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

Cree Nation Government Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

ରେଖାକାଣ୍ଡିଙ୍ ଅମ୍ବାଳୁ ଏହାଜାନ୍ଦା ହେଲା!

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HAPPY CREE LANGUAGE MONTH!

March is Cree Language Month – a time for us to celebrate being Cree and show pride in our language and honour our heritage. It is an opportunity to recognize and praise the great accomplishments of our Nation in strengthening, revitalizing and preserving our language.

Like many other Indigenous Nations across the world, colonization threatened our way of life and put our language and cultural practices at risk. At a time when our people needed unity the most, the establishment of the Grand Council of the Crees and the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) brought us together like never before. It restored our self-determination.

Through the JBNQA, we reclaimed our right to teach our own children using a curriculum created by us. The formation of the Cree School Board meant students could learn in Cree, using tools crafted by our own Cree teachers, knowledge keepers and Cree Language Specialists.

In nearly 50 years of the JBNQA, we have built strong cultural programs such as the Cree Language Commission, the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute and the James Bay Cree Communications Society. It is estimated that an Indigenous language is lost every two weeks in the world, therefore we must remain united, foster our culture and maintain our strong Cree Language-not just for ourselves but for generations to come.

Keep up the great work, and Happy Cree Language Month! May we have another 50 years of success and beyond.

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Mandy Gull-Masty Grand Chief/Chairperson

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**Norman A. Wapachee
Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson**