

MEN AND WOMEN, TRADITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For a group to work well, every member of the traditional society must do their part. The roles of men and women in traditional Aboriginal Nations were well established. For example, the women took care of the children, and therefore stayed close to the house or tent.

Men's roles

- > Hunting and fishing
- > Building shelters (longhouse, tent, igloo)
- > Building means of transportation (canoe, toboggan, kayak)
- > Establishing relations with the world outside the community: other groups, Nations, non-Aboriginal people
- > Making tools for construction, hunting and fishing (arrowhead, crooked knife, fish hook)

Women's roles

- > Gathering berries
- > Growing food plants (among the Iroquoians)
- > Cooking, keeping the fire burning
- > Gathering medicinal plants and making medicines
- > Making clothing and shoes
- > Making snowshoes
- > Preparing animal skins
- > Maintaining family relations in the clan
- > Taking care of the children

Some roles belonged to everyone, men or women:

- > Transmitting values, beliefs, legends and spiritual practices (ceremonies)
- > Respecting other members of the group and the values of the Nation