

Tripartite Forum Newsletter



Strategic Planning Session

The Tripartite Forum hosted its Executive Strategic Planning Session on May 14 and 15, where members from all levels worked together to discuss the forum’s evolving priorities, and to refine existing dynamics in the organization.

The two-day event featured discussions about priorities and service gaps. Committee and Executive members sat down for a series of roundtable discussions, determining priorities – and their urgency – among one another. There was an emphasis on building stronger connections between the committee-level work tables and those of the executive level, as well as building better links between committees and partner organizations.

Participants in the Executive Strategic Planning Session collaborated to update the Tripartite Forum Terms of Reference, keeping in mind recommendations from Consultant Heidi Weigand to build on the Tripartite Forum’s record of success and accommodate the evolving priorities with new committees and delegation of work better suited to partner organizations to streamline forum processes.

For more information on the Executive Strategic Planning Session, stayed tuned to the Tripartite Forum website (tripartiteforum.ca) where we will be posting an in-depth summary of the event, and the matters discussed there.

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The Tripartite Forum Newsletter will be published on a biannual basis The next edition will be published in October 2025.

For more information, please email: sam.macdonald@cmmns.com

Visit the website: www.tripartiteforum.ca

Social Committee Hosts Homelessness Symposium

Indigenous communities and groups gathered at the Social Committee's Mi'kmaw Hosing and Homelessness Symposium to build a knowledge base and plan to tackle the issue of Indigenous homelessness in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia.

The late February event at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Center went smoothly and provided a culturally friendly space for housing and homelessness related service providers from across Nova Scotia's 13 Mi'kmaw communities to share and discuss successes and challenges,

Project coordinators Cheyenne Labrador and Vivian McDonald said the first day of the symposium consisted of a panel, through which participants shared their personal experiences with homelessness.

The panel was informative and helped lay a "foundation and context of the gathering," helping participants focus on solutions during the second day of the symposium.

During the second day, community resource providers presented to guests –presenters included:

- The Diamond Bailey Healing Centre
- The Native Council of Nova Scotia (Indigenous Reaching Home Program)
- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association (Cedar House, Housing Support Program and Tiny Homes)
- The PATH Process (Indigenous Housing Assessment Tool), piloted by the Mi'kmaw Friendship Centre

Discussions included a panel on the social determinants of homelessness, examining external factors and variables contributing to Indigenous homelessness. These factors and variables include:

- Domestic violence
- Human trafficking
- Justice and incarceration-related factors
- Mental health and addictions
- Indigenous children aging out of care.

The four panelists hosted breakout sessions later in the second day, with all attendees. These sessions provided insight into the perspectives of, and challenges faced by Indigenous communities. The breakout sessions led to valuable, thorough conversations about the dynamics perpetuating Indigenous homelessness, and yielded many potential strategies to address the problem.

Participants in the symposium included representatives from:

- Eskasoni Mi'kmaw Nation
- Paqtnkek Mi'kmaq Nation
- Millbrook First Nation
- Pictou Landing First Nation
- Membertou First Nation
- Glooscap First Nation
- Waycobah (We'Koqma'q) First Nation

Also in attendance were representatives from,

- The Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network
- The Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia
- The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq
- The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs
- The Office of L'nu Affairs
- Mi'kmaw Child and Family Services
- The Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- The Native Council of Nova Scotia
- The Halifax Regional Centre for Education
- The Indigenous Community Advisory Board of NS
- The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (multiple departments)

Cheyenne and Vivian reported it was encouraging to see the turnout, and the active participation in the discussions that took place over the two days of the event.

Guests built connections at the event, which served as a professional networking hub – potentially leading to future partnerships to work to rectify the issue of Indigenous homelessness.

The symposium is one of four projects supported by the Project Fund For Social and Economic Change that was approved in late 2024, after review from a panel of Executive Committee and Secretariat members.

TRIPARTITE FORUM:

HOMELESSNESS SYMPOSIUM, IRS COMMEMORATION

The symposium is one of four projects supported by the Project Fund For Social and Economic Change that was approved in late 2024, after review from a panel of Executive Committee and Secretariat members.

Halifax-based Evitan Consulting was hired to assess and organize all the input from the symposium's participants.

A report on Indigenous homelessness, contributing factors and what resources currently exist is forthcoming.

That report will contain information on how those resources can be used to address homelessness in an actionable manner, aligning with the National Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action.

IRS COMMEMORATION PROJECT REACHES FINAL STAGE

The Culture and Heritage Committee is about to start its final phase of its Indian Residential School (IRS) Commemoration Project – construction of a memorial park and commemorative sculptures.

The project has approval from the Sipekne'katik Band to use a parcel of Band-owned land near Snides Lake and Exit 10, off Highway 102.

Tim Bernard, Mi'kmawey Debert Culture Centre Executive Director, and a proponent of the IRS Commemoration, reported that Band Council approval came after a careful engagement with Sipekne'katik community members, and with guidance of the Band Council.

Over the course of the spring, Mi'kmawey Debert – the leading organization on the project – will work with landscape architects from Glenn Group and architects with Passive Design Solutions, as well as the studio of Ursula Johnson, to create a detailed design for the memorial park and sculptural elements.

Along with this milestone, Mi'kmawey Debert is planning the second Survivors Resilience and Healing Gathering, an event scheduled for September 28 – 30, 2025 in Truro, NS. The second Survivors Resilience and Healing Gathering will coincide with the fifth anniversary of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The first gathering in 2021 marked the designation of the former school site as a National Historic Site of Canada.

The event also entailed a three-day workshop on healing and resilience, providing guidance to the Studio of Ursula Johnson that helped develop a creative design brief for the commemoration.

The Survivors Advisory Circle's leadership and contributions have been invaluable and central to the work completed so far on the IRS Commemoration project. They have supported the project since 2022. The IRS Commemoration Project has been supported by The Tripartite Project Fund in (2018/19 and 2022/23), laying the groundwork for the project.

COMMITTEES COLLABORATE ON JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

The Health and Social Committees are collaborating in the face of changes to the Jordan's Principle Application process.

This collaboration includes a joint meeting and stems from concerns over changes implemented by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) in February.

These federal-level changes include new guidelines around operating procedures related to processing requests, and new rules around achieving substantive equality.

There is concern these changes could lead to barriers in providing services to Mi'kmaq youth. Both committees are discussing and exploring a response or ways to support those affected by changes.

GERALD GLOADE RETIRES

Congratulations to longtime Tripartite Forum member Gerald Gloade on his retirement! Gerald retired in March, concluding a storied career working with Mi'kmawey Debert and the Culture and Heritage Committee.

A Mi'kmaq artist, educator, naturalist and visionary, Gerald joined the Tripartite Forum in 2011, as a member of the Culture and Heritage Committee, and has contributed to its activity significantly since that time.

Gerald's deep cultural knowledge has been an invaluable asset to the Culture and Heritage Committee, helping with a plethora of Culture and Heritage work table projects.

Gerald's was the talent behind the Mi'kmaq Sacred Place Markers in 2016, as well as the development of Night Sky Stories in 2019. Gerald, a member of the Joint Mi'kmaq Language Subcommittee, also was instrumental in the development of the language app, and production of the Ju'jik Mi'kmaw Insects Booklet in 2019, and Mi'kmaq Place Names placemats.

Gerald is widely known for his unique, nationally recognized art style, and has been the creative force behind the yearly Mi'kmaq History Month posters from Mi'kmawey Debert. While we will miss you at our meetings, we are happy for you and wish you all the best, Gerald!

Project Consultant

The Tripartite Sport and Recreation Committee is working on a project focused on the creation of an action plan that supports Mi'kmaq women and girls in sport, recreation and physical activity. Sara-Lynne Knockwood of Knockwood Consulting is leading the project with support from subcommittee members Wasuek Googoo (UNSM), Ryan Francis (Communities Culture Tourism and Heritage NS) Jaclyn MacLeod (CMM).

To date, a literature review has been produced and planning for community engagement has begun. Engagement in community is scheduled to start this spring. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

MEETING MINUTES PAGE

Approved minutes from past Tripartite meetings are now available online.

The Tripartite Communications Officers have consulted with the web developer of the Tripartite Forum website to develop a meeting minutes page to store approved minutes.

This password-protected page can be found at <https://tripartiteforum.ca/meeting-minutes/>. The password was put in place to ensure confidentiality and security, since the Tripartite Forum's website is public facing.

To obtain the password to access the minutes page, please contact Tripartite Communications at tripartitecommunications@unsm.org or sam.macdonald@cmmns.com.

The publication of webpage dedicated to meeting minutes was a response to Heidi Weigand's key recommendations for revitalization for the Tripartite Forum – recommendations specifically relating to transparency and communication.

WELCOME, NATALIE!

The Tripartite Forum is welcoming the new Federal Co-Chair for Sports and Recreation, Natlie Chavarie!

Natalie is Senior Advisor to the Regional Director General at Canadian Heritage, Atlantic Region. Canadian Heritage delivers funding programs related to arts, culture, sport and multiculturalism to communities across Atlantic Canada.

Her job sees her collaborating closely with fellow Federal Co-Chair Colin Boyd (Culture and Heritage).

Outside of work, Natalie is a dedicated community volunteer and serves as president of the McIntosh Run Watershed Association, a stewardship organization that helps maintain a popular trail system on Crown land in Halifax.

Natalie is an avid outdoor enthusiast, with a love for snowshoeing, running, hiking and biking many trails across the province.

A Growing Family

The Tripartite Forum is saying, “So long,” but not “farewell,” to the Lyric Christmas, for the next few months.

Lyric, the Tripartite Admin with the UNSM, is taking some well deserved time off for her growing family.

Lyric started her tenure with the UNSM on September 16th, 2024. She plans to take maternity leave this summer and autumn and anticipates returning to work in December.

All the best, Lyric! We can’t wait to see you again.

Welcome, Evan!

The Tripartite Forum is welcoming our newest member, Evan Williams, who brings more than 20 years of experience in economic development, strategic leadership, and community engagement across Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada to the Economic Development Committee.

Evan is Director of Community Economic Development with the Nova Scotia Department of Growth and Development. He oversees the Community Economic Development Fund and provincial Regional Enterprise Networks, driving local investment and supporting sustainable regional growth.

His previous work includes support of economic growth and innovation across several sectors as Senior Economic Development Advisor with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, through which he has attracted private investment in sectors that include forestry, wind energy, ocean and hydrogen.

In other positions with the province, he led workforce development, labour market integration and improved community access to training and employment opportunities. Evan’s understanding of business and community development, and strategic, collaborative leadership style earned him respect in his industry, and will be an asset in discussions at the Ec-Dev work table. When not working, Evan keeps busy in his community with a busy volunteering schedule, serving as executive of FUNSports, and the Healthy Tomorrow Foundation.

His previous volunteer leadership positions held include Vice President of the Atlantic Association of the Canadian Business Development Corporation (CBDC), as well as president, vice president and secretary of CBDC Bluewater. He has also contributed to youth development through the board of Junior Achievement Nova Scotia.

Ec Dev Committee Meeting

At the recent Economic Development Committee Meeting in March, the CMM Procurement Liaison Team presented on the work they do to support Mi'kmaq business. The team explained how it works to register and identify Indigenous businesses; capacity building community outreach; collaboration and support of Indigenous businesses, pursuing the federal 5% Indigenous procurement target.

The team explained that they have completed community sessions in Millbrook, the HRM and Bear River, and are working on a business directory and planning meetings with economic development organizations – with more sessions to come in the coming months, and a forthcoming Indigenous artwork pilot and partnership development in the works.

Other topics of discussion at the meeting included the upcoming Economic Development Symposium (May 22nd-23rd) and Economic Development Roundtable (May 21st), the goals entailed in the committee's work plan.

211 SERVICE AVAILABLE

Need help? Connect to community, government and social services in Nova Scotia. Free. Confidential. 24/7.

211 connects people with the appropriate information and services to enhance Canada's social infrastructure and enable people to fully engage in their communities.

Check out the Tabs – there is a Mi'kmaq/Indigenous tab that lists services and entities for the Mi'kmaq/Indigenous communities.

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ

Are you passionate about making a difference? The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq is currently hiring for the following positions:

- Data Collection Fieldworker
- Health Branch: Operations Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator Assistant
- Treaty Rights Protected Stewardship Keeper

To view job descriptions, visit:
<https://unsm.bamboohr.com/careers>

CONFEDERACY OF MAINLAND MI'KMAQ

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq is hiring for a variety of positions within our Tribal Council, including:

- By-Law Enforcement Manager
- Communications Manager
- Community Health Programs Manager
- Housing Capacity Development Coordinator
- Land Stewardship Officer

To see more career opportunities, visit:
<https://cmmns.com/career-opportunities>

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ

The Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq (UNSM) is a Tribal Organization that has been established for more than 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'kmaq 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.

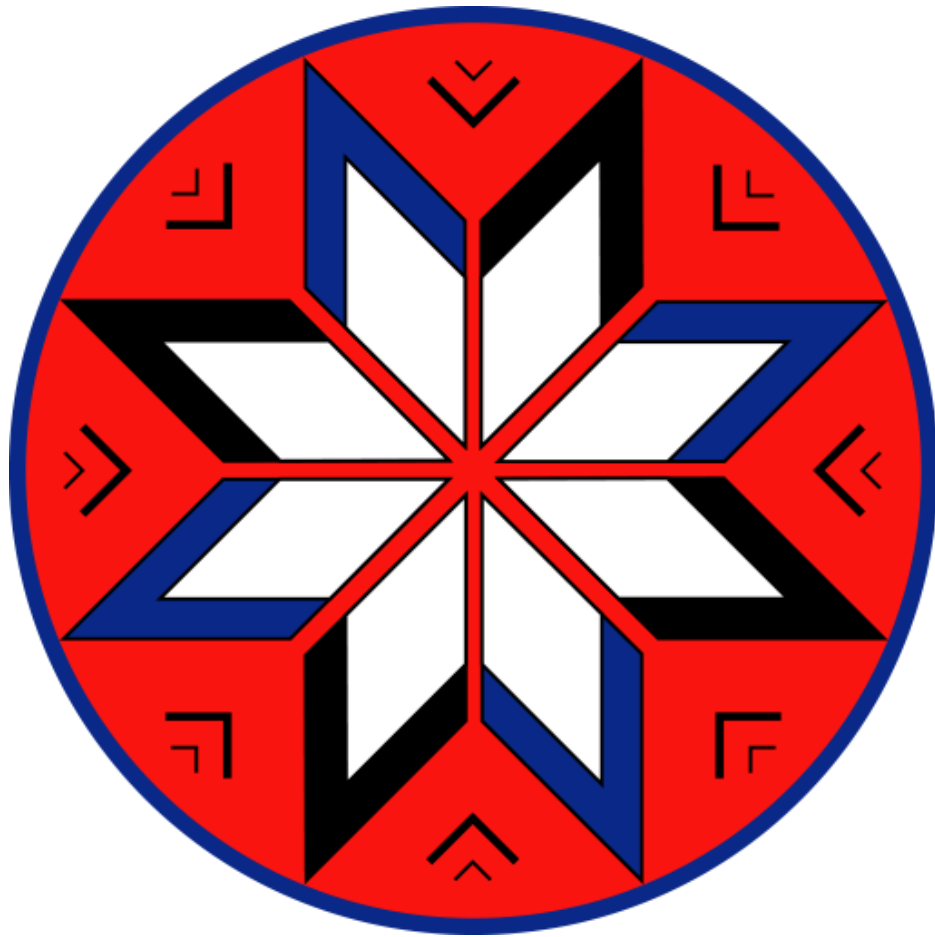
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**NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**



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