

W8BANAKI PILASKW

Odanak Abenaki Newspaper

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(Photo : André Gill)

A culture more radiant than ever

This year more than ever, all eyes turned toward Odanak.

First, one of the events has been the filming and the broadcasting of *La Petite Seduction*, which aired on CBC's last spring.

The popular TV show, which reaches an audience of over 600 000 people, will permit the Abenaki culture to radiate throughout the country. The comments received have been very favourable.

Then, the 49th edition of the Abenaki Pow Wow of Odanak, which took place from July 4 to 6, hosted a large number of visitors - multiplied by three compared to previous years!

Alanis O'Bomsawin, Abenaki filmmaker of international reputation, came to present an impressive collection of prints she has done. The exhibition continues at the Abenaki Museum of Odanak until January 2009.

And then the Abenaki of Odanak have joined their voices to those of other First Nations throughout Canada as part of a day of national protest, on May 29.

These requests were made: Leave the status quo far behind us; Establish a relationship of equals with governments; Building a strong and healthy future for our children, our families, our community and our Nations. *- More details in page 2*

Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation

Abenakis launch court action to challenge the Indian Act's discriminatory registration rules

In 2007, a demographic study commissioned by the Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation found that in 50 years, the number of "status" Abenakis, i.e. registered in the Indian Register, will decrease by 50% and, in 100 years, will decrease by more than 90%. To survive as an Aboriginal people recognized under the law, the Abenakis must fight these discriminatory rules.

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NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Public Assembly Abenakis of Odanak Council

Date : September 27th 2008
Location : Community center
Time : at 1:30 pm

Agenda

- 1) Opening/Prayer
- 2) Steve Sioui's lease
- 3) Band transfer:
- Mrs Shirley DeWind;
- Gilbert Paul.
- 4) Species at risk
- 5) Gas tax
- 6) Cultural policy
- 7) Questions
- 8) Closing

Word from the Chief



RICK O'BOMSAWIN

“ We remain optimistic with regard to housing and job creation. As you can see we are busy building opportunities with the hope for a better future for us, our children and their children.

Kwai,

Here we are coming into the last quarter of our first year. Serving our community as Chief is certainly a challenging and interesting learning experience. This spring and summer I have had the opportunity to participate in many legislative forums and activities. I am thankful to be a leader in such crucial and significant times. It is an honour to be part of the process where acknowledgment of wrongs done to our people in past generations is being replaced with hope of reconciliation. What with the National apology extended to our people by the Prime Minister for the role Canada played in attempting to assimilate our people, devaluing our rich heritage and replacing it with shame, we are hopefully breaking new ground. This year's action on the part of government acknowledging their role in our struggle confirms its truth and permits us to heal and rebuild bridges. We hope this is a precursor to recognizing the importance of our original agreement, -the two row wampum, where we walk parallel, honouring and reclaiming our distinct worldviews. This has opened the door for us to establish, and define our unique role and place in western society according to our own practices, beliefs and traditions.

As with the seasons this is the time of

harvest. Much of our sowing is coming to fruition. Following initial assessments in the earlier part of our term we have developed a pilot organizational structure at Band Council in an attempt to engage your program managers in developing and delivering efficient, important community building initiatives. We will be looking for invested community members to take part in business and public security committees. We want your input, this is your community. We continue to work diligently on the process of knowing what our community comprises and developing the tools to build on our potential.

We at Council have attempted to understand what defining and building our community means. We have explored such issues as accountability, service, sustainability and justice. We have begun to ask ourselves what it will take to continue to build our community in a way that we can create opportunities for our interested members on or off reserve and set the stage for the generations to come. We want to create to a community where interest in building and development replaces destructive patterns so that eventually we can be autonomous. We as a community need to identify and meet our own real needs, notwithstanding the continuing decrease in membership as a result of the current status system. No doubt this will take a commitment and a lot of work on the part of each of us.

A few current housing initiatives are taking shape. Our two four bedroom units are complete housing two of our young families. We have revised our rental structure to ensure sustainability of these and other community housing units. A new team of skilled builders (community members) is taking shape to begin construction of a unit of four two bedroom apartments which will also become available for renting this year. We hope this is the first of two such units.

On the employment front, as mentioned we are putting together our construction and maintenance team known as the A-team which creates 5 new long term jobs. We're also currently beginning to set up the plan for a strip mall which will contain 5 business spaces. Two companies have already shown interest in renting space. Also, we are looking at the possibility of housing a community garage in this mall, where our youth could work along skilled auto workers to develop their skills.

We remain optimistic with regard to housing and job creation. As you can see we are busy building opportunities with the hope for a better future for us, our children and their children.

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin



News from your councillor

JACQUES THÉRIAULT WATSO
Councillor

Kwaï, kwaï,

For my first article in our newspaper, I'd like to greet all our Abenaki readers who receive this great newspaper. The distribution of information to the members of the Abenaki Nation of Odanak is an everyday concern for our elected members. It is essential for us to inform you about items that concern all Abenakis.

I must confirm that all the elected members and employees of our band work hard to deliver quality services to you, despite the numerous constraints imposed by different government levels.

Several remarkable events have occurred in our community since the last issue of our newspaper. I take this opportunity to present three of them. The first was the visit of the provincial MP from Abitibi-Est, Mr. Alexis Wawanoloath, for the Parti québécois at the National Assembly in Quebec City. He is the first Abenaki MP to sit in the National Assembly. He and two other MPs from his party visited the Abenaki museum to meet artisans from Odanak. They wish to report to the National Assembly on the difficulties encountered by workers in cultural circles.

The second event was the filming of the program LA PETITE SÉDUCTION which is broadcast on Radio-Canada. I initiated this project in July 2007 by submitting an application for Odanak. Lots of work and effort were invested into this project. The program reaches an audience of over 600,000 people per week. The celebrity to be "seduced" was none other than Bruno Pelletier. We were able to debunk many of the myths about First Nations communities. The show was filmed on April 25 and 26, 2008.

I was proud of the result and of all the members who participated. If you would like to have a copy of the program on DVD, we will be happy to send you one. You just have to contact Karine Gill, our receptionist at the Council, at 1-888-568-2810.

The last event that I wanted to tell you about is our Powwow on National Abenaki day. This year the Pow-wow had a big increase in its participation rate; "La Petite Séduction" certainly had something to do with that! The activities that took place over three days allowed us to proudly assert our culture and heritage. Here I wish to emphasize the tremendous work of our organizing committee, of which I was part, who delivered us a splendid Powwow. We'll set a rendezvous for all the Abenakis to come celebrate the 50th Odanak Powwow.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that I work hard every day, to improve the lot of our proud and noble Nation, in the spirit of our ancestors for today and the coming generations! Kchi Wliwni,

Jacques Thériault Watso
Odanak Noji-teb8it
(Odanak Councillor)



The filming of La Petite Séduction TV program, broadcasted on CBC, took place from April 25 to 26, 2008 in Odanak, with host Danny Turcotte and guest artist Bruno Pelletier.

Opposite : Provincial MP from Abitibi-Est, Mr. Alexis Wawanoloath and two other MPs from his party visited the Abenaki museum to meet artisans from Odanak (Photos André Gill)



Director's Word

DANIEL GAUTHIER-NOLETT

Director General
Odanak Band Council

The summer is ending and my goodness we sure weren't spoiled!!! It rained more often than we would have liked. So, let's hope for a nice autumn to make us feel better. Now, let's move on to serious things. Following the departure of Ms. Jocelyne Lamirande, we added Ms. Karine Gill to our team as receptionist of the administrative office. At the time of writing, we were about to replace Ms. Isabelle Genest as Income Security Officer. Ms. Genest has gone back to live in her community of Mashteuiatsh. We wish both of them good luck in their future endeavours.

Due to the deterioration of certain pieces of recreational equipment, last spring and summer the Council had to invest in order to make the parks and pool safer. We namely changed the swings in the parks, and the diving board and pump motors of the pool. In addition, renovations were done at the post office and behind the old Internet Centre. Mainly, we had to repair the railing for disabled persons which was substandard and damaged. In addition, our post office will soon be equipped with a computer system to improve and accelerate customer service.

As for the old Internet Centre, we will be moving our offices there with a meeting room for future office-space needs.

Note that the next public assembly will be held next September 27 at the community hall at 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions you can ask them at the public assembly.

FILE CITIZENSHIP CODE

We have won our battle with the Department of Indian Affairs in this file. The Federal Court of Appeals ruled completely in our favour and ordered the Department to transfer the control of our membership to us. The Department decided not to go to the Supreme Court in an attempt to overturn this ruling by the Court of Appeals. We won!!!

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the letter from the Minister of Indian Affairs which will officialise the takeover process for our membership. We should soon be receiving information on the latest developments.

FILE DISPUTE - ARTICLE # 6

Please read the communication plan in page 3 which will inform you of the most recent developments in this file.

FILE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

The works for the construction of the new skating rink, behind the Place jeunesse, will soon be underway. The project costs are estimated at \$186,000. The ministry of the Native Affairs Secretariat of Québec will subsidize 50% of the project's projected costs, which is \$93,000.

FILE POLICE

The new agreement to create the Abenaki Nation Police Force has yet to be signed. The project is blocked somewhere in the Council of Ministers. Seeing as the vacation period is over, we hope to see some results shortly. We have been without an agreement since last April 1st.



ABENAKIS LAUNCH COURT ACTION TO CHALLENGE THE INDIAN ACT'S DISCRIMINATORY REGISTRATION RULES

By Paul Dionne

1- Why this court case?

In 2007, a demographic study commissioned by the Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation found that in 50 years, the number of "status" Abenakis, i.e. registered in the Indian Register, will decrease by 50% and, in 100 years, will decrease by more than 90%.

The downward trend in the number of "status" Abenakis is due in part to the Indian Act's discriminatory registration rules. Despite amendments made to the *Indian Act* by Bill C-31 in 1985, the rules concerning registration in the Indian Register continue to favor descendants who trace their Indian ancestry along the paternal line over those who trace their ancestry along the maternal line.

To survive as an Aboriginal people recognized under the law, the Abenakis must fight these discriminatory rules. This is the reason why the Odanak and Wôlinak band Councils and the Grand Council of the Waban-aki Nation have decided to support a legal challenge to the Indian Act's discriminatory registration rules.

Public notices were posted in Odanak and Wôlinak to inform Abenakis members about this challenge. Individual Abenakis claimants were identified and selected in the second half of 2007. Legal proceedings are currently being drafted by legal counsel.

2. How are the registration rules of the Indian Register discriminatory?

Two discriminatory registration rules introduced by Bill C-31 were identified for the purposes of the Abenakis' Court action: the "cousins" rule and the "siblings" rule.

a) The "cousins" rule

This rule affects status-born Abenaki women who lost their Indian status because they married non-status men before 1985, and their descendants.

With the passage of Bill C-31, these Abenaki women and their children can regain Indian status. However, the children receive a non-transmissible status because only one of their parents (their mother) has status. By comparison, these women's brothers who married non-status women before 1985 gave their children a transmissible status, since both they and their non-aboriginal spouses were status Indians under the law before the passage of Bill C-31.

This rule is called the "cousins" rule, because cousins having each only one status-born parent have different Indian status, one which can be passed on, one which cannot.

At the next generation, the children of the cousin whose status can be passed on will have the right to Indian status because they have at least two status grand-parents, even though one of these grandparents obtained status through marriage. On the other hand, the children of the cousin whose status cannot be passed on will not have the right to Indian status because their only status grandparent is an Abenaki woman who lost her Indian status through marriage to a non-status man before 1985.

b) The "siblings" rule

Before 1985, girls born out of wedlock to a status Abenaki and a non-status woman did not have the right to Indian status. By contrast, boys born from the same union or from a similar union had the right to Indian status.

Having obtained the right to registration in the Indian Register before 1985, these boys acquired through Bill C-31 an Indian status which could be passed on to their children. As for the girls, it was only with the passage of Bill C-31 that they became entitled to Indian status. But because they have only one status parent (their father) under Bill C-31, their status cannot be passed on to their children.

This rule is called the "siblings" rule, because an Abenaki brother and an Abenaki sister born out of wedlock to the same mother and father before 1985 will each have a different Indian status, one that can be passed on for the brother, and one that cannot be passed on for the sister.

At the next generation, the brother's children will be entitled to Indian status whether their mother has status or not. By contrast, the sister's children will not be entitled to Indian status if their father does not have status.

3. Who are the claimants in the Abenakis case?

The claimants in the Abenakis case are individual Abenakis who are the victims of the "cousins" or the "siblings" rule.

The Abenakis of Odanak and Wôlinak Bands will also be parties to the case. Their interest stems from the negative consequences of this discrimination on the community and on the nation.

4. On what basis do the Abenakis challenge the discriminatory registration rules?

The main basis for the Abenakis' case against discriminatory registration rules is subsection 15(1) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which prohibits all forms of discrimination, notably discrimination based on sex.

5. What are the goals of the Abenakis in launching this Court case?

In launching this Court case, the Abenakis want to obtain:

- ❖ For Abenaki women who married non-status men before 1985 and for their descendants, an Indian status equivalent to that of Abenaki men who married non-status women before 1985 and their descendants;
- ❖ For Abenaki girls born before 1985 out of wedlock of status fathers and non-status mothers and for their descendants, an Indian status equivalent to that of Abenaki boys born before 1985 to parents in similar circumstances and their descendants;
- ❖ For the Abenaki Nation, increase and consolidation of status membership.

6. For more information

For more information concerning the Abenaki legal challenge against Indian Act's discriminatory registration rules, please contact:

Denys Bernard
Director general
Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation
Phone number: 819-294-1686
4680, boulevard Danube
Wôlinak (Quebec) G0X 1B0

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE WABAN-AKI NATION



DIRECTOR'S WORD

BY
DENYS BERNARD
Director General

After having spent 14 years at the Wôlinak Band Council, as programs and services coordinators, I took the position of Director General of the Grand Conseil in August 2005 on a temporary basis and was confirmed in this position in January 2006.

I feel quite prepared to take on these new duties and I realize the breadth of the responsibilities imperative to the Grand Conseil. During the interim period I assumed the management of the current files.

Our funding was renewed until 2008 with the Department of Indian Affairs (INAC) and Health Canada. At the end of this period, we will have to show INAC the relevancy of maintaining our Tribal Council, even if it is only comprised of two bands. In fact, for those who didn't know, according to the Indian Act, a Tribal Council must be made up of several bands. Our geographical and demographic conditions service needs required by our two bands.

The Grand Conseil offers technical services to the two bands of Wôlinak and Odanak such as: construction projects, technical supervision of existing capital, maintenance of pumping stations and everything falling under civil engineering duties.

In addition, it offers advisory services such as legal advice, technical advice or consultations on specific themes.

When considering the specificity of life in a reserve, one sees that social services are essential to our communities. One only has to recall our Department of Youth Protection (DPJ) files in collaboration with the Centres jeunesse to properly understand that our members encounter particular social problems, which entitles us to a certain level of autonomy in the management of our cases.

Research services for land claims should incite our bands to forcefully lobby for the maintenance of our Grand Conseil. The pending land claims are:

- ❖ Coleraine
- ❖ La Seigneurie de Bécancourt
- ❖ Backgrounder on the creation of the parish of Saint-Thomas de Pierreville
- ❖ Wôlinak and Odanak railway
- ❖ Backgrounder on the chemins Maurault and du Bout de l'Île
- ❖ The cession of 38 lots in the Domaine des Abénakis de Saint-François

Denys Bernard
Director General
Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki



Culture, Development and Quality of Life ...

NICOLE O'BOMSAWIN
Concillor

In early June, five members of our community flew to Vancouver for a week. Jacques Watso and Deny O'Bomsawin were welcomed in two communities. They discussed different ways to manage and generate income other than government subsidies.

Moreover, these communities have a population comparable to our community. One of these communities, Osooyoos, was in trusteeship in 1985. Today its revenues amount to some tens of millions of dollars annually.

Everything is in place in the community to stimulate the pride of its members and their involvement in the prosperity of the community. Leaders had to develop a plan of action. After much effort they are no longer dependent for their development on federal monies.

The other community visited was West Bank Indian Reservation of Okanagan Nation, the first in Canada who introduced a taxation system. This will give the community a recurring annual income of several million dollars. This allows the community to invest in its own development.

As a matter of fact, these two communities' culture is taken into account and the funds raised meet the economical and cultural needs.

A delegation of three other persons, Nicole O'Bomsawin, Menahan and Nahame O'Bomsawin, went on Vancouver Island to attend and participate to the Annual congress of

Biosphere reserves in Canada. The first part took place in Mount Arrowsmith, located near Parksville. The biosphere reserve is more a place for wildlife and floral conservation, similar to Mount St.Hilaire in Quebec.

Our second destination was Tofino, where we found the biosphere reserve of Clayoquot Sound. What distinguishes this biosphere reserve in addition to the extent of its territory is that it has obtained its recognition through the efforts of the First Nations who live there.

In fact, five First Nations are involved and are also members of the Board that manages the community. June 8th was devoted to indigenous matters and allowed exchanges between the Abenaki of Odanak, the Betsiamites Innu and the Nuu-Chah-Nulth.

Then we were in the community of Ucluelet, a small community outside major tourist developments of the west coast. Ucluelet is similar to communities in Quebec, with children and dogs and sand that fill our shoes. People were also curious to learn more about us. Ucluelet is also similar in its efforts to preserve its culture and language, because it has been afflicted by the residential schools.

Teenagers and young adults wearing baseball caps greeted us with traditional songs and drums, traditional dances with women dressed with their traditional blankets. The elders also shared with us their techniques of basket making from cedar which is common to the island. They were very interested in our baskets made from ash and sweetgrass.

It is surprising to note that we have many things in common throughout the country... As we left, we were enriched and nurtured by these meetings. We agreed to remain in virtual contact. For the young people it was an opportunity to showcase their culture and see that they share their concerns about their own culture with other young people from across the country. The vision of their biosphere reserve is based on the philosophy Nuu-Chah-Nulth.



LIVING IN COMPLIANCE

LIVING IN HARMONY

ALL IS ONE,
ALL IS LINKED



"Projet Tortue" continued!

MICHEL DURAND
Project tortue

Following the success of 2007's Projet tortue (Turtle Project), Environment Canada's Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk has renewed its funding. Once again this year the work team (Michel Durand and Aliké Harel) made many discoveries on the territory. Projet Tortue extends its activities to turtles, obviously, but also to other reptiles, amphibians, vascular plants and, this year, freshwater mussels. With the objective of increasing knowledge of the territory, the team concentrated more on Odanak's species at risk, did a lot of awareness-raising work and started an inventory of freshwater mussels.

Odanak's species at risk - The presence of species found in 2007 was confirmed and the scope of their habit determined. Among this year's discovery, four-toed salamanders (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) were found at the Domaine de St-François-du-Lac for a second time, l'Île Ronde and the Domaine de Pierreville for the first time. Aquatic brooklime (*Veronica aquatica-angallis*), which we transplanted into a suitable habitat in 2007, spread throughout its new environment; so this was a success. Two stands of hawthorn (*Crataegus*) were studied and two species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable were discovered. They were: wax-fruited hawthorn (*Crataegus pruinosa* var. *pruinosa*) and the Brainerd hawthorn (*Crataegus brainerdii*). A hawthorn stand is rarely found in the forest, especially over such an area (0.75 hectares).

Awareness campaign - The team received a group of young children and tourists passing through the Abenaki Museum. During these meetings, the visitors were informed about turtles and their life cycles, but also about wetlands and the activities of *Projet tortue*. The awareness campaign was based on how to behave when in contact with turtles and also their ecological importance.

Freshwater mussels - The work team took a training session on how to index the freshwater mussels found in the swamps and the Rivière St-François. The latter is one of the richest rivers in Quebec: it contains 13 species of which 8 are at risk. Freshwater mussels filter one litre of water per hour, which explains their great importance to water ecology. Nonetheless, the large quantity of heavy metals in the watercourses contributes to their decline (and the deterioration of water quality). It is essential to know the state of health of these exceptional bio-indicators.

Globally speaking, the use of this knowledge will allow our decision makers to take informed actions on our territory. Considering our small area, each development must consider the natural riches that surround it. A healthy community needs a healthy environment for a sustainable economy.



Education and Indian Registry

NATHALIE CARDIN
Education Officer and
Indian Registry Administrator

Hello everyone !

Hoping that your summer vacation went well even if the weather was against us. I would like to inform you that I'll be on maternal leave for 50 weeks beginning September 19th 2008. During my absence, Eddy Obomsawin, resident of Odanak and member of our nation, will replace me. Since August 22nd 2008, He has began a training process with me so that he will be ready and able to give the most professional services possible while I'm away.

Heres' a little something from Eddy:

Bonjour, je suis Eddy Obomsawin et il me fait extrêmement plaisir de travailler pour les membres de ma nation. Ce sera avec enthousiasme que je répondrai à vos questions tout en vous offrant les meilleurs services.

We, Eddy and me, take this moment to wish to all the students a great school year 2008-2009.

A pleasure to serve you all in September 2009.

Nathalie



Hello, my name is **Karine Gill**, I am an Aboriginal person and have been living in Odanak for 22 years already. I am happy to announce that I am the new secretary-receptionist of the Odanak Band Council. I received training in secretarial skills for 15 months at the Centre de formation professionnelle de Sorel-Tracy. I wish to say that I am both satisfied and proud about having the chance to work in my community and I'm looking forward to serving you.



Hello

My name is **Martin Latour** and I'm an accountant technician working for the Odanak band council since November 2006. I work in collaboration with Johanne Arcand who is the accountant for the band. I'm a Mi'gmaq from Listuguj and I've been living in the community for the past couple of months.





ODANAK LFNC Local First Nations Commission

ELEANOR HOFF
LFNC Officer

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform the population in this format once again.

Since the last time that I addressed you, there have been developments with the Odanak LFNC (Local First Nation Commission). For the past year, the head office in Kahnawake has been in negotiation with the government for the renewal of the LFNC agreements. I have received a memorandum from Ralph Cleary, Executive director for the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec, that Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) has approved a one-year extension of the Aboriginal Resources Development Strategy. This means that the Odanak LFNC has been prolonged from April 1st, 2009 to March 31st, 2010. This extension will allow the Commission to continue to lobby to obtain a new strategy that will answer the needs of the LFNCs clientele.

We are continuing to financially assist students and other employability measures. With the fall sessions coming at a fast pace, I am preparing all the necessary documents (client contracts) and cheque requisitions.

I would like to use this format to inform all clients that when you are requesting financial assistance for either a work measure, school attendance for general up-grading or a training course, in order for me to process your request, it is imperative that I have all the details (beginning and end date, cost for registration, list of articles required for the course etc.). So many times I receive clients that inform me that they have signed up for a course and are requesting payment or they want to sign up for a course that is beginning in a few days. This does not give me the required time to prepare the contracts and get the information that I need to begin processing for financial assistance. Before each contract is made I have to send a requisition transaction to the commission, to know what funding I will use for the client.

The LFNC has different funding measures; for example, a client could be on a regular measure (CRF funding). Clients can be receiving EI benefits (EI funding), in this case, if the client is an active EI (employment insurance) client, this client continues to receive his EI but has to complete his EI form in a different manner. Another source of funding is Youth funding, this type of funding is for clients that are between the ages of 16-30 years of age. We also receive funding for persons with disabilities.

This past summer the LFNC funded fourteen (14) students from our youth program. These students sought their own employment. The LFNC funded the employers for a period of eight (8) weeks at the minimum wage. At this time all of the students have terminated their employment and the employers were all satisfied with the students. Next year we will be looking at a different format for summer students, the students will be informed of this format in the beginning of the new year.

For more specific details regarding the LFNC, please consult our new web site at cbodanak.com or contact us at 450-568-2810 ex. 229

Eleanor Hoff
LFNC Officer



Word from the Economic development agent

PAUL GOSSELIN
Economic development agent

In the following articles, we will elaborate on each of the steps allowing us to go from an idea to the start-up of a business. For some people, the reflection and work could seem difficult but it is important to understand that each of these steps has its rationale: preparing the entrepreneur to better meet the challenge of starting and succeeding with his business.¹

There are seven important steps involved in the start-up of a business. They are:

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------------------|
| STEP 1: | | THE IDEA |
| STEP 2: | | THE ENTREPRENEUR |
| STEP 3: | | THE MARKET STUDY |
| STEP 4: | | THE PLANNING |
| STEP 5: | | THE BUSINESS PLAN |
| STEP 6: | | THE FUNDING |
| STEP 7: | | THE START-UP |

STEP 1: THE IDEA

What are your options? There are three ways to start out in business: creating a new business, buying an already-existing business or buying a franchise.

Here are some possibilities to help you find a business idea.

- ❖ Think about your aspirations, skills, expertise and experience.
- ❖ Find needs to satisfy by identifying irritants and problems in your immediate environment.
- ❖ Observe the entourage, work place, business people, leisure and social activities.
- ❖ Stay aware of news in the media, newspaper and business magazines.
- ❖ Observe the socio-demographic, technological and economic changes and trends.
- ❖ Attend symposiums, fairs and exhibitions; travel.
- ❖ Analyze the needs of businesses in different activity sectors.
- ❖ See the suppliers in your region.
- ❖ Analyze the needs of subcontracting industries to find additional products or services.

Your economic development service can help you through these different steps. Don't hesitate to contact me at 450-568-2810 to make an appointment and take the first step in the creation of your business.

¹ Lancer votre entreprise : de l'idée au démarrage, ARDEQ (Association régionale de développement économique du Centre-du-Québec)



MOTHER-CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

Did you know...

That the Health Centre offers:

- pregnancy follow-up
- post-natal follow-up
- pregnancy test
- vaccination, etc

NATHALIE HARRISSON
Nurse

This program is also intended for sexually-active youths to encourage them to plan pregnancies. Be it by giving them basic knowledge before conception and/or at the beginning of the pregnancy, this program can give them a better chance of having healthier babies. Prevention and information remain the most effective means.

In addition, this program now includes children up to the age of six.

Additional information will be transmitted to those concerned at the beginning of fall.

Don't hesitate to contact me, I'll be happy to answer your questions.

Nathalie Harrisson,
nurse

Schedule Place Jeunesse Odanak

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

* Open to youths from outside the community

Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

** Reserved exclusively for youths from Odanak

Friday 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

** Reserved exclusively for youths from Odanak

Saturday 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

* Open to youths from outside the community

Sunday 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

** Reserved exclusively for youths from Odanak

Jenny and Yannick
Place Jeunesse Odanak



**Summarized Combined Financial Statements of the
ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
March 31, 2008**

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To the Council members of the
Odanak Band Council

The accompanying summarized combined financial statements are derived from the complete financial statements of Odanak Band Council as of March 31, 2008 for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated July 18, 2008. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized combined financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Samson Bélair/Deloitte & Touche s.e.n.c.r.l.
Chartered Accountants

July 18, 2008

**ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
Changes in Combined Fund Balance - Operating Fund
year ended March 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	863,335	508,118
Excess revenue of the year	64,173	355,217
Balance, end of year	927,508	863,335

**Changes in Fund Balance - Capital Assets Fund
year ended March 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	7,464,765	6,763,190
Repayment of long-term receivable	(95,936)	(45,398)
Acquisition of fixed assets	577,760	942,244
Increase of long-term debt	(133,000)	-
Repayment of long-term debt	162,221	107,399
	7,975,810	7,767,435
Depreciation of fixed assets	(364,874)	(302,670)
Balance, end of year	7,610,936	7,464,765

**Changes in Fund Balance - Trust Fund
year ended March 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	57,236	54,840
INCOME - CRESPIEUL	2,000,000	-
Interest income	46,161	2,396
Balance, end of year	2,103,397	57,236

**ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
Summarized Combined Balance Sheet
as of March 31, 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current		
Cash	75,451	114,028
Short-term investments	881,739	590,517
Accounts receivable	1 107,210	1,072,257
Prepaid expenses	88,955	223,152
Current portion of long-term receivables	102,691	95,936
	2,256,046	2,095,890
Assets Subject to Restrictions - Replacement reserve	4,239	3,021
Trust fund - Liquid assets in the Ottawa Trust Fund	2,103,397	57,236
Long-term investments		
- Investment in a cooperative, CKBN 90,5 FM, owned à 3,7%	2,500	-
Long-term receivable	290,355	393,046
Fixed assets	7,958,640	7,745,754
	12,615,177	10,294,947
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	527,030	559,131
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,772	15,890
Deferred income	211,867	87,221
Current portion of long-term debt	177,088	268,739
	928,757	930,981
Long-term debt	571,161	508,730
	1,499,918	1,439,711
Reserve Funds		
Replacement reserve	4,239	3,021
Various reserves (note 1)	469,179	466,879
	473,418	469,900
Fund Balance		
Operating Fund	927,508	863,335
Capital Fund	7,610,936	7,464,765
Trust Fund	2,103,397	57,236
	10,641,841	8,385,336
	12,615,177	10,294,947

Contingencies and commitments (notes 2 and 3)

ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
Summarized Combined Statement of Income and Fund Balance - By Department
year ended March 31, 2008

Variable INAC.	Internal Service Number	Description	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Excess Revenues (expenses) 2007-2008	Fund Balance 03-31-2007	Fund Balance Operations 2007-2008	Fund Balance 03/31/08
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ADMINISTRATION								
G4100	AFA Core Budget - IMS							
	1092	Indian Government Support	766,211	1,095,031	(328,820)	(1,068,261)	-	(1,397,081)
G4104	Professionnal & Institutionnal development							
	1020	Governance support activities	17,376	17,376	-	-	-	-
			783,587	1,112,407	(328,820)	(1,068,261)	-	(1,397,081)
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES								
		Amerindian Police Council	240,000	226,053	13,947	(40,219)	-	(26,272)
		#Project - Odanak Historical Society (Museum)	-	-	-	(82,800)	-	(82,800)
		Project - FNFP (Forestry)	10,126	9,688	438	(13,460)	-	(13,022)
		Project - endangered species	38,000	45,391	(7,391)	-	-	(7,391)
			288,126	281,132	6,994	(136,479)	-	(129,485)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT								
		Economic Development	78,438	78,438	-	9,009	-	9,009
			78,438	78,438	-	9,009	-	9,009
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT								
P3301	Assisted Living							
	2402	Disabled	999	999	-	7	-	7
P3401	Family Violence							
	2420	Prevention Projects	11,402	15,938	(4,536)	519	-	(4,017)
P3100	AFA Core Budget - Income Assistance							
	2300	Income Assistance	574,617	442,643	131,974	852,695	-	984,669
99200	Flow-through financing - non INAC - for Outstanding Accounts							
	9931	Health Centre	382,818	440,211	(57,393)	211,992	-	154,599
	9931	Medical Services	148,718	171,549	(22,831)	(15,303)	-	(38,134)
Other								
		AIDS strategy (AIDS)	6,000	9,760	(3,760)	2,319	-	(1,441)
		Aboriginal Diabetes Initiatives (ADI)	9,058	15,698	(6,640)	(1,473)	-	(8,113)
		Aboriginal head start on-reserve (AHSOR)	13,797	14,110	(313)	(5,528)	-	(5,841)
		Home care (contribution)	84,149	90,884	(6,735)	(120,543)	-	(127,278)
		Nusing care	14,172	14,172	-	(812)	-	(812)
		Prenatal Care	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Communicable disease control	3,000	3,484	(484)	-	-	(484)
		Health of elders	5,055	5,055	-	(559)	-	(559)
		Home care -	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Teenagers	82,780	82,780	-	(959)	-	(959)
		Young parents	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Physical condition	3,461	3,461	-	-	-	-
		Brighter future (BF)	8,028	8,028	-	(823)	-	(823)
		Quality of life	26,611	26,611	-	(2,093)	-	(2,093)
		Alcools and drugs	8,280	8,280	-	-	-	-
		Nutirition	3,708	3,708	-	-	-	-
		Environnemental health	108,904	110,872	(1,968)	(820)	-	(2,788)
		Material child health	951	951	-	-	-	-
		Pandemis influenza plan	10,000	10,715	(715)	-	-	(715)
		Suicide prevention	7,174	7,174	-	(1,656)	-	(1,656)
		Health information system	2,424	2,424	-	-	-	-
		Renovation - air conditionning 2008	45,003	48,363	(3,360)	-	-	(3,360)
		Renovation - Generator	70,000	74,845	(4,845)	-	-	(4,845)
		PAPPN	32,816	37,224	(4,408)	-	-	(4,408)
P2401	Cultural Centres							
	2165	Cultural and Educational Centres	8,577	9,202	(625)	(13,832)	-	(14,457)
		Project - Aboriginal Healing	-	-	-	(7,979)	-	(7,979)
			1,672,502	1,659,141	13,361	895,152	-	908,513
EMPLOYMENT								
LFNC	First Nations of Quebec Human Resources Development Commission		519,072	519,072	-	-	-	-
FNEC	First Nations Education Council (accrued)		-	-	-	(1,193)	-	(1,193)
	Youth Employment		14,531	14,931	(400)	(4,319)	-	(4,719)
	Special Education		-	-	-	(8,686)	-	(8,686)
	Parental Involvement		6,867	6,966	(99)	(1,907)	-	(2,006)
	Aboriginal Languages		5,535	5,550	(15)	(25)	-	(40)
	New Paths in Education		9,025	9,025	-	-	-	-
	Professional Development		-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sports and Recreation		-	-	-	-	-	-
			555,030	555,544	(514)	(16,130)	-	(16,644)
EDUCATION								
P2100	AFA Core Budget - Elementary/Secondary							
	2100	Education - Elementary and Secondary	406,743	329,923	76,820	257,946	-	334,766
P2300	AFA Core Budget - Post-secondary							
	2260	Education - Post-secondary	1,171,837	680,298	491,539	1,389,877	-	1,881,416
Other								
		Project - Internet Cafe	-	10,120	(10,120)	(89,287)	-	(99,407)
			1,578,580	1,020,341	558,239	1,558,536	-	2,116,775

CONSEIL DE BANDE D'ODANAK
ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
Summarized Combined Statement of Income and Fund Balance - By Department
year ended March 31, 2008

Variable INAC.	Internal Service Number	Description	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Excess Revenues (expenses) 2007-2008	Fund Balance 03-31-2007	Fund Balance Operations 2007-2008	Fund Balance 03/31/08
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT								
E3101		Acquisition and construction of collective equipment and facilities						
	4205	Water and Sewer Systems	-	-	-	(956,481)	-	(956,481)
E3100		AFA Core Budget - Water and Sewer Infrastructure						
E3130		AFA Core Budget - Other Infrastructures						
E3300		AFA Core Budget - Housing						
	4200	Water and Sewer Capital Assets						
	4201	Real Property Operations and Maintenance,						
	4235	Other - Capital Assets						
	4236	Other - Real Property O & M						
	4380	Housing	691,087	738,890	(47,803)	(143,338)	-	(191,141)
(43105)		First Nations Water Management Strategy						
	4228	Water and Sewer O & M	-	-	-	(1,138)	-	(1,138)
E3132		Acquisition and construction of collective equipment and facilities						
	4275	Reporting system on the condition of property	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4270	Community Buildings	1,782	1,782	-	-	-	-
	4267	Roads and bridge	2,050	2,050	-	-	-	-
E3105		First Nations Water Management Strategy						
	4227	Potable Water O & M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4228	Water and Sewer O & M	-	-	-	-	-	-
E3102		OpEration and maintenance of infrastructure assets and facilities						
	4210	Wastewater systems	563	563	-	-	-	-
	4211	Water systems	618	618	-	-	-	-
E3306		Housing renovations						
	4426	Renovations	29,000	29,000	-	-	-	-
E3135		Implement asset inventories in housing units on FN reserves - Land						
	4320	Land Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
E3101		Acquisition and construction of collective equipment and facilities						
	4207	Waterworks and Sewer System Projects	-	16,618	(16,618)	(60,579)	-	(77,197)
		Project - Acquisition Youth Centre	33,179	17,170	16,009	(201,176)	-	(185,167)
			758,279	806,691	(48,413)	(1,362,712)	-	(1,411,125)
SOCIAL HOUSING								
Other		Housing Committee (CMHC)	12,508	13,405	(897)	(6,149)	-	(7,046)
		Housing Committee (CMHC) - Construction	133,000	247,190	(114,190)	-	-	(114,190)
			145,508	260,595	(115,087)	(6,149)	-	(121,236)
LAND, INCOME AND TRUST								
L2701		Reserve Land and Environment Management Program						
	3610	Land Management	24,935	46,522	(21,587)	542	-	(21,045)
P1200		AFA Core Budget - Management of Individual Affairs						
	2050	Core funding for land and trust services	15,291	15,291	-	1,107	-	1,107
			40,226	61,813	(21,587)	1,649	-	(19,938)
		Balance of inactive funds as of 03-31-2007	-	-	-	988,720	-	988,720
TOTAL			5,900,276	5,836,102	64,173	863,335	-	927,508

ODANAK BAND COUNCIL
Notes to the Summarized Combined Financial Statements
for the year ending March 31, 2008

1. VARIOUS RESERVES

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Social security	150,000	150,000
Health centre	87,000	87,000
Band Council	53,079	53,079
Ministerial guarantees - Housing	150,000	150,000
Replacement reserve - Real estate	29,100	26,800
	469,179	466,879

2. CONTINGENCIES

Potentially Refunded Loan

Loans extended by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a total amount of \$74 658 concerning the between September 2010 and October 2011. As at March 31, 2008, the loans balance is \$42,298. The loans are conditional upon the maintenance of the homeowner's title to the houses. In default of which, the loans become due.

Guarantees

The Council endorsed loans contracted by community members for the acquisition of personal residences for a maximum amount of \$2,154,366. As at March 31, 2008, these loans total \$1,414,082. The amount the Council might have to pay in the event of default by the commity members cannot be determined with precision. Any payment by the Council would be charged to income in the year they occurred.

In addition, the Council jointly and solidarily guarantees loans contracted by the Société Historique (Musée) Odanak for maximum amounts of \$1,300,978. As at March 31, 2008, these loans total \$1,253,763. The amount the Council might have to pay in the event of default by the Société Historique (Musée) Odanak cannot be determined with precision. Any payment by the Council would be charged to income in the year they occurred.

3. COMMITMENTS

The organization contacted agreements that fall due through in 2013. Future payments amount to \$368,441. Payments required over the next five years are as follows:

	Medical Transportation	Various Agreements	Equipment Rental
	\$	\$	\$
2009	122,000	70,956	24,700
2010	-	38,610	24,700
2011	-	35,820	18,010
2012	-	30,000	14,115
2013	-	-	4,740
	122,000	175,386	86,265

The heading "various agreements" includes agreements signed for the control of blackflies the works for the potable water supply system, waste collection, the potable water supply service and fire protection management.

Also, the organization agreed by resolution to assume the annual operating deficit of the "Aw&ssisak" Odanak Early Childhood Centre.