



Word from the Chief

Kwai fellow band members,

Knowing that this should reach all of you in the area of Mother's Day I want to pay tribute to all mothers for the indispensable role you have. Wliwni!

Our patience and positivity are certainly being solicited in these insecure times. Trying to remain optimistic is a big challenge for our families and communities. Keeping our connections is more important than ever. We continue to work with all levels of government in the development and advancement of our collective interests. We would like to see our nation continue the very important work of interweaving our cultural worldview within our services, lifestyle and community climate. Moreover, we are working to continue the important work of restoring and reconciling with our heritage while provide for the very important wholistic needs of our families. With Grand Council opening it's new building here in the village we can be closer to the resources that work for us as a nation.

Child care is a very important file in which the decisions made will affect the experience of children caught in the crossfire of family and system violence and abuse. Do we want our children in the care of strangers or are we as a nation willing to ensure our children's safety, with family programs and services? Is there more we can do to safeguard a generation of children and help them acquire the tools they need to grow into happy, healthy adults? This file is still on our table and is one not to take lightly. Our children are depending on us. Contact family services to know what services and support your family can obtain, either in times of crisis or simply for support through other challenging times.

Speaking of growth, as a community we continue to work on attracting solid businesses that will provide both economic strength and social development. Wanting more autonomy as a nation requires a solid economic base. Our community certainly is going in that direction. One of our community families has launched a wonderful tourism experience for visitors who want to explore our beautiful area. This project by the family of Martin O'Bomsawin shows much promise for the future of tourism here in Odanak. There are also other smaller businesses developing by our community members, such as a new floral and pampering products shop by a family of women, Mariefleurs. I even heard wind of a stone, gravel and sand company coming. Don't forget our restaurant and craft store which continue to bring improvements to their businesses. Growth is in the air!!!

Additionally, we are also looking at attracting other businesses, we're considering partnerships that will allow our community to grow and prosper in the optic of providing opportunities for economic stability and sustainability of our programs. Such partnerships can provide jobs and can add to our fiscal resources which in turn can sustain our needs as a growing nation.

Optimism is what we have to hold on to in these trying times. I hear we'll begin to see normalcy in 2022. Let's be ready to join together in a well thought direction, bringing hope for a better outcome as a nation.

In peace and friendship

Chef Rick O'Bomsawin



ODANAK : Monarch-friendly city

Spring is finally here and it's wonderful for everyone! The snow is melting, the days are getting longer and the sun is out. The plants are blooming and the trees are budding. All in all, life is returning and it's marvellous.

This brings me to a project for this spring: Monarch-friendly city.

I have enrolled the community of Odanak in this project with the goal of becoming a Monarch-friendly city. With the support of the David Suzuki Foundation and the Abenakis of Odanak Council, we are well on our way to taking concrete actions to help increase the population of monarch butterflies.

Here are some of the measures that will help protect them:

- Organize community events (kiosks, lectures, educational games, etc.) to introduce citizens to the monarch butterfly and encourage them to create habitat areas;

- Encourage community garden managers to promote monarch conservation to citizens;
- Organize or support a free milkweed and native plant distribution event;
- Create a monarch-friendly demonstration garden on Band Council land or in a symbolic public place.

Together we can make a difference to help this beautiful and iconic butterfly. By creating an oasis for the Monarch in Odanak, planting milkweed for them to lay their eggs and nectar flowers for them to feed on as adults, the Monarch will certainly be attracted to our community to make a stopover before its long migration (between 4,000 and 5,000 km) to the mountainous forests of Mexico.

Moreover, this will brighten up our beautiful community and all these actions will make a difference to help the monarchs!

Evelyne Benedict, Field Assistant
Odanak Environment and Land
Office

I invite you to visit the David Suzuki Foundation website for more information:
<https://fr.davidsuzuki.org/passez-a-laction/agissez-localement/effet-papillon/ville-amie-des-monarques/>



Word from Councillors



FLORENCE BENEDICT
Councillor

Kwai,

With all these months of restrictions, confinement and deconfinement, you'll understand that I'm a little short on inspiration for this edition of the Spring Pilaskw.

My last few months have been very busy with the Quebec Native Women (QNW) file.

Indeed, I have attended several virtual conferences and we are currently preparing the future replacement of our Executive Director, Ms. Carole Bussière, who will be retiring from QNW in June. This is a well-deserved retirement and we wish her much happiness in this new chapter of her life that she will soon begin.

2020-2021 AGENDA

December 2020

Quebec Native Women distributed cash donations for the Christmas holidays to individuals and families in vulnerable positions thanks to the generous participation of the

Abenaki Police Force. Thank you Sigwanis Lachapelle for your help!

January, February, March and April 2021

Last March, I participated in the production of a video clip at the Musée des Abénakis with the ConcertAction Femmes Estrie movement. This video focused on the feminist struggle from yesteryear to today and was produced as part of International Women's Day. You can view it at any time by visiting their website: <https://www.concertactionfemmesestrie.org/>

I also had the opportunity to participate in several Quebec Native Women's virtual meetings that focused on drafting a plan to prevent sexual assault following the recommendations of the NIMMIWG report. We also developed a strategy to address systemic racism following the death of Joyce Echaquan.

During these months, I also participated in a virtual meeting of women elected to band councils in Quebec during which we had the opportunity to attend an interview with Dr. Suzy Basile on women in politics.

Despite the restrictions on Easter gatherings, we wanted to celebrate the holiday. We therefore distributed a bag filled with delicious maple products from Aliments Tristan to our elders 65 and older. It was a small gesture in these times of pandemic and great isolation for our elders. This activity was organized in collaboration with the Kchaïak (Barbara Watso, Annette and

VACCINATION			
Nom: <u>Florence Benedict</u> Date de naissance: <u>16/05/05</u>			
Date (an/mois/jour)	Nom du vaccin (en lettres majuscules)	Dose/voie adm.	Signature
<u>29 MARS 2021</u>	<u>Vaccin COVID19 Moderna</u> #lot : 3001176 Exp: 2021/09/16 0.5 ml IM	<u>1^{ère} dose</u>	<u>B.G. Machel</u>

À brocher dans le carnet de vaccination.

Diane Nolett) and the Band Council.

A Covid-19 vaccination campaign was held last March and the participation rate of community residents was close to 71% for the first dose of Moderna.

We are now awaiting the dates for the second dose. The Health Centre will send you the information at the appropriate time via mail and Facebook.

In addition to my personal agenda, Council meetings continue to be held to follow up on our respective files. Please know that we are always available to address your requests.

In closing, what could I wish you for the upcoming summer season that is fast approaching? Health, safety on our roads and a lot of fun (respecting the health measures) despite the restrictions of the Legault and Trudeau governments.

At the time of writing, there have been ten femicides in Quebec. Did you know that last March, the Abenakis of Odanak Council

declared that it would not tolerate any form of domestic violence in our community?

So if you need help, do not hesitate to contact our police services: # 911 or 450-568-3733.

Or one of the following resources:

- Sexual assault and sexual exploitation hotline 1 888 933-9007
- Crime victims assistance centre (CAVAC) 1 866 532-2822
- Tel-Jeunes 1 800 263-2266

If you are a man in distress and would like to talk to someone, you can contact À CŒUR D'HOMME by calling 1 877 660-7799.

On that note, I'll see you this fall for another edition of the Pilaskw. Take care and see you soon.

Wliwni



ALAIN O'BOMSAWIN
Councillor

Kwai,

I would like to take the time to congratulate and thank all the staff at the Odanak Health Centre for their dedication and professionalism during the pandemic.

Under normal circumstances, we already receive excellent service, but with the risks involved with this pandemic, accepting to help their fellow man as the health care workers do deserves a commendation.

Thank you to all the workers who continue their hard work in this time of crisis.

Speaking of good work, we also received a letter from Indigenous Services Canada highlighting the very good service provided by the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki in several areas.

A copy of the letter can be found on their website at www.gcnwa.com. Bravo to the entire team!

Regarding the project of the Régie d'eau potable du Bas-St-François, here is some information about our consumption. First, it should be noted that within the community,

we consumed 50,606 m3 of water in 2020 and secondly, the Band Council paid a total of \$1.2426/m3 of water.

Finally, due to soil problems in the Catholic cemetery, we had to stop the backfilling work. This work will resume in the coming weeks.

I wish you all a great summer!

Wli wni,

Word from Councillors



JACQUES T. WATSO
Councillor

Goodday,

I wish that all is well in your families during this pandemic that is dragging on. Take good care of yourself, follow public health guidelines. And very soon we can all be together again.

I would like to comeback on the text of our Chief in the last edition of our Pilaskw. There is a paragraph that puzzles me and that left a lot of ambiguity with many, if not the majority, of our band members. Chief, you spoke to us about cultural appreciation,

but your intention not to offend anyone in this debate only harmed the cause of the Abenaki Nation of Odanak.

I would like to remind you of certain historical facts of our Nation, we have passed through more than 150 years of forced assimilation, Anglican families, including the Watso’s, who suffered from residential schools, taking away far from the community.

The financial compensation of the day schools is a direct consequence of abuse of the Gray Nuns towards us. To be told that we were savages, to be made to feel inferior, to be treated as second-rate citizens, without forgetting the fight of the Abenaki women to regain their status in 1985, victims of a discriminatory law. Decades of intergenerational cultural trauma.

The loss of the language, a collective shame by years of abuse.

Loss of our traditional connection. A real cultural genocide.

Then arrive people like the filmmaker Michelle Latimer, who comes in and takes the space reserved for First Nations members and especially our Abenaki filmmakers such as Alanis, Kim, Julie, Mélanie or Angie Obomsawin. Sylvain Rivards occupying the cultural space reserved for our members. Pseudo cultural specialists like Fred Wiseman or Marge Bruschac speaking on behalf of our ancestors, it is an insult to the very integrity of the members of our Nation, present and past without forgetting our future generations.

By your status quo imposed during theses last 14 years you only reinforce these pretendians. It’s time to put a stop to this. We are not in the reign of appreciation; we are in the reign of constitutional systemic racism on their part. Your text has been used by different people or organizations to validate

their false claims to our cultural heritage, weakening the official position of the Council of which you are a signatory.

As a result of numerous denunciations on our part, these same individuals or organizations play the victimization card.

These are people who are ready, by whatever means necessary, to advance their own careers for financial gain, cultural or academic social status. #whiteprivilige

The whole Nation ready to follow you but not at the expense of our cultural integrity. You are the leader of the Abenaki, not the Wannabes, act accordingly.

In solidarity

Jacques T. Watso
Podawazwinno

SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

In this column, I will focus on:
NOUNS IN THE LOCATIVE FORM

- LOCATION (at this place) and
- TIME (when)

It is always expressed with the ending “k”.

- It replaces the locative prepositions “to, at, of, in, at, on, in”, which do not exist as such in Abenaki

For example :

The river	Sibo	To the river	Sibok
The United States	Pastonki	In the United States	Pastonkik
France	Plachm8nkik	In/From France	Plachm8nkik
My daughter	Ndoz	At my daughter’s	Ndozek
The street	8wdi	On the street	8wdik
The tree	Abazi	In the tree	Abazik

- It also replaces the preposition “at” when indicating time.

For example :

It is 5 o’clock N8nn8mkipoda At 5 o’clock N8nn8mkipodak

- The locative form is also used when a noun is preceded by a preposition or an adverb, establishing a relationship of place or time.

For example :

Near the window	Pasojiwi tawz8ganek
Around the house	Wiwniwi wigw8mek
Towards the mountain	Lagwiwi wajok

before 7 o’clock Asma t8baw8s kass8mkipodak

To indicate the plural locative form, add “ikok” to the singular noun.

For example :

Near the windows	Pasojiwi tawz8ganikok
Around the houses	Wiwniwi wigw8mikok
Towards the mountains	Lagwiwi wajoikok

¹ Tirer de l’ouvrage INITIATION À LA GRAMMAIRE ABÉNAKISE, Monique Nolett-Ille, Odanak 2006.

A special invitation for you!



Service Canada invites you to a special presentation to learn about its programs and services :
Wednesday, June 3 from 10am to 11:30am

Here are some of the topics that will be covered :

Canada.ca is the reference for all programs and services offered by the Government of Canada.

Public pensions: learn more about your eligibility for Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Allowance and Allowance for the Survivor.

The Employment Insurance benefits provide a temporary income to support unemployed workers.

My Service Canada Account (MSCA) is a secure online portal that lets you apply, view and update your information regarding our programs.

The Social Insurance Number is a 9 digit number that you need to work in Canada or to have access to government programs and benefits. You are responsible for protecting your SIN.

The Benefits Finder is a tool that can help you find Benefits and Services that you maybe eligible to receive.

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is money that the Government adds to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for children from low-income families.

To join this meeting, please click on the link that you will find on
caodanak.com on June 3 at 10am.

You can get help by calling 1-888-568-2810 extension 3032 (ask for Eleanor).

Contact us - Canada.ca

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • General information : | 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) |
| • Public pensions : | 1-800-277-9914 |
| • Employment Insurance : | 1-800-206-7218 |
| • Social Insurance Number : | 1-866-274-6627 |

You do not need to go to a Service Canada Centre for service.
Complete an online Service Request Form.

If you do not have access to a computer or need more support, you can get help by calling the Service Canada Outreach Support Centre at 1-877-760-2657.



Word from Management



DANIEL G. NOLETT
Executive Director
Abenakis of Odanak Council

Kwaï, kwaï mziwi!
T8ni kd'al8wziba?
N'wal8wzi pita!

The pandemic is persisting. We are in the middle of the third wave and cases continue to increase in Quebec to the point where the Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec region will most likely be declared a red zone again in the next few days (mid-April 2021). We are holding strong in Odanak. We remain at nine cases so far while in neighbouring municipalities, Pierreville and Saint-François-du-Lac for example, they have 57 and 47 cases respectively (as of April 15).

Community residents 18 years and older who wished to receive the Covid-19 vaccine were able to do so on March 22 and 23 and March 29 and 30. The vaccination campaign was held at the Kiuna facilities. A total of 324 doses of the Moderna vaccine were administered. We should be able to administer the second dose to our Odanak residents by mid-July if everything goes as planned. Currently, Canada is experiencing an issue with the supplier Moderna for the delivery of vaccines.

There is a two week delay in deliveries at the time of writing. Regional Chief Ghislain Picard sent a letter to the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Christian Dubé, on April 9th to lobby for the second doses as soon as possible for the First Nations communities of Quebec who already received their first doses last January. For these communities, the 84-day waiting period before receiving

the second dose is fast approaching or has already passed for some. To be continued...

Getting back to the Covid-19 vaccination campaign last March, I would like to thank and congratulate our team at the Odanak Health Centre for their excellent work and dedication. The vaccination clinic went very well thanks to them.

During this period of pandemic, you can count on the excellent support of our health and social services team at the Odanak Health Centre, our administrative staff at the Council, the Police Force, Public Works and the Environment and Lands Office. All of these people are dedicated and strive to ensure continuity in the delivery of services to the population while respecting the measures outlined by Public Health.

All of the Board's services are provided remotely, either by telephone or by videoconference for those who have access to a tablet or computer, in order to avoid direct person-to-person contact as much as possible. The vast majority of staff is still telecommuting. Face-to-face meetings, when necessary, are arranged by appointment in advance. In order to ensure the health and safety of the community's residents, we will continue to strictly adhere to public health recommendations and guidelines until the end of the pandemic.

The expansion of the former administration office at 102 Sibosis Street, where the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki offices are currently located, is nearing completion. The Council recently acquired the property adjacent to the 102 Sibosis property at 1016 Awassos Street. The property will soon be demolished to provide parking for Grand Conseil employees working at 102 Sibosis Street as well as for Health Centre employees.

I remind you that this expansion project required an investment of \$1.2 million. 50% of these costs

are covered by funding from our Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF III) of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS) and the other 50% is covered by a loan from the BMO. None of our membership funds or the Council's consolidated surplus will be affected by this project as the entire cost of this project will be borne by the Grand Conseil by way of the rent that we will be charging them.

Work to replace the failing sewer line on Asban Street will begin by the end of May following the bidding process using the electronic request for proposals system (SEAO). The Grand Conseil's Technical Services Department has estimated the cost of the work at nearly half a million dollars. We are still waiting for confirmation of our application's eligibility for funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) before we begin the work.

We are also still awaiting a decision from the CMHC and ISC as to whether or not we have been successful in our bid to build the future shelter for abused First Nations women and children. The CMHC will provide \$44.8 million in new funding over five years to build twelve shelters, ten in First Nations communities on reserves across the country and two in the territories (Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Regarding the class action suit brought by the victims of the federal Indian day schools, our community members who attended the Académie Saint-Joseph in Odanak before its closure in 1959, can apply for financial compensation.

You can consult the following web link for more details: <https://indiandayschools.com/en/>

The Specific Claims Tribunal hearings for the Seigneurie de Saint-François, the 38 lots and the Seigneurie de Bécancour files, which began on September 9, 2020, ended in March. Due to the pandemic, the hearings could not be held publicly as initially planned and had to be conducted

by videoconference. Arguments by both parties are currently being drafted and will be submitted to the Tribunal later this spring, around May or June.

Work on Waban-Aki Street is expected to take place later this summer. The Ministère du Transport du Québec (MTQ) is in the process of obtaining the necessary authorizations to proceed. We will be proceeding with the rehabilitation of the foundation and pavement structure of Waban-Aki Street.

The Waban-Aki Street rehabilitation work will be paid for by the MTQ and is estimated at close to \$2 million. The Council will also invest approximately \$500,000 in this work to resurface the sidewalks and change manhole covers and water valve covers and other work to ensure that Waban-Aki Street will not require major work for at least 15 to 20 years.

Speaking of Waban-Aki Street, the Council has given a mandate to the firm GID Design Inc. to redo the street signs of Odanak. You can see what the new signs will look like at the bottom of this page. We took the opportunity to correct the spelling mistakes in the street names so they conform to the standards of the Abenaki language. Here are the street names that will be corrected:

Waban-Aki for W8banaki;
Managuan for Managw8n;
Masuzie for Masozi.

Finally, Amiskw Street will be renamed Tmakwa which means beaver. Amiskw alone, in the Abenaki language, does not mean anything, because it is a root word that must be conjugated when referring to beaver in a sentence. For example, if we want to talk about beaver meat, we will say amiskwiia.

Wli sigwan mziwik!

Wishing you all a wonderful spring!



Ndakina Office



Protecting Indigenous rights in times of pandemic

Kwai mziwi,

I hope you are doing well.

Like many of you, the past year has been particularly challenging for the Ndakina Office team, especially in protecting the Nation's Indigenous rights.

The rapid transition by the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki (GCNWA) staff to telework mode in March 2020 allowed us to ensure that there was no disruption in service from the Ndakina Office and therefore, in response to the various consultations submitted by the Governments of Quebec and Canada.

However, we had to deal with a very different reality on the government's end.

The government's transition to virtual mode was very inconsistent, and for some departments, took more than 3 months to adapt.

We were soon faced with some troubling realities:

- Over-solicitation to participate in various meetings related to

the different measures submitted for consultation;

- Receipt of the departmental experts' opinions, in several cases, at the very end of the consultation process, which meant that we had to position ourselves at the last minute in order to properly assess the scope of the impacts of the measures on the Nation's Indigenous rights;
- Short turnaround time for feedback (the generally required minimum of 30 days was not always met) - possibly to compensate for the time lost by the government to transition to telework;
- Pressure to respond more quickly in the context of the need for economic recovery...

In my view, the only circumstance in which it would be acceptable to overlook the impact of measures on our Indigenous rights would be in the context of an emergency situation. In the event of an emergency situation, for example related to public safety, public health or an environmental crisis, governments could waive the consultation process, while keeping the communication channel between the parties open. The economic recovery context is definitely not an acceptable position to compromise the consultation process. We will continue to move forward with caution in the coming months, as

the context is likely to be much the same as it is now.

On a more positive note, last year was also a good time to move forward in promoting the practice of traditional activities such as hunting. Indeed, we were the first Nation in Canada to agree on a migratory bird hunting agreement that will ensure that Nation members, status and non-status, will have the same hunting rights with respect to migratory birds (hunting under federal jurisdiction) - thus hunting permitted in spring and fall for all members. The wording of the agreement is available here: <https://gcnwa.com/chasse-et-peche/> The authorization certificates are available free of charge from the Abenakis of Odanak Council and the GCNWA. We have also succeeded in inserting in this agreement the notion of guests - inviting members of other First Nations of Quebec on the Ndakina for migratory bird hunting - a significant traditional practice for the Nation. This will certainly open the door for such a provision in our hunting and trapping agreement with the Quebec government.

Finally, we have reached an agreement with Domtar for an exclusive hunting area for the Nation in the Weedon area. I invite you to contact Normand Laframboise if you have any questions on this subject.

Other agreements have also been negotiated to facilitate cultural activities and allow more access to the Ndakina. For example, an agreement was reached with McGill University for free access to Mont-Saint-Hilaire. The agreement is effective since January 2021 and an official ceremony will take place in the spring of 2021. This is the first agreement of its kind for McGill University! If you wish to take advantage of this agreement, please contact me so I may notify the person responsible for Mont-St-Hilaire.

The next few months will be as busy as the last year. Several consultations are underway and we already know that several more will be forthcoming. We would like to thank Nation members who willingly participate in our work by actively contributing to documenting the occupation and traditional use of the Ndakina. Because of you, we stand strong in what we are doing!

The Ndakina Office team is looking forward to seeing you in person, to meeting you on the Ndakina and to leaving our screens for a moment to enjoy a friendly chat.

Wli nanawalmezi,

Suzie O'Bomsawin
Director of the Ndakina Office
Grand Conseil
de la Nation Waban-Aki
sobomsawin@gcnwa.com
819.294.1686

Work continues for the Abenaki hunting and fishing committee

The Abenaki hunting and fishing committee members have gone virtual in order to continue the committee's work - this is not an easy task and we do not intend to adopt this practice for the committee's meetings. It is obviously not ideal nor conducive to quality exchanges.

News:

- The migratory bird hunting agreement has been concluded with Environment Canada. The Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki as well as the Abenakis of Odanak Council will be responsible for issuing the permits to hunt migratory birds in the spring and fall for status and non-status Abenaki members. For those interested in obtaining this permit, a copy of the agreement will also be provided. There is no fee for this authorization;

- The agreement with Domtar for a hunting area near Weedon was concluded. Surveys have been conducted by members of the Committee. This area looks very promising and will be exclusive to Abenaki permit holders. An internal policy has been drafted and is available to all as needed. If you are interested in hunting in this area, please contact me;

- The following committee members have the responsibilities listed below:
 - Normand Laframboise, responsible for the registration of hunting sites, management of posters and the insurance register
 - Pierre Gauthier, sector monitoring
 - Gilles Laframboise, responsible for managing the padlock
 - David Therrien, responsible for the trap
 - André Therrien, sector monitoring

- Concerning the hunting, fishing and trapping agreement follow-up committee with the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, there is unfortunately not much to say. The codes of practice have been updated, without any substantial change. The draft moose hunting agreement for the Louise-Godford Zec is still pending with the Ministère, but we do not know when it will be signed. A request to add striped bass to the community fishing permit for 2022-2023 has also been made. However, it is important to note that the Nation's representatives on the follow-up committee (Daniel G. Nolett, Samuel Dufour-Pelletier, Jacques T. Watso, Gabrielle Letarte-Dupré, Christian Trottier and Suzie O'Bomsawin) are determined to move forward with the work and reiterate the importance of the positions expressed by the Abenaki hunting and fishing committee. par le Comité de chasse et pêche abénakis.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the respect that is given by the Abenaki permit holders with regard to the terms and conditions indicated in the hunting and trapping code and the fishing code.

Since the signing of the first version of the hunting, fishing and trapping agreement between the Government of Quebec and the Nation in 1999, there have only been a handful of incidents. This is to our credit and let's collectively keep it that way.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and/or comments.

Normand Laframboise,

Secretary of the Abenaki hunting and fishing committee

Odanak Environment and Land Office

Game in Odanak

Since 2019, the Odanak Environment and Land Office has adopted a wildlife-forest management plan (plan d'aménagement forêt-faune (PAFF)) to improve the quality of habitat for game, particularly snowshoe hare and ruffed grouse. This plan consists mainly of rejuvenating specific forest stands in order to promote softwood regeneration. In this way, young fir, spruce or pine stands will be able to provide winter protection habitat for hare and grouse, which is currently lacking on a regional scale.

Silvicultural strategies vary depending on the nature of the stand, but in general, the goal is to cut hardwood species so that young softwood shoots have sufficient light and space to grow quickly, while protecting seed trees (e.g., large healthy fir). This type of management also improves the habitat of several other species such as white-tailed deer, small mammals, forest birds, etc.

Indeed, our PAFF also aims at protecting dead wood and fruit trees as well as creating forest



gaps, drumming sites, vegetation andins and transition zones (ecotones). All these elements promote the integration of biodiversity in the broadest sense.

In conjunction with our PAFF, we also monitor the white-tailed deer population at the community level. We compile and analyze harvest statistics (hunting success, pressure, slaughter) and conduct aerial surveys every 3 years.

These inventories allow us to better document the distribution

of individuals on the territory, their density in sensitive areas (e.g. de la Commune yarding area) and to understand the reactivity of the herd according to previous winters.

Moreover, as of winter 2021, we will install a NIVA station on the territory of Odanak. This type of station, used throughout Quebec by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, allows us to monitor the severity of the winter (amount of snow received, depth of snow cover, duration of snow cover) and then to correlate this

information with changes in white-tailed deer population. Our most recent survey has shown that the de la Commune yarding area in Odanak is one of the largest deer yarding areas in the region in terms of density (number of deer per km2).

It will therefore be essential in the coming years to document the pressure that such a density can bring to the habitat.

Grazing surveys will therefore be conducted in the short term to better estimate the amount of food available in the yarding area. A lack of food caused by excessive numbers of deer can have significant consequences if it occurs at the same time as a severe winter.

This highlights the importance of sound wildlife management to ensure the sustainability of the resource and a sustainable harvest over the long term.

Samuel Dufour,
Director Environment and Land

Hello to all,

I think it goes without saying that we are all happy that spring has arrived and that the sun is back to brighten our lives.

And spring means gardening!

If you're already thinking about your seedlings, flowers, herbs or just "playing in the dirt", I can relate. It feels so good to garden; you get to spend time outside and enjoy being in the moment, you get to develop your creativity by designing your own garden, and it's an activity you can do alone or with your family.

We invite you to reserve your garden plot at the Community Garden now! (Spaces are limited.)

We also invite you to grow your seedlings in the brightness and warmth of the Odanak Community Garden's greenhouse. Seeds germinate sooner, plants grow faster and you can then transfer your plants to your garden.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information:

Evelyne Benedict
ebenedict@caodanak.com



Links to images: https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wille-la-grand.fr%2Fvivre-a-ville-la-grand%2Fenvironnement-et-amenagement-de-territoire%2Fetre-eco-citoyen-au-quotidien%2Fjardiner-responsable%2F&psig=AOvVaw1_95N6N_cs6m6HzJtfTqVc&ust=1617127268586000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRqxqFwoTCPDp-teK1u8CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAt
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Miscellaneous facts



Nathalie Cardin
Education Agent and Administrator
for Indian Registry

Here are some education statistics, from elementary to university levels, for the 2020-2021 school year as well as the list of activities that took place in relation to education. You will also find data pertaining to the Abenakis of Odanak band list.

EDUCATION

A) ELEMENTARY ENROLMENT ON RESERVE

Number of students : 20

B) SECONDARY ENROLMENT ON RESERVE

Number of students: 20

Number of students attending a public school: 10

Number of students attending a private school: 10

C) COLLEGE ENROLMENT

Number of students: 38

On reserve students: 9

Off reserve students: 29

D) UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

Number of students: 57

On reserve students: 7

Off reserve students: 50

ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Abenaki language courses
2. Digitization and restoration of Abenaki language audio material
3. Individual homework assistance
4. Summer employment for 1 student in 2020
5. Purchase of participation prizes for spring break
6. Purchase of materials for craft activities, environmental activities, winter solstice and the October vigil

Post-secondary education

For the fall 2021 semester, financial application forms can be found on our website in Services/Education. The deadline for submitting the financial application for the fall 2021 semester is June 20. You will also find the post-secondary education policy at the same location on the website.

FOR ALL ACADEMIC LEVELS (ELEMENTARY TO UNIVERSITY)

A bulletin board has been added to our website in Services/Education. You can access all kinds of information regarding activities, contests, etc.

The Ndakina Office is looking for people interested in joining a citizen committee and advisory workshops for the Ndakina Stewardship Framework project (Cadre d'intendance du Ndakina).

This project aims to provide the Nation with a mechanism through which the W8banakiak will be able to better position themselves and work towards protecting and caring for their ancestral territory. The committee will be made up of about ten members with diverse backgrounds (e.g. in terms of age, gender, occupation, place of residence) and concerned by territorial issues.

If you are interested in participating in the future committee, if you have any questions or comments, or if you wish to be kept informed of the process, I invite you to write or call me at rchhem@gcnwa.com / (819) 294-1686. Wliwni!

Rémy Chhem, Environmental Project Manager at the Ndakina Office.

REGISTRAR

ABENAKIS OF ODANAK LIST OF BAND MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 26, 2021

Odanak

Status members: 313

Citizenship code members: 9

Status members – other nations: 7

Non-indigenous: 144

Total population: 473

Off reserve

Status members: 2,268

Citizenship code members: 136

Total: 2,404

Total on-reserve and off-reserve

status members: 2,581

Total on-reserve and off-reserve citizenship

code members: 145

IMPORTANT

Remember to contact us in the following cases:
Change of address, death of a band member, marriage,
divorce and birth.

You can complete your change of address online at
www.caodanak.com.

A form is available for this purpose.

You can also make the change by phone at 450-568-2810
(or toll free at 1-888-568-2810)

or by email at ncardin@caodanak.com or at
reception@caodanak.com



Opening
May 4, 2021



May 4 to Sep 18, 2021

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY:

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and

12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday :

12:00 to 16:30 and 17:00 to 19:30

From Sep 22 To Nov 27 * 2021

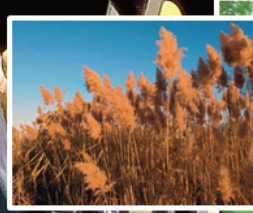
Early closure in case of snow accumulation on the ground

WEDNESDAY to SATURDAY:

8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**NB. The
ecocentre will
be closed on
the Tuesday
following a
provincial,
federal and
First Nation
holiday**

CAUTION: Do not bring invasive exotic
plants to the ecocenter (phragmites,
Japanese knotweed). Dispose of these
plants in well closed bags in the trash.



Word from the Director Odanak Health Center



JEAN VOLLANT
Director
Odanak Health Center

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OHC TEAM

We have been battling this pandemic for over a year now. I would first like to thank the entire team at the health centre for their dedication and resilience. In spite of this pandemic, we have been able to adapt to this reality without neglecting our mission, which is to contribute to the improvement and maintenance of the health and sense of well-being of the members of the community while promoting the empowerment of these individuals.

During this period, many of us were obviously compelled to work from home. With the

availability and advancement of technology, we have been able to meet the needs of our clients.

The population has also understood the importance of respecting the health measures put forward by Public Health and I thank them sincerely. It is thanks to you, dear members of the Abenaki community of Odanak, that we have not had so many cases in the community.

In spite of the many changes that have marked and will continue to mark the Odanak Health Centre, the human dimension in the care and services offered to users remains a reality and this is a credit to the employees, but also to the partners of the CIUSSS de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, the Waban-Aki Grand Council, the FNCFS, and so on.

Finally, the health centre's management participated in several meetings via videoconference. As a result, we have established partnerships with other organizations in the health sector.

PIERRE LAVOIE CHALLENGE-



As part of the Défi Pierre Lavoie (Grande marche), the activity consisted of walking alone or with the family a distance of 5 kilometres on February 20th and 21st in order to promote physical activity during the pandemic. Thank you to all the participants of the GREAT WALK BELOW ZERO. Your pictures are beautiful and your smiles prove that even in winter it's fun to be active outdoors! Congratulations to all!

Christina Béland-Racine,
Kinesiologist

Hello to all,

The recertification process continues to move forward despite the health constraints imposed by the National Public Health Department to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus or other derived variants within our First Nations communities.

At the time of writing, the final phase of this process is underway: planning, organizing and conducting the visit. The schedule for the visit has been finalized and the main people involved have been informed. We are in the process of completing certain organizational and logistical elements, notably the designation of community members and partners who will be invited to speak with one of the visitors, either in virtual mode or by telephone.

We would like to remind you that the accreditation visit that was scheduled for March 2021 has

been postponed to the end of April due to the priority given to community-based vaccination against Covid-19.

For your personal health and safety, as well as that of your family and friends, we invite you, if you have not already done so, to make an appointment with the clinical staff at the Odanak Health Centre to receive the vaccine, as it is a safe way to protect ourselves. We also ask that you continue to respect the instructions issued by the provincial public health department, as the variants associated with Covid-19 are extremely virulent and are increasingly present in various regions of Quebec.

Let's act together for the health and safety of our fellow citizens!

MICHEL PAUL
Accreditation Coordinator

In-person consultations with the nutritionist are once again available at the Odanak Health Centre. They are also still available by video or by phone.

Hello everyone,

I hope you are well and taking care of yourselves. This is just a quick note to let you know that

I am back on site at the Health Centre. If you would like an appointment, simply call 450 568-6766.

The pandemic has a silver lining: nutrition consultations by phone or video are also available!

These options can sometimes be very convenient, since appointments can be made during a break at work or when you have to stay home with your children, for example.

People sometimes have misconceptions about nutritionists.

Here is a little quiz to test your knowledge about this profession:

True or false? A nutritionist makes us count our calories.

False. Nutritionists don't talk about calories; they talk about balance on your plate. They also teach people to respect their hunger and satiety signals to determine how much to eat.

True or false? A nutritionist gives us a rigid diet and makes us cut out the things we like to eat.

False. Nutritionists help you balance your diet in a flexible way, by including foods you like.

True or false? We only go to a nutritionist when we want to lose weight.

False. Nutritionists can advise you on how to lose weight, but they can also help you balance your diet to increase your energy and well-being, solve intestinal issues, better control your diabetes and blood pressure, lower your cholesterol level to keep your heart healthy, address a compulsive eating problem (food cravings), help you promote healthy eating habits with your children, etc.

Looking forward to meeting you, in person, on video, or by phone!

Marie-France David,
Nutritionist

Odanak Health Center suite



Hello to all,

I am very happy to write you a few lines during this bright spring. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Élisabeth Morel Guillemette and I am a dental hygienist. Since 2014, I have been working as a service provider for the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) under the supervision of Indigenous Services Canada. I have worked in the Innu community of Unamen Shipu on the Lower North Shore, and since 2016, in the Abenaki community of Wôlinak.

I have been providing my services in Odanak since the spring of 2019. I have had the opportunity to meet with the community's elders during workshops such as a presentation on oral hygiene products. I also met several times with the children attending the Odanak daycare centre during some of the summer day camp activities, as well as during the spring break. Recently, I also held family-bubble type meetings at the Health Centre. In the coming weeks, I plan to meet with the teenagers attending the Espace jeunesse (youth space).

The COHI is primarily focused on the prevention of oral disease and the promotion of good oral hygiene habits. The COHI focuses on a more balanced program of prevention and preventive treatment, such as screenings, topical fluoride applications, pit and fissure sealants, rather than on primary treatment itself, such as dental repairs or extractions.

I am looking forward to seeing you again and meeting you!

Look after yourself and your smile!

Élisabeth Morel G.,
Dental hygienist

Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



MICHEL THIBEAULT
Social Services Director

N8wkika - Sowing in prevention for the children of Odanak

First Nations Child and Family Services has been known as the FNCFS program for almost 10 years. Motivated by a desire to promote language and culture, the members of the team who work in family prevention services have proposed a new name for the program: N8wkika.

Pronounced Naônkéka, this term, which means "to sow", fits perfectly with the family team mandate, i.e. the whole community joins in the actions of the N8wkika program in order to sow what children and families need to keep the balance.

Long life to N8wkika!

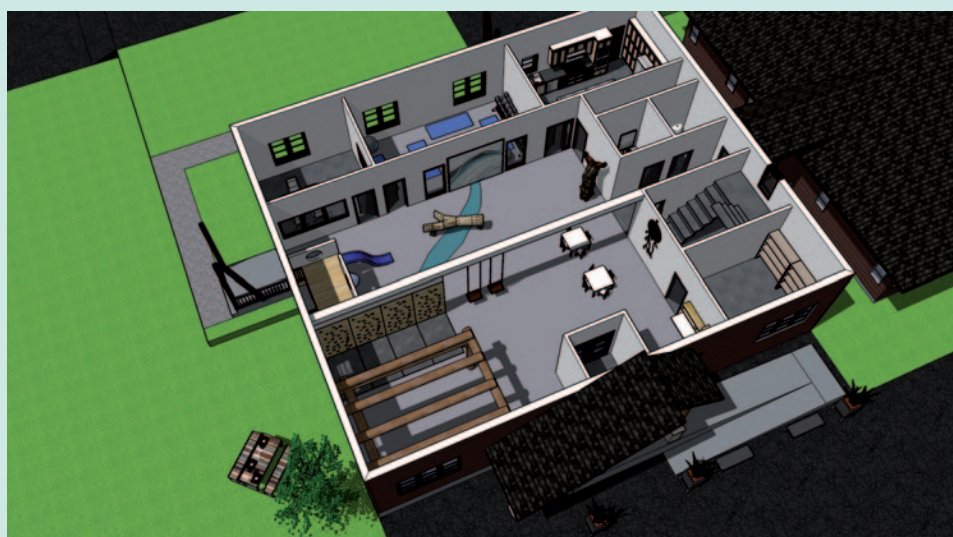


Youth Protection - Bill C-92

Bill C-92 adopted by the federal government and in effect since January 1, 2020, allows First Nations communities to undertake negotiations with the various levels of government with the aim of repatriating all child and family services. For the past year, the population has been consulted through various means (focus groups, virtual public meetings and consultation of families with minor children) and the people are unanimous; they want the Nation to manage all services dedicated to children and families, including youth protection. A formal notice was sent to the different levels of government to inform them of the Nation's willingness to initiate discussions leading to the complete transfer of services offered to families, both in prevention and child protection. Consultation with the public is an ongoing process; please contact us with your comments and concerns: gcnwa.com/loic-92/

Two new living environments

The Odanak community can now count on two new living environments perfectly adapted to the needs of families. Thanks to the Abenakis of Odanak Council, technical services as well as the N8wkika department of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki, the Odanak Health Centre, the Childcare Centre and Avenir d'enfants, the community now has access to a brand new facility that will be specifically designed for families participating in activities with children between the ages of 0 and 10. Stimulation and play areas, a respite room, a kitchen and new offices to receive people individually will allow us to enhance and improve the services for families. We look forward to an official opening of the new building soon. The construction of this family hall will allow young people between the ages of 11 and 17 to create their own space by rearranging the old family hall adjacent to the skating rink to suit their needs. The whole family has its place in Odanak!



MARIO DIAMOND
Technical Services Director

Kwaï N'nid8ba,

Several projects are taking place this year in Odanak. The community is bustling!

Among these projects, the construction of the building designed for youth aged 0 to 11 has been completed as you read these lines. This facility will be a major asset for the community's youth. In parallel to this project, the family hall located on Marie-Victorin road will be developed for youth aged 11 to 17.

Other major projects are underway this summer: the rehabilitation of the sewers and aqueduct on Asban Street as well as the extension of the walking path along Route 138 and the Saint-François River, to name a few.

We look forward to the approval

of the proposed shelter for women fleeing domestic violence. A decision will be made shortly by the CMHC and ISC on funding for the construction and operation of the shelter.

The Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki is very proud to collaborate on all of these projects which require the participation of all its departments.

During the current pandemic, we are pleased to have been able to proactively contribute to various projects in the heart of our communities.

Adio

News from your Museum



SUMMER PROGRAM

JE M'APPELLE HUMAIN (CALL ME HUMAN)

From June 1 through September 30, see *Je m'appelle humain* (Call me human) by director Kim O'Bomsawin. This documentary offers a foray into history alongside Josephine Bacon, a free woman who has devoted her life to passing on her knowledge and that of her ancestors.

The screening will be presented daily at 10 a.m., 11:18 a.m., 12:36 p.m., 1:54 p.m. and 3:12 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

ASSOCIATION GAME

Starting June 15, discover the Abenaki and First Nations clothing pieces featured in our grand hall display case. Take our quiz and be eligible to win a gift certificate redeemable at the Museum's Kiz8bak gift shop. Can you correctly match the objects in the display case with their full description? Drop by the Museum during our opening hours to challenge your knowledge!

NIONA CULTURAL WORKSHOP

From July 5 to 29, the Museum will welcome the participants of the Niona cultural workshop. This project, intended for Abenaki youth between the ages of 11 and 14 from the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak, will allow them to explore various aspects of Abenaki culture in an educational but also fun way. Over a period of four weeks, the participants will experience moments of learning and transmission with the Nation's knowledge bearers.

GUIDE FOR A DAY

This summer, visit the Museum differently with our "guides for a day"! Various community stakeholders have been selected to share their vision of their culture with Museum visitors.

The schedule and names of the participants will be announced shortly.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Several other cultural activities - storytelling evening, family rally, outdoor screenings - will be announced in the coming weeks. All the details will be sent to you by mail soon.

N8wat | AA. Avant aujourd'hui (Before today)

N8wat, the Museum's brand new archaeological exhibit, was

launched a few days ago. This exhibit is intended for people of all ages and will allow you to admire some of the archaeological finds discovered during the community project Fort Odanak: the past revisited. Don't forget that admission to the Museum is free for all Abenakis!

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the Odanak Historical Society met on Sunday, April 11 for the Annual General Assembly (AGA) to review 2019-2020 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020) and to elect the organization's new Board of Directors. Despite this special year, it was important to take a moment to recognize the work and events of the past year.

For 2020-2021, the Board of Directors shall be comprised as follows:

Helen Watso
President

Louis-Martin McArdle
Vice-president

Secretary-treasurer:
Florence Benedict

Stéphane Lecours-Aubin
Administrator

Hélène Gill
Administrator



Kiz8bak gift shop

Several new products have arrived at the Museum gift shop in recent weeks: beaded jewellery by Sandrine Cardin, handicrafts by Johanne Lachapelle, both Abenaki women from the Odanak community, pottery by Myriam Landry, Abenaki woman from Wôlinak, Épices du Guerrier and new models of Bastien moccasins. Come and discover our new products!

Summer student employment

The Museum is looking for interpreter-guides for the 2021 summer season. If you are passionate about culture, if you are comfortable with the public, if you wish to challenge yourself and if you wish to improve your knowledge of First Nations, join the Museum team. To apply, send your CV to info@museeabenakis.ca care of Ms. Julie Anne Tremblay prior to May 21.

Kiuna Institution



Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, Kiuna now has 115 graduates.

It is with immense pride that we highlight the success of two Abenaki students in recent months.

First, Sigwanis Lachapelle from Odanak is the very first graduate in our unique program, the DEC in Arts, Literature and Communication - First Nations Languages (Abenaki). She is currently participating with us in the translation and recording of Abenaki language courses for a mobile application funded by Canadian Heritage that will allow our students to practice the knowledge they have acquired.

Congratulations also to Marylène Houle from Wôlinak who is also a first-time graduate in the Event Planning and Indigenous Contexts program. Marylène and her teammates recently won an award in the Emerging Talent category at the 2021 Tribute Gala held by the Meeting Planners International (Montreal/Quebec City chapter). The Tribute awards are designed to honour key players in the event planning industry who have excelled despite the pandemic. Their nomination was in connection with the Missinak(u) Meshkenau event.

Bravo to you both!

It is still possible to enrol in one of our programs for the fall 2021 semester.

To contact us: admission@kiuna-college.com or 1 866 568-6464

Registration period now open at Kiuna, the only **First Nations** College in Quebec!
Check out our programs!



KIUNA Institution

Springboard to a DCS 081.06

First Nations Social Science program 300.B0

Arts, Literature and Communication 500.B1
First Nations Languages option or
Indigenous Cinema option

Special Care Counselling and
Indigenous Contexts JNC.17

Event Planning JYC.0G

For more information, please contact us:

Telephone: 1-866-568-6464
admission@kiuna-college.com



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