



G.C.C.E.I.
40th Anniversary
1974-2014



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Nation Government

Council/Board

RESOLUTION 2021-13

SUBJECT: Affirmation Of The Cree Nation's Continuing Oppositon to Uranium Mining Development In Eeyou Istchee

WHEREAS we, the Eeyou, have owned, lived in, governed and protected our lands of Eeyou Istchee for millennia and since time immemorial, and will always continue to do so;

WHEREAS we, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, possess and exercise our inalienable and fundamental Aboriginal and human rights, including the right of self-determination;

WHEREAS the Council, people and youth of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, the Cree community most immediately impacted by uranium mining development, have provided important leadership to the Cree Nation in mobilizing awareness and action regarding the risks of uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the Council, people and youth of the Cree Nation of Mistissini have long made clear their opposition to uranium mining development on their territory, and sought the support of the Cree Nation as a whole on this issue;

WHEREAS on August 8, 2012, at the Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority held in Waskaganish, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee declared a permanent moratorium on all uranium exploration, mining, milling, refining, transport and uranium waste emplacement in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS on November 7, 2013, the Quebec Minister of the Environment refused to authorize Strateco Resources Inc.'s Matoush advanced uranium exploration project, located on the family hunting territory of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, on the basis of the obvious and determinative absence of social acceptability for the project on the part of the Cree community;

WHEREAS in May 2015, following a joint inquiry regarding the uranium industry in Québec, the Bureau des audiences publiques sur l'environnement, the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment and the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee recommended that no uranium mining should be permitted to proceed in the territory subject to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement unless social acceptability was present with respect to uranium mining development;

WHEREAS in his judgment dated June 21, 2017 in *Strateco Resources c. Québec*, 2017 QCCS 2769, Justice Denis Jacques of the Superior Court of Québec confirmed that social acceptability must be considered in deciding whether to permit a mining project to proceed within Eeyou Istchee;



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WHEREAS the judgment in *Strateco Resources c. Québec*, 2017 QCCS 2769 was upheld by the Québec Court of Appeal in its judgment dated January 13, 2020 (2020 QCCA 18), and the Supreme Court of Canada denied leave to appeal by order dated October 15, 2020;

WHEREAS on May 11, 2021, International Consolidated Uranium issued a press release announcing that it had entered into a definitive share purchase agreement to acquire the Matoush Uranium Project, previously owned by Strateco Resources Inc.;

WHEREAS in its press release dated May 11, 2021, International Consolidated Uranium stated that “We look forward to bringing a fresh perspective to development of the [Matoush] project with a focus on engagement with the local indigenous stakeholders before undertaking any project level activity. We recognize that uranium mining can be a lightning rod issue and, as such, it is incumbent on us to garner social acceptance before attempting to advance a project.”

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Cree Nation Government hereby affirms the continuing opposition of the Cree Nation to uranium mining development within our territory of Eeyou Istchee, including any further development of the Matoush Project.

Proposed by: Chief Thomas Neeposh

Seconded by: Chief Curtis Bosum

Carried: May 26th, 2021

John Paul Murdoch, Corporate Secretary