

Wolostoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation collection

MCC-00570

Total boxes: 2
Linear feet: 2.33 ft

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Normand C. Dube and Therese M. Nadeau Letters (MCC-00569)

Shelf List Number: UM-569

Collection Overview

Creator

Wolostoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation

Dates

Unknown

Extent

2 boxes containing 20 artifacts.

Provenance

Donated by Danny Nicholas in July, 2012

Language

English
French

Conservation Notes

The DVD is copyrighted. Handle items with care, as many of them are fragile or have material like beads or feathers that could be torn off easily if not handled properly

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

No restrictions

Physical:

No restrictions

Technical:

DVD player is required to view `Canada over the edge.` This is a copyrighted recording that cannot be reproduced.

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

The Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation, formerly called the Maliseet of Viger First Nation, is the only Wolastoqey Nation in Quebec territory. Six other Wolastoqey Nations are in New Brunswick.¹

Until the 16th century, members of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation lived along the Saint John River in New Brunswick. They primarily lived off hunting and fishing, but they also grew corn. The Wolastoqey Nation is culturally similar to the Abenaki Nation and the Mi'kmaq Nation, which are all part of the Wabanaki Confederacy.

In 1840, there were more than 200 members of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation living on the banks of Rivière Mitis, and likely as many living elsewhere between Lévis and Rimouski, particularly on the Viger reserve. Created in 1827, the reserve was one of the first land concessions granted to an Indigenous nation in Québec. However, its land rights were disputed by the surrounding population, who asked the Canadian government to take back the land and put it up for sale. In 1869, after a few months of negotiations, the members of the Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation agreed to surrender their land under certain conditions, and the lots were sold at auction the following year.

¹ "Welcome!" Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation. Accessed from <https://wolastoqiyikwahsipekuk.ca/>

In the late 19th century, the Canadian government granted the nation a territory in the township of Whitworth. The members of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag Nation tried in vain to cultivate this land, which was unsuitable for agriculture, before abandoning it and settling near Cacouna. After the federal government purchased a small lot for them in 1891, they remained there for several generations. However, no more than 10 people have ever lived there, and no one from the nation remains there today. It was not until 1987 that about 100 members of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation met in Rivière-du-Loup to elect a nation chief and council. The council then submitted an application for official recognition to the Québec government. In 1989, the National Assembly of Québec officially recognized the Malecite Nation as the 11th Indigenous nation of Québec. In 1998, the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation had a building constructed on their lot in Cacouna to house their band council offices.² Today, the First Nation owns a small reserve land at Cacouna in Bas-Saint-Laurent and the members still constitute a diaspora living on the Québec territory and beyond.

Some of the artifacts have tags saying they were made or sold by boutiques selling Canadian Indigenous art at the Matuwaskeewin boutique d'art Amerindien in Cacouna, Canada, which appears to be run by the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation or in collaboration with the Nation. Cacouna is located about a two hour drive north east of Fort Kent in the province of Quebec on the St. Lawrence River.

Scope and Content

This collection is made up of 20 artifacts made by the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation of Quebec as well as a DVD made by a former Maine game warden whose territory covered the northern Maine-Canadian border. Artifacts include clothing, dreamcatchers, dolls, jewelry, a drum, and wood carved birds.

Arrangement

Materials from this collection have been laid out in two boxes with tissue paper separating items. Larger items such as the clothing were laid out on the bottom of boxes with smaller items laid on top.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

² Wolastoqiyik (Malecite)" Quebec government website. Accessed from <https://www.quebec.ca/en/government/quebec-at-a-glance/first-nations-and-inuit/profile-of-the-nations/malecite>

Subject Headings

Canada, Eastern
Dreamcatchers
Indian leatherwork
Indigenous art
Indigenous peoples
Malecite Indians
Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation
Wood-carving

Related Materials

Not applicable

Collection Inventory

Box	Description
1	Child's vestment set made up of: Chaps with green colored fringe; a vest with an Indigenous man wearing a head-dress on the back and traditional tools like a bow/arrows on the front; a vest cover with a teepee and canoe on each side
1	Adult vestment set made up of: Chaps with black colored fringe; vest with an image of a hill in the horizon including wildlife on the back and images of a buffalo and eagle on the front; a vest cover with an image of wildlife such as a bird catching prey and a bear standing at the edge of a river on each side
1	DVD titled "Canada over the edge: Atlantic Frontier"
1	Leather-bound dream catcher with white and brown feathers
1	Beaded choker with white, red, and black beads, a leather strap and a [bear?] claw
1	Corn doll with black wool hair and a colored bead necklace
1	Beaded choker with red, tan and metallic beads and a red leather strap
1	A small tear-shaped dream catcher with wooden beads and a small feather dangling from a strap
2	Feathered headpiece with green, red, blue and black colored leather and black, white/brown, and red feathers
2	A medium-sized carving of a long-beaked bird on a stand
2	A small bird carving with a large body
2	Large bird carving with a crooked neck
2	Wooden carved canoe with a paddle
2	Red, black, and white beaded earrings
2	A plastic doll in a green leather and red felt carrying bed with yellow-green and red lace. The carrying bed is bound by leather with beads and feathers attached to it.

Box	Description
2	Miniature white leather drum that rattles with white and brown feathers and brown beads dangling from straps