



# Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter  
Summer 2016



Jack R. Blacksmith  
President

## A word from the President

Wachiya/Kwey,

Welcome to the summer issue of our newsletter. This is the time of the year our ancestors would gather together and do all kinds of celebrations and we are no different. Congratulations to, all newlyweds, all the graduates, all the assemblies, all the pow wowers, all youth camps, all church camps and all other special gatherings in Eeyou Istchee for bringing people together.

Meeqwetch!

Jack R. Blacksmith  
President

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### Our mission statement:

To be highly innovative in the delivery of excellent customer service and contribute to the development and self-sufficiency of the Cree Nation while maintaining long-term profitability.



The Holding Company for:



# CRECO ACTIVITIES

## Board of Compensation Annual Assembly

BOC held their first annual assembly on July 13 & 14, 2016 in Chisasibi. All the financial reports were presented along with activity reports from BOC, CRECO and all of the subsidiaries.

On the first evening of the assembly, we held a Banquet to celebrate CCDC's 40th anniversary and Gestion ADC's 20th anniversary. Thank you to all who helped and contributed.

Much thanks to the following;

- Banquet/Catering team Chefs Elizabeth Shem, Theresa Bearskin, Lisa Bobbish
- Fort George Rockers for providing the entertainment; Roger House, Oliver Rupert, Jules Goulet, Ernie Herodier, Dale House
- Jeremy Diamond/Eeyou tv and his team for providing the livestream
- JBCCS
- Dinah Cookish for making the anniversary cakes
- Evelyn Ratt for providing the lunches
- Delores and Catherine Washipabano for providing the morning snacks
- Assipii Restaurant for providing the afternoon snacks, coffee and tea
- Jamie Napash & Isaiah Fireman Wapachee, Summer Students from Chisasibi
- Makana Shecapio, Creco Summer Student



Daisy Shecapio, Assistant Insurance Liaison Officer  
Abel Rabbitskin, Insurance Liaison Officer



Youth practicing with Air Creebec's flight simulator



Robert Baribeau,  
President/CEO of CCDC  
& Gestion ADC



Jamie Napash & Isaiah Fireman Wapachee,  
Summer Students from Chisasibi

## Board of Compensation meeting held April 19 to 20, 2016 in Ouje-Bougoumou

The Board of Compensation held a three-day meeting in Ouje-Bougoumou and on the second day of the meeting, the board members were invited to visit Nuuhchimi Wiinuu's new ecotourism site not too far from the community. The promoters are David and Anna Bosum. Much thanks to Anna for her kind hospitality, the tea she provided and the "decalep" was delicious.

Also, much thanks to Capissit lodge for accommodating our three-day meeting and a special thank you to COTA and Ouje-Bougoumou representative, Mr. Harry Bosum for arranging the visit to Nuuhchimi Wiinuu's new ecotourism site.



Ms Anna Bosum, Nuuhchimi Wiinuu

## BOC-CRECO 4th Annual Golf Benefit

This year's Annual Golf Benefit, an amount of \$30,000 was raised for the Breakfast Club Programs of Eeyou Istchee.



From right to left, Jack R. Blacksmith, Chairman with wife Hattie and John Shem, Vice-Chairman

## Board meetings of CRECO and its subsidiaries held June 28 to 30, 2016 in Wemindji

CRECO and subsidiaries held their quarterly meeting in Wemindji and on the second day were invited to taste some traditional food cooked over the fire at the local cultural center. Thank you Wemindji for your hospitality.



## CRECO Venture Capital Fund

The fund has been created by the Board of Compensation, and it will be managed by CRECO. Our goal is to assist Cree Small Businesses through loans and Equity Investments. More details to be followed in our next newsletter.

# SUBSIDIARIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

## Air Creebec

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) launched a second medical charter service to transport patients from the inland communities of Mistissini, Oujé-Bougoumou and Waswanipi to Val-d'Or and Montreal.

July 11, after an agreement between Air Creebec and the CBHSSJB, the Cree Patient Inland Air Charter will fly five times a week between Chibougamau, Val-d'Or and Montreal aboard a Dash 8-100.

"We could see that the Cree Health Board had enough daily volume of passengers that it would make sense to run a second charter for the inland communities instead of sending them on the regular commercial flights," said Air Creebec President Matthew Happyjack.

CBHSSJB Chairperson Bella Moses Petawabano said the health service is "very happy with the partnership with Air Creebec!"

Cree patients must regularly leave their home communities to seek specialized

medical services only available in larger centres, she noted. For instance, between April 2015 and March 2016, Cree Patient Services made more than 32,000 appointments in the three larger centres of Val-d'Or, Montreal and Chibougamau.

The CBHSSJB launched a first charter service for the coastal Cree communities a year ago. The board says the service saved the health board \$3.5 million in just its first year of operation.

The possibility of a third charter is being studied by the CBHSSJB, one that would serve the communities of Nemaska, Waskaganish and Eastmain.



From left to right; Willard Petagumskum, Pilot Air Creebec, Nancy Shecapio-Blacksmith, Flight Nurse Air Creebec, Daniel St-Amour, Interim Executive Director of the CBHSSJB, Tanya Pash, COO Air Creebec

## Valpiro

Air Canada Jazz named Valpiro Inc, as their Best Performing Ground Handler of all the destinations they fly to in Canada.



## Cree Construction & Development Company

One of CCDC's projects this year was the construction of the new hotel in Chisasibi, which opened its doors in early July 2016. This project was realized through their local Joint Venture with Chisasibi, Chee-Bee Cree Construction.



## QUALITY INN & Suites Val-d'Or

The Quality Inn & Suites in Val-d'Or, Quebec has been awarded the prestigious 2016 **Platinum Hospitality Award** by Choice Hotels Canada. Platinum recipients were chosen from among 320 properties across the country and represent the top ten percent of Choice Canada's portfolio. To qualify for this award, properties must excel in a variety of categories including guest satisfaction and independent quality reviews.

"To reach Platinum award status, a property has to not only meet the highest of standards that Choice Hotels Canada has set for its hotels, but has to far exceed them," says Brian Leon, Managing Director, Choice Hotels Canada. "Our Platinum recipients are the best that this industry has to offer. They have demonstrated not only exceptional guest service, but they have shown a passion for hospitality that exemplifies our commitment to making our guests feel welcome, wanted and respected."

"We are honoured to be counted among this year's 11 Platinum Award recipients especially in light of the fact that we are celebrating our 5th anniversary this year," says hotel General Manager Alexandre Audet. "Our team has worked very hard to maintain the highest level of professional service and to deliver an exceptional guest experience. We are proud of our team, proud of our community, and proud to be part of the Choice Hotels Canada family."

For more information, please contact:



**Alexandre Audet,**  
the hotel's General  
Manager

T: 819-874-8888 x 5500

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## CCDC & Gestion ADC



CONGRATULATIONS to Cree Construction & Development Company (CCDC) on their 40 years of business and to GESTION ADC (1996) INC on their 20 years of business.

CCDC & Gestion ADC (1996) INC. have been providing meaningful employment for the Cree and their positive contribution to Eeyou Istchee is appreciated.



### Backpack giveaway for students!

Here's your chance to win a BOC-CREECO backpack, perfect for your Back-to-School.

#### How to participate:

1. Tell us in one to three sentences your future career goal.
2. Send it via email to Rachel Etapp at [retapp@boc-creeco.ca](mailto:retapp@boc-creeco.ca) by September 16, 2016 at noon. The draw will take place on Friday September 16 at 2 pm. The winner will be announced via Facebook and will be advised by email within two business days.

The contest is open to all students.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just recently, Ms. Lorraine Poucachiche returned to work after a one-year educational leave. She successfully completed the certificate in Human Resources from UQAT. Congratulations Lorraine and welcome back!

Thank you to Ms. Makana Shecapio, our summer student, for her great work and we wish her a great return back-to-school. When asked what she enjoyed most about her summer employment with BOC-CREECO, she says "The annual assembly was something very new for me, I really liked it". When asked what her future goal is, she says that one day she would like to finish college and university to become a lawyer/Criminal lawyer. Best wishes to her and to all returning students.



#### OUR TEAM:

Jack R. Blacksmith, President

Albert Rondeau, Chief Accountant

Effie Mark, Office Manager

Rachel Etapp, Business Development Liaison

Christine Duff, Executive Assistant to the President

Jonathan Bechard, IT/Network Administrator

Lorraine Poucachiche, Senior Accounting Clerk

Mary Loon, Accounting Clerk

Blanche Awashish, Administrative Agent

Abel Rabbitskin, Insurance Liaison Officer

Daisy Shecapio, Assistant Insurance Liaison Officer

Francis Shecapio, Receptionist/Office Agent

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Visit us at [www.creeco.ca](http://www.creeco.ca)

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