



FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME #27

KAHNAWÀ:KE TOURISM

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INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS TOURISM CONFERENCE

Written by Kimberly Cross, Tourism Development Manager

Reflecting on our journey assisting with coordination of activities for the International Indigenous Tourism Conference (IITC), I want to share the great pride bringing our people together from all over Turtle Island. We are moving in such positive ways, in so many streams, and really exemplifying the movement to community wellness and how a holistic approach is the key to success. True synergy between community; culture, organizations, projects, events, businesses and the people. We are making waves across oceans and ensuring there will be clear waters for the future.

Indigenous Tourism isn't just about economic development, it really encompasses a pathway to cultural revitalization, bridge building, social

wellness and so much more. I have learned a lot over the past 10 years working in the industry and look forward to continuing our work to positively impact our communities.

I have felt so much love, appreciation, happiness and pride not just speaking for myself, for the entire International Indigenous Tourism Conference. I have no doubt that every delegate felt the passion, energy, power of Onkwehón:we people! We are representing connections to the past, present and what is to come. The friendships and partnerships we are forging will only make us stronger, wiser and ready to take on the world.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS TOURISM SUCCESS

Written by Kimberly Cross, Tourism Development Manager

I am so happy I was able to share this experience with so many people I love, my family; parents, brother, nephew, cousins, youth I've watched grow, fellow community members, the Kahnawà:ke Tourism team (family), Tourisme Autochtone Québec / Indigenous Tourism Québec family, Akwesasne Travel sisters, Kanehsatà:ke Tourism sisters, Rotinonhsón:ni tourism network, KORLCC's, Tourisme Montérégie & Montreal colleagues, and so many more people filling my basket. So many of our Kahnawakehró:non were featured and included; dancers, singers, artists, storytellers, fashion designers, models, fishermen, chefs, businesses - so many to name - which leak into helping their families and our social economy. We are so talented and diverse!



When I began working in my position, bringing this conference to our territory was one of my first dreams! With help from our partners, guidance, leadership and determination, we did it! Congratulations to the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and Indigenous Tourism Quebec teams on an immensely successful event! Beginning with our traditional dances to closing with a round dance really put the cherry on top of an amazing week!



Sometimes we need to lift ourselves and each other up. Niawenhkó:wa to our visitors for lifting up our spirits, for sharing our visions, our aspirations and dedication to this industry.

Kwannorónhkwa

I love you all / you're all precious to me.



THREE SISTERS SALAD

Ryland Diome truly stood out during the Tastes of Turtle Island Networking event on the evening of March 25th, 2025. He not only showcased the beauty of Kahnawà:ke but also highlighted his skills as an Indigenous Chef. The Three Sisters Salad was absolutely exceptional and incredibly tasty. His remarkable talents took him to the big stage in the world of Indigenous tourism at the IITC.



WAMPUM WORKSHOP

Written by Jordan Diabo, Tours Coordinator

The International Indigenous Tourism Conference was nothing short of a blast as Kahnawà:ke Tourism hosted tours within the community, and workshops onsite at Palais des Congress. The Wampum Workshop with Dwayne Stacey, hosted 20 participants who engaged in learning the history of the wampum, including the history of wampum belts and their significance. Participants also learned how traditional wampum beads had been created. Throughout the workshop participants were given an insight into Kahnawakehró:non culture. The workshop concluded in participants making their own simple wampum bracelet as a keepsake of their morning and time in Tiohtià:ke.



BEADING WORKSHOP

Written by Annie Marquis, Communication Generalist

The beading workshop at the IITC was a huge success, drawing a large and enthusiastic crowd. Each participant was provided with a beading kit containing everything they needed to create a beaded pop socket for their cellphone. The class welcomed newcomers who had never tried beading before, making it an exciting learning experience for them. It was inspiring to see how quickly everyone picked up the technique and how patient they were throughout the process. They mastered raised beadwork, and everyone had a great time.

Many participants showed their dedication by staying after the workshop ended to socialize and complete their keepsakes. Feedback from the group highlighted how enjoyable and calming the workshop was, with many noting how relaxing the beading experience proved to be.



MAPLE WORKSHOP

Written by Melina Singh, Tourism Events Coordinator

Kahnawà:ke Tourism collaborated with Mitchell Horne and Preston Jacobs, both well-known maple producers, to host a Maple experience for 50 of the IITC attendees. Mitchell guided them through the forest, demonstrating his entire process of tapping trees and collecting maple syrup, while Preston provided an insightful historical overview of maple. The experience concluded with a delightful sugar shack brunch at Two O Seven, where everyone enjoyed the moment and left with some maple syrup to take home.



ICE FISHING EXPERIENCE FOR IITC

50 IITC attendees also got to experience Ice Fishing at the Kahnewake Marina, some for the first time in their lives! Reel um in Bait Shop's Kirby Jo Diabo lead the demonstration and prepared fires, lures, rods and holes for the guests. He explained the cultural significance, history and process. We were lucky enough to catch a pike in the short 2 hours we were there. At the same time, lunch and a fish filet demonstration were provided by Eric and Erica McComber, including moose sausages and great storytelling. It was a great morning, beautiful weather, amazing company and good times!





WORKSHOP FROM LOTUS AND SAGE

Written by Allison Jacobs, Director of Marketing and Tourism

The Lotus and Sage Workshop was popular and well attended, participants were provided valuable knowledge regarding aromatherapy, essential oils, and their applications. Lauren McComber discussed popular oils, such as lavender, which promotes better sleep, as well as other varieties and their health benefits. Participants had the opportunity to create their

own essential oil on-site, tailored to their specific health needs. After the presentation and hands-on workshop concluded, lunch was catered by Simple Pleasures, a local provider. They prepared a hearty elk stew, strawberry spinach salad, Strawberry Juice and fry bread with fruit compote for dessert.

TOURS FROM IITC

As part of the 2025 International Indigenous Tourism of Canada Conference held in Tiohtia:ke, Kahnawà:ke Tourism had the pleasure of hosting community tours on the morning of February 25th. Greeting 21 guests at the Kanien'keha;ka Onkwawen:na Raotitioh:kwa Language and Cultural Center with a historical tour led by Harley Delaronde and provided a chance to see the 215 Moccasin display.

The group was very diverse, with visitors from all over the world, including a group from Chile accompanied by their own translator. It was a very impactful morning that concluded with a delicious meal catered by Berrylicious, allowing the visitors to enjoy a tasty combination of moose with cranberries, wild rice, roasted squash, and apples. It was a memorable moment of exchange between the visitors.



IITC TOURS

On Monday, February 24, 2025, Kahnawà:ke Tourism welcomed a multimedia group from across Canada and the United States. The Kahnawà:ke Youth Center's bus, driven by Kyle Zacharie, picked up the group in Montreal and transported them to Two O Seven Steak & Seafood, where they enjoyed a delightful breakfast. Afterward, they embarked on a tour of Kahnawà:ke, concluding their journey at the Purple Dragonfly Trading Post, where Leah Diome introduced them to traditional tea and shared insights about our traditional medicines. The group also visited the Kahnawà:ke Language & Cultural Center before making their final stop at Screaming Chef Cuisine for a tasty meal before returning to Montreal.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, a group from Collette kicked off their tour in Montreal with Kimberly Cross. Their adventure began by exploring the rich history of Kahnawà:ke and its people. The tour included a stop at Kahnawà:ke Brewing Co for a delightful beer tasting experience. Skanaiè:'a Deer was also present at the brewery to share insights about Corn Husk Dolls, allowing the group to try their hand at making their own.



The visit wrapped up with an economic and historical presentation by staff of Kahnawà:ke Brewing Co.



THE MARKETPLACE

Written by Annie Marquis, Communication Generalist

The marketplace was a vibrant celebration of diverse vendors from across Turtle Island. Shoppers had the chance to explore an incredible variety of unique items, including jewelry, footwear, outerwear, ribbon skirts, apparel, hats, home décor, accessories, delectable treats, and even skincare products. The vendors had a wonderful opportunity to network, make sales, and share their knowledge about their creations with a wide audience throughout the conference.

FASHION SHOW

The much-anticipated fashion show took place during the cocktail hour of the conference, with streams of models displaying the fine work of multiple designers such as Hooké & Jolene Robichaud Designs, Bastien Industries & Matsheshu Creations, She Holds The Sky Designs & Mini Tipi, Atikuss, and Mikuniss. Confident young models adorned clothing that would appeal to every taste and style, and embodied a cultural connection to the Indigenous designer and their heritage.



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I was the runway director and organizer for the Models, Hair & Makeup Artists. My role was to conduct a Model casting call out, select the models, develop the music & timing for the show as well as the choreography of the models on the runway. The majority of the models were from Kahnawà:ke, Akwesasne, Ganienkeh and there were two celebrities on the runway. Elisabeth St-Gelais is an accomplished Innu opera soprano from Pessamit and our own movie star, Kenzie Deer. I also selected the hairstylists and makeup artists, a talented combination of Kahnawà:ke and Akwesasne women who really excel in their fields. Overall the experience was a phenomenal success. I'm completely honoured to have contributed to this unique and inspiring tourism event. ”

- Joanne Jewisenhawi Jacobs



POW WOW DISCUSSION AT IITC

Written by Bronwyn Johns, Public Relations Officer

I had the chance to be a panelist speaker during the Nations Live! Presentation with ITAC's Zane Buchanan. Over the summer, I had previously had the opportunity to work with Entree Destinations and ITAC to create a film on accessibility and protocol for attending Pow Wows.



Their team had previously attended the Kamloops Pow Wow and then made their way to Kahnawà:ke's Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow. They started off with a tour of the community and the story of the 1990 Oka Crisis to understand why we have the Pow Wow.

Then we collaborated on capturing the true essence of the event and spoke with many dancers and artisans to collect the visuals to put together the beautiful video of two Pow Wow's held in Canada. The video was previewed at the conference and was followed up by a brief explanation of who we are as a nation and community and how to be respectful when attending Pow Wow's, talking about the importance of using these moments to connect and educate. We then brought Owen Mayo on stage to do a surprise dance with the CEO of IITC, Keith Henry and host Zane.



TOURISM PARTICIPATES IN KYC WINTER CARNIVAL

NIGHT MARKET

Written by Bronwyn Johns, Public Relations Officer

During Kahnawake Youth Center's (KYC) Winter Carnival, Kahnawà:ke Tourism hosted a spin the wheel game and information table at the Night Market on January 31st. The event featured community organizations, food and artisan vendors, firepits, and a dance area with entertainment from KYC staff. Participants won prizes for identifying animal prints and we promoted the Jr. tour guide program for the summer season!

WINTER CARNIVAL

Written by Bronwyn Johns, Public Relations Officer

Ice fishing and snowshoe-making activities were organized for all. Two participants successfully caught a 12-inch perch and a 19-inch pike, earning a Reel Um gift certificate! Preston Jacobs led our snowshoe-making workshop. Huge thank you to Tim Hortons who generously provided coffee and hot chocolate for the event! Bronwyn prepared a delightful soup that we distributed to help keep everyone warm!



PHOTOS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS TOURISM CONFERENCE





MAPLE FOOD FEST

Written by Melina Singh, Tourism Events Coordinator

Our annual Maple Food Fest active right now for the Maple of March. Head out to explore the special maple dishes available at our participating businesses, which include The Cakery Bakery, Kahnawà:ke Brewing Company, Kahnawà:ke Corn Poppers, Naked Greens, Rooster Express, Rowys, Screaming Chef Cuisine, Tota Ma's Cafe, and Two 0 Seven Steak and Seafood. By completing our survey, you could enter our weekly giveaway for a chance to win a \$25 Shop Kahnawà:ke gift certificate!

Join the community in celebrating this sweet tradition, and experience the rich flavors that make our region unique. Remember, your feedback helps us improve the festival each year, so make sure to fill out the survey and share your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you at the Maple Food Fest, where delicious memories are made!





MAPLE *Fest*

Join us for Maple Fest on Sunday, March 23rd, 2025, at the Knights of Columbus from 9 AM to 3 PM. The Rail Coal Fire Bistro will be hosting a delightful Sugar Shack Brunch, with tickets available for purchase at the door or online through the Kahnawà:ke Tourism website. This event is proudly sponsored by Caisse Populaire.

Experience horse and buggy rides with Hannah Deer and enjoy captivating storytelling by Arihón:ni David. We will have a variety of vendors on site, along with a “best maple syrup” contest and a coloring station for children. The event will feature over 20 vendors showcasing their unique offerings!

TICKETS

Purchase tickets at the door on March 23rd, 2025 or purchase online!

SCAN FOR TICKETS



Prices

\$20

Ages from 13+

\$10

Kids 5-12

(Kids under 4 do not require a ticket)

\$10

Seniors 55+

Sponsoring
the event:



Sponsoring
the brunch:





KAHNAWÀ:KE WELCOME CENTER HOURS

MON	8:30AM - 4:00PM
TUES	8:30AM - 4:00PM
WED	8:30AM - 4:00PM
THU	8:30AM - 4:00PM
FRI	8:30AM - 4:00PM
SAT & SUN	CLOSED

1 RIVER ROAD, KAHNAWÀ:KE QC, J0L 1B0

SHOP KAHNAWÀ:KE

Shopkahnewake.com

Shop Kahnewà:ke Gift Certificates are now available for purchase at the Welcome Center! Gift certificates can be given as a gift for that special occasion and can be redeemed in over 100 business locations in Kahnewà:ke. Visit the Shop Kahnewà:ke Facebook page and website for more information.



BOOK A TOUR WITH US

To experience all that Kahnewà:ke has to offer, we invite you to book one of our many fun and informative tours or join us at one of our many cultural events.

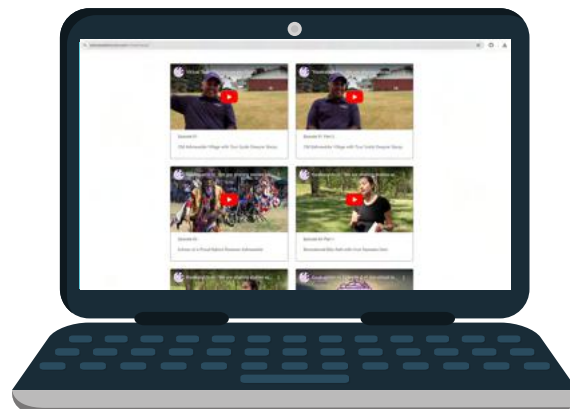


SCAN TO BOOK!



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