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OPEN LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY OF CHISASIBI

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As we reflect on the recent rise in violence among our youth, it's important to also celebrate the resilience and strength we've shown as a community. This year, we are proud to honour the achievements of 56 secondary 5 graduates and 1 WOTP graduate. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, guardians, and school staff. Bravo to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and commitment to our youth! The saying goes, "It takes a whole community to raise a child," and it rings true now more than ever. Together, we can make Chisasibi a safe and happy place for everyone to thrive. We must all recognize our shared responsibility in fostering a supportive environment where our children can grow, learn, and succeed.

We are all aware of the housing crisis impacting our community. CNC is doing its utmost to provide affordable housing options for those in need, but we must also acknowledge that overcrowded living conditions can lead to an increase in social issues. By working collaboratively and supporting one another, we can tackle these challenges head-on. Every one of us has a role to play in shaping the future of Chisasibi. This shared responsibility extends to our work ethic, our dietary choices, and our commitment to maintaining an active lifestyle to combat the rising rates of diabetes in Eeyou Istchee. Let us also prioritize the care of our homes, wildlife habitats, and the environment we all share.

We must continue to encourage our children to excel in their studies while actively working to reduce lateral violence and cyberbullying. Let's harness the power of social media for the betterment of our community, rather than allowing it to become a platform for negativity. We are better than that. Let us embody the teachings of our ancestors and elders—showing respect, love, and compassion while expressing our thoughts with civility. As role models, our actions speak louder than words. Let us lead by example and inspire those around us to choose kindness and understanding. Together, we can build a brighter future for Chisasibi, one rooted in respect, collaboration, and shared responsibility. Thank you for being part of this vital journey.

With gratitude and hope,

FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE CREE NATION OF CHISASIBI

Wednesday, August 28, 2024