



The Cree Nation stands in solidarity with the families and members of Wemindji and Waskaganish following tragic events

It is with a very heavy heart that we have learned of a recent tragic and senseless event in Eeyou Istchee. It was confirmed by the EEPF in public statement that domestic abuse and violence was the cause of death of a woman during the early hours of Friday, March 24, 2023, in Wemindji. The young mother leaves behind four children as well as many family members and friends in Waskaganish, Wemindji and across Eeyou Istchee.

There are no words that can bring solace to such a heart-breaking situation. The aftermath of such a violent event is very difficult for the many people involved be it for the first response services, care for the children left behind, and trained support for the families affected by this tragic event. We would like to genuinely thank the police officers and many professionals who go beyond the call of duty when these events hit as close to home as this one did.

Our communities are small, we all know one another which makes events such as this one even more difficult to accept. It may be difficult to know what to do or say or where to turn if this event triggers certain emotions within ourselves. We wanted to take this time to remind members of the services available in your community through the CBHSSJB: <https://www.creehealth.org/services/mental-health-services>

If you are burdened with addiction issues or going through mental and emotional distress, please reach out to your local CMC and Wellness Centers or start with a friend or loved one in who you trust. Despite how we may be feeling, we are all surrounded by people who have our best interest at heart.

Domestic violence is a reality in our communities and can happen to anyone. If you are concerned about the safety of a family member, a friend, or yourself, please contact the EEPF or the Robin's Nest Women's Shelter at 1-855-753-2094. You can learn more about the services offered here: www.creehealth.org/services/robins-nest-womens-shelters

Our hearts go out to the communities of Wemindji and Waskaganish directly affected by the traumatic events. We must be able to stand strong alongside the families affected and allow them to lean on us. Our communities are hurting but it is only when we stand united that we get through the most difficult of challenges.

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