

2023-2024 Annual General Assembly
October 24, 25, and 26, 2023
Cree Nation of Eastmain

Day 1: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Meeting commences at 10:10 AM

1. Opening Prayer: **Kenneth Gilpin from Eastmain, Quebec**
2. Opening Song: **Northern Medicine from Eastmain, Quebec**
3. **Quorum & Chairperson:**

Quorum is met. Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty will be the chairperson for Day 1 of the Annual General Assembly. Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee will be the chairperson for Day 2 of the Annual General Assembly.

4. Appointment of recording Secretaries:

Adoption of the Recording Secretaries; Amanda Tomatuk and Natasha Weapenicappo to record the minutes of the 49th GCCEI/46th Cree Nation Government Annual General Assembly.

Proposed by: Daniel Mark-Stewart
Seconded by: Chief Raymond Shanoush
Carried: October 24, 2023

5. Opening Remarks

Welcoming Address by host Chief Raymond Shanoush:

Welcomes and thanks those who are present for the Annual General Assembly. Thanks, the Grand Chief, Mandy Gull Masty and the Deputy Grand Chief, Norman A. Wapachee. Mentions how beautiful the community of Eastmain is and how welcoming our community members are. Also sends his deepest condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

- Opening Remarks by Mandy Gull-Masty – Grand Chief
- Opening Remarks by Norman A. Wapachee – Deputy Grand Chief
- Opening Remarks by Adrian Gunner Neeposh – Youth Grand Chief

11:15 AM – Health Break (10 minute)

Meeting commences at 11:30 AM

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6. Introduction of 2023 Cree Nation Community AGA Delegates

Eastmain	
Chief Raymond Shanoush	Linden Spencer
Daniel Mark-Stewart	Edward Gilpin
Johnny Tomatuk	Geraldine Weapenicappo
Tina Petawabano	
Mistissini	
Chief Michael Petawabano	Christine Petawabano
	Alice Petawabano
	Emmett Matoush
	Richard
	Daylan Longchap
Chisasibi	
Chief Daisy House	Charlie Sealhunter
	Charlie Pepabano
	Shayla Grace Napash
	Josephine Sam
	John Sam
Ouje-Bougama	
Chief Gaston Cooper (Absent)	Lance Cooper
Wesley Mianscum	Tyra-Lynn Gull
	Aaron Gull
	James Wapachee
Washaw Sibi	
Chief Annie Mapachee-Salt	Gloria Polson
Andrianna Trapper	Billy Katapatuk
Betty Trapper	Tasha Mowatt
Whapmagoostui	
Chief Robbie Kawapit	David Kawapit
	Sandy Petagumskum
MoCreebec	
Chief Allan Jolly (Absent)	Sheila Shanush
Kelley Kitchicappo	Trudy Sailors
	Grace Delaney
	Mary K
	Harriet Kitchicappo
Waswanipi	
Chief Irene Neeposh	Donovan Blacksmith
Dawn Saganash	Louise B. Saganash
	Ella Gull
	Paul Gull

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Waskaganish	
Chief Greta W. Cheechoo	James Jonah Jr
	Susan Esau
Nemaska	
Chief Clarence Jolly Sr.	Nancy Wapachee Sr.
	James Wapachee Sr.
	John Henry Wapachee
	Steven Neeposh
	Emma Wapchee
Wemindji	
Chief Christina Gilpin	Denis Georgekish
George Natawapineskum	Michael Mark
Stanley Shashaweskum	Billy Natawapineskum
Arden Visitor	

7. Matthew Swallow – Treasurer

Brief introduction & welcoming

8. Davey Bobbish – Executive Director

Brief introduction & welcoming

**9. Resolution Review and adoption of the 2023 Annual General Assembly
Agenda – Grand Chief Many Gull Masty**

Proposed by: Lance Cooper
Seconded by: Chief Irene Neeposh
Carried: October 24, 2023

10. Appointment of Resolutions Committee:

- Davey Bobbish, Executive Director
- Matthew Swallow, Treasurer
- Melissa Saganash, Deputy Executive Director
- Donald Nicholls, Director of Justice, and Correctional Services
- Edna Neeposh, Corporate Secretary
- John Paul Murdoch, Corporate Counsel

Proposed by: Susan Esau
Seconded by: Chief Christina Gilpin
Carried: October 24, 2023

11. 2022 Annual Assembly Report – Paul John Murdoch, Corporate Counsel

Presenting of previous Minutes and Resolutions from 2022 Annual General Assembly.

12. Annual Report – Davey Bobbish, Executive Director

Brief information on the annual report handbook.

13. Closing for lunch break – Mandy Gull Masty, Grand Chief

Mandy wishes former chief of Nemaska, Thomas Jolly, a Happy Birthday and wishes him well.

12:35 PM – Lunch Break

1:53 PM – Meeting continues for the afternoon.

14. Adoption of the Minutes and Resolution of the 2022 Annual General Assembly

Proposed by: John Henry Wapachee
Seconded by: Chief Robbie Kawapit
Carried: October 24, 2023

15. Reception of the Minutes and Resolutions of the 2022 the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government

Proposed by: Lance Cooper
Seconded by: Chief Christina Gilpin
Carried: October 24, 2023

16. Consolidated Laws of the Cree Nation Government – John Paul Murdoch

Shows where laws and resolutions can be found on the www.cngmeeting.com website.

17. Financial Statement of the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government – Matthew Swallow – Treasurer 2022-2023 Audited:

- Opening for Questions or Concerns

18. Appointment of Auditors – Raymond Grant Chabot Thorton

Proposed by: Daniel Mark-Stewart
Seconded by: Michael Petawabano
Carried: October 24, 2023

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**19. Audited Financial statements of the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou
Istchee/Cree Nation Government**

Proposed by: Edward Gilpin
Seconded by: Johnny Tomatuk
Carried: October 24, 2023

Grand Chief, Mandy Gull Masty adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

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Day 2: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Chairperson: Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee

- 1. Opening Remarks:** Deputy Grand Chief Norman A. Wapachee
- 2. Opening Prayer:** Chief Greta Whiskeychan Cheechoo – Waskaganish

Meeting Commences at 9:45 AM

- 3. Governance on Eeyou Istchee**
- 4. Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty:**
Presentation on Cree Governance and Cree Constitution
- 5. Cree Café – Flora Weistchee:** 15-minute discussions per question

Questions on Cree Governance:

1. What makes Eeyou Governance unique?
2. What should define the Cree Constitution?
3. How do we improve the working relationship between Local Governments and the Cree Nation Government? (CNG)

11:10 – Health Break

Meeting Commences at 11:20 AM

6. Highlights from Governance Cree Cafe Discussion:

- 1. Cree Nation of Chisasibi**
Chief Daisy House

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- It's ours, it reflects who we are as a Cree Nation

What should define the Cree Constitution?

- Cree traditional knowledge and expertise
- Eeyou Ittuun
- Oral tradition, respect, principles of ancestors
- Ensuring resources are there for future children, future generations.
- Open communication, transparency, and consultation

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- Communication, communication, communication
- Open communication understanding each other, listening to understand, and not listening to respond.
- Community engagement is the key.
- Visit the communities more often.
- Better understanding of each community so they can see our reality.
- Find creative ways to work together which includes sharing of expertise to find what needs to be shared between Cree Nation Government and local government.
- Cree Nation Government to share the right of information with local government.

2. Cree Nation of Eastmain

Daniel Mark-Stewart

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- It has been here a long time ago before we had agreements.

What should define the Cree Constitution?

- How our ancestors used to live
- to take care of the land and animals
- to always look at how the land has always taken care of us.
- to use elders' knowledge and teachings

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- The Government can't always think that the Cree people will come to them but to make time to visit all Cree communities.

3. Cree Nation of Mistassini

Issac Voyageur

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- Cree people, land, values, and our language
- Resilience

What should define the Cree Constitution?

- This should come from the Cree communities.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- To look at each community how they govern themselves.

4. Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougamau

Terrilynn Gull

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- It provides more autonomy of affairs and traditional territory.
- We can govern with the guidance of our culture, values, and beliefs.
- To be able to participate our municipal management Regional Development including the land of resource planning.

What should define Cree constitution?

- Our Cree way of life
- Our unity that it has been always our strength.
- Members must be involved like taking ownership.
- The freedom of expression to maintain dialogue with our members.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- To enhance and maintain communication between the local governments and the Cree Nation Government
- To build the future together we need to understand the diversity across the Cree Nation, and we need to build onto them. Diversity is good. We can work through our differences together.
- We need to open the dialogue and work together towards solutions.
- Discussions like these should occur more often. Ouje-Bougamau governs with the participation of our people. The people are involved and provide their insight that our leadership builds upon. The people have a greater say in our governments.

5. Cree Nation of Wemindji

Abel J. Trapper

What makes Eeyou governance unique?

- Cree Culture we can do.
- Cree culture preservation.
- Occupy Eeyou land.

What should define the Cree constitution?

- We've identified Cree values, traditional activities, traditional knowledge, acknowledge spiritual beliefs as well. Constitutional principles the voice of the constitution should come from the Eeyou and not be influenced by outside knowledge, so it should come from the Eeyou. Create identity is key and important. We should be able to compliment and improve the current laws and agreements that we have.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- Collaboration as one point. Listen to the needs and input from the communities. Communities must be the ones to determine the by the community. The community must be determined by the communities themselves and not from the regional gap. People who will lay the foundation and who will define the governance. It will come from the people. The mandate should come from the community. The community define agenda, consultation visits should be equal as well. More education and awareness from community on programs and services offered by the Cree Nation Government. There should be a well-informed process in terms of applying and reporting. Committees, working groups need to continue and report back to the local communities. Funding allocations, it should be based on needs and not on population ratio, could be from housing infrastructure. Give more power and economy to the communities.

6. MoCreebec

Kelly Kitchcappo

What makes Eeyou governance unique?

- The ability to have equal opportunity for all communities to govern. More specifically natural law and we get to protect our values and traditions, culture, rights of the people of our nation.

What should define the Cree constitution?

- Demographics
- Roles and responsibilities to our future generations
- Educate the population with western and traditional knowledge.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- More recognition for our community.
- MoCreebec is needed to build for a nation to nation.
- Building relationships with Cree Nation Government.

7. Cree Nation of Waskaganish

James Jonah

What makes Eeyou governance unique?

- Sovereignty
- Taking our Cree culture back
- Believe/trust each other.
- One unity
- Native power
- Eeyou/Eenou language

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- Cree knowledge

What should define the Cree constitution?

- Cree Government (land, teaching, health)
- Eeyou knowledge
- Cree Justice
- Cree School Board

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- More Cree recognition
- Working together
- Eeyou knowledge
- To empower each other
- Work force

8. Cree Nation of Waswanipi

Chief Irene Neeposh

What makes Eeyou governance unique?

- We should be the ones to decide how our communities should look. We have unity, which makes us unique. It is shaped by Eeyou understanding. We have persistency, we do not quit. There is on-going influence.

What should define the Cree Constitution?

- Evaluation needs to define the constitution; we need to find the balance between culture. Population growth and territory limits. Greater control of land resources & mutual respect. Eeyou lead. Defined by unique needs by the Cree.

9. Cree Nation of Nemaska

Stella Masty

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- Cree Government
- Self government (JBNQA)
- Polics/implementation
- Cree language/culture
- Cree Values
- Power to make our own laws.
- Cree School/Cree Health Board
- Cree medicine
- Eeyou/Eenou Police
- Justice

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- Childcare
- Transparency/Accountability
- Consensus on major agreements
- Harvesting traditional food

What should define Cree constitution?

- Cree core values
- Fundamental/principles guiding.
- Transfer of knowledge to our youth
- Cultural/long programming
- Cree history/rights/laws/freedoms
- Amendment process
- Integrate into Cree curriculum.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- Consultation on decision process before
- Communication (strategy on how to reach target groups)
- Cree tv (Cree programming) news
- Newspaper/newsletter
- Various communication methods
- Social media/emails

10. Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui

Chief Robbie Kawapit

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- Helping one another
- Respect ancestor's teachings
- Practice ceremonies/traditions
- Elders teaching

What should define Cree constitution?

- Cree teachings
- Our history
- Our language

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- Communication
- More dialogue
- More brainstorming sessions
- More CNG/Departments

11. Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi

What makes Eeyou Governance unique?

- Led by our own people, Cree people.
- Provides strong and stable structure.
- First Nation people to have their own government.
- Creates unity with other Nations.
- Opportunity to be role models for future generations.
- Governance, over their own health care and education system

What should define Cree constitution?

- Cree values/traditional practices
- Language/territory land
- Inherit rights.
- Combine all constitutions from all eleven Cree communities, representing the Cree Nation as a whole.

How do we improve the working relationship between the local government and the Cree Nation Government?

- Recognizing Washaw Sibi self governance status
- Removing observation status from Washaw Sibi and MoCreebec
- Communication, more involving with local communities.
- Continuing local support. Our CNG tours that we did last year.
- Formally recognizing Washaw Sibi as the 10th Cree community under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement for us to move forward.
- Empowering the future generation creating youth leaders.

End of Cree Café Discussions – Flora Weistche

2:06 PM

7. DAY 3 Agenda:

Norman A. Wapachee

Day 3 was postponed, will be moved to another day in February. For this reason, there will be a funeral on Thursday, October 26, for Late Margaret Shanoush, Chief Raymond Shanoush' mother.

8. Brief Presentation on Health and Social Services

Bertie Wapachee

- Alcohol use
- Drug use
- Domestic Violence
- Nurse Shortage in Cree communities

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- Child Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

12:31 PM - Lunch Break

1:52 PM Meeting continues for the afternoon of Day 2

9. CTA Presentation

1:55 PM

Clarke Shecapio, Arden Visitor and Allan House

Clarke Shecapio: Brief Introduction

Presentation Topics:

- History
- Governance Structure
- Programs, Projects & Services
- Changes, Challenges & Impacts

Vision: To advocate, protect, and promote Eeyou pimaatisiun

Programs include:

- Transportation
- Land occupancy
- Equipment subsidies

End of presentation – Clarke Shecapio

2:19 PM

CTA Presentation – Allan House

2:25 PM

Changes, Challenges & Impacts:

- Climate Change: It is affecting terrestrial, aquatic, and marine ecosystems, leading to impacts on population health and safety and affecting air-quality of life, traditional activities, and the well-being of cree communities.
- Development in the territory: Forestry, Mining, Hydro, and Exploration

Hunting & Trapping:

- Cree population has drastically increased since the establishment of CTA.
- The majority of Eeyou depends in employment.
- Hunting and trapping are still viable and active way of life in Eeyou Istchee

Wildlife:

- Moose population has decreased in certain areas of Eeyou Istchee
- Woodland caribous are a concern and is considered species at risk.

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- Migratory caribou's population has decreased causing the sport hunt to close.
- Sturgeon population is also decreased causing the creation of the sturgeon management plan.

Trapline Management:

- Trapline system has been established, in early years for beaver preservations.
- Trapline boundaries system with technology has caused overlaps in the territory.
- Cta will initiative the process of settle the issues, having community involvement is vital.

End of Presentation – Allan House

2:38 PM

Cree Café – Discussion on Traditional Activity

2:40 PM

Flora Weistche

1. **In the programs offered by CTA what improvements would you consider on improving and what new programs you would like to see?**
2. **With the changes, challenges and impacts in Eeyou Istchee. What services would you like to see to assist the hunter/trappers on the following:**
 - a) **Climate Change**
 - b) **development in the Territory**
 - c) **Eeyou Ituun governance**
3. **What you kill a moose, how many people do you share it with?**

3:31 PM – Health break (10 Minutes)

Meeting commences at 3:41 PM

Highlights from Governance Cree Cafe Discussion:

1. Eastmain Highlights:

Linden Spencer

- How to clean and prepare traditional food, using traditional tools, and learning the names of Cree names of camps.
- Efforts to be made.
- Moose meat is shared with the whole community. Everyone eats everything, same thing with bear meat.

2. Chisasibi Highlights:

Chief Daisy House

- Shared guardianship, land-based programs are needed, we are losing our traditional ways and language.
- To have an app in the future for safety; to show where and when it is safe to drive.
- We feed about 40 families.

3. Mistissini Highlights:

Alice Petawabano

- Help support the youth to be on the land, to mentor the youth and to transfer the knowledge of hunting and traditional practices. Seasonal traditional activities.
- Increase subsidy for hunters to go to their camps, to inform our youth the awareness of climate change to be safe on the land. Friendly equipment, solar panels instead of generators. To respect the land keepers, there should be agreements with land keepers and communities. Eeyou ittun governance, to work with the land keepers with the local CTA.
- It depends on the size of the moose, most of it goes to the community for donations. It could be eaten at feasts, especially moose head and intestines.

4. Ouje-Bougamau Highlights:

Terrilynn Gull

- We discussed improvements in air transportation. We have families that have traplines in other communities and we need funding to take families into other traplines. We also brought up the cabin entrance. It's to review the premiums & policy also consider depreciation on the cabins. And we also mentioned cabin inventory per trapline. And we need more communication on youth programs like publicizing programs because we don't really have many youth programs in Ouje-Bougamau that are more vocal so we would like to see more improvement on that.
- - Fish habitat restoration, spawning restoration, & purchase eco-friendly equipment that have low emission.
 - To respect the land keepers and agreement with the communities.
 - To meet and work with the land keepers and to support local CTA.
- Depends on the moose, there's lots of donations to the community and how many people are in a family.

5. Wemindji Highlights:

Stella Masty

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- There should always be events like Annie Whiskeychan day and regional traditional competition events. Youth need to know hunting and driving around the Eeyou Istchee. Cabins need to be looked at more, people who have lost their cabins due to forest fires, they should be helped to find a new place for their camping area.

6. MoCreebec Highlights:

Kelly Kitchappo

- We would like our relationship with cta to establish. To know more about traditional skills; this would help us reclaim our land and culture.
- Our hunters go share with our elders first and then the rest of our families.

7. Waskaganish Highlights:

James Jonah

- Land based programs for traditional hunting activities. People should go to the bush and not only those that receive income security. People should learn more about the ice when it freezes. A lot of cree knowledge comes out in the bush. Cree medicine.

8. Waswanipi Highlights:

Paul Gull

- Increase gas subsidies, easier access to traditional tools, established youth programs, redesign the income security program, recognize traditional laws, elders should be entitled to the income security program regardless of income. Maintain Cree traditional activities based on Cree values. Eliminate discriminatory practices under income security program. Increase equipment subsidies, gas subsidies.
- Monitoring for climate change using studies, data, and traditional knowledge.
- Need to learn more about the sixth seasons, environmental expertise.
- Employment opportunities
- Land-based teachings
- Transport traditional hunting practices
- Safety training for environment

9. Nemaska Highlights:

Brandon

- Learning hunting skills from coastal and inland Eeyou Istchee for people that are out of school. cultural and traditional teachings to support out on the land more access and support for radio and communications infrastructure access to

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satellite internet for remote cabins and trap lines. Diversifying to the territory and land-based access to the territory so boat ramps, lounges, helicopter pads, diversifying how we access the land. For existing programs ensure reporting includes a breakdown of how each community benefits from the program including expenses in different types of program access by community. Reducing administrative overhead and expense on existing programs regionally to ensure that access to local programming funding increases in amounts including for income security as well as other programs. Increasing availability of traditional teaching workshops and instruction through the CTA on a local level.

- For question 2, we broke it up by climate change, development in the territory, and governance. For climate change, we need guidelines on sustainable land practices to respond to climate change. Hunters should be encouraged to avoid lead shells, reduce generators, and motorized equipment that use fossil fuels. We need monitoring on climate change that's available to the public including ice conditions, waterway safety, fire hazards, etcetera. These programs exist in Niskamoon for traplines that are impacted but they need to be available to hunters and trapper throughout Eeyou Istchee with climate change, the methods of hunting have changed as well. Frozen waterways are now open during different parts of the season. We need to support people through the transition and the methods of how they hunt. We need to also monitor changes in waterfowl, migratory birds, vegetation, and how they're changing or increasing in Eeyou Istchee.
- For development in the territory, people's hunting preferences have changed. People need to be aware of the laws and regulations in southern hunting when they choose to hunt in the south. We need to also create an understanding with farmers and people who hunt in the south on expectations of both.
- For Eeyou Ittun governance, more sport hunting in the territory impacts land access. We need to work on a political level to reduce access in zones where it's impacting traditional activity. We need a guideline for governance of tallyman defining the roles how families work to resolve disputes and support mechanisms to identify local tallyman including looking at term co-tallyman and other processes to support families.
- For the last question, how do we share moose? It depends on the moose. It depends on the person. Some people choose to just keep the moose for themselves. Some go with whole families. Others share by community. An important point that was brought up that crafts and ensuring that all parts of the moose are used and shared as a community. So, moose hide as well as other parts, making sure that those aren't wasted.

10. Whapmagoostui Highlights:

- Transportation (skidoo, boat, plane) we have issues with that, there should be a solution for us to be able to get around.
- We barely eat moose; we give a lot of it away when we do kill one.

11. Washaw Sibi:

Billy Katapatuk Sr.

- When we want to teach something, we must speak Cree to people that want to know. That's what it looks like in Eeyou Istchee, we are Cree.
- Safety training on the land, Safety shelters on the land users of communities
Transportation, Harvest management
- When we want to teach something, we must speak Cree to people that want to know. That's what it looks like in Eeyou Istchee, we are Cree.

End of Cree Café Discussions: Flora Weistche

4:34 PM

Adoption of Resolutions: Paul-John Murdoch

4:39 PM

1. Cree Nation Financial Resources

Proposed by: Chief Daisy House
Seconded by: Edward Gilpin
Carried: October 25, 2023

2. Honoraria and Compensation for Annual Assemblies

Proposed by: James Jonah
Seconded by: Johnny Tomatuk
Carried: October 25, 2023

3. Feasibility Study of Cree Nation Elite Training Institute

Proposed by: John Henry Wapachee
Seconded by: Shayla Grace Napash
Carried: October 25, 2023

4. Celebration of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement

Proposed by: Grand Chief Mandy Gull Masty
Seconded by: Edward Gilpin
Carried: October 25, 2023

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5. Cree Nation Insurance Coverage

Proposed by: Michael Mark
Seconded by: Nian Moses
Carried: October 25, 2023

6. Request for Economic Leakage Study Related to Office Rental, Hotel and Travel cost outside of Eeyou Istchee

Proposed by: Chief Michael Petawabano
Seconded by: Susan Esau
Carried: October 25, 2023

7. Location of 2024 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government

Proposed by: Michael Mark
Seconded by: John Henry Wapachee
Carried: October 25, 2023

End of resolutions – Norman A. Wapachee *5:15 PM*

Brief Introduction/Story: Robert Kanatewat *5:18 PM*
Briefly introduced himself and talked about the JBNQA.

Closing Remarks: Norman A. Wapachee *5:55 PM*
Closing Statement & Prayer: Emmett Matoush

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.