



Unveiling of a Public Artwork at the Tesabidan Outdoor Space at the UQAT Campus in Val-d'Or

Val-d'Or, June 9, 2025 — The Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT), known for its commitment to recognizing and highlighting Indigenous knowledge and cultures, will soon welcome a permanent artwork by Innu artist Carole Bérubé-Therrien at its Val-d'Or campus. This piece will be displayed in the Tesabidan outdoor space, a site dedicated to education, sharing, and reconciliation.

Originally from the Matimekush-Lac John community, Carole was selected as part of the MADAMIKANA – Crossroads – project, an initiative led by Minwashin that honors Indigenous memory, culture, and creativity on the territory.

A public art project deeply rooted in the territory

MADAMIKANA, an Anicinabe word meaning "crossroads," evokes symbolic places where history, territory, art, and peoples converge. Led by the cultural organization Minwashin, this artistic mediation project celebrates the millennia-long presence of the Anicinabek on the land through the creation and installation of six public artworks.

"Reclaiming heritage is a way to delve into history to rediscover fundamental elements of our identity, to reconstruct the values that were ours and those we want to continue transmitting."

— Richard Ejinagosi Kistabish, President of Minwashin

Each piece, inspired by Anicinabe archives and elders' stories, serves as a tangible trace of living memory, a recognition of the territory, and an invitation to dialogue between peoples. MADAMIKANA will be unveiled throughout the summer of 2025, creating a unique Anicinabe art circuit in the region. This unveiling marks the second in the series.

"We are very pleased to have been chosen as a partner site and to host this creation within our Tesabidan cultural space, dedicated to education, sharing, and reconciliation. Art helps to make Indigenous cultures and voices visible, and it is a privilege to contribute to the outreach of Carole Bérubé-Therrien's work within the Val-d'Or community."

— Jason Yergeau, Director of the UQAT Campus in Val-d'Or

The official unveiling will take place on **Thursday, June 19, at 5 p.m.**

The event is free and open to all.

This project was made possible with financial support from the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Quebec.

About Minwashin

At the heart of Anicinabe AKI, Minwashin is a non-profit cultural organization dedicated to supporting, developing, and celebrating Anicinabe arts, language, and culture.

www.minwashin.org

About the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

For 40 years, UQAT has worked closely with First Nations and Inuit communities to ensure that higher education remains a key driver of reconciliation and collective well-being. The university develops study programs that respect Indigenous perspectives and fosters culturally relevant education while ensuring access to academic support services that put students at the core of its mission. Inaugurated in September 2024 at the Val-d'Or campus, the Tesabidan outdoor space is a communal area dedicated to knowledge transmission, dialogue, and cultural exchange.

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Madamikana – the crossroads – evokes this symbolic space where history, territory, art and nations meet. This artistic mediation project, led by Minwashin, celebrates the age-old presence of the Anicinabek on their ancestral territory through art. Six permanent, vibrant works, nourished by the stories of the elders and the archives of the Anicinabe Nation, will mark the territory of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Each work, like a star, is part of a living constellation and an invitation to explore the territory differently, to renew links between peoples.

