



culture

women

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Board Resolution #2026-003

Miss Eeyou-Eenou Iskwaau (MEEI) Eligibility – 2026  
Cycle

Date: February 11, 2026

Issued by: Cree Women of Eeyou-Istchee Association (CWEIA)

### Background

The Cree Women of Eeyou-Istchee Association (CWEIA) Board of Directors has adopted Resolution #2026-003 regarding eligibility criteria for the 2026 Miss Eeyou-Eenou Iskwaau (MEEI) pageant.

Established participation guidelines require contestants to be between the ages of 18 and 25. During the 2026 cycle, the Board reviewed a request concerning an underage participant of 17 years of age.

Recognizing that 2026 represents a transition year under newly adopted eligibility criteria, the Board considered principles of exclusivity, youth leadership development, and governance integrity.

### Resolution Summary

The Board of Directors has approved the following:

- A one-time exemption for the 2026 cycle permitting the underage participant from Oujé-Bougoumou to compete.
- This exemption is strictly limited to Oujé-Bougoumou for the 2026 pageant cycle only.
- This decision does not amend or permanently alter established eligibility criteria.
- Should the exempted contestant win the title, the First Runner-Up will serve as the official Quebec Native Women (QNW) Youth Representative for any events requiring a minimum age of 18.
- Transition support has been designated to ensure leadership continuity and preparedness in the role.



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**"To ensure a fair and full transition to our 18–25 age requirements, the CWEIA Board has authorized a special one-time exemption for the 2026 cycle. This decision acknowledges that while most communities received the updated standards, the community of Oujé-Bougoumou had already successfully crowned their local princess using prior documentation with the old criteria of 16-25. We are thrilled to welcome her to the regional stage, upholding our commitment to youth leadership and organizational transparency."**

### Clarification

This exemption is a transitional measure for the 2026 cycle only. All established eligibility requirements remain in effect for future cycles unless formally amended by the Board of Directors.

CWEIA remains committed to transparency, fairness, and responsible governance across all nine Cree communities.

For further information, please contact the Cree Women of Eeyou-Istchee Association.

### Signatures

Tina Mark-Ottereyes  
**President**  
**Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association**

Date: 

Trudy Longchap  
**Executive Director**  
**Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association**

Date: 