

# Beyond Borders

## Unheard Abenaki Voices from the Odanak First Nation

Au-delà des frontières: Voix inédites des Abénakis de la Première Nation d'Odanak

Awasiwi kakaniganek



Selling baskets at Highgate Springs, Vermont, circa 1905, photo courtesy of Annette Nolett, Odanak

Friday, April 29, 2022 • 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Grand Maple Ballroom • Davis Center • University of Vermont

It's been a decade since Vermont's government recognized four groups of Vermonters as Native American tribes. Largely excluded from that political process of 2010-2012 were the Abenaki of the Odanak First Nation. Displaced across the U.S.-Canada border in the era of the American Revolution, the ancestors of the Odanak Abenaki once occupied much of northern New England. Yet Odanak held no representation on Vermont's Commission on Native American Affairs when recognition was granted, nor was Odanak's elected leadership permitted to testify before the Vermont Legislature during that process. Initially supportive of the Missisquoi group in the 1970s, Odanak's leadership came to oppose Vermont recognition by 2003, and does not recognize any of Vermont's four tribes as Abenaki.

On this tenth anniversary of state recognition, the University of Vermont welcomes the Abenaki of Odanak and their New England relatives to share their historical perspective on land they consider to be their unceded territory in and adjacent to the Green Mountain State: a homeland known as Ndakinna. Who are the Abenaki of Odanak? How have they used their homeland that became Vermont and New England since their displacement in the 18th century? What does recognition, including Vermont's recognition of the Elnu, Koasek, Missisquoi and Nulhegan, mean to them? This event asks Vermonters to listen to and take account of Native voices that have so far gone unheard in our public discourse.



**Register Here: [go.uvm.edu/beyondborders](https://go.uvm.edu/beyondborders)**

The event is free and open to all and can be attended in-person or remotely. Breakfast is provided, 8:00-8:30. Presentation begins at 8:30 and includes song, opening remarks, two panels, and moderated Q & A.

As seating is limited, we ask participants to register in advance.



The University of Vermont



Sponsored by University of Vermont's Department of History, the Canadian Studies Program, the Center for Research on Vermont, the Environmental Program and the Global and Regional Studies Program



ADA: Individuals requiring accommodation(s) should contact Student Accessibility Services at 802-656-7753 no later than one week before the event date.