

MARCEL CÔTÉ AWARD 2017 HONOUREE

This award is presented to Quebecers who demonstrate extraordinary leadership qualities and help improve public policy and public discourse at the municipal, provincial, national and/or international levels.

Matthew Coon Come, for his trailblazing advocacy on behalf of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and First Nations across Canada in the areas of development, human rights and self-determination.

Matthew Coon Come



FORMER GRAND CHIEF OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES

Dr. Matthew Coon Come is former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and former Chairperson of the Cree Regional Authority, positions he held for over 20 years through six mandates.

Grand Chief Coon Come is a national and international indigenous leader and advocate for the aboriginal, treaty and other human rights of indigenous peoples in Canada and internationally.

He is also a former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, the national organization of First Nations in Canada, from 2000 to 2003. He became known throughout Canada for his efforts to end the federal policy of extinguishment of aboriginal peoples' human rights of self-determination.

In recognition of his leadership-marshalling "local, national and international environmental, human rights and tribal communities to create a strong coalition" to stop a massive hydro-electric project on his people's land-Matthew Coon Come was awarded the Goldman prize, the "Nobel Prize of Environmental Awards" (1994).