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

Year	Title	Description
1898 & 1912	The Quebec Boundaries Extension Act	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. 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.
1971	Quebec Premier announces the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	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. 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.
1973	Judge Malouf orders stoppage of work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	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.

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 *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* 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 t 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 *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* 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 *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*.
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 *Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement* 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. *Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement* 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 JBNQA to incorporate Ouje-Bougoumou into Agreement.

1989		Crees launch *Matthew Coon Come* case against Canada and Quebec for failure to properly implement many sections of the JBNQA.
1989	Opposition to Great Whale River Hydroelectric Project	Cree Nation undertakes historic struggle against Quebec and Hydro-Quebec plans for Great Whale River Hydroelectric Project which was proposed without consultation or consent of Cree Nation.
April 22, 1990		As part of the opposition to the Great Whale River Project, the voyage of the Odeyak arrives in New York City. The voyage of unique Cree-Inuit canoe and its supporters began when a team of Cree and Inuit paddlers transported the Odeyak canoe over land and frozen river by dogsled and then paddled it 1,500 kilometres into Manhattan on Earth Day. In New York City, the paddlers addressed an Earth Day gathering of 10,000 people in Times Square.
May 22, 1992	Signing of Ouje-Bougoumou-Canada Agreement	*Ouje-Bougoumou-Canada Agreement* signed which provided for funding for construction of new Ouje-Bougoumou village and a process for incorporating community into the JBNQA.
March 3, 1994	Landmark Supreme Court of Canada Decision & End of Great Whale River project	Unanimous decision by Supreme Court of Canada requiring federal environmental review of all future Hydro-Quebec dam projects.
November 1994		Premier Jacques Parizeau announces that Great Whale River project is indefinitely shelved.
November 3, 1995	Cree Referendum	Cree Referendum is held on Quebec secession. 96.3% of Cree voters say “NO” to Quebec sovereignty.
March 1996	Cree Conference on Natural Resource Development	During the event, Grand Council of the Crees is given the mandate to protect and strengthen Cree rights.

1998	Supreme Court of Canada decision & Mario Lord case	Supreme Court of Canada deems the JBNQA to be a treaty with constitutional protection.
1998		Cree Nation launches *Mario Lord* court case against 26 forestry companies, Quebec and Canada for violating JBNQA.
1999	Matthew Coon Come meets with Pope & Quebec Superior Court rules on logging regime in Cree territory	Matthew Coon Come visits Pope John Paul II and asks for his support for Cree efforts in the U.N. to set human rights standards for the world's Indigenous peoples.
December 20, 1999		Judge Croteau of Quebec Superior Court rules that the logging regime in Cree territory is illegal and unconstitutional.
January 20, 2000		Lawyers for Quebec, Canada and 20 Forestry Companies ask Judge Croteau to remove himself from the case. Judge Croteau removed from case. Crees protest and launch international campaign against Quebec's forestry policy.
2000	Matthew Coon Come elected to AFN	Matthew Coon Come becomes first Cree (Eeyou Istchee) National Chief of Assembly of First Nations.
2001	Signing of Agreement-in-Principle of the Paix des Braves	Signing of Agreement-in-Principle which led to *New Relationship Agreement Between Cree Nation and Government of Quebec,* or, the "Paix des Braves". Established principle of "Cree consent" with respect to development within Eeyou Istchee. Included a base payments to Cree Nation of $3.5 billion over 50 years.
February 7, 2002	Signing of "Paix des Braves" and subsequent Agreements	Signing of "Paix des Braves".

February 7, 2002		Agreements between Hydro-Québec, the Société d'énergie de la Baie James and the Crees of Québec which derived from the "Paix des Braves": *Nadoshtin Agreement*: Allows Hydro-Québec to build and operate the Eastmain-1 Project, as contemplated in the JBNQA. The agreement provides for the implementation of various environmental measures, including remedial and mitigating initiatives, with a view to reducing the impacts of the project on affected Crees. *Boumhounan Agreement:* This agreement provides a framework for the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert Project. The Crees consent to the construction and operation of this project, in accordance with the terms set forth in the Boumhounan Agreement subject to the environmental and social protection regime described in Section 22 of the JBNQA. The Crees to be involved in the implementation of various environmental, mitigating and remedial works, measures and programs aimed at reducing the impacts of the project on affected Crees. *Cree Employment Agreement, or, Eeyou Apatisiiwin Niskamon:* Under this agreement, Hydro-Québec reiterated its commitment to employ 150 Crees. In order to assist the Crees in obtaining temporary jobs in the James Bay region, the agreement provides for the implementation of incentives and temporary employment programs designed to alleviate the negative impacts of the La Grande complex on traditional Cree activities and to improve the Crees' use of affected areas. The Apatisiiwin Corporation was established to facilitate and foster the employment of Crees, to reduce barriers to employment, to create employment opportunities, to provide employment training and to create economic opportunities and jobs for Crees. *Mercury Agreement (2001):* This Agreement follows the first agreement concerning mercury, signed by Hydro-Québec, the Québec government and the Crees in 1986. Under this Agreement, the Eeyou Namess Corporation, a joint non-profit company, was established to carry out studies, monitoring and research programs on health and the environment, as well as fishery restoration and development programs for the Crees.

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: *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement*.
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'sextensive 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.

September 12, 2007	Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	United Nations adopts *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Cree Nation international efforts played key role in adoption of the *Declaration*.
2007	Signing of Agreement-in-Principle & New Relationship Agreement between Cree Nation and Canada	Agreement-in-Principle between Cree Nation and Canada to expand Cree jurisdiction on Category I lands; transfer of $1.4 billion over 20 years.
February 21, 2008		Signing of *New Relationship Agreement* between Cree Nation and Canada.
2009	Incorporation of Ouje-Bougoumou	Ouje-Bougoumou is incorporated into the *Cree-Naskapi Act* pending final transfer of land from Quebec to Canada which, in turn, will set land aside for Ouje-Bougoumou Category I land.
September 30, 2010	Billy Diamond passes away & beginning of battle against unranium	Billy Diamond, the first Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, passes away at age 61.
2010		Mistissini organizes battle against uranium mining.
May 2, 2011	Romeo Saganash elected as first Eeyou Istchee Cree Member of Parliament & Opening of Aanischaaukaamikw Cree Cultural Institute	Romeo Saganash is elected as a member of the New Democratic Party succeeding Yvon Lévesque of the Bloc Québécois. He was reelected on October 19, 2015.
2011		Opening of Aanischaaukaamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Ouje-Bougoumou.

July 24, 2012	Signing of Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement & Cree Nation Government	Landmark *Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement* signed which expands Cree management and planning authority to Category II lands and establishes new Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government replacing the James Bay Municipality (MBJ).
2012		Pursuant to *Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement*, Cree Regional Authority comes to be known as Cree Nation Government.
January 2013	First meeting of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government & the Nishiyuu Walkers	First meeting of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government described in *Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement*.
February 2013		Cree youth undertake symbolic walk for aboriginal rights from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa in harsh winter—the Nishiyuu Walkers. The 1600-kilometer journey, organized by 17-year old David Kawapit, grew in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence on her hunger strike and the Idle No More movement of 2013.
March 25, 2013		Nishiyuu Walkers arrive in Ottawa.
October, 2015	Radio-Canada's *Enquête* report on SQ abuse & Baril-Moses Agreement	Radio-Canada's *Enquête* investigative report reveals first allegations of sexual abuse of Indigenous women in the Val d'Or area by SQ officers.
July 13, 2015		Agreement reached with Quebec regarding the Baril-Moses Agreement of 2002. In that agreement, Quebec made a commitment to acknowledge Cree rights in an area outside the boundaries of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*. 2015 Agreement not only reinforces the acknowledgment of Cree rights in the original agreement, but also expanded the range of protected areas within Eeyou Istchee.

2016	Call for independent inquiry into abuse of Indigenous women & introduction of Bill to implement UN Declaration	Cree Nation urges establishment of independent provincial judicial inquiry to investigate allegations of police abuse of Indigenous women in the Val d'Or area. The Quebec government created the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress on December 21, 2016.
2016		Romeo Saganash, M.P., introduces a bill in the House of Commons that would result in a process for reviewing all Canada's new legislation to ensure compliance with the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
July 18, 2017	Signing of the Cree Governance Agreement	Cree Nation and Canada sign historic *Governance Agreement* expanding even further the range of authority, jurisdiction and responsibility transferred to Cree communities and Cree Nation Government.
May 29, 2018	Bill C-262 -Cree Nation Government Hails Historic Step Towards Justice and Reconciliation	The Cree Nation Government of Eeyou Istchee is very proud to celebrate the adoption of Bill C-262, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in the House of Commons on May 30th. Bill C-262 establishes a legislative framework to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration is the most comprehensive international human rights instrument that explicitly addresses the rights of Indigenous peoples.
March 29, 2018	Bill C-70 - Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act	*Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act*, received Royal Assent and came into force. This Act gives effect and force of law to the Agreement on Cree Nation Governance signed by the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Canada on July 18, 2017 and its companion, the Cree Constitution.

June 21, 2018	A Cree-Pekuakamiulnuatsh Nation-to-Nation Agreement	The Agreement –entitled Mamu Uitsheutun/Maamuu Wiicheutuwin, meaning to accompany one another –notably states that each Nation recognizes the sovereignty of the other Nation on its territory. This mutual affirmation is accompanied not only by a recognition of the aboriginal title of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh on Nitassinan, but also, and in order to address a historical omission, a recognition of the inherent rights of Cree families in an area shared with the Pekuakamiulnuatsh called Peschitaskau/Shashtuaussi located in Nitassinan.
September 17, 2019	Cree Nation Government passed its first Bill – An Act respecting the Cree language of Eeyou Istchee	Cree Nation Government Enacts 'Historic' Cree Language Bill. This Act is the first piece of legislation to be enacted by the Cree Nation Government. The objectives of the Act are to support and promote the use of the Cree language, to support Cree efforts to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen the Cree language, and to plan initiatives and activities for restoring and maintaining fluency in the Cree language.
February 17, 2020	The Québec Government and the Cree Nation sign a Grand Alliance	Québec Premier François Legault and Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum, officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding on collaborative, long-term, balanced economic development in a spirit of respect for Cree values in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory. La Grande Alliance is an agreement for collaboration and consolidation of socio-economic ties between the Cree and Quebec nations to connect, develop and protect the territory.