

The James Bay Cree Nation is entering a time of great challenges and great opportunities. There is much more to be done for the benefit of our People, in education and training, employment, housing, community development, governance and external relations to ensure Cree control in Eeyou Istchee, our homeland.

# Six excellent reasons to vote for Dr. Matthew Coon Come for Grand Chief in 2009



## 1. He's a nice guy.

Matthew is a friendly, approachable, kind, caring family and community man.

## 2. He's a strong and determined leader.

Matthew has devoted his entire adult life to Cree leadership and Cree Rights, locally, regionally, nationally and beyond. His leadership and determination are recognized in Eeyou Istchee, in Quebec, across Canada and internationally as well.

Matthew led the Cree fights concerning the Great Whale Hydro-electric Project and our right of self-determination in the context of Quebec separation. Nationally, he has led First Nations' struggles and negotiations right across the country.



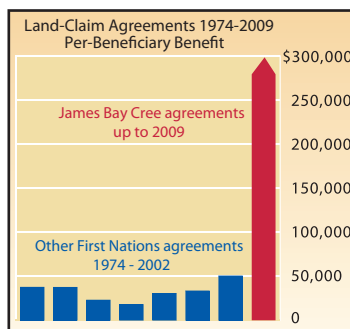
AFN National Chief, 2002

Matthew set the standards and paved the way for the many of the James Bay Cree successes in the 1990's and 2000's. He has successfully taken our issues to the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Commonwealth, Amnesty International to name a few.

These are significant achievements - and there is **much more to be achieved with Matthew's continued leadership.**

## 3. His unmatched record of achievement.

Matthew was first elected James Bay Cree Grand Chief in 1988. His strong and united international strategy over the next 12 years led directly to major political and economic benefits for the James Bay Cree Nation that are unequalled anywhere else in Canada.



Under Matthew's leadership, the Cree signed many major agreements with Quebec and Canada, and established the necessary political leverage for great future progress. Matthew is determined to raise standards even further, for the social and economic benefit of present and future generations of our people.



## 4. His Experience.

Matthew Coon Come is an experienced hunter who has lived on the land. Matthew served as **Grand Chief of the James Bay Cree** for four successive 3-year terms from 1988 to 2000. Before that, he served as Chief of Mistissini First Nation and Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Cree. He has been, or now is, Chairperson or Director of most major Cree entities, funds, trusts and boards. He is also a Board Member of a number of Canadian financial, energy and other corporations.

Matthew holds honorary doctorate degrees from Trent University and the University of Toronto.



Award of Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the University of Toronto

## 5. His national & international profile.



Matthew has addressed legislatures and international bodies concerning Cree rights. He has successfully intervened before numerous United Nations, Commonwealth and other international forums.

Under Matthew's leadership, the Cree have undertaken numerous successful court cases at all levels including the Supreme Court of Canada. In the *Coon Come* case, it was recognized that First Nations are **one of the three orders of government in Canada.**

## 6. His principles & courage.

For more than 20 years, Matthew has demonstrated his principles and his courage in Eeyou Istchee, Quebec, Canada and internationally.

**Now is the time for our people to unite again to once again to elect a principled, effective, experienced and courageous leader for the James Bay Cree Nation.**



Anti-apartheid leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa

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