

# W8BANAKI PILASKW



Left to right: Martin Gill, Rick O'Bomsawin, Florence Benedict, Jacques T. Watso during the SIGWAN fundraiser at the Musée des Abénakis on March 20, 2025.

## WORD FROM THE CHIEF



**Richard O'Bomsawin**  
Chief - Abenaki  
Council of Odanak

### Kwaï fellow band members,

Our future is our history reclaimed. As it is for our Anishinaabe brothers and sisters we also share the responsibilities of the time and tasks of the seventh fire. We need to engage in this task anchored and sustained. Currently, it is imperative that we honor our ancestors by being the cleansing, healing bridge between them and our grandchildren. The generation that heals and reclaims our rightful, rooted place in our world, that celebrates all that we are and all that we can be. All of the suffering and disposition our ancestors endured by virtue of being born into a race perceived by the newcomers as disposable or insignificant cannot be in vain.

We are at a crossroads in our grandchildren's history. We are being called upon to invest in the survival of our nation. Many of our members are dedicated to sustaining and reviving our songs, language, dances, rites and culture, we must continue to support this and not give up. It is my humble opinion that this is the most important work we can do in this generation.

Compensation for the displacement and attempted abolition of our people cannot be taken lightly; it must be invested in part or in whole in our future generations. We are in a time where we are being given this responsibility. As we gather to make the important decisions that will shape our future we must think past instant gratification and focus on meeting this task with careful reflection and right action. Our nation, our culture, our values and our continued existence as a people depend on it.

I know I may sound harsh in my plea for the future generations and for our ancestors, but I do this because I know they cannot speak for themselves.

When we are called to negotiate what we will do with this compensatory land claim fund, I hope this message acts as a seed to ensure the growth and sustainability of our future generations.

NEMIKWALDAMNANA

"WE REMEMBER"

In peace and friendship,



# WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



**Jacques T. Watso**  
Councillor - Abenaki  
Council of Odanak

## WE ARE STILL HERE!

### Tribute to my uncle Freddy – Frederick Lewis Watso

In this edition of Pilaskw, I want to first pay tribute to a very important figure in my life: my uncle Frederick Lewis Watso, whom most of us knew as Freddy. For me, he was more than just an uncle. He was a role model, a warrior, and a survivor.

Freddy lived through the residential schools. He came back still standing, but scarred. He wore those scars with dignity, never playing the victim. He taught me the art of sculpture, but mostly, he taught me to shape my life and to stand tall, with pride and honour.

I refer to him as the last of the true Abenakis. With his razor-sharp candour, keen memory, and rough but tender way of talking, Freddy was a man of few words.

Through this tribute, I hope his name will resonate for a bit longer within our community, and that we will all remember those who worked hard to keep our culture alive.



Frederick Lewis Watso, 1932-2025

## INDIAN ACT: AN ONGOING HISTORY

Very few of our community members know the true history and consequences of the Indian Act. And yet, this 1876 colonial act still has a direct impact on our lives, our governance and our rights as W8banakiak.

Initially, the Indian Act was meant to assimilate us by controlling our status, our territory, our education, even our identity. It granted the federal government the power to decide who was an "Indian," and who was not; a preposterous idea that still today resonates within our Nation.

For instance, for decades, an Abenakis woman married to a non-indigenous person would automatically lose her status, while an Abenakis man married to a non-indigenous woman would grant his status to her and their children. This legalized sexism destroyed families, cut cultural ties and fed a deep injustice that is still felt today.

Over the years, amendments were made, namely through bills C-31 and C-3. The base structure itself, however, remains colonial. It still dictates how our band councils work, limits our independence and forces a bureaucratic management system on us that is a far cry from our traditional governance.

In Odanak and beyond, it translates into a never-ending struggle towards acknowledgement, funding and the genuine assertion of our rights as stewards of the Ndakina, our territory. To understand this Act's history is to understand the roots of our ongoing challenges.

Remember: the goal of the Indian Act was to erase us. It is a tool of cultural and identity annihilation. For almost 200 years, our families, languages and knowledge have been assaulted under the law. It almost succeeded. It fractured generations, but it never did get rid of us.

Thanks to our members' resilience, to the work of our activists and to the strength of the current generation, we are currently amid an era of reassertion. We are getting back up and taking our righteous place. We are speaking our language, learning our songs, our recipes, and our history. We are still here. And every day, we continue to exist despite a system that tried to assimilate us.

Stand proud!



**Alain O'Bomsawin**  
Councillor - Abenaki  
Council of Odanak

**Kwaï,**

I hope you are well and that you are enjoying the beautiful spring weather!

The April 1 information session was a great success. Including Council members, the session had 105 participants in person, as well as 72 more online. We are proud that so many of you joined us for this project. Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and involved in this process.

Next, summer means Pow Wow! It is always summer's most anticipated event. This gathering is important because it allows us to immerse ourselves in and share our culture. We must be proud of these cultural traditions and enjoy this opportunity to mingle amongst ourselves.

As always, I will take stock of the latest work on the church. Experts checked on the heating system to prevent duct freezing. It is always a pleasure to make sure our beautiful church is up to par.

Regarding the specific claims, we received a lot of ideas from members that we will eventually discuss with Council members. Thank you for helping us find solutions and ways to handle this file smoothly!

Finally, I hope you have a wonderful summer and enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

Wliwni



# NOTICE

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## THIS IS AN INDIAN RESERVE

**Any person who trespasses on an Indian Reserve is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, or to both fine and imprisonment.**

**DIRECTOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Department of Citizenship and Immigration,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
OTTAWA.



## WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



**Martin Gill**  
Councillor - Abenaki Council of Odanak

### Kwaï, Hello

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the museum held its annual fundraiser and collected over \$65,000. I want to highlight the work of the director and her team. More great years to come. Congratulations!



**Florence Benedict**  
Councillor - Abenaki Council of Odanak

### Kwaï,

Last winter, we were fairly busy dealing with the land claims settlement, which led to many discussions within our community. This file has been 22 years in the making, in collaboration with the Court.

We filed hundreds of documents and research projects to prove the land we had lost. The goal was to reach an agreement with both parties, the Supreme Court of Canada and the W8banaki Nation.

Information sessions and consultations will be held with the community.

## AGENDA 2025

### JANUARY

#### January 24-25-26

Meeting with Quebec Native Women at Hotel Delta in Trois-Rivières.

To follow up on last December's presidential election, which saw Ms. Marjolaine Étienne. Also,

- **Vice-president:** Ms. Jeannette Martin, Gesgapegiag Mi'kmaq Nation
- **Secretary-treasurer:** Ms. Sonia Chachai, Atikamekw Nation



Three elected women.

This year will be our 66th Pow Wow, which makes it the oldest Pow Wow in Quebec.

The celebrations will be held from July 18 to 20, 2025.

- On July 18, a dinner will be held at the Odanak community hall.
- On July 19, the traditional Pow Wow will take place on the museum's square from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- In the evening, there will be bingo at Camping Aventure at 7 p.m. Seats are limited, so get there early!
- On July 20, mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in the Odanak church, followed by the grand entry around noon.

A raffle was drawn over the weekend to determine the duration of each nation's representative's mandate.

I am our representative until December 2025. If you are interested in taking up the mantle, stay tuned around that time.

### FEBRUARY

#### February 4

We attended a conference by the Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin in Sherbrooke. She shared her life's journey with great humility, up until her appointment at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Judge O'Bonsawin then answered a few questions from the people in attendance.



Conference by the Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin.

#### February 28

Council and Musée des Abénakis members were invited to the launch of AIANISHKAT, a digital interactive exhibition by Patricia and Raphaëlle Langevin, both from Mashteuiatsh. The exhibit will run until June 1<sup>st</sup>.



Launch of AIANISHKAT. Pictured, from left to right: Raphaëlle Langevin, Florence Benedict and Patricia Langevin.

The work of artisans will be for sale: basket weaving, beading, ash pounding, and much more.

You may also try some of our specialty dishes: sagamité, bannock, smoked fish, Indian tacos, etc.

We look forward to seeing you again this year.

Wliwni, thank you!



### MARCH

#### March 18-19-20

Elected Women of Quebec meeting at the Lac Delage Manor.

"Reflections of governance" was the main topic of the assembly.

Meeting with the new AFNQL Chief, Francis Verreault-Paul, Innu from Mashteuiatsh.



Meeting with the new AFNQL Chief, Francis Verreault-Paul.

**Representative election:** Ms. Nadia Robertson from Gespeg / Savannah McGregor, Grand Chief of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, Tesha Rourke, Akwesasne Chief.

#### March 20

Council members attended the Musée des Abénakis fundraiser cocktail. Being the first in five years, it was a great success.

#### March 27

The Health Center organized a cupcake decoration workshop for community elders. It was a lot of fun!



Pictured, from left to right: Florence Benedict, Diane Nolett and Annette Nolett

Finally, don't miss the Pow Wow, which will be held in Odanak on July 19-20. It is a great opportunity to spend quality time as a community.

See you soon, and be safe on the roads!

Wliwni



## WORD FROM MANAGEMENT



**Daniel G. Nolett**  
Executive director -  
Abenaki Council of Odanak

### Kwaï mziwi!

Regarding the Shelter for indigenous women and children fleeing violence file, at the time of writing, we are finalizing the hiring of the director. We can therefore expect the Shelter to open its doors around December 2025. The director will need to build everything from the ground up, i.e., the administrative structure, the shelter's needs, and the profile of potential hires. She will be responsible for buying furniture for offices, common areas (dining, living and meeting rooms), and bedrooms. Finally, she will be responsible for hiring all staff members (workers as well as office and support staff). More to come...

The architects are still working hard on drafting plans for the new 81 space early childhood center that will be built in front of the old Anglican cemetery, on Tolba Street. We believe that construction should begin next June. We are still talking about an investment of over 4 million dollars. Construction should be spread over a year, until spring/summer 2026.

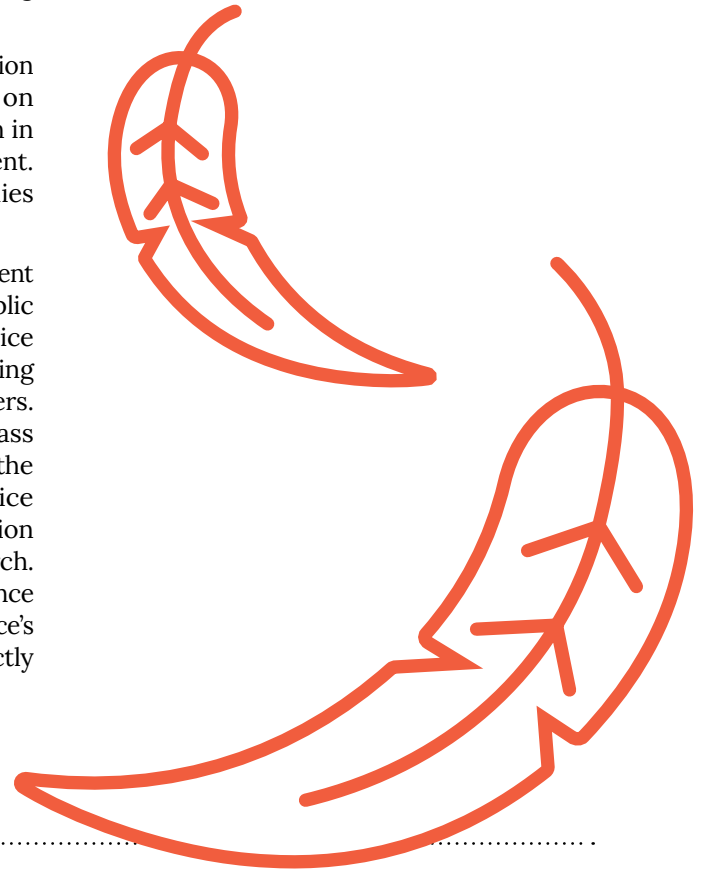
The renovation of Awassos Street will take place over summer/fall 2025. The estimated cost is 3.4 million dollars. We received approbation of ISC's financial contribution last winter. At the time of writing, the W8banaki Technical Services are finalizing the plans and estimates. Sanitary sewers and water mains will be replaced. These are major works that will lead to severe road obstructions and disturbances to the peace and quiet of residents on this street. We will keep you informed regarding the timeline. Please note that we wish to minimize the negative impacts as much as possible. Emergency vehicle services will also remain uninterrupted during that time. More to come...

We are pleased to announce the construction of another 4-unit apartment building on Mgezo Street. Construction should begin in fall 2025. It is a 1.2 million dollars investment. These will be 3-bedroom units, for families with children. More to come...

We have also reached a new funding agreement with the Quebec Public Security and Public Safety Canada regarding the Abenaki Police Force. From April 1, 2025, this new funding will allow us to go from 7 to 18 police officers. We have also taken steps towards a class action with the federal government on the underfunding of the First Nations police services program. We settled a \$1.5 million out-of-court agreement at the end of March. The money will reintegrate our treasury. Since its inception in 2009, the Abenaki Police Force's operational deficit had been funded directly from the Council's coffers.

In the specific claims file, the \$190 million compensation was deposited in the BMO account opened for this purpose on March 11<sup>th</sup>. As for the next steps, an initial information session was held on May 10 to discuss potential outcomes. It was a hybrid meeting, both under a large tent at Abenaki Aventure, in Odanak, and online. This meeting was the first of many with the goal of reaching as many members as possible. The next dates will be made public once they are set.

Mziwik, n'sidaldam wli sigwan! I wish you all a great spring!



## SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

### HOW TO COUNT TIME DIVISION<sup>1</sup>

YEARS OF AGE	
One year old	Ngwejigadma
Two years old	Nisigadma
Three years old	Nasigadma
Four years old	Iawigadma
Five years old	N8nnigadma
Six years old	Ngwed8s kassigadma
Seven years old	T8baw8s kassigadma
And so on	...

YEARS OF TIME	
One year	Ngwejigaden
Two years	Nisigaden
Three years	Nasigaden
Four years	Iawigaden
Five years	N8nnigaden
Six years	Ngwed8s kassigaden
Seven years	T8baw8s kassigaden
And so on	...

MONTHS	
One month	Pazgo kizos
Two months	Niswak kizosak
Three months	Nhloak kizosak
Four months	Iawak kizosak
Five months	N8nnoak kizosak
Six months	Ngwed8s kizosak
Seven months	T8baw8s kizosak
And so on	...

<sup>1</sup> From INITIATION À LA GRAMMAIRE ABÉNAKISE, Monique Nolett-Ille, Odanak 2006.



# STAFF APPRECIATION: ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL!

## Suzie O’Bomsawin

Assistant Executive Director – Human Resources Abenaki Council of Odana

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Abenaki Council of Odanak’s (CAO) elected members implemented its first staff appreciation program. It targets CAO, Health Center (CSO), Land and Environment Office (BETO) and Abenaki Police Force (CPDA) staff.

Over 2024-2025, several official activities were held in the name of staff appreciation, culminating with an event on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, celebrating staff years of service.

For this second iteration, we recognized 9 staff members’ years of service.



### CPDA:

NAME	POSITION	AWARD
Sophie Gill	Administrative Assistant	10 years
Dave O’Bomsawin	Police Officer	15 years

Moreover, special notice was brought upon to members and businesses for their involvement in the community, such as Sagamité Watso, who prepared light bites, and Ms. Annette Nolett, who wove a basket that was given to one of the staff in attendance.

### CAO:

NAME	POSITION	AWARD
Catherine Bussièrès-Côté	Finance Director	10 years
Mylène Cournoyer	Accountant	15 years
Luc G. Nolett	BETO Team Leader	15 years
Kent O’Bomsawin	Public Works Team Leader	5 years

Kchi wliwni to everyone who contributed to making this event a success!

Wliwni to all staff members who choose to work within our organization for the good of the community!

### CSO:

NAME	POSITION	AWARD
Sandrine Cardin	Medical Secretary/TRM Manager	5 years
Marie-Pier Desnoyers	Dietetic Technician	10 years
Marie-Noël Mayrand	Clinical Nurse	5 years



# ABENAKI POLICE FORCE

**Mylène Trudeau**  
Assistant Director -  
Abenaki Police Force

**Kwaï!**

The CDPA team wishes to inform you about topics you care about. Over time, crime “perfects” itself along with new technologies, but so do our investigation capabilities.

Over the last few months, fraudulent calls have increased in and around Odanak. Here are some common scams.

### IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD

Identity theft happens when a scammer gets a hold of a victim’s personal information to steal their identity for some form of profit, such as buying goods.

### PHONE FRAUD AIMED AT SENIORS (GRANDPARENT SCAM)

The scammer calls a senior citizen posing as a family member (grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.). They claim to be in distress and in urgent need of money.

### ONLINE PURCHASE FRAUD

The scammer sells a product without ever intending to deliver it.

### ROMANCE FRAUD

The scammer contacts their victim on social media or a networking site. Their objective is to build trust before revealing supposed romantic feelings. Once the online relation has been established, this ill-intended individual will invoke various pretenses to get their victim to send them money.

### CRYPTO-ASSET-RELATED INVESTMENT FRAUD

This refers to an unsolicited investment opportunity that promises low risk and high returns. Through fake investment platforms, the scammer secretly diverts their victim’s funds, before deactivating the platform and vanishing with the money.

Some scammers also bank on being insistent – they call repetitively to generate more anxiety.



#### How can you defend yourself?

- Never disclose personal or banking information during any unsolicited contact, regardless of the means of communication (email, text, phone or social media).
- Only open emails, messages or files originating from secure sources.
- Never assume that the number on your phone’s display is exact.
- Remember that public wireless networks (Wi-Fi) are not secure. To minimize risks, do not allow your device to automatically connect to them.
- If you carry out online transactions, make sure that the website is secure. To do so, check that the website starts with “https://” and that there is a closed lock icon next to your browser’s search bar.
- Never send money to someone you only know online. Refuse any transaction made for a third party.
- Be skeptical of too-good-to-be-true unsolicited investment offers.

If you or someone you know falls victim to a scam, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local police department (Abenaki Police Force).

For more information: 450-568-3733

To file a complaint: 911

Thank you, and be safe!



Fanny O’Bomsawin, private lawyer in Bromont, was appointed judge of the Superior Court of Quebec. Judge O’Bomsawin takes over Judge L. Samoisette (Sherbrooke), who chose to become supernumerary judge on March 14, 2023.

Judge O’Bomsawin is a member of the Odanak W8banaki (Abenaki) First Nation. She works hard at reconnecting with her culture by learning aln8ba8dwaw8gan, the Abenaki language. She first obtained an industrial relations degree in 1995, followed by a law degree in 1998, both from the Université de Montréal. She had been a member of the Barreau du Québec since 1999.

Judge O’Bomsawin began her career at McCarthy Tétrault, where she practiced law for almost seven years. She then went on to a boutique firm, where she became an associate. As a litigator, she acquired extensive experience on labor and employment law, covering diverse topics, such as charter, employment contract, injunction and judicial review related disputes. She worked before multiple administrative courts, as well as the Court of Quebec, the Superior Court of Quebec and the Court of Appeal of Quebec. At the time of her appointment, she proudly worked as a grievance arbitrator and an accredited mediator.

Judge O’Bomsawin was listed in Best Lawyers® in Canada in the Labour Law category. Involved in her community, sat on the boards of multiple cultural and educational organizations, such as UQAM’s. For many years, she was also the administrator of Moelle Épinière et Motricité Québec (MÉMO-Qc), an 80-year-old organization that works for the independence and quality of life of disabled people.





From left to right: Martin O'Bomsawin, Mathilde Gariépy, Mathieu O'Bomsawin, Stéphanie Nika Trottier, Chuck Hughes, Maxime Lizotte, Jacques T. Watso

## TOURISM ODANAK: COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND COLLABORATION

### Stéphanie-Nika Trottier

Tourism Development Advisor -  
Abenaki Council of Odanak

Since hiring our Tourism Development Advisor, Odanak was granted over \$425 thousand in subsidies for tourism development to support the community in preserving its cultural heritage, while also stimulating the local economy.

An amazing opportunity presented itself during the International Indigenous Tourism Conference (IITC), held on February 25 to 27, 2025. We sent a delegation to the event, promoting our visibility on an international scale, while also taking the time to share on indigenous tourism challenges and opportunities.

On April 24, 2025, the Journée de la sensibilisation aux réalités autochtones en milieu touristique (Indigenous Tourism Awareness Day) kick-started the 2025 tourist season. It allowed us to raise awareness of major issues in indigenous tourism, such as cultural appropriation and the importance of respecting the land. We also took this opportunity to lay the foundations of a more respectful and sustainable style of tourism for the following months.

### TOURISM BUSINESSES IN ODANAK

#### 2025 visibility—plan accordingly!

Do you want to showcase your appeal to potential tourists this summer? Here are five key steps you can take right away to optimize your presence:

1. Sign up to Bonjour Québec for free to appear on the official Quebec tourism website. It will allow you to gain visibility with tourists planning to visit the province.
2. Get the Original Original certification and contribute to the revitalization of indigenous cultures. For more information: [theoriginaloriginal.ca](http://theoriginaloriginal.ca).
3. Become a member of Tourisme Autochtone Québec to enjoy better visibility and join a dynamic network of indigenous tourism experts. For more information: [tourismeautochtone.com](http://tourismeautochtone.com).
4. Join Tourisme Odanak's future website by contacting Stéphanie-Nika Trottier, Tourism Development Advisor: [sntrottier@caodanak.com](mailto:sntrottier@caodanak.com). An excellent means of making known your offers to a targeted and engaged audience.
5. Subscribe to Tourisme Nicolet-Yamaska, a network for regional tourism experts, for free, by contacting [s.mclaughlin@mrcny.qc.ca](mailto:s.mclaughlin@mrcny.qc.ca).
6. Register with the Id1N First Nations businesses directory and proudly display the Bear. Register at [id1n.org](http://id1n.org).

### CULTURAL AND TOURISM PROJECTS

#### Don't hesitate to apply for grants!

If you are working on tourism projects, there are several grants available to fund your initiatives. Contact us, and it will be our pleasure to help you through the process and boost your chances of getting funding. Contact Stéphanie-Nika Trottier at [sntrottier@caodanak.com](mailto:sntrottier@caodanak.com).

### DON'T MISS THE ODANAK POW WOW

Finally, the Odanak Pow Wow support project, under intern Mélodie Roy, is progressing smoothly. Tools and meetings have been set up with several community members to prepare for this large-scale event. The whole community is preparing to welcome visitors and to celebrate this significant cultural gathering, which highlights the wealth of our heritage.



# MASTA MARSH RENEWAL



**Théo Allart**  
Biologist, M. Sc. -  
Project Manager,  
Odanak Land and  
Environment Office

## FOR THE SAKE OF THE WATER, THE WILDLIFE... AND THE COMMUNITY

Masta marsh renewal: for the sake of the water, the wildlife... and the community.

At the heart of Odanak's land, the Masta marsh is getting a new look. A genuine ecological gem, this extensive wetland complex is at the core of an ambitious restoration project led by the BETO and other stakeholders. Their objective: restore its ecological role and the natural balance of the site.

The main pond, created from an old 1950s dike, suffered constant water loss, which prevented fish movement. To fix these issues, the dike will be reshaped and reinforced. This will allow for a better habitat for local wildlife such as amphibians, cavity nesters and the precious turtles that used to live there.

However, the driving force behind this project is the return of the yellow perch, Saint-Pierre lake's emblematic species. A new free flow channel will be created to open a path to potential reproduction zones for this fish, along with others. A gentle slope, well-designed weirs, and downstream cleaning tie it all together, granting the fish right of way.

This project goes beyond simple physical restoration. Wildlife habitats are simultaneously created: exhibition sites for turtles, nesting boxes for birds, and specific wetland vegetation such as cattails. These small but crucial actions bring this ecosystem back to life while subscribing to a forward-thinking perspective.

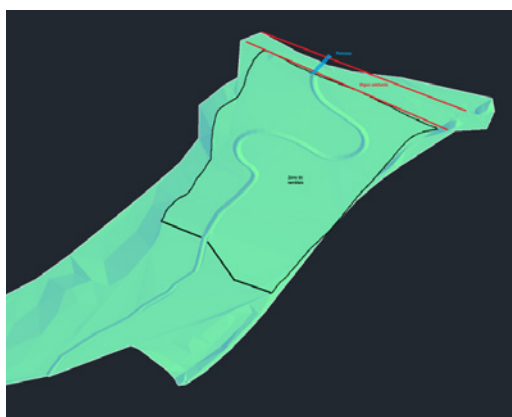
This worksite, led in collaboration with Odanak's business community, landowners and community members, represents a great example of a local governance model and a strong connection to the land. The Masta marsh has become a symbol of resilience, of transmission and of reconciliation with the cycles of nature.



Aerial shot of the project's initial steps.



Ongoing progress at the Masta marsh.



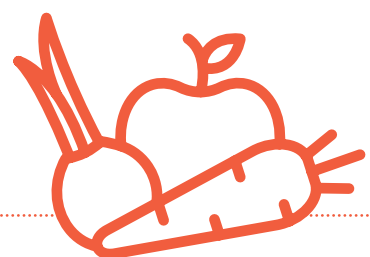
3D rendering of the final layout.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN: 2025 SIGN UP!

To sign up, contact d'Alex O'Bomsawin-Descôteaux

[adobomsawin@caodanak.com](mailto:adobomsawin@caodanak.com)

Phone number: 367 331-1353





# CLIMATE CHANGE

**Joannie Beaupré**

*Project manager, Odanak Land and Environment Office*

## CLIMATE CHANGE: RISING CHALLENGE FOR THE NATION AND CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD ADAPTATION

In recent summers, there have been discussions about the earlier arrival of warmer weather, heatwaves, wildfires, and torrential downpours causing flash floods. These natural occurrences are happening more often, are more intense and last longer. This isn't a coincidence—these are very real signs of climate change.

### BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Climate change refers to a transformation of the planet's climate, mainly as a result of human activity. When we burn oil, gas or coal (for instance, when we travel, heat up buildings or generate electricity), these materials emit greenhouse gases. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, raising the planet's temperature and upsetting the major climatic balances.

### WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS ON THE NATION?

Climate conditions such as heatwaves, downpours and extreme winds and storms have a direct impact on our community. They endanger our most vulnerable people, jeopardize agriculture, threaten the safety of everyone and damage infrastructures.

These events also lead to financial consequences: rapid inflation or prices, reduced purchasing power, and procurement issues, both for trade goods and supplies for traditional practices.

Natural environments are under growing pressure. Several species, some of which are key to cultural practices, are endangered by the shifting or loss of their habitat, unable to adapt. This weakens the balance between the land and our traditional knowledge of it.



### WHAT DOES ODANAK DO ABOUT IT?

Along with the Band Council's civil safety, building adaptation and emergency planning measures, the BETO works with its partners to mitigate the effects of climate change and support the community's adaptation to this new reality. The solutions that were implemented are primarily aimed at protecting, conserving and revitalizing the land. The goal is to meet the essential needs of the community, based on their close relationship with the land.

#### What we have done so far:

- Implemented a food sovereignty program
- Acquired knowledge of the Nation's most valued species and of the collective efforts to recognize and protect them, as part of consultations on an ancestral territory scale
- Implemented a sustainable waste management system, such as the recent compost collection initiative
- Developed structuring projects for the community, such as finding alternatives to car travel and creating a greening plan.

Hey, listen! A citizen consultation was held on April 23 to target potential greening spaces in the community. If you missed it, you can still share your ideas with us by filling out this quick survey. Just scan the QR code below and get a chance to win a \$50 gift card from la Ferme des Ormes!



<https://bit.ly/SondageVerdissementOdanak>

\* To scan a QR code, simply access your smartphone's camera, aim it at the code, and press the notification that pops up to access the link.



# LARGEST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AT KIUNA

## KINOSALWAW8GAN SCHOLARSHIPS: CLOSE TO \$75 THOUSAND AWARDED TO KIUNA STUDENTS

The largest Kinosalwaw8wan (Fonds de recherche du Québec) scholarship distribution was held on February 12, at Kiuna. Thirty students were awarded scholarships amounting to almost \$75 thousand. It was a highly emotional day, with everyone wearing the biggest smiles and radiating pride. Le scholarship distribution was broadcast online, and the replay is still available on Kiuna's Facebook page. Students from the Wemotaci satellite class also received scholarships, which were awarded to them by Kiuna staff on site.

Remember that, in the ancestral Aln8ba8dwaw8gan (Abenaki) language, Kinosalwaw8gan is a symbol of leadership. It means guiding, or to lead, for instance, a hunting party. It symbolizes the mentoring role that Kiuna plays for the students; Kiuna is shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Congratulations to all students!



Photo of the student award recipients

# LATE REGISTRATIONS FOR THE FALL SESSION STILL OPEN UNTIL AUGUST 3

## AUGUST 3 IS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER

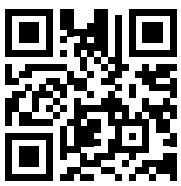
The registration period for the third round of the fall 2025 semester is currently in progress at Kiuna. If you wish to register for a program, you may do so right now at: [www.sram.qc.ca](http://www.sram.qc.ca)

# HELPING FIRST NATIONS ACHIEVE PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

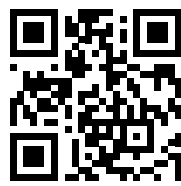
Abenaki Community of Odanak Employment and Training Service Centre (ETSC) wants you to help First Nations achieve professional success.

### HOW?

By being an Abenaki, from Odanak, living in Quebec, and by filling out this survey before July 31, 2025:



Individual



Business

### WHAT COULD I WIN?

A \$25 gift card (Metro, Familiprix, Tim Hortons) for everyone who takes the survey.



### EVEN MORE?

Once the survey period ends, we will draw three prizes, one for each of the following age groups (15-30/31-55/55+):

- Two nights in one of Abenaki Aventure's cabins
- One Kizos paddleboard
- A \$300 gift certificate for Studio Managw8n
- A \$300 gift basket from the Musée des Abénakis

### INFORMATION? QUESTIONS?

Contact us!  
PMO-Odanak@cdrhpnq.qc.ca



### A well-deserved honour for Patrice Durand!

The Minneapolis team highlighted Patrice's invaluable contribution. Always involved, he is the first to lend a hand to the branches and sales team.

During the weekly sales force's meetings, Patrice stands out by sharing relevant ideas and by constantly engaging himself in moving the team forward. He embodies teamwork in everything he does and places the business at the heart of his actions.

During our visit to the Quebec region with our lead technical representative, Patrice went above expectation and offered unparalleled technical services to our existing, key, new and targeted clients.

The whole team wants to congratulate him on his exemplary commitment, both on site and within the organization.

Congrats, Patrice!



# WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ODANAK HEALTH CENTER



**Jean Vollant**  
Director - Odanak Health Center

**Dear community members, employees and partners,**

The transition to the new fiscal year 2025–2026 is a good time to reflect and to assess our achievements. It is vital to keep in mind the noble mission that unites us and drives the Odanak Health Center (CSO).

The CSO defined its mission as follows: “Contribute to improving the health and well-being of members of the Odanak community through health programs that focus on prevention and health promotion, and by favouring a holistic approach respectful of beliefs and cultural values emanating from the Abenaki Nation.”

This mission mirrors that of the Abenaki Council of Odanak (CAO), comprising of members that are proud of their identity, history and culture.

Determined in collaboration with CSO stakeholders, the following guiding principles drive our actions and decisions: **teamwork, collective well-being** and **quality of service**.

These principles are consistent with the CAO’s strategic plan, which fully supports our mission. Therefore, their values are also reflected: happiness, respect, integrity and involvement.

Thanks to the involvement of every member of our organization, we are able to make a significant difference in the lives of those we support. Every day, we help, heal, readapt, protect and prevent.

In 2025–2026, we will strive to pursue the same goals and to continue to do what worked last year. We are happy to see that there has been significantly more collaboration between the CSO and our valued partners, which is a testament to our collective progress.

We are committed to maintaining the strict and transparent management of our resources, while also promoting skills development for our staff. Everyone’s contributions, from clinical, administrative and support staff, are vital to the accomplishment of our common mission.

Be proud of our achievements!

# ODANAK HEALTH CENTER (CSO) ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

**Michel Paul**  
Accreditation Coordinator (contract) - Odanak Health Center

**Kwei everyone,**

A visit took place last May 6-8 regarding the process of renewing of the status of accreditation of the CSO with the implementation of continuous improvement plan for quality and safety (PACQS/2024-2025).

Since January last year, we have worked day in day out along with team leads appointed to monitor the results of the self-assessment exercise regarding the standards set out in our evaluation manual. A quick reminder that this step, which is a major part of the accreditation renewal process, is similar to a compliance audit, based on regulatory requirements.

For instance, our evaluation manual included five (5) standards relating to the safe handling of medication, and infection prevention and control. Each of these standards defined a set of criteria and required organizational practices (POR).

All in all, the self-assessment exercise resulted in over 336 criteria 15 POR for our organization, regarding the compliance validation of these elements. For each of them (both criteria and POR), we had to assess their individual compliance level, with proof. In case of non-compliance, we had to identify and implement corrective measures prior to the visit. Beyond this self-assessment exercise, over thirty-two (32) areas for the continuous improvement in quality and safety were also identified.

In our last article on this topic, we presented a table showing the steps of each of PACQS’ main activities for 2024–2025. Here is the final report on its implementation, presented as an achievement percentage (%).

## PACQS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2024–2025

As we stand, we believe that we are ready for the assessment meeting with the visitors. Finally, I want to recognize the outstanding collaboration between CSO management and staff in maintaining an organizational culture aimed at delivering high quality and culturally sensitive care to the community.

	MAIN ACTIVITIES	DEADLINE	ACHIEVEMENT (%)
STEPS	1 Conduct a workforce survey of CSO staff, share results with stakeholders and follow up by applying corrective measures if needed.	December 2023	100%
	2 Roll out surveys about service quality appreciation to clientele and follow up on corrective measures if needed.	May 2024	100%
	3 Hold a fire drill, write a follow-up report on the assessment, and follow up on corrective measures.	June 2024	100%
	4 Update all our clinical-administrative procedures (policy, care procedures, clinical protocols, etc.).	November 2024	100%
	5 Assess compliance criteria and applicable POR relevant to the standards set out in our assessment manual.	December 2024	100%
	6 Follow-up of non-compliant criteria and areas for improvement following self-assessment and implementation of corrective measures.	February 2025	100%
	7 Plan, implement and coordinate other activities in anticipation of the May 2025 visit.	March 2025	50%

Kchi wliwni!



## MEDICAL RECORD CONFIDENTIALITY

### Andréanne Gouin et Paule Leïby

Medical Archivists -  
Odanak Health Center

### A THOROUGH MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION PROTECTION PROCESS

The management of bio-psycho-social records is a major challenge in health and social services, in particular regarding protecting users' privacy. At CSO, this work is handled by qualified medical archivists, who take the utmost care in ensuring patient confidentiality and privacy.

### THOROUGH MANAGEMENT BY THE MEDICAL ARCHIVISTS

Bio-psycho-social records contain sensitive information which, while key to user care, needs to be handled with the utmost confidentiality. At CSO, access to these records is restricted to practitioners actively involved in providing care and services. However, this access is strictly monitored. Practitioners/providers may only access the information after having secured authorization by the medical archivists in charge of managing access to the records. They play a major role in verifying and validating every single record consultation. This allows them to ensure complete traceability of the records and compliance with safety protocols. As such, archivists are critically important to the protection of information, since they make sure that confidentiality protocols are complied with, in accordance with the law.

### INFORMATION PROTECTION: ABSOLUTE PRIORITY

Protecting confidentiality is at the core of the medical archivists' mission. User data protection is not limited to the handling of records, but also includes the implementation of physical and digital security measures to prevent any unauthorized disclosures. These measures are regularly updated to match the evolution of security standards. Users can trust that their information is handled with the utmost care in compliance with current laws and regulations.

At CSO, ensuring the confidentiality of bio-psycho-social records is an absolute priority. Thanks to medical archivists' vigilance and expertise, users may rest assured that their personal information is fully protected, and that practitioners are able to access it safely in accordance with security standards.

For more information or questions, feel free to contact us.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

We are happy to announce that Ms. Andréanne Gouin is fully back at CSO from her maternity leave since Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Andréanne Gouin**  
Medical Archivist and Admin/  
Health Liaison Officer

**agouin@csodanak.com**  
450 568-6766, ext. 4010

**Lyne Mailhot**  
Health Liaison Officer and NIHB  
Navigator for Quebec Province

**lmailhot@csodanak.com**  
450 568-6766, ext. 4030

Please note the above changes to the assignment of duties.

If you have any question or require more informations, feel free to contact us.



## PROUD OF OUR 4<sup>TH</sup> ABENAKI DELEGATION

### Christina Béland-Racine

Kinesiologist - Odanak Health Center

We are very happy to introduce you to the athletes making up the 4th Abenaki Delegation for the 2025 Inter-school Games.

Over the past several weeks, they have been preparing for their respective competitions: 100-meter race, 200-meter race, relay race, obstacle race, trail race, weight throw, javelin throw and long jump.

Moreover, for the first time ever, we have a 13- to 15-year-old volleyball team.

We give special thanks to Joanny Gill and Mélanie Desmarais. Since September, they have volunteered both time and energy to help the teams prepare for their competitions.

Thanks also to Marc-Olivier O'Bomsawin, who has been with us since our first delegation, and to Marc-André Légaré, a student kinesiologist who has been of great assistance during training.

"Whether or not you bring back a medal, I am SO proud of all of you, and of all the work you have put into this event!"

Pazokw, nis, Kassiwi, Pazokw, nis, W8banaki! (1-2 together, 1-2 W8banaki)"



## GINGIVITIS: DON'T OVERLOOK THIS GUM DISEASE!



**Élisabeth Morel**  
Dental Hygienist—Odanak Health Center

HEALTHY GUMS	GUMS SHOWING SIGNS OF GINGIVITIS
Firm	Red or swollen
Pink	Sensitive while chewing or brushing
Forms a tight crown around each tooth	Bleeding during brushing or cleaning between the teeth Bad breath

### WHAT IS GINGIVITIS?

Gingivitis is a reversible gum infection. It is an accumulation of harmful bacteria in the dental plaque at the junction of gum and teeth. If brushing is irregular or inadequate, the bacteria multiply, resulting in a swelling of the gums. When left untreated, gingivitis can develop into a more serious disease: periodontitis. This disease can lead to both tooth loss and bone loss.

### HOW CAN YOU PREVENT OR TREAT GINGIVITIS?

- Brush your teeth for two minutes, at least twice a day. Make sure you are brushing along your gums.
- Use dental floss, an interdental brush or a water flosser daily to clean between your teeth.
- Use antibacterial mouthwash for 30 to 60 seconds every day, without rinsing afterward.
- Quit smoking or vaping.
- Book regular appointments with your dental hygienist.

Source: Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (n.d.).  
Gingivitis: A Red Flag That Should Not Be Ignored. Dental Hygienist Canada.  
<https://www.hygienedentairecanada.ca/hdcanada/hdcanada/Risques/Gingivite.aspx>

## TRANSPORT SERVICE

Medical transportation provides easier access to care by guaranteeing safe, reliable transportation for the Odanak community.

**Would you like someone to come with you to your medical appointment? Ask for one of our volunteers!**

You can make this request during your call for medical transportation.

To do so, contact Sandrine at CSO: 450 568-6766.

Outside of CSO opening hours, you can contact her at 450 780-1363.

## COLLECTIVE PRESCRIPTIONS

**Kwaï Mziwi,**

For the past year, CSO, in collaboration with Dr. Shoener, has started carrying collective prescriptions.

### WHAT IS A COLLECTIVE PRESCRIPTION?

A collective prescription is a direction given by a doctor or a group of doctors to a medical professional or an authorized person. It covers medications, treatments, examinations and care for specific groups of people or clinical situations. It details the circumstances in which the prescription is applicable and the contraindications.<sup>1</sup>

Thanks to this, considering the CSO's eligibility criteria, we are able to initiate certain actions, such as:

- Wart treatment (prior medical diagnostic required)
- Emergency contraception
- Constipation treatment
- Use of tissue glue for minor lacerations
- Initiate treatment for people showing no symptoms, following a tick bite
- Screening and treatment of streptococcal B, group A pharyngitis or tonsillitis
- Initiate treatment of non-problematic urinary tract infection with WOMEN 14+

Please feel free to contact us; we'll be happy to guide you through your options so that you can save yourself a trip to the ER!

CSO nurses team.

<sup>1</sup> Ordonnance collective: définition | OIIQ

**Odanak Ecocentre**  
Open from April 17, 2025  
Thursday 1pm-4pm  
Friday 1pm-4pm  
Saturday 10am-3pm

**IMPORTANT**  
Access to Odanak residents only\*

**CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**  
June 21 & October 4  
Closed during Pow Wow

\*Residents of municipalities, contact your municipality for more information on the changes in effect.



## MEDICAL TRANSPORT

We have noticed an increase in last-minute cancellations when clients aren't picked up by their desired driver. When you are assigned a contract driver, a volunteer driver or a taxi, it means that the full-time driver is unavailable.

**Please note that if you refuse service from your assigned driver, your transport request will be cancelled. Furthermore, no refunds will be issued.**

If you wish to file a complaint regarding medical transportation, a form is available at the CSO front desk.

For insurance purposes, all medical transport users are required to sit in the back of the vehicle.

### CANCELLED APPOINTMENTS

If your appointment gets cancelled, please inform us as quickly as possible (at least 24 hours in advance) to avoid having the reserved transport come to your home and incurring travel costs.

### QUICK REMINDER

If a client misses a TRM authorized by the coordinator or forgets to call to inform us of a cancelled appointment, penalties will be imposed.

For more information, please contact your CSO TRM coordinator (Ms. Paule Leiby or Ms. Sanadrine Cardin) at:

Phone: **450 568-6766**

TRM cellphone: **450 780-1363**  
(outside of CSO operating hours)

Email: **pleiby@csodanak.com**  
or **scardin@csodanak.com**



### PENALTIES

3 <sup>RD</sup> INFRACTION	CSO Management will issue a letter to the client.
2 <sup>ND</sup> INFRACTION	The client will be denied TRM services for 1 month.
1 <sup>ST</sup> INFRACTION	The client will be denied TRM services for 1 month, and will incur a \$20 fee, payable to the Abenaki Council of Odanak.

## MAPLE SYRUP AND DIABETES

Text shared by Daphnée Couture, Nursing Care Coordinator.

The maple tree: one of the Creator's gifts to Indigenous people. Through hard work, we harvest and transform maple water into maple syrup, an emblem of Indigenous cultural heritage. It is praised for its multiple health benefits: packed with vitamins, minerals, amino acids and inflammation-reducing antioxidants, it may help reduce the swelling of blood vessels and protect against heart disease.

However, people living with diabetes must enjoy it in moderation.

### TRUE OR FALSE:

**Maple syrup does not affect blood sugar.**

**FALSE:** even though maple syrup has many potential health benefits, it remains a source of sugar.

**15 ml of syrup = 15 g of sugar.**

Not only that, but it is also sometimes used as a treatment for low blood sugar. Therefore, it goes without saying that regardless of its health benefits, maple syrup definitely affects blood sugar!

So, although you may still consume maple syrup, remember: everything tastes better in moderation!



Source: Dia-Logue Printemps 2025, Morissette A, et al. Substituting Refined Sugars With Maple Syrup Decreases Key Cardiometabolic Risk Factors in Individuals With Mild Metabolic Alterations: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Controlled Crossover Trial. J Nutr. 2024 Oct;154(10):2963-2975. doi: 10.1016/j.tjnut.2024.08.014. Epub 2024 Aug 18. PMID: 39163971; PMCID: PMC11522891. Les Producteurs et productrices acéricoles du Québec. (2022). Programme de recherche sur l'érable. Page consultée le 16 décembre 2024. Repéré à scienceerable.ca/



## PREVENTING TICK BITES

**Gabrielle Dolan**

*Clinical Nurse -  
Odanak Health Center*

Spring is finally upon us! Between the mild weather, budding trees and birds singing, it feels good to spend time outside! Most of us will probably soon be walking around the Koak and Tolba trails, enjoying the great outdoors. But beware: with fine weather comes the return of potential Lyme disease-carrying ticks.

Here are a few tips to help you stay safe during your outdoor activities:

### While walking around, to prevent tick bites:

- Wear long light-coloured clothing.
- Wear a hat and closed-toe shoes.
- Tuck your shirt in your pants, and pull your socks over your pant leg.
- Use bug repellent on your still-exposed body parts, except your face. Follow the repellent's directions.
- Keep to the open trails and paths, and stay away from tall grass.

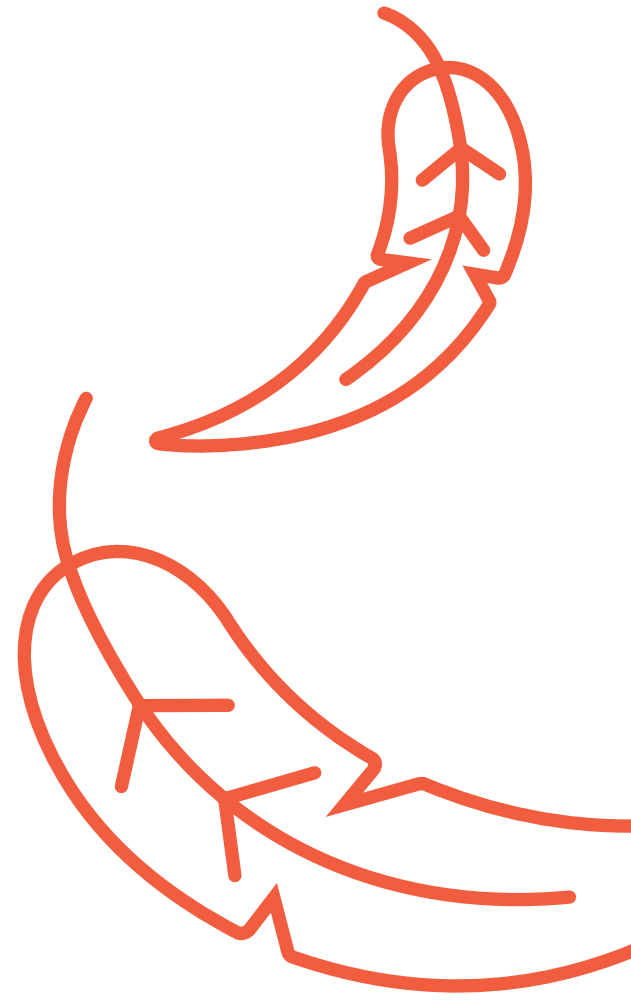
### Coming back from an outdoor activity, to spot tick bites:

- Check your body. Have someone else examine you, or use a mirror to inspect less visible areas, such as your back. Take this opportunity to examine children as well.
- Take a bath or a shower as soon as possible, ideally within two hours of your return from the activity.
- Put your clothes in the dryer and run it in the warmest cycle for at least 10 minutes.
- Check your equipment (backpack, coat, etc.). This will prevent the introduction of ticks in your home, where they could bite your family members or pets.

### What do I do if I was bitten?

- **Immediately extract any ticks with a pair of clean fine-tipped tweezers.** It is important that you do not press on the tick's abdomen.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water.
- Place the tick in an airtight container and bring it with you if you need to consult a healthcare professional.
- Call one of CSO's nurses as soon as possible; they'll tell you what to do. You may be prescribed antibiotics to prevent Lyme disease (outside of CSO operating hours, you may also contact 811, option 1).

And now, let us safely enjoy the spring weather!



## BREASTFEEDING

**Isabelle Dupuis**

*Clinical Nurse -  
Odanak Health Center*

### BREASTFEEDING: FOSTERING THE BOND BETWEEN MOM AND BABY

Breastfeeding is a natural nursing method that can be beneficial both for the mother and the baby. For generations, it has been recognized as the best way to feed a newborn, for multiple reasons. In fact, the WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding up to the age of 6 months, with continued breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding until the child is 2 years or older.

Here are some of the benefits for the mother and for the baby:

#### For the baby:

- **Optimal nutrition:** breast milk contains all the necessary nutrients that will ensure healthy growth and development for the baby. It will also adapt to the baby's needs over time.
- **Boosted immune system:** breast milk is rich in antibodies, enzymes and immune cells that help protect the baby against infection, disease and allergy.
- **Promoted cognitive development:** research suggests that infants who are breastfed tend to exhibit enhanced cognitive abilities and optimal neurological development.
- **Greater emotional bonds:** physical proximity during breastfeeding fosters a strong emotional bond between mother and child, providing comfort and safety to the baby.

#### For the mother:

- **Enhanced postpartum healing:** breastfeeding helps reduce the risk of excessive bleeding following birth and promotes uterine contraction.
- **Reduced risk of contracting certain diseases:** breastfeeding is linked to a decrease in the risk of contracting breast and ovarian cancer, as well as type 2 diabetes.
- **Improved weight loss:** breastfeeding burns extra calories, which may help mothers achieve their pre-pregnancy figure.
- **Simple and cost-effective:** breast milk is free and always available, no need to prepare or to stock up.
- **Breastfeeding is beneficial for both the mother and the child's physical and emotional health.** It fosters healthy development, boosts the immune system, and allows for a strong bond between them. If you consider breastfeeding, feel free to swing by, and I'll be happy to help you along this fantastic journey.

Source:  
Breastfeeding. (2019, November 11). World Health Organization (WHO).  
[https://www.who.int/fr/health-topics/breastfeeding#tab=tab\\_2](https://www.who.int/fr/health-topics/breastfeeding#tab=tab_2)



## NEWS FROM YOUR MUSEUM

MUSÉE DES  
**Abénakis**

**Vicky Desfossés-Bégin**

General Manager – Musée des Abénakis

Did you know that 2025 marks the Museum's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary? It was on March 9, 1965, that the letters patent of the Société historique d'Odanak were signed. Since then, the Museum has not only grown, but evolved in harmony with the W8banaki Nation. Its mission has always been to highlight the priceless wealth of Abenaki culture as well as that of other First Nations, through its collections, exhibitions and events.

This 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is also a chance for us to express our gratitude to you, our community members, partners, Museum patrons and visitors. It is through your ongoing support and loyalty that we have been able to shape this place into a thriving hub of culture, learning and sharing. Above all, we'd like to thank you, because the Museum is a great collective endeavour, a legacy that we're all building together. Wliwni, thank you all so much!

Please consider sharing your memories of the Museum, either from a visit or from an event you attended, by posting them on our Facebook or Instagram pages. We'd love to hear from you!

### SIGWAN 2025: THE RETURN OF A MEMORABLE FUNDRAISER

March 20 saw the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Hydro-Québec's annual fundraiser. This first event of its kind in five years, it was dedicated to the Sigwan spring, and provided an opportunity for us to reconnect with one another in support of a very dear cause. We are pleased to announce that we raised just over \$47,000 in support of the Museum's educational and cultural missions.

The success of the event was made possible by the involvement of 27 partners, 16 artists and dozens of individuals. Their support made all the difference.

On behalf of the Museum's management and staff, we'd like to express our most heartfelt gratitude. Wliwni, thank you all!



Société historique d'Odanak's Board of Directors. From left to right: Louis-Martin McArdle, Helen Watso, Martin Gill, Vicky Desfossés-Bégin, Marc-Antoine Duchesne, Hélène Gill, Isaak Lachapelle-Gill.

Do you wish to make a donation, or to become a member and take action?

Please visit our website: [www.museeabenakis.ca](http://www.museeabenakis.ca), under Membership and Donations.

### A POSITIVE ENDING TO THIS FISCAL YEAR

Our fiscal year came to a close on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and we're thrilled to report that 15,741 people visited the Museum. Although this figure is slightly lower than last year's (a historic 16,005 visitors), it is nevertheless highly satisfying. The main fact remains that our Museum continues to be a place of gathering and cultural awakening for both children and adults.

We have also exceeded our expectations in terms of school visits, with a total of 4,385 primary and secondary school students having the opportunity to enjoy our exhibitions and activities both in and out of the Museum.

Our cultural programming has grown and expanded, offering a wide variety of activities throughout the year. The accolades we have received from the cultural and business communities are a testament to the quality and relevance of our work.

All of this promises to make for another exciting year!



School animation at the Museum. Credit: Francis Bellerive.

### TOGETHER TOWARDS AN INSPIRING 2025–2026!

Building on the popularity of our new permanent exhibition and the opening of our temporary showroom, the Museum team is gearing up for an ambitious 2025–2026.

From March 1 to June 1, we presented Aianishkat, de génération en génération, an exhibit highlighting the work of Ilnu artists Patricia and Raphaëlle Langevin. The show was very well received by the public.

We are also happy to announce that, from June 25 to September 28, the Museum will host the Nikanik : Empreinte des pensionnats autochtones exhibition. Nikanik, which means "going forward," gathers the work of an impressive range of Indigenous artists: Jacques Newwashish, Michi Rachel Thusky, Pauline St-Onge, Raymond Weizineau, Sonia Basile-Martel, and Ariane Bellefleur. Together, they convey a strong desire for resilience and progress towards the future.



This fall, we will host the Warowik E Otcite, revenir de loin exhibition by Sonia Basile-Martel, "atika-becer" artist. Inspired by her own life's journey, the show tackles themes of mixed-race identity, healing and reconciliation.

### COMING SOON TO THE MUSEUM

Summer is upon us, and the Museum team is ready to welcome you with a bunch of awesome activities!

**June 24–August 24:** Photo Contest Show Me Your Odanak, N'namitlowa Odanak

**July 2–August 22:** Creative Workshops: Wednesday: bracelet, Thursday: corn husk doll and Friday: dreamcatcher

**July 11:** Outdoor Movie—Screening of Kim O'Bomsawin's *Ninan Auassat, Nous les enfants* (Please note that the film is only available in French)

**July 19–20:** Odanak Pow Wow

**August 7:** Archeologist for a Day activity

**August 16:** Wapikoni mobile visit—Screening of 15 youth-oriented short films

For full programming details, visit our website regularly: [www.museeabenakis.ca](http://www.museeabenakis.ca).

### SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT AT KIZ8BAK, THE MUSEUM'S GIFT SHOP

Our gift shop is gearing up for the summer, and we are looking to expand our offering with new products from talented First Nations artists and artisans. We're currently looking for Indigenous craftspeople interested in showcasing their skills in our store, which celebrates the creativity and cultural wealth of First Peoples.

Whether you create works of art, jewelry, functional items, traditional or contemporary goods, we would love to see your work. Summer being the busiest time of year, this is the perfect opportunity to promote your creations to a wide audience, in a space that values authenticity and excellence.

Interested in working with us? Give us a call at 450 568-2600.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the Museum!

