



Eeyou Eenou NEWSLETTER

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

ГЉĹ",ЪР́лч | SEPTEMBER 2024

ISSUE 4

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



Eeyou Eenou Newsletter

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Youth Profile: Jade Mukash

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.



ἱ Δ"ϽΠΡσ·Δι EVENTS



Justice Debassige received the Outstanding Performance in Volunteerism - Youth Recognition award for his leadership in the environmental movement against Uranium mining by mobilizing youth, community members and Elders to protect our lands and ultimately leading to the ban of Uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee.

In an emotional tribute, Annie Weistche was joined onstage with her family accepting the award for Outstanding Performance in Volunteerism on behalf of the late Kenneth Weistche, for his courageous efforts in seeking justice for former students of the Indian Boarding Homes Program, leading to the historic class action to provide compensation to people that attended these homes, which impacted not only the Cree Nation but also other Indigenous communities. Not present at the ceremony was Wally Rabbitskin, who was honoured for his Outstanding Performance in Volunteerism through his unwavering commitment to health and wellness in the Cree Nation, his achievements as a marathon runner, and his dedication to fostering healthy lifestyles among youth and community members.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 ACTS OF SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS AND WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CREE NATION AND FOR INSPIRING US ALL WITH THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT.





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.

ἱ Δ"ϽΠΡσ·Δι EVENTS



The weekend included panel discussions from entrepreneurs discussing their best practices, common problems and success stories. Participants heard from local businesspeople like Adam Gates, owner of Mithamin Transport & Construction and national Indigenous entrepreneurs like Mya Beaudry of Kokom Scrunchies.

The business-minded participants also heard engaging discussions from invited guests of the Indigenous business community from across the country like keynote speaker Carol Ann Hilton, MBA, author of the much-acclaimed book, Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table.

Hilton sees good things for Eeyou Istchee and praises the Cree Nation for our accomplishments thus far.

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



The Cree Nation Business Summit 2024 was a great success, bringing instrumental business practices to potential Cree entrepreneurs.

"It was our pleasure to offer a uniquely Cree business training opportunity while bringing valuable entrepreneurial and networking skills to our communities. Experiences like this are essential for our potential Cree business owners and will help create the path forward for a resilient Cree economy of the future. "Anthony MacLeod, Director of Commerce and Industry, Cree Nation Government.

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.



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



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





CONSERVATION OF



Lake Sturgeon Nameu (൨⅂°) Nimaau (♂Ḷ°)

In Eeyou Istchee



LAKE STURGEON Conservation in Eeyou 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 ($_{\Box}$ ¬°)/Nimaau ($_{\sigma}$ L°) 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:





ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024



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

Under the theme "Maamuu – Safeguarding our Legacy in Pursuit of Progress", the Assembly brought together Chiefs and delegates from all 11 Eeyou/Eenou communities. It was chaired by Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty and Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee and provided the opportunity to discuss main projects and highlight key initiatives within the Cree Nation, such as the Wachiya Store launch and the Eeyou Istchee Summer Games.

Many notable reports were presented at the Assembly, including from Cree School Board Chairperson Dr. Sarah Pash, Cree Board of Health Chairperson Bertie Wapachee and Cree Nation Youth Council Grand Chief Adrian N. Gunner. The Cree Nation Government's report was also tabled at the AGA and it provides a summary of all the activities, projects and programs of this past year.

On behalf of the GCCEI/CNG, we would like to thank all Wemindji Eeyouch for welcoming us into your homes, delighting us with delicious meals and warm hospitality, without all of your kind support it would have not been possible. Also, a special Happy Birthday to Wemindji who celebrated their 65th anniversary, we were proud to commemorate this great milestone with you.

We would like to thank the staff of the Walter Hughboy Memorial Sports Complex for providing for all our needs during the Assembly and for creating an amazing meeting space.

Most importantly we would like to thank the Cree Nation Government staff for putting on another successful Assembly! Thank you all for your dedication, commitment and hard work for our Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government.

> CHECK OUT THE ANNUAL REPORT HERE:



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AT NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025 TO TAKE PLACE IN WASWANIPI.





INDIGENOUS CONSULTING GROUP: A CREE BUSINESS PROFILE

In line with this year's theme of Strategic Enhancement of the Eeyou Eenou Economy, the Eeyou Eenou Newsletter is glad to profile a new startup.

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,

Δ**22D**r People



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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