



Osisko Mining: A role model for natural resource development during COVID-19

Nemaska, Eeyou Istchee (August 12, 2020) –The Cree Nation wishes to express its gratitude to Osisko Mining Inc. for its extraordinary efforts to make their mining exploration site safe for their workers and particularly for the Cree workers that they employ. The company has invested significant funds in developing COVID-19 testing capacity to assist greatly in detecting the presence of COVID-19 among the 200 or more workers that may be on site at any given time. The implementation of this testing capacity goes beyond what is required under current government regulations and has an important and immediate impact on the Cree workers and their families.

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cree communities of Eeyou Istchee have had to enact mandatory self-isolation laws for individuals arriving from areas of risk, including mine sites or other work sites within our territory that employ workers coming from areas of risk. As a community with a health care system that has a limited capacity and a population with significant underlying health conditions that predispose us to the severest of consequences of COVID-19, we were unable to follow provincial or federal models for managing COVID-19 that were more liberal. This made it extremely challenging for Cree workers, working at sites on 14-day shifts who would then be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning home only to return to work on the 14th day and start the grueling cycle all over again. Many Cree workers have made and continue to make this incredible sacrifice to provide for and protect their families and their communities, they are our heroes. With the testing protocol put in place by Osisko at their site, Cree workers may now be released from local self-isolation laws and can finally visit and hold family members and loved ones.

"I will always be grateful to Osisko for standing with the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi during our time of need. Their help is not a handout but rather an investment in my people so that we can build a strong and sustainable project allowing Cree workers to be proud providers for their families without having to risk their health." -Chief Marcel Happyjack

“Actions like those of Osisko demonstrate that natural resource development doesn’t have to be just about taking or extracting but rather contributing to community life and helping to make us all stronger. If all developers in our territory behaved like this, our region and the Cree Nation could be even greater contributors to what will need to be the greatest economic recovery in the history of Quebec.” -Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum

- 30 -

Contact: Melissa Saganash, Tel.: (514) 249-8598

MoCreebec
Jbñ.V^b