

W8BANAKI PILASKW



Chief of the Odanak Band Council, Mr. Rick O'Bomsawin, speaking at the press conference held in Odanak, announcing the creation of the First Nations Post-secondary Institution (FNPI). Among the guests were found including the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Pierre Corbeil, and the Chief of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, Mr. Ghislain Picard.

CREATION OF A FIRST NATIONS POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION, HERE IN ODANAK!

Kwai,

I'm filled with pride as I am writing this for you. Last November, your Council and the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) announced the creation of a First Nations postsecondary institution, right here in Odanak!!

Indeed, in August 2011, spirited youths will have the opportunity to access training in Odanak to become tomorrow's leaders. Warriors of modern times! As we all know, our ancestors greatly defended the Land with their weapons in hand; but today, education is the best weapon to choose!!

*Through education
comes knowledge,
Through knowledge
comes wisdom,
And through wisdom
our world is changed!*

– Chief Shawn Atleo

For more information about the FNEC, please visit their Website: www.cepn-fnec.com

Jacques Thériault Watso
Podawazwinno



Standing at the front, Mr. Daniel G. Nolett, Executive Director of the Odanak Band Council and Ms. Lise Bastien, Director General of First Nation Education Council (FNEC).



The next public meeting in Odanak will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 13:30 at the Community Center.



WORD FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BAND COUNCIL



Kwaï

Fellow band members,

A Nation is a body of people who have done great things together in the past and hope to do great things together in the future.

– Frank Underhill

It is with great pride and admiration that I recently participated in an event that celebrated our youth and their accomplishments. We heard praise go out to those who have committed themselves to making change as well as those who are helping weave the past into the future. Education and culture were two of the areas that were highlighted in this 350th anniversary celebration. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to the organization committee, this certainly was a momentous occasion.

I am always encouraged by those who chose to be invested in a better future. Working hard today to make a better tomorrow is a choice - as is self development and healing in making the road to success a smoother one. When we get stuck in addictions, hating, resentment and the like we block our own potential. Forgiveness, faith and

commitment to a better life are key elements to our reaching our maximum potential as a Nation. We owe that to ourselves and the generations to come.

Moreover, I am pleased and honoured that our community was chosen to house the post secondary institution where some of our future community leaders will begin their journey. The FNPI has worked hard in gathering the necessary resources to develop this initiative which will see the light of day in our home land. We are blessed to be part of this project. We are optimistic that we can work together with staff and students alike to provide a space conducive to learning and self development. All of this will take a team effort. From the builders at the onset to community workers and community members, we will all play an important role in welcoming students and facilitating their process.

Another decade has come to an end; we have much to build on in the coming decade. New businesses are developing as are new community resources. Our road to autonomy is one that will take involvement and teamwork. Let's be open to the challenge...

In peace and friendship,

Chief Rick O'Bomsawin

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



By Daniel G. Nolett
Executive Director

The House of Commons has enacted the *Equity in Gender in the Indian Act (Bill C-3)* at the end November 2010 and it received Royal Assent on December 15, 2010. I would like to recall that the number of Canadians who will gain Indian Status is estimated to approximately 45,000 people. Here lays all the work Indian Affairs has to accomplish. Already, the application process of Certificates of Indian Status is greatly delayed at the Registrar's Office in Ottawa.

The Chiefs in session have expressed their concerns on the matter many times. The delay in processing the applications is far too long. What will happen when a massive amount of applications arrive at their office due to Bill C-3? Will INAC hire more personnel to meet the

demand? The possibility to get support from other ministries, such as Services Canada, to accelerate the application process has been discussed.

Here are the main criteria to be newly entitled to registration :

- Did your grandmother lose her Indian status as a result of marrying a non-Indian?
- Is one of your parents registered, or entitled to be registered, under subsection 6(2) of the Indian Act?
- Were you, or your siblings, born on or after September 4, 1951?

Here's a chart to illustrate more clearly the situation.

1st Generation
Indian woman marries a non-native man before April 17, 1985.
Non-status grand-father
Grand-mother with Status 6.1 c)

2nd Generation
Children born from the above union have Status 6.2
They have to be born after September 4, 1951 and before April 17, 1985.
These children have had children with a non-native afterwards.

3rd Generation
Grand-children of the union first mentioned above who were born after April 17, 1985 would gain Status.

The Governor in Council will determine the date the legislation will take effect. As soon as it's known, we will notify all the members. If you want to know more details, you may consult the following link on INAC's Website: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/bll/rpb/index-fra.asp>

The demolition and reconstruction of David-Laperrière Bridge, which connects the communities on each side of St. Francis River (including Odanak), should finally begin in February 2011. The bids have been opened at the end of November by the ministère du Transport du Québec. The cost of the project ranges between \$60,000,000 and \$65,000,000. I must recall that the works will spread over a period of 2 years and a half.

The Band Council will have to sign the new multi-years agreement project with the Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC). This new agreement should last 5 years, that is from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016. The agreement was modified to comply with the new INAC Policy on Transfer Payments. The new management philosophy advocated by the Ministry revolves around risk management. More a community has a good management and solid governance, lower the risk will be. Such a community would have more flexibility and less accounting to produce. In the opposite scenario, a community with financial difficulties and a poor risk management will go through a greater amount of accountability process.

Such a community could have a financing agreement on 1 to 3 years maximum, while a community with lesser risks can have an agreement on up to 5 years. We are part of the lesser risk category owing to the good performance of our management.

Bearing this in mind, the Council must develop a new five-year plan on housing. We must plan 5 years ahead of time what we intend to build, repair and renovate. Also, as these agreements involve all agreements with federal ministries, including Health Canada, Odanak Health Center has to develop its new Community Health Plan, which should spread over 5 years. For this reason, the Council put together a Health Committee with health workers from the Health Center and 2 members of the community. Steve Williams Benedict and Michael Benedict.

Finally, the First Nations Education Council (FNEC), in collaboration with the Band Council, announced on November 16th 2010, in the presence of Pierre Corbeil, Minister of the Secrétariat aux Affaires Autochtones du Québec, the building of the First Nations Post-secondary Institution (FNPI). The FNPI will welcome the first cohort of students in August 2011. It will stand right next to the industrial motel at the East end of the community on route 132.

The institution will be managed by the FNEC and will offer to Aboriginal students of Québec a pre-university program in Social Sciences.

THE LEGEND OF THE *MANÔGEMAS*



By Réjean O'Bomsawin
Councillor and Traditionalist

In any culture of the world, many legends about elves are told. The most well known are those about the leprechauns of Irish folklore. Among Americas' First Nations, tales depicting the feats accomplished by these "little people" are a major component of many cultures, and it has always been so. A few decades ago, my father gathered friends of mine who were my age from Odanak, in the audience you could find Mr. André Gill and myself, and, in the living room, he would talk about the days of his youth, and tell the

legends and tales of our people. Despite the first contacts we had over 400 years ago with European peoples, we still have tales and legends very much alive among our people. Unfortunately, this knowledge was passed to the next generation only through our oral tradition. Today, as technology has taken an important place in our lives, I've decided to use it as a mean to share this knowledge that belongs to you and is part of our culture, an inner wealth ever linked to your community.

Therefore, what I am about to tell belongs to all of those for whom it is their turn to take the responsibility to pass the knowledge and make this knowledge timeless for the generations to come.

You may wonder "but what are the *Manôgemas*? Do we have legends about elves?". Indeed, we do have a few references in our cultural heritage that explain that these "little people" lived in strategic places like the forest or along rivers edge. Those living in the forest were its guardians. We had to make offerings (tobacco, sweets, fruits) if we had to wander there.

You must have guessed that we went to gather herbs for the making of various medicines; fruits, barks of all kinds to feed

and heal our bodies. So, all traditional activities, whether it was hunting or trapping, were directly linked to these locations. Do you know where the *Odaskwin* lived? Is it somewhere in the Commune? Yes, because this place belongs to all, with the only restriction to never build a house, because this place has always been honored by our parents and thought to be a special place that should provide future generations also.

Have you ever found small clay pebbles at the river's edge? The *Manôgemas* are the ones who have fun shaping them during the night.

Did you know that Native people from various reserves have come to get some of them many years ago? They could no longer find them in the rivers near their communities. I'm very proud to see that we are still respected by other First Nations from Canada and the United-States, because they lived in the East like us and like their fore fathers, but had to go West when the Europeans arrived.

At about ten years old, I was fishing down the *côte des hirondelles* (swallow's cliff) with my father, and he told me about the place mentioned in the elves' legend. As I was curious, I asked if we could go there. He was glad to show me a place where a rock was

hiding a cavity. However, I could not move it, because it was considered a burial for the *Manôgemas*.

One day, I made a cultural presentation for elders from Wôlinak, Abenaki community, who live in Précieux-Sang. I was pleasantly surprised that an elder, Mr. Elphège St-Aubin, told me a story from his past about small clay pebbles that could be found on the road by chance. He spoke to the audience to tell them that if they found one by any chance, it would bring someone luck and that we should take care of them, because it happens only so often in one's life. The man's wisdom and thorough knowledge of the small clay pebble moved me so much that I gave him a peace pipe I had made as a gift especially for this meeting to thank the community.

You never know who might hold knowledge related to your culture, one that makes us proud to belong to the great Wabanaki nation of Odanak and Wôlinak. This very same culture defines us as distinct from other surrounding communities.

I encourage you to talk with your parents and grandparents who hold knowledge concerning your family and your community.

Kchi Wli Wi



THE FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC AND LABRADOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PRESENT THE

Nature, Trade and Industry Show

www.firstnationstradeshows.com



IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FIRST NATIONS
QUEBEC BUSINESS NETWORK

February 16 and 17, 2011

Trois-Rivières
Delta Trois-Rivières
1620, rue Notre-Dame Centre
Trois-Rivières (Québec) G9A 5C9

March 23 and 24, 2011

Rouyn-Noranda
Le Noranda Gouverneur Hotel
41, 6e Rue
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec) J9X 1Y8

News From the Economic Development Department

FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC BUSINESS NETWORK



By Paul Gosselin
Economic Development Officer

Following the 2006 Quebec First Nations Socio-Economic Forum, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) has been mandated to set up the First Nations Quebec Business Network (FNQBN).

In 2007, a Léger Marketing survey pointed out that 86% of respondents considered that an association was needed to provide specialized services to Quebec Aboriginal entrepreneurs. The necessity to establish the FNQBN was thus confirmed.

The FNQBN officially began its activities in spring 2010. Last November 2nd, at the Restaurant Le Calumet, Mr. Pierre Bastien, FNQLEDC's executive director, and Mrs. Anne Esther Legagneur, FNQBN's coordinator, introduced the network. Over a dozen of business people from Odanak and Wôlinak attended the event.

FNQBN's mission is to promote networking among the business community and to support the development of entrepreneurship in the Quebec's First Nation communities.

For further information, those interested by the FNQBN can visit the following Website: www.cdepnql.org/rapnq.aspx

Nature, Trade and Industry Show

Trois-Rivières and **Rouyn-Noranda**
February 16-17, 2011 and **March 23-24, 2011**

Delta Trois-Rivières Hotel
and Conference Center

Centre des Congrès Le Noranda

The 1st Edition of the Nature, Trade and Industry Show welcomes you and offers you an opportunity to meet Quebec First Nations exhibitors coming from a variety of sectors.

Nature, Trade and Industry Show's main objective is to promote private enterprises and support business development among Quebec's First Nations. Each show will bring together about 50 exhibitors who will introduce their products and services to the visitors. The 1st Edition is expecting approximately 500 visitors at both events.

Exhibition space may still be available for businesses and artisans.

Here is the provisional schedule of the Nature, Trade and Industry Show to be hosted in Trois-Rivières :

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011		
10 A.M.	Doors Open to the Public	F
11 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	Government Programs Intended for Aboriginal Entrepreneurs	F
1:30 P.M. - 2 P.M.	Funding Possibilities for the Private Enterprise	F
2:15 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.	Issues of the Aboriginal Entrepreneurs: Taxation, Regulations and Legislation	E
3 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.	Introducing an Enterprise's Success Story	F
3:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.	The Challenges of Business Start-Up in Remote Areas	F
4:30 P.M. - 5 P.M.	Government Programs Intended for Aboriginal Entrepreneurs	E
6:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.	Communication Skills and Business Marketing	F
7:15 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.	How to Get Ready for Partnerships	E
9 P.M.	Doors Close to the Public	

Legend

E (English) F (French).

For more information, check out the Show's Official Website: www.salonpremieresnations.com

For further information, please contact the Economic Development Department by phone at 450 568-2810.



First Nations Education Council
95, RUE DE L'OURS, WENDAKE (QUEBEC) GOA 4V0

FIRST NATIONS POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION (FNPI) CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Since its creation in 1985, the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) has been devoted to promoting and bringing about quality education for First Nations children. Its actions are guided by this desire to ensure the best possible education for First Nations. To achieve this objective, the FNEC seeks to strengthen control of First Nations education by First Nations. It is from this perspective that the FNEC has been working over the past several years to create a post-secondary institution for First Nations. This project has today become a reality.

The First Nations Post-Secondary Institution will open its doors in August 2011 to welcome its first cohorts of students. It will be located in the Abenaki community of Odanak (on the banks of Saint-François river in the administrative region of Centre-du-Quebec, close to Pierreville). The program being offered is a Diploma of Collegial Studies (DCS) in First Nations - Social Sciences, recognized by the *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec*. The courses, offered in French and in English, have been rigorously adapted and redesigned to provide a unique environment created for First Nations, by First Nations. The result is a unique program developed in collaboration with Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Dawson College. There will also be a Welcome and Integration session as well as a Transition session for the students who need it. The FNEC is also holding discussions with Quebec universities to reach an agreement for offering university courses.

The institution's human resources, programs, services, teaching methods and pedagogical material will give an ideal place for First Nations' perspectives, values, aspirations and issues, with an emphasis on developing a sense of pride and belonging. Its mission is to shape competent First Nations citizens in their respective fields, proud inheritors of their culture, socially responsible, open to the world and concerned for the well-being of their communities.

The FNEC is currently recruiting the administrative and pedagogical staff members who will be in charge of ensuring the successful start-up of the institution. It is seeking applications from candidates who are fluent in French and English in order to fill several positions. Official postings for these positions will be made on an individual basis and will be sent directly to those who reply to this call for candidates.

Full-time positions (effective date):

- Associate Dean (February 2010)
- Student Affairs and Recruitment Coordinator (February 2011)
- Secretary (February 2011)

Part-time positions (it may be possible to hold two positions concurrently):

- Janitor (February 2011)
- Documentation Technician (March 2011)
- Personal Academic Advisor (July 20 11)
- Recreation Technician (July 2011)
- Educational Advisor (July 20 11)
- Teaching staff: French, English, Philosophy, Physical Education, Office Technology, History, Anthropology and Administration (July 2011)
- Computer Technician (August 2011)
- Psychosocial Professional (August 2011)
- Office Clerk (August 2011)

A detailed description of responsibilities, duties, required knowledge, required skills and job requirements is or will be shortly available on the FNEC Website: www.cevnfnec.com.

Candidates are requested to submit their application and a letter of intent by email or fax. Please indicate clearly the position you are applying for.

First Nations Education Council

Email : info@cepn-fnec.com

Fax : (418) 842-9988

Tel : (418) 842-7672

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND ODANAK IN FULL BLOOM!



By Michel Durand
Land Officer

Environment and Land Odanak kicks off the year on a good note. Our premises are getting bigger as the environment projects, the land management and the housing services will all be accessible under one roof: 62, Waban Aki Street. With this new organizing structure, the services provided by each sector will bind together more seamlessly, and it will facilitate the management and process of case files.

The 2010-2011 projects are well under way, but what has been accomplished so far is already very gratifying. One good example is the development of a trail in the Commune, owing to the funds granted by Tourisme Centre-du-Québec and Hydro-Québec, and to the support from the Band Council. Interpretation signs will also be

installed and will include information about traditional knowledge and ecology concepts related to the resources found on the territory. In 2011-2012, the projects with the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk will continue. Research will focus, among other aspects, on the acquisition of knowledge about the Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*). Because this animal, the *Kabasa*, has a particular significance for Aboriginal people, and because it was once the signature used by the community of Odanak, the collected data will complement and become part of the Waban Akiak's traditional knowledge, both historical and cultural.

Through the next year, we plan to gather more thoroughly ideas and opinions from the people of both

Waban Aki communities concerning the population's view of the land and its resources. Therefore, when Environment and Land's team will be asked to participate to consultations pertaining to land management and to the use of resources, the message the team delivers will be coherent and representative of Waban Akiak's interests, needs and values.

In conclusion, we are proud of Environment and Land's expansion and delighted by the challenges that are yet to come. The population remains most welcome to visit us in our office, whether it's to share personal concerns or knowledge that might enhance our work, which is meant to reflect the Nation.

We sincerely wish you a wonderful year 2011!

Moving Forward: Odanak Develops Senior Housing



By Claire O'Bomsawin
Councilor, Odanak Band Council

After consulting the Community and gathering no less than 240 signatures in favor of building a

retirement home, the project is brought into realization. Considering our aging population, the building of senior housing is clearly necessary.

We have visited the retirement home of Wendake's Community, a residence of 12 units, and have been pleasantly surprised. The residence, not luxurious yet lovely, stood out by its welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Therefore, the Chief and the Band Councilors decided to support the project.

An organizing committee has now been created and will get to work as soon as November 9th 2010.

I will gladly give out information about the progress concerning this project.

Rest assured that the project will be managed efficiently in order to provide a retirement home to our Elders as soon as possible.



A NEW FILM BY ALANIS OBOMSAWIN

Inspired by her own experience, script-writer and film director, Alanis Obomsawin presents *Quand toutes les feuilles seront tombées* (*When All the Leaves Will Have Fallen*), a film that combines autobiographic elements, fiction and fable to create a touching narrative on the power of dreams. Starring Rosalie Dumas, a young girl from Odanak, the movie was shown in the Community on October 28th, 2010.

The latest work from the known Wabanaki documentary film-maker was indeed presented to the Odanak members in the most unexpected way. Not only was this short film presented in French, but in Wabanaki as well. On top of playing a dramatic character, young Rosalie has had to learn Wabanaki for the shooting. She has been delighted by her first acting experience, but must admit: «I found it a bit difficult, because I've never lived that.», as she refers to the hardships her young character must face. After five days of shooting and five hours

of teaching lessons in the Wabanaki language under the direction of Monique Nolett, the young actress amazed her audience with a natural pronunciation. She says she does want to speak Wabanaki one day.

At first, her friends wouldn't believe her, she says. Once the movie was shown in the classrooms, the question most frequently asked to her was: «During the shooting, were you really beaten by other children?» Of course, Rosalie answered no, laughing and commented that she only met good friends at the shooting. However, despite the numerous presentations of the movie in schools to raise awareness, and despite the direct request from Alanis Obomsawin, Pierreville Elementary School did not accept to present the short film in Rosalie's class.

Let's recall that Alanis Obomsawin has lived in Odanak and has directed more than 25 films with the NFB (National Film Board) about First Nations.

Wabanaki Culture

OUR LANGUAGE

With snow up to the knees and shovel in the hands, we can't deny that winter has arrived! Discover this snow cold season through the Wabanaki language.

Present (gift)Magaw8gan
It's frozen.....Kladen
DecemberPbonkas
FebruaryPia8dagos
It's coldTka
It's snowingPs8n
January.....Alamik8wadimek
New Year's Eve ..alamik8wadimek
Hunting.....nadialow8gan
Ice.....pkwami

WinterPbon
Snow.....Waz8li
Fishing8maw8gan
Harematgwas
Mittenmeljas
Christmasnib8iamih8mek
SkatesL8gmapozowan
Shovelw8lkahigan
PartridgePakesso

WORD FROM THE HOUSING OFFICER



By Lyne Mailhot
Housing Officer

Hello everyone,

I personally want to wish you and your family a year filled with peace, love and health in 2011.

Ministerial Guarantees

At the moment, a member who wants to get financing to buy a new or an existing house, and even to make renovations, must go through the "Ministerial Loan Guarantee Program", and this for a maximum loan of \$80,000. Since November 4th, 1999, the Indian and Northern Affairs' (INAC) "Policy on Ministerial Loan Guarantee" has been modified. Among the changes, it is mandatory that the applicants transfer their lot to the Band as long as the loan exists. When the loan is paid, the "Certificate of Possession" is then transferred to the applicants. In order to fully understand the process, here are the steps to follow to get a ministerial loan guarantee.

Financial Institution

- Meeting of the financing officer and the applicant. Deposit of the project and information disclosure. To buy an existing house, a mandatory "pre-buying" inspection, done by a recognized building inspector, must be handed in;
- A credit analysis must be made to assess your current financial situation;
- If the credit rating is satisfying, the "Loan Agreement" and "Guarantee Agreement" contracts will be prepared by the financing officer;
- Signatures of documents and transfer of the file to the Band Council's housing officer.

Odanak Band Council

- File analysis and common verifications. Compliance of the financial institution's documents and reading of the inspection report;
- Communication with the Lands Officer, Mr. Michel Durand, so that he checks who is the legal owner of the concerned lot. *As you know,*

for a ministerial loan guarantee to be accepted, the lot must be transferred to the Band for all the duration of the loan. This gives the financial institution the guarantee that the amount of money owed can be recovered in case of failure of payment from the applicant, *because it is the Band Council's responsibility to pay the rest of the ministerial loan guarantee.* Afterwards, the Band Council will own the lot and the house.

- Meeting of the housing officer and the applicant. Gathering of information in order to proceed with the file analysis and the signatures of documents;
- Preparation and deposit of a resolution "Application for Ministerial Loan Guarantee" to the Band Council, so that the Council can endorse and accept the application, including the requested amount. If it is accepted, the resolution will be signed. Afterwards, your application for ministerial loan guarantee will be sent to INAC to be analyzed and approved;
- Meeting of the lands officer and the applicant to sign the "Lot Transfer" and "Written Consent" documents. After which, the lands officer will communicate the documents to INAC for registration.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – INAC

- Complete analysis of the application and, if all is in compliance, the Ministry's authority will sign the document to approve the application. Otherwise, the housing officer will be informed of the denial, so that he or she corrects the application or informs the concerned departments (Lands or financial institution) of the necessary corrections. The documents will be sent again to INAC.
- INAC confirms reception of the documents approved by the housing officer;
- The housing officer informs the applicant, the lands officer and the financing officer of the acceptance of the ministerial guarantee;
- The lands officer of INAC in Ottawa registers the documents "Lot Transfer" and "Written Consent".

Last November, Chief Rick O'Bomsawin and myself attended a regional meeting on housing organized by the Regional Tripartite Housing Committee (Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador – AFNQ –; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation – CMHC –; as well as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada – INAC –).

We took a look back at the past year, at the current programs, and we also looked forward at the changes that are to come next year

on various housing aspects. However, the most important change concerns ministerial guarantees. Mr. Bruce Labrador, regional manager in capital facilities and housing, met with us to explain three major changes, which will affect the Ministerial Loan Guarantee Program, a change that communities must now face.

Credit Check

Until recently, **credit check** was the responsibility of financial institutions, Band Councils and INAC as well to ensure the applicant's **financial capacity**.

With the new modifications that the Ministry intends to bring, this responsibility falls into the hands of financial institutions, but more precisely into the hands of Band Councils, since they revise the documents of the institutions.

For our part, we thoroughly check the applicant's credit so that he or she can obtain financing according to his or her capacity to repay.

Written Consent

Since November 4th, 1999 by-law, INAC requests that the applicants transfer their lot to the Band until the loan has been entirely discharged, after which the Band transfers, via a resolution, the "Certificate of Possession" to the applicant. In order to do so, the INAC's Lands Department registers the following signed documents: "Lot Transfer" and the "Written Consent" that are written by the communities' lands officers. This way of proceeding protects the Bands, so they can assert their rights in case of failure of payment from the applicant.

With the new modifications that the Ministry intends to bring, **the written consent will not be registered at the INAC anymore**; only the lot transfer will require the registration by INAC. This means that, in case of subscribing or registering mistakes, the Bands would have no way to appeal in case of failure of payment from the applicant.

For our part, for the past few months, we ask applicants to sign a written consent form that we keep at the Lands Office in Odanak.

Overdue Reports

For the Bands to obtain financing for all their departments, they must write various annual reports for INAC, and respect the deposits' closing dates in the meanwhile.

With the new modifications, that the Ministry intends to bring, the Bands will now have to submit their reports before the closing dates. **OTHERWISE, INAC will not authorize any ministerial guarantee, and this, until the requested reports are received.**

This means **that they keep the Housing Department and the members of the Community in hostage.** According to them, they wish to see the Band Councils become responsible and better the management of case files.

After this was announced, comments toward INAC were not glowing with praise. The housing officers and the Chiefs of the communities really felt concerned by the position taken by INAC.

For our part, the Odanak Band Council will discuss the impact of such a modification of the Policy on Ministerial Loan Guarantee on the development and state of our housing stock.

Could it be about time we develop a new loan program managed by our own Housing Department?

Important Notice:

As soon as we return from the Holiday season, the housing department will move to the same office than Environment and Land Odanak: 62, Waban Aki Street (behind the Post Office). This new structure will mean more confidentiality and a better quality of services for the Community members.

If you have any questions about housing services, please contact me by phone, 450-568-2810 extension 223.

Sincerely yours,

Lyne Mailhot
Housing Officer

HOUSING PROGRAMS

From January 6th, 2011 to March 31st, 2011, you may apply for one of the following programs by requesting a form at the reception desk of the Band Council, 102, Sibosis Street.

All applications received after the closing date will automatically be denied.

- Application for housing support with CMHC's RRAP
- Application for the construction of new housing

Odanak Health Center

ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR



By Deny Obomsawin
Health Services Manager

The Odanak Health Center's direction is glad to present the survey's results from the investigation that has been conducted last June.

This activity was part of the renewal of the agreement on the health program transfer under the control of the Band Council (as legal agent). Its objective was to understand how important were the health needs listed to the members of our community. Gathering this information also intended to show which priority should be kept in mind as we update the health programs and services offered to the population.

Concerning the sampling, this survey had more than 75 respondents: close to two thirds (65%) of respondents were women; 45%, were between ages 41 and 64; and 15%, were Elders.

This information confirms previous data gathered concerning the Health Center's customer base: more individuals between 41 to 64 years old and more Elders come to the Health Center. This also reflects the demographic profile of our community because the same 41 to 64 years old group is the greater proportion of the total population (36%), followed by Elders (17%). We can already tell that the proportion of Elders will increase in the years to come as very little demographic changes have been seen in the past few years. This situation may significantly impact the services we offer, such as home care services and chronic health problems services (e.g.: heart, respiratory, or musculoskeletal related problems, and diabetes).

According to the survey, in the updating of the community health plan, the main health issues that should be given higher priority by the Health Center's direction are the following:

1. **Drugs related problems**
2. **Drinking problems**
3. **Excess weight problems**
4. **Mental health problems**
5. **Heart related problems**

These results support comments made by families who participated to a community forum on health organized by the direction last April, to which approximately twenty (20) members of the community attended. After reading this report, the direction

clearly understood the participants' concerns: drug use, obesity and overweight, environmental hygiene and safety, and access to a family physician at the Health Center.

If we analyze the results by gender, men and women considered equally important the addiction problems (drug use, drinking and smoking) and obesity. Mental health problems, heart diseases, and diabetes concerned more women than men.

The analysis by age shows that respondents between 41 and 64 years old are more concerned by drug use and drinking problems. Mental health problems were mostly mentioned by women between 18 and 40 of age. Elders (over 65 years old) were more sensitive about the impact of drug use than about any other health problems identified throughout the survey.

It must be said that this was only a first step in the prioritization process, based on a certain amount of criterias, to assess the needs of the population in the health sector. The Health Committee also selected the priorities by drawing on other criterias, such as the extent of the problem, how the issue is perceived, and of the organization capacity to efficiently take action to improve the community's health and to make resources available.

The committee members met on November 18th, 2010 and agreed on the following health priorities:

Priority A

Chronic diseases (heart, respiratory, or musculoskeletal related problems, and diabetes)

Priority B

Individual and community well being (stress, abuse, violence, self-esteem, culture)

Priority C

Prevention and promotion of a healthy lifestyle (drug use, drinking, smoking and obesity)

After the selection of these three (3) priorities, we are now able to undertake the second step of this project so significant for our community. Actions to be taken are as follow: to establish the specific objectives for each priority; to develop activities; to define the target population; to determine the necessary funds; to prepare the schedule; and to develop the indicators that will provide measurements for the assessment of the program in its first five years.

Finally, I would like to thank the population and the members of the Health Committee for their respective collaboration in this matter.



ODANAK'S LIBRARY REOPENS ITS DOORS

Last October 13th, Odanak's Library resumed its activities as an affiliated member of the Biblio de la Mauricie network. I am proud to introduce our new team: Ms. Marcelle R. O'Bomsawin, the Library's coordinator, Ms. Chantal M'Sadoques, and Mr. Eddy O'Bomsawin, our volunteers. The opening hours are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the reopening, the library has already registered 21 new memberships.

To increase the community's awareness in cultural events, the

Library Committee organized a visit to the Salon du livre de Montréal, this past November 21st. It was the first activity of this kind, and hopefully not the last.

If you have any comments or suggestions, you can get in touch with us via e-mail at : biblio139@reseaubibliocqlm.qc.ca

We thank you for your support,

Lyne Mailhot
Library's supervisor



A MUCH-CELEBRATED YEAR AT THE MUSÉE DES ABÉNAKIS!

The year 2010 has been a great year for the Musée des Abénakis: we have welcomed 6919 visitors! This 50% increase of attendance comes from the quality of temporary exhibitions and the diversity of educational and cultural activities.

The archeological excavation project that searches the Odanak Fort also contributed to this success. These activities gave an opportunity to visitors to discover Wabanaki history and culture as well as artisans of Odanak.

Our various projects also created four part-time positions filled by members of the Odanak community, and three Wabanaki students were hired for the summer season. These employees were appointed to many projects. Kim Gabriel Nolett and Christine Sioui Wawanoloath have, among other projects, developed the *Machinaw8gan: la mort dans le cercle*

de lumière temporary exhibition (*Machinaw8gan: death in the circle of light*), hosted at the museum until May 2011, and *Suivez le guide* exhibition (*Follow the guide*), a virtual exhibition that will be online next spring. Patricia Lachapelle is working since June 2010 at the digitization and cataloguing of the museum's collections, a project subsidized by Canadian Heritage. Richard Gill assisted the archeologists Geneviève Treyvaud and Michel Plourde last June and is now taking care of the museum's maintenance. For the fourth year in a row, Mathieu Gauthier-O'Bomsawin has been a part-time host-interpreter. As for Jacob Nolett-Descheneaux and Étienne Prud'homme, they accomplished various maintenance works through the summer of 2010. Each of them with the permanent employees included, has contributed to the success we've had this past year. To all of you, thank you.

The year 2010 commemorated an event of great importance: **Odanak's 350th Anniversary**. For this occasion, the Musée des Abénakis and the Committee of the 350th Anniversary offered ten activities that intended to gather people, bring them to discover and, most of all, to celebrate. Summer activities brought visitors from all over the province and beyond to discover

Wabanaki culture and traditional know-how. As early as October, activities intended specifically for Odanak Wabanaki people brought families together and highlighted the talent and involvement of youth, such as the *Gala de la relève (Emerging Youth Gala)*, which welcomed 150 guests! The event honored 56 individuals under 35 years old and mostly ascertained that the Wabanaki culture is alive and contemporary. Throughout January, a commemorative book of the 350th Anniversary of Odanak will be given to every family in Odanak and will be available by mail order for those who live outside of Odanak. This book, edited by Kim Gabriel Nolett, honors Odanak's founders and ambassadors.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee of the 350th Anniversary who have worked hard to offer a memorable celebration: Patricia Lachapelle, Kim Gabriel Nolett, Claire O'Bomsawin, Christine Sioui Wawanoloath, Barbara-Ann Watso, Doris-Jane Watso, Mathieu Gauthier-O'Bomsawin and the president, Steve Williams Benedict. All of you: 350 times congratulations!

The New Year begins and promises to be as exhilarating! The

archeological excavation will resume as soon as August. As for exhibitions, we will present the work of the Wabanaki artist, Carmen Hathaway, as well as *Passages migratoires (Nomad Ways)* showing the work of Wabanaki craftswomen. Lastly, we are now preparing a major event: the 50th anniversary of the Musée des Abénakis. One more chance to celebrate!

Until then, I invite you to our temporary exhibitions *Machinaw8gan: la mort dans le cercle de lumière* and *Là où est notre maison (There, Where is Our Home)* presented until next May.

To know more about our winter program, you may check out our Website: www.museedesabenakis.ca. We will offer print workshops in partnership with the Centre d'image et d'estampe de Mirabel (Mirabel Center of Image and Print) and Kanesatake youths, activities for spring break and much more.

It will be a pleasure to welcome you again and again at the Musée des Abénakis.

Wliwni,

Michelle Bélanger,
General Manager

THE WABANAKI MOONS



FEBRUARY 3rd

PIA8DAGOS
Makes Branches Fall Into Pieces Moon

Tatka8msen bedegwel8msen wiwniwigw8m alamipm8ssawin-noak. Nigik wji awaasak ibitta w'bemikamak.

The blizzard whirls around the wigwam greeting human steps. Those of the animal are only passing by.



JANUARY 2nd

ALAMIKOS
Greeting Maker Moon
(Second Winter moon)

W8b8binolka wji w18wimoz8bial gagezihl8b n8bi al8msek.

The wampum deer of purple beads runs swiftly like the wind.

Source:

LES TREIZE LUNES ABÉNAKISES PAR CHRISTINE SIOUI WAWANOLOATH
NS8KAW W8BANAKI KIZOSAK KIZIT8GW KLISTIN SIOUI WAWANOLOATH



CerAmony at the 2010 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

Last November 26th, at the Hamilton Place Theatre, in Hamilton, Ontario, was held the 2010 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Throughout the evening, the best Aboriginal music talents were rewarded. The rock band won "Best Songwriter" award at this event. We may recall that Pakesso Mukash, guitar player and vocals for CerAmony, is of Cree and Abénakis origins, and that the band's latest album was recorded here in Odanak.

CONTRIBUTION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FIRST NATION HEAD START PROGRAM

Please note that the \$ 250 that was originally to be awarded by drawing (in the survey on child care and family) had still not been claimed after several months of publication of the winning number.

Matching funds has been presented to Ms. Raymonde Nolett (First Nation Head Start Program) last December by the Waban-Aki Grand Council, to contribute to the improvement activities that are planned for the coming months.