



Health Assembly 2024-2025

The Board approved the plan to hold a health assembly no later than Spring 2025, and also approved the associated budgets, obligations and commitments.

This health assembly follows the approval of the Strategic Regional Plan at the December 2023 Board meeting. Implementing the SRP will require holistic planning to support the SRP's four orientations and supporting objectives (Cree Culture & Autonomy; Health & Well-Being; Access & Quality; and Nurture & Growth). The assembly, involving Miyupimaatisiiun Committees, other Cree entities, and CBHSSJB management and staff, will help set a pathway for putting the SRP into action and achieving its objectives.

Letter requesting joint CHHSSJB & Hydro-Quebec study

The Board viewed a letter from Daisy House, Chief of the Chisasibi Cree Nation, requesting a joint CBHSSJB/Hydro-Quebec study into the mist coming off the river in the winter. The letter notes community concerns about the mist – its causes as well as its potential health impact and effects on materials in homes and buildings. The letter proposes a meeting with representatives from the CBHSSJB and Hydro-Quebec. A response will be prepared addressed to Chief Daisy House that the PH Environmental Health Team is available to support the project.





Governance Advisory Committee: Supreme Court of Canada Decision on Bill C-92

The Board was updated on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision to uphold Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. The Act, enacted in 2019, affirms the inherent right of Indigenous peoples to self-government, including self-government and law-making power for child and family services. The act establishes a process for Indigenous governing bodies to develop their own youth protection laws and defines minimum standards applying to all service providers (federal, provincial and Indigenous).



Governance Advisory Committee: Supreme Court of Canada Decision on Bill C-92 continued

The Quebec Court of Appeal, in response to a question posed by the Government of Quebec, found that the act lay within the federal law-making powers except for two provisions that infringed on provincial authority. In response to an appeal by both Quebec and Canada, the Supreme Court ruled that the entire act was constitutionally valid and within federal law-making powers, and that it encouraged "a culture of respect for and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada." The decision recognizes that Indigenous peoples are best placed to ensure the welfare of their children.



Governance Advisory Committee: Supreme Court of Canada Decision on Bill C-92 continued

Overall, the SCC decision is directly in line with the mandate of the Awash Uschiniichisuu Shikascheimuun Task Force established by the CBHSSJB in 2021, which works with other Cree organizations to identify issues with the current youth protection system and to find solutions adapted to Eeyou culture, values, needs and realities. Notably, Section 14 of the JBQNA establishes jurisdiction of the CBHSSJB over health and social services, including youth protection, which other First Nations in Quebec do not enjoy.



Governance Advisory Committee: Timeline for 2024 Election Process for CBHSSJB Chair

The Board was updated on the timeline for the 2024 CBHSSJB Chairperson election. The election is provisionally scheduled for November 12, 2024.

The process demands that at least 60 days before the election the date be confirmed, a returning officer appointed, and the means of polling determined; the decision will be taken at the September board meeting. Other process milestones occur 30 days before the election (all nominations are submitted) and 21 days before (formal acceptance of nominations), with a campaign period running from 21 days before the election date.

Governance Advisory Committee: Amendments to Board Governance Policy 1: SRP

The Board approved the adoption of amendments to Board Government Policy (BGP) No. 1, concerning the Strategic Regional Plan (SRP).

The Board reviews each BGP on a regular basis; BGP No. 1 was last reviewed in 2018. The amendment clarifies certain points concerning the purpose of the policy, the content of the SRP, layers of responsibility for the SRP, and the implementation of the SRP.



Governance Advisory Committee: Amendments to Research Governance Committee By-Law

The Board reviewed a proposed amendment to the Research Governance Committee By-Law. The amendment clarifies the importance of having Cree representation from the Board of Directors' on the Research Governance Committee.

The proposed Research Committee By-law will be approved at a future special board meeting as per the requirement of a 30-day prior notice.



Governance Advisory Committee: Research Approval Policy

The Board reviewed a proposal for a new Research By-Law replacing the 2017 Research Committee By-Law. The By-law proposes a return to having four Cree community representatives on the Board. It would apply to any research project involving human subjects that is launched or substantially revised after the By-Law is implemented. It also clarifies what constitutes research and defines a regulatory framework based on Miyupimaatisiiun research principles, to be approved. The proposed Research By-law will be approved at a future special board meeting given the requirement of a 30-day prior notice.



Governance Advisory Committee: Miyupimaatisiiun Research Principles

The Board voted to adopt Miyupimaatisiiun Research Principles as part of the CBHSSJB's regulatory framework for approving research projects.

The twelve Miyupimaatisiiun Research Principles were developed through a collaboration of the CBHSSJB's Research Office, the Nishiiyuu Department, and other internal and external stakeholders.

Prior to beginning any research, research projects must obtain formal approval from the Research Office. The entire research team, including any student researchers and research assistants, must provide written statements affirming that they will respect the Mivupimaatisiiun Research Principles.

Governance Advisory Committee: Miyupimaatisiiun Research Principles continued

These principles seek to ensure that all research carried out by, in partnership with, or with the approval of the CBHSSJB (1) serves the best interests of Cree people and contributes to Miyupimaatisiiun, (2) includes Cree participation and takes account of Cree perspectives, (3) reflects the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession developed by the First Nations Information Governance Centre, (4) protects collective Eeyou/Eenou knowledge and practices, and (5) is carried out in a culturally safe manner. The Miyupimaatisiiun Research Principles will be presented to the Miyupimaatisiiun Committees for input.

Governance Advisory Committee: Policy on Mobile Devices

The Board approved the current Policy on Mobile Devices.

The current policy, first passed in 2021, must be reviewed every at least every three years. A departmental review deemed that no changes were necessary.



Vigilance Committee: Commissioners of Complaints and Quality Assurance Quarterly Report

The Commissioners of Complaints and Quality Assurance deposited their quarterly report covering the period from October 1 to December 31, 2023. This period saw 36 files opened, including four complaints, 18 requests for assistance, and 14 interventions; in one case it was impossible to contact the plaintiff. The report broke down the nature of files, the communities affected, and whether the files have been resolved, in addition to providing comparisons to previous periods.

The report also summarized other activities of the commissioners, including community visits and presentations and collaborations with other internal entities.

CMDP: Nomination of Physicians and Dentists

Following the recommendations of the CPDP's Executive Council, the Board approved nominations and changes in status for physicians and dentists in Eeyou Istchee.

Dr. Nicholas Koziris, Dr. Raffaele Dizazzo, Dr. Joianna Jiang and **Dr. Jessica Tremblay** were approved to practice in Eeyou Istchee as active members & permanent part-time occasional family physicians.

Dr. Eve Forcier-Doddridge, **Dr. Alexandra Chicoine** and **Dr. Frantz-Daniel Lafortune** were approved to practice as active members and permanent Full-Time Plus family physicians.

CMDP: Change of Status & Resignations of Physicians

Dr. Isabelle Chotard changed status from active member & permanent half-time family physician to active member & permanent part-time occasional family physician. **Dr. Silvie Pépin** and **Dr. Darius Bayegan** changed status from active members & permanent full-time family physicians to active members & permanent half-time family physicians in the Department Medicine.

The Board accepted the resignations of **Dr. Louis Youri Blais- Element**, effective November 1, 2023, and **Dr. Yolaine Yim**, effective October 1, 2023.



CMDP: Nomination of Specialist Physicians

The Board approved **Dr. Camille Trahan** as associate member with privileges in pediatrics, and **Dr. Laura Horowitz** as associate member with privileges in nephrology, both in the Department of Medicine. Both nominations are effective to 31 December 2024.



CMDP: Nomination of Dentists

The Board approved **Dr. Salomé Deschenes** and **Dr. Haissam El Hajj** as active members and permanent full-time dentists in the Department of Dentistry.

Also approved as associate members and replacement dentists in the Department of Dentistry, are **Dr. Issa Daoui**, **Dr. Miriam Laleg**, **Dr. You Sup Park**, and **Dr. Johanny Claveau**.

The Board also accepted the resignation of **Dr. Stéphane Rousseau**, effective March 16, 2024.



Council of Nurses: Quarterly Report

The Council of Nurses deposited its Quarterly Report, focusing on

A Budget Proposal to compensate for time spent in Council work.

April Elections for representatives for the Regional Hospital & Regional Services, as well as a Cree representative.

Recruitment Efforts, including representatives at the Chisasibi Career Fair, January 31, 2024.

Review of DPSQA Projects (new restraints protocols, ABCDaire review, hypoglycemia collective prescriptions and wound debridement rule of care).

Human Resources Committee: Organizational Redesign

The Board was updated on the implementation of the organizational redesign efforts being led by Human Resources. The redesign aims to improve overall efficiency, situate the CBHSSJB to best meet the priorities established by the Strategic Regional Plan, and support the implementation of the MIC-M (Miyupimaatissiun Integrated Care Model), with the overarching objective of infusing Eeyou Eenou culture & traditions throughout the organization.



HR Committee: Organizational Redesign continued

Several initiatives/positions are awaiting MSSS approval (Director Capital Projects, DSP Midwifery, Director Emergency Measures and Protocols), while work continues on developing other roles.

Some programs have been transferred within the organization. Directors of SAPA, Healing Lodge, and Mental Health & Special needs, and the Advisor Elders Awareness are all moving from their current administrative situation to Pimuhteheu; Coordinator of Foster Homes and Respite for Elders and Special Needs is moving under the Director of Youth Protection, and Regional Medical Archives will move under DMAS.

Audit Committee: MSSS Receivables & Accumulated Surpluses

The Audit Committee provided the Board with several updates.

The update on MSSS receivables included a break-down of specific allocations, expenses to be integrated into the operating budget, and special allocations (eg, COVID-19 allocation).

An update of accumulated surpluses 2023-2024 noted that surpluses were directed to the purchase of new medical and midwifery equipment, transport vans, and kitchen equipment; a restricted surplus was reserved for use in emergencies.



Audit Committee: CNIHB Expenditures & List of Contracts

The Audit Committee provided an update of CNIHB expenditures, broken down into expenditures related to transportation (e.g. medical evacuation, elective air transport, ambulance, etc) and those related to other services (medication, medical and surgical supplies, hearing aids, optometry & eyeglasses, dental services, etc).

The Committee also provided the Board with a list of contracts of over \$100,000.



Audit Committee: Budget Process

The Board was updated on the Budget Process. The development of a draft budget is guided by a working group including the Executive Director, the AED Administration, and the Director of Finances, who set budget parameters and income/expenditure objectives (February 2024), communicate objectives to relevant departments (February) and then receive departmental budget proposals & review them with directors and managers (April), submit them to the executive committee for approval (May 2024), and finally recommendation from the Audit Committee to the Board of Directors (June).

Once the budget is approved by the CBHSSJB Board of Directors, the ED and Director of Finances are responsible for implementing it.

Audit Committee: Forest Fires

Finally, the Audit Committee updated the Board on the financial impact of forest fires. A special allocation of funds from the MSSS covered salaries (primarily overtime), transport of patients and medevacs (60% of the total allocation), accommodations, medical supplies and other services.



Council of Midwives: Midwifery Services Contracts

The Board approved five service contracts for midwives.

Gabrielle Dallaire as midwives on a regular full-time contract for the period from March 8, 2024, to March 8, 2027. It also approved contracts for Marie Brunet on an occasional full-time contract for the period from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2025, and for Sabrina Fella on an occasional part-time contract from April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025.



Risk Management Committee: Risk Management Team Activities

The Board was updated on incident/accident (I/A) statistics for the period running from April 1, 2023, to January 27, 2024, and on the activities of the Risk Management team. The I/As reported increased compared to the same period last year, from 689 to 822. Of these five were sentinel events, which were analyzed to prevent recurrence and improve the quality and safety of care and services. Most I/As were categorized as "other" (appointment scheduling, transport and medical records), followed by medication and laboratory-related I/As.

Team activities included posting new positions within the risk management team, upgrading software, and facilitating the monthly meetings of seven working groups.



Schedule of Meetings

The Board was presented with the proposed dates for upcoming regular meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. Regular Board of Directors meetings for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will be on June 11-13, September 10-13, December 10-13, and March 11-13. Special Board of Directors meetings will be announced as needed.





Update on Mandates from the Previous Meeting

The Board was updated on the status of the mandates from the previous meeting, to be carried out by the Executive Director, the Director of Finance, the AED-Miyupimaatisiiun and the HR Department. All mandates had been met.



Capital Projects Update

The Executive Director also provided an update on capital projects.

- The **Regional Hospital** is on target. Demolition of the secondary school is scheduled for 2024, with construction of the substructure beginning in 2025, construction of the facility running through 2026-2027, and the site opening in 2028.
- Negotiations to buy the Pourvoirie Mirage buildings at Km 358 Route Transtaïga have been completed, and documents sent to MSSS for approval.



Capital Projects Update

- The Espresso Hotel lease is being completed and will be sent to the MSSS; a mandate is being given to professionals to assess market value, determine the health of mechanical systems and building envelope, and estimate costs for upgrades.
- For the Mistissini Elders' Home, an agreement is being drafted between the CBHSSJB and the consortium Cheno Construction. A two-stage, progressive design approach is being used to construct the home. If it works well, it will be used for Elders' Homes in Chisasibi and Waskaganish.

Capital Projects Update

- For the Mîniwâchihwâukimikkw/Healing Lodge, a tallyman authorized the use of all the area needed and will draft a contract to officialize the terms for the use of the land. A call for tenders will be issued in March, and beginning in April Cree entities will be consulted concerning cultural aspects of this facility
- Authorization to construct the Waskaganish Birthing Home was received in November 2023, and a call for tenders to general constructors was launched in February. Construction is planned for summer 2024 and is anticipated to take 14 months.

Capital Projects Update

- The CBHSSJB received MSSS authorization to purchase and renovate the old band office in Eastmain. The building will be used in part by Youth Protection and in part for storage.
- Special needs group home and mental health group home clinical plans are with the MSSS, and the project awaits the "avis de reconnaissance" to complete the PFT for these projects. PFTs require around six months to complete; then, plans and specifications must be authorized before receiving an authorization to begin construction.

Capital Projects Update

Projects currently being carried out include

- Waskaganish CMC, eleven months ahead of the timeline
- Two six-plex units in Waskaganish, which will accommodate the home hemodialysis training centre in this pole. Construction should be finished by June 2024.
- Plans and specifications for the 80-unit transit facility in Chisasibi are being modified from traditional to modular; substructure correction should be completed in 2024.



Healing Lodge Update

The Board was updated on the Miiniwaachihiwaaukimikw/Healing Lodge, which will integrate Indigenous and biomedical perspectives in a "two-eye" synergistic approach.

Planning and development of the facility has been carried out, and next steps involve drafting an operational manual, launching the web page, delivering two land-based projects, completing recruitment and finalizing and securing the site for the healing lodge.





Increased Costs for Waskaganish CMC Emergency Repairs

The Board approved an additional \$350,000 to complete emergency repairs for the Waskaganish CMC.

The repairs address damage caused by the main water line break. The CBHSSJB liability insurance will cover the costs of the repairs, minus the deductible; the insurance claim will be settled after repairs have been completed.



Renewal of Lease Agreement for Val d'Or Office Space

The Board voted to approve the renewal of the lease agreement with Gestion GAD for office space in Val d'Or.

The office space is required for Wiichihiituwin and Administrative Resources.

The current lease expires March 31, 2024; the renewal period runs from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2027.



Purchase of Vehicles

The Board approved the purchase of a new fleet of vehicles to support service delivery and development.

The need for new vehicles was determined by a review carried out by the Material and Resources Department, in collaboration with local directors, to assess current and anticipated future needs.

The funds to purchase the vehicles will come from the CBHSSJB's accumulated surplus funds.



Purchase of 12 Housing Units from Cree Nation of Mistissini

The Board approved two resolutions concerning the purchase of housing units from the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

In 2001, the Cree Nation of Mistissini signed an agreement with the CBHSSJB for the construction of twelve housing units, with the agreement that after a 20-year lease the CBHSSJB could opt to purchase the sites, with their rights of superficie for residential purposes. As the lease has expired and the costs of construction fully repaid, the Board voted for the CBHSSJB to exercise its option to purchase the buildings at 17 and 19 Blazo-U-Meskinam Street, and at 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 Waabinuutau Street.

Purchase of 5 Housing Units from Cree Nation of Mistissini

In addition, the Board approved the purchase of five housing units at 20A, 20B, 22A, 22B and 27 Waapstan West Street under a similar arrangement.





Renal Health Services Update

The Board was updated on renal health services, which address the high rate of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in Eeyou Istchee. Currently there are 581 CKD patients in the region, or almost 3% of the population. Of these 93 patients require hemodialysis permanently or regularly in Montreal, but there is no CBHSSJB nurse there to provide support and continuity of care. The program aims to support these patients across their health care journey with different service providers and to prioritize their return to quality care in Eeyou Istchee. This will require expanded nursing staff, including a "pivot" nurse based in Montreal, more training in hemodialysis for nurses, and more nursing positions for Chisasibi, Mistissini and Waskaganish poles. A mandate is given to Chairperson to present an update

on diabetes and renal diseases at the next CNG meeting.

Renal Health Services continued

The program also will support transplant patients: currently there are 55 in the region, with 15 on a waiting list for a transplant and another 56 waiting to be put on a waiting list. A nurse case manager is needed to support this population pre- and post-transplant.

The ambitious Hope Centre home dialysis program aims to increase its patients while ensuring safe and quality training and service.

A Renal Health Hub under the DPSQA-Health would coordinate Hope Centre, pre-dialysis, renal transplant and hemodialysis units.

By 2026, the program aims to reduce the number of CKD stage 4 & 5 patients by 25% and the number of patients starting dialysis by 25%.

Federal Programs and Services Update

The Board was updated on federal funding agreements for programs and services. Under the health contribution agreement with two government departments, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the CBHSSJB receives funding for primary health care, supplemental health benefits (non-insured health benefits), and health infrastructure support. Notably, 80% of ISC funding goes to programs and services. Surplus funding can be used to address a range of needs, including the purchase of medical equipment or support for emergencies.



Homelessness Projects update

The Board received an update on the Ouje-Bougoumou Beaver Lodge homelessness project and the Équipe Mixte d'Intervention – Policiers et Intervenants Communautaires (EMIPIC) project.

The Beaver Lodge opened in December 2023 with support from the first funding phase of the MSSS Interdepartmental Action Plan on Homelessness. It has three beds to provide temporary shelter for men 18 and over. The initiative, a partnership with the Ouje-Bougoumou Miyupimaatisiiun Committee, aims to reintegrate clients back into the community, guiding them to resources and advocating for their needs.

Homelessness Projects update

The EMIPIC project, a collaboration between the CBJSSJB, Sûreté du Québec, and community of Chibougamou, refers people in vulnerable situations to local resources. The joint intervention team aims to improve access to services.

The second phase of funding applications to the MSSS Interdepartmental Action Plan on Homelessness runs from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2026. In addition to supporting the Beaver Lodge in Ouje-Bougoumou, the initiative has also funded efforts in Chisasibi, Wemindji and Whapmagoostui, as well as the Mianscum Solidarity Coop land-based facility.



Beauty for Ashes Update

The Board was updated on the Beauty for Ashes adaptation project, launched in September 2022 to address root causes of health and social issues in Eeyou Istchee. The program, based on the Alaskan Southcentral Foundation's Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI), follows a multi-year timeline which involves learning and adapting FWWI principles to the Cree environment, training trainers, and engaging local resources. Twelve participants from Eeyou Istchee have received training/orientation in FWWI principles at Arrigah House in Anchorage, with more to be trained later in Montreal and Anchorage. Most training and program preparation should be completed late in 2025.

Miyupimaatisiiun Committees update

The Board was updated on a meeting of community Miyupimaatisiiun Committees to discuss development, activities and areas of focus. All committees attended the event (67 people in total), and together they discussed action plans, received training, developed a vision and mission statement, and agreed to standardize approaches. All action plans will be gathered by March 15, 2024, and steps will be standardized. Committee chairs agreed to hold quarterly meetings and a communication plan for sharing information is being developed.



Miyupimaatisiiun Committees continued

The Vision and Mission Statement developed at the event is as follows:

Vision and Mission Statement

 Culturally strong communities achieving the highest level of health and well-being in pursuit of Miyupimaatisiiun.

The mission of the Miyupimaatisiiun Committees is to promote the health, well-being, and healing of our communities by empowering individuals and their families through holistic approaches provided in collaboration with our partners.



Youth Protection Update

The Board was updated on Department of Youth Protection (YP) services. A review of statistics from the past year summarized information concerning calls for youth protection received, the number of those retained, and reports processed.

The presentation also noted recommendations from the DYP audit and the Cree YP Commission. These addressed staffing issues, the division of measures, and collaboration agreements (from the audit) and the implementation of (1) joint clinical processes between YP and Youth Healing Services and (2) a CMC-DYP protocol (from the Commission).

Youth Protection continued

The presentation also outlined priorities for 2024-2025, which include (among others) reviewing the DYP organization chart, strengthening collaborations with partners, providing professional development for employees, increasing the quality of services, and working closely with the Awash-Uschiniichisuu Shikascheimuun Task Force.



Out-of-Region Placements

The Board approved the out-of-region placement and respite plan for clients with complex disability profiles.

These clients require specialized rehabilitation services and supported living environments off territory, as the necessary services are not currently available in Eeyou Istchee.

Contracts with off-territory service providers are based on the needs of each individual client.



Cree Midwifery Education Program

The Board voted to express the critical need for Cree midwives and thus the implementation of the *Eeyou Istchee Pimaatisiiwin Chiskutimaachawin* (EIPC), or Cree Midwifery Training Program.

The EIPC is a community-based, competency-driven, on-the-job training model that is in part inspired by the approach of the Inuulitsivik Health Centre (IHC) in Nunavik and its collaboration with the *Ordre des sages-femmes du Québec* (OSFQ). The IHC/OSFQ collaboration has experienced success in a physical and cultural environment which has similar needs to those of Eeyou Istchee.



Cree Midwifery Education Program

Consequently, the OSFQ and the CBHSSJB have discussed developing a similar model for Eeyou Istchee, the EIPC, and have now reached a point where the CBHSSJB needs to proceed with the first phase of this model, which would involve participants completing an initial, non-clinical training.

A second phase would involve clinical training under the supervision of a registered midwife, with the student registered as a participant in the student register. As part of its resolution, the Board strongly encourages the OSFQ to tangibly support the finalization and implementation of the EIPC, as soon as possible and in close collaboration with the CBHSSJB, as it has done with the IHC.

A directive is given to Chairperson to seek additional support from CNG to provide a resolution or by letter

YHS Limitation of Freedom & Intensive Supervision Statistics

The Board received Youth Healing Services' summary of the Limitation of Freedom, Intensive Supervision and Detainment statistics from November 21, 2023, to February 24, 2024. This period saw a total of five limitations of freedom, eight intensive supervisions, and three detainments. The statistics covered the youth at the Reception Centre and the Upaachikush Group Home in Mistissini as well as the Weesapou Group Home in Chisasibi.

The report also summarized a range of other statistics for these sites.



NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

11-12-13 June 2024 Gatineau





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