

Eeyou First Nation – Draft General Assembly Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.: **2010-XXXX**

SUBJECT: **RECOGNITION OF THE EEYOU INDOH-HOH
WEESHOU-WEHUN**

WHEREAS Eeyou are the stewards, guardians and custodians of Eeyou Istchee and these responsibilities flow from Eeyou Weeshou-Wehwun (Traditional Eeyou Law);

WHEREAS Eeyou Weeshou-Wehwun or Eeyou law is the law inherent to the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee and is passed down from generation to generation through oral teachings and practices;

WHEREAS in order to promote the Naacatawaayatacano/conservation and management of wildlife and other living resources, Eeyou were guided by Eeyou Weeshou-Wehwun that sets out rules and regulations regarding the allocation of the Indoh-hoh Istchee, the governance of these Indoh-hoh Istchee by the Kaanoowapmaakin and the conduct of activities within these Indoh-hoh Istchee;

WHEREAS knowledge of Eeyou Weeshou-Wehwun has been eroded with the passing of Eeyou Elders and the silence of contemporary law on Eeyou legal traditions and there is an urgent need to revitalize the Eeyou legal tradition so that the Youth and the general public of Eeyou Istchee can understand it;

WHEREAS the Eeyou of Eeyou Istchee face serious new challenges in maintaining traditional harvesting and land tenure customs, practices and values, in providing sustainable and just stewardship of the lands and resources of Eeyou Istchee and in

avoiding or resolving serious conflicts amongst Eeyou and others over access to and responsibility for those lands and resources;

WHEREAS, there is a need to show the outside world that Eeyou have and have always had an effective working set of rules and practices based on their Eeyou values and guiding Principles that provide for the Naacatawaayatacano (conservation) and sustainable use of the land and resources of Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS the Executive and Board of Directors of the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA), realizing that it would assist all Eeyou communities to adapt to the challenges they face in maintaining the Eeyou hunting way of life in Eeyou Istchee to have a written codification of that part of traditional Eeyou law that deals with the governance of hunting territories and land tenure, one that maintains the flexibility inherent in our customary system while providing a clear set of rules that all Eeyou can understand and which will reduce the potential for conflict over these matters, launched the initiative that led to the preparation of the attached Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun;

WHEREAS in preparing the Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun the CTA Executive drew on the knowledge of various members of the Association as well as a number of Elders and active trappers to provide a description of traditional Eeyou law and worked with lawyers from Hutchins, Caron & Associés to find appropriate language in which to describe the provisions of that law in writing;

WHEREAS the CTA Executive undertook an intensive round of consultations in each of the Eeyou communities based on an initial draft of this document to inform community members about the initiative and to seek the input of as broad a cross-section of Eeyou as possible into the process of describing accurately the rules of traditional Eeyou law and practice, filling-in the missing pieces and correcting the errors in how that traditional law was described in the draft document;

WHEREAS following that initial round of consultation lawyers revised the document on the basis of the extensive comments received in every community and of ongoing advice and direction from members of the CTA Executive who were responsible for the project;

WHEREAS following this revision the CTA Executive undertook a new round of consultation, primarily with the Elders, in order to make certain that the document accurately reflected traditional Eeyou law, customs, practices, principles and values as understood by the Elders who are the custodians and guardians of that traditional law and to make certain that the initiative to commit that part of the oral traditional law to writing and to update it with a contemporary dispute resolution process met with their approval;

WHEREAS through these consultations it became clear that the Elders understand and approve of this initiative and that they consider that by approving the writing down of Eeyou law they are exercising their on-going role as custodians and guardians of traditional Eeyou law to ensure its continuity and preserve it for the future;

WHEREAS it is the consensus of the participants in this initiative following those consultations that the attached Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun is an accurate reflection of traditional Eeyou law, customs, practices, principles with respect to the governance of hunting territories and land tenure combined with the additions necessary to adapt to the challenges the Eeyou face in maintaining the Eeyou hunting way of life in Eeyou Istchee;

WHEREAS, the Cree Trappers' Association confirmed by resolution that the attached Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun is the resulting product of the consultation process described above and recommended that it be recognized as an expression of Eeyou law by way of a resolution of a general assembly of each community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the members of the [*insert name of Cree Nation here*] hereby recognize the attached Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun as an expression of traditional Eeyou law;

THAT those parts of the attached Eeyou Indoh-hoh Weeshou-Wehwun that are new law, including the registry system for Indoh-hoh Istchee set out in Part VI and the dispute resolution process set out in Part VII, are hereby recognized as being in effect for the [*insert name of Cree Nation here*];

THAT in so doing the members of the [*insert name of Cree Nation here*] declare that they are seeking to honour their past, to respect their present and to guide their future as stewards, guardians and custodians of Eeyou Istchee.