



Annual Report 2018-19

**Cree Native Arts
and Crafts Association**

living
**Cree Arts
and Crafts**

www.cnaca.ca



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To diversify and grow a sustainable arts, crafts and cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree Artist, Artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou Nation while both encouraging contemporary means of expression and maintaining Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

Table of Contents

Message from the President	04
Message from the Executive Director	05
About CNACA	06
Programs and Services	08
CNACA Memberships	10
Meet our Artists	12
Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards	14
Activity Report from the Executive Director	16
Board of Directors	24
CNACA Employees	25

living Cree Arts and Crafts



Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

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Message from the President

KENNETH GILPIN

Wachiya, Kwey Kwey

Good day and Bonjour!

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is now entering its fourteenth year as part of the rich landscape of the Cree entities created as a result of our treaty—the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement signed in 1975.

Our mission has been a very challenging one indeed—and our responsibility enormous. We have been tasked with the redundant of being one of the lead entities in ensuring the preservation and continuity of a vital part of our Cree culture—our arts and traditional crafts. We accept this challenge in an environment where the world of the fur industry, which historically has been an important part of the Cree economy, is now almost non-existent. We are also in a reality where the way in which we carry out our traditional way of life is different from any time in the past. We now have both parents tending to full-time jobs in our communities, and our beloved Elders are leaving us at a rapid rate. In such a context, it is a monumental challenge to maintain the gift of our traditional way of life that has been bestowed upon us—as Cree people.

To take on these challenges is what CNACA has been all about. It has been a huge task to supply our artists and artisans with the raw materials they require and to work alongside our local committees and other partners to develop the kinds of partnerships that are needed to address the challenges that face us.

We have achieved quite a bit of success thus far; however, we did not get to be where we are today without the dedication and commitment of some very key personnel. They have maintained our course even in rough waters. Yesterday was where the lessons were learned, today is when we work toward a vision and tomorrow is when everything begins.

As the President of CNACA, I have been asked to exceed the four-year mandate that is stipulated in CNACA'S by-laws. I have done so willingly while also appreciating the enormity of the challenge. This time has, for me personally, been very interesting, educational, time-consuming and remarkably rewarding. Without the devotion of our current Executive Director, whose organizational skills and management style makes many things easier, we would not have been as successful as we have been.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we look forward to continuing success and significant achievements for CNACA and we appreciate the support of the Cree Nation Government, our communities, the other entities whose work overlaps our own, and above all the people of Eeyou Istchee.

Miigwetch.



Message from the Executive Director

GASTON COOPER

Wachiya!

It is with great pleasure that I submit the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association's 2018-2019 Annual Report.

I was hired on a contractual basis on June 4, 2018 with a mandate to oversee the organization and to implement changes that will enhance the benefits and services for the Artists of Eeyou Istchee with limited core funding. This alone proved to be a great challenge. The financial picture of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association needed to change. We needed to do more with less fewer financial resources.

With the support of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, we managed to review all potential sources of financial leakage and spending practices of the association. We determined that, on a high priority basis, a realistic proper budget that made sense was required. The 2018-2019 budget reflected a more creative approach on how the Association's funds were to be spent. This included holding fewer in-person meetings, utilizing the use of telephone conference call meetings and reducing the limiting the number of the Board and Executive Committee to four each per year. We also took an aggressive approach to seeking outside funding for all our projects. With this new mandate, we managed to stay keep the Association out of a deficit position for the first time in years, and the savings generated allowed the organization to pay its' aged accounts payable. Continued financial responsibility will allow us to commit more available funds to creative programs and services in support of our Nation's artists and artisans.

In early 2018, the Cree Nation Government (CNG) introduced and initiated discussion on the possibility of our Association entering having a shared-services arrangement with the Aanishchaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, and Cree Trappers Association. The objectives of these discussions were to highlight potential save cost-savings by combining certain positions. These discussions are still on-going to this as of the date of this message.

In November of 2018, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association initiated a campaign to implement an outstanding mandate under section 28.7 of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) which refers to the creation of Local Art Committees in each of the Cree communities. A formal approach with the local Chief and Councils was used undertaken to develop a partnership opportunity to drum up encourage support for, and eventually creating the local arts committees. Meetings were held with most of the local Cree Chief and Councils with great highly successful results and commitments for a positive partnership venture in creating the Local Art Committees.

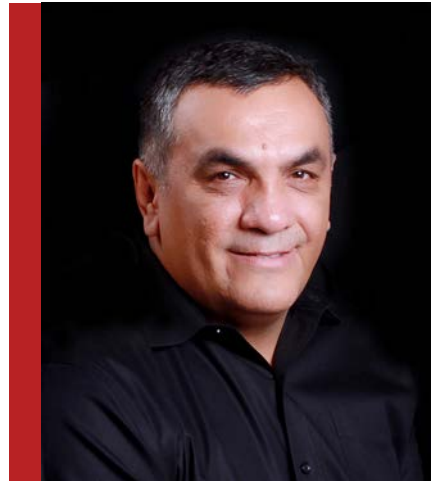
One of the Association's most notable achievements has been in creating partnerships with other regional entities and organizations such as Aanishchaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, and the Cree Nation Youth Council in order to develop creative proposals for funding from federal / and provincial funding agencies. These opportunities could may not have been possible without them, the concerted and collaborative work among our Cree entities.

The projects reflected described in this report proves demonstrates clearly and eloquently that working together produces great remarkable results.

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to the staff at CNACA for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the Association to achieving positive results.

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has entered an important phase of growth and learning how to do business in an arts industry that itself is constantly changing. We, as everyone else involved in the promotion of the arts, have been forced on how do business and forces us to adapt in an environment of rapid changing technology. We have innovated by offering an on-line members registration and data base. We encourage you to visit our website www.cnaca.ca and register as a member of the association. Keep in mind that you do not need to be an artist or artisan to be a member of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association. You simply have to care about the preservation of our Cree culture and our arts and crafts. Your membership helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our Cree artists.

Our success comes from the artists we serve. They are the keepers of our culture. With the ongoing support of our members, partners, and Board of Directors, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is ready for to accept the challenges and to realize the potential achievements which lies ahead in 2019-2020.



About CNACA



Mission

To diversify and grow a sustainable arts, crafts and culture economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou Nation while both encouraging contemporary means of expression and maintaining Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

Objectives

In order to move forward in fulfilling our vision and mission, we have established several key objectives:

Develop and be responsible for programs that contribute to the development of the Cree arts and crafts industry.

Facilitate the establishment of Cree central marketing services that will assist individual Cree or Cree communities in marketing and related services for arts and crafts products in markets throughout the world.

Facilitate the availability to Cree individuals or Cree communities of such material or equipment as may be required for the creation, preservation and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.

Coordinate our efforts with other Cree entities when needed for the support and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.

Vision

This short vision statement contains within it four strong messages that guide our work:

- Our artists and craftspeople are living witnesses of our culture and heritage.
- Our arts and crafts are the expression of how we have lived in the past, how we live today and who we are.
- Our artists and crafts people must be able to sustain themselves economically from their talents.
- As long as Cree arts and crafts are sustained, and our traditions preserved, our Cree people will remain strong.

To realize this vision and this mission, we must fulfill the visionary project of our leaders at the time of the signing of the JBNQA. Supporting artists and crafts people to continue with their work will contribute to sustaining all of Eeyou Istchee.

History

From the beginning, the visionary leaders of our modern Cree Nation believed and expected that CNACA would play a key role in the socioeconomic development of our people. At the time of the negotiations of our treaty—the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement - our leaders envisioned that trapping and tourism which are key activities related to the land would occupy an important place in the future economic development of our Nation. It is for this reason that they insisted on the creation of the Cree Trappers Association and the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association.

”

Finally, in 2004, the Association was officially incorporated “to assume a leadership role on behalf of the Cree for the development of arts and crafts and the cultural industries of Eeyou Istchee”.

Our Journey

28.4.1 Canada and/or Quebec will assist the Crees with funding and technical advice in establishing, as soon as possible, as described herein:
A) a Cree Trappers' Association;
B.) a Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association;
C) a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.

28.7.1 There is established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Program which shall include the structures, services, procedures, functions and agencies provided for in this Sub Section.

28.7.2 As soon as possible following the execution of the Agreement subject to the results of the feasibility studies referred to at paragraph 28.4.1 there shall be established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association which shall be responsible for and supervise the programs for the development of Native Arts and Crafts and a local Arts and Crafts Committees, in each Cree community.

28.7.3 The Chairman of each Local Arts and Crafts Committees shall have a seat on the Board of Directors of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.

28.7.4 The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association shall establish a Cree Central Marketing Service which shall assist individual Crees or Cree communities in the marketing and related services for Cree Arts and Crafts and shall make available to Cree individuals or Cree communities such material or equipment as may be required for the creation of native arts and crafts.

28.7.5 Subject to the results of the feasibility studies and in the event that a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is established, Canada, Québec and the Cree Regional Authority, in a proportion to be mutually agreed upon shall assist the Association in its operation and objects.

We offer a range of programs and services to meet the growing needs of our artists and artisans

Programs & Services



Gateway Information Center

Many programs exist that Cree artists can apply for, namely from CALQ, SODEC, Canada Council for the Arts, and others. However, most artists are not aware of these programs. CNACA would act as a one-stop-shop for artists seeking funding; the CNACA Program Officer can help determine which grants an artist is eligible for, and would offer his help in filling out application documents.



Grant Programs

We provide sponsorship to members of CNACA. The Applicant shall be a beneficiary member of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Each eligible application is reviewed and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.



Training and Education Program

CNACA has successfully conducted a variety of popular training sessions in the past years: moose hide tanning training, sewing and tamarack decoy building. To keep traditional skills alive, it is important that CNACA continues offering such training on traditional skills in the various communities, at least once a year.



Arts Promotion Program

Our studies highlights the need for artists to break their isolation and meet each other more often to network and discuss on their artistic practice and to showcase and sell their work. Indeed, opportunities to market and diffuse their work are lacking, and CNACA wants to fill in that gap by organizing yearly gatherings for artists to promote their work and meet each other. The gathering would take place in the shape of a traveling Cultural Festival, including a trade show, in which Cree artists would be valorized and recognized through an Awards Ceremony.

Also, CNACA will help organize an annual trip to a professional national/ international tradeshow. CNACA will select 1-3 different Cree authentic art each year to focus on and market in the tradeshow industry. Past trade shows include: Salon des métiers d'arts (Montreal), Canadian Aboriginal Festival (Toronto), Home and Cottage Show (Montreal).

CNACA

Memberships

OPPORTUNITY AND EXPOSURE

www.cnaca.ca/artists



Our goal is to help you - the members !

You don't have to be an artist to be a member of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association. You simply have to care about the preservation of our Cree culture and our arts and crafts. If you are an artist or crafts-person, CNACA membership entitles you to access our grant programs, attend trade shows, and participate in training programs organized by CNACA. Membership also gets you on our mailing list so that you can be informed of upcoming events. Your membership fee helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our Cree artists. Please consider being a contributor to keeping the arts alive and healthy in Eeyou Istchee. Become a member today!

Member Benefits

Take advantage of benefits as a CNACA member, including access to funding, training opportunities, and more.

- Visibility in a global market
- Access to training in arts and business
- Help in securing funding
- Strong visual presence on CNACA website and catalogues
- Opportunity to participate in local and global trade shows and events



REGISTER ONLINE !

www.cnaca.ca/artists

Our convenient online registration is now available and easier for everyone to be a member. Be a contributor to keeping the arts alive and healthy in Eeyou Istchee.

01

Active Member

Any Cree beneficiaries under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) engaged in arts and crafts activities.

02

Associate Member

Any Non-Cree (Indigenous/non-Indigenous) who supports the goals and objectives of the Association is eligible to become an Associate Member. Associate members may participate in the activities of the Association and attend members meeting. They are, however, not eligible to vote or be elected or appointed as a director.

03

Honorary Member

Any elders, individuals or organization who has rendered exemplary service to the Association, or to the positive development of arts and crafts in Eeyou Istchee is eligible to be an Honorary Member. Honorary Members are selected on an annual basis by the Board of Directors of CNACA. Honorary members may participate in the activities of the Association. They do not have a right to vote at member meetings, and they are not eligible to be elected or appointed as a director of the corporation, unless they are Cree beneficiaries under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

04

Corporate Member

Any partnership or organization controlled by a majority of registered Cree beneficiaries engaged in arts and crafts activities within the traditional territory of Eeyou Istchee is eligible to be a Corporate Member. Corporate Members may participate in the activities of the Association, however, they do not have a right to vote at members meetings, nor are they eligible to be elected or appointed as a director of the Association.

Meet our Artists



Izaak Wapachee

Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Multidisciplinary Arts

Izaak produces in a multitude of different art forms, but his main focus is within the music industry. He plays a variety of different instruments, he can also record, produce and perform live. In his musical career, he has played in over 100 shows. From the age of eight, Izaak has found himself drawn to all musical teachings. Izaak also excels in other artistic avenues such as painting, photography, graphic design, clothing design, multimedia, video, and film production. He has also been an actor, and involved in marketing, and has been a creative director.



Samuel Mianscum

Performing Arts, Traditional & Contemporary

At the age of 7, Samuel was taught how to play an acoustic guitar from his father. From an early age, he sought the knowledge of how to make “mookadagan”/ crooked knives from local elders. “Inspiration comes when you least expect it and you have to be ready to capture it... It could be anywhere. It has come while traveling on the road or just listening to people speak or sing. It has even come while being on stage singing and words come and I’ll sing them out...I love those moments”, Samuel says.



Brendan Forward

Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Multidisciplinary Arts

As a self taught-artist, Brendan has dedicated 5 years to building his skill set. Brendan is a photography based in Mississauga, QC. His main focus is on landscape photography, astrophotography but also enjoys traditional and contemporary subjects. He believes that “lifelong learning and artistic success are inseparable and continues to try and find new ways to capture our landscapes, people and culture”.

Chris Sam

*Performing Arts
Multidisciplinary Arts*

Chris has been practicing music for the past 20 years and has studied the “Music industry Arts” program at Algonquin College and has successfully coproduced an album with his band Cree Rising. Chris became involved in the music scene as a teenager with the recording of the Youth Compilation album in 1996. The Fort George Rockers from his hometown of Chisasibi provided him inspiration and helped him achieve his goals within the music industry.



Vivianne Oulet-Sheshamush

Visual Arts, Traditional & Contemporary

As a self-taught artist, Vivianne began her exploration with body paint by creating characters on people’s faces. She then experimented with different types of body art such as landscapes. She finds her inspiration from her hometown of Whapmagoostui with the use of vivid colors and glitter as part of her work. Vivianne also began bead work “as a therapeutic endeavour.” “I occasionally offer my makeup skills for special events and for project collaborations. I enjoy using calligraphy in a lot of my artwork.”, says Vivianne. You can find her work available for purchase online on her Facebook page or Instagram page.



Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards

Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has made progress in the attempt to provide the services and programs required by the artistic communities of Eeyou Istchee. “Chiiyaanuu: Focus on Eeyou Arts and Crafts” is an initiative designed to promote additional support for our artists and artisans while encouraging the Cree leadership and Cree communities to create partnerships intended to increase the production of works of art created by our people. Our goal is to enhance the opportunities for our artists and artisans to flourish and continue to create beautiful works of art in Eeyou Istchee. As leaders, we can make a difference in the lives of artists and artisans. The Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards was held in Nemaska in October 2018 to honor and recognize artists from Eeyou Istchee.

Buckley Petawabano Award

Emma Saganash - Waswanipi

The Buckley Petawabano Award is named after Buckley Petawabano who is regarded as an icon of Cree influences in the media. This year’s award was presented to Emma Saganash. In a career spanning 40 years, Emma has been intimately involved in TV and radio production and has impressively served as a journalist, TV-host, producer and manager for CBC’s Cree unit in Montreal. It was there that she piloted her crew through major changes, such as the expansion of its digital services and the creation of new and innovative programs.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Yvonne Neeposh - Nemaska

Our Lifetime Achievement Award honours an individual who has achieved a high level of success over his or her lifetime. This year’s award-winner, Yvonne Neeposh from Nemaska, was taught embroidery by her mother and aunts. Yvonne’s artistic career spans five decades. This energetic craftsperson continues to travel throughout the Cree Nation to share her knowledge with our Cree youth. Sustaining a passion for our Cree traditions is something dear to Yvonne’s heart.

Rising Star Award

Kelly Cooper - Oujé-Bougoumou

The Rising Star Award acknowledges an individual’s hard work and dedication to their arts endeavor and who are committed to bringing their art to a professional level. Kelly Cooper from Oujé-Bougoumou has already achieved a remarkable degree of musical success. As a cellist, she has performed with the West Island Youth Orchestra for three years, she performs in a trio for elders in Point-Claire Quebec, and she was the featured soloist with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal this past September in Oujé-Bougoumou.



Self Innovator Award

Duane Shanush - Eastmain

The Self Innovator Award not only celebrates artists who have taken a traditional art form and re-fashioned it to make it their own, but also those who have taken their own initiative to promote their art either locally and/or regionally. Duane Shanush from Eastmain is the youngest antler carver in Eeyou Istchee, and with his unique talent, creates one-of-a-kind pieces that are sure to leave anyone who sees them breathless in astonishment.



Best Fiddler Award

Byron Jonah - Waskaganish

The Best Fiddler Award was presented to Byron Jonah from Waskaganish. Byron is definitely the fiddler to call when there is an event. Byron travels all across Quebec and Ontario offering his edgy, captivating and charming style of fiddle music. His passion and endearing dedication are evident in the energy he brings to his music at any event where he is invited to perform.



Activity Report from The Executive Director



It is my pleasure to present to the Directors of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, a report on the activities of the Executive Director covering the 2018-19 fiscal year. This has been a year both of solidifying our organization’s basic mandate and ensuring responsible management, by introducing innovative measures intended to enhance and develop the role of CNACA in accordance with our overall mission.

Gaston Cooper

Contents

- ➔ **Report on Local Arts Committees**
- ➔ **Cree Nation Youth Council**
- ➔ **Strategic Planning - Sky Community Economic Development**
- ➔ **Creation of Members Database**
- ➔ **Cree Nation Government shared services discussion**
- ➔ **Activity Report**

Report on Local Arts Committees

In conformity with Section 28.7 of the JBNQA which provides for the establishment of local arts and crafts committees, we have taken steps to implement this important section. The approach that the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association has taken in ensuring the establishment and functioning of Local Arts Committees in our communities has proven to be a successful one. A letter was sent to all Chiefs requesting a meeting with the Local Chief and Council seeking their support for the creation of the local committees. The response was positive.

A Power Point presentation was made in each community and a draft resolution was presented requesting support to establish a Local Arts Committee.

Community (Chief and Council) Presentation Dates:

Date	Community
December 3, 2018	Mistissini
December 5, 2018	Oujé-Bougoumou
December 14, 2018	Waskaganish
December 14, 2018	Eastmain
January 15, 2019	Chisasibi
January 16, 2019	Nemaska
February 12, 2019	Waswanipi
May 22, 2019	Wemindji
July 29, 2019	Whapmagoostui
October 1, 2019	MoCreebec
TBC	Washaw Sibi

The Power Point presentation made to each community, in addition to expressing our commitment to support and work closely with the Local Arts Committee included:

- Steps toward the creation of Local Art & Crafts Committees. (Informal approach)
- The requirement for the Local Art & Crafts Committees to be recognized by the local government.
- Criteria for the 3-5 Committees members in diverse artistic fields.
- Recommendation to appoint Chairperson and Committees members until elections are called. (The Chairperson of each Local Art & Crafts Committees will be the Board member of the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association’s Board of Directors).
- Commitment to provide training and guidance until the Local Arts Committees is able to function on its own.
- Assistance in creating effective governance structures and operations.
- Recommendation to develop local Mission, Vision, and Objectives.
- Commitment to provide adequate funding on an annual basis from CNACA’s core funding.

The primary mandate of the Local Art & Crafts Committees will be in conformity with the role of the regional association. Following are a few examples of the possible activities of the Local Arts Committees:

- Being a voice for artists at the regional level.
- Setting the strategic direction to guide and direct the artistic needs of its’ members and community.
- Generally responding to the needs of the local members.
- Facilitating access to materials (raw or other material).
- Gathering products made by artists of the LAC and through a CNACA marketing network, shipping products to a CNACA selling point (eventually through Wachiya).
- Promoting local arts and crafts and traditional know-how (targeting youth, schools, population in general).
- Managing training in arts and crafts.
- Managing arts and crafts events suitable for the local community.
- Certifying quality and authenticity of products (with guidance and assistance from CNACA).
- Making representations at the local political level to support artists and artisans and stimulate collaborations with other local organizations.
- Mounting membership drives (Active/Associated/Corporate).



Cree Nation Youth Council

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association made a presentation to the Cree Nation Youth Council on the overall goals and objectives of the Association and the important potential role of youth with respect to the mission of the Association.

The presentation included the roles and responsibilities of the Local Arts Committees with a strong encouragement of the youth to get involved. A clear message was sent to the youth to mobilize themselves to get involved in the arts and crafts training currently offered, and to consider the potential employment

and financial opportunities associated with involvement in arts and crafts.

Corporate Membership was also recommended to the Cree Nation Youth Council. A work of art created by artist Harold Bosum was presented to the Youth Grand Chief.



Strategic Planning

Sky Community Economic Development

In the fall of 2018, Irene Neeposh from Sky Community Economic Development was engaged to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association. This strategic plan will guide the Association into the next chapter of our journey, and will focus on the programs, projects and initiatives that will be implemented.

The first session was held in the fall of 2018 at the Annual Members Meeting in Nemaska and continued with the input of the Board of Directors and staff in early 2019. The final version of our 5-year plan Strategic Plan will be presented at the next CNACA's Annual Members Meeting in 2019.

Creation of Members Directory & Database

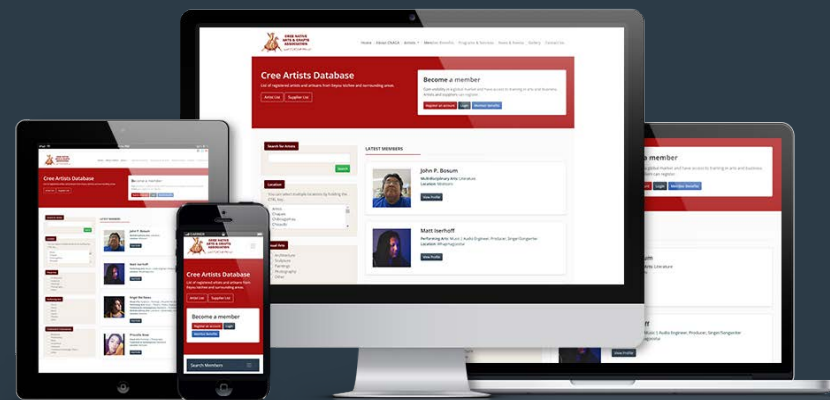
We revised our website to present a simpler way to join or renew memberships. Now, members simply need to log on to our website and fill out the membership forms using their mobile, tablets or desktop computer. This new link will also enable members to make payments for their membership online. www.cnaca.ca

The database will be on our website and accommodates online registrations to all new memberships (active/associate/corporate). The database will also serve all suppliers. Payments can be made directly using Pay Pal (Visa/ Debit Visa).

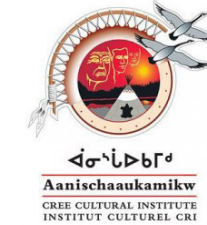
The database is searchable by product, artist origins, and expertise. Each artist who registers online will automatically have a profile created based on the contents entered during the registration. The system will notify the artist when their membership renewal is due.

As for those with no access to computers, they can use traditional method by submitting payment and registration by mail. In these cases, our staff will assist these individuals by entering their information into the database manually.

CNACA approves all artists registries before being posted.



Cree Nation Government Shared Services Discussion



In 2018-2019, a series of meetings took place in Nemaska, Montreal, Val-d'Or and Oujé-Bougoumou to discuss the Cree Nation Government's plan regarding potential shared services with Aanischaaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, and the Cree Trappers Association. The primary objectives of these discussions were to address potential cost-savings by combining certain common positions that could be considered a duplication and combining the current boards of directors into one super board for all the organizations involved.

In light of the ongoing urgency to improve all the organizations' financial situations and improve the delivery of services, the Cree Nation Government has proposed the following model for shared services:

The shared services model will reduce combined costs by:

- Ending the use of consultants (mostly in Finance and IT) and replacing them by employees which are less expensive than consultants;
- Sharing administrative staff (hence abolishing duplicated positions).

This proposed CNG shared services arrangement is still in discussion and CNACA is waiting for a complete cost analysis and review of legal implications on the JBNQA on these recommendations.

Currently, oversight of each organization is carried out by three completely distinct Boards of Directors, which creates duplication thus incurring administrative costs and expenses, while at the same time, decreasing funding level available for programs and services to our members. The creation of a super board that represents all three organizations makes it possible to realize increased financial and service delivery programs.

Activity Report 2018-2019



Waskaganish 350th Anniversary

JUNE 2018

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association displayed a booth at the Gathering Place on the invitation from the community. 2018 was an important year for Waskaganish as the community celebrated an important milestone in its history. It was in 1668 that the first Hudson Bay Post was established in North America at what is now Waskaganish, and it was in that year that the fur trade began.



JULY 2018

This annual free festival, which corresponds with National Indigenous Peoples Day, includes a marketplace for Indigenous craftspeople and artists to display their work, and also welcomes organizations promoting Indigenous tourist destinations and opportunities for cultural learning. CNACA, alongside COTA (Cree Outfitting & Tourism) and ACCI (Aanishchaaukamikw) mounted a display booth to market Eeyou Istchee products and to provide information about our Nation and our artists and artisans.

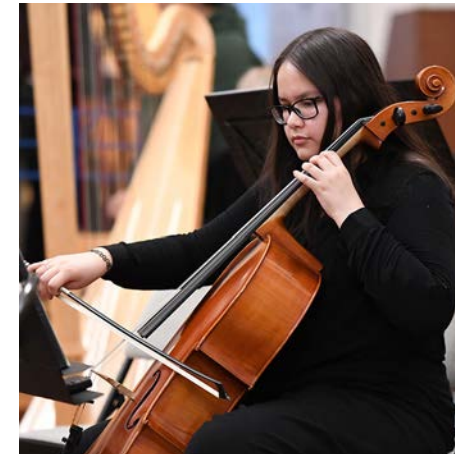


KWE Festival

AUGUST 2018

KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples is an annual event that invites the public to learn about the wide range of issues faced by First Nations peoples. Eleven Quebec nations are presented and offer the opportunity for participants to learn about their cultures through discussions, film, workshops on traditional knowledge, and demonstrations of arts and crafts. Artist Deborah Ratt represented the Cree artists of Eeyou Istchee.

Activity Report 2018-2019



Montreal Symphony Orchestra

SEPTEMBER 2018

Working collaboratively with Aanishchaaukamikw, CNACA aided in facilitating the visit of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to Oujé-Bougoumou. We provided the opportunity for our very own Cree youth, cellist Kelly Cooper, to play a solo at the event which has since led to further invitations. The community of Oujé-Bougoumou came together to create an intimate and truly memorable arts experience for the surrounding region.



Online Poetry & Song Writing Competition

NOVEMBER - FEBRUARY 2019

Cree language artists were offered the opportunity to flex their creative muscles in our first annual Tipaachumuh contest—a contest introducing Cree poets and songwriters. Nearly 110 members of Eeyou Istchee went on-line to vote for their favorite piece. We look forward to even greater participation this coming year, especially as our initiative to get the youth more involved is expected to take off and become very popular.



Rock your Mocs

NOVEMBER 2018

In collaboration with Oujé-Bougoumou Local Justice and the Aanishchaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, Cree Native Arts and Crafts invited members of Mistissini, Waswanipi and Oujé-Bougoumou for three afternoons and evenings of traditional sewing instruction which was taught by local elders from Oujé-Bougoumou. They demonstrated how to make moose hide baby slippers.

Activity Report 2018-2019



Christmas Craft Sale

JUNE 2018

CNACA partners with the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation to present a Christmas arts and crafts show. Our organization sold many products and featured local musical talent with Diane Bosum and Richard Bosum, as well as Mistissini artist Kizis Mitchell who also offered his barbering service while Nellie Wapachee Gray offered a workshop on beading.



Inland Baby Rattle & Moccasin Workshop

FEBRUARY 2019

In association with the Cree Nation Youth Council and the Cree Nation of Oujé-Bougoumou, Cree Native Arts and Crafts held a regional baby rattle and moccasin making workshop.

We were pleased to host three guest speakers in addition to our three instructors. Eeyou Istchee addictions speaker, Wayne Rabbitskin spoke about the importance of the connection and teachings between father and child; former CNG Language Coordinator, Dorothy Stewart, spoke about the importance of maintaining Cree language in the home; and Thomas Coon shared stories about education and crafting on the land.



Auctions

JULY 2018

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) successfully auctioned off a painting created by Cree artist Tim Whiskeychan. It was actioned to the highest bidder at the Eastmain Golf Benefit in Gatineau on July 26th, 2018. The painting was sold to Tawich Development Corporation. Also, Dennis Georgekish from Wemindji won a large size tamarack decoy at the Eastmain Golf event. The Tamarack decoy was donated by the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association on behalf of Gordon H. Blackned.

Activity Report 2018-2019

Visitors Experience

OCTOBER 2018

In a large collaborative effort between Eeyou Istchee/Baie James Travel, Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation, Cree Outfitting and Tourism, Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute and Cree Native Arts and Crafts, we have been working with beader Isabelle Neeposh to produce an “authentic visitor experience”.



This project included the development of a coaching document and a draft start-up workshop on how to engage visitors looking for a Cree cultural and artistic experience. Her workshops are advertised with EIBJ, COTA and CNACA; and ACCI provides her with the space.

This was a pilot project designed to build upon for a larger cooperative initiative between Cree Outfitting and Tourism and Cree Native Arts and Crafts, where workshops will help artists in five different communities who are interested in developing “authentic experiences” for visitors.

Isabelle Neeposh

Traditional & Contemporary

Artisan Isabelle Neeposh has been making beaded earrings, medallions and barrettes since 2013. Originally from Mistissini, Quebec, Isabelle now lives in Oujé-Bougoumou carrying on her beaded tradition with her two daughters. It is no surprise that beading is Isabelle’s passion. Taught by her sisters, she was a quick learner and soon after began selling her products. Isabelle prefers to use Delica beads and has a special color scheme that she employs in her creations.



Additional CNACA Appearances

Community	Date
Oujé-Bougoumou Annual General Meeting	August 2018
Cree Nation Government Annual General Meeting	August 2018
Niishiiyuu Elders Council Meeting	August 2018
Waskaganish 350th Anniversary Celebration	November 2018



Board of Directors

Experienced, effective and diverse leadership



Kenneth Gilpin
President
Eastmain Representative



Diane Cooper
Vice - President
Waswanipi Representative



Tim Whiskeychan
Treasurer
Waskaganish Representative



Deborah Wapachee
Executive Member
Nemaska Representative



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Natasia Mukash
Board Member
Whapmagoostui Representative



Gaston Cooper
Board Member
Oujé-Bougoumou Representative



Peter Shecapio
Board Member
Mistissini Representative



Gloria Polson
Board Member
Washaw Sibi Representative



Pakesso Mukash
Board Member
Cree at Large Representative



Alex Moses
Board Member
CNG Representative



George Small
Honorary Member
MoCreebec Representative

Julie Pare
Legal Counsel
Murdoch Archambault

CNACA Employees 2018 - 2019

Gaston Cooper
Executive Director

Jossee Bernier
Administrative Assistant (Interim)

Sarah Dow-Imrie
Special Projects & Events Coordinator

Roxanne Mianscum
Communications & Marketing Officer

Johnny Dixon
Product Manager

living
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Crafts**



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