

2010 - 2011



# ANNUAL REPORT



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada  
**TRIPARTITE FORUM**  
[www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com)

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# A message from the Executive Chair



Officer of the Indian Brook First Nation and will do my absolute best to ensure the betterment of the Indian Brook community.

This is also my last message as The Tripartite Forum Executive Chair. I was first appointed this position in April 2005 and look fondly on my past six years working with The Forum and its members. In the future I'm sure we will all work together again in some capacity.

Thank you and Wela'lin,

It has been two long and busy years since the Tripartite Forum produced its Annual Report and I am happy to welcome its return in 2011. In this special issue, we will update you on the events and accomplishments from the past two years and there is a lot of information to share.

This year marks the 14th year that the Tripartite Forum is operational and we have seen some changes. New faces have joined the Forum from different backgrounds and old faces have moved on to different projects. These changes bring in new and fresh ideas to share that benefit greatly to the new goals the Tripartite committees work hard to fulfill. To think that in a year Tripartite will be celebrating 15 years is just amazing.

As some of you may already know, I have resigned from my position as the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. I am now the Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Simon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Simon,

Executive Chair  
AFN Regional Chief  
Chief Executive Officer of Indian Brook  
First Nation

***“To think that in a year Tripartite will be celebrating 15 years is just amazing.”***

# A Message from Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq



It has been two years since the last annual report and that has been two great years of activities and achievements. With that we must take some time and reflect on those achievements and the work ahead of us. The Tripartite Forum members should be very proud of their dedication and commitment to the continuous process.

Some Forum members have left and new members have joined us. One major change Tripartite experienced this year was Rick Simon leaving his position as Executive Chair. Rick brought tremendous expertise and experience to his role as Executive Chair and will now use his skill sets for the betterment of Indian Brook as its CEO.

The Steering Committee saw some big changes as Mark Davis replaced Philip Fraser as federal co-chair; Denise Moore replaced Ernest Walker as provincial co-chair; and Joan Sack replaced Dee Campbell as the Tripartite liaison for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. The Government of Canada made significant changes and The Honourable John Duncan is the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The most dynamic changes have occurred probably in the Tripartite Forum Secretariat. Robyn Siteman, a former Tripartite Administrator, returned to the Forum in early 2011

as Project Fund Manager. Samantha Higgins joined the team in 2010 as an Administrator alongside Denise Gloade. In late 2010, Adam Gould assumed the role as Communications Officer. The Secretariat continues to play the essential role in Tripartite Forum progress.

After 14 long years of hard work filled with tremendous accomplishment, it is surprisingly hard to believe that Tripartite will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> year in 2012. Let us continue to work together to better the lives of all Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia!

***“The Tripartite Forum members should be very proud of their dedication and commitment to the continuous process.”***

# A Message from The Nova Scotia Government



Darrel E. Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia

Once again, The Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada Tripartite Forum has made significant strides towards achieving positive change on behalf of Mi'kmaw communities. Over the past year you've achieved a great number of successes – including successfully funding many projects through the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change.

You have played a very important role in Mi'kmaw economic development across the province in 2010 and I have no doubt that this will continue throughout 2011.

The Province's Jobs Here strategy recognizes that First Nations people are underrepresented in Nova Scotia's workforce and economy. By your continued and dedicated involvement in economic development, you are also playing a vital role in contributing to, and advancing, not just Mi'kmaq economic growth but also all of Nova Scotia's.

We feel privileged to participate in the Tripartite Forum and we remain committed to our common cause of improving the life of individuals in communities throughout the province.

This is truly an exciting time for the Forum and the future looks very bright. All three partners have a strong, unified direction for strategic and transitional planning. This will result in enhanced relationships with your partners, including the Province of Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrel Dexter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darrel E. Dexter  
Premier of Nova Scotia

***“This is truly an exciting time for the Forum and the future looks very bright.”***

# A Message from The Government of Canada



John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate all those responsible for the success of The Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada Tripartite Forum. This Tripartite Forum continues to stand as a strong example of how three parties can work together to address issues of common interest that affect the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The Government of Canada is pleased to be part of this partnership and witness the great contribution the Forum has made to enhance relationships between the people of Nova Scotia.

Each of the Forum's working committees have accomplished

significant work over the past two years. One of this year's key tripartite initiatives is to undertake a thorough review of the Tripartite Forum to ensure that the Forum's structure, goals and objectives are as relevant in the present and future as they have been in the past.

In partnership with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada looks forward to ongoing dialogue and collaboration in the Tripartite Forum for the benefit of the Mi'kmaq people in the province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Duncan'.

John Duncan,  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development

***“The Government of Canada is pleased to be part of this partnership and witness the great contribution the Forum has made to enhance relationships between the people of Nova Scotia.”***

# Organizational Chart

**Key**

**AANDC**  
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada

**APC**  
Atlantic Policy Congress

**CMM**  
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (The)

**DCS**  
NS Department of Community Services

**NSDOE**  
NS Department of Education

**DOJC**  
Department of Justice Canada

**FNIHB**  
First Nations & Intuit Health Branch

**HC**  
Health Canada

**MK**  
Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey

**MLSN**  
Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network

**MWH**  
Membertou Wellness Home

**NSCS**  
Nova Scotia Correctional Services

**NSDOH**  
Nova Scotia Department of Health

**NS ED**  
Nova Scotia Economic Development

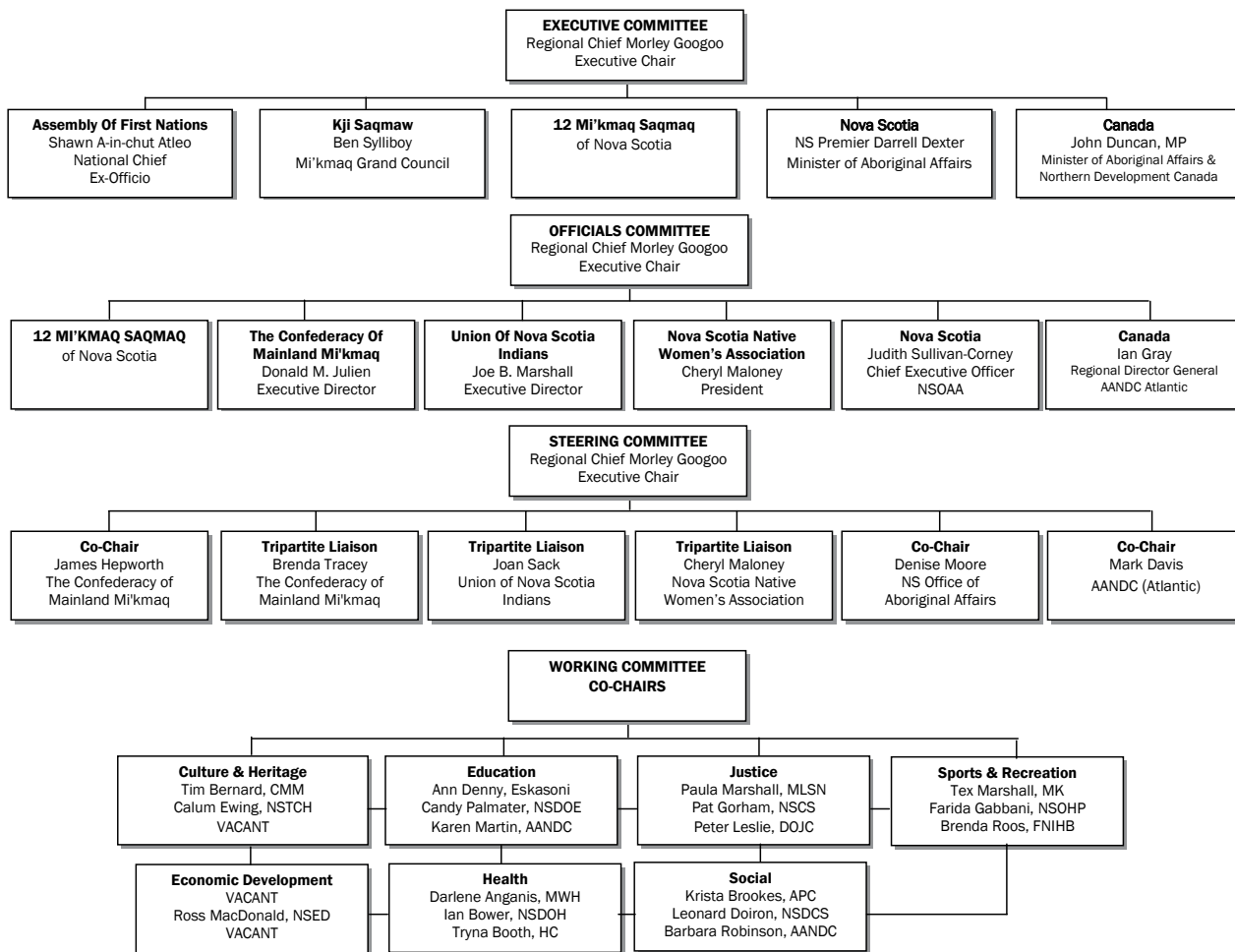
**NS OHP**  
Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion

**NS TCH**  
Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage

**NSNWA**  
Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

**NSOAA**  
Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs

**UNSI**  
Union of Nova Scotia Indians



# Mission, Vision and Values

## Mission Statement

Committed to working and learning together in partnership, in a manner that respects the needs of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

## Vision Statement

Building a foundation for prosperous and vibrant Mi'kmaw communities through partnership, commitment and respect.

## Value Statement

### Commitment

We are committed to working in open-minded relationships where all parties strive to reach the organization's vision.

### Partnership

We will work together in good faith to build a strong and healthy Mi'kmaw community that will benefit all Nova Scotians.

### Respect

We develop our relationships based on mutual trust and respect, where we learn and grow together.





# About Tripartite Forum

The Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada Tripartite Forum was formed in 1997 as a partnership between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, The Province of Nova Scotia and The Government of Canada, to strengthen relationships and to resolve issues of mutual concern affecting Mi'kmaq communities.

In 1997, the 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) with the Federal and Provincial governments. Under this M.O.U, the Chiefs would represent all of their registered band members in the Tripartite Forum. A "Without Prejudice" addendum to the M.O.U was signed in 1998 ensuring all Tripartite Forum

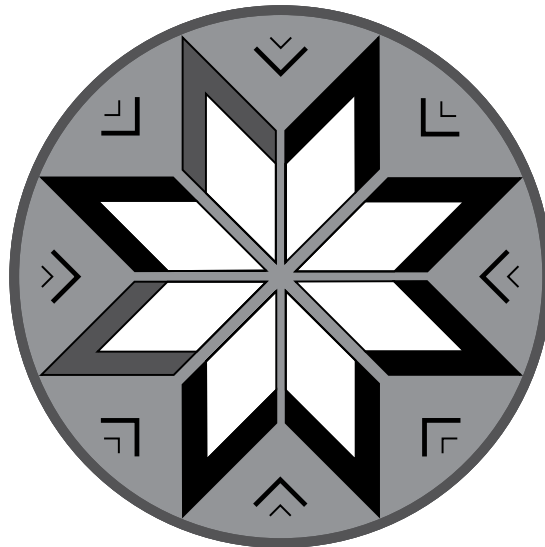
meetings and discussions were not considered "consultation." A strong backbone for the Tripartite Forum was established in recommendations of both the 1989 Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution and the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

The Forum operates with the following committee levels: Executive, Officials, Steering and Working committees. Each committee level has representation from the three parties: the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, The Province of Nova Scotia and The Government of Canada. The parties work together with tolerance and by consensus to discuss

and resolve issues and act as a catalyst for change.

## Our Logo

The chosen logo of the Tripartite Forum is the Mi'kmaq eight-pointed star. The historic Mi'kmaw symbol originally had seven points to represent the traditional seven districts of the Mi'kmaw Nation. An eighth point, representing the British Crown, was added when the Mi'kmaq began signing treaties with the British Crown. All discussions of the Tripartite Forum will be guided by the spirit and intent of the treaties and the treaty relationship.



**Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada**  
**TRIPARTITE FORUM**

# Executive Committee



The Executive Committee is the highest level of decision-making process in the Tripartite Forum. Final decisions are made at this level with consensus from all members. Decisions made here can overrule present policy, change future policy, initiate and provide input into legislative change if necessary. All Tripartite committees require approval from the Executive Committee in their formation, mandate and resolutions.

## **Composition:**

- Executive Chair
- Mi'kmaq Grand Chief
- 12 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- National Chief (ex-officio)
- Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada



# Officials Committee



The Officials Committee receives options and recommendations from the working committees and offers decisions within its authority and policy. The Officials Committee approves the working committees mandate and provides direction as stated by the Executive Committee.

## **Composition:**

- Executive Chair
- 12 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- Executive Director – The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Executive Director – Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- President – Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- Chief Executive Officer – Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs
- Other Federal/Regional Directors and Provincial Deputy Ministers



# Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides organizational direction and operational support for the Tripartite Forum. It also functions to focus on the overall relationships between the three parties within each of the Forum's working committees.

## **Composition:**

- Tripartite Liaison – The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Tripartite Liaison – Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- Tripartite Liaison – Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- Mi'kmaw Co-Chair
- Provincial Co-Chair
- Federal Co-Chair



# Project Fund Committee

The Project Fund Committee meets on a quarterly basis or more depending on necessity with all meeting dates set at the beginning of the year. Its membership includes three (3) Steering Co-chairs; one representative from The Province of Nova Scotia, one from The Government of Canada, and the Mi'kmaq representative; and three Working Committee Co-chairs, one from each party. The Executive Chair is a non-voting committee member. Robyn Siteman is the Tripartite Forum Project Fund Manager.

To approve funding of a project, a quorum of six (6) voting members must be present. For the committee to reach quorum, a designated alternative can be utilized in voting.

In 2010-11, the committee funded 15 projects totaling \$368, 120.90.

## **Funded projects in 2009-10 include:**

- Aboriginal Sports Summit (\$41,529.00)
- Winter Active (\$26,000.00)

- Pedometers – Physical Activity (\$2,000.00)
- Protection and Preservation of Malagawatch (\$36,180.00)
- Strategic Plan for Eskasoni Crisis Centre (\$62,735.00)
- Steve Nash Basketball for Nova Scotia First Nations Youth (\$29,400.00)
- Launch and Press Conference of Membertou 400 (\$20,000.00)
- Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (\$20,000.00)
- Unama'ki Initiative-Leakage Study (\$20,000.00)
- Human Resource Capacity in Early Childhood Education (\$21,859.00)
- Grand Council Booklet (\$39,270.00)

## **Highlights and achievements for 2010-11:**

- Met five (5) times in 2010- 2011.
- All seven Working Committees received funding on at least one project so far.
- Committed \$368,120.90 to 15 projects in 2010-11.



**Funded projects include:**

- Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs Site Protection (\$6,960.28).
- The Pjila'si Mi'kma'ki: Mi'kmaw Place Names Digital Atlas and Website (\$30,000.00)
- Unama'ki Benefits Leakage Study (\$20,000.00)
- Human Resource Capacity in Early Childhood Education (\$46,970.00)
- Health Directors' Meeting (\$16,032.00)
- Building a Bridge program (\$10,400.00)
- First Nations Manual Pilot Project (\$60,000.00)
- 2010 Aboriginal Sports Summit (\$56,600.00)
- Scoping Project for Intervention Services (\$36,890.00)
- Commemorative Program for Memberou 400 (\$25,000.00)
- Atlantic Aboriginal Online Directory (\$5,075.00)
- Malagawatch Causeway (\$24,950.00)
- Canada Winter Games Flame Attendants (\$25,000.00)
- St. Anne Church Protection in Merigomish (\$10,000.00)
- Doctors Nova Scotia Running Program (\$13,000.00)



# Tripartite Forum Working Committees

The “grass roots” of the Tripartite Forum is established through the seven working committees. As the various working committee members identify issues through research and community engagement, these issues are brought to the working committee table for discussion, solution development and next steps.

Comprised of representatives from the

three parties, experts and technicians in each of the seven areas work together to develop and carry out their annual work plans. Open and public community participation is also encouraged as working committees attempt to host their meetings across the province in Mi'kmaq communities.

The seven working committees are Culture and Heritage, Economic

Development, Education, Health, Justice, Social, Sports and Recreation.

## Culture and Heritage

The Culture and Heritage Committee is an active and productive committee that met on four occasions over the 2010-11 fiscal year with excellent attendance and participation at each meeting. The committee makes significant effort to meet in or near Mi'kmaq communities and involve community members and Elders. Meetings were held in Eskasoni, Yarmouth, Wagmatcook and Membertou Mi'kmaq Communities.

Members also participated in the 2010 Annual Assembly that was held at Oak Island Inn Resort in May 2010.

The committee's purpose is to promote an environment in which the three parties can come together in cooperation and discuss common issues, explore options and recommend actions with respect to culture and heritage. The committee's mandate is to focus on achievable objectives with respect to language, research, culture and heritage, resource management and the commemoration and

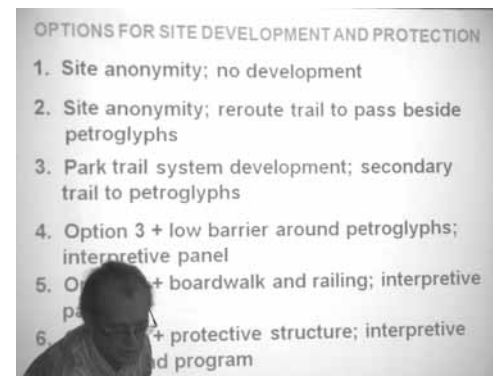
presentation of Mi'kmaq culture and heritage.

### Goal 1: Heritage Preservation

Scope: to foster and support the preservation of heritage sites, buildings and objects or collections that relate to Mi'kmaq heritage. This would include issues of archeological sites and artifacts, development of Mi'kmaq heritage collections, archives and heritage site protection.

### Recent activities include:

- Overseeing research on historical use of Malagawatch, the significance of the Malagawatch site to Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq, and potential designation as a National Historic site.
- Collaborating with the Chiefs' Malagawatch Committee on land stabilization and erosion-protection efforts.
- Supporting application for funding to begin preservation of the St. Anne



Mission Church at Maligomish (Merigomish).

- Supporting the Kluscap Caves research for the designation as a National Historic site Landscape with Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR).
- Implementations of conservation report to move ahead with a park trail system development (identified as Option 3 in the report) but to include boardwalk and railing and interpretive panel. This option will require full support of the Department of Natural Resources.

## **Goal 2: Community Identity and Language Scope:**

to assist and support communities with enhancing and celebrating community identity and promotion. This includes language, community branding, naming and location aids (i.e., maps, signage).

### **Recent activities:**

- Mi'kmaq language, highway signage, placemats, Place Names database, community branding.
- Support for development of Pjila'si Mi'maki: Mi'kmaq Place Names Digital

Atlas and Website in collaboration with the Gorsebrook Institute which secured \$250,000.00 in funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to support the development of the Mi'kmaq Place Names database and associated website development. Project was launched in spring 2010 and is currently on its second season of research with four Mi'kmaq students currently working under Dr. Trudy Sable and in collaboration with Bernie Francis.

- Completion and installation of community way-finding signs on Nova Scotia Highway 101 for Glooscap Mi'kmaq Community and Bear River Mi'kmaq Community.
- Clarification with Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal on standardized formats for community identification in discussion with Deputy Minister David Darrow. There is no issue with Mi'kmaq communities identifying themselves as either a Mi'kmaq Community, First Nation or Mi'kmaq First Nation in using various suffixes on highway signage.
- Supporting Mi'kmaq communities throughout the province in determining





format and wording of signs for each community.

- Still waiting on official work from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada headquarters on the official process to carry through an Order-in-Council for band name-change and/or reserve parcel name change. Mark Davis has ensured us that we will get a status update in writing on the delay of the process.
- Mi'kmaw Place Names placemat has been printed and is available for distribution through the Tripartite Forum Secretariat.

### **Goal 3: Cultural Expression and Presentation Scope:**

to support and foster the development and presentation of cultural expression in all forms. It includes literary and performing arts, visual arts, music, dance and cultural celebration.

### **Recent activities:**

- Chief's Regalia, Mawiomis, Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Network (MCTN), etc.
- Ongoing communication with Museum of Victoria on requirements and details of transportation and loan of regalia for display in Nova Scotia.
- Working with Canadian Museum of Civilization to clarify concerns regarding community of origin (i.e., Nova Scotia or New Brunswick) of regalia.
- This committee is working on implementing various components of the MCTN Strategic Plan Recent activities include: facilitating Mawio'mi 2011 on Halifax Common; preparation of Mi'kmaw Cultural Village for Mawio'mi 2011; supporting an application to the Project Fund Committee to support the marketing of Mawio'mi 2011.

- Supporting an application from the Union of Nova Scotia Indians (UNSI) to the project fund for the 25th Anniversary of Treaty Day.
- Implementation of the Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Network strategic plan.

During the 2010-11 fiscal year the Culture and Heritage Working Committee garnered over \$98,000.000 through the Project Fund to support five projects. These projects were:

- Membertou 400 commemorative program
- Pjila'si Mi'maki: Mi'kmaq Place Names Digital Atlas and Website
- Malagawatch Causeway
- Bedford Barrens Petroglyph Site Protection
- St. Anne Church Protection in Merrigomish, NS



# Economic Development

The Tripartite Economic Development Working Committee (TEDWC) held a strategic planning session on April 27, 2011, to review the past work plan and determine whether the objectives were still relevant and whether the Committee has been effective in the overall mandate of the Tripartite Forum. Each of the participants was asked in advance to evaluate their outcomes against the previous work plan and the responses were fairly consistent.

TEDWC was responsible for:

- the initial research and report Young Entrepreneurs Program. TEDWC had no direct role in the Youth Coordinator position being established and/or the E-Spirit Program development.
- the initial Phase I Leakage Study that was completed using Unama'ki as a pilot region and for the mass distribution of the final report. TEDWC facilitated the presentation of the report in several venues.

TEDWC had the roles:

- as catalyst, advocate and resource for the Young Entrepreneurs Program to move forward.
- as catalyst, advocate and resource for the continued work and subsequent Phase II Leakage Study.
- as advocate and resource in bringing together and supporting partners in the communities and within the organizations and agencies related to the committee's work.

TEDWC invited communities to present during Tripartite meetings in the specific communities. TEDWC needs to work on new strategic membership to align the Committee with the objectives and priorities (i.e. youth).

A successful visioning session was then held to determine what the Committee wants to see in future regarding the three objectives: Entrepreneurship; Aboriginal Procurement, and Partnerships. Each of the actions identified were reviewed and it was quickly determined that the most effective method of reaching the



objectives would be through strategic communications that lead back to the overall vision of the TEDWC.

As a result of the planning session, the committee feels that it is now in line with its vision and fully aware of the required actions for future. In terms of communications, there is a need for a comprehensive communications plan that would include:

- External communications plan to document each of the objectives and actions with tactics and tools that have been identified as effective and necessary.
- Internal communications documentation as TEDWC moves forward to implementation of the action plan. Internal communications is key to the constant and effective flow of information.



# Education

The committee had three meetings: September 2010, November 2010, and in February 2011. Some of the key deliverables of the committee included supporting the publishing of the Honouring 400 Years Kepmie'tmnej, which was launched on Treaty Day, October 1, 2010. The literature includes a Mi'kmaq written version of the event. The NSDepartment Education announced that the literature will be incorporated in the social studies curricula.

Also accomplished was the completion of the Human Resource Capacity Building in Early Childhood Programs within Mi'kmaw Communities in Nova Scotia project (Phase 2). Several community visits and two workshops took place that resulted in opportunities and challenges associated with promoting the Mi'kmaq language and culture and the requirements of children with special needs were identified. This information is considered vital for the future planning for the Early Childhood

Education (ECE) curriculum. In addition to information to help in curriculum planning, information was gathered on the delivery system for Early Childhood Education programs that communities would find best suited for their individual communities.

The final report of the project contains valuable information on issues related to establishing the educational foundation of a comprehensive system of programs and services for young children in Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia and their families.

Phase 3 of the project is scheduled to be implemented as part of the 2011/2012 work plan is to establish and facilitate meetings of the Mi'kmaq/ Post Secondary Committee to work with Post Secondary Institutions to identify and oversee inclusion of Mi'kmaq curriculum in ECE courses within mainstream colleges and universities; to support the implementation of ECE training delivery options in communities; and to promote

the delivery of a cultural/language program in ECE centres. Project funding will be sought to implement this work plan activity.

Another project that had the continued support of the committee is the Mi'kmaq Language Longitudinal Study. The study provides valuable data on increased student attainment when Mi'kmaq learners are instructed in their Mi'kmaq language.



# Health

In 2009-2010, the Health Working Committee made significant progress towards achieving its work plan objectives.

Accomplishments include:

Supporting research on the factors and conditions that are required for building successful and sustainable relationships between First Nations (FN) communities and the District Health Authorities (DHAs) A small sub-committee made up of Health Working Committee members was formed in 2009 to guide a research project. In the summer of 2009, this sub-committee was successful in securing funding from the Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program (AAHRP) and other parties for the project, which is being conducted by a Dalhousie University professor and an aboriginal Master's student. Key activities completed include a literature review and an environmental scan. Findings of these studies include:

- Clear frameworks should be established to support relationships between FN and DHAs, based on mutual expectations;
- Mechanisms for formal communications between FN and DHAs should be established;
- Formalized FN representation on DHA boards or other advisory bodies may enhance advocacy for FN issues; and
- Strengthening cultural awareness and understanding leads to a better relationship between FN communities and DHAs, and enhances cultural safety for FN people.

The research project will be extending into 2010-11, in order to complete key

informant interviews and to develop a toolkit for use by the communities and the DHAs. This toolkit will be designed to help stakeholders build relationships that focus on improving First Nations' access to the full range of available health services and supports. Collaborating with other Tripartite Working Committees to address areas of shared responsibility, jurisdictional issues, and gaps in services.

In the summer of 2009, representatives of the Health and Social Working Committees met to discuss and clarify long standing issues regarding the inability of on-reserve Mi'kmaq to access provincial early intervention services for children. In the fall of 2009, Forum Officials were briefed on the matter and a letter was sent to the Minister of Community Services seeking further clarification on the right of Mi'kmaq families and children to access these services. The Minister of Community Services responded in writing, acknowledging that families living on reserve are eligible for early intervention programs and may be referred to them for support. Work on ensuring how Mi'kmaq children will get onto program waiting lists will continue in 2010-11, under the leadership of Social Committee, with continued support from representatives of the Health Working Committee and The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.

Identifying opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders and/or support planned and existing suicide prevention initiatives In January, a special meeting of the committee was held in Pictou



Landing First Nation which focused on raising members' awareness of existing suicide prevention initiatives and resources available to First Nations communities and identifying opportunities for future collaboration. Results of the meeting include a decision by the committee to form a small sub-group to determine the feasibility of piloting the Canadian Mental Health Association's "Communities Addressing Suicide Together" initiative in one First Nations community in fiscal year 2010-11.

Ensuring DHA participation in every quarterly committee meeting Staff from the Guysborough Antigonish Straight, Colchester East Hants, Pictou, and Cape Breton Health Authorities attended 2009-2010 Health Working Committee meetings. The participation of DHA staff in committee meetings

has resulted in increased information sharing around the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund projects, increased awareness of DHA initiatives relating to First Nations communities, and has raised the profile of the Health Working Committee among DHA staff.

## **2010-11 Accomplishments by Workplan Priority Areas**

### **Mental Health & Addictions:**

- From April – October 2010, a member of the HWC sat on the planning committee for the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention conference, to ensure Mi'kmaq relevance and experience of suicide issues were reflected in conference proceedings (April- October 2010).
- Provided direction to the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation on how to engage Mi'kmaq individuals and communities in the development of a provincial Mental Health Strategy. Public consultations and community specific consultations have begun. The strategy is expected to be completed by May 2011 and letters inviting Mi'kmaq communities to

participate in the consultation phase have gone out to Tribal Councils, Chiefs and Councils, and the Atlantic Policy Congress (January 2011).

### **Continuing Care:**

- Continued HWC representation on the ACCPF. The ACCPF is seeking cabinet approval for the Aboriginal Home Care Policy Framework. Once approved, the HWC will provide support and direction to the ACCPF on the implementation of the Framework and provide Officials with regular progress updates.
- In the fall of 2010, raised concerns regarding gaps in social services for Mi'kmaq individuals who are placed in mental health residential care facilities with the Aboriginal Continuing Care Policy Forum (ACCPF). The issue will be further explored and possible solutions discussed at upcoming ACCPF meetings.

### **Cultural Safety and Training:**

- Sponsored an initial meeting with Unama'ki Elders and Andrea Curry, to discuss the possible development

of a training video focusing on the intergenerational impacts of historical trauma, Indian Residential Schools, etc. This video will be used in the orientation and training of District Health Authority (DHA) and other provincial health services staff. A meeting with mainland Elders is being planned for the spring of 2011. The production of the video will likely begin in mid 2011, if funding is secured from partners.

### **Early Intervention Services for Children:**

- Participated in a joint Social-Health sub-committee re: the eligibility of First Nations children for provincial early intervention services. A final report on the work of this sub-committee is being prepared for Officials and next steps to get Mi'kmaq children access to these services have been determined.

### **Provincial/DHA- First Nations Relationships and Collaboration:**

- Supported Dalhousie to complete the Health Authority-First Nations



relationship research project. The project will be completed by March 31, 2011. The next phase of the project will involve sharing the research findings and developing knowledge translation products/materials. This work will be critical to ensure that learnings about relationship building can be applied to the development of sustainable and successful partnerships between Mi'kmaq communities and district/government

agencies.

- With support from the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, sponsored a one day special meeting of Health Directors, senior level staff from all of the District Health Authorities, and directors from the Department of Health on November 24, 2010. This meeting focused on how health partners can work together in the future to increase Mi'kmaq

access to provincial health services and programs, and to improve service design, delivery, safety, and cultural appropriateness of these services. A report of the meeting is being prepared and the HWC has identified next steps for 2011-12.

- Provided input into the development of the provincial Mi'kmaq Health Policy Framework, which is nearing completion.



# Justice

## Our Goals

- Support the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network
- Begin the work of operationalizing the Justice Working Committee's April 2011 Research Report on Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities.
- Establish a crime prevention framework in collaboration with Tripartite Social and Health Working Groups
- Promote cross-cultural awareness of Mi'kmaq issues among criminal justice system staff.
- Maintain linkages with the Made in Nova Scotia negotiation table regarding framework and process for customary law application to hunting, fishing and forestry matters.
- Begin examination of the outcomes of the 1989 Royal Commission on the Prosecution of Donald Marshall.
- Respond to jurisdictional issues which are brought to the attention of the Working Committee

## Our Activities 2010-11

- Completing the Family Violence

Research Project.

- Establishing strategic linkages with the Provincial Domestic Violence Action Plan.
- Assisted with completion of the preliminary needs assessment re joint addictions subcommittee.
- Established links with Public Safety Canada's Community Safety Planning Project.

## Our Milestone Outcomes

Achieving endorsement of the research report and recommendations by Officials, with a focus on the following key recommendations:

1. Intervention Protocols based on Mi'kmaq customary Law
  2. Men's treatment programs
  3. Community focused prevention programs Areas of focus for our 2011-12 work plan
- Dissemination of the Family Violence report.
  - Seeking pathways for implementation of the report's recommendations.
  - Community safety planning initiative/ crime prevention framework.
  - Supporting MLSN to secure funding

supports for the Victim Support Services project.

- Begin examination of the outcomes of the 1989 Royal Commission on the Prosecution of Donald Marshall.





# Social

The Social Committee has been very active this year, and much progress was made against the work plan. Meetings were held in Pictou Landing, Eskasoni, Annapolis Valley First Nation and Paq̓tnkek, and were well attended throughout the year. The Active Measures Project (APC) was a success, with manuals updated and a First Nations Employability Assessment tool under development. The Project Coordinator held meetings with all project stakeholders and worked with the two First Nations and the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services to develop written policies and template forms to support the two pilot First Nations Active Measures programs. The project will continue from pilot stage to implementation stage in two locations (Membertou and Pictou Landing) and a funding proposal for Phase II of this project has been approved by Project Fund Committee for implementation in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Quarterly meetings for Federal/ Provincial Training opportunities / opportunities for collaboration among Social Development Administrators (SDAs) and Native Employment Officers (NEOs) have been established. These sessions are considered by all to be extremely beneficial with regard to policy clarification and consistency of application. This joint approach is also being considered as a model in the Atlantic region.

Clarity has also been brought to the policy issues concerning Assisted Living (eligible clients for Ni'kinen / respite care) and Early Intervention Services for First Nations children with special needs. While much has been accomplished there is much left to be done, and work is currently underway to clarify daycare licensing options. The Tripartite Forum Social Working Committee remains committed to improving the social condition of the FN people and looks forward to the challenges ahead.



# Sports and Recreation

The Tripartite Sport and Recreation Committee meets regularly throughout the year in the First Nation Communities in Nova Scotia. We also have a yearly strategic planning session where we finalize the work plan for the year.

In the past year we supported the Annual Nova Scotia Aboriginal Sport Summit, which was held in Halifax. Members from all the Mi'kmaw communities participated and an Awards night was also held. We hope and plan to have the Sport Summit once again this year.

The Doctors Nova Scotia Running for Fun program is also now implemented in our Mi'kmaw communities and we support this worthwhile initiative. We intend to have similar programs in the future that will enhance healthy active lifestyle opportunities for all Mi'kmaw in Nova Scotia.

We are planning to bring more Healthy Eating Educational material and support to the Mi'kmaw-operated schools in the next year. The children of our communities will continue to learn the importance and necessity of healthy eating especially when they compete in



the various sports.

We will continue to enhance and support daily physical activity in our schools so that our children will value and honor the concept of exercise as a means of living healthy in the future.



# Tripartite Forum Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the daily operations of the Tripartite Forum. This includes providing logistical support and coordinating meetings for the seven working committees, the steering committee, officials and executive committees. The Secretariat also works to communicate the positive results of the Tripartite Forum through a website, a newsletter, presentations and

articles.

The Tripartite Forum Secretariat consists of four full-time staff; two Administrators, a Project Fund Manager and a Communications Officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook, NS.



Adam Gould, Robyn Siteman, Denise Gloade and Sam Higgins.

# Tripartite Forum Liaisons

Each First Nation organization within the Tripartite Forum has a Liaison Officer. Brenda Tracey is the Liaison Officer for The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Joan Sack is the Liaison Officer for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, and Cheryl Maloney is the Liaison Officer for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.

Their responsibilities include:

- Report the ongoing work of the Tripartite Forum to their respective

Board of Directors.

- Participate as active members on the Steering Committee, various Subcommittees, and the seven Working Committees.
- Provide general support when needed within the Tripartite Forum.
- Liaison for all members appointed to working committees related to their individual organization.



Joan Sack is the Liaison Officer for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians



Cheryl Maloney, Liaison Officer for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association



Brenda Tracey, Liaison Officer for The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

# Tripartite Forum News

## **Donald Marshall Jr. Passes Away**

The Mi'kmaq Nation and Aboriginals across Canada lost a friend and hero in summer 2009. On Thursday, August 6, Donald Marshall Jr. passed away at age 55 from complications of a previous transplant surgery. He was joined by family and friends during his final hours.

The Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada Tripartite Forum was established via recommendations from Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution 1989, an inquiry into Junior's wrongful conviction in 1971. The recommendations stated that a tripartite forum should be established to mediate and resolve issues between the Mi'kmaq and both the provincial and federal governments.

The Forum felt that it was ideal and important to remember Donald Marshall Jr. and his efforts in having traditional Mi'kmaw rights to hunting and fishing being upheld by The Supreme Court of Canada.

## **Membertou 400**

From Thursday, June 24 to Sunday, June 27, 2010, Halifax hosted the largest ever pow-wow in Atlantic Canada. Membertou 400 welcomed and saw over 80,000 people from all cultures and nations attend the four-day event at The Halifax Common. The event was even visited by members of The Royal Family, Queen Elizabeth and husband Prince Philip as they visited Canada.

The ceremony, which marked the 400th anniversary of the baptism of Grand Chief Membertou and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, hosted a traditional Mi'kmaw village of 16 teepees and musical acts including Shane Yellowbird and Buffy Sainte-Marie. At night, the teepees illuminated The Common with an array of beautiful and bright colours to the delight of visitors and citizens. In Annapolis Royal, NS, a re-enactment of Grand Chief Membertou's baptism was held to symbolize the unity between the Mi'kmaq and the Roman Catholic Church.

Traditional dancers, drummers and singers from across Canada made the long journeys to be part of the celebrations and left visitors inspired and amazed. As Membertou 400 was a wonderful success and celebration of culture, Mawiomi 2011 will take place on The Halifax Common from Friday, July 1, to Sunday, July 3, 2011.

## **Special Mi'kmaw Meeting**

On September 17, 2010, the Tripartite Forum's Mi'kmaq members met to hear from their Chiefs about the direction that the Mi'kmaq will be striving for in the future. Working with KMKNO's Governance Committee, a presentation was made to the members. Key visions for this meeting included forming a Mi'kmaw House of Assembly and the Chiefs will be appointed to portfolios that they maintain regarding the major issues concerning the Mi'kmaq like Health and, Culture and Heritage.

This information plays an important role in the the Tripartite Forum's future direction of.

### **Malagawatch Receives \$500,000 in Emergency Funding**

In early 2011 and with approval from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (formerly INAC), traditional Mi'kmaq grounds in Malagawatch, Cape Breton, will receive protection with \$500,000 emergency funding. The traditional grounds are significant to Cape Breton Mi'kmaq who have used the land as a cemetery for generations. The main concern over the lands is that many gravesites would be lost due to continuous soil

erosion along the water's coastline. For the preservation project, The Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources teamed with Wagmatcook First Nation, the Unama'ki Chiefs, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), and Dillon Consulting and Public Works. The preservation efforts began soon following the funding announcement. First Nations Construction Inc. of Eskasoni, NS, was awarded the emergency contract to control the shoreline's erosion.

### **Upcoming 15th Anniversary**

Although it is one full year away, The Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada Tripartite Forum is eager to celebrate

its 15th anniversary in July 2012. In the upcoming months, Tripartite Forum members will continue to meet and discuss issues that relate to Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq but should also take some time to reflect on the hard work that was completed in the past 14 years to date. At the same time, Tripartite members will look ahead to the future and continue to do great things for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Lets get ready to celebrate 15 great years of hard work and achievement and look forward to another 15!



# Financial Overview 2010-11

REVENUES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	Total
<b>Communications</b>				
Province of Nova Scotia				
INAC				
Deferred from prior year	65,753.00			
<b>Total Communications Revenue</b>	<b>65,753.00</b>			<b>65,753.00</b>
<b>Project Fund</b>				
Project Funding - INAC and OAA	79,945.00			
Project Fund	300,000.00			
Deferred Project Fund	161,133.22			
<b>Total Project Fund / Manager Revenue</b>	<b>541,078.22</b>			<b>541,078.22</b>
<b>Core Services</b>				
Province of Nova Scotia		116,793.00	109,824.00	
INAC				
Core Funding - INAC & OAA	101,816.00			
Deferred				
Other income			20,229.13	
<b>Total Core Services Revenue</b>	<b>101,816.00</b>	<b>116,793.00</b>	<b>130,053.13</b>	<b>348,662.13</b>
<b>Secretariat</b>				
Secretariat Funding - INAC & OAA	265,328.29			
Deferred	157,682.77			
<b>Total Secretariat Revenue</b>	<b>423,011.06</b>			
<b>Grand Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,131,658.28</b>	<b>116,793.00</b>	<b>130,053.13</b>	<b>1,378,504.41</b>

EXPENSES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	Total
<b>Communications</b>				
Administration	9,519.67			
Salary/Benefits/Rent	20,815.69			
Travel/Advertise/Promotional	35,417.64			
<b>Total Communications Expenses</b>	<b>65,753.00</b>			<b>65,753.00</b>
<b>Project Fund</b>				
Project Funds	409,283.39			
Administration	8,759.21			
Salary/Benefits/Pension	39,464.89			

<b>EXPENSES (continued)</b>	<b>CMM/Secretariat</b>	<b>UNSI</b>	<b>NSNWA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Audit	1,577.00			
Rent	3,600.00			
Telephone/Fax	1,133.63			
Travel	7,571.27			
<b>Total Project Fund/Manager Expenses</b>	<b>471,389.39</b>			<b>471,389.39</b>
<b>Core Services</b>				
Administration & Office supplies				
Administration	9,256.00	7,839.00	10,008.00	
Leadership/Executive Director	9,877.33			
Audit	2,000.00	663.00		
Cleaning		945.00		
Insurance		500.00		
Legal and audit			5,500.00	
Tripartite Liason Officer			20,227.00	
Tripartite Policy Analyst/Native Women's Analyst & Project Development				
Salary/Benefits/Pension	64,267.13			
Salary and Benefits		58,943.00	60,755.00	
Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Telephone/Fax/Internet	3,269.15	1,134.00	3,000.00	
Travel & Accommodations	7,146.39			
Travel		32,751.00		
Comm. Cord.			2,421.00	
<b>Total Core Services Revenue</b>	<b>101,816.00</b>	<b>116,915.00</b>	<b>130,235.04</b>	<b>348,662.13</b>
<b>Secretariat Expenses</b>				
Salary/Benefits/Pension	81,4528.36			
Administration/Travel	63,404.16			
Co-chairs	3,981.92			
Working Committees	56,873.40			
Executive Chair	22,883.52			
Executive/Officials	11,252.57			
Steering Committee	2,875.98			
General Assembly	20,985.97			
Deferred	122,717.75			
<b>Total Secretariat Revenue</b>	<b>386,4271.63</b>			
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,025,386.02</b>	<b>116,915.00</b>	<b>130,235.04</b>	<b>1,272,536.06</b>
Net	\$106,272.26	-\$122.00	-\$181.91	105,968.35



# Affiliates

## **The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq**

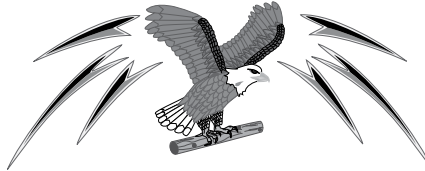
P.O. Box 1590, 57 Martin Crescent

Truro, NS B2N 5V3

Tel: (902) 895-6385

Fax: (902) 893-1520

[www.cmmns.com](http://www.cmmns.com)



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

## **Nova Scotia Native Women's Association**

PO Box 805

Truro, NS B2N 5V3

Tel: (902) 895-7402

Fax: (902) 897-7162



NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## **Union of Nova Scotia Indians**

47 Maillard Street

Membertou, NS B1S 2P5

Tel: (902) 539-4107

Fax: (902) 564-2137

[www.unsi.ns.ca](http://www.unsi.ns.ca)



## **The Province of Nova Scotia**

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

5251 Duke St., 5th Floor

PO Box 1617

Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Tel: 902-424-7409

Fax: 902-424-0728

[www.gov.ns.ca/abor](http://www.gov.ns.ca/abor)



## **The Government of Canada**

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada –  
Atlantic Region

P.O. Box 160, 40 Havelock Street

Amherst, NS B4H 3Z3

Toll free: 1-800-567-9604

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Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada  
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Produced by:



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