Temporal and spatial distributions of Early Carboniferous-aged chert in the New Brunswick archaeological record

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Translucent variegated chert, dominated by red and grey shades, is frequently present in Early Carboniferous (Mabou Group) sediments in New Brunswick. The Washademoak Lake Chert Source at Belyeas Cove is the only known exposure exhibiting toolstone-quality variants of this chert, referred to in the archaeological literature as *Washademoak Multi-coloured Chert*. Flaked-stone artifacts made from chert macroscopically consistent with that from Belyeas Cove are widely distributed in the New Brunswick archaeological record, especially in the southern half of the province. Use of this chert by Native people appears to be restricted, temporally, to the Maritime Woodland period (3000–500 B.P.). Distributions of distinctive lithic materials, such as *Washademoak Multi-coloured Chert*, serve as proxy data in the reconstruction of prehistoric exchange and cultural interaction systems in the Maine–Maritimes area.