the well-being and education of young children, have earned their diplomas.



We wish to acknowledge the tremendous support of CHRD's Institutional Training Program in securing the funding for these college-level programs. It also is necessary to note the additional financial support received from the CEGEP de St-Félicien.

Managers of Aboriginal Child and Family Services

Directors and Coordinators of Childcare Centres/Head Start Programs participated in three training workshops during fiscal year 2008-2009, to increase their abilities and skills in their very challenging workload. Issues dealt with included managing human resources, managing finances and collaborating with other Cree entities.

Financial Administration and Bookkeeping

Two regional Financial Advisors travelled through all communities, spending approximately two weeks per Centre in order to provide on-site training and support to persons responsible for the financial administration of each Childcare Centre. Bookkeepers received additional training on October 28 and 29, 2008 in Montreal, for the Gestionnaire 2006 software program.

Cooks Training

Thanks to the Cree Board of Health, a regional nutritionist now provides on-site training programs to the cooks working in the Childcare Centres. This nutritionist, as well as a health chef travel to the communities to review menus, to teach cooking techniques as well as to provide guidance on nutrition and hygiene.

Educational Program

This year, a facilitator travelled through some of the communities to give workshops on the most recent updated educational program.

First Aid and Injury Prevention Courses

In order to ensure that all staff members remain certified in CPR and First Aid, courses with a focus on children were provided to Childcare and Head Start Educators as well as to parents in all communities. A special grant from Health Canada helps the CRA to pay for this on-site training.

School-Age Program training

From August 5 to 8, 2008, our Department also provided a one-week training session in Mistissini to all School-Age Coordinators and Educators of the nine communities. This session focused on the planning of activities for the entire school year.

Head Start Program training

In March of 2009, we provided a one-week training session to all Head Start Coordinators, home-visit educators and family workers of the nine communities. This series of workshops dealt with the six components of the Head Start program as well as with budgets, reporting and high-risk families.

5. Liaison

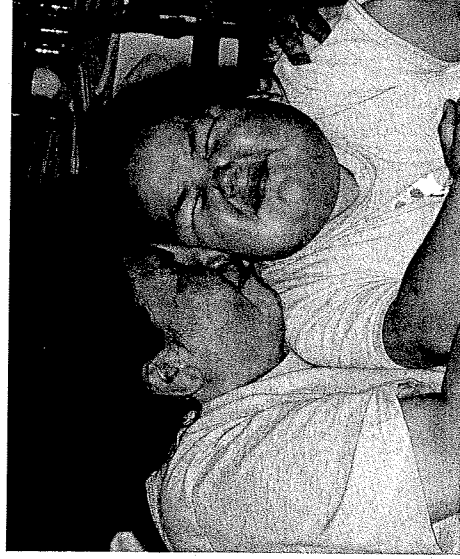
- We planned and co-ordinated the meetings and training sessions of the Cree Regional Child and Family Services Committee three times during the fiscal year.
- We acted as liaison with other communities and organisations on childcare matters and issues, and ensured concerted and informed actions.
- We developed linkages and partnerships between the CRA, Band Councils, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, Clinics, the Cree School Board, Schools as well as the provincial and federal governments to provide inclusive, comprehensive and flexible childcare programs for all Cree children, including children living with special needs.

6. Child and Family Services Personnel

- Our Department is based in Mistissini, with four full-time employees working out of our main office. One more employee is based in Waswanipi, two are based in Waskaganish and a final staff member works within the Finance Division in Nemaska.
- The personnel at the Department helps to ensure that childcare services are being provided by Cree personnel in the Cree language, and that the Childcare Centres and Head Start Programs reflect the communities' cultural values, beliefs and traditions. Their principal role is to travel in the communities to provide technical and professional support to all staff of the nine Child and Family Services Centres

At the end of 2008-2009, nearly four hundred (400) Cree persons were working in the Child and Family Services sector in the nine communities, most of them in permanent full- and part-time positions. Half of persons working as Educators now hold College-level diplomas. One of our challenges is that many of our trained educators are leaving the childcare sector to work with other entities or to further their education.

Centres providing Childcare Services, Head Start and School-Age programs each hire one Director who looks after all management aspects of the Centres (Human Resources, Finance, Administration, Services). They are assisted by Coordinators for each facility they have, as well, Administrative Assistants or Secretary-Bookkeepers. Each Centre employs a number of Educators



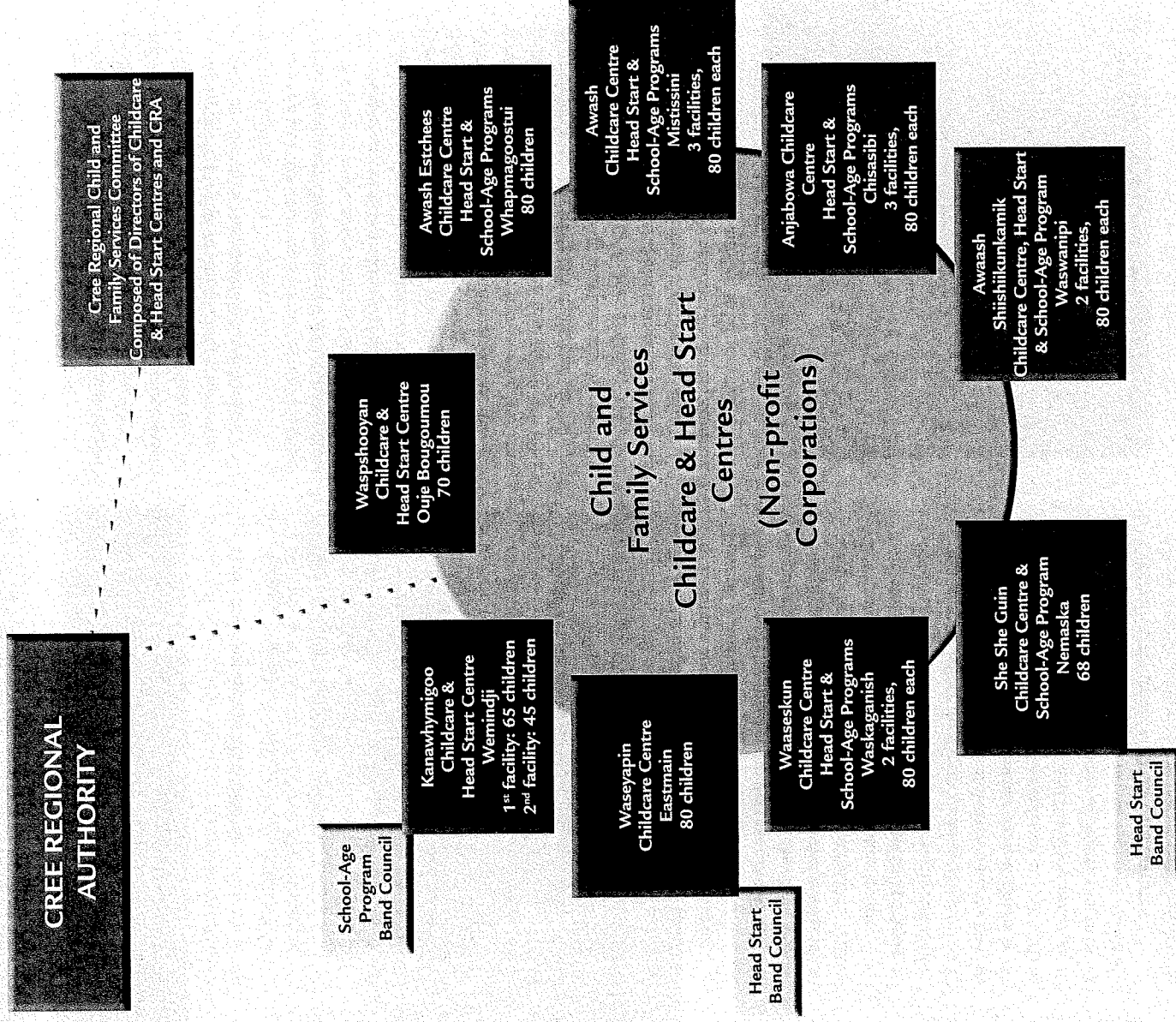
(including Special Needs Educators, Home Visit Educators and School-Age Program Educators). All Centres also have Cooks and Janitors on their regular staff. Finally, some Centres have Pedagogical Counsellors as well as Coordinators for their Head Start and School-Age Programs.



7. Our challenges for 2009-2010

1. Develop Cree resource materials for young children that are more culturally appropriate and reflect the Cree way of life (books, music, songs, toys).
2. Negotiate our third Agreement with the provincial government to transfer funding programs and some powers from the Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés (MFA) (licensing and monitoring) to the Cree Regional Authority for the Cree communities.
3. Conclude our negotiations with the provincial government to obtain additional operations grants for our Child and Family Services Centres in order to increase the salaries of our workers and keep them in our services.
4. Provide more support to the Head Start and School-Age programs in all communities.
5. Complete the playgrounds for the childcare facilities of Eastmain and Waskaganish, which will finalize our playground development plan.
6. Identify a professional company that can provide regional maintenance services to all the Child and Family Services facilities – we are in the process of evaluating our agreement with the CCDC.
7. Look into University training programs for the Directors of the nine 9 Child and Family Services Centres, and research on-going training for all staff.
8. Continue to deliver the Cegep training programs *Educators in Native Childcare Services* and the *Special Needs Education - Aboriginal and Inuit Children* in the communities that request these.
9. Continue to support Child and Family Service Centres who are in the process of negotiating their first collective agreement with workers.
10. Continue to cooperate with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services in the harmonization of services aimed at families and young children of Eeyou Istchee.

Regional Child & Family Services – March 31, 2008



Cree Department of Justice and Correctional Services

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services is a new service under the Cree Regional Authority resulting from a Justice Agreement signed with the Government of Quebec on May 30, 2007.

By way of background, Section 18 of the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) contains specific provisions in respect to the administration of justice by the Cree Nation. Amongst other things, Section 18 provides for the establishment of a judicial district in the region where judges and court workers will have familiarity with the Cree usages and customs. Moreover, it provides for the creation of positions, committees, programs, training and some facilities for programs, and perhaps most importantly, the requirement that the criminal law and its procedures take into consideration Cree circumstances, usages, customs and way of life. The 2007 Justice Agreement includes funding to give effect to Section 18, but also includes other provisions for justice officers and committees, programs for Cree detainees including reintegration support, programs for victims of criminal acts and support for the Judicial Advisory Committee.

The 10-person Judicial Advisory Committee is comprised of five members each from the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec, selected on the basis of their experience and expertise in justice and correctional services. The Committee is an advisory body that oversees the Department's budget and makes recommendations on it each year to the Cree Nation government and the Government of Quebec, as well as advises on justice system personnel, facilities, research and programs. Members of the Committee sit for three year terms and can be reappointed, with the Chairmanship of the Committee - presently held by Chief Losty Mamianskum - rotating between the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec.

Fundamental in the Agreements noted above is the requirement that the justice system in Eeyou Istchee reflect the values, beliefs and ways of the people it serves in Cree communities and be responsive to their concerns. This orientation is reflected in our human resources model where Community Justice Officers, Community Reintegration Officers, and Community Justice Panels/Committees will be working in each of the nine communities. This approach ensures we administer justice in a manner that reflects Cree needs and values, at the same time establishing effective programs and services that build and sustain community capacity.

The recent Justice Symposium was an essential first step in achieving a common vision of a responsive and Cree

oriented justice system, integrating federal and provincial laws. A diversity of community representatives and stakeholder groups from across the Cree Nation were brought together to initiate the identification of key justice issues and their possible resolution, a process which was supported by a pre-Symposium justice survey as well as electronic polling at the conclusion of Symposium proceedings. A global plan for crime prevention and reduction in the Cree Nation was presented which incorporates a balanced approach of prevention, intervention, diversion, enforcement, suppression and reintegration, a plan which will guide our work in the coming months. Together, Symposium participants affirmed the need for continued dialogue on justice issues, the value of inter-agency collaboration and the necessity of dealing with the underlying factors fuelling crime and victimization.

Justice facilities contemplated for the Cree Nation will be much more than just courthouses. Rather, they will be the focal point in the community for justice issues, featuring space for mediation, restorative justice, family counselling and other wellness programs. Further, they will have systems in place to increase accessibility to detainees, legal counsel, witnesses and other professionals and justice personnel spread throughout the territory and outside. Regrettably, the costs to build these facilities has increased





programs, new strategies will need to be looked at. With respect to our correctional services program, a regional CRA Correctional Services office was opened in March 2009, in Amos, close to the Amos Detention Centre. Staff at this regional office, with the support of our Community Reintegration Officers, will work with Cree detainees on their rehabilitation during detention and their reintegration after release, so as to reduce the chance of re-offending and improve safety in our communities.

Finally, to help achieve the broad mandate of the Cree Department of Justice and Correctional Services, we have embarked on developing a number of partnerships regionally, provincially and federally. In March, we executed a new agreement with the Province of Quebec and Government of Canada to provide additional funds to support the establishment and training of local justice committees. Moreover, CHRD has supported a range of justice training requirements for new employees and we have submitted a proposal for a Cree detainee reintegration program under a federal government strategic fund for Aboriginal people who face significant employment barriers. We are also in a process of negotiating with the National Crime Prevention Centre to establish an Aboriginal version of the world renowned SNAP™ program for children at risk aged 6 to 12 years who have had police contact or exhibit significant risk factors for criminal offending.

Together, we believe these efforts will ensure that we achieve what we richly deserve: the fair and impartial administration of justice, done so in a manner that honours the traditions, values and aspirations of the people of Eeyou Istchee.

dramatically over the past few months making it difficult to build these capital structures all at once without compromising the delivery of needed community services and





Director, CRA Youth Development, Andrew Neeposh

It is a pleasure to once again submit the departmental report for fiscal year 2008-2009. This year's Annual Report will provide a general overview on the year's activities and special events as well as highlight future projects. The report will begin with a special acknowledgement to all organizations that continue to provide support and funding for the annual operations and special projects of the Youth Department and the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC). The Youth Department and CNYC are in their 20th year of operation under the auspices of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Regional Authority (GCCEI/CRA).

In 2008-2009, the GCCEI/CRA went through a major re-structuring in order to adequately assume the important responsibilities by virtue of the agreement entered into on February 21, 2008 concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree Nation of (Eeyou Istchee). The GCCEI/CRA established an Implementation Committee comprised of Senior Management and members' of the Federal Negotiations Team under the supervision of the Grand Chief and the Deputy Grand Chief. The mandate of the committee was to review and make recommendations on proposed changes to the structure of the GCCEI/CRA to ensure an effective and efficient transition on the Implementation of the New Relationship Agreement.

In June 2008, the members of the Implementation Committee presented recommendations to the GCCEI/CRA Council/Board on the new structure and By-Law amending the consolidated By-law of the Cree Regional Authority. The recommendations of the Implementation Committee were subsequently approved by GCCEI/CRA Council/Board through resolution 2008-34. The GCCEI/CRA re-structuring process has substantially changed the structure of the youth department to include three (3) new full-time positions and most notably the creation of the department of Leisure, Sports and Recreation.

Administration Funding

The 2008-2009 Youth Administration operating budget was funded by the Grand Council of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee/Cree Regional Authority (GCCEI/CRA) through the Cree Act - Operations and Maintenance Funding Agreement. The Operation and Maintenance funding allocated from GCCEI/CRA supports the operating budget costs of the salaries and benefits of the CNYC Chairman, the Director of Youth Development and the Administrative Assistant to the Youth Development. The CNYC Board of Directors' and its Executive Committee budgets are funded by the O and M funding as well.

Recent Developments

As part of the re-organization process, the Youth Department in collaboration with the CNYC Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson submitted recommendations to the Implementation Committee for three (3) new positions. These additional requirements were submitted in order to improve the effective and efficient operation of the Youth Department. The positions approved within the new GCCEI/CRA structure are:

- Administrative Assistant to Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Communications Officer

Special Projects Funding

New Relationship Agreement – ‘Paix des Braves’

The GCCEI/CRA Executive Committee approved allocation from the New Relationship Agreement in the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$ 150,000.00) to support the initiatives of the Youth Department and the CNYC.

Board of Compensation

In addition to the New Relationship Agreement funding, the Board of Compensation approved a financial contribution to support the special projects of the Youth Department and the CNYC. The following is the breakdown of the financial contributions for Youth Council Operations;

Sources of Funding	Contribution	Allocation
NRA Funding	\$ 150,000.00	
BOC Funding	<u>\$ 120,000.00</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 270,000.00</u>	
Operating Expenses		
Contracted Services		\$ 30,000.00
Youth Representation		\$ 30,000.00
Travel – CNYC Chairperson		\$ 30,000.00
Leadership Conference - Travel		\$ 40,000.00
Leadership Conference – Office Supplies		\$ 25,000.00
Professional Fees		\$ 30,000.00
Strategic Planning		\$ 10,000.00
Youth Coordinators' Meeting		\$ 10,000.00
Special Projects		\$ 40,000.00
CNYC Elections		\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 270,000.00

Government of Quebec:

The 3-year financial assistance agreement signed between the Government of Quebec and the Cree Regional Authority in April 2006 expired on March 31, 2009. The Government of Quebec has committed to extend the agreement for an additional five (5) years (2009-2014) to replace the former agreement. The following is the calculation of the new agreement for the subsidy to support the operations of the youth forum and amount of contribution for the Fonds Regional D'investissement Jeunesse (FRIJ) or Regional Youth Investment Fund (RYIF).

Fiscal Year	Operating Budget	FRIJ/Ryif	Total Amount
Year One 2009-2010	\$ 166,380.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 366,380.00
Year One 2010-2011	\$ 169,710.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 369,710.00
Year One 2011-2012	\$ 173,104.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 373,104.00
Year One 2012-2013	\$ 176,566.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 376,566.00
Year One 2013-2014	<u>\$ 180,098.00</u>	<u>\$ 200,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 380,098.00</u>
Total	\$ 865,858.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,865,858.00

Program Officer

The Program Officer is responsible to manage the day-to-day operations of the Fonds Regional D'investissement Jeunesse (FRIJ) program or known as the 'Regional Youth Investment Fund. She will be responsible to promote and assist promoters' to access funding. She will screen, recommend projects and manage the 'FRIJ' program.

Fonds Regional D'investissement Jeunesse

The 'FRIJ' is a program dedicated to fund local and regional projects that meet local and regional priorities and objectives. The general guidelines of FRIJ are related to funding Mobilizing Youth Initiatives (MYI) and long-term Local and Regional Projects (LRP). The new orientations must ensure projects are well structured actions reaping long term benefits.

Citizenship Participation Officer

The 2006-2009 Youth Action Strategy of the Government of Quebec calls for an increase in the active involvement and mobilization of young people in the development of their communities and regions. The regional youth forums are considered key partners of the Government to realize these objectives and the funding was increased in order to effectively and efficiently implement various citizenship-participation measures in the regions such as;

- To encourage young people to participate more actively as citizens;
- To help young people get involved in organizations and local and regional groups;
- Make organizations involved in the participation of young people aware of the decision-making bodies;
- Ensure Cree participation in the Voters'-in- Training project & Youth Involvement Contest to recognize the involvement of young people;
- Strengthen the relationship between young Franco-phones in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada and in the Americas;
- Make young people aware of the different global realities and encourage them to get involved at the international level.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Cree Nation Youth Council convened in April 2008, in order to develop annual work plans and prioritize the year's short-term and long-term projects by allocating the funds received from various sources. The following summarizes the short-term or annual projects undertaken in the year 2008-2009 and concludes with the long-term projects.

CNYC General Elections 2008

The CNYC General Elections were held June 18, 2008, with Miss Stacy Bear elected as the new CNYC Youth Grand Chief/Chairperson for a four (4) year term with 423 votes, Charly Washipabano received 366 votes and Jeremy Diamond received 262 votes.

The CNYC Elections are open to Cree Beneficiaries from the ages of thirteen (13) to twenty-nine (29) years and although, the election-day turn-out was low, we will be working with the schools in the next election and give the students an opportunity to participate in greater numbers.

Youth General Assembly 2008 – 'Spirit of Youth Workshop'

The Annual Youth Assembly took place in the community of Mistissini from July 22 to 24, 2008. The format of the Assembly was changed in order to accommodate a more interactive approach by introducing a workshop with Recovery Foundation. The first day of the Assembly was devoted to more corporate matters and reports to the members. The delegates of the assembly debated on diverse issues affecting the Cree Nation however the highlight of all discussions was on social issues more particularly on the issue of suicide. All in all, the delegates deliberated on taking a more proactive approach and preventive measures in addressing the diverse issues.

Spirit of Youth, Our Future Leaders Workshop – Recovery Foundation

The purpose of the "Spirit of Youth, Our Future Leaders" workshop was to bring Cree youth together in an activity-filled, hands-on, positive approach to develop leadership, personal growth, self esteem and Spirit. The workshop was specifically designed for youth and helped Cree Youth gain personal skills in communication, leadership training, creativity



and relationship building. Youth were given the opportunity to learn a sense of unity, respect and understanding among one another, and start to see themselves as resources and the future leaders that they truly can be, and the role they play in the health and wellness of themselves, their community and their culture. The following important issues were addressed with the help of a facilitator from Recovery Foundation;

- How to **speak out respectfully** on issues that affect them;
- Build **self esteem** and **communication skills**;
- Learn to **trust themselves** and others;
- **Avoid** self-destructive behaviors such as **alcohol, drugs and violence**;
- Make **healthy decisions**, choices and problem solving;
- Promote **cultural awareness** and expression;
- Utilize their **resourcefulness, resiliency** and **spirit** as future leaders;
- **Come together** to build unity for themselves, their families and their community.

The training session utilizes open discussion, demonstration, experiential and group processes, educational video, role plays, practical application techniques and plenty of interaction an fun activities. The training session will use interactive approaches and youth will have a greater understanding of the important role they play in order to effect change as future leaders. In the workshop, youth will;

- Experience positive interaction and team building experience;
- Identify their own and the community's assets and strengths;
- Find their "voices" and learn to communicate with respect, dignity and honesty;
- Look for ways to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles;
- Work together to build and maintain the "Perfect Spirit" in each and every youth;
- Develop a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities as future leaders;
- Come together to help support each other and their community.

Maamu Maahetau Project 2008

The project was a two part initiative starting off with a 6-day White-Water Guide Training provided by Esprit Rafting from August 18 to 23, 2008 at KM 246 on Route du Nord with seventeen (17) Cree Youth receiving certification. The project continued with a 20-day Canoe Expedition from Mistissini Lake to Waskaganish from August 27 to September 15, 2008 which saw twenty-six (26) participants start to finish.



White-Water Guide Training 2007

The purpose of the training was to train and certify young Crees and to provide them with the opportunity to experience the lifestyle that our ancestors lived for thousands of years. The integration of the Certified Guide Training is an attempt to create a greater interest and encourage the youth to explore various opportunities in the tourism industry. The training was certified by the Ontario Recreational Canoeing Association, Solo Schools and Rescue 3 International. The training included the following components:

- White-water Canoeing and certification;
- Wilderness First Aid and CPR training and Certification;
- Swift-water Rescue Training level 1; and,
- Classic Kayaking Clinic.

STUDENT	WFA	WRI/SFR	CANOE	KAYAK
Mason Moses	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Rupert Gilpin	✓	✓	✓	Flat-water
Erland Miller	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-water
Elijah Matoush	✓	✓	✓	Moving water
Rebecca MacLeod	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-water
Max Husky	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Rhonda Mattawashish	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-water
Naaman Moar		SFR	✓	Flat-water
Tyrone Dixon	✓	✓	✓	Moving water
Darren Moar	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-water
Nathaniel Georgeskish	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-water
Jeffrey Erless	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Jordan Katapatuk	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Darwin Moar	✓	SFR	✓	Flat-Water
Scott Atsynia	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Stacey Matches	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water
Robert Moar	✓	✓	✓	Moving-water

* Wilderness First Aid (WFA)

* Swift-water First Responders (Not full Certification)

* White-water Rescue Technician (Full Certification)

* Canoeing Certification

* Kayak – Flat-water = level one; Moving Water = Level two

Wilderness Training Centre: Implementation Plan

The Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau has completed the Opportunity Analysis to set-up a "Cree Wilderness Training Centre" and suggests it has a true potential that will play a key role in the development of the Cree Tourism Industry. The Centre will not only provide recognized qualifications to Cree trainees thus helping them to find jobs, but it will also play the role of catalyst between those linked to this industry. Once in operation the Centre will focus on services for personal growth and social development of Cree Youth while keeping its doors open to the general public as a tourist base camp. The centre will also incorporate accredited and certified wilderness and outdoor adventure programs to combine traditional and conventional experiential educational learning using Eeyou Istchee as the classroom of learning.

The CNYC selected and recommended engaging the Canadian Ecotourism Services (CES) consortium of experienced professionals, which has a proven record and ability to include architectural elements, training and educational components and administrative and operational considerations. The CES approach is a step by step implementation plan going far beyond a conventional business plan and focuses more on implementation using result-driven methodology, with passion and understanding for the client's needs to move forward, thus, in January 2009, the Canadian Eco-tourism Services submitted the 'Cree Wilderness Training Centre' – Implementation Plan/Operational Business Plan. The CNYC will exert all efforts to secure necessary funding from all available sources (Government of Canada, Government of Quebec and Cree funding including partners in the project), once funding is in place, the CNYC will proceed with the site selection project for the future site of the Cree Wilderness Training Centre.

Cree Youth Heritage Journey 2008

As a way to provide hands-on experience, most trainees continued and took part in the 20-day Regional Canoe Brigade from Mistissini to Waskaganish. The traditional Cree Knowledge component was integrated into the Canoe Brigade in order to introduce the participants' the basic understanding of the Cree Way of Life. Participants were:

1.	Matthew Neeposh	Mistissini	Head Guide
2.	Lawrence Neeposh	Nemaska	Assistant Guide
3.	Luke Diamond	Waskaganish	Group Leader
4.	Gertie Diamond	Waskaganish	Group Leader
5.	Michael Wapachee	Ouje-bougoumou	Trainee/Helper
6.	Robert Moar	Waskaganish	Trainee/Helper
7.	Mason Moses	Eastmain	Youth
8.	Rupert Gilpin	Eastmain	Youth
9.	Erland Miller	Eastmain	Youth
10.	Elijah Matoush	Mistissini	Youth
11.	Max Husky	Mistissini	Youth
12.	Rhonda Mattawashish	Mistissini	Youth
13.	Rebecca MacLeod	Mistissini	Youth
14.	Jennifer Coonishish	Mistissini	Youth
15.	Rene Dixon	Ouje-bougoumou	Father
16.	Tyrone Dixon	Ouje-bougoumou	Son
17.	Naaman Moar	Nemaska	Youth
18.	Scott Atsynia	Wemindji	Youth
19.	Stacey Matches	Wemindji	Youth
20.	Darren Moar	Waskaganish	Youth
21.	Nathaniel Georgeskish	Waskaganish	Youth
22.	Jeffrey Erless	Waskaganish	Youth
23.	Jordan Katapatuk	Waskaganish	Youth
24.	Darwin Moar	Waskaganish	Youth
25.	Andrew Neeposh	CRA	Husband
26.	Ruby T. Neeposh	Nemaska	Wife

The Cree Youth Heritage Journey – Canoe Expedition is a life-changing experience and for most it's a start of a Healing Journey. Youth have many reasons for taking part in the trek either for the challenge or to see Rupert's River in its natural state. The Regional Canoe Brigade provides a sense of pride and accomplishment and youth feel empowered to welcome positive changes to approach life with a positive outlook.

Cree Nation – Outward Bound: 'A Life Skills Development Program'

This pilot-project was a partnership program between the CNYC and Outward Bound Canada that took place August 10 to 19, 2008 at Outward Bound's base camp in Burk's Falls Ontario and seven Cree Youth participated. This project was a 10-day canoe trek that merged Outward Bound's leadership and life skills development program for Cree Youth. The Cree Nation – Outward Bound partnership program featured the following;

- flat water canoe expeditions;
- a two-day solo on the land while on expedition;
- a day of instructional rock climbing;
- sweat lodge ceremony (optional);

The idea to launch this initiative was to introduce Cree Youth to the Outward Bound's experiential educational learning using outdoor adventure as a catalyst for personal growth. The initiative provided Cree Youth with an opportunity to learn and practice skills to encourage them to live healthy lifestyles while empowering them to cope with life's challenges. This initiative aims to take a proactive and preventive approach and provide an opportunity to develop these skills and values. The goal is to build self-confidence, self-esteem, self respect and to enable youth to see their true potential by empowering them to develop leadership skills and encourage the participants to become contributing members to society.

1. Eddie Happyjack Jr.	Waswanipi	2. Jerica Jolly	Mistissini
3. Nicholas Diamond	Waskaganish	4. Coreen Hester	Waskaganish
5. Clarence Snowboy	Chisasibi	6. Victoria Kawapit	Whapmagoostui
7. Sonia Kawapit	Whapmagoostui		

Elders/Youth Gathering

The Elders'/Youth Gathering scheduled to take place in Eastmain was postponed to fall 2009. The purpose of the Gathering is to provide an open forum for youth and Elders' to deliberate and communicate recommendations to preserve and foster – Cree Culture and Cree Way of Life – to ensure its survival for future generations. The gathering provides an opportunity to exchange ideas – transfer traditional knowledge – encourage young people to go out on the land of Eeyou Istchee.

The Gathering will demonstrate practical teachings, and will include moose hide preparation, set-up fish netting in winter, carving and sewing, cooking and much more! To ensure that the cultural component of the gathering is well organized Elders will be engaged to provide their expertise and knowledge.

Journey through the Heart of Eeyou Istchee 2008: – 'Journey of Hope, Embracing Life'

At the request of the Cree Leadership, the CNYC unanimously supported to plan for the Journey through the Heart of Eeyou Istchee 2008 (Journey 2008) as a way to address the social state of the Cree Nation more particularly on the issue of 'suicide' and the detrimental effect it has on the Cree Nation and more so for the families. Due to weather conditions, part one of the Journey 2008 started off in the community of Waswanipi and passed through Ouje-Bougomou, Mistissini and arrival in Nemaska. The second part of the Journey started in Whapmagoostui on February 23, 2009 and passed through the communities of Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain and arrival in Waskaganish on March 28, 2009. The departure saw twenty-three (23) participants and grew to forty-nine (49) participants by the time the Journey reached the finish in the community of Waskaganish.

The purpose of the Journey 2008 was to address the issue of 'suicide' and to work towards proactive measures in dealing with the suicide 'epidemic' in the Cree Nation. The idea behind the journey is to break the notion or misconception that "talking about suicide in public will trigger or push a suicidal individual over the edge." CNYC believes that raising the issue to the general public is not only the right thing to do but will also stimulate discussion to move forward towards proactive and preventive measures. Although, we do not know the root cause of suicide, studies show that individuals had serious family, marriage or serious problems at the time they killed themselves. Furthermore, research shows that parents also often need support to learn parenting skills and coping mechanisms, especially if they were deprived by early separation from their parents of the opportunity to learn such skills as a child. The problem is not a youth issue, it's a Cree Nation issue and we must act collectively to address it.

Milton Creagh/Tim Dennison Cree Nation Tour – Motivational Speakers

In February and March 2009, the CNYC invited Milton Creagh and Tim Dennison to tour the Cree Communities and to visit all the Cree Schools to speak to the high school students and parents on a variety of topics. Two sessions were organized in each community; a) during school hours for students and teachers' and; b) an evening session for parents and community.



Milton specializes in the area of Diversity, Team Building, Substance Abuse Prevention, Work/Family Balance, Leadership Dynamics and Personal Potential Development. Milton's message to students is simple, yet powerful! Alcohol and other drugs are destructive forces, and students must make the right choices to take personal responsibility for their lives!

Milton Creaghs' parent and community sessions talked about the roles parents play in the lives of their children and the problems and issues that face today's youth. Milton is direct, profound and powerful which captures his audience with his hard-hitting message.

Tim Dennison is a motivational speaker, mentor and a gang specialist. Tim Dennison's personal testimony reflects the grit and reality of life on the streets. His dynamic style captivates audiences of all ages. Tim's message to the students and teachers' is in the area of bullying, gangs, alcohol, drugs and peer pressure. His parent session include proactive parenting, discipline, respect, parental expectation and positive reinforcement.



Leisure, Sports and Recreation

This section of the report will provide a general overview of the activities and developments with respect to the Leisure, Sports and Recreation of the Cree Regional Authority. The creation of the Department of Leisure, Sports and Recreation was part of the recommendations presented by the members of the Implementation Committee to the GCCEI/CRA Council/Board in June 2008. The new structure and By-Law amending the consolidated By-law of the Cree Regional Authority and recommendations were subsequently approved by GCCEI/CRA Council/Board through resolution 2008-34. The creation of the department is an achievement that will allow us to seek opportunities to create partnerships with various key organizations in order to fully commission the mandate set out by the Cree leadership.

Principle Objectives of the Department

In accordance with the amended Consolidated By-Law of the CRA, the Leisure, Sports and Recreation Department's primary mandate and function is designed within the scope of the following responsibilities:

- Design and develop the animation of programs for the Cree community centers;
- Review of recommendations of and recommendations related to the implementation of subsection 28.14 of the JBNQA concerning Friendship Centers;
- Design, develop and coordinate regional amateur sports programs for the Crees;
- Seek funding from governments and other sources for amateur sports programs addressed to the Crees;
- Encourage the participation of Crees at the international, national, provincial and regional amateur sports competitions and events;
- Promoting the physical fitness of the Crees.

Within the organizational structure as set out by the Cree leadership, the structure for the new Department of Leisure, Sports and Recreation includes the following six (6) positions:

- Director of Leisure, Sports and Recreation;
- Administrative Assistant;
- Sports Program Technician – Travis Grant;
- Regional Coordinator of Projects and Programs;
- Programs Planner;
- Program Animator.

Within the scope of planning and development with respect to the program development, the utmost challenging responsibilities will reflect on two major aspects namely: 1) To secure the required funding for the consistency of projects and programs and; 2) To put together the regional amateur sports system that will provide an opportunity for our Cree athletes to advance to higher level of a particular sport or discipline.

Partnerships and External Influences

Partnership with the entities has been instrumental in the work to establish a department devoted to Leisure, Sports and Recreation under the auspices of the Cree Regional Authority. The partnership approach will be an integral part of the process for the department, more specifically, to initiate the department's goals and objectives. Key contacts have been initiated with Government of Quebec, provincial organizations including Jeux du Quebec in order to explore the opportunities in working partnerships on physical health and fitness programs for the Cree and to help facilitate the needs assessment at the grassroots level for the animation of programs for the local indoor sports and recreational facilities operations.



Cree Nation Summer Games

A working group was created to explore reviving the regional summer games commonly known as the 'Cree Regional Pow-Wow' and develop a planning framework for the event. Within the planning and development exercise, the working group explored the event in depth in order to expand the activities and animation of the summer games. Recently the working group has also been directed to commence the planning and development of the Cree Nation Winter Games. The working group consists of the following persons:

John Henry Wapachee – Cree Regional Authority;
Hugo Cowboy – Cree Nation of Waskaganish;
Raymond Shanoush – Cree Nation of Eastmain;
Wally Rabbitskin – Cree Nation of Mistissini;

Charles J. Hester – Cree Nation Waskaganish;
Walter Hester JR – Cree Nation of Waskaganish;
Gloria Jolly – Cree Nation of Waswanipi;
Travis Grant – Cree Regional Authority.

The majority of the working group members were selected based on their background as well as their experience in the summer and winter games profile. The Summer Games are scheduled for the year 2010 and works are currently being explored to set a date for the winter games.

Program Development and Training

The implementation of the departmental objectives and mandate will be pivotal in establishing new and rewarding working partnerships. These partnerships will play a vital role in the management and administration of the forecasted programs and the facility needs assessment profile.

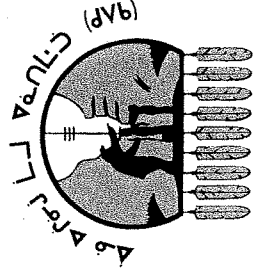
The important component in the implementation of the programs set out for the department will be the need for training as part of the capacity building process and in order to strengthen our local human resources in the field of sports and recreation. Within the next 5 year, works have been initiated to conduct the formal training needs assessment based on the mobilization of programs designed for the local and regional administrative units dealing with leisure, sports and recreation.

The need to enhance sports and recreation is not only to focus on improving the developmental needs of the athlete to allow them to compete at a higher level but also focus on helping to shape the health aspects of Cree life in general. If Sports and Recreation are key interests of the communities, and health risks are at dangerous levels specifically with diabetes and obesity, then improving the system from grassroots to elite levels can leave a lasting legacy to the wellness of the Cree people.

In closing, I extend my appreciation to all partners, including the sponsors, namely: the Government of Canada, Economic Development Canada, Industry Canada, Government of Quebec, the Cree School Board, the Cree Health Board and other private organizations. Special acknowledgement to all our partners including COTA, CTA, Regional Council of Elders, Local Youth Councils and the Cree Communities. Thank you all for your support.

Andrew Neeposh

Cree Nation Youth Council



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ORGANIGRAM: 2009-04-01

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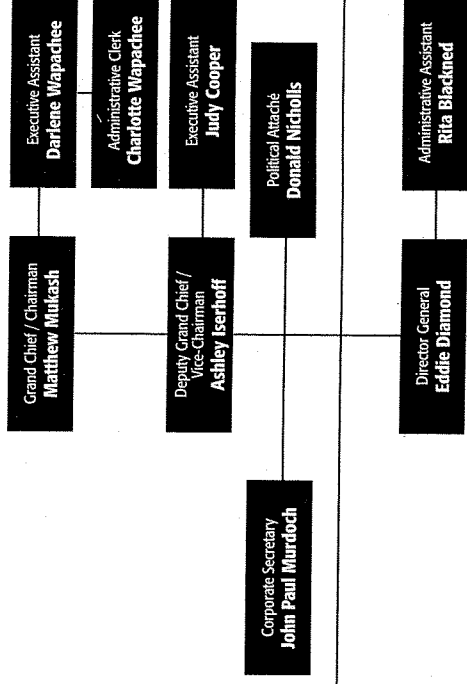
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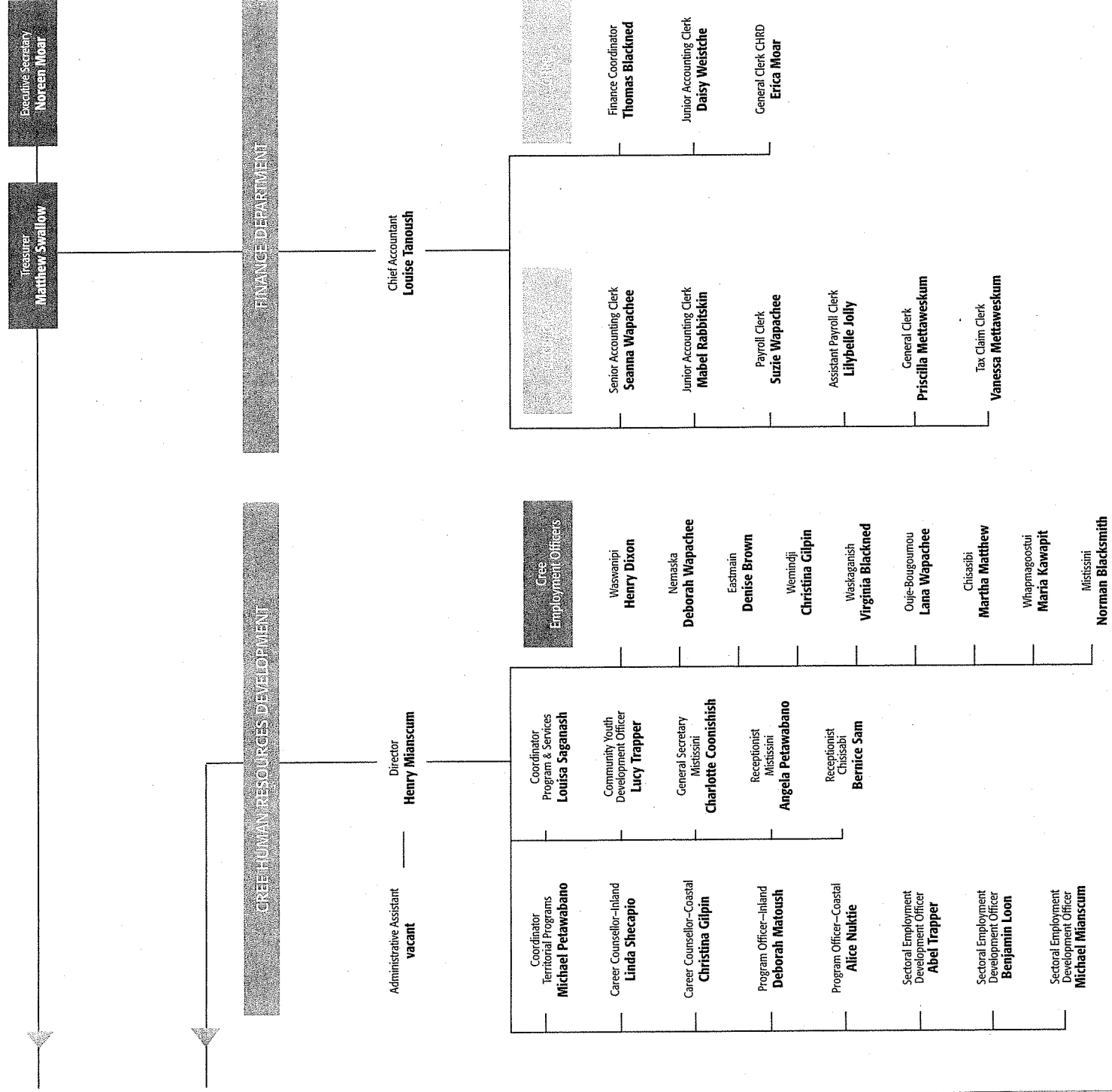
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Judge Malouf grants injunction
ordering stoppage of work on the
James Bay Hydroelectric Project

Cree Chiefs establish the
Grand Council of the Crees

The James Bay and
Northern Québec
Agreement is signed

The Cree Regional
Authority is established

The Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act
comes into force

Québec suspends GWR
Hydroelectric Project

The Québec-Cree Memorandum
of Understanding is signed

Québec and Cree signed the Agreement
Concerning a New Relationship Between
le Gouvernement du Québec and the
Crees of Québec – Paix des Braves

The Agreement Concerning
a New Relationship between
Hydro-Québec/SEBJ and the
Crees of Eeyou Istchee is signed
30th Anniversary of the GCCEI

Canada and Cree sign the
New Relationship Agreement
February 21, 2008

2008