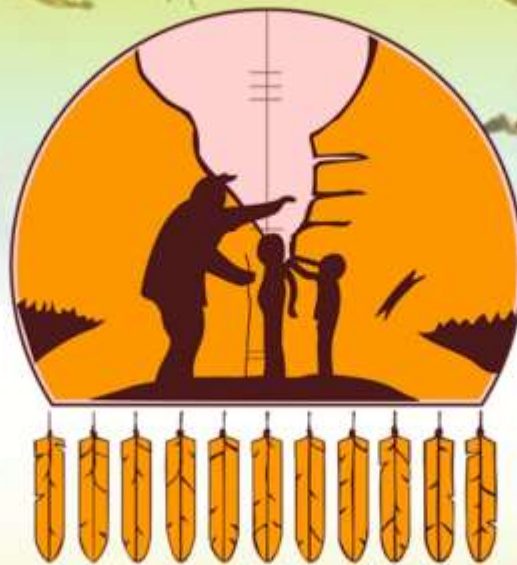


CREE NATION YOUTH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
2015-16

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Message from the Interim Youth Grand Chief

Wachiyah! Kwe!

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Cree Nation Youth Council Annual Report 2015-16, this report will feature projects that the CNYC had executed. The CNYC is a hard working youth organization that aims to provide meaningful programs and services that supports, creates opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all Cree youth.

Our young team of professionals at CNYC has worked hard to create, plan, coordinate the many projects that had been implemented over the year. It is our duty to represent all Cree youth in whatever aspirations they pursue in many areas such as education, employment, culture, empowerment, and others.

I want to say thank you to the CNYC executive/board and the Staff for their participation and commitments in the realization of projects.

Vice-Chairperson Amy Linten
Executive Member- Jordan Masty
Executive Member- Tera Diamond
Executive Member-Paula Napash

CNYC Communications Nellie Gray

Also, I want to extend my appreciation to all the partners and stakeholders who made their contribution to work with us.

We have overcome challenges over the year and we are continuing our journey to represent all Cree youth. We look forward to hearing all voices and aspirations.

In the spirit of youth

Meegwetch

Alex Moses
Interim Youth Grand
Cree Nation Youth Council



The CNYC PREAMBLE

The Cree Nation of *Eeyou Istchee* is a Nation established since time immemorial on the Land called *Eeyou Istchee*. The Nation possesses the full capability to govern itself, to maintain and further develop its own System of Law, to administer its internal and external affairs, and to develop its own institutions and agencies to meet the needs and aspirations of the Cree People.

The People of the Cree Nation have their own language, customs, values, and cultural heritage. The Cree culture encompasses Freedom, Equality and Democracy for the People. The culture and tradition fully supports a clear voice for all groups comprising the Cree Nation.

Within this Nation, the Youth have expressed a clear desire, and shown the will, to unite as a group with one strong, healthy, and responsible Voice, heard by all members of the Cree Nation.

Therefore, the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) of Eeyou Istchee is hereby recognized as a legitimate and accountable Cree organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate the development of Youth as joyful, capable members and future leaders of the Cree Nation.

The CNYC is not a political body. Rather, it recognizes the overall responsibility of the Grand Council to provide good government for the entire Cree Nation, including the Youth, and it seeks to work constructively and in harmony with this body and its agencies, and with the local governments. In this way, the CNYC fulfills a unique and positive role in representing the Youth in the protection, recognition and promotion of their rights, responsibilities and interests within the Cree Nation and in the larger World Community.

The Vision Statement of the Cree Nation Youth Council

To empower Youth by directly integrating and involving them at the Local and Regional levels of government, politics and administration, and;

To thereby prudently prepare them to assume their responsibilities as the future leaders of the Cree Nation.

MISSION

The mission of the CNYC is...to facilitate the development of capability, leadership, and a joy of life in the Youth, in order to have a better future for the People and the Cree Nation.

- By “development”, we mean the development of the whole person. This includes the full intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual potential of youth as individuals, and their growth as responsible and joyful members and contributors to the Cree Nation.
- The CNYC will help to facilitate this process. However, the primary responsibility for personal and collective developments rests absolutely with each Cree individual.

CNYC OBJECTIVES

The CNYC will pursue the following objectives in partnership with other organizations and the Peoples of *Eeyou Istchee*:

To promote, preserve, and protect the Cree identity, culture and heritage, including the language, values, customs, traditions, philosophy and beliefs, as well as the system of law;

To promote and strengthen the individual and collective health and unity of the Youth, and a mutually beneficial relationship between the Youth and members of the Cree Nation;

To identify, promote and strengthen the collective interests, rights and needs of the Youth;

To strengthen the effectiveness, credibility and accountability of the Local Youth Councils;

To implement programs specifically designed to develop and train Cree Youth to fulfill their potential as members and future leaders of the Cree Nation;

To assure the presence of effective and accountable Youth representatives on the Cree organizations which have a major impact on the lives and development of the Cree;

To hold the CNYC directly accountable to the Cree Youth for all its actions and commitments.

CNYC 16th Annual General Assembly

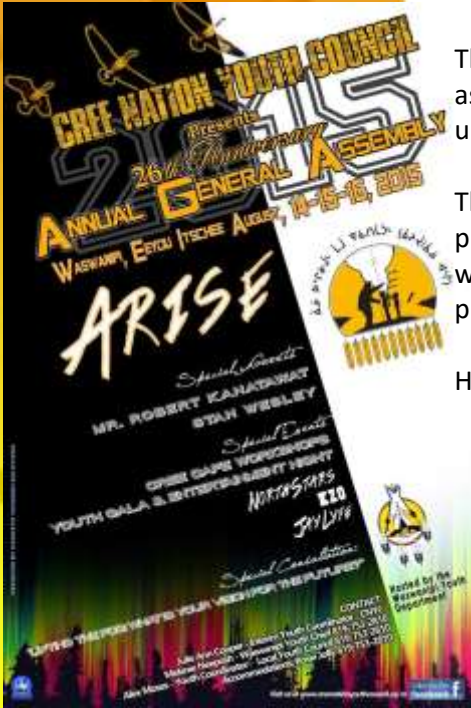
Waswanipi, Quebec

The Cree Nation Youth Council through its constitution hosts an annual general assembly (AGA) where all Cree Youth Chiefs and their delegates come together to unite and address issues affecting Cree Youth on Eeyou Istchee.

The Cree Youth delegation was a strong unit where issues were addressed and presented. Decisions were made based on the needs from the Cree Youth. Motions were made and Resolutions were passed to rectify, to improve and enhance the programming and visions of CNYC.

Highlights from the CNYC were;

- Appointment of Youth Grand Chief Alex Moses on Interim basis
- Romeo Saganash, MP of the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou
- Keynote Speaker, Mr. Stan Wesley
- Special Guest Speaker, Mr. Robert Kanatawat



Odayak 25th Anniversary

Odayak 25th Anniversary hosted by AANISCHAAUKAMIKW Cree Cultural Institute with partnership with CNYC in planning and supported through youth delegation to learn the story at the historic event.

April 22, marked the 25th anniversary of the journey of the Odayak from Whapmagoostui to New York City. Youth delegates, Elders, along with past and present Cree leaders from all corners of Eeyou Istchee gathered together at



Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (ACCI) to commemorate and celebrate the remarkable effort of the Inuit and Cree peoples to stop the damming of the Great Whale River.

We were privileged to hear beautiful and powerful words from Stella Masty Bearskin & Matthew Mukash, paddlers who travelled over 2,000 kilometers in the Odayak vessel along the waterways to New York City for Earth Day to bring their message to the world.

The day was not only a day of commemoration, youth empowerment and environmental stewardship, but also day of celebration with dancers, drummers, musicians, and a fantastic feast as part of the day's events.



Winter Journey 2016

Inland route; Waswanipi to Nemaska Coastal Route: Waskaganish to Nemaska
 Coastal was accompanied by Local Waskaganish & Nemaska Youth Journey's

The Regional Winter Journey was a great success. Our youth got a taste of the ancestry way of life during the winter months.

A total of 75 youth with elderly leaders from across the Cree Nation arrived in Nemaska after a 2 week journey and 100's of kms.

There they were greeted with some entertainment and a feast from the local community, with families arriving to see them complete the journey safely.

List of participants, Guides and Group Leaders

Name	Position	Coastal/Inland
Kevin Weistche	Group Leader	Coastal
Sarah May Shem	Participant	Coastal
Tyler Trapper	Participant	Coastal
Angelina Angatookaluk	Participant	Coastal
Zachary Stephen	Participant	Coastal
Marcus Whiskeychan	Participant	Coastal
Harley Stephen	Participant	Coastal
Martina Happyjack	Participant	Coastal
Jennica Moar	Participant	Coastal
Malcolm Tanoush	Guide	Inland
Albert Icebound	Guide	Inland
Rebecca Gunner	Group Leader	Inland
Travis Blacksmith	Group Leader	Inland
Lorianna Gilpin	Participant	Inland
David Trapper	Participant	Inland
Darren Petawabano	Participant	Inland
Harry Mattawashish	Participant	Inland
Devin Dixon	Participant	Inland
Norman Grant	Participant	Inland
Stella Polson	Participant	Inland
Joshua Shecapio	Participant	Inland
Gavin Weistche	Participant	Inland
Brad Hester	Participant	Inland

NOTE: NEMASKA AND WASKAGANISH LOCAL WINTER JOURNEY JOINED THE REGIONAL





CNYC Motivational Gathering

Post-Secondary Students in Ottawa-Gatineau

November 2015 - CNYC visits Post-Secondary Students, A night for encouragement held at Gatineau, QC. All post-secondary students in the region invited for dinner, motivational speeches & entertainment



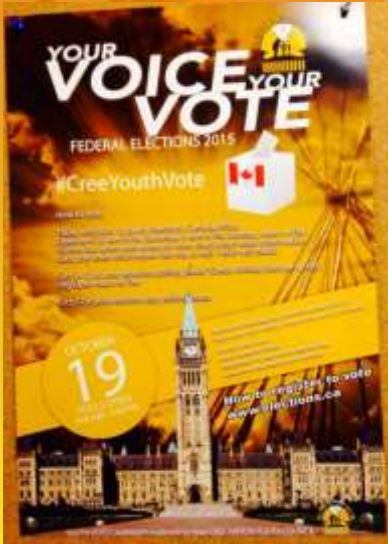
CNYC visited the growing numbers of post-secondary students in Ottawa and Gatineau region with the intent to support, encourage, and motivate them to succeed and to pursue their educational aspirations.

The Youth were from ages 18-35, there were 150 participants who joined this gathering along with their dependence were all formally invited by the Cree Nation Youth Council with the help of Darryl Diamond. The event hosted Motivation Speakers by Darryl Diamond and Paula Napash as well as the Youth Grand Chief.

Along with a supper there was great traditional entrainment to nurture their spiritual connection to their roots and also to relieve stress, we had powwow drum group and a hoop dancer to showcase the traditional entrainment.

This event was successful and inspiring and encouraging the students and their dependents, they expressed their gratitude to the Cree Nation Youth Council in continuing and thriving in their post-secondary education.





Youth Vote Campaign

The Cree Nation Youth Council wanted to engage our Cree youth to participate in the Federal Elections of Canada. This project was a initiative aimed at helping the Cree youth understand the voting aspects of an election.

Youth Vote Campaign, Federal Elections 2016

- Encouraging our Youth to use their power and voice by voting for the Federal Elections
- Promoting the Federal Elections
- Educating Cree Youth about the purposes of an Election

Youth Idea Contest

October 2015

Youth Idea Contest, open submissions for youth projects/services

- Aimed to give our youth a chance to hear their ideas for regional projects.



CHRD Career Fair

CHRD Career Fair Inland, support through Youth Delegation for the event. Held in Mistissini, QC.

Promoting employment and education opportunities to job seekers and youth in Eeyou Istchee. With over 500 people attending last year, we aim to bring you an event that is engaging, informative and improves your skills to find employment. Exhibitors, guest speakers and entertainment.



Inspire Hope Youth Conference

Cree Nation Youth Council hosted their 1st "Inspire Hope Youth Conference" in Wemindji, Quebec in March 11-13, 2016. We had over 100 youth participate in the conference and many more with the recording available for all to hear and see the prestigious event

CNYC Motivational Gathering

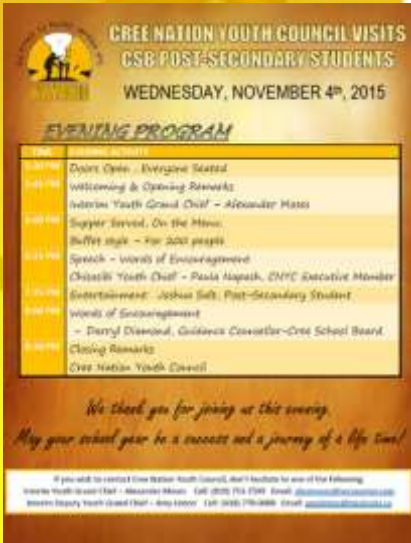
Post-Secondary Students-Gatineau, Quebec

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Nishiyuu Cultural Gathering

August 2015-CNYC support through planning & Youth Delegation

CNYC participated in the Nishiyuu Cultural Gathering hosted by Nishiyuun Council of Elders. This event took in place the community of Chisasibi. The CNYC had youth delegates that attended the gathering to observe and learn the traditional Cree Way of life. Also, there were ceremonies that were performed by elders and spiritual guides. Many other traditional activities that were brought to you by the Elder teachings. This event was supported through the CNYC.



CNYC commitments in the Fiscal Year 2015/16

CNYC website has not been updated for the past two years, commit to update and revamp the CNYC's website for mobile usage and better communications to our Youth.

www.creenationyouthcouncil.com

CNYC and the Cree Nation Government are discussion current conditions and negotiating to make structural changes for improvement and legality of CNYC. CNYC deems important to allow as many members as possible the chance to acquire the political skills necessary to become the next generation of leaders; CNYC deems that appointing the whole executive committee would both achieve this training objective

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CNYC partnership with Cree Health Board in HIV/AIDS Awareness, a tour of all 9 communities during which Cree woman affected by HIV shared her stories with the youth;

CNYC strongly believes that the future prosperity of the Cree Nation lies in the effort of the youth of acquiring higher education; Commitment in the upcoming year on the creation of a bursary program for CSB post-secondary students;

“Inspire Hope” Youth Conference 2016 was held in Wemindji in March 2016; CNYC considers importance of hosting such an event to continue motivating and inspiring our youth to dream, achieve and succeed. An annual conference to be held under the name “Inspire Hope”, next conference on March 2017 in Washaw-sibi, Qc.

A day celebrating the Cree Youth entitled the “Cree Nation Youth Day” will be held annually, to recognize and signify our youth are the future. CNYC and all Youth councils/departments in each community commits to celebrate the day simultaneously. First edition of the Cree Nation Youth Day will be held on August 14th, 2016

CNYC commits to working with Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi de la Jamésie for Youth Volunteering service program. A program that will foster cultural exchange with the Jamesie and the Cree Youth. A commitment that could possibly be held in an annual basis.

CNYC and the CNG department of commerce and industry commit to working relations in creation of the Youth Micro Business Funds. The goal of fostering entrepreneurship spirit of the youth and the prospect of job creation in the Cree Nation.

CNYC and CNG had signed a new Funds regional investment jeunesse Agreement with Secretariate à la jeunesse for the fiscal year 2016/17 in the amount \$430,668 and continuing work on closing the agreement for a 5 year agreement from 2016-21 to support CNYC and initiatives for programs, services and operations for the Cree Nation Youth.

CNYC supports Eeyouch Memory project, which had hundreds of hours of storytelling, history of the Cree Nation from past leaders, elders and those with relations with the Cree. Gordon Group, whom created the 4 films of Cree History for the Grand Council of Cree/Cree Nation Government wished to propose the Eeyouch Memory project to the Cree School Board for Educational purposes. Secondary commitment for CNYC and all Youth council/departments to screen play all 4 films locally for their youth to be informed of the Cree Nation and the JBNQA. Robert Chitty from Gordon Group invited to attend the CNYC AGA to tell the story of the development and show film 1 “Together we stand firm”.

www.eeyouchmemoryproject.ca



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Film stronger together

CNYC had invited Chairperson of the Cree School Board Mrs. Kathleen to a Board meeting. Following her presentation, CNYC commits to have a joint meeting with Cree School Board executives to in finding means for better education for our youth.

CNYC and Cree School Board had open dialogue with Katimavik for a Cree youth cohort for a Eeyou Youth Pathways to capability, contributions & leadership training. Katimavik is a well-known organization who has hosts a boarding school, training and volunteer program to develop life skills to be successful.

CNYC Committed to Hosting a Motivational Night for Post-Secondary Students in the south annually, after implemented a successful event in Gatineau for the Students in the Area. Education and capacity building is top priority to CNYC and we are finding ways to support our Cree students.

CNYC meet with Nishiyuu Regional Council of Elder's Coordinator, Stella M. Bearskin was invited to Board meeting, CNYC is committed to have closer relations with the organization has sent a Youth Rep to attend all Niishiyuu activities.

CNYC invites President of Qarjuit Youth Council (formally known as Nunavik Youth Forum) Alicia Aragutak to attend a meeting. Discussions and commitments to have cross cultural exchanges for our Inuit and Cree Youth. Both organization believe in creating strong bonds between the nations.

CNYC in partnership with N'we Jinaan in hosting the 1st N'we Jinaan Music Festival in Mistissini, Qc. CNYC believes in the work of David Hodges and continues to support the partnership.



Contact Information

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