

# W8BANAKI PILASKW

## Word from the Chief



Kwai fellow band members,

At the local level foundations and growth continue to be at the forefront of our activities this year. Many community members are involved in initiatives that promote healthy foundations for this and future generations. The outreach workers at our family house have coupled with our health center and other groups to implement initiatives aimed at promoting healthy community living. With a good foundation our children and their children can develop a sense of grounding and belonging, which is the cornerstone of our ancestral values. Working through the hostilities left from a legacy of wrongdoers who failed to understand, respect and value our ways, is the only way for us to set things right. Overcoming our differences and celebrating our commonalities will provide the basis for us to develop and move toward a shared community vision.

With the building of our new Band office, our existing space will be rented to organizations that provide services intended for both Abenaki communities through Grand Council. Also, our plan is to attract and house regional bodies charged with dispensing services to our nations. Thus, we can provide more services as well as employment for our people who are interested and skilled in building community.

At the regional level I will be working closely with the current resources at AFNQL to gain headway in the negotiations with the province on important taxation issues facing aboriginal entrepreneurs. As chief responsible for the fiscal file I would like to hear what our entrepreneurs see as priorities needing to be addressed in the negotiations. I will be hosting a meeting in the spring to discuss your concerns and current fiscal matters that impact us as a people.

In closing let me leave you with this thought. Getting up every day and working hard to improve the status quo in our community is invaluable to our survival. Whether through development, implementation or participation in activities, both social and economic, we can brighten our future and restore the community values that once made of us a strong nation.

In peace and friendship,  
**Chief O'Bomsawin**

## Luc O'Bomsawin honored by Veterans Affairs Canada



Photo credit : Anciens Combattants Canada

### TO WHO IS AWARDED THE MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMENDATION ?

Since serving in uniform, many of Canada's Veterans continue to provide outstanding service to their country, their communities and their fellow Veterans. To formally recognize the contributions of these outstanding Canadians, the Governor General authorized the creation of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

The Commendation is awarded annually to individuals who have contributed in an exemplary manner to the care and well-being of Veterans or to the remembrance of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements of Veterans.

The Commendation is intended primarily for Veterans, but may be awarded to non-Veterans.

### 2014 RECIPIENT : MISTER LUC O'BOMSAWIN

Mr. O'Bomsawin is a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and a member of the Abenaki community of Odanak in Quebec. After serving in the CAF as a telecommunications specialist and as a crew member of the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada, he joined the Amerindian Police and served in several communities in Quebec. He was also a correctional officer at the maximum security establishment of Donnacona and a member of Ports Canada Police assigned to the port of Quebec. He then joined the Sûreté du Québec, from which he recently retired after a 20 year career. Mr. O'Bomsawin is the founding president of the Quebec Aboriginal Veterans Association, the co-founder and national Vice-President of Aboriginal Veterans Autochtones and the provincial representative and national Sergeant-at-arms of the First Nations Veterans of Canada. He also sits on the Veterans Ombudsman Advisory Committee and also served on the organizing committee tasked with paying tribute to the peacekeepers on National Peacekeepers Day in Quebec City on August 9, 2011 ; he has continued to be involved in those annual celebrations since that time. In 2011, following the efforts of this committee the Quebec provincial government declared 9 of August as the National Peacekeepers Day. Since 2012, Mr. O'Bomsawin takes part in conferences in schools to commemorate the War of 1812 and educate young people about Aboriginal dress and traditions and raise their awareness of Aboriginal contributions to the Canadian Forces throughout its history.



## Word from Management



**DANIEL G. NOLETT**  
Executive Director  
Abenakis of Odanak  
Council

Kwaï w8banakiak! Mziwi wli ngwejigaden! We finally started the construction of the administrative office at the end of October. The Council accepted the final plans in early September and we mandated the Grand Conseil's technical services to manage the new administrative office construction project. We proceeded through a bid process inviting four (4) construction contractors to tender. Ultimately, the company Construction G. Therrien was retained. Construction costs will total between \$1.3-1.5 million. To date, the two-storey building, located behind the current administrative office, is about 50% complete. We therefore expect to move in during the months of April or May. It is important to note that two members of the Odanak community were hired for the construction of the building and one member of the W8linak community was hired for transporting the sewer, water and storm sewer mains on the site.

As mentioned in a previous article, we will not have to borrow a single cent for the construction of the new administrative office. Funding will be mainly composed of surpluses from 2011-2012 to today. We shall also receive grants from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones du Québec (SAA).

### News concerning the proposed Family Homes on Reserves Act

The Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act came into force on December 16, 2014. During the spring of 2014, the Council initiated the process of adopting our own law in this matter. The Council decided not to follow the process established by the Government of Canada, through a referendum, because at the AFNQL Chiefs' Assembly at the beginning of December, several Chiefs expressed their dissatisfaction with this process. They prefer

the approach set out in the Indian Act. Five public information meetings were therefore held. Our members had the opportunity to comment on our bill which we then modified in light of their comments. It was during the fifth and final public information meeting on January 31 that the Council adopted the Odanak Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act with members in attendance, during a special meeting held immediately after the information meeting. The bill was then sent to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in order to be officially registered.

### Expansion of the police station

The construction for the expansion of the police station has been completed since mid-January. It represents an expansion of 1,000 square feet, valued at approximately \$200,000, with a room for patrol officers as well as additional office space. Only the furniture still needs to be purchased for the new part.

### New community emergency procedures plan

On November 7, a training exercise was held for members of the Emergency Procedures Committee. On November 14, we conducted a simulation exercise to test our new plan so that members of the committee could have a concrete idea of the process during a real event. With the support and presence of R3Solution firm and of Mr. Philippe Côté, AANDC emergency procedures advisor, the exercise was very educational and interesting for our committee. In fact, we simulated a food poisoning event at the Pow Wow in Odanak, an exercise that was necessary because of the Odanak Health Centre's accreditation process, all funded by Health Canada.

### Expansion of the Odanak Health Centre

Speaking of health, the Odanak Health Centre will be expanding. In fact, Health Canada has granted us funding of \$317,000 so we can rearrange the archives and client records classification unit, as well as the reception area in order to comply with Accreditation Canada standards. Thus, Health Canada recognizes that we need more office space at the Health Centre. Our Community Health Plan, approved by Health Canada, shows that, we need in fact at least four (4) additional offices. In the end, the total expansion will have an area of 1,250 square feet.

### A new website for the community

We are about to put our new website online, completely revamped by the design company Uppernative. This investment of nearly \$5,000 will enable us to have a more user-friendly website. You'll be better able to find the information posted by the Council and follow what is happening in the community. The site was also designed using new information technologies and new graphics technology. Send us your comments after visiting the site!

### News about the Descheneaux case

Regarding the challenge of Section 6 and its discriminatory effects, audiences at the Quebec Superior Court for the Descheneaux against the Attorney General of Canada case were held from January 6 to 15. Several witnesses were called to testify, including two of the claimants in this case, Mr. Stéphane Descheneaux and Ms. Tammy Yantha. At the time of writing these lines, Judge Chantale Masse has taken the case under advisement. A judgment should be given in the next few months. The purpose of this approach is to try to recognize that Section 6 of the Indian Act is still discriminatory in relation to gender. In fact, Bill C3 (McIvor decision) enabled over 400 of our members to obtain their Indian status, but there are still some cases of discrimination. For this reason, we would like third generation band members from the female lineage to obtain their status like their cousins from the male lineage. We will keep you informed of developments.

### Review of administrative regulations

In the fall of 2014, we reviewed administrative regulations. With the help of our legal counsel, Me Marie-Ève Bordeleau, our By-Laws were updated to reflect our reality today. Many of our By-Laws dated back to the 60's and 70's. The Council should adopt the regulations modified in the spring of 2015. The challenge, after all this process, will be to make them applicable. To achieve this, we are in contact with the Wendake community to learn from their experience to have an agreement with a Court in the event that a member would challenge their application.

### YOUR COMMENTS

The Abenakis of Odanak Council wants to ensure that the information transmitted make it up to you effectively. Do you have ideas to improve the communication of information within the community? Any comments? If you do, send them to us by email at [communication@gcnwa.com](mailto:communication@gcnwa.com) or by completing the reply coupon. Please, don't hesitate! Your comments are welcome.

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Also, remember that our new website will be online soon! Stay tuned!

Send to the following address: 102, Sibosis Street, Odanak (QC) J0G 1H0



## A question of transparency

The Abenakis of Odanak Council would like to inform you of the situation concerning the reimbursement of expenses for Councillor Réjean O'Bomsawin. As discussed during the October Council meeting, Mr. O'Bomsawin requested a reimbursement from the Council for his expenses for attending meetings of the Centre-du Québec Regional Conference of Elected Representatives (CRÉ) as representative of the Abenaki Nation since the fall of 2009. However, the CRÉ was already reimbursing Mr. O'Bomsawin's for these same expenses. Mr. Réjean O'Bomsawin admitted his mistake and has since repaid \$339.60 to the Council.

## Word from councilors



**Claire O'Bomsawin**  
Councilor

Kwai,

I am pleased to report about the activities surrounding one of my favorite interests: the well-being of our elders. I am regularly monitoring the calls for tender for the Quebec Friends of the Elderly project (Québec amis des aînés). Budgets obtained through this project have enabled the following activities to continue:

- Last summer, our elders travelled to beautiful Quebec City and they really enjoyed it. Everything was to their satisfaction: Quality of hotel, meals as well as the train ride.
- In October, a trip to the orchard provided an opportunity for the elders to not only pick apples, but to share a moment in friendly company on a beautiful sunny day.
- The Christmas Dinner for the elders was held at the Durocher sugar shack. Forty people

participated and spent a wonderful evening and really enjoyed the quality of the food. In addition, everyone had a lot of fun on the bus.

I would like to inform you that our holiday season food drive (guignolée) raised \$2,130. A very big thank you to Mathieu O'Bomsawin and his group of youngsters for their great participation and a special thank you to our volunteers, Patricia Lachapelle and her son Isaac, Mélanie O'Bomsawin and Maxime Dutil. With this activity and the financial support from the Band Council, we were able to provide quality food for fifty people in need over the holidays.

On December 19, our elders continued the tradition with their gift exchange at the Alnobawi hall. I would like to invite the elders to participate in large numbers again next year.

In addition, the Tuesday lunches, prepared weekly by different elders, are still popular. Many of these lunches have addressed topics that are dear to the elders, such as climate change, Alzheimer's disease and the law on matrimonial rights and interests. Denise Salvat was the representative for the elders on the working committee on adapting the law to

the reality in Odanak. Moreover, the Odanak police will soon hold discussions on elders safety. Those interested in joining us are welcome. Saturday breakfasts allow us to receive guests and the elders really enjoy this.

In order to allow elders to participate in community life and promote intergenerational sharing, we managed to hire two quality ash pounders that will lead a wonderful basket-making activity. The courses will be taught by the elders and will take place at the museum. To date, around fifteen young people have registered to learn to keep this fundamental tradition alive in our community. Thank you goes out to the elders for sharing this tradition.

I would like to finish by saying that the minor repair program enabled the less fortunate to make repairs to their homes. This was greatly appreciated by our members.

I want to wish all the Band members a Happy New Year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us toll free at 1 888 568-2810.



**Réjean OBomsawin,**  
Councilor

Kway wôbanakis alnôbak Odana

### The cultural council is launched!

On January 19, 2015, an executive committee within the Cultural Council was formed. This important step was made possible through the support from the existing group which became the official spokesperson for the community. This group consists of dedicated individuals who hold no political connections or personal interest and who want to continue pursuing the steps of the action plan in order to make recommendations, in legal scope, to the Council of elected representatives. In doing so, it has full regulatory autonomy on behalf of the people it serves. Soon, it will prepare a cultural policy and regulations and will report to the community. It has already implemented a first traditional-type exercise by appointing an executive committee by "show of hands" as practiced by our ancestors.

I thank those who have seen this project from the beginning and still give it importance for the good of our community. Thus, I leave the rest of the process that must be assumed by a non-partisan group, but I remain available as a representative of the cultural community file.

### Respect and protection of our territory

I have always been and remain an advocate for our Aboriginal rights, whether political, social or cultural. Having grown up and lived in Odanak, I have observed many changes that have affected our community.

The change that I condemn today is historical in nature where a claim has been made that a fortification was erected in our village, changing the course of our history. Get real! The only Fort that existed, according to oral tradition in Odanak and the archaeological report of 1967 was approximately two (2) miles up the Saint-François River, near the rapids (Ref: Société archéologique de Sherbrooke, 1967). This false claim reported by a group of people puts historical stakes at risk and has a direct impact on the services for the protection of the territory of Odanak and our land claims.

Therefore, as a spokesperson for those who believe in my skills and knowledge, I want to say that this affects our credibility and territorial protection as a nation in Odanak and it's a lack of respect for our ancestors.

Councillor at the Abenakis of Odanak Council  
Representative at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



**Alexis Wawanoloath,**  
Councilor

Kwaï dear Abenaki members of Odanak!

Several files have caught my attention over the last few months.

In education, we are still working on the elementary school project in the community. In fact, there's a committee in place with the following members: myself, Nicole O'Bomsawin, Nancy Maher, Suzie O'Bomsawin, Mira Fréchette, Councillor Réjean Obomsawin and Nathalie Hamel. With this committee, we have created a survey for young families with children of elementary school age. We are also working with the First Nations Education Commission (FNEC) to establish financial scenarios.

In terms of territorial issues, I am currently doing a close follow-up with the help of Councillor Réjean Obomsawin. There are two types of land claims. First, there are the specific claims that concern the territories that were formerly attributed to us by the Nouvelle-France government, under British rule, that were later withdrawn. This concerns the claims for the loss of our seigneurie in 1854 or the land stolen from us by Father Maurault in order to found Pierreville, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

These two files alone could represent between 50 and 150 million dollars for our Nation, which would provide some autonomy for all of us. There is also the comprehensive claim which concerns our Ndakina claim. This includes a large portion of the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, but also the north shore, including the Mauricie, the Quebec region and part of Lanaudière. There are two pending requests for specific claims and we are also in the affirmation process for our ancestral territory. These files are all being managed through the Grand conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA). To ensure better coordination of land claims, I proposed that all these actions be grouped under one department. Hence, the GCNWA created the Ndakina office last fall. This department is responsible for all consultations and land claim activities, under the authority of Suzie O'bomsawin.

In terms of the issue concerning Abenaki people residing outside Odanak, when I was launching committees in cities where many of our members live, even though I made my intentions clear when I was appointed, a majority of the elected council questioned these expenses they considered too high or irrelevant. I was asked to prepare a budget for all my travel expenses. I expect to produce a budget in the coming weeks and I hope that all elected officials share this desire to better represent all members of the Nation, whether they live on or off reserve.

Here's a list of my other responsibilities with the Council: Representative of Odanak at the FNHRDCQ the Catholic church, water supply authority, CPE, Odanak Environment and Land Office, Grand conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki and Chair of the Odanak Public Safety Committee. As you can see, I am plenty busy. It is always a pleasure to represent you, so do not hesitate to contact me.



**Mathieu G. O'Bomsawin**  
Councilor In charges of  
files : culture, economic  
and tourism development,  
Abenaki Museum, youth  
and police

Kwaï mziwi,

First, I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2015. Here are some of the projects that are underway in this New Year.

#### Ash pounding and basket-making workshop

This fall, the local employment office, in collaboration with the Environment and Land Office, put a lot of effort into introducing a project to procure black ash. As part of this project, two people from the community were hired: Sylvain Després and Danny Gill. Luc G. Nolett, meanwhile, acts as project supervisor. This first step was to help the community's basket weavers who were in shortage of raw material. The production of ash logs will bring on a second project: to introduce people to basketry. This activity, which was held on January 17 at 1pm at the Abenaki Museum, was open to all Abenaki people interested in learning the basics of making ash baskets. Three experienced basket weavers were on hand to teach this culturally important art: Ms. Annette Nolett, Ms. Barbara-Ann Watso and Ms. Diane Nolett.

#### Start-up of the Olaloka project

For some time, I have noticed that there are many projects and activities in the community. However, very few are intended exclusively for

our young people aged between 13 and 20. In collaboration with the local employment office, we decided to launch a project for young people to raise awareness of entrepreneurship. We sent out the invitation to all the youth for a first meeting held last December. This entrepreneurial commitment is aimed at introducing them to the business world, but also to bring them closer to the Aboriginal culture by creating various crafts they can begin marketing this year. This cooperative-type project, which they decided to name Olaloka (job well done), will no doubt bring youth together and allow them to awaken their entrepreneurial spirit and teamwork. In the coming months, they will be asked to take part in all decision-making stages of a business, such as production, accounting, marketing, managing their inventories, etc. Moreover, on January 17, youth went door-to-door to collect cans in order to raise a little pocket money. This amount has allowed them to purchase craft materials in order to start production. We therefore wish them all the best in the coming months!

#### Odanak tourist guide

In collaboration with the economic development sector, we decided to produce a tourist guide which will be available during this upcoming year. The main objective of this guide is to promote our community in terms of tourism by bringing together all the different services and also by promoting our local entrepreneurs. In parallel with this project, we will be welcoming an intern in the coming months who will be responsible for developing this tourist guide. Through such initiatives, we will be able to fully develop tourism and more effectively guide the visitors to our community to our various attractions. The more tourism services there are in the community, the better our commercial and tourism businesses will fare, since variety will attract more visitors.

#### Abenaki Museum

##### National Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Award

On November 26, I had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa to attend the Canadian Tourism Awards, to support the nomination of the Abenaki Museum in the National Aboriginal Cultural Tourism category. It was with great enthusiasm that our museum was awarded this most prestigious award for the tourism sector in Canada. I sincerely congratulate the entire team at the Abenaki Museum, which for 50 years, has been committed to customer satisfaction through authentic products, as well as an innovative cultural approach stimulating economic activity in the tourism sector and promoting the influence of Aboriginal culture. To all Abenaki people, we can be proud to proclaim our Museum as the best and most beautiful Aboriginal Museum in Canada!

#### Cultural development agreement

Last September, as person responsible for the culture file, I met Ms. Claire Pépin, Director of the Mauricie Division, Centre-du-Québec and Estrie, for the Ministère de la culture et des communications. Since we did not have any established cultural policy, she offered us to join in the cultural development agreement of the MRC Nicolet-Yamaska. Considering that our culture has an important place in the planning and actions of the Council and that it invests for the different activities that take place in Odanak, we felt it was important to sign such an agreement. This agreement will allow us to obtain financial support of about \$30,000 to be used to support various cultural activities, such as our Museum, our Pow Wow, our language courses and of course to realize our cultural policy.

Wli pbon mziwi! To all, have a great winter!

## News from the M8wwa Committee!

### DINNER WITH THE COMITÉ DE SOLIDARITÉ TROIS-RIVIÈRES YOUTH COMMITTEE

As part of the Quebec International Solidarity Days, M8wwa Committee members invited Comité de solidarité Trois-Rivières Youth Committee members on November 5. With Sagamité and Indian Tacos, we discussed the future. In addition, Nicole O'Bomsawin came to share a legend with the young people in attendance. It was a very rewarding evening!



### MEETING OF YOUNG LEADERS

On November 20, Committee members participated in the Meeting of Young Leaders organized by Centre-du-Québec Youth Forum. The activity was held in Drummondville and the guest speaker was Bizz from Loco Locass. His speech was very inspiring!

### FOOD DRIVE (GUIGNOLÉE)

Committee members spent November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the freezing cold to raise money for the food drive. Our efforts paid off and we were able to raise a nice amount of money!

### SCREENING OF MAÏNA

On February 3, the tradition continued with the screening of the film Maïna. Other screenings are coming soon! Continue to come enjoy these free screenings!

## CONTACT US!

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions concerning the M8wwa Committee or the activities that the members of the Committee do!

If you have project ideas?

If you want to get involved with the Committee?

Wliwni, **M8wwa Committee members**



Visit our Facebook page



Comité M8WWA Committee

## MUSÉE DES ABÉNAKIS D'ODANAK

### Archaeological research on the Ndakinna



The results from the archaeological project Odanak Fort: The Past Revisited and the recent awards presented to the Abenaki Museum for this project have rekindled a debate about the existence and location of the Abenaki village in the early 18th Century. The Odanak Historical Society would therefore like to share with you some relevant information so you may form your own opinion on the subject.

Students, along with a member of the Sherbrooke Archaeological Society, conducted an archaeological research camp in 1967 above the town of Odanak. The excavation report, drafted by Gisèle Grégoire, Secretary of the Sherbrooke Archaeological Society, mentioned that several Aboriginal heritage items and several hundred European artifacts were found. However, the author of the report explained, although we have uncovered the two corners of an Indian hut, we are unable to confirm our theory

(unofficial translation. See footnote). According to the 1967 excavation report, very few items found are related to the period of occupation of the Fort in the early 18th Century. This excavation report can be consulted at the Abenaki Museum.

Subsequent to the filing of the excavation report, the Ministère des Affaires culturelles (formerly the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications) issued a memo in which they concluded: 1) it is virtually impossible to locate where the excavations and surveys were conducted. The report and the records do not contain any excavation plan. 2) In the region, there were three forts: Fort Crevier (on Île du Fort), the first Abenaki fort (plan from 1704) and the second Abenaki fort (Gideon map of Catalonia from 1709). Also according to the Ministère's memo, the excavation report was unable to locate the first Abenaki fort despite the discovery of artifacts and structures consistent with a dwelling.

The archaeological excavations, lead by archaeologists Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde, conducted between 2010 and 2014, helped to uncover tens of thousands of artifacts and obvious

traces of residential structures and fences from the early 18th Century (period of construction of the fort). This research was not only conducted within the historic quadrangle, but also at several locations along the Saint-François River (Lake Saint-Pierre to Ulverton). A total of nine archaeological sites were declared Abenaki historic villages, including Ulverton and L'Avenir. Undoubtedly, the Odanak Historical Society believes that scientific data will have a direct positive impact on the protection, the claims and the assertion of our territory, the Ndakinna.

Since the beginning of the project Odanak Fort: The Past Revisited, the research team has been available to meet with you and answer your questions. The 2010 to 2014 excavation reports, prepared by Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde, Doctors of archeology, can be found at the Museum as well as the artifacts discovered.

Odanak Historical Society Board of Directors

GRÉGOIRE, Gisèle, Odanak 1967. Société d'archéologie de Sherbrooke, p. 14.



## Canadian consecration for the Abenaki Museum

It is with great pride that the Abenaki Museum received the **National Aboriginal Tourism Award** at the Canadian Tourism Awards Gala, held on November 26, 2014 in Ottawa. This prize, awarded for the first time by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) and the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Canada (ATAC), recognizes excellence in Aboriginal tourism.

This award confirms that the Abenaki Museum, a pioneer in terms of Aboriginal museums in Quebec, aimed right by thinking outside the box and continually renewing its cultural offer. Working together with significant players in the community and developing custom and inspiring experiences for tourists eager for new knowledge have enabled the Museum to receive this prestigious award.

This major distinction is well deserved for a dedicated team, whom for half a century, has strived to offer a unique experience to its clientele. Thus, this award recognizes that the Abenaki Museum is a must-see Canadian destination.

The Abenaki Museum congratulates the Site d'interprétation de la culture Micmac de Gespeg, in Gaspé, and the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, in Wendake, 2014 Finalists for the National Aboriginal Tourism Award. In addition, the Museum applauds the finalists for the categories awarded at the Canadian Tourism Awards Gala.

On March 19, we will present the fourth edition of our fundraising cocktail. This fundraiser is very important for the Museum; last year we raised over \$20,000 which was invested in various projects (education and culture). As in previous editions, the silent auction allows you to purchase works by Abenaki artists and artisans such as Barbara-Ann Watso, Christine Sioui Wawanoloath, Carmen Hathaway, Helen Watso and Rhonda Besaw. The musical portion will be entrusted to Mimi O'Bonsawin, a young Abenaki singer who dazzled us last year at the Pow Wow. By participating in this event, you are contributing financially to the Museum's educational and cultural mission and confirming your attachment to your cultural institution. Book your tickets today (\$85 or \$75 for members)!



Crédit photos : Association de l'industrie touristique du Canada

Next May will be the grand opening of the exhibition N8nnnska akw8batak: the Musée des Abénakis: 50 Years Young! Invitations will be sent shortly. We look forward to presenting this retrospective exhibit that will showcase ethnological and archaeological collections, as well as the Museum's works of art. We hope to see you there in large numbers!

To thank you for supporting the Museum, we are happy to offer all Abenaki people registered with the Odanak and Wôlinak Councils free admission to the Museum starting in May. We hope you will enjoy this offer and discover the cultural activities offered at your Museum.

Hope to see you soon,

**Michelle Bélanger,**  
Executive Director Abenaki Museum

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND OFFICE ODANAK

News from the Odanak Environment and Land Office

ODANAK WOODLANDS BECOMING GARBAGE DUMPS



Dump in the Odanak woodlands



Old tree stand



Accumulation of garbage on land owned by the Council

OLD TREE STANDS AND CAMPS

In addition, there are several old tree stands and camp sites in the woodlands. Once out of use, the building materials and all the accumulated waste must be managed by the community since it is left there and doesn't just disappear.

TRASH IN OUR WOODED AREAS

Last fall, we walked around the Odanak woodlands to inventory the waste there. We made several discoveries that aren't very glorifying for the community. An impressive amount of garbage could be found here and there. On a positive note, most of the garbage found is from another era, when there was no waste management in the community. In fact, mainly in the area behind Waban-Aki Street and KOAK Street, old scrap metal of all kinds can be found (food cans, paint cans, appliances, metal containers, etc). Once cleaned up, the waste issue shall be resolved. However, we discovered several clandestine dump sites that are much more recent. Some, including building materials that can be found at the Domaine Saint-François-du-Lac and crop residues near the Jules bridge are from sources outside the community. Unfortunately, we also found several dump sites in the woodlands from members who bequeath their waste to the community by abandoning it in the woods. The Odanak woodlands are community areas used extensively for practicing activities such as hunting, gathering, walking, riding ATVs, and are not an open dump. In addition to polluting the environment, this waste can be dangerous for users (pieces of metal, glass, etc). With all the waste management programs in Odanak and in the area (garbage collection, recycling, metal dealer, HHW disposal site, etc), woodlands should no longer be used as dumps.

ACCUMULATION OF GARBAGE ON PRIVATE LAND

Finally, certain community members accumulate garbage on their land or on land owned by the Council. This accumulation of garbage includes mainly building materials, tires and household waste.

UPCOMING SOLUTIONS

Therefore, the Council is currently working on solutions to resolve these issues. A waste cleanup project in the wooded areas began last fall and will continue next year. In addition, the Council is considering developing and implementing a law to punish offenders who discard waste in wooded areas or accumulate indecent waste on their land or of the Council's land. More information regarding this project is coming.

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART BY PICKING UP YOUR TRASH OR YOUR TREE STANDS AND CAMPS ONCE UNUSED!

CAPSULE « SPECIES AT RISK IN ODANAK »



Adult Eastern Sand Darter



Seine fishing

Eastern sand darter

The Eastern Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta pellucida*) is a small translucent fish measuring 4 to 7 cm as an adult. It is present only in North America. It feeds on mosquito and black fly larvae and is found on sandy beaches of clear water rivers. It is very vulnerable due to its specific food requirements, habitat and due to its low fertility and longevity. In Quebec, the species can be found in the St. Lawrence River and some of its tributaries. This species is on the List of Wildlife Species at Risk in Canada and is considered threatened.

Prior to 2012, this species was considered extirpated from the Saint-François River. Recent discoveries of the species in the mouth of the river have led us to take

interest in this species. Thus, we carried out five fishing days using a seine (net to catch minnows) on all sandy beaches showing good potential for the Eastern Sand Darter in the Saint-François River from the mouth to Drummondville. We made some interesting discoveries! We found the fish in eight locations on the river and in virtually all sectors showing a good habitat. We now know that the Eastern Sand Darter is still present in the Saint-François River, mostly on sandy beaches near the Saint-François-du-Lac marina and in sandy areas of the Pierreville islands. All this valuable information collected by our team last summer will be transferred to wildlife managers in order to update their data on the species and support its recovery in Quebec.



Species and habitats (Centre-du-Québec)

OBJECTIVE: INTEGRATE SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION IN THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF A TERRITORY.

The Abenakis of Odanak form a thriving community – the Abenaki population has more than doubled over the last decade. While actively developing its territory, the community has also worked at ensuring the protection of wildlife and habitats through the establishment of the Environment and Land Office as part of the Abenakis of Odanak Council. Members of this specialized team (biologists, wildlife technicians, etc) are responsible for program planning for acquiring knowledge on sensitive species populations in the Saint-François River watershed (turtles, yellow sturgeon, perch) and development work to ensure sustainability. Reconciling economic development of a territory and conservation is a winning approach.

Stakeholders / Partners: Abenakis of Odanak Council Environment and Land Office; Fondation de la faune du Québec; Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement.

For more information and pictures on these projects, visit our Facebook page: Bureau environnement et terre d'Odanak



Odanak Land and Environment Office

The 2014 Odanak Land and Environment Office team:  
Émilie Paquin, Luc Gauthier, Michel Durand,  
Christopher Coughlin, and Steven William

62 rue Waban Aki, Odanak, Québec, Canada, J0G 1H0  
Tel: 450 568-6363 Fax: 450 568-6385  
odanakenvironnement@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.cbodanak.com/environnement-et-terre.html>



## FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.

### QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

*TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS A REALITY!*

*Quebec Native Women* has been defending the rights of Aboriginal women since 1974. Because knowledge and tolerance are intimately linked, because a better understanding of aboriginal realities makes it easier to take charge of the needs of women and their families, QNW has developed a renowned expertise in many issues affecting aboriginal women, shedding a new light on communities.

*We need everyone's efforts, in our communities and throughout Quebec society, to create a world that is equal for aboriginal women in Quebec.*

Representing members in 56 communities, 10 nations throughout Quebec and urban areas, Quebec Native Women benefits from an important network that brings support to its positions and allows it to strongly defend the rights of women and of aboriginal communities within Aboriginal, Quebecois and Canadian entities as well as society in general.

### Mission

We support the efforts of women in the improvement of their conditions through the promotion of non-violence, justice, equality and health.

We also support women in their engagement in their community.

#### THE 11 NATIONS

- |              |                      |            |
|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| ▲ Abénakis   | ▲ Hurons-wendats     | ▲ Naskapis |
| ▲ Algonquins | ▲ Innus (montagnais) | ▲ Inuits   |
| ▲ Attikameks | ▲ Micmacs            |            |
| ▲ Eeyou      | ▲ Mohawks            |            |



## ME entrepreneur? WHY NOT?



Photo credit : Tourisme Autochtone Québec

Kwaï!

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) introduced a new entrepreneurship awareness project in October.

As an entrepreneurship advisor, my mandate includes encouraging the development of an entrepreneurial culture among Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 35, while providing support and guidance to those who wish to start their own business.

The project's primary objectives are:

- Promote the development of an entrepreneurial culture among youth in the communities;
- Promote school retention for youth by allowing dropouts and those returning to school to find an interest, develop their self-confidence and help them succeed;
- Increase the number of Aboriginal businesses.

Since taking office in October 2014, I have travelled to Odanak, Uashat, Manawan, Mashteuiatsh, Kitigan Zibi and Kahnawake to promote the project, present the services offered and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Are you between 15 and 35 years of age and are thinking about starting a business?  
Do you have a business idea you would like to develop?

Feel free to contact me to see how I can help you realize your projects!



**Catherine Savard**, Entrepreneurship Advisor  
**First Nations of Quebec and Labrador  
 Economic Development Commission**  
 265, Place Chef Michel Laveau, bureau 200  
 Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0  
 T : 418 843-1488 x226 F : 418 843-6672  
 csavard@cdepnql.org | cdepnql.org



## News from homework assistance

I would like to begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year. The members of FNCFS and I have come back from the holiday season in great shape and ready to begin the new year with a ton of activities planned.

#### Homework assistance Christmas dinner.

The homework assistance Christmas dinner was a great success! More than fifty people attended the party. Each child came with their family and a hot meal was served. Everyone received a book as a gift and the evening ended with a performance by Jack Sparrow. What a wonderful evening!

#### The homework assistance program takes a cultural twist.

Every Wednesday, children registered in the homework assistance program will receive short Abenaki language courses, Aboriginal singing lessons, dance lessons and also crafts. This is our initiative to ensure that our youth learn a little more every day about their culture.

**Jenny M'Sadoques**,  
organisatrice communautaire

## What happened at BLE since September 2014

### Registrar

Two employees are now in charge of the Registrar. Eleanor Hoff now shares this task with Nathalie Cardin.

Following a decision of the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), major changes have been made to the card applications. Note that cards will no longer be renewed at the Abenakis of Odanak Council. From now on, please make your application directly with AANDC. All the necessary forms can be found on the AANDC website: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>

In the Search box enter: SCIS application information

You will find a video on how to apply and all the necessary information and forms based on your situation.

People without access to the Internet can contact us and we will send them everything necessary so they can prepare their application.

### LFNC - Budget

For the second consecutive year, the LFNC budget was spent in its entirety way before the end of the fiscal year. This situation has led to the fact that we now have to refuse participants.

We will have access to funding again starting on April 1, 2015.

### LFNC – Summer employment

The summer employment forms are being prepared. All necessary information will be mailed directly to the youth of the community.

### LFNC- Statistics

I am pleased to inform you of the status of the participants of the Odanak LFNC. Since the beginning of September 2014 we have financially assisted the following:

- 10 On work measures (financial assistance to employer for employee salary)
- 5 Up-grading high school
- 7 In vocational training

Stats on participants that have finished vocational training:

- 1 Heavy equipment operator
- 1 Photographer
- 1 Mechanic

### Economic development – WLALOKA

A Youth Business project is starting in the community.

An information session held last December attracted a dozen youth. Of these, seven people have registered for the project which will be done in the form of an Artisan Coop.

These young people chose a name of their small business: Olaloka which means «job well done». Their crafts will reflect Aboriginal traditions: beads, leather and feathers will be the main materials used.

The FNEC contributed by paying their first invoices for raw material (± \$750). The New Pathways Foundation has accepted an application for financial assistance in the order of \$2,000 to help youth to prepare a kiosk that will be used at the next Pow Wow, but also for the purchase display units, tools, cabinets, advertising (newspapers and posters), creating a graphic image, etc.

These young people got their hands dirty, January 17, collecting cans in the community. This collection allowed them to raise \$285. This money will help pay future invoices for their material.

You will certainly hear more about these youths in the near future for other fundraising projects, including a spaghetti dinner. Date to be determined.

In addition to the economic development officer who accompanies young entrepreneurs in their efforts, there is also the M8WWA committee. Elders will also be asked to share their knowledge in terms of art and traditional cuisine.

Other organizations will also become partners in this great adventure: the FNQLEDC the CJE and the CDRCQM. Professionals from these organizations will lend their technical support which is so valuable to this project's success. MESSAGE: If some of you have feathers, teeth, claws, beads, leather and other materials to give, our young people will be glad. Simply contact the Economic Development Officer.

### Education – New arrival

The constantly growing number of education files has led us to divide the task between two officers instead of one.

Ann Landry now handles CEGEP students and Nathalie Cardin takes care of university students.

### Education – in this age of Internet

Since the 2014 fall semester, all information and forms related to education can be found on our website. Students can find much information 24/7.

### Education – Human resources

An officer at the Local Employment Office (LEO) is on leave for an indefinite time, so Karine Gill (receptionist) has joined the team temporarily. All LEO staff and Karine are sharing the tasks for the employee on leave. The receptionist was replaced by a student for a week. Since the week of January 19, Sophie Gill, head of the community kitchen, completes her schedule as the receptionist, a task she shares with Monique O'Bomsawin. We thank the students for their good cooperation.

### Education – Education policy

In January, an important addendum was added to the education policy. The main items include:

- The introduction of a mechanism for administrative penalties for students who do not submit their application within the prescribed time. Currently only 40% of the students submit their documents within the allocated limits.
- Students who owe money to the Council must repay minimum 10% of their allowance in the form of payments.
- Members who owe over \$5,000 will have to reduce their debt to \$5,000, then make and respect a repayment agreement before having the opportunity to obtain financial assistance.
- From now on, the mention Incomplete on the transcript will be considered a failing mark.
- It will now be possible, under certain conditions, to receive financial assistance for studies for a second career.
- Only courses required for graduation will be considered to establish the full or part time status of a student. Currently, certain students add non program courses only to be considered full-time and receive monthly allowances.
- A member who commits fraud with the LEO will no longer be eligible for services for a period of 3 years. Fraud is defined as false declarations, payment requests for expenses previously reimbursed by other bodies... Also, individuals will have to make and respect a repayment agreement before regaining access to Education services.
- The maximum amount of financial assistance will be capped at \$10,000 per semester and \$20,000 per year, unless special approval from the Council is given.
- The allowance for books will be reduced. Should the cost for required books exceed the allowance, the difference will be refunded upon presentation of receipts.
- Students who begin their CEGEP semester in August will now receive 75% of the monthly allowance (previously 50%). Students who begin their education at the CEGEP in January will receive 75% of the January allowance).
- The loans and bursaries program shall be abolished.

### Economic development - statistics

One person is receiving assistance from the LFNC's Self-Employment Assistance and is followed by the Economic Development Officer. Two businesses have been met to possibly move into a new industrial building. Three individuals have been met in consultation for starting or expanding a business.

### Economic development - Ash

The Ash Project was introduced. It includes three phases:

- The pounding of logs has led to the creation of two full-time and one part time job for a period of 12 to 15 weeks.
- Ash logs are kept to give basket-making courses. Fifteen people have registered for the training that will last ten weeks. This activity is funded by the FNEC and allows for the hiring of three of experienced professors.
- Ash logs are sold at a fair price to the artisans of the community.

NOTE: If any ash logs are left, they will be offered at market price to artisans from other communities.

Sylvie Desbois,  
Director of BLE



## Ndakinna: Our Land



«Ndakinna: Our Land» is a project to study the current use and occupancy of the land. But what does «use and occupancy» actually mean? This refers to the traditional activities practiced and the areas visited today on the territory by members of the Nation. This includes for example, hunting, fishing and gathering, but also travelling on the territory, visiting sacred sites or camps, as well as manufacturing traditional objects. Knowledge of these sites and activities, which are closely related to the Abenaki culture, is verbally transmitted from generation to generation.

In recent decades, First Nations across Canada have conducted studies to record on paper this oral tradition, to allow, as appropriate, for the territorial affirmation and land claims process. The territorial affirmation process refers to, from a theoretical point of view, a demonstration of the Abenaki presence on a given territory, while the claims process is more legal in nature. The mandate given to the Ndakinna Office at the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki by the Odanak and Wôlinak Councils concerns the territorial affirmation process.

This type of approach concerns a collaborative negotiation approach with governments to better consider the rights and interests of the Abenaki people on the territory they consider their own. Specifically, the benefits of such a process can range from the protection of territories used for hunting when creating ATV trails, the expansion of areas used for hunting

and fishing activities and the improved access to certain parks and nature reserves for the Abenaki people. Of course, these results will not happen overnight! The Office is young and since its creation in 2013, its objective has been to lay the foundations for achieving these objectives.

We are excited to present the «Ndakinna: Our Land» project, which is a piece of the «puzzle» towards territorial affirmation. This study is aimed at community members from Odanak and Wôlinak, who are invited to complete the online questionnaire at [www.gcnwa.com](http://www.gcnwa.com), or a paper copy can be obtained at the Odanak Environment and Land Office. In addition, we will meet with certain members individually who wish to share in more detail their personal experiences related to the practice of traditional activities and the occupancy of certain areas on the territory. Stay tuned! If you are interested in participating or would like more information about the project, please contact us at 819 294-1686 or by email at [hmcouture@gcnwa.com](mailto:hmcouture@gcnwa.com).

Wliwni!



**Hugo Mailhot Couture,**  
Project Manager at the Grand Conseil  
**Marie-Ève Samson,** Research and survey  
agent at the Grand Conseil

## CD launch for one of our young promising artists



Just before the holidays I was honored to attend a CD launch for one of our young promising artists, Mimi Obonsawin. Mimi and her band took to the stage at College Boreal in Sudbury and performed a great show to a sold out crowd.

Well anchored in her ancestors' spirit, Mimi sang songs of transition, empowerment and hope. Having received her CD when Mimi came to play at Odanak's Pow Wow, I found myself familiar with her music and enjoying singing along, thereby having a great evening filled with abundant energy. I learned that I was

not alone in having a favorite tune on her CD. When her song «Gingah» came on, a large part of the fans backed up her performance by signing along. It very cold in Sudbury that evening but in the hall a great deal of warmth was being radiated through her songs and personality.

At a dinner that preceded the event we had a chance to meet a number of our band members. It was nice to meet many of our young members who are filled with promise along with other family members who make up our Abenaki community in Sudbury. You do us proud!!!

Wliwni,  
Thank you all for a great evening,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin



## NOTICE TO THE POPULATION HOUSING PROGRAM

Financial aid applications for 2015-2016

Within the housing policy, band members can submit a financial aid application for the following programs:

- Construction of a new house,
- Housing
- CMHC Residential Rehabilitation Assistance (RRAP)

\*Members seeking access to any of these types of financial aid must obtain a form at **Band Council reception**. **Applications will be accepted to March 31, 2015**

**The selection process for the applications will beginning in April 2015.**

For any additional information,  
contact Monique O'Bomsawin at 450 568-2810



## News from the Cultural Council of the Abenakis

On January 19th an executive committee was voted within the Odanak Abenaki cultural council with the mandate of proceeding with the elaboration and recommendations for the implementation of an Abenaki cultural policy. This committee is composed of representatives of different factions of our community in order to better represent each and every one of our members. Those of you who would like to take part in this committee can do so by giving your name to the Band council or to the Odanak Abenaki cultural council.

Many members of the community have given their concerns about the erosion of our culture throughout the years. With the departure of many of our elders, knowledge and teachings are slowly disappearing with time. It is crucial for any nation to tend to the preservation and perpetuation of its cultural heritage. Not only this allows for the preservation of a unique culture, but defines the identity of a People, its place in history and on the contemporary chessboard. Today with all the social and cultural turmoils in the world, it is even more important to define and reappropriate our place on our ancestral lands, to establish guidelines who will direct the present and the future of our nation and bring back pride for what our nation accomplished throughout history. We have one of the richest history there

is and we should be aware of it and proud of it.

The elaboration of a cultural policy is not a simple task to do, we have to first define what the word culture means for each and every one of us, you can send us your comments or suggestions in order to help us identify the directions in which we will structure our work. You will all be asked to voice your propositions or impressions during public consultations, by questionnaires and by specific meetings. Do not hesitate to get involved and help us establish the implementation process.

This policy will allow us, as a distinct nation, to clearly define the strategies and actions to take in order to allow our culture not only to survive, but to affirm itself and prosper.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 21, at 10 :00, those of you who would like to attend are most welcomed. The place of the meeting is yet to be determined.

Luc O'Bomsawin  
President of the Abenakis cultural council.



### A cultural goldmine for you!

Did you know that you can consult the Kiuna college documentation centre? It is a library rich in history, mainly focussing on First Nations. There are about 1,300 documents available for consultation at the centre. The Kiuna documentation centre will surprise you with its diversity of subjects. You will find books on the history of the various Aboriginal peoples, great battles and the men and women who fought for the rights and freedoms of the first peoples. You will find documents about social, political and economic issues, as well as numerous volumes on art, literature and poetry by Aboriginal authors. Psychology, philosophy, spirituality are fascinating subjects to understand various subjects and also to better know yourself. The centre has a wealth of material just waiting to be read and reread. Do you have questions about geography, American history and the great migrations? Consult our documents! Science, technology, geography... There are always issues that affect us all as native people. The environment is pleasant, comfortable and conducive to reading and studying.

Raphaël Benedict and Marcelle O'Bomsawin, documentation technicians, will be happy to answer your questions and assist you in your research. The centre is open by appointment on Monday 11:30am to 4:30pm and from Tuesday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Hope to see you there!

### Still time to register!

Are you interested in the First Nations Social Science Program? You have until May 25, 2015 to register for the fall 2015 semester.

At Kiuna, you will develop your knowledge on issues that concern you and you will meet many stimulating and interesting people.

To learn more about our unique program, you can visit our website at [www.kiuna-college.com](http://www.kiuna-college.com), or contact Mr. Pierre Lainé, Student Affairs and Recruitment Coordinator at 450 568-6464. He will be happy to give you the necessary information to complete your application.

Prudence Hannis



**Next  
public assemblies**

May 30, 2015

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September 26, 2015

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January 30, 2016

For more information 450 568-2810

**\$1,000 award**

A reward of \$1,000 will be given to any person who will help us find the plaque or provide us with information allowing us to identify the perpetrators of the robbery that occurred at the Odanak Anglican Church. The bronze plaque, which was located on a stone in the church's yard, was installed in 1982. The purchase of this plaque was made possible through donations raised. Unfortunately, we are unable to replace the plaque, since the necessary costs for replacement are too high. Please help us locate it!

Richard Côté

You want to publish a text ?

*Community member  
who stands out?*

A news to report?

Next deadline : May 8, 2015



**Contact us!**  
[communications@gcnwa.com](mailto:communications@gcnwa.com)

