



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN EYYOU ISTCHEE





- Size of territory 400,000 square kilometres
- Cree population approx. 18,000 people
- 9 Cree Communities
- Challenges
 - Distance
 - Education opportunities
 - Economics
 - Seasonal employment

Source: The Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee | The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)



Vision / Mission

Our mission is to develop and implement a collective vision for a **world-class sustainable tourism industry** in Eeyou Istchee that is in harmony with **Cree culture and values** and that involves a partnership with Cree communities, institutions, and businesses.

Partner with Communities to create:

- Meaningful work and career opportunities
- Supporting local entrepreneurs
- Protecting/preserving/celebrating Intangible cultural heritage



Values

- Traditional knowledge is important
- Local knowledge is valid
- Cree centric approach
- Partnerships



Case Studies

Training: Years Ago

- On water safety instruction

Training Programs Today:

- UQAT – Aboriginal Tourism Management
- Risk Management
- Artist Workshops
- Wiinipaakw Tours



Goals:

- Responsible travel experiences
- Improve the well-being of the Cree
- Create self-sustaining jobs

Trainings:

- Boat Captains
- First Aid
- On water safety
- Train-the-trainer



Success of Training Programs

- Partnerships
 - Flexibility
 - Willingness to learn
- Understanding of values / shared vision
- Learning process
 - Hands on
 - Taught in Cree



