

Eeyou Eenou

NEWSLETTER

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

ISSUE 8

EEYOU ISTCHEE ELECTION

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Eeyou Eenou Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay connected through 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

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HONOURING THE PAST, ENVISIONING THE FUTURE: CNYC AT THE UNPFII 2025 SIDE EVENT



On April 22, 2025, the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) marked a significant milestone for Eeyou Istchee at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII24).

In celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), CNYC hosted a special side event titled "From Agreement to Action: 50 Years of Implementation and Indigenous Mobilization under Canada's First Modern Treaty."

Held in Room C5 at UN Headquarters in New York City, the event brought together youth voices from across Eeyou Istchee to reflect on the journey of the JBNQA and share bold visions for the next fifty years. Youth delegates from nine Cree communities addressed a full room of international attendees, highlighting the impact of the JBNQA on Cree governance, language revitalization, and self-determination—and emphasizing their role as the next generation of leaders.

Moderated by Carol-Ann Tanoush (Nemaska), the panel featured powerful insights from Esquay Masty (Waswanipi), Tanisha Bear (Mistissini), and Kevin-Joe Mianscum (Mistissini). Their remarks ranged from personal reflections on intergenerational resilience to forward-looking strategies for sustainable development, international collaboration, and Indigenous youth empowerment.

The event was made possible through the support of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services. Director Donald Nicholls, who accompanied the delegation, praised the youth for their clarity, poise, and the compelling message they delivered on a global stage.

They also met with National Chief Woodhouse Nepinak and several Indigenous leaders from across Canada, showing solidarity and enthusiasm for deeper inter-Nation dialogue.

AS ONE ATTENDEE NOTED, "THIS IS WHAT LEGACY LOOKS LIKE—YOUTH TAKING THE TORCH, NOT ONLY REMEMBERING HISTORY, BUT SHAPING THE NEXT CHAPTER."





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



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 Mistissini. With the theme "Eeyou 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.

Overall, the Cree Business Summit promises to be a pivotal moment for the Eeyou economy, uniting entrepreneurial hopefuls, trailblazers, and decision-makers to connect, learn, and build together.

"AT LAST YEAR'S SUMMIT, IT WAS REMARKABLE TO SEE HOW JUST A FEW DAYS OF LEARNING AND DIALOGUE LEFT YOUTH DELEGATES FILLED WITH IDEAS, CONFIDENCE, AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT COULD SHAPE THEIR FUTURES. WE SAW THE POWER OF BEING TOGETHER WITH A SHARED PURPOSE, AND IT INSPIRED US TO CREATE SOMETHING BIGGER. STRONG CONNECTIONS BUILD STRONG ECONOMIES, AND THE SUMMIT IS OUR CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER, LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, AND TAKE REAL STEPS FORWARD SO EEYOU ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAN THRIVE."

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

THREE DAYS - AUGUST 19-21

EEYOU ISTCHEE BEAR DEN BUSINESS CASE STUDY COMPETITION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! COMPETE IN TEAMS TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND WIN PRIZES.

HANDS-ON SKILL BUILDING INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

COVERING EVERYTHING
FROM BUSINESS
PLANNING TO MARKETING
TO FINANCE, LED BY
SUCCESSFUL EXPERTS AND
ENTREPRENEURS.

MENTORSHIP & NETWORKING

CONNECT WITH
ESTABLISHED BUSINESS
OWNERS AND BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL
SUPPORT YOUR GROWTH
FOR YEARS TO COME.

FOR ENTREPRENEURS

TWO DAYS - AUGUST 20-21

JBUSINESS EXCHANGE

GET CONNECTED THROUGH NETWORKING SESSIONS DESIGNED TO CREATE PARTNERSHIPS, EXPLORE JOINT VENTURES, AND IDENTIFY NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES.

SKILL BUILDING SESSIONS

LEARN FROM EXPERT-LED SESSIONS DESIGNED WITH THE EEYOU ECONOMY IN MIND - FROM BOOKKEEPING TO BUSINESS SCALING AND BEYOND.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUE

SHARE YOUR VISION AND IDEAS WITH KEY DECISION MAKERS AND HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE FUTURE OF POLICY, FUNDING, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

FOR LEADERS

TWO DAYS - AUGUST 20-21

REGIONAL STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

BRING YOUR COMMUNITY'S
VOICE TO STRATEGIC
DISCUSSIONS AND
CONNECT YOUR LOCAL
BUSINESSES AND EMERGING
ENTREPRENEURS TO

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

STRENGTHEN
PARTNERSHIPS WITH
FELLOW LEADERS AND
BUSINESS OWNERS
AND OPEN THE DOORS
TO COLLABORATIVE
OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS
EEYOU ISTCHEE.

PREMIER AWARDS CELEBRATION

ATTEND THE INAUGURAL
REGIONAL BUSINESS
AWARDS GALA,
CELEBRATING THE HISTORY
AND LEGACY OF EEYOU
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 by June 30.





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 Pimaatisiiwin . 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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ANNIE WHISKEYCHAN DAY

A Legacy Rooted in Language and Culture
Each year, Cree communities across Eeyou Istchee and
beyond come together to honour Annie Whiskeychan, an
esteemed Elder, educator, and chambion of Cree language revitalization. Annie Whiskeychan's tireless efforts in the 1970s led to the first Cree-language educational programs, which laid the foundation for today's schools in Eeyou Istchee. Her legacy continues to inspire generations of learners and cultural leaders.

What Is Annie Whiskeychan Day?

Annie Whiskeychan Day is a regional cultural event organized by the Cree School Board, local schools and community members. It celebrates her lasting impact on Cree education and cultural preservation. The annual event rotates among communities—they host jointly or independently, with past locations including Oujé-Bougoumou, Mistissini, Chisasibi, Waskaganish, and Waswanipi.



A Day of Cultural Reinforcement and Joy
Held in late May or June, Annie Whiskeychan Day brings together students, elders, teachers, parents, and community members. Typical observances include:

- Traditional ceremonies, such as baby-wrapping ("awaashpiihthuuyaan") and fire-roasted goose cooking ("sikapwaan")
- · Cultural games and competitions: goose-calling ("chistuhiischeu"), wood-cutting ("chiistaaskiicheu") and portaging ("kapataau")
- Creative literacy activities: traditional spelling bees, Cree word-item matching
- · 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



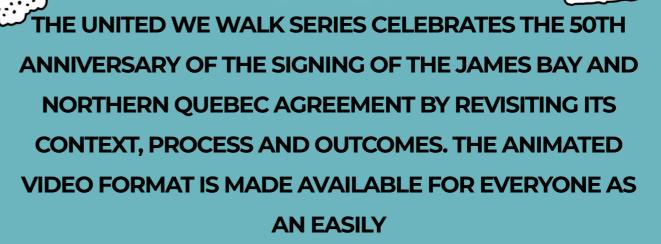


We hope that this year's events help to continue to celebrate the life of Annie. and her vital contribution to Cree language education and the continued preservation of the Cree way of life.



LINITED WE WALK

LJ NJ"UC°



ACCESSIBLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON CANADA'S FIRST MODERN TREATY AND STEPPING STONE OF CREE MODERNITY.

EPISODE 1 TO 4 AVAILABLE NOW









EPISODE 5 COMING SOON

Ϋ϶϶϶ͺΫ϶ͺΫ **GOVERNANCE**

2025 GRAND CHIEF AND DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ELECTIONS: EEYOU ISTCHEE





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.

The 2025 election will determine the next Grand Chief (Chairperson) and Deputy Grand Chief (Vice-Chairperson).

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)

Candidates for Grand Chief/Chairperson

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

Candidates for Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson

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



New in 2025: Online Voting

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

To vote online, you will need:

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

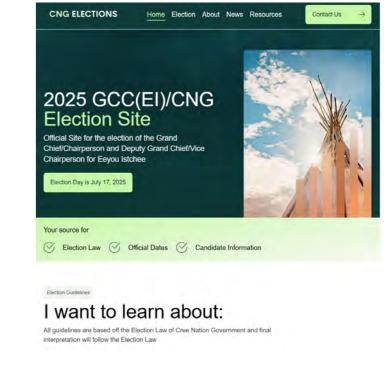
As of July 1, voters will be able to access the online platform to confirm their information and ensure everything is in place to participate in the electronic vote. Local Membership Clerks will also be available to assist with verification.

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.

Stay Informed

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



cngelections.ca is your source for official source for:



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.





























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—BaieJames—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

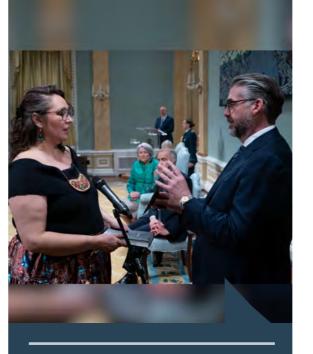
As Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Gull-Masty now oversees a portfolio critical to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples across the country. She succeeds Patty Hajdu,

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 EEYOU 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.



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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