

**Cree Mineral Exploration Board
Competitive Organization at the service of Cree Nation**

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The Cree Mineral Exploration Board (CMEB) was born after an agreement between the government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec called “La Paix des Braves”. Details are contained in Chapter 5 of this agreement.

Mining is not in the culture of the Cree nation and the mineral resources of Eeyou Istchee were all property of the mining industry. The creation of the CMEB permits the participation of the Crees in the mining activity in the territories. The agreement concerning the mineral development in the James Bay Region was executed between the CRA, the CMEB and the government of Quebec.

The work of the Cree Mineral Exploration Board consists of: (a) assisting the Crees in accessing mineral exploration opportunities; (b) facilitating the development of mineral exploration activities by Cree Enterprises; (c) facilitating and encouraging the access by the Crees and Cree Enterprises to regular Quebec program funding and other incentives for mineral exploration activities; and, (d) acting as an entry mechanism to services offered by Crees and Cree Enterprises in the field of mineral exploration. Furthermore, the CMEB acts as an intermediary between the mining industry and the Crees to resolve matters concerning natural resources. The board has the mandate to develop mining activities and to respond to the environmental needs of the Cree trapelines. The CMEB collaborates with several entities, Cree and non-Cree, and has been a great success.

In this session, we will describe the Eeyou Istchee territory and the trapelines system. We will also discuss the CMEB program and the different projects managed by this board, explain its administrative structure and offer a comparative analysis with native boards operating elsewhere in Canada and internationally. The benefits derived from mining activities are visible after many projects of exploration and prospecting. This suggests opportunities for future involvement that respond to the Cree need for training and jobs.