



International Symposium

Cree and Inuit of 'Nord du Québec' Territory, Economy, Society and Culture

Université d'Angers, MSH Confluences (France)
October 22-23-24 2009

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organization: CERPECA (Canadian Studies Centre of the Université d'Angers), CERHIO/U. Angers, Social History (UMR CNRS 6258) and the CARTA-ESO, U. Angers, Social Geography (UMR CNRS 6590) ;

In collaboration with the Canada Research Chair on the Aboriginal Land Question of the Université du Québec à Montréal, and CENA (North American Studies Centre of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB).

A - Theme



The “Nord du Québec” region (essentially Ungava electoral division) is located north of the 49th parallel, east of Hudson and James Bays. With an area of 747 157 square kilometres (about one and a half times France and 55% of Quebec), it has been populated for millennia: in the northern sector by Inuit (currently about 9 500 on their territory, Nunavik); to the south by Crees (currently about 13 500 on their territory, Eeyou Istchee) and in the northeast sector by Naskapis (currently about 850 in the Duplessis area). Over the past hundred years, non-native migrants from the St. Lawrence valley, Quebecois, (the “Jamesiens”, currently about 16 000) are sharing the territory with Crees



and Inuit.

The first contacts between the indigenous peoples and Europeans occurred in the second half of the seventeenth century with the arrival of English and French traders, particularly the Hudson's Bay Company, as well as French missionaries. The current situation is due in large part to these contacts having become more intense in the twentieth century with the development of forestry, mining and the hydro-electrical industries. The rapid settlement of the people, in large part forced, took place mainly in the last fifty years. The result was for the Crees and Inuit, significant problems of adaptation: territorial, environmental, economic, cultural, social and health. However, significant advances have been made by the communities in governance and the management of the difficult issues.

The conflicts between indigenous peoples of northern Quebec and the provincial government of Quebec and the federal one in Ottawa were resolved, in principle, by a series of agreements: the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in 1975; the new convention (Paix des Braves) in 2002; the Sanarrutik Agreement with the Inuit in 2002; the agreement in principle on the Government of Nunavik in 2007, and the agreement between the federal government and the Crees of Quebec in 2008. These agreements open the door to a degree of self-government and provide substantial revenues for the communities.

The main objective of the symposium is to reflect on the trajectories of these peoples and compare them since the 1975 Agreement to the present day. Three themes are proposed.

I - History, Territory and the Geopolitics

It should first be outlined when and how the Cree and Inuit communities were established east of James and Hudson Bays and recall the nature of their lifestyle and traditional activities. These societies, linked to the soil and climate, also relied on the riches of the sea and forests: fish, game, fruit and raw materials. Their harvesting was part of a traditional division of hunting and fishing territories.

How were the initial contacts made with the Europeans (furs, posts, trade, Anglo-French rivalry)?

When and how did Quebec become interested in this area? What were the roles of the federal government, of Hydro-Quebec and of the Société de développement de la Baie James (SDBJ)? What were their main activities and what were the results in terms of change (location of communities, demography, etc.)?

The traditional way of life of the Crees and Inuit changed. What were their claims, conflicts and compromises? How did it change their relations with Ottawa and Quebec?

Today, what and where are the various communities and how are they governed? What



are their relationships with other people in Ungava? What are the new responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments?

II - Economic, Social and Health Challenges

What are the main economic activities developed in and by the communities: public services, transport, tourism, business, energy, handicrafts, mining, forestry, and fishing? What form does the collaboration with the Quebecois take?

How, in this new context, have the traditional fishing, hunting and gathering activities been maintained? What have been the main environmental changes and what are the consequences? Are other projects threatening the environmental balance?

What is the social impact of these recent changes on individuals, families and communities (housing, social inclusion, quality of life, gender, generational relationships, sports and recreation, employment, delinquency, justice, child protection, etc.)? What is the role of religion?

Have these changes had any effect on the health of individuals, families and communities (demography, sedentary lifestyle, nutrition, obesity, diabetes, domestic violence, mental health, use of drugs and alcohol, etc.)? Is traditional medicine being perpetuated?

What are the main responses to these new influences (institutions, programmes, initiatives and actions, government intervention)?

III - Cultural Challenges

How have the vitality of the Cree (Iiyiyuuayimuwin) and Inuit (Inuktitut) languages evolved through these times of change (language spoken at home, at workplace, at school, knowledge of the written language, the penetration of English and French)?

What about the education system (institutions, schooling, adequacy of the curriculum to the new realities, the place of Crees and Inuit in the teaching faculty, access to technical and higher education)?

Who are the Cree and Inuit artists and crafts people (painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, etc.)? What are their sources of inspiration, the themes, and their recognition in society?

Is there a Cree and Inuit literature in their own language, in English or French? What is the place of the writers in the community and outside the region: in books and journals and in professional and general interest publications)? What is the image of the Crees and Inuit in Canadian literature?

What is the role of radio, television and the internet? What are the productions and how



are they distributed? What is the place of the films and documentaries in local productions and in cooperation with foreign producers? What is the image of the Crees and Inuit in films and documentaries from Quebec and Canada?

Are the Crees and Inuit undergoing “deculturation” or are they coping? Are they resisting or are they affirming themselves in new cultural expressions and what are their ties with their traditional culture? How do they negotiate the constraints of globalization (with the tension between global and local) and the assertions of identity? Do the communities close rank around choice and common values or are they divided? How do the federal and provincial governments contribute to these choices and changes?

A comparison of the trajectory of the Crees with the Inuit since 1975.

B – Call for Papers

Send before January 31, 2009 by email, a proposal in French or English, with an abstract of 15 to 20 lines, and a specific title. Give your name, title and position, as well as your email and postal address, telephone and the name of your institution.

It will not be possible to address all the themes in a symposium of 4 or 5 sessions. This detailed set of issues seeks only to bring forth proposals for presentations reflecting the experience of Crees and Inuit, but also proposals for papers by researchers who will seek to combine several aspects of the three themes. Another symposium, complementing this one, will be held in Quebec in 2011.

To enable discussion in depth between the speakers and the public, **approximately 20 papers** will be scheduled (plus a round table). It is hoped that about half will be given by the Crees, Inuit and other inhabitants of the “Nord du Québec” and the other half by non-native researchers.

The scientific and organizing committees will select the papers. The selection will be circulated in March 2009.

C – Logistical Details

The speakers’ expenses (i.e. accommodation and meals) will be borne by the organizers of the Symposium. However, all travel expenses (plane, train, etc...) will be at the expense of the speakers or their own organization.

Languages of the Symposium: English or French with simultaneous translation (if funding is obtained). Publication of the Proceedings will be in 2010



D – Committees and Partners

Organizing Committee:

Jacques-Guy Petit (Director, CERPECA, Angers), general secretary of the symposium; Dr Yv Bonnier Viger (Associate Professor, U. Laval in Québec); Annie Grenier (Executive Director, Kativik); Michel Létourneau, ex-Minister (Quebec) for Ungava; Eric Pierre (CERHIO, Angers); Christian Pihet (Director, CARTA, Angers); Dianne Reid (CBHSSJB, Chairperson (until October 2008) and Aanischaaukamikw chairperson).

Scientific Committee:

Professors : Alain Beaulieu (Canada Research Chair on the Aboriginal Land Question, UQAM, Montréal); Béatrice Colignon (Geography, U. Paris I Sorbonne); Caroline Desbiens (Canada Research Chair of the Geography of Northern Quebec, U. Laval à Québec); Serge Jaumain (Director of CENA, ULB Bruxelles); Frédéric Laugrand (Director of CIERA, the Inter-University Centre for the Study and Research of Indigenous Peoples, U. Laval in Québec); Toby Morantz (Anthropology, U. McGill, Montréal); George Oblin (Associate professor, UQAT); Cornelius Remie (Anthropology, Holland, ICCS Chairman, International Council of Canadian Studies); Sacha Sénécal (Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario).

Partners:

Canada: Grand Council of Crees of Eeyou Istchee; CBHSSJB (Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay); Cree School Board; Aanischaaukamikw (Cree Cultural Institute); Kativik (Inuit School Board); Avataq (Inuit Cultural Institute); the Makivik Development Corporation; Canadian Departments of Foreign Affairs and Indian and Northern Affairs (Ottawa); CIEC/ICCS (International Council of Canadian Studies, Ottawa); the Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs (Quebec); l'AIEQ (International Association of Quebec Studies); DIALOG (Quebec network relating to Aboriginal Peoples)

France: the CNRS (National Committee of Scientific Research, sections 33 et 34); Université d'Angers (Scientific Committee; CERHIO/HIRES; l'ESO/CARTA); the Local Authorities (Ville d'Angers, Angers Loire Métropole, the Département de Maine-et-Loire, the Région des Pays de la Loire); the French Society of Travel Medicine.

Europe- European Network of Canadian Studies (ENCS), and CENA (ULB, Brussels).

E - Address

Please submit proposals before January 31, 2009, by e-mail to:

Pr. Jacques-Guy Petit, directeur du CERPECA, U. Angers : jg.jacques.petit@orange.fr

Or

Madame Etienne (MSH Confluences, U. Angers) : Marie-France.Etienne@univ-angers.fr