

W8BANAKI PILASKW



ODANAK IN FULL ECONOMIC GROWTH

An economic sector already strong, a business park booming and the construction of the college going well – the community of Odanak shows spectacular economic strength among the whole region. – *To read: Word from the Chief Of The Band Council – Page 2*

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TO PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Word from the Chief Of The Band Council



Kwai fellow band members,

Growth is happening!!!!!! Our business park is in full swing, housing three new businesses and the administration offices for the new College. Furthermore, building is well underway for the College itself, which is scheduled to begin welcoming students in September of 2011.

In addition to two existing automotive shops in our community, we now have a small dent repair and

touch up shop, a bumper refinishing shop and a powder coating shop. For those interested in health and fitness we now have great tools for managing stress and improving health, we have a therapeutic massage and relaxation business as well as a fitness gym. For beauty and self care there are a number of personal grooming businesses. We also have our community's restaurant, a gas bar and convenience store, a sign and sticker business, taxi service, construction businesses, many craft stores, seamstresses and our Community Museum. I may have overlooked some of our businesses, so look within your community learn about what's here.

Visit these businesses and learn what they have to offer you. If you are pleased with your service tell your friends if you are not tell the business owners, feedback is the greatest instrument business owners can use to improve and better serve you. All of these businesses need your support to continue to develop. Know that

without your encouragement and support it's very hard for our businesses to thrive. They create work for our people and partnerships with people from neighbouring communities.

I'd like to take a moment and acknowledge the contribution a group of business owners are making by volunteering their time to develop a mentoring initiative for our community restaurant. This business is of large magnitude and can benefit from the experience and feedback of this team. We want to see it succeed and although efforts from Management and Staff are great, there is always room for improvement. Objective perspective rooted in experience is very valuable.

As a businessman I have no illusions in thinking business is easy for those who venture into it or about the impact of a lagging economy. As a community member I have no illusions about the decline of resources that once provided a safety net for our communities. We continuously

need to be more creative. My hat goes off to those who take the initiative. Working towards sustainable development is an effort we must commit to, either as an entrepreneur or as a client, in order to provide the foundation for our community's future.

In a time when welcome addition to our status numbers is coupled with restrictions and cuts to our budgets we must create ways by which we can continue to thrive as a people. Our community is not blessed with natural resources for us to use in the further development of our community. Industry is a viable alternative. We have many talents we can put to good use and a rich heritage we can share, so let's do it. It takes a community to build a community, never underestimate how important your contribution is to ensure a better tomorrow.

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin





By Daniel G. Nolett
Director General

The *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act (C-3)* is in force since last January 31. To date, about a dozen members have already obtained their status in virtue of Bill C-3. At the Council meeting last March 7, the Council passed a resolution stating that all new members registered according to C-3 are eligible to receive administrative services, which they are entitled to, from the band once they have received written confirmation that they have obtained their status number.

The Band Council just signed the new five-year (5) funding agreement with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). It will be valid from 2011 to 2016. In this agreement, INAC provided for the funding adjustment according to the number of status members registered on the Indian registry on December 31 of this year. This provision of the agreement exists for a normal increase of the population (new birth and immigration versus death and emigration). However, in the case where the number increases significantly due to Bill C-3, INAC cannot confirm that new funding will be allocated to bands particularly affected by a sharp increase in their population due to C-3.

The AFNQL Chiefs, along with the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec Executive Directors table, have often asked Indian Affairs officials about funding, without ever receiving clear replies. For the moment, we can

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

confirm that in the short term, nothing will change and the new status members will receive the services they are entitled to. We will keep you posted on the situation.

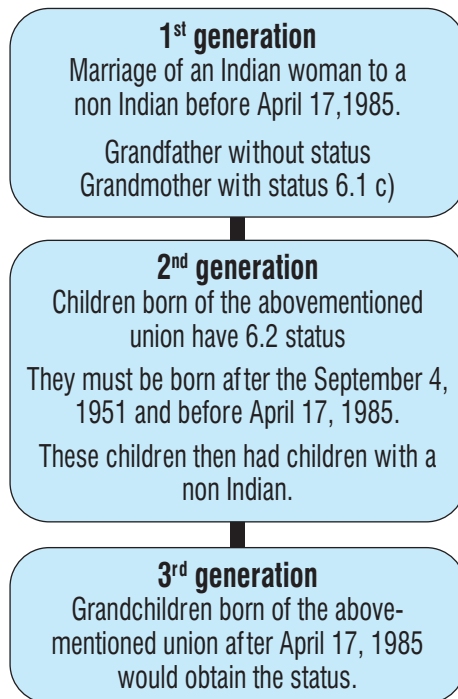
According to a study conducted by a demographics specialist, to support our file submitted to the Court regarding the discriminatory aspects of the Indian Act, we estimate that about 300 to 400 Abenakis of Odanak could obtain their status in virtue of C-3.

Here are the essential criteria to become newly eligible for registration:

If a member of your family meets the three following conditions, he could be eligible for registration in virtue of the modifications made to the *Indian Act*.

- Your grandmother lost her right to register (Indian status) because she married a non-Indian;
- One of your parents is or was eligible for registration in virtue of paragraph 6(2) of the *Indian Act*;
- You, or one of your brothers and sisters born of the same parent eligible for registration, are born on September 4, 1951 or after.

Here's a graph which clearly illustrates this situation:



If you want more details, you can consult the following link on the INAC site:

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/bris/bll/rpb/index-fra.asp>

The demolition and reconstruction project of the David-Laperrière bridge, which connects the communities on each side of the rivière St-François (including Odanak), should start in February. Now the works have been postponed again and will start in April. The works could last for a period of 2 or 3 years.

The construction of the First Nations Post-secondary Institute started last January. We have to deliver the building to the First Nations Education Council of Quebec (FNEC) for June 1st. It will be receiving its first cohort of students for the end of August. The institute will be managed by the FNEC and will offer a pre-university program in humanities to First Nations students of Quebec.

Over the next weeks, we will begin the construction of residences and apartments to house these new students.

Last March 26, there was a special assembly on education and the post-secondary program. Twenty members came to this meeting including 6 students who benefit or have recently benefited from the post-secondary education program. We have gathered people's comments and suggestions to improve the education policy. The Council will analyze all these comments and suggestions before deciding whether or not it will make changes.

The Council has to consider possible budget constraints following the arrival of several new status members who will be eligible for the post-secondary studies program.

Over the last year, we joined a group of 10 other communities of Quebec whose police service funding agreement expired on March 31, 2011. Our respective negotiations are going nowhere. The underfunding of

our police agreements is the main issue. The two ministries that fund our police agreements, which are Public Safety Canada (PSC) and the Ministère of the Sécurité Publique du Québec (MSP) have been proposing a status quo in funding for the last two years.

According to our funding agreement, we must maintain a police service with a minimum of 6 peace officers (including the Director). Each peace officer costs an average of at least \$100,000 per year. This includes salary, fringe benefits, mandatory annual training updates, uniforms, equipment, administration, etc. This is without counting expenses for police station maintenance and other administrative expenses. Our funding has been frozen at \$650,000 since 2008, but our expenses increase each year. This situation is deplored by all the First Nations communities of Quebec.

We are about a dozen communities that have decided to form a common front. Therefore, we have prepared a joint argument-based document and have submitted our budget requests to the MSP and PSC. Quebec answered that it won't invest more money and Canada told us last February that there could possibly be cuts of 19% in Public Safety's Aboriginal program as of April 1st, 2011. This despite the fact that the government announced, in the last federal budget of March 22, that it would invest \$30 million over the next two years. This means that there should be \$15 million of "new money" as of April 1st, 2011. Actually, this is just the status quo!

Following the calling of federal elections last March 25, we had to change our strategy in order to make progress with the governments. We don't even have a federal interlocutor any more! We have elements in hand to put pressure on the governments, but presently we must address the political parties running for election on May 2, and inform them about the current situation regarding public security in our communities.



PHOTO CREDIT : MARCEL AUBRY, LE NOUVELLISTE

Funding of Public Security Services **BUDGET CUTS**

A press conference was held in Odanak last March 15, to denounce the possible budget cuts in the funding of Abenaki public security services. On this occasion, Councilor Jacques T. Watso and Abenaki police chief Éric Cloutier emphasized the importance of this funding. The file of this progress will be known after the elections next May 2nd.

Next
public assemblies

May 28, 2011

September 24, 2011

January 28, 2012

For more information
(450)568-2810

Cultural policy and retrospective of the last year's activities



By Réjean O'Bomsawin
Councillor and Traditionalist

Dear citizens
of the Abenaki nation,

I am pleased to announce that I have accepted the mandate to continue the crea-

tion and drafting of our cultural policy. This is an important aspect in the preservation and protection of what distinguishes us from the other Nations of Canada and the United States. A first step was carried out during 2008 and 2009 and it is imperative to continue this work in order to continue to present a cultural policy that our people deserve. Your participation is important; whether it's in an individual or group meeting during the next months, I invite you to contact me at the Council. I will be contacting the committee participants during the month of May.

CKBN
Voice of the South Shore
A radio station for
Odanak, Wôlinak and the
Centre-du-Québec region

Since the last few weeks, we have a radio station located in the Wôlinak community offices. We have been financially participating in the radio operations for the last few years, with the villages and towns of our immediate vicinity. I take part on the board as the Abenaki representative and secretary-treasurer accompanied by Mr. Patrick Fortin and his team who are working very hard for the continuity of CKBN. Therefore, I invite you to tune in to 90.5 FM, either on your radio or on internet. If you have subjects you want to hear about on the air, don't hesitate to contact us. Could radio be used to promote our language? For different cultural reports on the Abenakis of Odanak and Wôlinak? Do you think that this medium could be used to

preserve and broadcast our culture? I have already lived and greatly appreciated this unique sort of experience in the past.

Société de développement
d'Odanak
Industrial motel and
Le Calumet restaurant

I am particularly proud that our industrial development is going well. All our premises have been rented and the addition of the FNPI will have a direct impact on our economy. The board of directors is presently made up of Mr. Richard Obomsawin, chief and president, myself Réjean Obomsawin, councillor and vice-president and Mr. Paul Gosselin as development officer for administrative and financial purposes.

I wish to thank all those who, from near or afar, worked on the construction projects and also the work of our Abenaki manager and her whole team who ensure the smooth running of our entreprise. (Le Calumet)

N.B. I represent the Abenakis at the CRÉCQ (Conférence régionale des élus du Centre-du-Québec). With this visibility, we have more possibilities to access funding for recreation, etc. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Kchi Wli Wni

Réjean OBomsawin,
Concillor

Portrait of an Abenaki

Within each community, there are stories worth telling. Mirya O'Bomsawin's story has been chosen for this issue.



Mirya in the main room of the United Nations, in New York

Mirya O'Bomsawin is a great example of determination and courage. At the age of 27, she is returning to school to study international and human rights at McGill University, in order to eventually defend Aboriginal causes.

Of Abenaki-Micmac origin, Mirya is able to pursue her objectives while taking care of her two little twin girls. She's a fine example of the expression "Where there's a will, there's a way".



Left, Matthew A. Iserhoff. Right, Pakesso Mukash.

CerAmony band at the 2011 JUNO ABORIGINAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The 2011 JUNO AWARDS took place on Saturday, March 26, 2011, during which the band CerAmony band was honored. The band is comprising, among others, Pakesso O'Bomsawin Muquash, a Cree Abenaki member. Their album, also titled CerAmony, was awarded a Juno for Best Aboriginal Album of the Year.

Note also that the band had won the award for Best Song Writer at the 2010 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

You want to publish a text?
Community member who stands out?
A news to report?



Contact us!
communications@gcnwa.com

Pow Wow
Odanak Abenakis

July 2nd & 3rd 2011

For more information
(450)568-2810

Vermont issue: recognition for abenaki tribes

Here is a little retrospective of this issue. The Odanak Band Council has been notified, a few years ago, that self called Abenaki groups or tribes in Vermont were seeking recognition by the US government. Some of these groups have been trying to get Federal recognition from the US government for more than 30 years. They were denied in 2005.

For the past couple of years, they, along with new self called Abenaki groups, have gone another way. They filed for recognition from the State of Vermont instead which seems to be an easier process. So far, 3 of these groups have been successful and finally obtained their recognition earlier this spring after bill S.222 passed last year. The recognized tribes would now be able to repatriate Native remains and artefacts for reburial ceremonies for instance. They would also be allowed to sell "Native craft" legally in the US.

That's about all the benefits they get from Bill S.222. The Odanak and Wôlinak Band Councils met in May of last year to analyze the situation in Vermont. The Band Council sent a couple of letters to Senators and or Congressmen in the State of Vermont to get their attention in regards of our own members that reside in Vermont. We wish that they would have access to services that all North American Indians are entitled to receive. We met with an attorney that has a legal practice in the State of Vermont in May of 2010. We then agreed to wait after the elections in Wôlinak, before we come up with a strategy and an action plan to how we could get recognition for our own members in Vermont.

As of today, we were still unable to meet with the Wôlinak Band Council because the June elections were disputed. There were other elections held in November. Again, these elec-

tions were disputed and an appeal committee invalidated these ones also. Since then, there has not been political stability in Wôlinak. The issue of State recognition has to involve Wôlinak. The Odanak Band Council can not take matter upon himself. We need to have our cousins from Wôlinak in the boat with us.

We must also add that we experience a little bit of the same issue in Canada. Self called Abenaki groups in the province of Quebec, have been trying for years to get recognition from the government and Canada. They claim rights over resources and land in our own traditional territory. These groups claim hunting, fishing, trapping, wood cutting rights and more still. The Assembly of Chiefs of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador have been denouncing this situation publicly for years. However, there is little that we can do about it. We repeat frequently to government

leaders in Quebec and in Canada that no one else but the Odanak and Wôlinak Band Council can be legitimately recognized as legitimate Abenaki government in Canada. We rely on the provincial and federal government in this country so they do not listen to these groups. So far, we have not been successful to undertake the process of comprehensive land claim in Canada to establish our rights over our traditional territory in Canada. We are considered by Canada as immigrants from the US and by the US government as a Nation that left the country a long time ago and became a Canadian First Nation! We could call ourselves "a nation without a home"!

It is a long process and a long to get recognition. We are ready to do what it takes within our means (financial and legal means) to get it.

WORD FROM THE EDUCATION AND REGISTRY AGENT



By Nathalie Cardin
Education and Registry Agent

REGISTRY

For those who have not yet been informed, the Indian Act was modified last January 31, with the adoption of Bill C-3, the Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act.

If a member of your family meets the three following conditions, he could be eligible for registration in virtue of the modifications made to the Indian Act.

- Your grandmother lost her right to register (Indian status) because she married a non-Indian;

- One of your parents is or was eligible for registration in virtue of paragraph 6(2) of the Indian Act;
- You, or one of your brothers and sisters born of the same parent eligible for registration, are born on September 4, 1951 or after.

The application forms are available:

On line : www.ainc.gc.ca

- 1-Click *Aboriginal peoples and communities.*
- 2-Click *Forms.*
- 3-Click *All forms.*

4-Click *Registration to Indian registry (for applicants in virtue of Bill C-3).*

5- Choose desired forms.

By mail: Dial the number 1-800-567-9604 or call the Band Council at :

1 888 (568)-2810.

In person: At any INAC Regional Office, Canada Service Centre or the Band Council.

EDUCATION

For students starting their postsecondary studies in fall 2011, you must first contact

me so that I can register you on the student list and then send you the Financial Request form for the 2011-2012 school year. The forms will be sent to all the students in May.

Please note that funding for a private institution is accepted if the program is not available to the public. The student who chooses a private institution for a program available to the public must assume the difference of cost in tuition fees between the public and private institutions.

M	S	K	I	K	O	I	M	I	N	S	A	K
O	G	Ô	U	G	A	T	N	O	L	K	A	A
W	N	O	K	A	M	A	G	W	N	M	A	N
M	A	H	L	A	K	W	S	S	E	A	I	A
A	O	S	S	E	K	A	P	A	B	G	Z	S
U	S	W	K	S	A	G	A	T	I	Ô	O	K
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L	A	N	A	G	Ô	D	N	A	S	A	B	A

ABENAKIS HIDDEN WORDS

A
ABASANDÔGANAL (aurora borealis)
AGASKW (marmot)
ANASKEMEZI (oak)
ASBAN (raccoon)

K
KABASA (sturgeon)
KASKO (heron)
KWENOZA (pike)

M
MAGÔLIBO (caribou)
MAHLAKWS (ash)
MSKIKOIMINSK (strawberry)

N
NAHÔMO (eel)
NEBI (water)
NIBEN (summer)
NOKAMAGW (cod)
NOLKA (roe)

P
PAKESSO (partridge)
PEBON (winter)

S
SATA (blueberry)
SEGÔGW (skunk)
SENOZOZI (maple)
SIGUAN (spring)

T
TAGUÔGO (fall)

W
WÔBTEGUA (wild goose)

Solution : See the last page

Certain cases have drawn my attention...



By Alain O'Bomsawin
Councillor

Recently, certain cases have drawn my attention.

Bell Canada

Following several reports of dissatisfaction and complaints concerning a tax-

exemption problem on Bell Canada distributor services, actions have been taken to fix the problem that affects several First Nations communities. The problem related to the expiry date of the Indian status card was to have been settled once and for all. We are still awaiting an official letter from Bell Canada.

Shale Gas

First of all, in the shale gas file, a position paper was submitted during the BAPE public hearings on November 24, 2010 in St-Flavien. The following recommendations were issued by the *Nation Waban-Aki*:

- Participation and consultation of the First Nations.
- In-depth studies on

previous shale gas explorations and operations.

- Strict terms of exploration according to environmental standards.
- Forming of a multi-disciplinary government monitoring team for follow-ups, verifications and inspections.
- Exhaustive environmental assessment for each well.
- Issuing of conditional permits respecting environmental criteria.

Therefore, we are not turning our backs on the possibilities presented by the shale gas industry for the economic development of Quebec. However, it is with complete knowledge of the issues, once all the facets

have been studied, that we will be able to fully adhere to this project.

You may obtain a copy of the position paper at the office of the *Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki* at 10175 Kolipaio in Wôlinak. Telephone: 819-294-1686.

Hydro-Québec Wind Power Project

Last December 2010, Hydro-Québec began the opening of a call for tenders for 500 MW of wind energy from Aboriginal and community projects. However, Odanak and Wôlinak, joined by the TSHIQUETIN Énergie group, had their project refused. Following which, Hydro-Québec distribution held a meeting last January 13

in order to justify their choice of bids. In our case, the price was too high by \$0.02 per MGW/H.

The *Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune* detected a flaw in the Hydro-Québec tendering process, following which it asked the First Nations to issue recommendations. For our part, eight specific recommendations were issued. We are now waiting for the follow-up.

Note that the TSHIQUETIN Énergie group includes Odanak, Wôlinak, Essipit, HydroMéga, Mashteuatsh, Opitciwan and the Maliseets of Viger.

So we will be informing you of developments in these files.

Progress in the Odanak senior's home file



By Claire O'Bomsawin
Councillor

The organizing committee for the Odanak senior's home is now at its fourth meeting. Things are moving along well! We visited four residences and we wish to adopt the best aspects of each. Many suggestions were made, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for people in Odanak. The concept that interests us the most is a residence of about fifteen to twenty places,

of which five would be respite rooms. We have a good idea for the location, but this remains to be confirmed. The project is taking shape: the preliminary plan creation phase is arriving. As for funding, discussions have begun, but this still remains uncertain. So, the project is advancing, and we'll keep you informed of these developments in the next issue of the newspaper!

Important note

To process a request for the fuel tax exemption for Indians, go to

www.revenuquebec.ca/en/sepf/formulaires/ca/ca-1001.aspx

or contact the Band Council office.

For more information
(450)568-2810



A lifetime involved in the community

In memory of Dolorès Wawanolett

Last February 10, Dolorès Wawanolett left us at the age of 75. It is important to mark the passage of this woman who always had something to say.

She was greatly involved in the organization of Quebec Native Women for several years. She was one of the founders of the local Odanak Native Women's Association. She contributed to the advancement of Aboriginal women's rights.

In addition, as an artisan, she was hired by Mr. Sylvain Rivard (author) as a basket-maker for demonstration and interpretation purposes for over 10 years. As a friend, he accompanied Dolorès during the Abenaki

language classes and took active part in her basket-making for several years. We were able to see her at the McCord Museum of Canadian History, the Old Montreal public market and the Aboriginal Presence festival. On several occasions, Dolorès took part in workshops to show young Abenakis the art of making ash baskets. She was involved as volunteer in the Odanak Pow Wow and for cerebral palsy during many years.

She was also hired as an actress in several productions about the First Nations. She also made traditional costumes, such as friendship shirts. Many will remember this woman.



ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS: COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!



By Michel Durand
Land Agent

Hello everyone and happy spring! Its arrival changes the air and renewal flourishes.

To follow up on the previous edition, we wish to thanks

the people who answered the survey. This was sent to members residing in Odanak. This collaboration is important to us and we hope to reach more people. According to the compiled results, family, culture, friendship and the environment are the 4 most important values, which illustrates the spirit of community, fraternity and our relationship with the environment. The most commonly-practiced traditional activities are music and song, hunting and fishing, basket-making and berry-picking. Water seems to be the main concern for people. The deterioration of water quality and lowering of water levels are two current problems to which we have

to pay close attention, for example by supporting initiatives and projects for the restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Within the next months, we wish to survey the interests and values of all our members in Quebec and the USA. Living memory is an irreplaceable source of wealth and must be gathered in order to preserve knowledge and sites of interest and optimize the use of resources and territorial occupation.

In 2011, the office, in collaboration with the Band Council, wishes to offer a new service to the population - a site for the collection of dangerous domestic residues. A notice will be sent to all households to inform you

of the opening date and the site's operation. Soon, we will be officially opening the "Tolba" interpretive nature trail, located in the Commune, an important and well-used wood lot for the community. This path is particularly intended to facilitate the sharing of this sector between community members, so that each may enjoy the benefits of having a green area nearby. Visitors to Odanak are also welcome to discover this magnificent natural heritage site.

In conclusion, as a final element we also surveyed people's interest in participating in public assemblies concerning activities of the Environment and Lands office. A large majority of

the respondents would like to have 2 consultations a year. We will therefore hold sessions so that our members can discuss these topics and offer their questions, suggestions and interests about the environment, resources and the territory. In the same spirit, we always encourage the population to come meet us at the office. This will improve the subjects discussed in the assemblies, according to the themes that interest people most.

Favouring communication and exchanges offers an essential tool for the success of our projects and the continuation of community activities. Thank you for your growing collaboration.



THE THIRTEEN ABENAKI MOONS BY CHRISTINE SIOUI WAWANOLOATH

The names of the moons do not always correspond in French and English. For example, Pia8dagos, means "old moon" in French and "storm moon" in English. This is because the sources naming the moons were different in French and English.

8 - NOKAHIGAS - JUNE
Hoer Moon - Small strawberry and bark moon
(Lune des petites fraises et de l'écorce)



Wild strawberries grow into a double curve design. The Moon is made of bark. The pileated woodpecker, with its red crest, is tending to business.

Pizwakamigwmskikoiminsak m8jagiak li bitaw8wi8gan lawigh8zo. P8gwas kizitonwjiwalaga. 8basas, spiwi agma mekwimigwenol, w'z8balokamek.

9 - TEMASKIKOS - JULY
Grass Cutter Moon
(Lune de la cueillette du foin d'odeur)



Sweetgrass waves with the wind. A grasshopper rests upon a blade of grass. Sweetgrass braids will be made.

Wlim8kilmskikoal bemel8msen. ch8ls 8dabi wskidmskiko. Wlim8kilmskik8bagenaak wlitojiak.

10 - TEMEZ8WAS - AUGUST
Cutter Moon - refers to harvesting
(Lune des récoltes)



Black bear is so fond of blueberries. Pumpkin, beans, raspberries and cranberries are falling from the sky. Fruits and vegetables will be put into baskets.

Awasos w'gezaldamenal satal. Wasawal, adebakwal, zegweskimenak ta popokwaimenal banihlaak wji spemki. Mink8ganak ta agwizijik sapkwaakji nodaikok.

Source: THE THIRTEEN ABENAKI MOONS BY CHRISTINE SIOUI WAWANOLOATH / NS8KAW 8BANAKI KIZOSAK KIZIT8GW KLISTIN SIOUI WAWANOLOATH

Cultural Chronicle

SIGUAN (Spring)

Siguan.....	Spring
STkebi	Spring water
Tkawansen.....	Cool air ; It's cool
Weskata	Thaw ; It's thawing
Mozokas.....	March
Sogalikas	April
Kikas	May
Wilemskw	A tree flower
Sibosis	A stream
Pskwasaw8n	A flower
Mskikois.....	Grass
Objibad	Easter



The little green column by Allison Hannis



"Hi, this is Allison Hannis with le Club La racine de vie. We will talk about why it is necessary to recycle. Recycling allows us to save natural resources such as wood (paper, cardboard), oil (plastic) and sand (glass). This also allows us to reduce pollution, since we don't have to produce as many objects. We reduce the number of dirty and polluting emissions. I'll tell you more about this later! "



THE FNCFS TEAM OF THE NATION WABAN-AKI

By David Cadieux

First line services manager
FNCFS Team of the Nation
Waban-Aki

What is the FNCFS program?

FNCFS, stands for First Nations Child and Family Services, a social and community service program dispensed by the *Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki*.

Certain Waban-Aki organizations also work to provide child and family services, namely the CPE (Early Childhood Centre), the CPDA (police), the Band Council and the Health Centre. All are important

partners, share common objectives, and offer complimentary services. That's why the concerned workers are currently trying to initiate community actions in order to better meet the needs of child, family and community services.

What are the new child and family services?

The main FNCFS services deployed are first line services that we can also occasionally call community prevention services. Community interventions will be gradually made through this approach intended to create social

and community conditions conducive to the full development of children, youths and families. Basically, we will offer services contributing to the social development of Odanak, in order to favour the security and development of children.

Are there examples of prevention services?

Here are examples of prevention services which could eventually be offered in Odanak (note #1: the projects and services are to be developed and only with the consent of partners and citizens) (note #2: the community approach is done on a volunteer basis –

a community can choose to participate or not)

- Access to first line services and personalized follow-up (voluntary basis)
- Access to premises and spaces specifically set up for families
- Parent and support groups
- Training on various subjects (parental skills, family budget management, educational and community activities, etc.)
- Parent-children, grandparent-children, family activities or field trips

- Visits from guest speakers that could be suggested by the community
- Other suggestions and special requests coming from citizens or partner organizations.

Don't hesitate to contact one of the team members to obtain information or share your suggestions.

FNCFS TEAM OF THE NATION WABAN-AKI
Salle familiale Odanak
(formerly PJO)
819-568-0515

It takes an entire community to raise a child

Valérie Laforce

Hello everyone!

My name is Valerie Laforce, I'm an Abenaki from the community of Wôlinak. Since last January, I have had the pleasure of working as community organizer for the new FNCFS program. Within this project, my main role is to oversee the organization and management of prevention services and activities.

I'm also studying full-time at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières in a personalized certificate in administration, psychology and environmental studies. I also studied interior design at the Cégep de Trois-Rivières, a course in which I acquired skills that can help me in my present mandate, such as the capacity to innovate and create.

I also have a good deal of expertise in the community, partly because I grew up there and also because I've worked there as a student since 2003 in various community organizations such as the Band Council, the Health Centre and the *Petite Chapelle Ste-Thérèse de Wôlinak*.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon!

Dany Lebrun

I am the FNCFS outreach worker since January 2011. I obtained my bachelor's degree in psychology from UQTR in 1996. Before occupying the present job, I worked for 4 years at the *Maison de la Famille du Bassin de Maskinongé* as a community worker.

I am also the mother of 3 wonderful children: Ophélie, 13 years old, Noah, 3 years and Mathis, 18 months. I also have 1 dog, 3 cats and a beta...So I'm busy, organized and efficient!!!

I love life, people, learning, and laughter.

So what is an outreach worker?

In simple terms, I am the link between the Abenaki community and the FNCFS team of the Grand Conseil Waban-Aki. My job is to create links, and become integrated with the communities of Wôlinak and Odanak to orient services and activities so that they meet the real needs of the Abenaki people.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

Dominique Bégin

I am the FNCFS outreach worker since January 2011. I obtained my bachelor's degree in psychology from UQTR in 1996. Before occupying the present job, I worked for 4 years at the *Maison de la Famille du Bassin de Maskinongé* as a community worker.

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Nahame and Menahan Obomsawin

Nahame Obomsawin, who holds a bachelor's degree in communication sciences from the Université de Montréal and a specialized graduate degree from HEC of Montreal, will occupy the role of community organizer within the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS). She works with Menahan Obomsawin, who holds a bachelor's degree in Recreation, culture and tourism from the

Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. She will also work as community organizer, but she will also work part-time because she is still in school, doing a specialized graduate degree in management at UQAM.

Their role will be to design, coordinate and develop community organization programs to meet the community's needs. They will also offer services to the whole commu-

nity, by prioritizing problems and target clientele. They will also plan and manage meetings and/or prevention and promotional activities in collaboration with other interveners. They will also establish ties with various surrounding community organizations.

Having worked for the community of Odanak several times before, they are happy to be working here again.

News from the *Musée des Abénakis*

To celebrate Odanak's 350th anniversary, the Société historique d'Odanak is proud to present this commemorative book, *Mémoires d'un peuple - Les Abénakis d'Odanak*, dedicated to Abenaki families. This work salutes past, present and future generations that have written and will continue to write the pages of history of our community.

You can obtain your free copy by calling the Conseil des Abénakis d'Odanak at 450-568-2600. The book is also on sale at the boutique of the Musée des Abénakis; an original gift for your friends!

Carte Blanche Exhibit by Carmen Hathaway

From May 7 to October 31, 2011, the *Musée des Abénakis* presents the temporary exhibit *Carte Blanche* by Abenaki artist Carmen Hathaway.

This exhibit is a retrospective of the last twenty-five years of this visual artist's production. Carmen Hathaway passionately explores multimedia, acrylic and oil painting, glass art, new media, digital art and video. This colourful exhibit should not be missed!

Source: Michelle Bélanger, executive director



Hidden Words solution is WABAN AKI