



## Key milestones in the history of the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee:

Year	Title	Description
1898 & 1912	The Quebec Boundaries Extension Act	<p>The boundaries of Quebec were first extended north to the 52nd parallel by Canada. In 1912, Quebec's boundaries were again extended, to Hudson Strait in the north and to Labrador in the east. The Cree, Inuit and Naskapi peoples inhabited these vast federal territories known as Rupert's Land.</p> <p>This Act, which established the province's current borders, carried certain obligations. The Quebec government was to reach an agreement with the Native communities on land-related issues. However, talks on these matters did not begin until 62 years later, after the Cree and Inuit of Quebec filed a motion to halt the James Bay hydro-electric development work begun in northern Quebec by the province.</p>
1971	Quebec Premier announces the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	<p>On April 30, 1971, Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec announces plans for the “project of the century” –a \$6 billion hydroelectric power project in the James Bay region -the largest such development undertaken in North America.</p> <p>Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee were not consulted by Quebec on this proposed mega project plan. The construction of the dams would flood major Eeyou/Eenou hunting territories within Eeyou Istchee. This would have an effect on Eeyou/Eenou traditional way of life.</p>
1973	Judge Malouf orders stoppage of work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	<p>On November 15, 1973, Judge Albert Malouf renders his historic decision in favour of Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee (as well as the Inuit of Nunavik) and orders work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project to stop on the basis of Eeyou and Inuit rights. This court decision was a major victory for the recognition of Eeyou/Eenou rights.</p>



1974	First Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief Elected	October 16, 1974: The Grand Council of the Crees first met at the Pal’s Hotel in Val-d’Or. Chief Billy Diamond was elected the Grand Chief by a vote of 9-7, Chief Robert Kanatewat was elected as Deputy Grand Chief (10-6) and Abel Kitchen became the Executive Chief with a vote of 11-5. Violet Pachano was the recording Secretary.
1975	The Signing of the JBNQA	November 11, 1975: The <i>James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement</i> is signed by the Crees, Canada and Quebec. First modern-day Treaty in Canada. The Agreement described a partnership among the parties in developing the territory covered by the Agreement and addressed Cree rights, community development issues, education, justice, health and social services, environmental protection, self-government and the preservation of the traditional Cree way of life. The JBNQA became the basis of the Cree Nation’s struggle to gain recognition of its Indigenous rights and the translation of those rights into tangible benefits for the Cree communities and the Cree people.
1978	Cree Regional Authority established	Cree Regional Authority established under the “Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority” as a non-profit association to, to receive, administer, use and invest the JBNQA compensation funds through the Board of Compensation; to relieve poverty, promote the general welfare and advance the education of the Crees, promote the development of the Cree communities; to work toward the solution of the problems of the Crees; to deal with all governments; to carry out research and provide technical, professional and other assistance to the Crees; to assist the Crees in the exercise of their rights and in the defense of their interests; and, to foster, promote, protect and assist in the preservation of the way of life, values and traditions of the Crees.
1979-80	Gastroenteritis outbreak	Gastroenteritis epidemic hits Cree communities pointing to the failures of the Federal and Provincial Governments in addressing obligations under the JBNQA.
1981	Relocation of Chisasibi	In the mid 1970’s, with the construction of the James Bay Hydroelectric Project, upstream rivers were diverted into La Grande watershed, increasing its flow significantly, potentially resulting in the erosion of Fort George Island and disruption to the formation of a solid ice cover in winter. In response, the Grand Council of the Crees negotiated the construction of a new community on the



		mainland's south shore, and the relocation of the Fort George population and some 200 houses to the new site, Chisasibi.
1982	Billy Diamond meets with Pope	Grand Chief Billy Diamond secures audience with Pope John Paul II to bring public attention to the Cree cause. The Vatican visit by Billy Diamond was the start of the engagement of the Crees in international affairs.
July 5, 1982	First Air Creebec Flight	Inaugural flight of Air Creebec with Billy Diamond as President.
1984	Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act	Crees negotiate passage in Parliament of <i>Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act</i> providing for Cree self-governance as required under the JBNQA.
1984		Cree Naskapi Commission established as an independent, non-governmental body to monitor the implementation of the <i>Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act</i> .
1986	James Bay Eeyou Corporation & Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement	James Bay Eeyou Corporation established. Its purpose is to study, plan, design and carry out measures to mitigate the impact of Le Complexe La Grande (1975) on Cree activities, particularly hunting, fishing and trapping activities in cooperation with Hydro-Québec.
1986		Crees and Quebec negotiate payment of \$18 million under the <i>Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement</i> to undertake research and remedial measures related to the discovery of mercury in the fish within Eeyou Istchee.
1989	First female elected chief, blockade for Ouje-Bougoumou and launch Matthew Coon Come case.	In Chisasibi, Violet Pachano becomes first woman elected as Cree Chief.
July 1989		Ouje-Bougoumou people blockade road going through its traditional territory. <i>Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement</i> signed between Quebec, Ouje-Bougoumou and Grand Council providing for initial funding for construction of new Ouje-Bougoumou village on the shores of Lake Opemiska, and includes commitment to amend











2003	Opposition to artillery test site in Cree territory	SNC-Lavalin, with support of non-Native James Bay mayors, announce plans to build an artillery test site in Cree territory. Crees organize opposition.
2003	Recognition of Washaw Sibi as tenth Cree First Nation & signing of Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement	Cree Nation, at Annual General Assembly, recognizes Washaw Sibi as tenth Cree First Nation.
April 30, 2003		Crees and Inuit sign historic agreement with respect to overlapping areas of use in the offshore area in James Bay and Hudson Bay: <i>Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement</i> .
2004	Foundation of Niskamoon Corporation & Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	Niskamoon Corporation established in order to amalgamate the various programs under the 2002 Cree/Hydro-Quebec Agreements.
2004		Cree artists and craftsmen assemble to found the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA).
August 2005	Washaw Sibi Crees make historic journey	Washaw Sibi Crees make historic 115-km journey to symbolize return to traditional territory in quest for a permanent new home.
2006	Crees take on James Bay Municipality's extensive powers to manage Category II and III lands.	Crees learn that a 2001 law gave James Bay Municipality (MBJ) extensive powers to manage Category II and III lands. Crees judge this to be undemocratic and illegal.









