

**Enrolment Officer's Responding Submission in reply to Initial
Submissions from Interested Parties replying to the Enrolment
Officers report:**

**Report Regarding Ancestor
Toussaint Laronde
(RIN #16683)
dated February 28, 2023**



**Joan Holmes, Enrolment Officer for AOO
Prepared for the Algonquin Tribunal
February 2023**

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1. Introduction

The Tribunal received submissions from three families in support of retaining the ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors. The submissions are posted on the Tribunal website at: <https://www.tanakiwin.com/tribunal/toussaintlaronde/>

They appear on the website as:

- Document 2 – Initial Submission by H. Kimberley in relation to the inquiry for Ancestor Toussaint Laronde
- Document 3 – Initial Submission by G. Tippins on behalf of herself and her family
- Document 4 – Initial Submission by J. Hason on behalf of himself and his family

The submissions were responding to the Enrolment Officer's Report on ancestor Toussaint Laronde dated October 2022 which is posted on the website as Document 1 – Enrolment Officer's Report Regarding Ancestor Toussaint Laronde.

This report addresses the content of those submissions that is relevant to the purposes of the Tribunal's hearing, which is to determine whether the ancestor Toussaint Laronde was identified in a historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921, in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that he was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person. A "sibling of such a person" means a person with a common Algonquin parent.

The submissions refer to many documents and facts that are contained in the Enrolment Officer's report. As noted in the Enrolment Officer's report, archival documents recording a family's life events have been assigned ALG document numbers; RIN numbers have been assigned to the individuals to aid in identification. Both RIN numbers and ALG numbers will be referenced in this report for ease of discussion.

2. Document #2 – Submission by H. Kimberley in relation to the Inquiry for Ancestor Toussaint Laronde

Ms. Kimberley submitted two documents:

- ALG-40070
The last will and testament of Louis Denis de la Ronde dated September 13, 1797 with translation. The document was sourced from the Archives Nationale du Québec. This is document ALG-40070 and is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on page 13-14. This document names Louis Denis de la Ronde's wife as Magdeleine Wosneswesquigigo "demeurante au Lac Nipissing" (living at Lake Nipissing) and names their children including subject ancestor Toussaint (RIN #16683).
- ALG-03371
The baptismal registry entry for Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e (RIN #58244) and her two daughters dated July 29, 1801 with typed English summary of the text. This is document ALG-03371 and is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on page 12. This document records

the baptism of Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e on July 29, 1801 at the Lake of Two Mountains/Oka mission. She was noted as being a "sauvagesse" of Lake Nipissing aged around 40 years old. Marie Magdeleine was baptized at the same time as two daughters of Denys Delaronde: Marie Magdeleine Mokotose (RIN #58246) aged around 17 years old, and Elizabeth Taiantjikoe (RIN #58247) aged around 12 years and 8 months old.

Both of the documents cited in this submission are contained in the Enrolment Officer's report along with additional archival documents that demonstrate the relationship between Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) and his parents Louis Denis de la Ronde (aka Louis Marie Denys Thibaudiere de Laronde, RIN #58243) and Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e (aka Magdeleine Wosneswesquigigo, RIN #58244) of Lake Nipissing.

No new information is contained in this submission.

3. Document #3 – Initial Submission by G. Tippins on behalf of herself and her family

The submission references several documents in the Enrolment Officer's report, namely:

- ALG-03371
The baptismal registry entry for Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e (RIN #58244) and her two daughters dated July 29, 1801 with typed English summary of the text. This is document ALG-03371 and is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on page 12. This document records the baptism of Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e on July 29, 1801 at the Lake of Two Mountains/Oka mission. She was noted as being a "sauvagesse" of Lake Nipissing aged around 40 years old. Marie Magdeleine was baptized at the same time as two daughters of Denys Delaronde: Marie Magdeleine Mokotose (RIN #58246) aged around 17 years old, and Elizabeth Taiantjikoe (RIN #58247) aged around 12 years and 8 months old.
- ALG-06634
The baptismal registry entry for the Leandre and Dorothee de Laronde at the mission of Lake of Two Mountains on June 7, 1801. This is document ALG-06634 which is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on page 12. At the time of baptism, Leandre (RIN #4923) was aged 15 months and Dorothee (RIN #58245) was aged 5 years and 3 months. Their parents were named as Denys de la Ronde (RIN #58243) and Ne8tchikijikok8e (RIN #58244), a "sauvagesse" of Lake Nipissing.

The respondent's submission concludes that documents ALG-03371 and ALG-06634 indicated that the mother of the subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) was an Indigenous woman from Lake Nipissing. Based on the above cited documents (ALG-03371 and ALG-06634) in conjunction with additional records cited in the Enrolment Officer's report, the Enrolment Officer does not disagree with the conclusion that Toussaint Laronde's mother was an Indigenous woman from Lake Nipissing.

3.1 The 1899 Indian Affairs Report

The respondent then addressed the first cousin relationship between the subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) and his wife Marie Laronde/Kekgicakwoe (RIN #16684) referencing one primary document and an 1899 Indian Affairs report.

- ALG-22581
The marriage rehabilitation of subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) and Marie Laronde (RIN #16684) at Allumette Island on August 28, 1838, which was recorded in the registry of the Dioceses of Pembroke. This is document ALG-22581 which is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on pages 7-8 with a full translation of the text. It indicates that Toussaint and Marie were first cousins living at Allumette Island. The document also names their 13 living children, including: Denis (RIN #18646), born circa 1815; Toussaint (RIN #16681), born circa 1819; Eustache (RIN #18857), born circa 1830; Louis (RIN #18859), born circa 1831; and Paul (RIN #4886), born circa 1835.
- ALG-22365
An 1899 Indian Affairs report investigating the payment of the Robinson Huron Treaty annuities to the Nipissing Band outlines evidence regarding whether Andrew, Napoleon and Oliver Laronde, descendants of Paul Laronde (RIN #4886) and Eliza Gagnon, were entitled to treaty annuity payments under the Robinson-Huron treaty. This document is cited in the Enrolment Officer's report at pages 15-16. In this Indian Affairs document, Paul is noted as being a French half-breed of Pembroke with his brothers named as Toussaint, Eustache, Louison, and Denis. [Note that Toussaint (RIN #16683) and his wife Marie (RIN #16684) are known to have sons by the names of Toussaint (RIN #16681), Eustache (RIN #18857), Louis (RIN #18859), Denis (RIN #18646), and Paul (RIN #4886) as show in ALG-22581 outlined above]. According to this Indian Affairs investigation, Paul's mother (i.e., Marie Laronde, RIN #16684, spouse of the subject ancestor) was said to be a sister of Shabogeezhick, who was a former chief of the Nipissing Band. Paul and his family moved to the Nipissing reservation around 1883, and the descendants of Paul took up the Indian name "Obtageeshick."

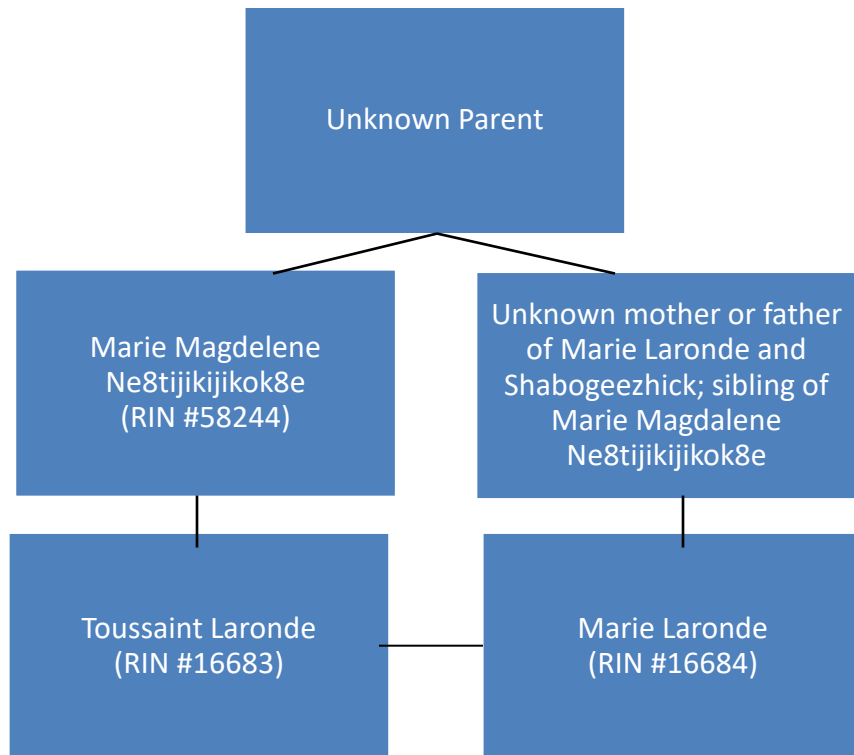
The respondent concludes that based on documents cited above (ALG-22581 and ALG-22365), Marie Laronde and her husband Toussaint Laronde were first cousins and that Marie was the sister of Shabogeezhick, a former chief at Lake Nipissing. The submission concludes that it is likely that Toussaint's mother was the aunt of the Shabogeshick, thus making Toussaint and Marie first cousins.

In other words, the submission asserts that Toussaint's mother, Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikijikok8e (aka Magdeleine Wosneswesquigigo, RIN #58244) of Lake Nipissing, was a sibling of Chief Shabogeezhick's mother or father. No information has been found naming Marie Magdeleine's parents or the parents of Chief Shabogeezhick or Marie Laronde. One document, ALG-23721 cited on page 9 of the Enrolment Officer's report, provides an Indigenous name for Toussaint's wife, being Marie Kekgicakwoe, but no parents are named.

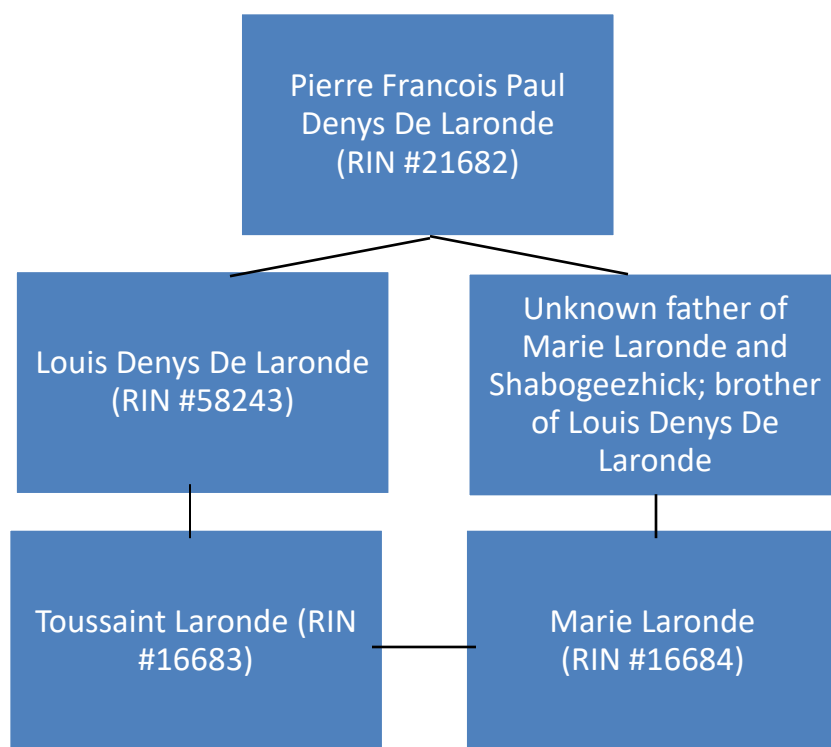
Thus, without further information it is possible that Marie and Toussaint could also be first cousins through Toussaint's father Louis Deny Laronde and his sibling, most likely a brother, who was the parent of Marie and Shabogeezhick or through the maternal line as asserted by the respondent.

The two ways in which Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) and his spouse Marie Laronde/ Kekgicakwoe (RIN #16684) could be first cousins are shown on the charts below.

This chart shows a first cousin relationship between Toussaint Laronde and Marie Laronde through their maternal lines, as asserted by the respondent.



This chart shows a first cousin relationship between Toussaint Laronde and Marie Laronde through their paternal lines, an alternative that is equally possible.



No information has been found that helps elucidate whether Toussaint and Marie were first cousins through their paternal line or their maternal line. The connection of Marie Laronde (aka Kekgicakwoe) to Shabogeezhick suggests a close relationship between Marie's spouse Toussaint and the Indigenous people from Lake Nipissing; however, in and of itself it does not prove his ancestry to any greater extent than what is shown in primary documents regarding his mother's Indigenous status which were written at the time of her baptism and the baptisms of her children in 1801 (Leandre, Dorothee, Marie Magdeleine, and Elizabeth) and 1802 (Toussaint).

3.2 The 1999 Historical Report and Related Documents

The respondent referenced a 1999 historical report and a collection of Indian Affairs documents related to the Laronde family.

- ALG-40068
The submission includes Indian Affairs primary documents referenced in a 1999 historical report entitled "Historical Populations of Mixed Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal Ancestry in Ontario – Mattawa and Environs" which is appended to the Enrolment Officer's report as ALG-40068 and discussed at pages 7-8 of the Enrolment Officer's report. The submission asserts that this document was stated incorrectly in the Enrolment Officer's report with regards to the origins of Alexander Laronde's grandmother, asserting that this document

was more relevant to Alexander Laronde's mother. However, the submission itself corroborates ALG-40068, particularly as discussed at pages 7-8 of the Enrolment Officer's report.

- On page 51 of the respondent's submission is a statement written on behalf of Alexander Laronde in 1889, which states he is the son of Eustache Laronde. Eustache is a known brother of subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683). Alexander also states that he is a cousin of Paul Laronde, a known son of Toussaint Laronde. Thus, Alexander's grandmother was Toussaint's mother.
- On page 55 of the respondent's submission is an 1889 letter stating that Alexander's father (Eustache) was ½ Indian and ½ French.
- On page 68 of the respondent's submission is an 1889 letter written on behalf of Alexander Laronde clearly stating that his father's mother (i.e., the mother of Eustache and hence of Toussaint) belonged to the Nipissing Band and her name was Adyithomoga, with his grandfathers name given as Gitchi Anishanaba Laronde.
- On page 71 of the respondent's submission is an 1889 letter from an Indian Agent stating that Matequabe, a member of the Nipissing Band, testified that "the paternal grandfather of Alexander Laronde came from France and his Grandmother, an Indian from Lake Temogamique. To these was born, Eustache Laronde, the father of the applicant." As Eustache is a brother to Toussaint the information would also apply to him. This information is at odds with the primary documentation regarding Toussaint's parents.
- The submission asserts that the document included on page 80 of the respondent's submission is a response written in Alexander's native tongue when asked to which Band his father's mother and his mother belonged. The respondent asserts that "the bottom portion is a clear response about his Mother." No translation was provided for this document therefore this statement has not been verified or confirmed.

3.3 Summary of significance of investigations into the Laronde Family

The detailed discussion of the origins of various branches of the Laronde family which are discussed in the Indian Affairs report of 1899, the 1999 historical report, and the Indian Affairs documents written from 1886 to 1899, cited by the respondent, do not add any more information regarding the lineage of Toussaint Laronde through his mother (Marie Magdeleine Ne8tjikjikok8e/Wosnisquigigo) than the information contained in primary documents written around the time of the baptisms of Toussaint, his siblings, and his mother, specifically:

- ALG-06634, dated June 7, 1801, indicating his mother is an Indigenous woman from Lake Nipissing; and
- ALG-03371, dated July 29, 1801, indicating his mother is an Indigenous woman from Lake Nipissing.
- ALG-40069, dated July 2, 1802, indicating his mother is an Indigenous woman, and Toussaint was born at Lake Nipissing, cited in the Enrolment Officer's report on pages 11 and 16.

The Indigenous identity of Marie Laronde (aka Kekgicakwoe, RIN #16684) is not an issue that is before the Tribunal. Many records, specifically those pertaining to the baptisms of her and

Toussaint's children and their marriage rehabilitation, note her as an Indigenous woman from Lake Nipissing as outlined in the Enrolment Officer's report at pages 5 to 10. In addition, it is clear from these records that Toussaint and Marie and their children lived at Lake Nipissing from at least 1819 to 1823 and later at Allumette Island.

3.4. Archaeological report and records pertaining to descendants.

Other evidence submitted regarding the identification of descendants on census records and intermarriage with other Algonquins show continued association with Algonquin families.

The inclusion of the Lavase River Archaeology Project report, in its entirety, discusses the importance of the trading post Fort Laronde, established after 1810 by Eustache Laronde but does not provide additional evidence as to the racial origin of Eustache Laronde, nor his brother the subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683).

4. Document #4 – Initial Submission by Hason on behalf of himself and his family

In response to the submission's query regarding the role of the Province of Ontario in "the mandate for criteria," it should be stated that the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria for enrolment in the Algonquins of Ontario was developed by the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs) and accepted by a formal resolution of the ANRs on April 20, 2021 (Motion 20210420-01). Neither the Government of the Province of Ontario nor the Government of Canada had a role in developing the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria.

The Proposed Beneficiary Criteria, which included the definition of Algonquin Ancestor, is distinct and separate from the *Indian Act* or any other federal legislation. It was developed by ANRs for Algonquins as a right of self-determination and is integral to their negotiation of a treaty with the Ontario and Canada.

A few other statements made by the respondent, although not germane to the purpose of the Tribunal, are addressed here for purposes of clarification.

- Joan Holmes did not do research on historical families for the Province of Ontario.
- Ontario did not bring a mandate to the ANRs for criteria and benefits for the modern treaty. The decision to establish the Tribunal was an Algonquin initiative agreed upon by the ANRs.
- Non-transmissibility of title under the Robinson Huron Treaty was in keeping with principles and practices associated with Indian Affairs management of treaty benefits which were in place at that time. The issue of non-transmissibility of title and treaty status through the male line then contained in the *Indian Act* is not connected to or relevant to the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria.
- The Tribunal was established by ANR Special Resolution of April 20, 2021 (Motion 20210420-01). The purpose of the Board and Tribunal is to consider appeals and protests resulting from Stage 1 of Enrolment under the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria (PBC). The establishment of the Board and Tribunal had been anticipated by an ANR

Special Resolution of January 22, 2020 (Motion 20200122-01) which set out the details and process for enrolment under the PBC.

There are no other issues raised by this submission that are directly relevant to whether or not there is sufficient evidence regarding subject ancestor Toussaint Laronde (RIN #16683) that "it would be reasonable to conclude that he was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person" as defined in the Special Resolution of January 22, 2020 and reiterated when the Tribunal was established in April 2021.