

# Eeyou Eenou NEWSLETTER

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

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**ISSUE 6** 

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**ISRAEL MIANSCUM** 

Interview with the Eeyou Istchee hockey player as he heals from an injury

### LATE CHIEF JOLLY

A tribute on the passing of Chief Allan Jolly from MoCreebec

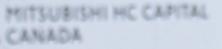
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#### **CUSTOMARY ADOPTION**

Recognition of Cree customary adoption / guardianship, Call for Interest







Eeyou Eenou Newsletter

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### Coastal Mining Exploring Conservation Informational Session in Eeyou Istchee

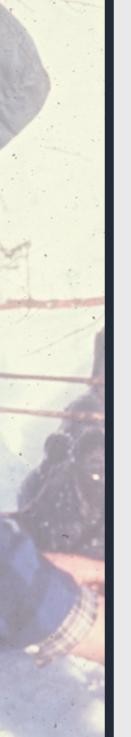
Cree communities engage in critical dialogue on coastal mining development Cree forum explores protected areas, management, and financing conservation projects

#### Good Hunting Practices Israel Mianscum In Eeyou Istchee Interview

A reminder to hunters of responsible hunting practices rooted in Cree values

### 03 06

Catching up with Israel to talk healing and returning to hockey after his injury



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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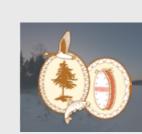




MARCH 25-27, 2025

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LEARN MORE HERE



### **BOARD COUNCIL MEETING**

### MARCH 26-27, 2025

Meeting of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government in Mistissini, QC.

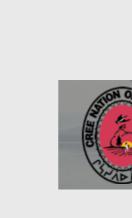
WATCH LIVESTREAM HERE



### **CAREER FAIR IN CHISASIBI**

APRIL 15, 2025

place in Chisasibi.





The iinuu metawewinh Games 2025 is taking place in Mistissini, iinu



Find out what jobs are available to you at the career fair. It will take





### IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHIEF ALLAN JOLLY

#### 1950 - 2025

The Cree Nation was deeply saddened by the news early this year of the passing of long-time Chief to the MoCreebec Eeyoud, Allan Jolly.

MoCreebec Deputy Chief Kelley Kitchicappo wrote on the band's social media page:

"As a leader, Chief Jolly provided invaluable guidance and support. His wisdom and experience were a guiding light for many of us, helping us to grow both personally and professionally.

His legacy of mentorship and leadership will continue to inspire us long into the future. We will ensure that Chief Jolly's vision and dedication live on through our actions and continued commitment to the causes he held dear.

We will strive to carry forward his work and make a positive difference in our community, just as he did."

A colleague and friend, former Cree Nation Executive Director Bill Namagoose, had this to say about Chief Jolly.

"Chief Allan Jolly led a group of Crees in Ontario for several decades. He led them with humility and skillfully brought their unique issues and grievances to governments and other First Nation leaders.

The issues he and his people faced were quite challenging due to their location and having the Ontario border dissecting Cree traditional territory.

The Crees on the Ontario side did not recognize them and at times told them to go home even though many of the MoCreebec people were born there and had intermarriages.

He served as a Chief, sat on the Cree Nation Government, and added his voice to the Cree Nation Government's deliberations.

Chief Allan Jolly's vision and voice will be missed. MoCreebec's people will have to find a path without him, but they need to push ahead.

My condolences to Chief Allan Jolly's family and friends and to the MoCreebec people.

May he Rest in Peace.

Bill Namagoose."

### COASTAL MINING INFORMATION SESSION



Over 200 community members and key stakeholders gathered in Chisasibi on January 21-22, 2025, for a comprehensive Information Session on Coastal Mining, demonstrating the Cree Nation's proactive approach to resource development and land protection.

The two-day session brought together critical leadership from the Department of Commerce and Industry, Cree Trappers' Association, Environment and Remedial Works, and Cree leadership to address complex mining considerations in their traditional territories.

Key Discussions Highlighted The agenda featured pivotal presentations addressing:

• The role of Tallymen and land users in resource management

•Cree Hunting Law and its implications for mining developments

•Detailed review of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

•Strategies for negotiating agreements with mining companies

#### **Community-Driven Approach**

Each presentation was followed by robust question and comment periods, allowing land users to directly contribute their perspectives. These community insights will be carefully incorporated into a final comprehensive report, ensuring local knowledge and traditional understanding inform future mining policies.

Leadership Commitment Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty, Chief Daisy House, and other leaders emphasized the importance of collaborative, transparent processes that respect Cree territorial rights and environmental stewardship.

The session underscored the Cree Nation's commitment to balanced resource development that protects cultural heritage and ecological integrity.

#### Next Steps

Both inland and coastal sessions have brought together over 400 tallymen and land users, each concerns expressed has been tracked and will be reflected in the final report according to the topic of concern to address them in the response approach.



### **ἱ Δ"Ͻ**ΠΡσ·Δ<sup>ι</sup> **FVFNTS**

Eeyou Istchee Leaders Convene to Protect Territorial Rights and Environmental Interests





### ៴៸៲៲៴៶៰ CULTURE

### GOOD HUNTING PRACTICES IN EEYOU ISTCHEE

With the caribou's yearly migration through traplines in Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Nation Government would like to remind Cree hunters to follow responsible hunting practices.

These guidelines, rooted in common traditional customs and values, were developed to show our utmost respect for the animals, protect the environment and ensure the safety and security of all individuals.



#### Safety and security

1. Keep safety in mind at all times

2. Keep a safe distance from camps and other infrastructure;

3. No hunting from or across roads and keep a good distance away from roads when hunting;

4. No hunting from vehicles and keep firearm unloaded and stored while travelling;

5. Be knowledgeable of survival and first aid techniques, and ensure proper gear when travelling on land;

6. Be alert of dangerous or unsafe ice conditions when travelling on the land;

7. No hunting at night;

8. Ensure clear line of sight when shooting;

9. Be informed of weather conditions and be prepared for the worst;

10. The use of alcohol or drugs substance when hunting is strictly prohibited;

#### GOOD HUNTING PRACTICES

#### Respect for tallymen & host community

1. Ensure permission of community and concerned tallyman before hunting in territory;

2. Respect for the stewardship role and authority of the tallymen;

3. Respect conditions established by the tallyman and community, including the use of a guide if required;

4. Respect presence of land users in the area, their activities, camps and belongings;

5. Report any incidents or observations that may impact the land or animals;

#### Respect for the animal and the land

1. Promote the use of all parts of the animal and ensure no wastage of the animal;

2. Take proper means to preserve the meat;

3. Prevent unnecessary or prolonged chasing of the animal:

4. Ensure proper disposal of entrails by respectfully dispersing under trees;

5. Ensure to leave the area clean and bring back any garbage for proper disposal;

6. Prevent wounding of animal by hunting with patience, certainty and accuracy;

7. Use proper gun and ammunition for caribou hunting;

8. Prevent wounding or suffering of animal by aiming at vital parts:

9. If animal is wounded, one must make reasonable efforts to retrieve it:

### **Υ1**"4>υα44δ GOVERNANCE

### **Call for Interest**

# in Eeyou Istchee

Did you know that Crees can choose to have a Cree customary adoption/guardianship certified, so that legal effects are recognized?

The Cree Nation Government is the Competent Authority to certify Cree customary adoptions and/or guardianships under the Civil Code of Ouébec.

The Cree Nation Government wants to clarify how many families may be interested in this certification, to know what resources are needed.

If you may be interested in the certification process, please contact the Cree Nation Government Regional **Coordinator of Cree Customary Adoption and** Guardianship at creeadoption@cngov.ca or 819-824-4411 (2233

**Cree Customary Adoption/Guardianship** 

### ×۲,1...< GOVERNANCE

### CREE CUSTOMARY ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP CERTIFICATION PROCESS

In the early 2000s the Quebec government, through a committee of advisors, was reviewing its adoption laws for the province. Not knowing how to best handle Indigenous children, the committee sought help from the Indigenous Nations in Quebec including the Cree.

A customary adoption is the process used by Indigenous people before the arrival of the Europeans. Traditionally, a child would be placed with another family usually for survival purposes, if the child's parents for some reason were unable to properly care for the child themselves.

Even today, there are Indigenous children across the country living in unstable housing arrangements or in homes that are not their own. Customary adoption would give these families the option of adoption or guardianship without the involvement of courts, lawyers or government officials.

Each Indigenous Nation in Quebec now has this ability to create its own unique system of customary adoption.

In 2018, the Cree Nation Government (CNG) was identified by the Quebec government as the competent authority able to oversee and document the adoption process recognized by the Quebec Registrar of Civil Status.

The first step now for communities is establishing committees knowledgeable in how adoption processes were done in the past as these processes must be done according to the customs of that community. These committees are in the process of being established at the local level and are community-led. Currently, five communities have set up a committee, and one committee has designated members. A CNG Regional Coordinator is currently working with interested Cree First Nations to set up their local committees.





A Call for Interest will be published by the Cree Nation Government to get a better sense of how many families may be interested in applying for certification of a Cree customary adoption or guardianship, as these numbers are currently unclear. The Call for Interest will help the Cree Nation Government to determine the resources needed for this certification process going forward. The Regional Coordinator will also be available to speak with interested persons and to answer questions, and can help people to complete applications, if needed.



#### The Cree Nation Government's Forum on Protected Areas and Conservation Management took place February 4-6 in Gatineau, Quebec.

The forum, organized by the Environment and Remedial Works department, meant to develop a better understanding of protected areas and explore potential management and financial models for conservation projects in Eeyou Istchee.

Participants from each community across Cree territory were present along with representatives from conservation projects from other Indigenous nations in Canada.

Bobby Tooktoo, Director of Tursujuq National Park, and Isabeau Pratte, Conservation and Education Specialist with the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), presented insights on the operation and co-management of Nunavik's national parks between the KRG and the Quèbec Government.

Jean-Philippe L. Messier, Executive Director of the Manicaougan-Uapishka spoke on managing the Uapishka Biodiversity Reserve with the Innu community of Pessamit.

The keynote address was presented by Adeline Jonasson, former Chief and member of the Thaidëné Nëné Xá Dá Yalti management board for the Thaidene Nëné Indigenous Protected Area in the Northwest Territories.

Jonasson explained employment was a condition when establishing a development agreement with the province and Parks Canada. There is now a management office in the community with a Thaidene Nëné manager, a coordinator and local land guardians. Jonasson says knowledge of the land, place names and language are all crucial elements included in their preservation efforts.

Jason Taylor, CEO and Founder of the Climate Finance Advisor organization from Montreal presented on financing Indigenous conservation projects. Tayor's presentation delved into a new funding model called "Blended Finance."

An innovative new framework, Taylor admits blended finance is in its early days -using a baseball analogy, "it is still in the first inning"- but with the potential to significantly boost start-up and operational funding for conservation projects.

The model assumes losses on projects, making them more appealing to private investors.

"It is also called catalytic capital", Taylor explained. "For every million dollars of concessional capital sometimes the goal can be to attract up to \$20 million of private capital."

A key goal of the Forum was to facilitate the exchange of ideas for conservation initiatives in Eevou Istchee.

Chantal Otter-Tetreault, Manager of Protected Areas for the Environment and Remedial Works department, who helped organize the event on behalf of CNG, points out"in the fall, we issued a call to the communities to send key representatives to discuss the future of protected areas and its management during this Forum. Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, economic officers, and other community representatives participated in the event. This highlights the significance of this issue for the community and the Cree Nation Government in shaping our role in a blue-green economy."

### GOVERNANCE

### EXPLORING CONSERVATION IN EEYOU ISTCHEE

PROTECTED AREAS AND CONSERVATION

IN EEYOU ISTCHEE



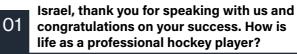
### COMING BACK STRONG: CREE NATION HOCKEY STAR RETURNS FROM INJURY

### Interview with Israel Mianscum



Mistissini Eenou Israel Mianscum (21) is back on the ice and determined as one of the Cree Nation's fastest rising hockey stars.

Mianscum is a 6'2 scoring machine currently playing in the ECHL for the Trois-Rivières Lions. The CNG caught up with "Izzy" in late January soon after getting back from a major injury.



Thank you. I'm just returning to playing again but everything is going well and I'm really glad to be back. We have a good group of guys here not just on the ice but off the ice and everyone seems to fit in perfectly. There's a lot of older veterans and they're nice to me, encouraging and very supportive. I am really looking forward to the rest of the season.



#### What kind of advice would you have for your many young hockey fans in the Cree Nation?

I would say work hard and believe that anything is possible. Where we come from, kids have to make a lot of sacrifices if they want to play at a high level. It's not easy leaving your family, your friends and your culture. I remember when I was a kid, I would get homesick wanting to be back home but no matter how hard it gets, it pays off in the end. Work hard, make those sacrifices but don't forget to enjoy yourself. I feel like that's the difference when you enjoy the game and enjoy what you do, that's what helps you get better and succeed.



In his first week back off the injured list, at the time of this article, Israel had two points, scoring a goal and an assist in the team's win January 31st against the Maine Mariners.

The Trois-Rivières Lions are currently 3rd in the league.

GOOD LUCK TO THE LIONS FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON. SOOK MADAWA ISRAEL!



#### You are just coming back from a major injury. The first big injury of your career. How are you coping?

It was a knee injury two months ago, a partial tear putting me out for 10 weeks. I worked with the team a lot during rehab, and I was able to return last week. It's been healing well and for the past few weeks I've been skating a lot. Last week was my first game back with my team.



#### COVER:

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this issue's images and content.

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#### **EEYOU EENOU NEWSLETTER**

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#### **ISSUE 6**