



living  
**Cree Arts  
and Crafts**

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**Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association**  
[www.cnaca.ca](http://www.cnaca.ca)





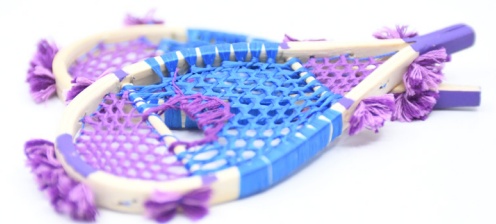
living  
**Cree Arts  
and Crafts**

## MISSION

To diversify and grow a sustainable cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou/Eenou Nation while encouraging contemporary means of expression that maintain Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

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## THEME

## Cree Creations

FOR TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE

**Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association**

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# Message from the President

Wachiya, Kwey Kwey

Good Day and Bonjour!

It definitely has been an unprecedented time for our organization, our nation and the world. We haven't been spared by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with protocols to follow while caring for one another, restricting our travel and many activities. Fortunately, Eeyou Istchee has been blessed with few cases, thanks to the dedication of our public health institutions and all our fellow Cree citizens. Thank you all for your perseverance.



2019 also brought sadness to the Board and the Cree Nation, as we lost two long-time supporters of Cree culture and knowledge. Peter Shecapio and George Small Sr. have been called home to be with their lord and savior. It will be difficult to replace their wisdom and guidance they so freely shared with us. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and communities, and forever will cherish their memory.

As expected, CNACA's activities had to be postponed and redesigned in light of the pandemic restrictions. Most travel to the communities or outside Eeyou Istchee was kept to a minimum since March, but our dedicated staff has kept the organization on track! Even with reduced staff and challenging working conditions, we were able to accomplish this year's objectives and carry out projects and programs. A big applause for our staff for their hard work and dedication.

Our Executive Director was able to establish the local Arts and Crafts Committees which was our priority in this year's action plan. We are thankful for the support that local community leadership has provided us in accomplishing this vital component in continuing and expanding our support of local artists and artisans. Their support allowed CNACA to strengthen its regional reach, while staying on budget.

The AGA will be conducted on-line, which will bring its own challenges, but also opportunities of connecting regionally with our members.

In closing, we extend our thanks to the establishment of the local arts committees, new members, Cree Nation Government and Band Councils. We are here to serve, protect and assist the continuation of our arts and craft world.

Meegwetch !

**Kenneth Gilpin**  
President

# Message from the Executive Director

Wachiya!

It is with great pleasure to submit the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association's 2019-2021 Annual Report.

In 2019-21, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has entered an important phase of growth and learning how to do business in an arts industry that itself is constantly changing. We, as everyone else involved in the promotion of the arts, have been forced to learn how to do business and to adapt in an environment of rapid changing technology and the Covid-19 pandemic. With this understanding we have evolved and created a plan that we feel will address these changes in a meaningful and productive manner for years to come.



Our present and future success comes from the artists we serve. They are the keepers and protectors of our culture and heritage. With the ongoing support of our members, partners, and Board of Directors, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is ready to accept the challenges and to realize the potential achievements which lies ahead in the next five years and beyond.

To do that in a professional and respectful manner we realize that we must look at five strategies: a) have a local presence, b) ensure there are membership benefits, c) deal with product management, d) have an effective distribution system and e) use potential partnerships to create a greater impact in ensuring the growth of those Cree creating arts and crafts.

We have worked at creating Local Arts Committees and are working on tools to assist them. This will help to identify artists, creates bios that they can use to promote their work, identify local experts that can lead workshops to teach and mentor less experienced artists as well as preserving traditional knowledge and heritage.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to the staff at CNACA for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Association to achieving positive results.

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has evolved by offering an on-line members registration and data base. We encourage you to visit our website at [www.cnaca.ca](http://www.cnaca.ca) and register as a member of the association. Keep in mind that you do not need to be an artist or artisan to be a member of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association. You simply have to care about the preservation of our Cree culture and our arts and crafts. Your membership helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our Cree artists.

Remember that our success as a nation comes from the artists we serve. They are the keepers of our culture. With the ongoing support of our members, partners, and Board of Directors, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts is ready for the future.

Meegwetch !

**Gaston Cooper**  
Executive Director

# About CNACA



## Mission

To diversify and grow a sustainable cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou/Eenou Nation while encouraging contemporary means of expression that maintain Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

## Vision

Our vision and work are guided by four pillars:

- Our artists and craftspeople are living bearers of our culture and heritage.
- Our arts and crafts are the expression of our past, our present and our aspirations for the future.
- Our artists and artisans must be able to sustain themselves economically through their talents.
- As long as Cree arts and crafts are maintained, and our traditions preserved; our Cree people will remain strong.

## Objectives

To move forward in fulfilling our vision and mission, we focus on the following key objectives:

- Develop and be responsible for programs that contribute to the development of the Cree arts and crafts industry in Eeyou Istchee.
- Assist individuals or Cree communities in marketing and related services for arts and crafts products throughout the world
- Facilitate access to material resources for the creation, preservation and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.
- Coordinate our efforts with other Cree entities when needed for the support and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.

## History

Since time immemorial, the Cree have maintained and flourished through hunting and harvesting activities, developed a rich material culture and arts traditions, and enjoyed the beauty of Eeyou Istchee's natural environment. From the beginning, the visionary leaders of our modern Cree Nation believed and expected that CNACA would play a key role in the socioeconomic development of our people. At the time of the negotiations of our treaty—the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement - our leaders envisioned that trapping, tourism, and the arts would occupy an important place in the future economic development of our Nation. It is for this reason that they insisted on the creation of the Cree Trappers Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, and the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, as a mechanism for engaging community members in the governance and development of our nation.

”

*“It was in 2004, that the Association was officially incorporated “to assume a leadership role on behalf of the Cree for the development of the arts and crafts and the cultural industries of Eeyou Istchee.”*

## Our Journey (JBNQA Obligations)

- 28.4.1** Canada and/or Quebec will assist the Crees with funding and technical advice in establishing, as soon as possible, as described herein:
  - A) a Cree Trappers' Association;
  - B.) a Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association;
  - C) a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.
- 28.7.1** There is established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Program which shall include the structures, services, procedures, functions and agencies provided for in this Sub Section.
- 28.7.2** As soon as possible following the execution of the Agreement subject to the results of the feasibility studies referred to at paragraph 28.4.1 there shall be established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association which shall be responsible for and supervise the programs for the development of Native Arts and Crafts and a local Arts and Crafts Committees, in each Cree community.
- 28.7.3** The Chairman of each Local Arts and Crafts Committees shall have a seat on the Board of Directors of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.
- 28.7.4** The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association shall establish a Cree Central Marketing Service which shall assist individual Crees or Cree communities in the marketing and related services for Cree Arts and Crafts and shall make available to Cree individuals or Cree communities such material or equipment as may be required for the creation of native arts and crafts.
- 28.7.5** Subject to the results of the feasibility studies and in the event that a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is established, Canada, Québec and the Cree Regional Authority, in a proportion to be mutually agreed upon shall assist the Association in its operation and objectives.



We offer a range of programs and services to meet the growing needs of our artists and artisans

## Programs & Services



## Gateway Information Center

CNACA acts as a one-stop-shop for artists seeking funding. While funding programs exist, namely from CALQ, SODEC, Canada Council for the Arts and others, most eligible Cree artists are not aware of these programs. The CNACA staff can help determine which grants an artist is eligible for and offers help with the application process.



### Sponsorship Program

We provide sponsorship to all eligible members of the Cree Arts and Crafts Association. The Sponsorship program is designed to increase opportunities for our members and support their artistic and career development in the arts, including the purchase of supplies and equipment. The Applicant shall be a beneficiary member of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Each eligible application is reviewed and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.



### Training and Education Program

Investing in knowledge transmission and up-skilling in the arts and crafts is the cornerstone of CNACA's capacity development mandate. Over the years we have successfully conducted a variety of popular training sessions, both in traditional knowledge and production techniques, such as moose hide tanning, sewing and tamarack decoy building, as well as business development and marketing. CNACA continues to offer training and education programs that are geared to the needs and priorities of Cree artists and artisans. Contact our staff to find out about upcoming training sessions or to propose ideas for new training opportunities.



### Arts Promotion Program

We amplify Cree artists' stories and work through our various publications and online presence. We celebrate Cree cultural heritage and recognize excellence in craftsmanship through a variety of awards and shows. We provide a space for dialogue and action by organizing marketplace events in Eeyou Istchee. Fostering Cree arts and crafts as a professional activity producing authentic and high-quality work requires national and international networking opportunities. In addition to facilitating networking and collaboration between artists, CNACA promotes Cree arts and crafts at key exhibitions, conferences and trade related events, such as Salon des metiers d'arts (Montreal), Canadian Aboriginal Festival (Toronto), and various trade missions abroad.



CNACA

# Memberships

OPPORTUNITY AND EXPOSURE

[www.cnaca.ca/artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/artists)



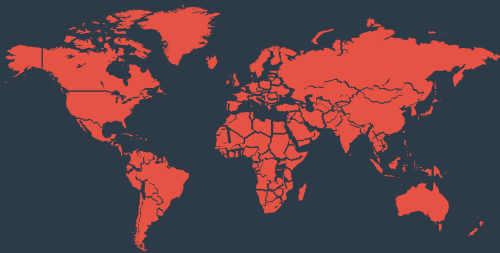
## Our goal is to help you - the members !

You don't have to be an artist to be a member of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association. You simply have to care about the preservation of our Cree culture and our arts and crafts. If you are an artist or craftsperson, CNACA membership entitles you to access our sponsorship programs, attend trade shows, and participate in training programs organized by CNACA. Membership also gets you on our mailing list so that you can be informed of upcoming events. Your membership fee helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our Cree artists. Please consider being a contributor to keeping the arts alive and flourishing in Eeyou Istchee. **Become a member today!**

## Member Benefits

**Take advantage of benefits as a CNACA member, including access to funding, training opportunities, and more.**

- Visibility in a global market
- Access to training in arts and business
- Help secure funding
- Strong visual presence on website, annual report and promotional materials
- Opportunity to participate in local, national and international trade shows and events



## REGISTER ONLINE !

**[www.cnaca.ca/artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/artists)**

Our convenient on-line registration is now available and easier for everyone to be a member. Be a contributor to keeping the arts alive and healthy in Eeyou Istchee.

01

### Active Member

Any Cree beneficiary under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) engaged in arts and crafts activities. Active Members can participate in all the activities of the Association, receive notice of the meetings, and attend and vote at member meetings, including being elected to the Board or be appointed as a Director of the Association.

02

### Associate Member

Any Non-Cree (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) who supports the goals and objectives of the Association is eligible to become an Associate Member. Associate members may participate in the activities of the Association and attend members' meetings. They are, however, not eligible to vote or be elected to the Board or appointed as a Director of the Association.

03

### Honorary Member

Any elder, individual or organization who has rendered exemplary service to the Association, or to the positive development of arts and crafts in Eeyou Istchee is eligible to be an Honorary Member. Honorary Members are selected on an annual basis by the Board of Directors of CNACA. Honorary members may participate in the activities of the Association. They do not have a right to vote at member meetings, and they are not eligible to be elected or appointed as a director of the Association, unless they are Cree beneficiaries under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

04

### Corporate Member

Any partnership or organization controlled by a majority of registered Cree beneficiaries operating within the traditional territory of Eeyou Istchee or any other organization or corporation that is interested in supporting CNACA's core values and mandate is eligible to become a Corporate Member. Corporate Members may participate in the activities of the Association, however, they do not have a right to vote at members meetings, nor are they eligible to be elected or appointed as a Director of the Association.



2019 - 2020

# Meet our Artists



## Paula Menarick

*Traditional & Contemporary, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Multidisciplinary Arts*

Paula Menarick, a traditional and contemporary artist, was born and raised in Chisasibi. She grew up watching her mother, aunts and grandmothers make beautiful beadwork, embroidery, painting, crochet, knitting and sewing. At a young age she admired and appreciated their crafting skills and knew that she would follow in their footsteps. She is the owner of Fast Cloud Inspirations, where she sells her crafts to people all around Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik, Nunavut, Canada, United States and overseas. Paula is also a Powwow Dancer since the age of two. As a fancy shawl dancer, it lifts her spirit and brings her joy to be able to dance and bring healing to the people. She teaches female powwow dancing, powwow regalia making and traditional contemporary craft making. She enjoys sharing culture and tradition for our future generations.

## Jimmy Tim Whiskeychan

*Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary*

Tim Whiskeychan was born in Chibougamau, Quebec and was adopted as an infant by Harry and Laura Whiskeychan, a traditional couple from the Cree village of Rupert's House (Waskaganish) on the east coast of James Bay. Tim works in a wide variety of mediums as he explores new ways to express his interpretations of Cree aesthetics using acrylics, watercolors, airbrush, stained glass, collage, etchings prints and cut steel panes. His passion for art also drives him to teach and encourage emerging Cree artists and to promote the arts within the Cree world. He exhibits in many regional, provincial, national and international shows and travels widely in Canada, the United States and France as an ambassador of Cree artistic and cultural values. He is member of the CNACA Board of directors and holds the position of Treasurer.



## Saige Mukash

*Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary Multidisciplinary Arts*

Saige Mukash (they) is a photographer, illustrator, published writer, an ink-based artist, and an expert beader, who hails from Whapmagoostui. Saige focuses on four special categories which are racial issues, climate and the environment, LGBTQ + issues and female-identifying photographers. In 2018, they started a challenge called "Bead this in your style" on social media to encourage beaders of different levels to express themselves and show their design/work from one of her drawings. Sage attended F.A.C.E. School in the heart of downtown Montreal, where they was able to exercise their artistic abilities through various mediums in an organized classroom setting. However, it was returning to their Cree community that had the biggest effect on them: "My art really blossomed when I came to Whapmagoostui to reconnect with my Cree culture".

## Louis-Vincent Parent

*Visual Arts*

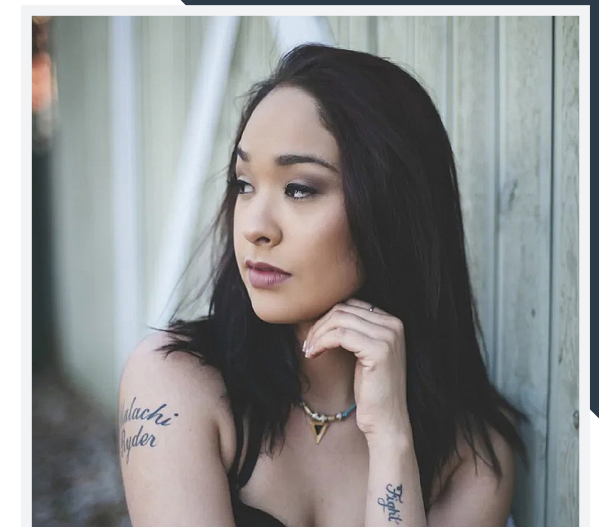
Louis-Vincent Parent hails from Chisasibi and is a contemporary jeweler. Since completing his jewelry making program at Cegep du Vieux Montréal (CVM) in 2017, Louis-Vincent has made custom one-of-a-kind jewelry and limited collections. His jewelry is mostly inspired by Eeyou Istchee and areas he grew up around in Chisasibi. While he primarily works with silver, gold, and gemstones, he continues to experiment with a variety of techniques and materials. More recently Louis-Vincent has taken an interest in knife-making and blacksmithing, as well as lapidary arts (which is the shaping of gemstones) and intends to blend various art-forms to create unique pieces. He was a finalist in the 2017 National Jeweler Competition for Graduates, hosted by L.A PAI Gallery in Ottawa and received a mention for perseverance from the École de joaillerie de Montréal.



## Mariame Hasni

*Performing Arts*

Mariame broke out into the Canadian music scene in 2015 with the release of her award-winning debut EP Bloom. Blending elements of R&B, pop, and EDM, Mariame delivers irresistible music as electric as her stage presence. Mariame has been steadily touring the communities in Eeyou Istchee since she was 13 years old, and has garnered a faithful following. In 2013, she was given the Rising Star Award, by the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association. In 2015, Mariame signed a record contract with N'we Jinan; a national scope music initiative, which produced and distributed Bloom. The project peaked at #3 on the iTunes Pop Charts, reaching #1 on the NCI FM National Indigenous Music Countdown. In 2017, Mariame's Bloom won Best Pop Album at the Indigenous Music Awards presented by SiriusXM Canada.





# Meet our Artists

2019 - 2020



## Angel Baribeau

*Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Traditional & Contemporary, Multidisciplinary Arts*

Angel Baribeau is a multidisciplinary artist from Mistissini, who uses a variety of artistic practices such as Singing/Songwriting, Poetry, Body Art, and Recycled Art, to create content that will inspire their fellow youth and educate them on the realities and responsibilities of being an Indigenous person in today's political climate. Music is what Angel is most passionate about, and uses it as a platform to voice the struggles they have encountered as an Indigenous, Two Spirited person. They uses storytelling to share the traditional legends that were given to them by their Mother to demonstrate to youth that Cree culture is still strong and will endure. They graduated from the Mikw Chiyâm Arts Concentration Program in 2017 and was voted Best Artist (Female) in The Nation in 2016. In July 2020, they released their new album "For those I Love(d)".



## Wabiguin Bearskin

*Performing Arts, Multidisciplinary Arts*

Wabiguin is 10 years old and is an aspiring actress and model from Chisasibi. Now living in Gatineau, she has traveled to New Orleans, Nashville, Memphis and Los Angeles for modeling and acting. She loves to read, write and draw, travel and has recently taken up beading. After homework and school, she does videos and practices her monologues and dialogues in front of a camera. She loves public speaking and enjoys encouraging her peers to love themselves and to be compassionate towards themselves and others. She also loves hunting and fishing and does gymnastics and jujitsu.

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[www.cnaca.ca/artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/artists)

## Priscella Rose

*Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary*

Priscella Rose is from Attawapiskat, Ontario. Now living in Eeyou Istchee, Priscilla is a self-taught artist primarily focused on painting. Her unique, intricate paintings are inspired by the land and Cree culture. While painting has been a long-time passion, Priscilla also enjoys embroidery and beadwork.



## Dwain Shanush

*Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary*

Dwain Shanush is a sculptor and carver who hails from Eastmain. He is self-taught and works primarily with antlers, soapstone, and tamarack. Dwain is the youngest antler carver in Eeyou Istchee, whose intricate carvings are inspired by life on the land. He has created many commissioned works and continues to expand his skills in knife-making and tattooing. He was awarded the 2018 CNACA Self Innovator Award in recognition of his initiative in arts promotion and preservation of traditional arts form.



## John P Bosum

*Multidisciplinary Arts*

John P Bosum is a poet from Mistissini. He is a 63-year-old residential school survivor and his writings delve into the good and the bad experiences in his life, using poetry as a part of his healing journey. John writes poetry about specific events, people, life experiences at residential school, and about the beauty of our Cree Homeland.



Discover and Connect with our Artists & Artisans

View full bios of our featured artists at:

[www.cnaca.ca/featured-artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/featured-artists)



2020 - 2021

# Meet our Artists



## Jossée Bernier

*Performing Arts, Traditional & Contemporary Arts  
Multidisciplinary Arts, Visual Arts*

Jossée Bernier is an Oujé-Bougoumou Eenu passionate about self expression and interpersonal development. With an educational background in Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention from Canadore College, she is currently developing her professional portfolio through her work with the Cree School Board's Mikw Chiyâm arts concentration program as an emerging artist as well as freelancing for several Cree nation entities. As a self taught interdisciplinary artist, her work is dedicated to voicing the beauty of Eeyou Istchee and bringing channeled visions to life. Throughout her young career, she received several awards in her community such as the 'Women In Creative Arts and Music' award as well as the 'Youth Achievement Award for Artistic Talent'. Jossée has also been performing musically since the age of 15 and has been featured at many festivals, events and community gatherings held throughout Eeyou Istchee and Quebec. She currently holds the title of Miss Oujé-Bougoumou.



## Benjamin Mastey

*Visual Arts, Multidisciplinary Arts*

Hailing from Whapmagoostui, Benjamin Mastey is an emerging filmmaker and storyteller. His initial inspiration was family movie nights and an old camcorder his father acquired. Benjamin attended Dawson College's Creative Arts Literature and Languages (CALL) program, from which he graduated in 2016, and worked for CBC North's Cree Television Program "Maamuitaau. His award-winning documentary, The Journey of Nishiyuu (2017), a co-production with Agoodah Pictures and Mukash Productions Inc., was nominated for Best Documentary at the Weengushk International Film Festival (2019); the Official Selection at the Franklin International Independent Film Festival (2018); and featured at the 2018 Parliament of World's Religions. In 2021, Benjamin was awarded the Susan Pigott Fellowship Award from Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Concordia University), where he will be pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production in the fall of 2022.



## Theresa MacLeod

*Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary Arts*

Theresa MacLeod is a photographer, graphic designer and illustrator from Mississauga. She is the daughter of Luke and Alice MacLeod, wife to James Loon, and mother to Mila. Since at a young age, Theresa has always had a passion for the arts, including drawing, beading, sewing and photography. She recently started her own business, "Photography & Design by Theresa MacLeod Loon". Since then, she has already won multiple logo contests. Theresa provides a wide range of photography services, from stunning maternity photo shoots to the beautiful sunsets of Mississauga. In 2020, Theresa received the Photography Award from the Mississauga Youth Department.

## Mandy Gull-Masty

*Traditional and  
Contemporary Arts*

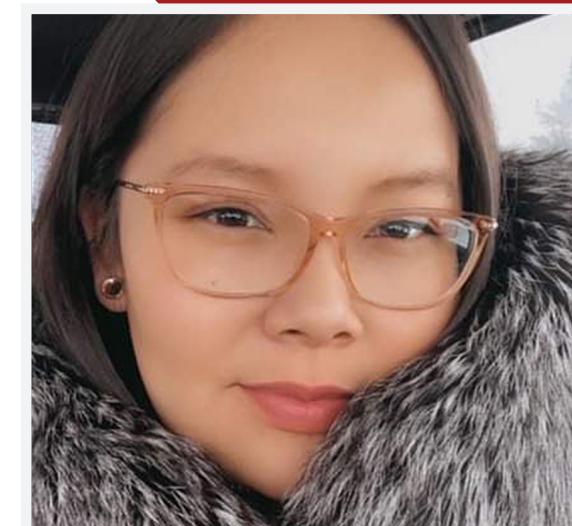
Mandy Gull-Masty hails from Waswanipi and is the creative director and owner of House of Eeyou. Inspired and mentored by her late mother, the products she creates showcase and celebrate the beauty of Eeyou Istchee traditional territory and the unique culture and stories of the Cree Nation. House of Eeyou offers Indigenous products that are created for everyone - that can be worn with pride as a person of Indigenous ancestry or proud supporter of honoring Indigenous culture. All products are sustainably made, hand crafted in a slow process with elements that are wild, harvested or representative of Indigenous stories as much as possible. Mandy believes that creating items that represent Eeyou Istchee is best way to share the Cree way of life.



## Miyawbin Wapachee

*Traditional & Contemporary Arts*

Miyawbin Wapachee, lived in Nemaska and later moved to Chisasibi with her family. She is the daughter of Bertie Wapachee and Gloria Paskagumeskum Wapachee. She is inspired by the work of her grandmas and aunts. She started sewing at 13 when she learned basic skills in her Cree culture class. She continued to update her skills by attending arts and crafts workshops, and learns from teachers, elders and co-workers at Chisasibi Heritage and Cultural Center. Miyawbin enjoys sitting with elders and learned from them the importance of preserving and keeping this part of Cree culture alive for future generations. She showcases her art on her Facebook page: MW's Projects, which include Wapsooyan/baby hats, Moccasins/wrap around/duffles, beadwork and many others.





# Meet our Artists

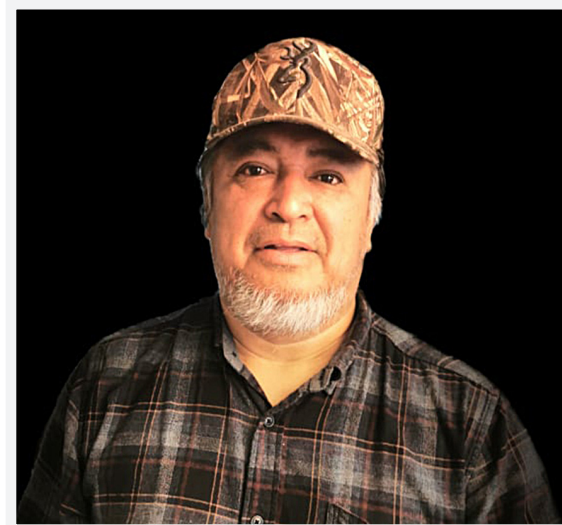
2020 - 2021



## Catherine Orr

*Multidisciplinary Arts, Traditional & Contemporary Arts  
Visual Arts*

Catherine Orr, born in Chisasibi and raised in Nemaska, picked up photography at the age of 14 and pursued the profession for several years. Hailing from a multidisciplinary arts background, Catherine was inspired by stories of her grandmother operating a bead store in Chisasibi, ultimately spawning the idea of Cvltvre Bead. Today, Cvltvre Bead's motto is "Culture Through Craft", and is a vehicle for Catherine to inspire Indigenous young people get in touch with their culture through traditional crafting, as well as offering beading patterns, history, and knowledge, both as a living legacy of her grandmother, and as an active agent of culture revitalization.



## Gordon Shecapio-Blacksmith

*Traditional & Contemporary Arts, Visual Arts*

Gordon Shecapio-Blacksmith was born in Mistissini, Quebec. His parents are the Late Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith and Jane Coonishish Shecapio-Blacksmith. He resides in the community of Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec in Eeyou Istchee. He has two beautiful granddaughters. Gordon carves a variety of animals and birds on cedar and moose antlers. He has made key-chains, necklaces, and earrings from moose antler. He also makes miniature replicas of canoe and beaver planes as it was the means of transportation in Eeyou Istchee. His passion is to share the splendor of our natural environment in an artistic approach from our land. Gordon is inspired by our land with its animals and the vastness of our beautiful land of Eeyou Istchee.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF CNACA AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WE OFFER**

If you are an artist or craftsperson, CNACA membership entitles you to access our grant programs, attend local and global trade shows, and participate in training programs organized by the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association. Registration is easy and only takes a few minutes on our website.

[www.cnaca.ca/artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/artists)

## Paul Napash

*Performing Arts*

Paul Napash, his stage name PaulStar, a Cree member of Chisasibi, Quebec is a multi-instrument composer, singer-songwriter, nominated for Best Producer & Beat Maker at The International Indigenous Hip Hop Music Award Show 2020. Napash has been in the music scene since he was 12 years old, his very first public performance was during the Aboriginal Peoples Day in 1998. After completing the Music industry arts program at the Algonquin College in Ottawa, Paul has since worked with several indigenous artists, as well as non-indigenous, in addition to building his own record label, PaulStar Entertainment. His album "Lost" was co-produced by Greg Werthman and mastered by David Cain. His new EP "Find Myself" was released on October 2, 2020.



## Katie-Joy-Matoush

*Traditional & Contemporary Arts*

Katie-Joy Sealhunter Matoush originates from the Cree Community of Mistissini. She began beading and sewing at a young age at the family table. Watching her Great Grandmother Phyllis Matthew sew is what led her to fall in love with the creativity and skill at a young age. As an artist, hard work and commitment have been her core guiding values and she does not shy away from putting long hours into her work. Her mother Anita-Rose Sealhunter Matoush continues to inspire and encourage her as she establishes herself as an artist and entrepreneur. Her artwork can be found on her Facebook page 'Katie-Joy's Beadwork'. She continues to work hard and has earned notice from many throughout the Cree Nation and abroad.



## George Longchap

*Traditional & Contemporary Arts*

Son of Bertie (late) & Mary Ann Longchap, George Longchap grew up watching his dad making snowshoes and has accompanied him on the land to gather birch and tamarack trees. George is continuing his father's craft and has been active in teaching and inspiring the younger generations. He currently works at the Cree Nation of Mistissini as Chisheinu Chiskutamaachewin (Traditional Cree Fishing & Medicine) Administrator under Health & Social Development, where he is able to see how important is to keep and share traditional teachings. George is perfecting the snowshoe making skills and continues to enjoy every opportunity teaching on the land.



Discover and Connect with our Artists & Artisans

View full bios of our featured artists at:

[www.cnaca.ca/featured-artists](http://www.cnaca.ca/featured-artists)



# Stats

## CNACA Members

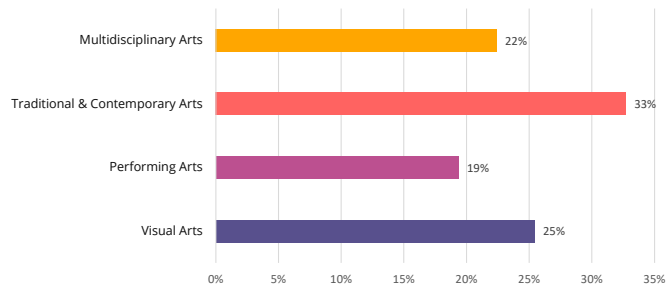


# Members Database

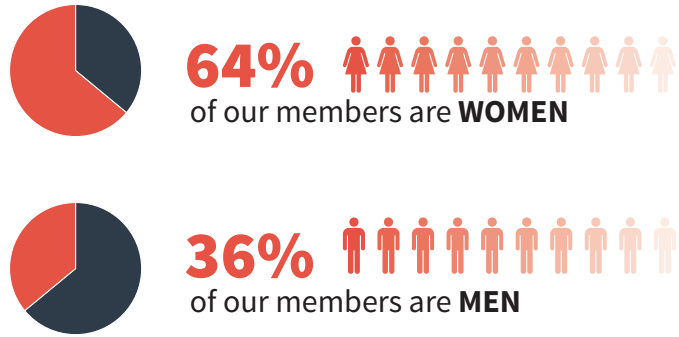
## Artist Directory



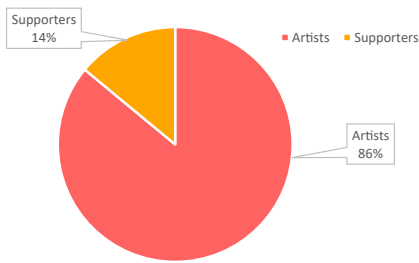
### Members by Art Category



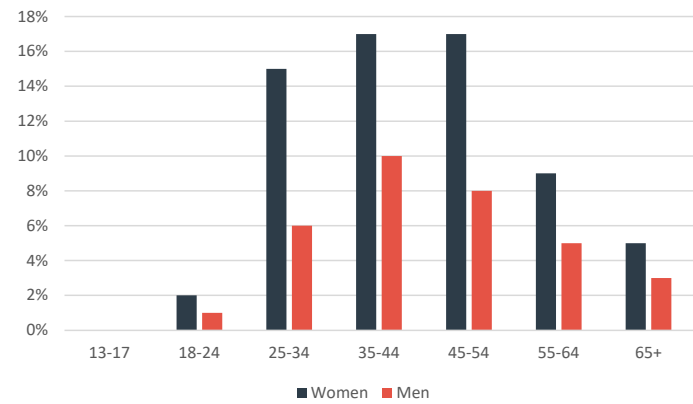
### Members by Gender



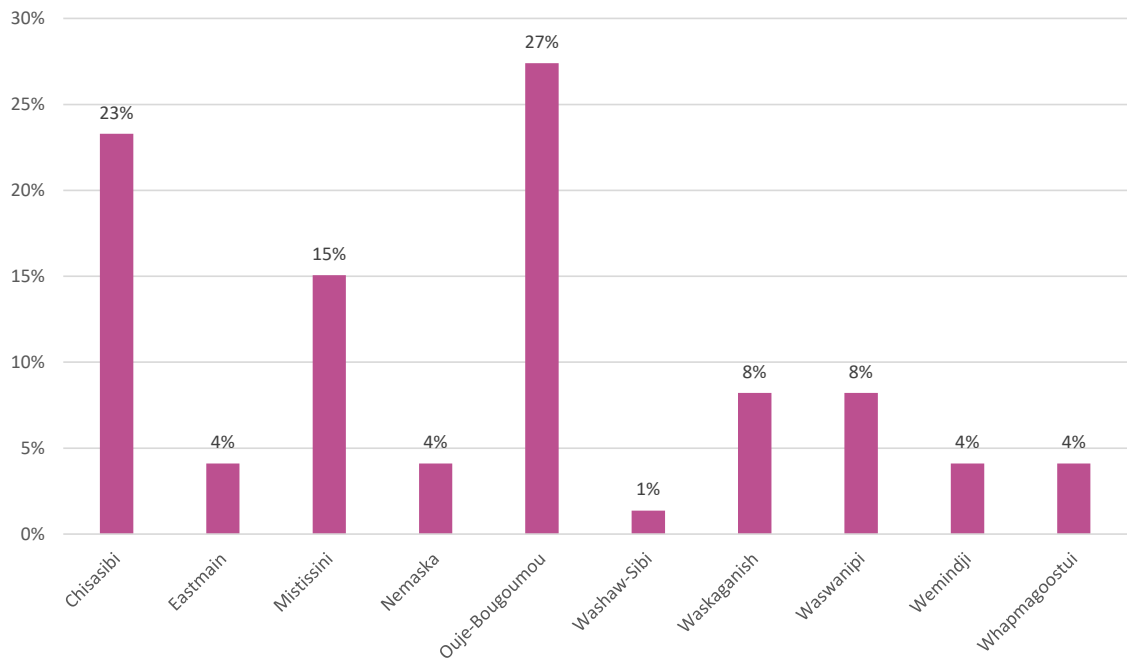
### Artists vs Supporters



### Members by Gender & Age Group



### Members by Community



The Artist Directory is an online database that lists all registered members of CNACA. The website functions as a registration and administrative tool as well as a marketing tool to help promote our artists and artisans.

### ➔ Searchable Database

As an online searchable database, the Artist Directory provides the public an easy way to find information on CNACA members, their art and other personal and professional information. Artists can be searched by name, location and art category.

### ➔ Membership Registration

Members are able to register online, renew their memberships and manage their profile and bio.

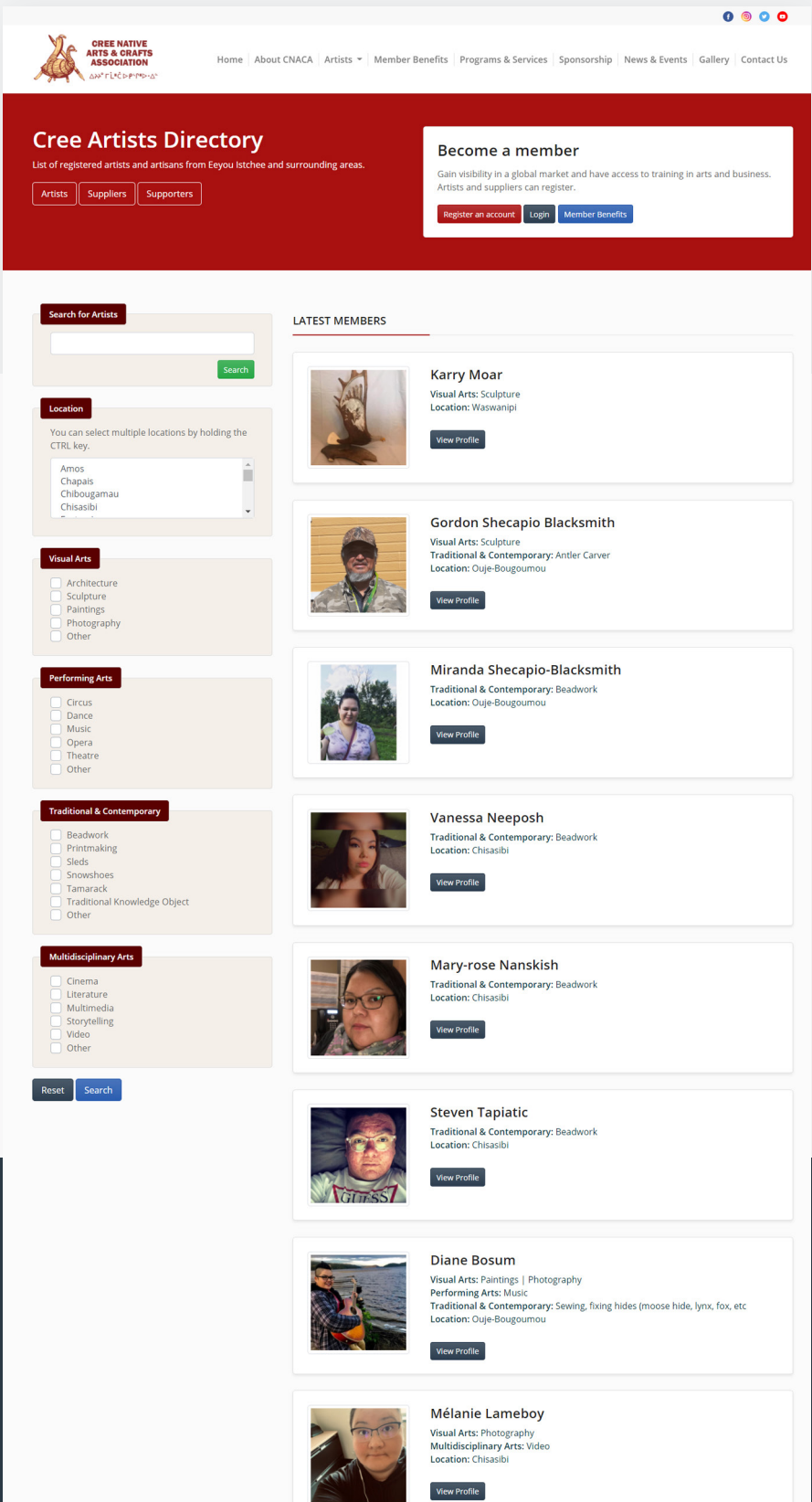
### ➔ Administration Tool

As a membership administration tool, the database is used by CNACA staff to manage memberships, create reports, and gain insightful information about the evolution of its membership base.

## REGISTER ONLINE AT

## www.cnaca.ca/artists

Your membership fee helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our members.





# Activity Report from the Executive Director



It is my pleasure to present to the members of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, the activities report of the Executive Director covering the 2019-2021 fiscal years. This has been a period of solidifying our organization's basic mandate and ensuring responsible management, and by introducing innovative measures intended to enhance and develop the role of CNACA in accordance with our overall mission.

**Gaston Cooper**

## Contents

- ➔ **Report on Local Arts Committees**
- ➔ **Local Arts Committee Members**
- ➔ **Activity Report for 2019-2021**
- ➔ **In Memory of Peter Shecapio**
- ➔ **In Memory of George Small Jr.**
- ➔ **Board of Directors**
- ➔ **Administration & Staff**



## Report on Local Arts Committees

In conformity with Section 28.7 of the JBNQA which provides for the establishment of local arts and crafts committees, we have taken steps to implement this important section. The approach that the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has taken in ensuring the establishment and functioning of Local Arts Committees in our communities has proven to be a successful one. A letter was sent to all Chiefs requesting a meeting with the Local Chief and Council seeking their support for the creation of the local committees. The response was positive. All Cree communities, including MoCreebec and Washaw Sibi were consulted.

The Power Point presentation made to each community, in addition to expressing our commitment to support and work closely with the Local Arts Committee included:

- Steps toward the creation of Local Art & Crafts Committees. (Informal approach)
- The requirement for the Local Art & Crafts Committees to be recognized by the local government.
- Criteria for the 3-5 Committees members in diverse artistic fields.
- Recommendation to appoint Chairperson and Committees members until elections are called. (The Chairperson of each Local Art & Crafts Committees will be the Board member of the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association's Board of Directors).
- Commitment to provide training and guidance until the Local Arts Committees is able to function on its own.
- Assistance in creating effective governance structures and operations.
- Recommendation to develop local Mission, Vision, and Objectives.
- Commitment to provide adequate funding on an annual basis from CNACA's core funding.

The primary mandate of the Local Art & Crafts Committees will be in conformity with the role of the regional association. Following are a few examples of the possible activities of the Local Arts Committees:

- Being a voice for artists at the regional level.
- Setting the strategic direction to guide and direct the artistic needs of its' members and community.
- Generally responding to the needs of the local members.
- Facilitating access to materials (raw or other material).
- Gathering products made by artists of the LAC and through a CNACA marketing network, shipping products to a CNACA selling point (eventually through Wachiya).
- Promoting local arts and crafts and traditional know-how (targeting youth, schools, population in general).
- Managing training in arts and crafts.
- Managing arts and crafts events suitable for the local community.
- Certifying quality and authenticity of products (with guidance and assistance from CNACA).
- Making representations at the local political level to support artists and artisans and stimulate collaborations with other local organizations.
- Mounting membership drives (Active/Associated/Corporate).



# Local Art Committees

## Chisasibi Local Arts Committee (Official)

Kristin Sam  
Cinderella Visitor  
Marlene Bearskin  
Dwayne Cox  
Darlene Bearskin  
Christopher Napash  
Charlotte K. Moar

## Mistissini Local Arts Committee (Unofficial)

Peter Shecapio (deceased)  
Lloyd Cheechoo  
Beth Sealhunter  
Samuel Mianscum  
Vacant

## Ouje-Bougoumou Local Arts Committee (Official)

Kenny Mianscum  
Diane Bosum  
Gordon Shecapio-Blacksmith  
Alice Shecapio-Blacksmith  
Sam R. Bosum

## Eastmain Local Arts Committee (Official)

Duane Shanoush  
Roger Weapenciappo  
Pauline Tomatuk  
Kathleen Whiskeychan  
Kenneth Gilpin

## Nemaska Local Arts Committee (Official)

Elton John Salt  
Danny Gull  
Helen Tanoush Gull  
James Wapachee  
Deborah Wapachee

## Waskaganish Local Arts Committee (Official)

Jamie Joyce Jacob  
Jimmy Tim Whiskeychan  
Carrie Weistche  
Mary Jane Salt  
Emily Hester  
Vanessa Stephen  
Darryl Salt

## Waswanipi Local Arts Committee (unofficial)

Allen Cooper  
Louise B Saganash  
Irene Otter  
Robin Gull-Saganash  
Ella Neeposh

## Wemindji Local Arts Committee (Official)

Edward Georgekish  
Allan Matches  
Mabel Georgekish  
Emmett Georgekish  
Gail Shashaweskum

## Whapmagoostui Local Arts Committee (Official)

Patricia George  
Joshua J. Kawapit  
Rachel Kawapit  
Eddie Masty Sr.  
John Shem

## MoCreebec Local Arts Committee

(To be confirmed)

## Washa Sibi Local Arts Committee

(To be confirmed)



# Activity Report 2019-2020



## Inland Baby Rattle and Moccasin Workshop

MAR 2019

Traditional teachers Alice Shecapio-Blacksmith, Judy Shecapio-Blacksmith and Elder Charlie Bosum provided a 3 day workshop in Oujé-Bougoumou. Throughout the three day workshop, several guest speakers, including Wayne Rabbitskin, spoke about the importance of maintaining Cree tradition and culture, language and promoting the arts and crafts industry as a viable source of income.

# Activity Report 2019-2020



## Chapais en Fête

JUL 2019

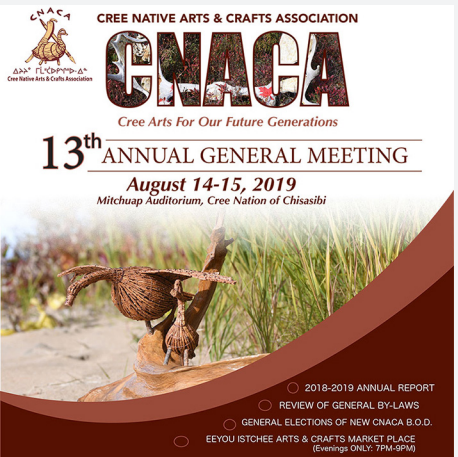
Diana Bosum from Oujé-Bougoumou performed at the second edition of the Chapais en Fête celebration. Diane Bosum has been musically influenced since she was 3 years old. Growing up in a musical household, she found herself learning how to write songs and play the guitar, drums, bass, keyboards and the ukulele at a very early age. Diane expresses herself through an authentic native sound coupled with influences from Country, Gospel and Rock music. With a passion for music, Diane can be found performing in a variety of communities and shows throughout Eeyou Istchee.



## Georgeville Indigenous Festival

JUN 2019

This was CNACA's second consecutive year attending the 'Georgeville Indigenous Festival'. Isabelle Neeposh and Deborah Ratt represented CNACA and demonstrated beadmaking in Copps Square in Georgeville. This event enables new artists to sell their product and provide workshops in a very intimate and supportive environment. Isabelle Neeposh has been making beaded earrings, medallions and barrettes since 2013. Deborah Ratt has been creating and producing glass beads and precious stone jewelry since 2006.



## 13th Annual General Assembly

AUG 2019

The 13th Annual General Assembly was in Chisasibi on Aug 14-15, 2019. The theme was "Cree arts for our future generations". The general elections for the new board of directors was held and a review of general by-laws and annual reports was conducted. The incorporation of a 'marketplace' at the Annual General Assembly was a great success. The Mitchuap foyer and auditorium were filled with artists and artisans offering everything from traditional items to modern decor and visual arts. We had performances by a number of Chisasibi artists including George Tipiatic, Mason Pepabano, Jody House, Cindy Chakapash and Oujé-Bougoumou delegate, Diane Bosum.



## KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples

JUN 2019

This year CNACA partnered with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association to send a representative of both organizations to 'KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples'. Jimmy 'Tim' Whiskeychan had the opportunity to share with attendees, information about the arts community in Eeyou Istchee and sell his artwork. We are looking forward to attending this year again with another of our French speaking members.



## 2nd Poetry & Song Writing Competition

DEC 2019

This was the second year CNACA administered 'Tipaachimuh', Cree on-line song and poetry writing contest. CNACA received five entries in the song writing category and four poems. We hope to administer this important language arts project again this upcoming fiscal year with our financial partners CALQ, the Cree Nation Youth Council, and with technical and promotional support from the James Bay Cree Communication Society.



# Activity Report 2019-2020



## Christmas Arts & Craft Sale

DEC 2019

The annual 'Oujé-Bougoumou Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale' takes place in collaboration with Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation. This year Harold Bosum provided a tamarack goose decoy making workshop and Isabelle Neeposh offered beaded earring making. Musical entertainment was provided by Jossée Bernier and Diane Bosum. Also, due to his success at last year's event, Mistissini hair stylist, Kizis Mitchell offered his services. There were approximately 12 vendors including those from Oujé-Bougoumou, Waswanipi and Mistissini.



## Northern Lights Conference

FEB 2020

Every two years the 'Northern Lights Conference' takes place in Ottawa. Thanks to the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Cree Nation Youth Council, we were able to send two organizational representatives to sell and promote Eeyouch/ Eenouch artists. An example of some items sold at the booth include: clothing designs by Judy Cooper (Nemaska), beaded earrings by Weena Bosum (Ouje-Bougoumou), tamarack goose decoys by Harvey Blackned (Waskaganish), and beaded moose hide pins by Kristen Sam (Chisasibi). This event sees over a thousand potential customers and provides a specialized avenue for sales uniquely for northern artists.

# Activity Report 2019-2020

## Rock your Gloves

MAR 2020

The Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association (CNACA), Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI), and Cree Nation Government Department of Justice and Correctional Services (CNG DJCS) partnered to host a 3 day elder taught workshop. Geared towards students, caregivers, and teachers the workshop was a successful event.



## Cree Youth Arts and Crafts Business Development Workshop

FEB-MAR 2020

In partnership with the Cree Nation Government (CNG), CNACA announced the launch of the Youth Arts and Crafts Business Development Workshop. Held in Waskaganish the workshop covered an introduction on how to price products, instructions and discussions on how to use social media, how to photograph products, how to set up a PayPal account, contracts, shipping, commissions, consignment, customer service and more!



# Activity Report 2020-2021

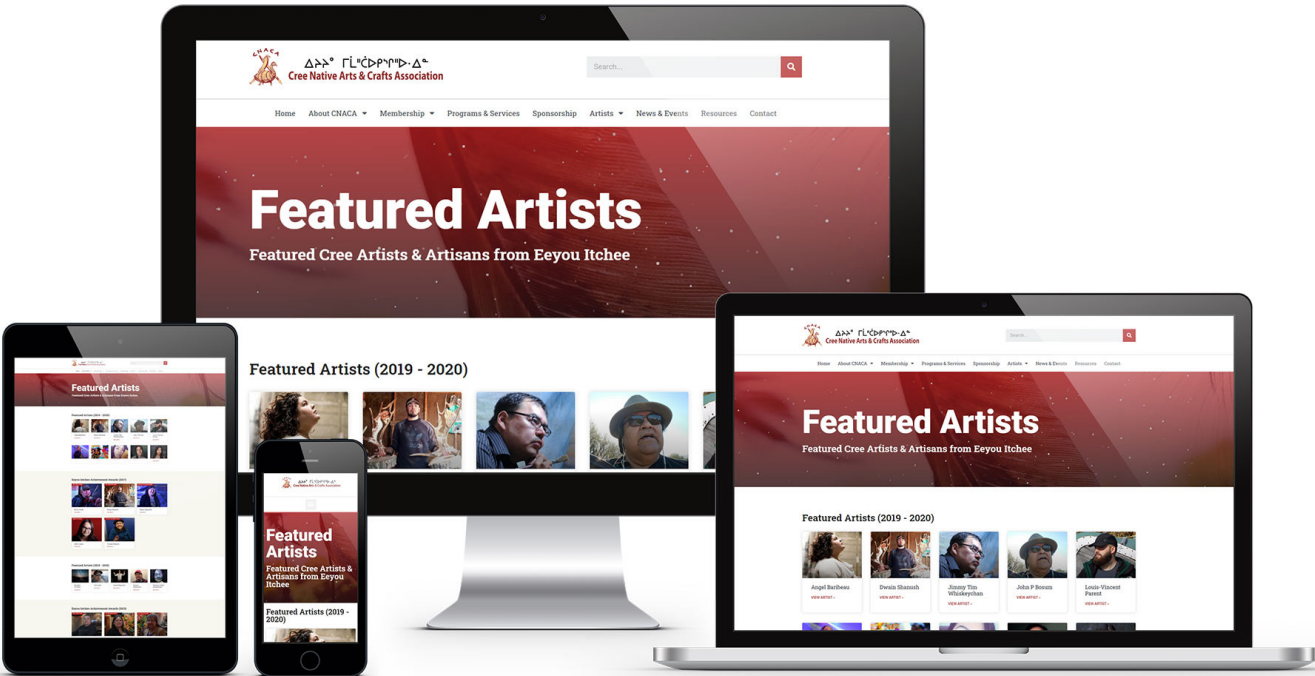
# Activity Report 2020-2021

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to engage in activities and workshops in 2020 - 2021. The uncertainty brought about by the pandemic has forced our staff to adapt to changing circumstances. The down time enabled us to work on improving our services and programs and developing tools to expand membership, create support mechanisms and streamline administrative procedures throughout the organization.

## Launch of New and Improved Web Site

JULY 2021

We are excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website.



www.cnaca.ca

### 1 Responsive & Fast Loading

The new website is responsive in design to adapt to any screen size. The website is accessible via phones, tablets, computers and even on your TV. The new design loads faster and is optimized to use the least bandwidth on mobile devices.

### 2 Easier to Navigate

It is now easier to navigate the CNACA website with the new and improved navigation. Information and pages are now just a click away from the main page making it easier for our users to access information from any page or section.

### 3 Access to Information

The new website features expanded sections with a wealth of information including programs and services we provide, membership benefits, our sponsorship program, funding sources and the latest news and workshops.

### 4 Featured Artists Section

Our new Featured Artists section showcases the artists who have been featured in our Annual Report and Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards. The section contains links to each artists bios, including their contact info and a showcase of their crafts with videos and pictures.

## Sachimuweushtutin Mosquito Hat – Passing on Traditional Knowledge

JULY 2020

After a long wait and following all safety protocols, we held our first workshop in collaboration with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (Nishiyuu department) in Ouje-Bougoumou. Due to safety concerns, we opted to record our elder Maggie Wapachee’s teaching and have sewing experts Judy Shecapio-Blacksmith and Paula Menarick present the workshops. As part of the Waapimausuwin Project , the 5 day workshop which was held in the evenings, was a success with a great turn out. The event also helped a lot of our participants cope with the pandemic and isolation.

## 14th Annual General Assembly

POSTPONED

As the preparations were well underway to host the Annual General Assembly, we had to postpone the event twice because of the Corona virus outbreak. Our executive committee has stressed that the health and safety of our employees, members, and nation must be a priority.







## In Loving Memory of **Peter Shecapio**

1949 - 2020

Peter Shecapio was born in the bush in November of 1949, and his love for Cree culture and the land will forever resonate in Eeyou Istchee. He had much respect towards the people, he showed compassion, and encouraged his family and the many that he befriended throughout his lifetime.

As a residential school survivor, Mr. Shecapio faced many challenges, but his positive educational experiences later in life strengthened his belief that education matters and he always encouraged the younger generations in pursuing their professional dreams.



**“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we may comfort others”, 2 Corinthians 1:4**

His professional career was varied and he dedicated much of it to the Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers Association, where he met many people that he became friends with from other Cree communities. He applied his entrepreneurial skills throughout his life, managing a pool hall business in the 1980s, and later after his retirement he partnered in the Subway initiative in Mistissini. In the final stretch of his career he was privileged to work with young people at Voyageur Memorial School, and he always encouraged people to get involved in their children’s education and endeavors.

As a board member of the Cree Arts and Crafts Association, he brought the wisdom he gained from his parents and community elders, as well as his passion for music and Cree Culture. Playing music was one of his favorite past times, he often played with the local fiddler at weddings and community events, he was a founding member of “Chief Shepherd Band”, and even played the spoons at the annual Children’s Christmas concert at the school.



Mr. Shecapio’s good humor, wisdom, encouragement and passion for sharing his knowledge guided our organization for many years and we will forever cherish his comforting presence.





# In Loving Memory of *George Small Jr*

1952 - 2020

It is with profound sadness that we inform you of the passing of Mocreebec's Deputy Chief, George Small Jr. on Saturday, August 29th. He was 67 years old.

George was born in Moose Factory, Ontario on October 1, 1952 to the late Clara and George Small Sr. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary, and their 4 children, Lester, Leonard (wife Cynthia), Rosanne and his youngest Trevor, his 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He spent his childhood harvesting with his parents along the Harricanaw River until he attended Residential School at Horden Hall in Moose Factory and Shingwauk Hall in Sault Ste. Marie. It was on September 10, 1989, George accepted the Lord as his Savior. He led his life thereafter, following the Lord.

Along with Allan Jolly, George was one of the key founding members of the Mocreebec organization. Through the 37 years he worked at Mocreebec, he held the positions of Finance Administrator, the first Director of Health, and was still serving as Deputy Chief at his passing. His colleagues knew him to be a calm and patient coworker whom they could trust, and go to for advice whenever it was needed. George loved serving the members of Mocreebec.

George served on various community and regional boards such as; Weeneebayko Area Health Authority, Sagashtawao Healing Lodge, Payukotayno James Bay Child & Family Services, Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation, Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, and the Native Evangelical Ministries.

**“I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” 2 Timothy 4:7**

George loved music and was often seen with a guitar in his hand. He was inspired to play music by his Mom, Clara. As a teenager, he played in his first band with his brother Glen, and friends Elmer & Lloyd Cheechoo, and later on joined a band with the late Roger House. In 1972, he and his younger brothers formed a band called “Hidden Glory”. George shared his love for playing guitar, along with his brothers in many communities along the James Bay Coast at various music festivals, talent shows, and gospel nights. George continued to play music right up until a few days before his passing.

George was a master craftsman in making Tamarack Birds. He learned from his late brother-in-law Reggie Shanush and spent countless hours making them for over 40 years. Not only did he teach his brothers how to make them, George was often seen sharing his skills in schools and at community events. He continued to make tamarack birds until a year ago, and only stopped due to his illness.

Sandbank Lake, located 90 miles west of Moose Factory, was one of his favorite places to go. He traveled there by bush-plane or helicopter. Like his Dad, who hunted and trapped there for many years, George looked forward to and planned months in advance as he truly loved to spend his time on the land. The spring harvest season was a special time that George loved to spend with all of his children, his grandchildren, family and friends. He was always happy to teach the younger ones about harvesting and how to respect the land and animals. Each year, George and his family shared the harvest with community elders and friends.

For many years George struggled with various health issues such as diabetes which caused complications with his heart that eventually led to a triple by-pass; he endured multiple amputations, and in September 2019 he was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Throughout all of these trials, he continued to live life to the best of his ability and was determined to carry on.

In his lifetime, George touched many lives. He encouraged many people in different areas of life, whether it was in their walk with the Lord, their work, their education or extra-curricular activities such as hockey. He took the time to talk with them or just listen to them. He will be forever remembered as a kind, patient, and knowledgeable man. A true warrior who will be greatly missed!





## Experienced, effective and diverse leadership

**Kenneth Gilpin**  
President  
Eastmain Representative

**Diane Cooper**  
Vice - President  
Waswanipi Representative

**Tim Whiskeychan**  
Treasurer  
Waskaganish Representative

**Deborah Wapachee**  
Executive Member  
Nemaska Representative

**Edward Georgekish**  
Executive Member  
Wemindji Representative

**Darlene Bearskin**  
Board Member  
Chisasibi Representative

**Peter Shecapio (Deceased)**  
Board Member  
Mistissini Representative

**Vacant**  
Board Member  
Oujé-Bougoumou Representative

**Natasia Mukash**  
Board Member  
Whapmagoostui Representative

**Gloria Polson**  
Board Member  
Washaw Sibi Representative

**George Small (Deceased)**  
Board Member  
MoCreebec Representative

**Alex Moses**  
Board Member  
CNG Representative

**Léo Parent-Sirois**  
Legal Counsel  
Murdoch Archambault

## CNACA Employees 2019-2020

**Gaston Cooper**  
Executive Director

**Jacqueline Paddy**  
Administrative Assistant (Interim)

**Sarah Dow-Imrie & Adrienne Shecapio**  
Special Projects & Events Coordinator

**Roxanne Mianscum & Jared Gull**  
Communications & Marketing Officer

**Harry Bosum**  
Product Manager

living  
**Cree Arts and  
Crafts**



**Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association**

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## Experienced, effective and diverse leadership

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President  
Eastmain Representative

**Diane Cooper**  
Vice - President  
Waswanipi Representative

**Tim Whiskeychan**  
Treasurer  
Waskaganish Representative

**Deborah Wapachee**  
Executive Member  
Nemaska Representative

**Edward Georgekish**  
Executive Member  
Wemindji Representative

**Darlene Bearskin**  
Board Member  
Chisasibi Representative

**Vacant**  
Board Member  
Mistissini Representative

**Vacant**  
Board Member  
Ouje-Bougoumou Representative

**Natasia Mukash**  
Board Member  
Whapmagoostui Representative

**Gloria Polson**  
Board Member  
Washaw Sibi Representative

**Vacant**  
Board Member  
MoCreebec Representative

**Alex Moses**  
Board Member  
CNG Representative

**Léo Parent-Sirois**  
Legal Counsel  
Murdoch Archambault

## CNACA Employees 2020 - 2021

**Gaston Cooper**  
Executive Director

## Vacant Administrative Assistant

**Adrienne Shecapio**  
Special Projects & Events Coordinator

**Mike Wong**  
Communications & Marketing (Contract)

**Jason Otter**  
Product Manager

living  
**Cree Arts and  
Crafts**



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FOR TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE



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