

This message is for all MoCreebec people in general and especially to those who are signed-on members of MoCreebec Eeyoud. First thing I want to point out is this; MoCreebec people are one of a few native groups in the province of Ontario who do not have a recognized Local Government Status. **THIS IS NOT A GOOD SITUATION AT ALL FOR MOCREEBEC.** It puts us in a disadvantage position as it does not allow us a fair and equal access to government programs and services in the same manner as other First Nation communities. **IF** we continue down this path for the long term we will always fall outside of government recognition. Without government recognition MoCreebec will not be able to respond and meet the on-going needs of its people. We **must** act today and bring about a change to our situation and ensure some level of certainty for ourselves, for our future and that of our children.

~ Currently we are registered with 6 Cree communities on the Quebec-side of James Bay as members on their band lists. All Cree communities in Quebec agree MoCreebec people have lived in Ontario for far too long and should now look at having it's own community. All 10 Cree communities passed community resolutions supporting MoCreebec people to have their own community in Ontario. The Grand Council of the Cree/Cree Nation Government passed a Council/Board Resolution also on November 22nd, 2017 recognizing MoCreebec Eeyoud as the 11th Cree Community of Eeyou Istchee. Grand Council support recognizes MoCreebec Eeyoud as a community on a political level. But we are not an official legal Cree community as yet. The political recognition and support we have received to-date are necessary first steps for MoCreebec moving towards Local Government Status. We **must** become a fully recognized community otherwise all levels of government will continue to bypass us (**federal, provincial, CNG**). Grand Council of Cree is prepared to advance the MoCreebec file before the federal government and before the Ontario government. Political support is there for us to discuss and negotiate the legal & political framework of a MoCreebec community in Ontario. First Nation organizations in Ontario such as NAN and Chiefs of Ontario (COO) do accept MoCreebec as a community and consider us as a "**Near Band**" at this moment implying there is support for us in becoming a fully recognized community.

~ **THE NEXT IMPORTANT STEP FOR MOCREEBEC PEOPLE IS TO DECIDE WHERE THE NEW COMMUNITY WILL BE LOCATED?**

~ There are six (6) possible sites/locations we are putting before you today; ***Moose Factory (Moose Cree), Moosonee, Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane, Timmins and New Liskeard.*** This past year we met and spoke with leaders in each of these

communities. We asked them if they were open to the idea of having MoCreebec Eeyoud as a neighboring community. Majority of them said they would be open to the idea. In a week or so we will be sending out **“A Letter”** to each of these 6 communities asking them for an Expression of Interest (EOI) that shows strong indication they want to work with us in developing and establishing our own community. Some may respond, and others may not. I know already some communities who are interested in working with us. Those who officially respond will be put on a short-list from which MoCreebec people can make their final choice. We will inform you further once we have a short-list.

~ In 1905 Treaty 9 was signed in Ontario. The federal government chose not to include Cree people whose ancestry was from the province of Quebec. The Ontario government representatives at the Treaty 9 table negotiations did not object to this exclusion either. In 1975 JBQA Treaty in Quebec was signed. MoCreebec was not recognized as a collective group in JBNQA Treaty as well. These exclusions is the primary reason why MoCreebec does not have an official Local Government status to this very day. **EXCLUSION** cannot be allowed to continue as we do have an inherent right to have our own form of Local Governance like all other Indigenous peoples have in this land.

~ Majority of MoCreebec people currently reside in Moose Factory Island (“Off-reserve area”), with some members living in the neighboring community of Moosonee. Moose Factory (“Off-reserve area’) does not have an official local government status! It never had one. Local Services Board and Local Roads Board do not qualify as Local Government for both do not have a political mandate to speak and represent people. It has taken 30+ years for MoCreebec to get to this point. We are decided and we are firmly committed in having a community of our own! **WE ARE INTERESTED TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP WITH ANY ONE OF THE SIX COMMUNITIES AS MENTIONED EARLIER IN ACHIEVING OUR GOAL TO ESTABLISH OUR OWN COMMUNITY IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO!**

~ The past 30 years has been a step by step process to get to where we are today. We are very close to make something happen! Your support and involvement is important at this stage. Every effort is being made at this time to contact all MoCreebec Eeyoud signed-on members and give opportunity for each one to participate in choosing the site on the location of the new community. For questions, call me at (705)665-3984 (cell). **MEEQ WETCH!**