



## Word from the Chief

*Kwei fellow band members,*

I hope your holidays were filled with beautiful moments to remember and a little time to recharge.

It is with gratitude and hope for the future, that I as your Chief am starting 2020 in this continuing mandate for our same Council. As a team we continue to do our utmost to lead our nation through these turbulent times.

With Indian Affairs making many changes in their role concerning our people, we must be attentive and vigilant. The dismantling of their system, as we have known it is well under way. The effect is beginning to be visible and requires a proactive, collaborative effort to direct.

Our community must first be clear as to what we need to restore a holistic sense of well being for our nation. We can then identify the necessary resources needed and negotiate on both the provincial and federal levels of government to make sure we can implement our plans. Support to develop our framework and time to implement our distinct system is of great importance. We must negotiate for nothing less.

Considering the closing of files that keep us focused on the past are now nearing their end, we can maybe begin to think about learning from history and moving forward.

The compensation payments for residential school survivors have now been dispersed. Understanding that financial compensation cannot restore the imbalance this era has had on our communities we must be content with this as an attempt to make amends by current generations for past generation's mistakes.

On this same note those members who were students of day school, those who attended school in Odanak, who are waiting to claim from the settlement the government has set up for compensation, we want to assure you that we are working hard at the national, regional and local levels to release this funding to those who have suffered this legacy.

Another important file that has been resolved is that of the plight of our women to regain their rightful place (status) in our communities. Although there are some huge unsettled elements to this file, the starting steps are well underway. With all that said, where do we go from here? What then do we want to leave as a legacy for our grandchildren? What is our current challenge? Our present-day challenge is our mobilization as a community to restore and rebuild. What does that mean? It means facing the lateral violence and ripple effects left by a legacy of abuse and violence. It means taking responsibility for our current experience as a people and as a community.

We have begun to take our power back from this historic patronizing force, which attempted to compromise our unity and sovereignty. We are free now to restore that which belonged to us and is resting in our ancestral memories.

With this I wish you all the best in 2020 and hope to count you among us in our journey of reconciliation. This journey starts at home!

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

To pay tribute to the adoption of the Indigenous Languages Act, adopted by the Government of Canada last June, as well as to mark the end of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, here is the first Short Column on the Wabanaki Language of 2020.

## Short Column on the Abenaki Language

In this column, I will discuss demonstrative pronouns and adjectives.

### 1. Pronouns and demonstrative adjectives

**Pronouns** (that, that, that, this, that) and **demonstrative adjectives** (that, that, that, that, that) are expressed in the same way and they are agreed in gender **s'accordent en genre** (**animate** or **inanimate**) and **number** (**singular** ou **plural**) with the **noun** they represent or designate.

Pronouns and demonstrative adjectives are **expressed differently** depending on whether the noun they represent or refer to is **close** or **far away**.

	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
<b>CLOSE</b>		
<b>Sing.</b>		
This one, this	Wa	Io
<b>Plur.</b>		
These, those	logik	Iolil

Example : Child (**animated** noun)

**Sing. :** **This one** (talking about the child) Wa  
**This child** Wa aw8ssis

**Plur. :** **These** (speaking of two children) **logik**  
**Those children** **logik aw8ssisak**

**Book** (**inanimated** noun)  
**Sing. :** **This one** (en parlant d'un livre) **Io**  
**This book** **Io awikhigan**

**Plur. :** **These**  
These (speaking of two books and more) **Iolil**  
**Those books** **Iolil awikhiganal**

	ANIMATE	INANIMATE
<b>FAR AWAY</b>		
<b>Sing.</b>		
This one, this	Na	Ni
<b>Plur.</b>		
These, those	Nigik	Nilil

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





# Word from Councilors



**FLORENCE BENEDICT**  
Concillor

Before we dive into this article, I will take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful and happy Year 2020 filled with joy, health and happiness!

How could I not talk about the 2019–2021 elections!

A Council reelected by acclamation, something that has not happened since 1956, back when Louis Robert O’Bomsawin was Chief. This outcome expresses a huge vote of confidence, for which I am so thankful. I will continue to handle my current duties with the same passion that has driven me since my first mandate in 2016. I will also answer your questions as I did before and remain available to all members of my Nation.

During the power failure spanning over four days (October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 3rd)—almost five for some—we have witnessed a great show of solidarity bringing the different departments together. Among them, the Abenaki Police Force

ensured the safety of vulnerable people by stopping by their home to make sure they were well, and the public works department worked diligently to clear our roads and make them safe. Meals were prepared and delivered by Health Center and FNCFS employees and many volunteers, young and old.

Now, let’s talk about a few events that took place in our community over the past few weeks:

As a Quebec Native Women (QNW) representative, I attended the QNW’s 46th General Annual Assembly held on November 23 and 24 at the Sheraton Hotel in Laval, along with the assistant representative, the elder representative and the youth representative as well as two more delegated members. During this assembly, elections were held to choose a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer. Mary Hannaburg was reelected vice-president and Johanne Couture was elected as secretary-treasurer.

In the fall, workshops were offered to members of the community; including a mask making workshop conducted by Nicole Bibeau and a traditional drum making workshop taught by



Jean-Paul Lamirande.

The next workshop will be conducted by Annette Nolett in January 2020 to learn basket-



making. On November 16, an educative fishing activity (Pêche en herbe) and a workshop on birds of prey were organized at the Community Center by Environment and Land. Young and old had a lot of fun and everyone brought nice trouts



back home.



On November 23, twenty people took a trip to the Salon du livre de Montréal. Many thanks to Nathalie Cardin and Marcelle O’Bomsawin for organizing this wonderful activity.



See you soon, be safe on our wintery roads. We will talk some more this spring!

Wli wni



**CLAIRE O'BOMSAWIN**  
Concillor

Kwai,  
I would first like to express how delighted I am to be re-elected by acclamation as a councillor. I intend to hold this position as proudly as before and I am committed to fulfill my tasks with as much passion. Thank you for your greatly appreciated trust!

Again, this year, we have had the pleasure of organizing the Elder’s

Christmas Party, which welcomed over thirty participants. Once more, this most enjoyable event has been an opportunity to fill up on love, and everyone had the chance to tell those dear to them how important they are to them.

I would also take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Abenaki Council of Odanak for generously contributing \$200. This sum has been distributed to participants in

the form of gift cards redeemable in businesses within the community.

I hope you have had a happy and merry holiday season! To conclude, let me wish you a wonderful new year filled with love and health.

Claire O’Bomsawin  
Councillor



**ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN**  
Concillor

Kwai,  
Firstly, I wish to thank you for the privilege and trust you have granted to us on October 13 of last year by electing us by acclamation. This was a wonderful surprise!

I hope your holiday season has been a moment of cheer, love and sharing. I wish to take a few lines to thank all the volunteers who have helped people in the community whether during the power failure, the food drive, the church, etc.

Concerning church activities, I wish to announce that I have accepted the position of “abuse prevention parish responder”. The responder’s mission is to facilitate the implementation of the policy on sexual abuse and harassment prevention within the parishes. In a near future, a committee will be formed to oversee complaints, which would include, among other things, a resource person and an officer of the Sûreté du Québec.

Lastly, after discussing with our missionary parish priest, we will consider the possibility of expanding the cemetery and/or adding a columbarium. An informative meeting will be held in the near future to receive your comments and suggestions.

Thank you,

Wli Wni





## Word from Councilors



**JACQUES T. WATSO**  
Concillor

Kway members of the Abenaki band of Odanak,

For some time now, we have been hearing a lot about cultural appropriation.

This is a phenomenon involving people who decide to "self-identify" themselves and is growing across the country. In addition to the groups of "Indian Lovers" who want to save us, there is also the birth of the "Race Shifting" movement in which identity groups claim indigenous ancestry in order to appropriate our common heritage as Abenaki of Odanak.

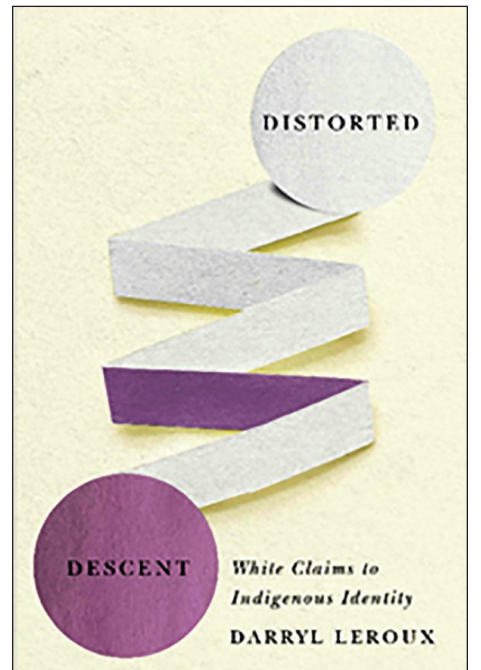
Moreover, the phenomenon is clearly explained in the book by our friend Dr. Darryl Leroux: **Distorted Descent: Whiteness and the Desire to Become Indigenous.** Moreover, it explains very well the phenomenon of New England

usurpers; an identity theft that has been going on for decades against our Nation.

The councils of Odanak and W8linak have set up an intervention committee to fight this scourge that pollutes our ancestral territory. You will soon receive a document identifying these self-proclaimed groups.

This document will allow you to better identify these groups in order to help us denounce them and it will also be a guide to fully experience our culture.

Jacques T. Watso



## Word from Management



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

Kwaï mziwi!

For the elections that were held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Council retained Atty. Guylaine Boisvert's services. Atty. Boisvert is a lawyer with extensive experience pertaining to elections and she has been presiding officer many times for the Council of W8linak. As you already know, all of the Council members were reelected by acclamation because no one sought nominations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Yves Landry who presided our Council elections for 25 years. During the 2017 elections, Landry had expressed his intention that he would not take the presiding officer position for 2019 elections. In early September, he confirmed his decision to move on. Kchi wliwni Yves wji pita wlalokaw8gan.

As these lines are being written, we have begun the call for tenders process for the viabilization of 25 land lots for a residential development on parcels of land where the CN property was previously located until 1989. These lots, let's recall, became reserve land again in May of 2014. This project is an extension of Pakesso Street, which will eventually connect to Waban-Aki

Street. We are talking about a project approaching \$2.5 million. This project will be financed by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the ministère du Transport du Québec (MTQ) and finally the Band Council.

The generator installed at Odanak's community centre last August has been quite useful during the major power failure that deprived us and 990 000 other Hydro-Québec customers of power from November 1 to 4. Odanak residents could go to the community centre to warm up, recharge their electronic devices and prepare or get a meal. We have been in a state of emergency for a 48-hour period after the beginning of the outage. After six (6) hours without electricity, vulnerable people in the community were visited on a regular basis by responders. After 48 hours, officers from the Abenaki Police Force (APF) also contributed to the efforts by stopping by every home door-to-door to make sure everyone was safe and had all that was needed.

Starting November 3 in the evening, members of the emergency committee and the volunteers who helped out distributed hot meals to the homes of vulnerable people as well as to those who were beginning to lose the contents of their refrigerator and/or freezer. We repeated the distribution on Monday, November 4 for lunch and supper. The power was back at 2 p.m. on that day. The Metro grocery store in Pierreville had to throw away all the food from its refrigerators and freezers, as did all those who did not own a generator. That is why we made the decision to provide supper on November 4 even if power was

back in all the homes. Close to 90 meals were served that night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the emergency committee, the Odanak Health Center's personnel, officers from the APF, staff member from the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki's FNCFS, and volunteers from Odanak all of whom have been involved in taking care of vulnerable people from our community, our members and students at Kiuna. Thumbs up for your excellent work and commitment! Members of the community greatly benefitted from your help and support throughout the power failure that lasted 76 hours long. Kchi wliwni! Pita wlalokaw8gan mziwi!

This emergency happened just two weeks before a training course, scheduled since last spring, which took place November 19–21 in Odanak. This training was intended to all the members of the emergency committees of Odanak and W8linak. We received the confirmation from ISC in August to fund this training course. We hold such exercises to review the duties and responsibilities of each member of the emergency committee. These roles and responsibilities are put to the test during various emergencies in order to verify everyone's know-how and ensure that everyone is prepared to deal with real emergencies in our respective communities.

It is important to know that the members of the W8linak emergency committee are our substitutes in case of need and vice versa. The training and exercises carried out during these three days have shown us that you

are in good hands. The members of the emergency measures committees are prepared to deal with any eventuality.

Regarding the class action suit brought by the victims of federal Indian day schools, the Federal Court judge finally accepted the settlement of the class action on August 19. The regulation was supposed to come into effect three months later, on November 19, but that did not happen. On October 31, the lawyers of the group responsible for the class action suit received a legal challenge to the Indian day school settlement from Atty. David Schulze (partner, Dionne Schulze, L.L.P.) on behalf of his client, a member of the group. As these lines are being written, lawyers of the group are assessing the legal challenge.

Last October, a court challenge slowed down the class action lawsuit process brought by victims of federal Indian day schools. However, as of January 13, 2020, it is now possible to officially begin a claims process.

The members of Odanak who went to the Académie Saint-Joseph (the school that used to be located in today's Musée des Abénakis) and to the Anglican school of Odanak are eligible to receive financial compensation if they were abused during the years they attended these schools. For any questions about the Claim Form or Claims Process, call 1 (888) 221-2898 or visit the <https://indiandayschools.com/en/>. You can also contact the Band Council directly at 450-568-2810.

Wli pbon!

Enjoy winter!



## Word from Management Health Center



**JEAN VOLLANT**  
Director

As I wrote these lines, the month of December had just begun. We were then getting into the holiday spirit and this special season gave us the opportunity to take stock of the year and look ahead into the coming year.

First, even if the holiday season is already behind us, on behalf of the Odanak Health Center and Abenaki Council of Odanak, we wish to thank all the employees for all the work they have accomplished with great skill, passion, and commitment during the year 2019 to serve the people of Odanak well.

This time of year is a special time to reflect and take a step back from our actions and accomplishments.

In this context, it matters to remind ourselves of the great and noble cause each one of us serves—helping those who need it most!

Only with the contribution of each one of the people who make up the organization can we make a real difference in the lives of those we help. Helping, caring, readapting, protecting and preventing are verbs that the Odanak Health Center employees live by on a daily basis.

Whether you are part of the medical, administrative, or support staff, your contribution is essential to fulfilling this beautiful mission. Time to take stock, let's be proud! We hope that this period of festivities has allowed you to take care of yourself, to enjoy time spent with loved ones and delight in the small joys of life.

Another busy year has just passed for the Odanak Health Center.

A year in which a tremendous amount of work was done, with quality, rigour, and professionalism. With the rising number of files and the Center's involvement with numerous partners (FNCFS, FNQLHSSC, ISC, CIUSSS MCQ, etc.), the Abenaki Council of Odanak was able to read the situation and ensured that the team had the necessary resources to meet the members' expectations.

Last July, we tabled our annual report. This report has given you a good picture of what was accomplished throughout the year.

It must be said that the health centre continues to be a key player in terms of prevention and health promotion, as well as for the population that is fortunate enough to benefit from services.

On that note, I wish us an even better year ahead and that the challenges continue to be met so brilliantly!

As every year, the time has come to share the fruits of the 2019 harvest with you. The CIUSSS MCQ partnership project launched in May 2019 enables us to present our targets and expected results in detail:

- Improve the accessibility and continuity of services in independent living, mental health, and physical disability for members of the Abenaki community of Odanak;

- Clarify and define service trajectories pertaining to independent living, mental health, and physical disability; Promote better linkage and coordination between the services available in independent living, mental health, and physical disability in the community and those available at the CIUSSS MCQ.

Essentially in 2020, we continue to pursue the goals and means set in May 2019. We are proud to see a notable increase in collaboration between the health centre and the CIUSSS. This means that we are on the right track!

We have been able to stay focused on the services we offer by promoting tight control and rigorous and transparent management of all our resources. In addition, our approach to coaching and managing personnel for skills development is bearing fruit. We see this as confirmation that the means put forward are relevant and that our results-based management approach is effective. In terms of the services offered to the members of Odanak, this year allowed us to consolidate the foundations of a collaborative approach in order to ensure the best support, promotion, and prevention services for everyone's physical and psychological health.

We can make links between this collaborative approach and the

level of public satisfaction. The strategic plan adopted last July focuses on collective well-being and aims to provide first-rate services to youth, seniors, and the entire community, as far as the Band's resources allow.

The Abenaki Council's Odanak Health Center aims to contribute to improve and maintain the community members' health and sense of well-being by promoting empowerment within the community.

This stimulating strategic plan will fuel a great number of impressive projects in 2020, noteworthy for their quality and creativity. More than a simple administrative review, this work reflects the vitality of our great OHC team, the collaboration of the Abenaki community that accompanies us and our commitment to keep the course providing good care to all our members!

Our goals for 2020:

- **Line of action 1:** Improving and maintaining the high quality of care provided by the Odanak Health Center
- **Line of action 2:** Promoting healthy habits and activities
- **Line of action 3:** Developing and implementing a new nutritional program for the community's elderly
- **Line of action 4:** Offering mental health services.

Happy 2020!

## Word From the Accreditation Coordinator

# Accreditation Follow up and Renewal

Kwei everyone,

The actions pertaining to the renewal process of the accreditation are under way according to the work plan previously set out to complete the process. Throughout the fall, working with each accreditation team, we proceeded to a detailed analysis of the results from the self-assessment, including the results produced by assessment tools such as Pulse to monitor work life quality, and other tools focusing on patient safety culture. These have been completed by the staff to target areas of non-compliance (i.e.: red flags).

A continuous quality improvement plan (CQIP) was designed to target several priority actions pertaining to infection control, medication management and providing care centered on the patient's and family members' needs. Several suggested actions are relevant to developing intervention staff skills through professional training initiatives and updating some clinical and administrative policies and processes. A staff-management meeting was also included in the CQIP aiming to discuss and examine together areas of improvement regarding safety and work life quality.

Designing and implementing the CQIP demonstrates the commitment of the Health Center's management team and personnel to offer better services and health care to members of the community in accordance with available resources. It's important to mention that the CQIP must receive the approval from general management and the community's elected representatives. We would like to remind you that the visit from Accreditation Canada surveyors is scheduled for **October 2020**.

For those who may be less acquainted with this process, the

health care accreditation is an **ongoing quality and safety assessment process** complying with recognized standards of excellence to identify what is being done well and what needs to be improved in areas such as governance, services, and health care provided to patients as well as the staff's work environment.

Hoping you have had a happy holiday season!

Michel Paul  
Accreditation coordinator



## NDAKINA OFFICE

Summer and Fall of 2019 were busy seasons for the Ndakina team. Our staff members Jean-Nicolas Plourde, Roxane Lévesque, David Bernard, Edgar Blanchet, Geneviève Treyvaud, and Hadrien Bois-Von Kursk took part in several events representing the department throughout the entire Ndakina. These lectures were an opportunity to discuss land occupation and both the historical and contemporary land use of the Ndakina by the W8banaki Nation. Some topics covered by these presentations included the Abenaki Becancour Trail and W8banakiak guides in private hunting and fishing clubs of the XIXth-XXth centuries. Other presentations were about the basket-making tradition and initiatives aiming to pass on this cultural know-how. The Ndakina Office's participation to the archeology month in the Saint-Ours Canal National Historic Site intended to reach the widest



audience possible raising awareness about the W8banaki Nation and its initiatives on the territory.

The Ndakina Office's archeology team put time and effort to document the presence of W8banakiak in the Estrie region. Archeological digs were undertaken in the MRC of Coaticook, in the municipality of Cookshire and in the Megantic region. Four archeological sites from 5,000 to 450 years ago were discovered. The artefacts that were uncovered such as, stone tools, raw materials to build these tools as well as a clay deposit, will

be analyzed in further details and will be included in formal reports during winter 2020.

As part of a Kiuna College pilot project, students enrolled in history and anthropology courses had the chance to take part in a short archeology training session. The topics covered included: fundamental archeology notions, professional archeology practice in Québec, archeological digging techniques, Aboriginal cultures and oral traditions, collaborative work in Aboriginal communities and managing archaeological collections.

Suzie O'Bomsawin and Geneviève Treyvaud had the opportunity to see artefact collections from W8linak and Nicolet, and Brompton petroglyphs at the Musée des sciences et de la nature de Sherbrooke. We plan to document the crafting methods of these artefacts and will attempt dating them. These objects attest to the presence and know-how of the W8banakiak on Ndakina.



Medicinal and invasive plants surveys were conducted on both W8linak and Odanak territories by both the Environment and Land departments throughout the summer and results should be available soon.



The Ndakina Office also attended almost 30 consultations, 20 of which pertained to regulatory changes or government orientations of interest to the Nation. In this context, we took part in the process of developing a strategic framework on Aboriginal knowledge that will be used by the federal government to assess the social and environmental impacts of projects. Our opinion has also been solicited concerning a change of regulation by the federal government related to migrating birds, about the Mining Act revision, and the development of Vision maritime 2020–2035 by the Québec government. We will continue to follow up on these issues, and much more, in the coming year, to ensure the interests of the W8banakiak are taken into account.



## Travelling to Maine with the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki and Niona



**DAVID BERNARD**  
Research Agent at  
Ndakina Office

On August 5–12, 2019, three members of the Ndakina Office, three research assistants from the Nation, two workers from First Nations Children and Family Services (FNCFS) and eight Niona team members took a research

oriented cultural trip to Maine. This trip was part of the Abaznodali8wdi project: La route des paniers (or Basket Road) coordinated by the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-Eau Terre Environnement) and the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA), with financing from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

The purpose of this trip was to collect data from archive groups, museum collections, and from discussions with Wolastoqiyik, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy experts on abaznodal (Black Ash baskets) making. We wanted to show Niona youth how wide and beautiful the Ndakina is South of the Canadian American border.

Before our departure, all Niona members received a basic lesson on the history of basket-making and the W8banaki Nation, which was mandatory to take part to the trip. Researchers from the Ndakina Office also made sure to initiate the three assistants (Megan Hébert-Lefebvre, Pierre-Alexandre Thompson, and Charlotte Gauthier-Nolett) to field research.

During our stay, the Niona and the Grand Conseil team had a guided tour of the Abbe Museum and researched their collections and archive groups. Many baskets, artefacts, and tools were analyzed and catalogued by Geneviève Treyvaud, archeologist for the GCNWA, and by the research assistants. The team also visited the University of Maine with

Daren Ranco, the Acadia Park, the Penobscot Museum with Jennifer Neptune, and we attended a canoe making workshop in Indian Island. In addition, the Niona members also attended a workshop on ash wood processing with Gabriel Frey, a Penobscot basket maker.

This trip has been an opportunity to learn more about W8banakiak communities South of the border, the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy basket making, and on the status of the emerald ash borer in Maine. We have been warmly welcomed by the members of these Nations; most often, they were delighted and curious to meet W8banakiak from the Northern part of the territory, with whom they could discuss about the many things they share in common.





# Odanak Environment and Land Office

## The marshes of the community of Odanak are important for the perch

The Yellow Perch, also known by its scientific name *Perca flavescens*, is a widely distributed fish species of North America. This species’ ubiquity is such that the population can hardly be estimated. Until very recently, an important population was well known to thrive in the Saint-Pierre Lake and the tributary streams flowing into the lake. This fish population had a significant socio-economic value for the communities living nearby. Notably, as archives reveal, W8banakiak would have fished Yellow Perch in the Saint-Pierre Lake early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In fact, the presence of Aboriginal fishers in this fertile basin probably dates further back in time. Nevertheless, this information is sufficient to understand that the Yellow Perch, abundant at the time, was food for bellies, culture and for “good old fishing tales” of the Abenakis for hundreds of years.

As fate would have it, for many fish species with an economic value, Saint-Pierre Lake’s Yellow Perch has been heavily fished by commercial fisheries, harvests reaching an average of 213 tons annually between 1986 and 1994. Only three years later, in 1997 and 1998, fishing companies experienced a drastic production drop estimated to 68%. This phenomenal decline first gave no choice but to impose quotas on commercial fishing. Then, in 2012, a five-year moratorium was signed to prohibit all sport and commercial fishing of this species.

This moratorium, renewed for another five years in 2017, allows Aboriginal fishers to harvest a maximum of 50 catches daily, which must measure over 19 cm in length. As the environmental pressure of exploitation is now neutralized, observations show the number of spawning adults has stabilized, although it remains low.

Other aggravating factors, such as loss and deterioration of spawning, rearing and growing habitat as well as the lack of connection between these habitats, impede the renewal of new specimens, and consequently the replenishment of Yellow Perch stocks. These constraints are the negative outcome resulting from anthropogenic alterations of the landscape surrounding the Saint-

Pierre Lake shores, which now feature intensive agriculture shore to shore while roads partially or completely sever the connection between the lake and surrounding wetlands.

As a way to compensate for the decreasing habitat quality throughout the region, governments of Québec and Canada developed funding programs to finance natural environment restoration and creation initiatives. Environment and Land benefited from such funding to restore the 1<sup>st</sup> Marsh in 2014 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marsh in



2017, both known for providing excellent reproduction and rearing habitats for the Yellow Perch.

Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marshes are wetlands that flow through a creek into the St. Francis River and Tardif Channel respectively (two tributary streams of the Saint-Pierre Lake). When the Tolba and ATV trails, which go through these wetland areas, were built, culverts were installed to maintain this connection between each marsh and its downstream creek. However, over the years, a waterfall could be observed, forming at the culverts’ end when the water levels of the St. Francis River and Tardif Channel were low; thus, the Yellow Perch fish could not swim back into the marsh to spawn.

In order to lower the culvert’s entrance and to ensure a permanent connection between the marsh and tributary streams, the stream beds were dug, redirected, and reshaped into

meanders, featuring an adequate slope of 1% on its entire length. This new configuration slows down the flow velocity and encourages fish runs. In addition, the stream banks were widened and revegetated with wetland plant seeds and shrubs (alders, dogwoods, and willows) to stabilize the slope, slow down the stream runoff and avoid premature erosion, curb the input of heavily sedimented water, neutralize contaminants, and provide additional spawning substrate for the Yellow Perch. These changes make the marshes

waters (“Push net”). A total of 45 other species were clearly identified in the monitoring process, including several interesting species for sport fishing (e.g.: Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass). Finally, the revegetation’s success and structural quality were monitored every year to ensure the installations’ perenity.

In 2019, floods were particularly heavy for a prolonged period of time, which made fish catching more difficult. With higher water levels, the hoop nets could not cover the stream completely. Similarly, larval fish sampling devices were rendered ineffective under these conditions. Data collected were thus scarce this spring, and most likely unrepresentative of the population. Also, the rising and withdrawal of ice in the marsh has had a devastating effect on the shrubs that were planted. Many of which were drowned or uprooted. Environment and Land is now considering how to modify the tree plantation profile to avoid uprooting in the future. Some species, like willow, seem more resilient to ice damage and could be planted in greater proportions.

The Odanak community Marshes are vital for the Yellow Perch reproduction, but also for the wide range of environmental services they provide. The value of environmental services a healthy wetland provides can reach an estimated \$20 000/acre/year based on only three such services: **flow regulation** (mitigating low flow, floods, and risks of flooding), **quality habitat preservation** (biodiversity) and **sediment traction** (water quality). In light of all our efforts here in Odanak, we can be proud of our marshes as they play a role in preserving a healthy environment, which is key to adapting to climate change.

even more diverse and enhance the ecosystem’s vitality. Since the restoration, biological monitoring tells us that the new landscaping effectively fulfills its purpose given that, even when flood levels are low, Yellow Perch and other fish can swim unhindered upstream into the marshes. Experimental fishing with hoop nets was conducted during fish runs into the 1st Marsh in consecutive springs from 2013 to 2019 and during spring fish runs of the 2nd Marsh from 2016 to 2018. A total of 5964 fish swam in 1st and 2nd Marsh creeks.

From this number, it was estimated that 2317 specimens accessed spawning sites in the 1st Marsh, while 1701 accessed the spawning site in the 2nd Marsh. Among the fish that reached the sites, there were 205 females, 2350 males, and 1385 specimens of unidentified sex. Successful Yellow Perch spawning can be confirmed as hundreds of larval fish were caught in the marshes using nets attached to a motorized boat filtering them from the marsh

- 1 Community Interaction Program, part of the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011–2026
- 2 Fondation de la Faune du Québec’s aquatic habitats improvement program
- 3 Ouranos - <https://www.ouranos.ca/publication-scientifique/Fiche-MilieuxHumides-20170515.pdf>





## Ndakina Office

# Women and Land



**EDGAR BLANCHET**  
Research Agent at  
Ndakina Office

How could we have a better understanding of the bond W8banakiak women share with the land?

On November 29, W8banakiak women engaged in this discussion at a first meeting held by the Ndakina Office, as a

means to integrate the insight of W8banakiak women into our actions and to better understand their relationship with the land. The women who participated raised several topics! These will serve as a starting point; we hope to discuss with the greatest number of women and include their concerns in the Ndakina Office's coming initiatives and land consultation processes.

All women belonging to the Nation are invited to take part to the discussions! If this undertaking interests you, feel free to get in touch with Edgar Blanchet, research agent at Ndakina Office by phone, 819-294-1686 extension 1224, or via email at [eblanchet@gcnwa.com](mailto:eblanchet@gcnwa.com) to share your insights!

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Pierreville FADOQ club would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Sylvain O'Bomsawin and his team for choosing us as the recipient organization for half of the benefits raised during the Bingo event held on October 4, 2019. This kind of generosity deserves to truly stand out!

On behalf of the committee and club members, receive our sincere appreciation.

Ginette Boisvert,  
présidente FADOQ Club de Pierreville



**Région  
Centre-du-Québec**

## Tribute to Luc O'Bomsawin



We wish to honour the memory of Luc O'Bomsawin, a member of our community who passed away on December 4. Luc was the husband of Nathalie Picard from Wendake, as well as the father of two daughters, Jennifer and Vanessa. He was the son of Bernard O'Bomsawin and grandson of Olivier O'Bomsawin. Luc O'Bomsawin first served in the Canadian Armed Forces as a telecommunications specialist and crew member for the 12<sup>e</sup> Régiment blindé du Canada. He then worked for Aboriginal police services before pursuing a 20-year career with the Sureté du Québec. In the past few years, Luc was involved in tackling issues that were close to his heart, notably within the Canadian Armed Forces by founding the Quebec Native Veterans Association, of which he was president.

He also served as Provincial Representative and National Sergeant-at-Arms for the Aboriginal Veterans of Quebec Association. More recently, Luc set up the Carcajou program in the Canadian Armed Forces, a program aiming to introduce Aboriginal youth to military instruction and designed specifically for First Nations' realities

and cultures. To acknowledge his commitment and outstanding contribution, a few days before he passed away, Luc was awarded the Veterans Ombudsman's Commendation in the *Lifetime Contribution* category.

Luc was a man proud of his Abenaki heritage. Being a history enthusiast, especially the military history of our Nation, he had a deep desire to restore a sense of pride to our nation. He often mentioned how Abenakis had one of the most beautiful histories, of exceptional singularity, but that both people from our Nation and people in general knew so little about it. Preserving and passing on culture were convictions he stood by, and he has always strived to let people around him live and share our culture. He will be remembered as a proud, passionate, and dedicated person by those who knew him throughout their lives. Thank you, Luc, for your teachings and wisdom. Part of our collective memory disappears as you leave us. It's our turn now to teach it and pass it on.

Kchi wliwni wji mziwi Luc

*By Mathieu O'Bomsawin*

## Technical Services



**MARIO DIAMOND**  
Technical Services Director

Kwaï N'nid8ba,

As fall migrators flew away, a year full of achievements wrapped up. Throughout 2019, many projects were successfully concluded; however, much bigger projects are expected in 2020.

These projects include a new paved road section connecting Waban-Aki and Mgezo streets. In addition, major repairs will be carried out on Waban-Aki Street to

rework the storm drainage system and consequently the pavement as well, much to the delight of road users.

A new building is on its way, which will allow for the expansion of the 102 Sibosis Street. New office and working spaces will facilitate the work of all the professionals who work with members of the community.

As always, the Grand Conseil will assist the Abenaki Council of Odanak to its full capacity as all these projects are carried out throughout the year.

For more information relevant to the current and coming-up projects or to suggest new projects, feel free to get in touch with me.

Wlinanawalmezi,  
Adio



## News from Your Museum



First, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and good wishes for 2020. May this new year bring you happiness and success in achieving all your dreams and endeavours!

### FALL-WINTER CULTURAL PROGRAM

We are already halfway through our cultural program ending this coming March. Here is a summary of some of the past events and information about upcoming events.

### AGAKIMSIMEK — CONFERENCE BY CATHERINE LAROCHELLE

Students from UQAM's history program and students enrolled in the history course taught by David Bernard at Kiuna college attended this conference, which prompted a reflection on Aboriginal people's reality and their image as presented in schoolbooks. A conference much appreciated by the students!

### NTATWINNO — CHRISTMAS MARKET

The second edition of our Aboriginal Christmas Market was held on December 1st. Just in time to buy Christmas presents without the hassle of shopping in big stores!

Over 75 people came by to discover authentic and unique products made by Aboriginal artists and artisans Élise Boucher-DeGonzague, Johanne Lachapelle, Annette Nolett, Raymonde Nolett, Joyce Panadis, Karyne Wawanolett, thanks to you, this market was carried out very successfully Thank you for your participation! During the event, a raffle prize was given away, a beautiful basket filled with products from the Kiz8bak store. The lucky winner was: Priscilla Watso. Congratulations!

### 8GEMAK — SNOWSHOE HIKING

This activity for outdoor enthusiasts will take place on February 1st. Participants will enjoy hiking along with their

guides, none other than the experts from Odanak Environment and Land. Midcourse during the hike, sagamité and bannock will be served to hikers. There is still time to sign up, get in touch with us!

### AW8SSISAK — LET'S TAKE A BREAK!

This year for spring break, the museum partners with FNCFS to offer fun, cultural daily activities for children aged 5 to 14. Themes of the day, indoor and outdoor activities as well as creative craft workshops await the children! A detailed schedule will be announced in the coming weeks.

### RETIREMENT

On November 29, we said goodbye to one of our colleagues! It's retirement time for Hélène Gill who has worked as a clerk at the Museum's store for close to 15 years. On behalf of all the team, we wish you Hélène a wonderful and well-deserved retirement.

Knowing you, we know well enough retirement will not leave much more time for rest than your work life did. Come by often and tell us all about it. See you soon!

### 14<sup>TH</sup> AWARD IN 8 YEARS

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the GalArt, an annual tribute hosted by Culture Centre-du-Québec to honour cultural actors of the region.

It's with great pride that the Musée des Abénakis received the prize *Patrimoine et muséologie* for the temporary exhibit *Indians Beyond Hollywood*.



The Musée des Abénakis extends its congratulations to Archives

Bois-Francis for their promotional clip and the Abenaki Council of Wôlinak for their documentary series *Les Abénakis de Bécancour, d'hier à aujourd'hui*, which were also finalists for the *Patrimoine et muséologie* prize.

### UPCOMING EXHIBITS

We will already present two new exhibits at the end of February.

The museum will first welcome *The Worlds of the Night*, a family interactive exhibit featuring nocturnal animals. With this exhibit, young and old alike will discover these mysterious animals. They will also learn why they don't sleep and how they spend the night in total darkness. *The Worlds of the Night* explores all these topics—and much more—through a path, a central zone, and eleven immersive and interactive alcoves. This exhibit is produced by the Musée de la nature et des sciences de Sherbrooke with contributions of

Heritage Canada, Atmosphere and FLIR.

The museum will also welcome the professional artist Ginette Kakakos Aubin from February to December 2020. The exhibit *Tolakonutome* will present artwork reflecting the Maliseet Nation's rebirth through several themes such as nature, spirituality, dance, clothing and returning to the roots. A must-see exhibit for visitors seeking a moment filled with emotions, colours, and authentic life events.

Please remember that to be invited to the openings and get to the front row of official exhibit openings, you must be a member of Odanak's historical society. For more information and details, feel free to communicate with me.

**Vicky Desfossés-Bégin,**  
Communications and Mediation  
Officer  
Musée des Abénakis

**KIUNA INSTITUTION**

**PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THE WINTER 2020 SEMESTER**

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- First Nations Social Science
- Art, Literature and Communication – First Nations Languages Profile (offered in Abenakis, Anicinabe, Atikamekw and Innu)
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