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Cree School Board  
Commission scolaire crie

# REGIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chisasibi 2024 – Summary Report



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miywaayitaakun aa wiichihiitinaaniwich







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## Wednesday, November 6, 2024

### EVENING BANQUET - BIG RIVER HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

5:00 - 5:30 PM	<b>ARRIVAL OF GUESTS</b>
5:30 PM	MC Welcome
	Opening Prayer
5:45 PM	Welcoming Remarks by School Committee Chairperson Leigh-Ann Gates
6:00 PM	<b>DINNER</b>
7:30 - 9:00 PM	<b>EVENING ENTERTAINMENT</b>





## Thursday, November 7, 2024

7:30 - 8:45	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome back
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>CSB Strategic Action Plan THEME 2:</b></p> <p><b>STUDENT EXPERIENCE:</b> <i>Our students have a positive journey, feel motivated, proud and are engaged in their learning and school life.</i></p> <p>(Pedagogy, Adult &amp; Higher Learning, and Operations/Administration)</p>
9:15 - 10:15	Presentation by the Adult & Higher Learning Management Team
10:15 - 10:30	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 - 11:15	Presentation by the Administration/Operations Management Team
11:15 - 12:00	Presentation by the Administration/Operations Management Team
12:00 - 1:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<p><b>CSB Strategic Action Plan THEME 3:</b></p> <p><b>EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS:</b> <i>We offer solid, culturally relevant academic pathways and curriculum that enable students to achieve their academic goals.</i></p> <p>(Pedagogy, Adult &amp; Higher Learning, and Operations/Administration)</p>
1:00 - 2:00	Presentation by the Youth Sector/Pedagogical Management Team
2:00 - 2:45	Presentation by the Adult & Higher Learning Management Team
2:45 - 3:00	<b>BREAK</b>
3:00 - 3:45	Presentation by the Director of Data Management & Analytics, Kimberly Quinn
3:45 - 4:30	Closing Remarks by Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum
	Closing Prayer



## Summary of Presentations

Blow is a summary of the presentations delivered during the Regional General Assembly

For Q&A notes, student speeches, please see full event minutes.

### Opening Remarks – Deputy Chief Mark Wadden, Chisasibi

Deputy Chief Mark Wadden, Chisasibi warmly welcomed the Cree School Board, recognizing its important work in education and cultural preservation. In this spirit, we honor the memory of the late Kenneth Weistche, whose contributions through the Boarding Home class action law suite has left a lasting impact. The Boarding Home class action lawsuit reflects a crucial effort to seek justice for Cree students sent away from their communities for schooling, often facing challenging and isolating experiences. This legal action acknowledges the harm endured, striving for healing and reconciliation. Inspired by this legacy, we commit to fostering teamwork with the Cree School Board to strengthen the Cree language and culture, empowering future generations with pride, resilience, and knowledge.

### Opening Remarks – Caroline Mark, CSB Director General

Ms. Caroline Mark welcomed and updated delegates on the board's strategic direction and key initiatives ensuring we stay aligned with the needs of our communities. With a clear goal in mind that we provide culturally relevant, high-quality education that empowers our students to succeed. ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ "miywaayitaakun aa wiichiitinaaniwich" is the theme for the Regional General Assembly guided by our iiyiyu/iinuu values Courage, Honesty, Humility, Compassion, Respect, Sharing, Wisdom, Teamwork, and Teaching.





## Deputy Director General (Pedagogy) – Deborah House-Cox

The presentations on pedagogy, structured around the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) themes, highlight the Cree School Board's (CSB) initiatives to enhance educational success, socio-emotional wellness, and student engagement. Under SAP Theme 1, priorities include literacy, socio-emotional wellness, and the integration of Cree language and culture into education. Initiatives such as the EagleCrest Levelled Readers and Cree Language Elementary Curriculum revision aim to build foundational literacy skills and align learning with culturally relevant topics. The Department of Digital Learning is expanding access to resources in Cree, leveraging tools like Nearpod and Minecraft to create immersive, engaging educational experiences.

Theme 2 emphasizes student engagement and well-being through programs like the Breakfast Club, regional events such as sports leagues and public speaking contests, and mentorship opportunities. Efforts also focus on enhancing socio-emotional support, as evidenced by direct counselling services and the development of the Alternative Education Program for students facing mental health or social challenges. Community engagement, through focus groups and local activities, ensures a collaborative approach to addressing student needs. Complementary services have also grown significantly, particularly in special education and tailored intervention programs, helping students overcome barriers and thrive academically.

Theme 3 centers on achieving educational success through structured literacy initiatives, teacher training, and comprehensive assessment strategies. The introduction of Local School Improvement Plans fosters collaboration and data-driven approaches among educators. Special focus is given to early literacy and intervention programs like Lexia and Empower Reading, which provide foundational skills critical for long-term success. The CSB also integrates Cree culture into curricula, with indigenized social science and history units to ensure relevance and engagement. Digital learning frameworks and professional development opportunities further equip educators to use innovative methods, including artificial intelligence (AI), to enhance learning outcomes across all subjects.





## **Deputy Director General (Operations) – Andy Baribeau**

The DDG Operations Presentation, led by Andy and his team, outlined key contributions to the Strategic Action Plan through initiatives focusing on educational success, cultural heritage, and enhancing the student experience. To support educational success, the team is advancing infrastructure projects, including the construction of two new schools in Chisasibi, the expansion and renovation of Maquatua Eeyou School in Wemindji, and the development of a vocational training center in Whapmagoostui. These projects aim to create improved learning environments and expand opportunities for students across the region.

The presentation also highlighted efforts to preserve and promote *iiyiyuiyihtiwin* (Cree cultural identity and heritage) through local initiatives such as fostering Cree as a business language, organizing Cree culture camps, and conducting traditional activities like *iinuu metawewinh*. To enrich the student experience, the team is distributing computers and laptops to all students and providing mini-buses to every community. Additionally, they are organizing the *iinuu metawewinh* event, a three-day gathering in Mistissini from March 25 to 27, 2025, featuring Cree games, cultural inclusion, and the transmission of traditional knowledge and values. These combined efforts aim to enhance educational opportunities, foster cultural pride, and support student engagement across communities.

## **Director of *iiyiyuiyihtiwin* Research and Development – Angela Gates**

The *iiyiyuiyihtiwin* Research and Development (iR&D) initiative was launched in 2022 to develop a educational system for the *iiyiyiu/iinuu* Nation, rooted in language, culture, values. By focusing on integrating *iiyiyuiyihtiwin* into education, the organization seeks to nurture a strong sense of identity and foster success in both traditional and contemporary knowledge systems. Key initiatives include building a robust school board that prioritizes these values and collaborating with Elders and knowledge keepers to support educational and cultural initiatives.

Programs under (iR&D) include the Cree Language Study and Mentor Program, aimed at reversing language loss through targeted interventions starting at the preschool level and expanding to higher grades. Land-based education and cultural support are also central, incorporating traditional knowledge and hands-on experiences guided by Elders. Additionally, events like the Cree Language and Culture Symposium facilitate knowledge sharing and community engagement, highlighting the organization's commitment to embedding *iiyiyiu/iinuu* values across all aspects of education and governance.







## Survey Responses

A survey evaluating the 2024 RGA was conducted at the conclusion of the event, with a total of 33 responses collected. The survey questions assessed participants' experiences throughout the entire event, from initial engagement to completion.

Below are their comments and ranking on the main aspects of the event, including registration, communications to participants, and productivity. All ranking are on scale of 1-3 on satisfaction.

### How would you rate the registration process? – 2.8

The registration process was rated 2.8 out of 3.0, indicating a generally smooth experience with some minor areas for improvement. While most participants found it efficient and straightforward, there may have been small challenges or delays that prevented a perfect score. Overall, the feedback suggests a well-organized process that could be refined further to enhance user satisfaction.

### How would you rate RGA's overall Communications? – 2.6

RGA's overall communications received a 2.6 out of 3.0, suggesting that while the information was generally clear and effective, there's some room to improve. It seems like most people were satisfied, but there may have been occasional gaps or areas where messaging could have been clearer or more timely. A few tweaks could make communication even stronger moving forward!

### Did the event meet your expectations? 3.0

The event received a perfect 3.0 rating, indicating that it successfully met or exceeded attendees' expectations. This reflects strong planning, effective execution, and a well-received overall experience. The positive feedback suggests that participants were highly satisfied with the event's organization and delivery.

## Additional Feedback (direct quotations from surveys)

- All the information we got during the gathering and meals and concert, well organized thanks CSB.
- Get more youth involved, student council reps to speak too on what they are doing in the schools. It would be so great to hear from young people.
- More cultural aspects; hunter drum opening and closing
- More Student testimonies. More interactive presentations.
- Good job to all involved in organizing this event.
- It was great and informative! Good job everyone!