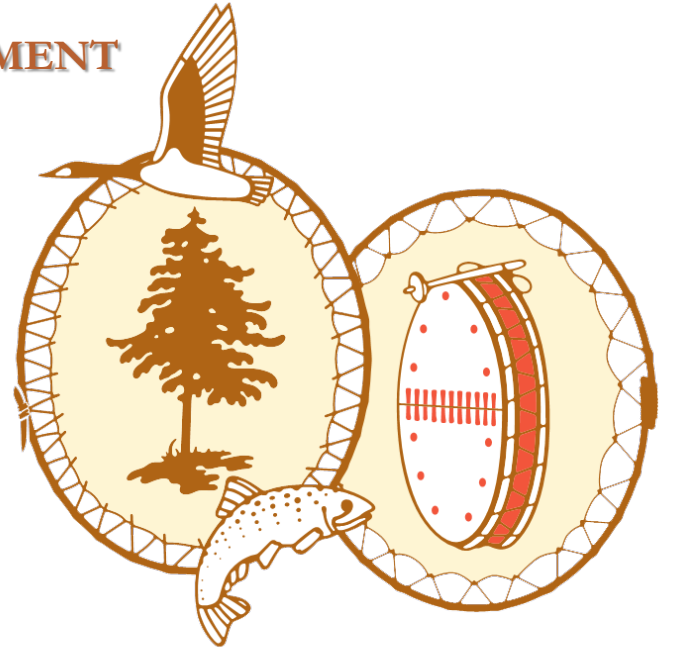


CREE NATION GOVERNMENT
MIYUUHPICHINAAUSUWIN APATISIIWIN DEPARTMENT

**CHILDCARE PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES IN EEYOU
ISTCHEE**



MIYUHPICHINAAUSUWIN APATISIIWIN DEPARTMENT



MIYUUHPICHINAAUSUWIN APATISIIWIN DEPARTMENT STAFF

IN CHISASIBI:

- Kelly-Lee Pepabano, Director
- Christine Duff, Coordinator of Childcare Operations
- Barbara Snowboy, Special Needs Advisor
- Brian Sam, Inspections Officer
- Dinah House, Interim Childcare Advisor
- Kristin Sam, Pedagogical Officer
- Candace Pepabano, Administrative Clerk

THE HEAD OFFICE LOCATED IN MISTISSINI:

- Courtney Petawabano, Administrative Assistant
- Ann-Marie Matoush, IELCC Special Programs Officer
- Diana Spencer-Blacksmith, Interim Projects Administrator
- Melissa Rodgers, Pedagogical Advisor
- Lynn Coonishish, Pedagogical Officer

IN WASWANIPI:

- Desiree Blacksmith, Head Start Advisor

IN MONTREAL:

- Josée Beaulac, Coordinator of Childcare Finance
- Nathalie Iserhoff, Finance Technician

IN QUEBEC CITY:

- Julie Hartley, Programs Administrator

MIYUHPICHINAAUSUWIN APATISIIWIN DEPARTMENT'S

OUR VISION

*Ensuring a strong early
childhood foundation to foster a
stronger future
in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee*

OUR MISSION

*We support and empower all
early childhood programs
in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee*

CREE CHILDCARE CENTRES IN EYYOU ISTCHEE

COMMUNITIES WITH 1 CENTRE



AWASH ESTCHEES CHILDCARE CENTRE

Whapmagoostui

80 spaces

25 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through Minnie's
Hope Social Pediatric
Centre



SHE SHE GUIN CHILDCARE CENTRE

Nemaska

63 spaces

20 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the
Band Council



WASP SHO OYAN CHILDCARE CENTRE

Ouje Bougoumou

70 spaces

20 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre



WASEYAPIN CHILDCARE CENTRE

Eastmain

80 spaces

30 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the
Wellness Centre



AWAASH SHIISHI KUNKAMIK CHILDCARE CENTRE

Waswanipi

70 spaces in each centre

40 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre



KANAWHYMIGOO CHILDCARE CENTRE

Wemindji

1st centre 62 spaces

2nd centre 73 spaces

35 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre



WAASESKUN CHILDCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE

Waskaganish

80 spaces in each centre

40 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre

COMMUNITIES WITH 3 CENTRES



AWASH CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE

Mistissini

80 spaces in each Centre

70 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre



ANJABOWA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE

Chisasibi

80 spaces in each centre

75 Full Time Staff

Head Start Program
operated through the Centre

NUMBER OF SPACES PER CHILDCARE CENTRE

| Community | Infants | Children | Total |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Whapmagoostui | 12 | 68 | 80 |
| Chisasibi | 46 | 194 | 240 |
| Wemindji | 33 | 102 | 135 |
| Eastmain | 22 | 58 | 80 |
| Waskaganish | 24 | 136 | 160 |
| Nemaska | 12 | 51 | 63 |
| Waswanipi | 25 | 115 | 140 |
| Oujé-Bougoumou | 10 | 60 | 70 |
| Mistissini | 42 | 198 | 240 |
| TOTAL | 226 | 982 | 1,208 |

PERIODIC PORTRAIT OF CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND INTEREST

Additional information about the child's behaviour and development:

Summary Observations:

Educator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

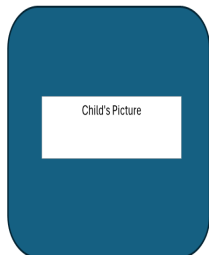
Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CREE NATION GOVERNMENT
Miyuhpichinausuwin Apatisiwin



PERIODIC PORTRAIT OF CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND INTEREST

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Name of the Child: | Mother's Full Name: |
| Date of Birth: | Father's Full Name: |
| Childcare Centre: | Guardian's Full Name: |
| First day in the Childcare Centre: | Date: |
| Age Group: | Prepared by: |



Child's Interest:

What I like: _____

What I don't like: _____

When I arrive in the morning: _____

Something that comforts me: _____

A few words to describe my personality: _____

My favourite book: _____

Child's Overall Development:

| Physical | yes | no | not yet | Comment |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| I can run. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can climb. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can jump. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can stand on one foot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can hold fork & spoon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can paint, scribble. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can do puzzles. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can play with a toy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

| Language (I can..) | yes | no | not yet | Comment |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| speak Cree. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| express likes/dislikes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| respond to 3 action words (e.g. pick up the toys). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| follow instructions when given. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| ask lots of questions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

| Emotional (I can..) | Yes/No | not yet | Comment | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| share my excitement, and use my energy positively. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| show affection with words and actions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| explain my feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| play with others comfortably. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| talk with someone I trust. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| take a break, try again or ask for help. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

| Self Regulation (I can..) | Yes/No | not yet | Comment | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| put toys away after each play. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| tie my shoes and zip my coat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| follow and respect group rules. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| participate clean up time. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| wash my hands unassisted. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| tidy up my belongings (like hang my coat). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

| Social (I can..) | yes | no | not yet | Comment |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| play well with others. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| share toys and art materials. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| participate in large group activities (circle time, outdoor/gym play). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| communicate with adult (educator). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| interact well with children. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

| Cognitive | yes | no | not yet | Comment |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| I know at least six colors in Cree. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I know at least three shapes in Cree. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can match objects, colors and fruits. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can count up to 10 in Cree. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| I can engage in storytelling. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM IN THE CHILDCARE CENTRE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS REGISTERED IN THE CHILDCARE CENTRES

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Whapmagoostui | 2 |
| Chisasibi | 18 |
| Wemindji | 19 |
| Eastmain | 10 |
| Waskaganish | 18 |

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Nemaska | 8 |
| Waswanipi | 9 |
| Oujé-Bougoumou | 14 |
| Mistissini | 17 |

**Total Children with AN in
program: 115**

HEAD START PROGRAM

NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS NOT REGISTERED IN THE CENTRES

| | | |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Whapmagoostui | 31 | 10 |
| Chisasibi | 66 | 26 |
| Wemindji | 0 | 0 |
| Eastmain | 3 | 0 |
| Waskaganish | 106 | 0 |

| | | |
|----------------|----|---|
| Nemaska | 23 | 0 |
| Waswanipi | 0 | 0 |
| Oujé-Bougoumou | 5 | 0 |
| Mistissini | 21 | 1 |

 Children  Children with additional needs

Total Children: 255 | Children with AN: 37

HEAD START PROGRAM

CHALLENGES & ISSUES BY COMMUNITY

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Whapmagoostui | Ongoing staffing instability due to turnover and unfilled positions. Limited transportation capacity. |
| Chisasibi | Decreased parental interest in Home Visit services |
| Wemindji | Low enrollment in playgroup and school readiness programming. Declining participation in the sewing program accompanied by limited parental involvement |
| Eastmain | In-person programming not yet started due to ongoing preparation and equipment purchasing |
| Waskaganish | Decreased parental interest in Home Visit services |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nemaska | No challenges were identified during this reporting period |
| Waswanipi | The Head Start program remains without registered participants at this time |
| Oujé-Bougoumou | Low parental interest has resulted in reduced attendance |
| Mistissini | Decreased parental interest in Home Visit services |

YOUTH PROTECTION AGREEMENTS WITH CHILDCARE CENTRES 2025-2027

| Community | Infants | Children | Total |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Whapmagoostui | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Chisasibi | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Wemindji | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Eastmain | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Waskaganish | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Nemaska | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Waswanipi | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Oujé-Bougoumou | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Mistissini | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 19 | 19 | 38 |



Harlem Children's Zone

HISTORY

Founded in 1970 as Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families — New York City's first truancy prevention program — the organization opened its first beacon center in 1991 and gained Geoffrey Canada as CEO in 1990, who launched a one-block pilot of comprehensive family support.

In 2002, now rebranded as Harlem Children's Zone, the organization launched a 10-year plan to expand from a single block to 97 blocks. HCZ Promise Academy, its K–12 charter schools, opened in 2004–2005, and by 2010 the 97-block expansion was complete.

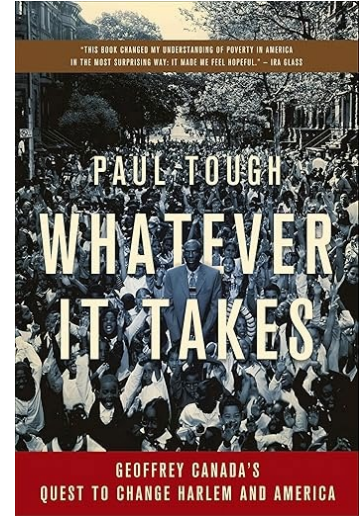
Today, HCZ serves tens of thousands of children and adults across 100+ blocks in Central Harlem. The first Promise Academy class graduated in 2012, and in 2019 HCZ launched the William Julius Wilson Institute to broaden its national reach — including a COVID relief effort that impacted over 250,000 people.

HOW WE CAME TO LEARN OF HCZ

Inspired by Geoffrey Canada's book, the late Lucie Bergeron envisioned adapting key concepts from the Harlem Children's Zone model to develop and implement similar programs within the Cree communities. The HCZ approach emphasizes the continuity of care and family involvement which resonates deeply with the values and beliefs of Eeyouch in Eeyou Istchee.

For the past 10 years, five groups with delegates from CNG/CHB/CSB have visited HCZ to deepen their understanding of the model and explore opportunities for its adaptation within Eeyou Istchee.

The Nurturing program (Baby College) has been running successfully for many years in Waskaganish (Apishtuuwash), and pilot programs have since been launched in Mistissini and Waswanipi.



CRADLE TO CAREER

HCZ believes a child's zip code shouldn't determine their destiny. The **Cradle to Career** model wraps a continuous pipeline of support around children and families — from birth through college graduation.

PIPELINE

The Pipeline Baby College prepares expecting parents → **early childhood programs (0–3)** → **Harlem Gems Pre-K** → **Promise Academy K–12** → **college access and graduation support.**

What makes it work by combining education, health, and social services in one model, HCZ strengthens not just children, but the whole community — giving every child a clear path to a successful career.

Health & Wellness Programs



Healthy Harlem



Emotional Wellness



The Armory

Family & Community Engagement Programs



Geoffrey Canada Community Center



245 Westside Community Center



Community Pride

National Programs



Practitioners Institute



William Julius Wilson Institute

Education & Youth Programs



The Baby College®



The Baby College®
GRADS EHS



The
Three-Year-Old
Journey



Harlem Gems®



Early
Childhood



Housing
Development
Programs

St. Nicholas Community Center
and the Lincoln Community Center



Peacemakers



Promise Academy®
I and II Afterschool
and Athletics



Elementary
School



Housing
Development
Programs

St. Nicholas Community Center
and the Lincoln Community Center



Peacemakers



Promise Academy®
I and II Afterschool
and Athletics



Middle
School



Countee Cullen
Community Center



Academy for Arts
and Civic Engagement



Employment and
Technology Center



Promise Academy®
I and II Afterschool
and Athletics



High
School



Center For Higher
Education and
Career Support

College Readiness
College Success
Career Services



College
and Career



PROGRAMS OFFERED

EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH – AGE 5)

- › **The Baby College** — A 7-week virtual or 9-week in-person parenting workshop supporting new and expectant parents through early childhood development (ages 0–3).
- › **Baby College G.R.A.D.S. (Early Head Start)** — An at-home support program for new and expectant parents to strengthen bonds with their children (ages 0–3).
- › **Three-Year-Old Journey (TYOJ)** — For lottery winners of HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools, providing a learning environment to prepare children for admission to the school.
- › **Harlem Gems Preschool** — Preschool program with two locations (Harlem Gems North and South) that builds a strong academic foundation for the youngest scholars.

K–12 SCHOOLS

- › **Promise Academy Charter Schools** — Top-performing K–12 charter schools (Promise Academy I and II, each with elementary, middle, and high school campuses).

AFTER-SCHOOL & ZONE PROGRAMS

- **Peacemakers** — Partners with Harlem's public elementary and middle schools to provide academic support to students who are not in Promise Academy.
- **A Cut Above (ACA)** — An after-school program for scholars in grades K–8 focused on developing future-focused decision-making and leadership skills.
- **Academy of Arts and Civic Engagement (ACE)** — An after-school program preparing high school scholars for careers in the arts, including career-ready skills and professional networking.
- **Employment and Technology Center (ETC)** — An after-school program preparing high school scholars for careers in STEM and technical arts using cutting-edge technologies.
- **Countee Cullen Community Center (CCCC)** — A community center offering programs and services within the Zone.

COLLEGE & CAREER

- › **College Success Office (CSO)** — Supports scholars in grades 12 and beyond to get into college, succeed academically, and launch careers.

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

- › **Healthy Harlem** — A health initiative offering programming to combat childhood obesity through fitness and nutrition education.
- › **The Armory – Fitness Programs** — A multi-purpose community wellness center offering fitness programming to scholars, families, staff, and the broader Harlem community.
- › **Emotional Wellness** — Provides mental health promotion, community education, and emotional wellness resources to HCZ staff, scholars, and community members.
- › **Community Pride** — Focuses on community outreach, neighborhood revitalization, leadership development, and public programs.

WHATEVER IT TAKES!

QUESTIONS?