

# Atikamekw Community Justice Program

Atikamekw Nation Council

Prepared by Wynoma Petiquay and Pierre Clary



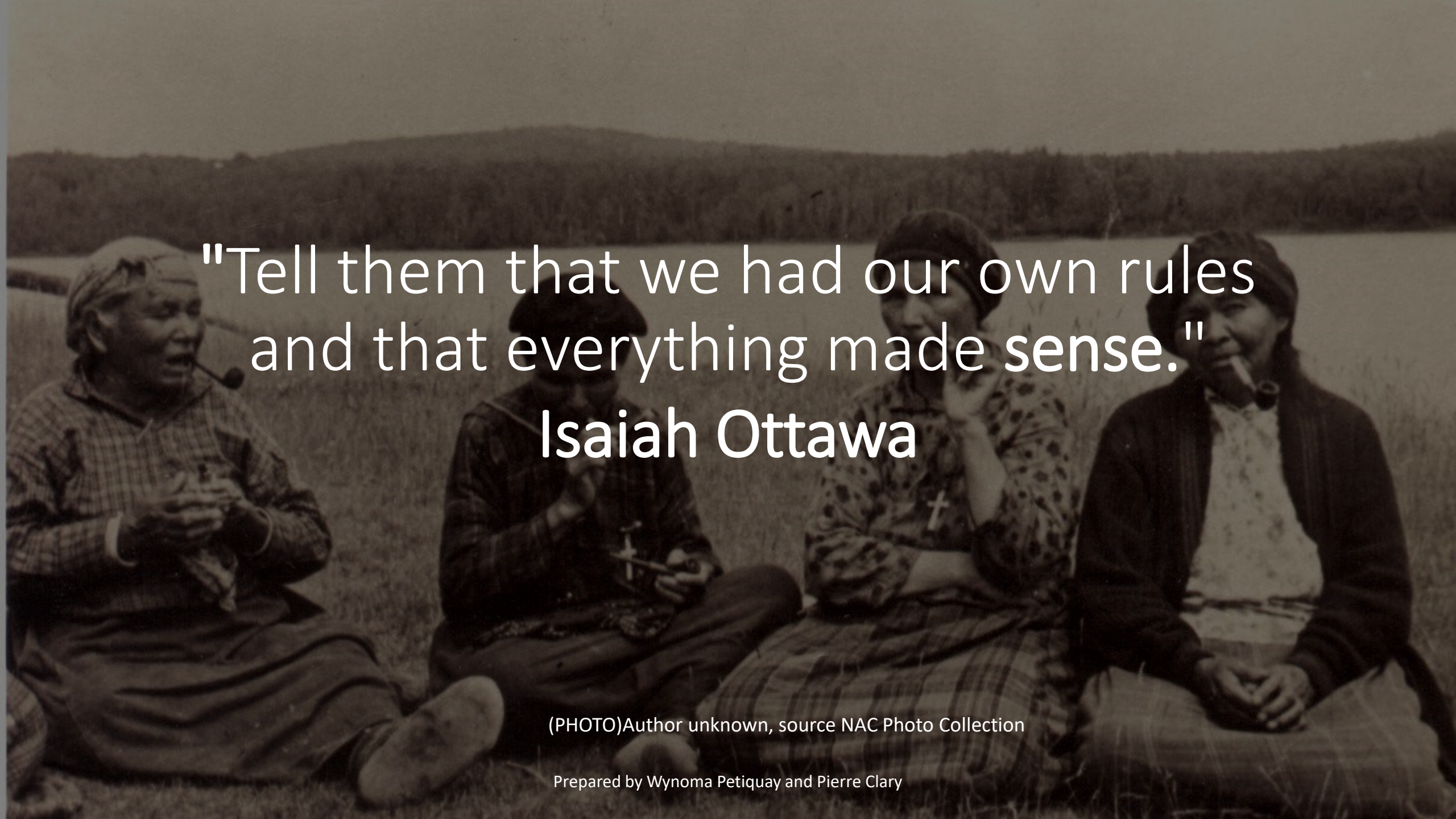


# Atikamekw Community Justice Program

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- Values and Objectives;
- Atikamekw Approach;
- Types of Services Offered;
- Our Atikamekw Team;
- Q&A;
- End of Presentation.





"Tell them that we had our own rules  
and that everything made sense."

Isaiah Ottawa

(PHOTO) Author unknown, source NAC Photo Collection

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# ANC Findings

- A significant proportion of offences are:
  - Committed in a context of domestic violence (DV);
  - Breaches of conditions and/or breaches of orders;
  - Introduced summarily (e.g. disturbing the peace, etc.).

It's important to note that Indigenous peoples, particularly the Atikamekw, are over-represented in the justice system.

**Atikamekw  
Sipi**



# History of ACJP

- In 2008-2009, under the responsibility of Grand Chief Éva Ottawa, Atikamekw Onikam Social Services was given the mandate to develop a community justice process and alternative measures that meet the needs of the Atikamekw, by and for the Atikamekw, so that justice takes on a cultural and effective meaning for the nation.
- A working committee was set up with the Band Councils of the three communities: Manawan, Opitciwan and Wemotaci.
- In 2010-2011, during the negotiation of the Alternative Measures Program (AMP), the communities of Manawan and Wemotaci requested that domestic violence offences be included in the AMP.
- The community of Opitciwan opts out and signs the PMR agreement as proposed.
- In 2017, the position of Program Manager was created. The coordinators of the Manawan and Wemotaci Councils of Elders are under his supervision. He is asked to take over the PJCA-PMR mandate and ensure its development.

# History of ACJP (continued)

- *In 2018, the Atikamekw Nation Council (ANC) signs the PMR-A Memorandum of Understanding. The coordinators of the Councils of Elders in the Manawan and Wemotaci communities receive training to write Gladue Reports, and are supervised by a specialist who accompanies or supports them in writing the reports.*
- *In 2019, the ANC will repatriate the paralegal services.*
- *In 2020, the position of regional coordinator is created.*



# Values and Objectives

- Our Atikamekw Justice Program is inspired by the **Atikamekw legal traditions and values** that are rooted in our Atikamekw culture and kept alive by our Elders. **Our Elders** are at the heart of our program and continually guide us.
- Our Atikamekw Justice Program is based on the values of **balance, fairness, sharing, individual and collective responsibility, respect for the dignity of each individual and mutual assistance**.
- Our program provides support and guidance to members of the Atikamekw Nation in **managing their conflicts** and at **various stages of** the justice system, using **culturally relevant methods** that reflect the values, needs and realities of our people and aim to restore balance and harmony.
- Our Atikamekw Justice Program is offered **to Atikamekw people by Atikamekw people, in the Atikamekw language**.

# The Atikamekw Approach

*"We believe that Nehirowisiw is primarily concerned by what happens to him, that he is an active being who can exercise control over aspects of his psychological, social, spiritual and physical reality. Nehirowisiw is the main architect of the approach's success."*

Source: Approche Atikamekw, March 2015



# The Atikamekw Approach in Our Services

- Human beings (*Nehirowisiw*) are the first to be affected by what happens to them.
- Believe in everyone's capacity for change and strengths
- Dialogue between caregiver and cared-for is non-authoritarian and egalitarian
- Establish a relationship of trust with the customer to encourage introspection and the search for solutions
- The art of guiding without dictating. The art of empowering without judging.
- Encouraging autonomy and empowerment

# SHARE OUR APPROACH WITH PARTNERS



- Share information and knowledge on **Atikamekw values, methods and traditions** with justice system stakeholders so that they are better recognized.
- Facilitate exchanges between non-aboriginals and Atikamekw to foster **mutual understanding**;
- Offer **culturally relevant methods** that make sense to the Atikamekw, which can be used as **alternative options at different stages** of the justice and correctional system.



# Types of Services Offered

- ✓ Accompanying and supporting Atikamekw litigants through the legal process
- ✓ Accompaniment and support for Atikamekw victims inside and outside the legal process
- ✓ Alternative measures - Regular Indigenous Program (AMP) and Domestic Violence Program (AMP-DV)
- ✓ Gladue reports
- ✓ Post-Gladue support





# Services for Atikamekw Litigants and Victims

- Needs assessment;
- Direction and collaboration with internal and external resources;
- Accompaniment and support in the legal process to help understanding it and feeling more at ease within it;
- Liaison between different organizations and departments;
- Accompaniment for documents to be completed during the legal process (legal aid application, victim impact statement, IVAC, explanation of documents before signing as conditions);
- Make sure they understand their rights;
- Facilitate exchanges with prosecutors and, if necessary, act as interpreters during these exchanges;
- Post-court support (victims).





APPROCHE  
AUPRÈS  
DE LA VICTIME  
ATKAMEKW

LANGUE

AINÉS  
SAGES  
DÉCISIONS  
HIVER  
**N**

HOLISTIQUE

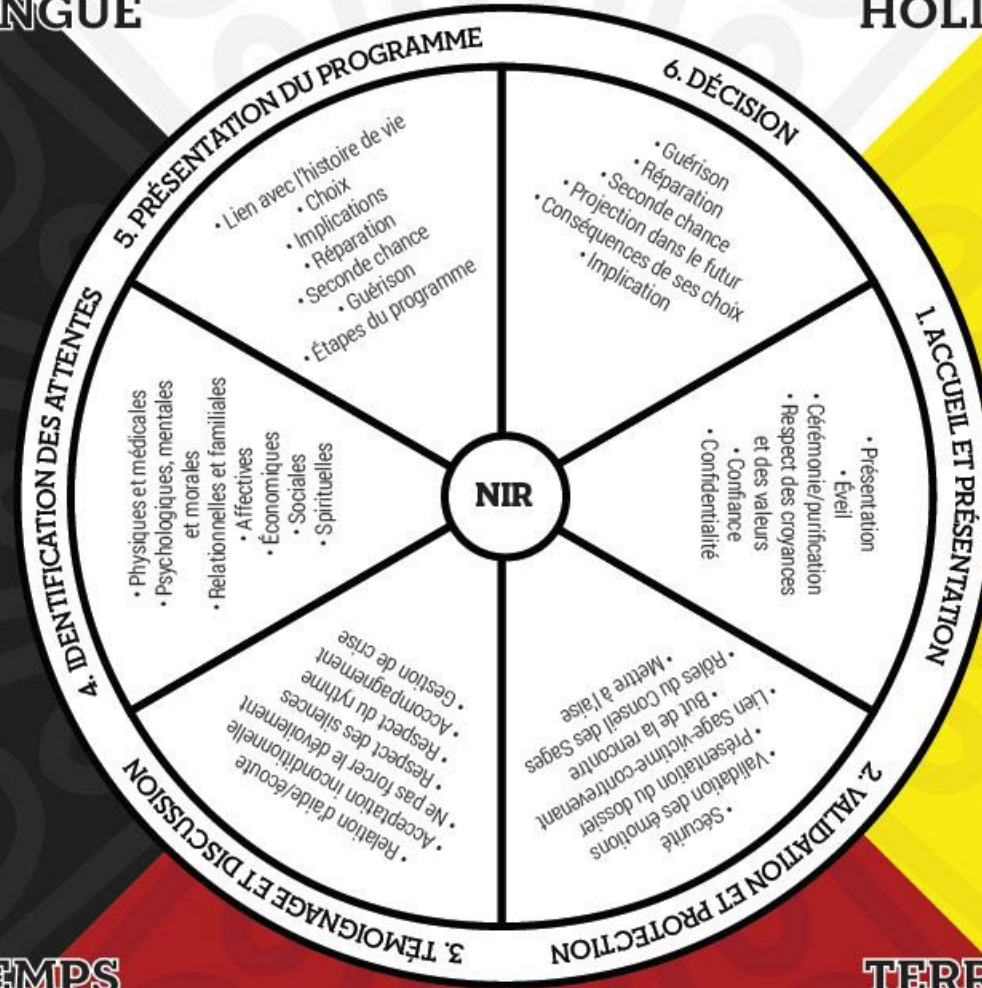
ADULTE  
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**O**


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TERRITOIRE

ENFANCE  
DÉBUT DE LA VIE  
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# Indigenous Alternative Measures and Domestic Violence Program

- Diversion in summary criminal proceedings, including **domestic violence**;
- **Needs** assessment and preparation;
- Mediation/Circle with the coordinator, the **Elders** and the **people concerned** (victim, offender, family) with the aim of finding a **solution that is satisfactory and relevant to them**;
- When mediation is not possible, recommendation and agreement with the **Elders** on **appropriate and culturally relevant measures**;
- Follow-up by the coordinator.





## Gladue Reports

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- Gladue reports requested for Atikamekw living in Manawan, Wemotaci, Opitciwan and for Atikamekw living in urban areas (La Tuque, Joliette, Lac St-Jean region).
- All trained drafters are Atikamekw and therefore culturally competent and well connected to Atikamekw history, needs, realities, relevant Atikamekw methods and available resources.
- Once the report has been completed, the individual is informed of the possibility of continuing with post-Gladue support.





## Post-Gladue Coaching and Support

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Post-Gladue support is a pivotal resource and is the contact person to facilitate the realization of the Gladue plan for an individual who has participated in a Gladue report or Gladue plan for release:

- Post-Gladue support: Support for the realization of alternative Gladue options issued by the Tribunal, guides the client to other activities or resources as needed, offers non-formal "counseling";
- Organization of traditional activities on the territory or in the community every season;
- Drafting of Gladue release plans for release investigations.





## Our Atikamekw Team

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- ✓ 2 Councils of Elders based in Manawan and Wemotaci
  - Made up of 17 members, including 9 Elders, several of whom have been members for over 15 years.
  - The Elders take an active part in mediation meetings.
  - Each Council of Elders has a traditional website (RIKASIMON) accessible for their meetings.
- ✓ 2 Elder Council Coordinators based in Manawan and Wemotaci
  - Management of alternative measures files.
  - Support for the Elders.
  - Gladue report writing.
  - Organization of prevention and awareness-raising activities.



## Our Atikamekw team

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- ✓ 3 Atikamekw paralegal resources (1 recruited by Opitciwan) who also write Gladue reports
  - For Atikamekw people in Wemotaci and La Tuque - Present in court in La Tuque;
  - For Atikamekw people in Opitciwan and surrounding area (Roberval, Saguenay)- Present in court in Opitciwan and Roberval;
  - For Atikamekw people from Manawan and the Joliette region - Present in court in Joliette.

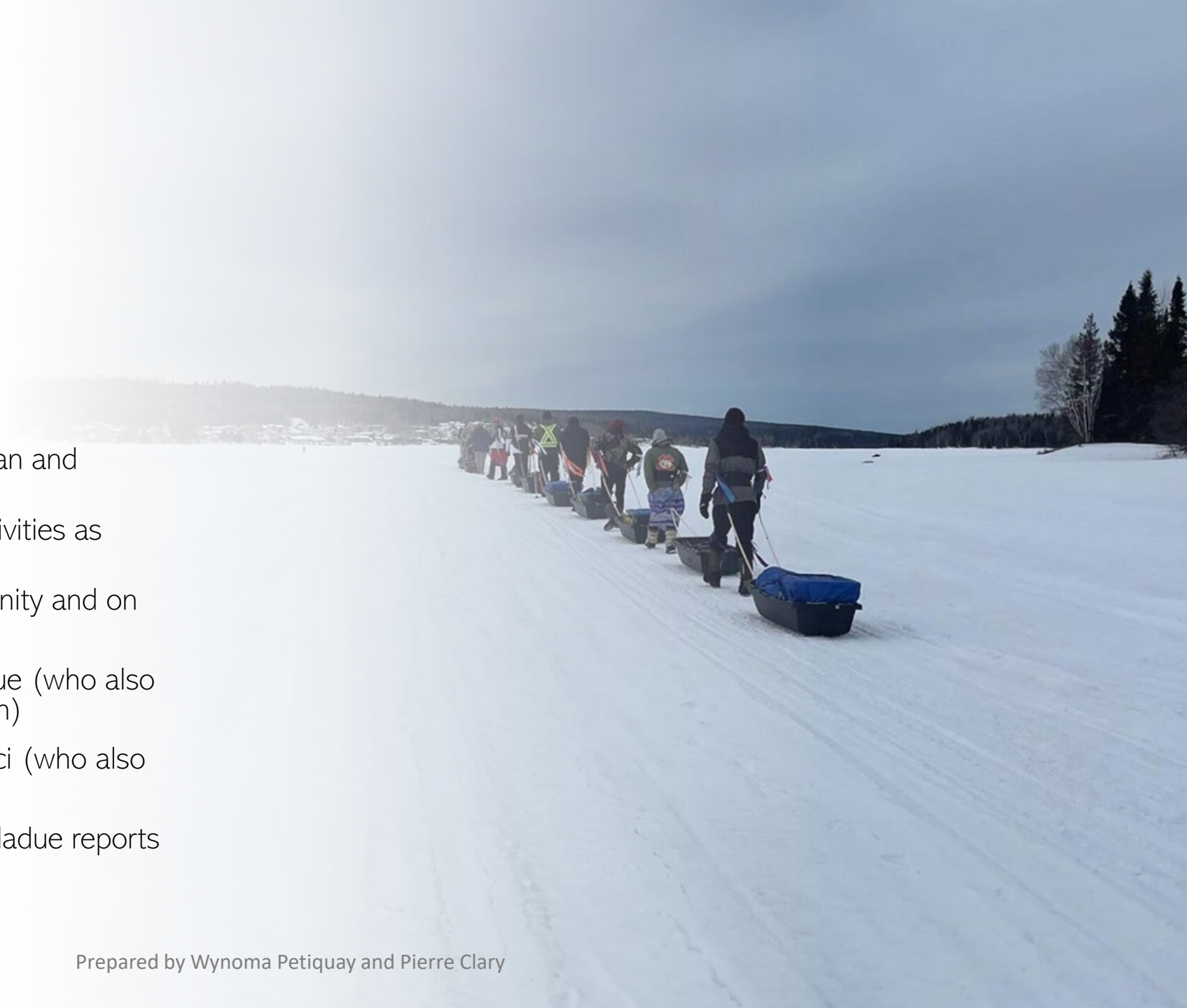
*Note that for the time being, the same PJ is offering the service in Wemotaci, La Tuque, Opitciwan and surrounding areas.*



## Our Atikamekw Team

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- ✓ 2 victim support teams based in Manawan and Wemotaci (under recruitment)
  - Individual follow-up and group activities as needed.
  - Traditional activities in the community and on the land
- ✓ 1 post-Gladue resource based in La Tuque (who also produces Gladue reports and Gladue plan)
- ✓ 1 regional coordinator based in Wemotaci (who also writes Gladue reports)
- ✓ 3 occasional contract workers to write Gladue reports



# Our Atikamekw Team

- Our Atikamekw team has been trained to complement each other and develop **multidisciplinary knowledge**, so that we don't work in silos, but in a **spirit of continuity with a global and inclusive vision**, not opposing victim and offender, but rather in a **spirit of social reconstruction, well-being and re-establishing broken ties**;
- They all take part in training courses on the legal system, intervention, global vision, alternative processes, etc., and work in **constant collaboration**;
- All but the Elders have received Gladue report training and produce Gladue reports in addition to their respective tasks;
- All are involved in **developing and maintaining an Atikamekw vision and methods** that respect and are in keeping with the Atikamekw approach.





# Q&A

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