
“Swing and Sway the Algonquian Way”: Algonquian Contributions to the Historic and Contemporary Powwow

Erik D. Gooding
Minnesota State University Moorhead

dr.gooding@gmail.com

This paper examines aspects of the contemporary powwow that have Algonquian origins. It will investigate the origins of the powwow, discuss the relationship between early Siouan and Algonquian forms, and the development of the contemporary powwow configuration. The focus of this paper will be on establishment of and the development into the powwow of several male and female powwow dance styles, including Men’s Woodland, Women’s Woodland (Scrub), Women’s Strap Dress, Men’s Chicken, Women’ Jingle, and their accompanying music, as well as Algonquian-derived dance clothing and dance clothing ornamentation techniques.