

W8BANAKI PILASKW

WORD FROM THE CHIEF



Richard O'Bomsawin
Chief - Abenaki
of Odanak Council

Kwai fellow band members,

In the wake of national truth and reconciliation day when many people gather all across the country to shed light on past and present issues, we still face many fundamental challenges. Many who share our belief that it is imperative to heal the experiences of the past and create a world our ancestors would be proud of for our children, stand alongside us.

Since I was a child, I've listened to the challenges and shame my forefathers have faced in wanting to maintain a way of life so poorly looked upon by newcomers. As a self-sustaining people we knew how important it was for us to work together and keep looking forward in hope of a better day.

With federal elections approaching we need to reflect seriously on which of the constituents to support. Which ones are willing to join hands and establish a mutually respectful relationship. Which ones don't come with pretty words but with concrete actions, collaborating in the restorative work happening in our communities.

We have worked hard to denounce and face the injury of the past generations. We are working even harder at rekindling the fires of our ancestors. We are restoring cultural practice, language and community for our children and their children. With the next generation taking the torch, we will continue to support their efforts to continue the work of their grandparents and parents. We are proud of all who work for the completion of this challenging task.

When I speak of injury, I think of the many facets of our social, geographical and economical realms that have been affected. The injury caused by outside governments attempting to wipe out our culture and language. Our language was replaced by the languages of the conqueror and the conquered, so both English and French respectively.



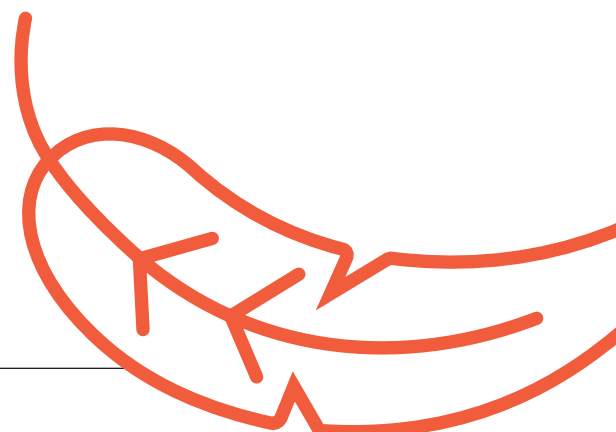
Anniversary of Alanis O'Bomsawin on August 31, 2024, to celebrate her 92nd birthday.

Today, we still struggle with language. At a time where we are reclaiming our rights to speak and conserve our language which neared extinction at the hand of the colonisers, we demand that our rights to choose our own language be respected. It seems to me to be adding insult to the injury endured by our ancestors with bill 96, once again attempting to dictate our direction. Incorporated in our language is our culture, our teachings and our ancestral knowledge, as it is for another's language. We continue to stand for our right to our own truth in our own lands.

In restoring our ways and reconciling with the truth of our history we need allies in the house of power. We need politicians willing to acknowledge the existence of the two-row wampum and other treaties that guide our relationships, and engage in respectful collaboration, allowing us to choose our direction.

We as a people are determined and continue to be active every day in this fight for the shift in a mindset that does not acknowledge or make space for this country's original people, AS WE ARE. We still have quite a way to go, so again, choose wisely.

In peace and friendship,



WORD FROM COUNCILLORS



Jacques T. Watso
Councillor - Abenaki of Odanak Council

Summer is coming to an end, and it is the perfect time to reaffirm our deep commitment to our community and our Abenaki Nation. Our pride should shine through in each of our daily actions, for we are all, without exception, ambassadors of our people. I want to pay tribute to each and every one of you who proudly asserts yourself, whether through the arts, literature, media, entrepreneurship, or the promotion of our culture.

Today, the Abenaki Nation is experiencing an exceptional wave of growth and renewal. We are living in a time of great prosperity, where every initiative and every voice helps to strengthen our identity and our unity. Let us continue to move forward proudly on this path, and ensure that our culture, our history, and our values are upheld and celebrated, today and for generations to come.

Let us move forward as a strong, dynamic, and resolute Nation.



Alain O'Bomsawin
Councillor - Abenaki of Odanak Council

kwai,

I hope you had a great summer and enjoyed the warm weather. Let's not forget that it was also a great time for our annual Pow Wow. I'd like to underline the efforts of the volunteers and the Pow Wow committee. The parade was a great success, and we received many positive comments and feedback. It was a great time for everyone, and an opportunity to get together as a Nation. Thank you, everyone!

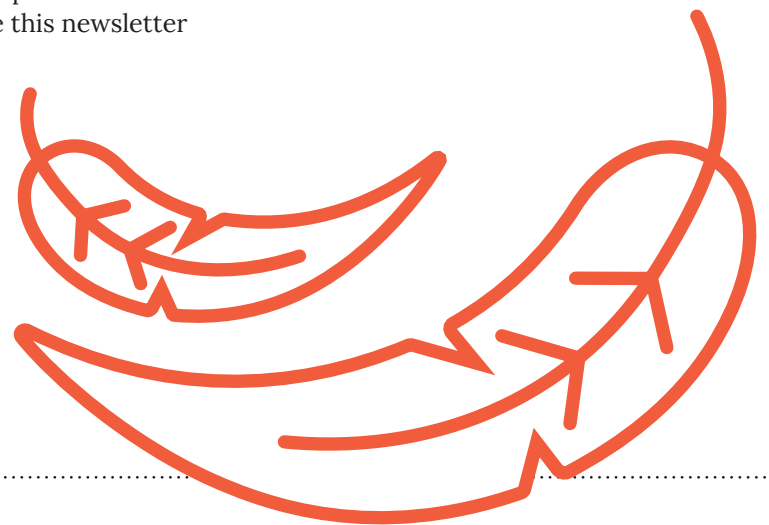
Here are some of the changes that have been made to our beautiful church. Electricity has replaced fuel oil, something we had been waiting for for some time. We are now awaiting a grant from Hydro-Québec. Next, the church portico should be completed by the time this newsletter goes to press.

I invite you to come and see these beautiful improvements. We would like to thank these people and organizations for their grants and involvement (**Mission Chez Nous**: \$20,000 Oeuvre de l'Assemblée des évêques catholiques du Québec and non-profit organization. We would also like to acknowledge the exceptional support of our bishop, **Mgr. Daniel Jodoin**, and our missionary parish priest, **Pierre Houle**).

In closing, we are in the process of applying for new grants for the Régie de l'eau potable. The aim is to improve services to the community and municipalities. We'll keep you posted as progress is made.

We wish you a beautiful fall and warmer temperatures for family activities.

Wli Wni,



Martin Gill
Councillor - Abenaki of Odanak Council

Dear Community members,

Over the past few weeks, a number of important projects have been carried out as part of my mandate as councillor. Here are just a few examples:

- A visit to the UN was organized to denounce the cultural appropriation of Wabanaki culture taking place in the United States, where our Wabanaki brothers and sisters are not even duly recognized;
- Another visit to the UN took place to raise our voices on this issue before an international audience, in order to make the world community aware of this injustice.



Members of the GREEN Committee of the Pow Wow, Shipeku Program.

I would also like to introduce the members of the Pow Wow GREEN Committee. They have devoted many hours of volunteer work to meeting Indigenous Tourism's requirements in terms of sustainable development. Thanks to their dedication, the Odanak Pow Wow has received Shipeku

recognition. The organization now makes ecological transition a priority for artisans and caterers. Details of our commitments are available on our website. I would like to thank all the members of the Odanak and Wôlinak communities who came out to this year's Pow Wow, which was a great success.





Florence Benedict
Councillor – Abenaki
of Odanak Council

Kwaï,

The last few weeks have been relatively quiet, as this period also corresponds to the end of the summer parliamentary session of the Quebec and Canadian governments, which has had the effect of somewhat slowing the Council’s activities.

During this period, the Council’s Executive Management and members have been providing essential services to members and are always available for emergencies.

- Work on the Refuge is progressing well, despite a few delivery delays, and should be completed by the end of October or early November.
- June 21 saw the launch of the new permanent exhibition at the Musée des Abénakis, an exhibition with a contemporary feel!

I remind you that access to the Musée for Wabanaki Nation members of Odanak and W8linak is absolutely free.

I would like to commend the work of our volunteers at the Pow Wow held last July, a real success, congratulations to all.

And a special thank you to Ms. Theresa Watso for organizing the Parade, and to Mr. Martin Gill, committee chairman. (1 photo)

I would like to highlight the presence of members who have travelled from as far away as Sudbury and the United States to celebrate our great Wabanaki Nation celebration.

Many projects are underway and will keep us busy this fall, including:

- Land claims;
- Refuge;
- Construction of the future daycare centre;
- Expansion of the Health Centre;
- Etc....

In conclusion, and in all humility, I am very proud of the work we have accomplished so far as a Council, and of the decisions we have taken in the interests of all our members.

We are in a very positive period, full of projects in the making.

Goodbye and see you soon!

Wliwni,

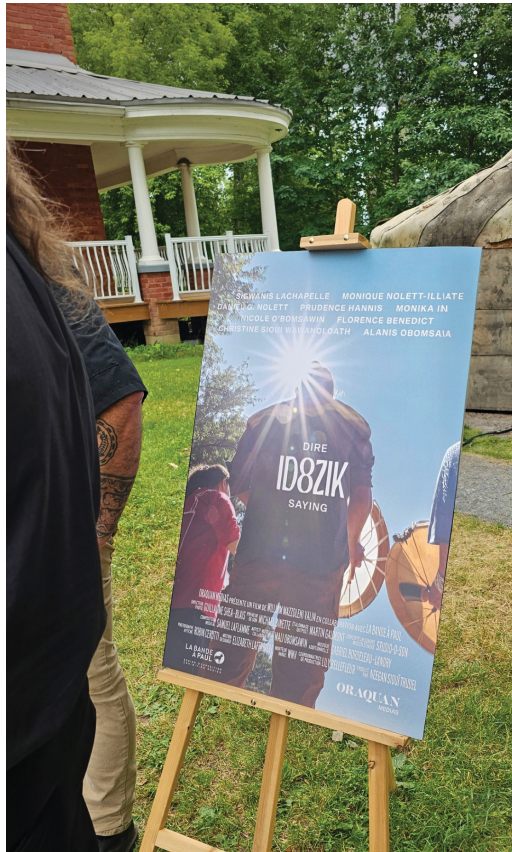


Photo 1 and 2: Museum exhibit



Photo 3 : Pow Wow



WORD FROM MANAGEMENT



Daniel G. Nolett
Executive Director -
Abenaki of Odanak Council

Kwaï mziwi!

Construction of the shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence is progressing well. Completion is scheduled for late October or early November. More to come...

The community pool's new service building was put to use this summer for the swimming season. The investment of nearly \$400,000 was made necessary by the dilapidated condition of the old building. The community's youth were also able to enjoy our new water games. With the heat we've been experiencing, they've certainly been much appreciated! The same goes for the pool!

On June 18, the Ministère de la Famille du Québec announced the long-awaited news that we had been allocated 29 additional spaces at the Aw8ssisak daycare centre, 5 of which are for infants. In early July, we began drawing up plans and specifications for a brand-new building on Tolba Street. The investment will be close to \$4 million, and construction could begin in the spring of 2025.

With regard to the police station expansion, we are still at the stage of establishing our needs. To this end, we are still awaiting confirmation from the Ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec regarding the allocation of additional police officers, so that the new plans can be drawn up by an architectural firm. I would remind you that last March, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec confirmed that we would receive a \$1.5 million grant to expand our police station. We will have until 2027 to complete the work.

As for the specific claims file: Régime Seigneurial and the 38 lots, the Council accepted the Government of Canada's offer of settlement last June, and we are still awaiting the federal government's final settlement agreement. As soon as this stage is settled, we will set up a schedule of information meetings for members. These should be held in the fall. In the meantime, we have taken steps to hire an independent financial advisor to assist us in the creation of the future trust to which will be entrusted the compensation amounts we will receive for the settlement of these claims. The next steps will be shared with you subsequently.

In August, we introduced compost recovery with the distribution of brown bins. In so doing, we are helping to reduce the landfill of compostable organic materials, which will be reused, especially as landfill sites are on the verge of saturation. Like the citizens of neighbouring communities, we are helping Mother Earth with these small gestures, which certainly require increased waste management, but are well worth the effort. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Please note that the next public meeting for the presentation of the audited financial statements will be held on Wednesday, October 2, at 6 p.m., at the community centre.

On August 4, we probably lost our last female speaker of Aln8ba8dwaw8ganek in Margie Hoff, who passed away at the age of 93. I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my deepest condolences to Margie's family and friends. Her passing marks an important page in our history and culture.

Mziwik, n'sidaldam wli tagw8gw!
I wish you all a wonderful fall!



SHORT COLUMN ON THE ABENAKI LANGUAGE

CARDINAL NUMERAL ADJECTIVES¹

6 TO 99			
6	Ngwed8s	13	Nas8nkaw
7	T8baw8s	14	Iaw8nkaw
8	Ns8zek	15	N8nn8nkaw
9	Noliwi	16	Ngwed8s kass8nkaw
10	Mdala	17	T8baw8s kass8nkaw
11	Ngwed8nkaw	18	Ns8zek kass8nkaw
12	Nis8nkaw	19	Noliwi kass8nkaw

(All numbers from 11 to 19 end with 8nkaw)

20	Nisinska	60	Ngwed8s kassinska
30	Nasinska	70	T8baw8s kassinska
40	Iawinska	80	Ns8zek kassinska
50	N8nninska	90	Noliwi kassinska

(All numbers from 20 to 90 end with inska)

For numbers greater than twenty, add "taba*" to indicate the units.

For example:

22 is expressed	Nisinska taba pazokw
54 is expressed	N8nninska taba iaw
75 is expressed	T8baw8s kassinska taba n8lan
99 is expressed	oliwi kassinska taba noliwi

* **Taba** indicates **and** or **more**. This word is used only to express numbers

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



THE LEAST BITTERN AND WETLANDS

Cathy Duguay

*Project Manager -
Environment and Land Office*

As part of the regional assessment of the St. Lawrence River, the BETO team mobilized this summer in collaboration with the Conseil Régional de l'Environnement du Centre-du-Québec (CRECQ) to update knowledge on the distribution of Least Bitterns in and around the wetlands of Lake Saint-Pierre. The project is divided into three phases: inventory of breeding individuals, stewardship and documentation of their movements on a fine scale.

The Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), formerly known as the Little Bittern, is a tiny heron that lives in wetlands consisting of open-water marshes and vegetation (including cattails and water lilies). It has been listed as threatened under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) since 2003. According to preliminary data, the species is present at five of the seven sites surveyed.

Unsurprisingly, wetlands are essential to the survival of this species, as they depend on them for feeding and reproduction. A sudden rise in water levels during the nesting season (mid-May to June) can devastate their breeding success, as well as that of many other species, including the Black Tern.

Wetlands also provide a ton of services to the public. They control water from floods, protect riverbanks from erosion, filter sediments and toxic substances, and are home to incredible biodiversity, including many species important to the Nation: black ash, cattail, sweetgrass, waterfowl, moose, beaver, otter, muskrat, northern pike, yellow perch, etc.

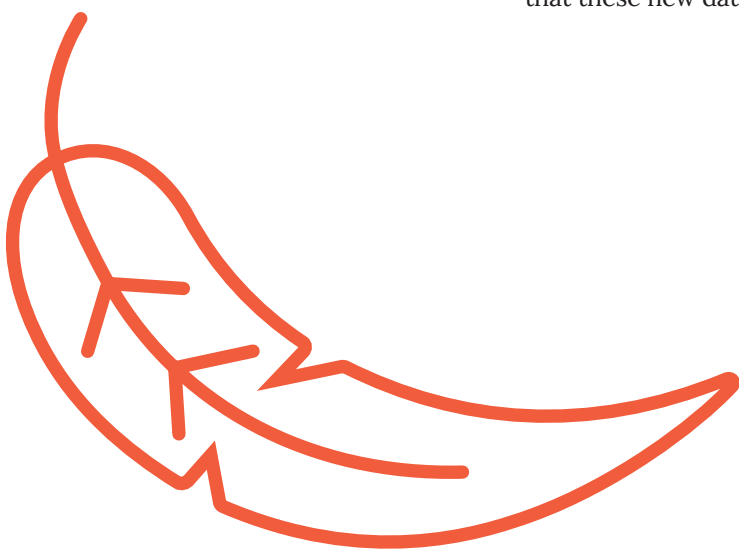


The only male Least Bittern captured during the project.



Inventory of Least Bitterns in the wetlands of Baie de Grâce, in Lake Saint-Pierre.

Since 2017, 3,427,322m2 of wetlands have been destroyed in Centre-du-Québec for infrastructure development¹. The results of this study remind us of the crucial importance of wetlands for biodiversity and the services they provide. By investing in their protection and restoration, we are helping not only to save the Least Bittern, but also to improve the quality of our environment. Thanks to the commitment of the BETO and CRECQ teams, we hope that these new data on the Least Bittern will help strengthen efforts to conserve its habitats.



¹ MELCCFP (2024) Portrait des autorisations ministérielles délivrées pour les projets ayant un impact sur les milieux humides et hydriques assujettis à la Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement – Données current as at December 31, 2023. Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs. 131 p.





N'kzaldamen ndakina

Kwaï mziwi,

Here is some news and recent success stories from the Ndakina Office!

FISHING LOG

The **Abenaki Fishing Log** application is now available! Install it on your smartphone from the App Store or Google Play using your Nation fishing permit number.

This application allows you to record your catches, their weight, length and other important information for us. It helps us protect sites, species and our ancestral rights. Data entered into the application is **confidential, anonymous** and **secure**.

CONTEST: Catch a minimum of 15 fish (any species) and enter each catch in your **fishing log by November**. Prizes will be drawn among successful members! (We trust everyone's honesty).

FISHING IN LA MAURICIE NATIONAL PARK

This summer, 100 fishing permits were reserved for W8banakiak people at La Mauricie National Park. The program will be repeated next year, but there is still time to send us your comments on your experience.

OTHER NEWS

We are pleased to announce the launch of our **new Ndakina interactive map**. This tool offers you simplified access to information on access agreements on the territory, archaeological sites and territorial consultations received.

Discover the map (and a new perspective about your territory) **here** : gcnwa.com/carte-interactive

ARCHAEOLOGY

Office archaeologists carried out several interventions on the Ndakina this summer, and others are planned on the banks of Ndakina rivers, including: Kchitegw (St. Lawrence River), Namasak (Gentilly River), Alsig8ntegw (Saint Francis River), W8linaktegw (Bécancour River) and Kik8ntegw (Chaudière River).

HUNTING TERRITORY

There are still a few weeks available this fall for hunting on the territory reserved for W8banakiak people belonging to the Domtar company (in St-Gérard/Weedon). Contact Jean-Guy Jr Landry, Territory Warden Team Leader, at jgllandry@gcnwa.com.

COMING TO THE NDAKINA OFFICE

This fall, we are launching an experimental sweetgrass plantation on the Odanak territory. **Contact Charlotte Gauthier-Nolett** to learn more or to come and help: cgnolett@gcnwa.com.

We are continuing our citizen committees for the Ndakina! This year's meetings will focus on the following themes:

- Return of sweetgrass on the Ndakina
- Together, let's retrace the history of W8linak
- Together, let's write an illustrated book about the W8banaki Nation
- Protection and conservation of sites (sacred, hunting, fishing, harvesting, etc.) on the Ndakina
- Impact of climate change on the 13 moons and the seasons
- A week of ash training in log beating

For more information, **contact Sigwanis Lachapelle** at: slachapelle@gcnwa.com.

The Wlipogwat banquet (c'est bon)!

The Wlipogwat project continues! The Kchi Mijow8gan (big meal) has been postponed **until the spring of 2025**. We are looking for members who have **Ndakina resources to share for the event** (game, plants, fruit, etc.) and we are always looking for **volunteers to prepare these foods** for this great event! To give your name, contact slachapelle@gcnwa.com or call 819 294-1686.

CONTACT US!

Our research team is hard at work mapping important sites for you to protect. Please contact Charlotte Gauthier-Nolett to make an appointment to discuss further cgnolett@gcnwa.com.

Tedesso Lachapelle, research assistant, is looking to interview your family stories and anecdotes in order to document our history. Contact: tlachapelle@gcnwa.com.

To accompany archaeologists in the field or for any questions on the subject, contact: archeologie@gcnwa.com.

"Gardien d'un jour" project: To accompany the territory wardens on one of their outings, simply contact Jean-Guy Jr Landry, Territory Warden Team Leader, at jgllandry@gcnwa.com or call 819 294-1686.



Meal being cooked over the fire using ingredients from Ndakina. Ndakina Office - W8banaki



WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ODANAK HEALTH CENTER



Jean Vollant
Director - Odanak Health Center

Dear members of the Odanak Abenaki community,

The summer season is drawing to an end! I would like to share with you a few reflections on our organization’s achievements during the period from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024. Thanks to the commitment and contribution of each and every one of our employees, we have continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. The verbs “help, care, rehabilitate, protect and prevent” continue to be at the heart of our daily actions at the Health Centre.

In 2024, we will continue to pursue the same goals and use the same means as in 2023. We are proud to note a significant increase in the collaboration between the health centre and our valued partners, which testifies to our progress on the road to success.

We have maintained our focus on the services we offer, with rigorous and transparent management of our resources. Our approach to supporting and managing our personnel to develop their skills is producing results, and we can report that our efforts are both relevant and effective.

In terms of services offered to Odanak members, we have consolidated the foundations of a collaborative approach to providing the best support, promotion and prevention services for their physical and psychological health. Our goal is to improve and maintain the health and well-being of the community by empowering individuals to take responsibility for their own health and well-being.

HEALTH CENTRE 2019-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Odanak Health Centre is undertaking a phase of reflection to define its future and its positioning in the face of current issues and challenges. Our strategic plan aims to simplify our environment, mission, vision and objectives to ensure clarity for the Abenaki population.

For the Health Centre, it is essential to review the way we operate and deliver services. We need to adapt and evolve to meet the needs of our community.

For this reason, at the start of 2024, we are embarking on a priority-setting process involving our staff and the Odanak community.

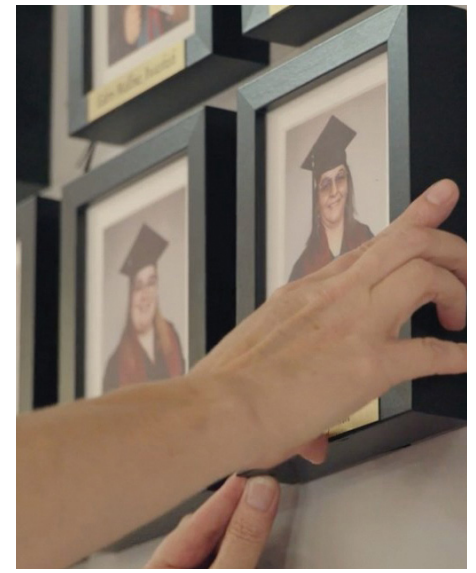
2024-2025 CHALLENGES

1. Update the OHC’s 2024-2029 strategic plan
2. Update the health and community well-being plan
3. Expansion project for the Health Centre
4. Maintain Accreditation Canada results; visit in May 2025
5. Continue to provide psychosocial services to the public
6. Review the organization of OHC work
7. Maintain a spirit of partnership with external organizations such as CIUSSSMCQ, FNQLHSSC, FNCFS, Wôlinak Health Centre, etc.
8. Cooperation agreement between the Odanak Health Centre and the Pierreville FMG
9. Partnership with the shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence
10. Update of the strategic plan
11. Update Emergency Measures Plan
12. Research project on improving services for children aged 0-12 in partnership with Université de Sherbrooke

Conclusion, I would like to highlight the Odanak Health Centre’s strong commitment to improving the quality, accessibility and sustainability of health care for our community. Our participation in the accreditation process has brought to light our efforts to provide safe, effective and patient-focused care.

This accreditation process strengthens our credibility, fosters trust and reinforces our culture of continuous improvement. By adhering to Accreditation Canada’s rigorous standards, we demonstrate our commitment to excellence in health care for all.

I hope I can rely on your support as we continue to promote best practices, strengthen our services and consolidate our ties with the community. Thank you for your invaluable collaboration in this important undertaking for the health of our fellow citizens.



KIUNA, MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL

Produced by Kassiwi Média, the documentary series Kiuna, plus qu’une école will soon present its broadcast dates! The series follows the inspiring journey of students at Kiuna, Quebec’s only Indigenous college.

Stay tuned!

AN EAGERLY AWAITED START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

The 2024-2025 school year promises to be a busy period, with a record number of students in attendance at Kiuna. Some sixty students from the Innu, Atikamekw, Anishnabe, Kanien’kehá:ka, Abenaki and Eeyou Nations will continue their college education in Odanak.

Back to school!

KIUNA OPEN HOUSE: MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

On Monday, October 21, we invite you to discover our unique environment and explore the various opportunities Kiuna has to offer. This event is the perfect opportunity to learn more about our programs and services, and inquire about any questions you may have.

This event is open to all!

We look forward to meeting you.

CHOOSE KIUNA!

Would you like to help shape the leaders of tomorrow? Whether you have an interest in, or the skills for, college teaching, clerical or technical positions, you can send an unsolicited application to emplois@kiuna.ca. You can also consult our job offers on Facebook and LinkedIn!



NEWS FROM YOUR MUSEUM



Vicky Desfossés-Bégin
Executive Director - Musée des Abénakis

On June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Musée des Abénakis' new permanent exhibition, entitled *W8banakiak*, was launched under the gaze of the W8banaki Nation! Many of you turned out, and we are grateful to all of you.

Now a cornerstone for all the museum's activities, this colourful and captivating creation bears witness to the strength of the Nation's identity and highlights the spirit of a proud people who wish to endure and who know how to be heard.

"From the Ndakina, from our history, from our heritage, we wanted to bring out the people of today who carry this culture of resilience in their hearts and who pass it on passionately to younger generations," said Helen Watso, Chair of the Musée des Abénakis Board of Directors, on the essence of an exhibition that conveys its message through numerous sensory interactions.

This contemporary exhibit is all about you, the members of the great W8banaki Nation. Join the more than 5,000 people who have passed through the doors of this new experience and come visit *W8banakiak*. The feedback and comments have been overwhelmingly positive! Our thanks and congratulations go to all of you, as this is a great collective success!

Until October 31, the museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Did you know that Nation members enjoy free admission?

A ROOM IN HONOUR OF ALANIS OBOMSAWIN

We are delighted to announce that the new permanent exhibit at the Musée des Abénakis will be housed in a room named in honour of one of the Nation's great ambassadors, Alanis Obomsawin. We wish to pay tribute to her dedication to Abenaki culture.

What better place to hold an exhibition about pride, resilience, heritage and even activism than in a room named in honour of this great lady!

THE MUSEUM IN ACTION

Numerous activities have taken place in recent months at the museum.

One of these activities is likely bound to become a tradition! The circular economy activity *Troc-moi ça au Musée* was a great success. The idea was to swap objects we no longer use for others that are more useful in our lives. The activity brought together a number of participants keen to make a difference for the planet. This activity is part of the Musée des Abénakis sustainable development plan.

A number of new activities captivated participants, including the *Rallye du grand rassemblement*, in collaboration with the Ndakina Office, where the objective was to build a camp for several people, and *Sous un ciel d'alakwasak*, an evening of tales and legends under the stars hosted by Lysanne and Nicole O'Bomsawin. More traditional activities, such as tours of the Tolba trail with Michel D. Nolett and creative workshops, were just as popular.

Thank you to everyone involved in these activities. Without you, the Musée wouldn't be the same!



Grand Gathering Rally



Tolba Trail Tours with Michel D. Nolett

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM!

For those who would like to support the museum in its mission and contribute to its vitality, become a member of the Société d'histoire d'Odanak!

Your commitment is a gesture of solidarity that strengthens the museum's reputation and pushes it forward. Be among those who take action and make concrete gestures to support this gathering place and celebration of Abenaki culture. Join us in this adventure!

To find out more about member benefits and conditions, visit the www.museeabenakis.ca under Memberships & Donations.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

We promise you other exciting activities in the coming months: a Halloween trail, film screenings and the traditional Christmas market... You'll be amazed at what's in store!

Follow us on social networks for all the details. More of an e-mail type? No problem, the newsletter is here for you! To sign up, visit museeabenakis.ca, look for the red "REGISTER" button on the home page and follow the instructions.

Would you like to help bring the Musée to life? Join our team as an education and cultural activities coordinator, or as a volunteer! Send your application to vdbegin@museeabenakis.ca. We look forward to meeting you!

GIFT STORE

Day after day, magnificent Indigenous products find their way onto the shelves of the Musée gift store. Drop in to discover our latest finds!

Are you an Indigenous craftsman with a great product who wants to sell in a well-frequented gift store? We're looking for you! Simply send us an e-mail with photos of your creations to info@museeabenakis.ca. Know someone who knows someone? Get involved and share the message.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Museum Shop

