

The Wendat/ Wendake (a.k.a. Huron)

- The Wendat, or Wendake, (Huron was a name given to them by the French fur trappers) was an alliance of four nations, much like the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (some people believe there was a fifth Nation as well).



Before they landed in Quebec City, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met with Grand Chief Konrad Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation in 2011.



A plaque unveiled by the Ontario Heritage Trust (after consulting with the Huron-Wendat Nation) marking the site of a major Wendat settlement in Stouffville, Ontario. August 25th, 2017.

- The Wendat's traditional territory was throughout Southern Ontario, but in particular encompassed the southern end of Georgian Bay with over twenty villages made up of longhouses. They travelled throughout Southern Ontario and beyond.
- Those who lived in the longhouses were determined by the women.
- Wendat society was matrilineal – men had to move into the household of their wives.
- Wendat society was also matrilineal – all children belonged to the clan of their mothers. Young men could not inherit the property of their fathers – rather, they looked to their mothers' brothers.
- Divorce was frequent and simple – the men only had to leave their wives' homes to reside elsewhere.

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- The Wendat recognized eight clans (Turtle, Wolf, Beaver, Deer, Hawk, Porcupine, and Snake). Clan members shared longhouses and traced their lineage along the female line.
- The senior woman was the matriarch (ruler of the family or clan).
- Several clans usually resided in a village presided over by a council of clan chiefs, peace chiefs (sachems), and wise men. The men held their positions based on the ancestry of their mothers. The senior women of the clans nominated, censured, and could even recall chiefs.
- Successful warriors, great orators, and men who received recognition could become chiefs, but they could not vote in council or pass their title to their descendants.
- Decision making in the council was by consensus, with speeches and persuasion playing major roles.
- Women tended the crops while men hunted and fished.



Where are they now?

The descendants of this First Nation (approximately 3,000) live in Quebec, in a reserve completely surrounded by Quebec City.

www.wendake.ca (in French only)

Big Question: Why are they in

Avant 1650 - Principale zone de peuplement de la Huronie
 Before 1650 - Principal zone of population of Huronia

QUÉBEC



Huron Lake

1650