



## Word from the Chief

Kwei fellow band members,

It continues to be of great importance that we look at how our community can meet the dramatic shift in our political and administrative structures. The Canadian government continues on its quest to dismantle Indian affairs. This means that they are gradually relinquishing governance over the status system. They have not been clear about how their fiduciary responsibility will change. For the time being the focus is on status, jurisdictional laws and policies.

We have in the past been quite successful at assessing what we want for our community with respect to jurisdictional laws. This was evident in the hard work necessary to address issues in the area of Matrimonial Laws for our people; the document produced was the fruit of a working group of community members. While it respected our values it also brought fairness in the case of divorce respecting and protecting all concerned.

The process of building our governing infrastructure is at the forefront of our current issues. The continuance of the process of development of jurisdictional laws and policies is now including; child care, wills and testaments, cannabis, policing and bylaws as well as property and land management, to name a few. Developing policies and procedures that are fair to all concerned and that respect and reflect our distinct values is the main objective in these processes. If any of

these areas interest you and you would be interested in participating in the developmental process please let your council know.

At the same time as this shift in governance is happening there is also another variable that we have to address and consider. The Bill S-10 case is entering phase 2 of its process. This has the potential to increase our Band membership in substantial ways. Again, I bring up for thought; "How can we sustain the fiduciary load this will bring to our limited budgets?"

In the coming years we will be moving towards a 10-year grant program, which will require careful planning to provide for and ensure sustainable community growth for the duration. Moreover, we will see restructuring of our budgets that will bring cuts and reorganization of priorities to ensure sustainability of necessary services and resources. First and foremost we need to ensure that collective priorities be addressed. I cannot repeat it enough that we must look at community economic development and how we can build a viable economic base to ensure our community has a sustainable financial pool. Ensuring the growth and development and contributing to your local businesses is one way our community members can contribute to the sustainability of our business sector. We must work together to build our community and leave a solid foundation and effective framework for the next generations.

In peace and friendship,  
**Chef Rick O'Bomsawin**

## The Forum "REJOIN THE CIRCLE & CELEBRATE EARTH DAY": a great success for the 2nd edition!



The Organizing Committee  
**Luc, Marco, Suzie, Nicole, Annie, Hélène and Florence**

Kwaï mziwi,

The second edition of the Forum "Rejoin the Circle and Celebrate Earth Day" was held on April 20 and 21, 2019 in Odanak. The activities of this event were offered to all Abenakis, members of the Odanak and Wôlinak bands, their families and their spouses.



The members of the organizing committee (Luc, Marco, Suzie, Nicole, Annie, Hélène and Florence) are very proud of the participation of the members in this forum. Indeed, more than sixty participants attended the various workshops, meals, puppet show and the emotional Saturday evening activities. Nicole O'Bomsawin and the group Flying Sturgeons made us vibrate to the sound of the drum. An evening that will be engraved in everyone's memory!

This year, to celebrate the Abenaki culture and our relationship to the Earth, the following themes were addressed: language, traditional knowledge through Abenaki motifs and symbolism as well as the main clans, the territory, genealogical lines, history of Abenaki people, fishing and medicinal plants.



On Earth Day, April 21, a presentation on the Ndakinna theme was much appreciated and was followed by a great sharing circle that was particularly moving. On this occasion, we had the opportunity to speak to deliver our impressions and share the experience of this forum. Preceded by a tribute to the water, it was under a hot sun that we walked the streets of Odanak to celebrate Earth Day.



The committee wishes to thank Xavier Watso for leading the Forum, the Kiuna Institution for the sharing of their premises, the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki for its contribution, the Abenakis of Odanak Council for their financial support as well as all the speakers for sharing their knowledge! Kchi wliwni mziwi!



## Word from Councillors



**FLORENCE BENEDICT**  
Councillor

Kwaï,

A hard winter is giving way to spring. How can we not rejoice? Despite a cold and endless winter, the daily lives of community and council members have followed their course.

### QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN (QNW):

As official representative of the Odanak community within the FAQNW group since September 2018, I have been quite busy with this file. Here is a brief summary of the activities I took part in as part of my duties.

### Meeting with all local representatives of FAQWN | January 18 to 20, 2019

During this meeting, the discussions revolved around the Descheneaux case as well as remaining inequalities. For the occasion, we had the privilege of speaking with two important activists, Pamela Palmater and Sharon McIvor, two distinguished defenders of Aboriginal rights.



### Sha'tetiókwate public forum | February 16 and 17, 2019

We travelled to downtown Montreal to participate in the Equality March, organized by FAQWN, to claim Aboriginal women's right to equality. Our great Lady Alanis Obomsawin also took part. Thank you to the people who joined us for the occasion. Forum "Réformons le cercle / Rejoin the Circle" | April 20-21, 2019

Odanak Native Women contributed to the logistical support and participated in the development of the "Réformons le Cercle / Rejoin the Circle" forum

programming, which was held in Odanak on April 20 and 21, 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Abenakis of Odanak Council and the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki for their financial support, without which this activity could not have been realized over the last two years.

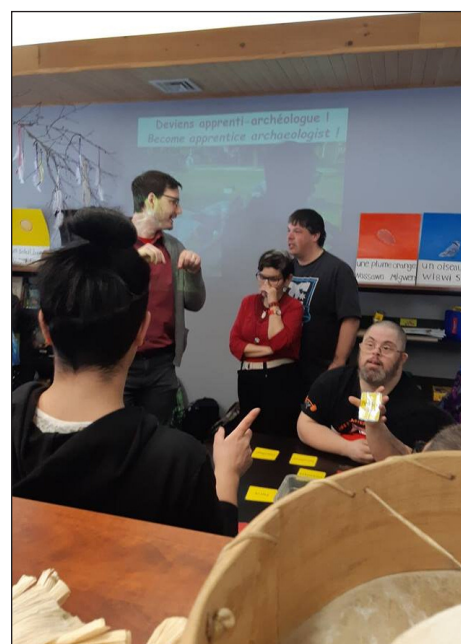
In addition, my congratulations to the organizing committee, whose members include: Nicole O'bomsawin, Suzie O'Bomsawin, Annie O'bomsawin-Bégin, Hélène O'bomsawin, Marc-Olivier O'bomsawin (Marco) and Luc O'bomsawin. And a special thank you to all the volunteers.

### FAQNW Biennial Meeting | March 24, 2019

About fifteen members attended the FAQNW biennial meeting during which several topics were discussed. The main issues were the amendments to the FAQNW Laws and Regulations Guide, such as the local representative's term of office, which now ranges from 2 to 3 years, the youth representative's term and the elders representative which went from 2 to 1 year. These changes take effect immediately.

Below is a retrospective of the issues and activities I've been involved in as councillor.

On January 28, an information session organized and led by Éducaloi and dealing with Aboriginal successions and wills was held. The activity, which took place at the Band Council, offered interesting content, but several questions remained unanswered. That's why we plan to offer another information session, this time with better-equipped and qualified departmental representatives on Aboriginal issues. We will give you the date of this event later through the mail.



On February 9, the Winter Carnival organized by the FNCFS was held. Several activities were on the program, including boot hockey, a Snake game, Zumba, a yogurt bar, a community dinner offered by Caroline Cardin and draws and prizes. Afterwards, the day ended under a rain of fireworks! Thank you to the partners who helped make this day a success: the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki, the Abenakis of Odanak Council, the Odanak Health Centre, the FNCFS and the Odanak Environment and Land Office.

March 12 was a very special day as we had a nice visit to our "Awikhiganigamikok" library. We are fortunate to have a group of twelve people from the Nicolet-Yamaska Persons with Disabilities Association, including three community workers, including Ms. Joanny Gill, a member of our community. A presentation of the "Nomadic Museum" was given by Mr. Samuel Bergeron, Head of Animation at the Musée des Abénakis, followed by a group dinner. The children of Raymonde Nolett's group, head of the First Nations Head Start Program (FNHSP), then joined us in the afternoon to watch a film about Abenaki dances. It was a beautiful day.



48 participants and I had the pleasure of participating in the visit of the Montréal Science Centre on March 31. During this day, we visited various showrooms thanks to which the children had a lot of fun while testing the material at their disposal. We ended the day with an IMAX koala film screening and had the chance to participate in the raffle of many door prizes on the way home on



the bus. In short, young and old had fun. Thank you to Nathalie Cardin, from the Department of Education for holding this activity and to Mr. Guy Trudeau for taking us to Montreal.



In closing, I want to wish you a beautiful summer season. We are awaiting your presence to celebrate our 60th edition of the Odanak Pow Wow, which will be held on July 5, 6 and 7.

Look after yourselves and we'll talk again in the fall!

Wli wni.



## Word from Councillors



**CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN**  
Councillor

Kwaï dear members,

Here is a summary of the activities I enjoyed participating in with our community elders over the last few months.

First, the basket weaving workshops started last January. In addition to being exciting, this craft activity allows elders to pass on their know-how to future generations. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the good work carried out by Dianne and Annette Nolett, who share their knowledge week after week.

At the end of January, community members were invited to attend a workshop on

Aboriginal wills and estates. If you could not be present during the presentation or if you still have questions related to this subject, please consult the following page on the Council's website: <https://caodanak.com/en/wills-estates/>.

On February 9th, the 2019 edition of the Odanak Winter Carnival took place. On site, young and old could participate in various activities both indoor and outdoor such as boot hockey, snow snake, zumba, etc. It ended with a magnificent fireworks display behind the family hall. Congratulations to the organizers!

Then, to everyone's delight, the elders' yoga classes offered by the Odanak Health Centre began at the end of February. Classes are given right after our traditional Tuesday luncheons. Around ten people participate in these very interesting and stimulating classes. Moreover, more and more people are attending Tuesday's luncheons at the Alnobai8 hall and we greatly appreciate it.

Then, on February 19th, we were warmly welcomed by the Wôlinak Abazi group to share a lunch and then exchange in a

friendly setting with the elders of their community. We had a pleasant time!



On March 16th, the Odanak Health Centre offered the opportunity to a dozen people to visit the Expo Manger santé et vivre vert at the Palais des congrès in Montreal. The purpose of this exhibition was to promote healthy eating, ecology and overall health. It was a very interesting activity and appreciated by everyone. Also in March, we visited the Durocher sugar shack located in

Yamaska. 28 people attended and enjoyed a delicious traditional meal. A real treat!

I would like to congratulate Theresa Watso on the success of the Bake Sale she organized to raise donations for Relay For Life. Everyone prepared a dish of their own which Theresa could sell to the public.

To end the month of March, a nutritionist from the Health Centre came to the Musée des Abénakis to give a lecture on veganism. It was interesting to discover a new type of diet.

Finally, on April 20th and 21st, the Forum Rejoin the Circle & Celebrate Earth Day took place. These were two rejuvenating days for all generations. Abenaki members living outside the communities were also invited to join us to discuss the various issues facing our Nation. Several interesting workshops and conferences were also offered. Thank you to everyone who made this precious moment of sharing possible.

In closing, I wish you a beautiful end of spring and a wonderful beginning of summer!



**JACQUES T. WATSO**  
Councillor

Do not miss the Odanak Powwow, to be held on July 5-6-7th, 2019, in Odanak. This year is the 60th edition; 60 years of celebrating our common heritage.

It's an invitation to all of those who still wants to express their Native pride.

[www.powwowodanak.com](http://www.powwowodanak.com) or on Facebook: Powwow Odanak.



**ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN**  
Councillor

Kwai,

Hello to all,

Here is a summary of the activities I have had the pleasure of participating in over the last few months as well as the files I am working on as a councillor.

First of all, I attended a meeting with the Hydro-Québec Crown Corporation regarding the construction of an interconnection line between Hydro-Québec's electricity network and that of Maine to increase the capacity of exchange between Quebec and New England. We took the opportunity to evaluate the possibility of doing business with them, but unfortunately, as their contracts amount to more than \$ 500,000 minimum, the likelihood that this partnership will occur is very low.

On a completely different topic, I had the chance to meet one of the representatives of the Consulate General of Mexico during his visit to our community. He was very satisfied with the student exchange with the Kiuna Institution and



hopes that the experience will continue in future years.

Concerning the church's file, some adjustments were made to the residence of our missionary pastor to improve the living room and bedroom.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the organizers of

Odanak Got Talent, as well as all the participants! It was a pleasure to attend this first edition. I particularly want to congratulate François Bergeron and Co. for winning the Jury Prize.

In closing, I wish you all a beautiful summer season.



## A word from Management



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

Kwaï mziwi!

Over the last few weeks, we have completed a development exercise of our new five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan was adopted by the Council on May 21st and will be in effect until March 31, 2024. It is available for consultation on our website under Council/Documentation. This plan sets out our major directions for administration, health, public safety and the Environment and Lands sector for the next five years.

Indigenous Services Canada provided us with a \$ 59,000 grant

to install a generator at the community centre. This will allow the community centre to accommodate community members in the event of a power outage. With the climate changes we have experienced over recent years, ice storms like we had in November and April may occur again and plunge the community into the dark for a relatively long period. At the end of November 2018, we lost power for twenty hours over a total period of 48 hours. Several of our members are in a vulnerable state, such as elders living alone, families with young children, people living with chronic illnesses, and so on. These members may require special care for their medical conditions and these people, like many others, will be able to stay warm and safe at the centre. The community centre kitchen will also be functional, which will allow us to help community members who wish to prepare hot meals, if necessary.

Following the departure of Ms. Lucie Michaud in January, Mr. Jonathan Charbonneau is now the Director of Human Resources since May 27, 2019.

As part of Indigenous Services Canada's transformation process, major changes are about to occur, particularly with respect to Indian registration. Indeed, the department wants to transfer this responsibility to the Band Councils. It would be up to our local registration officers to determine who may or may not be registered in the Indian Register. The Minister, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, is currently conducting consultations across Canada. This consultation deals not only with Indian registration, but also citizenship and belonging. The minister is pushing hard for communities that do not have a membership code to adopt one. The ministry estimates that the population of Status Indians could increase from 750,000 to 1.3 million in Canada. This increase in new Registered Indians is due to the additional amendments to the Indian Act regarding the right to registration in relation to Bill S3 (Descheneaux case). To be continued...

A class action is in the process of settlement for First Nations people who attended day schools

that were under the federal government's responsibility prior to the 1980s. In other words, members of the Odanak community who attended the Saint-Joseph Academy (current location of the Musée des Abénakis) as well as the Anglican School of Odanak will be eligible for financial compensation if they were abused during the years they attended these schools. For more information, you can consult the web links attached below. We will keep you informed of developments once the settlement agreement is reached, which should be by mid-May.

<https://www.cngov.ca/news-issues/current-issues/update-on-indian-day-school-settlement-agreement/>

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1552427234180/1552427274599>

<http://indiandayschools.com/en/>

Wli sigwan!  
Enjoy your spring!

## Economic Development



**STÉPHANE LECOURS-AUBIN**  
Economic Development Officer

Kwaï!

There is economic action in the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local promoters, entrepreneurs and artists who have shown a warm welcome since the beginning of my duties. These interesting meetings led to exchanges that included the search for resource persons, funding and grants. Revised business plans and the delivery of an Aboriginal business starter guide were also offered.

Odanak can be proud of having a significant number of businesses dedicated to giving back to their community. In order to put forward the entrepreneurial culture that is indeed present, the "BUSINESS" section of the

Abenaki of Odanak Council's website has been revised. I invite you to consult the list of established companies using the following website: <https://caodanak.com/en/commercial-site/>

In the coming weeks, a new project called "Abenakis in Business!" will be launched to promote the products / services of Abenaki companies and artists. You will be able to see the publications on the Council's Facebook page and share them to showcase our companies!

Finally, note that a 2019-2024 strategic planning exercise was conducted last March and economic development is one of the themes. Great importance is given to youth projects (e.g. Niona) as well as to the tourist aspect in order to promote and spread the Abenaki culture. It is also with pride that I had the opportunity to join the "business" seat on the Board of Directors of the Musée des Abénakis, the first Aboriginal museum institution in Quebec.

Looking forward to discussing your projects together soon!

Wli Kizokw!

## Accreditation Canada

### Word from the Director: Accreditation renewal file

For this new fiscal year, great challenges lie ahead, including the renewal of our organization's accreditation.

By definition, accreditation in health care is a process of assessing quality and safety based on recognized standards of excellence to identify what is done well and what could be improved with respect to health, governance and services offered to customers.

This exercise takes place every four (4) years for accredited organizations such as ours. Considering that the planned visit for accreditation renewal is set for the month of October 2020, we must begin some preparatory steps immediately.

As you can observe, this process is important not only to the staff of our institution, but also to the senior management and elected representatives of the Abenakis of Odanak Council.

By adhering to this accreditation renewal process, we are reiterating our desire to provide quality, safe and effective health care and services that meet the needs and expectations of community members. In addition, maintaining our status as an accredited organization increases not only our credibility with our partners, our communications, but also our visibility outside the community.

We recently hired an external person to assist us in fulfilling this mandate. One of his responsibilities is to manage the entire process internally in consultation with management and the various work teams within the Odanak Health Centre. An account of the evolution of this file will be communicated to you when deemed appropriate.

Michel Paul  
Coordinator  
Accreditation Canada



## Health Center



**JEAN VOLLANT**  
Director  
Odanak Health Center

### Word from the Director

Upon reading these lines, the spring season is well underway and we are all looking forward to enjoying some warmth despite the cold temperatures over recent weeks.

On March 30, I attended the Annual General Assembly of the Abenakis of Odanak Council. Great challenges await us for this new fiscal year.

More than ever, the Odanak Health Centre is committed to improving the quality, accessibility and sustainability of health care for the Abenaki population of Odanak.

By participating in the accreditation process, we are able to demonstrate that we offer safe, effective and high quality patient-centered care. In addition, this commitment will help build trust and promote learning in the Odanak community while optimizing resource utilization.

Our participation in the Accreditation Canada program shows that our organization strives to provide the best possible care

for your community. Accreditation allows us to adopt and share knowledge and best practices with others, recruit and retain staff, improve services and strengthen connections in our community.

We believe it is important to present the mission, vision and philosophy of care.

To begin, the mission of the Odanak Health Centre is to contribute to improving the health and well-being of members of the Odanak community through health programs that focus on prevention and health promotion, and by favouring a respectful holistic approach to the beliefs and cultural values emanating from the Abenaki Nation.

Thus, the vision is to increase the empowerment of community members in the management of their health by providing health

services focused on prevention and the promotion of healthy habits and to contribute to the improvement of the collective well-being.

And finally, the philosophy of care advocated by all stakeholders at the Odanak Health Centre is biopsychosocial in nature, i.e. an approach taking into account the needs of the individual as a whole (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and social) in respect of his Abenaki cultural values and beliefs.

Respect for the user and the recognition of his rights and freedoms inspire all our actions. In any intervention, we are committed to treating you with courtesy, fairness and understanding, respecting your dignity, your independence, your needs and your safety.

## Technical Services of the Grand Conseil



**MARIO DIAMOND**  
Technical Services Director

Kwaï N'Nid8bak,

Usually in this short column, I list all upcoming projects in the community. However, to make a change, I would like to briefly explain the work done by the Technical Services of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA). Our mandate is to provide technical services to Band Councils for the development of their various projects. These services mainly cover housing and engineering. Initially, only one person could fill the position and delegate to engineering firms, town planning firms or other firms, given the scope of the work. Today, the department is comprised of around fifteen people, who ensure that the GCNWA provides a diversity of knowledge, skills and experience.

In carrying out its mission, the Technical Services also rely on the participation of the other departments of the Grand

Conseil. For example: depending on the location chosen by the Band Council, are archaeological digs required, is the location in a flood zone, are environmental/geotechnical studies necessary? These answers usually come from the Ndakinna office. Does the project respond to a specific need or request from a community member or members? Social services can help us target building and accessibility criteria to support families and people who need a particular environment. The IT department (IT services), for its part, can guide our choice of location in order to determine the accessibility of the Internet networks and, similarly, Hydro-Québec and other services.

Once all the prerequisites and studies are met and the project's urbanism needs conform to requirements, we can move on to evaluation, plans and specifications phases. Following a more precise evaluation class A, the sustainability of the project is based on funding research. The mighty dollar speaks loudly. Do we have the means to offer or support the Band Council's funded portion? The search for funding is mainly based on experience and the ability to explain and sell the project to the different funding providers. This stage is almost always assigned to the Grand Council's Executive Director who, through his many contacts and his involvement in

various Boards of Directors, succeeds in finding the program that meets the projects' needs. Regularly, the search for funding can also be accomplished by the person in charge of the project as well as by certain Band Council members.

If all goes well and the project is well-constructed, we set into tendering mode according to the criteria established by the various Band Council purchasing processes and also based on the laws that govern these processes in order to avoid any suspicion of collusion or other irregularities.

As you can see, the Grand Conseil is comprised of over 60 people, most of who are involved in the development and smooth running of projects. The GCNWA is the largest Tribal Council in Quebec and ranks among the top in Canada. Its budget exceeds that of many communities and comes largely from contracts we bid on. In addition to serving the Abenaki communities of Odanak and Wôlinak, the GCNWA works in several communities in Quebec and has technical service agreements with several of them.

In short, we are very proud of the Grand Conseil, its achievements and its growth. We wish, for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, to work with all the stakeholders around us to ensure the prosperity of the organization, but above all, the development of communities.

### BRIEFLY

#### Odanak Intergenerational Week

The first edition of the Odanak Intergenerational Week will be held from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Activities for all tastes and ages will be offered to you and your family members. Stay tuned for the program that will be available in the coming weeks.

This project is made possible by the valuable collaboration between:

Odanak Health Centre  
First Nations Child and Family Services  
Abenaki Museum  
Ndakinna Office  
Avenir d'Enfant  
The Abenaki of Odanak  
Band Council

#### Congratulations

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, during the Canadian Screen Awards, the « Quiet Killing » won the Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary Program.

It is with pride that the Abenakis of Odanak Band Council wants to congratulate Kim O'bomsawin, the director, and her team for this great achievement.

#### Next meeting of Quebec Native Women (QNW)

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 1pm  
At the Odanak Aln8baïwi Centre  
A light snack will be served



Canada Patrimoine canadien Canadian Heritage



# JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> 2019

Welcome / Kolipaiô

[contact@powwowodanak.com](mailto:contact@powwowodanak.com)





## Odanak Environment and Land Office

# WIZ8WII SIPS project (Canada Warbler)

In 2018, the Odanak Environment and Land Office completed a new project on the Canada Warbler. This small yellow forest bird is designated under the Canada Species at Risk Act. The Canada Warbler migrates annually from its breeding range in north-eastern North America to its wintering range in South America. This bird faces many threats, be it huge coffee plantations in Colombia or logging in its nesting habitat. Over the last 50 years, it is estimated that this species has declined annually by 2.1%, which is significant and demonstrates the importance of working for its recovery. Although its decline is well documented and the causes are becoming better known, the federal authorities maintain that habitat parameters essential for the species' reproduction are not well defined everywhere. This information is fundamental to developing large-scale recovery programs. Our project is therefore part of this process and aims to find breeding pairs to define which habitat elements are most commonly used in the Centre-du-Québec region.

In order to detect its presence, we have used an automated acoustic recording system. The

principle is simple: using a stereo microphone, we record the birds that sing every morning (during the reproduction period) between 5:00 and 9:00 am. Later, at the office, we could quietly analyze the soundtracks in search of warblers. Habitat inventories adapted to this species were finally conducted in summer, which allowed us to determine which habitat elements are most favourable to the presence of this species.

According to our results, the Canada Warbler appears to be associated with mixed forests with dense undergrowth. In the study area, certain plant species also seem to favour the presence of this bird, namely young balsam fir, young red maples or blueberry plants. The main reason is that this bird nests near the ground and needs the cover provided by these plant species to provide them with good protection against predators.

These results have been incorporated into other studies which have been conducted simultaneously by different organizations in other regions of Quebec, namely in Outaouais and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. Our results show the same general trends as those of other regions of



Quebec and even those of other studies conducted elsewhere in Canada, demonstrating that the select habitat type for the Canada Warbler during the breeding season is relatively similar on a larger scale.

Ultimately, these results will support the various recovery committees to clearly define critical habitat for the Canada Warbler, and ultimately to develop broad-based recovery strategies.

Protecting the planet:  
one meal at a time



Meals on Wheels is a community organization that prepares more

than 90 meals a week for people who request the service. During the first two years of operation, most meals were served in styrofoam containers. Styrofoam is marked with No. 6 plastic and is not accepted at the local recycling centre. Thus, nearly 14,000 containers from the Meals on Wheels service were sent to landfill annually. Given this observation, service users proudly agreed to participate in an initiative to reduce the amount of containers placed in the black bin. In January 2019, Meals on Wheels began a proactive green shift by adopting recyclable containers. Since the beginning of the initiative, users have diverted approximately 4,600 containers from landfill. These containers are sent to the Drummondville sorting centre where they can be recycled and sold to make new objects or to be recovered for energy production. The Odanak Environment and Land Office would like to congratulate and thank the employees and volunteers of the *Meals on Wheels* program for their noble collaboration, as well as the users who actively participate in the initiative!

## Ndakinna Office

# Summary of upcoming projects

It is with great enthusiasm that the Ndakinna Office team begins the [financial!] new year. We are continuing our growth and the projects are all just as exciting and abundant! Our expertise in First Nations archaeology, conducting research projects on W8banakiak traditional knowledge, and carrying out studies on the occupation and traditional use of the Ndakinna is recognized, valued and respected.

Thus, in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we will embark, in addition to our daily tasks, on several new projects:

- Archaeological potential study project on the Niger River, its mouths and tributaries with the Coaticook RCM;

- Archaeological potential study project on the Eaton River, its mouths and tributaries in Cookshire-Eaton, a city in Quebec located in the Haut-Saint-François Regional County Municipality, Estrie;

- Erosion monitoring project for the sites located on the shores of the Petit and Grand Lacs Touladi, within the Lac Témiscouata National Park;

- Archaeological project using a georadar at the end of the Vieux-Poste in Nutashkuan in partnership with Archéo-Mamu;

- Research project on a frame of reference on the use of animal resources at the W8banakiak (NovaScience program, part 2 - First research project by the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation);

- Research project on black ash with Université Laval;

- Study project on the use and occupation of the territory by the W8banakiak and for the an archaeological potential study as part of the International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board;

- Archaeological potential study project on the public lands of the planning unit UA 51-51 (Estrie) with the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks.

### Medicinal plants project

A very interesting project on medicinal plants, invasive alien species and climate change will also begin this spring. Inventories will be carried out on the territory of the two

communities by the Environment and Land Offices as well as by Mr. Michel Durand to have a more accurate portrait of the medicinal plants and invasive alien species present. Similarly, a garden of medicinal plants will be redeveloped on the grounds of the Odanak Health Centre. Finally, as part of this project, workshops on medicinal plants will be offered to members of both communities to help learn more about this topic.

If you want to learn more about the project or if you have any knowledge of medicinal plants, do not hesitate to contact me.

Jean-François Provencher  
Project Officer  
jfprovencher@gcnwa.com  
819-294-1686 ext. 1231

If you have questions or comments about our projects, please contact us!

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## REMINDER:

*Pursuant to section 11 and Schedule 1 of the Parks Regulation (chapter P-9, r 25), Abenaki members of the Odanak and Wôlinak communities are exempt from paying access fees as well as rights for fishing in Mont-Mégantic, Mont-Orford and Yamaska National Parks.*

*Also, under the Memorandum of Understanding signed under Parks Canada's Aboriginal Peoples Open Door Program, Abenaki members of the Odanak and Wôlinak communities are exempt from paying entrance fees to the Mauricie National Park.*

*In addition, Abenaki members of the Odanak and Wôlinak communities are exempt from paying entrance fees to the Mount Ham Regional Park.*

*With the warm season on our doorstep, we invite you to take full advantage of this opportunity to reconnect with the Ndakinna.*



## Community

### Research Coordination Committee

For several years now, many research projects have been conducted about our communities without any significant return for the Nation. These projects have been carried out by universities, government departments, non-profit organizations (NPOs) or independent researchers. However, there was no mechanism in place within the Nation to properly supervise these projects' progress. This caused several major issues. On the one hand, it was difficult to effectively monitor research projects in our communities. Secondly, there was in most cases no return of data or research results to communities and participants. Finally, several projects failed to reflect the Nation's orientations and the comments of the people who had participated in the research. In short, each year, members and workers of the Nation's organizations spend a great deal of time and energy participating in research projects that have had little positive impact on our communities.

In January 2019, representatives of the Health Centres, First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS), the Musée des Abénakis, the Ndakinna Office, the Environment and Land Office and the Abenakis of Odanak Council came together and set up a research coordination committee to work on these issues. Through the formation of this committee, the Nation has gained a greater capacity for governance in terms of research partnerships.

This committee's role is to ensure that future research projects are relevant to the Nation and that they are conducted according to the best ethical practices. To do this, it will have to:

- 1) evaluate the proposed projects;
- 2) maintain relationships with researchers throughout the project;
- 3) negotiate and sign research agreements;
- 4) follow up with university science committees;
- 5) communicate the Nation's research priorities to Quebec universities;
- 6) ensure that the Nation's intellectual property is respected, and
- 7) archive and highlight the data and research results.

The committee intends to demand more rigorous research standards and require:

- 1) that the nation can collaboratively define the research project objectives and methodologies;
- 2) that the Nation's youth can participate in projects as research assistants;
- 3) that the data be returned to the participants and, according to the participants' requests, to the Nation's organizations;
- 4) that the Nation can participate in the data analysis;
- 5) that those who participate in research projects have a say in the researcher's interpretation; and
- 6) that researchers disseminate their results internally to the Nation through various means (presentations, short articles, exhibits, cartoon story strips, etc.).

This proactive strategy is intended to ensure that research serves the interests of the Nation first. We have the right to be involved in all stages of a research project, from conception to dissemination. It is through a resumption of research initiatives that we will be able to achieve real collaboration and strong partnerships with universities, government departments and non-profit organizations. The search should not be done on the W8banakiak, but with, by and for the W8banakiak.

Over the coming months, we will define our research priorities and priorities for the coming years and will communicate them to Quebec universities. Feel free to visit us or write us to help define the topics of future research. Once the axes have been developed, we will organize a public meeting for this purpose.

Wliwni,

Members of the Research Coordination Committee:  
David Bernard  
Suzie O'Bomsawin  
Daniel G. Nolett  
Patricia Lachapelle  
Vicky Desfossés-Bégin  
Valérie Laforce  
Stéphanie O'Bomsawin  
Jean Vollant  
Michel Durand Nolett  
Samuel Dufour

### Short Column on the Abenaki Language

Brief reminder: In the Abenaki language, it is important to know that all the letters in a word must be pronounced. For example, the "s" at the end of SIBOSIS should be pronounced. We therefore say "sibosisse" rather than "sibosi". Moreover, the following letters are not part of our alphabet: F, Q, R, U, V, X, Y. The "G" is always hard as in "glove". The "J" for its part is pronounced "dz". The "ch" is pronounced "ts" as in "channa" (tsanna). The "H" is always aspirated. We do not have an "F" sound. For example, woman is pronounced "phanem" in Abenaki. We say "P" hanem. Moreover, we do not have the "sh" or "ch" sound as in shirt or charade.

The "i" is pronounced "ay". For example, nebi (water) is pronounced "NEBAY". The "ô" or the "8" is a nasal sound between the "an" and the "on". The "w", when placed before a consonant, is pronounced as an "o", like the "w" in French as in "Web". It is also pronounced as a soft "o" at the end of a word. The "o" is pronounced as is, such as in the word "photo", rather than an "a" as in the word "bought". When the "o" is followed by the letter "n", the "o" is pronounced as a double "o" such as in the word "mood". For example, "tassakwabon", or chair, is pronounced "tassakwaboone".

#### VERB CATEGORIES <sup>1</sup>

There are two verb categories in the Abenaki language:

#### 1. Intransitive verbs:

Whose action, accomplished or experienced, is limited to the subject. We find action verbs without a direct object, reflexive and stative verbs.

E.g.	Action	To go out	<b>Saossamek</b>
	Reflexive	To sit	<b>Abimek</b>
	Stative	To be sick	<b>Akwamalsimek</b>

#### 2. Transitive verbs

Whose action is performed on a direct object. Transitive verbs are divided into two subcategories:

##### • Animate transitive verbs

E.g.	To see (animate)	<b>Namih8meket</b>
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##### • Inanimate transitive verbs

E.g.	To see (inanimate)	<b>Namit8zik</b>
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In addition, animate and inanimate transitive verbs combine differently depending on whether their direct object is Undefined (when it is preceded by an indefinite article such as a, an), or Defined (when it is preceded by a definite article: the, or a demonstrative adjective: this, that, those, these or a possessive adjective: my, your, his, hers, their, our).

Transitive verbs (animate or inanimate) with an indefinite direct object are conjugated in the same way as intransitive verbs and disregard whether their direct object is singular or plural.

Example:

**Intransitive verb** - To go out/**Saossamek**  
We go out **N'saossabna**

**Transitive verb** - To see/**Namih8mek (animate)**  
We see a tree **N'namih8bna abazi**  
We see **many** trees **N'namih8bna abaziak**

- To see/**Namit8zik (inanimate)**

We see a house **N'namitobna wigw8m**  
We see **many** houses **N'namitobna wigw8mal**

**Note:** in the example above, the "we" is **exclusive**, i.e. it excludes the person (s) we are talking to.

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

### NEXT PUBLIC GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 25th, 2019, at 1:30 pm  
At the Community Center, 56, Waban-Aki Street  
For more information  
450 568-2810



## News From Your Museum



### Fundraising cocktail

More than 100 friends and partners of the Musée des Abénakis met on March 21 to participate in the most recent edition of its annual fundraising cocktail. Thanks to the guests' presence and the generous contribution of 25 sponsors, the Musée des Abénakis is more than happy to announce that the amount raised totals close to \$ 29,000 (\$ 19,000 net profit).

Once again this year, participants discovered the artistic and culinary wealth of the First Nations and immersed themselves in the contemporary culture of the Abenakis. And once again, the culinary discovery of the evening was entrusted to Chef Steve Bissonnette from the restaurant-pub Le D'Orsay in Quebec City. Guests enjoyed tasting unique smoked salmon, black pudding, elk and deer. DJ Inuk, Geronimo Inutiq, was again invited to liven up this festive evening with his LP vinyl records.

Our reputed silent auction was also back. Indeed, the thirteen pieces of Native and non-native artists and craftsmen all found takers; close to \$ 4,000 were raised thanks to the sale of these works! Thank you to the generous community donors: Alanis Obomsawin, Annette Nolett, Christine Sioui Wawanoloath, Helen Watso and June Palmer; your contributions made all the difference!

In the late evening, draws and door prizes were awarded to ten lucky people, including a trip to Essipit, which includes two nights in a condo and a whale-watching cruise, an overnight stay at the Montfort Hotel in Nicolet with access to the Nordic spa, two overnight stays in the "prêt-à-camper Étoile" or Echo chalet in one of the SÉPAQ national parks, an "O'tentik" package at the Mauricie National Park, courtesy of Parks Canada, and a gift certificate from the restaurant-pub D'Orsay.

The Musée des Abénakis would like to extend a warm thank you to all of its partners – in particular its major sponsors RBC, BLG, Desjardins caisse Nicolet, Group 132, Dionne Schulze, Construction G. Therrien and the SAQ – and all its guests, without whom this event could not have been as successful!



Photo : Theresa Watso

### Kwigw8mna

The project is taking shape! In the coming weeks, you will witness the construction and complete layout of the traditional dwelling in the historic square near the Museum. The purpose of this project is to allow visitors to discover the way of life, the know-how as well as the elements of Abenaki material culture. Moreover, this project will allow us to create a brand new educational activity that will be offered to schools as early as next fall. The home should be completed by the end of June - just in time for the Pow Wow. Come to take a peek!

### Spring-summer cultural programming

Several activities are planned during the spring and summer of 2019, with various themes to satisfy young and not so young.

On May 18, thanks to the activity W8banaki sawaw8ganal; entre tradition et modernité (W8banaki sawaw8ganal; between tradition and modernity), you can discover Abenaki clothing, from the arrival of Europeans to today. Sylvain Rivard, the clothing specialist, will introduce you to the particularities of Abenaki clothing over time. Do you know the symbols, colours and subtleties that characterize your Nation's traditional clothing? This activity is free.

On August 9, during the Perseid period, join us to observe the shooting stars during the outdoor activity contes et légendes sous un ciel d'Alakwsak (storytelling and legends under an Alakwsak sky. In company of Nicole O'Bomsawin, you will spend a pleasant evening near the fire. You will discover the immaterial culture of the Abenakis, rich in history, anecdotes and legends.

Costs for this activity: \$ 10 per adult (\$ 8 for members of the Odanak Historical Society), \$ 8 for students aged 13 to 18 and \$ 5 for children aged 5 to 12.

Finally, on September 14, the activity Maalhakws: les Abénakis et le frêne (Maalhakws: Abenakis and the ash tree) will immerse you in the life of a young ash tree. Understand the place occupied by nature and the importance of this tree in w8banakis culture. Learn how to spot an ash tree in the forest, how to extract its fibre and how to work with its material. To conclude the activity, everyone is invited to produce pretty works from ash splints.

Costs for this activity: \$ 15 per adult (\$ 12 for members of the Odanak Historical Society), \$ 8 for students aged 13 to 18 and \$ 5 for children aged 5 to 12.

For all these activities, registration is required, contact us: 450 568-2600 or by email [groupe@museeabenakis.ca](mailto:groupe@museeabenakis.ca)

### Summer exhibits

Indians beyond Hollywood (L'Indien au-delà d'Hollywood) continues until December at the Musée des Abénakis. This amazing exhibit brings together a profusion of caricatures, stereotypical characters invented by Hollywood films, which highlight their recurring presence in popular culture. Have fun observing the multitude of related objects. And discover, from a current perspective, how this long history now leads First Nations people to speak out, to reclaim their own cultural image and to denounce the misuse of their image to stop the generalization and stereotypes.

Did you know that the exhibit contains more than 130 objects, including the actual headdress of

Elijah Tahamont, an Abenaki actor from the Odanak community who had a career in Hollywood in the 1910s? On its own, this headdress is worth the trip! In addition, entry is completely free for Abenaki members.

The Musée des Abénakis will also present this summer the outdoor photographic exhibit "Le Rapprochement" by Suzanne Bourdon. This exhibit will highlight Aboriginal identity through black-and-white photographs, including those by Mandi Thompson and Martin Gill, both from the Odanak community.

### Renewal of the permanent exhibit

The renewal project for the permanent exhibit continues. The consultation period is over, but perhaps you had the chance to meet the members of the firm Maelström créatif with which the Museum is working on this project? The team met several people and committees and also traveled to several gatherings in Odanak and Wôlinak such as the Talent Show, the Museum's fundraising cocktail and the forum Réformons le cercle. The purpose of such an exercise was to know the views of a maximum number of Abenakis on their past, present and future identity in order to create a solid foundation for the concept of the exhibit.

A Facebook group "WIJOKA; travaillons ensemble I let's work together!" was also created. The purpose of this group is to keep you, members of the community, informed of the project's progress. If you are still not part of the group, ask to join. The latter offers you many surprises - you will even be asked to participate actively in the exhibit by making choices. Stay connected!

In addition, this summer, you are invited to participate in the creation of a collective artistic work with multidisciplinary artist Christine Sioui Wawanoloath. This work will take place on the Museum's outdoor site over the entire summer.

### Increasing visits

March 31 marked the end of our fiscal year and our annual ridership was compiled. The news is excellent; more than 11,500 visitors passed through the doors of the Musée des Abénakis in 2017-2018! An increase of more than 33% compared to last year. It is also interesting to note that just over 1,500 students from more than 40 schools came to discover Abenaki culture this year. Let's promote this beautiful culture, one visitor at a time!

Whshing another busy year in 2018-2019!