



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

March 7, 2023

Algonquin Tribunal
31 Riverside Dr #101
Pembroke, ON
K8A 8R6

Dear Panel Members,

RE: Tribunal Hearing for Subject Ancestor: CECILE MCDONNELL DIT MAWISHK

On behalf of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (“AOPFN”), I write to convey our intention to participate in the Algonquin Tribunal’s inquiry into the lineage of the Subject Ancestor noted above for the purposes of the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors.

We appreciate that our submission is past due, however, in the interest of ensuring a fulsome record and that the views of AOPFN are duly considered, we request leave of the Tribunal to accept our submission. In this regard, we attach our submission, prepared by Dr. Darryl Leroux and endorsed by the Chief and Council of the AOPFN.

Please confirm acceptance of our submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Jocko".

Wendy Jocko, Chief
On behalf of the Council, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

c.c.: Dr. Darryl Leroux

Attachment: Cecile McDonnell Submission

**1657A Mishòmis Inamo
Pikwakanagan, Ontario K0J 1X0**

Tel: (613) 625-2800

Fax: (613) 625-2332

ALGONQUIN TRIBUNAL

Submission by the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation

Written by Darryl Leroux, PhD

Disputed Ancestor: Cécile McDonnell dit Mawishk (RIN# 14687)

POSITION STATEMENT

I have reviewed the documents available on the Algonquin Tribunal website for Cécile McDonnell dit Mawishk: Document 1 – Enrolment Officer’s Report Regarding Cécile McDonnell-Mawiskak; Document 2 – Initial Submissions by J. Poirier; Document 3 – Initial Submission by C. Bastien on behalf of himself and his community (Part 1); Document 4 – Initial Submission by C. Bastien on behalf of himself and his community (Part 2); Document 5 – Initial Submission by C. Bastien on behalf of himself and his community (Part 3); Document 6 – Enrolment Officers Reply to Initial Submissions Regarding #14687; and Document 7 – Submission by V. Coburn regarding Cecile McDonnell Mawiskak.

I agree with the Enrolment Officer’s (EO) main findings about Cécile McDonnell dit Mawishk:

- In the baptismal record for her son Narcisse from 9 July 1836 at Mattawa she was identified as “sauteurs,” the name the French gave to Anishinaabe people from west of the Great Lakes.
- Cécile married Narcisse Laurion (Dorion) at Témiscamingue on 22 June 1837. In that record she was identified as Métis.
- Narcisse was a voyageur who likely met Cécile while he was working at the HBC post in Norway House at the northern tip of Lake Winnipeg.
- Cécile was recorded as born in Manitoba in the 1871 Census for Mattawa North.
- Cécile was recorded as born in Manitoba in each of her daughters’ (Sophie and Caroline) census returns for the 1891 Census for Mattawa.

Besides the EO’s report, three interested parties submitted responses that were either in agreement (Document 7 – V. Coburn) or disagreement (Document 2, Documents 3-5) with the EO’s initial submission. The Enrolment Officer also filed its own response (Document 6). In general, it’s my assessment that Documents 2-5 submitted to support Cécile McDonnell’s continued inclusion on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors do not provide sufficient evidence to invalidate that Cécile McDonnell was Saulteaux from Manitoba. In fact, the EO’s reply expertly responds to the claims made in Documents 2-5 and lays to rest any lingering doubts about its conclusions. Further, Document 7 independently confirms many of the EO’s initial findings through primary documentation.

What's clear is that Cécile was likely Saulteaux from north-central Manitoba. As such, it is my assessment that Cécile McDonnell dit Mawishk is not an "Algonquin Ancestor" as defined in Article 1 of the Special Resolution of January 22, 2020.