



# Special Board of Directors Meeting

12 April 2023

MS Teams Meeting

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake reflecting a soft, pastel sky at dawn or dusk. The foreground is a rocky, sparsely vegetated shore with some autumn-colored shrubs. In the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees lines the far shore. A large, white, semi-transparent circle is centered over the image, containing the text "OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

# **OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

# Cree Youth Protection Commission Launch

Following an opening prayer by Elder Robbie Matthew of Chisasibi and opening remarks by Chairperson Bertie Wapachee and Executive Director Daniel St-Amour, the Board launched *Aah Chishtipistihch Awaash-USchiniichisuu Sikischaayimuwiniiyu* – the Cree Youth Protection Commission. In his remarks, the Chairperson noted that the Board had established the Awash-USchiniichisuu Shikascheimuun Task Force to help guide Youth Protection as it strives to adapt its services to the specific needs and realities of the Cree context. This initiative has led to the creation of the Commission.

The launch included a description of the commission's mandate and an introduction to (and by) the commissioners. This was followed with a presentation of the context of youth protection in Eeyou Istchee and an explanation of the how the Commission will engage CBHSSJB staff in seeking to adapt Youth Protection services to Cree needs and realities.



# Cree Youth Protection Commission: Mandate

The Youth Protection Commission's mandate begins with an examination of issues Cree people currently face with Youth Protection (YP) and Youth Criminal Justice (YCJ) matters, identifying areas of concern that could be changed, and proposing some guiding Cree principles for leading change.

The commission will propose recommendations for adapting practices and, over the long term, for creating a Cree Youth Protection program.



# Cree Youth Protection Commission: Commissioners

Lorraine Spencer and Bella Moses Petawabano were formally introduced as commissioners. They presented some key terms, including the Cree name for the commission, *Aah Chishtipistihch Awaash-USchiniichisuu Sikischaayimuwiniiyu*, and their roles as *chaashtipishtihk* (persons of authority who oversee or guide the process). The commissioners noted that the process will be collaborative and consultative, listening to the input of the full range of stakeholders.

They also introduced the commission slogan, *maamiinupitihtaau* – let's keep guiding it in the right direction, let's keep correcting our course as needed. They explained the connection of this slogan to Cree history and culture, showing that it reflects Cree values and traditions, ways of healing caring and ways of caring for children and youth.



# Cree Youth Protection Commission: Youth Protection Context in Eeyou Istchee

Understanding the historical and cultural context of youth protection in Eeyou Istchee is necessary in order to reclaim the welfare of children, families and communities. A brief overview covered pre-contact with Europeans, the initial era of contact based on equality of relationships, and then the post-contact displacement and resource expropriation by colonizing forces. A number of efforts have sought to explore and redress some of the historical injustices, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Viens Commission and the Laurent Commission.

The creation of a Cree Youth Protection Program requires the reinforcing of culturally safe practices and approaches and the identification of Cree principles in designing this new program.



# Cree Youth Protection Commission: Consultation Formats

Consultations will include internal consultations with CBHSSJB staff as well as external consultations with partner organizations and in the nine communities. Consultations are also open to people wishing to share stories or ideas in individual interviews. The commissioners will also look at data collected by the CBHSSJB, the reports of previous commissions, and best practices for First Nations Child Welfare programs.

Internally and externally, they will draw information from focus groups, individual and group consultations, and written briefs that are presented to them.

This presentation concluded with closing remarks from AED-Pimuhteheu Jonathan Sutherland, Executive Director Daniel St-Amour, and Chairperson Bertie Wapachee.

Today's launch of the Cree Youth Protection Commission is to kickoff the internal consultations with CBHSSJB employees this spring and summer.



# Out-of-Country Travel

**The Board authorized out-of-country travel for five members of the Matoush family to attend the 2023 Joubert Syndrome and Related Disorders Foundation Family and Scientific Conference to be held in Seattle, Washington, July 10-15, 2023.**

The family had applied through Jordan's Principle to receive funding to attend the conference, and their application had been approved by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in February. The CBHSSJB Jordan's Principle focal point assists parents and family members in organizing services (travel arrangements, conference registrations, etc) when funding through is approved.



# NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 14-15-16 2023





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