



Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
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Wemindji
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Eastmain
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Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
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Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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Washaw Sibi
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MoCreebec
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June 27, 2021

- Chief Robbie Kawapit, Whapmagoostui First Nation
- Chief Daisy House, Cree Nation of Chisasibi
- Chief Christina Gilpin, Cree Nation of Wemindji
- Chief Kenneth Cheezo, Cree Nation of Eastmain
- Chief Clarke Shecapio, Cree Nation of Waskaganish
- Chief Clarence Jolly, Cree Nation of Nemaska
- Chief Thomas Neeposh, Cree Nation of Mistissini
- Chief Curtis Bosum, Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation
- Chief Marcel Happyjack, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
- Chief Annie-Mapachee Salt, Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi
- Chief Allan Jolly, MoCreebec Eeyoud

SUBJECT: Removal of Canadian Flags in light of Indian Residential Schools Revelations

Dear Colleagues,

We have heard increasing calls to cancel Canada Day celebrations this year in light of the tragic discovery of more than one thousand unmarked graves – and counting – at former Indian residential schools sites across Canada. We, as a Cree Nation, have been profoundly shaken by these recent revelations and we have mourned the little ones that were lost and have sent prayers to their families and their communities. These past few weeks were a somber reminder of this country’s not-so-distant past and clearly demonstrates the need for Canada to deal with its colonial past before we can collectively heal as a Nation.

As such, this year, we respectfully invite all Cree First Nations to stand in solidarity with all the victims and survivors of residential schools, their families and community members, by taking down their Canadian flags for the month of July. The removal of the flags for a month is a symbolic way to honour the memories of all the children lost at residential schools and serves as an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the tragic legacy of residential schools and the impacts that can still be felt in all our communities to this day.



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

It is also our hope that during this time we can begin to reflect upon our collective actions as we respond to these troubling revelations so we can move forward and find ways for our communities to heal. We will continue our work to ensure that any actions taken are done right and done in the right way.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abel Bosum', written over a faint blue line.

Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum

c.c.: Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull
Directors, GCC(EI)/Cree Nation Government