

Cree Nation Research Institute Status Update

May 2023

Deputy Grand Chief Norman Wapachee



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Overview: Cree Nation Research Institute

- Proposed Institute to protect Traditional Knowledge, repatriate data, archive
- Exercise inherent right to control research through centralized system to approve projects
- Protecting Cree rights and interests when outside bodies conduct research in Eeyou Istchee
- Building research capacity in Eeyou Istchee, carry out research

Work plan 2023-24: accomplished

Accomplished:

- Received directive from Executive Committee for Working Group (August 2022)
- funding of FY 22-23, 23-24
- Ongoing meetings of Working Group
- Hired internal support
- Research on models of research institutes governance structures and licensing process
- Preparing questionnaire for consultation
- Consultations to date:
 - CNG Environment Department
 - Attaniuvik (Nunavik's new research governance organization)
 - CBHSSJB, CSB (on-going)
 - Aanischaaukamikw (on-going)
 - Abenaki (on-going)



Work plan 2023-24 (continued)

models of governance structure,

Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Winter 2024
 Consultations with the CSB, CBHSSJB, ACCI, CTA, other Cree entities 	 Plan Regional Forum on the creation of the research institute Ensure support for the forum: 	- Propose governance structure based
- Consultations with the communities	 Ensure support for the forum: organization, preparation, facilitation, note-taking, reporting 	 on report Prepare key documents based on results of consultation (licensing
 Ensure support (internal) for consultations 	(internal, external)	process, Cree research policy, model agreements)
 plan the Regional Forum (working group and other support) 	 Continue preparing documents for forum (questionnaire, proposals for models of governance structure (regional entities, communities), 	
 Consultations or Site visits with other Indigenous-led research 	licensing model)	
institutes	 Hold regional forum 	
 Preparing outlines of documents for Forum (questionnaire, proposals of 	 Report on regional forum 	

- Secure sources of funding 2024-

Work plan 2024-25: proposed

- Incorporation of Cree Nation Research Institute entity (name to be determined)
- Potential pilot research project to evaluate process
- Pass and implement the Cree Nation research law (if applicable)
- Develop Strategic Plan with research priorities
- Implement licensing process
- Development of a research facility, including a physical and electronic data archive and database that includes repository of information on the creation of JBNQA, the Cree Nation Government



Collaboration and Consultation:

- Importance of working together with Cree entities and Cree communities
- Needs to build on past experience, assist, complement
- Looking for input on Institute design, governance, needs, and best practices for respectful research in a Cree context
- Naming of a contact person in each Cree entity and community





Questions?

7



Meegwetch Thank you!

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

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