



Algonquins of Ontario



RETURNING KICHISIPPI PIMISI, THE AMERICAN EEL, TO THE OTTAWA RIVER BASIN

The Algonquins of Ontario, in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, are pleased to introduce Christine Luckasavitch, a member of the Whitney and Area Algonquins, as the Research Assistant to the American Eel Project. Christine is assisting a field biologist in the ongoing study of the Kichissippi Pimisi – American Eel – in the vicinity of Lac des Chats on the Ottawa River. The study includes radio tracking tagged eels to determine their migration habits and the location of their wintering habitat. In addition to scientific research conducted in the field, Christine aspires to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and cultural heritage through the collection of Algonquin Traditional Knowledge about the Kichissippi Pimisi.

The Kichissippi Pimisi is very sacred to the Algonquin people. Traditionally, it provided spiritual, medicinal and survival necessities. Kichissippi Pimisi was once very abundant throughout Algonquin Traditional Territory; however it has suffered dramatic population declines in recent history and is disappearing from our waters.

To assist in reestablishing a connection between the sacred Kichissippi Pimisi and the Algonquin people, the Algonquins of Ontario are gathering Algonquin Traditional Knowledge. If you or anyone you know has any family stories, anecdotes, legends or personal experience with Kichissippi Pimisi, we invite you to share this knowledge with Christine and participate in reconnecting our people to our traditions.

For more information, please contact:

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“Today, the plight of the Eel must awaken us to the crucial need to transform our relationship with Mother Earth and All Our Relations, and to awaken us to the pivotal role of Indigenous Peoples in this process.”

(Elder Dr. W. Commanda undated)