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Wabanaki Cultural Awareness Program Planned

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Wabanaki Cultural Awareness Program Planned

Sept. 29, 1999

Contact: [Joe Carr](#) at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC), an affiliated program of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will host a Wabanaki Cultural Awareness Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1999 at the Sockalexis Arena on Indian Island. Expected to attend the event are some 100 representatives of Maine's 20 federal and state agencies that provide services and/or resources to Maine's tribal communities. A group of state legislators will also attend the conference.

"The purpose of the conference is to deepen participants' understanding of Maine's tribal culture and history, develop respect for differences of values and viewpoints, and learn how to build a common work agenda," says Robert Ho, executive director of MRDC.

Presenters will include Fred Moore, Bill Altvater and Donald Soctomah of the Passamaquoddy Tribe; Chief Brenda Commander of Houlton Band of Maliseets; Chief Bill Phillips of Aroostook Band of Micmacs ; and Sub-Chief Ann Pardilla and Jim Sappier of Penobscot Indian Nation.

Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission members Evan Richert of the State Planning Office and Fred Hurley of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will address the conference on the subject of state perspectives. Commission Chair Cushman Anthony of Portland and Executive Director Diana Scully will moderate conference sessions.

Among agencies to be represented are USDA- Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service; Small Business Administration; Housing and Urban Development; Maine Departments of Education, Human Services and Transportation; and Cooperative Extension.

Legislators expected to attend include Sen. Mary Cathcart of Orono and representatives Jane Saxl of Bangor, Patricia Jacobs of North Turner, Laura Sanborn of Old Town, Douglas Alhearne of Madawaska, Joseph Brooks of Winterport, Sumner Jones of Pittsfield, and Thomas Bull of Freeport.

For more details and registration information, contact Cate Wnek at 581-3190 or cwnek@umext.maine.edu.