

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) / CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

ISSUE 4

Special AGA Issue: The 50th Grand Council of the Crees & 47th Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly



SEPTEMBER ISSUE | ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This newsletter features a profile on Jade Mukash, current Miss Whapmagoostui, after attending the Miss Indigenous Canada pageant

COVER:

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this issue's images and content.

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WEBINAR | CREE NATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT

SEP 10 & 12, 2024

The webinar will share an overview of the project, highlight key milestones, and outline the next steps in establishing this new organization focused on Cree research and research governance.

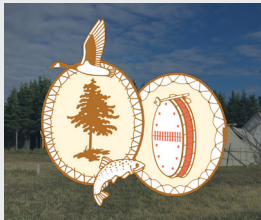


MINING INFORMATION SESSION

SEP 16, 2024

The Grand Council of the Crees / Cree Nation Government and the Cree Trappers' Association invite all inland tallymen and land users to an Information session regarding mining. From 1pm to 9pm at the Mistissini Complex.

[RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE](#)



BOARD COUNCIL MEETING

SEP 18-19, 2024

Meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government over zoom.

[WATCH LIVESTREAM HERE](#)

3RD ANNUAL ACTS OF SERVICE AWARDS



The 50th Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/47th Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly took place in Wemindji, Eeyou Istchee, on August 27 to 29, 2024.

On the evening of August 28th, the Cree Nation Government honoured exceptional dedication and commitment of outstanding individuals at the 3rd Annual Acts of Service Awards Ceremony and community feast.

The first to be honoured was Roderick Pachano accepting the recognition in Outstanding Performance in Contribution of Commitment and Time award on behalf of himself and his wife Janie, who was unable to attend, for their remarkable contributions to Cree knowledge, history, and culture. Janie, through her extensive work in documenting the history and flora of Eeyou Istchee, and Roderick, in his roles as a leader, negotiator, and advocate for the preservation of Cree culture and language.





The evening was enjoyed by all and concluded with a fiddle dance tribute to the honoured recipients by Wemindji fiddle dancers and fun filled rounds of dance including a chief's dance.



CREE NATION BUSINESS SUMMIT 2024:

PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A VIBRANT CREE ECONOMY



The Department of Commerce and Industry (DCI) was proud to partner with Eeyoupreneur in hosting the Cree Nation Business Summit 2024.

The event took place in Chisasibi on August 23 to 25 and included participants from across Eeyou Istchee interested in starting their own business.

The prospective entrepreneurs were sponsored by DCI to partake in an entrepreneurship case study testing their problem-solving skills, group work and creativity while forming strong business partnerships.

Business coaches were available to guide participants through the step-by-step process throughout the weekend with groups presenting their business ideas at the end for judges to analyze and then select a winner.





"You took a seat at the economic table by describing your existence and your expectations. You defined your present, you defined your future, and you laid out the guidelines of who you are as a modern people."



We wish all future entrepreneurs that took part in the Cree Nation Business Summit the best of luck in their future ventures and are excited to see how your business will help shape the Cree economy.



LAKE STURGEON 'NIMAAU'

Nemaska Nameshtekw

Located at the center of Eeyou Istchee, Nemaska is often referred to as the heart of the Cree Nation. The name Nemaska literally means 'the place of plentiful fish' and they love their fish in Nemaska. A favorite dish is lake Sturgeon and the Cree Nation of Nemaska is famous for their smoked sturgeon called 'nameshtekw'.

The CNG was on-hand at the Old Nemaska Post in August, sturgeon harvesting season, to witness master traditional cook Winnie Moar preparing her nameshtekw.



She was even preparing smoked goose meat, a practice not very common anymore in the Cree Nation call 'niskameshtekw'.



All this is done in her smoke hut called a 'Pakutakwaan'.

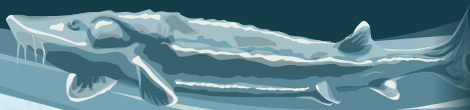


CONSERVATION OF



Lake Sturgeon
Nameu (᠒᠘᠐°)
Nimaau (᠑᠘᠐°)

In Eeyou Istchee



LAKE STURGEON CONSERVATION IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

In 2023, the Cree Nation Government Wildlife Unit, in collaboration with the Cree Trappers' Association and with financial support from the federal government, successfully completed the Cree-led threat management plan for the conservation of Lake Sturgeon/ Nameu (ᓇᓴᓴ) / Nimaau (ᓄᓴᓴ) in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement Territory.

This document represents a historic collaboration between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the federal government for the development of a document required under the Species at Risk Act to protect this culturally important species.

This year, the Lake Sturgeon Team is embarking on its fourth community tour to promote the upcoming publication of the Cree-led Threat Management Plan. During the tour, the team will host informational booths to discuss lake sturgeon conservation and gather community members input on project ideas.

Looking ahead to the next two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026), the team aims to identify key people for the plan's implementation and develop tailored management targets for each Cree community of Eeyou Istchee. These plans will be based on community needs and visions for lake sturgeon conservation, as gathered by the Lake Sturgeon Team during the numerous community tours.

Stay updated on the Lake Sturgeon Team's whereabouts through our social media channels!

CHECK THEM OUT
ON FACEBOOK:



CHECK THEM OUT
ON INSTAGRAM:





INDIGENOUS CONSULTING GROUP: A CREE BUSINESS PROFILE

In line with this year's theme of Strategic Enhancement of the Eeyou Ee'noo Economy, the Eeyou Ee'noo Newsletter is glad to profile a new start-up.

The recently created Indigenous Consulting Group is a Cree-owned firm founded by company president Robert Auclair, EMBA, of Whapmagoostui and business partner and CEO Bruno Pereira, EMBA.

It is a business equipped for offering services to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses and organizations.

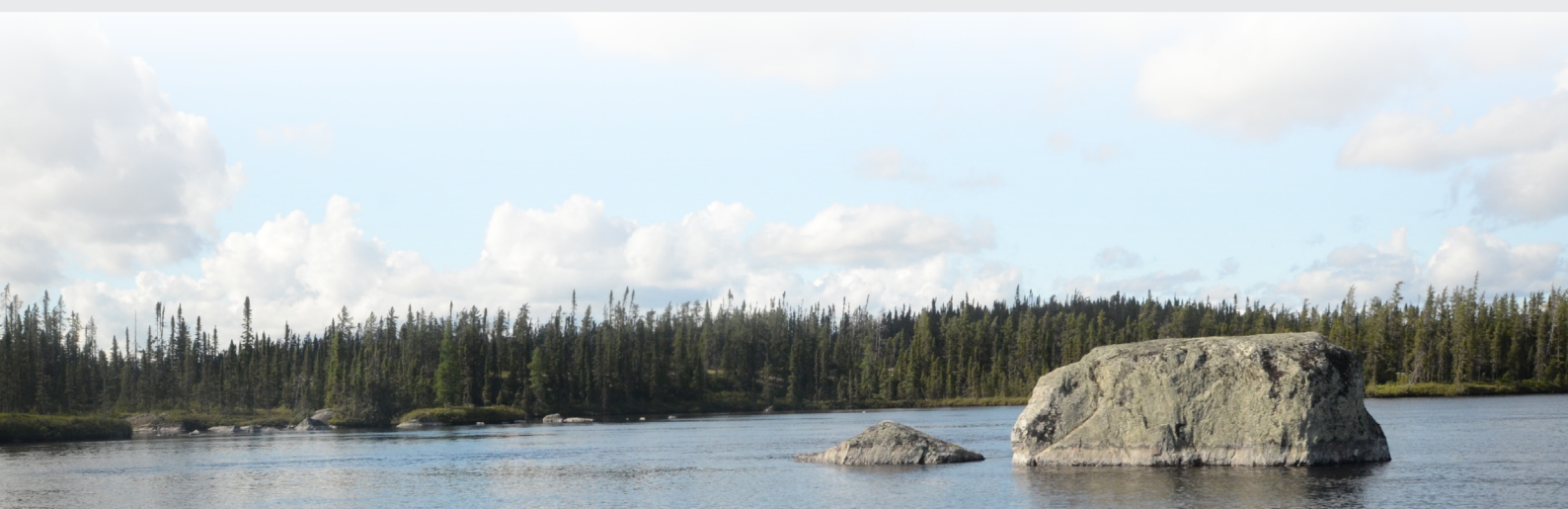
They offer strategic management services to thriving Indigenous businesses helping them through their growth process as well as assistance to new start-up businesses providing support for long term success.

On the flip side the consulting group is trained to offer Indigenous relations and cultural awareness training to non-Indigenous organizations.



"GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE NOW REQUIRING MORE INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT FROM THE GET-GO AND QUEBEC IS LAGGING IN THAT AREA. THESE ARE THE GAPS THAT WE WANT TO FILL. THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CALLS FOR BUSINESS RECONCILIATION ADVANCING THAT PROCESS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-INDIGENOUS COMPANIES AND CORPORATIONS IN CANADA. IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,"

- ROBERT AUCLAIR,



MISS WHAPMAGOOSTUI AT MISS INDIGENOUS CANADA

Interview with Jade Mukash



Miss Whapmagoostui, Jade Mukash, was celebrated at the 2024 Miss Indigenous Canada Pageant receiving the Traditional Knowledge Award.

The three-day long event concluded July 27 on Six Nations of the Grand River territory with Indigenous contestants from across the country. Mukash says it was an experience she will treasure forever.

"We all said it, we almost forgot that we were in a pageant. It was just such a great environment and we had so much fun together that we kind of forgot about the competition along the way.

And then the last night was like, 'Oh yeah, we're here to compete, we're getting points for all this.'

But all the contestants had such an incredible connection, we felt anyone of us would have made a great Miss Indigenous Canada and we agreed that as the other contestants, we would all support whoever was crowned."

Mukash felt privileged receiving the Traditional Knowledge Award.

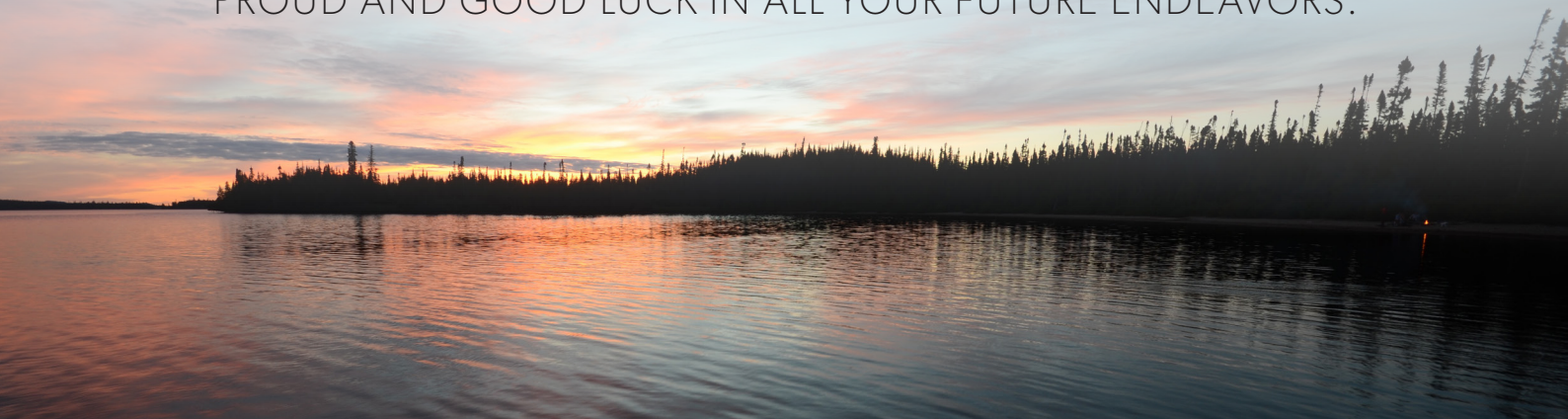


"IT WAS AMAZING! I WAS REALLY SURPRISED, NOT BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK I DESERVED IT, BUT ALL THE LADIES WERE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR NATIONS AND THEIR CULTURE. THEY WERE REALLY IN TOUCH WITH WHERE THEY ARE FROM. I FELT LIKE ANY ONE OF US COULD HAVE WON IT. I WAS JUST REALLY PROUD TO BE REPRESENTING MY NATION."



Mukash now hopes to bring her national experience back to Eeyou Istchee working behind the scenes at the next Miss Eeyou Eenou Pageant and also at the next Miss Whapmagoostui Pageant where she will be passing on her crown to the next princess.

CONGRATULATIONS JADE, YOU HAVE MADE YOUR CREE NATION
PROUD AND GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.





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NEXT ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2024



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

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