

EMAIL SUBJECT LINE: PRESS RELEASE: New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) Welcomes Denise K. Pouliot to Board of Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) announced that it has welcomed Denise K. Pouliot, Sag8moskwa (Female Head Speaker) of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People and a traditional Abenaki artist and resident of Alton, NH, to its 2021-2022 Board of Directors.

Ms. Pouliot currently serves as Treasurer for COWASS North America and as Treasurer for the Abenaki Nation of Vermont and is a member of the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs (NHCNAA), Affiliate Faculty member of the UNH Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor at the University of New Hampshire, a member on the New Hampshire Department of Justice Steering Committee for the Violence Against Women Act - Domestic Violence, and a member of the Race & Equality in NH Series Advisory Group, New Hampshire COVID-19 Equity Task Force (NHPHA), and New Hampshire Food Alliance.

Ms. Pouliot is an Indigenous religious advisor for the United States Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and currently provides religious services to inmates that are incarcerated in federal and state prison systems. In 2017 she received an award from the BOP for her many years of contributions and service.

Ms. Pouliot is a founding team member of the “Indigenous New Hampshire Collective Collaborative,” an interdisciplinary student intern program at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, that is being led by the Anthropology Department and supported by several other departments, including Archaeology, Education, Earth Sciences, and others, as the program is continues to expand. She is also an Affiliate Member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor at the University of New Hampshire.

Ms. Pouliot’s prior management positions included Treasurer for the Franklin Food Pantry, Franklin, MA; Contributing Editor *Aln8bak News*; and Trustee and then Chairwoman for the Board of Directors of the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH.

Her main focus is public outreach and education; she gives Indigenous Invocations and Formal Greetings at conferences and graduations that are held on her tribes’ ancestral homelands. Ms. Pouliot continues to hold cultural workshops, lectures, and demonstrations at various tribal events, historical societies, museums, schools, and various State and Federal agencies all over New England.

She has created Indigenous exhibits and contributed to museums and has had the honor of her Ash basketry works appear in two books: for the cover of the book *L8dwaw8gan Wji Abaznodakaw8gan: The Language of Basket Making* by Jesse Bruchac, Elie Joubert, and Jeanne Brink; and as a Traditional Apprenticeship artist in the book *Shaping Our Heritage*, produced by New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Ms. Pouliot will serve on the NHPHA board through 2022.

About NHPHA

NHPHA is a statewide membership organization composed of health care and public health professionals. For over 25 years, it has brought together members who share a common goal of making sure that all of New Hampshire citizens live, learn, work, and play in safe and healthy environments. For more information, visit nhpha.org or call 603-228-2983.

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