



# Hunting and Trapping

## Overview

Hunting and trapping has been an important way of life for many Indigenous communities for millennia. These harvesting practices have been an important means for Indigenous communities to have a food supply, clothing, tools, and other survival necessities.



Artist: Nokomis  
"Drying Meat"



Artist: Nokomis

## Hunting and Trapping in Indigenous Communities

- In *Keepers of the Earth*, Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac share that many communities have cultural practices and rituals that are practiced before, during, and after a hunt
  - These practices demonstrate the relationship of honour and respect that the hunter has with animals and the Creator
- Tobacco is often offered as a part of this practice
- Before firearms, the Haudenosaunee used bows and arrows and spears to hunt larger animals and snares for smaller animals
- To honour the life that was given, historically each part of the animal was used,
  - Furs and hides were used to make clothing, bones were used to create tools and needles, quills were used to embroider designs

## Importance of Hunting and Trapping

- Statistics Canada reports that these harvesting methods play an important role in fostering cultural identity
- Hunting and trapping also contributes to food security and sovereignty, especially for those who live on reserves



## Sources

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-653-x/89-653-x2019001-eng.htm>

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