



Mr. John Devino
President
Ethan Allen Homestead Museum
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Burlington, VT 05408
USA
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Odanak, May 5, 2023

Subject : Request for the removal of a photo of the Panadis family from the exhibition *Abenaki : The First People*

Mr. John Devino,

The Abenakis of Odanak Council wishes to denounce the inappropriate use of a photo of the Panadis family who are members of the Abenakis of Odanak First nation and request its removal from your exhibition **Abenaki: The First People**.

As reported by the Alnobaiwi media on its website, your Museum, the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum, opens its new exhibition entitled *Abenaki: The First People*, this Saturday in Burlington. However, the photo used by the Museum to highlight its exhibition (see attachment) illustrates the Panadis family, around their period camp in Highgate Springs, Vermont (circa 1894).

It is unthinkable for the Abenakis of Odanak Council that self-proclaimed Abenaki groups in Vermont can use artifacts that do not belong to them to their advantage in order to justify their stolen heritage. Culture and the arts, of which this photograph is a part, are an inherent part of cultures. The Abenakis of Odanak, particularly the Panadis family, object to this misleading use of what constitutes for them a true memory and heritage of their culture and traditions.

We ask the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum to please remove this art photo from their exhibition in order to respect the principles of truth and reconciliation which we are sure they hold at heart as much as we do.

If this photo is however maintained, we will be obliged to take further actions.

In Peace and Friendship,

Chief Rick O'bomsawin
Abenakis of Odanak Council

c.c. Paul Panadis Sr, Claude Panadis Sr, Jean Panadis and Francine Panadis
encl// screenshot of Abenaki Exhibition