



Odanak, Ndakina

September 6, 2022

Governor Phil Scott
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Re: Request meeting to discuss the recognition of the Abenaki Nation.

Dear Governor Scott,

I write on behalf of the Odanak First Nation to request an in-person meeting so we may brief you on the issue of recognition of the W8banakiak, the Abenaki Nation.

Ten years ago, the Vermont's government recognized four groups of Vermonters as Native American tribes – a decision made in a political process from which the Abenaki of Odanak First Nation was largely excluded, even if our people trace its ancestry to large portion of the United States, including Vermont.

When the Europeans arrived, the W8banakiak shared vast forest areas in what is now southern Quebec, and the United States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts). In the 17th century, many villages dotted the territory of the W8banakiak. At that time, there were six major entities: the Canibas or Kennebec, the Pennacook, the Passamaquoddy, the Penobscot, the Sokokoki and the Arosaguntacook. To these must be added the Etchemin, whose name would evoke the oldest W8banakiak with access to the St. Lawrence Valley. American ethnologists tended to group them into confederates, but overall, it can be agreed that there were subdivisions into smaller or larger nations and that the latter could include sister groups.

The Abenaki of Odanak have never surrender their rights and title on our unceded territory, the Ndakina, and never accepted that boundaries made up by foreign nations could have an impact on our territory.

We would like to set up a meeting with yourself and the person responsible for this matter in your office.

We look forward to speaking with you on this matter, in the spirit of Nation-to-Nation relations.

Sincerely,

Rick O'Bomsawin
Chief
Abenaki Council of Odanak

Attached, past resolutions signed related to groups in Vermont.