

W8BANAKI PILASKW



Photo taken by Suzie O'Bomsawin

WORD FROM THE CHIEF



Richard O'Bomsawin
Chief - Abenaki
Council of Odanak

Kwaï fellow band members,

As we advance into the progressive return to our “normal” lives we are challenged with channelling our energies to the much-needed restructuring of our nation.

While we have a few new projects on the horizon, such as the Women's Shelter, a traditional house and new constructions for families and services, we are called upon to be very careful. Although development is high in our priorities, sustainability is the most important challenge. Accessible and relevant much needed services for both our men and our women can help restore our vital force, wellness and belonging within our nation. Designing services guided by the healing rites and practices of our nation can help restore an important bridge between our past and our future.

Continuing to work on what self-government means to us so our children can grow in a safe and familiar framework, is also a priority. Defining and implementing programs and services that continue to lead us back to the path of our ancestors as we work to reclaim our connection is so necessary. Being guided by the ideologies before colonial intrusions should no longer need to be explained. We must decide our fate and the nature of our journey. Moreover, we must make space for all our band members and welcome them to work together to allow culture, rites and experience to emerge from the collective center.

As nomadic people we would have had dispersed practices. Nowadays, we as a people have evolved to being a more sedentary, settled nation. With our settlement's existence of over 300 years and many of the sanctions that limited our practices being lifted, we as a people CAN bring our cultural fragments together to build a whole where all of us have a place and a connection to our heritage. With our footing in OUR own history, we can reclaim our rightful directions and raise our future generations intact.

Moving forward, we have to ask ourselves some questions:

1. Is it important to us to work on an anchored and, shared culture?
2. Are we good with factions, which is the current reality for our nation?
3. In restoring a traditional house for the use of our people, do we make time slots for factions or do we try to come together and talk long enough to allow a collective contribution to emerge?
4. If we choose the status quo, how do we provide equal space and respect for these factions and differences?
5. Do we want an inclusive framework?
6. What of our culture and rites of passage can be called upon to redesign and incorporate in our framework?

As we begin to gather again these are some very important questions to begin to talk about. Each member of our nation has a right to his or her own heritage. We all have a place here and a responsibility to respect and help in our fellow members' struggle. The loss of connection and belonging is a sad reality for many of our people.

My hope is that the season of new growth be used to provide us with answers and direction.

In peace and friendship.



BEYOND BORDERS: UNHEARD ABENAKI VOICES FROM THE ODANAK FIRST NATION

On April 29, 2022, a delegation of Abenaki from Odanak took part in the event “Awasiwi kakaniganek - Beyond Borders: Unheard Abenaki Voices from the Odanak First Nation..” This event was sponsored by the University of Vermont (UVM) History Department, the Canadian Studies Program, the Center for Research on Vermont, the Environmental Program and the Global and Regional Studies Program. More than 300 people were present in the Grand Maple Ballroom of UVM’s Davis Center, and more than 500 people also joined on-line to hear the event broadcast.

The year 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the recognition of four “Abenaki” groups by the Vermont government. As a reminder, the Abenakis of Odanak were largely excluded from the political process that took place between 2010 and 2012. The Odanak elected officials were indeed not allowed to testify before the Vermont Legislature. Initially supportive of the Missisquoi group in the 1970s, Odanak

elected officials later opposed recognition of them and the other three groups—Elnu, Koasek and Nulhegan, by resolution in 2003 and again in 2019.

The event began with several songs performed by Mali-Agat Obomsawin, Daniel G. Nolett, and Jacques T. Watso.

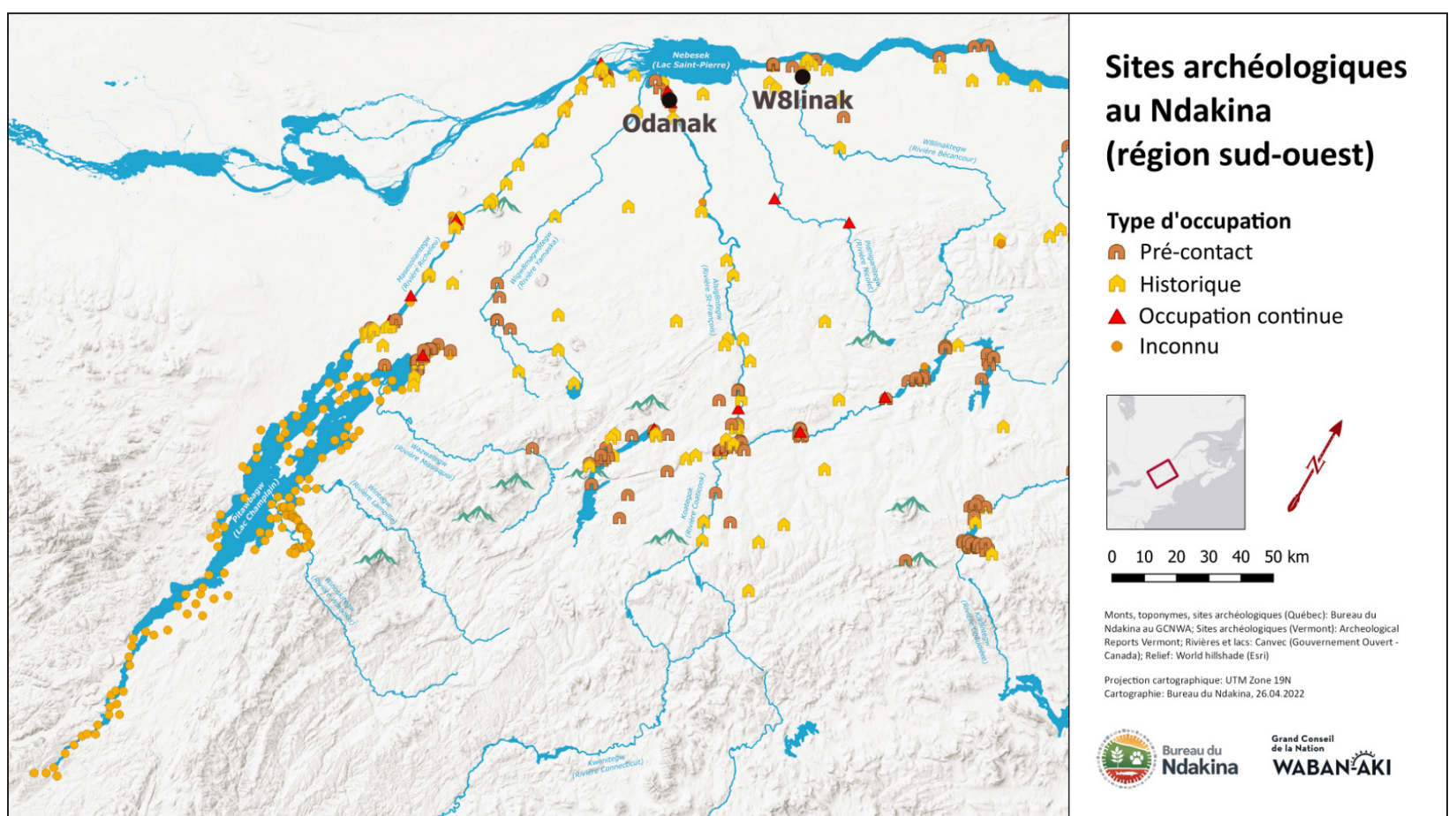
After that, several words of welcome were made by the following people: David Massell, Professor of History at UVM, William Falls, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UVM, Marie-Claude Francoeur, Quebec representative to the Quebec-Boston delegation and Rodger Cuzner, Consul General of Canada in Boston.

Following this, two panels were held. The first part focused on the historical perspective of the traditional use and occupation of the Abenaki on the land that is now Vermont. Suzie O’Bomsawin gave an overview of the limits of the Ndakina (the ancestral territory), the north-south movements on the territory, the continuity of occupation of different sites, the similarities encountered between the archaeological sites of the Connecticut Valley, of Lake Champlain and that of Odanak (notably in the diet, the cooking methods used, the materials used to make tools as well as the limited presence of pottery/ceramics on the sites—not very convenient for the modes of travel favoured by our ancestors). Suzie concluded her portion of the presentation by discussing the data collected by the Ndakina Office of the Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation regarding the sites of ash harvesting, basket sales and basket making between 1850 and 1960.

Daniel G. Nolett followed up by sharing several photos of Odanak members at their 19th and 20th century basket sales booths in various locations in New England, making it clear that we were very visible in the territory. He also explained the genealogy of each person in the photos. Christopher Roy, an anthropologist for Temple University in Philadelphia, concluded the last part of the first panel by sharing testimonies that he collected from members of the Nation when he was conducting research on the Abenaki.

The second panel focused on the current implications of the State of Vermont’s recognition of the four “Abenaki” groups. Jacques T. Watso began by noting that the Nation has always been welcoming and generous in sharing its knowledge, customs and traditions. Representatives of these groups have taken great advantage of our generosity by appropriating many elements of our culture, including language, stories, legends. Jacques also pointed out that these groups are appropriating ancestral rights over which they have no legitimacy.

Then, Mali-Agat Obomsawin gave a vibrant testimony on the impacts of Vermont’s recognition of these groups, the folklorization of Abenaki identity and our culture, and the negative impacts on our relations with the other W8banaki Nations.



Map: Ndakina Archaeological Site, Ndakina Office—Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation





Photo taken by Justin Trombly, Center for Research on Vermont.

WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



Nicole O'Bomsawin
Councillor - Abenaki
Council of Odanak

Kwaï mziwik,

Yes, spring is here and Covid is slowly phasing out of our everyday lives. So promises of gatherings, face-to-face consultations and community celebrations. Like many other communities, we had to put our culture on hold.

As requested by many members, there will be a mini-forum to learn, relearn or reconnect with our Abenaki dances and songs as well as to learn, share and celebrate our language. Our pow-wow will also give us the opportunity to share this heritage. Exceptionally, it will be held on July 29, 30 and 31, but as of next year, we will affirm our identity and our traditions by resuming the dates of the first weekend of July.

There are also political reasons to assert ourselves as a W8banaki Nation. In this sense, the Ndakina office is working hard to mark our presence throughout the traditional territory by making more and more places accessible to the Abenakis and their families such as the Gently River Park, the Mont Ham Regional Park, Mont St-Hilaire and the Mauricie National Park.

The Aln8baiwi Elders' Hall has been renovated and celebrated its official reopening on May 6. In addition, the Odanak Health Centre will soon be celebrating its 25th anniversary of service—another opportunity to get together for the well-being of the community. As for the Aw8ssisak Daycare Centre, it will celebrate its 20th anniversary in August 2022, which makes us even more proud.

In addition, I have just returned from a short trip to Paris where I had the opportunity to see the Wampum Belt on display at the Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac. Good news! The exhibition will cross the Atlantic and will be presented this fall at the McCord Museum in Montreal. We will surely organize a meeting with this belt for the members living outside and on our community.

There are plenty of projects and I am excited about the possibilities of working for present and future generations. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

Jus Crea Giammarino from the Penobscot Nation completed the second part of the panel by discussing the confusion generated by these groups within the W8banaki Confederacy and the difficulty many of these Nations have in distinguishing the authentic ties that bind us.

Each panel had the opportunity to answer a few questions from those present in the room or on-line. The Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador, Ghislain Picard, through a video, supported the approach of the Abenaki Council of Odanak to be heard and to recall the importance of the link to the territory. The event concluded with other songs.

In general, the event went very well. Although the Vermont groups sought to have the event cancelled by lobbying UVM and the Vermont government, we were able to demonstrate that we could deliver our message in an articulate, fact-based and fair manner. We can be proud of the work we did!

What's next? The event has challenged the thinking of many people in Vermont who have been fed rhetoric over the past ten years that does not match the real-life experience of the Nation, particularly about the eugenic practices (forced sterilization) committed by Vermont that would explain why members of the groups in Vermont would have had to hide to survive. Many questionings are to be expected. Efforts will continue to be made to make our voices heard, to defend a just image of who we are, and to rebuild or strengthen ties with various allies, both from within and outside the First Nations.



WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



Jacques T. Watso
Councillor – Abenaki Council of Odanak

Kwaï Mziwi,

I hope that you are healthy as you read these few lines. Life continues in Odanak, despite the ongoing pandemic. Quietly, but very quietly, community life is taking shape. One of the most important community events of the last few months was certainly the community dinner celebrating the spring equinox. The Flying Sturgeons drumming group had the honour of serving a hunter’s meal to the community members. A delicious feast of wild goose, deer and moose meat, accompanied by drumming. We also took the opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Aw8sissak Akik singing group.

On another subject, the committee for the revision of the membership code recently got to work in order to update certain sections of the code to deal with new realities, including the McIvor and Descheneaux cases. The result of this important work in progress will be submitted to you for analysis and comment, and will then be discussed at a special general assembly to amend the changes according to the will of the community.

On that note, we look forward to seeing you this summer at the Odanak Abenaki Powwow which will be held on July 29, 30 and 31, here in Odanak. Have a great spring!



Alain O'Bomsawin
Councillor – Abenaki Council of Odanak

Bonjour, Kwaï,

Here is some information concerning my mandates in the community as well as the changes that were made. First of all, I would like to mention that I have given up my place to Nicole O'Bomsawin to sit on the Board of Directors of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki following her interest in this mandate.

Summer arrives, it is often synonymous with drought. For the Bas-St-François water authority, this is a critical time for water levels. Please be alert to warnings to reduce water consumption as well as other restrictions that may be issued for the benefit of the entire population. By working together, we can make a real impact!

In addition, I had the opportunity to meet with the MNA responsible for Indigenous people in Quebec, Mr. Ian Lafrenière. Indeed, the Band Council has allowed me to request assistance in obtaining the services of a physician for the care of community members who do not have a family physician. However, the process is arduous and complex and is not yet complete.

Finally, the lots for the cemetery expansion will be marked out over the summer. It should also be noted that the law concerning cemeteries has been amended and that from now on, all lots must be registered with the Office de la protection des consommateurs, as well as all services already paid in advance. Note that registration is free for lots and services prior to the implementation of the law. However, there is a fee for other services.

In closing, I wish you a pleasant summer and hope for sunny weather! Take a few minutes to walk the Tolba trail or the bike path and enjoy the natural beauty of our community!

SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

THE FORMATION OF THE LOCATIVE ENDING OF NOUNS (CONTINUED)¹

For **animate** or inanimate nouns ending in “kw” or “gw”, “ok” is added in the **singular form** (in this case replace the “w” with an “o”) and “**ikok**” in the **plural form**.

		LOCATIVE		
		SINGULAR	PLURAL	
ANIMATE NOUNS	Wave (on water)	Tegw	Tegok	Tegwikok
	Flea	Pabikw	Pabikok	Pabikwikok
	Kettle	Kokw	Kokok	Kokwikok
	Skunk	Seg8gw	Seg8gok	Seg8gwikok
	Cod	Nokamagw	Nokamagok*	Nokamagwikok
	Groundhog	Agaskw	Agaskok*	Agaskwikok
INANIMATE NOUNS	Tree leaf	Wanibagw	Wanibagok	Wanibagwikok
	Sheet of paper	Pilaskw	Pilsakok	Pilsakwikok
	Eye/Face	Msizekw	Msizekok	Msizekwikok

*Note: animate nouns ending in “akw” or “agw” and “skw” or “sgw” end in the **singular locative form** the **same way** they end in the **plural form**.

For example : **Close to the groundhog** **Pasojiwi agaskok**
Groundhogs **Agaskok**

1. Taken from INITIATION À LA GRAMMAIRE ABÉNAKISE, Monique Nolett-Ille, Odanak 2006.



WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



Florence Benedict
Councillor - Abenaki Council of Odanak

Kwaï,

Unfortunately, I am now part of the statistics, in spite of my efforts! I have to admit that I am not invincible, because I contracted the Covid-19 virus during the week of April 18th.

Confined for almost 10 days, I was unable to attend the Quebec Native Women representatives' meeting held on April 23 and 24 in Dorval, in the presence of our new president, Ms. Marjolaine Étienne.

Second, I was unable to travel to the University of Vermont to hear testimony from members of the Nation regarding our views on the allegations of certain "Pretindian" groups existing in Vermont.

Indeed, these individuals claim to be descendants of the Wabanaki Nation by appropriating and knowingly using some of our family photos (taking care not to mention the names), for the sole purpose of being eligible for government grants to maintain their association.

CITIZENSHIP CODE | CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN A WORKING COMMITTEE

Recently, the Abenaki Council of Odanak invited members interested in getting involved in their community to participate in the Odanak Citizenship Code working committee.

As you know, the current Code dates to 2003 and was last updated a few years ago. To update the Code, members were invited to come and make their voices heard in a working committee where they could propose modifications to be made. The ratification of the amendments will take place over the next few months, and we hope to be able to present the updated Code to all members of the community by the end of next fall.

Unfortunately, this is not a trend unique to Canada, as it is also happening in the United States. Cultural appropriation is like a virus spreading at a very high speed and which, moreover, contaminates our minds and taints our credibility and that of the First Nations.

ACTIVITY REPORT

The beginning of the year has been quiet with the re-confinement, but I wanted to highlight two important events:

APRIL 2

Our beautiful Dorothée, 10 years old, daughter of Luc Gauthier-Nolett and Caroline Desormiers, won the silver medal in trampoline at a sporting event held in Drummondville. Congratulations for your efforts, you make us very proud!



APRIL 5

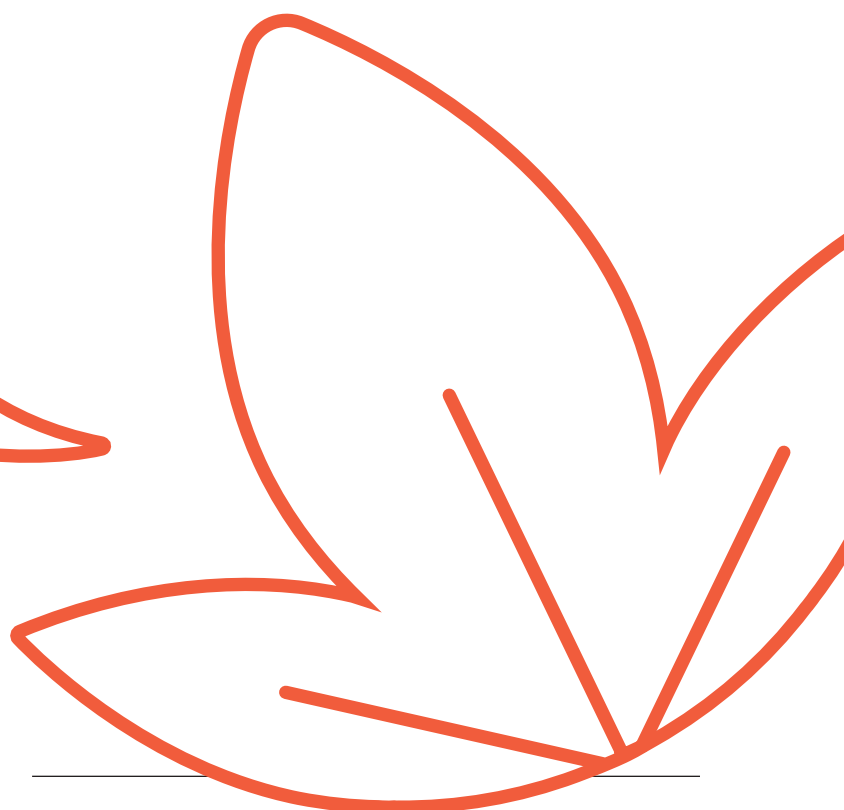
A new Executive Director has been appointed to the Musée des Abénakis. It is Ms. Vicky Desfossés-Bégin. Vicky has been with the Museum since 2007 and has held several positions before being entrusted with the position of Executive Director. The Board of Directors is convinced that Ms. Desfossés-Bégin will meet this challenge with flying colours. I invite you to read a very nice article published in the Courrier Sud on April 18th concerning her nomination. Congratulations Vicky!



To conclude, I would like to remind you that the 63rd edition of the Odanak Pow Wow will be held exceptionally on July 29th, 30th and 31st. We hope to see you there in great numbers! Come and proudly display your identity!

Wliwni.

Be safe and have a great summer!



WORD FROM MANAGEMENT



Daniel G. Nolett
Executive Director -
Abenaki Council
of Odanak

Kwaï, kwaï mziwi!

As I write these lines, we are in the midst of the sixth wave of the pandemic. While there has been no outbreak in Odanak, a good number of community residents have contracted Covid during this wave. We were forced to cancel twice the general assembly of members initially scheduled for March 31 and postponed to April 21. Staff and Council members had tested positive for Covid and/or had been in direct contact with people who had contracted it. Therefore, we decided not to take any chances by cancelling the event. The public assembly will be held at a later date to be determined.

Work on the parking lot at 1016 Awassos Street will begin shortly. Bergeron 2009 Inc. of Nicolet was awarded the contract after an invitation to tender. The cost for this work is \$151,000. We are planning to create about twenty parking spaces for the staff and visitors of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki offices, but also for the health centre staff. Charging stations for electric vehicles will also be installed.

We are currently completing the plans and specifications for the future shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. The CMHC standards are very rigorous and demanding, particularly in terms of energy efficiency. Also, the costs initially estimated in 2020, when the bidding process for First Nations communities wishing to establish these facilities was launched in Canada, amounted to \$2.5 million. In recent weeks, the GCNWA technical services have revised the cost estimates for the construction of the shelter. Over the past year, the cost of construction materials has skyrocketed, and the rising cost of fuel has made this estimate necessary. The construction costs are now at \$3.5 million. As a result, we have asked the CMHC to readjust the funding from \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million. We are still waiting for a response from them on this matter. Unfortunately, the finalization and acceptance of the plans and the revision of the budget are contributing to the delay in the start of the work that was supposed to begin in April. We will keep you posted...

The extension of Mgezo Street, where the shelter will be built, was completed last March. We were able to create 21 new lots for residential development. The costs of this work amount to just under \$700,000 and the entire cost is covered by a grant from Indigenous Services Canada. The infrastructure (water, sanitary and storm sewers) is already on the lots. All that remains is the surveying of the lots and the installation of concrete curbs and paving of the street - all of which will take place later in the spring.

On a related note, the Council will be applying to the CMHC this winter for funding from the *National Housing Co-Investment Fund* and the *On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program* (Section 95). With these applications, we hope to build two semi-detached homes and a 4-unit apartment building in the summer of 2022 to meet the growing need for social housing in the community. These housing construction projects amount to \$2.5 million. With Phase 1 of this program completed, we now need to have the energy efficient plans, environmental assessment and construction cost estimates approved by a construction economist before we can proceed to the next step of signing the agreement with the CMHC. We can then proceed with the tendering process.

Meanwhile, we have sent a request to ISC for funding to extend the infrastructure of Tolba Street to connect it to Managuan Street at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million. We plan to develop at least four other lots on Tolba Street, including one where we plan to build a longhouse for traditional activities. As a reminder, we applied for funding on December 1st to the *Canadian Equality for Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Program*. We would like to build this longhouse for cultural activities and if our application is accepted by the federal government, the longhouse would be built on Tolba Street in front of the Anglican cemetery. We will keep you posted...

Concerning the class action suit brought by the victims of the federal Indian day schools, the members of the community who attended the Académie Saint-Joseph in Odanak before its closure in 1959 can apply for financial compensation. To do so, you can consult the following link: indiandayschools.com/en/

The Council called upon the members of the community to form a working committee to review the Code of Belonging (Code d'appartenance). Michel O'Bomsawin, Manon Hamel, Mathieu O'Bomsawin, Mélanie O'Bomsawin, Nicole O'Bomsawin, Jacques T. Watso, Michelle O'Bomsawin, Florence Benedict and Marcelle O'Bomsawin answered the call. A first virtual meeting was held on March 23 and a second on April 13. After more than 15 years since the last amendment to the Code, the time has come to revise it to reflect our current needs, especially after the amendments made to the Indian Act following the McIvor and Descheneaux judgments. We will keep you posted...



Minister Patti Hajdu of Indigenous Services Canada confirmed in writing on April 4 that the Abenakis of Odanak Council qualifies to move to the new grant funding agreement as of April 1, 2022. This new 10-year funding agreement allowed us to adopt our own Financial Administration Act last January. On February 22, we received our financial performance certificate from the First Nations Financial Management Board. This new funding agreement gives us more budgetary flexibility. Indeed, we will be more accountable and responsible to you, our members. We will have to form an audit committee made up of three people who are independent of the Board and who have expertise in accounting and/or finance. We are currently recruiting the members of this committee, which will be responsible for reviewing the audit work of our auditors and analyzing our financial statements. They will then make recommendations to the Board to improve our practices. As this new funding agreement requires us to review all of our financial procedures and policies, we have decided to hire the firm MNP to assist us. Their fees are paid for through the financial support of ISC and its Professional & Institutional Development (P&ID) Program. The Board intends to hold a prioritization exercise in the next few days in order to guide us on the 2022-2023 projects.

In closing, I would like to inform you of the appointment of Suzie O'Bomsawin on January 10th as Assistant Executive Director and Human Resources Officer at the Abenakis of Odanak Council. Suzie was previously the Director of the Ndakina Office at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki. She replaces Jonathan Charbonneau who left his position on October 8th. We wish her all the best within our organization!

Mziwik wli sigwan!
Have a wonderful spring!

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ODANAK HEALTH CENTER



Jean Vollant
Director -
Odanak Health Centre

Spring is coming, I hope it brings you energy and motivation.

The Odanak Health Centre team has recently made some decisions. Like all of you, we are aware that we are experiencing the effects of the pandemic. We have to admit that fatigue, low energy and overwork are part of our daily life. And yet, we are looking forward to spring! We want it to be budding, colourful and sunny alongside all of you. For this reason, we have decided to refocus some of our energies by slowing down in order to let in some air and light. Slowing down to better take care of ourselves, and you, in order to better prepare for the future.

Indeed, we are currently reviewing the Odanak Health Centre's strategic planning in order to give it the importance and place it deserves. I would like to remind you that we have been meeting with the Health Centre team since April 2022.

Also, as Director, I am launching the community wellness study because we know how promising this exercise is. Indeed, it allows the entire Abenaki population of Odanak to develop a common vision and to work together to improve the living conditions of the community.

Launching the new strategic planning of health services as well as the community wellness study makes us realize more than ever that all the collective actions carried out by the Health Centre are nearing the end of their cycle.

Don't worry, we will always be there with you in the collective actions, but our primary objective is to support your participation and mobilization in the new planning. We wish to offer you a process that is worthy of the Odanak community, while taking into account the very particular context in which this planning is taking place. With the weather and the air we are breathing, we are already beginning to see the buds and feel a renewal of energy. I tell you; spring will be beautiful and warm for all of us!

INFORMATION RELEASE

Michel Paul
Accreditation Coordinator

Kwei to everyone,

As I mentioned in my last information release, the Odanak Health Centre (OHS) has been awarded the "Accredited with Commendation" accreditation status for the next four years. This accreditation from Accreditation Canada is proof of a high level of quality and safety standards with regard to the care and services offered by the various stakeholders of the OHS.

However, the maintenance of this level of accreditation was subject to certain conditions at the time of the visit, including an immediate follow-up for four (4) criteria deemed non-compliant by the Accreditation Canada (AC) visitors. A Continuous Quality and Safety Improvement Plan was developed and adopted by management early last fall. Despite the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its Omicron variant, various meetings in hybrid mode (online and face-to-face) with stakeholders from the various sectors of activity, members of the Quality and Risk Management Committee as well as management were held to ensure that the follow-up requirements requested by AC were met.

We are proud to inform you that all the required proofs of conformity have been posted on our organization's portal, in accordance with the Continuous Quality and Safety Improvement Plan. Two of them have already been approved, and we are waiting for a response from Accreditation Canada for the other two.

In the meantime, we plan to continue to update our Continuous Quality and Safety Improvement Plan to address the remaining criteria that were found to be non-compliant in the visit report and for which no follow-up was required by Accreditation Canada.

This is an important step for us as our common goal for the next visit (May 2025) is to obtain the "Accredited with Exemplary Standing" accreditation status.

In conclusion, I ask you to continue to protect yourselves against the risks of contagion associated with the various Covid variants and to respect the sanitary rules issued by the various health authorities in the area.





Julie Cleary
N8wkika Social Services Director - Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki

Kwaï,

Summer is finally here and the N8wkika team is busy preparing the day camps and the Niona workshop for our children and teenagers aged 5 to 14.

With the well-being of our youngsters at heart, we will offer them a variety of cultural, artistic, sports, culinary and recreational activities. Registrations are underway with Jenny M'Sadoques. You can reach her by email at the following address: jmsadoques@gcnwa.com

Let's also think about fall and its majestic colours. Today's hectic lifestyle accelerates the process of acculturation and the fragmentation of family and cultural relationships. This is why this year, N8wkika is once again proposing the **Community Resourcing** which will take place from August 26 to 28, 2022 at Mount Ham. This activity is a moment of multigenerational cultural sharing in the territory. For more information, please contact Laure Tardif: ltardif@gcnwa.com

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you!



Mario Diamond
Technical Services Director - Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki

Kwaï mziwi,

Sigwan announces the thaw and the end of hibernation. The outdoor projects are starting and this means the "orange cones festival" synonymous with work sites.

With the help and participation of elected officials, administration and public works, many projects are nearing completion or have been completed. To name a few, the Aln8bawī hall has been refurbished, showers have been added to the community hall, RRAP and minor renovations have been completed and a new section of Mgezo Street has been added.

New projects are on the horizon for 2022, including the construction of a parking lot at Kizos Hall with electric charging stations and the extension of Tolba Street to Managuan Street.

With the well-being of its community at heart, the AOC is working to improve community parks to make them more accessible and attractive. In addition, nine housing units will be built shortly, two buildings of three and four units respectively, as well as a semi-detached house, to meet the demand for rental housing in Odanak.

Finally, an important project that has been close to my heart and in which I have been involved since the initial funding request is the shelter for women and children fleeing violence. The project is for women living outside the community and their children who are struggling with this crisis. Let's hope that the funding granted will be commensurate with the importance of this project so that it can finally take off. The shelter would fill a great need in this area, while providing various employment opportunities for members of the community.

Finally, after careful consideration, I have advised my management team that I will be retiring in July. I am very proud and happy to have participated in the evolution of the community of Odanak. I could not have done it without the complicity of the elected officials, the administrative staff, the public works team and the various departments of the AOC.

I thank you wholeheartedly for your collaboration and for the unforgettable experiences I have had during the nearly 15 years I have worked with you. I have tried to share my knowledge with you, but I have also learned a lot in return and that is priceless.

Wli nanawalmezikw.



NEWS FROM YOUR MUSEUM



Vicky Desfossés-Bégin

Executive Director –
Musée des Abénakis

APPOINTMENT

Since April 5, Vicky Desfossés-Bégin is the new Executive Director of the Museum. She succeeds Julie Anne Tremblay, who left her position last October. In appointing Vicky to this position, the Museum has chosen for loyalty and continuation: she has been working for the institution since 2007, first as a guide-animator, then as projects, mediation and communications coordinator since 2014. The Board of Directors of the Société historique d'Odanak has therefore called upon a person they can trust, one who is passionate about an institution of which she has been a pillar for 15 years.

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

Mark your calendars! On June 9 and 10, starting at 8:30 p.m., the Wapikoni Mobile RV will be coming to Odanak for the event "Cinema on Wheels." You are indeed invited to discover a series of short films prepared by First Nations curators, where discussions and exchanges will take place. On Thursday, June 9, the short films will be intended for the general public, while Friday will be more dedicated to a youth audience [5-14 years]. Bring your chairs and come to relax on the Museum's outdoor site for an evening of outdoor cinema!

SUMMER EXHIBITION

Starting in early July, the Museum will present the exhibition "NIN KA KI TACKAKWAN—What influenced me" by Atikamekw artist Jacques Newashish. The exhibition will review the 40 years of his artistic career where elements of his culture will come to life through paintings and sculptures.

THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

The Museum's ethnological collection is varied and inspires other museums. In fact, for several years now, many museums have been borrowing objects from our collection to enhance their exhibits and showcase Abenaki culture. If you wish to see objects from our collections, here is where you can go to find them:

LAC-BROME MUSEUM

We have lent 11 objects, mainly baskets and sculptures, to the Lac-Brome Museum in Knowlton, in the Eastern Townships, for their exhibition entitled Present and Past: the W8banaki presence in Brome County." This exhibition will be showcased in the summer of 2022.

MUSÉE DES CULTURES DU MONDE

The Abenaki culture will be highlighted in the brand new exhibition of the Musée des cultures du monde. This exhibition will focus on the 350th anniversary of the city of Nicolet, and the Abenaki presence in the region cannot be ignored. You can visit it from the beginning of June.

MAISON MERRY

Located in the Eastern Townships, the Maison Merry is the oldest house in today's urban Magog. Since last summer and until spring 2023, it hosts the exhibition "Ndakina: The Abenaki People in the Eastern Townships." This exhibition highlights the Abenaki traditions and values.

VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

You will need to wait a little longer to discover this exhibition, but starting in the spring of 2023, the exhibition on Alanis Obomsawin, which was displayed in Berlin in the winter of 2022, will be presented again, but this time at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The Museum had lent several baskets for this exhibition called "The Children Have to Hear Another Story." After its stop in Vancouver, the exhibition will move to the Art Museum of the University of Toronto in the summer and fall of 2023. No doubt about it, this is a wonderful exposure for this great Abenaki woman as well as for our beautiful Museum.

PHOTO PARTY

On April 11, a photog evening was held at the Museum. More than 25 people came to identify people, places and events immortalized in pictures. These pictures were taken from the archives of Gordon Day, an anthropologist who was interested in the Abenaki language and culture and who lived in Odanak between 1959 and 1980. Thank you to all the participants!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Although the Covid-19 pandemic is not over, the school clientele has been booming in Odanak this spring! Never before have we received so many primary, secondary and college students at the Museum in the last 15 years. Since March, more than 34 schools [representing more than 1175 students] have visited the Museum. By the end of June, we expect to receive nearly 20 more schools [approximately 725 people]. We can say that the Abenaki culture is well known in the schools, and we can't imagine anything better!

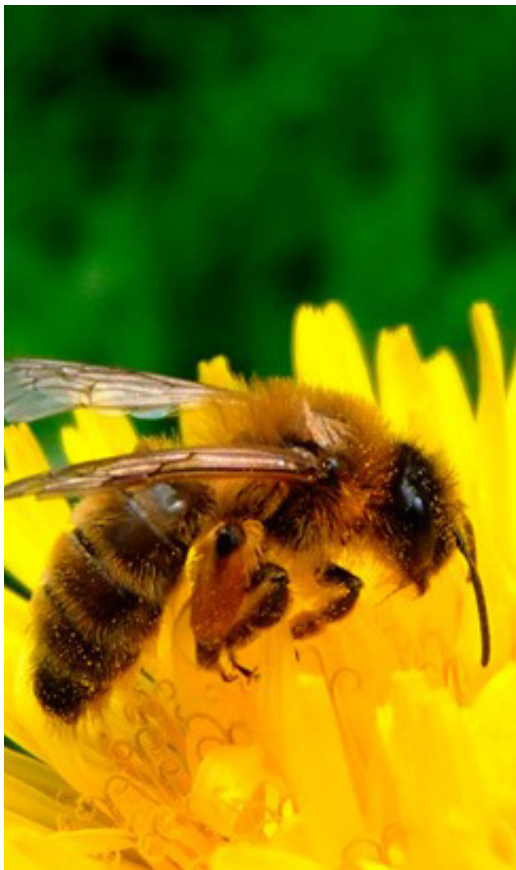
SUMMER STUDENT JOB

The Museum is looking for guide-animators for the 2022 summer season. You are passionate about culture, comfortable with the public, you want to challenge yourself and improve your knowledge of the First Nations? Join the Museum's animation team. To apply, send your résumé to vdbegin@museeabenakis.ca to the attention of Ms. Vicky Desfossés-Bégin as soon as possible.

KIZ8BAK BOUTIQUE

We are always looking for artists and artisans from the Nation to enrich our boutique. If you are interested in selling your products, do not hesitate to contact Johanne Lachapelle by phone or by email: info@museeabenakis.ca.





HELLO EVERYONE AND HAPPY SPRING!

Evelyne Benedict
 Field assistant - Odanak
 Environment and Land Office

Hello everyone and happy spring!

I'd like to discuss the importance of our pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds and even bats! We sometimes take them for granted, but these species are essential to our ecosystem.

Pollination is essential as pollen is transported from one plant to another to ensure the fertilization of flowers, the production of plants and the production of fruits, vegetables and nuts. Pollinators are

indispensable for more than a third of the food we eat every day and provide us with a rich diversity.

To lend them a hand, we invite you to participate in the Dandelion Challenge (Défi Pissenlit) in May. This challenge consists of delaying the mowing of dandelions in order to provide a rich source of pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. This year, let's help our pollinators with this small gesture that can make a big difference!

For more information:
mioletco.com/pages/defipissenlits

On a related note, with the gardening season just around the corner, we invite you to come and use the community garden's greenhouse for your seedlings/flowers. Stay tuned, as you will soon be able to reserve your gardening space at the community garden (space is limited).

For more information, do not hesitate to contact me.

PUBLIC ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM IN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES



Élisabeth Morel
 Dental hygienist -
 Odanak Health Centre

This month, I would like to present the positive results of the Odanak oral health prevention program during this year punctuated by unexpected events and changes. I am proud of the fact that, in spite of everything, many prevention activities took place and the people I met were happy to participate. Here is a summary of the year:

MAY 2021

Presentation/lecture on sugar-sweetened beverages and oral health care habits among teens at Espace jeunesse.

JULY 2021

Prevention activities during the Odanak day camp. Fishing games on what to eat to reduce the risk of cavities and reading of Dentine aux pays des dents.



Conference room of the Odanak Health Centre during the pit and fissure sealant application days during the spring break.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2021

Home visits to elders' homes to promote awareness of oral health prevention services.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2021

Prevention and activities at the Odanak daycare centre. Reading of the books Dentine prépare la fête d'Halloween and Dentine aux pays des dents.

NOVEMBER 2021

Prevention and activities during the Odanak pedagogical day. Reading of Dentine et la fée des dents.

MARCH 2022

First edition! Application of pit and fissure sealant during Odanak's spring break.

APRIL 2022

Oral Health Month! Back to the Odanak daycare centre for prevention follow-ups and a new Dentine story at the dental clinic.

Continue to take care of your oral health and don't hesitate to contact me for an appointment at the Health Centre or for ideas on prevention activities.

