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)

בֹב ח∨ אייר חעל Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Outline

- Key Messages
- Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee
- Milestones
- Cree Principles of Governance
- Electoral Boundaries
- Considerations
- Measures
- Appendix A



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Key Messages

- Leadership of Cree, Inuit and Naskapis of Northern Quebec strongly support distinct electoral district for Northern Quebec
 - Community of identity Indigenous, treaty, northern JBNQA, NEQA
 - Community of interest Governance, development, northern
 - Historical pattern of electoral district Ensuring more effective electoral representation of Indigenous and northern electorate
 - Need to build on governance partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Northern Quebec per Cree-Québec Governance Agreement (2012)
 - Principle of inclusiveness no segregation

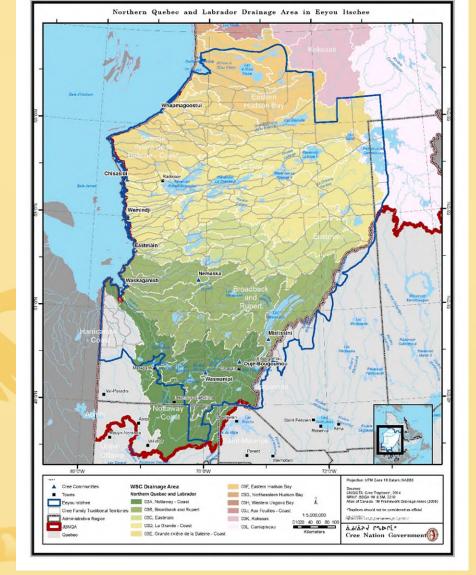


Key Messages

- 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

Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee

- The Cree call themselves "Eeyou", the "people".
- The Cree population is about 20,000.
- The Cree name of their traditional territory, "Eeyou Istchee", means the "Land of the People".
- Cree territory comprises eleven Cree communities (ten in Quebec) and over three hundred Cree traditional family territories, or "traplines".
- Cree traditional territory is located primarily in northern Quebec on the eastern shore of James Bay and south-eastern Hudson Bay.

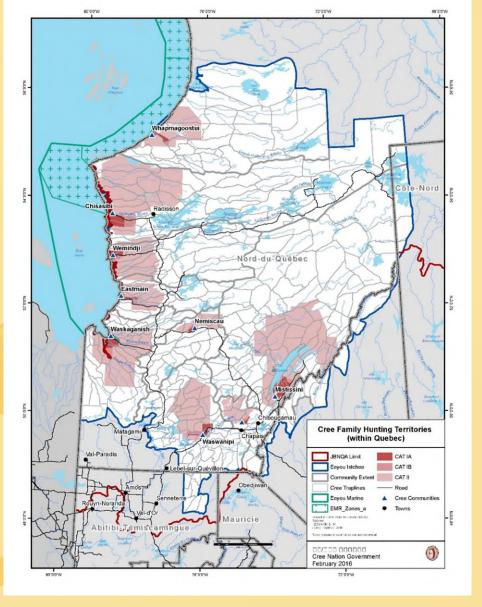


Eeyou Istchee

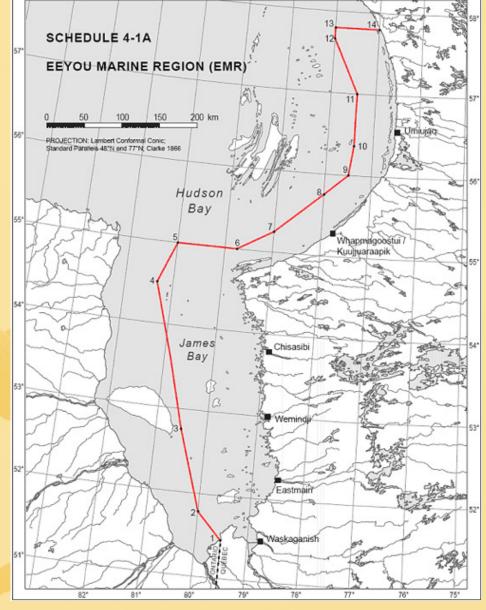
Quebec Mainland

- Category I lands (ca. 5,000 sq. km.)
 - Cree Communities
- Category II lands (ca. 70,000 sq. km.)
 - Exclusive Cree hunting, fishing and trapping
 - Cree Nation Government ensures governance
 - No resource development w/o Cree consent
- Category III lands (ca. 300,000 sq. km.)
 - Other lands fully occupied by Cree traditional family territories
 - Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government

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Eeyou Istchee Offshore (Eeyou Marine Region)





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Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee



Cree First Nations - Coastal

- Whapmagoostui
- Chisasibi
- Wemindji
- Eastmain
- Waskaganish
- MoCreebec (Ontario pending)

Cree First Nations - Inland

- Nemaska
- Waswanipi
- Ouje-Bougoumou
- Mistissini
- Washaw Sibi (pending)



Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee

Cree First Nations

- Each Cree First Nation is governed by its own elected Chief and Council.
- Each Chief also sits on the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and the Council of the Cree Nation Government to address common Cree Nation issues.
- Nine Cree First Nations are now recognized under our Treaty, the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*: Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Nemaska, Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou and Mistissini.
- The tenth Cree First Nation, Washaw Sibi, is in the process of establishing its own community and will eventually become part of the Treaty.
- The eleventh Cree First Nation is MoCreebec, recently officially recognized by the Grand Council/Cree Nation Government. Its members reside on the Ontario side of James Bay.

An illustrated timeline of key events in the modern history of the

Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee can be found at:

https://www.cngov.ca/community-culture/timeline/

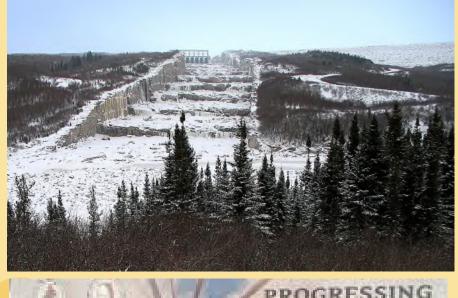
Key milestones in the history of the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee can be found at:

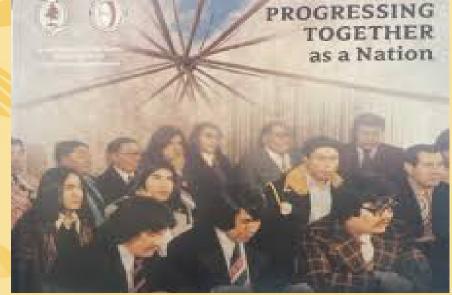
https://www.cngov.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/websitetimeline-english-updated-march-11-2020.pdf



James Bay Hydroelectric Project announced (1971)

- In 1970, the Government of Quebec announced the massive James Bay Hydroelectric Project. This enormous project would radically affect the Cree homeland of Eeyou Istchee and their traditional way of life, based on hunting, fishing and trapping.
- Yet, at the time, the Cree were not consulted, and their consent was not sought. The Cree experienced the project as an invasion.
- The Cree were forced to take legal proceedings with the Inuit of Nunavik against Quebec, Hydro-Québec and Canada to defend their rights, their environment and their way of life.







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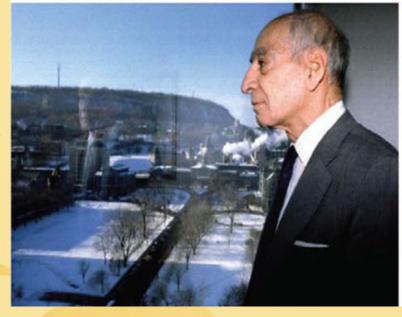
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Kanatewat decision – halting the project (1973)

- In 1973, Judge Albert Malouf rendered the historic decision *Kanatewat* v. *SDBJ* in favour of the Cree and the Inuit.
- Judge Malouf ordered work to stop on the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project on the basis of Cree and Inuit rights and the damage caused by the Project to their traditional way of life.
- This court decision was a major victory for the recognition of Cree and Inuit rights.
- This decision brought Canada and Quebec to the negotiation table.







Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) (1974)

- In 1974, the Cree established the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec).
- The late Billy Diamond was elected the first Grand Chief.
- The Grand Council negotiated with Canada and Quebec to secure a treaty to recognize and protect Cree rights in the context of the James Bay Project.
- In November 1974, the Cree signed an Agreement in Principle with Canada, Quebec and Hydro-Québec.
- This Agreement in Principle served as the basis for the Final Agreement.



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James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)

- On November 11, 1975, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Québec), the Northern Québec Inuit Association, the Government of Québec, Hydro-Québec and the Government of Canada signed the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA).
- The JBNQA is the first modern Indigenous treaty and first Aboriginal land claims agreement in Canada.
- The JBNQA continues to serve as the living foundation of modern Cree treaty rights.







James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)

- The JBNQA contains over 30 chapters on such varied subjects as:
 - Eligibility for Cree beneficiary status (Section 3)
 - Cree Land Regime (Section 5)
 - Local Government (Sections 9 and 10)
 - Cree Governance on Category II lands (Section 11)
 - Cree Health and Social Services (Section 14)
 - Cree Education (Section 16)
 - Administration of Justice Crees (Section 18)
 - Police Crees (Section 19)
 - Environment and Future Development (Section 22)
 - Hunting, Fishing and Trapping (Section 24)
 - Economic and Social Development Crees (Section 28)
 - Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers (Section 30)
 - Forestry Regime (Section 30A)



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The James Bay

Agreement

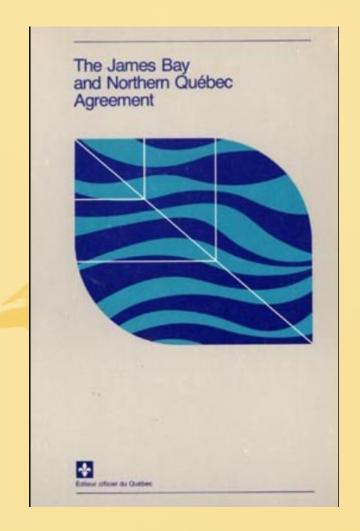
and Northern Québec

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)

- The JBNQA was approved, given effect to and declared valid by a law of Quebec, the Act approving the Agreement concerning James Bay and Northern Quebec, and by a federal law, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act.
- These laws provide that the Cree shall enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits set out in the JBNQA as statutory rights.
- These laws also provide that they prevail over any inconsistent law applicable in the JBNQA territory.
- Since 1982, the JBNQA is constitutionally protected as a treaty under sections 35 and 52 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.



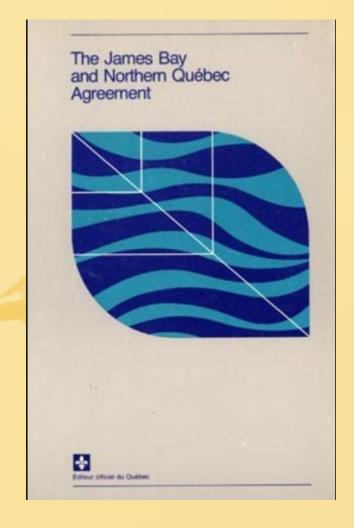
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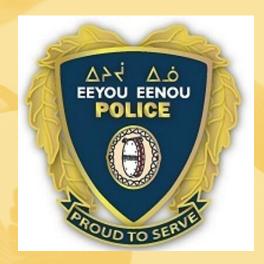
James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)

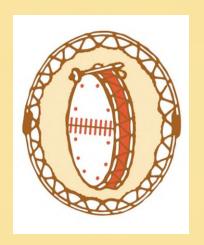
- The JBNQA continues to serve as the living foundation of modern Cree treaty rights.
- Since its initial signature, the JBNQA has been amended by 29 Complementary Agreements.
- Since the JBNQA, the Cree have signed more than 80 major agreements with Quebec, Canada and industry.
- Dozens of laws have been adopted or amended to implement the JBNQA and later agreements.
- These agreements and legislation have created a unique legal environment, and have established a comprehensive self-government regime, for the Cree of Eeyou Istchee.

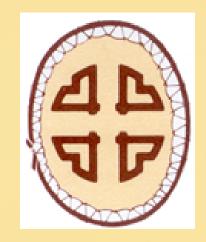
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- Cree Nation Government (1978)
- Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (1978)
- Cree School Board (1978)
- Eeyou Eenou Police Force (EEPF) of Cree Nation Government (2008)











1980's & 1990's - Challenges & Obstacles

- Many disputes and legal proceedings between the Cree Nation, Quebec and Canada
 - Refusal by Governments to recognize Cree rights
 - Failure by Governments to implement JBNQA treaty obligations
 - Refusal by Governments and industries to seek Cree consent for resource development
 - Great Whale River Hydroelectric Project Cree opposition due to environmental and social impacts
 - Forestry dispute
 - 30 court cases
 - International efforts



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





Cree-Quebec Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory (2012)

- Dispute between the Cree and Quebec re Bill 40 (2001) and Municipalité de Baie-James (MBJ)
- Exclusion of Crees from governance of Eeyou Istchee
- Grand Chief agreement with Premier Charest in February
 2010 on special process to resolve governance issues
- Framework Agreement on Governance signed with Quebec on May 27, 2011
- Negotiations with Québec on final Governance Agreement from fall of 2011 to June 2012



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Bill 40

(2001, chapter 61)

An Act to amend the James Bay Region Development Act and other legislative provisions

Introduced 19 June 2001 Passage in principle 27 November 2001 Passage 19 December 2001 Assented to 20 December 2001

> Québec Official Publisher 2001

Cree-Quebec Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory (2012)

- Signature of Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement July 24, 2012
- This Agreement builds on the JBNQA and Paix des Braves to create a partnership between the Cree, Quebec and the Jamésiens in the governance of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory
- It re-designates the Cree Regional Authority as the "Cree Nation Government", which remains same legal entity
- It extends Cree jurisdiction through the Cree Nation Government over Category II lands for land and resource planning and management and municipal matters.



Cree-Quebec Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory (2012)

- Creates the new Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government over about 300,000 sq. km. of Category III lands, with equal representation from the Crees and Jamésiens for first 10 years
- Began operations on January 21, 2014
- Regional Government exercises municipal powers as well as powers regarding economic development and land and resource planning
- Regional Government is thought to be unique in Canada in its composition and mandate
- Council composition to be reviewed after 10 years







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Other Key Agreements

- Cree-Canada New Relationship Agreement (2008)
- Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (2010)
- Cree-Canada Governance Agreement and companion Cree Constitution (2017)
- Cree-Quebec Grande Alliance (2020)







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Cree Nation Taken Seriously...

AGREEMENTS AND MECHANISMS TO EXPRESS NATION-TO-NATION RELATIONSHIP



2002



2008



2012



2017

Paix des Braves

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

Federal New Relationship Agreement

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

Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement

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

Cree-Canada Governance Agreement

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

Cree Principles of Governance

- Continuous occupation and governance of Eeyou Istchee for thousands of years
 - Many centuries before arrival of Europeans
- Common Cree identity based on shared Cree language, culture, way of life
 - Increasing focus on need to protect and promote Cree language and culture
- Inclusion, not exclusion, regarding governance of Eeyou Istchee
- Reassertion of Cree aboriginal rights through James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement treaty of 1975
- Cree right of self-government is inherent
 - Recognized, not granted, by federal and provincial governments

Cree Principles of Governance

- Cree governance is based on the principle of respect for the aboriginal and treaty rights of the Cree Nation as a self-governing Indigenous Nation.
- Some key principles of governance are set out in the Constitution of the Cree Nation:
 - Since time immemorial, the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee has continuously
 - functioned as a **distinctive Indigenous people and nation** with its own social organization, distinctive culture, language, spirituality, values, institutions, laws, practices, customs and traditions;
 - governed itself in accordance with its own values, laws and institutions in the exercise of its **inherent right of self-government and self-determination**;
 - used, occupied and managed the land and resources of the territory of Eeyou Istchee;
 - carried on, and continues to carry on, activities which express practices, customs and traditions integral to its
 distinctive culture and self-government.
 - The Cree Nation has never surrendered its inherent right of self-government and self-determination.



Cree Principles of Governance

- Constitution of the Cree Nation Principles (cont'd):
 - The Cree Nation continues the process of asserting, affirming and defining its inherent right of selfgovernment and self-determination to take account of the context and changing conditions.
 - The Cree Nation subscribes to the fundamental values of freedom, human dignity, **equality**, justice, mutual care and assistance, respect for individual and collective rights, protection of the environment and wildlife, and honour for the Creator, Cree ancestors and Cree traditions.
 - These principles and values are critical to the conclusion of agreements and treaties in support of the **process of reconciliation** between the Cree Nation and non-Indigenous society and government.

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Self-Determination

Article 3

Indigenous peoples have the **right to self-determination**. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the **right to autonomy or self-government** in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to **participate in decision-making** in matters which would affect their rights, through **representatives chosen by themselves** in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.



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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.

Electoral Boundaries

Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act – Departure from Rules (s. 15)

- (2) The commission may depart from the application of the rule set out in paragraph (1)(a) in any case where the commission considers it necessary or desirable to depart therefrom
- (a) in order to respect the community of interest or community of identity in or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province, or
- (b) in order to maintain a manageable geographic size for districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province,

but, in departing from the application of the rule set out in paragraph (1)(a), the commission shall make every effort to ensure that, except in circumstances viewed by the commission as being extraordinary, the population of each electoral district in the province remains within twenty-five per cent more or twenty-five per cent less of the electoral quota for the province.

Electoral Boundaries Commission Proposal

"Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec

This group includes two districts with a total of 192,822 people. The area is immense, covering more than half of Quebec's total area. The average population of the entire area (96,411) is 11.5% lower than the Quebec average.

The Commission is not proposing any changes to these districts. None of them have seen their population decline in the last 10 years. The size of Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou (858,585 km²) more than justifies that its otherwise dispersed population (89,087) deviate from the electoral quota by -18%."





Commission Proposal

Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou

(Population: 89,087)

(Map 1)

Reason: The words Nunavik and Eeyou, which already form the name of the district, remind us that Inuit and Cree people inhabit this vast northern territory, from the shores of James Bay and Hudson Bay to Nunavik, north of the 55th parallel. In 1975, the Cree, Inuit and the governments of Quebec and Canada signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

Consists of:

- (a) the Regional County Municipality of La Vallée-de-l'Or, including: the Lac-Simon Indian Reserve and the Kitcisakik Indian settlement;
- (b) the **Territory of the Eeyou Istchee Baie-James Regional Government**, including: the Cree village municipalities and the **Cree reserved lands** of Chisasibi, Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Waswanipi and Wemindji; the **Amerindian settlement of Oujé-Bougoumou**;
- (c) the Territory of the Kativik Regional Administration, including: the Cree Village Municipality and the Cree Reserved Land of Whapmagoostui; the Nordic village municipalities of Akulivik, Aupaluk, Inukjuak, Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk, Kuujjuaq, Kuujjuarapik, Puvirnituq, Quaqtaq, Salluit, Tasiujaq and Umiujaq; the Naskapi Village Municipality of Kawawachikamach.



Considerations

- Community of identity
- Community of interest
- Historical pattern of electoral district
- Manageable geographic size
 - 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



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



Historical pattern of electoral district of Abitibi – Baie-James – Nunavik – Eeyou

- Over past 50 years, only one Indigenous MP, Romeo Saganash
- Mr. Saganash made important contribution to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada
 - Proposed United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, Bill C-262 (2016)
 - Basis of law eventually adopted, Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Bill C-15, S.C. 2021, c. 14
- More Indigenous and Northern representation needed

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

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Members of Parliament [edit]

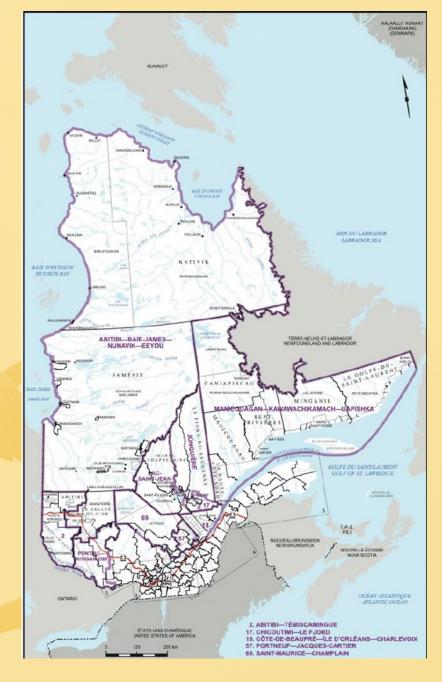
This riding has elected the following Members of Parliament:

Parliament	Years		Member	Party		
Abitibi Riding created from Chapleau, Villeneuve and Saguenay						
	1968–1971			Ralliement créditiste		
28th	1971–1972					
29th	1972–1974		Gérard Laprise			
30th	1974–1979			Social Credit		
31st	1979–1980		Armand Caouette			
32nd	1980–1984		René Gingras	Liberal		
33rd	1984–1988		0 0 1 1			
34th	1988–1993		Guy St-Julien	Progressive Conservative		
35th	1993–1997		Bernard Deshaies	Bloc Québécois		
36th	1997–2000		Guy St-Julien	Liberal		
	Abitib	i—	Baie-James—Nuna	avik		
37th	2000–2004		Guy St-Julien	Liberal		
		N	unavik—Eeyou			
38th	2004–2006		Yvon Lévesque	Bloc Québécois		
	Abitibi—B	aie	-James—Nunavik-	—Eeyou		
39th	2006–2008		Yvon Lévesque	Bloc Québécois		
40th	2008–2011		Tvoii Levesque	Ploc Quebecois		
41st	2011–2015		Roméo Saganash	Now Domogratio		
42nd	2015–2019		Nomeo Gayanasii	New Democratic		
43rd	2019–2021		Sylvie Bérubé	Bloc Québécois		
44th	2021-present		Gyrvie Derube	Pioc Agenecois		

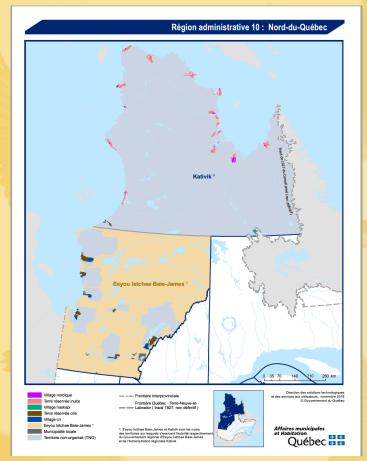
Current Electoral District of Abitibi — Baie-James — Nunavik — Eeyou (Commission Proposal – Map 1)



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Nord-du-Québec Region 10

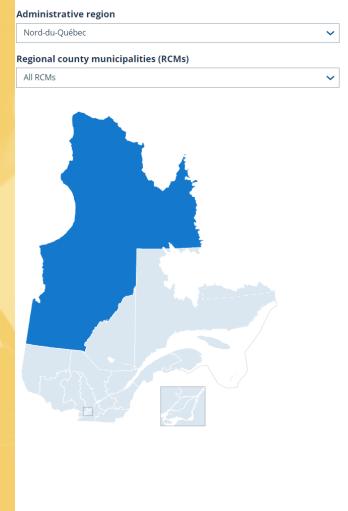


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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

Main indicators on Québec and its regions



Nord-du-Québec

Total population (2021)	46,673 inhab.
0-19 years (2021)	34.0 %
20-64 years (2021)	56.9 %
65 years and more (2021)	9.0 %
Net interregional migration (2020-2021)	-205 inhab.
Population projections population changes 2021-2041)	+15.4 %
Employment (August 2022) ^{1,2}	45.3 k
Employment rate (August 2022) ^{1,2}	52.7 %
Jnemployment rate (August 2022) ^{1,2}	5.2 %
Average hourly wage (2021) ²	\$29.64
ob vacancy rate (2nd quarter 2022) ²	6.0 %
Per capita disposable income (2020 ^p)	\$30,914
GDP at basic prices (Change 2019/2018)	+3.2 %
Capital expenditure (Change 2021 ⁱ /2020 ^p)	+14.2 %
Revenue from goods manufactured (2019)	\$462,962 k
Share of the population served by a public library service 2019)	46.0 %
and artificialization rate Change 2011/1996) ³	+4.2 %

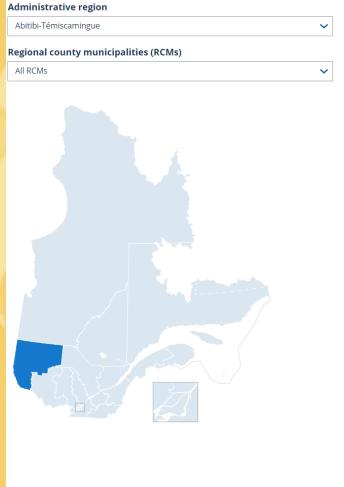
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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region 08



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

Main indicators on Québec and its regions



Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Total population (2021)	148,242 inhab
0-19 years (2021)	21.5 %
20-64 years (2021)	57.6 %
65 years and more (2021)	20.8 %
Net interregional migration (2020-2021)	-205 inhab.
Population projections (population changes 2021-2041)	+0.2 %
Employment (August 2022) ¹	72.9 k
Employment rate (August 2022) ¹	61.5 %
Unemployment rate (August 2022) ¹	3.8 %
Average hourly wage (2021)	\$29.43
Job vacancy rate (2nd quarter 2022)	6.6 %
Per capita disposable income (2020 ^p)	\$33,097
GDP at basic prices (Change 2019/2018)	-2.1 %
Capital expenditure (Change 2021 ⁱ /2020 ^p)	+10.3 %
Revenue from goods manufactured (2019)	\$5,256,680 k
Share of the population served by a public library service (2019)	91.7 %
Land artificialization rate (Change 2005/1994)	+6.2 %

ΔΡΥ ΠΥΡΙΓΊ Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

Electoral district for Northern Quebec

- Population of Region 10 Nord-du-Québec: 46,673
- Comparable to other Northern Canadian jurisdictions*

Allocation of Seats in the House of Commons

Will take effect when the Representation Orders come into force

Province/ Territory	Population Estimate	÷ Electoral Quotient	= Initial Seat Allocation	+ Senatorial Clause	+ Grandfather clause	+ Representation Rule	= Total Seats
Yukon	42,986		n/a				
Northwest Territories	45,504	n/a					1
Nunavut	39,403		n/a				

^{*} Federal Electoral Districts Redistribution 2022: https://redecoupage-redistribution-2022.ca/red/allo/index_e.aspx



Electoral district for Northern Quebec

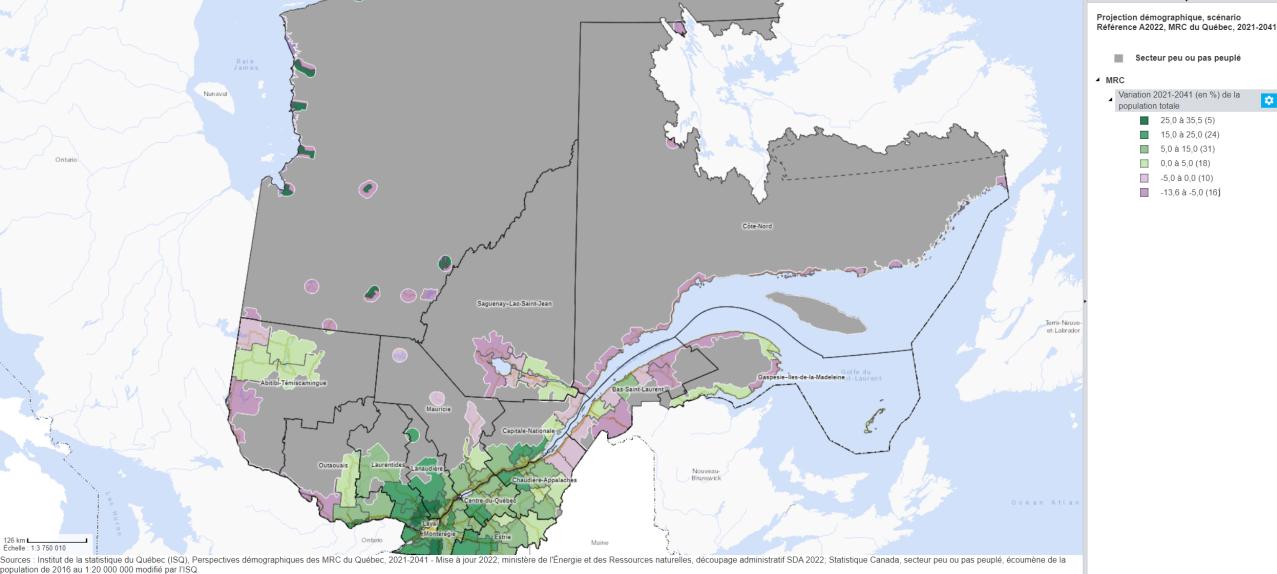
- Area of Region 10 Nord-du-Québec: 718,229 km²
- Comparable with other Northern Canadian jurisdictions
- Area, population, seats of federal northern territories*

Population [edit]

Population ♦	Name ^[1] ♦	Population, 2021 Census		Growth,	Land area	Population density \$	House of Commons seats		Senate seats	
		Total ♦	Proportion \$	2016–21	(km²)	(per km ²)	Total ♦	Proportion \$	Total ♦	Proportion \$
11	■■■ Northwest Territories	41,070	0.11%	-1.7%	1,143,793.86	0.04	1	0.3%	1	0.95%
12	I ≜ I Yukon	40,232	0.11%	12.1%	474,712.68	0.08	1	0.3%	1	0.95%
13	<u></u> Nunavut	36,858	0.10%	2.5%	1,877,778.53	0.02	1	0.3%	1	0.95%

*Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population of Canada by province and territory







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

Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie Secteur peu ou pas peuplé

25,0 à 35,5 (5) 15,0 à 25,0 (24) 5,0 à 15,0 (31) 0,0 à 5,0 (18) -5,0 à 0,0 (10) -13,6 à -5,0 (16)

Measures

- Align boundaries of federal electoral district for Northern Quebec with those of Quebec
 Administrative Region 10 Nord-du-Québec
- Southern boundary of Northern Quebec electoral district to coincide with southern boundary of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (49th parallel)
- Northern Quebec electoral district to comprise all territory within perimeter of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government and of Kativik Regional Government
- Formal designation of Northern Quebec electoral district to be determined through consultations among Northern partners – Crees, Inuit, Naskapis, Jamésiens
- MRC of Vallée-de-l'Or (800) to be included within electoral district of Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Measures

Cree First Nation of Washaw Sibi

- Principles of Inclusion and Cree Nation Integrity strongly argue that the Cree First Nation of Washaw
 Sibi should be included within same electoral district as the other Cree First Nations in Quebec
- Precedent: Section 18 of the JBNQA treaty of 1975 is entitled "Administration of Justice Crees"
- Paragraph 18.0.2 modified the boundaries of the "judicial district of Abitibi" to include all the Cree territory of Eeyou Istchee and the Inuit territory of Nunavik:

18.0.2 The actual judicial district of Abitibi is modified in order to include the territory of Abitibi, Mistassini and New-Québec, including Great Whale River and the area covered by the James Bay Region Development Act (S.Q., 1971, c. 34), but not including Schefferville, Gagnonville and Fermont, hereinafter called the "judicial district of Abitibi". The adjacent judicial districts shall be modified accordingly.

This modification was given rapid legislative effect by the Act to Amend the Territorial Division Act, S.Q. 1975, c. 7

Measures

Support to mobilize Indigenous voter participation

- Recognition of huge size of Eeyou Istchee, Nunavik
- Northern location of riding difficulties of travel, communications
- Small, widely dispersed Indigenous communities
- Need for special support to facilitate Indigenous voter participation
 - Financial
 - Technical
 - Logistical



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



Conclusion

- Distinct federal electoral district for Northern Quebec
 - Inclusion of Crees, Inuit, Naskapis, Jamésiens
 - Principle of inclusion, not exclusion
 - Community of Indigenous and Northern identity and interest
- Inclusion of Washaw Sibi in the same federal electoral district as other Cree First Nations
- Technical adjustments
- Support mechanisms for mobilization of Indigenous voter participation

Meegwetch Questions?



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Appendix A Key Milestones in the History of the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee





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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)

Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Key milestones in the history of the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee:

Year	Title	Description
1898 & 1912	The Quebec Boundaries Extension Act	The boundaries of Quebec were first extended north to the 52nd parallel by Canada. In 1912, Quebec's boundaries were again extended, to Hudson Strait in the north and to Labrador in the east. The Cree, Inuit and Naskapi peoples inhabited these vast federal territories known as Rupert's Land. This Act, which established the province's current borders, carried certain obligations.
		The Quebec government was to reach an agreement with the Native communities on land-related issues. However, talks on these matters did not begin until 62 years later, after the Cree and Inuit of Quebec filed a motion to halt the James Bay hydro-electric development work begun in northern Quebec by the province.
1971	Quebec Premier announces the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	On April 30, 1971, Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec announces plans for the "project of the century" –a \$6 billion hydroelectric power project in the James Bay region -the largest such development undertaken in North America.
		Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee were not consulted by Quebec on this proposed mega project plan. The construction of the dams would flood major Eeyou/Eenou hunting territories within Eeyou Istchee. This would have an effect on Eeyou/Eenou traditional way of life.
1973	Judge Malouf orders stoppage of work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Project	On November 15, 1973, Judge Albert Malouf renders his historic decision in favour of Eeyou/Eenou of Eeyou Istchee (as well as the Inuit of Nunavik) and orders work on the James Bay Hydroelectric Development Project to stop on the basis of Eeyou and Inuit rights. This court decision was a major victory for the recognition of Eeyou/Eenou rights.





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1974	First Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief Elected	October 16, 1974: The Grand Council of the Crees first met at the Pal's Hotel in Val-d'Or. Chief Billy Diamond was elected the Grand Chief by a vote of 9-7, Chief Robert Kanatewat was elected as Deputy Grand Chief (10-6) and Abel Kitchen became the Executive Chief with a vote of 11-5. Violet Pachano was the recording Secretary.
1975	The Signing of the JBNQA	November 11, 1975: The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement is signed by the Crees, Canada and Quebec. First modern-day Treaty in Canada. The Agreement described a partnership among the parties in developing the territory covered by the Agreement and addressed Cree rights, community development issues, education, justice, health and social services, environmental protection, self-government and the preservation of the traditional Cree way of life. The JBNQA became the basis of the Cree Nation's struggle to gain recognition of its Indigenous rights and the translation of those rights into tangible benefits for the Cree communities and the Cree people.
1978	Cree Regional Authority established	Cree Regional Authority established under the "Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority" as a non-profit association to, to receive, administer, use and invest the JBNQA compensation funds through the Board of Compensation; to relieve poverty, promote the general welfare and advance the education of the Crees, promote the development of the Cree communities; to work toward the solution of the problems of the Crees; to deal with all governments; to carry out research and provide technical, professional and other assistance to the Crees; to assist the Crees in the exercise of their rights and in the defense of their interests; and, to foster, promote, protect and assist in the preservation of the way of life, values and traditions of the Crees.
1979-80	Gastroenteritis outbreak	Gastroenteritis epidemic hits Cree communities pointing to the failures of the Federal and Provincial Governments in addressing obligations under the JBNQA.
1981	Relocation of Chisasibi	In the mid 1970's, with the construction of the James Bay Hydroelectric Project, upstream rivers were diverted into La Grande watershed, increasing its flow significantly, potentially resulting in the erosion of Fort George Island and disruption to the formation of a solid ice cover in winter. In response, the Grand Council of the Crees negotiated the construction of a new community on the mainland's south shore, and the relocation of the Fort George population and some 200 houses to the new site, Chisasibi.





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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</i> (of Quebec) Act.
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 Cree/Hydro-Quebec Mercury Agreement 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. Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement 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.





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1989		Crees launch <i>Matthew Coon Come</i> case against Canada and Quebec for failure to properly implement many sections of the JBNQA.
1989	Opposition to Great Whale River Hydroelectric Project	Cree Nation undertakes historic struggle against Quebec and Hydro-Quebec plans for Great Whale River Hydroelectric Project which was proposed without consultation or consent of Cree Nation.
April 22, 1990		As part of the opposition to the Great Whale River Project, the voyage of the Odeyak arrives in New York City. The voyage of unique Cree-Inuit canoe and its supporters began when a team of Cree and Inuit paddlers transported the Odeyak canoe over land and frozen river by dogsled and then paddled it 1,500 kilometres into Manhattan on Earth Day. In New York City, the paddlers addressed an Earth Day gathering of 10,000 people in Times Square.
May 22, 1992	Signing of Ouje- Bougoumou-Canada Agreement	Ouje-Bougoumou-Canada Agreement signed which provided for funding for construction of new Ouje-Bougoumou village and a process for incorporating community into the JBNQA.
March 3, 1994	Landmark Supreme Court of Canada Decision & End of Great Whale River project	Unanimous decision by Supreme Court of Canada requiring federal environmental review of all future Hydro-Quebec dam projects.
November 1994		Premier Jacques Parizeau announces that Great Whale River project is indefinitely shelved.
November 3, 1995	Cree Referendum	Cree Referendum is held on Quebec secession. 96.3% of Cree voters say "NO" to Quebec sovereignty.
March 1996	Cree Conference on Natural Resource Development	During the event, Grand Council of the Crees is given the mandate to protect and strengthen Cree rights.





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1998	Supreme Court of	Supreme Court of Canada deems the JBNQA to be a treaty with constitutional
	Canada decision & Mario Lord case	protection.
1998		Cree Nation launches <i>Mario Lord</i> court case against 26 forestry companies, Quebec and Canada for violating JBNQA.
1999	Matthew Coon Come meets with Pope & Quebec Superior Court rules on logging regime in Cree territory	Matthew Coon Come visits Pope John Paul II and asks for his support for Cree efforts in the U.N. to set human rights standards for the world's Indigenous peoples.
December 20, 1999		Judge Croteau of Quebec Superior Court rules that the logging regime in Cree territory is illegal and unconstitutional.
January 20, 2000		Lawyers for Quebec, Canada and 20 Forestry Companies ask Judge Croteau to remove himself from the case. Judge Croteau removed from case. Crees protest and launch international campaign against Quebec's forestry policy.
2000	Matthew Coon Come elected to AFN	Matthew Coon Come becomes first Cree (Eeyou Istchee) National Chief of Assembly of First Nations.
2001	Signing of Agreement-in- Principle of the Paix des Braves	Signing of Agreement-in-Principle which led to <i>New Relationship Agreement Between Cree Nation and Government of Quebec</i> , or, the "Paix des Braves". Established principle of "Cree consent" with respect to development within Eeyou Istchee. Included a base payments to Cree Nation of \$3.5 billion over 50 years.
February 7, 2002	Signing of "Paix des Braves" and subsequent Agreements	Signing of "Paix des Braves".





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∆רל חעריירול Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

February 7, 2002

Agreements between Hydro-Québec, the Société d'énergie de la Baie James and the Crees of Québec which derived from the "Paix des Braves":

Nadoshtin Agreement: Allows Hydro-Québec to build and operate the Eastmain-1 Project, as contemplated in the JBNQA. The agreement provides for the implementation of various environmental measures, including remedial and mitigating initiatives, with a view to reducing the impacts of the project on affected Crees.

Boumhounan Agreement: This agreement provides a framework for the Eastmain 1-A/Rupert Project. The Crees consent to the construction and operation of this project, in accordance with the terms set forth in the Boumhounan Agreement subject to the environmental and social protection regime described in Section 22 of the JBNQA. The Crees to be involved in the implementation of various environmental, mitigating and remedial works, measures and programs aimed at reducing the impacts of the project on affected Crees.

Cree Employment Agreement, or, Eeyou Apatisiiwin Niskamon: Under this agreement, Hydro-Québec reiterated its commitment to employ 150 Crees. In order to assist the Crees in obtaining temporary jobs in the James Bay region, the agreement provides for the implementation of incentives and temporary employment programs designed to alleviate the negative impacts of the La Grande complex on traditional Cree activities and to improve the Crees' use of affected areas. The Apatisiiwin Corporation was established to facilitate and foster the employment of Crees, to reduce barriers to employment, to create employment opportunities, to provide employment training and to create economic opportunities and jobs for Crees.

Mercury Agreement (2001): This Agreement follows the first agreement concerning mercury, signed by Hydro-Québec, the Québec government and the Crees in 1986. Under this Agreement, the Eeyou Namess Corporation, a joint non-profit company, was established to carry out studies, monitoring and research programs on health and the environment, as well as fishery restoration and development programs for the Crees.





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בְאַל OVP"רולי Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

2003	Opposition to artillery test site in Cree territory	SNC-Lavalin, with support of non-Native James Bay mayors, announce plans to build an artillery test site in Cree territory. Crees organize opposition.
2003	Recognition of Washaw Sibi as tenth Cree First Nation & signing of Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement	Cree Nation, at Annual General Assembly, recognizes Washaw Sibi as tenth Cree First Nation.
April 30, 2003		Crees and Inuit sign historic agreement with respect to overlapping areas of use in the offshore area in James Bay and Hudson Bay: <i>Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement</i> .
2004	Foundation of Niskamoon Corporation & Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association	Niskamoon Corporation established in order to amalgamate the various programs under the 2002 Cree/Hydro-Quebec Agreements.
2004		Cree artists and craftsmen assemble to found the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA).
August 2005	Washaw Sibi Crees make historic journey	Washaw Sibi Crees make historic 115-km journey to symbolize return to traditional territory in quest for a permanent new home.
2006	Crees take on James Bay Municipality's extensive powers to manage Category II and III lands.	Crees learn that a 2001 law gave James Bay Municipality (MBJ) extensive powers to manage Category II and III lands. Crees judge this to be undemocratic and illegal.





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September 12, 2007	Adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	United Nations adopts <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> . Cree Nation international efforts played key role in adoption of the <i>Declaration</i> .
2007	Signing of Agreement-in- Principle & New Relationship Agreement between Cree Nation and Canada	Agreement-in-Principle between Cree Nation and Canada to expand Cree jurisdiction on Category I lands; transfer of \$1.4 billion over 20 years.
February 21, 2008		Signing of New Relationship Agreement between Cree Nation and Canada.
2009	Incorporation of Ouje- Bougoumou	Ouje-Bougoumou is incorporated into the <i>Cree-Naskapi Act</i> pending final transfer of land from Quebec to Canada which, in turn, will set land aside for Ouje-Bougoumou Category I land.
September 30, 2010	Billy Diamond passes away & beginning of battle against unranium	Billy Diamond, the first Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, passes away at age 61.
2010		Mistissini organizes battle against uranium mining.
May 2, 2011	Romeo Saganash elected as first Eeyou Istchee Cree Member of Parliament & Opening of Aanischaaukaamikw Cree Cultural Institute	Romeo Saganash is elected as a member of the New Democratic Party succeeding Yvon Lévesque of the Bloc Québécois. He was reelected on October 19, 2015.
2011		Opening of Aanischaaukaamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Ouje-Bougoumou.





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July 24, 2012	Signing of Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement & Cree Nation Government	Landmark <i>Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement</i> signed which expands Cree management and planning authority to Category II lands and establishes new Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government replacing the James Bay Municipality (MBJ).
2012		Pursuant to <i>Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement</i> , Cree Regional Authority comes to be known as Cree Nation Government.
January 2013	First meeting of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government & the Nishiyuu Walkers	First meeting of Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government described in <i>Cree-Quebec Governance Agreement</i> .
February 2013		Cree youth undertake symbolic walk for aboriginal rights from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa in harsh winter—the Nishiyuu Walkers. The 1600-kilometer journey, organized by 17-year old David Kawapit, grew in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence on her hunger strike and the Idle No More movement of 2013.
March 25, 2013		Nishiyuu Walkers arrive in Ottawa.
October, 2015	Radio-Canada's <i>Enquête</i> report on SQ abuse & Baril-Moses Agreement	Radio-Canada's <i>Enquête</i> investigative report reveals first allegations of sexual abuse of Indigenous women in the Val d'Or area by SQ officers.
July 13, 2015		Agreement reached with Quebec regarding the Baril-Moses Agreement of 2002. In that agreement, Quebec made a commitment to acknowledge Cree rights in an area outside the boundaries of the <i>James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement</i> . 2015 Agreement not only reinforces the acknowledgment of Cree rights in the original agreement, but also expanded the range of protected areas within Eeyou Istchee.



Updated: March 11, 2020

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בׁבְּל חַאַרְירְרַזְל Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

2016	Call for independent inquiry into abuse of Indigenous women & introduction of Bill to implement UN Declaration	Cree Nation urges establishment of independent provincial judicial inquiry to investigate allegations of police abuse of Indigenous women in the Val d'Or area. The Quebec government created the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec: listening, reconciliation and progress on December 21, 2016.
2016		Romeo Saganash, M.P., introduces a bill in the House of Commons that would result in a process for reviewing all Canada's new legislation to ensure compliance with the principles of the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i> .
July 18, 2017	Signing of the Cree Governance Agreement	Cree Nation and Canada sign historic <i>Governance Agreement</i> expanding even further the range of authority, jurisdiction and responsibility transferred to Cree communities and Cree Nation Government.
May 29, 2018	Bill C-262 -Cree Nation Government Hails Historic Step Towards Justice and Reconciliation	The Cree Nation Government of Eeyou Istchee is very proud to celebrate the adoption of Bill C-262, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in the House of Commons on May 30 th . Bill C-262 establishes a legislative framework to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration is the most comprehensive international human rights instrument that explicitly addresses the rights of Indigenous peoples.
March 29, 2018	Bill C-70 - Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act	Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee Governance Agreement Act, received Royal Assent and came into force. This Act gives effect and force of law to the Agreement on Cree Nation Governance signed by the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Government of Canada on July 18, 2017 and its companion, the Cree Constitution.



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June 21, 2018	A Cree- Pekuakamiulnuatsh Nation-to-Nation Agreement	The Agreement –entitled Mamu Uitsheutun/Maamuu Wiicheutuwin, meaning to accompany one another –notably states that each Nation recognizes the sovereignty of the other Nation on its territory. This mutual affirmation is accompanied not only by a recognition of the aboriginal title of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh on Nitassinan, but also, and in order to address a historical omission, a recognition of the inherent rights of Cree families in an area shared with the Pekuakamiulnuatsh called Peschitaskau/Shashtuaussi located in Nitassinan.
September 17, 2019	Cree Nation Government passed its first Bill – An Act respecting the Cree language of Eeyou Istchee	Cree Nation Government Enacts 'Historic' Cree Language Bill. This Act is the first piece of legislation to be enacted by the Cree Nation Government. The objectives of the Act are to support and promote the use of the Cree language, to support Cree efforts to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen the Cree language, and to plan initiatives and activities for restoring and maintaining fluency in the Cree language.
February 17, 2020	The Québec Government and the Cree Nation sign a Grand Alliance	Québec Premier François Legault and Grand Chief Dr. Abel Bosum, officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding on collaborative, long-term, balanced economic development in a spirit of respect for Cree values in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory. La Grande Alliance is an agreement for collaboration and consolidation of socioeconomic ties between the Cree and Quebec nations to connect, develop and protect the territory.



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