

# Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association



## Living Cree Arts & Crafts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CNACA Appoints Dale Cooper as Permanent Executive Director; 17<sup>th</sup> AMA and 5<sup>th</sup> Achievement Awards Hosted in Whapmagoostui**

**Ouje-Bougoumou, QC. March 14, 2024** – The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dale Cooper as the Executive Director. We are proud and excited to experience the leadership that Dale will bring to the organization in this new role. CNACA welcomes and congratulates Dale Cooper in his new venture. We are confident in his ability to lead us forward in protecting and promoting Cree arts and crafts.

Our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Members Assembly in Whapmagoostui was a great success. This year's theme was 'Innovation & Integrity: Nurturing Cree Artistry with IP Protection'. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the delegates attended an activity day at the Cultural Camp in Whapmagoostui. This day was enjoyed by all, and we thank the community for their kindness in sharing their knowledge, good conversation and delicious food.

Day 1 of our AMA took place on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Corporate matters were discussed, in addition to CNACA programs and services. Members were invited to join virtually via Zoom, where they were able to participate and ask questions when necessary. Day 2 of the AMA took place the following day on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The presentations aimed to give insightful resources to our members which included the following topics: Marketing & Social Media, Pricing & Inflation,

Intellectual Property, Music Resources, Product Photography, Royalties, Traditional Knowledge IP Protection, and Authentic Pricing.

On the evening of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, we hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Eeyou Istchee Achievement Awards. We had a great turnout and want to thank all the artists who performed during the event. CNACA would like to congratulate all of the artists and artisans who were nominated. The following is a list of the winners for each award category. Congratulations to all!

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Rising Star Award	Wabiguin Bearskin
Self Innovator Award	BabbeyJane Happyjack
Best Fiddler Award	Eric Sheshamush
CNACA Arts Leadership Award	Waskaganish Cultural Department
Performing Arts Award	Diane Coon-Come
Traditional Arts Award	Helen Tanoush Gull
Multidisciplinary Arts Award	Manuan Lafond
Contemporary Arts Award	Flora Weistche
Visual Arts Award	Theresa MacLeod-Loon
Youth Artist of the Year	Jessika Danyluk
The Artist Entrepreneur Award	Natasia Mukash
The Buckley Petawabano Award	Betsy Longchap
Lifetime Achievement Award	George Kawapit
Honouring Trailblazers	Clifford Bearskin and Board of Compensation

We would like to thank the community of Whapmagoostui for hosting our 17<sup>th</sup> AMA and 5<sup>th</sup> Achievement Awards. We extend our gratitude to the Local Coordinator, Amy Salt, and her team. Their hard work and immense help made the event possible! We would also like to thank Joshua J. Kawapit for his expertise in the planning and execution of the event. CNACA looks forward to seeing him progress as the chairperson of the Whapmagoostui local arts committee.

Sincerely,  
Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

## About Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association

*To diversify and grow a sustainable arts, crafts and cultural economy in Eeyou Istchee involving partnership among Cree Artists, Artisans and Cree communities that will preserve, promote and enhance the heritage of the Eeyou Nation while both encouraging contemporary means of expression and maintaining Cree Culture, Values, traditions and skills.*

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### Website & Social Media

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 [www.facebook.com/creenativearts](https://www.facebook.com/creenativearts)

 [www.instagram.com/creeartscrafts](https://www.instagram.com/creeartscrafts)

 [www.youtube.com/user/CreeNativeArts](https://www.youtube.com/user/CreeNativeArts)