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EENOU-EEYOU LIMITED PARTNERSHIP



EENOU-EEYOU LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT 2018–2019



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Wachiya.

A year ago, I used this space to reflect on the success of our partnership with the province of Quebec. I pointed out that, thanks at least in part to the funds allocated to us through the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership (EELP), we now have the resources to celebrate our culture, to protect our traditional lifestyle, and to support those who wish to continue to practise that lifestyle. In our communities, you will find arenas, community centres, upgraded sanitation services, modern fire protection and different institutions to provide the advanced education our people require to succeed. Today, throughout Eeyou Istchee, our traditional way of life is respected and preserved.

Clearly, we have come a long way. More of our residents are employed, an ever-growing number of them in higher-paying jobs. Help and support is available to those in need. Protective services are in place for the most vulnerable. Today, opportunities exist for residents of all ages to enhance and enrich their lives. But, as I acknowledged a year ago, challenges remain. And no challenge is more pressing than the need to provide our residents access to safe and affordable housing.

In this report, as in previous EELP spending reports, you will find several examples of what communities are doing to address the housing needs of their residents. In many cases, they're building safe and modern single- and multi-family dwellings. In others, they're renovating and repairing existing housing units. In still other instances – too many, sadly – they have been forced to remove mould and mildew from occupied houses and apartments.

Community officials are to be lauded for their efforts to improve housing conditions for their residents. Given the lack of readily available resources, the combined challenge of weather and geography, and the difficulty in securing skilled tradespeople, their task is a difficult one. That's why, despite the best efforts of local officials, our people still suffer from overcrowding and a lack of safe and affordable housing.

The Cree Nation Government has always worked closely with the local communities to address the urgent housing needs of our people. And make no mistake, those needs are urgent. As recently as 2011, the Cree Nation had a backlog of approximately 3,000 houses. More troubling, lacking immediate and dramatic action, the housing backlog has the potential to increase to 4,500 by 2021. Overcrowding also remains a major challenge, affecting nearly 20 per cent of Cree households, compared to less than 2 per cent for all of Quebec.

When elected Grand Chief, I made housing my top priority. Like so many others, I recognized that the housing crisis in Eeyou Istchee was having a profoundly negative impact on

our people. Mould and related issues can affect the health of the Cree people while overcrowding can result in a wide range of health, social, physical and emotional issues. The young and the elderly are particularly vulnerable.

Today, housing is still my top priority. And while the housing crisis is not yet overcome, I'm pleased to say that we are making progress. Significant progress.

In the past year, we established a Housing Table – under the auspices of the Standing Liaison Committee – to discuss the Cree Nation Housing Strategy with Canada. Our primary goal is to unlock the value of housing in the Cree communities through private home ownerships. By achieving that goal, we will succeed in creating generations of homeowners who not only enjoy the benefits of safe and affordable housing but realize the growing equity of those homes. Given the growing number of residents who now have high-paying jobs – and therefore possess the resources and the desire to own their own homes – there is every reason to believe this is the correct approach.

For too long, the value of Cree homes was suppressed by remnants of the Indian Act, and then, the Cree Naskapi Act. Particularly damaging was the 75-year limit on land leases. It effectively barred First Nations citizens from benefitting financially from the ownership of their land. That limit, which I have long believed to be one of the most oppressive vestiges of colonialism, has now been removed.

Credit the Governance Agreement with Canada for our ability to finally eliminate the 75-year limit. That agreement, along with the Cree Constitution, effectively replaced the Cree-Naskapi Act. It gave us the power to write our own laws on a wide variety of local governance issues on Cree Category 1A lands, including environmental protection, public order and safety, and land use and planning. Fittingly, the very first amendment to the Cree Nation Governance Agreement removed the 75-year limit on Cree home ownership. It did so quickly and efficiently, without the need to amend existing

legislation, which would almost certainly have taken years. Today, as long as it is used for residential purposes only, Cree citizens have a perpetual right to their own residential lot. We can sell the right to that lot to a fellow Cree or pass it on to a family member. The choice is ours. And it is forever.

At long last, progress is being made. By actively developing our own innovative Cree Nation Housing Strategy, we're promoting private homeownership and securing accessible and affordable housing for all Cree. This strategy will support

and complement community efforts – many supported by EELP funds – to address their most pressing housing needs.

We've learned, often painfully, that solving the housing crisis can be extraordinarily difficult. But success will come. And when it does, we will generate wealth for a new generation of Cree homeowners, we will create opportunities for Cree entrepreneurs, and we will free community housing for those most in need.



[illegible][illegible]







The struggle to preserve and protect our traditional territory – and our traditional way of life – has become increasingly difficult. At one time, we recognized – and to some degree, understood – the threats to our ancestral lands. Mining, particularly abandoned mine sites, left us with an especially toxic legacy, while in just two decades logging, operations have decimated more than 28 million acres of our forests.

Mining and forestry are challenges we can deal with. And we are.

At the Mine Principale site near Ouje-Bougoumou, quite possibly the worst abandoned mine site in Quebec, government officials, scientists and community officials are making real progress on a rehabilitation plan. It is badly needed. After more than 50 years of mining and ore processing, the site's 19 metric tonnes of tailings contain arsenic, copper, nickel and zinc. Similar efforts are underway to rehabilitate other abandoned sites on our territory. Success at Mine Principale would be both an example and inspiration.

Meanwhile, the rules for future projects have been tightened – to get approval for their project, mining companies must now submit a clean-up and rehabilitation plan before being allowed to begin operation. And they must set aside funds to pay for 100 per cent of the reclamation costs.

Equally devastating, and even more widespread, is the long-term impact of logging on our traditional territories. No living thing has been spared from the devastation. For thousands of years, our ancestors responsibly utilized the boreal. It provided food, shelter and clothing. Today, that way of life is continuously and systematically degraded by logging activity. And as logging companies continue to move their operations further north, many communities, including my home community of Waswanipi, have only a fraction of their intact forests remaining. The entire boreal ecosystem has been affected. The boreal caribou population, which can thrive only in undeveloped, intact forest, is collapsing in the face of logging and other forms of development. Of the 51 herds that inhabit the boreal, only 14 have self-sustaining populations.

Still, despite the dire situation, progress is being made.

The Adapted Forestry Regime, adopted in 2002 as part of the Paix des Braves, set strict parameters on when, where and how much forest harvesting is to be allowed. Fifteen years later, the commercial forest harvest in Eeyou Istchee is less than half of where it was at its peak. Even more encouraging, talks are underway about the level of influence that Cree

tallymen should have over how forestry is conducted on their traplines.

Today, the Cree Nation has the authority and ability to monitor and control mining and forestry activities throughout Eeyou Istchee. Unfortunately, we do not have that level of control over an even greater threat to our way of life – climate change.

We are a resilient people, fully capable of adapting to environmental risks. But climate change is testing that resilience as never before. Already, we're being forced to deal with ever-shifting weather patterns, thinner ice, a greater number of forest fires and a decline in many wildlife populations. The fact that hunting, fishing and trapping remain a major part of everyday life in Eeyou Istchee means even our food security is threatened. When asked recently about the impact of climate change in Eeyou Istchee, I responded this way:

"The effect of climate change is a global affair. We must do our part for our families, our communities, our nations, and in solidarity with Indigenous communities worldwide. Through extensive and forward-thinking planning of key protected areas, the Cree Nation Government and local Cree communities are contributing to help counter the devastating effects of climate change and reduce impacts on a way of life that has sustained us for centuries. We must all find ways to take part in this global effort."

As I stated at the beginning of this message, the struggle to preserve and protect our traditional territory – and our traditional way of life – is becoming increasingly difficult. It is a struggle in which every one of us must participate.

I'm proud that I've been given the opportunity to be a part of that struggle. As the head of the Eeyou Planning Commission, I work closely with committed professionals to prepare, in consultation with the Cree First Nations and other stakeholders, a regional land and resource use plan for Category II lands. In consultation with the Cree communities, we are developing draft policies, principles and

objectives to guide the development of an effective regional land and resource use plan for Category II lands.

This is a massive undertaking. And, I believe, an exceptionally important one.

Here, too, progress is being made. After several years of work, negotiating and consultation, the Cree Nation Government has identified 30 per cent of the territory it wants to see protected from development. That 30 per cent target was part of a submission submitted to the Quebec Government as the Cree proposal for the province's Plan Nord conservation target. Plan Nord, a development strategy for northern Quebec, seeks to protect 20 per cent of the territory north of the 49th parallel by 2020 and 50 per cent by 2035.

Protecting our land from rampant development is vital to our culture and our way of life. Only by protecting these

spaces can we ensure that Cree youth and future generations can hunt, fish and trap in areas unaffected by development.

Still, as we, together, continue to seek lasting solutions to these daunting challenges, I am constantly struck that it is often in the smallest of acts that we see the greatest of gains. The youngster who puts his empty pop can into a recycling bin. The community that made the decision to purchase that recycling bin. The person who chooses to walk, rather than drive. The neighbour who turns off the lights when she leaves the room. The student who realizes that paper comes from trees so makes a point of writing on both sides of the sheet.

We should be inspired by their actions, and make them our own.





CREE-QUEBEC NEW RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT | Use Of Funding 2018-2019

	Received	Deferred Revenue Opening	Available	Deferred Revenue Closing	Expended	CONRA Implementation and Representation Expense	Environment-Related Expenditures	Forestry Related Expenditures	Community Infrastructure Essential Sanitation	Housing	Community Center Facilities	Community Center Animation	Economic and Human Resources Development	Assistance to Trappers	Community Facilities and Equipment	Cultural Institute Building	Social and Cultural Activities	Local Government Operations	Fire Protection	Contribution to the Cree Development Corporation	Contribution to Wyapschinigun Fund	TOTAL
Government of Quebec capital contribution	\$100,414,544	\$ 46,020,144	146,434,688																			
Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership:																						
Capital appropriation to operations	418,745	-	418,745	-	418,745	418,745																418,745
Capital contribution to Wyapschinigun Fund:	15,062,182	-	15,062,182	-	15,062,182																15,062,182	15,062,182
Capital distribution to special partners:																						
Cree Nation of Chisasibi	12,616,293	1,794,562	14,410,855	4,802,069	9,608,786				1,637,522	1,045,121	-	210,401	696,870	2,041,000	299,156		3,159,111	480,649	38,956			9,608,786
Cree Nation of Eastmain	4,690,917	1,850,038	6,540,955	2,643,811	3,897,144				1,412,175	227,539	144,282	210,400	131,751	133,094	88,035		1,371,593	139,319	38,956			3,897,144
Cree Nation of Mistissini	10,344,610	2,848,323	13,192,933	3,596,756	9,596,177		200,653	-	2,143,169	1,329,125	-	210,401	1,648,645	830,746	652,662		1,389,070	997,758	193,948			9,596,177
Nemaska First Nation	3,481,417	4,249,157	7,730,574	5,035,021	2,695,553				285,725	397,585	141,626	210,401	94,283	61,461			792,462	673,054	38,956			2,695,553
Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation	3,471,267	1,714,598	5,185,865	936,834	4,249,031		58,567	185,848	974,799	489,529	-	203,084	995,174	145,371	172,942		601,113	383,649	38,955			4,249,031
Cree Nation of Waskaganish	7,363,869	2,439,650	9,803,519	3,111,628	6,691,891				740,935	623,135	99,169	112,159	66,500	164,334	1,151,811		1,638,141	2,056,751	38,956			6,691,891
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	10,594,943	4,453,034	15,047,977	9,400,285	5,647,692		222,923	253,249	1,140,360	406,225	-	131,300	499,192	350,727			1,350,637	1,224,937	68,142			5,647,692
Cree Nation of Wemindji	7,664,310	5,450,899	13,115,209	6,423,726	6,691,483				2,513,854	823,842	-	210,401	675,874	385,000	294,016		1,477,468	272,073	38,955			6,691,483
Whapmagoostui First Nation	8,280,772	3,848,686	12,129,458	6,965,190	5,164,268		53,154		1,453,264	746,605			599,000	764,400			1,021,082	526,763				5,164,268
Capital distribution to other Cree entities:																						
Cree Trappers Association	2,093,726	-	2,093,726	-	2,093,726									2,093,726								2,093,726
Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association	358,925	-	358,925	-	358,925								358,925									358,925
Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	239,283	-	239,283	-	239,283												239,283					239,283
Cree Nation Government - GCC(EI):																						
Agreement Implementation	1,397,532	476,445	1,873,977	-	1,873,977	1,873,977																1,873,977
Cree-Quebec Forestry Board, local joint working groups	762,725	-	762,725	-	762,725			762,725														762,725
Forestry Development/Traditional Activities Enhancement	2,108,827	2,313,011	4,421,838	1,613,382	2,808,456			2,808,456														2,808,456
Other Forestry Related Expenditures	563,754	50,000	613,754	231,904	381,850			381,850														381,850
Environmental Review	539,727	82,351	622,078	343,871	278,207		278,207															278,207
Cree Rights	648,795	-	648,795	-	648,795	648,795																648,795
Day Scholar	-	-	-	-	-																	-
Community Fire Protection	456,400	2,142,270	2,598,670	1,913,276	685,395														685,395			685,395
Training Facilities and Manpower Offices	692,019	1,314,993	2,007,012	139,459	1,867,553								1,867,553									1,867,553
Eeyou-Eenou Police Assets			-	-	-																	-
Eeyou-Eenou Police Operations	-	284,160	284,160	278,487	5,673								5,673									5,673
Essential Sanitation Services	1,050,000	4,315,415	5,365,415	4,284,577	1,080,838				1,080,838													1,080,838
Assistance to Cree Entrepreneurs		1,965,443	1,965,443	1,195,105	770,338								770,338									770,338
James Bay Advisory Committee	-	-	-	-	-																	-
Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association	214,390	-	214,390	-	214,390												214,39					214,390
Friendship Center	650,000	-	650,000	-	650,000												650,000					650,000
Language Commission	-	822,187	822,187	699,007	123,180												123,180					123,180
Housing	85,000	342,897	427,897	104,363	323,535					323,535												323,535
Regional Venture Fund	-	1,000,000	1,000,00	1,000,000	-																	-
Implementation of Mining IBA	184,700		184,700	184,700																		-
Community Center Animation	53,598	21,122	74,720	28,190	46,531							46,531										46,531
MoCreebec Support	500,000	469,903	969,903	776,136	193,767	193,767																193,767
Others	727,891	1,014,533	1,742,424	1,599,955	142,469	142,469																142,469
Cree Development Corporation		6,783	6,783	6,783	-																	-
Cree Mineral Exploration Board	500,000	-	500,000	-	500,000								500,000									500,000
Aanishaaualamikw Cultural Institute	867,519	-	867,519	-	867,519											867,519						867,519
Youth Council	400,266	132,855	533,121	229,049	304,072												304,072					304,072
Elders council	400,266	574,161	974,427	345,178	629,249												629,249					629,249
Elders and Youth Coordination Fund	60,234	42,668	102,902	-	102,902												102,902					102,902
James Bay Cree Communications Society	119,642	-	119,642	-	119,642												119,642					119,642
Washaw Sibi Eeyou	750,000	-	750,000	-	750,000													750,000				750,000
Total	\$100,414,544	46,020,144	146,434,688	57,888,740	88,545,948	3,277,753	813,504	4,392,128	13,382,641	6,412,241	385,077	1,545,078	8,909,778	6,969,859	2,658,622	867,519	15,183,395	7,504,953	1,181,219	-	15,062,182	88,545,948



Wachiya.

Our relationship with the Government of Quebec has always been critical to the political, social and economic development of the Cree Nation. In 1975, that relationship was strengthened even further with the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). In fact, many believe that the JBNQA formed the foundation upon which today's Cree Nation was built. Not only did the JBNQA establish a nation-to-nation relationship between the Cree and Quebec – as well as Canada – it enabled us to exercise our inherent right to self-government.

But while the JBNQA succeeded in resolving most of the disagreements between the Cree and Quebec, it could not and did not fully address the changing circumstances and the evolving needs of the Cree Nation. Not surprisingly, old differences remained unresolved and new disagreements emerged, in large part because Quebec and Canada failed to fulfil many of the commitments contained in the JBNQA. One especially troubling example – the harm suffered by Cree traplines and traditional activities as the result of excessive forestry operations on Cree land.

Both the Cree Nation and Quebec were anxious to see existing disagreements resolved. We agreed that the need for a new mechanism was required to resolve existing differences and deal with any differences that might arise in the future. In 2002, we succeeded. Through the New Relationship Agreement – now more commonly referred to as the Paix des Braves – we forged a new and stronger nation-to-nation relationship, setting aside old conflicts to create a stronger partnership, one that would bring about the responsible development of Eeyou Istchee. In essence, under the Paix des Braves, the Cree Nation assumed many of Quebec's obligations under the JBNQA. It made perfect sense. After all, who better to understand and address issues facing the Cree Nation than the Cree people themselves?

Over the years, the Cree-Quebec relationship created by the Paix des Braves has generated significant benefits for the Cree Nation. Funding provided through the agreement has supported Cree health and social services, education, police, justice, childcare services and an incredible array of community programs and projects. Also, the Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement of 2012 consolidated Cree governance under Quebec laws over extensive Category II lands. And, for the first time, we were able to act as equal partners in the governance of Category III lands.

Today, despite the occasional stumble, the Paix des Braves continues to be implemented properly. As a result, our relationship with the Quebec Government remains on a solid footing. Of course, as we anticipated, new challenges

continue to emerge. And understandably, we often view these issues differently than Quebec. For the life of the Paix des Braves, the task of resolving these differences has fallen to the Cree-Quebec Standing Liaison Committee. Established to serve as a clearing house for relations between the Cree and Quebec, the committee has provided a forum to resolve any differences as they arise. Their success has further strengthened the relationship between the Cree and Quebec.

Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of serving as a Cree Nation representative – along with Me Paul John Murdoch and Melissa Saganash – on the Cree-Quebec Standing Liaison Committee. In 2018-19, as in years past, we met with our Quebec counterparts several times to focus on priority issues. Issues addressed at those meetings included contracting and tendering practices, firearms registry procedures and sanctions, protected areas for caribou and, of course, the Cree Nation Housing Strategy. In other words, any issue that required additional dialogue.

It is easy, but painful, to imagine what would happen without the Standing Liaison Committee. Presumably, we would have to negotiate a new agreement every year – or every five years – with Quebec and Canada on any projects or developments we wanted built in the Cree communities. It is also easy, and a great deal less painful, to see what has happened thanks to the Paix des Braves and the Standing Liaison Committee. One only has to look at the contents of this annual report to see that the Cree Nation benefits from the Paix des Braves and the work of the Standing Liaison Committee.

Given the success of the Cree-Quebec Standing Liaison Committee, it should come as no surprise that that when the Cree Nation signed the New Relationship Agreement with the Government of Canada, it also called for the establishment of a Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee (of which I am the lead Cree representative). Like the Cree-Quebec committee, the Cree Canada committee provides a forum to strengthen relations between the

Cree and Canada, to address issues involving Cree-Canada relations and to resolve any differences that might arise. In the future, the two committees hope to hold at least one joint meeting every year.

The Cree-Quebec Standing Liaison Committee resolves disputes. This not only ensures that the Province of Quebec lives up to its commitments, it strengthens the relationship between the Cree and Quebec. And that is positive for all of us.



Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute

Located in the UN award-winning community of Oujé-Bougoumou, Aanischaaukamikw, the Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI), helps “complete the circle” of the James Bay Crees’ quest to exercise full control over all aspects of their lives, communities and cultural destiny. Aanischaaukamikw is a museum, archive, library, teaching centre and cultural centre. It is also a virtual hub designed for high-powered interactivity and fuelled by a soon-to-be installed major multi-community fibre optic network.

In 2018-19, ACCI received \$867,519 in EELP funds to carry out its programs and services.

Major awards

ACCI received three major awards in the past year. In April of 2018, its travelling exhibit – Footprints: A Walk Through Generations – won the Canadian Museum Association’s Award for Excellence in Exhibitions. The award recognized Aanischaaukamikw for both innovation in research and design. ACCI also received a Governor General’s Award in the History Alive! Category for its efforts to make history available in exciting and engaging ways to communities in and beyond Eeyou Istchee. Finally, the History Society of Canada

recognized ACCI for its commitment and exceptional ability to make community histories available, engaging and accessible.

Outstanding exhibits

After touring communities throughout Eeyou Istchee last year, the award-winning travelling exhibit, Footprints: A Walk Through Generations, visited Amos and Camp Eleanor. The exhibit was also displayed in Val-d’Or for a fundraising event with the Val-d’Or business community. The event was hosted jointly by the SAENCAT (Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance) and the Eenou-Eeyou Community Foundation. The exhibit was scheduled to be installed at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau in the coming year. That will be followed by a multi-year tour.

Also in the past year, ACCI collaborated with content development for the exhibition Niimitauu Let’s Dance, hosted by the University of Aberdeen’s Elphinstone Institute. The exhibit opened in Scotland in the summer of 2018 and was scheduled to circulate throughout Eeyou Istchee in early 2020. In addition to celebrating the history of fiddle dancing and fiddle music in Eeyou Istchee, the exhibit creates a bridge between Cree culture and that of Scotland, specifically a shared history in the fur trade.

In a permanent exhibit, former Chiefs’ jackets were displayed





at ACCI. They included jackets on loan from Matthew Mukash, Louise Wapachee and the family of the late Jimmy Mianscum. The featured objects case in the Elder's Hall at Aanischaaukamikw hosted a display of sewing kits curated by community members from Wemindji.

Presentations and partnerships

ACCI presented and attended various conferences, presentations and workshops over the past year. In a major event, Aanischaaukamikw officials led more than 50 members of the Canadian museum community in a discussion around decolonizing practices. The event took place at a Talking Circle at the 2018 Canadian Museums Association Conference in Vancouver. Also this year, ACCI's librarian, Annie Bosum, spoke about her work at a day workshop at Concordia University in a session entitled 'Reframing Practice – Why Naming Matters'. Annie also provided advisory services about her adaption of the Brian Deer classifications to the National Film Board and her Brian Deer adaptation at the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre. ACCI also hosted a workshop on researching the archives for Indigenous material with Library and Archives Canada. The workshop was streamed live online.

ACCI continued its efforts to create partnerships and enhance areas of collaboration with other museums and cultural institutes in 2018-19. An agreement was reached with the Canadian Museum of History to co-authorise access to archives from Harvey Feit that are currently held at the museum. ACCI also transferred 12 boxes of books from its library to the developing Shingwauk Aanischinaabe cultural centre. Storage was provided for collections from the Chibougamau Eeyou Friendship Centre during construction of its new building.

Research projects

ACCI's core research project in the past year focused on the Eeyou tradition of painted caribou coats. This project was led by renowned Eeyou artist Natasia Mukash and included community-based research. A group of Elders, youth and

knowledge keepers visited the reserve collections at the Canadian Museum of History in June 2018 to examine the painted caribou coats and accessories in its collections and to the National Gallery to view the coat it acquired in 2014. The project also included outreach to other international museums that have coats and accessories.

Efforts to digitize ACCI archives continued in the past year. Support from the Documentary Heritage Communities Program enabled the institute to create accessible research resources for use across the region. To date, more than 150 hours of cassettes and over 6,000 pages of archival documents have been digitized.

Community centre animation

By creating a variety of opportunities for people to connect, community centre animation encourages the exchange of thoughts, information and ideas. Those thoughts and ideas are brought to life through social gatherings and events.

Community centre animation moves that 'connection' process into a defined setting, a public location where members of a community can gather for group activities, social support, public information and recreational pursuits. By planning and offering specific events and activities, and by taking the steps needed to inform community members of those initiatives, community centre officials and staff promote the animation process.

Every community in Eeyou Istchee has a community centre. Through community centre animation, each of those centres enriches the lives of those who attend and the community as a whole.

In 2018-19, a total of \$53,598 in EELP funds was allocated to fostering community centre animation in communities throughout Eeyou Istchee.

Cree Mineral Exploration Board

Created in 2002, the Cree Mineral Exploration Board (CMEB) encourages and facilitates the development of mineral exploration companies in the Cree Territory. Largely composed of Cree representatives – with limited representation from the Province of Quebec – the CMEB also promotes and facilitates the participation of the James Bay Crees in mineral exploration activities.

The main goals of the CMEB are to:

- assist the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities
- facilitate the development of mineral exploration enterprises with Cree entrepreneurship
- help and encourage the Crees and Cree enterprises to benefit from Quebec's regular funding program as well as other provincial assistance allocated to mineral exploration activities
- act as an intermediary between offers and demands of services made in accordance with the Agreement under which the CMEB was created

While mineral exploration activities have increased progressively since the CMEB was created, Eeyou Istchee remains one of the best exploration grounds in the world. In 2018-19, as in previous years, the CMEB sought to ensure that the Cree Nation benefits – to the maximum extent – from mineral exploration activities. At the same time, it promotes sustainable development that respects Cree values and aspirations.

EELP funds allocated to the CMEB in 2018-19 totalled \$500,000.

New mining policy

As the entrance to mineral exploration activities in Eeyou Istchee, the CMEB worked in close collaboration with the Cree Nation Government in 2018-19 to develop the Cree Nation Mining Policy. The new policy clarifies the intent of the Cree Nation towards mining activities in Eeyou Istchee and facilitates the relationship with mining and mineral exploration corporations active in Cree Territory. It provides guiding principles for the conduct of mineral exploration and mining activities in a sustainable manner, respectful of Cree rights and interests.

This mining policy is based on three fundamental pillars:

- The Crees will support and promote the development of mining as part of their approach to natural resource management and as a tool for social and economic development.
- Mining activities must be compatible with sustainable development. Appropriate existing governance tools are to be used during all phases of mining activities, including social and economic agreements, environmental assessments and remediation processes.
- Mineral exploration and mining activities in the territory must be a transparent and collaborative process.

Awareness and promotion

CMEB representatives took part in several promotional events – such as conferences and workshops – in 2018-19. During these mining events, the CMEB presented posters

and various information related to mineral exploration in Eeyou Istchee.

In May, a CMEB geologist conducted earth science activities at the Voyageur Memorial Elementary School in Mistissini and Maquatua Eeyou Secondary School in Wemindji. The CMEB developed and hosted the mining and exploration panel at the annual conference entitled Northern Developments, organized by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance in Val-d'Or. CMEB's Chief Geologist, Youcef Larbi, was the moderator of a half-day panel entitled Mineral Development in the North.

CMEB Board members attended the Quebec Mineral Exploration Association Conference in Montreal. The conference is seen as the best opportunity to meet junior companies working in Eeyou Istchee. At the Quebec Exploration Conference, organized by the MENR in November, the CMEB distributed pamphlets describing its programs and objectives. Participants were especially interested in the CMEB publication Mining Activity in Eeyou Istchee Report for 2018.

The CMEB also took part in Quebec's delegation at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) conference in March 2019 in Toronto. This event is the ideal occasion to establish business contacts and to attract investors in Eeyou Istchee. The CMEB believes such conferences are an excellent opportunity to promote the mineral potential on traditional lands of Eeyou Istchee as well as an opportunity to establish links of work and collaboration with the industry.

Employment assistance

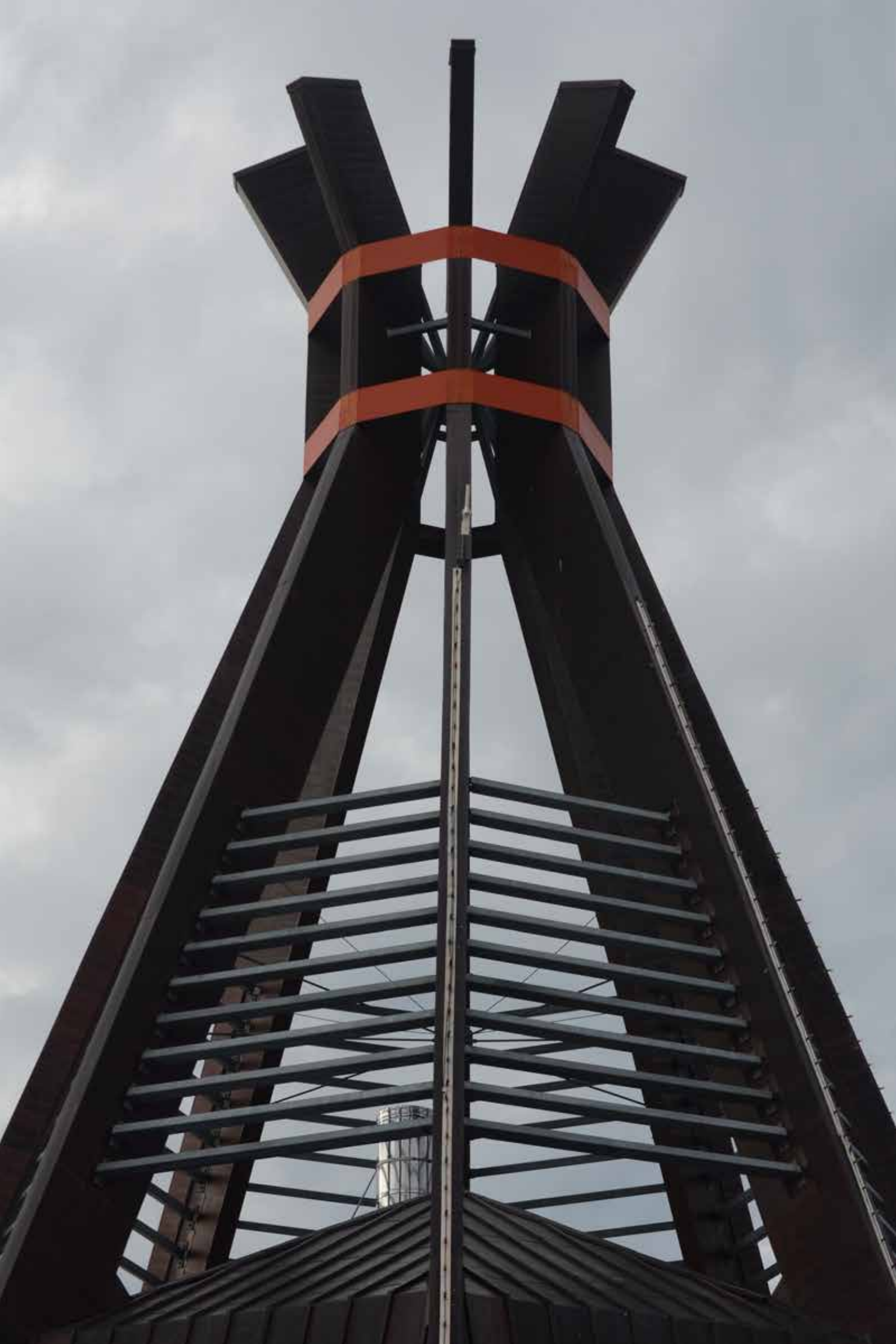
The CMEB employed and facilitated the hiring of more than 150 Crees to work in the mining sector and related sectors in 2018-19. These jobs included prospector positions, and helpers for several exploration sectors, especially camp building and janitor positions. All positions were offered either by the CMEB, service companies, exploration companies or mines operating in Eeyou Istchee. The CMEB acts as an intermediary between mineral exploration companies and the Cree labor force by recommending experienced Cree workers in the mineral field.

The CMEB also worked in close collaboration with Cree Human Resources Development to set up a certified training program for adults in the field of mineral resources. A consultation table, composed of various members in the fields of education, government and the mining industry was created to develop the program. Also in the past year, a number of mining companies active in Eeyou Istchee collaborated with participating Cree Nations and the CMEB to offer other courses in mineral exploration. These courses provide expertise, coordinate various services and ensure the enforcement of basic rules on the field regarding the preservation of the environment and Cree traditional activities.

Training course

The CMEB again offered a training course – commonly referred to as Mining 101 – to Cree community leaders and other interested Cree beneficiaries. The course offers basic information about the mining industry, from grassroots exploration to the exploitation and decommissioning of a mining project. The course also provides information related to the creation of enterprises interested in providing services





required by the mineral exploration and mining industries.

As part of the course, the CMEB provides technical assistance as well as the available geosciences knowledge of Eeyou Istchee. The 30-hour course is usually delivered in offices of respective Cree Nations. The main objective is to help Cree communities make enlightened decisions when dealing with mining activities on their lands. Every year, the CMEB delivers the training course in two to three Cree communities. In 2018-19, the Mining 101 course was offered in Chisasibi, Eastmain and Nemaska.

Also, in partnership with Cree Human Resources Development and the CEGEP of Saint-Felicien, the first cohort of Cree technician geologists are preparing to enter the workforce.

Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) was created expressly to help create art, gain and share skills, promote, and market and sell members' work. CNACA's ultimate goal is to help each artist become an active member of the global arts and crafts community. The association's mission is to diversify and grow a sustainable arts, crafts and culture economy in Eeyou Istchee, one that entails partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities. CNACA believes this will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou Nation while both encouraging contemporary means of expression and maintaining Cree cultural, values, traditions and skills.

In 2018-19, a total of \$239,283 in EELP funds was allocated to help CNACA achieve its goals and fulfil its mission.

Updated website

CNACA officials dedicated EELP funds in the past year to revise its website to simplify the organization's membership renewal process. Members now simply need to

login to the site, using their mobile, tablets or desktop computers to complete the required membership forms. A new link will also enable members to pay their membership dues online. In addition to accommodating all online registrations, CNACA's database also meets the needs of its suppliers. Once all the entries have been completed, the site will be searchable by product, artist origins, and expertise. Using the content entered during the registration process, CNACA will automatically create a profile for each artist.

Achievement Awards

In 2018-19, CNACA honoured the following artists:

- The Buckley Petawabano Award – named after Buckley Petawabano, an icon of Cree influences in the media – was won by Emma Saganash of Waswanipi. In her 40-year career, Emma has been intimately involved in TV and radio production and as a journalist, TV-host, producer and manager for CBC's Cree unit in Montreal.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award, honouring an individual who has achieved a high level of success over his or her lifetime, was awarded to Yvonne Neeposh of Nemaska. Yvonne, who was taught embroidery by her mother and aunts, has spent five decades sharing her knowledge and talent throughout the Cree Nation.

- Winner of the Rising Star Award, acknowledging an individual's hard work and dedication, was Kelly Cooper of Ouje-Bougoumou. A cellist, Kelly has performed with the West Island Youth Orchestra for the past three years. In September, she was the featured soloist with the Orchestra Symphonique de Montreal.
- The Self Innovator Award went to Duane Shanush of Eastmain. This award celebrates not only artists who have taken a traditional art form and re-fashioned it to make it their own, but also those artists who have taken the initiative to promote their art locally and/or regionally. Duane is the youngest antler carver in Eeyou Istchee.
- Byron Jonah of Waskaganish won the Best Fiddler Award. Byron travels all across Quebec and Ontario offering an edgy, captivating and charming style of music.

Economic development

In the fall of 2018, Irene Neeposh from Sky Community Economic Development was hired to develop a five-year strategic plan for CNACA. The plan is expected to focus on CNACA programs, projects and initiatives. Sky's first session with CNACA was held at the annual members' meeting in Nemaska. CNACA's board of directors and staff members continued to provide input throughout the fiscal year. The final version of the five-year strategic plan was to be presented at CNACA's annual members' meeting in 2019.

Various activities

In association with the Cree Nation Youth Council and the Cree Nation of Oujé-Bougoumou, CNACA held a regional baby rattle and moccasin making workshop. In addition to three instructors, the event featured three guest speakers. Eeyou Istchee addictions speaker, Wayne Rabbitskin, spoke about the importance of the connection and teachings between father and child; former Cree Nation Government Language Coordinator, Dorothy Stewart, spoke about the importance of maintaining Cree language in the home; and Thomas Coon shared stories about education and crafting on the land.

CNACA also joined the community of Waskaganish in celebrating its 350th anniversary. The first Hudson Bay Post in North America was established in 1668 in what is now Waskaganish, marking the start of the fur trade. CNACA hosted a booth displaying the work of its artists at the Gathering Place.

An annual event, KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples invites the public to learn about the wide range of issues that face First Nations peoples. Eleven Quebec nations attended the event in Quebec City, offering participants the opportunity to learn more about their cultures through discussions, film, workshops on traditional knowledge, and demonstrations of arts and crafts. Artist Deborah Ratt represented the Cree artists of Eeyou Istchee.

As it has in previous years, CNACA partnered with the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation to present a Christmas arts and crafts show. Local artists Diane Bosum and Richard Bosum showcased their musical talent while Mistissini artist Kiziz Mitchel offered his barbering service and Nellie Wapachee Gray offered a workshop on beading. CNACA sold a variety of products at the show.

Cree language artists were offered the opportunity to flex their creative muscles in CNACA's first annual Tipaachumuh

contest, an event designed to introduce Cree poets and song-writers. Nearly 110 Eeyou Istchee members voted online for their favourite pieces.

Cree Nation Youth Council

The Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) was created to safeguard the rights and promote the interests of the Eeyou youth of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. It is also committed to strengthening the collective and economic life of Cree youth following the traditions and principles of the Cree Nation.

The CNYC advises the Cree Nation Government on all matters concerning youth; conducts appropriate studies; compiles and provides information relating to youth; serves as a 'training camp' to prepare youth to assume the responsibilities of leadership within the Cree Nation; and promotes youth development in areas such as administration and management, business and political skills, social and economic arena.

In 2018-19, EELP funds totalling \$400,266 were allocated to support events and programs put on by the CNYC.

Health conference

Two years ago, delegates at the CNYC's annual assembly decided to make health the focus of its annual winter gathering. With the co-operation of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the CNYC sponsored its inaugural health conference from Feb. 12-14 in Nemaska. The three-day conference focused on diabetes, addictions, crime prevention, mental health, sexual health and intergenerational trauma. Health professionals as well as representatives from Eeyou Eenu Police Force and the Cree Nation Government attended the event. The agenda included presentations and a number of interactive activities for youth. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in group challenges addressing the health issues faced by youth in Cree communities, such as diabetes and addictions.

General Assembly

The CNYC held its 29th annual General Assembly Aug. 14-16, 2018 in Waskaganish. As in previous years, youth representatives gathered to discuss and advance the needs and priorities of youth in their respective communities. Elders were present to pass along their knowledge and wisdom while various speakers shared their experiences to motivate and inspire participants at the assembly. The 2018-19 assembly differed from previous ones in that two youth members were appointed to act as co-chairs. Also, for more than half of the delegates, this was their first time at a CNYC general assembly.

Inspire Hope Conference

Now held annually, the Inspire Hope Youth Conference is considered one of the CNYC's most powerful events. The 2018-19 conference was held in Ouje-Bougoumou on March 22-24, 2019. The theme was: Stop Existing & Start Living. The Inspire Hope Youth Conference is designed to do just that – inspire Cree Nation youth by delivering activities, sharing stories, inviting inspirational and motivational speakers, and empowering youth to lead, overcome challenges and

unlock the motivation to pursue goals in life. The objective is to bring hope to each individual in Eeyou Istchee. Activities included a vision boards workshop, self-care workshop, Inspire Hope Book workshop, and a designing your life workshop. Also included were team-building exercises and leadership challenges, a gala night and a volleyball night.

JBNQA training

One of the main goals of the CNYC is to ensure that young people in Eeyou Istchee are familiar with the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). To train and educate its members about the JBNQA, the CNYC collaborated with the Chisasibi Youth Council to produce the Our Youth, Our Future, Our Legacy project in Chisasibi. The event enabled participants to gain a better understanding of the JBNQA, the stories and history behind the agreement, and the former leaders who negotiated the JBNQA. Those in attendance watched a JBNQA documentary, reviewed a JBNQA Book and visited the Cree Heritage Museum.

Annual meetings

The CNYC's Board of Directors met in Eastmain for three days in January while the youth council's executive committee meeting was held in Mistissini on Jan. 16-17.

Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association

The mandate of the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) is to provide marketing, booking, and promotion services, where necessary, for Cree outfitting operations; provide business, management, accounting and professional services, where necessary, for Cree outfitters; and conduct feasibility studies related to the establishment of individual outfitting or a network of outfitting facilities. COTA's priority is to increase awareness of tourism as a sustainable economic development opportunity. To support its efforts in 2018-19, it received \$358,925 in EELP funds.

Creetopia progress

In partnership with Mistissini, Ouje-Bougoumou, the Nibiischii Corporation and Hutttopia, COTA is developing a "ready-to-camp" tent designed exclusively for use in Eeyou Istchee. Known as Creetopia – the tent is modelled after Hutttopia, a successful prêt-à-camper (ready-to-camp) concept developed in France. Creetopia will be set up at designated sites throughout the region during peak tourism periods. The concept may also be used to meet the growing demand for lodging during popular community events and celebrations.

Initiated in 2018-19, Phase 1 of the Creetopia project includes a five-year development strategy including the selection of suitable locations for the Creetopia sites across Eeyou Istchee, a site plan for the three partners, and a prototype of the new design that was unveiled during the annual conference in Chisasibi. Phase 2 will involve the construction of three initial Creetopia camps with a focus on meeting operational needs.

The design of Creetopia's ready-to-camp tents is inspired by, and reflects traditional Cree culture and architecture. The lightweight tents sit on platforms and are easy to put up and take down. Some models are equipped with a toilet and





shower as well as a wood stove. A key benefit of the ready-to-camp tents is that they cost less to build and operate than wood or log cabins.

Helping entrepreneurs

While COTA always encourages the development of tourism-related businesses, it wants would-be entrepreneurs to know that such ventures are often extraordinarily difficult. That’s why, in 2017-18 COTA decided to offer a workshop – entitled Cree Entrepreneur Boot Camp – to help would-be Cree tourism entrepreneurs assess the pros and cons of business ownership. The five-day workshop provided a comprehensive view of what is required to successfully, develop, own and operate a tourism business.

The initial boot camp was so successful, COTA decided to hold a second one in 2018-19. The second Cree Entrepreneur Boot Camp, held in Wemindji, was specifically geared to stakeholders in the marine tourism industry. The long-term objective was to reduce the risk of business failure due to the lack of a clear understanding of the personal and financial commitment required to operate a successful tourism business. The three-day workshop addressed three major objectives:

- reduce the investment risk in business start-up
- communicate the need for personal equity and introduce a simple process to raise personal equity
- ensure participants thoroughly understand their business plan

Tourism conference

Held in conjunction with its annual general meeting,

COTA held its Tourism Conference in Nemaska in mid-July 2018. The theme of the conference was Tourism – the Next Generation. The two-day event, featuring presentations and workshops designed to inform and engage participants, attracted more than 40 individuals representing tourism interests from throughout the region.

Presentations included one on ‘how to maximize your sales’ by Roch Anctil, the Director of Eeyou Istchee Baie-James Travel (EIBJT). He discussed strategies to maximize sales through initiatives such as developing strong social media presence, establishing strategic partnerships, developing loyalty programs, and motivating sales teams. He also explained the importance of offering market- and export-ready products and the advantages of building an expansive and diversified distribution network.

Guest speaker Suzie Basile, professor at Université du Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, described the Aboriginal Tourism Management program offered through the School of Indigenous Studies bursary program. The program, introduced in 2016, is designed to help students develop management skills and competencies applicable to all tourism business activities.

Into the North

Launched in 2018, COTA’s Into the North campaign was designed to promote Eeyou Istchee Baie-James to visitors from all over. The campaign was an online contest in which participants had an opportunity to win an all-expenses-paid, two-week travel adventure in Eeyou Istchee Baie-James. The contest attracted hundreds of entrants. Six winners were selected – three from Canada, two from France and one from Venezuela. Their travel adventure, which included a visit to

Oujé-Bougoumou, Waskaganish, and Wemindji, was captured on video and broadcast as an eight-part web series on www.intothenorth.ca.

A joint initiative among COTA, EIT and Tourisme Baie-James, the Into the North campaign received international attention and was rewarded with a Quebec tourism prize for excellence in digital marketing.

Booking services

It is critical to the success of the Eeyou Istchee tourism industry that potential tourists have easy access to information and booking services. In 2018-19, Eeyou Istchee Baie-James (EIBJ) Travel, provided such access, creating and marketing specialized travel packages and providing credit-card processing and billing services. By centralizing tourism sales and bookings, EIBJ Travel allows COTA to eventually create market-ready packages that meet the evolving needs and expectations of modern travellers. EIBJ Travel is also expected to launch a travel web site in the summer of 2019.

Coastal boat tours

Founded in 2018, the Wiinipaakw Tours Solidarity Cooperative (WTSC) is a Cree-owned organization whose mission is to develop sustainable coastal tourism in Eeyou Istchee. After holding its first annual general meeting in August 2018, the WTSC completed its business plan and secured funding for Phase 1 of its operations, including the purchase of a boat. The WTSC expects to offer daily boat tours along the coast beginning in the summer of 2019. By helping the coastal communities create Wiinipaakw Tours, COTA enhanced the region's positioning as an attractive destination.

Cree Trappers' Association

The mandate of the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) is to protect and promote the interests and values of trappers, traditional pursuits, and governance of hunting territories in Eeyou Istchee. Its mandate also extends to the management of territory and wildlife resources and of environmental matters. The CTA's main goals are to foster, promote, protect and assist in preserving the way of life, values, activities and traditions of the Eeyou/Eenou trappers and to safeguard the traditional system of Eeyou/Eenou traplines. Today, thanks to CTA support, Cree hunters and trappers continue to occupy the land, knowing that their values, traditions and practices are defended.

As a result of the Offshore Agreement, the CTA recently gained new responsibilities in the coastal regions. The agreement requires that the CTA be consulted regularly by the Wildlife Board on wildlife management matters. The CTA is also consulted and makes recommendations about wildlife management measures.

A total of \$2,093,726 in EELP funds was allocated to support CTA programs and activities in 2018-19.

Eeyou Eenou Ituun

The CTA strives to ensure that traditional knowledge and wisdom thrive in Eeyou Istchee. In part, it does this through programs that focus on traditional knowledge and established hunting and trapping activities. One such program is Eeyou Eenou Ituun (Cree Knowledge). Scheduled to be

delivered in the fall of 2020, the Eeyou Eenou Ituun training program will offer high quality, government-accredited training in the art and science of Cree traditional pursuits. The CTA believes the program will reach – and educate – those who have insufficient knowledge of the Cree way of life but a strong desire to learn and acquire traditional knowledge and techniques for being out on the land. Eeyou Eenou Ituun is being coordinated by the CTA, with academic support provided by the Cégep de St-Félicien, in collaboration with Niskamoon Corporation.

In 2018-19, meetings and presentations were conducted to promote the program to various organizations. Among those invited to support, and participate in the program were the Cree School Board and the Income Security Program. The CTA believes the participation and expertise of those two organizations are essential to making this program a success. Recognizing that developing such a large and complex program would require an experienced and dedicated coordinator, a full-time employee was to be hired in the summer of 2019. The program will be delivered in Cree, by Cree and in Cree Eeyou Istchee. The CTA plans to tour all Cree communities in the summer and to present the program to the members and various stakeholders.

While EELP funds support a wide range of CTA programs and activities, the CTA is seeking additional financial support for the Eeyou Eenou Ituun training program. Partial funding for the first year was provided by Niskamoon Corporation while the CTA is seeking additional funding from the Société du Plan Nord.

Cabin program

In keeping with its commitment to provide quality service to all hunters and trappers, the CTA is re-introducing its cabin program. Under the program, those who choose to live the traditional Cree way of life and occupy the land will receive cabins in which to live while hunting or trapping. To be eligible, applicants must meet certain conditions, including a commitment to use the cabin only for traditional and cultural activities. They must be actively engaged in hunting and or trapping.

While many of the CTA's activities and programs are supported by EELP (and Cree Nation Trust) funds, the cost of the cabin program far exceeds the association's ability to pay for it. As a result, in 2017 it entered into discussions with Niskamoon Corporation and other entities for financial support. Those discussions continued in 2018-19.

At the same time, the CTA solicited proposals from cabin suppliers. In the past year, the CTA allocated 33 cabins through the cabin program. This represents a total investment of \$1.2 million. Unfortunately, due to an exceptionally short summer season, only 16 cabins were completed. The materials to build another 15 cabins were shipped, meaning more cabins can be built in the near future.

Strategic meetings

For the first time in its history, in 2018-19 the CTA organized a strategic workshop with all of its staff. The purpose of the exercise was to review CTA's offerings to its members and to provide ideas on how to improve programs and services. The workshop also focused on ensuring the sustainability of wildlife harvesting, on promoting and improving wildlife management, and on increasing the efficiency of working

relationships between staff members. The CTA aspires to improve the quality of its programs and services through careful strategic planning and the implementation of clear objectives.

The executive committee met three times in person and once in a conference call during the past year. The committee's role is to oversee administrative matters for the regional CTA to ensure it responds to members' needs. Also attending the executive committee meetings were the executive director and secretary-treasurer. Both are non-voting members who provide insight and recommendations to the executive. The CTA's Board of Directors met twice in 2018-19.

Medical bush kits

Started in collaboration with the Cree Health Board, the medical bush kit program responds to the need to make essential medication readily accessible to those who live on the land. This program was formerly available to hunters and trappers in the 1990s but was discontinued. The new program's main goal is to enhance the Cree land users' ability to deal with unexpected health issues. Experts maintain a medical bush kit is a necessity for land users today, especially those in remote areas. The Cree Health Board consulted the CTA to gain a better understanding of the needs of its members. As a result, the Heath Board proposed three different types of kits. One contains medication for those who stay in the bush for a long period of time; a second version targets those who stay shorter periods, such as during goose and moose break; while the third offers basic medication.

For the first year, the program will be launched in Waskaganish and Whapmagoostui. Land users will receive basic training on the contents of the medical kits and will be responsible for handling and returning the kits when they need to be refilled. The plan is to eventually launch the program in every Cree community.

Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association

The goal of the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association (CWEIA) is to inspire and value Eeyou-Eenou Iskweu through healing, culture and socio-economic development. Its mission is to embrace traditional nurturing roles towards sustaining harmonious families, communities and nation.

In 2018-19, \$214,390 in EELP funds was allocated to support the programs and activities of CWEIA.

Supporting Elders

For the fourth year in a row, CWEIA participated in the annual cultural gathering of the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders, offering both organizational and logistical support. The 2018-19 cultural gathering was held in Waswanipi. CWEIA hosted the second day of the gathering, centred around the theme of child rearing, parenting and health, and the well-being of children. The morning session started off with a keynote address by Miss Eeyou Eenou Nation Kayleigh Spencer on the woman's role in society and her place as a Cree woman. Following the keynote address, a panel of grandmothers – called the Gookumnouch Panel – answered questions on parenting and child-rearing. The afternoon sessions featured hands-on and interactive workshops

about the Waasipsuuuyan (Cree traditional baby wrap); Maamapsuun (Cree traditional baby swing); walking out ceremony; first snowshoe walk; and Mitchuapp teachings.

CWEIA also offered logistical support for events that focus on and support the organization's goals. In the past year, those included the First Nation Men conference – organized by Nishiiyuu men – and the Eeyou Istchee Two Spirit Conference.

CWEIA meetings

CWEIA held its 11th Annual General Assembly in Waswanipi on Sept. 8-10. The association's board of directors met four times; two of the meetings were held in person, the other two via a conference call. The executive committee met four times, all by conference call.

Adjuck Committee

Through what is known as the Essential Partnership Project, CWEIA works in collaboration with representatives from three Algonquin communities – Lac Simon, Kitcisakik and Pikogan. The Adjuck committee was created as a result of this partnership agreement. The Adjuck committee will seek to identify and implement preventive solutions to violence against women. It will also address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Comprised of seven women, the Adjuck committee met on two occasions in the past year. During those meetings, the committee agreed to work on several solutions, such as creating a healing lodge for women and men, one that honours both the Cree and Algonquin indigenous ways of life.

Kuukuminuwich Gathering

CWEIA's Gookumnouch Advisory Council met on two occasions and held several conference calls to plan the third annual Kuukuminuwich Gathering and to develop a souvenir booklet and teaching pamphlets from the second gathering. At the first Kuukuminuwich Gathering in 2016-17, CWEIA focused on the importance of transmitting Eeyou culture – and ensuring its continuity – by motivating people to rediscover it on their own accord. Those teachings were brought together in the form of a booklet. Using the reoccurring themes of both the teachings and the booklet, CWEIA set out to develop pamphlets and set up an advisory committee to review the booklet's content and begin preparing for the second Kuukuminuwich Gathering. That second gathering was held in September, 2018, at the Cultural Village in Waswanipi. The main goal of the Kuukuminuwich Gathering is to encourage grandmothers to pass on their knowledge and teachings. Teachers from local schools are encouraged to bring their classes to sit in and listen.

Miss Eeyou-Eenou

CWEIA held its second annual Miss Eeyou-Eenou Nation (MEEN) competition in 2018-19. Through the MEEN competition, CWEIA promotes personal development and empowerment, role modelling, advocacy, embracing the knowledge of Iiyiyuu-iinuu identity, culture and language, honouring self-respect and the value of Indigenous feminine principles. The winner of the event is given the opportunity to develop her skills as an ambassador and hone her public speaking skills. The first Miss Eeyou Eenou Nation, Kayleigh



Spencer of Mistissini, delivered the keynote address at the annual cultural gathering of the Nishiiyu Council of Elders in Waswanipi. She spoke about the woman's role in society. The second MEEN princess, Andrea McLeod of Waskaganish, was crowned in February, 2019.

Environmental issues

Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) requires that projects that are likely to affect the territory must undergo Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). These environmental assessments are designed to identify potential problems before a project is authorized and mitigate those problems if the project is authorized. The ESIA process is coordinated by the Cree Nation Government's Environment and Remedial Works (ERW) department. ERW's team of environmental analysts and experts review documents related to a project at different stages of the ESIA process. The overall goal is to ensure that developments in Cree territory have the greatest benefit for the Cree people with the least impact on traditional lands and the Cree way of life.

Four committees have been established to ensure that ESIAs are carried out in an efficient and timely fashion: the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE), the Evaluating Committee (COMEV), the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (the Review Committee – COMEX) and the federal Review Panel (COFEX-South).

In 2018-19, ERW assessed 25 proposed projects for the Evaluating Committee (COMEV). Of these, 16 were deemed exempt from ESIAs; one was suspended; five were under review; two were under analysis; and one was given directives to proceed with an ESIA. In addition, 19 projects entered in the later stages of the ESIA process. Of these, two requests for project modifications were approved; eight projects and modification requests were under review; the remainder were assessed and monitored for follow-up.

Under Section 22, remuneration of the members is the responsibility of the body that appoints the member. Every year, EELP funds are used to cover any costs associated with the participation of Cree members on the review and evaluating committees. In 2019-19, a total of \$539,727 was allocated to cover these costs.

Essential Sanitation Services and Related Infrastructures

The Capital Works and Services (CWS) department of the Cree Nation Government constantly assesses the needs of Cree communities in the area of drinking and wastewater infrastructure. Throughout the year, CWS provides professional engineering services to communities undertaking essential sanitation projects. This ensures that any work being carried out on these services follows essential sanitation guidelines and abides by the bylaws and standards of local governments, the Cree Nation



Government, and provincial and federal governments.

In addition to essential sanitation services, CWS also helps communities assess the need for various local government projects, particularly those related to band facilities (local government offices, municipal garages, municipal warehouses, fire halls and community centres). CWS has a rigid capital planning timeline with a series of deadlines for communities to submit project funding requests and to support project justification. Before recommending a project for funding, the department ensures that all technical standards are respected. For example, in 2018-19, CWS provided management support to the Whapmagoostui First Nation for projects approved for funding through the New Relationship Agreement since 2008-2009. Additional support was provided to the local capital works team to prepare and complete NRA funding applications for 2019-2020.

Two years ago, CWS received \$4,576,635 in EELP funds to develop a comprehensive needs assessment for the communities and to determine the most cost-effective way to address the paving requirements of each community.

Water operators

In the past year, \$335,200 in EELP funds were allocated to the training of water operators. Included were two water operators' commission meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to bring together all drinking water and wastewater operators from the Cree communities to discuss topics related to plant operation. The first meeting took place on Aug. 15 to 17, 2018 in Montreal. Activities at the meeting included two training sessions. The second meeting also took place in Montreal, on March 13 and 14, 2019. Attendees received training on metering pumps and toured the St-Eustache filtration plant. Participants were also provided with exhibitor passes to the Pan-American Environmental Technology Trade Show and Conference (Americana) held at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal to learn about new technologies and to meet with vendors and suppliers.

CWS continued to actively recruit – and organize training sessions for – certified Drinking and Wastewater Operators for the nine communities. Laboratory and safety equipment were purchased to meet operational needs of each water treatment department. CWS also enlisted the services of a water treatment specialist in the past year. The specialist will provide technical support to local water plant operators in regard to their treatment system and water quality sampling and monitoring, assist in making sure all local water treatment systems are in good working condition, and ensure that all water sampling is done according to the required norms.

Elders and Youth Joint Coordination Fund

The Elders and Youth Joint Coordination Fund (EYJCF) organizes and supports the activities of both the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders (NCOE) and the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC). In recent years, it has done so under the management and guidance of the CNYC. Before that, the EYJCF was administered by the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre. In 2018-19, EYJCF activities were supported

by \$60,234 in EELP funds.

While the primary goal of the Coordination Fund is to stage and promote activities that bring youth and Elders together, it also supports the activities of the CNYC, encouraging the organization to work with local youth councils on specific projects. In addition, EELP funds are often used to secure the resources required to coordinate special projects, including the annual Regional Canoe Brigade and the annual Youth General Assembly. When required, EELP funds enable the CNYC to hire casual help in preparing kits for its Board of Directors meeting and the Elders/Youth Gathering.

Every year, the EYJCF supports a number of special events. For example, two years ago, it supported celebrations marking the anniversary of the journey of the Odeyak from Whapmagoostui to New York City. In 1990, after a five-week journey from Hudson Bay to the Hudson River, the Odeyak – a 24-foot freighter canoe – arrived in New York carrying Cree and Inuit representatives. They were protesting the Great Whale Hydroelectric Project, warning that it would destroy the natural economy of the Great Whale region and the traditional Cree and Inuit way of life.

Two of the most popular events on the EYJCF calendar every year are the Nishiiyuu Cultural Gathering and the Elders/Youth Gathering.

Nishiiyuu Cultural Gathering

The eighth annual Cultural Gathering, held in Waswanipi in August, was a collaboration between the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders, the Cree Nation Youth Council, the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association and the Anishchaaukamikw Cultural Institute. Each organization hosted workshops and activities on separate days. More than 200 people attended the four-day event. The goal of the gathering is to transfer traditional knowledge and to ensure that Cree culture and language is maintained, strengthened and enhanced for all Cree activities.

Elders/Youth Gathering

The annual Elders/Youth Gathering is a regular part of the EYJCF calendar. Every year, events include Elders' teachings, youth teachings, traditional workshops and activities such as ice fishing. In the past year, the gathering was held in Ouje-Bougoumou. Youth delegates at the gathering not only observed and studied the traditional Cree way of life, they also enjoyed ceremonies performed by Elders and spiritual guides. Other activities included skirt making, tools crafting and bannock making.

Community fire protection

The Cree Nation Government supports local fire departments in the delivery of fire protection and prevention services on Category IA lands. This support includes, but is not limited to, employee training, the purchase of equipment, construction of facilities, and the promotion of effective and standardized operating procedures. Capital Works and Services (CWS) has been responsible for fire protection since the Fire Protection Bylaw was passed in 2013.

Fire protection is an assumed federal obligation pursuant to the New Relationship Agreement with Canada. It is also an assumed obligation pursuant to the Paix des Braves. As a

result, community fire protection is supported by financial allocations from both the Eeyou Limited Partnership (EELP) and the Cree Nation Trust (CNT). In addition, communities already receive funding for fire protection operations through the O & M Agreement. Funding supports new and evolving operational needs to implement the Cree Nation Government Bylaw and evolving changes to federal and provincial standards.

In 2018-19, \$456,400 in EELP funds was allocated to fire protection services in Eeyou Istchee.

Firefighting training

The Fire Protection Bylaw calls for the eventual creation of 135 professional firefighter positions to serve the communities of Eeyou Istchee (At the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year, 161 trained firefighters were distributed among the nine communities).

In 2018-19, a cohort of 20 Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications (NFPA 1001) candidates successfully completed their training. The NFPA 1001 standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements for career and volunteer firefighters. The 20 successful candidates, who began their training in November 2017, were split into two groups – one in the coastal region, hosted by the Chisasibi Fire Department, and one in the inland region, hosted by the Mistissini Fire Department. Both groups received instruction from qualified Cree fire instructors. Local fire chiefs and Cree fire instructors voted on the training locations.

In addition to the NFPA 1001 training program, 20 candidates took the Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (NFPA 1021) program, a four-month course offered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia. The training took place in Val-d'Or. On March 21, 2019, the Regional Fire Protection Team hosted a graduation at the Hilton Lac Leamy in Gatineau to celebrate the completion of the programs for both the NFPA 1001 and NFPA 1021 groups.

New fire trucks

Three new fire trucks were purchased and delivered to

local fire departments in 2018-19. The Waskaganish Fire Department received a new ladder truck while the Nemaska and Whapmagoostui Fire Departments each received a new pumper truck.

Fire inspections

Once performed on a random basis, fire inspections in Eeyou Istchee communities are being planned with local fire prevention officers. The ultimate goal is to ensure that all occupancies are inspected. An inspection program or inspection frequency schedule is being established in every community.

Forestry

Development in Eeyou Istchee, including forestry, is an important economic sector for the region, as well as the province. Through inclusive planning, regular and meaningful collaboration, combined with the respect and implementation of agreements, the Cree Nation is achieving better circumstances for stakeholders and Eeyou Istchee. Tables like the Cree-Quebec Forestry Board has enabled the Cree Nation to participate in the careful development of this resource by contributing invaluable expertise and knowledge. In 2018-19, the Cree Nation Government allocated \$3,435,306 in EELP funds to support forestry initiatives in the Cree Territory.

Signed by the Cree Nation and the Quebec government in 2002, the Paix des Braves outlined a common desire to harmonize the management of Northern Québec's natural resources. To that end, the agreement included provisions linked to forestry, mining, hydroelectric development, and the Crees' economic and community development. Those provisions are based on commitments outlined in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

Chapter 3 of the Paix des Braves, commonly called the Adapted Forestry Regime (AFR), is devoted to forestry. It defines the objectives and sets out specific provisions for managing forest activities in the Cree Territory. While the Québec Forest Regime (QFR) applies, generally, throughout





the territory identified in the Agreement it has been adapted to reflect the Crees' traditional way of life. It accords greater attention to sustainable development concerns and paves the way for increased participation by the Crees in forestry planning and management.

The main adaptations of the AFR are defined as the management units formed by grouping traplines, identifying and protecting sites of interest for the Crees, allotting a greater percentage to mosaic cutting, introducing maximum forest operations thresholds and rates per trapline – including additional terms and conditions for protecting forests adjacent to watercourses – protecting and developing wildlife habitats, developing the road access network and siting residual forest blocks in conjunction with the tallymen.

While the Paix des Braves harmonized future forestry development with Cree traditional activities, it did nothing to help Cree trappers cope with the impacts of forestry once they had occurred. Also, while the forest industry had access to various programs to regenerate the forest for industrial purposes, no such programs existed to help Cree trappers improve the productivity of their traditional activities. The Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement Program was created to deal with this situation.

In 2018-19, as in previous years, the enhancement program provided project directed financial assistance for individual tallymen or trappers whose traplines have been affected by industrial forestry in the past five years. To qualify for financial support, projects must be directed at improving or enhancing trappers' traditional activities. Typical projects include Cree camp improvements and upgrades, trail and brush cutting, construction of boat docks or landings, or goose pond enhancement.

The Forestry Programs Prioritization Committee (FPPC) was created to supervise and administrate the Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement Program. This committee oversees the development of program policies to ensure that financial assistance goes to those most in need and that the projects undertaken by Cree land users conform with the program's policies.

Specifically, the FPPC certifies that priority is given to traplines being (or having been) subject to forestry activities in the last five years. Next in line are traplines that were subjected to forestry activities more than five years ago. It also ensures that priority is given to favour the productivity of the traplines for traditional Cree activities to be carried out therein, and, thereafter, that means be given to reinforce Cree hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

Communities affected by forestry operations in Eeyou Istchee are Mistissini, Nemaska, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waskaganish, and Waswanipi. A total of 115 traplines are eligible for funding under the enhancement program.

Projects eligible for assistance under the Cree Traditional Activities Enhancement Program include: stream enhancement work, spawning ground enhancement and related preparation work; trail network development and improvement, portages and snowmobile trails; silviculture work or other wildlife habitat enhancement projects (such as moose yards); beaver and muskrat relocation; construction of boat landings reasonable in the circumstances; in certain cases, maintenance, upgrading, repair, or snow removal of sections of forest roads not used by the industry in cases where such activities facilitate access to a camp and where it is reasonable.

Cree-Quebec Forestry Board

In 2017-18, the board deemed it essential to clearly understand the effect that management efforts have had on wildlife habitat quality, particularly in areas identified as sites of wildlife interest for the Crees. Consequently, it mandated a committee of experts and party representatives to develop a project to assess wildlife habitat quality and change since the Paix des Braves was signed in 2002.

The first phase of the project was implemented from June, 2018 to January, 2019. It was carried out in close collaboration with the party representatives who are working to develop wildlife habitat management directives and a mixed stands management strategy.

Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

Since its inception in 1974, the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre (VDNFC) has reduced social inequalities, broken down barriers of indifference and fought racism and discrimination. In 2018-19, its efforts were supported by \$50,000 in EELP funds.

Anwatan: access to justice

In 2018-19, the VDNFC developed several parameters for the Anwatan ('calm waters' in anicinabemowin) strategy. In addition to providing community justice services, the wide-ranging Anwatan strategy – by promoting the participation of Indigenous community members through culturally and socially safe services – increases access to justice in an urban setting. These services include legal information, support, referral and assistance. Through the Anwatan Strategy, the VDNFC ensures Indigenous community members can acquire the knowledge and abilities they need to fully understand the justice system and possible legal remedies. These services fall within the VDNFC's mission to contribute to the well-being, justice and social inclusion of the urban Indigenous people in Val-d'Or.

Anwatan – PAJIC Protocol

The Anwatan-PAJIC Protocol (Programmed accompagnement à la justice et d'intervention Communautaire), a legal assistance and community intervention program operated by the VDNFC in partnership with the City of Val-d'Or, was formally initiated in 2018-19. The program supports and assists judicialized or over-judicialized persons who may be vulnerable because of unpaid or pending municipal tickets. The Anwatan-PAJIC Protocol is made up of three stages: first, the person is referred to a caseworker at the VDNFC who then submits a request to the municipal fine collector to obtain the person's file. Second, the caseworker verifies the person's eligibility based on his vulnerability level and the nature of the offence(s) committed. Third, the person and the caseworker consider possible options and referrals. This approach provides four areas of response: assistance in court, which ultimately leads to the forgiveness of the debt, customized payment agreements, community service, including cultural or wellness activities, and the temporary suspension of the case for special circumstances such as major health issues.

Anwatan – Phase II

Another major accomplishment for the VDNFC in the past

year was the development and deployment of the second phase of the Anwatan strategy. The objective of phase II is to develop and implement an Indigenous community justice model in an urban setting. Among other things, the VDNFC's Indigenous community justice model will enable the creation of favourable conditions for reconciling Indigenous people with the justice system. The strategy also offers a renewed and enriched range of legal services and will contribute to influencing public policies and the planning and development of justice programs for Indigenous people.

Promising meeting

On Aug. 8, 2019, VDNFC officials met with representatives of the Cree Nation Government's Department of Justice and Correctional Services to discuss and explore different aspects of Anwatan, support services for the homeless offered at Willie's Place, discrimination, repression and profiling issues in Val-d'Or were also addressed at this meeting. Correctional Services employees emphasized the need for more halfway houses for Cree Nation and other First Nations members. Such institutions would focus on cultural transmission and healing by accommodating Indigenous persons with various life experiences. Among those who would benefit from these transition homes are persons recently released from detention. When released, these individuals often find themselves without supervision or a safe place to go. Also, people waiting for admission to therapy who are experiencing residential insecurity could transit through these houses. Halfway houses can also accommodate young people who have been in the care of youth protection services and homeless persons wishing to get off the street but who are not quite ready for independent living.

Housing

Since 2011, the Cree Nation Government has worked closely with the Cree communities to develop a housing strategy that best addresses the urgent needs of community members for affordable and adequate housing. The result of that collaboration is the Cree Nation Housing Strategy, a comprehensive approach designed to address all sectors of Cree community housing. A key priority of the Cree Nation Housing Strategy is private home-ownership by the Crees. At the same time, the Strategy also addresses social welfare requirements and the special needs of Cree Elders, trappers, those with disabilities, and youth.

The Cree Nation Government believes the Strategy will improve access to housing in Cree communities by:

- facilitating private home ownership for those Crees who wish to take advantage of this option
- unlocking value and creating wealth for Cree homeowners;
- assuming and enhancing federal community housing programs;
- freeing social housing units for lower-income Crees, Elders and youth
- expanding business opportunities for Cree entrepreneurs (e.g., construction sector and housing rental market)

In 2018-19, the Cree Nation Government and the Government of Canada established a special Cree-Canada Housing Table.



Its goal is to develop a Cree-Canada partnership to implement the Cree Nation Housing Strategy, including areas for potential federal investment.

At the same time, Cree representatives will hold separate discussions with Quebec representatives to address Quebec's partnership in the Cree Nation Housing Strategy. Those discussions will examine the possibility of developing a Cree-Quebec Housing Agreement. Cree representatives intend to work with representatives of both Quebec and Canada to ensure a proper link under the JBNQA treaty, as well as the possibility that government programs may need to be modified to meet the socio-economic requirements of the Cree communities pursuant to Section 28 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

Meanwhile, the Cree Nation Government's Cree Regional Housing Action Plan, developed with the participation of local and regional officials and with the input of community members, continued to pursue its four main objectives:

- apply rent-geared-to-income
- develop a social housing program for the low-income sector
- launch a public information campaign about the housing issue and the benefits of homeownership
- use the housing demand to strengthen the Cree economy

In 2018-19, the Cree Nation Government allocated \$85,000 to support its housing initiatives.

Implementation of mining IBAs

One of the fundamental pillars of the Cree Nation Mining Policy is that all mining activities on Cree Nation Lands be compatible with sustainable development. To that end, appropriate governance tools are employed during all phases of mining activities, including social and economic agreements, environmental assessments and remediation processes. Every mining initiative in the Cree Territory must conform to national and international mining industry standards and best practices.

The Cree Nation recognizes that, if unchecked, mining activities can negatively impact the environment and traditional pursuits such as hunting and trapping. However, when conducted properly, mineral exploration and extraction activities can result in social and economic opportunities.

At the heart of the Cree Government's efforts to improve the economic, social, environmental, cultural and sustainable development of the Cree people and their institutions – particularly within the context of mining activities – is its commitment to mining Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs). Essentially, an IBA is a contract between a community and a company that gives the mining company consent or support for a project to proceed. In fact, the Paix des Braves specifically states that the Government of Quebec will facilitate and encourage such agreements between the Cree and proponents of mining projects. These agreements, although not mandatory in Quebec, are supported by the province as well as the Cree Nation Government.



In 2018-19, EELP funds totalling \$184,700 were allocated to offset the costs associated with implementing mining IBAs within Eeyou Istchee.

IBAs generally cover a wide range of issues such as remedial works, employment and contracts. That's why the Cree Nation Government believes they are the most effective and appropriate instruments to ensure that the social, cultural, economic (employment, business contracts and profit or revenue sharing), and environmental issues are agreed to and properly provided by proponents of mining developments.

IBAs respect protected areas, the hiring and training of local manpower, and the sharing of infrastructures. They ensure that mining projects contribute current benefits and facilitate the development of longer-term alternative employment and business opportunities in non-mining (but related) sectors, and to the productive, traditional and alternative use of the land beyond the life of a mine.

Today, contractual agreements between mining companies and Aboriginal communities such as the Cree Nation play a critical role in shaping the terms on which minerals will be extracted from Aboriginal lands. The capacity to negotiate and implement such agreements is critical to ensuring that resource extraction generates substantial benefits for Aboriginal communities, and that the negative impacts that can be associated with large-scale resource development are avoided or minimized.

Nishiiyuu Council of Elders

While the primary goal of the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders (NCOE) is to preserve Cree culture and traditional practices, it also supports and advises other Cree entities and organizations in dealing with social and issues in the communities. In addition, it plays a significant role in protecting, maintaining, strengthening and enhancing the Cree language. It does this by promoting its use and application in all Cree Activities. As the keeper of Cree knowledge, customs, traditions, philosophies, healing methods and medicines, the NCOE works closely with Cree communities and organizations, especially the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB).

The NCOE received \$400,266 in EELP funds to support its activities in 2018-19.

Winter Journey

Walking has long been an integral part of life in Eeyou Istchee. It is a tool to bring about change, a window into Cree culture and tradition, and a connection to a way of life that has endured for centuries. Every year, Cree youth, supported and sometimes accompanied by members of the NCOE, undertake a Winter Journey to forge their own links to their heritage. Together, they use traditional ways to survive in the outdoors during the winter months. In 2018-19, one such event was held on the trapline of Robbie Matthew, spokesperson for NCOE, who has been donating his camp as the base for such events for 20 years or more.

Cultural celebration

One of the most important events on the NCOE calendar every year is the cultural celebration. The eighth annual gathering – a collaboration between the Nishiiyuu Council, the Cree Nation Youth Council, the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee

Association and the Anishchaaukamikw Cultural Institute – was held on Aug. 20-23 in Waswanipi. Each participating organization hosted workshops and activities on separate days.

Speaking at the gathering, Janie Pachano, one of the NCOE's three founding members, linked the NCOE's mission to today's troubling suicide rates. "Many studies have found that suicide rates are higher in native communities where youth don't know anything about their past," she told the gathering. "When there's a strong connection between Elders and the youth – even though they might not live like they used to – they still carry the values and speak their language. It's very important to continue transferring our knowledge about our culture, about our history." Others spoke about the importance of sharing the knowledge that has flowed through countless generations in Eeyou Istchee.

A number of programs and activities were held at the Waswanipi sports complex while workshops were scheduled in the cultural village. Activities included sewing, storytelling, snowshoe ceremonies, a waspisuuyan (moss bag) workshop and making wraps for babies. At the cultural village, there were workshops on beading and cleaning and smoking moose hide.

Board of Directors

In the fall of 2018, a joint planning session was held between the NCOE Board of Directors and the Cree Health Board's Nishiiyuu Miyuupimaatisiun Department to set the direction for the delivery and inclusion of traditional healing methods for the next five years. The NCOE has worked closely with the Health Board since 2007 on identifying which services involving traditional methods should be included in the delivery of services to the Cree people. One of the top priorities of NCOE has been to bring birthing back to Eeyou Istchee instead of sending women to Val-d'Or or Chibougamau to give birth. Three birthing centres were approved by the government for Chisasibi, Mistissini and Waskaganish. Even though the birthing centres have not yet been built, Chisasibi saw the first Cree baby being born in the territory in 2018, the first since the 1980s. It was an exciting day, not just for the family concerned, but for the Elders as well.

Knowledge transfer

An increase in the number of requests for presentations on various topics, from Cree Identity to Cree Culture and Language, were received in 2018-19 from different groups within the Cree organizations such as the School Board, the Health Board, Women's Association, and others. As part of the NCOE's decision to start passing on the traditional knowledge through visual means, many presentations have been created dealing with specific topics and these have been very popular with all age groups, including non-Cree professionals.

Cree Language

The work on illustrating books with photographs continues. For example, a book on trees indigenous to Eeyou Istchee is being developed. The book will show the tree as it looks in each season, as well as each part of the tree. The tree will be identified by its Cree, English, French and Latin names. The traditional objects or dwellings made from that tree will also be shown, and each part of the dwelling or object will be identified by its Cree name.

Regional support and implementation

Since the promulgation of the Cree Naskapi Act, the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) grant has provided the base funding required by the Cree Nation Government for regional support, coordination and negotiations operations. However, in 2018-19, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act came into force. This act ratified and renewed the O&M and Capital A-Base Agreements for 12 years to be followed by a second term, also of 12 years. Although the O&M grant now falls under the jurisdiction of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act, the terms and conditions are similar to the previous arrangements.

Funding from the Paix des Braves, through the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership (EELP) and the Cree Nation Trust (CNT) has been earmarked for the implementation of additional obligations assumed by the Cree Nation Government under the New Relationship Agreement.

In 2018-19, EELP funds allocated to cover operations totalled \$2,046,327. The funds covered the cost of continuing negotiations, committees, monitoring requirements and related activities.

Training Facilities and Manpower Offices

Every year, the Cree Nation Government allocates EELP funds – as well as Cree Nation Trust funds – to plan, construct and support training facilities and manpower offices in Eeyou Istchee. In 2018-19, a total of \$692,019 in EELP funds was dedicated to maintaining and planning training facilities and manpower offices.

Training centre support

Construction of the much-anticipated adult education centre in Waskaganish was completed in 2018-19. The grand opening of the building – known as the Waskaganish Training and Development Centre – took place on June 19, 2018. The centre, the third training facility to be built in Eeyou Istchee, provides targeted adult training needs for Waskaganish residents and the entire Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Training programs provided at the centre are driven by industry, market trends and the needs of the community.

The concept for the Waskaganish centre is similar to Wemindji's Mayaupiu Training Institute. Opened in 2016, the Wemindji Training Centre emphasizes programs that provide training for employment within the mining sector. In fact, it is the result of a partnership between the Cree School Board and the gold production company, Goldcorp Inc. The partnership was the first to provide targeted adult training needs for members of the Wemindji Cree Nation and James Bay Cree Nation. EELP funds were provided to pay for operations and maintenance costs at both the Waskaganish and Wemindji centres. Also receiving EELP financial support in 2018-19 was the Sabtuan Vocational Training Centre in Waswanipi. In addition, funds were provided to prepare plans and specifications for the eventual construction of small training centre in Whapmagoostui.

CHRD improvements

The CHRD office in Chisasibi has long been one of the most active centres in Eeyou Istchee. In 2012-13, office staff worked on more than 30 projects and met the needs of more than 1,000 clients. In addition to its heavy workload, the CHRD's efforts were complicated by the fact that it had to share office space with Service Canada and Emploi Quebec. To meet the growing need for CHRD services, a new office was constructed in 2012. In the past year, four staff offices were added to fulfil CHRD's need for more administrative work space. In the Mistissini CHRD office, two new offices and two large conference rooms were added in the past year.





CREE NATION OF CHISASIBI



The most populated Cree community in Eeyou Istchee, Chisasibi is home to the administrative centre for the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay. It is also an entrepreneurial hub for a wide range of industries. In 2018-19, the community used funds received through the EELP to create employment opportunities, increase the community’s understanding of its history and support recreational opportunities.

History

Originally called Fort George, Chisasibi (Cree for *Great River*) and its 2,000 residents were forced to relocate from their traditional home on Fort George Island in 1980. Construction of the James Bay hydroelectric project changed the flow of the La Grande River, raising serious concerns about erosion in the area.

Location

Chisasibi sits on the eastern shore of James Bay and the south shore of the La Grande River.

Population

Approximately 4,900

Chief

Davey Bobbish

Housing assistance

While the Cree Nation as a whole seeks a long-term solution to the housing crisis in Eeyou Istchee, communities like Chisasibi continue to focus on meeting the immediate needs of its residents. In 2018-19, washroom renovations were carried out at a multi-housing unit while general renovations were conducted at four other locations. The community allocated EELP funds totalling more than \$700,000 to cover the cost of the renovations.

Local officials also focused on meeting the increasing demand for new housing in Chisasibi, the largest community in Eeyou Istchee. A total of \$6,402 in EELP funds was dedicated to a soil study for possible expansion in the future. Also, work was conducted on a number of lots to prepare them for the eventual construction of short-term residential units. A lot densification study was carried out on two sites in the community.

Meanwhile, \$32,559 in EELP was allocated to advance Chisasibi's 20-year vision plan for the future development of residential, commercial and institutional lots. The funds enabled local officials to identify and consider infrastructure needs for development over the next two decades. Another \$26,529 in EELP funds was used to defray the cost of public consultations designed to help officials create a strategic plan for future expansion. The EELP funds helped cover the cost of updating plans for the community, including final spatial organization concept, master plan, typical residential plan, architectural design criteria's report, and landscaping design criteria.

Fitness centre

The Chisasibi fitness centre is a modern training facility catering to community members and visitors on a year-round basis. Every year, the fitness centre coordinator organizes a wide range of activities to promote physical and mental health. These include dryland training, kettle bell, mixed martial arts, cardiovascular exercises, and circuit training. Certified trainers are on hand to ensure participants benefit fully from the activities.

Two years ago, the community allocated \$664,596 in EELP funds to pay the salaries of the coordinator and trainers and to offset the cost of new equipment. As a result, Chisasibi's fitness centre now has 16 pieces of cardio equipment, four rowing machines, two free weight training areas, a dozen selectorized machines (an alternative to free weights), and two Olympic lifting platforms.

The fitness centre not only provides a number of healthy options for Chisasibi residents and visitors, it also provides much-needed employment. In the summer months alone, the centre employs up to 12 staff members full-time as well as providing summer jobs for youth in the community. In 2018-19, \$560,664 in EELP funds covered the operational costs at the fitness centre.

Lagoon expansion

To meet the needs of its growing population, Chisasibi is expanding the lagoon at its waste water treatment plant and upgrading its drinking water treatment plant. An ongoing project, \$2,147,014 in EELP funds was allocated to the construction and expansion of the waste water treatment plant. Another \$152,500 in EELP funds was allocated to upgrading the drinking water treatment plant. While the preliminary report describing the scope of the project was completed in 2018-19, community officials expect most of the actual work to be carried out over the next two years.

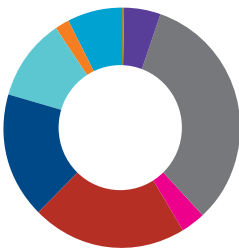
Business support

As well as promoting economic development, the Chisasibi Business Service Centre provides assistance to new and existing entrepreneurs and businesses. It does so through group and individual meetings and training, coaching in business plan development, budgeting, and helping businesses and entrepreneurs to obtain loans. In 2018-19, \$518,740 in EELP funds supported service centre operations.

CREE NATION OF CHISASIBI

Allocation of Funding: \$9,608,786

Fire Protection
\$38,956
Local Government
Operations \$480,649
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$3,159,111
Community
Facilities and
Equipment \$299,156
Assistance to
Trappers \$2,041,000



Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$1,637,522
Housing \$1,045,121
Community Centre
Animation \$210,401
Economic and
Human Resources
Development
\$696,870

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Housing Expenditures: \$6,412,241

Housing \$323,535
Whapmagoostui
First Nation \$748,605
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$823,842
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$406,225
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$623,135



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$1,045,121
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$227,539
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$1,329,125
Nemaska First
Nation \$397,585
Oujé-Bougourmou
Cree Nation \$489,529



Eastmain boasts an exceptionally diversified economy, despite being one of the smaller communities in Eeyou Istchee. As well as the Cree Trappers’ Association (CTA), Eastmain is home to a construction company, radio station and a gas station and garage. As it does every year, the community used EELP funds in 2018-19 to support CTA activities, meet urgent housing needs, and offer residents a selection of recreation and cultural activities.

History

Originally located on the north shore of the Eastmain River, Eastmain was at the centre of the region’s fur trade more than 400 years ago. The Hudson’s Bay Company called the entire eastern shore of James and Hudson Bay’s *East Main*. The fur trade thrived in the early 18th century. As a result, more Crees settled in the area, leading to the establishment of Eastmain.

Location

Located on the southern shore of the Eastmain River, Eastmain is one of four Cree communities on the eastern shore of James Bay.

Population

Approximately 900

Chief

Kenneth Cheezo

Energy housing program

To address the community's housing shortage, high construction costs and often questionable quality, Eastmain is developing an affordable New Zero Energy Housing Program offering culturally appropriate designs using smart technologies, innovative building techniques and alternative energy systems. The program also offers culturally appropriate designs. In 2017-18, they entered the Government of Canada's Smart Cities Challenge, basing its submission on Net Zero Energy Housing. Out of 130 eligible applications, Eastmain was one of 20 communities shortlisted as finalists. Eastmain received a \$250,000 grant to further develop its concept into an implementable project. Of those 20, Eastmain was the runner-up for the \$5 million top prize. Officials expect the successful implementation of the program to reduce the community's housing backlog by more than 60 per cent.

Community incentives

Through its Education Incentive Awards Program, the Cree Nation of Eastmain encourages and supports the education and training of both community members and Band employees. In 2018-19, \$73,143 in EELP funds was awarded to members of the community in recognition of their academic achievements. Receiving awards were those who earned high school diplomas, vocational training certificates and college/university diplomas or degrees, all from recognized academic institutes. Eastmain also contributed \$118,338 to a wide range of activities and projects, including youth work experience programs, summer student programs and ongoing courses from UQAT, the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue. UQAT, a public university within the Université du Québec network, provides courses in public administration within the community of Eastmain.

Community projects

With the assistance of a Canada 150 program grant, and the financial support of EELP funds, Eastmain has been building and restoring recreational trails in and around the community. As in previous years, the Canada 150 program funding accounted for 75 per cent of the project's cost while EELP funds covered the remaining 25 per cent. The Wabannutao Eeyou Development Corporation (WEDC) through its subsidiary Stajune Construction carried out the construction and management of the recreational trails project. WEDC also supports local entrepreneurs, offering loans and grants to encourage small business owners and operators.

Like all Eeyou Istchee communities, Eastmain allocated EELP funds to address the housing needs of its residents in 2018-19. The community's Capital Works Department focused on the construction of Band-owned multi housing units and renovations to existing housing. Also completed in the past year was the stabilization sloping and erosion control project in Phase 1 and the infrastructure Phase 3A in Opinaca. Older sections of the community received new infrastructure and streetlights. Work on all community projects was carried out by local companies and workers to provide employment, and to increase efficiency and project control.

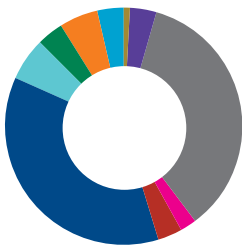
Social and cultural activities

While Eastmain supports all programs that emphasize culture and recreation, it insists that such activities – particularly in the area of sports – are closely tied to academic achievement. As a result, activities carried out through the community's sports and cultural programs are not only designed to maintain and enhance Cree traditions and heritage, they also educate participants about their culture. In the past year, activities carried out in the community included the ninth annual Traditional Gathering (Pow Wow), Winter Festival, Moose Festival, and Snow Shoe Festival. In total, \$750,709 in EELP funds was allocated to support cultural programs in 2018-19.

CREE NATION OF EASTMAIN

Allocation of Funding: \$3,897,144

Fire Protection
\$38,956
Local Government
Operations \$139,319
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$1,371,593
Community
Facilities and
Equipment \$88,035
Assistance to
Trappers \$133,094

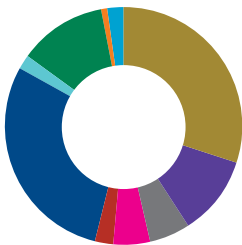


Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$1,412,175
Housing \$227,539
Community Centre
Facilities \$144,282
Community Centre
Animation \$210,400
Economic and
Human Resources
Development \$131,751

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Assistance to Trappers Expenditures: \$6,969,859

Cree Trappers
Association \$2,093,726
Whapmagoostui
First Nation \$764,400
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$385,000
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$350,727
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$164,334



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$2,041,000
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$133,094
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$830,746
Nemaska First
Nation \$61,461
Oujé-Bougourmou
Cree Nation \$145,371



The Cree Nation of Mistissini is home to the administrative centres for the Cree School Board, the James Bay Cree Communications Society, and Cree Human Resources Development. It is also home to a wide variety of businesses and world-class outfitting and adventure operations. EELP funds received by Mistissini in 2018-19 supported housing and employment initiatives as well as a number of archiving and genealogy projects.

History

Cree for *Big Rock*, Mistissini was formerly known as *Mistassini* or *Baie du Poste*. The French first established a trading post in the area in 1673. In the 1800s, the community became a summer encampment for the Hudson’s Bay Company. Today, hunting, gathering, fishing, and trapping remain a major part of Mistissini’s heritage.

Location

Mistissini sits on Lake Mistassini, Quebec’s largest natural freshwater lake.

Population

Approximately 3,600

Chief

Thomas Neeposh

Waste management

The creation of an eco-centre was an integral part of the waste management plan adopted by the Cree Nation of Mistissini in 2012. A temporary eco-centre was built in 2014 after the community closed its existing dump. The permanent eco-centre was built in 2016 and officially opened in 2017. Today, the community's waste management operations are directly linked to the eco-centre and the landfill sites. Services now offered include improved collection and a community-wide recycling program. In 2018-19, a total of \$150,000 in EELP funds were allocated to Mistissini's waste management operations.

The funds help cover the cost of collecting and transporting waste from institutions, commercial buildings and residences. This service ensures the extended lifespan of the landfill and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Healing through culture

The Chisheinu Chiskutamaachewin project is designed to help participants heal and regain their way of life through the transfer of cultural knowledge and skills, particularly from Elders. Sessions cover a broad range of topics and activities, including sewing, traditional cooking, traditional medicine, snowshoe weaving and harvesting and fishing. In 2018-19, the Cree Nation of Mistissini allocated \$150,000 in EELP funds (another \$296,426 came from the Niskamoon Corporation) to support the Chisheinu Chiskutamaachewin project in Mistissini. Two sessions were held in the past year: the summer session ran from July 9, 2018 to Aug. 31, 2018 while the autumn session ran from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, 2018. A winter session was scheduled from Jan. 28 to March 22, 2019.

Wood cutting project

An annual project, the wood cutting project is open to community members willing cut firewood and sell it to the community. In 2018-19, three people were hired to cut and coordinate the delivery of the fire wood to community residents. EELP funds totaling \$30,000 covered the cost of the four-week project. The wood cutting project benefits all participants. Those cutting the wood are often unemployed so can use the revenue while those receiving the fire wood are most often Elders, widows and widowers and people with disabilities.

Housing initiatives

Given the community's ageing housing stock, Mistissini annually allocates EELP funds to support a number of preventive maintenance programs. These programs address minor and serious and problems; all are designed to extend the lifespan of affected housing units. A program introduced in 2018-19 extended assistance to tenants who needed their kitchen cabinet replaced or repaired due to wear and tear. Eight units received assistance in the past year. In another program, eight tenants received financial assistance to carry out repairs on cracked foundations and to correct or replace drainage pipes around the base of the foundation.

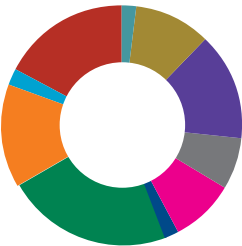
Cultural events

Mistissini stages a number of cultural events every year, many designed to follow, preserve and pass along traditional knowledge. In many cases, EELP funds are allocated to support these events. One of the most popular is Mistissini Day where all members and employees are invited to attend a day of fun and traditional activities. Also popular is the traditional gathering at Kaamiitstamiinskatch. Participants pitch their tents near one another as residents of old Mistissini did from the 1940s to the early 1960s. This encourages everyone to spend more time with their friends and neighbours. Maamuuteu-siitaau is especially important for Elders as it allows them to share their experiences and memories with younger generations.

CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI

Allocation of Funding: \$9,596,177

Fire Protection
\$193,948
Local Government
Operations \$997,758
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$1,389,070
Community
Facilities and
Equipment \$652,662
Assistance to
Trappers \$830,746



Environment-related
Expenditures \$200,653
Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$2,143,169
Housing \$1,329,125
Community Centre
Animation \$210,401
Economic and
Human Resources
Development
\$1,648,645

EEOYOU ISTCHEE

Community Centre Animation Expenditures: \$1,545,078

Community Centre
Animation \$46,531
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$210,401
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$131,300
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$112,159



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$210,401
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$210,400
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$210,401
Nemaska First
Nation \$210,401
Oujé-Bougourmou
Cree Nation \$203,084



Recently recognized as the 11th member of the Cree, MoCreebec is the only Cree Nation community located in Ontario. MoCreebec is committed to building a prosperous, healthy and sustainable community by establishing an economic environment that builds on the strength of its people. In 2018-19, the Cree Nation Government allocated EELP funds to support those efforts.

History

Although the history of the Cree people who call themselves members of MoCreebec does not begin in 1980 (when the association was first established), MoCreebec members have lived in the Moose Factory-Moosonee area for generations. Many MoCreebec residents are descendants of Eeyou Istchee Crees whose hunting territories were located within the present boundaries of Ontario.

Location

Situated in Moose Factory, MoCreebec is the only Eeyou Istchee community located in Ontario.

Population

Approximately 1,000

Chief

Allan Jolly

On Nov. 22, 2017, the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government passed a resolution recognizing MoCreebec Eeyoud as the 11th community of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. As part of that resolution, the Cree Nation Government agreed to continue supporting the development and self-determination of MoCreebec Eeyoud. In 2018-19, the Cree Nation Government worked with the Chief, council and the people of MoCreebec to find long-term solutions for their community.

For its part, MoCreebec successfully secured the support of each of the existing Cree communities. Building on that success, the MoCreebec leadership, together with the Cree Nation Government, sought the establishment of a table for discussing the full range of issues associated with the objectives of the MoCreebec people. In addition to the formal recognition of MoCreebec as the 11th Cree community, those objectives include a permanent site for a village and the negotiation of a wide range of services and programs – equivalent to those received by the other communities of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee – to be available to the MoCreebec Eeyoud in Ontario.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Bill Namagoose, the Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Nation Government, the Government of Canada expressed

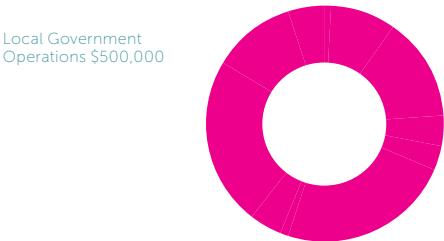
its willingness to open discussions on the range of issues that need to be resolved. Those discussions – to include Ontario as well as the Government of Canada – are expected to commence in 2019-20.

In 2018-19, \$500,000 in EELP funds were allocated to support these initiatives.

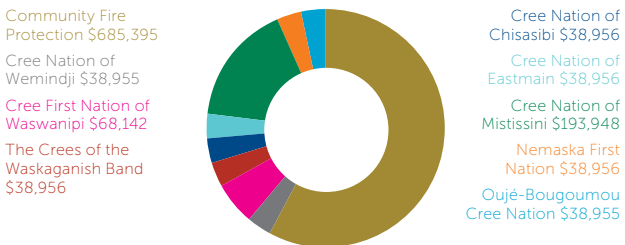
MoCreebec is an association of several hundred Quebec Cree from various – but mostly coastal – communities. Since the 1930s, MoCreebec members have largely settled in the Moose Factory and Moosonee area in Ontario. However, like other communities in Eeyou Istchee, MoCreebec members have always possessed the rights and benefits contained in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). But before the community can access services such as water, sewage and infrastructure, it must be recognized as a Cree community by Canada, Quebec and Ontario.

The recognition of MoCreebec as community within Eeyou Istchee reaffirmed the Cree Nation’s belief that Eeyou Istchee transcends the territorial boundaries of the Province of Quebec. Instead, it comprises the ancestral and traditional lands which have sustained the Crees and which the Crees have occupied since time immemorial. That includes those lands located in what is now the province of Ontario.

CREE NATION OF MOCREEBEC
Allocation of Funding: \$500,000



EYYOU ISTCHEE
Fire Protection Expenditures: \$1,181,219





Although it is one of the smallest communities in Eeyou Istchee, Nemaska is an exceptionally important administrative centre for the Cree Nation. The Cree Nation Government and the Grand Council of the Crees both maintain offices in the community. In 2018-19, EELP funds supported the community’s annual spring airlift, the local radio station and the community-wide summer employment program.

History

In 1968, the Nemaskau Eenouch learned that a large hydro-electric project would wipe out their traditional home on the shores of Nemaska Lake. Two years later, the Hudson’s Bay trading post closed its doors. As a result, many of the Nemaskau Eenouch settled in Mistissini and Waskaganish. In 1980, the village of Nemaska (Cree for *Where the Fish are Abundant*), was completed.

Location

Nestled on Champion Lake, Nemaska is often referred to as “the Heart of the Cree Nation” due to its location at the centre of the Cree territory.

Population

Approximately 800

Chief

Clarence Jolly

Old Nemaska Days

Although the community of Nemaska itself is relatively new – the current village was built in 1980 – the Nemaska people have a long and colourful history. They celebrate that history every summer during Old Nemaska Days. The annual event started nearly 30 years ago as a one-day school trip to the site of what was once a popular trading post. It was also home to the Cree traders whose summer home was Nemaska Lake. Old Nemaska Days has since become one of the most popular events in the community.

In 2018-19, as in previous years, the celebration attracted a large number of residents and visitors. Those attending participated in a variety of games and feasted on traditional foods. With the departure of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1970 the town dissolved, eventually relocating in 1980 outside of the flooded areas resulting from the James Bay Hydro project. In 1990, a road was built to the lake, allowing residents to return to their traditional home to remember their past. Old Nemaska Days is supported every year by EELP funds.

Shabtuann upgrades

While a traditional gathering place for Elders, both Nemaska residents and visitors are invited to enjoy the community's shabtuaan. The facility is also used to host a variety of traditional activities. In the past year, EELP funds were used to carry out necessary upgrades to the shabtuann in Nemaska.

Recreational activities

Like other communities in Eeyou Istchee, Nemaska invested EELP funds to support various recreational activities and programs in the past year. Among them were several anti-bullying workshops. Experts in the field visited schools in addition to holding workshops in the gymnasium at the sport complex. EELP funds also supported various sporting events during the past year. Those included a broomball tournament, basketball tournaments and several hockey tournaments. A number of former National Hockey League players attended one of the hockey tournaments.

Youth activities

The Cree Nation of Nemaska Youth Council encourages its members to participate in local, regional, national and international activities that will improve their well-being and quality of life. At the same time, the council promotes and strengthens the collective interests and efforts of its members within the Cree Nation. In 2018-19, the youth council staged a number of activities. Included were the annual canoe brigade, youth recognition awards, and lending support to the organization of the Old Nemaska Gathering, a popular and annual event in the community. In October, youth from the community aged 13-17 were treated to a week-long visit to Toronto and Niagara Falls.

Radio station

Programming delivered by the Nemaska radio station addresses the specific needs and interests of Nemaska residents. On-air hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. The station is funded by EELP funds.

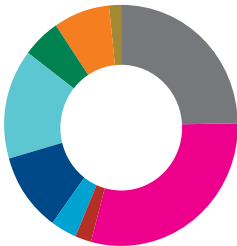
Celebrating trappers

Every year, Nemaska honours those in the community who continue to practise the traditional lifestyle at the Trappers Festival. Trappers and hunters demonstrate their skills and traditional harvesting practices. The festival also features a number of activities and events focusing on sports and recreation. The construction of hydroelectric facilities on the Rupert River in 2006 made it extraordinarily difficult for those engaged in fishing or trapping because they could no longer travel to and from their homes or trapping sites. Today, many are transported to their trapping sites by air.

NEMASKA FIRST NATION

Allocation of Funding: \$2,695,553

Local Government
Operations \$673,054
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$792,462
Assistance to
Trappers \$61,461
Economic and
Human Resources
Development \$94,283

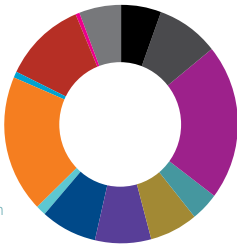


Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$285,725
Housing \$397,585
Community Centre
Facilities \$141,626
Community Centre
Animation \$210,401
Fire Protection
\$38,956

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Economic and Human Resources Development
Expenditures: \$8,909,778

Cree Mineral Exploration
Board \$500,000
Assistance to Cree
Entrepreneurs \$770,338
Eeyou-Eenou Police
Operations \$5,673
Training Facilities and
Manpower Offices
\$1,867,553
Cree Outfitting and Tourism
Association \$358,925
Whapmagoostui
First Nation \$599,000
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$675,874



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$696,870
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$131,751
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$1,648,645
Nemaska First
Nation \$94,283
Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation \$995,174
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$66,500
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$499,192



Because Oujé-Bougoumou is home to Aanischaaukamikw (the Cree Cultural Institute), tourism plays an important role in the community’s economy. In fact, the number of visitors to the community has increased every year since Aanischaaukamikw opened in 2011. Ouje-Bougoumou dedicated a portion of the EELP funds it received in 2018-19 to finance ongoing efforts to restore and rehabilitate an abandoned mine site near the community.

History

Construction of Oujé-Bougoumou was finally completed in 1994 after residents were repeatedly forced to abandon their homes to accommodate the region’s mining industry. Oujé-Bougoumou is home to Aanischaaukamikw (the Cree Cultural Institute). As a result, tourism plays an important role in the community’s economy. Oujé-Bougoumou is Cree for *Where People Gather*.

Location

Located on Opemiska Lake

Population

Approximately 1,000

Chief

Curtis Bosum

Mine rehabilitation

From 1953 until 1979, Mine Principale operated a copper mine near the Cree community of Ouje-Bougoumou. In 1979, it became one of the largest gold and copper processing sites in the region. When it was finally abandoned in 2004, Mine Principale left a devastating legacy. Tailing ponds left over from the mine's operations years contained some 19 metric tonnes of tailings made up of arsenic, copper, nickel and zinc. In response, the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles du Québec introduced plans to restore the abandoned Principale mine site to an environmentally acceptable condition. The ultimate goal is to make the site suitable for recreational tourism or hunting and fishing.

More than two decades ago, a joint Quebec-Ouje-Bougoumou Steering Committee was established to ensure the proper restoration and rehabilitation of abandoned mining sites like Mine Principale. Shortly after the committee was created, Ouje-Bougoumou stipulated that the committee identify and assess areas where the contamination was most concentrated. The committee would then proceed to remediate and restore those areas. The Mine Principale site was identified as one of those sites. In the past year, \$8,769 in EELP funds were allocated to ensure its continuing participation on the steering committee.

Park manager

Located approximately 20 km north of Ouje-Bougoumou, the proposed Assinica (full of rocks, in Cree) National Park Reserve spans more than 3,100 square km in the boreal forest. That will make it the second largest national park reserve in the province. In addition to providing Ouje-Bougoumou residents and visitors access to outdoor recreational activities, Assinica is also expected to boost the local economy, providing new employment opportunities. At the same time, it will almost certainly impact those in the community who continue to practise the traditional lifestyle, especially trappers and hunters.

In recent years, Ouje-Bougoumou has allocated EELP funds to employ an Assinica Park manager to monitor the impact that the new park is likely to have on area hunters and trappers. The manager will also continue to support the preparation and planning process for the proposed park. EELP funds totaling \$80,000 were again allocated to cover the costs of employing a park manager in 2018-19. EELP funds were also used to continue the dialogue with Quebec about plans for the park and to allow Ouje-Bougoumou trappers to gain a better understanding of the effects that the Assinica Park Reserve will have on their trap lines and way of life.

Tourism development

While Aanischaaukamikw – the Cree Cultural Institute – attracts a growing number of visitors to Ouje-Bougoumou every year, the prospect of a new National Park Reserve and traditional tourist attractions have prompted community officials to develop a tourism marketing plan. In the past year, EELP funds were allocated to the development of the plan as well as the daily operations of the tourism department. EELP funds were also used to ensure the area's recreational trails were maintained.

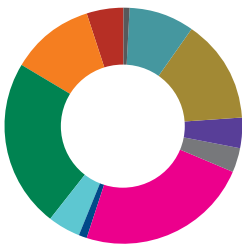
Photographic history

Like a number of communities throughout Eeyou Istchee, Ouje-Bougoumou is committed to preserving its history. In recent years, the community is collecting and compiling photographs to develop a history of the community and its residents. The pictorial history captures the story of Ouje-Bougoumou from its origins, through its various village sites, and finally, to the eventual planning and construction of today's modern community. While the project was largely completed in 2017-18, EELP funds were allocated in 2018-19 to ensure the photographic history was complete.

OUJÉ-BOUGOUMOU CREE NATION

Allocation of Funding: \$4,249,031

Fire Protection \$38,955
Local Government Operations \$383,649
Social and Cultural Activities \$601,113
Community Facilities and Equipment \$172,942
Assistance to Trappers \$145,371
Economic and Human Resources Development \$995,174

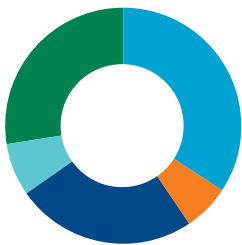


Environment-related Expenditures \$58,567
Forestry-related Expenditures \$185,848
Community Infrastructure – Essential Sanitation \$974,799
Housing \$489,529
Community Centre Animation \$203,084

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Environment-related Expenditures: \$813,504

Environmental Review \$278,207
Whapmagoostui First Nation \$53,154



Cree Nation of Mistissini \$200,653
Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation \$58,567
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi \$222,923



Washaw Sibi – Cree for the river that runs into the bay – was officially recognized as the 10th Cree Nation Community in 2003. The search for a permanent home for members of the Washaw Sibi Nation has gone on for decades, an effort supported by EELP funds allocated to the community by the Cree Nation Government. Today, the majority of the estimated 500 members live in non-Cree communities, including the town of Amos and the nearby Algonquin reserve of Pikogan.

History

Cree for *The River That Runs Into the Bay*, Washaw Sibi is the 10th Cree community in Eeyou Istchee. Until 2014, the Washaw Sibi Eeyou were scattered across several non-Cree Territories and other locations throughout Eeyou Istchee, including the Algonquin Pikogan and Algonquin Lac Simon reserves, the towns of Amos, Val-d'Or, La Sarre, and Matagami.

Location

Although it has no community to call its own, most Washaw Sibi residents are situated 40 minutes south of Matagami and just north of traditional Washaw Sibi trapline territories.

Population

Approximately 500

Chief

Pauline Trapper Hester

As it has in previous years, in 2018-19 the Cree Nation Government continued to support the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi in its efforts to identify a site for their new village. Once a suitable site for their new village is identified, and after discussions with both Québec and Canada on amending the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), Washaw Sibi will officially become the 10th Cree community under the JBNQA.

During the previous fiscal year, a promising site was identified south of Matagami, just off Highway 109. Founded in 1963 as a hub for mining activities in the area, Matagami (it means the confluence of waters in Cree) is located in the geographic centre of Québec. A number of activities were carried out in 2018-19 to see if the site was suitable. Technical studies were conducted and discussions were held with Cree tallymen in the area. In addition, Washaw Sibi officials met with the nearby Algonquin communities of Abitibiwinni and Lac Simon to advise them that the site was being considered.

While the site is historically and genealogically associated with Cree hunters, the Algonquins – particularly those in the Lac Simon area – believe that the site falls within the territory claimed by the Algonquin Nation. As has been the case in the past, competing Cree and Algonquin claims have been a challenge for the Washaw Sibi Crees in identifying a site for their new village. However, this site remains a possibility for the future site of the Washaw Sibi Eeyou.

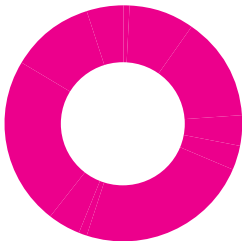
Working together, the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi, the Abitibiwinni First Nation at Pikogan, and the Cree Nation Government have been exploring the possibility of a unique solution to the challenge of identifying a village site. In view of the fact that approximately 95 per cent of the Abitibiwinni population is currently, or is eligible to be, beneficiaries of the JBNQA, serious exploratory discussions were held regarding the possibility of creating a single, unified community under the JBNQA at the site of the Abitibiwinni First Nation at Pikogan. This creative approach would involve the transformation of the Abitibiwinni First Nation from an “Indian Act” band to a band under the JBNQA. A number of council-to-council meetings, as well as community assemblies – both individually and joint community assemblies – have been held to present the concept to the respective members. More discussions on this proposal are expected to take place in the coming year.

Like leaders before her, Washaw Sibi Chief Pauline Trapper-Hester has consistently identified the need to build a new village for the Washaw Sibi people within the James Bay Territory as the major priority. She believes that the establishment and the construction of a new village is a critical step forward for the 500-plus members of the Washaw Sibi to finally have a place to call home, and a place where their Cree culture and language can be preserved and flourish.

In 2018-19, \$750,000 in EELP funds were allocated to support the Cree community of Washaw Sibi.

CREE NATION OF WASHAW SIBI EEYOU
Allocation of Funding: \$500,000

Local Government
Operations \$500,000



EEYOU ISTCHEE
Local Government Operations Expenditures: \$7,504,953

Washaw Sibi Eeyou
\$500,00
Whapmagoostui First
Nation \$526,763
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$272,073
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$1,224,937
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$2,056,751



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$480,649
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$139,319
Cree First Nation of
Mistissini \$997,758
Nemaska First Nation
\$673,054
Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation \$383,649

THE CREES OF THE WASKAGANISH FIRST NATION



Widely considered to be the oldest community in Eeyou Istchee – it was established more than 350 years ago – Waskaganish today is a thriving community. While trapping is still an essential component of the economy, the community’s management corporation drives the local economy. Recognizing that economic development creates employment opportunities and supports overall growth, in 2018-19 Waskaganish allocated EELP funds to the community’s economic development.

History

Located near the site of Canada’s original fur trading post, Waskaganish (*Little House in Cree*) is believed to be the oldest Cree community in Eeyou Istchee. The community was called Fort Charles when it was established some 350 years ago but the name was later changed to Rupert House.

Location

Waskaganish sits at the southeast end of James Bay, on the south shore of the Rupert River and the confluence of the Nottaway, Broadback, Rupert, and Pontax Rivers.

Population:

Approximately 2,500

Chief

Darlene Cheechoo

The Cree Nation of Waskaganish

Founded in 1668 on the shore of James Bay, at the mouth of the Rupert River, the Cree Nation of Waskaganish celebrated its 350th anniversary in 2018. To mark the occasion, the community held celebrations – including concerts and a selection of social and cultural events – throughout the year. Separate celebrations were scheduled for the fall, winter and summer. A total of \$200,000 in EELP funds was allocated to support these events. EELP funds were also used to support various recreational and cultural events, including sports and recreation, cultural programs, the compilation of a Waskaganish history book, and year-end festivities. Also, a sponsorship fund was established so residents could seek financial assistance to promote individual events.

EELP funds were also allocated to support operational and administration costs at the local radio station. Until a few years ago, the money required to support the radio station’s operation was raised through bingo. However, the community chose to take over financing to ensure the station’s sustained viability and to ensure it could provide Cree programming to residents on a year-round basis.

Economic development

In addition to promoting and supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, the Waskaganish Business Corporation also oversee all Waskaganish subsidiaries. The corporation manages the Kanio-Kashee Lodge, Siibii Development Corporation, Smokey Hill Grocery and Natamuh Management Ltd. The corporation also makes grants and loans available to local businesses and entrepreneurs through Natamuh, the community’s business development agency. In 2018-19, \$900,000 was allocated to the Waskaganish Business Corporation to support its efforts to create employment opportunities and economic growth in the community.

Emergency support

Every year, Waskaganish allocates EELP funds to support a wide variety of emergency support programs and services. Funds spent on those services in 2018-19 totalled \$548,000.

Of that amount, \$18,000 was allocated to offset the cost of ambulance services in the community. Another \$160,000 was used to ensure that funding would be available for any emergency situation that might arise. That included emergency travel or accommodation, and funeral expenses for eligible members. The community’s Neighbourhood Watch Program also received financial support. A total of \$175,000 was allocated to cover the program’s salaries and related expenses. A total of \$130,000 was dedicated to cover the cost of search and rescue operations should a community member go missing. The community re-allocates any money not used for this purpose.

Youth programs

Waskaganish youth are a sizable and growing portion of the community. In response, the community regularly allocates EELP funds to support youth programs, including employment initiatives and educational incentives and activities. In 2018-19, Waskaganish allocated \$470,000 in EELP funds to support youth programs.

One of the most popular activities every year is the month-long Canoe Brigade organized jointly by the Youth Council and the Elders Council. It takes participants from Waskaganish to Nemaska along the Rupert River. A fixture in Waskaganish since 1990, the brigade teaches youth about the Cree way of life, including Cree traditions and survival skills, and hunting and fishing techniques.

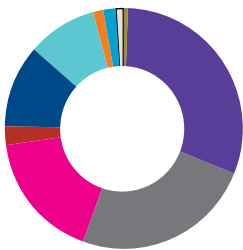
Community facilities

Waskaganish allocated total of \$820,000 in EELP funds for various community projects in the past year. Included in those projects was the repayment of a loan used to pay for renovations at the community’s Kanio-Kashee Lodge. The wooden hotel, located on the Rupert River, attracts those who like to hunt, fish, kayak, cross-country ski, snowshoe or go snowmobiling offers visitors a quiet, relaxing place to stay in while visiting or working in the community. EELP funds were also used for landscaping projects and the reconstruction of a duplex destroyed by fire.

THE CREES OF THE WASKAGANISH BAND

Allocation of Funding: \$6,691,891

Fire Protection
\$38,956
Local Government
Operations \$2,056,751
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$1,638,141
Community
Facilities and
Equipment \$1,151,811
Assistance to
Trappers \$164,334



Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$740,935
Housing \$623,135
Community Centre
Facilities \$99,169
Community Centre
Animation \$112,159
Economic and
Human Resources
Development \$66,500

EEYOU ISTCHEE

Essential Sanitation Expenditures: \$13,382,641

Essential Sanitation
Services \$1,080,838
Whapmagoostui
First Nation \$1,453,264
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$2,513,854
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$1,140,360
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$740,935



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$1,637,522
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$1,412,175
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$2,143,169
Nemaska First
Nation \$285,725
Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation \$974,799



Waswanipi is home to a wide range of economic activities, including arts and handicrafts, forestry, tourism, trapping, construction, transport and outfitting. Often referred to as the gateway to Northern Quebec, Waswanipi was one of two Eeyou Istchee communities in Canada’s Model Forest Network. In 2018-19, as in previous years, the community allocated EELP funds to monitor the impact of forestry in the region.

History

Waswanipi residents resettled at the community’s current site on the Waswanipi River in the late 1970s, making it the southernmost community in Eeyou Istchee. The name Waswanipi (Cree for *Light on the Water*) refers to the time when residents held lanterns or torches over the water at night to lure sturgeon that had gathered to spawn at the mouth of the Waswanipi River.

Location

Waswanipi is located 95 kilometres west of Chapais on Highway 113. It is often referred to as the gateway to Northern Quebec.

Population

Approximately 2,100

Chief

Marcel Happyjack

Forestry expenditures

Part of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi is located in the Broadback Valley, one of the few remaining intact, virgin stands of Boreal forest in Quebec. As a result, few Cree communities have been more affected by forestry operations than Waswanipi. In 2015, the Waswanipi Forest Authority estimated that forestry companies were extracting about 15 million trees a year from the 35,000-square-kilometre Waswanipi Eeyou Istchee. At the time, about 90 per cent of the forest in Waswanipi's traplines had been logged.

For decades, Waswanipi has sought to protect its way of life from industrial logging operations and interests. In partnership with local hunters, logging companies, universities, and assistance from the Federal Government's Model Forest Network, the community established the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest, the first Aboriginal model forest and one of only 11 model forests in Canada. While the Cree Model Forest has since closed, the Cree Trappers' Association continues to work with forestry officials to advocate for the protection of area forests. As a result, Waswanipi officials have successfully protected more 2.3 million acres of traditional territory.

In 2018-19, a total of \$600,510 in EELP funds was allocated to efforts to preserve Waswanipi's natural territory while increasing its understanding of the relationship between forestry operations and the Cree way of life. As part of those efforts, studies were carried out by the local Forestry Joint Working Group. To assist the working group in its studies, a biologist and forest technician were hired in the past year. Another \$25,000 in EELP funds was allocated to protect the Cree way of life from the impact of forestry activities along the Broadback River.

Progress on housing

Like other local governments in Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Nation of Waswanipi understands that it has a key role to play in the Cree Nation's increasing emphasis on private home ownership, from identifying housing lots to determining property tax rates. In 2018-19, Waswanipi took a major step to motivating more private home ownership among its residents by allocating \$500,000 in EELP funds towards a private housing construction project.

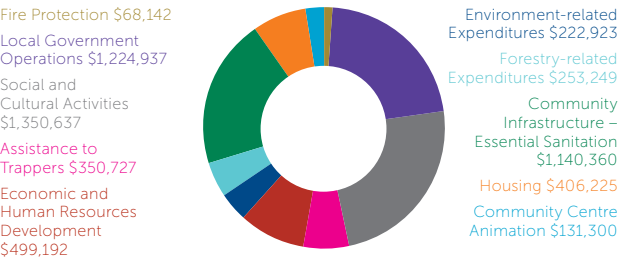
At the same time, Waswanipi officials continued their efforts to address the ongoing Cree Nation housing crisis. In the past year, as it has in previous years, the community allocated \$359,500 in EELP funds to finance a long-term residential loan. The loan financed construction of two duplexes, a four-plex and an eight-plex designed to provide adequate and affordable housing for single- and medium-sized families. Community officials also addressed what is seen as a growing homelessness challenge in Waswanipi, allocating \$50,000 in EELP funds to study the need for a homeless shelter.

Social and cultural activities

Every year, Waswanipi residents and visitors enjoy a broad selection social, cultural and recreational events and activities. While some encourage community members to embrace their historic way of life and to carry on traditional practices, others give residents the opportunity to get together and celebrate special occasions. In 2018-19, EELP funds totalling \$1,113,650 supported those events and activities. Among the most significant events every year is Chiiwetau, the annual gathering at the Old Post. Held in the last two weeks of July, Chiiwetau features a wide range of cultural and traditional activities and practices as well as square dancing, music, campouts and a feast. Also popular are Waswanipi Day and Canada Day. In addition, local churches received \$30,000 to support different activities during the year.

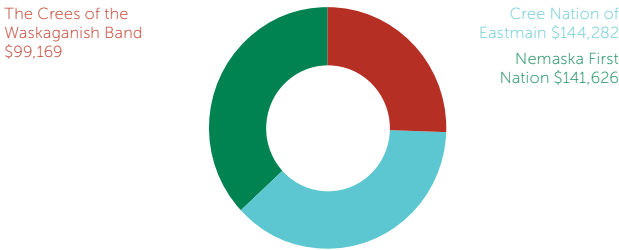
CREE FIRST NATION OF WASWANAPI

Allocation of Funding: \$5,647,692



EYYOU ISTCHEE

Community Centre Facilities Expenditures: \$385,077





Wemindji hosts CreeNet, the main high-speed cable internet provider in Eeyou Istchee. In addition, the community owns two construction companies: Tawich Construction, which focuses on civil works and mining construction, and Vieux Comptoir Construction, specializing in residential, commercial and industrial construction. In 2018-19, the community allocated some of the EELP funds it received to meet its housing needs and to support the local radio station.

History

Formerly known as Old Factory, today’s community of Wemindji was originally established in 1951 on the island of Paakumshumwashtikw (*Old Factory Bay* in Cree), a small island about 25 kilometres south of the current location. Wemindji, from the Cree word for *Paint Hills* or *Red Ochre Mountain*, moved to its present location in 1958.

Location

Located at the mouth of the Maquatua River on the east coast of James Bay, Wemindji is accessible by a paved road which is connected to the James Bay Highway.

Population

Approximately 1,600

Chief

Christina Gilpin

Heritage project

The Cree Nation of Wemindji has partnered with Niskamoon Corporation to examine the potential development of a cultural knowledge centre and expand cultural programming. The initiative will be supported by \$50,000 in EELP funds. The overriding goal of the heritage project is to revitalize cultural practices in the community.

Youth programs

Since opening in 2009 the Wemindji Paint Hills Uschiniichiiuukimikw, the new Wemindji Youth Centre, has become a focal point for youth activities and programs in the community. In fact, activities and programs are offered every day of the week. In 2018-19, \$256,818 in EELP funds was allocated to support programming at the facility. Youth in the community also run the annual summer student employment program which gives participants experience and financial support to continue their schooling. In the past year, the student placement program was supported by \$106,000 in EELP funds.

Youth who met or exceeded expectations were singled out in the past year. through the community’s Youth Incentive Program. While 16 students were deemed eligible to take the trip, only 10 were able to participate. Those 10 students enjoyed a week-long trip to Ottawa-Gatineau and Quebec City. They visited four museums in the Ottawa-Gatineau area. In Quebec City, they were take on an extensive tour, watched a movie, went shopping and visited a water park.

Another \$16,000 was spent on Youth Appreciation Week, a series of activities – including a community banquet – to recognize and honour the contributions of the youth to the community. The local Youth Council also received an \$110,412 in EELP funds to support its committee and activities.

Shelter program

Wemindji’s social, wellness and culture department runs the community’s emergency shelter program. In the past year, the department determined that the trailer being used as an emergency shelter was no longer adequate. Since only \$2,795 in EELP funds was spent on the shelter program in the past year, and there is still a need for an emergency shelter in Wemindji, the department moved forward on plans to build or locate an almhouse, a form of charitable housing usually designed to assist low-income individuals or families. A total of \$60,000 in EELP funds was allocated to cover planning and engineering costs for the almhouse.

Housing assistance

The Cree Nation of Wemindji is committed to successfully addressing the challenge of ensuring its residents have access to safe and affordable housing. In the past year, it allocated \$517,926 in EELP funds for the construction of a six-plex apartment style building. With six two-bedroom units, the building provides housing for several individuals or residents. Another \$200,000 paid for renovations and repairs to existing Band housing units. Work carried out included the repair and replacement of old roofs, windows, siding and doors.

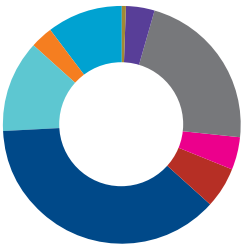
Radio station support

For years, Wemindji Community Radio has promoted and protected Cree language, culture and traditions. Owned and operated by the Wemindji Telecommunications Association, the Cree language radio station broadcasts throughout the traditional territory. Three years ago, the station received \$100,000 in EELP funds to help upgrade some of its broadcasting equipment. Two years ago, it received an additional \$100,000 to continue enhancing and upgrading the equipment it requires to broadcast. In 2018-19, a total of \$50,000 was allocated to offset its annual operating costs.

CREE NATION OF WEMINDJI

Allocation of Funding: \$6,691,483

Fire Protection \$38,955
Local Government Operations \$272,073
Social and Cultural Activities \$1,477,468
Community Facilities and Equipment \$294,016
Assistance to Trappers \$385,000



Community Infrastructure – Essential Sanitation \$2,513,854
Housing \$823,842
Community Centre Animation \$210,401
Economic and Human Resources Development \$675,874

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Forestry-related Expenditures: \$4,392,128

Other Forestry-related Expenditures \$381,850
Forestry Development/ Traditional Activities Enhancement \$2,808,456
Cree-Québec Forestry Board, local joint working groups \$762,725



Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation \$185,848
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi \$253,249



The most northern of the Cree communities in Eeyou Istchee, Whapmagoostui is accessible only by air. Nonetheless, the Cree Board of Health and the Cree School Board are major public sector employers in the community. Hunting and trapping are also popular. In 2018-19, Whapmagoostui allocated EELP funds to support a variety of cultural and recreational activities. Programs designed to promote Cree culture and language also received EELP support.

History

Until the 1950s, Whapmagoostui (Cree for *Place of the White Whales*) was primarily a summer encampment. In the winter, inhabitants moved to small camps in the interior. Although a permanent settlement was established in 1955, many residents still head to their goose camps in the spring. Accessible only by air, Whapmagoostui is the northernmost Cree village in Quebec.

Location

Located on the edge of the Arctic on the coast of Hudson Bay and at the mouth of the Great Whale River, Whapmagoostui shares its isolated location with the Inuit village of Kuujjuarapik.

Population

Approximately 1,100

Chief

Louisa Wynne

Assistance for trappers

Generally considered to be the most isolated community in Eeyou Istchee, Whapmagoostui is the only Cree community not accessible by road. This has an impact on every Whapmagoostui resident. For example, because groceries and supplies can be delivered only by air, they cost much more. While this clearly affects everyone, it is especially difficult for those who fish and hunt for their food supply. This includes local trappers and hunters. As a result, the Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui allocates a significant amount of EELP funds every year to assist those who choose continue to pursue a traditional lifestyle. In 2018-19, EELP funds totaling \$764,600 was allocated to assist trappers.

The local Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) allocates the funds to its members. These funds support the cost of purchasing, replacing and repairing equipment; transportation to and from remote trap lines and hunting grounds; and supplies for the elderly and those with lower incomes. EELP funds also enable members of the CTA to pass along their knowledge to young people in the community. This helps to ensure that this traditional lifestyle will be available to those who want to live off the land and practise traditional living skills in the future.

Social development

Although isolated, Whapmagoostui deals with the same issues that confront southern communities, such as alcohol and drug abuse and domestic violence. In 2018-19, EELP funds supported the introduction of new programs and the strengthening of existing ones to deal with these social issues. Local officials believe programs designed to deal with addiction awareness, family support and healing continue will help the community better deal with daily hardships. EELP funds were also allocated to men's and women's groups formed to specifically address gender specific issues. These groups also dealt with alcohol and drug abuse challenges. To ensure youth in the community gain the experience they need to lead productive lives, EELP funds were also used to support summer student apprentice programs.

Culture and recreation

The Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui is committed to the preservation of Cree culture and history. As in previous years, the community allocated EELP funds to support local programs that focus on culture, history and the Cree language. Topics covered in these programs included lessons on snowshoe making, woodcutting and fishing. Cree language classes were also offered.

Whapmagoostui also invested EELP funds in various recreational and sporting programs and activities. The local hockey program, including training and development, and tournaments for both male and female teams, received financial assistance. In addition, EELP funds supported local fitness programs, including the purchase of training equipment for the gymnasium and the hiring of coordinators to assist with programming activities.

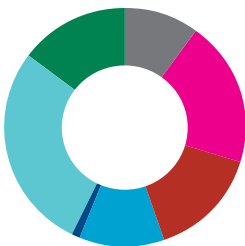
Housing renovations

Although the Cree Nation Housing Strategy is designed to eventually alleviate the housing crisis in Eeyou Istchee, Whapmagoostui, like other Cree communities, continues to constantly address the immediate housing needs of its residents. As it does every year, the community invests EELP funds to pay for the repair, renovation and rehabilitation of existing homes. In addition to identifying and resolving issues like mould, EELP support allows the community to take preventive measures, such as replacing air intake fans and window siding to limit problems arising from humidity. The cost of new Band housing is also covered through the allocation of EELP funds.

WHAPMAGOOSTUI FIRST NATION

Allocation of Funding: \$5,164,268

Local Government
Operations \$526,763
Social and
Cultural Activities
\$1,021,082
Assistance to
Trappers \$764,400
Economic and
Human Resources
Development
\$599,000



Environment-related
Expenditures \$53,154
Community
Infrastructure –
Essential Sanitation
\$1,453,264
Housing \$746,605

EYYOU ISTCHEE

Social and Cultural Activities Expenditures: \$15,183,395

Cree Native Arts and
Crafts Association
\$239,283
Whapmagoostui
First Nation \$1,021,082
Cree Nation of
Wemindji \$1,477,468
Cree First Nation of
Waswanipi \$1,350,637
The Crees of the
Waskaganish Band
\$1,638,141



Cree Nation of
Chisasibi \$3,159,111
Cree Nation of
Eastmain \$1,371,593
Cree Nation of
Mistissini \$1,389,070
Nemaska First
Nation \$792,462
Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation \$601,113



The financial statements of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership detail the receipt of the Capital Contributions received from the Government of Quebec and their distribution to the Special Partners (Cree Communities) and other Cree Entities. The allocations also include the obligatory contribution to the Wyapschinigun Fund as provided for pursuant to the Limited Partnership Agreement.

The Total Capital Contributions received from Quebec for the year ending March 31, 2019 were \$100,414,544. This amount represents an increase in funding over the 2017-2018 Contribution of \$96,711,237 for an increase of 3.8% for the year. The financial provisions of the Agreement provide for the evolution of the base funding amount in accordance with the value of economic production in the Territory relating to Hydro, Mining and Forestry.

These financial statements also detail the revenues and expenditures of the Wyapschinigun Fund. The Wyapschinigun Fund ended the year with Net Financial Assets of \$347,585,082. The contribution for the year was \$15,062,182 (15% of Quebec's Capital Contribution for the year) and the fund recorded a net increase in revenue over expenditure of \$11,521,730 for the year. The Net Financial Assets of the Fund also includes \$64,060,162 of accumulated measurement gains.

The Wyapschinigun Fund is a true Long-Term Heritage and Investment Fund with new Capital Contributions of 15% of the total amounts paid by Quebec being invested in the fund. All earnings are reinvested and distributions from the fund are not permitted for the life of the Agreement. The investment policy of the fund considers this long-term horizon and the Partnership has adopted an asset allocation mix which is concentrated in equity markets with more than 90% of assets equally divided between Canadian, U.S. and International

equities. As a result, investment fund performance is tied to the performance of the associated equities.

The total distributions to the Cree communities last year totaled \$68,508,398. The total distributions to other Cree entities totaled \$16,425,219.

These financial statements generally deal with the allocations from the recipient of funding (the Eenou-Eeyou L.P.) to the various Cree communities and Cree entities and should be read in conjunction with the Use of Funding Report detailed earlier in this Annual Report.

The Eenou-Eeyou L.P. is managed by a mirror corporation to the Cree Nation Government. This entity is the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc., which acts as the General Partner to the Limited Partnership. The use of this vehicle to manage the resources of the Limited Partnership minimizes the overhead costs of management and also provides for a decision making structure which parallels that of the Cree Nation Government and enables the elected members of the Council/Board to effectively act as the decision makers overseeing the Limited Partnership.

We trust that this Annual Report will assist our membership to better understand the financial affairs of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership.



Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership
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March 31, 2019

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Independent Auditor's Report

**Raymond Chabot
Grant Thornton LLP**
1000 Germain Street
Val-d'Or, Quebec J9P 5T6

T 819-825-6226

To the partners of
Eenou - Eeyou Limited Partnership

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Eenou - Eeyou Limited Partnership, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2019, and the statements of operations for the General and Wyapschinigun Funds, changes in net assets of General Capital Account, of Partner's Capital Account and of Wyapschinigun Fund, remeasurement gains of Wyapschinigun Fund, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Partnership as at March 31, 2019, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Partnership in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Partnership's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Partnership or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Partnership's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Partnership's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Partnership's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Partnership to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

1

Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton LLP

Val-d'Or
July 30, 2019

¹ CPA auditor, CA public accountancy permit no. A116128

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Operations - General Fund

Year ended March 31, 2019

	Budget	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$
Expenditure			
Contribution to Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.	418,745	418,745	412,151
Excess of expenditure over revenue before appropriation from General Capital Account	(418,745)	(418,745)	(412,151)
Appropriation from General Capital Account	418,745	418,745	412,151
Excess of revenue over expenditure after appropriation from General Capital Account	-	-	-

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Operations – Wyapschinigun Fund

Year ended March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Investment Revenue		
Distribution from pooled funds	12,870,403	11,700,010
Gains on disposal of investments	(146,879)	26,519,108
	12,723,524	38,219,118
Expenditure		
Custodian and management fees	1,201,794	1,019,614
Excess of revenues over expenditure	11,521,730	37,199,504

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Changes in Net Assets – General Capital Account

Year ended March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Deficiency, beginning of year	(391,217)	(300,217)
Government of Québec Capital Contribution	100,414,544	96,711,237
	100,023,327	96,411,020
Distribution to :		
Special Partners (Note 5)	68,508,398	56,369,656
Other Cree Entities (Note 6)	16,425,219	25,422,744
Contribution to Wyapschinigun Fund	15,062,182	14,506,686
	99,995,799	96,299,086
	27,528	111,934
Capital Appropriation to operations	(418,745)	(412,151)
	(391,217)	(300,217)
Distribution of the Net Revenue of the Partnership:		
General Partner	(1,000)	(1,000)
Special Partners	(90,000)	(90,000)
Deficiency, end of year	(482,217)	(391,217)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Changes in Net Assets – Partners’ Capital Account

Year ended March 31, 2019

	Cumulative Distribution				
	Unit contribution	Beginning of year	Distribution for 2018-2019	End of year	Partners’ Capital account
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
GENERAL PARTNER					
Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. (1 unit)	1	5,167	1,000	6,167	6,168
SPECIAL PARTNERS					
Cree Nation of Chisasibi (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Cree Nation of Eastmain (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Cree Nation of Mistissini (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	52,033	63,144
Nemaska First Nation (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
The Crees of the Waskaganish Band (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Cree Nation of Wemindji (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Whapmagoostui First Nation (1,111 units)	1,111	52,033	10,000	62,033	63,144
Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation (1,111 units)	1,111	10,000	10,000	20,000	21,111
Total 2019	10,000	431,431	91,000	522,431	532,431
Total 2018	10,000	340,431	91,000	431,431	441,431

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Changes in Net Assets – Wyapschinigun Fund

Year ended March 31, 2018

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	256,941,008	205,234,818
Contribution from General Fund	15,062,182	14,506,686
Excess of revenue over expenditure	11,521,730	37,199,504
Balance, end of year	283,524,920	256,941,008

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Remeasurement Gains – Wyapschinigun Fund

Year ended March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Accumulated remeasurement gains, beginning of year	54,926,790	73,527,324
Unrealized gains attributable to the following items:		
Investments	8,986,493	7,918,574
Amount reclassified to operations:		
Realized gains on disposal of investments	146,879	(26,519,108)
Net remeasurement gains for the year	9,133,372	(18,600,534)
Accumulated remeasurement gains, end of year	64,060,162	54,926,790

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2019

	2019		2018
	General Fund	Wyapschinigun Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Annual surplus		11,521,730	11,521,730
Unit Contribution			1,111
Contribution from General Fund		15,062,182	15,062,182
Net remeasurement gains (losses) for the year		9,133,372	9,133,372
Increase in net financial assets	1,111	35,717,284	35,717,284
Net financial assets - beginning of year	50,214	311,867,798	311,918,012
Net financial assets - end of year	50,214	347,585,082	347,635,296

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2019

			2019	2018
	General Fund	Wyapschinigun Fund	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Excess of revenues over expenses		11,521,730	11,521,730	37,199,504
Non-cash items				
Gain on disposal of investments		146,879	146,879	(26,519,108)
Changes in working capital items	(6)		(6)	(367)
Cash flows from operating activities	(6)	11,668,609	11,668,603	10,680,029
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Net change in due from Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.	(525)		(525)	(500)
Investments		(34,901,046)	(34,901,046)	(128,236,262)
Disposal of investments		8,170,255	8,170,255	103,049,180
Contribution from General Fund		15,062,182	15,062,182	14,506,686
Cash flows used in investing activities	(531)	(11,668,609)	(11,669,134)	(10,680,896)
Net decrease in cash	(531)		(531)	(867)
Cash, beginning of year	55,014	1	55,015	55,882
Cash, end of year	55,483	1	54,484	55,015
Additional disclosure of non-cash item of cash-flows (note 3)				

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership

Financial position

March 31, 2019

			2019	2018
	General Fund	Wyapschinigun Fund	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS				
Cash	54,483	1	54,0484	55,015
Due from Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc., without interest or repayment terms	1,386		1,386	861
Investments (Note 7)		347,738,389	347,738,389	312,021,104
Due from General Fund, without interest or repayment terms		664		
	55,869	347,739,054	347,794,259	312,076,980
LIABILITIES				
Accrued liabilities	4,991	153,972	158,963	158,968
Due to Wyapschinigun Fund, without interest or repayment terms	664			
	5,655	153,972	158,963	158,968
Net Financial Assets	50,214	347,585,082	347,635,296	311,918,012
NET ASSETS	50,214	347,585,082	347,635,296	311,918,012
(a) Net assets composed of the following items :				
General Capital Account	(482,217)		(482,217)	(391,217)
Partners' Capital Account	532,431		532,431	441,431
Wyapschinigun Fund		283,524,920	283,524,920	256,941,008
Accumulated remeasurement gains		64,060,162	64,060,162	54,926,790
	50,214	347,585,082	347,635,296	311,918,012

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board,



Director

1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership is a limited partnership created in March 2002 pursuant to the Civil Code of Québec.

All Cree Bands constituted as corporations under the Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act are Special Partners of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership, each having subscribed 1,111 units of the partnership for the sum of \$1,111. The Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. acts as the General Partner to the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership and has subscribed to 1 unit of the partnership for the sum of \$1.

The Limited Partnership Agreement stipulates that the subscription price for units of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership is set at \$1 and that such units may only be issued to the General Partner and to a Cree Band constituted as a corporation by the Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act.

The Limited Partnership Agreement specifically provides that each Special Partner shall hold the same number of units in the Partnership and have the same participating percentage in the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership.

A Special Partner cannot sell, alienate or otherwise transfer any interest in any units of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership unless authorized to do so by Extraordinary Resolution of the General Partner and only if the transfer is made to a Cree Band.

The Limited Partnership Agreement provides that the principal establishment of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership is to be located in Cree Category IA lands of the community of Nemaska.

The purposes of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership are set out as follows in the Limited Partnership Agreement :

- a) to receive, manage and invest any of the annual capital payments made by Québec in accordance with chapter 7 of the New Relationship Agreement;
- b) to use, allocate or distribute these annual capital payments in accordance with the spirit and relevant provisions of the New Relationship Agreement;
- c) to provide for the establishment, management and investment of an Heritage Fund for the benefit of current and future generations of Cree beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, including the Crees of Oujé-Bougoumou.

The Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership has been designated pursuant to section 1.18 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec in order to receive the whole of the annual payments of Québec set out in chapter 7 of that Agreement and to act as Recipient of Funding pursuant thereto.

The net income of the Partnership allocated to a Special Partner of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership is not taxable under Part I of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and under the Taxation Act (Québec), in accordance with the current provisions of the said acts and with the terms of the advance income tax rulings rendered by the Canada Revenue Agency dated as of March 31, 2003, as amended by letter dated March 23, 2004 and by the Ministère du revenu du Québec dated November 7, 2002. Any allocation of the net revenue of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership for income tax purposes is made strictly and only for such purposes and not for any other objects and any such allocation does not entail any vested rights or vested interest for a particular Special Partner in any part of the revenue or the capital of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership. More particularly, article 10.1 of the Limited Partnership Agreement provides, among others, as follow:

“No Special Partner shall have a vested right or a vested interest in any part of the Heritage Fund until such time as, and only to the extent that, the General Partner makes a distribution or an allocation out the Heritage Fund for the benefit of a Special Partner.

For greater certainty, it is agreed that any allocation determined by the General Partner, or the competent tax authorities, for taxation purposes in furtherance of the provisions of the Tax Acts does not entail or carry with it any vested right or vested interest for a Partner in any part of the Heritage Fund.”

2 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

Basis of presentation

The Partnership's financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. The Partnership has elected not to apply the accounting standard recommendations applicable solely to government not-for-profit organizations in Sections PS 4200 to PS 4270 of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Public Sector Accounting Handbook.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recorded in the financial statements and notes to financial statements. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions that the Partnership may undertake in the future. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Financial assets and liabilities

Initial measurement

The Partnership recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability on the statement of financial position when, and only when, it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. Unless otherwise stated, financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at cost.

Transaction costs are added to the carrying amount of the financial assets and liabilities classified as financial instruments measured at amortized cost. Transaction costs relating to financial assets and liabilities that will be subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in operations in the year they are incurred.

Subsequent measurement

At each reporting date, the Partnership measures its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost (including any impairment in the case of financial assets), except for investments funds which are measured at fair value. Additionally, because the Organization defines and implements a risk management or investment strategy to manage and evaluate the performance of bond investments on a fair value basis, these investments are included in the category of financial instruments measured at fair value by designating that fair value measurement shall apply.

Transaction costs relating to financial assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost are amortized using the effective interest method. The amortization of transaction costs relating to investments is recognized in the statement of operations under custodian and management fees.

The Organization determines whether there is any objective evidence of impairment of the financial assets, for both financial assets subsequently measured at amortized cost and financial assets subsequently measured at fair value. Any financial asset impairment is recognized in the statement of operations and, in the case of a financial asset classified to the fair value category, the reversal of any net remeasurements is presented in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses when an impairment is recognized.

For a portfolio investment, if there is objective evidence of impairment, the investment is written down when there is a loss in value that is other than a temporary decline. Any subsequent increase in value of a portfolio investment that has been written down is recognized in the statement of operations only when realized.

Revenue recognition

Investment transactions are recorded on the transaction date and resulting revenues are recognized using the accrual method of accounting.

Investment income includes interest income, distribution income from investments funds and the realized gain on disposal of investments.

Interest income is recognized on a time apportionment basis. Distribution income from investments funds is recognized upon distribution.

Investment income that is not subject to externally imposed restrictions, other than changes in fair value of financial assets classified to the fair value category, is recognized in the statement of operations under Investment income. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses until the financial instrument is derecognized. At that time, the accumulated remeasurement gain or loss associated with the derecognized item is reversed and reclassified to the statement of operations.

3 - ADDITIONAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Non-cash investing activities		
Net remeasurement gains (losses)	9,133,372	(18,600,534)

4 - NEW RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT WITH QUÉBEC (PAIX DES BRAVES)

On February 7, 2002, an “Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec” was signed (hereinafter the “Québec New Relationship Agreement” or “Paix des Braves”).

The main purposes of the Québec New Relationship Agreement include, among others, the following:

- (a) the establishment of a new nation-to-nation relationship;
- (b) the assumption of greater responsibility on the part of the Cree Nation in relation to its economic and community development;
- (c) means for the participation of the Crees in mining, forestry and hydroelectric development;
- (d) the settlement for the duration of the agreement of the provisions pertaining to the economic and community development of the Cree found in certain provisions of the JBNQA including the nature, scope and implementation of Québec’s commitments in this respect;
- (e) the definitive settlement or the withdrawal of the legal proceedings opposing the Crees, Québec and the SDBJ and the establishment of a process to resolve the legal proceedings opposing the Crees, Hydro-Québec and the SEBJ;
- (f) the consent of the Crees to the carrying out of the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert project;
- (g) the facilitation of the EM-1 Project.

The Québec New Relationship Agreement is divided into twelve chapters and contains many annexes. With the New Relationship Agreement, two Complementary Agreements to the JBNQA were executed. Further, approximately twelve additional agreements or letters of undertakings were agreed to within the context of the New Relationship Agreement, including substantive agreements with Hydro-Québec and SEBJ and additional agreements with the Government of Québec.

The aspects of these agreements which may have a significant financial impact are summarized below.

Hydroelectricity

Chapter 4 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement concerns hydroelectricity. This chapter itself refers to numerous additional agreements and undertakings signed contemporaneously with Hydro-Québec and/or the SEBJ. Among these agreements are the following:

- (a) the Cree Employment Agreement, which provides for the eventual hiring of 150 Crees in technical positions with Hydro-Québec as well as for the creation of an Apatisiwin Employment Fund of approximately \$100 million over fifteen (15) years to be distributed in accordance with the instructions of a joint Cree-Hydro Québec corporation.
- (b) the Nadoshtin Agreement, which concerns various undertakings by Hydro-Québec and SEBJ in regard to the EM-1 Project set out in the JBNQA. It provides for the setting-up of various funds and for employment and contracts for Crees and Cree enterprises in relation to the EM-1 Project.
- (c) the Boumhounan Agreement, which concerns various undertakings by Hydro-Québec in regard to the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert Project. It provides for the setting up of various funds and for employment and contracts for Crees and Cree Enterprises in relation to the Eastmain 1-A1 Rupert Project.
- (d) the Mercury Agreement (2001), which provides funding to support public health authorities to deliver programs related to risks associated with mercury and to assist in restoring Cree fisheries.

Economic and Community Development

Chapter 6 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement provides that from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2052, the Crees shall assume certain obligations of Québec, Hydro-Québec and SEBJ under the Sections 8 and 28 of the JBNQA concerning economic and community development, including with respect to the following:

- (a) the Cree Trappers' Association (operation, capital and programs);
- (b) the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (operation);
- (c) the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (operation and programs);
- (d) economic development agents;
- (e) assistance to Cree entrepreneurs;
- (f) the supply of electricity subject to Hydro-Québec maintaining current arrangements;
- (g) training programs from SEBJ and Hydro-Québec;
- (h) training programs or facilities, offices, job recruitment and placement services;
- (i) community centres, essential sanitation services, fire protection;
- (j) community affairs services;
- (k) assistance for friendship centres;
- (l) construction of access roads.

Financial Provisions

Chapter 7 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement states that from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2052 Québec shall pay to the Recipient of Funding on behalf of the Crees an annual amount so that the Crees may assume for that period the obligations of Québec, Hydro-Québec and SEBJ set forth in Chapter 6 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement and listed above.

These annual payments are payable in quarterly instalments. For the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, the amounts of \$23 million, \$46 million and \$70 million, respectively, were payable and paid.

For each subsequent year, between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2052, the annual amount paid is at least \$70 million plus the indexed value of that amount calculated in accordance with a formula taking into account the increase in the value of natural resources (hydroelectricity, mining and forestry) produced or extracted from Cree traditional territory. The annual payments are exempt from taxation and from seizure.

In the 2018-2019 financial year, the Limited Partnership received from Québec an amount of \$ 100,414,544.

Provision of Information

A disagreement continues to exist between the Crees and Québec regarding the provision of information related to the payments to be made by Québec under Chapter 7 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement.

Chapter 7 provides that, before December 31 of each year, Québec shall prepare an estimate of the indexed amount for the next year based on the best information then available concerning production volumes and prices in each of the sectors of hydroelectricity, mining and forestry. At the same time, Québec shall revise its previous estimates for the indexed amounts paid during the current and previous years, taking into account the real production volumes data and price data

available for each of these sectors. This estimate and these revisions will be the subject of discussions with the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership as Recipient of Funding. The estimated data shall be replaced by the real data as soon as they become available, and, if appropriate, the indexation factor and payments shall be adjusted accordingly.

Chapter 7 also requires Québec to provide the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership as Recipient of Funding with an estimate of the indexed annual payments and of all revised estimates of annual payments, including detailed information and base reference documentation as to the method and data used to make this estimate and these revisions.

Québec and/or Hydro-Québec have taken the position that certain information used to make the estimate of annual payments is confidential. The Crees have proposed various remedies and have referred the question to the Standing Liaison Committee created under Chapter 11 of the Québec New Relationship Agreement. The matter has not yet been resolved.

In consequence, the Crees have exercised their right under Chapter 7 to audit the indexed value of the annual payments. Such audit has disclosed certain discrepancies in the amount of the annual payments by Québec and it resulted in an adjustment for the 2018-2019 financial year. However, disagreements remain between the Crees, Québec and Hydro-Québec regarding the calculation of the relevant estimates and the final determination of the annual payments by Québec, including for the previous financial years. The Crees and the Partnership maintain certain claims for adjustments related to prior years but the amount of any adjustment cannot be determine at this time.

5 - DISTRIBUTION TO SPECIAL PARTNERS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cree Nation of Chisasibi	12,616,293	8,877,860
Cree Nation of Eastmain	4,690,917	4,099,685
Cree Nation of Mistissini	10,344,610	7,531,339
Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation	3,471,267	5,269,641
Nemaska First Nation	3,481,417	4,803,165
The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation	7,363,869	5,946,965
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi	10,594,943	7,952,507
Cree Nation of Wemindji	7,664,310	7,831,135
Whapmagoostui First Nation	8,280,772	4,057,359
	65,508,398	56,369,656

6 – DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER CREE ENTITIES

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation	-	-
Cree Trappers' Association	2,093,726	2,060,755
Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association	358,925	353,273
Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	239,283	235,515
Cree Nation Government – Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)		
Forestry Issues	3,435,306	4,219,126
Regional Support and Implementation	2,046,327	2,014,101
Environmental Issues	539,727	531,227
Community Fire Protection	456,400	2,247,500
Youth Council	400,266	393,963
Training Facilities and Manpower Offices	692,019	2,946,302
Elders and Youth Coordination Fund	60,234	59,461
Assistance to Entrepreneurs	-	1,000,000
Friendship Centre	650,000	150,000
Implementation of Mining IBA	184,700	250,000
MoCreebec	500,000	500,000
Community Centre Animation	53,598	52,754
Essential Sanitation Services and Related Infrastructure	1,050,000	4,576,635
Housing	85,000	320,000
Cree Language Commission	-	500,000
Others	727,891	140,299
Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association	214,390	211,014
Cree Mineral Exploration Board	500,000	500,000
Washaw Sibi Eeyou	750,000	500,000
Elders Council	400,266	393,962
Aanischaukamikw Cultural Institute	867,519	1,109,857
James Bay Cree Communications Society	119,642	157,000
	16,425,219	25,422,744

7 - INVESTMENTS

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cash and short-term investments at cost	489,583	350,998
Investment funds at market value	347,248,806	311,670,106
	347,738,389	312,021,104

8 - WYAPSCHINIGUN FUND

The Limited Partnership Agreement provides that the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. must establish as of April 1st, 2002 on the books of the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership a separate fund for the benefit of the Special Partners known as the Heritage Fund and designated the Wyapschinigun Fund.

This Heritage Fund is intended to be a means to support the community, cultural, educational, social welfare and economic development needs of the James Bay Crees of Québec and Cree Bands of Québec. It is also intended to assist the James Bay Crees of Québec and Cree Bands of Québec in achieving increased autonomy, in preserving the Cree way of life, Cree values and Cree traditions and in encouraging the emergence of Cree expertise in the fields of economic and community development, job creation and economic spin-offs.

Under the Limited Partnership Agreement, commencing with the 2004-2005 financial year and in each subsequent financial year, the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. acting as General Partner to the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership, must appropriate to the Wyapschinigun Fund an annual amount that is not less than 15% of the annual capital payments made by Québec in accordance with chapter 7 of the New Relationship Agreement with respect to the then current fiscal year. These appropriations to the Wyapschinigun Fund must be made forthwith upon receipt by the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership of the payment of each quarterly instalment of the said annual capital payments from Québec.

Moreover, the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc., acting as General Partner to the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership, may also transfer, at its discretion, any unallocated amounts from the General Capital Account to the Wyapschinigun Fund.

Though the assets of the Wyapschinigun Fund are held and owned by the Eenou-Eeyou Limited Partnership, they are to be managed and invested under the authority of an Investment Committee of the Wyapschinigun Fund composed of between 6 to 12 persons designated by the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. acting as General Partner.

The members of this Investment Committee must have prior experience in connection with the management or investment of monies for the benefit of other persons, they must not be a director of the Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc. nor hold an elected office with any Cree Band or Cree Enterprise, nor may they accept or carry out directly or indirectly any consultancy or other contract for or concerning any investment adviser, investment manager, broker or other person acting with respect to or for the Wyapschinigun Fund.

It is prohibited to use the Wyapschinigun Fund for certain purposes, including :

- a. carrying on commercial activities;
- b. trading on margin or short selling securities, or using derivative instruments for leverage or speculation ;
- c. any form of loans to individuals, as well as loans to corporations, entities or other ventures except through corporate bonds, debentures or other similar instruments which are rated by reasonable, prudent and reputable bond rating agencies;
- d. investing in real estate property except through real estate investment vehicles which are publicly traded in a reputable, major and publicly regulated market;
- e. assisting or investing in privately held entities, corporations or ventures or in a corporation or partnership whose securities are not publicly traded in a reputable, major and publicly regulated market.

The following investment concentration limitations also apply :

- a.. at any given time, not more than 5% of the Wyapschinigun Fund may be invested in, or exposed to, any given corporation, entity or venture, except when investing in securities issues by or fully and unconditionally guaranteed by either of the governments of Québec, Canada or the United States;
- b.. the Wyapschinigun Fund may not hold, at any given time, more than 5% of any outstanding securities issue, except when investing in securities issued by or fully and unconditionally guaranteed by either of the governments of Québec, Canada or United States.

No distribution may be made from the Wyapschinigun Fund before April 1st, 2052.

9 - EXPENSES RELATING TO THE OPERATION

The expenses relating to the operation of the Limited Partnership are included in the financial statements of Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc., the General Partner, and are reimbursed by the Limited Partnership through the contribution to Cree Heritage Fund Foundation Inc.

10 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Partnership is exposed to various financial risks resulting from its operating, investing and financing activities. The Partnership's management manages financial risks.

During the year, there were no changes to the financial instrument risk management policies, procedures and practices.

Financial risks

The Partnership's main financial risk exposure and its financial risk management policies are as follows:

Market risk

The Partnership's financial instruments expose it to market risk, in particular interest rate risk and other price risk:

- Interest rate risk

The Partnership is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to financial assets and liabilities bearing fixed and variable interest rates.

- Other price risk

The Partnership is exposed to other price risk due to investments funds since changes in market prices could result in changes in fair value or cash flows of these instruments.

The Partnership does not use derivative financial instruments to reduce its other price risk exposure.

Interest rate risk

The Partnership is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to financial assets and liabilities bearing fixed and variable interest rates.

Additionally, the investment funds also indirectly expose the Partnership to interest rate risk.

The Partnership does not use derivative financial instruments to reduce its interest rate risk exposure.

Liquidity risk

The Partnership's liquidity risk represents the risk that the Partnership could encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities. The Partnership is, therefore, exposed to liquidity risk with respect to all of the financial liabilities recognized in the statement of financial position.

Liquidity risk management serves to maintain a sufficient amount of cash and cash equivalents and to ensure that the Partnership has financing sources for a sufficient authorized amount. The Partnership establishes budget and cash estimates to ensure it has the necessary funds to fulfil its obligations.