

SHIKAAPAASHKWH TIPAJIMON

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Issue 1 | Winter 2018

NEWSLETTER

A community bulletin on the ongoing Comprehensive Research Program on COASTAL HABITAT of Eeyou Istchee.

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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE!

The **Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program** is a large-scale three-year research program aiming to address knowledge gaps in understanding the effects of environmental changes in the coastal marine ecosystem and its effects on Cree hunting activities. This program has been mandated by the Grand Council of the Crees and is under the responsibility of Niskamoon Corporation. By virtue of an agreement signed with the Grand Council and Niskamoon on August 4, 2016, Hydro-Québec will provide technical expertise and resources to the project. The project will be carried out in Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain and Waskaganish. The research is overseen by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from Niskamoon, the four affected coastal communities, Hydro-Québec and participants from the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Cree Nation Government and Chisasibi. Furthermore, the research program will benefit from the integration and collaboration of Cree experts and university researchers who will be presented to you in the following issues.

This newsletter is part of a broader communication plan that seeks to inform affected communities and the Cree population in general regarding the purpose, participants and all related details of this project.

Meegwetch! Jinnaskumdinnan! Thank you! Merci!

The Steering Committee



THE STUDY

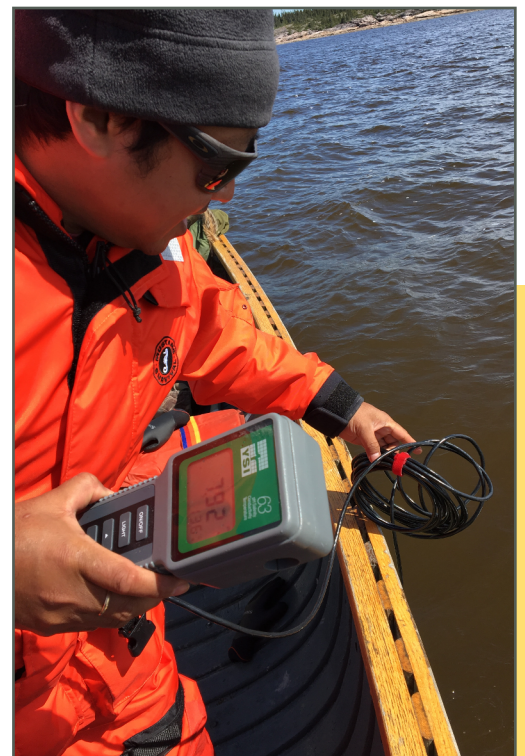
The **comprehensive research program** seeks to integrate Cree Traditional Ecological Knowledge with the most innovative scientific research techniques to carry out holistic research over a three-year period. (2017-2020).



THE MAIN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the main factors affecting the current growth of eelgrass along the eastern coast of James Bay?
2. What is the impact of the current state of eelgrass beds on waterfowl presence along the coast of James Bay and Cree hunting activities?

The program is overseen by the Coastal Research Steering Committee, with representatives from coastal Cree communities, regional Cree organizations, Hydro-Quebec and the Canadian Wildlife Service, among other entities. The committee is directly accountable to the Niskamoon Corporation Board of Directors.



STEERING COMMITTEE



Back Row: Ernie Rabbitskin, *Cree Field Coordinator*

Marc Dunn, *General Contracts Coordination, Eelgrass Studies- Scientific Aspects*

Jean-Phillippe Gilbert, *Eelgrass Studies- Scientific Aspects and Waterfowl- Scientific Aspects*

Alain Tremblay, *Oceanography Studies- Scientific Aspects*

Jean Rodrigue, *Canadian Wildlife Service Participant*

Robbie Tapiatic, *Eelgrass Studies- Scientific Aspects and Chisasibi Cree Representative*

Front Row: Emily Sinave, *Cree Nation Government Participant*

Nadia Saganash, *Cree Nation Government Representative*

James Bobbish, *Chisasibi Cree Participant*

William Blackned, *Wemindji Cree Representative*

Louie Kanatewat, *Chisasibi Cree Participant*

Norman Cheezo, *Eastmain Cree Representative*

Carine Durocher, *Cree Knowledge- Scientific Aspects*

Josee Rousseau, *Steering Committee Corporate Secretary*

Real Courcelles, *Advisor*

Not in

photo: Roderick Pachano, *Chisasibi Cree Participant*

Merlin Whiskeychan, *Waskaganish Cree Representative*

Noah Chakapash, *Chisasibi Cree Participant*

THE STUDY AREA



CONTACT INFO

The research program will cover the east coast of James Bay defined in its northern limits by Cape Jones (Pointe Louis-XIV) and in its southern limits by the Boatswain Bay. The study area includes all the coastal traplines of Chisasibi, Wemindji and Eastmain and three coastal Waskaganish traplines (R01, R02 and R02A).

For more info or questions please contact your local representative or email info@niskamoon.org

