

NEWFOUNDLAND MI'KMAQ: A TIMELINE.

Our history. Our success in the fight for recognition. Our future.

in the beginning Gluskap, mythic hero of the Mi'kmaq people, is created. His stories include the formation of Newfoundland.	pre-contact Mi'kmaq inhabited a vast homeland called 'Mi'kma'kik' ranging from Gaspé Peninsula and Quebec north shore, to St. Pierre and Miquelon, and included Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Maine, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, and the Magdalen Islands. It is thought they traveled between these places in sea canoes to hunt and fish.	1500s First Europeans arrive. Mi'kmaq willingly engage in fur trade. Mi'kmaq introduced to metal weaponry and tools, beads, ribbons, tobacco, flour and sugar, disease and Catholicism.	1600s 75% of Mi'kmaq die due to disease. French and English fight between themselves for ownership of Mi'kmaq lands.	1713 Treaty of Utrecht. English gain control of Newfoundland. Mi'kmaq left to settle or to eke out a living in ever-shrinking forests.	1800s Mi'kmaq learn woodworking and continue to produce baskets and bead work for trade. Men hired as guides, loggers and mail-carriers.	1949 Newfoundland joins Confederation. Canada does not take responsibility for the Native peoples of the province.	1971 Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador formed.	1972 Native Association becomes Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI).	1980s FNI Membership is six affiliate bands. FNI begins negotiations with Canada for recognition under the <i>Indian Act</i> . FNI conducts genealogical studies.	1982 Conne River Mi'kmaq achieve eligibility.	1988 FNI submits self-government proposal to Dept. of Northern & Indian Affairs.	1989 FNI and Chiefs begin action against Canada to obtain Federal Recognition.	1990-1992 FNI gains three new affiliated bands.	1992-2002 Decade of unsuccessful on- and off-negotiations. Other agenda items moved.	2002 FNI presents Canada with a proposal called the '2002 Mi'kmaq Regime'.	2003 Canada offers a proposal: a landless band if members meet eligibility criteria. FNI establishes negotiation team.	2004-2006 FNI and Canada in official negotiations re: Agreement-in-Principle.	2006 Tentative Agreement-in-Principle drafted.	November 30, 2007 Agreement-in-Principle initiated.	March 29, 2008 FNI membership ratifies Agreement-in-Principle with 90% vote.	June 2008 Canada to ratify Agreement. Enrolment process begins. Implementation Committee appointed.	July 2008 Implementation Plan developed. Enrolment Clerks hired.	September 2008 Membership Applications available.	November 2008 Enrolment Committee struck. Application Reviews begin.	November 2009 Application Reviews end. First Founding Members List complete.	Spring 2010 Establishment of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band.	Fall 2010 Election dates for the Qalipu Band executive announced.	Spring 2011 Elections for the Qalipu Band executive.	Spring 2013 Second Founding Members List complete.
pre-contact	16th - 19th centuries	1949	1970s	1980s	1990s	2002-2007	2008	the future																					



(a little) Mi'kmaq Culture

Singing and dancing were not only a part of ceremonies but were also an important part of daily life. Dances might include imitating animals, re-enacting a hunt, or describing a story. Instruments included percussion, rattles and bone whistles. Dancers often wore dangles of bone or dewclaws that made sounds as they moved.

Myths and stories were often used to teach children about the world – about life and their history, customs and manners. They were also a means of communicating and entertaining each other.

Clothing for both men and women included loin cloths tied to a belt at the waist. Everyone had a pair of leggings for warmth and protection, as well as a blanket-sized robe worn over the shoulders in winter. Each also had a set of sleeves, resembling two halves of a bolero jacket tied together at the centre back and front. Women had a second robe that was much like a dress. Babies were wrapped in soft furs and were carried on their mother's back until they could walk. Moccasins were made of moose or seal leather.

Ornamentation and decoration were thought to bring magic protection, status and power to the wearer. Women ground minerals, shells or charcoal, mixing each with fish roe or egg yolk to make paints of traditional colours – red, white, black, yellow. Sometimes blueberries were added to make blues and purples. Pictures of animals, birds, people, spirit-helpers and geometric patterns were painted onto robes and pouches. Porcupine quills, shells, bone, and feathers might also be added.

For special occasions, both the face and hair and often the legs, arms and chests were painted. Everyone painted their own designs. Men sometimes wore headdresses of bird wings or stiff moose hair dyed red. Decorated knife sheaths, pouches, and pipes completed the ceremonial dress.

Wikuom (wigwam) is the Mi'kmaq word for shelter. There were many sizes and shapes, but the most common was conical. They were made of birch saplings and covered in large sheets of birch bark. The bark could be removed, rolled up and carried when the people traveled.

– taken from *The Mi'kmaq* by Ruth Holmes Whitehead

oberholtzer design

National Aboriginal Day • Schedule of Events

	Port au Port/Indian Head	St. George's	Sple'tk
morning	5:30-6:00 Sunrise Ceremony , Seal Rocks	5:00 Sunrise & Strawberry Ceremonies Seal Rocks Hill	Exploits Native Women's Drummers and Dancers with Sple'tk First Nation will be at the Mary March Museum
	6:00-8:00 Breakfast Stephenville Crossing	7:00 Breakfast, Rec Plex	
		9:00 Hiike/Tobacco Ties, Steel Mountain	
evening	3:00 Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in honor of St. Anne, Port au Port West (Drummers and traditional choir)		3:00 Jewelry making*
		4:00 Sharing Circle, Rec Plex	4:00 Dream Catcher making *
	5:00-7:30 Feast at Our Lady of Mercy Gym Port au Port West (Drumming and Singing)	6:00 Traditional Feast, Rec Plex 7:00 Tribute to Mother Earth, Rec Plex 7:30 Giveaway Ceremony, Rec Plex	5:00 Snowshoe demonstration 6:00 Drumming and Dancing 6:30 Traditional feast
sunset	8:00-9:00 Sunset Ceremony Port au Port West	8:00 Canoe Rides/Storytelling Mouth of Barachois 10:00 Sunset Ceremony Mouth of Barachois	*There is room for 15 people at the Necklace and Dream Catcher making. You can sign up for one or the other, but not both.



National Aboriginal Day • June 21, 2008

FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

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