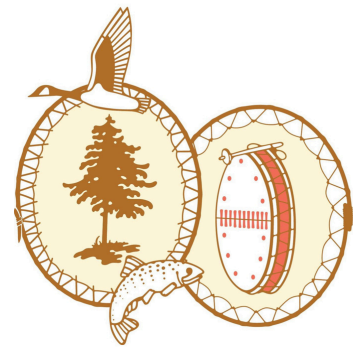


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September 2024

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CREE NATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT NEWSLETTER



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- CNRI Advisory Committee
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CNRI WORKING GROUP

- Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee
Cree Nation Government
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- Elisabeth Patterson
Dionne Schulze
Jessica Labrecque
CNG, Environment and Remedial Works
- Francesca Menassa-Plourdes
CNG, Records and Information Management
- Donald Nicholls
CNG, Justice and Correctional Services
- Rodney Marks
CNG, Social and Cultural Development
- Lisa Petagumskum
CBHSSJB

CNRI STAFF



JEDIDAT MATOUSH
Assitant
Coordinator



VINCENT GAUTIER-DOUCET
CNRI Project
Manager

GREETINGS FROM DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF NORMAN A. WAPACHEE

Wachiya!

I am honored to share exciting updates on the Cree Nation Research Institute (CNRI) project. Research is a powerful tool that can significantly enhance our self-governance, cultural preservation, economic development, and overall resilience. By establishing the CNRI, we aim to ensure that research in Eeyou Istchee is designed with the benefits of our communities in mind and addresses our most pressing needs and aspirations.

Over the past year, we have engaged in meaningful consultations with Cree communities and organizations, shaping the vision and mandates of the CNRI. These consultations have highlighted the importance of coordinating research review processes, enhancing data governance, and developing regional research capacity. The recent Forum on Research at the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute was a pivotal moment, allowing us to collectively plan the next steps.

As we move forward, the CNRI will serve as a hub to promote Cree-led research, fostering collaboration and ensuring that research outcomes are accessible and beneficial to all. The forthcoming consultation report, to be released in August, will provide a roadmap for the next phase of this initiative.

Together, we are building a future where research empowers our communities and strengthens our Nation. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in this important journey.

Meegwetch,

Norman A. Wapachee



“Crees are natural stakeholders of research in eeyou istchee and must affirm control over how and what is done.”

Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee



CNRI PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Cree Nation Research Institute (CNRI) project is a transformative initiative aimed at leveraging research to support the self-governance, cultural preservation, and economic development of the Cree Nation. Historically, research in Eeyou Istchee has often excluded Cree involvement, leading to a disconnect between research outcomes and community needs. The CNRI seeks to bridge this gap by establishing a research governance framework that aligns with the aspirations of the Cree communities.

MILESTONES OF THE CNRI PROJECT

2022: ESTABLISHING THE WORKING GROUP

In 2022, Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee initiated the CNRI project by forming a Working Group. This group, supported by the Cree Nation Government, was tasked with planning the creation of the Institute. Early efforts focused on identifying the primary goals and gathering insights from various stakeholders to ensure the project addressed the core needs and aspirations of the Cree communities.

2023-2024: COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Between November 2023 and March 2024, extensive consultations were conducted with Cree First Nations and regional organizations across Eeyou Istchee. These consultations were crucial in shaping the trajectory of the CNRI, providing a platform for collective decision-making, and understanding how the Institute could best support the research endeavors of the Cree Nation. Feedback from these sessions led to the formulation of three specific mandates for the CNRI.

MARCH 2024: FORUM ON RESEARCH IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

A significant milestone was the Forum on Research held at the Aanischaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Ouje-Bougoumou on March 19-20, 2024. This event brought together representatives from all Cree communities and organizations to discuss and refine the CNRI's mandates. The positive feedback and collaborative discussions at the forum were instrumental in advancing the project's development and setting a clear path forward. The three mandates, stemming from the consultation process, were well-received during the forum.

THE THREE CNRI MANDATES PROPOSALS

The main outcomes of the pre-consultations were three mandates proposals for the new entity which were presented to the Cree Nation at the Forum on Research in Eeyou Istchee

These mandates aim to ensure that research conducted in Eeyou Istchee is aligned with the Cree Nation's goals and provides tangible benefits to the communities.

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Coordination of Cree
research review processes

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Eeyou Data Governance and
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Regional Research
Capacity Building

CNRI CONSULTATION REPORT

A consultation report covering the entire consultation process with the Cree Nation was published in August 2024. You can find details on the Working Group's approach, the consultation results, details on the CNRI mandates as well as a list of recommendations for the establishment of the CNRI

UPCOMING WEBINARS

During September, the CNRI project staff will offer three webinars on the CNRI project and next steps. These are open to all and will take place on the following dates:

- Sept. 3, 2024 @ 1:30 pm
- Sept. 5, 2024 @ 1:30 pm
- Sept. 10, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

An invitation to the webinar will be sent out to the CNRI mailing list at the end of August.

For the latest updates and invitations, register to the CNRI Project Mailing List [here](#)

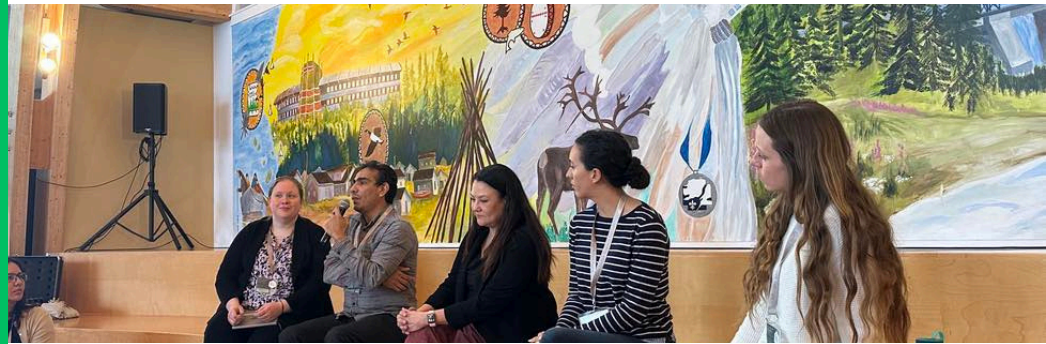
RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

For more information on the CNRI project, please contact the CNRI Project Manager, Vincent Gautier-Doucet

v.gautier-doucet@cngov.ca

“Research is a bit like history. It becomes the narrative by which we base our knowledge of a certain people, location and culture.”

Jedidat Matoush



FORUM ON RESEARCH IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

AANISCHAAUKAMIKW CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE (OUJE-BOUGOUMOU)

March 27-28, 2024

The recent two-day Forum on Research in Eeyou Istchee brought together Cree stakeholders to shape the vision for the Cree Nation Research Institute (CNRI). Representatives from all Cree First Nations and almost all regional organizations participated, using the event as a platform to share insights on research management and governance.

The forum emphasized the importance of community involvement in research review processes, highlighting the need for collaboration, transparent communication, and community consent. Participants suggested that the CNRI could serve as a clearing house for researchers working in Eeyou Istchee.

Discussions focused on current research priorities, the role of a Cree research entity in supporting communities, and the importance of aligning research with Cree values. Attendees stressed the need for Elder involvement, face-to-face relationships, and a Cree Code of Ethics. Proposals for data governance included a regional research data portal and coordinated data management. Support was expressed for CNRI as a hub for Cree research and partnerships, with recommendations for fostering self-governance, preventing research duplication, and developing training programs.

CALL TO ACTION : THE CNRI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forum attendees endorsed a proposed structure featuring a larger Advisory Committee to guide a smaller, efficient Steering Committee, emphasizing the importance of transparency and regular communication with the Cree Nation. Following the forum, a letter was sent to all Cree First Nations and Cree regional organizations inviting them to appoint permanent representatives to the Advisory Committee, with the first meeting scheduled for late November. More information about the input collected during the event can be found in the CNRI consultation report.

