



THE AJIKON NEWSLETTER WILL BE A LINK BETWEEN THE ANISHINABE COMMUNITIES, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR NEWS AND STORIES.

## Liaison Agent Anishinabe Nation

Ajikon means “to communicate, to exchange, to meet”. This title perfectly illustrates the mission of this journal: to encourage sharing and dialogue between communities.

Through its pages, Ajikon will address various topics related to the cultural, social and economic life of the Anishinabe communities, highlighting their successes, initiatives and projects. Stay tuned to discover the voices and stories that weave the thread of this great community.

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new service within the Secrétariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance (SCNATEA): the pilot project for an Anishinabe liaison officer. Funded by the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuit du Québec, this 18-month project aims to strengthen and deepen our ties with Anishinabe communities. The role of liaison officer will serve to create a lasting bridge between our organization and these communities, fostering meaningful exchanges and increased collaboration.



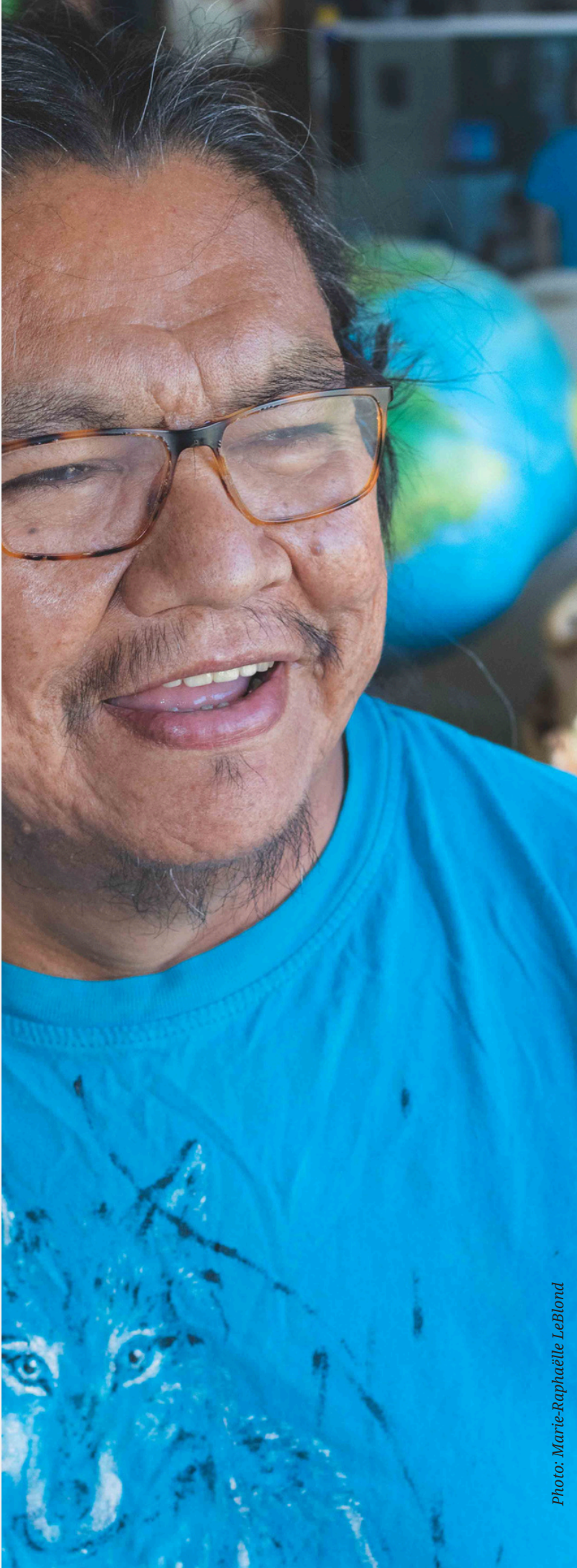


Photo: Marie-Raphaëlle LeBlond

*Tribute to*

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# ALEXIS WEIZINEAU

We would like to pay tribute to Alexis Weizineau, an exceptional craftsman and cultural icon, who passed away last October. Recognized throughout the region, Alexis brought an unrivalled passion and soul to the crafting of unique traditional objects.

The tewegan resonates in our hearts today, as a testament to his ancestral know-how. Since February 2024, his works have enriched the permanent exhibition of the Musée d'art de Rouyn-Noranda, a tribute to his immense talent.

Anwepin Alexis, Mikwetc.



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*« Knowing that I could do things with my own hands helped me a lot. That's why I hope that other people will realize themselves and want to discover things for themselves to get by. »*



# FIRST PEOPLES RECONCILIATION MATCH 2024 : A LANDMARK CULTURAL CELEBRATION

During the 2024 First Peoples Reconciliation Game in Rouyn-Noranda, the Huskies, in collaboration with the Minwashin organization, paid tribute to indigenous culture with several noteworthy initiatives.

An original logo, designed by artist Julie-Lise Polson, was proudly worn by the players and produced in promotional items such as caps and wallpapers. This symbol reflects the progress and recognition of the First Peoples. Johnny Kistabish marked the event by describing part of the game on the radio in Anishinabe language, a historic first in Quebec, highlighting the importance of preserving language and cultural traditions. Hockey, which played a significant role in the lives of many residential school survivors, proved a powerful vehicle for memory and reconciliation. An official puck drop brought together members of the indigenous communities from both the Huskies and the Foreurs de Val-d'Or.

In Val-d'Or, an official jersey was also auctioned off, reinforcing the impact of this initiative. The event demonstrated how sport can become a tool for raising awareness and bringing cultures together, while honouring the stories and contributions of First Peoples.



CENTRE AGNICO-EAGLE - VAL-D'OR

ARENA GLENCORE - ROUYN-NORANDA

## La Sandwicherie :

A SOCIAL ECONOMY MODEL IN  
THE HEART OF VAL-D'OR

La Sandwicherie, a landmark restaurant on 3rd Avenue in Val-d'Or, is celebrating 20 years in business with a slight change of vocation. From now on, it will be managed by La Piaule, a shelter for homeless people. This acquisition guarantees the continuity of the products that have made its reputation, in particular the energy bars that regulars love so much. Those who have tried them know...

The restaurant is now operated by the TAPAJ (Alternative work paid by the day) program, which offers work opportunities to participants while supporting the organization's self-financing.

This transition reflects a continuation of the caring values held by the previous owners. They were keen to give back to the community by donating surplus food, supporting cultural and sporting events, or simply offering a cup of coffee to warm up those in need.

Today, this tradition continues, and we're proud that La Sandwicherie continues to embody these values of solidarity while creating new opportunities for the local community.





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## LOOKING BACK ON THE WEEK OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION AT UQAT

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From September 23 to 30, UQAT offered a week of activities to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This initiative enabled participants to engage in deep reflection on Canada's history and reconciliation process. Here are a few highlights from this rich and well-orchestrated program:

- **Capsule William** : An immersive virtual reality experience that immersed participants in the history of residential schools. Realistic and emotional, it offered a vivid glimpse of the realities experienced.
- **Stanley Vollant lunch conference** : This spotlight of the week highlighted the inspiring journey of Stanley Vollant. His speech, focusing on resilience and solidarity, captivated the audience and reinforced the importance of mutual respect and understanding.
- **Thursday solidarity walk** : : As part of the Mamu Nikintauat event, the Val-d'Or walk brought together many participants proudly wearing their orange sweaters. This moment of solidarity was enriched by a poignant speech by Elder Edouard Kistabish, former chief of Pikogan, and concluded in a new outdoor space dedicated to teaching and reconciliation.
- **Culinary experience** : The fried bannock prepared by the young people of Kitcisakik in their street food truck, Midjim Obaban, added a gourmet touch to the week, leaving a memorable impression.

*This week of activities provided a valuable opportunity for awareness-raising and introspection, helping to promote values of reconciliation and respect between communities.*

*The orange sweater movement was launched in 2013 by Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor, to draw attention to the reality of residential schools and their repercussions.*



# DISCOVERING THE CENTRE D'ENTRAIDE ET D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONE DE SENNETERRE

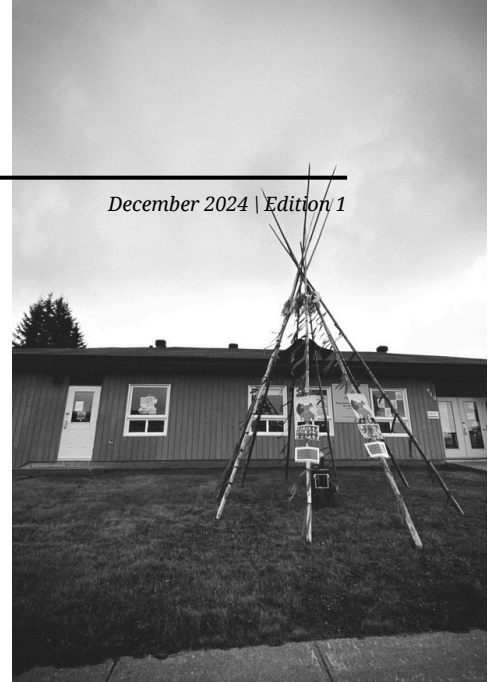
The Centre d'entraide et d'amitié autochtone de Senneterre (CEAAS) plays an essential role in developing the skills and talents of rural indigenous communities. At the 2024 Business Exchange Day, we had the pleasure of collaborating with this inspiring organization.

The River of Knowledge is the Employability component of CEAAS. This innovative program aims to develop the technical and social skills of young adults, while offering them internships and support for community work. Thanks to the funds raised during our last event by their team, the Centre plans to organize a visit to the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Center (SRVTC) in Waswanipi to explore its various programs.

"Our approach is personalized to each individual, holistic, humanistic and culturally safe."

SRVTC offers a wide range of opportunities to suit diverse talents and aspirations: carpentry, computer graphics, computer support, construction business management, construction equipment mechanics, institutional assistance and home care, heavy equipment operations, baking, recreational animation, trucking class, welding and assembly, and much more.

The Centre d'entraide et d'amitié autochtone de Senneterre is a concrete example of a model that focuses on creating meaningful opportunities and strengthening skills, thereby contributing to the vitality of Indigenous communities.





# LOOKING BACK AT AKI TIPATCIMO 2024 : A CELEBRATION OF MEMORIES AND KNOWLEDGE

On September 13, 2024, the Aki Tipatcimo event brought together members of various communities for a day dedicated to exchanging, telling and sharing Anishinabe stories. Organized by the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), the event offered a unique space to explore deep and rich collective memories.

Inspiring voices such as Donald Wabanonik, Adrienne Jérôme, Kigos Papatie, Régis Penoswe, Charlie Papatie, Danny Bisson and many others. Their stories, imbued with emotion and wisdom, captivated all participants.

At the heart of the discussions: memories, place names and stories shaping the Anishinabe identity. This intergenerational exchange revived fragments of the past, while underlining the importance of passing on this knowledge to future generations.



**AKI TIPATCIMO 2024**  
Mettre en commun nos mémoires et nos savoirs territoriaux dans la région de Ka Pikitapikak (Val-d'Or)

**Présentations d'invités :**  
Donald Wabanonik  
Adrienne Jérôme  
Kigos Papatie  
Régis Penoswe  
Charlie Papatie  
Danny Bisson  
Et bien d'autres!

**13 septembre 2024**  
9:00 – 16:00

**Lunch et collations offerts!**  
Suivi d'un cercle de partage sur les histoires collectives, familiales, les noms des lieux et les récits qui les accompagnent.

Laboratoire de cartographie participative de l'UQAT  
663 1ère avenue,  
Ka Pikitapikak  
(Val-d'Or), 3e étage

Espaces limités, pour confirmer votre présence, veuillez écrire à [marie-eve.drouin-g@inrs.ca](mailto:marie-eve.drouin-g@inrs.ca)

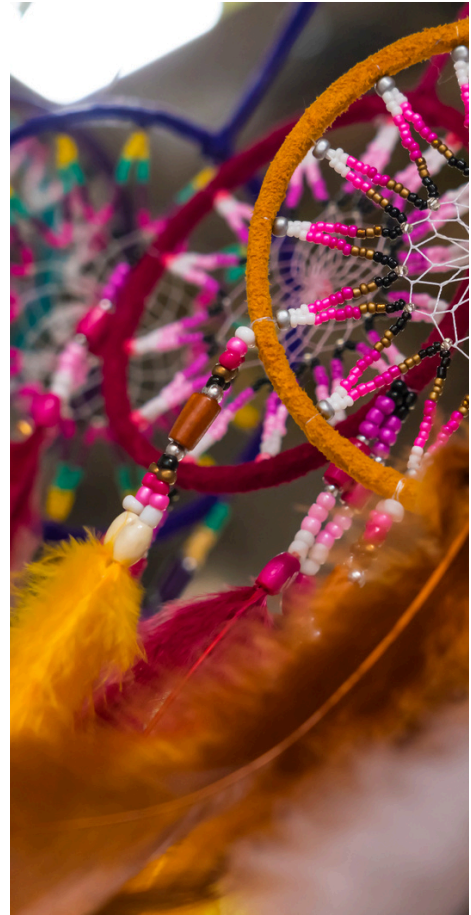


## THE BEAR LOGO : A SYMBOL OF IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICITY

For centuries, First Nations have enriched the land through the arts, food, environmental sciences, engineering, fashion, entertainment and much more. The Bear logo, or First Nations Identification, embodies this heritage while affirming a strong identity.

This symbol, represented by a bear, plays a key role for First Nations entrepreneurs and communities. It allows for quick recognition of the authenticity of Indigenous products and services, while offering protection and increased visibility. More than a logo, the Bear's Imprint is a movement that affirms collective identity and promotes recognition with pride.

Created by Algonquin artist Frank Polson, the Bear logo embodies the values of courage, respect and protection handed down from generation to generation. It is a powerful symbol of self-determination and unity.



**IDENTIFICATION  
PREMIÈRES NATIONS  
FIRST NATIONS**

[HTTPS://IDIN.ORG](https://IDIN.ORG)





# First Nations Executive Education : TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

First Nations Executive Education (FNEE), powered by HEC Montréal, offers short courses tailored to the needs and realities of Indigenous leaders.

Its unique approach combines ancestral knowledge with best practices in contemporary management, an essential balance for strengthening First Nations self-determination. The objective is clear: to promote a circular and sustainable economic circuit, creating a socio-economic development that is promising for the future.



## FNEE MISSIONS :

- DEVELOP LEADERS CAPABLE OF GUIDING THEIR COMMUNITIES TO SUCCESS.
- DEVELOP A POSITIVE POSTURE OF DEVELOPMENT, ESSENTIAL TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
- POSITION FIRST NATIONS AS KEY PLAYERS IN LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS.

FNEE offers a variety of programs in governance, entrepreneurship, management, women's leadership, economic reconciliation and succession planning. These training courses enable each participant to become a central lever for the progress of his or her community.

## Congratulations to the graduates FNEE from Lac Simon

On November 15, the graduation ceremony honored the graduates of the FNEE program. Among them : **DANNY PIEN**, VICE-CHIEF, AND **LUCIEN WABANONIK**, CHIEF, GRADUATES IN GOVERNANCE. **ARIANE NIQUAY**, DIRECTOR OF THE KIJITOWIN COMMISSION, MANAGEMENT GRADUATE..



PHOTO FACEBOOK : CONSEIL DE LA NATION  
ANISHNABE DE LAC SIMON



To find out more about the different programs, visit their website and discover how FNEE can meet your training needs.



## Le FabLab

### AN INSPIRING STOPOVER IN VAL-D'OR

Last June, Val-d'Or had the privilege of hosting the FabLab, a nomadic workshop orchestrated by the First Peoples Innovation Centre. This unique project aims to reach out to remote or isolated Indigenous youth in communities across Quebec. In Val-d'Or, an all-female cohort took part in an intensive 10-week training program focusing on digital technologies and fabrication. Participants explored tools such as Arduino programming, 3D printing, laser and vinyl cutting, digital milling and digital embroidery. The course enabled them to develop technical skills while giving free rein to their creativity.

By the end of the course, some impressive final products had emerged: sweaters adorned with emblematic animals, personalized coffee mugs for the Kukum, engraved key-rings... An explosion of color and pride marked this achievement.

Crystal Penosway, originally from Kitcisakik, stood out among the trainers. After completing the training, she chose to continue her apprenticeship and share her knowledge with others, becoming an instructor in the process. The Onaki FabLab is not just a space for creation, but a genuine platform for innovation and transmission. It opens up horizons and inspires future generations, while building capacity within indigenous communities.



## CRYSTAL PENOSWAY

*Instructor*

Crystal Wabigoni Penosway is Anicinabe from Kakinawigak (Long Point First Nation), Kitcisakik and Mitchikaniabikok Inik (Lac-Barrière). Born in Val-d'Or, Crystal moved to Gatineau and completed the Onaki FabLab program in 2022. As an instructor, Crystal travels to communities to teach digital skills at indigenous FabLabs.



[cpenosway@cipp-fpic.com](mailto:cpenosway@cipp-fpic.com)



DON'T MISS THE

## CANADIAN BROOMBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (U20) :

MARCH 26-29, 2025

VAL-D'OR

### IN BRIEF: OUR COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

#### A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PIKOGAN!!

DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY IN PIKOGAN. AN INITIATIVE THAT PROMISES TO BRING POSITIVE SPIN-OFFS AND WONDERFUL DISCOVERIES FOR ALL INVOLVED. DON'T MISS IT!

### RECRUTEMENT

**Nous recherchons 12 participants pour vivre une immersion totale en Anicinape!**

**Immersion Anicinape Anim8e c'est quoi?**

- 4 semaines de formation intensive de la langue anicinape en territoire Abitibiwinini Aki
- Allocation pendant ton séjour\*\*
- Possibilité d'amener ta famille (1 semaine)
- Retour à la maison les fins de semaines
- Activités traditionnelles, culturelles et équipements inclus
- Transport, repas et hébergement inclus.

**Conditions pour participer**

- Membre Abitibiwinini
- 18 ans et plus
- Être disponible du 4 au 30 mai 2025
- Passer l'entrevue de sélection
- Suivre des cours préparatoires d'Anicinape

**DEMANDE TON FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION DES MAINTENANT**

819-732-6591 #2405



THIS SUMMER, KITCISAKIK'S YOUTH-LED **FOODTRUCK** SHONE AT EVENTS LIKE THE GOLDEX MINING COMPLEX OPEN HOUSE. THEIR BANNIQUE FRITES? A DELICACY NOT TO BE MISSED!



A LOOK BACK AT THE MAGNIFICENT CHRISTMAS DINNER AT **KEBAOWEK** COMMUNITY HALL. A MOMENT FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, SHARING AND DELICIOUS TRADITIONS, WHICH BROUGHT THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN THE HOLIDAY



**LE CENTRE D'AMITIÉ AUTOCHTONE** OF VAL-D'OR CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY! IN DECEMBER, THE CENTRE LAUNCHED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES UNDER THE THEME: ALLIES IN RECONCILIATION, CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP! THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EVENTS WILL UNITE THE COMMUNITY TO MARK THIS HISTORIC MILESTONE.



CONGRATULATIONS TO **LEONNA CHEEZO** AND **ERIKA WABANONIK** FROM LAC SIMON FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT IN FRANCE. YOU ARE MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY SHINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE!





*Propelled by:  
Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Temiscamingue Economic Alliance*

**If you have any questions or comments:**

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et les Inuit  
Québec 