

## Biography



Whabagoon *Flower Blooming in Spring*  
Lac Seul Nation - Loon Clan – Treaty 3  
Sioux Lookout

Ojibwe Elder | Sacred Pipe Carrier | Multidisciplinary Artist

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Whabagoon was raised in a non-native environment, when she was adopted out of her community along with one biological sister from a family of 13 siblings. Whabagoon's desire to learn about her heritage prompted her to learn and follow her traditional ways. Whabagoon is the wife of 20 years to a traditionalist man of the Mi'kmaq nation, Lynx Clan. She is a Traditional Elder and Wisdom Teacher, active community member, singer, drummer, speaker, and water and land protector. She is a loving pet mother, currently to Theo, 20 months old and 16 years to Cleopatra, now passed.

Whabagoon has lead the International Women's Day Parade with Idle No More; she is an active leader and advisor for Sunset Service, a member of the Elder Wisdom Council for Sunset Service Toronto and an elder and teacher of El-Tawid Mosque Toronto, Juma Circle. Whabagoon is an active member of the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada and is the Elder for the Anti Indigenous Racism Sub-Committee meetings.

Whabagoon's strong commitment toward educating the community has earned her the Community Service Award given by the Bank of Montreal and the Alzheimer's Society to person's who combine business and community service. When she is not busy speaking, or teaching in the community and working with diverse groups, ages and backgrounds; Whabagoon enjoys singing and participating in community hand drum circles and cultural ceremonies.

"I honour my ancestors and the teachings of those who came before me." – Whabagoon

## **Most Recently...**

**Our Land, Our Stories: Indigenous, Muslim and Jewish Communities in Dialogue**  
– Opening and Closing Ceremonies and sharing of Whabagoon's personal story,

**Alberta Performing Arts and The Theatre Centre: BEARS:** Opening and Words of Wisdom

**OCAD-OnSite Gallery: The Sunshine Eaters:** Opening Ceremony & Words of Wisdom

**York Region District School Board**—Leadership Training —7 Grandfather Teachings

## **Endorsements:**

### **David Lewis-Peart, Pastor of Sunset Service**

*Patti Whabagoon Phipps-Walker has contributed her wealth of knowledge and experience as a First Nations elder, facilitator, and cultural educator these past 4 years to us, beginning first in a casual consultant role within our Sunset Service Toronto Fellowship community, and more recently as a regular advisor and facilitator within our community ministry. Each monthly and quarterly gathering Patti helps open up our gatherings with smudge, prayer, and an appropriate parable complimenting each lesson. She routinely demonstrates her ability to transmit vitally important ancestral knowledge, and does so in a way that makes it not only accessible, but also relevant to communities outside her own. Patti is a warm, welcoming educator and facilitator, and the leadership of Sunset Service Toronto Fellowship wholly endorses her to any organization or group looking to include her unique skill-sets to their own.*

### **El-Farouk Khaki, Co-Founder and Coordinating Imam of El-Tawhid Juma Circle, Toronto Unity Mosque**

*I invited Whabagoon to an event I host every year in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and shortly thereafter invited her to smudge and give a teaching at our monthly community luncheon service. Whabagoon is a friend, an ally and teacher. I look forward to many years with her as we forge relationships, build bridges and deepen our collective understandings as we work towards an all-inclusive, compassionate centred world.*