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**Enrolment Officer's Report**  
**Mary Petrin**  
**(RIN #4762)**

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REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

HEARING MAY 2023

## Purpose of Enrolment Officer's Report

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To provide evidence to assist Tribunal in determining whether it would be reasonable to conclude that Mary Petrin is properly considered an “Algonquin Ancestor”.

The term “Algonquin Ancestor” has been specifically defined in the Proposed Beneficiary Criteria.

# Algonquin Ancestor

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“Algonquin Ancestor” means

- a person who was born on or before July 15, 1897
- identified in an historic record or document dated on or before December 31, 1921
- in such a way that it would be reasonable to conclude that the person was considered to be an Algonquin or Nipissing, or a sibling of such a person
- In this definition, a sibling of a person is a person with a common Algonquin parent

## Organization of Report

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- Information is based on written documents in the possession of the Enrolment Office
- Four Appendices:
  - Mary Petrin's Family Tree
  - Mary Petrin's Timeline
  - List of documents with source information
  - Images of documents with source information
- Posted on Website as Document 1

## Responding and Reply Reports

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- 8 submissions to Tribunal from interested parties  
Posted on website as Documents 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
- Responding report posted as Document 9

## **Added to Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors**

- ❖ Added by a Board decision on November 8, 1997
- ❖ A protest in 2011 removed her spouse John McIsaac Washa8/Wajaw
- ❖ Mary Petrin remained on the Schedule

## Sources of Information

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- Various baptismal, marriage and burial records for Mary Petrin, her mother, maternal grandparents, sibling, and children beginning in 1837
- 1871 census for Mary Petrin, her brother and her grandparents
- 1881-1921 census records for Mary Petrin, her spouse and children
- 1881-1921 census and marriage record for Mary Petrin's brother William Petrand/Petrin
- 1881 census for Mary Petrin's uncles Thomas and Johnny Polson
- HBC biographical record for Mary Petrin's maternal grandfather, William Polson and her brother William Petrin
- Indian Affairs correspondence

## Mary Petrin's Natal Family

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- ❑ Mary Petrin's parents were Bertrand Petrin and Jenny Polson (1871 marriage record)
- ❑ Mary Petrin's brother was William Petrin (1874 marriage record; 1871 census)
  
- ❑ Who were Mary's parents? No marriage record for Bertrand Petrin and Jenny Polson
  - No information on Bertrand Petrin/Petrand; died before 1871
  - "Jenny Paulson" baptized at Abitibi in 1837 at 5 years, daughter of William Paulson and "Otenimakwe (ou l'Eveque)". She was baptized at same time as younger brother, Thomas.
  
- ❑ Who were Mary's maternal grandparents, William Paulson/Polson and "Otenimakwe (ou l'Eveque)"?
  - William Polson married Flora L'Eveque dite Otenimakwe at Abitibi in 1838. Listed as Métis. Legitimized children: Mary, Betsy Flora, William, Jane (likely Jenny) and Thomas.
  - William Polson worked for the HBC, 1821-1857 at Abitibi and Temiskaming, said to be from Eastmain Parish.
  - "Otenimakwe (ou l'Eveque)" name given as Flora Polson on 1871 census at Temiskaming.



## Marriage and Children

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- ❑ 1871: Mary Petrin married Johny Washa8/Wajaw/Mclsaac at Temiskaming, daughter of deceased Bertrand Petrin and Jenny Polson. Living at Temiskaming. Mary Petrin's maternal uncle witnesses.
- ❑ Marriage is recorded in the "Indian registers for Albany-Temagami-Temiscamingue."
- ❑ 1872-83: four children baptized at Mattawa and Sheenboro. Godparents are known Algonquins, descendants of men on the Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors.

## Ethnic Origins

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- ❑ 1871 census for Temiskaming East, Quebec listed Mary Petrin with maternal grandparents and older brother. She is shown as born in Quebec. Whole household is “**Indian**” as are her maternal uncles.
- ❑ 1881 census for listed Mary Isaac (nee Petrin) as a “**Halfbreed**” born in Quebec
- ❑ 1891 census listed Mary as born in Nipissing territory from parents born in Quebec. The “**French-Canadian**” column is checked for her, her spouse and children
- ❑ 1901 census listed Mary as “**R**” for **Indigenous**, born in Quebec, and **French Canadian**. Her spouse was listed as Tête d Boule and the children as Tête de Boule F.B. and “R”.
- ❑ 1911 and 1921 census listed Mary as born Quebec and **French-Canadian**. Spouse and children “Scotch”
- ❑ 1901 census for North Temiskaming, Mary Petrin’s uncles, Johny and Thomas Polson, listed as **Algonquin** speaking Algonquin
- ❑ 1901 census for Temagami listed William Petrin, Mary’s brother, as **French Breed**; 1911 as “**Ojbbewa**” and speaking “**Indian**”; 1921 as **Algonquin** and speaking “**Algonquin Indian**”.
- ❑ 1940 Mary Petrin’s death record identified her as **French**
- ❑ 1937 Indian Affairs investigation, Inspector noted she was “**Indian**” and spoke “**Indian Language**”

## Connections to Algonquin Families

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- ❑ 1838: marriage of Mary Petrin's maternal grandparents, Flora and William Polson, at Abitibi witnessed by Dominique Patwe listed on Schedule of Algonquin Ancestors and known at Oka mission
- ❑ 1871: maternal uncle witness to Mary Petrin's marriage at Temiskaming. Marriage is recorded in the "Indian registers for Albany-Temagami-Temiscamingue." Other Algonquins in this register associated with Oka mission
- ❑ 1872-83: four children baptized at Mattawa and Sheenboro. Witnesses known Algonquins
- ❑ 1876 & 1884: Mary is godmother to Algonquin children baptized at Sheenboro and Mattawa

# Temiskaming

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- Temiskaming/ Temiscamingue historic fur trade post established mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Taken over by HBC at time of merger in 1821
- By 1836 Sulpician priests visiting and encouraging settlement around the post on the east side of the lake, now Quebec
- Algonquins petitioned for a reserve at Lake Temiskaming in 1849; reserve was set aside in 1851
- Oblates took over religious services in 1863, moved the mission to the west side (Ontario)
- Known Algonquin/Nipissing families had services conducted at both Temiskaming and Oka mission

# Issues / Anomalies

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- Mary Petrin's maternal grandparents were identified as mixed-blood people. They married at Abitibi in 1838; known Algonquin witness
- Mary Petrin was identified on census records as Indian (1871), "R"- Indigenous (1901), halfbreed (1881) or French/French-Canadian (1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1940). Indian Affairs investigation identified her as Indian and speaking Indian (1937)
- Mary Petrin associated with known Algonquin families along the Ottawa River from Sheenboro to Mattawa as evidenced by witnessing baptisms and marriages, beginning in 1872
- Mary Petrin's maternal uncles, Thomas and Johny Polson, were identified as Algonquin and speaking Algonquin at Temiskaming (1901)
- Mary's brother, William Petrin, was identified at Bear Island, Temagami as French Breed (1901), Ojibwa (1911), and Algonquin and speaking Algonquin (1921)