

Maliseet Youth Participate in Sidekicks

“Sidekicks” Our Last Quarter

Commercial Tobacco Prevention Coordinators First Sidekicks Training

Wabanaki Public Health’s Wətaməweyi Coordinators, Alex London and Shantel Neptune, conducted their first ever Sidekicks Training with Maliseet youth.

According to the CDC article: *American Indians/Alaska Natives and Tobacco Use*, “American Indians/Alaska Natives have the highest prevalence of cigarette smoking compared to all other racial/ethnic groups in the United States”. In Maine, Wabanaki people are 2.8x more likely to smoke cigarettes than other Maine residents (Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment). Tribal youth are disproportionately affected by the commercial tobacco industry.

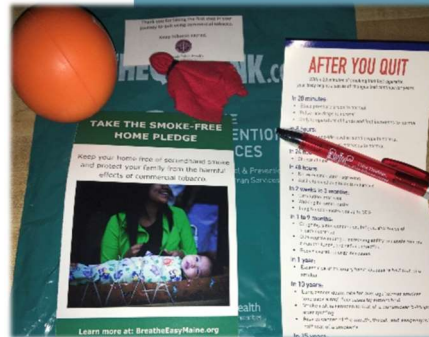


Program Description

Wətaməweyi Coordinators conducted their first ever, two-part virtual Sidekicks Training, on December 4th and 7th, 2020! Maliseet youth that participated were identified through community initiatives as strong role models within their tribal community. Sidekicks is a tool that helps tribal youth find the words to have respectful conversations when addressing the commercial tobacco users in their lives.



“I learned a lot of valuable information.” –Wambli, Sidekicks Training Participant



By using the Indigenized Sidekicks Curriculum, Wətaməweyi Coordinators were able to teach tribal youth how to have respectful conversations about commercial tobacco use, in their community. Having strong tribal youth to initiate these important conversations about the effects of commercial tobacco, will increase the awareness within their environments and communities.

The Indigenized Sidekicks Curriculum helps our tribal youth identify the difference between commercial tobacco and traditional tobacco, supporting Wabanaki youth with tools that acknowledge their culture and traditions. Each participant was given a bag containing commercial tobacco prevention material and a traditional tobacco prayer tie.

For More Information Contact Us At:

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



Wabanaki Public Health
Cultivating the health of our communities



Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services