



# *History of Cree Education and the Cree School Board*

**Our Journey Towards Student Success  
Regional General Assembly**

**November 8, 2016**



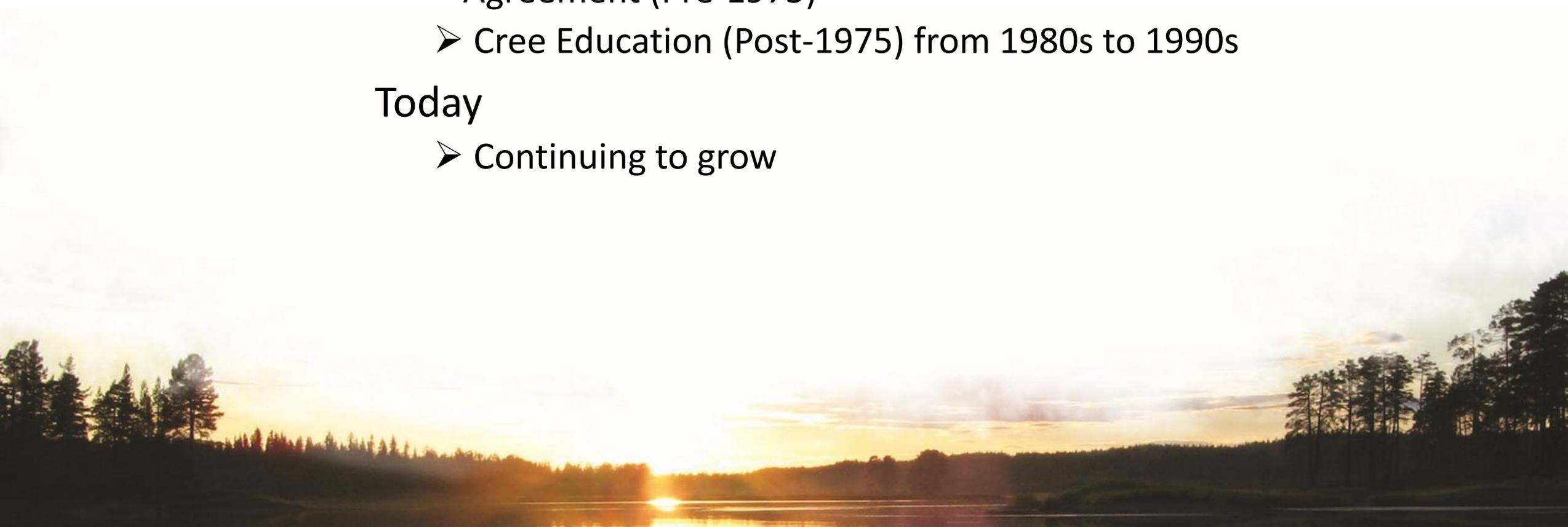
# Introduction

## Yesterday

- Cree Education before the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (Pre-1975)
- Cree Education (Post-1975) from 1980s to 1990s

## Today

- Continuing to grow





# Cree Education – Pre-1975

- Cree style of education was not restricted to the classroom
- Education under control of missionaries and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, including
  - Language of instruction
  - Curriculum
  - Teachers
  - Calendar
  - Worldview





# Cree School Board – Post-1975

- Cree School Board was formally established under the Quebec Education Act in 1978
- Focus on establishing an administration, structure, infrastructure, training staff and management
- In the 1980's, focus was on developing a uniquely Cree education
  - Develop curricula and a school calendar that would meet provincial standards balanced with culture and language
  - Community consultations to seek new directions for Cree education
  - In 1988, the Cree School Board and the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec (Cree Nation Government) jointly adopted quality of education principles
  - Provide secondary schooling in communities



# Cree Education Today

- Cree School Board was expected to take over programs run by Quebec and Indian Affairs, but no money was allocated to ensure the continuation of these programs
- 1989 – Court actions to cancel budgetary rules approved by the Treasury Board of Quebec on the grounds that they directly violated the terms of the JBNQA
- Cree School Board enters negotiations with Quebec
- 1991 – Funding secured for the Boarding Home Program, Post-Secondary Program, and Adult Education Program, and Youth Education



# Cree Education Outcomes

- One of the first education systems in Canada controlled by First Nations group
- Special powers and mandate to ensure that it maintains culturally relevant educational programs
- Greater financial stability
- Distinctive pedagogical resources and tools developed by Cree Programs
- Cree Teacher Training Program
- Right to control Cree education