

W8BANAKI PILASKW

Word from the Chief



Kwai fellow Band Members,

It is with earnest honour that I undertake the mandate of representing our Nation once again and for the next two years. More than the ballots of the current election, what I count on is the

ongoing support and faith gathered for the process of deciding the direction we need to take as a Nation. I am confident that we can see past the challenges and remain grounded in our quest to provide a foundation which is solid enough to support the generations to come.

There are many concerns on our agenda in these times. We are weathering through threatening redefinitions of essential services such as health, education and policing notwithstanding our need to continue in our pursuit to create sustainable economic growth.

We are currently engaged in many negotiation processes in which we must continue to insist that we be not only heard but also considered in the plans for Canada. We have an important role to play in defining the outcome of negotiations in all areas that directly affects the legacy we leave for our children, grandchildren and great

grandchildren. Careful reflection is an absolute precursor to the actions we will carry out as the elected representatives of our Nations.

We must continue to work hard defining and designing our future. Your input is invaluable to this process. I have confidence and know that as a community we can collectively contribute to the actions and outcome of our Nation. I welcome your feedback and comments in areas such as transparency, policies, culture and any other reflections you may have about the current and future directions of our community. Please feel free to submit your thoughts on these issues at rickobomsawin@gmail.com.

In peace and friendship,
Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

ELECTIONS

On October 19, nominations were held for candidates for Chief and Councillors for the Abenakis of Odanak Council.

Candidates had three hours to submit their applications, from 9am to noon. For a nomination to be valid, two people had to support the candidate, one to propose the candidate and the other to second the proposal. From noon to 3pm, the electoral officer, Mr. Yves Landry, called all the candidates to explain the course of the election campaign.

On Saturday, October 26, from 1pm to 5pm, a meeting was held in Albany, NY, to allow candidates to introduce themselves and their election platform to Abenaki members of this region. On November 30, from 8am to 8pm, the elections were held. The counting was done the next day and the results were announced in the evening.

Here are the election results:

Candidates for Chief:



Elected

**O'BOMSAWIN
Richard (Rick)
317 votes**

Candidates	Vote
BENEDICT, Michael Paul	252
G. NOLETT, Éric	95

Candidates for councillors:



Elected

**O'BOMSAWIN
Claire
393 votes**



Elected

**O'BOMSAWIN
Réjean
319 votes**



Elected

**O'BOMSAWIN
GAUTHIER
Mathieu
281 votes**



Elected

**WAWANOLOATH
Alexis
275 votes**

Candidates	Vote
CÔTÉ, Richard David (Richard Côté)	168
G. NOLETT, Luc	169
GAUTHIER, Pierre	51
NORMAND, George	138
O'BOMSAWIN, Alain	245
O'BOMSAWIN, Nicole	217
R. O'BOMSAWIN, Gertrude	92
WILLIAMS, Steve	154

Editorial team

Happy New Year 2014

The Abenakis of Odanak Council and the Tribal Council join the editorial team to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful 2014. May health, love and success be with you in all your projects.

Editorial team

Word from the Executive Director



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Band Council

Wli ngwejigaden mziwi W8banakiak!
Wig8damw8gan, s8glamalsow8gan ta
kzaldamw8gan wji 2014! There is a wind of
change, a youthful wind in our Council as we
welcome two new members.

For your information, the new four unit apartment
building with one-bedroom apartments (3½) was
completed in late October. These apartments are
to meet the housing needs of community
members. Costs totalled nearly \$300,000.

Here is an update of certain files:

- Expansion of administrative offices
The work has been postponed to the spring of
2014.

- Expansion of the community centre
Work will be completed in late January or early
February. Costs will total nearly \$150,000. We will
be able to meet a certain demand and
entertainment needs as well as some activities
such as community dinners.

In terms of public works, due our aging vehicles,
we completed the purchase of a new truck and a
new tractor (for snow removal). We are eligible for
funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada (AANDC). The First Nations
communities have access to a funding program
every five (5) years for replacing such equipment
and vehicles. Therefore, these expenses are
eligible. We do not yet know the funding amount
that will be granted or when we will receive it
(either in 2013-2014 or in 2014-2015), but we will
be receiving some. Funding is committed by
AANDC for 2013-2014, but if funds become
available by March 31, 2014, certain amounts will
be transferred. We will be purchasing a backhoe
next spring.

We will introduce a project with the Council to
develop a new strategic plan for the next five (5)

years. We will therefore prioritize actions for the
next five (5) years. This activity should take place
during the months of February and March. This
exercise will therefore set the table for the
planning of Council activities and activities for its
various departments.

We are currently in discussions with Public Safety
Canada and Quebec to renew our service delivery
and funding agreement for police services in
Odanak and Wôlinak. It should be a four (4) year
agreement.

We, the Executive Directors of the Band Councils,
the Executive Directors of the Tribal Councils and
the Regional Commissions of the AFNQL, have
held the first of our two annual meetings with
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Canada (AANDC) last October 30 and 31, and
November 1, in Wendake. We discussed in
particular the proposed new AANDC First
Nations Education Act, on the reform of income
support program and compliance verifications
that will be conducted with the bands in this
program, the new funding agreement models and
emergency measures. Moreover, the Harper
government has made it a priority. He announced
on November 19, new measures to improve
emergency management in First Nations
communities.

Word from the Councillors



Hello to all,

To begin, I am very happy and
proud to see that so many
people decided to trust and
support me in the November
elections. For my new term, I
will continue to pay particular
attention to certain issues that
are close to my heart,
especially regarding our elders.

In closing, I wish you love,
health and success in all your
endeavors throughout 2014 and
thank you again for your
support.

Claire O'Bomsawin
Councillor



Kwaï,

First, I want to thank everyone who
supported me during the
November 30 elections. It is with
great pride that I was re-elected as
councillor. For this new mandate, I
will put as much effort and heart
into representing you.

I will continue to put my shoulder
to the wheel, especially with regard
to issues relating to CKBN, hunting
and fishing, the cultural council and
a seat at the regional conference of
elected officials (CRÉ). I am
particularly pleased to now serve
on the Grand Council and join the
team to push forward national
issues.

In closing, I wish you all a Happy
2014!

Wliwni,
Réjean O'Bomsawin
Councillor



Kwaï!

I sincerely want to thank you for the support
and confidence you showed me in the last
elections on November 30. It is with great
enthusiasm and pride that I begin this first
term, which will allow me to gain
experience and knowledge in order to
perform my duties and meet your
expectations. It is an honour to represent you
and to finally say that our youth will have a
voice at the Council and it will be heard! I
hope that the arrival of a new team will
bring a dynamic vision that will reflect our
needs and ambitions as a Nation.

This year will be a learning experience for
me, but I am nevertheless very motivated to
meet the many challenges that lie ahead over
the next two years. In closing, I wish
everyone a happy new year!

Once again, kchi wliwni!

Mathieu O'Bomsawin Gauthier
Councillor



Kwaï!!

First, I would like to say Kchi
Wliwni to all those who voted for
me! I am very honoured by this
mark of trust. I would like to tell
everyone that I will be your
representative regardless who you
voted for.

For me, proximity, accessibility,
integrity and transparency are
values that I intend to put forward
during my mandate. Issues
concerning the unity of our Nation,
our territory, education, culture and
socio-economic development will
certainly be priorities for me.

I am very proud to represent you and
if you have any questions or ideas
for our Nation, please contact me.

Alexis Wawanoloath
Councillor
awawanoloath@caodanak.com
alexiswawa/facebook.com
C : 450 561-8113



Thank you for your support!

I want to thank my family, friends, members of the Odanak
community, Band Council employees and the Waban-Aki Nation
for their support over the past eight years. I would also like to thank
the organizations with whom I worked and who deserve my

respect for several reasons, in particular the volunteers. All the
best to the newly elected and congratulations!

Alain O'Bomsawin

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND OFFICE ODANAK

News from the Odanak Environment and Land Bureau

NEWS FROM THE YELLOW PERCH PROJECT



Perch caught in the first marsh fyke net



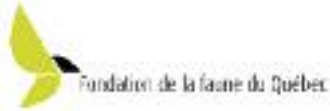
View of creek leading to the 1st La Commune marsh prior to development

Last spring, we informed you about a new project for the return of yellow perch in the first La Commune marsh through wildlife development projects. As you recall, due to the collapse of the perch population in Lake Saint-Pierre, a moratorium prohibiting fishing was introduced and only the Abenaki people can now catch this fish species in our area. This collapse is mainly due to the loss of quality spawning and growth habitat for small perch.

To this end, we explored the land with fish development specialists to validate the feasibility of the project. Good news, we actually possess a very good spawning habitat for this fish and the project is feasible. Subsequently, in order to determine whether the fish are still trying to access the marshes in spring, we installed fyke nets at the mouth of the marshes. In total, we caught more than 70 perch during the two weeks of study, in addition to several northern pike, catfish, and a large snapping turtle! This confirms that the fish are still trying unsuccessfully to reach the La Commune marshes.

We have been working with AECOM consultant inc. from Trois-Rivières to establish an action plan including plans for future development. This information now allows us to obtain the required funding and to get organized so that these developments for perch become reality next summer.

Finally, this project is made possible through funding from the Fondation de la faune du Québec and the Quebec Government's Ministère du Développement durable, de la faune et des Parcs (MDDEFP).



OBJECTIVE "REDUCING THE WASTE GENERATED BY THE ODANAK COMMUNITY"

Two New Programs:



Odanak fallen leaves collection. Photo of the 1st collection in November.

SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR COTTON DIAPERS FROM THE ODANAK HEALTH CENTRE:

Did you know that nearly 7,000 disposable diapers are needed before a child is toilet trained? That's more than one ton of waste produced and sent to the landfill per child. In addition, diapers take

between 300 and 500 years to decompose and represent the third largest component of waste produced by a municipality. Since the disposal of a baby's diapers generates a cost of over one hundred dollars for the Odanak community in terms of landfill costs, a \$100 subsidy is now available for Odanak member families and Odanak residents who wish to begin using reusable diapers for their newborn baby. Thank you for this Health Centre initiative, as each family using this program will help the community reduce by one ton the quantity of waste sent to the landfill! For more information on the program, please contact the Odanak Health Centre at 450 568-6766.

FALLEN LEAVES COLLECTION PROGRAM:

To avoid burning the fallen leaves collected by Odanak residents or discarding them in the trash and having the community pay landfill costs, a fallen leaves and small branches collection program was introduced this fall. The Odanak Environment and Land Office has created this new service for the public. Two collection dates were scheduled the fall, at the beginning of November and in early December, and sent to the Odanak disposal site. More than a hundred bags were collected this fall. Thanks to all for your participation! Information about this service will be sent at the beginning of the fall through a communiqué. If you have any questions or comments, please call the Odanak Environment and Land Office at 450 568-6363.

THE 6 COMMANDMENTS OF RECYCLING

Accumulate plastic bags in one bag and put only a "ball" of bags in the recycling bin;

The Employees at the recycling centre spend their day sorting plastic bags. By only putting a ball of plastic in our bin instead of dozens of individual bags, we are helping them. In addition, plastic films that do not stretch (pasta bags, bags of chips, cereal bags) cannot be recycled and must go in the trash.

Remove papers from the publicity bags (publisacs) to separate the paper;

Plastic and paper must be separated when sorting. We only have one or two publicity bags (publisacs) to empty at home, while at the sorting centre, several employees are strictly responsible for emptying thousands of these bags every day, and it's overwhelming sometimes.

Empty food containers and rinse them;

Leftover food in containers attracts vermin at the sorting centre. They are literally overrun with rats not to mention the odour stemming from the sorting centre during hot summer days. Please wash the containers and avoid leaving food in them.

Put only plastic containers with recycling numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7;

It's false! Although we might want it to be different, ALL plastics without a recycling sign go in the trash. In addition, plastic number 6 is still not recyclable, so it must also go in the trash. Before putting a plastic in the recycling bin, look for the symbol. Similarly, caps should be removed from containers and discarded if they do not have a recyclable symbol.

Put only the proper metal food containers and papers in the recycling bin;

Let's talk about metal. Only small containers such as canned foods, beverage cans or aluminum plates and aluminum foil can be recycled. Scrap metal goes to the junkyard. In fact, non-recyclable metal is very dangerous for the equipment at sorting centres and can damage the sorting machines and even injure the employees.

Put in the trash what is not recyclable;

Other products which cannot be recovered otherwise go directly in the trash. Here are some examples: bags of chips, chocolate bar wrappers, clotheslines, ropes for bales of hay, lights, Christmas lights, CDs, styrofoam, toys, broken dishes, diapers, sanitary napkins, cat litter, dead animals.

CAPSULE "SPECIES AT RISK" IN ODANAK



Lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) is the largest freshwater fish in North America. Its large size makes it a commercial fish, but this same characteristic confers slow growth and late maturity, which is incompatible with its exploitation. Along with overfishing, several factors make this

species precarious. First, the construction of dams has split and destroyed several habitats. Second, the use of rivers by the pulp and paper industry has disrupted many essential sites for the survival of this species. Finally, poaching for caviar remains a threat to the species. The lake sturgeon population in the St. Lawrence was described as threatened by a group of specialists in Canada (COSEWIC) and is currently under evaluation to be added to the list of species at risk by the Government of Canada (SARA). In Quebec, the species is considered as likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable.

For more information, please visit the "species at risk" section by clicking on the "Environment and Land tab" on the Abenakis of Odanak Council website: <http://www.cbodanak.com/>

Thank you, Wli wni

Michel Durand Nolett, Émilie Paquin and Luc Gauthier Nolett



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Website: <http://www.cbodanak.com/environnement-et-terre.html>

Facebook: Bureau environnement et terre d'Odanak

For photos, videos and information, visit our Facebook page:
Bureau environnement et terre d'Odanak

2013: A GOOD YEAR FOR THE ABENAKI MUSEUM!

Awards

On October 30, Culture Centre-du-Québec held its tenth edition of the GalArt, an annual awards evening for Centre-du-Québec cultural stakeholders. It is with great pride that the Abenaki Museum was awarded the Heritage and Médiat-Muse awards. The Heritage award recognizes our efforts over the last two years to interpret and communicate the Centre-du-Québec cultural heritage and in particular that of the Abenaki First Nation. The Médiat-Muse award highlights the scope of the project Fort Odanak: the past revisited, one of the most significant archaeological projects in Quebec in recent years. The award recognizes the mobilizing nature of the project by involving young Abenakis and the means used to make archeology accessible to the general public. These two GalArt awards will be added to the 2011 award we received in the category Cultural Tourism. Since 2011, no fewer than seven honours have been awarded to the Abenaki Museum team. We are very proud of these awards that confirm the excellence of our projects.

Archeology

Fort Odanak: the past revisited ended August 22 after three years of hard work. The 2013 excavation campaign was just as successful as the previous ones. More than 2,500 artifacts were found and traces of structures (palisades, sleeping benches, storage platforms and cooking items) have confirmed the existence of the fortified village built around 1704. Bones of fish and land mammals (muskrat, beaver, deer, etc) will help better understand the diet at the time. Many copper, glass beads, bone and red argillite ornaments were found this year. Something exceptional, beads made from mollusks from New England were also uncovered. In the lot of artifacts, there are also gunflints



transformed into awls, a so-called Jesuit ring, a slate medallion engraved with fine lines and symbols and a small human figure carved in argillite representing the small forest creatures, Mikweso or Man8gamasak. All these findings will allow archaeologists to better understand land use at the time of first contact in the early 19th Century. Some of these objects will be part of an exhibition that will be presented in 2015. In the coming weeks, the Collections Archivist, Patricia Lachapelle, and Archeology Technician, Simon Picard, will document the artifacts.

This year, eight young people from the community helped the archeology team. These archeology apprentices contributed to the project and discovered their history, their heritage. I take this opportunity to thank all the young people who have participated in the project since 2012: Janice Cardin-Boucher, Maxime Desrochers-Gill, Mathilde Gariépy, Mathieu O'Bomsawin Gauthier, Cléopée Lachapelle, Alice O'Bomsawin, Raphaëlle O'Bomsawin, Gabriel Cloutier and Michaël Panadis. Thanks to all of you, an important part of your history has been uncovered and the project has attracted the attention of the scientific community.

Congratulations to our beautiful youth!

The field project is finished, but thanks to a grant of \$248,500 from the Canadian Virtual Museum, the results will be presented in a virtual exhibition that will be online by 2015.

Financial assistance of \$34,000 from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications has enabled the archeology team to conduct surveys along the Saint-François River, from Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville to Ulverton, and to excavate during a week the remains of the first chapel of the Odanak Catholic mission. A major discovery was made at Ile-aux-Vaches, upstream from the Saint-François River: a water mill built around 1765. This mill was likely built after the destruction of the windmill on Fort island. Archaeologists unearthed the remains of a wall measuring 10.0 m long, 0.8 m wide, with a height ranging from 0.4 to 1.0 m. Historical records mention the use of the mill by the Abenakis and the colonists. An application for a grant from Canadian Heritage was filed last November in order to permit four weeks of excavations in 2014 on the island. Let's cross our fingers!

2014 Fundraising cocktail party

The third edition of fundraising cocktail party will be held Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the Abenaki Museum. Make sure you enter this date on your calendar! Tickets are \$85 and are on sale now at the Museum Shop. Museum members receive a \$10 discount. This is one of the many benefits of joining the Odanak Historical Society.

Wanted

In June 2013, Canadian Heritage awarded us a grant for an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Museum in 2015. We are therefore looking for visual documents (pictures, movies) and audio documents, as well as objects that have marked half a century of history. Please contact Christine Sioui Wawanoloath if you have Museum souvenirs.

Now playing

I invite you to discover our new exhibitions: Red Memory: The Indian Residential Schools in Quebec, Reliques et Passages by artist Eruoma Awashish and Pont David-Laperrière: 82 ans d'histoires. Visit our website for exhibition dates (www.museedesabenakis.ca).

Everyone at the Museum sends their best wishes for 2014 to all members of the Odanak Historical Society as well as all the Abenaki people, whom I also invite to join. A small gesture that shows your support for your cultural institution and that provides you with some benefits: Free admission to the museum, shop discounts, invitations to special events. I send my wishes to the entire Museum team so that we may have projects that meet our passion and talents.

Hoping to see you often at the Abenaki Museum in the coming months.

Wli wni,
Michelle Bélanger, Executive Director

A Giant Mosquito in Odanak



From September 11 to November 11, 2013, a strange mosquito named CILIATA was displayed in the Abenaki Museum yard as part of the project Voir grand d'Essarts. The designer Maude Lapierre wanted to play around with proportions by creating a metal mosquito several meters high. As a trained jeweller, she usually works with very small objects and tools. It was a considerable challenge for Maude Lapierre to create something so big, especially since it was her first large-format work. Nevertheless, she succeeded with flying colours due to her attention to detail and talent. A three-concept approach was used for all of the work, three colours, three legs, three sides of the prism.

Pierre Tessier from the Essarts movement is delighted with his partnership with the Museum, because in addition to giving high visibility to both organizations in the region, he shares similar values to those of the Museum regarding nature and art. Founded in 2000, the Essarts movement attaches great importance to the promotion of sculpture and now has 45 sculptures from 15 different countries on its outdoor site located in Saint-Pie.

There were several reasons for choosing the Abenaki Museum to exhibit this work, notably because the people of Odanak, the First Nations and Centre-du-Québec residents are interested in sculpture. This sculpture can also unite the traditional and the modern. Finally, this exhibition provides good visibility for the Abenaki Museum across the region.

Editorial team



Archaeological Dinner

On September 10, about 70 people attended a twofold activity at the Abenaki Museum. First, a community dinner was organized by the FNCFS to celebrate the corn festival. A cold buffet was served at the restaurant Le Calumet along with corn and refreshments. The second part of the event was a conference showing the results of the Fort Odanak archaeological excavations. The whole thing was led Michelle Bélanger, the Museum's Director, and the two archeologists responsible for the excavations, Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde.

The archaeological project began with the study of ancient maps. According to these maps, we expected to find the Fort in the Commune. Unfortunately, surveys in this area revealed no trace of the fort. However, the surveys were not done in vain, as two prehistoric sites of 1,000 and 4,000 years old were discovered in the Commune.

This year, eight weeks of excavations around the Abenaki Museum uncovered thousands of artifacts and tangible evidence of the presence of Fort Odanak at this location. The sandy soil at this location has helped preserve the artifacts to the delight of archeologists. Poles charred by flames found on the site are in fact the remains of the old fortifications. It should also be noted that burnt wood preserves better than bare wood.

Pits were dug inside the homes for the disposal of waste. Finding these pits made it possible to geographically locate where the dwellings were and analyze thousands of artifacts found in these pits, and thus increase our understanding of the lifestyle at the time.

Among the objects found, European flint rattle hammers reworked to make awls, tinkling cones, carved in copper cauldrons, iron spikes used to hunt and cut and fishing hooks made with needles, show how the fort inhabitants adapted European objects to traditional uses. A large quantity of fish bones and corn cobs reflect, to some extent, the diet at the time. Earthenware is almost nonexistent in the excavations. This is a sign that there was little European presence inside the fort.

A tremendous amount of beads of all kinds were found during the excavations: stone beads from the southern Great Lakes, Wampum shells from the coast of Maine transformed into beads at the fort, glass beads from trading with Europeans, bone beads and other artifacts for crafts. We can conclude that bartering, exchanging, trading and traveling over long distances were part of the Fort Odanak Abenaki lifestyle.

The Abenaki Museum team is currently seeking funding to continue the research to find out even

more about Abenaki history. Future research will focus on moving up the Saint-François River to locate portage sites, search for camp sites from old maps, conduct surveys at these strategic places to find significant artifacts in the soil and to analyze all the data recovered.

This project is the largest since the expansion of the Museum, with a total value of \$300,000, and would never have been possible without all its partners. Canadian Heritage gave a grant of \$198,000. MRC Nicolet-Yamaska provided \$28,000. The Ministère de la culture et des communications helped create an online logbook outlining the daily progress of the searches. Deloitte contributed \$4,000, which represented half of the profits from their golf tournament. In addition to these partners, Michelle Bélanger, on behalf of the entire team also wanted to thank the participants at the 2012 and 2013 fundraising cocktail parties for their support, the Abenakis of Odanak Council for allowing archaeological excavations on their land, the Local First Nations Commission for employing youth, the Board of Directors of the Odanak Historical Society for its support Odanak, as well as Michel Plourde and Geneviève Treyvaud for their contribution in this project.

Editorial team

News from the Health Centre



REPLACEMENT

Ms. Francine Vigeant, nurse, will replace Isabelle Dupuis during her maternity leave. Ms. Mirya Obomsawin has also been replacing Ms. Odette Nadeau (receptionist/reception desk attendant) temporarily during her sick leave.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

The Abenakis of Odanak Band Council purchased a vehicle for medical transportation for people who do not own a car or are unable to drive or get to their medical appointments. A meeting concerning medical transportation is scheduled for January 15, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Community Hall.

APPROVAL PROCESS

As you know, we have adhered to the approval process. This is not a simple approach. Among other things, we must review all health related policies. Care workers have already had several meetings. Visitors (evaluators) will be with us in May 2014.

HEALTH PLAN

A mega-activity (activity involving several programs) was held in November. Despite the quality of the speakers, some activities had to be canceled for lack of participants, perhaps because of the electoral context. Some of these activities will be postponed to early in the new year.

Other activities including vaccination, community kitchen and screening for high blood pressure took place as planned according to the Health Plan. Activities are planned during the nutrition month.

Deny Obomsawin
Executive Director,
Odanak Health Centre

News from the Local Employment Office



In May, the Income Security Department introduced a socio-professional reintegration pilot project. This project was aimed at helping six people who were having difficulties entering the labour market or returning to school. A partnership with the non-profit company Recycle-Centre was concluded to provide 26 weeks of work to participants. Training on work methods and how to seek employment were provided.

Parallel to the work experience, candidates were given various opportunities to get to know themselves a bit better. Qualified workers offered psycho-social monitoring and workshops related to social reintegration, which led participants to discover their strengths and equip them to overcome some of life's obstacles.

The community should be proud of the candidates who all completed the project despite certain difficulties. Five of the six participants are already employed. Although the 26 weeks are over, the sixth candidate can still count on solid support in his job search.

The project is currently under consideration as to whether it will be renewed in the upcoming year.

Sylvie Desbois
Director of the Local Employment Office
and Responsible for Housing



First Nations education bill

The federal government is currently preparing a First Nations education bill that will have significant impact on the future of all First Nations in Canada.

The majority of communities across the country have expressed concerns in relation to this bill, while others are completely opposed to it. Even though the federal government is continually repeating to the public that it is listening to First Nations, its draft bill reflects none of their main concerns:

1. that First Nations have control over their education
2. that they have access to adequate funding
3. that First Nations languages and culture receive meaningful support

If you wish to obtain information on this issue, contact the First Nations Education Council (FNEC).

Articles related to the proposed bill are posted each week on E-palisades, a blog created by the FNEC. We urge you to visit the blog and take part in spreading the word and sharing your comments at: <http://e-palisades.com/>

First Nations Education Council

Telephone: 418 842-7672
Toll free: 1 855 842-7672
E-mail: info@cepn-fnec.com
Website: cepn-fnec.com

Letter of apology

À L'ATTENTION DE DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT

N/Réf.: 14893-8-398 DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT CONTRE CLAUDE OBOMSAWIN

Odanak jeudi le 10 octobre 2013,

Monsieur,

Je soussigné, Claude Obomsawin,

fais la demande d'arrêter la poursuite en diffamation de votre part.

Je suis désolé et j'aimerais dire que mes paroles ont dépassé ma pensée

lors de l'assemblée publique du 26 mai 2012 du Conseil de bande d'Odanak.

Claude Obomsawin

20, Managuan

Odanak, Qc

JOG 1H0

AT THE ATTENTION OF DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT

N/Ref.: 14893-8-398 DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT AGAINST CLAUDE OBOMSAWIN

Odanak, Thursday October 10, 2013

Dear Sir,

I, the undersigned, Claude Obomsawin,

Kindly ask you to put an end to your defamation action.

I apologize and I would like to say that my words exceeded my thoughts at the Odanak Band Council public assembly of May 26, 2012.

Claude Obomsawin, 20, Managuan Odanak, Qc JOG 1H0

News from the M8wwa Committee!



First row: Suzie O'Bomsawin and Killa Atencio (Listuguj), second row: Jenny M'Sadoques, Mathieu O'Bomsawin, Felicia Mitchell (Listuguj) and Jennifer O'Bomsawin

First Nations Youth Forum

The 3rd First Nations Youth Forum, organized by the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Network, was held last August 22 to the 25, 2013. Nearly a hundred youth from most of our First Nations of Quebec and Labrador communities participated. The forum was also an opportunity to elect the new Network spokespersons for a 2-year term. The main spokespersons are Steven Gros-Louis (Wendake) and Suzie O'Bomsawin (Odanak) and the substitute spokespersons are Sipi Flamand (Manawan) and Mélodie Jourdain (Mani-Utenam). For more information on the Network's spokespersons, please visit <http://www.fnyouthnetwork.com/>.

FRIJ Project

On November 4, 2013, M8wwa Committee members tabled a project under the Youth Regional Investment Fund (FRIJ) as part of the Centre-du-Québec Youth Forum. Our project includes two subprojects. The first is to set up a traditional gathering place (exact location to be determined) along with a wigwam. The second is to enable the youth of the community to learn different types of dances, Pow Wow (e.g. jingle dress dance, fancy dance, etc). We hope our project will be approved by the Youth Forum! If it is, the traditional site should open in July 2014 and the dance lessons should begin in February 2014. Stay tuned!

Centre-du-Québec Youth Leadership Summit

The Centre-du-Québec Youth Leadership Summit, organized annually by the Centre-du-Québec Youth Forum, was held November 14, 2013 in Victoriaville. By the way, the M8wwa Committee has been on the Youth Forum Board since September 2013. We therefore contributed in organizing this event. For example, a message in Abenaki was placed on each table. To understand how the meal would be served, the young guests had to figure out what the Abenaki words meant! It was a lot of fun!

After Charles Moreau spoke, participants had to choose between three workshops:

- 1- Being a young leader: why and how?
- 2- Engaging my community: how to gather people around an action or cause?
- 3- Networking, a key to success.

It was a really interesting event and it allowed for several exchanges among Centre-du-Québec youth!

AFN 4th National Youth Summit

From November 18 to 21, 2013, four Odanak youth, Mathieu O'Bomsawin, Jenny M'Sadoques, Jennifer O'Bomsawin and Suzie O'Bomsawin, took part in the 4th National Youth Summit organized by the AFN National Youth Council. This summit was held in Saskatoon (Saskatchewan) and presented an opportunity for nearly 300 First Nations youth from across Canada to interact with one another! The Summit agenda was diverse and we were even treated to an exclusive performance by A Tribe Called Red!

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the M8wwa Committee or the activities our Committee members participate in!

Do you have ideas for projects? Would you like to get involved in the Committee? Please contact us!



Wliwni,
M8wwa Committee members



Comité M8WWA Committee



Visiting a landfill site, a surprisingly interesting activity!

The Environment and Land Office organized for 25 inquiring people of various ages, last October 25, a very special activity divided into two stages: a bus tour of the landfill site (dump site) and a visit of the sorting centre where Odanak waste and recycling material is sent. The activity was aimed at raising awareness with regard to waste management after the bins and put out on the street.

Before departure, many were unsure of what to expect, because we must admit, it's a pretty unorthodox activity, but fortunately everyone was pleasantly surprised and interested in the two visits from the beginning.

During the visit, participants witnessed and learned for example that the recovery of methane from a landfill can transform this energy into electricity by means of a series of 20-cylinder engines capable of supplying the equivalent of 4,500 5,000 homes. A huge pipe system serves both as a radiator for these huge engines, but also a heating system for a greenhouse for 80,000 tomato plants that produces nearly 2,000 tons of tomatoes per year. In short, in addition to eliminating a powerful greenhouse gas

by burning it, the energy is used to produce an impressive amount of electricity and food. Located in Saint-Nicéphore, the Waste Management landfill centre currently receives 500,000 tonnes of waste per year and the site has been in operation since 1984. Waste is buried in what looks like a huge pool, where contaminated rain water is collected so it never reaches the groundwater. Using their own wastewater treatment plant, they treat 240,000 m³ of water annually.

Regarding the Drummondville sorting centre, they have been in business for 30 years and currently receive 35,000 tons of material annually. This means that approximately 100 tons of material flows every day on the sorting centre's numerous long conveyors to be sorted, compacted, baled and sold. To improve the management of recyclable materials, we should always remove the newspapers from the publicity bags (publisacs), put all the plastic bags into one bag and tie it into a ball, and recycle only plastics with a recycling number, because the remaining plastic cannot be recycled and will have to be discarded. By adopting these practices, we will resolve the main issues at the sorting centres.

For more information and to view photos of the visit, please visit the Odanak Environment and Land Office Facebook page.

In the end, the event was a great success. Feel free to participate in the next ones, because you too will be pleasantly surprised!

Editorial team



3rd edition of the Course à la vie challenge

On Thursday, September 5, the third edition of the Course à la Vie challenge of Odanak was held. Évelyne Boisvert and Atoan O'Bomsawin welcomed young and old walkers and runners alike again this year.

In the first two editions of the Course à la Vie challenge of Odanak, there were more than 200 participants, and we raised nearly \$3,000. This year, the event was a great success. About 85 runners and walkers participated to raise approximately \$1,100. The money raised during the three editions of the Course was handed over to the Centre Prévention suicide les Deux Rives.

Claude Bolduc, host of the morning show *Debout c'est l'heure* on CKBN 90.5 FM, was the spokesperson and one of the participants in the third edition of the Course à la Vie challenge of Odanak.

In addition to raising money for a suicide prevention organization, the Course à la Vie challenge is an event to raise awareness to psychological distress and suicide by recommending physical activity and healthy lifestyles as a means to prevent suicide. It was a cool and sunny September evening and was much appreciated by the runners. Let's hope the weather is as nice for the 2014 edition of the Course à la Vie challenge of Odanak.



Editorial team

It is happening in Odanak



There's only one word to say, WOW! Much has been happening at the Odanak family room since September. The P'tits loups project for children 2 to 5 years is still going strong, and in addition, in collaboration with the Abenakis of Odanak Council, children and teenagers have benefited from a homework assistance program since the beginning of the school year from Monday to Wednesday for elementary students and one day per week for teenagers. There have been many activities and more are planned in the coming months with elementary school children. The Pie Curieuse paid a visit for Halloween. Parents were treated to a presentation by Marie-Michèle Lemaire, Director of PANDA. In January, there will be a conference by SOS Nancy on balancing work and family. The cafe is still held every Monday and Wednesday morning. Please remember to regularly check the planning and ads for the Odanak family room.

Jenny M'Sadoques Benoit
Community Organizer



An Abenaki lawyer enhances our national pride

Michèle O'Bomsawin, lawyer and native of Sudbury who lives in the Ottawa area has received recognition in the legal field; the award Leading lawyer Under 40 years old.

Here is a description of her work on Aboriginal issues and also mentorship for First Nations students who want to work in the legal field.

Committees:

- Member for one year of the committee between the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and Algonquin College for the mental health services to aboriginal students
- Member for four years of the organizing committee for the events on National Aboriginal Day at Canada Post Corporation
- Member for two years of the Aboriginal Services Section Board at University of Ottawa legal aid clinic
- Mentor to lawyers as part of the Ontario Bar Association's Mentorship Program and common law students as part of the University of Ottawa Women's Legal Mentorship Program

Speaking engagements :

- 4th Biennial human services and Justice Conference, November 2013 (Gladue Principles and Socioeconomic Marginalisation)
- 9th Annual Pacific Psychiatry and the Law Conference, March 2013 (Gladue Principles and their Applications in Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems; A Symposium)

It is a pleasure to see that our Nation grows with professionals in various fields. Congratulations!

Réjean O'Bomsawin



A pro boxer in Odanak



photo credit: Andre Gill

On November 21, as part of the community wellness week and the weekly boxing lessons, professional boxer Mikael Zewski gave a conference on self-esteem, healthy lifestyles and his sport, boxing, to participants of the course led by David Cadieux. This conference was made possible by through collaboration between the Odanak Health Centre and the FNCFS.

Editorial team



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"Simple and accessible health communication, it concerns US!"

Participants in a literacy approach at Alpha-Nicolet have developed a tool called: "Understanding each other... It's important for MY health!" (Se comprendre... Pour MA santé, c'est important!) It is available in the waiting rooms on the territory as well as through the medical personnel.

The goal is to draw attention to the fact that people do not always understand the explanations, instructions, the reasons for such and such an exam, etc, and to remind the people that they can always ask questions in order to better understand.





Next public assemblies

February 1st, 2014
May 31st, 2014
September 27th, 2014

For more information 450 568-2810

You want to publish a text?
Community member who stands out?
A news to report?



Contact us!
communications@gcnwa.com