

## Lecturers and facilitators

**Ghislain Picard, Regional Chief**  
**Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador**

### Co-chair of the event

Mr. Ghislain Picard is Innu (Montagnais) and is a native of Betsiamites.

From 1976 to 1989, Mr. Picard devoted most of his time to the communication field. Among others, he published "Tepatshimuwin", a bulletin dedicated to the Atikamekw and Innu communities.

In 1983, he was very active in setting up a community radio network within his own nation. In fact, he is one of the founders of the Société de communication Atikamekw et montagnaise which produces radio broadcasts in Aboriginal languages.

Subsequent to his position as vice-president of the Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais in 1989, he was elected Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador in 1992. He has been in that position ever since. In this capacity, he sits on the Executive Committee of the Assembly of First Nations at the national level and acts as the main spokesperson on the education and aboriginal languages issues.

On October 28, 2003, Regional Chief Picard was appointed as Knight of l'Ordre national du Québec. On January 24 2005, he was awarded the insignia of the Knight of the Legion d'Honneur by the Consul General of France on January 24, 2005.

### Title of the lecture :

Can the recognition of First Nations political and territorial rights come from the Quebec People and its citizens?

### Date of the lecture:

August 17, 2006

**Steven Guilbeault**  
**Greenpeace Québec**

### Co-chair of the event

Spokesperson for Greenpeace in Quebec and responsible for Greenpeace's file on climate change. Fieldworker, Mr. Guilbeault has often gone to locations with problems he is trying to contain. In 2005, he participated in the Groenland expedition that revealed the very important withdrawal of the glaciers, which is directly caused by climate change.

Excellent communicator, Mr. Guilbeault is called upon to comment environment update on television and in the newspapers on a regular basis..

### Title of the lecture :

The impact of climate change on the Inuit and Aboriginal populations of Northern Quebec.

### Date of the lecture:

August 18, 2006

**Hélène Raymond**  
**Journalist**

### Meeting leader

Meeting leader and journalist, Hélène Raymond has worked for nearly 30 years in communication and information fields. She has always had, among other preoccupations, the one of putting realities into words by fostering exchange, understanding and reflection. Her interest for nature, people and "earthly things" and the environment as well as the experience she acquired through hosting programs, interviews and public forums will be tapped into during the end of the day discussions..

**Florent Vollant**  
Innu artist

On the North Shore, just east of Sept-Îles and not too far from the Moisie River, is situated a native reserve called Maliotenam. This is where Florent Vollant settled and grew up after leaving his birthplace in Labrador. It is also where the young Montagnais shared his attachment to traditional values and willingness to embrace modernity...

In 1984, Florent began his career as a writer-composer-performer and the very next year, he committed himself to the creation of the Festival Innu Nikamu. Since then, the festival has brought together numerous artists from many nations. Florent also had the honour of being named Artist for Peace in 1994 for his music which always advocates a deep love of life, nature, and eternal hope. It is without surprise that he went on to be spokesperson for the First Nations Garden (Montréal Botanical Garden) and to perform at the closing gala of the 13th FrancoFolies Festival in Montréal, called La Grande Paix (Great Peace).

From 1989 to 1995, Florent recorded Kashtin, Innu and Akua Tuta while part of the group Kashtin. These three albums would earn him 4 Félix Awards and the chance to give shows not only in Québec and across Canada, but also in France, Belgium, South Korea, USA, Bolivia...He certainly has worldwide appeal!

Over the years, Florent has also collaborated in many other musical projects, such as the album Instinct by Richard Séguin, Arthur Lamothe's Le Silence des fusils soundtrack, and Robbie Robertson's The Native Americans album. He also lent a helping hand to Marc Déry in producing his first solo album as well as co-writing the Ninanu title. As for Zachary Richard, he was offered Pagayez, a beautiful piece and one of the biggest hits from his album Cœur fidèle. Florent is also the man behind the soundtrack of the animated series Le monde perdu, broadcast on VRAK TV. Florent is still very present in Maliotenam, and he has taken the time to launch a project that is very close to his heart: a recording studio doubling as a training and production centre for young native musicians. He also took the opportunity to produce a serene and peaceful Christmas album, Nipaiamianan, sung in Innu, for which he took home his first Juno Award.

Source : <http://www.florentvollant.com/biographie.html>

**Title of the lecture :**

Special guest.

**Rodrigue McKenzie**  
Policy advisor for the Innu Nation of Matimekush Lac-John

Elected policy advisor on the Innu Nation Council of Matimekush Lac-John, Mr. McKenzie is an active member of his community. He follows closely the environmental issue as well as the development of the new Innu generation.

Born from an Innu father and a Naskapi mother, he is an excellent communicator. He masters perfectly the double cultural identity phenomenon and is quite capable of explaining the situation of both communities.

He has also worked on various professional sectors, among which northern outfitting operations and practices yearly traditional subsistence activities.

**Title of the lecture :**

Political and legal situation of the Innu of Matimekush Lac-John

**Date of the lecture:**

August 15, 2006

**Pierre Paquet**  
**Aventures NORPAQ**

Pierre Paquet has been co-owner of Norpaq Aventures for over 20 years. Norpaq Adventure is an adventure, caribou hunting and salmon fishing outfitting operation.

He also owns a bush flight enterprise, Nordplus, which manages the transport of passengers and merchandise from Schefferville.

**Title of the lecture :**

Collaboration between Aboriginal and Norpaq: experiences and concrete examples, evolution of the northern outfitting operation

**Date of the lecture:**

August 16, 2006

**Serge Ashini Goupil**  
**President of Ashini Adventure and ASHINI GOUPIL**

Serge Ashini Goupil is an Innu from Matimekush Lac John. He has a Bachelor's degree in science, specialization geography and is currently doing a masters in project management. Mr. Ashini Goupil has a vast and varied knowledge on Aboriginal nations in Quebec, more specifically on the Innu Nation. As an independent worker, he has participated in different projects of a social and community-based nature, aimed at the development of targeted communities. For the last 10 years, he has gained a thorough background in environment related issues, territorial negotiation, project development and management as well as public consultations among Aboriginal. He is concerned by the energy and climate change issue and is personally concerned with the efficient use of energy and energy efficiency. Mr. Serge Ashini Goupil also owns an Aboriginal ecotourism enterprise (Ashini Adventure), which offers discovery and healing activities in Northern Quebec, in the traditional territory of the Innu. For the past three years, he has accommodated groups as varied as bush pilots, rowers, leaders of Aboriginal organizations and youth groups.

**Title of the lecture :**

The North is also called Nitassinan.

**Date of the lecture:**

August 19-20, 2006

**Jean-Philippe Messier**  
**Environment consultant – Co-founder of Odyssée Ungava**

Mr. Messier is a young person who is a wildlife technician and has a major study in biology. In 2002, he founded the Comité de la Réserve mondiale de biosphère Manicouagan – Uapishka, which mission is to make the Manicouagan region, on the North Shore, a model of consensus-building and sustainable development on the provincial and national level. He is still the head of the Comité, which brings him to work directly with Aboriginal communities, the industry, political circles, the environment, tourism, citizens, etc. In 2004, he launched, with 5 colleagues, Odyssée Ungava project, a film expedition on the conservation of northern rivers, which went from the Labrador to the Bay of Ungava in canoe on the George River (targeted for the implementation of a hydroelectric dam). He was co-producer, screenwriter, narrator and the author of the texts of the documentary Laisser couler le Nord on the link between energy efficiency and the preservation of our wild rivers. A lecture tour has brought him to talk about the topic to several thousand people throughout Quebec. Mr. Messier is also co-founder of the Corporation des Amis du Mushuau-nipi..

**Title of the lecture :**

Laisser couler le nord.  
Documentary on the preservation of Northern Quebec Rivers..

**Date of the lecture:**

August 19-20, 2006

**David Gilbert**  
Co-founder of Odyssée Ungava

Mr. Gilbert has just redirected his career. After twelve years of recreational vehicle mechanics, he left in search of new walks of life. Mr. Gilbert has always been a very committed member of his community. Indeed, in 2005, the town of St-Hyacinthe submitted his candidacy for the Dollard-Morin prize, a prize that is awarded to a citizen who has done outstanding volunteer work in various fields. He spent six years in scouting leadership, was a director on the board of directors of an outdoor recreational area and was representative of an environmental organization, the SNAP (société pour la nature et les parcs). His candidacy went from the municipal to the regional, to end up in second place at the provincial level.

In 2004, he launched, with 5 colleagues, the Odyssée Ungava project, a film expedition on the conservation of northern rivers that went from the Labrador to the Bay of Ungava by canoe on the George River (targeted for the implementation of a hydroelectric dam). He was co-producer, screenwriter and researcher of the documentary Laisser couler le Nord, which deals with the link between energy efficiency and the preservation of our last wild rivers. Up to now, a lecture tour has enabled him to talk about the topic to several thousand people throughout Quebec. Mr. Gilbert is also co-founder of the Corporation des Amis du Mushuau-nipi.

**Title of the lecture :**

Laisser couler le nord.  
Documentary on the preservation of Northern Quebec Rivers..

**Date of the lecture:**

August 19-20, 2006

**Elisabeth Ashini**  
Infirmière Innué

Ms. Ashini has been a nurse in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal environments for over 30 years. Mother of three children, she lived among Quebecers, far from the communities, beside a non-Aboriginal husband for several years.

Very involved in her environment, she is dedicated to offering quality services to the population in their native language, Innu.

Follow the story of her nomadic life with her parents and her unusual journey towards adaptation to Quebec and Canadian life.

**Title of the lecture :**

The life story of an Innu woman: from birth in the Nutshimit (inland) to her life as a nurse.

**Date of the lecture:**

August 19-20, 2006

**Steve Dubreuil**  
Anthropologist M. Sc.

With a diploma in anthropology and masters in archaeology, Steve Dubreuil is a human history enthusiast. He simultaneously does field work and literary research. He has also participated in various heritage presentation projects.

He currently works for the Musée régional de la Côte-Nord in Sept-Îles. He has accompanied the Ashini Adventure team on River George expeditions on several occasions as facilitator.

The passing on of the wealth of this particular environment is especially close to his heart, a presentation rooted in the mutual respect towards the oral tradition of the First Nations who lived in this territory.

**Title of the lecture :**

Human occupation of the Mushuau-nipi, from the last glaciation to this day..

**Date of the lecture:**

August 19-20, 2006