



Tripartite Forum Newsletter



TRIPARTITE OFFICIALS CONVENE FOR STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

The Tripartite Officials convened at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre on March 6th. Dawn McDonald, serving as the Tripartite Liaison, commenced the gathering with an opening prayer.

The agenda encompassed discussions on forthcoming events, ongoing projects, and updates from both the Secretariat and Working Committees. This was followed by a thorough examination of Heidi Weigand's report, *Working Table Review Strategic Plan*.

Crafted with input from federally commissioned reports and gender-based analysis, this strategy seeks to strengthen Mi'kmaq communities by fostering collaboration among Forum Parties and places a clear emphasis on the Tripartite Forum.

Exciting news was announced: committees can now embark on trips to different communities, ensuring they stay within their designated budgets.

Mark your calendars for the Tripartite Forum All Mi'kmaq Members meeting and Working Development Session, happening June 5th - 7th, both to be held at the Inverary Inn, Baddeck NS. The primary focus of the Working Development Session will be based on Heidi's report. (See page 6 for details.)

The next Tripartite Officials meeting is scheduled for September 2024.

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The Tripartite Forum Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis. The next edition will be published in June 2024.

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OR

Visit the website:
www.tripartiteforum.ca

TRIPARTITE FORUM: SECRETARIAT UPDATES

ANNOUNCING SAM TRITES AS THE CMM'S NEW TRIPARTITE LIAISON OFFICER: CONGRATULATIONS!



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Samantha (Sam) Trites on her recent appointment as the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) Tripartite Liaison Officer.

Sam, a proud member of the Millbrook Band and granddaughter of Tommy Gloade, grew up in Debert. She embarked on her professional journey after graduating from NSCC in 2010, where she earned a certificate in office administration.

Over the years, Sam has amassed invaluable experience within the CMM, initially starting as a Tripartite Administrator in 2010 and continuing in that role until the Forum underwent restructuring in 2020. Despite the changes, Sam remained dedicated to the organization, serving as the Electoral Office Administrator from March 2020 to December 2021, before returning to the Tripartite team as an Administrator.

Throughout her tenure, Sam has acquired a wealth of knowledge and expertise, making her well-equipped to tackle the challenges and opportunities that come with her new role as a Liaison Officer. She eagerly anticipates embracing these fresh challenges with enthusiasm and dedication.

Contact Information:

Samantha Trites
Tripartite Liaison
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
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INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE: YOUR DIGITAL DESTINATION AWAITS!

We're thrilled to unveil something special today – our new and improved website! After tireless effort and creativity from our team, we're excited to present you with an online experience that's as vibrant and dynamic as our communities.

What can you expect from our revamped website?

- **Fresh Design:** Immerse yourself in a sleek and modern design that reflects our commitment to innovation.
- **Engaging Visuals:** Explore captivating imagery and interactive elements that bring our brand to life like never before.
- **Informative Content:** Dive into a wealth of informative articles, resources, and insights curated just for you.
- **Easy Navigation:** Enjoy seamless navigation and user-friendly features designed to enhance your browsing experience.

Your feedback and support have been invaluable to us, and we're grateful for your continued engagement. We can't wait for you to explore our new digital home and discover all that it has to offer.

Ready to embark on this journey with us?

VISIT: www.tripartiteforum.ca

TRIPARTITE FORUM: WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATES

While not all our working committees have provided updates for this edition, we're thrilled to present insights from those that have. These updates offer a window into the ongoing efforts and accomplishments of key committees within our organization. From strategic initiatives to noteworthy achievements, the contributions highlighted in this newsletter underscore the dedication and impact of our committee members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING COMMITTEE

As we continue to foster collaboration and economic growth within our communities, we are delighted to welcome Crystal Nicholas as the newest member of our committee. Crystal brings a wealth of experience, currently serving as the Interim General Manager of Wskijinu'k Mtmo'taquow Agency Ltd (WMA). Her insights and expertise will undoubtedly enhance our collective efforts.

In our recent committee meetings held in Millbrook and Membertou, we had the privilege of hosting presentations from various organizations committed to economic development. The Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), Ulnooweg, Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative (MFI), KMKNO Cultural Tourism, and Nova Scotia Indigenous Tourism Enterprise Network (NSITEN) have shared valuable perspectives and initiatives.

These presentations align seamlessly with our work plan, addressing Goal 1 of information sharing, as well as contributing to the advancement of Goal 4 in tourism sector development and Goal 5 in forest sector development.

As we strive to deepen our impact, we are actively working on setting up subcommittees. One key focus area is the exploration of mineral resources, a vital component that plays a pivotal role in the economic landscape. By forming specialized subcommittees, we aim to delve into specific sectors

more comprehensively, fostering targeted strategies and initiatives.

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Mike Rothenburg, Federal Co-Chair
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SOCIAL WORKING COMMITTEE

The Nova Scotia Tripartite Social Committee is co-chaired by Sandy-Lynn Fisher (Mi'kmaq co-chair, Glooscap First Nation), Natasha Fillmore (federal co-chair, Indigenous Services Canada) and Shannon Kelly (provincial co-chair, NS Dept of Community Services). The committee has seven (7) additional voting members:

- Joan Denny - Director of Social Services, Membertou First Nation
- Jolene Glenn - Jordan's Principle Manager, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Pam Glode-Desrochers - Executive Director, Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre
- Carol Page - Mi'kmaq Employment and Training Secretariat
- Paula Robinson - NSNWA Representative, Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

New members:

- Louise Donnelly - Wikimanej Kikmanaq Family Group Circle Supervisor, Mi'kmaq Child and Family Services (replacing Natalie Doucette)
- Ryan Francis - Policy Analyst, Nova Scotia Office of L'nu Affairs

Liaison:

- Dawn McDonald - Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

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TRIPARTITE FORUM: WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATES

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In 2023, the Social Working Committee met nine times, using both virtual and face-to-face formats. The Social Working Committee has also set dates for 10 meetings in 2024, including four in-person.

In November 2023, the committee met in Membertou for two days of agenda-packed meetings, including presentations by Tiffany Lee, Director of Strategy for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; Rosie Sylliboy, Executive Director of Mawita'mk Charitable Society; and Conrad Saulis, Executive Director of the Wabanaki Council on Disability.

A sub-committee continues to develop a Project Fund application for a homelessness project spearheaded by the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and hopes to submit its application in the new year. In addition, the committee is updating its work plan and looking into opportunities to collaborate with other tables on projects with shared priorities.

Our most recent meeting was on March 4th at the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq's location in Millbrook.

Welcome to the Social Working Committee, Louise!



Louise Donnelly is the mother of two beautiful sons. Although her eldest son is in the Spirit World, he continues to guide her on her life's journey. She is also the proud grandmother to three (3) amazing grandchildren and another granddaughter who is expected to arrive

in July.

Louise is a Band Member of the Miawpukek First Nation Community, located in Newfoundland but was born and raised in North Sydney. She currently resides in Dartmouth with her husband.

She graduated from Cape Breton University in 1990, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies. She returned to university and obtained her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) in 2000. She also graduated from Dalhousie University with her Masters of Social Work (MSW) in 2019.

Louise completed her BSW social work placement at Mi'kmaw Family and Children Services in Child Protection. Shortly thereafter, she accepted a full-time position with the agency in May 2000 as a child protection social worker.

She worked in the Children in Care Department for more than 10 years, which led Louise into a supervisory role with Wikimanej Kikmanaq Program. Her heart and soul are invested in this program, and she is honored to work with an amazing team who are truly committed to our families and communities.

Louise's overall goal in becoming a member in the Social Working Committee is to be a part of the information sharing and collaborative communication which is believed to have a positive effect within the agency and within the communities that it serves.

Louise can be contacted at: 902-222-6549 or via email at: louise.donnelly@novascotia.ca.

TRIPARTITE FORUM: WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATES

JUSTICE WORKING COMMITTEE

The Justice Working Committee aims to facilitate discussions among Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Government of Canada to address justice issues for the Mi'kmaq community. It focuses on developing culturally appropriate justice services and providing a cooperative framework for collaborative planning and action. The committee strives to promote inclusive community safety through culturally relevant programs, including dispute resolution services and initiatives based on traditional Mi'kmaq Customary Law. Furthermore, it seeks to uphold Mi'kmaq justice concepts through consultation with Mi'kmaq communities and relevant government agencies, ensuring accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and financial stability in the delivery of Mi'kmaq justice services. The committee's work is guided by the principles outlined in the Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution (1989) and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People Bridging the Cultural Divide (1995).

Shelly Martin, Mi'kmaq Co-chair

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Wayne Woodard, Provincial Co-chair

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David Hansen, Federal Co-Chair

Email: david.hansen@justice.gc.ca

Welcome to the Justice Working Committee, Kara!



Kara Pictou, hailing from Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island) and Paqtnkek First Nation (Nova Scotia), serves as the Chapter Liaison for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association. Her primary role involves bolstering the capabilities of sixteen chapters through the compilation of research, communication strategies, advocacy initiatives, and fostering engagement.

In addition to her duties, Kara represents Indigenous women in Nova Scotia by participating in quarterly meetings with the Justice Working Committee and the Tripartite Forum. Subsequently, she provides comprehensive updates to the NSNWA Executive Director, relevant staff, and Chapter Presidents regarding issues affecting Indigenous women.

With a solid academic foundation, including a Bachelor of Science from St. FX in 2018, Kara possesses firsthand experiential knowledge that underscores the importance of integrating lived experiences into policymaking. She acknowledges that for experiential knowledge to effectively inform policy, it must not only reflect lived experiences but also be translated into policies understandable by policy actors.

Kara's objectives include strengthening working relationships within the Justice Working Committee, ensuring robust representation, and consistent engagement of Indigenous women. Furthermore, she plans to advocate for the expansion of court worker services to encompass family court, drug treatment, and domestic violence courts, with a focus on supporting underrepresented Indigenous individuals in civil matters.

As a Mi'kmaq woman, Kara is committed to advocating for the recognition of Indigenous women as knowledge bearers and promoting the integration of their knowledge sharing, experiential knowledge, and research into decision-making processes at all levels of government.

Kara eagerly anticipates serving as the NSNWA representative on the Justice Working Committee.

Kara can be contacted at: 902-957-5813 or via email at: chapterliaison@nsnwa.net

TRIPARTITE FORUM: SAVE THE DATE



We are delighted to extend to you a warm invitation to the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum All Mi'kmaq Members Meeting and Working Development Session!

The event will span three days and will be held in Baddeck, NS. Further details, including the agenda will be provided in due course. **This will be an in-person meeting.**

ALL MI'KMAW MEMBERS MEETING:
DATE: June 5th, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WORKING DEVELOPMENT SESSION:
DATE: June 5th | 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
June 6th | 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
June 7th | 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

LOCATION: Inverary Resort, 368 Shore Rd, Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0

Kindly RSVP by May 20th, 2024 for dietary restrictions, food allergies, and confirmation of your attendance.

Please note that a block of rooms has been reserved at the Inverary Resort for attendees requiring accommodation. **To make your reservation, please call: 1-800-565-5660.**

For inquiries regarding your availability, please contact:
Jewl Stevens | **Phone:** 902-563-6871 | **Email:** jewlstevens@unsm.org

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ

The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq (UNSM) is a Tribal Organization that has been established for over 50 years. The UNSM came into existence to provide a unified political voice for the Mi'kmaq people of the province in the face of a proposed federal government policy to assimilate Canada's First Nations people into mainstream society.

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CONFEDERACY OF MAINLAND MI'KMAQ

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) is a Tribal Council incorporated in 1986 as a not-for-profit organization under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia. The mission statement best summarizes the objectives of the organization: *"To proactively promote and assist Mi'kmaw communities' initiatives toward self determination and enhancement of community."*

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NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association is a provincial Indigenous organization incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act that develops and delivers programs promoting equal opportunity for Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQQIA people and their families.

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NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION