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**Enrolment Officer's Report**  
**Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk**  
**(RIN #14687)**

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REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

HEARING MAY 2023

## The Enrolment Officer's Task

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To assist Tribunal in determining whether it would be reasonable to conclude that Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk is properly considered an “Algonquin Ancestor”

- Conduct research on the ancestor
- Present findings of research
- Provide historical and genealogical context to research findings

# 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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- Narrative outlining the written evidence
- Four Appendices:
  - Genealogical chart for Cecile McDonnell
  - Timeline for Cecile McDonnell
  - 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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- Tribunal received 11 submissions from interested parties  
Posted on website as Documents 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 18
- Enrolment Officer's Responding report posted as Document 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17

## Added to Preliminary List of Algonquin Ancestors

- Added by a Board decision in April 2000
- A protest against Cecile McDonnell was dismissed in 2011

## Sources of Information

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- Various baptism, marriage & death/burial records for Cecile McDonnell, her spouse Narcisse Dorion, and their children
- 1861- 1921 census for Cecile McDonnell, her spouse Narcisse Dorion, and their children
- Biographical records and entries for Allan McDonell, John McDonell; last will and testament of Margaret Ann Cameron
- 1865 Petition from Mattawa
- Maps and secondary source regarding John and Magdeleine Poitras, HBC trading posts, Moose Factory and the Moose District, Native Peoples c.1823

## Name Variations

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- Cecile McDonnell's family name was variously written as McDonell, McDonald with Mawiskak or dite Mawishk attached
- Cecile was sometimes referred to as Marie Cecile, Cecile Magdelaine or simply Marie
- Cecile's married name was Dorion, also rendered as Dorian, Lorrion, Laurion, Lorion



# Place Names

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## ➤ **Sauteur or Sauteaux**

- Sauteur or Sauteaux name given by French-speakers to an Ojibwe/Ojibway group in southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan; also known as Western Ojibwa

## ➤ **Rupert's Land, NWT, Upper Canada, Ontario**

- Rupert's Land was HBC charter lands to 1870, purchased by Canada became NWT
- Manitoba created around Red River settlement 1870, boundary north of Lake Manitoba, mid Lake Winnipeg by 1882, current location by 1912
- Upper Canada to height of land above Lake Superior to 1783
- Ontario boundary northward in 1874, expands north to Albany River by 1889

## Cecile McDonnell, her Spouse and Children

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- ❑ Cecile born about 1812-13 (based on age at death)
- ❑ Jan 16, 1834 Cecile had a daughter with Narcisse Lorrion; baptized at Pointe-aux-Tremble on February 7, 1835 at 14 months old
- ❑ 1836 Cecile and Narcisse baptized a son Narcis, three months, at Mattawa, she is identified as Cicile Mawishk, a “Sauteurs”
- ❑ 1837 Marie Cecile Mcdonell dite Mawish married Narcis Laurion at Temiskaming; he worked for the HBC at Mattawa; she was identified as “Metisse”; children Marie and Narcis legitimized
- ❑ 1839 baptized daughter Sophie, born December 1838; godmother Marie Ann Tepinaganokwe, at Mattawa
- ❑ 1845 baptized daughter Caroline Marianne at Mattawa; Cecile is identified as Cecile McDonell; godparents Simon Nimasiba and Marie 8ackijikok8e
- ❑ 1847 baptized son Daniel, at Mattawa; godparents Louis Bastien (spouse of Marie Josette Sipikwe) and Marianne McKay (mother of Anna McDonald)

## Cecile McDonnell, her Spouse & Children, cont.

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- ❑ 1849 baptized son Alexander, recorded in Temiscamingue Indian Register; godfather Alexander McDonell (father of Anna McDonald)
- ❑ 1860 daughter Sophie married Antoine Colton (aka Bastien, son of Marie Josette Sipikwe)
- ❑ 1861 census at Mattawa listed Cecile with husband Narcisse, five children and three grandchildren; Cecile noted as born in Upper Canada
- ❑ 1864 daughter Caroline Dorion married Joseph Lapensee at Mattawa; Marguerite, daughter of Cecile and Narcisse godmother to Alfred McDonnell son of Johny McDonnell and Angenique (aka Manian Inini dite Napons)
- ❑ 1871 census at Mattawa listed Cecile with husband Narcisse, four children; Cecile noted as born in Manitoba and Scotch; sharing dwelling with George Hunter and Philomene Mikkima dite MicMac, a descendant of Pierre Nicholas Mikkima; three other adult men in dwelling
- ❑ 1873 Cecile and Narcisse are godparents to Allen McDonnell, son of Johny McDonnell and Angenique Dufond (aka Manian Inini dite Napons)
- ❑ 1875 Cecile died and buried at Mattawa, about 62 years old

## Narcisse Dorion

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- ❑ Where did Narcisse Dorion meet Cecile McDonnell dite Mawishk?
  - First known child Marie Cecile born January 16, 1834; likely conceived around April 1833
  - Narcisse signed a three-year contract at Norway House Manitoba in June 1830; served as a middleman (paddler)
  - Norway House is around boundary area between Swampy Cree and Ojibwa at this time
  - Returned to Montreal area in July 1834; Marie Cecile baptized February 1835
  - Assigned to Mattawa, 1835-37 and Lac des Allumettes (1837-1840) as a labourer
  - 1865 Narcisse and his son Alexandre signed petition from “Indians of Mattawa” requesting a mission for the Indigenous community
  - 1881 census at Mattawa as widower living with Johnny McDonell; no relationship between Narcisse and Johnny noted on census; Johnny McDonell is brother of Anna McDonald, who also signed 1865 petition
  - 1887 Narcisse died at Mattawa noted as widower of Cecile McDonnell; their son Alexander was witness

## Children of Cecile & Narcisse

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Records for Cecile's children may give information on her place of birth, ethnic identity; searched marriage, death/burial and census records of the children

- Marie Cecile, Sophie and Caroline identified as Indian on 1881 census at Mattawa
- Sophie lists as "mR" and French on 1901 census, Papineau Township
- Marie Cecile listed as "R" and French Breed in 1901, at Mattawa
- Cecile's place of birth listed in 1891 census as North West Territories (Marie Cecile's return) and Manitoba (Sophie and Caroline's returns)

## Cecile McDonnell's Parents

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No records name the parents of Cecile McDonnell; several possibilities have been suggested:

**Allan McDonnell** and **Margaret Ann Cameron** sources such as: Allan's HBC record, Margaret Ann's will, Elaine Mitchell's study, show Allan and Margaret Ann had the following children:

- Alexander McDonnell (1809-1853) HBC servant; two children left a legacy by Allan; predeceased Margaret. Alexander is the father of Anna McDonald and Johny McDonald
- Sophia (1811-1835) predeceased Margaret
- Margaret (1819-1833) predeceased her mother Margaret
- Angus Cameron Macdonell (c. 1829-1903) is executor of his mother's will, his children inherited
- John McDonnell (1831-1907) imprisoned and transported to Australia where he died
- Ann Mcdonell (1837- aft 1863) living with Margaret in Montreal, witnessed marriage of her brother Angus in 1854, married in 1863 said to be the "only daughter of the late Allan Lundy Macdonell"; sisters Sophia and Margaret had died in 1830s
- Allan McDonnell (Jr): listed in sources but no information on his dates, life or whereabouts

## Cecile McDonnell's Parents

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Other suggestions for parents of Cecile McDonnell:

- John MacDonell/McDonell (1762-1850) and Magdeleine Poitra (c. 1782)
  - 1813 marriage legitimized six children born 1799 to 1812; including “Cicillia” born 1810 at Ile à la Crosse, Sask; she died in 1818
- No other potential parents with appropriate names and dates have been located

## Summary / Issues

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- ❖ Parents unknown
- ❖ Place of birth various: Upper Canada/Ontario (1861), Manitoba (1871, 1891), NWT (1891)
- ❖ Ethnic identity various: Sauteurs (1836), Metisse (1837), Scotch (1871); daughters listed as Indian (1881), “R” and French Breed (1901), “mR” and French (1901)
- ❖ Closely involved with Algonquin individuals and households: daughter Sophie married Algonquin man (1860); witnessed Algonquin family events (e.g. 1847, 1849, 1873 baptisms); resided with other Algonquins (1871 Mattawa); spouse and son signed 1865 petition from Indians of Mattawa