



Wabanaki Women's Coalition

September 2019 Newsletter

Kwey Relatives...

September 13, 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the very first passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The House of Representatives recently passed HR 1585 with bipartisan support which would Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. The bill includes provisions that would restore tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians for crimes against elders and children, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, and assaults against corrections personnel and law enforcement. The bill also includes provisions to improve the response to missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) as well that the tribal provisions of VAWA 2013 apply to the American Indians/ Alaska Natives of Maine and Alaska.

We thank our friends, community members and colleagues who have supported the inclusion of Maine tribes to be able to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over non-Native men who commit acts of domestic violence on our tribal lands. The Senate is now urged to pass a final reauthorization bill that builds on VAWA's lifesaving programs and services and protects Native victims of violence.

Annual OVW Tribal Consultation

The Wabanaki Women's Coalition staff attended the 2019 Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation that was held August 21-22, 2019 in New Buffalo, Michigan. Jane Root, Executive Director, was authorized by all five (5) Wabanaki Chiefs to provide written and oral testimony on behalf of the Tribes. The OVW Consultation was preceded by an OVC (Office for Victims of Crime) Tribal Consultation which was held on August 20, 2019. Jane Root also provided testimony at the OVC Consultation on behalf of the Wabanaki Tribes.



*Testimony of the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine**

OVW Government to Government Consultation – New Buffalo, Michigan

August 21-22, 2019

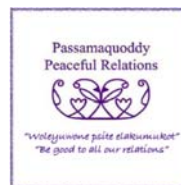
Jane Root, Executive Director
 Wabanaki Women’s Coalition, Tribal Designee
TESTIMONY OF THE WABANAKI TRIBES OF MAINE
 Aroostook Band of Micmac - Edward Peter Paul, Tribal Chief
 Houlton Band of Maliseet - Clarissa Sabattis, Tribal Chief
 Passamaquoddy at Indian Township - William J. Nicholas, Sr, Tribal Chief
 Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point - Marla Dana, Tribal Chief
 Penobscot Indian Nation - Kirk Francis, Tribal Chief

Good Morning, The Honorable Associate Attorney General, OVW Acting Deputy Director Laura L. Rogers Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs Sheriann Moore, Distinguished Tribal Leaders and representatives from across Indian Country and Alaska, Distinguished Federal Partners, my Coalition sisters and guests...I am Jane Root, Executive Director of the Wabanaki Women’s Coalition the Tribal Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition in Maine. I come before you today as the Designee for the five Wabanaki Tribal Governments.

Reauthorization of VAWA

As we continue to work toward the next reauthorization of VAWA, we ask for the continued support of our Tribal brothers and sisters as well as our non-native allies whose support to

Serving Our Partners



Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

Office: 207-532-3000
 24 Hour Hotline:
 207-532-6401

Office: 207-796-6106
 24 Hour Hotline:
 207-214-1917

Office: 207-817-3165
 24 Hour Hotline:
 207-631-4886

Office: 207-853-0092/0093
 24 Hour Toll Free Hotline:
 1-877-853-2613

Office: 207-760-0570
 24 Hour Hotline:
 207-551-3639

Testimony of the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine Continued

date has helped to get the inclusion of the Tribes in Maine and Alaska specifically named in the House passed version of the VAWA reauthorization. We must not think the fight for inclusion is over however as the battle to get inclusion in the Senate version is still very much on. It is notable that Maine Governor Janet Mills has submitted a letter of support for the specific language in the reauthorization of VAWA to include the Maine Tribes. The Maine Implementing Act and the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (The Acts), of 1980 have created barriers to the safety of Native women in Maine and the full application of the tribal provisions of the VAWA 2013. The full implementation of the VAWA by Indian tribes in Maine is prevented due to the interpretation of these provisions by the State. Further, these Acts articulate a jurisdictional relationship between the Tribes and the State of Maine that impede the full implementation of VAWA and prevent Indian tribes from fully safeguarding the lives of women within tribal jurisdiction. The Acts delineated a framework for the application of Federal Indian Law for the Indians, or Indian nations, tribes, or bands of Indians and created a mechanism for overriding the framework and include the following two provisions questioned by Indian tribes.

RECOMMENDATION: The Tribal provisions of the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, all previous Tribal provisions and all subsequent Tribal provisions shall apply within the State of Maine and Alaska.

Regarding Full Access to Federal Database (NCIC)

TLOA requires the Attorney General to permit Indian law enforcement agencies to enter information into and obtain information from federal criminal information databases. While we congratulate the TAP initiative to date it is not enough.

RECOMMENDATION: Not only should TAP be expanded it needs to be fully funded and expanded to afford all Tribes the opportunity to access NCIC that wish to do so including those that do not currently have tribal law enforcement or tribal court.

Expansion of VAWA 904 Jurisdiction

The House version of the reauthorization of VAWA includes expansion of 904 to broaden tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and child abuse. We ask that the House version receive continue full support from our allies and Tribal sisters and brothers.

COMMENDATIONS: We commend the staff of the Tribal Division of OVW under the excellent leadership of Sherriann Moore, Tribal Deputy Director for their steadfast commitment to providing quick responses to questions that arise and follow through on requests for assistance. We believe they want to help Tribes succeed in their efforts to provide safety for their women and children. However, they can only do so much on their own. They too need support in their efforts to help Tribes from the Department of Justice, the federal administration and Congress. Specifically, we want to make a shout out to our Wabanaki Advocacy Centers Program Specialist, Rebekah Jones, Tribal Coalition Program Specialist Tia Farmer and Tribal Unit Supervisor Darla Nolan. Welalin/Woliwon – Thank you

Wabanaki Advocacy Center Activities

The Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center organized a Women's Gathering October 7-8, 2019. It was a beautiful weekend with a group of amazing women. Everyone had an opportunity to make a basket, participate in talking circles, and take part in a sweat lodge. Ramona Nicholas was even able to instruct the group on how to build the lodge and take it down once the sweat was finished. What an incredible experience!! We would like to give a special thank you to George and Heidi at Wilderness Pines for their incredible hospitality and thoughtfulness they put in to making this weekend so enjoyable. They took right care of everything and everyone. The food was delicious!! To Tori Neptune and her daughter Kira for coming to teach the group how to make a basket. Extremely patience teachers and everyone was able to complete a beautiful basket to take home. To Ramona Nicholas who was able to offer her teachings to the group around the sweat lodge ceremony and helped to encourage and support those who had never done a sweat before. Amazing!! And of course to Cathy St. John for sharing with the group her delicious fry bread recipe. Also, the Maliseet Advocacy Center would like give a special thank you to Tawoma, Wambli, and Joe...for EVERYTHING! We appreciate all those who helped out and those who came! Hopefully we can do it again next year!



The Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center held its annual Grandmother's Gathering on June 1, 2019 at the Micmac Administration Building. This gathering is hosted every year as an opportunity for Indigenous women to come together to share stories, to learn and grow from one another. The day included smudging, talking circles, drumming and dancing and a giveaway ceremony.

Wabanaki Advocacy Center Activities Continued

The Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center tabled at the Community Days as part of the Annual Health Fair on August 3, 2019. The Advocacy Center's theme was, "The Wheel of a Future without Violence." Those who participated by spinning the wheel were able to answer an age appropriate question regarding Bullying, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Sex Trafficking, or Stalking. Prizes consisted of school supplies in order to assist the community. Photo includes Aline Michaud, Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Shelter Coordinator.



The Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Staff attended this year's MMIW Day at the Maine State House on May 7, 2019. The Maine House passed a Joint Resolution recognizing May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. A reception was also held in the Hall of Flags which included refreshments, Advocacy Center informational tables, speeches, and traditional drumming and singing. Photo includes from left to right: Desiree Tyrrell, Alisia Morin and Darlene Donahue.



Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center has partnered with the Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center to make regalia which included moccasins. The Advocacy Centers received funding to help build resiliency between survivors and their children. Photo includes moccasins made by staff members.



New Staff Member at Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations

It is with great pleasure to introduce Theresa Dudley as the Community Educator/Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate at Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Theresa brings with her many years of experience working with Tribal youth and their families in an educational setting. Along with organizing community awareness activities, Theresa looks forward to undertaking prevention work with Tribal youth. Theresa can be reached at the Peaceful Relations Advocacy Center, 853-0094, or by email at PeacefulRelations.CommEducator@gmail.com.



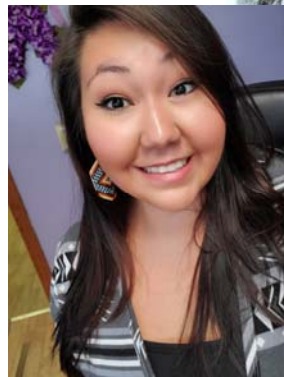
Nancy Soctomah
Director/Advocate
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations
Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
11 Passamaquoddy Road
Sipayik

New Staff Members at Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

It is with great pleasure to introduce Darlene Donahue as the Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate and Alisia Morin as the Community Educator/ Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate at Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center. Both were hired in April of this year. Darlene brings with her valuable experience as a domestic violence advocate as well as experience in law enforcement and serving families in various social service positions within the tribal community and county wide. Darlene has lived and worked in Washington County her whole life. Alisia has worked with children and was formerly a tribal elder advocate. She brings with her tons of experience in coordinating community events and significant cultural knowledge. Alisia is an Indian Township Passamaquoddy Tribal member.



Desiree Tyrrell
Director/Advocate
Indian Township Passamaquoddy
Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month! The 5 Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers will be participating in the annual event by organizing several DVAM activities throughout the month. A national theme will be used which focuses on a unified message around **#1Thing**, that change can start with only **#1Thing**. One person's actions may seem insignificant, but together a communities' collective "**#1Things**" can lead to real social transformation. **#1Thing** offers the community tangible ways to get involved in the effort to end domestic violence.

#1Thing Key Messages Include:

- * The #1Thing that will end domestic violence is our collective power.**
- * Healing from domestic violence requires our collective One Things.**
- * We can all do #1Thing towards eradicating domestic violence.**
- * Sharing our stories can have a ripple effect and can inspire others to action.**
- * Our collective One Things are valuable for systems advocacy.**

The Wabanaki Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Centers will also be using the hashtag **#WabanakiTogetherWeCan** to send the message that we are stronger when we are united, and that we can all work to end violence in our communities.

The WWC and the Wabanaki Advocacy Centers will soon be posting a list of scheduled activities for DVAM.

Annual WWC Board and Staff Retreat

The WWC held its Annual Board and Staff Retreat from July 17-19th at Point Lookout in Northport, Maine. The WWC Board and staff members from the 5 Wabanaki Advocacy Centers met to discuss upcoming trainings, conferences and grant opportunities. The WWC would like to thank Stephanie Bratnick (Preble Street), Allegra Hirsh Wright (Maine Behavioral Health), Kelly McGinnis (Maine Victims Compensation Program), Dale Gilbert (Maine STOP Grant Program) and Patrisha McLean (FindingOurVoice.net) for their informative presentations.



The WWC would also like to thank its Board Members who were gifted with red shawls this year. Top Photo (Left to Right): Desiree Tyrrell (Treasurer), Chief Clarissa Sabattis (Board Member), Jessica Huff (Treasurer), Nancy Soctomah (Board Member) and Julie Miller (Chair).



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PLEASE
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