



Preserving Anicinabe heritage: Major acquisition for NIPAKANATIK virtual archival library

Rouyn-Noranda, November 11, 2024 - Minwashin is thrilled to announce a historic agreement with the Government of Manitoba, owner of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Founded in 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was created for the fur trade and traded with native trappers and coureurs des bois to barter their catches for useful items such as cloth, metal tools and firearms.

As part of its commitment to bringing people together, the Manitoba government will digitize and donate to the NIPAKANATIK virtual library nearly 300 archival items relating directly to the Anicinabe nation. This rich collection of artifacts is the largest archival acquisition in NIPAKANATIK's history.

The archives provided by the Hudson's Bay Company include :

- Expense accounts
- Receipts
- Administrative documents
- Trade and transaction records

These varied documents, which record the names of the various trappers and coureurs des bois with whom transactions were carried out, make it possible, among other things, to trace their movements.

Anicinabek communities have never before been in contact with these important archives. This is the power of the NIPAKANATIK project and its primary mission: to bring together in one place the various archives relating to the history of the Anicinabe Nation that have been dispersed over time, so that the Anicinabek can reclaim their own past.

"I see this donation as a gesture of reconciliation and recognition of the importance that a piece of history can have for the Anicinapek. It is essential to share this knowledge with future generations by offering them the opportunity to consult it in a culturally appropriate and secure environment."

- Maurice J. Kistabish, Elder guardian and bearer of knowledge, initiator of the NIPAKANATIK project

"The Hudson's Bay Company Archives is honoured to be partnering with Minwashin on their Nipakanatik project. The records in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives hold significant family and community history for the Anicinabek dating back to the 1790s. Our partnership with Minwashin is an important step in ensuring the Anicinabek have digital access to records that are relevant to their communities and I am pleased to offer the full support of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in this endeavour."

- Kathleen Epp, Archivist, Archives of Manitoba

A press conference will be held on November 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Murdoch Room of the Noranda Hotel (41, 6th Street, Rouyn-Noranda), in the presence of Richard Ejinagosi Kistabish, Maurice Kistabish and the Minwashin team.



About Minwashin

Minwashin is a non-profit Anicinabe cultural organization whose mission is to support, develop and celebrate Anicinabek arts, language and culture. Minwashin, which means “it’s beautiful, beauty” in Anicinabe, is a space for valorization, revitalization, gathering and outreach.

www.minwashin.org



About NIPAKANATIK

Launched in 2023, the NIPAKANATIK virtual platform is the largest database of Anicinabek archives. Respectfully designed and enriched according to a constantly reformed ethic, the platform’s mission is to make archives that speak of their history accessible to Anicinabek communities, while protecting the value of these historical documents.

www.nipakanatik.org



About Archives Manitoba

The holdings of the Archives of the Hudson’s Bay Company include textual records, still images (photographs and documentary art), cartographic records (maps, plans and charts), architectural drawings and moving images and sound recordings (films, videos and audio recordings).