

THE CREE MINERAL  
**EXPLORATION  
BOARD**



CONSEIL CRI SUR  
**L'EXPLORATION  
MINÉRALE**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**

**PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY IN  
EYYOU ISTCHEE**

## **An example of a prospecting day, done by Cree Prospectors, Jonas and Rock Sheshamush**

**This Project is located in North of Quebec where the mobility are very reduced and the dis-tances are very high. Using the few airborne geophysics and the geological survey data, and the help of CMEB. We decide to prospect for Ultramafic rocks. They are coarse grains and have a black colour. These kind of rocks can contain Platinum, Pladium, Nickel and even Cobalt.**

**October 13, 2019**

**Bad weather kept us at the base all morning. It was too wet and cold to head out in the morn-ing. Later in the evening we went to check Jonas' beaver trap to the east at the place called Ashachuwamskuch.**

**It is said that, at this very place, a group of Indians were traveling by canoe downriver when they encountered a lone white man hiding behind a large boulder. The white man appeared frightened by the convoy. They did not approach him either. They just let him be.**



**Photo: Rock Sheshamush  
Jonas Sheshamush marvelling God's beautiful country.**

**Just near by the outcrop we were looking for, The very Black Ultramafic bedrock, The beaver trap had been set off, but there was no sign of the beaver. On a closed examination, we disco-vered that a black bear had triggered the trap. I guess is smelled the beaver caster used to scent the trap for bait as it was walking nearby. Luckily, the bear was not caught in the trap. Jonas reset the trap and we headed back to take one sample: CINI-02**

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# Board of Directors



**Reggie Mark, President**  
Cree Nation of Wemindji  
member



**Sam Bosun, Director**  
Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou  
Member



**Anthony Macleod, Director**



**Mark Wadden, Director**  
Community Education Administrator  
Cree School Board



**Jean-Yves Labbé, Director**



**Guy Morin, Corporate Secretary**  
Guy Morin Avocat Inc.



**Youcef Larbi, PhD., Geo.**  
Chief Geologist & Director General

# Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I have the privilege to present the Activity Report of the Cree Mineral Exploration Board (CMEB) to the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee (GCC(EI)), the Cree Nation Government (CNG) and the Québec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR). This report summarizes the activities of the CMEB from April 2019 to the end of March 2020.

Since 2002, mineral exploration activities in Eeyou Istchee have been progressively increasing. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic may slow down the mineral exploration activities in Eeyou Istchee, it is anticipated that the substantial increase of the price of gold will have a positive impact on the mineral industry in general. Our territory still remains one of the best exploration grounds in the world and CMEB's role is to ensure that the Cree Nation benefits to the maximum extent from mineral exploration activities carried out on its Land, while promoting a sustainable development respectful of Cree values and aspirations.

In 2019-2020, the CMEB funded 26 exploration projects carried out by Cree owned corporations and Cree individual prospectors for a total amount committed of more than \$445,000. The CMEB also fostered the acquisition of competences, knowledge and expertise in the mineral exploration field. It has acquired a solid credibility with junior exploration companies active in Eeyou Istchee and is also a great source of pertinent and reliable information about the mineral industry for various Cree entities. The CMEB is a dynamic and reputable Cree organization that is proving every day its purpose, which mainly consists of the promotion of the mineral exploration activities in the territory and raise Cree's interest towards these activities.

The CMEB worked in close collaboration with the CNG to develop the: "Cree Nation Mining Policy" which is founded on the three following pillars: Promotion and Support of Mining Activities, Mining and Sustainable Practices and Transparency and Collaboration. This policy clarifies the intent of the Cree Nation towards mining activities in Eeyou Istchee and facilitates the relationship with mining and mineral exploration corporations active in our Territory.

This year again the CMEB provided assistance to Cree communities and Cree land users in view of raising their awareness and involvement in the mineral exploration

field. The CMEB notes that Crees are gradually becoming more and more interested in the mineral exploration of their territory. In this regard, the CMEB has been providing a basic training course to Communities' leadership and interested Cree beneficiaries in view for them to have a better understanding of the development of mining projects from the grass-root exploration to exploitation and decommissioning. Also, Cree communities are being informed and provided with detailed maps of all mining claims located on their lands, the nature and extent of exploration works carried out and, through close collaboration established with the industry, results of exploration work carried out as well as expectative and geological potential of each project. Considering that only few of these exploration projects may eventually become a mine, the work of the CMEB includes, among other things, informing the Crees well ahead of the evolution of the exploration work by indicating which projects may potentially become a mine, allowing the concerned Crees to have sufficient time to prepare adequately.

The CMEB is also proud of its field introduction to prospecting programs carried out in every Cree Community over the past fifteen years; trainees learned the basics of prospecting while improving geological knowledge of Eeyou Istchee's Category 1 Lands and which also allows trainees to secure employment in the mining industry. This year again the Chief Geologist/Director General has visited most of exploration projects funded by the CMEB, in order to make sure that exploration works are done in the rules of art but to also encourage and motivate prospectors and enterprises to pursue in their exploration works and to submit new projects for funding.

My thanks go especially to the members of the Board of Directors of the CMEB for the time, the knowledge and the efforts they devoted to the success of the programs of the CMEB. I particularly make a point of underlining the Director's engagement to achieve the CMEB's goals which target nothing less than excellence with respect to participation of the Cree in the sectors of mineral exploration and durable development in Eeyou Istchee.

# History

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board was created pursuant to Chapter 5 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Québec and the Crees of Québec. Its mandate consists in encouraging and facilitating the development of mineral exploration companies on the Territory, in accordance with section 5.3 of the Agreement:

Québec will promote and facilitate the participation of the James Bay Crees in mineral exploration activities on the Territory. In particular, Québec and the Crees will set up before April 1, 2002, a Mineral Exploration Board, which will be largely composed of Cree representatives but with some representation from Québec.

Subsection 5.3 of this Agreement also describes the principal objectives of the Board as well as the financial conditions:

Beginning in the 2001-02 fiscal year, this Board will benefit from the regular program funding of Québec available for such purposes presently set at three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per financial year. The main purposes of this Mineral Exploration Board will be to:

- a) assist the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities;
- b) facilitate the development of mineral exploration enterprises with Cree entrepreneurship;
- c) help and encourage the Crees and Cree enterprises benefit from Québec's regular funding program as well as other provincial assistance allocated to mineral exploration activities;
- d) act as an intermediary between offers and demands of services made to Crees and Cree enterprises in matters relating to mineral exploration.

In February 2020, the Cree Nation Government (CNG), the Government of Québec and the CMEB signed an agreement entitled: "Agreement concerning Mineral Resources Development in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory, 2019-2022". Section 6 of this Agreement highlights the CNG's engagement to defray the CMEB's administrative expenses. Accordingly, the CNG has fulfilled this engagement, as it has subsidized the CMEB's operating budget for an amount of \$500,000. This agreement is retroactive to April 1st, 2019 and it is for a 3-year term until March 31, 2022. Also the MENR increased its contribution to an annual amount of \$350,000 for a global contribution of \$1,050,000.

# Activities of the Board in 2019-2020

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of 5 members, including 4 Crees: Mr. Reggie Mark, President Mr. Sam Bosum, Mr. Mark Wadden, and Mr. Anthony MacLeod as well as a representative of the MENR, Mr. Alain Dumas.

## Meetings and resolutions 2019-2020

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board held five (5) meetings, the first of which took place in Rouyn-Noranda on June 6th, 2019. The Members of the Board amended a project and approved the following eight (8) projects:

Recipient	Project	Amount	Financial Assistance
SD Mining	2019 Project amendment	\$28,800	Enterprise
Larry Desgagné	Fushite Gold Project 2019	\$11,070	Prospector
Larry Desgagné	Gold Molly Project 2019	\$9,980	Prospector
Buckley Petawabano	M-14 Exploration	\$11,000	Prospector
Jonas Sheshamush	Sheshamush Exploration	\$20,350	Prospector
Dennis Moar	Kawiywakamach Lake	\$7,900	Prospector
Native Exploration Services	Induced Polarization Survey on 29% Cu showing, NTS 32J01	\$35,175	Enterprise
Nimsken Corporation Inc.	Line cutting, MaxMin & Magnetometer Surveys on the 2019 Barlow Extension South, NTS Area 32G15	\$42,375	Enterprise
Nimsken Corporation Inc.	2019 Ground Electromagnetic Exploration Program, NTS 32G07, 32G08	\$37,500	Enterprise
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$204,150</b>	

The second meeting took place via telephone conference on June 27th, 2019. Members of the Board reviewed the CMEB audited financial statements for 2018-2019.

The third meeting was held via telephone conference on October 1, 2019. Members of the Board approved the services of a financial advisor, approved the Proposal to the Cree Nation Government for funding the CMEB for the financial year 2019-2020, reviewed prospector's agreements submitted for ratification and approved one (1) project:

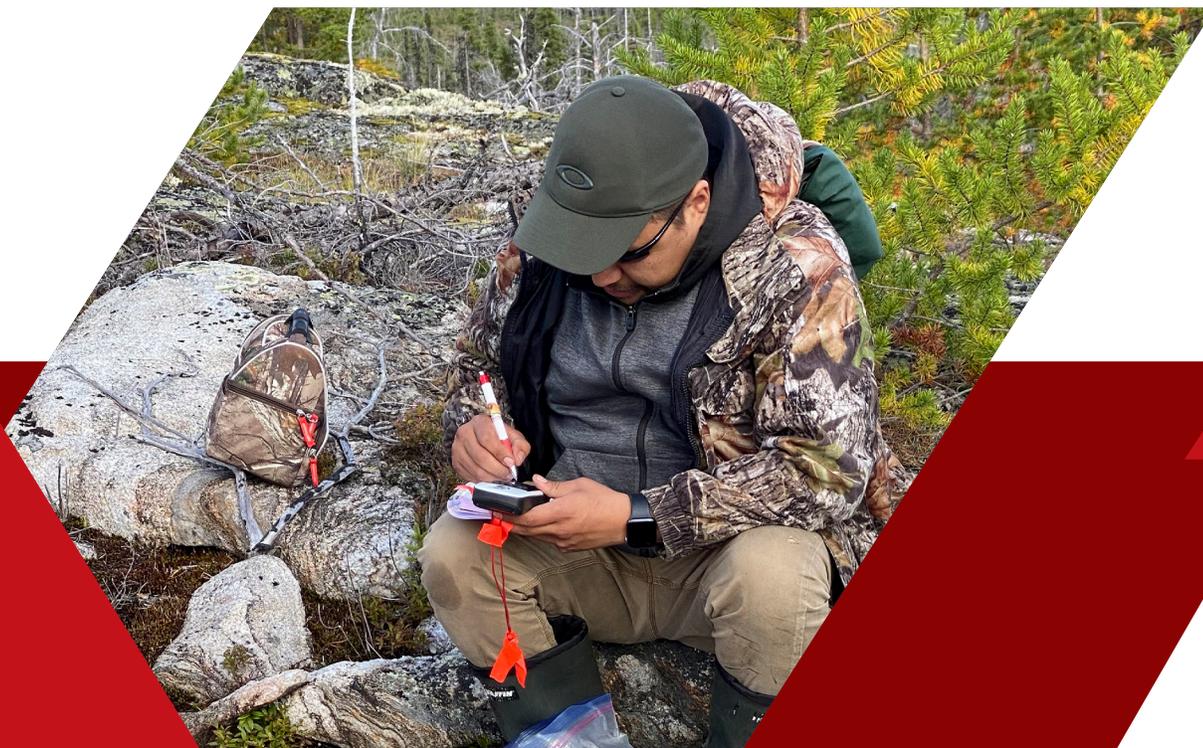
Recipient	Project	Amount	Financial Assistance
SD Mines Inc.	Phase II Kaupapiskau	\$20,684	Enterprise
Norman Grant	W53-W53A Exploration Project	\$8,000	Prospector
Thomas Blackned	KM317 Exploration Project	\$8,700	Prospector
Neil Wapachee	Kaanemgkashist Exploration Project	\$9,100	Prospector
Robert Ratt	Robert Ratt Exploration project	\$8,900	Prospector
Kenny Wapachee	Trapline M13 Exploration Project Phase 3	\$8,000	Prospector
Dennis Moar	Kawiywakamach Lake Project Phase 2	\$7,900	Prospector
Jordan Kitchen	W05B Exploration Project	\$8,500	Prospector
Simeon Wapachee	N23 Exploration Project	\$8,600	Prospector
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$88,384</b>	

A fourth meeting was held by telephone conference on November 20th, 2019. The members approved the ratification of some prospector's agreements and approved the following project.

Recipient	Project	Amount	Financial Assistance
Nimskan Corporation Inc.	Induced Polarization and Magnetometer Surveys on the 2019-2020 Barlow Cuvier – NTS Area 32G15 – Category I Land	\$70,000	Enterprise
Neil Wapachee	Kaanemgkashist Exploration Project Phase 2	\$9,100	Prospector
Thomas Blackned	KM312 Exploration Project	\$9,800	Prospector
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$88,900</b>	

A fifth meeting was held by telephone conference on March 12th, 2020. The members approved the following seven (7) projects and proposals.

Recipient	Project	Amount	Financial Assistance
Nimsken Corporation Inc.	Line Cutting, Electromagnetic & Magnetic Surveys on the 2020 Barlow Gold Project	\$25,650	Enterprise
CMEB	Prospecting Workshop, Field Mineral Exploration, Prospectors Upgrading	\$50,000	Workforce assistance
JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd.	Joint Venture Agreement Between Gaspeg Resources Ltd. And JA MacLeod Reg'd.	\$3,750	Enterprise
JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd.	JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd./Gaspeg Resources Ltd. JV – Davidson Project	\$34,215	Enterprise
SD Mines Inc.	Request for Assistance To Attend the Business Workshops	\$8,160	Enterprise
CMEB	Nunavik Mining Workshop and Propair Aircraft Quote	\$15,000	Workforce Assistance
CMEB	Proposal for the Creation of an Eeyou Controlled Junior Public Corporation	\$30,000	Enterprise
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$166,775</b>	



# Programs of the CMEB

The following pages provide a summary of CMEB's activities carried out under the following programs: awareness raising and promotional activities, workforce awareness and employment assistance, technical and financial assistance to prospectors, project development and assistance to entrepreneurs and expertise in Earth sciences and technical assistance.

## Awareness Raising and Promotional Activities

The representatives of the CMEB took part in several promotional events such as conferences and workshops. During these mining events, the CMEB presented posters and various information related to mineral exploration in Eeyou Istchee, more particularly during the Mining Week (25e Semaine minière du Québec) in April 2019 in most Eeyou Istchee schools.

A CMEB geologist conducted earth science activities at the Voyageur Memorial Elementary School in Mistissini and Maquatua Eeyou Secondary School -Wemindji in May, 2019.

The CMEB developed and hosted the mining and exploration panel at the annual conference entitled: «The north and its logistics», organized by the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi – Témiscamingue Economic Alliance held on June 5 and 6, 2019 at Centre des congrès, in Rouyn-Noranda. The Chief Geologist, Mr. Youcef Larbi was the moderator of the half-day panel entitled: Trends of Logistics in the Mining Industry.

The Board members attended the Quebec Mineral Exploration Association Conference held in Montreal in October 2019. This is the best opportunity to meet junior companies working in Eeyou Istchee. Meeting the latter opens doors to better communication.

At the Québec Exploration conference, organized by the MENR in November 2019, the CMEB distributed pamphlets at its kiosk explaining the programs and objectives of the Corporation. One of the highlights of this Conference was the high interest of participants for the CMEB's publication entitled: "Mineral Exploration Activity in Eeyou Istchee Report for 2019".

The CMEB also took part in Québec's delegation at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's

(PDAC) conference in March 2020 in Toronto. This event was more than ever the ideal occasion to establish business contacts and to attract investors in Eeyou Istchee.

During these events related to mineral resources, many junior exploration companies active in Eeyou Istchee showed great interest in the CMEB exploration and technical training programs. These conferences were an excellent occasion to promote the mineral potential on traditional lands of Eeyou Istchee and also an opportunity to establish links of work and collaboration with the industry.

The CMEB also intends to continue its advertising campaign in order to promote its programs in Cree communities by means of: Cree magazines (such as The Nation, Cree Hunters magazine, Resources Mines and Industry magazine and Destination Air Creebec), various Cree radio advertisements, as well as events which focus on sciences and careers in the Cree School Board establishments.

In order to promote interest of the mineral industry in Eeyou Istchee, and inform Cree tally-person, the public at large, and mining companies, the CMEB is constantly updating its website and Tally-Person Traplines Map. (cmeb.org)

The CMEB also actively participated in the meetings of the following organizations: the Cree-Quebec mining table, the Subcommittee on mineral exploration, the Committee on the assessment of mineral potential in Northern Quebec. The CMEB also contributed financially and participated in the workshop on the acquisition and dissemination of social and environmental knowledge organized by the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment.

## Workforce Awareness and Employment Assistance

The CMEB employed and facilitated the hiring of more than 150 Crees to work in the mining sector and related sectors. These jobs concern prospector positions, helpers for several exploration sectors especially camp building and janitor positions. All these positions are either offered by the CMEB, service companies, exploration companies and mines operating in Eeyou Istchee. The CMEB acts as an intermediary between mineral exploration companies and the Cree labor force by recommending experienced Cree workers in the mineral field.

The CMEB works, in close collaboration with the

Cree Human Resources Development of the Cree Nation Government, on setting up a certified training program for adults in the field of mineral resources. A consultation table, composed of various members in the fields of education, government and mining industry was created to develop this program. The CMEB also implemented programs for prospectors' course and updating of current mineral knowledge of Cree trappers.

The CMEB believes in its ability to train the Cree youth in the mineral field. In this regard, PowerPoint presentations and field excursions are regularly arranged in Cree communities in order to promote Earth Sciences. Many information sessions aimed at popularizing sciences and explaining the operations of the mineral industry are also presented to Cree community members.

The following training programs were delivered or funded by the CMEB:

- CMEB - Summer 2019 Prospecting Course Program (11 students from Eeyou Istchee attended this summer program)
- CMEB – Prospecting Workshop, Field Mineral Exploration, Prospectors Upgrading
- SD Mines Inc. – Request for Assistance to Attend the Business Workshops
- CMEB – Funding of an Eeyou delegation to attend the Nunavik Mining Workshop 2020
- Mineral Resources Geology. With the collaboration of the CHRD and CEGEP of Chibougamau-St-Félicien, a Collegial Studies Attestation Mineral Resources Geology has been elaborated. The first cohort of young Crees graduated in fall 2019 and a second should graduate in 2021.

Some mining companies active in Eeyou Istchee with the collaboration of participating Cree Nations and the CMEB offered other courses in mineral exploration; the latter provides expertise, coordinates various services and insures the enforcement of basic rules on the field with regards to the preservation of the environment and Cree traditional activities.

### **Technical and Financial Assistance to Prospectors**

Native prospectors carried out mineral exploration projects funded by the CMEB. The CMEB pursues its efforts to attract Cree interest in mineral prospecting in Eeyou Istchee. Considerable work will be required to incite more Cree prospectors to submit prospecting projects. The CMEB has two Beep Mats (electromagnetic devices with integrated GPS) for use by Cree prospectors free of charge. The following agreements were executed by the CMEB within the framework of this program and the results are very encouraging:

- Larry Desgagné – Fushite Gold Project 2019
- Larry Desgagné – Gold Molly Project 2019

- Buckley Petawabano – M-14 Exploration Project
- Jonas Sheshamush – Sheshamush Exploration Project
- Dennis Moar – Kawiywakamach Lake Project
- Norman Grant – W53-W53A Exploration Project
- Thomas Blackned – KM317 Exploration Project
- Neil Wapachee – Kaanemgkashist Exploration Project
- Robert Ratt – Robert Ratt Exploration Project
- Kenny Wapachee – Trapline M13 Exploration Project Phase 3
- Dennis Moar – Kawiywakamach Lake Project Phase 2
- Jordan Kitchen – W05B Exploration Project
- Simeon Wapachee – N23 Exploration Project
- Neil Wapachee – Kaanemgkashist Exploration Project Phase 2
- Thomas Blackned – KM312 Exploration Project

The funded projects are visited by the CMEB's Chief geologist/Director General with the purpose of guiding and helping prospectors improve their knowledge and their way of prospecting. The Chief geologist/Director General travels all over Eeyou Istchee to have access to these projects. This is highly appreciated by prospectors and even more by prospectors' Tally-person. The following are projects visited in the summer 2019: Norman Grant - W53-W53A Exploration Project (Waswanipi Traplines), Dennis Moar – Kawiywakamach Lake Project Phase 2 (Chisasibi Traplines), Larry Desgagné – Fuchsite Project 2019 (Ouje-Bougoumou Traplines), Robert Ratt – CH20 Project phase 1 (Chisasibi Traplines) and Neil Wapachee – Project Kaanemgkashist Phase 1 (Nemaska Traplines).

### **Project development and assistance to entrepreneurs**

During the financial year 2019-2020, the CMEB entered into agreements with the following companies for the funding of exploration projects:

- Native Exploration Services - Induced Polarization Survey on 29% Cu showing, NTS 32J01
- Nimsken Corporation Inc. – Line cutting, MaxMin & Magnetometer Surveys on the 2019 Barlow Extension South, NTS Area 32G15
- Nimsken Corporation Inc. - 2019 Ground Electromagnetic Exploration Program, NTS 32G07, 32G08
- SD Mines Inc. – Phase II Kaupapiskau
- Nimsken Corporation Inc. - Induced Polarization and Magnetometer Surveys on the 2019-2020 Barlow Cuvier – NTS Area 32G15 – Category I Land
- SD Mines Inc. – 2019 Project Amendment
- Nimsken Corporation Inc. – Line Cutting, Electromagnetic & Magnetic Surveys on the 2020 Barlow Gold Project

- JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd. – Joint Venture Agreement between Gaspeg Resources Ltd. and JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd.
- JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd. – JA MacLeod Exploration Reg'd./Gaspeg Resources Ltd. JV – Davidson Project
- CMEB – Proposal for the Creation of an Eeyou Controlled Junior Public Corporation

The CMEB owns a portfolio of flow through shares of Osisko Mining, which has exploration projects on Waswanipi Category II land. Nemaska Exploration Inc., Monarques Resources Inc. and Tarku Resources which owns exploration projects on mining properties located in the territory of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, SIRIOS Resources Inc. and Pershimex Resources Inc. for projects on mining properties located in the territories of Eastmain and Wemindji. Recently, the CMEB acquired shares of Stornoway Diamond and Azimut Exploration, which also has claims on Wemindji's and Eastmain's territory. The exploration projects owned by these corporations in Eeyou Istchee created employment and economic spin-offs for individuals and enterprises from above-mentioned Cree communities.

## New projects

The CMEB received several requests for assistance and participation from Cree and non-Cree companies for the financial year 2019-2020. As always, having the economic development of Eeyou Istchee at heart, the CMEB is open to any serious proposal. The CMEB is regularly solicited for the participation or investment in new exploration projects in Eeyou Istchee.

The CMEB has implemented a training course commonly named "Mining 101", which provides to Cree community leaders and other interested Cree beneficiaries basic information about the mining industry, from the grass root exploration to the exploitation and decommissioning of a mining project. This course also provides information related to the creation of enterprises in view to provide services required by the mineral exploration and mining industries. In the framework of this course the CMEB provides its technical assistance as well as the available geosciences knowledge of Eeyou Istchee. This 30-hour course is usually delivered in offices of respective Cree Nations. The main objective of this course is to give tools to Cree communities in view to help them to make enlightened decisions when it comes the time to deal with mining companies active on their lands. Every year, CMEB delivers this training course in two to three Cree communities. The following communities benefited from the Mining 101 course in 2019-2020: Chisasibi 15 people, Eastmain 7 people and Nemaska 9 people. CMEB's intent is to revisit several times all 10 Cree communities over the

next years.

Mineral exploration companies and universities are looking for partnerships for the carrying out of mineral potential studies in the Cree territory. They are very interested in creating business and geoscience development partnerships with Cree communities, which fall within the mandate of the CMEB.

As CMEB did with the Cree youth, custom made prospecting projects were developed for Tally-person and Cree trappers, since they spend most of their time in the bush and some of them are interested in prospecting while carrying out traditional activities. In this regard, over the past decade, the CMEB visited the Cree Trappers' Association communities' offices to inform and to introduce mineral prospector's technic to groups of 10 to 20 Trappers and Tally-Persons. Likewise, every year the CMEB offers a customized course to individuals Eeyou beneficiaries from all communities, either at the CMEB's Wemindji head office or at its Mistissini satellite office, a 30-hour course on mineral recognition, prospecting tips, map reading and GPS localization. This year the course took place in the Cree Nation of Mistissini where the trainees came from all over Eeyou Istchee.

## Expertise in the Earth Sciences and Technical Assistance

The electronic geo-economic map showing Eeyou Istchee's mineral potential is a great success for the CMEB since a large number of consultations occurred on our web site. The map is regularly updated and contains the most recent data that the CMEB, the MENR and mineral industry produced.

In view to facilitate communications for mineral exploration companies active on the territory, the CMEB has recently published on its website a brand new electronic and interactive map concerning traplines' areas exclusively as well as the required information to contact concerned Cree individuals and organizations. This map is highly valued by the mining industry and there is intense consultation especially at the end of the winter. This period is when companies must contact the tallyman (tally-person), the chief and the council of a Cree community to inform them of the exploration activities planned for the summer season. Coming soon, all the mining titles held in Eeyou Istchee will be accessible via the MENR link on our website [www.cmeb.org](http://www.cmeb.org).

These two maps prove to be a very useful tool for the prospectors and tally-person, as well as for internet users since it is available on our website at the following address: [www.cmeb.org/geoeco](http://www.cmeb.org/geoeco) and [www.cmeb.org/TAB TALLYPERSON TRAPLINES MAP](http://www.cmeb.org/TAB_TALLYPERSON_TRAPLINES_MAP).

Many projects of scientific collaboration to improve the knowledge of the mineral potential on Eeyou Istchee are in development with scientific institutions such as the Géologie Québec (MENR), University of Ottawa, the UQAM, the

UQAC and the Canadian Geological Commission. These projects are generally of geological and geophysical nature and are axed on the elaboration of a complete database.

The CMEB also provided its technical expertise to the Grand Council of the Crees and to the local councils of Cree communities. Moreover, on a daily basis, from its offices in Wemindji and Mistissini, the CMEB answers questions from tally-person, the members of the Cree Trappers' Association, community members, and Cree owned exploration companies (such as Native Exploration, Nimsken Corporation, J.A.MacLeod Exploration, Envirocree, SD Mines, Coon-Come Exploration and Wemex) as well as other exploration and exploitation companies (such as: Stornoway, Opinaca Mines, Osisko, Soquem, Metalex, Azimut, Ios, Sirios, Dios, Everton, Hecla, Durango, Harfang etc.) concerning geological data and access to Eeyou Istchee. These companies also benefit from the CMEB's technical, coordination, and communication assistance, as well as support in hiring Crees for their projects.



# Collaboration

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board established collaborations with various entities. Among these is the Cree Nation Government with its different sectors (environment, natural resources, and geo-information) with which the CMEB maintains continuous communication for exchange of information and development of common projects.

The CMEB works closely with the MENR and its mining sector. Among others, the MENR undertook to promote the mission of the CMEB by directly informing all companies holding mining titles in the territory and by adding a link on its website to CMEB's website. The MENR also implemented a follow-up on the hiring of Cree people in the mining sector. Moreover, the MENR intends to take an active part in a discussion table between the industry and the CMEB. The MENR also established a mechanism of consultation with the CMEB concerning its cartography programs on the territory and the development of new strategies for mines.

The ongoing collaboration with the CNG's Human Resources Department and the CSB allows the possibility to subsidize long-term training programs and to promote funding programs accessible to the Crees in the field of mineral resources. In this respect, the CMEB holds discussions with the CSB to develop a technical training program adapted to the young Crees. This program, developed in close cooperation with the CHRD, the MENR, regional colleges and the mineral industry consists of collegial technical training in natural resources which will give access to the employment connected to the fields of mining, hydrology and the environment. This program should meet the aspirations of the Crees and the needs of the industry. In 2012, the CMEB became partners with the Cree Human Resources Development on the Eeyou Mining Skills Enhancement Program (EMSEP).

The CMEB collaborates with CEGEPs and Universities.

This year CMEB collaborates with the UQAC and the MERN on the Geological Impact Study of new deposit found by CMEB's prospector in the Ouje-Bougoumou area.

Since its creation, the CMEB established close links with The Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) with the objective of informing the trappers and to protect their interests. The CMEB took the initiative to inform the trappers concerning the mining activity in their traplines, and to give them the training they need to take an active part in mineral exploration in Eeyou Istchee. This initiative is strongly appreciated by the CTA, which actively collaborates in the delivery of these courses.

The CMEB has also worked in close collaboration with local Cree Nations Chiefs and Councils, the CTA, the Cree Nation Government, mineral exploration companies and Hydro Québec for the production of the No-Fly Zone during the 2019 Goose Break. This initiative is to ensure that the traditional goose harvesting activities held this year between April 22nd and May 13th, are minimally impacted by helicopter flight within Eeyou Istchee. This map was accessible on CMEB website ([cmeb.org](http://cmeb.org)).

The CMEB has established, during the past 18 years, collaboration with the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue for the planning and delivering of its annual conference, more precisely concerning topics related to the mineral industry. CMEB's contacts in this field greatly contributed securing the participation of reputable and passionate speakers at this event. It is a great opportunity to provide information about the development of mineral activities in Eeyou Istchee and sensitize attendees to the deep attachment of Eeyou people to their land and traditional activities within their culture.



# Financial Summary

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board  
Financial Year Ending on March 31, 2020

## Sources of funding for CMEB's Operations

	CNG	MENR
2017-2018	\$500,000	\$300,000
2018-2019	\$500,000	\$300,000

## Allocation of the funds from the government of Quebec

2018-2019

Proponent/Project	Amount
Agreement 2019-02 – SD Mines Inc. – 2019 Project Amendment	\$28,800
Agreement 2019-03 – Larry Desgagné - Fushite Gold Project 2019	\$11,070
Agreement 2019-04 Buckley Petawabano, M41 project 2019	\$11,000
Agreement 2019-05 Jonas Sheshamush - Exploration Project 2019	\$20,350
Agreement 2019-06 Dennis Moar Kawiywakamach Lake Project	\$7,900
Agreement 2019-07 Native Exploration Induced polarization survey 20% Cu showing, NTS 32J01	\$35,175
Agreement 2019-08 Nimsken, 2019 Barlow Lake Project NTS 32G15	\$42,375
Agreement 2019-09 Nimsken Ground Electromagnetic exploration pgm 32G07,08 and 09	\$37,500
Agreement 2019-10 Larry Desgagné Molly Project 2019	\$9,980
Agreement 2019-11 Norman Grant W53-W53A Exploration Project	\$8,000
Agreement 2019-12 Thomas Blackned - KM317 Exploration Project	\$8,700
Agreement 2019-13 Neil Wapachee - Kaanemgskashist Exploration Project	\$9,100
Agreement 2019-14 Robert Ratt - Exploration Project	\$8,900
Agreement 2019-15 Kenny Wapachee - Trapline M13 Exploration Phase 3	\$8,000

<b>Proponent/Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Agreement 2019-16 Dennis Moar Kawiwakamach Lake Project Phase 2	\$7,900
Agreement 2019-17 Jordan Kitchen - W05B - Exploration Project	\$8,500
Agreement 2019-18 Simeon Wapachee - N23 Exploration Project	\$8,600
Agreement 2019-19 SD Mines - Phase II Kaupapiskau Exploration Project	\$20,684
Agreement 2019-20 Neil Wapachee - Kaanemgskashist Exploration Project Phase 2	\$9,100
Agreement 2019-21 Thomas Blackned KM317 phase 2 - Prospecting Project	\$9,800
Agreement 2020-01 Nimsken Corporation Barlow Cuvier - NTS 32G15 -Category 1 Lands	\$70,000
Agreement 2020-02 Nimsken Corporation, Electromagnetic & Magnetic Surveys 2020 Barlow	\$25,650
Agreement 2020-03 J.A. MacLeod/Gespeg JV	\$3,750
Agreement 2020-04 J.A. MacLeod/Gespeg JV Davidson Exploration Project	\$34,215

### **Allocated for Exploration Projects**

**Since 2014**

<b>Proponent/Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2019-2020	\$445,049
2018-2019	\$330,744
2017-2018	\$501,400
2016-2017	\$463,626
2015-2016	\$437,551
2014-2015	\$384,451



# Impact and Operational Indicators

## A) Impact indicators

### 1. Increase/maintain the number of Aboriginal jobs in the mine exploration sector

The CMEB developed strategic connexions with mining and exploration companies in Eeyou Istchee for the purpose to place our trainees. This activity started in 2005, following our first prospectors training held in 2004 in Chisasibi, has been recurrent since then. Usually exploration companies teams and Géology-Québec mapping section take annually one or two Crees workers each as a student or as a prospectors.

Number of aboriginal employed in the mining sector in 2019-2020 :

- CMEB: 14 Crees trainees in exploration
- Exploration Industry: 40 Cree workers
- Mines : minimum of 120 Cree workers

### 2. Improve knowledge of mine exploration and development in the Aboriginal communities

CMEB has been mandated to develop the knowledge of the communities in the domain of mining and exploration. We want to develop the mining culture similar to the one developed in the Abitibi region few generations ago.

Number of participants to knowledge and promotional activities in 2019-2020 :

Min. 20 participants each event (awareness activities)  
Quebec Mine - PDAC -Xplor.

3/5 board members to promotional events.

5/10 chiefs

50 Crees participating into the Mining Conference organized in collaboration with the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance.

### 3. Maintain assistance for Aboriginal start-up enterprises in the mineral resource sector

This is exactly what is expect from CMEB. Creating a spinoff to attract explorers, business people and investors. We increased the number of Aboriginal enterprises able to develop the mining sector. Since 2004, 7 Cree owned companies were set up.

Number of aboriginal start-up enterprises assisted in 2019-2020 :

This year CMEB helped to the creation of one services company & 1 Exploration company. Respectively, CoonCome Exploration Services & SD Exploration .

### 4. Reinforce or maintain communications between the Aboriginal communities and mine exploration companies in order to foster the social acceptability of projects

The process implemented by the CMEB is as follows: companies are encouraged to communicate in writing with the chiefs and tallymen of the Cree communities concerned after staking and before each field exploration campaign. In order to specify the loca-tion, nature and duration of the work and by providing the details of a contact person for further information. They are also recom-mended to inform the said recipient of the possibilities of employment, contracts or services that may be required, if applicable.

2019-2020 results:

We had 212 projects and 80% of the companies active in Eeyou Istchee set up an adequate communication channel with the commu-nities and individuals concerned.

## B) Operational indicators

### 1. Awareness placements and activities

We carried out last year three activities in all the 10 communities including Washaw Sibi. We expected to offer





three awareness activities: Semaine Minière in Cree schools (primary and secondary) Schools. Visiting Cree Trappers Association 5 times/year for the purpose to inform the trappers and the tallypersons about the exploration activities, and teach them how to recognize minerals in the rocks found in their traplines.

Results for 2019-2020 :

- As every year, CMEB visited five schools of Cree School Board during la Semaine Minière. We did presentations about natural sciences and mineral resources.
- Minerals exploration learning and information customized and organized for the Tally-Person and the trappers concerns for each community in Eeyou Istchee.
- Presentation in Communities' Career fair to keep prospectors and interested people up-to-date on new technology in mineral resources.

## 2. Support given to self-employed Aboriginal prospectors

CMEB supported academically, financially and technically the prospectors by offering to them updating courses, by funding their exploration projects and by giving them technical knowledge concerning geology and the mining titles information.

Results for 2019-2020 :

This year we funded 12 projects done by 16 prospectors. We prepared geological report for each prospector, which were submitted to the board along with five reports from Cree companies.

## 3. Carrying out of mine prospecting projects

CMEB received and approved to fund 12 prospecting projects from Cree prospectors. The chief geologist help the Cree prospectors to develop their firsts prospecting projects.

## 4. Carrying out of mine exploration projects

This past year CMEB funded and collaborated to 6 projects submitted by Cree companies : SD Mine 2 projects, Native Exploration 1 project and Nimsken corporation 3 projects.

## 5. Presentation of awareness, promotional and networking events in the Aboriginal community

This past year two mining conferences were organized by the CMEB with the collaboration of the communities: Ouje-Bougoumou OBCN Mining Symposium 1st to 3rd of April 2019 and Stornway-Cree conference in Mistissini held on the 16th of May 2019,. The number of participants was surprisingly high. 60 participants altogether with a satisfaction rate of 90%.

## 6. Attendance at awareness and promotional events in the mining sector

As decided by the board of CMEB in early 2003, the members of the board and the interested Crees into mining were invited to attend the two most important events at that time namely the PDAC and Quebec Exploration. Last year we had an important Cree delegation composed of business, sciences and investors Cree people. Most of them attended the 4 following events: PDAC, Nu-navik Mining Workshop, Quebec Mine, Xplor and CMEB-SAENCAT (Secrétariat aux alliances économiques Nation Crie Abitibi-Témiscamingue) conference The North and its Logistics In Mining. We had a great Cree attendance and we had approximately a satisfaction rate of 80%..

## 7. Start-up assistance given to Aboriginal service or mine exploration companies

CMEB has a major plan in this domain, we need to see an exploration Cree company on the stock market. Initially back in 2003 the CMEB funded 3 companies (WEMEX, CREEGOLD and NIMSKEN). Six years later 2 other companies accessed to the CMEB's funding (Native Exploration and J.A. Macleod Exploration). Fives years ago, the first mining environment Cree company was set up (EnviroCree). Last year, CMEB helped to the creation of two new companies (SD Mine Exploration and CoonCome Exploration and services).