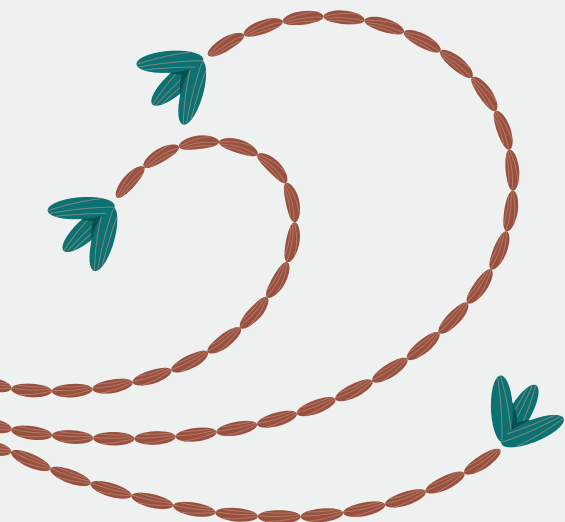


TIONHWENTSONDIAHK

Together, We Are Building Our Nation

Newsletter from the Grand Chief of the Wendat Nation

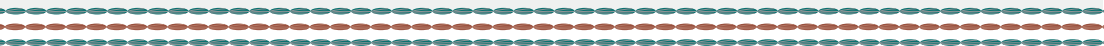
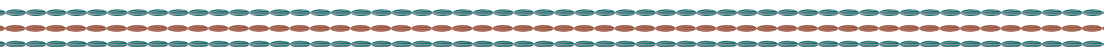


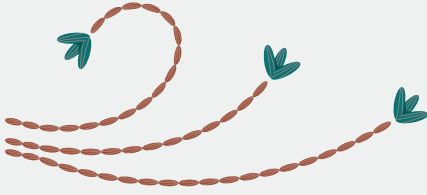
**Review of my first
year in office**



NATION
Wendat

News release 1





MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEF



Kwe aweti',

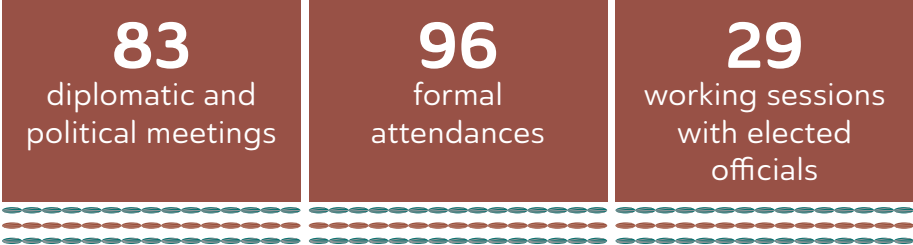
One year ago, you placed your trust in me by electing me as Grand Chief of the Wendat Nation. From the beginning, I committed to keeping you informed and ensuring transparency. Today, I would like to present this first review of the actions I have undertaken with the Chiefs so that, together, with you, we can continue to move the Nation forward.

Tiawenhk inenh!



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

(from November 1, 2024, to October 10, 2025)¹



¹ These figures are approximate. Despite several checks, it is possible that some events may have been omitted.

VALORIZATION OF WENDAT IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Swearing-in

Since the very beginning of my term, the valorization and strengthening of our identity and language has been a priority as part of our governance. During my swearing-in ceremony, the protocol used was inspired by our traditions and reflected more authentic ways of appointing the Grand Chief and Chiefs. This symbolic moment demonstrated our collective desire to bring our cultural practices to life and to promote them in official spaces.



Figure 1: From left to right: Chief Carlo Gros-Louis (Culture, Language, and Heritage), Chief Denis Bastien (Public Safety, Tourism, and Electoral Code), Chief Stéphane Picard (Legal Affairs, Demographics, Operations, and Consultations), Chief Dave Laveau (Health, Wellness, and Human Resources), Grand Chief Pierre Picard, Chief René W. Picard (Finance, Housing, and Information Technology), Chief Daniel Sioui (Technical Services and Infrastructure, Land, and Land Code), Chief William Romain (Education, Recreation, Labor, and Community Organizations), and Chief Yves Sioui (Economic Development and Traditional Activities).

The Wendat Nation

As part of this desire for identity reappropriation, cultural affirmation, decolonization and Wendat language promotion, we consulted with the Wendats regarding the removal of the term “Huron”, a term imposed by European colonizers, from the nomenclature of our official bodies in favour of exclusively adopting “Wendat Nation”. This change marks an important step in the reappropriation of our identity with a view to decolonization and self-determination, while respecting the historical heritage of the word “Huron”.

The flag

We also initiated changes that were presented at the Family Chiefs’ assembly held on April 26, 2025:

- 🏳️ The two-row wampum was replaced with the axe wampum.
- 🏳️ The wampum is now vertical, with the axes pointing outward.
- 🏳️ The sea turtle was replaced with a snapping turtle, the true symbol of the Turtle Clan, on the canoe of the coat of arms.

These meaningful gestures aim to revive pride in being Wendat and faithfully reflect our sense of belonging to this great Nation.

Towards an inclusive and respectful Nation toponymy

We also undertook another linguistic and cultural reaffirmation process by asking Chauveau MP Sylvain Lévesque to add a Wendat name to the Chauveau riding. Following the federal government’s recent renaming of the Louis-Saint-Laurent—Akiawenhrahk riding, the name Yahndawa’, meaning river, flow, or stream of water, was submitted. The proposed amendment

is moving forward, and the Chiefs and I are confident that Yahndawa’ will now be able to appear alongside Chauveau by the next provincial vote.



Figure 2: As holder of the Heritage, Culture, and Language, Chef Carlo Gros-Louis represented the nation alongside Director Josée Dion at the first World Summit of Indigenous Languages in Ottawa.

STRENGTHENED COMMUNICATION WITH THE POPULATION

An increase in the number of assemblies

Since taking office, I have worked to increase opportunities for interaction between the Council and the population. We have increased the number of public assemblies and established biannual family meetings bringing together all the Chiefs and all Family Circles. These meetings are intended to be opportunities for discussion that also allow the population to express their views on issues and projects that directly concern them.

Social media presence

We have increased our social media communications, through both the Chiefs’ official Facebook page and the Grand Chief’s Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts. In the same spirit, a communications department has been established within the council’s administration to ensure a constant link between the administration and all members of the Nation!



Figure 3: The Chiefs and the Grand Chief gathered for the Family Chiefs Assembly on April 26, 2025.

Meeting with the Wendats

It was also important for the Chiefs and me to ensure a strong presence and attention to our Nation and the Wendats. From the beginning of my term, in unity and solidarity, we have committed to listening to you, being transparent in our governance, keeping you informed, and being there for you.



Figure 4: Chef Denis Bastien shares a beautiful smile with two Wendat during the Kwatonnhahrenh onywahwatsira’ (Let’s Celebrate Our Family) event!

That is why, throughout the past year, we have maintained a diplomatic presence at community activities within our Nation. These events are much more than simple gatherings: they are special moments of sharing, cultural transmission, solidarity, and collective pride. We therefore participated with care and attention in the swearing-in of the Youth Council at Wahta’

School, as well as the school's graduation night, the fall cabin, the Truth and Reconciliation Day Walk, Family Day, the Pow-Wow, the Walk of Hope, the presentation of King Charles III's Coronation Medal, and much more!



Figure 5: From left to right: Chief Daniel Sioui, Grand Chief Pierre Picard and Chief Carlo Gros-Louis at the Elders Day recognition luncheon on October 2, 2025.



Figure 6: Chef William Romain and Chef Daniel Sioui on Truth and Reconciliation Day.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Nation to nation

From the very beginning of the campaign, it was vital for me to position myself as someone who is open to all possibilities for renewing relationships and partnerships with other First Nations in Quebec. I hope to build on a spirit of cohesion and mutual support to make our voices heard and advance our common causes.

Agreement with the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation

It is in this spirit that we signed a statement of principles with the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation last July. This gesture demonstrates our shared desire to build lasting bridges based on respect for

the teachings of our ancestors and the fundamental values of our Nations: Honwatihchiendaenhk (honour), Erihwändoronkhwa' (respect), and Teontatrihwaoha' (diplomacy). This moment marks the formalization of our intention to collaborate towards a social and territorial peace treaty.

Since the signing of the agreement, both Nations' political offices have continued their discussions. At the time of writing, we are in the process of setting a date for a diplomatic meeting between the Chief of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh First Nation and myself. We will keep you informed of any major developments.

Inter-Nation mobilization and solidarity

The current political climate is marked by uncertainty and tension. As First Nations in Quebec, we must constantly fight to make our voices heard and ensure our autonomy is respected. Faced with this reality, we have repeatedly demonstrated our solidarity with other Nations.



Figure 7: From left to right: Chief Carlo Gros-Louis, Chief René W. Picard, Grand Chief Pierre Picard, Chief Yves Sioui, Chief Stéphane Picard, Chief Daniel Sioui, and Chief Denis Bastien with AFNQL Chief Francis Verreault-Paul at the rally against Bill 97.

Among these mobilizations, we should mention the lack of consultation surrounding the announcement of the 3rd Link corridor, against which we issued a joint statement with the Wolastoquey and Abenaki. The rally against Bill 97, which was held following the call to action from the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador, constitute a collective mobilization involving several Nations, including Manawan, Lac Simon, Pikogan, Mashteuiatsh, Kitcisakik, Pessamit, and Timiskaming.



Figure 8: Wendat gathering against Bill 97.

Supporting one another

Our desire to strengthen our ties with other Nations was also expressed last April during the fire at the Centre d'amitié autochtone de Québec (CAAQ). The Chiefs and I quickly offered our support to the CAAQ leadership, notably by making the facilities of Wendake's food and clothing bank available to ensure the continuity of food distribution services. As I emphasized at the time, it is our duty to help our brothers and sisters, in the spirit of mutual aid, honour, and respect passed down by our ancestors.

At the beginning of my term, the Innu Nation also asked us to organize a simultaneous march as a sign of solidarity in the fight against addictions and for collective wellness. Thanks to the collaboration of the health and wellness department, this march, which was held in November, was a resounding success as it responded to the call for mobilization.

Relations with Quebec City

Our relationship with Quebec City has also evolved. The framework agreement with Quebec City represents a major step forward

in our relations with municipal authorities. It establishes the foundations for a structured collaboration that respects our sovereignty while paving the way for joint projects, particularly in the areas of culture and development.

In the same spirit, our collaboration with Quebec City on the UNESCO nomination, which was submitted on January 15, 2025, reflects our commitment to ensuring international recognition for the richness of Wendat heritage. This approach allows us to highlight our history, our knowledge, and our contribution to the region's identity.

These partnerships are much more than agreements: they are levers of transformation, tools of influence, and vectors of sovereignty. They reflect our collective ambition to move the Wendat Nation forward as a key entity in politics, the economy, commercial development, and territory.



Figure 9: Grand Chief Pierre Picard, accompanied by Chief Yves Sioui (not pictured) and the Mayor of Quebec City, Bruno Marchand (right), announce the Wendat Nation's support for Quebec City's bid for biosphere sustainable certification.

DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS AND INTERESTS: PROGRESS IN TERMS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND POLITICAL ACTION

During my first year in office, I increased my political meetings with government representatives to defend the rights and interests of the Wendat Nation. I held in-depth discussions on many priority issues, particularly in the areas of forestry, environment, economy, and territorial development, with a view to positioning the Wendat Nation as a key player for any major project that is looking to be implemented on our territory and in the greater Quebec City region.



Figure 10: Gérard Deltell and Grand Chief Pierre Picard at the Wendat 2025 hockey tournament.



Figure 11: Minister of Indigenous Services Canada Mandy Gull-Masty with Grand Chief Pierre Picard

These discussions established a constructive dialogue with elected officials from all levels, including Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand; Ian Lafrenière, Minister of Public Security, Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, and the Nord-du-Québec region (provincial); Sylvain Lévesque, Member of Parliament of the CAQ for Chauveau; Gérard Deltell, Member of Parliament for Louis-Saint-Laurent–Akiawenhrahk; Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada; David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence; and Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation,



Figure 12: The Grand Chef with the President and CEO of the Port of Québec.



Figure 13: From left to right: Minister Joël Lightbound, Grand Chief Pierre Picard, Prime Minister Mark Carney, and MP Jean-Yves Duclos.

Public Works and Procurement, representing the Louis-Hébert riding. Thanks to these diplomatic efforts, the Wendat Nation continues to make its voice heard with strength and clarity on the political and institutional stages.

WENDAT PRIDE: OUR STRUCTURAL PROJECTS

Kwayaweh

This year, we undertook concrete actions to strengthen our autonomy and better meet the community’s expectations. On December 5, 2024, we broke ground on the Kwayaweh project, a residential initiative that was launched under the leadership of my predecessor, former Grand Chief Rémy Vincent. This 236-unit complex aims to expand housing opportunities on our territory. It prioritizes members of the Wendat Nation, particularly those who are currently living off reserve, by offering them the opportunity to reside in an environment that respects their identity.



Figure 14: From left to right: Francois Pelchat, President of Immostar, Maxime Picard, Chief Daniel Sioui, Grand Chief Pierre Picard, and Chief René W. Picard.

Fostering access to residential land

On December 17, 2025, we allocated eight residential lots—three more than in previous years—to meet the growing demand for housing and promote the sustainable settlement of Wendat families on our territory.

Purchase of the Hilton

On January 16, 2025, another major step forward was made with the acquisition of the Hilton by the Atenro Corporation, which means “friendship” in Wendat. This entity brings together four Indigenous Nations, including our own, and together we hold a majority stake. This inter-nation partnership is a model of Indigenous economic collaboration, bringing concrete benefits to our Nation.

What I want you to take away from these projects is that they are not just infrastructure projects: they embody our desire to build a future where the Wendats are at the heart of decision-making, proud of their identity, and players in their development.

Promoting the Nation – Public presence



Figure 15: Chef Stéphane Picard welcomes more than 1,300 athletes to the Onyionhwentsiio’ during the Cap Challenge Québec.



Figure 16: Chief Yves Sioui, on behalf of the Nation, congratulates the company Endi’ which stood out in the Défi OSEntreprendre 2025.

Like you, I am proud of our Nation, and I strive to promote it at every opportunity. With this in mind, I seek to ensure a greater public presence in the greater Quebec City area, including at events, forums, and conferences. This visibility is essential in terms of sharing our perspectives and building relationships with various stakeholders in the community. Thanks to the support of the Chiefs, we can increase our representation and bring a strong, diverse, and engaged voice to strategic spaces.

Notable events in which we participated include the 34th Convention of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, where I spoke in front of more than 1,000 people, the Défi OSEntreprendre de la Capitale-Nationale, the Conference of the Canadian Airports Council, KWEI, the 40th Session of the APF America Regional Assembly, the inauguration of the Centre de sécurisation culturelle at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, as well as the Global Indigenous Languages Summit in Ottawa.

These events provide us with valuable platforms to share our realities, our ambitions and our contributions to regional and national development.



Figure 17: Chief René W. Picard represented the Nation at the inauguration of the Centre de sécurisation culturelle at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec. Also present were Sylvain Lévesque, Member of Parliament for Chauveau (first from the left), and Michelle Audette, Senator in the Senate of Canada and Assistant to the Vice-Rector of Academic and Student Affairs at Université Laval (4th from the right).



Figure 18: On September 30, 2025, Grand Chief Pierre Picard prepares to perform the ceremonial puck drop between the Ottawa Senators and the Montreal Canadiens, in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

A strategic vision for our governance

In recent months, the elected officials and I have been convening the administration to establish a strategic plan that will guide priority actions for the next three years. In September, we presented the pillars of this plan:

1. Affirm ancestral and treaty-protected rights through a uniquely Wendat political and diplomatic approach.
2. Plan sustainable land use.
3. Develop and consolidate the Nation's financial autonomy.
4. Affirm, promote, and protect the cultural identity and sovereignty of the Wendat Nation.
5. Develop and consolidate the range of services for the Wendat, particularly for seniors, and strengthen recreational opportunities.
6. Position communication as a strategic lever to ensure the Nation's influence and the Wendats' engagement.
7. Ensure operational performance through integrated and planned resource management.

Work continues to more precisely define the projects to be carried out under each pillar. While keeping time and resource limitations in mind, we must make informed choices and prioritize initiatives that have a direct, concrete, and lasting impacts on the quality of life of the Wendats, the vitality of our culture, and our collective ability to fully exercise our sovereignty.

While we cannot meet all expectations, our actions are guided by a shared desire to serve the Nation with rigour, respect, and pride.

Humorous moments

Even though political life requires a certain decorum, it sometimes offers us moments that are unexpected, to say the least ... and frankly entertaining! It's precisely by knowing how to laugh a little and not always taking ourselves too seriously that work sometimes becomes lighter. I'd therefore like to share with you two experiences that took me out of the day-to-day routine and were quite fun ... and surprising!

The first experience, although unexpected, was rather comical. In the middle of February, I was asked to dive into the icy waters of the St. Lawrence River as part of the Polar Bear Challenge, for the benefit of Special Olympics Quebec. While warm in their winter clothes, the spectators watched me with a mixture of compassion and amusement as I hopped into a pool of river water surrounded by ice. This was a surreal but invigorating moment that I will not soon forget!



Figure 19: A moment frozen in time: accompanied by other brave participants, the Grand Chief jumps into the icy water of the St. Lawrence River.

A few weeks later, Kwahrëndahrenh yohchëndeh – Trappons l'hiver! (let's trap winter) took place, offering a magnificent weekend of activities aimed at encouraging young people to get active, while bringing the Nation together around culture and traditions. I took the opportunity to play Tehatihwenhtaenhk (Snow Snake). A young Wendat, Chayton Rock, was kind—and patient—enough to teach me the basics of the game, despite my talent, which is... let's just say, improvable. It was a wonderful moment, enjoyed under a bright sun, where I was able to observe firsthand how proud our youth are of their culture and how willing they are to share it.



Figure 20: Grand Chief Pierre Picard focuses on learning how to play Tehatihwenhtaenhk (Snow Snake) under the guidance of young Wendat Chayton Rock.

Looking to the future – Tiawenhk to the Chiefs!

This first year has been rich in challenges, learning opportunities, and accomplishments. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Chiefs who play an essential role in our governance. I am aware that our way of doing things is demanding and requires constant commitment. Yet, every day, you rise to the occasion with the necessary determination to advance the issues that are entrusted to you, and always in the Nation's best interests.

Your autonomy, expertise and dedication are the pillars of the council of elected officials. You act with rigour and discernment, and your insights enrich our collective decisions. Without your presence, support and work, none of what we have accomplished would have been possible. You are the wheels that move our Nation forward, and I sincerely thank you.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Council staff, who support the elected officials' directions with professionalism and commitment.

And above all, I thank you, the Wendats, for your trust and your involvement in the life of our Nation. This is only the beginning, and I will continue, with the Chiefs and the administration, to work for the well-being and development of our Nation while continuing to focus on the future of the Wendats first and foremost.

TIAWENHK INENH CHIA' EKWAYEN'.

