

Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec

Representations of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government

Norman Wapachee
Deputy Grand Chief / Vice Chairperson

Val-d'Or

September 30, 2022

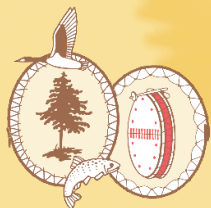


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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Key Messages

- **Adjust electoral boundaries to align with those of Nord-du-Québec Region 10**
 - Include all territory within perimeter of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government and of Kativik Regional Government
 - Remove MRC of Vallée-de-l'Or, which should be included within electoral district of Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Inclusion of Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi
- Support to mobilize Northern voter participation



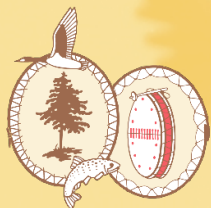
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Milestones

Cree-Québec *Paix des Braves* (2002)

- Turning point in relations between the Cree and Quebec
- New Nation-to-Nation relationship based on cooperation, partnership and mutual respect
- Assumption by the Cree Nation Government of certain Quebec responsibilities under the JBNQA for economic and community development, with funding provided by Quebec
- Means for Cree participation in mining, forestry and hydroelectric development in Eeyou Istchee
- Special Adapted Forestry Regime to accommodate Cree traditional activities
- Resolves most disputes with Quebec regarding implementation of the JBNQA



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Cree Nation Taken Seriously...

AGREEMENTS AND MECHANISMS TO EXPRESS **NATION-TO-NATION** RELATIONSHIP



2002

Paix des Braves

- Economic development
- Cree assumption of certain Quebec JBNQA responsibilities
- Cree consent & partnership in resource development
- Annual Quebec payment



2008

Federal New Relationship Agreement

- Transfer certain federal responsibilities to Cree Nation Government, along with financial resources



2012

Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement

- Planning & management:
 - o Cree responsibility 75,000 km²
 - o Regional Gov't responsibility 300,000 km²



2017

Cree-Canada Governance Agreement

- *Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act*
- Cree Constitution
- Cree laws on Category IA lands

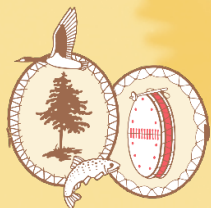
Electoral Boundaries

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act – Rules

15 (1) (a) Population of each electoral district shall, as close as reasonably possible, correspond to the **electoral quota** for the province, that is to say, **dividing the population** of the province **by the number of members** of the House of Commons and

(b) the commission shall **consider the following** in determining reasonable electoral district boundaries:

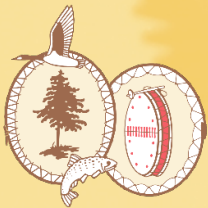
- (i) the **community of interest** or **community of identity** in or the **historical pattern of an electoral district** in the province, and
- (ii) a **manageable geographic size** for districts in **sparsely populated, rural or northern regions** of the province.



Considerations

Objectives

- Recognize **community of identity, community of interest in Northern Quebec**
- **Increase effectiveness** of federal electoral representation for Northern Quebec
- Continue process to **end historical exclusion** of Indigenous parties from governance
- **Include all key partners of Northern Quebec** in same electoral district
 - Crees, Inuit – *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA)*
 - Naskapis – *Northeastern Quebec Agreement (NEQA)*
 - Jamésiens – *Partners in Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government*
- **Enhance cohesion** among major parties of Northern Quebec
- **Recentre electoral district** on true North of Quebec



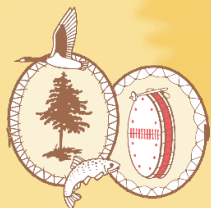
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Considerations

Distinct electoral district for Northern Quebec

- Community of identity (Indigenous, treaty, northern)
- Community of interest between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners of Northern Quebec (development, governance, culture, northern)
- Further develop governance partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Northern Quebec
- Continue to redress history of exclusion of Indigenous peoples from governance
- Ensure adequate weight for Indigenous and Northern vote in northern Quebec
- More effective representation in Parliament with distinctive Indigenous and Northern vote and voice
- Comparable electoral district to Nunavut, Northwest Territory, Yukon

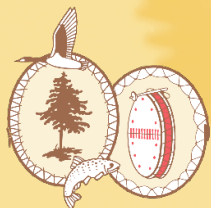


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Measures - Technical

- Replace “**Consists of**” by “**Comprises**” (see French « Comprend »)
- “**Territory of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government**”
 - Technically, the EIJBRG territory **excludes** Category I lands of Cree First Nations, Cree Category II lands, territory of Jamésien municipalities
 - Adjust by reference to all lands comprised **within the perimeter of** the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
- “**Cree reserved lands**”
 - Cree community lands are no longer “reserved lands” under *Indian Act*
 - Replace by “the Category I and II lands of the Cree communities under the JBNQA”
 - Same applies to Whapmagoostui
- “**Amerindian settlement of Oujé-Bougoumou**”
 - Correct English designation is “Ouje-Bougoumou”
 - Ouje-Bougoumou is no longer an “Amerindian settlement”, but a formally constituted Cree First Nation for all legal purposes



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1982	Billy Diamond meets with Pope	Grand Chief Billy Diamond secures audience with Pope John Paul II t to bring public attention to the Cree cause. The Vatican visit by Billy Diamond was the start of the engagement of the Crees in international affairs.
July 5, 1982	First Air Creebec Flight	Inaugural flight of Air Creebec with Billy Diamond as President.
1984	Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act	Crees negotiate passage in Parliament of <i>Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act</i> providing for Cree self-governance as required under the JBNQA.
1984		Cree Naskapi Commission established as an independent, non-governmental body to monitor the implementation of the <i>Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act</i> .
1986	James Bay Eeyou Corporation & Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement	James Bay Eeyou Corporation established. Its purpose is to study, plan, design and carry out measures to mitigate the impact of Le Complexe La Grande (1975) on Cree activities, particularly hunting, fishing and trapping activities in cooperation with Hydro-Québec.
1986		Crees and Quebec negotiate payment of \$18 million under the <i>Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement</i> to undertake research and remedial measures related to the discovery of mercury in the fish within Eeyou Istchee.
1989	First female elected chief, blockade for Ouje-Bougoumou and launch Matthew Coon Come case.	In Chisasibi, Violet Pachano becomes first woman elected as Cree Chief.
July 1989		Ouje-Bougoumou people blockade road going through its traditional territory. <i>Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement</i> signed between Quebec, Ouje-Bougoumou and Grand Council providing for initial funding for construction of new Ouje-Bougoumou village on the shores of Lake Opemiska, and includes commitment to amend JBNQA to incorporate Ouje-Bougoumou into Agreement.

Updated: March 11, 2020

