



Indigenous Women
of the Wabanaki
Territories

Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Brandy Stanovich



Indigenous Women
of the Wabanaki
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Message from the President



We are an army of love and light and we will fight for what's right.

Qey woliwon wela'lin!

I want to start by graciously acknowledging Wolastokuk the beautiful homeland of Wolastoqwiyk Territory and the Sitansisk Community on which we gather today.

Welcome to our 2022 Annual General Assembly. It has been far too long since we have come together. During these unprecedented times, our team has continued to work diligently to enhance the capacity of this organization for all Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+. Throughout this report you will see our many accomplishments.

It has been an honour to do this work. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent and advocate on your behalf locally, provincially, federally, and nationally.

I have approached this role with an open heart and mind. Listening, learning, sharing, and carrying the voice of the grassroots women to all levels of government. In addition to serving as the political advocate I have had the great pleasure of overseeing the day-to-day business of the organization. We are doing amazing work here and making a significant difference in the lives of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ within our territories. I am committed to empowering and amplifying our collective voice to promote healing and leadership. With your support I would love to continue to do this important work.

In solidarity,

Brandy Stanovich
IWWT President



Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories



Strategic Direction

IWWT's goal is to support, inform, and empower our membership to assert their inherent and unique Indigenous rights through capacity building, knowledge mobilization, healing and wellness, and strategic advocacy toward reclaiming traditional, Indigenous matriarchal leadership and strengthening individual and collective linguistic and cultural identities. We achieve this through the provision of programs and services in the following areas: Training and employment skills development; Wabanaki language revitalization; MMIWG2S+ awareness; Climate change and health vulnerability research; Matriarchal and Two-Spirit leadership and training; Youth empowerment; food security and traditional medicines; Wabanaki justice; and intergovernmental relations.

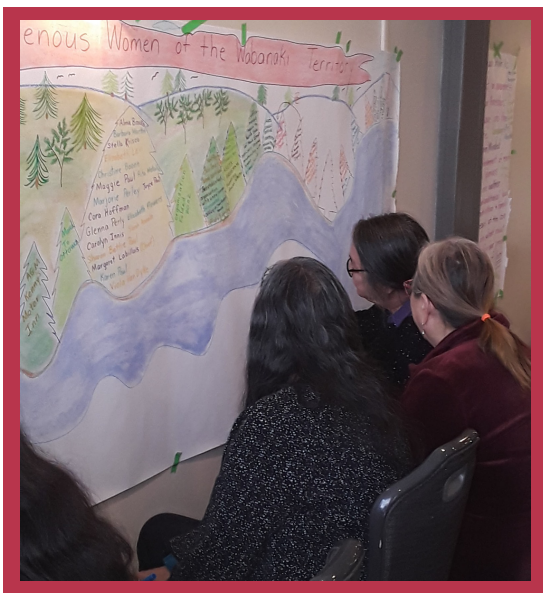




Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories



Our first gathering of our members took place in February 2019. The theme was Awake the Matriarch. This meeting was the base of our strategic plan. We heard your voice and began working toward the initiatives.



Awake the Matriarch

In Loving Memory of Irene Sanipass



It is with a heavy heart I share this with you. On Tuesday November 10, 2020, our beloved Mi'kmaq Elder Irene Sanipass started her journey to the spirit world. This was a shock to us all. She profoundly touched the lives of many, including mine. When I was in my darkest of time, she was instrumental in helping me heal from my trauma. Irene helped me become the woman I am today. She taught me to love myself, to forgive myself, to forgive those who did me wrong. She gently said "Send them love and prayers. They need it. They are hurting too, or they wouldn't do those things, they don't know better. We are all learning, even me. I am still learning. We are all human; we all make mistakes; we can't change them only learn from them." Then she smiled and told me how proud she was of me.



2 days before Irene began her spirit journey

It is an honour to share her words and this treasured memory with you. I am extremely grateful for every moment Irene and I shared together. I am blessed to have felt her unconditional love and acceptance. I want us to share the love and wisdom she shared with us, with everyone. Thank you, Irene, for all you gave to this world. Your legacy will live on strong. Let's take a moment of silence to honour Irene.

Irene Sanipass

March 7 1948–November 10, 2020

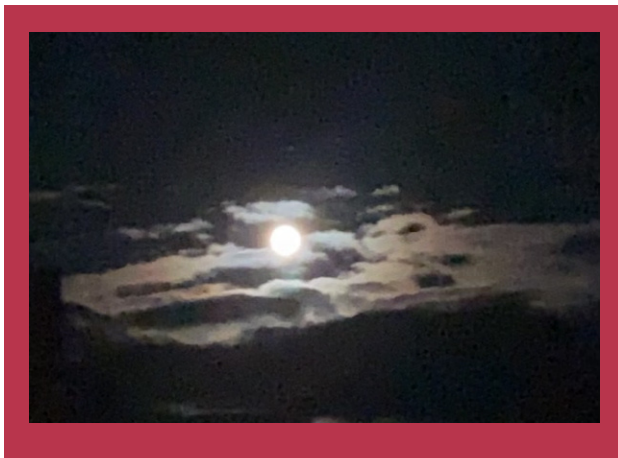




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Sisters in Spirit Gathering 2020

In 2020 we gathered outdoors at Officer's Square. We started with a full moon ceremony where a sacred Fire was lit for four days. On the final day we had guest speakers' singers and dancers.





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Sisters in Spirit Gathering 2021

This event took place at the Crowne Plaza where we all met to listen to guest speakers and enjoy the entertainment before the walk. Jeremy Dutcher, and then Sisters of the Drum sang in honour of MMIWG2S+. Amanda Myran Jingle Danced for healing to be brought to all of their families. Natalie Sappier was there to assist attendees paint paintings to provide healing through art.





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Murdered & Missing Indigenous Woman and Girls 2 Spirited+ (MMIWG2S+) Commemoration Art

We collaborated with artists Natalie Sappier, Justin Sappier, Emma Hassenchal, and Shane Perely- Dutcher and project coordinator Lisa Perley-Dutcher on art to commemorate our MMIWG2S+



The project started on November 9, 2021 and finished on March 31, 2022.

Three families of MMIWG2S+ were invited to meet with the artists to share their thoughts on the commemoration. A videographer captured the entire process and created a video for the unveiling. The art will be installed at Officer's Square sometime in July 2022.



Through this project on April 20th, a ceremony took place to bless the grounds at Officer Square. In collaboration with the City of Fredericton, Wolastoq Grand Council, and IWWT, the grounds will be used for upcoming projects that we will reveal throughout the upcoming months!



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Murdered & Missing Indigenous Woman and Girls 2 Spirited+ (MMIWG2S+) Awareness Day May 5, 2022

In partnership with Sitansisk Community and Wolastoq Grand Council we came together to for a beautiful event to raise awareness for MMIWG2S+. The men walked from Officers' Square lead by Wolastoq Grand Chief Ron Tremblay and Jemery Dutcher. Sakom (Chief) Alan Polchies welcomed everyone to his beautiful community.

Grandmother Roseanne shared a prayer and Families of MMIWG2S+ shared their stories. Dr. Maggie Paul joined us for a closing prayer and song. We met with the families for a feast following the ceremony.



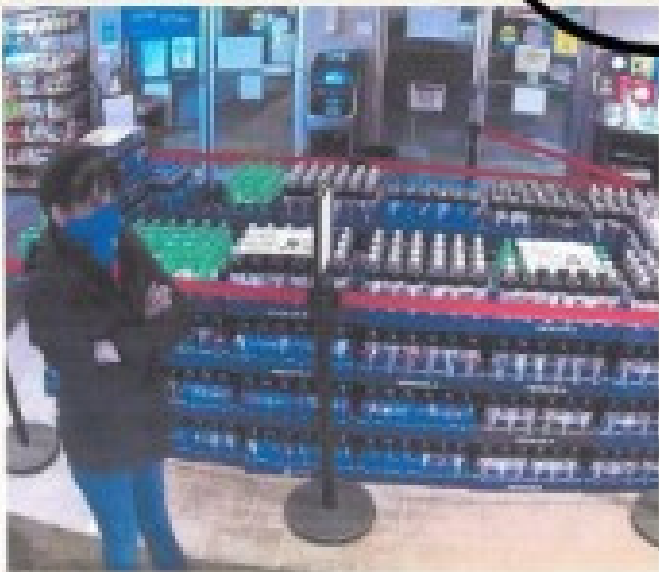
MISSING PERSON

Erin Brooks

**LAST SEEN:
ST MARYS SMOKE SHOP**

**DATE:
DECEMBER 27TH 2021**

**DESCRIPTION:
5'2"
BLACK HAIR WITH BANGS
BROWN EYES
115 POUNDS
38 YEARS OLD
MULTIPLE TATTOOS**

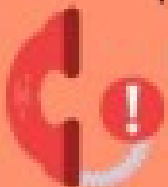


ERIN HAS THE WORD "BOO" TATTOOED ON HER LEFT CHEST, BUTTERFLY ON HER LEFT ARM, A LARGE TURTLE ON RIGHT THIGH, MULTIPLE TURTLES ON THE BACK OF HER NECK AND A DOLPHIN ON HER LEFT FOOT/ANKLE.

If you have any information please contact the Fredericton Police at (506)460-2300 reference file number 21-26975.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact

Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.





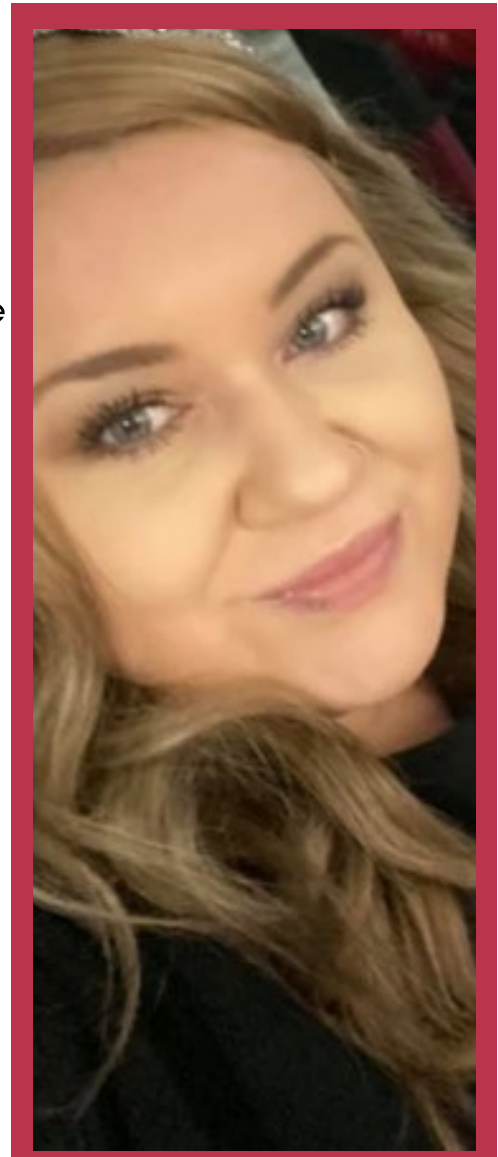
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Indigenous Skills and Employment Training ISET

Megan Birch is Wolastoqiyik woman from Sitansisk. Megan is the Indigenous Skill and Employment Coordinator with IWWT. The ISET Program provides employment and training support services to women and 2S+. The ISET Program is delivered throughout Canada, and Megan is the coordinator for the province of New Brunswick.

Megan joined our team in March of 2021. When Megan came on as Coordinator, she started with 2 active clients, and finished the fiscal year with 11 active clients. Megan's success in the program resulted in her becoming the lead coordinator across Canada. Since then, she has secured more clients as we all as a partnership with Hayes Farm for the Regenerative Farming Internship Program.

Hayes Farms provides year-round land-based education tailoring to Indigenous foodways, decolonization and reconciliation. Its goal to provide students with tools required to become food secure and self sufficient. In partnership with Hayes Farm, ISET agreed to fund three seats for women and 2S+, providing tuition, tools and materials, and living allowance. Megan is currently working on partnerships with other organizations and is excited to further expand the ISET Program.





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Hayes Farm





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Language is Life Project: IWWT Wabanaki Languages Project

Through the Language is Life Project, coordinated by Lisa Perley-Dutcher, we are working to reclaim, promote, and maintain our Wabanaki languages through the sharing and learning of traditional Wabanaki songs, stories, ceremonies, and protocols in our Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati languages.

We are revitalizing and transferring Wabanaki traditional knowledge and languages from Elder speakers to Wabanaki youth via land-based, intergenerational exchanges, and we are strengthening our traditional leadership capacity of Wabanaki youth and communities by creating instructional videos that feature traditional Wabanaki ceremonies, stories, songs, and protocols in Wabanaki languages.



Project Coordinator
Lisa Perley-Dutcher



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Project Deliverables:

- Establish and organize meetings with Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq steering committee (total 10)
- First meeting (July 11, 2022) to establish a Terms of Reference Doc & formalize the workplan/timeline
- Organize Community Based Resource Creation of 12 Videos and 13 lesson plans

Progress:

- Steering Committee has been established and the first official meeting will be July 11, 2022.
- A Draft term of reference has been created to be reviewed at first steering committee
- Meeting with various videographers to discuss project and potential work.



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Feminist Response and Recovery Project

The Feminist Response and Recovery Project develops structural pathways for the voices and lived experiences of Wabanaki women to be included at provincial levels by creating Women's Groups in Wabanaki communities and urban centers that provide leadership, anti-oppression, violence prevention, and rights-based workshops and provide feedback to IWWT to inform the organization's strategic advocacy.

The project identifies/creates mentorship opportunities and career pathways for Wabanaki women and girls compatible with traditional leadership teachings and facilitates internship and transition to employment opportunities.

The Matriarch and Youth Council provides space for intergenerational mentorship, the transmission of traditional knowledge, and the teaching of Wabanaki governance protocols.

To enact authentic Treaty reconciliation with provincial partners that recognizes the traditional matriarchal leadership of Wabanaki women by asserting the rights of Wabanaki women as culturally-grounded leaders of their communities through creation of cultural awareness training, social media messaging, and information materials to educate the general public.



Project Coordinator
Tatyannah Cote



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No Justice, No Peace

On June 4, 2020 Edmundston Police Officer Jeremy Son shot and killed Chantel Moore when he was called to her apartment to check on her safety. I immediately visited the family in Edmundston to provide comfort and support. A Sacred Fire at Madawaska First Nation stayed burning until her family arrived from British Columbia. A healing walk took place June 13, 2020, the day after Rodney Levis life was taken at the hands of law enforcement. These tremendous losses highlight the injustices in the system and as long as there is no justice, there will be no peace.





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On June 19, 2022 our Mi'kmaq Elder Irene Sanipass and I were invited to St. John to speak on behalf of Chantel Moore and her Family. I was also asked to deliver the speech of Liberal Party leader 2020 Kevin Vickers.





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Yellow Dress Campaign

A ceremony was held at Satansisk in Honor of Chantel Moore. Dr. Maggie Paul conducted a feast ceremony. There was a Sacred Fire, Singers, and Dancers. At the end President Whitman join us for a national meeting via zoom where we made yellow dress dolls. There were participants from all over the country even the United States.





Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories



June 19, 2020 attended a press conference with Martha Martin. Held by Black Lives Matter Toronto. There were several families from all over Canada that lost loved ones at the hands of law enforcement in attendance. Featured in Kci Niwesq NWAC's magazine.



Psi-te Wasis Okimqosu Olotahkewakon

EVERY CHILD MATTERS CEREMONY

RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE

&

REAFFIRMING OUR POWER THROUGH CEREMONY



Reestablishing Our
Ancestral Traditions for

TRUTH & REPARATION

7am: *Sunrise Ceremony*

9am-12pm & 1-4pm:

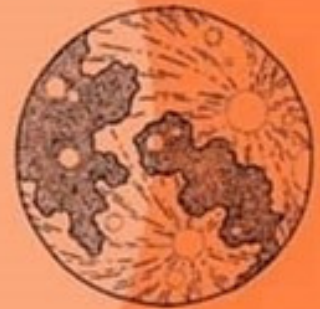
Stories, Songs,

Dancing & Teachings

12 & 5 pm:

Bring Your Own Feast (BYOF)

7pm: *Full Moon Ceremony*



20
SEPT.
7am-8pm

@ THE OLE BURIAL GROUND

**** MASKS ENCOURAGED ****



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Every Child Matters Ceremony

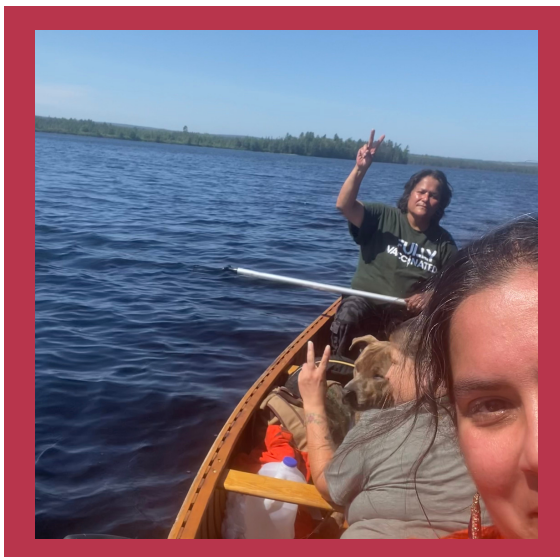




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Protecting Miramichi Lake

On August 16, 2022 I learned that one of our members was trapped on Miramichi Lake without her medication. No one was allowed in to bring it to her and if she left the lake would be poisoned with a substance called Noxfish 11. A group of women, myself included had to hike through the woods to get her with her medication food and drinks. Once I got there, I felt it was necessary to stay and protect our head waters. The decision to poison this was done behind the backs of Wolastoq Chiefs. There was no informed prior consultation nor consent.





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IWWT Climate Change Knowledge Mobilization

IWWT partnered with NWAC in the fall of 2021 to complete community engagement and research on Indigenous women and two-spirit, LGBTQQIA+ people's perspectives on climate change in the Wabanaki territories within New Brunswick. We received \$25,000 for this work, along with several other PTMAs across Canada.

IWWT hosted 4 separate virtual engagement sessions for a total of 9 hours of discussion, during which 36 Indigenous women and two-spirit, LGBTQQIA+ people shared their experiences of how climate change is impacting them, their communities, and their environment.

Discussion questions included the following:

Is mother earth in crisis?

What are the key components of a healthy environment?

What are the key issues affecting Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ people with respect to climate change?

How do you think Indigenous men are being impacted by climate change?

Is the climate change crisis getting worse in your communities?

Can you think of examples of how Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people are creating climate and clean energy solutions?

What species are at risk from climate change in your territory? In what ways can our women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people help conservation efforts to protect our non-human relations?

How do you see Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ people transmitting knowledge related to climate change to our future generations?

How could Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ people be more represented in decision-making bodies related to climate change?

What suggestions would you like to make to the Government of Canada regarding this?

How are Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders helping to resolve current environmental issues facing Canada? And,

How can Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQ+ people help drive sustainable growth and economic development in their territories?

A final engagement report has been prepared and will be released this month. We are also working on a research article highlighting the voices of participants and Indigenous climate justice activists and land defenders. To continue this work, we were recently approved \$100,000 in funding for the current fiscal year, from Health Canada, to conduct membership engagement regarding specifically how Indigenous women and two-spirit LGBTQQIA+ people's health is being impacted by the changing climate and environmental risks in the Wabanaki territories across New Brunswick. This work will begin this summer so please keep an eye out on our social media and in your email inbox. Participants will be provided an honorarium for participation and travel expenses for any in-person sessions.



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Meetings

I have attended several meetings. The very first one being with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

On December 4-6, 2019, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Luis Leonardo Almagro Lemes, accepted NWAC's invitation to visit some of our communities and discuss the National Inquiry Report on MMIWG and the finding of genocide.

It is important that our grassroots voices are heard by the head of the OAS which was formed to promote human rights and economic and cultural advancement. It is the main political, legal, and social forum in the Americas. This is a unique opportunity for us to collectively come together with a strong and unified voice to hold the Government of Canada accountable for the implementation of the Calls for Justice.

I attended NWAC's National Roundtable on the implementation of the Calls for Justice on January 17th - January 19th 2020 in Ottawa. To maintain the momentum, on the issue of the implementation of the Calls for Justice. Out of this came the Final Report which was provided to you.



Indigenous Women of the Wabanaki Territories



Due to the pandemic, most our meetings became virtual. There is list provided below of the meetings I regularly attend.

IWWT Board meetings

IWWT Executive Council meetings

IWWT Finance committee meetings

IWWT AGA committee meetings

IWWT Governance committee meetings

IWWT HR committee meetings

IWWT Wabanaki Crime Investigative Unit Meetings

IWWT Commemoration Meeting with Families of MMIWG2S+

NWAC Board meetings

NWAC Executive Council meetings

NWAC Governance and by-law committee meetings

NWAC AGA committee meetings

NWAC Building committee meetings

NWAC Charity meetings

NWAC MMIWG2S+ Round Table regular meetings with President Witman

NWAC Language Committee meetings

IWK Advisory meetings

Meetings regarding Miramichi Lake

In person meeting with Jake Stewart and Wolastoq Grand Council

Meetings with Keith Brunt of Dalhousie University St. John

Mental health meeting with Wolastoq Grand Council and Women's Equality Branch

Meetings with Women and Gender Equality (WAGE)

Meetings with Natalie Sappier (Petapan Indigenous Showcase IWWT)

Meeting with Car Sappier (Mental Health Documentary)

Meetings Gitagan (Food Sovereignty)

Meeting with Lynne Groulx and P.E.I President Matilda Ramjattan at Quebec Resiliency Lodge

Meetings with the Coalition of Pay Equity

International Summit of the Americas on Violence Against Indigenous Women



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St. Mary's First Nation Office

In March, 2022 we secured office space on St. Mary's First Nation.



Chief Allan Polchies and Brandy Stanovich