



WEMINDJI

DESCRIPTION

The Wemindji territory includes:

- a category 1A land, i.e. lot 1 of Eastmain river basin, which covers an area of 326.6 square kilometres;
- a category 1B land, i.e. lot 2 of Eastmain river basin, which covers an area of 186.2 square kilometres;
- category II lands are also granted to the Wemindji.

NOTE - Only category 1A lands fall under federal jurisdiction.

LOCATION

The Wemindji territory is located on the east coast of Hudson Bay, 50 kilometres south of Chisasibi.

LAND TITLE HISTORY

December 31, 1941

Québec proclaims the *Lands and Forests Act*, which provides for the reservation of lands not exceeding 133 550 hectares (330 000 acres) for the benefit of the Indians by the transfer of usufruct. This legislation has been amended a number of times since. See sections 51 and 52 of the *Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State*, R.S.Q., chapter T-8.1.

November 11, 1975

Signing of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement - Crees-Inuit-Naskapis* by the Governments of Québec and Canada.

October 31, 1977

- The government of Québec implements the *Act approving the Agreement concerning James Bay and Northern Québec*.
- The Government of Canada implements the *James Bay and Northern Québec Native Claims Settlement Act*.

June 1, 1979

The Government of Québec proclaims the *Act Respecting the Land Regime in the James Bay & New Québec Territory*.

June 27, 1979 - REGISTRATION NUMBER 65618

Provincial Order 1851-79 - The Government of Québec transfers, as a provisional measure pending final transfer, the administration, management, and control of 3 299 square kilometres of category 1A lands (Cree), and of 41.93 square kilometres of category 1A-N lands (Naskapi), for the exclusive benefit of local governments, i.e. of the Cree bands or the Naskapi band, as applicable. Québec retains bare ownership of these lands. The order became effective on June 1, 1979. Pursuant to that order, the lands set aside for the Wemindji Indians under the terms of the *Lands and Forests Acts* no longer constituted reserves as defined in the *Indian Act*.

August 16, 1979 - REGISTRATION NUMBER 65619

Government of Canada Order in Council 1979-2178 accepts the transfer of category 1A lands according to the preliminary territorial descriptions, as stated in Québec Order in Council 1851-79 of June 27, 1979.

June 23, 1981

Government of Québec Order 1762-81 transfers by provisional deed to the *Nouveau Comptoir (Wemindji) Landholding Corporation* lot 2 of the Eastmain river basin (category 1B lands). Area indicated: 186.2 square kilometres.

June 14, 1984

The House of Commons of Canada proclaims the *Cree-Naskapi (of Québec) Act* relating principally to Cree and Naskapi local government and to the land regime governing category IA and category IA-N lands.

February 1, 1995

Order 153-95 - The Government of Québec authorizes the final transfer of category 1B lands to the *Nouveau Comptoir (Wemindji) Landholding Corporation*.

June 1, 1995

Government of Québec Letters Patent 39 388 to the *Nouveau Comptoir* (Wemindji) *Landholding Corporation* concerning the final transfer of category 1B lands. The Crees may dispose of these lands only in favour of Québec. Area mentioned: 186.2 square kilometres.

October 22, 1997

Government of Québec Order in Council 1386-97 transfers by final deed to the Government of Canada the administration, management and control of category 1A lands of Wemindji. This order modified Order in Council 153-95 of February 1, 1995.

May 5, 1999 - REGISTRATION NUMBER 273763

The Government of Canada accepts the final transfer of the administration, management and control of category 1A lands of Wemindji.

CHRONOLOGY OF BOUNDARY SURVEYS

1990: survey of category 1A and 1B lands by Jules Couture.