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Budget Focusing on Aboriginal Priorities

According to Dwight Dorey, national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the federal budget announcements on an Urban Aboriginal strategy, "indicate that the government is beginning to recognize today's reality-that 78% of the 1.4 million Aboriginal people living in Canada do not live on Indian Act reserves, and receive little benefit from the provisions of the Indian Act."

Get your name on the list

The FNI now has an email list through which we send out information as we receive it.

It includes information about jobs, opportunities, scholarships, meetings etc..

If you would like to be a part of that mailing list and receive the information, please email the communications officer Michelle Ploughman at michelle@fni.nf.ca

Mi'kmaq Words

Siggw - Springtime - pronounced (sikkw)

Gapjagwej - Robin - pronounced (gap-cha-gwech)

Gappesaw - Smelt - pronounced (gahk-pe-saw)

CONSTITUTIONAL CORNER

Did you Know

Section 5.01 states that:

The Honorary Chief shall hold the position of figure-head of the Mi'kmaq of the Corporation. The Honorary Chief shall be a person possessing a thorough knowledge of the Mi'kmaq culture and lifestyle.

MI'KMAQ NEWS

We are always looking for event listings, stories, suggestions, poems, ideas, and artwork.

You can send them to:

Federation of Newfoundland Indians

P.O. Box 460

St. George's, NL

A0N 1Z0

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Toll Free: 1 866-640-3800

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MI'KMAQ NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

Vol.2 No.3

P.O. Box 460, St. George's, NL. A0N 1Z0

Spring 2004

FEDERATION NEEDS FLEET MEMBERS AND NAME FOR NEW 44'11 FISHING ENTERPRISE

The FNI is in the final stages of acquiring a 44'11" fishing enterprise which consists of a 44'11" jumbo fishing vessel crab, herring, mackerel, and ground fish licenses along with fishing gear. The enterprise will be operated through the FNI's development corporation "Mi'kmaq Commercial Fisheries LTD"



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT HOME FOR OUR PEOPLE.

"Funding assistance from DFO's ATP program has made this initiative a reality. The enterprise will operate on the northeast coast in management zone 3k and will pursue crab, herring, mackerel, and caplin as well as turbot. A crew of non-native mentors and Mi'kmaq people will operate the enterprise under the direction of "Mi'kmaq Commercial Fisheries" stated Mr. Brendan Sheppard, FNI President.

The acquisition of this large enterprise represents a significant step for the FNI in creating employment prospects for Mi'kmaq people and revenue generating potential for the FNI. No doubt this will aid in our goal of improving the cultural, social, and economic well being of the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland. The FNI plans to take a cautious and calculated approach to economic opportunities. The commercial enterprise represents a cornerstone to an active economic development approach and strategy that in time will enhance the lifestyle for many of our Mi'kmaq people."

The enterprise is currently named after a family member of the present owner. The FNI would like to see the vessel re-named to further emphasize that it is owned by a Mi'kmaq organization. Members are invited to mail, fax or e-mail their suggestions for potential names to Annie Randell. The FNI will choose a new name for the vessel out of the suggested names. The winner shall receive a prize of \$100.00. Some examples of name themes could be: a. a Mi'kmaq word or name appropriate for a fishing enterprise, b. a name in honor of a historic and/or important Mi'kmaq figure, past or present, c. a name highlighting Mi'kmaq culture and values. We look forward to your suggestions.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello members,

I hope that each and every one of you are in good health as this edition of Mi'kmaq News finds its way into your home. I have decided to shorten my message to allow more space for program reports and band news, which will give you, the members a better insight and a broader perspective on today's happenings within the organization's structure.

The preliminary negotiations updates in each of the band council communities will hopefully be completed by March 24th, 2004, providing Mother Nature gives us good weather. Several meetings have been held between the FNI negotiating team, representatives of the Federal Government and one meeting with the FNI steering committee (FNI Board of Directors). Overall, a fair amount of progress has been made. Another meeting with the Department of Indian Affairs and Mr. Lalonde is tentatively schedule for the month of April 2004 at which time an overview of the preliminary negotiations discussions between all parties to date will be reviewed and plans for the next step in the process will be discussed.

I have been continuously updating and lobbying the Hon. Gerry Byrne, Hon. John Efford, Bill Matthews and several other federal Ministers for support in respect to the recognition issue being considered under the current preliminary

negotiations by the Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs.

In addition to the recognition issue I have been lobbying the same federal members for the consideration of a shrimp quota in management area 6 or 7, to bring the FNI on par with the other aboriginal groups in Newfoundland & Labrador as it pertains to the commercial fishery. Everything being considered, the FNI is making fair progress in the best interest of its members and hopefully this will lead to bigger and better things down the road. To conclude, I wish all of you the very best of health and as well to remind each of you to consider providing stories of interest to the Mi'kmaq News.

CCG Accredited Boat Safety Course

For Boaters of all ages
Get your Life Time Operator Card.
For information and Pre Registering
Call: Eric Allen 785-2192

NEWS FROM EXPLOITS

Exploits Indian Band Council becomes "SPLE'TK FIRST NATIONS."

At our Annual General Assembly on September 30, 2003, the membership in attendance approved the changing of our name from Exploits Indian Band Council to Sple'tk First Nations. The new name incorporates our Mi'kmaq culture by using our language, and also uses the more modern term of First Nations to identify Indian people.

Exploits Native Women's Association - Another successful elders feast.

Our Elder's are very important to us, and each year the Native Women of the Sple'tk area organizes a night of pampering and feasting. This year approximately 70 Elders attended the event. They were served a hot roast beef dinner, along with a trifle for dessert. Entertainment was provided by Ed Power and Company. During the event, the Elder's were given a gift bag from the Native Women's Association, and a ham from the Sple'tk First Nations. As a bonus, 25 doors prizes were given away as well.

Elder's Survey

In the month of January, the Board of Directors for the Sple'tk First Nations approved the distribution of an Elder's Survey. The Survey asks questions relating to our Mi'kmaq traditions, language, crafts, hunting/trapping, and other things relating to culture. The information, once gathered, will assist the Sple'tk First Nations in writing proposals that will begin to revitalize our culture within our youth, and general membership.

Youth Meeting

On February 15, 2004, twelve youth of the Sple'tk First Nations had a night of bowling and pizza.

The event was part of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians Youth Program in their attempt to organize the youth in the nine band council areas. The event was jointly sponsored by the Sple'tk First Nations and the Exploits Native Women's Association.

The concept behind organizing the youth is to enable them to undertake their own fundraising (to build leadership) so they may travel to cultural events such as the Conne River Pow Wow or even hold their own.

The Youth are currently in the process of planning a dream catcher workshop where traditional Mi'kmaq crafts will be demonstrated and created.

If you are an interested youth or the parent of a youth, get involved or motivate your child to get involved.

Contact Info:

Phone: (709) 489-8425 or
email: rdover@nf.sympatico.ca

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

TRAINING - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Opportunity:

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians Employment and Training Program (FNI ET) has identified a potential training and employment opportunity for interested band members.

The employment opportunity is for two "Deckhands on Offshore Supply Vessels" with a St. John's company known as Seabase Limited. The pre-sea deckhand course is a requirement for these positions. This course is offered at the Marine Institute and is a five-month course with a three month on the job component.

Potential Employment:

Seabase Limited is acquiring a new off shore supply vessel in 2005. Graduates successfully completing their on the job training component and demonstrating the work ethic and character required of Seabase will commence work as a deckhand on the supply vessel.

This is full time employment as a regular deckhand with a salary of \$60,000 per annum along with benefits including medical and pension plan contributions. Work schedule involves a month on and a month off.

Interested Candidates:

FNI ET and Seabase Limited, at a date to be determined shall conduct interviews with the view of pre-selecting trainees. Individuals must be willing to enroll and become selected in the pre-sea deckhand course at the Marine Institute. As well, Seabase Limited is looking to recruit individuals in the age category of 18-22.

For more information contact FNI ET .



Offshore Supply Vessel M.V "Meresk Placentia" at the Hibernia platform.

Graduates Pay Attention!!!

The FNI has a Grad Incentive program that can increase your chances of being employed relatively soon after graduation. When you approach an employer, be sure to include in your cover letter that the FNI has funds available to assist an employer with your wages. The FNI will cover 100% of your wages (up to \$10 per hr) for the first 12 weeks of employment and 75% of your wages for the next 12 weeks of employment. Ask the employer if he/she is interested in such an opportunity and if they are they should call one of our ACRO's.

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Renewal

The Minister of Human Resource Skills Development has announced that the AHRDA will be renewed for another five years. However, treasury board has not passed any dollar amount to this agreement to date. For this year the FNI will receive \$1,114,713 in funding for this program which is \$137,000 less than last year and furthermore we have commitments made to current students and employers that will absorb approximately \$750,000 of this budget. The FNI will designate the remaining funds to employment programs.

Aboriginal Client Relations Officers. (ACRO'S)

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ANNIE M.
RANDELL

FNI EMPLOYMENT
& TRAINING COOR-
DINATOR.

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FNI INVITED TO PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) was privileged to be invited by Hon. Ralph Goodale to participate in Pre-Budget consultations in St. John's on January 22, 2004. Ms. Annie Randell, Executive Assistant of the FNI sat in for president Brendan Sheppard, who was in Ottawa at the time of the session. The FNI was one of a very few organizations and businesses that had the opportunity to make a presentation to the Federal Finance Minister, Hon. Ralph Goodale, who was on a cross-Canada series of pre-budget consultations.

Ms. Randell began by giving a preamble to the organization and its members. She then proceeded to thank the Federal Government for the current federal programs that the FNI was currently receiving on behalf of the Aboriginal people of Newfoundland such as the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement. Ms. Randell insisted that the Federal Government must continue to fund such a program and suggested that they strongly consider raising their contribution level. Ms. Randell's main focus at this session was to enforce the necessity of the current cabinet ministers to support the current process of Preliminary Negotiations that are taking place with the FNI and the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs. Ms. Randell's concluding comments were, the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland were penciled out of Confederation in 1949 and we are now asking for the injustice of 1949 to be corrected. The FNI request that the Government of Canada Pencil the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland into the Federal Government's budget for 2004 and beyond as recognized Mi'kmaq people so they can receive rightful support for training, education, health benefits, economic development opportunities, cultural & recreation, etc. We are not asking for anything more than what was arranged and agreed to for all other aboriginal people across this country.

THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND: A CELEBRATION

In the summer of 2003 the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) entered into a partnership with the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit of Parks Canada to produce an exhibition on the presence of the Mi'kmaq people in Newfoundland. FNI assumed the lead role in the management and direction of this project and FNI's Annie Randell worked closely with Edward Tompkins, the curator of the exhibition to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Early on, FNI determined that this exhibition would have a different focus from the new permanent Mi'kmaq exhibition that was being planned for the new Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador. Instead of producing an ethnographic exhibition which would focus on historical artifacts in various museum collections, FNI decided to support the curator's idea that this exhibition should focus on historical and contemporary portraits of Newfoundland Mi'kmaq.

The curator selected forty historical portraits of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq -- almost all that are known to exist in public collections -- and arranged to have exhibition quality prints made from the original negatives. The Library and Archives Canada will hopefully be lending the six original portraits of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq that were taken by a French naval officer, Paul-Emile Miot in 1857-1859. These are the earliest known portraits of Newfoundland Mi'kmaq. A unique feature of this exhibition is the creation of a portfolio of forty-eight portraits of FNI members. Jeff Thomas, an internationally known photographer who comes from the Onondaga nation, was commissioned to come to Newfoundland and take these portraits. His black and white and colour portraits will be the center piece of this exhibition which will open at the Corner Brook Museum on National

Aboriginal Day, June 21, and run until the end of October, 2004. It will then move to the new museum in St. John's and then to the museum in Grand Falls. In this way all FNI members as well as the Mi'kmaq people of the Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River) will have an opportunity to view this exhibition. When the exhibition finishes, FNI will donate all the portraits to the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador so that there will be a permanent record of this exhibition and a more complete collection of Newfoundland Mi'kmaq portraits in the province. For this exhibition, FNI also acquired four lithographic prints by the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq artist, Jerry Evans. These prints, which use historical Newfoundland Mi'kmaq portraits, will be donated by the FNI to the new Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Edward Tompkins
Curator**

CORNER BROOK BAND GETS NEW EXECUTIVE

On January 15, 2004, the Corner Brook Indian Band held an election for a new executive. 210 members turned out for the election to cast their votes. The results were as follows:

Ellen Edmunds - Chief
Ed Webb - Vice-Chief
Daphne Park - Secretary
Brenda Power - Treasurer (by acclamation)
Derek Baldwin, Shannon Morgan, Eugene Webb and Joan Oxford - Board Members
Marie Sparks - Band Elder (by acclamation)
Chrissie Pike - Youth Representative (by acclamation)

PATHWAY TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

Hello again everyone. It is my pleasure to let you know that the diabetes program will continue in 2004-2005. This program has been continued so that we can build on the work we have done so far and help the aboriginal people get information on diabetes prevention. The diabetes coordinator is available as always to answer questions, provide information and help distribute information on diabetes prevention to the Federation members. Several projects are planned for the upcoming year. These include: information sessions for Healthy Baby Clubs; summer camps for children age 6-16; developing print material in the form of bookmarks; a children's storybook as well as having the diabetes section on the FNI website interactive where you can go for information, recipes and tips on health and fitness. We look forward to delivering these programs to the FNI members and we hope for a huge response to these projects as we work hard to bring information and help to our members.

With Easter just around the corner we are again faced with a time of temptation in the form of chocolate, candy, and other high sugar foods. Children love to wake up Easter morning and see an Easter basket filled with chocolate bunnies and eggs. When we are filling these baskets we should think of our child's long term health. This is a tradition that our parents did for us, we do it for our children and they will do it for their children. We should look for ways to change the cycle and make that basket fun and healthy. Fill the basket with fruit, cheese and crackers, homemade items that are low in sugar and fat and add a game for the whole family to enjoy.

Type 2 Diabetes in children and adolescents is becoming a bigger concern now than it was even ten years ago. Our children are becoming less physically active and more inactive by using the television, computer, and video games as their friends in order to beat boredom. This is a very dangerous way of life when you combine it with long term exposure to high sugar soda, chips, and bars. We want our children to grow up to be healthy and happy people so we need to give them a head start on this by teaching them that good tasting food does not have to be filled with sugar and/or fat. We need to encourage our children to eat fruit, vegetables and healthy foods. One way to do this is to lead by example, show our children that we like and need the healthy foods and have it available to them on a regular basis. If you are not exercising now on a regular basis begin an exercise plan and encourage your children to join in. Take the dog for a walk and make it a family event, go outside and build a snowman with your children, take a hike in the woods and pack a healthy snack. The family will get the physical activity they need and will enjoy these family events. The key is to bring both healthy eating and physical activity together to help ensure a long and healthy life.

Chicken Vegetable Stew

Ingredients

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into bite size pieces
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 pound baby carrots
- 4 potatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper (optional)

Directions

- In a large pot, put the chopped onion, chicken breast meat, carrots and potatoes. Add the salt and turmeric.
- Dissolve the tomato paste in water and add. If desired, add garlic powder and ground black pepper to season. Cook for 1 to 1 1/2 hours on medium-low heat.

Makes 4 servings

Nutrition Info: Servings Per Recipe: 4

Amount Per Serving

Calories: 270

Total Fat: 1.9g

Total Carbohydrates: 31.6g

Fitness Tip:

Exercise with a friend or spouse. Your chances of sticking with your program double when you have a partner. Find someone who is reliable and at the same fitness level -- or a little higher. You will be pleasantly surprised at how supporting each other will inspire you to accomplish more than you ever thought possible. Most of all enjoy what you are doing. If you find pleasure in your activity it is more likely that you will stick with it.

TIP: Set aside a snack spot for the family and fill it with healthy snacks that the family can go to when they feel the need to have something.

SHELLEY GARNIER

Diabetes Coordinator

709-647-3009 or

toll free 1-866-647-3009

P.O. Box 294

St. George's, NL A0N 1Z0



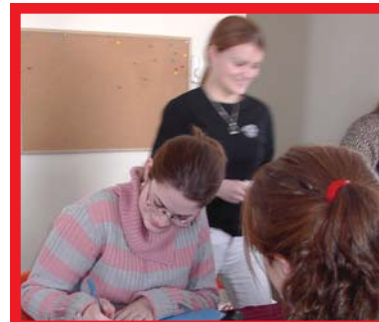
YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Aboriginal Youth representatives from the Federation of Newfoundland Indian Bands gathered together with various people to discuss aboriginal youth issues, gain some insight through workshops and in addition get to spend some time speaking with an elder from the community.

During one workshop the youth were asked to participate in an activity in leadership. The workshop, which was planned by Youth Strategies Advisor Liz LaSaga had youth delving deeper into themselves to see what their weak points were and how to help improve on them in order to make them much stronger leaders.

Some activities were quite intense causing the youth to really take a closer look at issues that they feel are a problem and help them focus on a solution.

The workshop was a hit with both the youth and the adults in attendance as it taught skills in an interesting yet entertaining manner.



Youth representatives from the Federation of Newfoundland Indians gathered for a seminar on Saturday February 28th, 2004. Here we see the group frantically writing, gathering information, selling, fundraising, etc during an exercise in leadership that helped each of the youth learn how to become stronger leaders.



The FNI Aboriginal Youth gathered for a picture during the seminar after speaking with elder Doreen Swyers. Front seated: Linda Wells, adult advisor, Doreen Swyers, Elder with the St. George's Indian Band, Simone Ellis. Second row, standing: Cindy Kyle, Marg Long, Sarah Wells, Candace Russell, Youth Coordinator for the FNI, Joanna Ellis, Stella Muise, Richard Louvelle. Back row, standing; Lori LeRoux, Adrienne Paul, Daniel Alexander, Daniel Young, and Randy Drover.

Youth Speak!

In the next edition of the Mi'kmaq News, we will be adding a column to our youth page called "Youth Speak" where we will be publishing the views of youth themselves! If you have a story, poem, or just have something to say, send it along to your Youth Coordinator. We would love to hear from you! Let's work together and make our new column a success as we showcase the talent and views of our Aboriginal Youth!

Dreamcatcher Workshops

Throughout the last weekend of March, the youth committees of the FNI will be hosting dreamcatcher workshops where members will get the chance to make their own dreamcatchers and will learn through demonstrations some of the many talents that our aboriginal people have to offer through their craft making. This is a chance to learn an aboriginal craft to pass on to your friends and family. If you are interested in attending the dreamcatcher workshop in your area, please contact your Youth Coordinator or one of our youth leaders in your area for further details. All dreamcatcher participants must be pre-registered before the workshops.

Scholarships and Summer Employment

Just a reminder for all youth to check out our youth website for scholarships that you may be eligible to apply for. Deadlines are getting closer, as you don't want to miss out on the opportunity to get a scholarship to help pay for the high costs of an education!! A great place to start is the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation at www.naaf.ca. Don't forget to check out our youth website at www.fniyouth.com for more!

If you haven't already done so, you should register for the FSWEF program where you may be chosen to work in a government organization for the summer. Its not too late, apply now!!! Visit our youth website or go to www.jobs.gc.ca to enter your information into the database. Also, check out the opportunities for the Young Canada Works program on our website.

The Indian Head First Nations youth committee now have their own website. If you want to keep up on what's happening with the youth in that band area, check it out!

<http://www.indianheadfirstnations.com/welcome.htm>

Contact: FNI Youth Coordinator Tel: (709) 634 - 6299
Candace Russell Toll Free: 1-877-634-6299
 P.O. Box 956 Fax: (709) 639 - 2257
 Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J3 email: candace@fni.nf.ca
 website: www.fniyouth.com

ST. GEORGE'S INDIAN BAND: ON THE ROAD TO A FULL RECOVERY....

On Nov. 18, 2001, a new Board of Directors was elected to the St. George's Indian Band. At that time not only did the new Board inherit a tremendous financial deficit in the amount of approximately \$44,000.00 but also poorly kept membership files, missing financial records and a building that was in such a deplorable state it had to be shut down and the office relocated to the new Chief's residence. Several years had passed with next to no dissemination of information to the membership. Mi'kmaq people seeking membership with the St. George's Indian Band were being denied access to what was most definitely their birthright.

In just two years, thanks to the hard working efforts of the new board and with the support of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, local businesses, community serving organizations, cooperation of creditors through their generous granting of penalty and interest relief and the membership at large, the debt has been eliminated and the bank records now reflect a positive balance. The membership files are in order and each member's file is complete with ancestry charts, church records and documented proof of Mi'kmaq Ancestry. They have applied to the Atlantic Communities Opportunity Agency (ACOA) for funding to restore the courthouse to its original grandeur and their intention is to reopen this building as a Mi'kmaq Cultural/Historic Museum and Interpretation Center for Sandy Point. The Band is now incorporated and with the assistance of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and volunteers from the membership the band has developed a new and improved constitution and by-laws that ensures greater transparency and more accountability to the people. The Band has had full participation and representation at the provincial and federal levels of Indian government. Representatives from the band have taken part in a variety of workshops dealing with crime and victimization, youth, native women, economic development, culture, conflict of interest, governance, accountability, and diabetes awareness. The band has lived up to a very important part of its mandate to promote cultural awareness and increase pride in Mi'kmaq culture and heritage through their yearly celebration of Aboriginal Day, which involves a full day of activities for all people that begins with a sunrise ceremony on "Seal Rocks" hill in the historic Mi'kmaq village of that same name. They have supported all initiatives on the part of the FNI Youth Services to promote the Mi'kmaq culture. They also supported and were part of the first ever Aboriginal Showcase in Bay St. George that took place at the Arts and Culture Center in May, 2003. The band has also developed their own web site. Check it out at www.sgib.cjb.net.

The St. George's Indian Band have reached some of their goals but there's still so much more that they would like to see accomplished.

Future plans include: restoration of the courthouse and reopening as a Mi'kmaq Cultural/Historic Museum and Interpretation Center for Sandy Point; development of hiking trails; reconstruction of a Mi'kmaq village in the historic community of "Seal Rocks"; an erection of a monument to the Mi'kmaq people who perished at "Hungry Grove"; the revival of the local group known as the AQUIMO Traditional Mi'kmaq Dancers and Drummers; the formation of a youth organization to be known as "The Young Warriors" and to continue to promote and support the programs that have been implemented by the Federation of Newfoundland Indians.

The Board of Directors are a passionate, committed and determined group of individuals who have regained credibility for, raising the profile of and restoring the membership's confidence in their local organization, "The St. George's Indian Band". The following volunteers make up the present Board of Directors:

Elder, Doreen Swyers; Chief Violet Dawson; Vice-Chief, Simeon Lee; Secretary, Monique King; Treasure, Karen White; Directors, Jean Legge, Howard Skinner, Melvin White and June Galpin; Youth Representative, Lori Leroux.

The Mi'kmaq Flag

There are several things in the flag that symbolize something. For instance, the symbol of red on the white background represents our unity with the Council of Fire. The star represents "Wa'so'q", the ancient hieroglyphic symbol that represents the spiritual light of the Creator who guides and protects our people, our land, and our nation. The crescent moon is representative of the land of the Mi'kmaq people which lay in a crescent over seven Mi'kmaq districts from the Gaspé peninsula of Quebec through Unama'ki (Cape Breton and Newfoundland).



Band Councils Receive Funding from the FNI

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians has recently provided their affiliated band councils with funding, associated with Labour Market Programming to financially assist each band in developing a band council community plan. Experts in this field of work will be available to the band councils to develop a plan that will hopefully create a positive foundation and a blueprint to move toward economic development. The Band Chiefs consider this to be a very worthwhile initiative, they feel it is better to take stock of what has been done to date, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of others, build on previous success and involve a wide range of stakeholders.