

# TRIAAD: Helping to Preserve Our Native Culture

At one time, the Micmac and the Maliseet Indians shared a life of hunting and gathering within the boundaries of New Brunswick.

However, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, their lives changed. They were coerced into accepting British authority and were soon herded onto reservations. The game on the reserves quickly became depleted, making it impossible for the tribal people to remain self-sufficient. Many of the men left the reserves to work on farms or at lumber camps in order to feed their families.

The nineteenth century also saw the development of crafts as a dependable source of income. In order to accommodate the desires of Victorian buyers, the Micmac and Maliseet craftsmen, still using traditional crafts, materials and patterns, modified their art into shapes and dimensions to fit white man's needs.

Gaby Pelletier, assistant curator at the Department of Canadian History, says "A study of the evolution of native arts in both decorative items fabricated to serve Indian needs and those created for sale to the white man offers much valuable information about the significant transitions in the distinctive Micmac and Maliseet cultures during the nineteenth century".

TRIAAD, a Fredericton based organization, is trying to ensure the survival of these traditional skills of craftsmanship within the native community. The name, TRIAAD, stands for Traditional Return of Indian Arts and Art Development.



## TRIAAD Ensuring the Survival of Native Craftsmanship

The group's purpose is to co-ordinate and enhance the marketability of traditional arts and crafts within New Brunswick. They also provide assistance in product development, production and market place selection in the native arts and crafts sector.

TRIAAD's future desire is to have the demand for these products increased to a level where more natives will be able to work in this field full-time.

In an attempt to fulfill their goal, The New Brunswick Indian Arts and Crafts Association and the New Brunswick Department of Tourism are sponsoring the first New Brunswick Arts and Crafts show. The show will be held in the Blue Room of the Student Union Building. It runs from 12 until 7:00, Saturday, March 26 and from 12 until 5:00, Sunday, March 27.

### Exhibition of Tradition Arts and Crafts at UNB

Various arts and crafts will be exhibited; from wood-working and leather, to paintings and fine clothing. Native producers from all over New Brunswick will be on hand to display their talents and exhibit their crafts.

It is the hope of the TRIAAD project that this type of exhibition will give greater exposure to the native producers and help to increase awareness of traditional skills and methods.

Many New Brunswick producers are planning to establish cottage industry crafts. TRIAAD is hoping to facilitate this through their exhibition. They also hope that this annual arts and crafts festival will encourage the discovery of new artistic talent and help to increase interaction amongst producers.

The dedicated efforts of the New Brunswick producers will continue to provide a fascinating collection of Micmac and Maliseet creations.



"While some artists possess technical training in their specialty area, many of them are self taught individuals drawn to their creations by love of their craft and a commitment to the preservation of their rich heritage," says TRIAAD in a pamphlet describing the native craftsmen.

For this reason, each producer will be individually represented in the show. The TRIAAD group has contacted retailers from across the province and hopes to establish viable markets for native crafts.

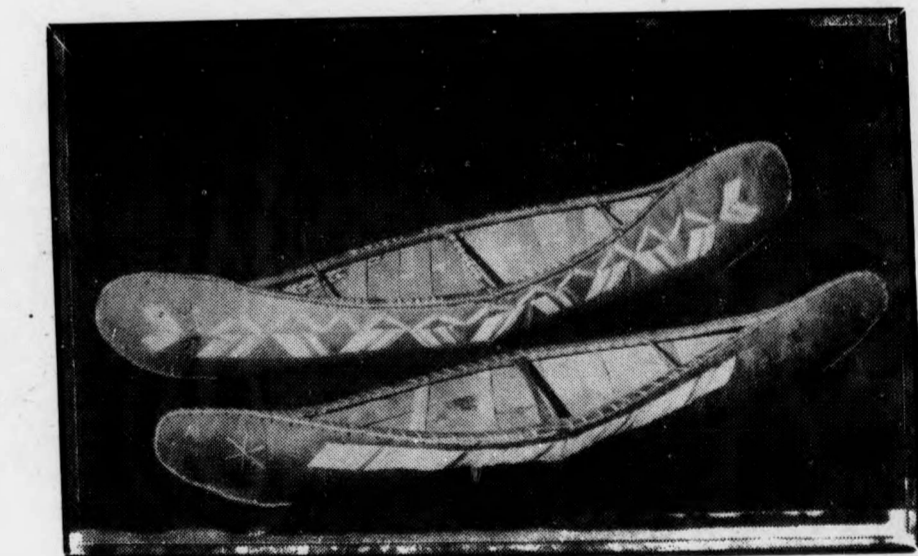
The show is open to the general public and many of the exhibited items will be made available for purchase.

The TRIAAD project is extremely proud of the impressive variety of traditional crafts and exciting original art works created and marketed by New Brunswick natives.

One of the roles of the society is to help others discover the beauty and diversity of native creations so that they may realize their value and uniqueness.

In the conclusion of their pamphlet, TRIAAD says that our heritage is our richest resource. You are invited to come and discover some of New Brunswick's greatest resources at the Spring Showcase, March 26 and 27.

TRIAAD believes the student population at UNB and STU would gain a greater understanding of native culture through such an exhibition and they encourage attendance. It is their hope that the display will be an educational experience and will help to increase an overall understanding of the importance played by arts and crafts in native life.



NEW BRUNSWICK  
SPRING  
SHOWCASE  
OF AUTHENTIC  
INDIAN  
ARTS & CRAFTS

March 26th & 27th  
Student Union Ballroom  
University of New Brunswick

From 12 until 7 o'clock, Saturday  
12 until 5 o'clock, Sunday

AN EXHIBITION  
OF TRADITIONAL  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
SPONSORED BY  
THE T.R.I.A.A.D.  
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Story and Layout  
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Special Thanks to: Richard Hutchins  
Mark Stevens