



living Cree Arts and Crafts

$\Delta \Gamma \Gamma^0 \quad \Gamma \dot{L}'' \dot{C} \triangleright \rho \gamma \Gamma'' \triangleright . \Delta^e$

Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association

www.cnaca.ca



Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

To diversify and grow a sustainable cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou/Eenou Nation while encouraging contemporary means of expression that maintain Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

Table of Contents

Message from the President	04
Message from the Executive	05
About CNACA	06
Programs and Services	08
CNACA Memberships	10
CNACA Sponsorship Program	14
Activity Report from the Executive	16
Local Arts Committees	17
Cree Knowledge Festival	22
C2 Montréal 2024	23
Eastmain Arts Symposium	24
Intellectual Property	25
18th Annual Members Assembly	26
18th AMA: Marketplace	27
Eeyou Istchee Summer Games	28
Wachiya Store	30
Board of Directors	34
Organizational Chart	35



THEME

Cree Creations

FOR TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE

ΔΑΔ° ΓΛ"Ć▷ΡΥΡ"▷Δ°

Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

205 Opemiska Meskino
Oujé-Bougoumou
Quebec G0W 3C0

Phone : (418) 745-2444
Fax: (418) 745-2324

administration@cnaca.ca
www.cnaca.ca

Message from the President

This past year, I have had the great honor and privilege of serving as President of the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association. I am both proud and excited to lead this remarkable organization, which continues to be a cornerstone for promoting, preserving, and celebrating the rich traditions and artistry of Cree culture.

CNACA stands as a powerful platform—connecting our talented artists with communities near and far, while ensuring that the stories, skills, and heritage woven into each creation are honored and shared.



Throughout the year, I have been deeply inspired by the dedication, creativity, and passion of our artists. Their work reflects not only their extraordinary skill, but also the spirit and resilience of our people. I am equally grateful for the ongoing support of our community members, partners, and customers, who play a vital role in helping CNACA fulfill its mission. Together, we continue to foster a space where cultural preservation and artistic expression thrive, ensuring that our traditions live on for future generations.

As we reflect on this year's milestones and look ahead to new opportunities, I remain committed to growing CNACA's impact and reach. With your continued trust and support, we will build upon the strong foundation that has been laid and ensure that Cree artistry and culture continue to flourish for many years to come. Thank you for your belief in our mission and for standing with us on this important journey.

Dwayne Cox
President

Message from the Executive Director

Wachiya!

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2024–2025. As Executive Director of CNACA, it is an honour to continue this journey with all of you during such a pivotal and transformative time for our organization.

With my background as an artist and a degree in Creative Industries from Toronto Metropolitan University, I bring a perspective that combines both creative and professional experience. This fuels my passion for empowering artists and celebrating our rich Cree culture. Serving in this role is not only a professional milestone, but also a deeply meaningful, full-circle moment for me.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and our dedicated staff for their continued trust and support. Together, we have made significant progress in advancing CNACA's strategic plan, achieving important milestones while laying the groundwork for the future.

Looking ahead, we stand at the threshold of new opportunities. By working together, we will continue to strengthen CNACA's vision, elevate the voices of our artists, and ensure that creativity and Cree culture thrive for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this journey.



Dale Cooper
Executive Director

About CNACA



Mission

To diversify and grow a sustainable cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnerships among Cree artists, artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou/Eenou Nation while encouraging contemporary means of expression that maintain Cree culture, values, traditions and skills.

Vision

Our vision and work are guided by four pillars:

- Our artists and craftspeople are living bearers of our culture and heritage.
- Our arts and crafts are the expression of our past, our present and our aspirations for the future.
- Our artists and artisans must be able to sustain themselves economically through their talents.
- As long as Cree arts and crafts are maintained, and our traditions preserved; our Cree people will remain strong.

Objectives

To move forward in fulfilling our vision and mission, we focus on the following key objectives:

- Develop and be responsible for programs that contribute to the development of the Cree arts and crafts industry in Eeyou Istchee.
- Assist individuals or Cree communities in marketing and related services for arts and crafts products throughout the world
- Facilitate access to material resources for the creation, preservation and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.
- Coordinate our efforts with other Cree entities when needed for the support and promotion of Cree arts and crafts.

History

Since time immemorial, the Cree have maintained and flourished through hunting and harvesting activities, developed a rich material culture and arts traditions, and enjoyed the beauty of Eeyou Istchee's natural environment. From the beginning, the visionary leaders of our modern Cree Nation believed and expected that CNACA would play a key role in the socioeconomic development of our people. At the time of the negotiations of our treaty—the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement - our leaders envisioned that trapping, tourism, and the arts would occupy an important place in the future economic development of our Nation. It is for this reason that they insisted on the creation of the Cree Trappers Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, and the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, as a mechanism for engaging community members in the governance and development of our nation.

”

“It was in 2004, that the Association was officially incorporated “to assume a leadership role on behalf of the Cree for the development of the arts and crafts and the cultural industries of Eeyou Istchee.”

Our Journey (JBNQA)

-  **28.4.1** Canada and/or Quebec will assist the Crees with funding and technical advice in establishing, as soon as possible, as described herein:
 - A) a Cree Trappers' Association;
 - B.) a Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association;
 - C) a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.
-  **28.7.1** There is established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Program which shall include the structures, services, procedures, functions and agencies provided for in this Sub Section.
-  **28.7.2** As soon as possible following the execution of the Agreement subject to the results of the feasibility studies referred to at paragraph 28.4.1 there shall be established a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association which shall be responsible for and supervise the programs for the development of Native Arts and Crafts and a local Arts and Crafts Committees, in each Cree community.
-  **28.7.3** The Chairman of each Local Arts and Crafts Committees shall have a seat on the Board of Directors of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association.
-  **28.7.4** The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association shall establish a Cree Central Marketing Service which shall assist individual Crees or Cree communities in the marketing and related services for Cree Arts and Crafts and shall make available to Cree individuals or Cree communities such material or equipment as may be required for the creation of native arts and crafts.
-  **28.7.5** Subject to the results of the feasibility studies and in the event that a Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association is established, Canada, Québec and the Cree Regional Authority, in a proportion to be mutually agreed upon shall assist the Association in its operation and objectives.

**We offer a range of programs
and services to meet the growing
needs of our artists and artisans.**

Programs & Services





Sponsorship Program

We provide sponsorship of up to \$5,000 to all eligible members of the Cree Arts and Crafts Association. The Sponsorship program is designed to increase opportunities for our members and support their artistic and career development in the arts, including the purchase of supplies and equipment. The Applicant shall be a beneficiary member of the



Training & Education Program

Investing in knowledge transmission and up-skilling in the arts and crafts is the cornerstone of CNACA's capacity development mandate. Over the years we have successfully conducted a variety of popular training sessions, both in traditional knowledge and production techniques, such as moose hide tanning, sewing and tamarack decoy building, as well as business development and marketing. CNACA continues to offer training and education programs that are geared to the needs and priorities of Cree artists and artisans. Contact our staff to find out about upcoming training sessions or to propose ideas for new



Arts Promotion Program

We amplify Cree artists' stories and work through our various publications and online presence. We celebrate Cree cultural heritage and recognize excellence in craftsmanship through a variety of awards and shows. We provide a space for dialogue and action by organizing marketplace events in Eeyou Istchee. Fostering Cree arts and crafts as a professional activity producing authentic and high-quality work requires national and international networking opportunities. In addition to facilitating networking and collaboration between artists, CNACA promotes Cree arts and crafts at key exhibitions, conferences and trade related events, such as Salon des metiers d'arts (Montreal),



Bursary Program

The CNACA Bursary Program provides a \$500 bursary to graduating high school Cree students who excel in the field of arts and crafts, and who distinguish themselves in their dedication to preserving and enhancing Cree culture, values, traditions and skills. The objective of the program is to support a new generation of aspiring artists and artisans with a strong commitment to their artistic development. The program accepts nominations by a teacher or guidance counsellor, for students who have demonstrated exceptional creative ability and dedication to the arts.



Gateway Information Center

CNACA acts as a one-stop-shop for artists seeking funding. While funding programs exist, namely from CALQ, SODEC, Canada Council for the Arts and others, most eligible Cree artists are not aware of these programs. The CNACA staff can help determine which grants an artist is eligible for and offers help with the application process.

CNACA

Memberships

OPPORTUNITY AND EXPOSURE

www.cnaca.ca/artists



Our goal is to help you - the members !

You don't have to be an artist to be a member of the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association. You simply have to care about the preservation of our Cree culture and our arts and crafts. If you are an artist or craftsperson, CNACA membership entitles you to access our sponsorship programs, attend trade shows, and participate in training programs organized by CNACA. Membership also gets you on our mailing list so that you can be informed of upcoming events. Your membership fee helps to promote Cree artists and offsets the costs of our marketing efforts and other programs aimed at assisting our Cree artists. Please consider being a contributor to keeping the arts alive and flourishing in Eeyou Istchee. **Become a member today!**

Member Benefits

Take advantage of benefits as a CNACA member, including access to funding, training opportunities, and more.

- Visibility in a global market.
- Access to training in arts and business.
- Help secure funding.
- Strong visual presence on website, annual report and promotional materials.
- Opportunity to participate in local, national and international trade shows and events.



REGISTER ONLINE

www.cnaca.ca/artists

Our convenient on-line registration is now available and easier for everyone to be a member. Be a contributor to keeping the arts alive and healthy in Eeyou Istchee.

01

Active Member

Any Cree beneficiary under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) engaged in arts and crafts activities. Active Members can participate in all the activities of the Association, receive notice of the meetings, and attend and vote at member meetings, including being elected to the Board or be appointed as a Director of the Association.

02

Associate Member

Any Non-Cree (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) who supports the goals and objectives of the Association is eligible to become an Associate Member. Associate members may participate in the activities of the Association and attend members' meetings. They are, however, not eligible to vote or be elected to the Board or appointed as a Director of the Association.

03

Honorary Member

Any elder, individual or organization who has rendered exemplary service to the Association, or to the positive development of arts and crafts in Eeyou Istchee is eligible to be an Honorary Member. Honorary Members are selected on an annual basis by the Board of Directors of CNACA. Honorary members may participate in the activities of the Association. They do not have a right to vote at member meetings, and they are not eligible to be elected or appointed as a director of the Association, unless they are Cree beneficiaries under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).

04

Corporate Member

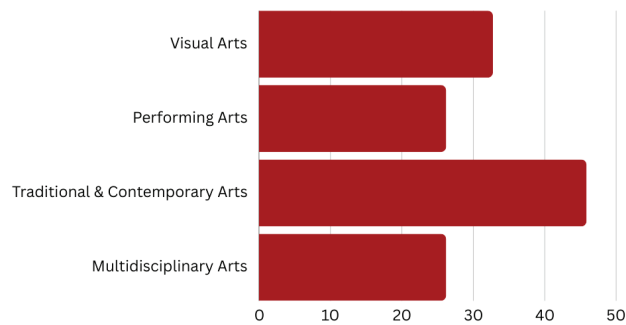
Any partnership or organization controlled by a majority of registered Cree beneficiaries operating within the traditional territory of Eeyou Istchee or any other organization or corporation that is interested in supporting CNACA's core values and mandate is eligible to become a Corporate Member. Corporate Members may participate in the activities of the Association, however, they do not have a right to vote at members meetings, nor are they eligible to be elected or appointed as a Director of the Association.

Stats

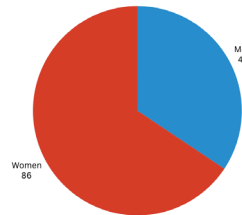
CNACA Members



Members by Art Category



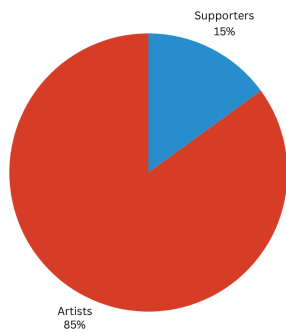
Members by Gender



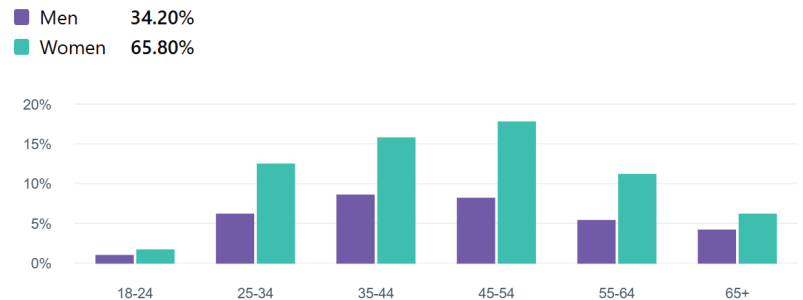
66% of our members are **WOMEN**

34% of our members are **MEN**

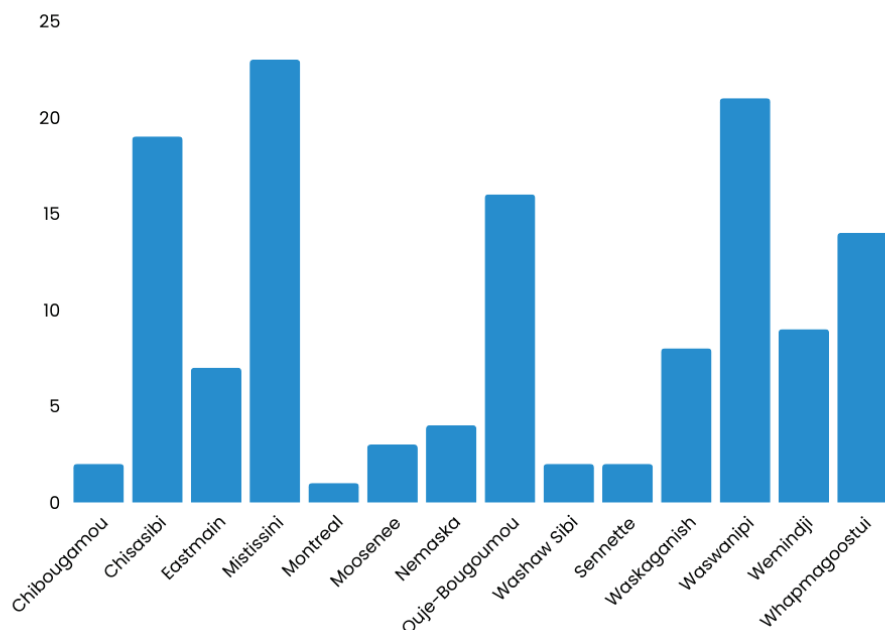
Artists vs Supporters



Members by Gender & Age Group



Members by City



[illegible]

Stats

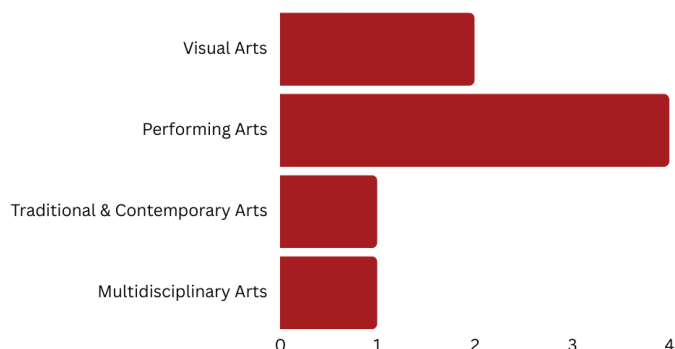
CNACA Sponsorship Program



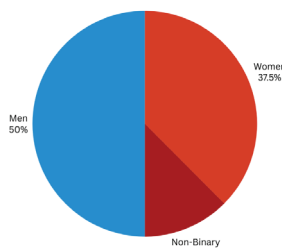
Total Sponsorships Disbursed (Apr 2024 - Mar 2025)

\$35,000

Sponsorships by Art Category



Sponsorships by Gender

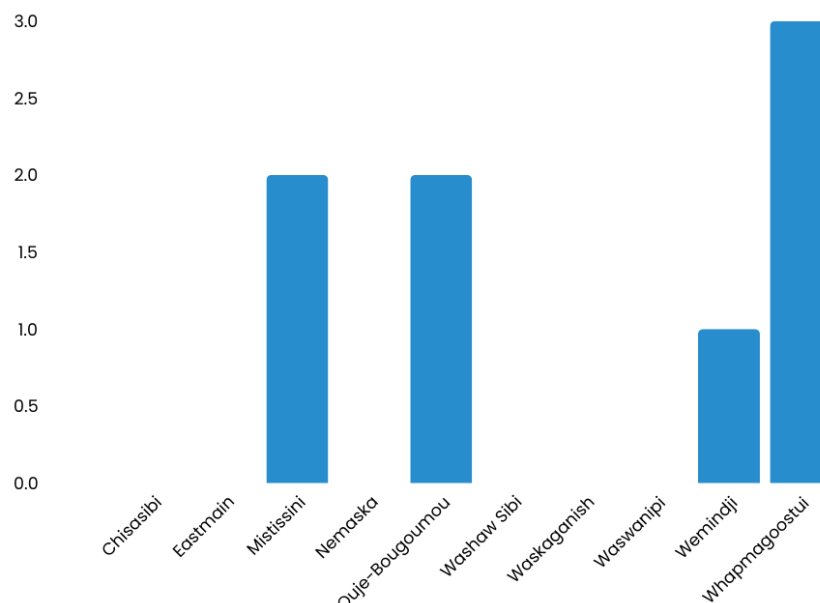


38%  sponsorship requests were by **WOMEN**

50%  sponsorship requests were by **MEN**

12%  sponsorship requests were by **NON-BINARY**

Sponsorships by Community



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FUNDING ?
GET UP TO \$5,000
IN SPONSORSHIPS !

CNACA Sponsorship Program



We provide sponsorship to all eligible members of the Cree Arts and Crafts Association. The Sponsorship program is designed to increase opportunities for our members and support their artistic and career development in the arts, including the purchase of supplies and equipment.

- ➔ The Applicant must be a member of the CNACA for a minimum of one (1) year.
- ➔ The Applicant must be a Cree beneficiary under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA).
- ➔ If the Applicant is a corporation, organization or association, it shall demonstrate that it is legally constituted pursuant to the applicable laws and by-laws.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

All applicants must submit by midnight on these dates to be eligible

February 1st

April 1st

July 1st

October 1st

More Info

www.cnaca.ca/sponsorship



Easy Application Process

Visit our sponsorship page on our website and download the digital application form. Fill out the form, attach all required documents and email it to us members@cnaca.ca.

Activity Report from the Executive Director



It is my pleasure to present to the members of the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association the Executive Director's activities report for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. This past year has been one of strengthening our mandate, ensuring responsible management, and implementing innovative measures to further enhance CNACA's role in alignment with our overall mission.

Dale Cooper

Contents

- ➔ Change- flow the events
- ➔ Traditional Knowledge & IP
- ➔ Authentic Pricing Workshop
- ➔ Cree Knowledge Festival
- ➔ 18th Annual Members Assembly
- ➔ Artists Directory
- ➔ CNACA Sponsorship Program
- ➔ Bursary Program
- ➔ Corporate Sponsorship
- ➔ Board of Directors
- ➔ Administration & Staff



Local Arts & Crafts Committees

The establishment of the Local Arts Committees is stipulated under the section 28.7.3 of the JBNQA with the primary mandate in conformity with the role of the regional association, to support the development of a Cree arts and crafts economy in Eeyou Istchee. The Local Art & Crafts Committee must be recognized by the local government and are composed of 3-5 members in diverse artistic

Mandate of the committee

The primary mandate of the Local Art & Crafts Committee should be in conformation of the regional association. Here are a few examples of the activities of the association.

- Being a voice for artists at the local level.
- Setting the strategic direction to guide the artistic needs of its' members and community.
- Generally responding to the needs of the local members.
- Facilitating access to materials (raw or other material).
- Gathering products made by artists of the LAC and through a CNACA marketing network, shipping products to a CNACA selling point (eventually through Wachiya).
- Promoting local arts and crafts and traditional know-how (targeting youth, schools, population in general).
- Managing training in arts and crafts.
- Managing arts and crafts events suitable for the local community.
- Certifying quality and authenticity of products (with guidance and assistance from CNACA).
- Making representations at the local political level to support artists and artisans and stimulate collaborations with other local organizations.
- Mounting membership drives (Active/Associated)
- Mounting corporate sponsorship drives.



CREE NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION

Local Art Committees

Chisasibi Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Dwayne Cox

Vice-Chairperson: Lily Napash

Darlene Bearskin

Cinderella Visitor Chakapash

Charlotte Kanatewat Moar

Christopher Napash

Marlene Bearskin

Mistissini Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Jerry Coon

Lloyd Cheechoo

Beth Sealhunter

Samuel Mianscum

George Longchap

Emma Matoush

Rachel Neeposh

Alexandrea Coon

Ouje-Bougoumou Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Diane Bosum

Kenny Mianscum

Harry Sharl

Alice Shecapio-Blacksmith

Sam R. Bosum

Washaw Sibi Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Minnie Otter

Johnny Salt

Lyne Sue Kistabish

Oscar Kistabish

Jaedon Mapachee

Jimmy Robert

Wemindji Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Angela Stewart

Josephine Atsynia

Charly Gilpin

Minnie Matches

Lindsay Visitor

Eastmain Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: TBD

Erica Cheezo

Lakeisha Snowboy

Alice Gilpin

Kenneth Cheezo

Damian Moses

Nemaska Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Evelyn Tanoush

Vice-Chairperson: Elton John Salt

Danny Gull

Helen Tanoush Gull

James Wapachee

Waskaganish Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: TBD

Vanessa Stephen

Jamie Joyce Jacob

Jimmy Tim Whiskeychan

Pearl Weistche

Mary Jane Salt

Emily Hester

Whapmagoostui Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Joshua J. Kawapit

Matthew A. Iserhoff

Shannon Natachequan

Brent Masty

Vivianne Sheshamush

Waswanipi Local Arts Committee

Chairperson: Freddie Dixon

Vice-Chairperson: Jerry Gull

Secretary Treasurer: Jamie Gull

Jimmy Otter

Flora Otter

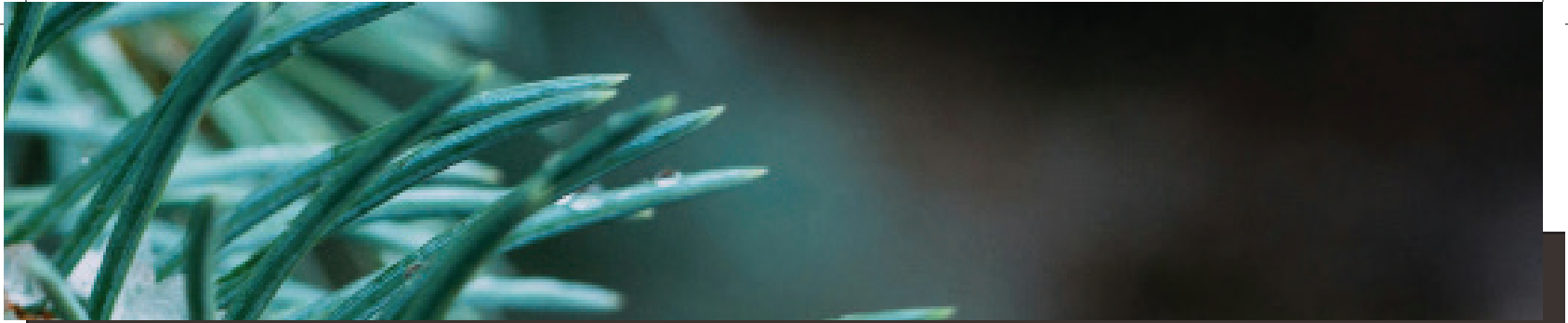
Randy Ottereyes

Marlene Sam

Michael Neeposh

MoCreebec Local Arts Committee

(To be confirmed)



Waswanipi Local Arts Committee Christmas Bizarre



Waskaganish Local Arts Committee



ΔΑΔ° ΓΛΨΔΡΥΠΔ.Δ°
Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

18th ANNUAL MEMBERS ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 12-13, 2025

Mistissini, QC

WEAVING OUR FUTURE WITH THE THREADS OF THE PAST

This year's theme "Weaving Our Future with Threads of the Past", reflects our commitment to honouring Cree traditions while fostering innovation and growth in Eeyou Itchee's cultural industries. By embracing our heritage, we empower the next generation to build a thriving future.

WORKSHOPS

- Membership Benefits & Programs
- Funding Sources - What is Available?
- CNACA Sponsorship
- Traditional Knowledge & IP
- Artist Directory - How to Register ?
- Introduction to Marketing
- Music Resources
- How to Photograph your Products
- Pricing and Inflation
- Intellectual Property and Copyright

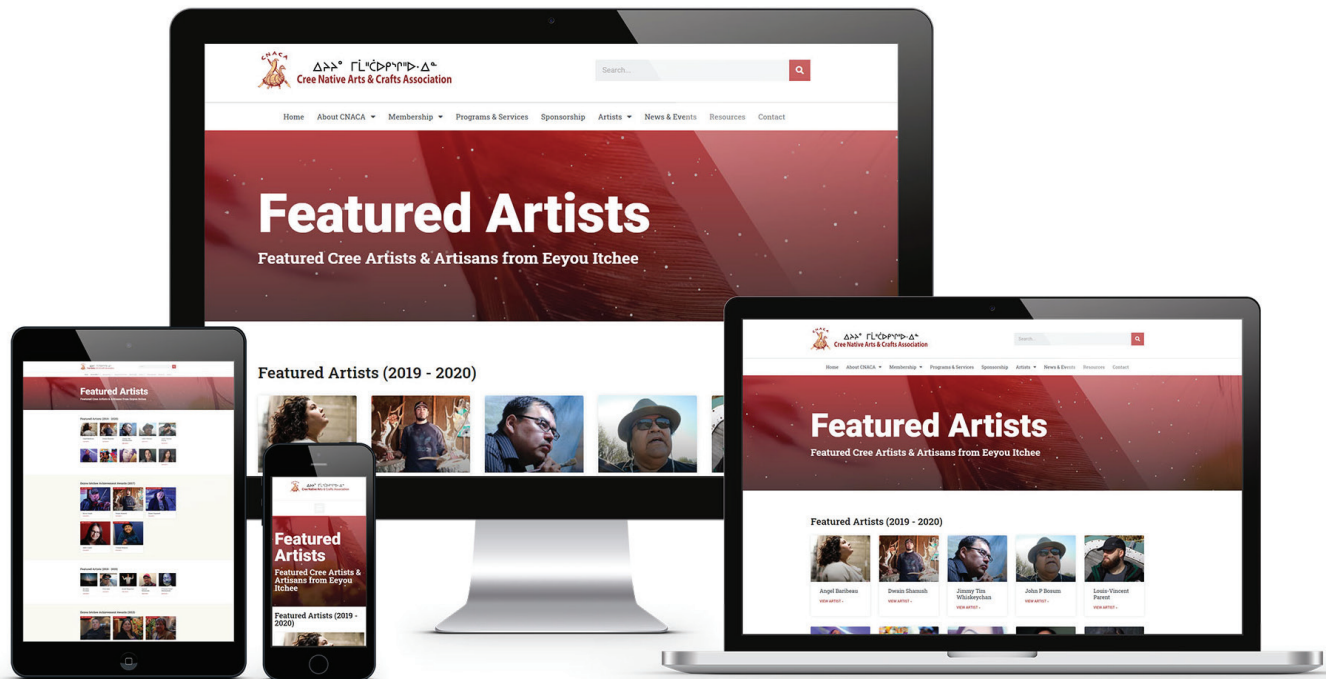
20

CORPORATE AGENDA

- Annual Report 2023 - 2024
- Wachiya Store
- Financial Statements
- Appointment of Auditor 2024-2025
- Adoption of Budget & Audit
- Local Arts Committee
- Corporate

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.cnaca.ca



1 Responsive & Fast Loading

The new website is responsive in design to adapt to any screen size. The website is accessible via phones, tablets, computers and even on your TV. The new design loads faster and is optimized to use the least bandwidth on mobile devices.

3 Access to Information

The new website features expanded sections with a wealth of information including programs and services we provide, membership benefits, our sponsorship program, funding sources and the latest news and workshops.

2 Easier to Navigate

It is now easier to navigate the CNACA website with the new and improved navigation. Information and pages are now just a click away from the main page making it easier for our users to access information from any page or section.

4 Featured Artists Section

Our new Featured Artists section showcases the artists who have been featured in our Annual Report and Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards. The section contains links to each artists bios, including their contact info and a showcase of their crafts with videos and pictures.



Cree Knowledge Festival



Cree Knowledge Festival – CNACA’s Contribution

In 2024–25, CNACA partnered with the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) and the Cree Trappers’ Association (CTA) to deliver the Second Annual Cree Knowledge Festival, held December 6–7, 2024, at the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Oujé-Bougoumou and livestreamed across Eeyou Istchee.

CNACA played a key role in shaping the Festival’s cultural program by highlighting the importance of Cree arts and crafts as expressions of knowledge, history, and identity. We ensured Cree artists were represented, providing them with space to showcase their work and share how traditional skills such as beadwork, carving, and design reflect values passed down through generations. This contribution helped situate arts and crafts not only as creative expressions but also as integral carriers of Cree traditional knowledge.

The event emphasized how protecting and promoting Cree arts supports both cultural survival and economic sustainability. Through panels, storytelling, and artistic demonstrations, it reinforced the idea that arts and crafts are living practices, deeply connected to Cree ways of knowing, and essential for building pride and resilience in our communities.

The Cree Knowledge Festival was a strong example of how partnerships can amplify Cree knowledge systems. CNACA’s role ensured that the arts were recognized as central to these efforts, reaffirming our mandate to protect, preserve, and promote Cree creativity as part of the broader knowledge and cultural continuum of the Cree Nation.



C2 Montréal 2024

Partnership and Participation

C2 Montréal 2024 – Partnership and Participation

In 2024, CNACA was proud to participate in C2 Montréal, Canada's premier creative-business event, through a partnership with the Cree Nation Government (CNG) and the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA). This collaboration provided CNACA and Cree artists with a unique opportunity to showcase our culture, creativity, and values on an international stage.

CNACA invited a selection of Cree artists to set up booths where they displayed their work and shared their stories with participants from across industries. This presence highlighted the richness of Cree artistic traditions and gave attendees a deeper understanding of the cultural foundations that inspire Cree creativity.

The event also offered an invaluable learning experience. Through keynotes, workshops, and discussions on innovation, sustainability, and intellectual property, CNACA strengthened its knowledge of global trends that impact Indigenous artists and the broader creative industries. A highlight was the presentation by former Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty, who spoke on sustainability and the importance of Indigenous perspectives in shaping future approaches to development. CNACA's participation in C2 Montréal reinforced our commitment to building partnerships, promoting Cree culture, and ensuring that Indigenous voices and values are part of national and international conversations about creativity, business, and sustainability.



Eastmain Arts Symposium

The Eastmain Arts Symposium, hosted by CNACA on March 21, 2025, at the Eastmain Sports Complex, was a landmark gathering that combined workshops, a vibrant marketplace, and live entertainment. This pilot event was designed not only to celebrate Cree artistry but also to provide critical learning opportunities, with a strong focus on protecting intellectual property.

Artists, vendors, and community members from across Eeyou Istchee gathered to exchange ideas, showcase their work, and gain new tools to safeguard their creative rights. Presentations by guest speakers and knowledge-sharing sessions highlighted how intellectual property law intersects with traditional knowledge, cultural expression, and the modern realities of creative industries. These discussions underscored the importance of protecting designs, logos, and artistic innovations, ensuring Cree artists are recognized and fairly compensated for their work.

The symposium also featured a bustling marketplace, where artists displayed authentic Cree creations, alongside evening entertainment headlined by Peyakutenau, bringing together culture and community in celebration. Hosted by Richard Cheezo, the entertainment and networking portions of the event complemented the workshops, creating a balanced experience that was both educational and uplifting.

The strong reception confirmed the importance of providing Cree artists with knowledge on intellectual property while offering a platform to showcase their talents. The Eastmain Arts Symposium set the stage for future gatherings that combine cultural celebration with essential training, reaffirming CNACA's commitment to empowering artists and protecting Cree creativity.



Crafts made and sold by locals



Showcasing Moosehide



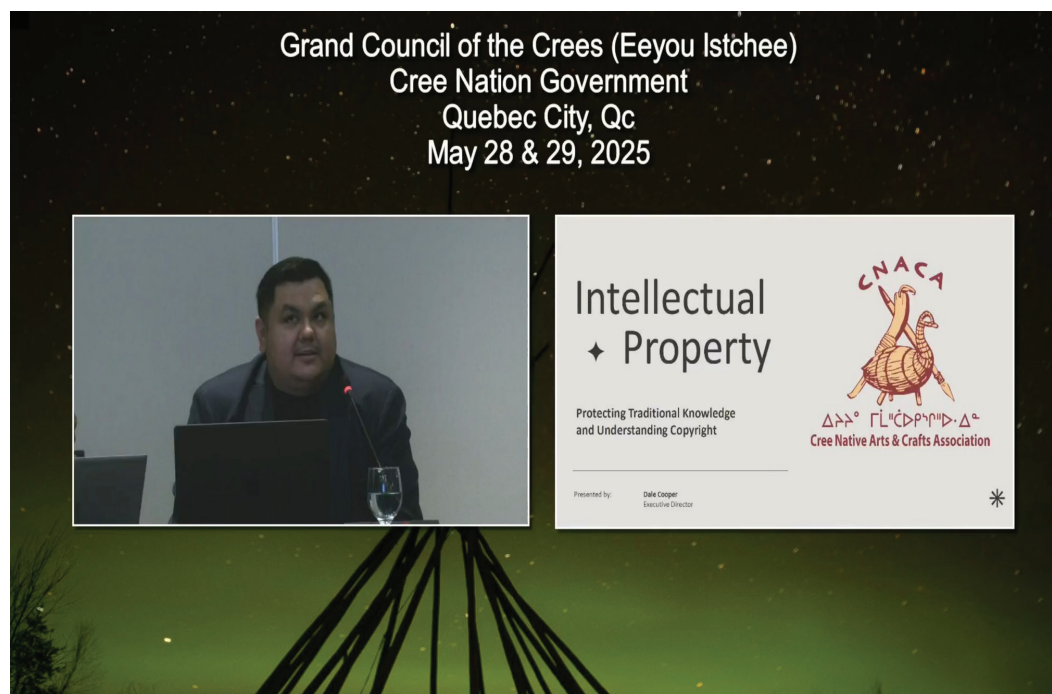
Performers during the event

Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge

CNACA is committed to protecting the intellectual property (IP) and traditional knowledge of Cree artists and cultural practitioners. As the demand for Indigenous arts and designs grows, so too does the risk of cultural appropriation and misuse. To address this, CNACA has taken important steps to create awareness, provide training, and develop tools that safeguard the creative and cultural rights of our members.

Our initiative focuses on two key areas. First, we aim to ensure that artists understand how modern intellectual property frameworks—such as copyright, trademarks, and design protection—can be applied to their work. This knowledge helps artists protect their creations, benefit financially from their innovations, and build sustainable careers. Second, we emphasize the protection of traditional knowledge, which includes sacred teachings, symbols, and cultural practices that are foundational to Cree identity. While traditional knowledge does not always fit neatly into Western IP systems, CNACA advocates for recognition and protection of these cultural assets in ways that respect Cree values and governance.

By advancing this initiative, CNACA is laying the groundwork for policies and resources that both defend against exploitation and empower Cree artists. Protecting intellectual property and traditional knowledge is not just a legal matter—it is a matter of cultural survival, economic sustainability, and self-determination. CNACA remains dedicated to ensuring that Cree artistry is respected, protected, and passed on with integrity to future generations.



Executive Director Dale Presenting

18th Annual Members Assembly

Mistissini, QC

Feb 12-13, 2025

The Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association (CNACA) proudly hosted its 18th Annual Members Assembly on February 12–13, 2025, at the Neoskweskau Sports Complex in Mistissini, Eeyou Istchee. Guided by the theme “Weaving Our Future with Threads of the Past,” the Assembly brought together staff, delegates, Local Arts Committees, and community members to reflect on achievements, strengthen governance, and celebrate Cree arts and culture.

The agenda covered key areas such as corporate matters, audited financial statements, membership updates, and Local Arts Committee reports. Members also received presentations on intellectual property, artist funding, marketing strategies, and music resources, ensuring artists are better equipped with tools to navigate both cultural and economic opportunities. An update on the Wachiya Store highlighted the progress of CNACA’s retail initiative in Old Montreal and its role in connecting Cree artists to wider markets.

In addition to formal sessions, participants enjoyed workshops, cultural activities, and a gathering at Murray’s Lodge that emphasized the importance of Cree traditions in shaping and sustaining our work. Complementing the Assembly, the Cree Arts & Crafts Marketplace, Open Mic Night, and Entertainment Night drew remarkable participation, showcasing the vitality of Cree creativity and community spirit.

The success of the 18th Annual Members Assembly reaffirmed CNACA’s mission to empower artists, preserve traditions, and strengthen cultural industries, ensuring a strong foundation for future generations.



CNACA Members and Delegates



Entertainment night

Marketplace and Entertainment



The Cree Arts and Crafts Marketplace on February 13, 2025, at the Mistissini Sports Complex was an outstanding success. This event provided a vibrant showcase of authentic Cree craftsmanship, featuring a wide variety of handmade products including moccasins, beadwork, novelty items, paintings, and other unique creations. The turnout was remarkable, with strong attendance from both community members and visitors, creating an atmosphere that highlighted the growing appreciation and support for Cree artists. Vendors reported excellent engagement and sales, while attendees praised the quality, authenticity, and creativity of the items presented. The warm reception of the Marketplace reaffirmed its importance as a platform for connecting artists with broader audiences and strengthening the sustainability of Cree cultural industries.

That same evening, the Entertainment Night brought the Assembly to a celebratory close, drawing a large and enthusiastic audience. The program featured the Eeyou Innu Rock Band, with special guest performances by Ezekiel Mianscum, Diane Bosum, and Phil Brien, under the guidance of emcee Christine Petawabano. The evening showcased an inspiring blend of traditional influence and contemporary artistry, reflecting the diversity and strength of Indigenous music. The performances were met with enthusiastic applause, and the energy in the venue underscored the deep pride and joy shared by the community.

Both the Marketplace and Entertainment Night received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants and attendees alike. The significant turnout, the high level of engagement, and the strong reception demonstrated the value of these events as integral parts of CNACA's Annual Members Assembly. Together, they not only celebrated Cree artistry and cultural expression but also reinforced the Association's role in fostering community connection, economic opportunity, and cultural pride.



Eeyou Istchee Summer Games

The 2024 Eeyou Istchee Summer Games in Mistissini marked the return of this major gathering after more than a decade, bringing together athletes, families, and community members. CNACA was proud to be a partner in this historic event, ensuring that Cree culture and creativity were central to the celebrations.

Through our coordination, artists, artisans, and cultural practitioners offered hands-on workshops in Tamarack Bird-Making, Beading, Embroidery, Antler Carving, Music Production, and more. These activities gave participants—especially youth—the chance to learn directly from accomplished artists and Elders, strengthening their connection to traditional knowledge while inspiring pride in their heritage. The entertainment program further showcased the talents of CNACA members, creating a vibrant atmosphere that highlighted the role of arts in bringing communities together. The cultural marketplace provided artisans with a platform to display their creations and engage with attendees. While the focus was on showcasing and sharing, rather than selling, these exchanges helped raise the visibility of Cree artists and fostered greater appreciation for their work.

Our experience at the Summer Games emphasized the importance of community involvement in celebrating Cree arts. Engaging youth in creative activities not only enriches their cultural understanding but also empowers them to become active participants in their communities. Events like the Summer Games are instrumental in reinforcing this connection and providing opportunities for individuals to express their identity through art.

The Eeyou Istchee Summer Games reaffirmed CNACA's commitment to nurturing and promoting Cree arts while highlighting the essential role of cultural industries in preserving our heritage. The connections made and lessons learned during this event will guide our future initiatives as we continue to strengthen the visibility and appreciation of Cree arts within and beyond our community.



Painting Workshop



Siibii Performance



Harold Bosum Tamarack Bird making



Youth Mural painting



Jimmy Otter Paddle making



Paul Napash performing

Wachiya Store

The 2024–25 fiscal year marked a significant milestone as Wachiya, the Cree and Indigenous arts boutique, celebrated its first year of operation in Old Montreal. Since opening its doors on August 6, 2024, at 79 Rue Saint-Paul East, the store has become a vibrant cultural destination—showcasing handcrafted products from Eeyou Istchee, including moccasins, jewelry, traditional objects, and miniatures

Integral to this achievement was the passionate support of former Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty, whose leadership was instrumental in making Wachiya a reality. Her vision to create a physical home for Cree artistry beyond our territory helped lay the foundation for this initiative to thrive.

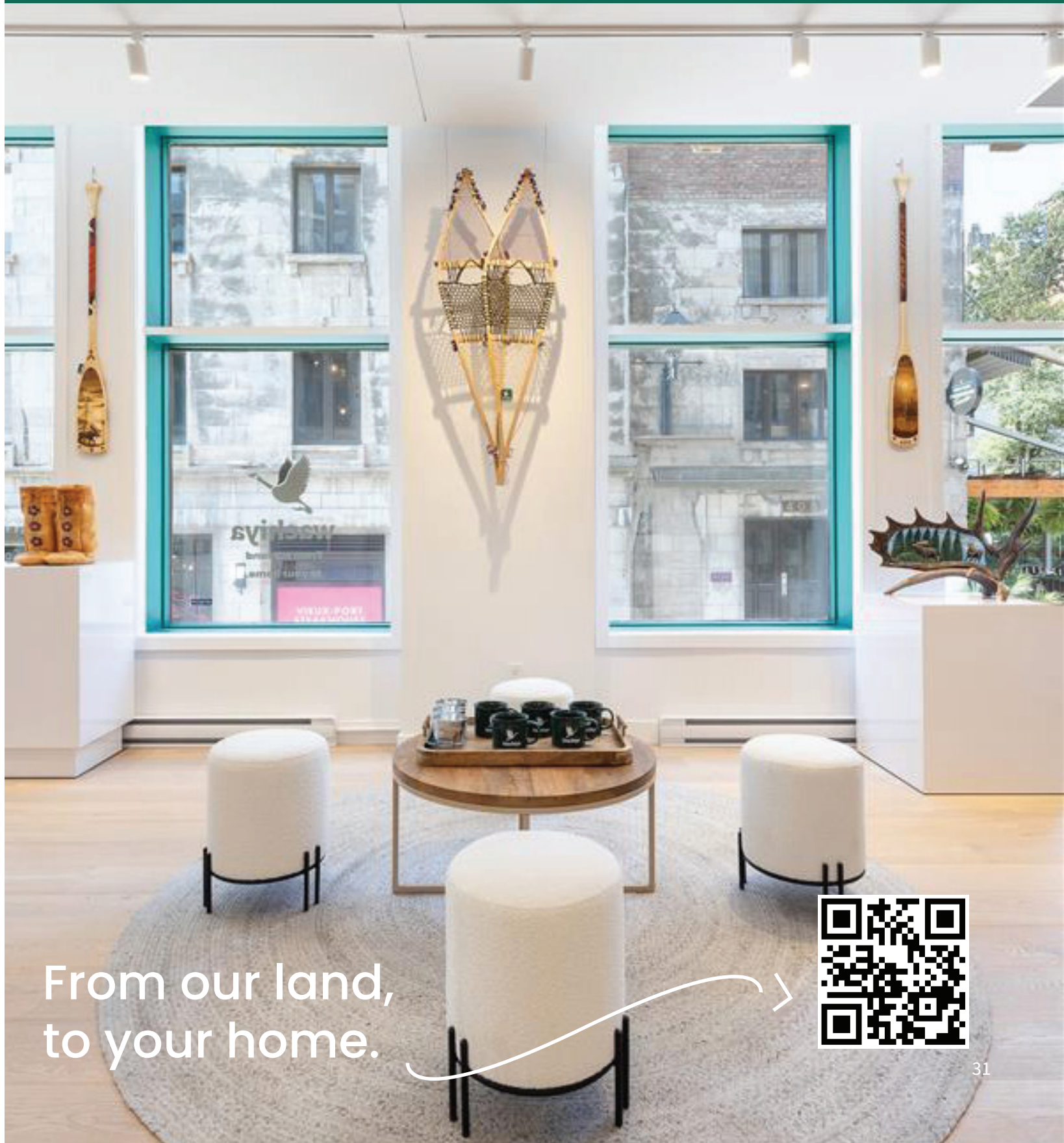
On the anniversary, Wachiya welcomed former Deputy Grand Chief Norman Wapachee, who highlighted how the store serves as a bridge between generations by preserving traditional craftsmanship in everyday life.

Wachiya embodies the mission to sustain a culturally grounded economy by emphasizing authenticity, fair sourcing, and community impact. As a social enterprise under CNACA, it continues to strengthen the cultural industry in Eeyou Istchee by providing access to wider markets and promoting Cree arts with integrity and pride. One year later, Wachiya stands not only as a storefront but as a powerful symbol of identity, resilience, and pride—reinforcing CNACA's commitment to elevating Indigenous artistry and ensuring its recognition within Canada and beyond.





ᑕᑎᑎᑦ
wachiya



From our land,
to your home.





BURSARY PROGRAM

RECOGNIZING CREE STUDENTS WHO EXCEL IN THE ARTS



ABOUT THE

BURSARY PROGRAM

The CNACA Bursary Program provides a \$500 bursary to graduating high school Cree students who excel in the field of arts and crafts, and who distinguish themselves in their dedication to preserving and enhancing Cree culture, values, traditions and skills. The objective of the program is to support a new generation of aspiring artists and artisans with a strong commitment to their artistic development. The program accepts nominations by a teacher or guidance counsellor, for students who have demonstrated exceptional creative ability and dedication to the arts.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIAS

- 1 Student must be Cree
- 2 Student must be a secondary five graduate
- 3 One (1) \$500 bursary awarded per school and community
- 4 Student must be nominated by a teacher or guidance counsellor
- 5 Student must be nominated before the school year end

NOMINATION FORM

Visit our website at www.cnaca.ca/bursary and download the digital PDF nomination form. Fill it out and email to us at administration@cnaca.ca



More Info

www.cnaca.ca/bursary



Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

GIVE A LITTLE. HELP A LOT.

Creating a brighter future for our artists and artisans.

Among the objectives envisioned by the JBNQA, the Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association's (CNACA) mandate includes, assisting artists and artisans, as well as communities, in marketing and product distribution services, training and capacity building, and intergenerational knowledge transfer by facilitating access to material resources for the creation, preservation and promotion of Cree arts and crafts. Our artists and craftspeople are living witnesses of our culture and heritage.

Sponsorships provide CNACA with a means of strengthening our core mandate, including establishing strategic partnerships with corporations, not-for-profit organizations and individuals, and offer opportunities to diversify external revenue sources to our organization. As a not-for-profit organization, CNACA is actively seeking sponsorship opportunities in return for recognition, public acknowledgement or publicity, or other promotional considerations for a variety of activities we undertake, including events, projects, materials and equipment, and other core operational needs.

WHY SPONSOR CNACA ?

PRESERVE CREE CULTURE

Help preserve and strengthen Cree culture, knowledge and craftsmanship.

PROMOTE OUR ARTISTS

Help promote and advance our artists and artisans,
locally, regionally and internationally.

GROW CULTURAL INDUSTRY

Help diversify and grow the cultural industry in Eeyou Istchee.

MAINTAIN OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Help maintain and expand our core programs and services.

Rates and Benefits

The following are rates and benefits to your organization if you decide to sponsor us.

Description	Platinum	Gold	Silver
Yearly sponsorship rate	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Prominent sponsor logo on banner at all events	X	X	
Prominent sponsor logo at the bottom of main page of CNACA	X	X	
Presence on sponsorship page by tier level	X	X	X
Company profile page on CNACA website with backlinks	X	X	X
Sponsorship video message at events	X	X	
1 Banners Ad - Shown on specific pages on the CNACA website	X		
Discount on product purchases *	15%	10%	

* discount is only available to the business, organization or entity and not to their employees.

Ready to sponsor us?

We thank you for your generosity and for considering sponsoring CNACA. Please visit our website at www.cnaca.ca/corporate-sponsorship and download the fillable PDF file.



More Info

www.cnaca.ca/corporate-sponsorship

2024 - 2025

Board of Directors

Experienced, effective and diverse leadership



Dwayne Cox
President
Chisasibi Representative



Joshua J. Kawapit
Vice - President
Whapmagoostui Representative



Deborah Wapachee
Treasurer
Nemaska Representative



Diane Bosum
Board Member
Ouje-Bougoumou Representative



Vanessa Stephen
Board Member
Waskaganish Representative



Vacant
Board Member
Mistissini Representative



Alex Moses
Board Member
CNG Representative



Minnie Otter
Board Member
Washaw Sibi Representative



Caroline Happyjack
Board Member
Waswanipi Representative

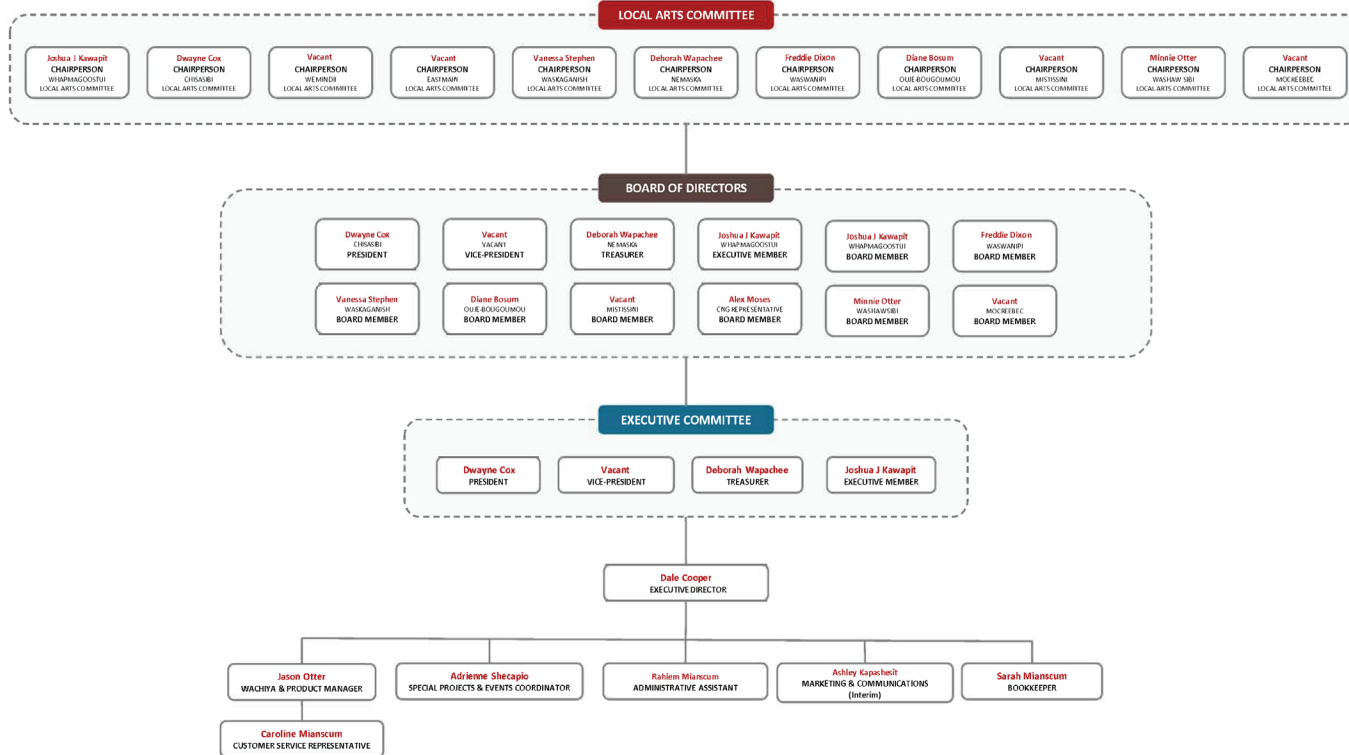


Vacant
Board Member
MoCreebec Representative



Léo Parent-Sirois
Legal Counsel
Murdoch Archambault

CNACA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CNACA Employees 2024 - 2025



Dale Cooper
Executive Director



Rahiem Mianscum
Administrative Assistant



Jason Otter
Product Manager



Adrienne Shecapio
Special Projects & Events Coordinator



Ashley Kapashesit
Marketing & Communications



Sarah Mianscum
Bookkeeper

Cree Creations

FOR TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE



ᐃᓂᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂᓂ

Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

205 Opemiska Meskino
Oujé-Bougoumou
Quebec G0W 3C0
Canada



Phone : (418) 745-2444
Fax: (418) 745-2324



administration@cnaca.ca
www.cnaca.ca