



1 RIVERSIDE DRIVE  
CHISASIBI, QUEBEC  
BOX 150, JOM 1E0

# STATEMENT

(819) 855-2878  
www.chisasibi.ca

**On behalf of the Council of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, Chief Daisy House delivered the following statement about the Papal visit:**

“After careful consideration, the Cree Nation of Chisasibi has decided we will not send an official delegation to participate in the Papal visit.

Instead, our community will focus on healing and traditional activities locally, a decision rooted in compassion, respect, and love for Survivors, Former Students, Elders and Intergenerational Survivors of Chisasibi. This week, we will focus on our strength and collective healing at the Annual Fort George Residential School Gathering.

As a main location in Eeyou Istchee where residential schools were located – sites that constantly remind us of our pain and trauma – Council has decided to move ahead with this important part of our healing at home. For more than a year, we have had very difficult conversations about a ground search at these sites, a ground search we are now pursuing. Chisasibi *Eeyouch* are feeling raw, challenging emotions already, and this week will trigger more pain in the coming days.

Our hope is for Survivors and Former Students to be in a safe place during this Papal visit, surrounded by family and loved ones, in the comfort of their community. If *Eeyouch* would like to witness the Pope’s events, livestreams will be available in East Cree dialects. Details will be shared in the coming days on our social media platforms.

As we witness this historic visit, we reiterate that actions speak louder than words. We continue to call on Pope Francis to direct his Bishops and the Canadian church to cooperate fully with First Nations for access to the historical records they hold, records that will help our healing journey far more than this visit.

Please take good care of your family and loved ones in the coming days. This week will not be easy. Know there is always someone willing to listen. If you’re struggling, please call the Wiichihiiwauwin Helpline at **1-833-632-4357** or the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line at **1-866-925-4419.**”

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

Sunday, July 24, 2022