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STATEMENT
MAY 25, 2026

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – 2026 CENSUS PARTICIPATION

Bigstone Cree Nation would like to inform members that the Nation has provided consent for Statistics Canada to conduct the 2026 Census within our communities.

Statistics Canada works collaboratively with First Nation communities to gather important demographic information that helps support planning, funding, infrastructure, housing, health services, education, and community programs.

While the national census is considered mandatory under federal legislation, Statistics Canada does not enforce participation within First Nation communities. Participation remains voluntary for members, and there are no penalties or repercussions for individuals who choose not to participate.

Statistics Canada has advised that their approach focuses on relationship-building with First Nations and supporting Indigenous statistical capacity development through the Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships.

Additional information regarding timelines, census activities, and any future community surveys planned for Fall 2026 will be shared as details become available.

Signed,
Chief Silas Yellowknee

Bigstone Cree Nation

For media inquiries, please contact Lorna Auger – Bigstone Executive Director
780-319-9697 lorna.auger@bigstone.ca

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