

# Maine Tobacco Prevention Success Story

Strong Partnerships Prevail

## Responding to a Global Pandemic with a Partnership

District efforts of staying connected and supporting Tribal Communities, in their community responses allowed Wabanaki Public Health staff to maintain a strong relationship with Maliseet Afterschool Program. This resulted in the success of Alex London's first partnership form, as the Wetamaweyi Educator.

According to the Surgeon General fact sheet, Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youths, "Prevention is critical. Successful multi-component programs prevent young people from starting to use tobacco in the first place and more than pay for themselves in lives and health care dollars saved. Comprehensive, sustained, multi-component programs can cut youth tobacco use in half in 6 years." Entering into a partnership with Wabanaki Public Health's District Tobacco Partner, will help to build the program's capacity to reduce the use of Tobacco among Tribal Communities.



"I can't wait to get back in the office and start working together, especially for the well-being of our kids!" Shelby Sabatis - Program Coordinator

Maliseet Afterschool Program entered into a partnership with the Wabanaki Public Health District Tobacco Partner. This is the first step toward strengthening their environment against Commercial Tobacco.

Accomplishing a partnership form during a Pandemic was certainly an opportunity to walk a path not often traveled! This opportunity is another way WPH and Maliseet Tribal Leaders can coordinate and communicate prevention activities, even in the middle of a pandemic.

## Intervention/ Program Description

With a partnership form in place, we can start increasing Maliseet Afterschool Program's Commercial Tobacco Tools and Toolbox Capacity. Keeping Tobacco sacred is not only healthy messaging, within our Tribal Communities, but represents a traditional healthy lifestyle. Early intervention is not just saving money, it is saving a tradition and a way of life without the misconceptions of commercial tobacco. These values have been far too long associated with commercial tobacco and the negative image it portrays. Finding a balance where we can support the needs of our community and culture, while creating safe Commercial Tobacco Free Environments!

Another fact provided by the Surgeon General Tobacco Fact sheet: "National, state, and local program activities have been shown to reduce and prevent youth tobacco product use when implemented together." Partnerships between the DTPP and YSE increases the "tools" and resources that youth have today, supporting the decrease of commercial tobacco use.

## For More Information Contact Us At:

Wabanaki Public Health  
<http://wabanakipublichealth.org>



Wabanaki Public Health  
*Cultivating the health of our communities*



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