



MI'KMAQ - NOVA SCOTIA - CANADA TRIPARTITE FORUM

Tripartite Forum Secretariat
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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'kmaw communities. It is a strong vehicle in addressing issues that affect the lives of all Mi'kmaq living in Nova Scotia.

The Forum is comprised of the following committee levels - Executive, Officials, Steering and Working Committees. Each level has representation from each of the three parties: the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, The Province of Nova Scotia and The Government of Canada. All parties agree to work together without prejudice and by consensus to discuss and resolve issues of mutual concern.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Composition:

- Assembly of First Nations National Chief (ex-officio)
- Mi'kmaq Grand Chief
- Tripartite Forum Executive Chair
- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- Other relevant provincial and federal ministers

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' mandates and provides direction as stated by the Executive Committee.

Composition:

- Tripartite Forum Executive Chair
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- President - Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- Executive Director - The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

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- Executive Director - Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- Regional Director General - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (Atlantic Region)
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Deputy Minister - Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs
- Other federal regional-directors and provincial deputy ministers

STEERING COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to focus on the overall relationship between the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the provincial and federal governments as it relates to issues being discussed within each of the Tripartite Forum's Working Committees. Its mandate is to provide organizational and operational support for the Tripartite Forum and to provide the three parties with a mechanism to resolve organizational and process issues related to the Forum.

WORKING COMMITTEES

The Tripartite Forum includes seven (7) Working Committees. Each committee discusses issues, develops solutions, and suggests actions to resolve issues of mutual concern for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Issues are identified through research and community concerns.

Composition:

- Mi'kmaw representatives
- Provincial representatives
- Federal representatives

Working Committees:

- Culture and Heritage
- Economic Development
- Education
- Health
- Justice
- Social
- Sports and Recreation

PROJECT FUND FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

The Project Fund was established with the intent to support projects and initiatives from the working committees' work plans that do not have access to other funding. The 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'kmaw representative. The Tripartite Forum Executive Chair is a non-voting committee member.

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. For more information, contact Robyn Crowe, Project Fund Manager, at (902) 895-6385 or robyn@tripartiteforum.com.

TRIPARTITE FORUM SECRETARIAT

The Tripartite Forum Secretariat consists of two Administrators, the Project Fund Manager and the Communications Officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook First Nation, NS. For more information, call (902) 895-6385 or email Adam Gould at adam@tripartiteforum.com.

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