

Regional Priorities

The regional priorities are extracted from the final report of the *Stronger Together Eeyou-Eenou Economic Development Conference* held on November 2015.

Region: <u>Eeyou Istchee</u>	Priority No. 1
<p>Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development and implementation of a strategic housing plan, to provide tangible solutions addressing the critical housing shortage and poor living conditions of our communities.	
<p>Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Balance social housing and private home ownership;- Include circular economy thinking within housing planning (green neighborhoods, local job creation, construction materials adapted by community).	
<p>Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Housing information campaigns;- Homeownership budget planning education;- Urban planning and governance;- Financial assistance, education & information.	

Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.

- Raising Economic and Employment Activity through the Private Sector

Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.

- In the healthiest economies, the public sector generates up to 20-30% of employment while the private sector generates 70-80%. In the Cree world, as in many First Nations, this proportion is inverted.

Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.

- Work with communities in order to identify economic opportunities for comparable communities, including infrastructure needs;
- Work with Cree organizations in order to identify service needs and growth opportunities;
- Put in place a mechanism through which business opportunities are better communicated throughout the Nation;
- Initiate dialogue with financial institutions and lending partners to identify measures to better help new and existing businesses.

Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.

- Supporting Cree-Owned Businesses

Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.

- It is important to clarify tendering processes and to have access, as Eeyou-Eenou businesses, to opportunities. We need to ensure that Cree-owned business have access to a fair share of upcoming business opportunities.

Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.

- Develop clear and transparent mechanisms to allow all Cree-owned businesses to know about, and have access to, economic opportunities coming up throughout Eeyou Istchee;
- Adopt a clear definition and criteria for the recognition of Cree owned businesses;
- Promote and support the development of programs, which offer guidance and support for people wanting to go into business, especially youth.

Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.

- Developing the Workforce

Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.

- Human resources remain a major hurdle to business development;
- Businesses in the communities suffer from a high turnover and a lack of qualified, dedicated and dependable workers. This in turn has a direct impact on the development of new services in the Communities.

Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.

- Continue investing in capacity-building and enhance or vary these programs to better support local businesses;
- Find innovative ways to strategically plan for the development of the workforce.

Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.

- Fostering Connections and Partnerships within Eeyou Istchee

Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.

- Business people in Eeyou Istchee need to be able to establish exchanges amongst themselves and to be able to help find solutions, do peer support and develop new ideas to better serve Eeyou Istchee.

Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.

- Support local business people if they are interested in forming business associations (ex: Chamber of Commerce);
- Develop peer support programs for new business people;
- Encourage a greater participation of Eeyou-Eenou business people in community and regional events;
- Define the roles of the Community-owned ("Band corporations") and Regionally-owned ("Cree Nation companies") in regards to local Eeyou-Eenou-owned businesses.

Statement of the Regional Priority: General objective, including a general target, around which the region wishes to mobilize over the next five years.

- Tying Economic Development with Nation-Building

Context elements associated with this priority: these may be explanatory or justifying elements.

- Nation-building cannot happen without a strong and unified vision of how economic development will be supported in order to help the achievement of the Nation-building;
- This includes ensuring economic development is defined to include components related to education, health, culture, language and environment.

Actions to be preferred in the shorter term: specific objectives, each including a specific target, for the achievement of which the region wishes to act. They put the emphasis on the objectives to achieve and not on specific means or projects.

- Economic development needs to be planned and implemented in a sustainable manner;
- Inventive new ways of developing Cree economies must be done respecting the people, the land, and the Cree way of life.