

Sharing Stewardship:

A Model of Collaboration for Environmental Assessments between the Government of Canada & the Cree Nation Government

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Who We Are

THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA & THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie



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- A self-governing nation founded through the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, 1975 (JBNQA)
- **Nine Cree communities** in Eeyou Istchee
- 18,000 people
- 400,000 km², primarily located in Northern Quebec
- Section 22 of the JBNQA establishes the environmental and social protection regime for the region with special roles for Cree people
- Environment and Remedial Works Department – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Unit

Entering into an Agreement

A PATH TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A FRUITFUL COLLABORATION



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The Agreement

- For a **special and meaningful participation of the Crees** in the review of the two environmental assessments
- Considers the **special context in the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* treaty**
- **Delegation of activities**, except decision-making, which remains with the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change



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A Joint Assessment Committee

- Two representatives from both parties and **two co-chairs**
- **Logistical and secretarial support** provided by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Activities:
 - **Co-writing** of environmental assessment reports and legally-binding conditions for proponents
 - **Cree First Nation consultation** activities
 - **Identification of Cree values** with communities



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Canada



For the Environmental Assessment

Benefits

- Cree Nation perspectives reflected throughout the environmental assessment report
- Increased:
 - integration of local traditional knowledge
 - Cree participation in monitoring and follow-up activities
 - Protection of the environment and Cree way of life

Challenges

- Hybrid consultation model
- Dual processes



Lessons Learned

- Financial and logistical support
- Demonstrate openness, transparency and respect
- Allow for flexibility and adaptability
- How it informed collaboration under new *Impact Assessment Act*
- Incorporate Cree knowledge in biophysical analysis



Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA22 platform.



#iaia22

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