

ALGONQUIN TRIBUNAL

Responding Submission by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Disputed Ancestor: Michel McDonald (RIN #14703)

POSITION STATEMENT

This document is a follow-up to our original submission last month. It follows the instructions for responding submissions published on the Algonquins of Ontario website: “The primary purpose of responding submissions is to provide information and submissions responding to, or commenting on, the materials submitted by another person.” As such, our responding submission comments on the following four documents available on the Tribunal website:

- Initial Submission by B. Majaury;
- Initial Submission by B. Majaury;
- Initial Submission by M. de Braux; and
- Initial Submission by H. Majaury.

For our analysis, we only address the submissions that argue in favour of retaining Michel McDonald on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. None of the arguments forwarded by these parties are supported by the historical record. **It is our continued position that Michel McDonald is not an Algonquin Ancestor according to Article 1 of the Special Resolution of January 22, 2020.**

[Analysis of Submissions in Favour of Lagarde dit St. Jean’s Continued Inclusion](#)

The first document is by Robert (Bob) Majaury and is a reply to a July 2022 email from the Enrolment Officer. The second document is also by Robert (Bob) Majaury and is a reply to the Enrolment Officer. The next submission is by Michelle De Braux, explaining her perspective on her root ancestor being challenged. The last submission is by Heather Majaury and is mostly a personal narrative about her family’s history.

Taken together, these authors present their committed belief that their ancestor Michel McDonald was an Algonquin man. However, none produce any new evidence that would help clarify McDonald’s origins, beyond that which was contained in the Enrolment Officer’s report.

Heather Majaury, who wrote the most detailed submission, admits on several occasions that the family does not know McDonald’s precise origins. For example, she shares a story recounted by a distant relative:

According to Kevin Montgomery, who is the great grandson of Eliza Ellen Whetung nee McDonald John Christmas’s younger sister, he states that from his grandmother Iona Montgomery nee Whetung, and his great aunt Levina there is no doubt that Michel McDonald was Indigenous but they too do not know if he was Nippissing or Algonquin.

They believed that his Mother was from somewhere on the French River or they had lived there at one time.

Majaury also confirms that the family contracted an independent genealogist/archivist to search the historical record for documents related to McDonald's origins. The professional researcher was unable to recover any new documentation. Given that the authors' submissions provide no new documentation to fill out our knowledge about McDonald's origins, then our continued position is that Michel McDonald is not an Algonquin Ancestor according to Article 1 of the Special Resolution of January 22, 2020.