

Message on the Anniversary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

Since the signing of the JBNQA in 1975, we have made it possible for our people, and especially our youth, to dream big about their futures. Now, after 45 years, we are beginning to see the fruits of our Treaty in who our people are today. Our people have shown us that big dreams can be achieved and that we can do it with all of us working *chiyaanu*—together.

A world of opportunity is now before us, as a wide range of possibilities emerge from our commitments in the governance of our communities, of our Nation and of our region. As a result, the possibilities for meaningful employment and investments have become very real and are within our reach. We need to ensure that our people are prepared and skilled to take advantage of all these opportunities and to be successful once we have secured these opportunities.

For this reason, capacity building is a major priority for the Cree Nation and we are working to mobilize all our Cree entities to support this initiative. Our obligation is to make sure that all of us—our families, our communities, our Cree Nation Government, and all our entities are paddling in the same direction so that opportunities are not lost.

As we mark the anniversary of the signing of the JBNQA on November 11, let us come together celebrate this milestone by looking toward our future and continuing to work together to build our Nation by encouraging and supporting our youth.

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