



arts nb

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New members join artsnb's Board of Directors and Circle of Elders

*Fredericton, December 4, 2023* – **Jennifer Bélanger** and **Ysabelle Vautour** have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Arts Board, and **Barb Nicholas** on the Circle of Elders.

artsnb is pleased to welcome new members **Jennifer Bélanger** (Moncton) and **Ysabelle Vautour** (Fredericton), who succeed **Jennifer Stead** (Florenceville-Bristol) and **Christiana Myers** (Saint John), whose mandates ended this year. **Barb Nicholas** (Neqotkuk), who succeeds **Mariah Sockabasin** (Neqotkuk), joins artsnb's Circle of Elders. The other members of the Circle of Elders are **George Paul** (Metapenagiag), **Hubert Francis** (Elsipogtog), **Judie Acquin** (Penniac), and **Phyllis Grant** (Pabineau) who also serves on the Board of Directors.

### New members of the Board of Directors



**Jennifer Bélanger** is a professional artist, cultural worker, and associate professor of visual arts at the Université de Moncton. Her artistic practice, although mainly focused on printmaking, is interdisciplinary and includes drawing, video, and painting. Her work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions across Canada. She has been guest curator at the Owens Art Gallery at Mount Allison University, the Louise-et-Reuben-Cohen Art Gallery, the Musée acadien de l'Université de Moncton and the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Prince Edward Island. She also worked as program coordinator at Galerie Sans Nom and as director of the Imago printmaking studio from 2000 to 2019. Bélanger holds a BFA from the Université de Moncton and an MFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.



**Ysabelle Vautour** is a visual artist who is also the founder of the NB Disability Art Collective. Ysabelle has served as artist in residence at the Fredericton Arts Alliance, Fredericton Botanical Gardens, Connexion Artist-Run Centre, and Hammock Residency in Vancouver. Recipient of the Jane Leblanc Award in Visual Arts, she also starred in an episode of the AMI-tele documentary series titled *100% Passion*. Ysabelle is an alumna of Festival Inspire Muralist Training Program, Sync Leadership, and Catapult Art Accelerator.

## New member of the Circle of Elders



**Barb Nicholas** is a multidisciplinary artist related to the frogs clan, living in Neqotkuk First Nation. Since her childhood, she has been developing her skills as a visual and performing artist. In her early adulthood, she started writing her own plays, helping friends in filmmaking, and organizing multidisciplinary artistic events in her community. She attended university to continue exploring various media and disciplines, and obtained a licence in carpentry. Barb worked in landscaping while continuing to explore her artistic voice writing poetry and short stories. She wrote a theatre script called *Treat-Ye, part 1 (past to now)*, and *Treat-Ye, part 2 (now to future)*, whose production is in the making. More recently, Barb also tackled metalwork and jewellery making, and is currently helping her cousin create a copper pizsonwi busnud (medecine basket).

## About the New Brunswick Arts Board and the Circle of Elders

An independent and autonomous public funding agency, the New Brunswick Arts Board (**artsnb**) is governed by a Board of nine voting members and advised by a Circle of Elders composed of five members. **artsnb**'s mission is to manage public funds and engage with a network of partners in support of a diverse, thriving, and sustainable arts ecosystem across New Brunswick. We encourage and celebrate the work of New Brunswick artists working in a broad range of disciplines and empower them to share their work throughout the province and beyond.

More information on **artsnb** can be found on our [website](#).

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