

February 6, 2013

OPEN LETTER TO PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui
Cree Nation of Chisasibi
Cree Nation of Wemindji
Cree Nation of Eastmain
Cree Nation of Waskaganish
Cree Nation of Mistissini
Cree Nation of Waswanipi
Cree Nation of Nemaska
Cree Nation of Waswanipi
Cree Nation of Ouje-bougoumou
Cree Nation of Washaw-Sibi
Cree Nation of Eeyou/Eenou Istchee members, youth and Elders
Algonquin, Mohawks, Attikemak, Ojibway, Brothers & Sisters
And all People throughout the World

With the growing interest from Communities in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee, guidelines have been established that can be used in your community to prepare the continued, and ongoing support from each community, for the participants in this sacred and historic Journey.

As the Coordination Working Group is strictly on volunteer basis, it is vital and essential that we all work together to ensure the success and safety of the participants as they reach their goal and target date.

We stress that we uphold and keep the vision of this journey to be the primary reason for any walker to participate. It is the responsibility of all communities to foster, prepare, and take responsibility for its walkers. Each walker will be representing their community, and thus representing the Cree Nation on the world stage throughout the journey as caretakers of the land.

You will also find attached a checklist for any new joining walkers to the Journey of Nishiyuu, that can be used as a reference point in the preparation process.

General Information guidelines are provided as a tool to prepare new walkers from the communities, which are making plans to join the Journey.

Therefore, it is with utmost importance that Journey participants maintain the common vision to ensure that this Journey's Integrity, Goals and Objectives be kept in focus of the original vision of the Journeys Quest for Unity. It should be paramount to ensure the success of the Journey be the highest priority of everyone involved.

Any and all questions can be directed to the Working Group through the Nishiyuu Website, as well as the contact info that will be provided. Since the group is comprised of ONLY volunteers, we ask that all questions, comments are kept at a professional level and respectful at all times.

On behalf of the Journey of Nishiyuu Working Group and in spirit of Nishiyuu,

I remain,

Stella M. Bearskin
Volunteer of the Journey of Nishiyuu

General Information

1. ALL NEW JOINING WALKERS NEED TO BE PREPARED TO SET THEIR GOALS & VISION FOR THE REASON WHY THEY ARE JOINING THIS JOURNEY.
2. NEW WALKERS NEED TO BE PREPARED TO WALK & WORK HARD EVERYDAY.
3. WALKERS NEED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT, TO AGREE TO GUIDELINES SET FORTH ON THE JOURNEY TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS AND INTERGRITY OF THE JOURNEY
4. ALL NEW WALKERS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR START UP COSTS WITH THE HELP OF THEIR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS/LOCAL COORDINATORS, SPONSORS AND DONATIONS. FAMILIES MUST BE PREPARED TO COVER SOME OF THE START-UP COSTS (ALSO PROVIDE SLEEPING BAGS, TOBOGGAN, PROPER CLOTHING, ETC...) SEE CHECKLIST PROVIDED...
5. The LOCAL COORDINATOR'S are responsible for the following:
 - Preparation for the arrival the Walker's
 - Suggestion to prepare for feast/supper for the walkers'
 - Provide any traditional food prior to departure or during journey.
 - Making sure that there is 1 helper for every 5 walker's
 - In conjunction with the Journey of Nishiyuu Coordinating team, identify safe routes to travel on as they arrive and depart from the community & traditional trap-lines. Inform tallyman of walker's arrival into their territory.
 - At the request of the original 7 Walker's, that they all stay in one place together or stay close to the community when they arrive in Communities (this includes all new walker's and arriving walker's). Preferably, cultural camps along the route & communities
 - Making sure First Responder's and medical staff are made aware and are on call as they arrive closer to the community.
 - Responsible in gathering any collective costs that will incur in preparation for the departure from their respective communities.
 - Making sure counseling is available in their respective communities if the walkers' need to talk or express themselves.
 - Making all appropriate announcements to their local media for any possible volunteers that may want to help during the walker's stay in their community. Every little bit of help helps!
 - An estimated start-up cost per walker is at \$1,200.
 - Communities need to be prepared to have the elders talk to the elders during the brief stay in the community
6. Each community is responsible for the Walker's travel & accommodations back to their community, after the journey, including the material, supplies, tools, and equipment back to the community.
7. No dogs allowed on the Journey.
8. A limit of 5 walkers per community and one guide for their walker's has been set. After Val d'Or, there will be no limit as to who can join and at walkers' expense
9. All work from your respective communities is on Volunteer basis; there will be no bursaries of any form to any of the walkers, workers, and working group

CHECK LIST:

- ✓ Snowshoes
- ✓ Mattress, Pillow, blanket
- ✓ 2 pairs of moccasins
- ✓ 2 pairs of mitts
- ✓ Lots of socks, warm and comfortable.... wool is better
- ✓ Neck warmer, hats
- ✓ Goggles, sun glasses
- ✓ Thermos
- ✓ Utensils, knife, plates, cup, small teapot
- ✓ Small axe
- ✓ Matches, candles, flashlight
- ✓ Towel, soap, wipes
- ✓ Sunscreen, chapstick (A small knapsack) Small first aid kit with basic supplies
- ✓ Clothing, sweaters (Make sure its in water proof bags)
- ✓ Boots and Shoes if they start walking on pavement on the highway
- ✓ Rope, tarp to tie your sled (Make sure sleds are not heavy, easy & light to pull)
- ✓ Basic toiletry needs...toilet paper, etc....