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**huronne-wendat**

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**PROGRESS REPORT – DECEMBER 2017  
END OF 2017 – BEGINNING OF 2018**

Wendake, December 21, 2017

To all members of the Huron-Wendat Nation, Kwe Aweti, Akwekon,

Here we are already at the dawn of a new year. How time flies! Since the last report, a lot of work has been done for the benefit of all our members, regardless of where they live. We ended up having a wonderful summer. The beautiful weather as well as the pleasant and rustic evenings made us forget that rain-filled spring. The children were able to fill their energy reserves and our elders recovered their summer complexion. In the fall, as school started up again and we resumed our regular activities, we were surprised with some mild weather. What a beautiful autumn we enjoyed! Then, after fishing on the Nionwentsïo and beyond, the big game hunt stirred up some more excitement in our hearts and among our families. We hunt together and for sustenance. Our community hunt allows us to supply many of our members who otherwise would not have access to this type of meat. Lastly, this period ended up being extremely busy in terms of work, as there are many files that are being worked on and which require various meetings with ministries and other partners. I am therefore very pleased to submit to you this 2017 year-end report, which, I am sure, will inform you in a transparent fashion on the Nation's affairs.

**THE NIONWENTSÏO: Our national treaty, rights and responsibilities**

Our efforts among the political authorities in Quebec, which are led by Premier Couillard, proved to be successful in terms of the need for the government to recognize the national territory of the Huron-Wendat, the Nionwentsïo, at the beginning of their official speeches. Thus, during an official visit to the National Assembly by the Ontario Premier, Ms. Kathleen Wynne, Premier Philippe Couillard, as part of a diplomatic response, also recognized that he was on the ancestral territory of the Huron-Wendat and, in the presence of Regional Chief Ghislain Picard and I, acknowledged the Nionwentsïo. Ms. Wynne had previously thanked the Huron-Wendat Nation for welcoming her on its national territory in front of all of Quebec's members of parliament. The course was therefore set for the entire Council of Ministers to respond in kind. Since then, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, as well as the other ministers, have begun their speeches with these words that, to our ears, are so comforting while bringing us peace and security.

In the meantime, we have continued our intensive efforts with the Superior Court through a declaratory action to protect our inherent rights, our treaty rights and our national territory against the imminent ratification of the multipartite agreement that is in the process of being finalized by a few Innu communities that are brazenly claiming the entirety of the Nionwentsïo, including our Seigneurie de Sillery. We are currently conducting an in-depth analysis of our entire legal process, including the full scope of the Huron-Wendat territorial title. It should be noted that even after having reached out to the new Chief of the Lac St-Jean region, Clifford Moar, he continues to ignore us while refusing to reply to us and declining an invitation from Canada and Quebec to join us in a mediation process chaired by Judge Louise Otis.

Chief Moar, along with Chief Dufour from the Haute-Côte-Nord, continues to claim that everything belongs to them and that our people are immigrants on their land. They are completely uncompromising, they sign permits for their members allowing them to disturb our hunters, trappers and families, while claiming to be entitled to occupy our lands and territories. They are behaving as genuinely disrespectful individuals for us as well as others, be they Huron-Wendat or Quebeckers.

I had thought that, with the return of Chief Moar, our relations would take another turn but his complete rejection has given us no choice but to protect ourselves and continue to work on ensuring respect for our rights. We are hard at work and progressing fast and steadily. Finally, only one question remains for the Innu-Petapan at this stage: "Are you prepared, as the Huron-Wendat are, to go to Court to seek official territorial title recognition on the territory known as the Nionwentsïo? If your demands are as well-founded as you claim, are you now willing to have them recognized specifically by the Court?" As for us, the Huron-Wendat Nation, not only have we already gone through the courts, but we have also recently decided to return to these courts and prove beyond any doubt the legal significance of our historic land occupation in line with the Federal Comprehensive Land Claims Policy which covers the claims of the Innu-Petapan.

Chiefs Moar and Dufour must cease behaving in a feudal fashion while practicing the progressive invasion of the territories of other Nations and, at the same time, endangering everyone's safety. No civilized society can tolerate violent and aggressive behaviour and we will continue to appeal to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Quebec to rectify the error that was made in 2004 and ensure the clear recognition of the possession of our properties and territories. This masquerade has gone on long enough!

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING:**

#### **Future projection for all our members**

With the implementation of our policy aiming to respond to all our members in priority areas such as employment and living space by adding accessible lands, especially for our new families, we are focusing our efforts to prepare Wendake for the coming years. Our socio-economic development is booming, and never before have we been as active in terms of infrastructure construction by meeting our current and future modern needs. Our action plan also aims to prioritize the complete realization of the "YÄNDIA'WICH" Turtle Project because our elders are of utmost importance.

#### **STRATEGIC COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WENDAKE EAST:**

In 2010, in order to respond to the growth of its population and its needs, the CNHW asked its members, by way of a referendum, to authorize the expansion of Wendake through the acquisition of lands contiguous to Wendake, located along the Boulevard de la Colline (Wendake East). Following the positive response to the referendum and the purchase of more than seven million square feet of land, the CNHW engaged in a lengthy process involving our attorneys and the various levels of government to transfer these lands and grant them the status of "reserve lands".

Finally, it was not until 2015 that these plots of land obtained the status of "reserve lands" (section 91.24). Today, the lands in the Wendake East sector are ready to accommodate infrastructure such as the Wendake Sports Complex, which combines an economic development dimension with community needs. As the construction of this facility is currently underway, it is now important to establish an overview of the development and optimization of the territory while considering the needs of the Nation in terms of commercial and industrial development.

To this end, the CNHW last summer brought together a multidisciplinary team made up of representatives of the Conseil de la Nation huronne-wendat and professionals with the aim of carrying out a strategic analysis of the development opportunities for Wendake East. It should be noted that financial assistance from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada made it possible to set up this team in charge of carrying out this important reflection.

Thus, the objective of the strategic committee is to conduct an in-depth study and analysis of the economic potential of Wendake East to formulate clear and precise recommendations for the CNHW. The strategic analysis will consider the socio-economic context of the Nation, its geographical environment, demographics, existing businesses, competition, possible partnerships, available grant programs, market studies and the legal context. The objective of this exercise is to provide the CNHW with a clear and optimal vision in terms of the development of its territory, so as to foster the creation of businesses and jobs and generate independent revenue for the Nation.

The strategic committee will draw on the preliminary study that was tabled in May 2016 by the Deloitte accounting firm which had conducted a first overview of Wendake East's development opportunities. For example, Deloitte's report identified the following opportunities: a medical super clinic, a residential facility for seniors, outlet-style commercial spaces, residential rental units, and so on. Therefore, the committee in place will deepen the analysis of each proposal and identify a realistic and beneficial overall plan for the Nation. The strategic committee will also determine all legal issues related to land management and will consider, among other things, the possibility of recommending to the CNHW to proceed through the Indian Act land designation process which allows First Nations to identify lands that could, for example, be destined for certain projects of a commercial nature on its reserve and benefit from them financially. When a First Nation designates lands, it allows its business partner to temporarily operate a business on a specific section of the reserve while retaining rights over those plots of land. The designation process is a serious process that requires an elevated level of information exchange. The work of the strategic committee will take place in the coming months and a final report will be submitted to the CNHW in the spring of 2018.

## **WENDAKE CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER HURON-WENDAT ENTERPRISES:**

### **Heavy work and restoration of the main arterial roads**

In February 2017, the Conseil de la Nation huronne-wendat officially launched its five-million-dollar project focused on the development of the first public utility infrastructures in Wendake East (adjacent to the Boulevard de la Colline). The execution of the work was carried out internally with the involvement of our own national company: Wendake Construction L.P. The project, whose schedule extends over a period of two years, includes the network connections for waterworks, gas, domestic and rainwater sewers and electricity.

The project also included the construction of approximately 1 km of a new street in this area and the construction of two retention basins for surface water management. This first phase of development for Wendake East will particularly allow for serving Wendake's new sports complex whose commissioning is planned for February 2018 as well as several other structuring community projects that are currently part of a vision of overall development.

In addition, in August 2017, the CNHW received confirmation of financial support for the funding of the road repair works on the streets of Chef Max-Gros-Louis, du Loup and Chef Stanislas-Koska. Quickly, the teams of Wendake Construction L.P. (WC) mobilized to begin this ambitious \$9 million project. This

project involves the complete refurbishment and upgrade of all underground and surface infrastructure. In summary, over 7,200 metres of pipe were replaced, 1,750 linear metres of road were paved and 1,120 linear meters of sidewalk were refurbished. In addition, the street lighting will be optimized and improved. It will be functional by February 2018.

The Wendake East development projects and the renovation of Chef Max Gros-Louis Street have provided full-time employment to more than fifteen Huron-Wendat workers. Operators of heavy machinery and pipe laying, signaling, electrical and surveying workers have had the opportunity to contribute to the expansion and restoration of our infrastructure. Three local contractors were hired to participate actively in the following areas: electricity, signage and excavation. That's more than \$1.5 million in direct benefits for our Huron-Wendat entrepreneurs.

In addition to job creation and positive economic spinoffs, WC contributes to maintaining the financial health of our Nation. This year, once again, our community business should return about \$500,000 to the Nation's coffers.

### **WENDAKE SPORTS COMPLEX AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMMUNITY HALL:**

The realization of the Wendake Sports Complex project represents a CNHW commitment that dates back several months. This time, the stars were aligned, and our teams worked hard to make it happen. First, 200,000 square feet of land were needed. The new lands acquired in 2010 along the Boulevard de la Colline were sufficient in terms of land mass. However, the amount of rock represented a major obstacle in terms of the development cost. To analyze this problem, the CNHW, in 2015, entrusted its national construction company WC with the mandate to implement a development plan with the objective of preparing these lands at "zero cost". The proposed plan was to sell aggregate products (stone, gravel, sand and soil) from the blasting and crushing operations on the local market. It is in this context that, in the summer of 2015, WC began working with more than 75,000 tons of rock in the planned location for the construction of the Complex.

Then, the team of the economic development sector enlisted the services of professionals to support it in the development of a complete business plan. A market study and discussions with Mr. Charles Vigneault, owner of the Trane Sports Complex in Boischatel, contributed to fostering understanding of a project of this magnitude. The key to achieving the targeted objective of guaranteeing the profitability of such an installation lies in its construction cost, which must not exceed a certain threshold. In our case, the budget threshold was set at \$8.3 million, including equipment. This includes a North American-sized rink, stands for 400 people, space for a pro shop, a canteen service and a stunning 5,500-square-foot multipurpose hall. A lot of effort and work has gone into financially setting up this priority project for the Nation. Among other things, the search for a maximum amount of government funding was a crucial step in reducing the project's debt level. In this context, in the spring of 2017, INAC confirmed a \$1 million grant, while the provincial government, through the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA), announced its participation for an amount of \$500,000. To complete the financial package, the CNHW used bank loans by resorting to financial institutions located on its territory. In the end, the CNHW borrowed a total of \$6.8 million bearing interest at an average rate of 5%.

For the construction, the CNHW opted for internal management by hiring a construction manager with experience in carrying out a similar project. The advantage of the "internal management" method is that it allows the CNHW to apply its policy on awarding contracts and to directly invite all Huron-Wendat suppliers to bid according to their respective trades. To select this manager, a competition set up in May 2017 allowed the CNHW to entrust the mandate to the TB4 Construction firm. Shortly after, the construction of the Complex began and, to this day, work progresses at an impressive rate! Despite the

extremely tight schedule, we remain confident that we will be able to proceed with the opening of the Complex on February 8, 2018 with the International Pee-Wee Tournament of the Quebec Carnival, which will present 10 days of hockey games in our complex next spring.

In preparation for the opening and operations of the Complex, the CNHW concluded in the summer of 2017 a strategic partnership with Hockey Québec Centre (HQC), a non-profit organization dedicated to minor hockey in the Quebec City region. This unique partnership establishes HQC's commitment to providing the CNHW with its network and expertise in the management and organization of activities associated with ice sports. Under the terms of the agreement, HQC provides the CNHW with a multidisciplinary team to perform various administrative tasks such as customer services, billing, accounting, booking, scheduling, reservations and search for sponsors. Of course, the recreation department of our public service will continue to carry out various tasks related to the organization of events and will be directly involved in the success of the Complex through the development and implementation of community or school initiatives aimed at ensuring the quality of life and well-being of our members.

The Complex is a dream come true and its realization has been made possible thanks to unfailing determination, a well-crafted business plan and a realistic construction cost that respects our financial means. The inclusion of a 5,500-square foot multifunctional hall is an important asset since it will allow the organization of several types of events related to ice activities or simply for community purposes. The Complex is another project that will make the Huron-Wendat Nation shine and we can all congratulate ourselves for its realization. To date, the CNHW has already signed several leases for ice hours for the 2018-2019 season and the analysis on the possibility of adding a second rink to the project has begun!

#### **WENDAKE SERVICE STATION (PHASE II):**

Phase II consisted of adding 2,400 square feet to the original building to add a convenience store outlet and a drop-off point for the delivery of tax-free goods to the existing services. The various targeted objectives were to meet customer demand, create jobs and generate self-generated revenue for the benefit of all our members.

Phase II represented a \$1.34 million project, including construction work on the building and the acquisition of specialized materials and equipment. The financial package required a \$270,000 down payment from the CNHW, government contributions totaling \$665,000 and a \$400,000 bank loan. The construction work was completed in the spring of 2017 and the opening took place on April 30, 2017. In terms of management, given the nature of the convenience store's activities, the CNHW made the decision to proceed with the hiring process for an external Huron-Wendat manager holding a service agreement with a multitude of responsibilities. Following a rigorous exercise, the bidding process resulted in the appointment of Audrey Drolet and her team. Ms. Drolet, a proud Huron-Wendat, holds a degree in business administration and has many years of business experience.

Since the opening, operations have continued to improve and the pace of sales is growing steadily. As an indication, after six months of operation, the service station is on track to achieve record sales of \$13 million on an annual basis, composed of \$10 million in gasoline sales and \$3 million in convenience store product sales. Considering the level of sales achieved and the inventory storage requirements, it became clear that the space available inside the building no longer allowed to provide the drop-off service that was initially planned. We are currently analyzing a plan B that can serve as an alternative and more details will be communicated to the population soon. In terms of job creation, the previous number of six employees, including two full-time employees, has now reached 16 with a total of four full-time employees, most of whom are members of our Nation. From an administrative perspective, the complex

nature of the gas, tobacco and alcohol tax exemption processes are extremely demanding for the manager and staff of the CNHW, given the exemption rules imposed by the Ministère du Revenu du Québec. These rules are cumbersome and monopolize many resources in addition to requiring a high level of collaboration from both cashiers and customers. To solve this problem, the CNHW initiated discussions with the Ministère and a working committee was formed composed of representatives of the CNHW and the partner EKO. Nevertheless, we are very satisfied with the completion of the second phase and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire population for their trust!

## **HÔTEL «MAISON DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS L.P.» :**

### **Pool and expansion**

The Hôtel «Maison des Premières Nations» (HMPN) was created in 2008 as part of the festivities surrounding the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quebec City. This ambitious tourism development project was made possible thanks to the involvement of several government partners who believed in the potential of the Huron-Wendat Nation and its ability to take on a project of this size. In addition to the museum, our complex features 55 rooms, a banquet hall and the La Traite restaurant which can accommodate 160 people. The overall project represents an investment totaling \$16 million, including \$11 million for the construction of the HMPN and \$5 million for the museum. The funding aspect proved to be complex and required several stakeholders. In 2006, the CNHW entered into a strategic partnership with Investissement Premières Nations du Québec (IPNQ), which agreed to invest \$800,000 in the venture in exchange for 40% of the shares. Investissement Premières Nations du Québec (IPNQ) is a venture capital fund for First Nations whose sponsors are the Native Benefits Plan (NBP), the Native Commercial Credit Corporation (NCCC), the Corporation de développement économique montagnaise (CDEM), the Fonds de solidarité FTQ and the Desjardins Group. Through this partnership, the IPNQ agreed to support the CNHW and put at its disposal its team of professionals dedicated to the implementation of business projects within the various Aboriginal communities of Quebec. Next, the CNHW confirmed \$6.5 million in government funding from various programs. Finally, bank loans from the RBC and NCCC supplemented the project's financing.

The HMPN's early years of operation were well below expectations and the significant financial losses accumulated over the first five years challenged the sustainability of our community enterprise. To remedy the situation, the CNHW proceeded in 2011 with a reorganization of the board of directors of the tourism industry and welcomed three new Huron-Wendat board members from the business world who are deeply concerned with the well-being of their Nation. The arrival on the board of directors of Mr. Jean Branchaud, Mr. Steeve Gros-Louis and Mr. Michel Robitaille brought a new energy and their efforts, combined with those of the other members including the Vice-Grand Chief, Mr. Jean Vincent, and the Executive Director of the IPNQ, Mr. Haskan Sioui, have quickly fostered the expected results. Over the next two fiscal years, the HMPN's budget losses decreased by 80% and, in 2015, profitability was achieved for the first time. Today, we are pleased to see that our hotel institution is on the right track and represents the economic engine that the Nation needed with more than 100 associated jobs. Over the past summer, the construction of a community indoor pool was completed, which is a \$1.1 million project that was made possible thanks to \$825,000 in total funding from the provincial and federal governments. This important addition will strengthen the current client base while attracting new clients composed of families and young children.

The success of Wendake's tourism industry and the national awards of excellence it has won allow us to be optimistic about the future and to consider an expansion that could double the number of rooms available today. Such a development project would provide the opportunity to consider the possibility of integrating other complementary activities to our hotel, such as multimedia corporate rooms, a centre for

reflection and spirituality and a high-end gaming hall intended for an international tourism clientele. Important reflections to this effect are to be expected and together we will be able to make the best decisions for the betterment of our institutions. We must also take care of our human resources and vigorously pursue the application of our hiring policy, which prioritizes jobs for our members. Finally, the preparation of a Huron-Wendat succession for the different management positions of the tourism industry is also a priority to be addressed in the coming months.

### **WENDAKE'S ARTISTSIC HUB:**

Wendake's artistic hub project was initiated in 2013 following a strategic reflection by the CNHW concerning the optimization of the use of the amphitheatre site. Several objectives were targeted in carrying out this project, the main ones being to:

- Create a place of gathering for members of the Nation as well as constructive exchanges with tourists and visitors on an excursion to Wendake;
- Organize cultural activities on a regular basis and thus allow Wendake's talented people, artists and artisans to have access to a platform to perform in a manner that perpetuates the maintenance of ancestral culture and know-how (traditional dance, music, singing, percussion, cooking, herbage, poetry, tales and legends, etc.);
- Repatriate our community radio station (FM 100.3) and enhance its contents and programming by broadcasting live or pre-recorded activities;
- Build a permanent roof over the amphitheatre and bleachers in order to cope with the different weather conditions;
- Generate new independent sources of revenue (sponsors, food sales, partnerships, benefit shows, music competitions, etc.) to ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the site's infrastructures;
- Illuminate the linear path along the Akiawenrahk (St-Charles) River, connecting the Artistic hub and the Place de la Nation;
- Develop a dance area for our community needs and the organization of our annual Pow Wow, which welcomes hundreds of traditional dancers every year;
- Create new, sustainable and permanent jobs within the community in such a way as to develop expertise and skills to operate site facilities;
- Develop the various communication mediums to help Wendake shine and promote its businesses, institutions, events, tour packages, history and culture;
- Organize a permanent show bringing together all the talents of the artistic field of our wonderful Nation.

To ensure the development of the Artistic hub, the project was divided into three separate phases of implementation and involved more than four government programs. A comprehensive business plan was prepared by the CNHW's economic development sector and the contributions of many stakeholders made this ambitious project achievable. Today, we can all congratulate ourselves collectively for the work accomplished.

**Phase I:** This first phase included the development of a new community radio station, FM 100.3, and the construction of the 1760-Bistro, a bar featuring live musical performances. This phase required a total investment of \$1.1 million, including a \$550,000 grant from the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA) and \$200,000 from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC).

**Phase II:** This second step consisted of the construction of a magnificent dance area located in proximity to the canyon of the Akiawenrahk River that can accommodate more than 1,000 people in an enchanting setting close to our Mother Earth. This is an investment of \$300,000 which received a non-refundable contribution of \$150,000 from the SAA.

**Phase III:** The final phase includes the modernization of the outdoor stage, the construction of a theatre box on the edge of the outdoor stage, the development of an illuminated path and the construction of a permanent roof over the amphitheatre. This last step represents a total investment of \$2 million and the CNHW's efforts have made it possible to confirm grants totaling \$1.5 million from Canadian Heritage and Canada Economic Development (CED). Phase III is about to be completed with the construction of the theatre box expected to begin in the next few weeks.

The Artistic hub is a fully-supported structuring project. It addresses many interests that are likely to contribute to the development of the Huron-Wendat Nation, be it through music, dance or entertainment. Indeed, the Artistic hub demonstrates the importance given to the artistic community and today we pay tribute to our great ambassadors who have left us too early; we extend a special thought to Mr. Gaëtan Sioui and Mr. Gilles Sioui.

To fund the operations of the Artistic hub and the community radio station, the CNHW allowed the organization of community bingos on FM 100.3. This activity began in the spring of 2017 and has raised \$75,000 to date, which was used for its intended purpose. Thank you to all the players for their support and for participating indirectly in the success. We can all congratulate ourselves collectively for the work accomplished. Now that the “container” is in place, we are now focusing on the “contents”. It is in this context that, in the coming months, we will be reflecting on a summer show project that will be held throughout the summer of 2018. The objective is to involve all the strengths of our Nation in this great community project.

#### **LEGAL FILES – REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATION:**

##### **Descheneaux case – Correction of discriminatory provisions regarding Indian status**

As part of my last progress report, I noted the decision that was made by the Superior Court of Québec in the Descheneaux case, a decision that will have a significant impact on both our members and our Nation.

Indeed, the Superior Court stated that the provisions of the Indian Act relating to Indian registration and band membership were unconstitutional, and contrary to section 15 of the Charter. The Court therefore ordered the federal government to amend the discriminatory provisions. The deadline for making the changes has been extended several times by the courts to finally be set for December 22, 2017.

I have personally monitored this file, which is of paramount importance to our Nation, especially to ensure that the rectifications made to the provisions of the Indian Act are adequate while effectively correcting not only the discriminatory aspects based on gender but all other sources of injustices, including those against many of our members born before 1951. We made sure that the voices of our Nation would be heard during the drafting of the amendments.

**We are therefore pleased to announce that Bill S-3, which has been under consideration since the fall of 2016, was adopted on December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

This Act grants the right of status to all direct descendants of persons born before April 17, 1985, who are already entitled to be considered Indian under previous versions of the Indian Act (also called the “continuity clause”). However, some changes, including those that eliminate the 1951 deadline, will come into effect after further consultations conducted by the federal government.

Rest assured that we will continue to monitor this file very closely and ensure that the federal government implements, as soon as possible, the new provisions so that discrimination against our members ceases. The CNHW will also make the necessary representations to ensure that the federal government assumes its responsibilities towards the new members of our Nation in terms of funding, the provision of services and programs and housing.

### **Discussion table – Protection of the Nionwentsio**

In December 2014, the Federal Court upheld the request made by the Huron-Wendat Nation and ordered Canada to review the territory covered by the agreement in principle with the Innu (EPOG). The Court recognized Canada's dishonourable conduct due to the complete absence of prior consultation with our Nation, even though the territory covered by the EPOG encroaches on our national territory, the Nionwentsio. This situation is already significantly affecting the exercise of the customary activities of our members and the conclusion of a final Innu treaty would have major and unprecedented impacts for the future of our Nation.

Following this important victory, a tripartite discussion table composed of the Huron-Wendat Nation, Canada and Quebec was set up and numerous meetings were held between the representatives of the parties.

The CNHW, through its negotiator, Mr. Simon Picard, a lawyer who is supported by a strong legal team, is currently making every effort to ensure that discussions resume between the parties so that they can result in satisfactory solutions for our Nation in respect of our treaty rights.

### **Rockmont specific claim**

Negotiations with the federal government to agree on compensation for the illegal surrender of our Rockmont reserve in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century began about three and a half years ago, when the federal government, after several requests from our Nation filed successively since the end of the 1980s, finally recognized, for the purposes of the negotiation, that the surrender had not been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Act.

Unfortunately, many delays were caused in large part by changes in negotiators on the federal side. Nevertheless, negotiations have resumed with the newly mandated representative and these are well underway; we can now count on a structured team. The members of the Nation will of course be informed of future developments in this important file through public meetings and information documents. Also, it is important to note that the terms of a settlement agreement, including the use of any amount received by the Nation as compensation for this illegal surrender, will need to be presented to and ratified by our members through a referendum.

### **Huron-Wendat law on real property**

The federal Parliament passed the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act, which currently applies to Wendake. Indeed, this law consists of provisional federal rules that are applicable to First Nations who have not yet adopted their own rules in matrimonial matters.

These rules therefore fill a legal void for matrimonial real property located on reserve when First Nations have not developed their own criteria. The provisions allowing each First Nation to develop their own

matrimonial real property law came into force on December 16, 2013 and the other provisional rules came into force on December 16, 2014.

As these federal rules have very significant impacts for our Nation and all the members residing in or owning real estate in Wendake, it is essential that the CNHW proceed with the development of its own law, which will be better adapted to the realities, values and culture of our Nation. Thus, a working committee (*Loi huronne-wendat sur les biens immobiliers*) chaired by Chief Line Gros-Louis was set up in September 2017 to coordinate the work leading to the development of our law.

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, a public information session on the provisional federal rules and the work of the committee was held in Wendake and over one hundred people were in attendance. Committee representatives were able to gather comments and feedback from the members on the rules that are currently applicable.

In January 2018, focus groups will be organized to benefit from the contributions of the members of the Nation as to the contents of a possible Huron-Wendat law. A questionnaire will also be posted online to obtain feedback from members who could not participate in these focus groups.

The committee will then be able to begin drafting a bill to be submitted to the public. We will of course inform you in detail regarding the next steps and we hope to be able to count on the active participation of the members of the Nation to develop a law that will be truly adapted to our realities.

## **NIONWENTSÏO OFFICE:**

### **Historical research and defense of the territory**

Since the beginning of this year, the research team of the Nionwentsïo Office has continued its studies as well as the drafting of the final report presenting the continuity of the use of the territory by the Huron-Wendat Nation. This has followed-up on the summary presentation that was submitted to the governments in 2016, as part of the discussions mandated by the Federal Court in the December 2014 decision. The team notably conducted a detailed and in-depth analysis of certain key documents in order to illustrate the subject. It has also dealt with many cases involving the historical and contemporary visitation of the Nionwentsïo by members of the Nation. Worth noting are the archaeological excavations that were carried out this fall on the site of the Huron-Wendat village in Ancienne-Lorette, as well as the summer school of archeology, in collaboration with Université Laval, all of which led to significant discoveries.

### **Provincial consultations**

The Huron-Wendat Nation is consulted annually by the Quebec government on a multitude of miscellaneous projects. The Nionwentsïo Office has therefore analyzed more than 200 consultations, particularly in relation to the development of the territory, bills and regulations. Several consultations received more attention, such as the numerous transfers of supply guarantees and regulations under Quebec's Environment Quality Act (EQA).

### **Federal consultations**

This year, many more federal consultation requests than in previous years were received. These included a review of environmental and regulatory processes, several port projects and consultations on endangered species. The efforts made with the federal government have made it possible to be consulted



today for the entirety of the Nionwentsïo, and even beyond. This is incidentally the case for the Port of Montreal expansion project, which is located in Contrecoeur.

### **Forest certification**

The Nionwentsïo Office is very involved in the forest certification of companies working on the Nionwentsïo, including the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Currently, five agreements have been reached on our territory, thus making it possible to develop partnership projects, protect our sites of interest and be consulted on forest planning.

### **Harry Gros-Louis Jr. Nature Reserve**

The Huron-Wendat Nation's CNHW passed a resolution to commemorate the great Huron-Wendat hunter Harry Gros-Louis Jr. and emphasize his connection with nature and the territory, in addition to his involvement in the community with the youth and for community development and the defense of the rights and interests of the Nation. It was therefore resolved to create a nature reserve in the northwestern sector of Wendake named in his honour: the Harry Gros-Louis Jr. Nature Reserve. The Nionwentsïo Office has also taken steps to develop this sector and thus enable the public and youth to enjoy it for community activities by setting up interpretation panels, developing thematic trails related to nature, fostering the transmission of knowledge, etc.

### **Biological projects**

In total, seven grants were obtained in addition to four contracts that were carried out by the team over the course of 2016-2017. Thanks to the available funding, it was possible to continue the work on black bear control (to support the survival of young caribou) and the recovery of Arctic char and American eel. For the latter species, the Nionwentsïo Office reached an agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada for the development of eel ladders on the dams of the Nionwentsïo with the goal of facilitating their access to breeding grounds. This project will cost approximately \$1.5 million over the next five years.

Also worth noting are an inventory of the culverts of the ATV trail that runs through the Laurentides Wildlife Reserve and the continuation of the collaboration with the Wahta' School and the youth centre for the execution of many activities (trapping, hunting, fishing, etc.). As part of the Beauport 2020 project, members of the Nionwentsïo Office team worked with the Englobe company on fish including striped bass. Thanks to the FSC certification, two contracts were completed on the lands of the Seminary of Quebec, one of which was focused on taking an inventory of the Bicknell's Thrush while the other focused on evaluating the spawning grounds. Finally, thanks to a service offer from Rouge National Urban Park in Ontario, the CNHW participated in restoration work (i.e., tree planting). The OTERA company was awarded a contract to conduct assessment phases I and II for the contaminated sites located near Saint-Joachim thanks to its procurement-related experience.

### **Environment in Wendake**

In an effort to protect the environment, the Nionwentsïo Office will work with the City of Quebec to conduct an investigation on the sanitary and stormwater networks. The objective is to eliminate the levels of contamination caused by stormwater outfalls flowing into the Saint-Charles River in Wendake.

The impact assessment for the activities of the Louis-Philippe Sioui industrial park on the noise level and air quality of neighbouring residential areas has been completed. A report of the winter 2016 and summer 2017 campaign will be presented to the CNHW in early 2018. Also in the industrial park, the



Nionwentsïo Office provided support to the businesses for the installation of new tanks in compliance with the Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

The development of the Yarha sector is forward thinking and adapted to the numerous impacts that residential developments can have on the environment. The Nionwentsïo Office is currently assessing the current state of the sector's stormwater management system to improve this management, protect drinking water sources and reduce the ecological footprint.

### **Guardians of the territory and law on the Huron-Wendat camps**

This year, the Nionwentsïo Office has analyzed about fifteen requests for the construction or use of family sites on the Nionwentsïo. These are nearly 200 locations that are currently occupied by members of the Nation. The guardians of territory are once again responsible for ensuring that the sites granted and the facilities erected there comply with the Huron-Wendat Nation's law concerning the development of sites and constructions for the purpose of customary activities on the Nionwentsïo (*Loi de la Nation huronne-wendat concernant l'aménagement de sites et de constructions à des fins d'activités coutumières sur le Nionwentsïo*). Next winter, efforts will focus on the certification of many camps that comply with the law.

### **Forest harmonization**

The season for consulting harvest plans has already begun for the 2018 season. In 2017, numerous cutting areas were analyzed by the Nionwentsïo Office and many harmonization measures were agreed upon with the Ministère and the forest companies. The relations are cordial and the Nionwentsïo Office always makes the necessary efforts to protect the rights, activities and interests of the members of the Huron-Wendat Nation present on the territory.

### **Moose hunting**

A total of 130 groups of hunters participated in the draw. A total of 81 moose were collected during the regular hunting season. Also, seven moose were collected during the community hunt. As in the past, this meat will be distributed to the community, at the Agoshin counter as well as through some special activities.

### **CENTRE DE LA FORMATION ET DE LA MAIN-D'ŒUVRE HURON-WENDAT:**

Since the arrival of the new director, Ms. Isabelle Therrien, the actions that had already been initiated are continuing and new ways of working have been put in place. One of them aims to ensure a pleasant work climate based on trust, communication and thoroughness.

In addition, the establishment of working committees within each of the sectors has made it possible to redistribute the tasks fairly and efficiently, to define the roles and tasks of the employees and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the work.

### **Professional training**

Accounting and hairdressing students are completing their respective courses this year. Concerning the SASI professional training focused on health, assistance and nursing care, the course continues and the

students are very successful. In addition, a new course on health and sanitation in healthcare settings will begin on January 29, 2018 and a course on carpentry will begin in April 2018.

### **General education for adults**

New training profiles will be created, the objectives of which are to provide a stimulating environment that is adapted to Aboriginal realities, develop students' personal and academic skills, encourage student retention, increase the graduation and qualification rate and promote a healthy and caring environment that respects the values and culture of the clientele served. Three profiles will be offered as of January 2018: Performing arts, creative writing and media creation. The health, sports and outdoors profile will be available in the fall of 2018.

### **Distance training**

This is available to members of remote communities who cannot travel to the CDFM. This training allows individuals to combine work, family and personal life with their studies.

### **Workforce sector**

A project developed for Aboriginal women entrepreneurs began this fall with the objective of providing women with a service focused on developing their business plans while having access to a resource person to support them. This project is carried out in partnership with a doctoral student from the Université Laval.

### **Agreement between the educational services and the CDFM**

The agreement was finalized so that the management of the funding policy for preschool, elementary and high school education will henceforth be assumed by the CDFM. The goal is to ensure a continuum of effective and efficient services for parents who are members of the community.

### **Income security**

As part of this file, which is also being managed by the CDFM, a project concerning the professional reintegration of income security beneficiaries has been initiated. The intention is to decrease the number of income security clients and to increase reintegration into employment.

### **Culture, language and heritage sector**

A file focused on traditional Wendat games has just be completed. In all, 19 “kits” have been assembled and these will be distributed in the community (elementary school, health centre, youth centre, etc.). The following are some of the games included in these kits: bowl game, straw game, moccasins game, lacrosse, snow snake, etc.

### **Miscellaneous**

A selection process for a Wendat work that will be placed on a main arterial road in Ontario has been initiated and the Emery project, which is also in Ontario and focused on the inclusion of Wendat elements featured along a bicycle path, continues.

Regarding the tradition maintenance course provided in the summer, a new DVD was produced on Wendat hunting tools and accessories and the tradition maintenance course for the summer of 2018, which will focus on canoe crafting, is in the process of being prepared.

In order to integrate culture among children, cultural days are offered at the elementary school. A Wendat language course is also associated with the arts, culture and language program from grade 1 to grade 6, and Wendat language courses are included in the activities of the Orak childcare centre.

A great new element for the Wendat language courses is being offered by our cultural agent in the form of online training starting in January 2018, which will be provided to 250 Huron-Wendat residents in the Montreal area. The language revitalization initiative continues, and the creation of the website is underway. More projects will also be launched by 2019.

Following the success of the Fall Cabin activity that was held in September 2017, the Spring Cabin will be taking place on May 26 and 27, 2018. This is an event you do not want to miss!

At the Yahiatonhka' library, several workshops were provided in the fall of 2017 and a new program will be disseminated in January 2018.

Lastly, porcupine quill jewellery crafting workshops were also offered this fall by Ms. Isabelle Sioui and a collar crafting training course will begin in early 2018.

## **WAHTA' SCHOOL:**

### **Latest news**

The first good news is that the Wahta 'school has become associated with the Université Laval and the Faculty of Education. It is the only First Nations school that enjoys such recognition. The characteristics of an associated school are as follows:

#### **An institution that is continually:**

- Recognized by the Université Laval;
- Governed by a memorandum of understanding between the university and the school board or private school;
- Integrating into its "educational project" the reception of trainees as part of a practical training program in a school context.

#### **A team of professional trainers:**

- Expert teachers who are able to communicate their practical knowledge;
- Enrolled in a training-resourcing approach on supervising trainees;
- Favouring an educational training approach based on reflexivity and cooperation;
- Associated with university trainers as part of a partnership framework.

#### **A school management concerned with the future of the profession which, in collaboration with Université Laval, ensures the development of:**

- The practical training of the trainees;
- The continuing education of the teaching staff;
- Collaborative research between teachers and academics in the context of its institution.

### **More interesting news:**

The first open houses were held to allow people in the community to see the quality of the staff and its professionalism, the safety of the school and especially all the excellent services that are offered to students, which is a distinctive element that characterizes the institution. This activity was an immense success.

Language and culture were integrated directly into the language, arts and culture curriculum. Our children have the opportunity to learn our language, our culture, our songs and our traditional dances.

The learning communities program continues and the entire team is working together to ensure everyone's success. This year, emphasis has been placed on mathematics (solving). The evaluations will be produced and provided to all other member schools of the FNEC, which entrusts this mandate to the school, as a form of recognition of the quality and professionalism of the work accomplished.

Cultural activities continue in collaboration with the Nionwentsio: hunting, fishing, trapping, ice fishing, salmon farming and snow goose interpretation.

All the classes have been designed to meet the needs of the students by featuring desk cycles, stools, displays, adjustable tables, etc.

Days of sharing for Huron-Wendat culture take place with other schools featuring songs, conferences, etc. The Santa Claus parade on December 21<sup>st</sup> will travel through the streets of Wendake.

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, in the company of the Mayor of Ancienne-Lorette, Mr. Émile Loranger, I personally participated in an event that was held with the Collège de Champigny on respect for differences. It took place at the church of Ancienne-Lorette and followed the Santa Claus Parade aiming to collect donations for seven foundations. More than 1,300 participants gathered to share on this topic. Seventeen students from the Wahta' School, under the supervision of Ms. Andrée Levesque, performed Huron-Wendat choir songs during this activity.

### **HEALTH, RECREATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Since December 31, 2017, Mr. Denis Lessard has been the Director of Health, Recreation and Social Services. This new manager is familiar with the files of this department since he has been the Assistant Director of Health for the past three years. His expertise in this area as well as his management skills made him an ideal candidate who is capable of ensuring the delivery of the various programs of the Huron-Wendat Nation in the field of health and social services. His sense of creativity and innovation led to the establishment of a primary care clinic at the Marie-Paule-Sioui-Vincent health centre, as well as the opening of a youth clinic. In addition to being the Director of Health, Mr. Lessard will continue to be responsible for nursing as well as risk management. The well-being of the population remains the priority of the department and it is in this spirit of improving the accessibility of services that it is hoped that young physicians can be drawn to the health centre in the near future.

### **WENDAKE SOUTH:**

The Huron-Wendat Nation's Ontario files team continues its efforts to defend and protect our rights, heritage and interests relating to our heritage in Ontario. I have had the opportunity in recent months to meet with the federal Minister of Indigenous Services, Ms. Jane Philpott, whose riding is located in Markham-Stouffville. The Minister and her mayor colleagues from the surrounding municipalities are

enthusiastic regarding the idea of developing projects in partnership with our Nation. The team travels regularly to Ontario to follow-up on ongoing projects and meet with various partners. Bilateral relations have been strengthened between the Nation and many departments, institutions, counties and municipalities such as Metrolinx, the City of Barrie, Hydro One, CN and the City of Toronto, among others. I would like to thank the team and our eight site supervisors who have spent the last few months away from their families to look after the interests of the Nation.

#### **WENDAKE'S POLICE SERVICES:**

After four years as the Director of Wendake's Police Services, Mr. Daniel Langlais completed his term on October 31, 2017. We thank him for all the hard work he has done over the years. Mr. Jean Duchesneau is now the Director of this department and he was appointed to this position during a swearing-in ceremony that was held on November 2, 2017 at the HMPN.

The coordination of Wendake's emergency preparedness is now under the responsibility of the Director of Police Services. The emergency preparedness committee has been restructured and completed. Training in risk management and emergency planning will be provided to all committee members who have not already received this training. It will be provided in collaboration with the Emergency Management section of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

Since June 2017, the police station has been equipped with a generator that allows the police force to remain fully autonomous and operational in the event of a power outage. In addition, a new patrol vehicle, a 2017 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor, will be operational by Christmas.

In closing, over the last few months, three new temporary police officers have been hired. They are Mr. Nick Robitaille-Duchesne, Ms. Sarah Pageot and Ms. Sarah Boily.

#### **WENDAKE'S TOURISM INDUSTRY:**

The Wendake tourism industry was awarded the Canadian Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Award at the Canadian Tourism Awards Gala, which was held in Gatineau on November 29, 2017. This award highlights that this sector is currently offering the most complete range of Aboriginal tourism services in Canada, made up of our artisans, shops, restaurants, bistro, Pow Wow and its magnificent dance circle, reconstituted village, museum, national longhouse and magnificent hotel. We must also emphasize the professionalism of the teams working in the tourism sector. As an indication, Wendake was the only tourism product in the greater Quebec City region to be nominated.

In addition, the sector participated in the International Aboriginal Tourism Conference, which was organized by the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and held in Calgary from November 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. The event was held in the Tsuut'ina Nation community, on its traditional Treaty 7 territory, specifically at the Gray Eagle Resort & Casino. The First Nation museum, conference centre and casino are attractive products and the vast majority of employees are Aboriginal. However, the Aboriginal signature in the design is non-existent. Tourism Wendake won in the national "Most Improved Business of the Year" category which rewards the business with the best growth during the year while having most adjusted to requirements and the growing tastes of the different clientele. The changes made include the addition of a swimming pool and a small gymnasium at the HMPN, the decoration of the cruise terminals, the construction of a roof on the Artistic hub amphitheatre, the Wendake Endi' show, audio guides at the Huron-Wendat Museum and the translation of the visit in six languages, in addition to a few phrases in Huron-Wendat.

A visit of Parcs Canada's facilities in Old Quebec also took place and, in return, our facilities were visited by their representatives. The targeted objective was to benefit from their location to get them talking about us in the high season and also to look for ways to present an offer of interesting visits to school groups, primarily for the Huron-Wendat Museum.

### **News about the Musée Huron-Wendat (Huron-Wendat museum)**

Since December 5, 2017, the position of Head of Business Management and Development has been filled by Ms. Alexandra Leconte who holds a bachelor's degree in art history, a master's degree in museology and a graduate degree in public management from the École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP). Ms. Leconte will be in this position for three days a week in December and on a full-time basis starting in January 2018. This new employee has been working in the museum field for 10 years and her last job was as the Executive Director of the Centre d'interprétation de la Côte de Beaupré.

The new temporary exhibition can be visited since December 14, 2017. An opening event will present the work of the needle being highlighted. As for the project with the MCCQ to obtain recognition, it is well underway. Mr. Jean Desautels is working extensively on the museum's premises file since this element and the use of space are among the specific requirements to be respected. Work on the redevelopment of the facilitation room will begin soon and two offices will be added for the researcher and the team leader.

In addition, a new request was submitted by a member of the board of directors, Mr. Jean Desautels, to Canadian Heritage on October 30<sup>th</sup> concerning "the collection of the museum: its management system for its collections and premises". This project represents a \$100,000 investment while the request for financial assistance is in the order of \$50,000. The other half of the required amount will be paid by the Huron-Wendat museum and it will cover mainly salaries.

Since the museum's exterior siding needs to be redone, a grant application has also been submitted to Canadian Heritage. The refurbishment project is estimated at more than \$177,000 and the work is expected to begin in the fall of 2018, if the requested funding is accepted.

The museum's collection currently contains more than 2,000 artifacts, which is 800 more than in 2008. It is therefore imperative to find adequate premises in which to display them, as the premises is no longer large enough. We are currently searching in Wendake for such locations, which should ideally be between 1,200 and 1,500 square feet.

The year of the opening of the Huron-Wendat museum was the busiest year (23,500 people). We are very confident that this number of visitors will be exceeded during the current year (20,400 people). Most of the current clientele is composed of tourist and school groups. The fact that we are now offering audio guides helps to find new markets such as Chinese, German, Italian, Spanish, etc.

**It is important to remember that, once again this year, the CNHW will inject \$300,000 to support this institution.**

### **EVENT: KWE! Meet with Indigenous Peoples:**

The Huron-Wendat Nation hosted, on its territory, the "KWE! Meet the Indigenous Peoples" event that was held at the Place de l'Assemblée nationale in Quebec City during Labour Day weekend. With the goal of raising awareness about the realities of First Nations, this event was a tremendous success with thousands of visitors. Our Nation was able to occupy a prominent place by highlighting its know-how, culture and language. We are already working with our partners for the 2018 edition. The commitment

and enthusiasm expressed by political players throughout the Capitale-Nationale region, as well as by many other collaborators, confirm that this event is hence a must-see event.

**EPILOGUE:**

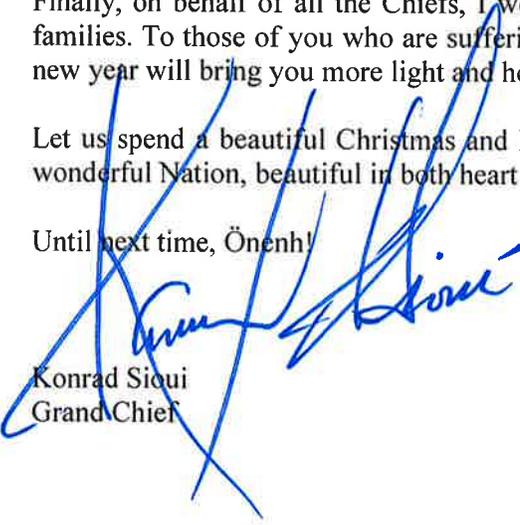
As we read this last report of 2017, we can all congratulate ourselves for all the work that was accomplished and for the achievements that make us collectively proud. We leave no one behind, we use our strengths, we prioritize our elders and we invest in the academic success of our young people.

Let us defend our rights and our national territory; collectively it is our most prized possession. We act directly with the federal government to include all our members within the Nation, while correcting discriminatory clauses that deprive our members of the full and complete exercise of their rights. The time is now. We are at work united and strong on our national treaty negotiated from Nation to Nation. Let us protect it wisely in the spirit of our ancestors.

Finally, on behalf of all the Chiefs, I would like to offer our warmest condolences to all the bereaved families. To those of you who are suffering, know that we are with you in all circumstances and that the new year will bring you more light and hope.

Let us spend a beautiful Christmas and Holiday Season together and never forget that we are the most wonderful Nation, beautiful in both heart and spirit!

Until next time, Önenh!

  
Konrad Sicui  
Grand Chief