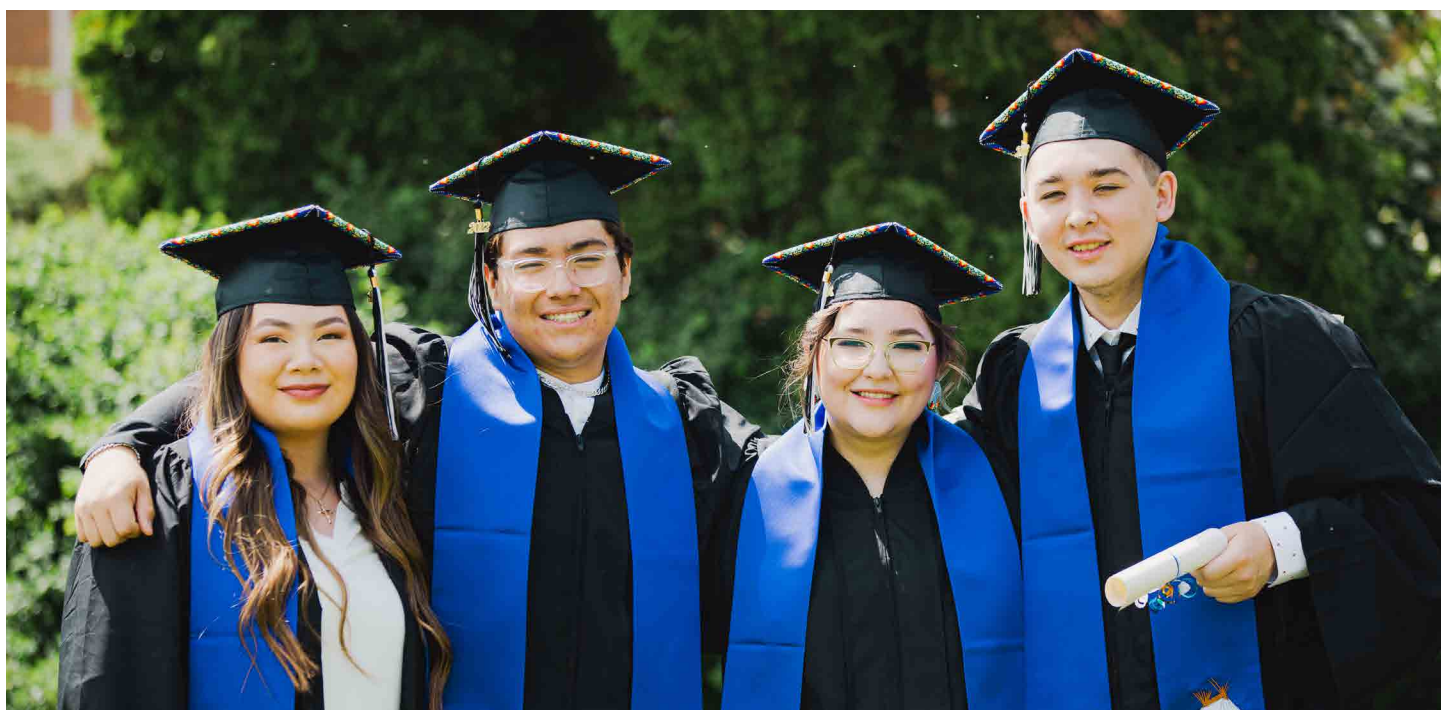




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Cree School Board
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Issue 04 - Fall 2022



Back to School

Summer break has ended, and classes have returned!

The start of the school year is an exciting time for students, especially when they enter a new classroom meeting their teacher for the year. During the first few weeks of school, it gives students time to become familiar with their new routine, teaching material, and what to expect to learn in class. It also allows parents to build teacher relationships to ensure their child succeeds in school!

When a parent is involved in their child's educational journey, evidence shows that it benefits your child, including more chances of succeeding in their studies! It also helps your child stay motivated for learning, increases self-confidence and motivation, more regular attendance, and a positive attitude toward homework and school.

It may also give you an idea of how the class will be taught and what you can anticipate from the teachers to help your child in learning! It is the perfect time to open a two-way communication between the parents and the schools.

Among the ways to create such channels can include, attending Parents Night, attending meetings from your School Committee or Council of Commissioners' meetings, a phone chat with your child's teacher, reading messages from the Mozaik Portal or E-mail.

We hope you are excited about the new school year as we are. Let us make this year a success!



WE ARE EYOU EDUCATION

WHO IS AT YOUR SCHOOL?

As of August 2022, the CSB includes 1,131 dedicated managers, professionals, support staff, and teachers. Our employees work in many different capacities but are committed to the same goal: student success!

Here are a few of the CSB team members who work to make Eyou Education possible.



Cree Culture Teacher

Cree Culture Teachers teach elementary and high school students culturally rich land-based education, skills, and practices, ensuring that students learn their Cree way of life. They focus on interactive learning as a Cree knowledge keeper in the classroom and on the land. Simultaneously, they educate students through hands-on interactions with and among other students and other community knowledge keepers.

“Teaching our culture to students is the most fulfilling aspect of being a Cree culture teacher. Some students are unaware of our cultural teachings, but once we teach them, they are eager to learn about it, such as building traditional dwellings, learning about hunting skills, utilizing our traditional tools to harvest animals properly, and cooking traditional meals. When I teach our Cree culture, I follow the seasons and we learn by the seasons with the students. The most satisfying part of teaching our culture is seeing our students happy and demonstrating that they can practice our culture too!”

– Michael Neeposh, Cree Culture Teacher



Cree Language Teacher

To promote a Cree child’s identity, the Cree Language Teacher enriches the student experience by teaching the East Cree language in both the southern and northern dialects, ensuring that the students learn through stories, lessons, syllabic orthography, and other means. Each Cree Language Teacher provides our students with a unique and exciting learning environment!

“What I enjoy most about my job as a teacher is encouraging students to learn our language and that there are no limits to teaching the Cree language; I look at each student and try to find ways to help them succeed with our language in writing and speaking; I’m inspired to teach in our language because I see high school students progress, grow, and emerge in the classroom and beyond! I really like sharing our teaching approaches with other Cree language teachers and learning from each other.”

– Jeremiah Mistacheesick, Cree Language Teacher



WHO IS AT YOUR SCHOOL?



Cree Programs Consultant

Our consultants set high goals for themselves to reach their full potential both professionally and personally. They work to improve the student experience for our youth sector students by providing specialized support for Cree language and culture programs in our curriculum. They not only manage the development of learning resources, including the development of new materials and their education in our schools, but they also assist the development of the Eastern James Bay Cree Writing System.

"We must continue to work together to strengthen and preserve both our language and culture. Language is the foundation of our Culture and our identity as Eeyouch; it is essential like the air we breathe for our children to thrive and be proud of who they are as Eeyouch."

– Theresa Georgekish, Cree Programs Consultant

These are just a few of the hundreds of staff who make Eeyou Education possible. Each person plays an important role in achieving our mission and vision.

If you are interested in working for the CSB, visit eeyoueducation.ca/org/join to see the latest job postings. We are always looking for great candidates to join our growing team!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIGITAL LEARNING DEPARTMENT



The Department of Digital Learning (DLD) is growing! We are excited to announce Amanda Ladeluca as our new Coordinator of Digital Learning. We also welcome Krista McNamara as a new member of our Pedagogical ICT Consultant team. She joins Robert Gordon and Latif Halim. Our team looks forward to a new school year with eagerness to support teachers and schools in the use of digital tools and learning.



The team is currently working hard on setting up digital learning platforms that will be available in the Youth Sector, such as Mathletics, Raz-Plus, Nearpod and more. We are also pleased to announce the rollout of Biblius and the renewal of TumbleBooks, two virtual libraries that allow students to access books anytime and from anywhere with a device. More information on accounts and access to the platforms will be shared shortly with teachers and school administrators.

Students, teachers and parents, get ready for an exciting school year, as we will be hosting challenges and competitions in collaboration with our Digital Learning partners!

From our team to yours, we wish you a successful year!

Meegwetch! Merci! Thank you!

Sherry Weistche

Director of Digital Learning



ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Congratulations to our High School Graduates 2021-2022

The Cree School Board would like to congratulate 79 students who earned their Secondary School Diploma during the 2021-2022 school year.

The 2021-2022 school year was challenging for many students, but we are happy to announce that **34% of students enrolled in Secondary V earned their Secondary School Diploma**, largely to the commitment of our students and the ongoing support from the parents, guardians, and teachers. Thank you!

“We are proud of our graduates who have persevered throughout the pandemic to finish strong and carry on with their educational and life journeys. It was an unprecedented experience for our students, families, and school teams to shift between in person and online instruction over the last few years. Working together, we are able to celebrate their success today, as well as our students who are close to also graduating. We are continuing to support you now and look forward to celebrating with you soon,” said Kim Quinn, Director of School Operations.



The **Work-Oriented Training Path (WOTP)** received a total of 14 Cree youth graduates for the 2021-2022 school year. High school students from: Badabin Eeyou School (Whapmagoostui), James Bay Eeyou School (Chisasibi), Maquatua School (Wemindji), Wiinibekuu School (Waskaganish), Luke Mettaweskum School (Nemaska), Voyageur Memorial School (Mistissini), and Willie J. Happyjack (Waswanipi) were among the schools who participated in the work/study program.

The WOTP incorporates two separate programs for each student, Pre-Work Training and Training for Semi-Skilled Trade. WOTP provides an alternative path at the student’s level aimed at developing autonomy, responsibility, and success for students who are struggling within the General Education path. The WOTP encouraged students to explore their interests, needs, and abilities.

Secondary V Graduates: Results and Success Rate

Community	Secondary Vs Enrolled	Total Graduates	Success Rate
Whapmagoostui	11	5	45%
Chisasibi	72	18	25%
Wemindji	19	14	74%
Eastmain	14	8	57%
Waskaganish	36	16	44%
Nemaska	6	0	0%
Mistissini	46	6	13%
Oujé-Bougoumou	7	7	100%
Waswanipi	20	5	25%
TOTAL	231	79	34%

2021-2022	
Community	Total
Whapmagoostui	6
Chisasibi	0
Wemindji	5
Waskaganish	0
Nemaska	1
Mistissini	0
Waswanipi	2
TOTAL	14

Congratulations to our students!



SABTUAN ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES

SAES Announces New Programs for 2022-2023

Sabtuan Adult Education Services (SAES) has good news for anyone who wants to go back to school in 2022-2023. After many program delays and class restrictions due to COVID-19, the Cree School Board's adult sector will be offering more training programs to more students in the school year ahead.

"We are here to offer programs that really connect with Cree students –programs that interest them, prepare them for in-demand jobs, value their culture and can be taken close to home. This is how we build capacity in Eeyou Istchee. "

- Nian Matoush, Director of SAES

Adults who are interested in training have many programs to choose from in 2022-2023.



Prepare for a Career in Construction

Surveying & Topography is being offered at Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre, which provides residence housing and meals for students from other communities. Local program options also include Carpentry (Oujé-Bougoumou, Eastmain), Plumbing & Heating (Waskaganish), and Construction Business Management (Chisasibi).



Prepare for a Career in Health Care

SAES is proud to partner with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) to offer direct-to-employment programs for the healthcare sector. Applications are open for the Institutional and Home Care Assistance (also known as the Beneficiary Attendant Training Program) in Chisasibi, with plans to expand the program to other communities. Future programs that SAEAS plans to offer through this partnership include Health, Assistance, and Nursing, and Medical Secretarial Studies.



Other Career Paths to Explore

Sabtuan Adult Education Services used data from its Adult Learning Needs Assessment to select programs that both interest students and meet job market needs. These programs include Secretarial Studies (Chisasibi, Nemaska), Starting a Business (Chisasibi), and Protection & Development of Wildlife Habitats (Mistissini).

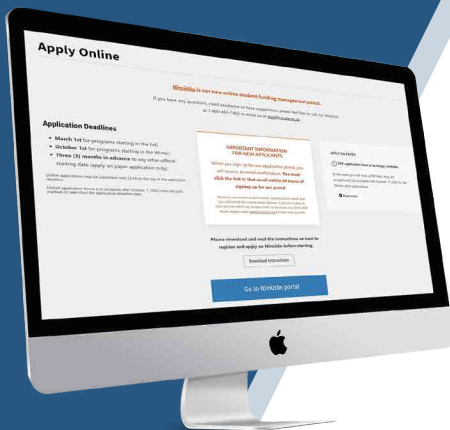
In addition to these newly announced programs, SAES also looks forward to starting highly anticipated programs like Automobile Mechanics (Mistissini) and Accounting (Whapmagoostui), which were postponed in part due to COVID-19 measures.

For more information about all SAES programs, and to apply online, visit: eeyoueducation.ca/adult We are also happy to answer any questions at:

sabtuanadulter@cscree.qc.ca | 1-844-923-3347



POST-SECONDARY STUDENT SERVICES



Introducing the new

NĪMŪTĀN APPLICATION PORTAL

Our new online funding application for our current and future Post-Secondary Students

The NĪMŪTĀN funding application is now made available to all eligible JBNQA beneficiaries for Winter 2023!



Introducing NĪMŪTĀN

Cree School Board's new application portal for Post-Secondary Students.

On August 16, 2022, the Cree School Board launched the NĪMŪTĀN funding management portal for current and future post-secondary students.

What is the NĪMŪTĀN Portal?

The NĪMŪTĀN funding application portal has been simplified for Cree post-secondary students, allowing for current and future students to submit their application digitally, update their profile, view tasks, begin a two-way communication with PSSS employees, participate in online surveys, access to forms, request advances, and receive funding all in one place.

What does NĪMŪTĀN mean?

The name NĪMŪTĀN stands for "Packsack", which Cree hunters have traditionally used to carry food, traditional tools, and utensils. We hope that NĪMŪTĀN will assist our students in their post-secondary learning journey with our funding program.

Why was the application process changed?

The NĪMŪTĀN funding application platform is designed as a one-stop-shop replacing the former paper or online "three-step" application with a digital application that is accessible from your desktop and will be made available on your mobile device soon.

How does this affect new students?

NĪMŪTĀN funding management portal is only available online, and the application paper form is no longer available. However, in the event a student still has a copy of the PDF form, they will exceptionally be accepted until October 1, 2022 for the Winter 2023 applications.

All new or returning applicants are encouraged to use the NĪMŪTĀN Portal.

What does it mean for current students?

NĪMŪTĀN is open for the Winter 2023 application intake only (New or Returning applicants that are not currently sponsored by Post-Secondary Student Services). Current PSSS students will be invited to connect to NĪMŪTĀN to prepare for January 2023, where NĪMŪTĀN will be fully implemented, and the old portal (PSSS Student Portal) will be deactivated.

Where do I find the NĪMŪTĀN Portal?

The NĪMŪTĀN funding application platform is available on eeyoueducation.ca, click on Post-Secondary Studies and "I want to apply" buttons, once you are in the "Apply Now" page, you can follow the instructions on how to apply!

If you require assistance, please feel free to call our Helpline at 1-800-463-7402 or email us at psss@cscree.qc.ca. This will help us keep the conversation going, so we can build a bright future for your post-secondary learning journey!



ARE YOU CONSIDERING POST-SECONDARY STUDIES?

WE CAN HELP!

We are available to answer any questions you may have regarding:

- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Financial Assistance
- ✓ Full-time studies
- ✓ Part-time studies
- ✓ Correspondence courses/programs
- ✓ Academic Support Services
- ✓ Social Support

APPLICATION DEADLINES

October 1: For programs starting in the winter semester 2023

March 1: For programs starting in the fall semester 2023



Apply today with our new NĪMŪTĀN Portal by visiting our website at eeyoueducation.ca and then click on the **Post-Secondary Studies** and **I want to apply** buttons.

Please note that we do not accept registration requests sent by email or fax.

If you have any questions regarding the new NĪMŪTĀN portal, need assistance in your application or have suggestions, please feel free to call our Helpline at 1-800-463-7402 or email us at psss@cscree.qc.ca.

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CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY



CSB Check-In Radio Show

On June 15th, 2022, the Communication and Community Relations department launched our very own radio show, “CSB Check-In,” with host Nick Wapachee, Cree Communications Consultant.

Nick was a 2019 graduate from the prestigious journalism program at Toronto Metropolitan University, formerly Ryerson University. He worked as a program manager at the James Bay Cree Communications Society, and Associate Producer at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. His passion is storytelling using our Cree language. You might have heard his Cree language podcast called In Eeyou Istchee, which led to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada recognizing him as an Indigenous Language Leader during their 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages social media campaign.

With Nick in our team, CSB Check-In aims to enhance the Eeyou Education voice in a fun and engaging way. Topics covered range from CSB current affairs, departmental highlights, announcements, and feature stories. The show airs on JBCCS radio every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Each episode will be 30 minutes long and distributed on podcast platforms. All past episodes can be found at <https://anchor.fm/cree-school-board>.

Tipaachimutaaau!



Cree School Board’s Special Needs Symposium

The Cree School Board (CSB) will be hosting its first Special Needs Symposium for Parents and Caregivers in Gatineau, QC, from November 29 to December 1, 2022, with the theme of “Stronger Together”.

“We are grateful to be collaborating with the Disability Programs Specialized Services of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and Child (CBHSSJB) and Family Services of the Cree Nation Government (CNG) on this very special event,” said Dr. Sarah Pash, Cree School Board Chairperson.

While CSB, CNG, and CBHSSJB provide a variety of Special Education programs and services in Eeyou Istchee, parents and people with special needs are often challenged with gaps in accompaniment and support along their journey.

In turn, the providers are often confronted with their own operational realities, which make providing services difficult, limiting their ability to assist other partners at times.

The symposium aims to provide an open forum for parents and caregivers of special needs students to discuss and share their needs and realities in delivering special needs services from the perspective of the child, the parent, and the caregiver.

This is our step toward exploring new ways to collaborate with parents and caregivers of special needs children and adults.

See you there!