



BRIEF OF
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) /
CREE NATION GOVERNMENT
ON
UPDATE TO
QUÉBEC'S CULTURAL POLICY
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (“GCC(EI)”) is the political body that represents the approximately 18,000 Cree forming the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee, the traditional homeland of the Cree in James Bay. The Cree Nation Government (“CNG”) is the “Cree Native Party” for the purposes of the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*. It exercises various governmental jurisdictions and functions on the Category I and II lands of Eeyou Istchee. Nine Cree First Nations exercise local governance jurisdiction on the Category I lands of Eeyou Istchee. They are represented on the governing councils of the GCC(EI)/CNG.
2. Over the years, the Cree of Eeyou Istchee have signed many agreements with the governments of Québec and Canada. These agreements include, in particular, the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* signed in 1975 with Canada and Québec (“JBNQA”), which is a “treaty” protected under sections 35 and 52 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*¹, and the *Agreement concerning a New Relationship between le gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Quebec*, signed in 2002 (“*Paix des Braves*”).
3. On July 24, 2012, the Cree concluded with the Government of Québec the *Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory*. Pursuant to this Agreement and its implementing legislation, the CNG exercises governmental jurisdictions on the Category II lands of Eeyou Istchee concerning, among other things, municipal management, land and resource planning and management and economic development.
4. These agreements and laws create a unique legal environment for the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. Québec’s Cultural Policy must take into account this unique legal environment of the Cree. In particular, the Government of Québec must respect the autonomy and jurisdiction of the Cree Nation in defining its own cultural policies, priorities and orientations.

¹ Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982*, (U.K.) 1982, c. 11.

5. This brief presents a number of comments and recommendations on the proposed *Update to Québec's Cultural Policy* on behalf of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee. These comments are without prejudice to the rights of the Cree of Eeyou Istchee under the JBNQA, the *Paix des Braves*, the *Cree-Québec Governance Agreement* and related agreements and legislation. The GCC(EI)/CNG reserves the right to submit additional comments and recommendations during the consultation process related to the *Update to Québec's Cultural Policy*.

II. UPDATE TO QUÉBEC'S CULTURAL POLICY

6. In March 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Communications ("MCC") released its *Update to Québec's Cultural Policy*, comprising a Backgrounder and a Consultation Workbook. The Backgrounder reviews the development of Québec's last cultural policy, *Our Culture, Our Future*, released in 1992, and the need to update the policy in light of social, demographic and technological changes since then. It refers to a special separate consultation with Aboriginal nations. It mentions six agreements concluded between MCC and Aboriginal Nations as well as the work under the Plan Nord to support Aboriginal languages, cultural development and presentation of the Northern cultural heritage.²
7. The Consultation Workbook outlines eight key principles and seven major themes. Two principles, in particular, merit special attention here:³

D. Affirmation of Québec's francophone character

French is the common language of public life, and as such it is central to Québec's cultural identity. The cultural policy helps promote the French language in Québec, Canada, and around the world. But it does so in a way that respects the rights of Aboriginal peoples and Québec's English-speaking community.

E. Recognition and appreciation of Aboriginal cultures

Through their culture, imbued with a worldview and knowledge all their own, the First Nations and Inuit communities contribute to and enrich Québec's cultural vitality.

² Backgrounder, pages 1, 13.

³ Consultation Workbook, page 2.

8. These two paragraphs suggest a difference in emphasis as to the place of the French and Aboriginal languages and cultures in Québec's cultural identity. French is affirmed as the common language of public life, and hence as central to Québec's cultural identity. Aboriginal cultures are recognized and appreciated, to be sure, but the formulation suggests that they are perhaps less "central to Québec's cultural identity." This presents an inaccurate view of the place of Aboriginal cultures in Québec's cultural identity. The cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of Québec, as the First Nations occupying the shared territory of Québec, should be recognized as central to Québec's cultural identity.

Recommendation 1

Québec's Cultural Policy should explicitly recognize the cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of Québec, as the First Nations occupying the shared territory of Québec, as central to Québec's cultural identity.

9. "Cultural Development in Aboriginal Nations" is identified as one of the seven major themes in the Consultation Workbook. The text presents a lucid statement of the marginalization of Aboriginal cultures in Québec's past cultural policy:⁴

The 1992 cultural policy placed little emphasis on Aboriginal communities and their languages. Their remarkable demographic growth and the rise of a more educated generation have led them to speak out more in recent years. It is important to note the cultural diversity that exists within the 11 nations, which are all subject to different systems of governance and are in individual land claims negotiations with the Government of Québec. Québec's recent history includes a painful chapter marked by the forced assimilation of indigenous peoples. Their resilience in the face of loss seems to be rooted in part in their recognition of their cultural wealth. In this context, our cultural approach would appear to be one of affirmation and reappropriation.

Despite certain advances in cultural development, Aboriginal communities are underrepresented in Québec's cultural landscape. They remain marginalized and Aboriginal artists and cultural organizations are struggling to break into creation, production, and distribution. Funding structures and eligibility criteria do little to encourage such inclusion.

10. It is difficult to disagree with this sober assessment of the place of Aboriginal cultures in the Québec landscape. The Workbook goes on to ask several questions pertinent to redressing the situation:

27. In light of the context specific to First Nations and Inuit communities, what place should Aboriginal cultural development hold in the next policy?

⁴

Ibid., page 11.

28. What can we do to foster the professional development of Aboriginal artists, arts organizations, and cultural entrepreneurs? How do we promote their integration into creation, production, and distribution?

29. How can the Québec government effectively support Aboriginal communities in their efforts to reappropriate and revitalize ancestral languages?

11. The MCC has released a third document, “Proceedings of the day of reflection with the First Nations and Inuit on renewing Québec cultural policy”, held in Québec City on March 7, 2016 with Minister Luc Fortin of Culture and Communications and Minister Geoffrey Kelley of Aboriginal Affairs. The document three main themes discussed at this session:

- (a) **Language** as the most important marker of culture and identity for First Nations and the Inuit, and the need for measures to protect, teach and promote Aboriginal languages;
- (b) **Art and tradition** as expressions of Aboriginal cultures and the need to support Aboriginal artists;
- (c) **Land and territory** as holding a central place in Aboriginal culture and identity, with the need expressed by Aboriginal communities to reappropriate the land to counter the feeling of dispossession resulting from development projects.

12. Little issue is taken with the assessment set out in these documents of the hurdles facing Aboriginal peoples in ensuring the vitality of their cultures and languages in Québec at present. The real question is what must be done to begin to eliminate these hurdles and to enable Aboriginal cultures and languages to flourish in Québec. This brief presents some recommendations in this regard from the perspective of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee.

III. CREE CULTURAL CONTEXT

A. OVERVIEW

13. The Cree Nation is evolving at a rapid rate – politically, economically, socially and culturally. The implementation of agreements on Cree governance is providing tools to steer this evolution, with new powers for planning and development of the territory.

14. In this context, Cree culture plays a key role, providing the link between the traditional Cree way of life, based on an intimate relationship with the land, and a dynamic future in which Cree are sure of who they are and where they come from, ready to take their place in the modern world. Like many other nations and cultures, the Cree are faced with pressures from media and the Internet and strive to promote messages and stories that reflect our language, culture and community realities.
15. Our culture is rooted in a profound relationship with the land and respect for the animals that sustained us for millennia. Our values – including sharing, personal autonomy within strong family networks, and a profound respect for elders – and our world view, are reflected in ceremonies, feasts and many aspects of community and family life. Our communities are developing in many ways, but continue to face huge social challenges that require healing and reconnecting with traditional culture in order to better face the future.
16. The key role of culture and language for our identity means that cultural protection and promotion are critical for continued healthy growth. Creating the tools to ensure that our cultural and language remain relevant through the 21st century and beyond is a major challenge. Bringing to light and promoting elements of our shared heritage is essential.

B. *CREE VISION OF PLAN NORD*

17. In the context of the previous announcement of the Plan Nord, the Cree of Eeyou Istchee made public in February 2011 the *Cree Vision of Plan Nord*, which we shared with the Government of Québec. This comprehensive document may be consulted at the website of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee).⁵
18. Chapter 13 of the *Cree Vision of Plan Nord* addresses Cree Culture and Identity. It identifies a number of issues and challenges relating to Cree Culture and Identity. One is unequal funding for arts and culture in Northern Québec.⁶

⁵ <http://www.gcc.ca>.

⁶ Page 70.

Culture receives heavy support from public grants but the funds are not distributed equally across Quebec. According to data released by ISQ, the Government of Quebec has spent 943 million in this area during the fiscal year 2008. Montreal and Quebec account for 82% of the cultural expenditure of the Quebec government. While the average expense per capita is \$121.70, the region Nord-du-Quebec receives only \$34.71 or 25% of the average expense. Of this low amount, only a marginal proportion goes to the Cree Nation. Thus an insignificant amount is now being invested in this area in Eeyou Istchee.

19. The *Cree Vision of Plan Nord* goes on to review⁷ other issues and challenges, including the following:
 - (a) **Language:** the need for measures, including a Cree Language Commission, to preserve and teach the Cree language as a pillar of the Cree culture and identity;
 - (b) **Heritage protection:** the need for Cree control over Cree archaeological and heritage sites in Eeyou Istchee, for housing of Cree archaeological material and for the development of artefact and archival collections;
 - (c) **Protection, support and promotion of Cree culture in a context of accelerated change,** including the Plan Nord;
 - (d) **Production, creation, distribution of arts, crafts and cultural contents;**
 - (e) **Governance of arts and cultural development,** including Cree self-governance and partnerships between Cree entities and with federal, provincial and regional entities;
 - (f) **Funding,** including the need to rationalize the multiplicity of federal and provincial funding sources;
 - (g) **Intellectual property protection,** including the need for new approaches to protect the collective intellectual and cultural rights of Aboriginal peoples, as recognized by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.
20. Having identified the challenges faced by cultural actors in Eeyou Istchee, the *Cree Vision of Plan Nord* goes on to recommend the following orientations, among others, to overcome them:⁸

- Establishment of a body to protect, preserve, and promote the Cree language.

⁷ Pages 70-71.

⁸ Page 72.

- Signing of Cultural cooperation and funding agreements between Québec and Cree Cultural entities (CRA, ACI, CNACA) to support the development of Cultural content and the Cultural economy.
- Support for the management by the Cree of their Cultural development through the transfer of responsibilities and resources to the appropriate Cree cultural agencies.
- Consolidation or creation of multipurpose Cultural and artistic institutions and construction of Cultural centers to preserve, develop, and disseminate Culture and arts (museums, archiving centers, culture houses, libraries, local arts and crafts committees, etc.).
- Adapting current programs and services for the Northern factor to ensure fair access for clients/partners of remote regions for the benefit of the Cree.
- Create Cultural research and training centers and opportunities.
- Develop platforms for exchange and collaboration, particularly through the use of new technologies, to reach far-flung communities in large territories and connect access to the world.

21. Recurrent themes in the *Cree Vision of Plan Nord* are the needs for:

- (a) Cree control over culture and language as one expression of Cree governance in Eeyou Istchee; and
- (b) Appropriate resources to implement Cree governance of culture and language in Eeyou Istchee.

C. GOVERNANCE

22. The principle of increased Cree autonomy in governance is recognized in the *Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory* concluded by the Cree Nation with the Government of Québec on July 24, 2012 ("*Cree-Québec Governance Agreement*").⁹
23. The *Cree-Québec Governance Agreement* and its implementing legislation established a new governance regime in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory. Among other things,

⁹ This Agreement has been implemented by Complementary Agreement No. 24, introducing a new Section 11 into the JBNQA, and by several statutes of Québec, including the *Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government and introducing certain legislative amendments concerning the Cree Nation Government*, S.Q. 2013, c. 19, the *Act respecting the Cree Nation Government*, CQLR, c G-1.031 ("CNG Act"), and the *Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government*, CQLR, c G-1.04 ("Regional Government Act").

the Governance Agreement provides for greater Cree autonomy on Category II lands, consistent with the Nation-to-Nation relationship expressed by the JBNQA and the *Paix des Braves*. The Cree Nation Government has the right to exercise jurisdictions, functions and powers on Category II lands with respect to land and natural resource planning and management; regional development; municipal management; and any other matter that may agreed with Québec from time to time.¹⁰

24. In the present context, it should be noted that the Cree Nation Government exercises its jurisdictions on Category II lands taking into account, among other things, the policies, principles and objectives determined by the Cree Nation Government in consultation with the Cree Communities and with the concurrence of Québec.¹¹
25. This special requirement distinguishes the Cree Nation Government. Elsewhere in Québec, regional land use plans must be consistent with policy directions regarding land use are determined by the Government of Québec.¹² The *Cree-Québec Governance Agreement* provides, exceptionally, that it is the Cree Nation Government that determines the relevant policies, albeit with the concurrence of Québec.
26. The same principle must apply for Cree culture and language: it is for the Cree Nation, acting through its institutions, to determine the policies, principles and objectives that apply in the fields of culture and language for the Cree in Eeyou Istchee.

D. AANISCHAAUKAMIKW CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

27. The Cree Nation has established a cultural organization that will help guide the Cree into the future. Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute (“**Aanischaaukamikw**”, or “**ACCI**”) officially opened its doors in 2012. Although based in Oujé-Bougoumou, Aanischaaukamikw serves the entire Cree Nation, and is, in fact, the lead regional organization in Eeyou Istchee for cultural promotion and protection. Aanischaaukamikw

¹⁰ Governance Agreement, s. 13; CNG Act, ss. 6.1 ff., ss. 79.16 ff; *Act respecting land use planning and development*, CQLR c A19.1.

¹¹ Governance Agreement, ss. 18(a), 20(c), 26(a); CNG Act, s. 6.4, s. 79.20.

¹² *Act respecting land use planning and development*, CQLR c A19.1, ss. 47.2, 51, 53.5 to 53.11.

is a child of the Cree Nation Government, but one that stands on its own and supports the Cree communities in matters of culture and cultural development.

28. At present, cultural programs at the regional level in Eeyou Istchee are coordinated by the Cree Nation Government and ACCI. Cultural programs at the Cree Nation Government are administered by the Department of Social and Cultural Development (formerly Cree Culture and Language). The Director of this Department, Mr. Willie Iserhoff, serves as Vice-Chair of the Aanischaaukamikw Board of Directors. Mr. Abel Bosum, Negotiator for the Cree Nation Government, is Chair of the ACCI Board of Directors.
29. Other regional-level entities whose mandates touch to a greater or lesser degree on Cree culture include the Cree School Board, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services, the Cree Trappers Association, Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre and the Nishiiyuu Council of Elders. ACCI is developing a partnership with these organizations and the Cree First Nations to help coordinate efforts, and, wherever possible, share resources.
30. Aanischaaukamikw has prepared a *Strategic Plan: Building Blocks for the Future, 2016 – 2021*, which identifies the priorities of ACCI for the next five years:
 - 1) To sustain and expand on our unique commitment to the interweaving of traditional museum practice with innovative learning about traditional ways of life.
 - 2) To ensure that the future of Aanischaaukamikw is planned and managed by knowledgeable Cree people.
 - 3) To ensure that Aanischaaukamikw is an integral part of Eeyou Istchee.
 - 4) To expand the collection as tools for learning, research and sharing.
 - 5) To emphasize our leadership in electronic communications.
31. Aanischaaukamikw has also prepared a *Programs Department Five Year Plan: 2014 – 2019*. This Plan sets out orientations and directions for ACCI's programming, which includes the following components: Training, Library and Archives, Electronic Outreach/Distance Education, Material Collections, Culture and Education, Gatherings and Contemporary Arts. The Plan also identifies challenges, opportunities, strategies and

actions for each of these sectors. Aanischaaukamikw has a special role with respect to the collection, preservation and educational use of cultural materials such as archival documents and museological objects.

E. CREE – QUÉBEC CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

32. The Cree Nation Government, Aanischaaukamikw and the Ministry of Culture and Communications announced today the signature of a Cultural Development Agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Communications to support Aanischaaukamikw's three-year Cultural Action Plan.
33. The Cree Nation welcomes this Agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Communications. It testifies to the central importance of Cree culture and language in the development of the Cree Nation. It will facilitate partnerships with the various Cree actors in the cultural sector in order to ensure the protection and promotion of our values and traditions. The Cree intend to build on this Agreement in order to strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cree and Québec in compliance with the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* and the other agreements concluded between our two nations.
34. Aanischaaukamikw's Cultural Action Plan promotes cultural vitality in Eeyou Istchee through reaching out to, and establishing links with, other Cree regional entities, such as the Cree School Board and the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, and working towards the creation of a Cree Cultural Policy for Eeyou Istchee. At the same time, Aanischaaukamikw will continue to reach out to the Cree communities, working with them to determine needs and priorities with respect to programming and infrastructure development. Additionally, Aanischaaukamikw plans to promote vitality through education and celebration of Cree culture in electronic media and publications, and through the promotion of the arts, including performing arts.
35. Language promotion and protection are key concerns for the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. The Cree Nation Government has invested heavily in language over the past several years, carrying out background work related to the eventual establishment of a Cree Language

Commission. Further work is anticipated in the next few years. Although the projects of Aanischaaukamikw related to language in its current Action Plan are of limited scope, they too will serve to bolster Cree identity and a sense of belonging.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

36. The Cultural Development Agreement can serve as a springboard toward consolidating Nation-to-Nation relations between the Cree and Québec in respect of culture and language. At present, Québec's contribution relies on different funds accessed by MCC, including regular Ministerial credits, the Fonds du Plan Nord and the Quebec Cultural Heritage Fund. This multiplicity of funding sources and the sometimes competing government priorities hampers the implementation of coherent programming based on the cultural priorities of the Cree Nation itself.

A. POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

37. Two models already in use in Cree – Québec relations can be helpful in this regard. First, as noted in paragraphs 23 to 26, under the *Cree – Québec Governance Agreement*, the Cree Nation Government may exercise jurisdictions on Category II lands with respect to land and natural resource planning and management taking into account the policies, principles and objectives determined by the Cree Nation Government itself. The same principle should apply in the fields of culture and language.

Recommendation 2

Consistent with the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cree and Québec and the principle of Cree autonomy in governance, the policies, principles and objectives applicable in the fields of culture and language for the Cree in Eeyou Istchee must be determined by the Cree Nation itself, acting through its responsible institutions.

B. MULTI-YEAR FUNDING AGREEMENT

38. Second, experience has shown that predictability and certainty of funding over a number of years are critical to the successful implementation of strategic plans developed by Cree institutions in the fields of education, health and social services, justice and child care, to

name a few. In each of these fields, the Cree have concluded funding agreements with Québec of between five and 20 years to support the implementation of strategic or action plans determined by the Cree authorities concerned. The same approach should apply in the field of culture and language.

Recommendation 3

Funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language should be formalized through consolidated, multi-year funding agreements similar to those concluded in the fields of education, health and social services, justice and child care in order to support the implementation of the strategic or action plans determined by the Cree authorities responsible for culture and language.

C. “CATCH-UP”

39. The resources currently provided by Québec in support of Cree culture under the Cultural Development Agreement and other initiatives are welcome as a step in the right direction. Nevertheless, the reality of unequal funding for Cree culture noted in the *Cree Vision of Plan Nord*¹³ remains true today. The limited resources available to Aanischaaukamikw restricts its ability to deliver the programming provided for in its Strategic Plan and needed by the Cree population. Just as was the case for education, health and social services, justice and child care, a special “catch-up” effort is needed to bring funding support for Cree culture and language in Eeyou Istchee to levels comparable to other regions of Québec.

Recommendation 4

Funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language must take account of the need for a special “catch-up” effort to bring funding support for Cree culture and language in Eeyou Istchee to levels comparable to other regions of Québec.

D. CREE LANGUAGE

40. The Strategic Plan and the Cultural Action Plan of Aanischaaukamikw attach special importance to enhancing and promoting the Cree language as a cornerstone of Cree

culture. They note plans to put in place a Cree Language Commission in the near future. Special resources will be required to establish and operate the Cree Language Commission and should be provided under the multi-year funding agreements mentioned in paragraph B.

Recommendation 5

In recognition of the importance of enhancing and promoting the Cree language as a cornerstone of Cree culture, funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language must provide for special resources to establish and operate the Cree Language Commission.

E. CAPACITY BUILDING

41. The Strategic Plan of Aanischaaukamikw emphasizes, as a key priority, its commitment capacity building through training and professional development for the Cree people of Eeyou Istchee. The Strategic Plan outlines its plans to work with Cree Human Resources and Development (CHRD) to provide extensive upgrade support to the staff of Aanischaaukamikw in all aspects of its operations – accounting and finance, museum shop, tours and interpretation, operations and facility management. Aanischaaukamikw also intends to reactivate the Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Program in partnership with Algonquin College. Special resources will be required for these capacity building efforts.

Recommendation 6

In recognition of the need for capacity building through training and professional development for the Cree people of Eeyou Istchee in the fields of culture and language, funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec regarding and language must provide for special resources to support such capacity building, including through measures deployed by Aanischaaukamikw as contemplated in its Strategic Plan.

F. CREE – QUÉBEC TABLE ON CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

42. Special Cree – Québec tables were required to put in place the funding arrangements mentioned in paragraph B in the fields of education, health and social services, justice

and child care. These tables brought together senior representatives of the central authorities of the Government of Québec (Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister) and of the Cree institutions concerned. This approach has proved its effectiveness in the successful conclusion and implementation of agreements in these sectors between the Cree and Québec over many years. The same approach should apply in the field of culture and language.

Recommendation 7

A special Cree – Québec Table on Culture and Language should be established comprising senior representatives of the central authorities of the Government of Québec (Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister) and of the Cree institutions concerned with a view to putting in place consolidated, multi-year funding agreements to support the implementation of the strategic or action plans determined by the Cree authorities responsible for culture and language.

V. CONCLUSION

43. The GCC(EI)/CNG welcomes the opportunity to submit comments and recommendations on the proposed Update to Québec's Cultural Policy and looks forward to constructive consultations with the Government of Québec in this regard.

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Québec's Cultural Policy should explicitly recognize the cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of Québec, as the First Nations occupying the shared territory of Québec, as central to Québec's cultural identity.

Recommendation 2

Consistent with the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cree and Québec and the principle of Cree autonomy in governance, the policies, principles and objectives applicable in the fields of culture and language for the Cree in Eeyou Istchee must be determined by the Cree Nation itself, acting through its responsible institutions.

Recommendation 3

Funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language should be formalized through consolidated, multi-year funding agreements similar to those concluded in the fields of education, health and social services, justice and child care in order to support the implementation of the strategic or action plans determined by the Cree authorities responsible for culture and language.

Recommendation 4

Funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language must take account of the need for a special "catch-up" effort to bring funding support for Cree culture and language in Eeyou Istchee to levels comparable to other regions of Québec.

Recommendation 5

In recognition of the importance of enhancing and promoting the Cree language as a cornerstone of Cree culture, funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec in the field of culture and language must provide for special resources to establish and operate the Cree Language Commission.

Recommendation 6

In recognition of the need for capacity building through training and professional development for the Cree people of Eeyou Istchee in the fields of culture and language, funding arrangements between the Cree Nation and Québec regarding and language must provide for special resources to support such capacity building, including

through measures deployed by Aanischaaukamikw as contemplated in its Strategic Plan.

Recommendation 7

A special Cree – Québec Table on Culture and Language should be established comprising senior representatives of the central authorities of the Government of Québec (Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister) and of the Cree institutions concerned with a view to putting in place consolidated, multi-year funding agreements to support the implementation of the strategic or action plans determined by the Cree authorities responsible for culture and language.

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