



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

## ISSUE 8

The Cree Nation Youth Council at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII24).





# What's in this ISSUE

JUNE ISSUE

01 04

## CNYC at UNPFII Side Event

The Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) marked a significant milestone for Eeyou Istchee at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII24).

## Annie Whiskeychan Day

A glimpse into Annie Whiskeychan Day in Eeyou Istchee and the different activities.

02 05

## 2nd Cree Nation Business Summit

The Cree Nation Business Summit is back - and bigger than ever!

## United We Walk

An update on the episodes out now and the episodes to come.

03 06

## National Indigenous Peoples Day

Message on National Indigenous Peoples Day.

## Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief Election

Key dates and information surrounding this coming election

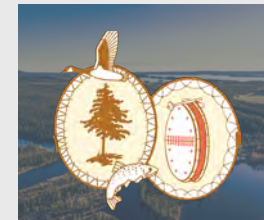
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## Mandy Gull-Masty Appointed Minister of Indigenous Services

A Historic First: Former Grand Chief, Mandy Gull-Masty, Appointed Minister of Indigenous Services

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay connected through [www.cngov.ca](http://www.cngov.ca)



## BOARD COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 23-24, 2025

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

[WATCH LIVESTREAM HERE](#)



## BUSINESS SUMMIT

AUGUST 19-21, 2025

The second Business Summit will be held in Mistissini at the Complex.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 26-28, 2025

The Annual General Assembly will be taking place in Ouje Bougoumou this year

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



EEYOU ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN FOCUS:  
CREE NATION BUSINESS SUMMIT TO BRING  
TOGETHER YOUTH, ENTREPRENEURS AND  
LEADERS IN AUGUST



A photograph of two men shaking hands. The man on the left is wearing a blue and green plaid blazer over a light pink shirt. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue blazer over a patterned shirt and glasses. Behind them is a large white backdrop featuring a black silhouette of a mountain range and the text 'TAN' and 'S S E' below it.

***The Cree Nation Business Summit is back – and bigger than ever!***

This August 19-21, the Department of Commerce and Industry (DCI) will bring the 2nd Cree Nation Business Summit to Mississauga. With the theme "Eyou Entrepreneurship in Focus," the event will build on last year's youth-focused gathering, welcoming leaders and established business owners in addition to the next generation of entrepreneurs.

For youth, the Summit provides an unmatched opportunity to explore entrepreneurship and build real-world business skills in a new way. The three-day youth program, built around the Bear Den Business Case Study Competition, offers participants a chance to compete for prizes while accessing workshops, expert speakers, and one-on-one mentorship. At last year's event, thanks to the shared vision between the youth and the DCI, new energy was infused into the concept of the Cree Nation Business Summit. With the invaluable collaboration of Samuel Macleod from Eeyoupreneur, this competition will return and continue to be a central feature at this year's Summit.

Meanwhile, established businesses and leaders will strengthen connections through two Business Exchange Days, featuring workshops, networking, and change-making conversations that span communities, generations, and industries.

The event will close with the first-ever Regional Business Awards Gala, a milestone celebration recognizing the past five decades of Eeyou entrepreneurship in honour of the 50th anniversary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The gala will celebrate how far Eeyou entrepreneurship has come while inspiring the next generation to continue building into the future.



**ANTHONY MACLEOD, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**



### What to Expect at the Cree Nation Business Summit

The Cree Nation Business Summit will have a dynamic agenda with something for everyone! Here is information of what you can expect at the event:

FOR YOUTH	FOR ENTREPRENEURS	FOR LEADERS
THREE DAYS - AUGUST 19-21	TWO DAYS - AUGUST 20-21	TWO DAYS - AUGUST 20-21
<b>✓ EYYOU ISTCHEE BEAR DEN BUSINESS CASE STUDY COMPETITION</b> BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! COMPETE IN TEAMS TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND WIN PRIZES.	<b>✓ BUSINESS EXCHANGE</b> GET CONNECTED THROUGH NETWORKING SESSIONS DESIGNED TO CREATE PARTNERSHIPS, EXPLORE JOINT VENTURES, AND IDENTIFY NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES.	<b>✓ REGIONAL STRATEGY &amp; PARTNERSHIP BUILDING</b> BRING YOUR COMMUNITY'S VOICE TO STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS AND CONNECT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND EMERGING ENTREPRENEURS TO
<b>✓ HANDS-ON SKILL BUILDING</b> INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS COVERING EVERYTHING FROM BUSINESS PLANNING TO MARKETING TO FINANCE, LED BY SUCCESSFUL EXPERTS AND ENTREPRENEURS.	<b>✓ SKILL BUILDING SESSIONS</b> LEARN FROM EXPERT-LED SESSIONS DESIGNED WITH THE EYYOU ECONOMY IN MIND – FROM BOOKKEEPING TO BUSINESS SCALING AND BEYOND.	<b>✓ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES</b> STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH FELLOW LEADERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS AND OPEN THE DOORS TO COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS EYYOU ISTCHEE.
<b>✓ MENTORSHIP &amp; NETWORKING</b> CONNECT WITH ESTABLISHED BUSINESS OWNERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL SUPPORT YOUR GROWTH FOR YEARS TO COME.	<b>✓ ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUE</b> SHARE YOUR VISION AND IDEAS WITH KEY DECISION MAKERS AND HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE FUTURE OF POLICY, FUNDING, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.	<b>✓ PREMIER AWARDS CELEBRATION</b> ATTEND THE INAUGURAL REGIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS GALA, CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF EYYOU ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

**Register for the Cree Nation Business Summit Today!**



**Youth must apply by July 28, 2025 to participate in the Eeyou Istchee Bear Den Business Study Competition.**

**Interested in offering a workshop or speaking at the Summit? Please send your proposal to [businesssummit@cngov.ca](mailto:businesssummit@cngov.ca) by June 30.**

## National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025

National Indigenous Peoples Day was officially recognized and celebrated by the federal government for the first time in 1996. As early as 1945, Chiefs across the land self-declared the summer solstice as "Indian Day". Then in 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood, now the Assembly of First Nations, called for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day on June 21. Quebec adopted the celebration in 1990.

As Indigenous Peoples, we have existed long before this day was officially recognized . We have celebrated through our cultural practices, in the way we speak our language, perform our rites of passage ceremonies, share stories, and when we show our respect to the land as we harvest. Even when it was outlawed in the past, we found ways to keep our culture and traditional practices alive. Our traditional knowledge holders kept the embers of our traditions safe so that one day we could bring them back and keep them burning stronger than ever. Resilience and strength are interwoven into who we are.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a time for reflection, recognition, and celebration. But for us, it is also a continuation of our ceremonies, our languages and our way of life –Eeyou Pimaatisiwin . As Eeyouch, we affirm that our identity, culture, and sovereignty are rooted in the land and in the wisdom of our ancestors.

On this day, we invite everyone to join in celebration, to honour Indigenous cultures, voices and contributions. Wishing everyone across Eeyou Istchee and beyond a meaningful and joyful National Indigenous Peoples Day.



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- Food traditions: bannock baking and tea-sharing events keep family and community linked across generations





**Legacy of the Event**  
Annie Whiskeychan Day isn't just an annual festival—it is a living testament to Cree linguistic and cultural resilience. It fosters:

- **Intergenerational connection:** Elders pass knowledge and traditions directly to youth.
- **Language immersion:** Activities reinforce Cree vocabulary in fun, communal ways.
- **Community pride:** Across Eeyou Istchee, communities unite to celebrate shared roots and look toward the future.



We hope that this year's events help to continue to celebrate the life of Annie, and her vital contribution to Cree language education and the continued preservation of the Cree way of life.

# LIMITED WE WALK

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**THE UNITED WE WALK SERIES CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT BY REVISITING ITS CONTEXT, PROCESS AND OUTCOMES. THE ANIMATED VIDEO FORMAT IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE AS AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON CANADA'S FIRST MODERN TREATY AND STEPPING STONE OF CREE MODERNITY.**

**EPISODE 1 TO 4 AVAILABLE NOW**



**EPIISODE 5 COMING SOON**





Eeyou Istchee is heading to the polls for the 2025 Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government Elections. For the first time in Cree Nation Government history, an online voting option will be offered to eligible voters during the Advance Poll period, marking a major step toward accessibility and modernization in Indigenous electoral governance.

### Important Dates to Remember:

- Nomination Period Opened: May 22, 2025
- Nomination Deadline: June 4, 2025 at 5:00 PM
- Official List of Candidates Released: June 5, 2025
- Advance Poll (Online Voting Only): July 13–16, 2025
- Election Day (In-Person Voting Only): Thursday, July 17, 2025 (9:00 AM–7:00 PM)

- John Kitchen
- Paul John Murdoch
- Norman A. Wapachee

- Robin Gull Saganash
- Sammy Salt-Blacksmith
- Linden Spencer
- John Henry Wapachee

For the first time, electronic voting will be available to registered Cree beneficiaries during the Advance Polling Period from July 13 to July 16, allowing members to vote from anywhere with a secure internet connection. The voting platform has been certified by an independent third party and meets rigorous security, privacy, and accessibility standards

- Your JBNQA beneficiary number
- Your date of birth
- Your community of affiliation
- A valid email address or mobile phone number

## Election Day Voting

On Thursday, July 17, 2025, in-person voting will take place across Eeyou Istchee at designated polling stations between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM. No campaign material is allowed in the vicinity of these locations to ensure a fair and respectful process.

For full details, including the election regulations, candidate profiles, and your community's local Returning Officer, visit [www.cngelections.ca](http://www.cngelections.ca) or contact Chief Returning Officer Robin Pachanos at [robin.pachanos@cngov.ca](mailto:robin.pachanos@cngov.ca).



**[cnglections.ca](http://cnglections.ca) is your source for official source for:**

- ➔ *Official Candidate Information*
- ➔ *Election Results and updates*
- ➔ *Voting resources, and guidelines*

**Stay Connected!**

Follow the Cree Nation Government on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn for real-time updates, candidate info, reminders, and results throughout the 2025 Election period.







# MANDY GULL-MASTY

## A Historic First: Mandy Gull-Masty Appointed Minister of Indigenous Services

In a defining moment for both Eeyou Istchee and Canada, former Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty was elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou and named the new Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. The announcement came during the swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall, where Prime Minister Mark Carney confirmed her appointment. Minister Gull-Masty now holds the historic distinction of being the first Indigenous person to lead the department responsible for providing services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis across the country.

This is a milestone for the Cree Nation, and a moment of immense pride for all of Eeyou Istchee. Minister Gull-Masty's rise to federal leadership exemplifies the strength, determination, and vision that have long defined Cree governance and advocacy.

**From Eeyou Istchee to Parliament Hill**  
Former Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty's journey to Parliament has been one grounded in grassroots governance and tireless advocacy.

As the first woman Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government from 2021-2025, she championed Indigenous rights, land protection, and the advancement of Cree youth and women in leadership.

Her decision to seek the Liberal Party nomination was backed unanimously by Cree Nation leadership through Board/Council Resolution 2025-09. Winning the federal riding by more than 2,000 votes, Minister Gull-Masty ran on a platform focused on climate resilience, infrastructure for northern communities, Indigenous self-determination, and inclusive economic development. Her success reflects the confidence that diverse communities across the riding—including the Eeyouch, Jamésiens, Nunavimmiut, and Abitibiens—have placed in her leadership.

### Indigenous Services

As Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Gull-Masty now oversees a portfolio critical to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples across the country. She succeeds Patty Hajdu,

who has moved to the role of Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

In her first statement as Minister, Gull-Masty reaffirmed her commitment to meaningful collaboration and to ensuring that services reflect the priorities, values, and lived realities of Indigenous communities.

*"This is not just a political appointment—it is a responsibility to our families, our Nations, and our future generations," she stated. "I will work every day to honour that responsibility."*

Her leadership marks a crucial shift toward inclusive governance where Indigenous Peoples not only participate but lead within federal structures historically shaped without them.



*Mandy Gull-Masty was appointed as Minister of Indigenous Services Canada on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, during a swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall by Prime Minister Mark Carney.*

"THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN BUSY YET INSPIRING, FILLED WITH BRIEFINGS THAT LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE PATH AHEAD. AS THE FIRST EYYOU WOMAN TO SERVE AS MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES, I WILL CARRY THIS ROLE WALKING FORWARD WITH LEADERSHIP GUIDED BY THE TEACHINGS AND WISDOM SHARED WITH ME."

**Reflecting a moment where the Cree Nation will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the JBNQA**

Minister Gull-Masty's career reflects the spirit of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), now celebrating its 50th anniversary: that Indigenous Peoples must be full partners in the development of their territories and futures. From local governance to global recognition at UN climate forums and international conservation summits, she has built a career defined by diplomacy, principle, and vision.

Her appointment comes at a time when federal-Indigenous relations are being redefined. As Minister of ISC, her work will shape national programs in health, infrastructure, education, and governance support for years to come.

**The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government extends its heartfelt congratulations to Minister Mandy Gull-Masty. Her historic victory is a source of hope and pride for all Nations, and an example to the youth of Eeyou Istchee that no path is beyond reach.**





