



**Working together to guarantee
the next generation of land
users:**

The Income Security Program

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Chisasibi
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The Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board

- Board of Directors
 - 3 Members from Quebec Government
 - 3 Members from Cree Nation Government
 - Mr. Philip Awashish
 - Mr. Willie Iserhoff
 - Mr. George Wapachee
- Local Offices in all 10 Cree Communities
- Total: 18 Full-time staff

"An income security program to provide an income guarantee and benefits, and other incentives for Cree people who wish to pursue harvesting activities as a way of life..."















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To Enroll on Income Security Program

- Must be a Cree beneficiary of the JBNQA (beneficiary number)
- Incrcribed on the list of the local committee (be officially recognized as a hunter by your community)
- Spend a minimum of 120 days (4 months) in the bush
- Spend more days hunting than working



Economics of the Program

- Family Program – so it considers everyone in the family (adults, children)
- Basic Amount for each individual (from which other income is deducted at 40%)
- Daily allowance of \$66.93 per adult for each day spent “in the bush”
- Far region allowance of \$20.22 per day



Economics of the Program

- Amounts to \$15 000 - 18,000 per family/year
- 313,772 days paid last year (maximum of 350,000 days)
- 1413 families on the Program this past year (2577 adults)
- 15-18% of the Cree population

Key Statistics

- Annual Budget: \$30 Million
 - \$28 Million benefits for Cree hunters
 - \$2 Million Administration (6-8%)
- **Since 1976 over \$556 Million in benefits !**



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Example: A single person



1 individual
alone: no other
income

120 days in the bush
9 000 \$

240 days in the bush
14 000 \$



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Exemple: 2 adults + 2 children



Family

2 adults

2 children

No other income

120 days in the bush
19 000 \$

240 days in the bush
27 000 \$



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The Program: distribution of payments

- 4 payments (cheques) per each program-year
- September – December – April – June
- Option of Monthly payments
- Payments ONLY after quarterly interviews with Local Administrator of YOUR community
 - Calendar of activities in the bush
 - Other income, changes in family situation, etc.

Other benefits of the Program:

- Days payable for MATERNITY leave
- Days payable for sickness (SICK LEAVE)
- Special measure for elders (“semi-active”)

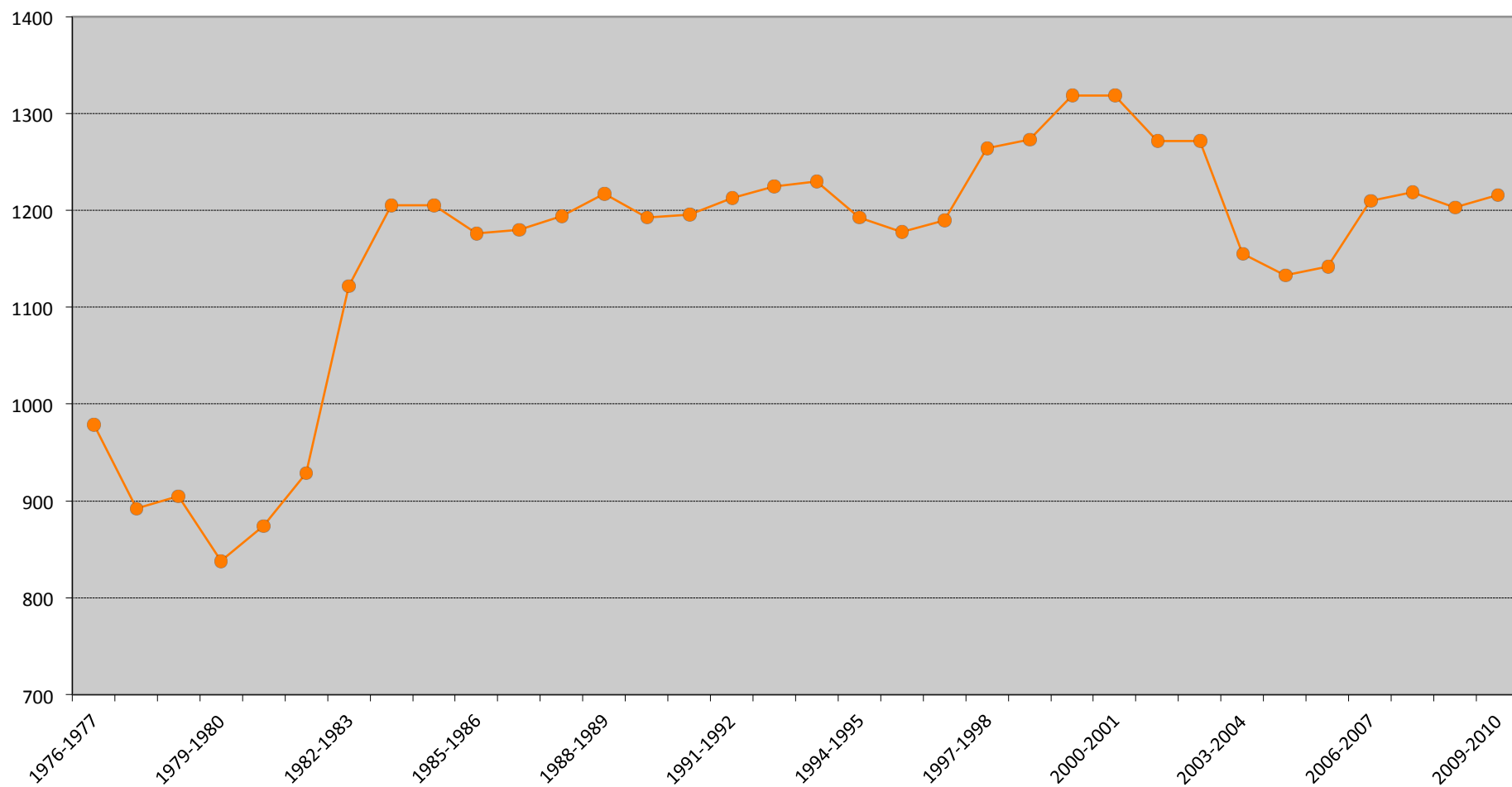
Some numbers...





Participation since 1975

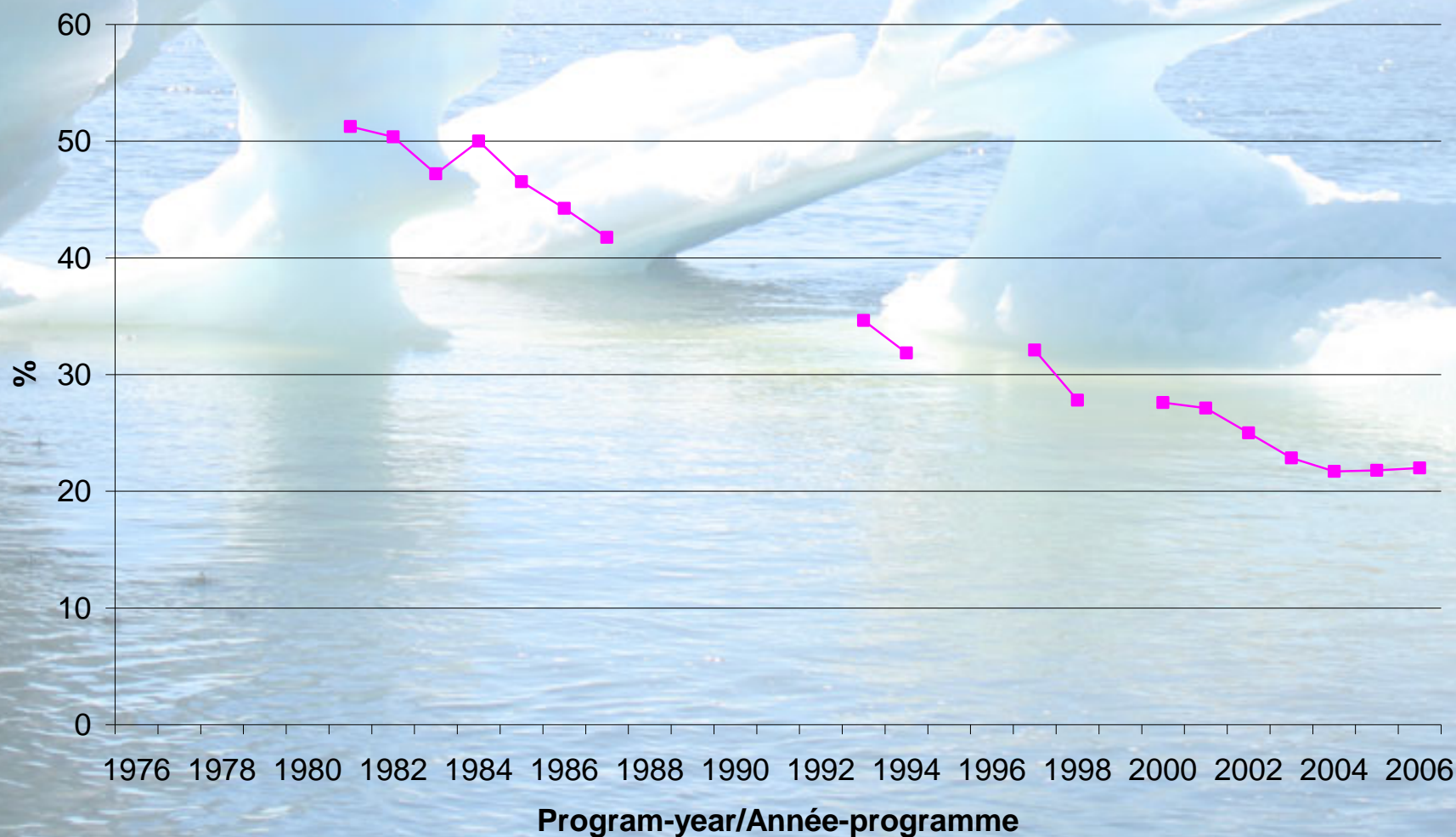
Number of families since 1976-1977





The family aspect is losing popularity

PERCENTAGE OF UNITS WITH CHILDREN/
POURCENTAGE D'UNITÉS AVEC ENFANTS



3 MAIN ISSUES ON OUR RADAR

- 1- Maintaining the interest in traditional activities
- 2- Keeping the Program fair for everyone
- 3- Upgrading / changing the program



Reviving the interest in traditional activities



Social benefit: language



Social benefit: family bonds



Social benefit: traditional knowledge





One of our initiatives: The Cree Hunter And Trapper



ANIMAL PROFILE

English name: Cisco, lake herring, tullibee
French name: Cosco de Lac
Scientific (Latin) Name: *Coregonus artedii*
Inuktitut name: Kimmilishlu

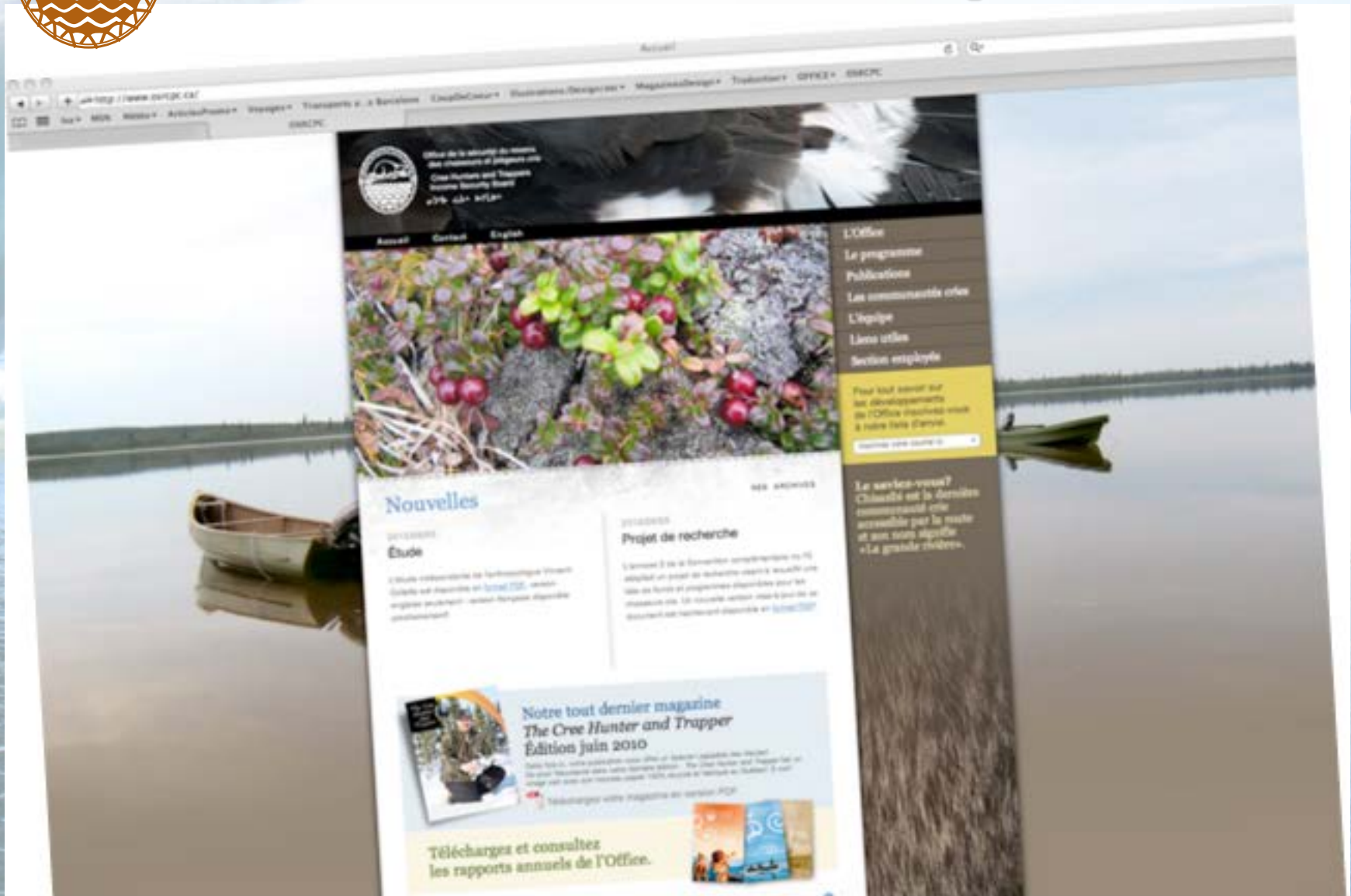
«Cisco live in fresh
and salt water in the
James Bay region.»

The Cisco is a small whitefish typically about 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12 inches) in length and weighing less than 0.5 kg (1 pound). One of the largest documented cisco was caught in Lake Erie in 1949 and weighed 4.35 kg (8 pounds)!

Cisco are found in rivers from Quebec and the North.



Web site: www.osrcpc.ca





Videos of Cree trappers:
www.fur.ca or www.osrcpc.ca



2nd big issue: keeping the program fair for everyone

- Issues of misuse of the Program
 - Misunderstanding of the purpose of ISP
- Pressures on ISP from other entities
 - Access to grants, cabins, etc. given in priority to ISP beneficiaries
- Changes in traditional activities makes it more difficult to monitor “days in the bush”



3rd issue:

UPGRADING THE PROGRAM

- Since 1975, program was modified in
 - 1988: Complementary Agreement No. 8
 - 2002: Complementary Agreement No. 15
- Major review of ISP started in 2008-2009
- Negotiations recently completed between Cree Nation and Quebec government
- Expected implementation in 2020

Our mission remains unchanged:
support Cree people who wish to pursue
harvesting activities as a way of life..

Meegwetch!

