ᐧᐃᓂᐯᑯᐃᐣᓱᐧᑦ ᓅᐦᒋᑦᐅᐃᐣᓱᐧᑦ ᐁ ᓇᑕᒫᑐᐧᑖᐤ (ᐃᐣᓱᐧ ᐊᐧᑏ)
**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**

Whapmagoostui
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Chisasibi
ᒋᐧᓱᐧᐃ

Wemindji
ᐧᐃᒥᐤᑏ

Eastmain
ᐃᐧᑎᐣ

Waskaganish
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Nemaska
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Waswanipi
ᐧᐊᐧᐊᓂᐃ

Ouje-Bougoumou
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Mistissini
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Washaw Sibi
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# Message from the Office of Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty

**Nemaska, Eeyou Istchee (March 21, 2023) –** The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government along with Indigenous peoples across the province have been calling on the Quebec Government to recognize that systemic racism and discrimination still exist. However, through a motion adopted by the National Assembly on March 15, 2023, Quebec continues to deny that racism is a deeply rooted problem in the province and that Quebec is an “open and welcoming nation”.

Throughout time, we have witnessed, known victims, or have been victims ourselves of systemic racism and discrimination in Quebec. The tragic death of Joyce Echaquan, the many unsolved cases of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Indigenous women in Val-d’Or who courageously told their stories of abuse, have all proven that systemic racism is alive. To fix the underlying issue of systemic racism, it must be recognized and it must be named. Continuing to deny its existence denies victims of the credibility that makes it more difficult to resolve and more painful for victims on their healing journey.

Much work to document racism and discrimination in Quebec has been accomplished such as the Viens Commission which concluded in a report that members of First Nations and Inuit are indeed victims of systemic discrimination in their relations with public services. Since the tabling of the report, we have been calling upon the implementation of the Viens Commission’s 142 Calls for Action in collaboration with Indigenous organizations to ensure that racism and discrimination are eradicated across the province.

Human dignity and respect are rights deserved by all regardless of how deep a province’s roots into systemic racism run. The roots of systemic racism against Indigenous peoples are deep and represent a painful legacy of colonialism that must be recognized.

On this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we ask that the government finally recognize that systemic racism exists in Quebec and take action to address racism and discrimination in collaboration with Indigenous Nations.

#FightRacism

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