



MI'KMAQ



NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

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Summer 2004

A MI'KMAQ CELEBRATION

For the first time ever, a collection of Mi'Kmaq portraits artifacts and oral histories opened to the public in the Corner Brook Museum and Archives.

The highlight of the display are the six portraits taken by French Naval officer Paul Emile Miot in 1859. These portraits feature Mi'kmaq people from the Bay St. George area and are among the earliest known portraits taken of the Mi'Kmaq people of Newfoundland. This may possibly be the only time these photos will be in Newfoundland.

Also in the exhibit is a rare collection of Newfoundland Mi'Kmaq Artifacts including 16 items from Frank Speck collected in 1914 and a 100 year old beaded buckskin coat.

The 47 contemporary portraits of Newfoundland Mi'Kmaq were taken by international photographer Jeff Thomas and will remain a part of the exhibition and will then be a part of a collection for future generations to view.

There are also four lithographs by Newfoundland Mi'Kmaq Artist Jerry Evans included in the exhibition.

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians dedicated the exhibit to three Newfoundland Mi'kmaq people; Mary Webb, traditional

medicine woman who could speak fluent Mi'kmaq and who delivered over 700 babies. Mattie Mitchell, a renowned Mi'Kmaq guide who is well known for his exploration and mapping of the Northern Peninsula and Larry Jeddore, former Chief of the Glenwood 1st Nation for his cultural wisdom, oral history, direction and loyalty to the Mi'Kmaq movement under the auspices of the FNI in their plight for recognition. All three have made great contributions to the Mi'kmaq people and are now being recognized as people of historical significance.

The exhibition which was curated by Ed Tompkins was a partnership between The FNI, Parks Canada, Atlantic Canada Cultural and Economic Partnership, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Heritage Canada.

The entire collection including portraits, artifacts and oral histories have been put together in a catalogue for the public.



Paul Emile Miot portrait of the three Mi'Kmaq women of Bay St. George

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this book can contact the communications officer at (709) 647-3800. The cost of the book is \$25.00.



The three aboriginal people that the exhibit was dedicated to. Fr. Left Mattie Mitchell, Mary Webb and Larry Jeddore.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the first quarter of our fiscal year and for most organizations the most difficult time to cope with financially, because at this time of the year all government departments have to complete internal work in respect to their financial budgets and commitments. The FNI is somewhat fortunate that our banking institution the Royal Bank has recognized our openness and sound accountability and as a result obtained a great degree of confidence in the FNI's ability to deliver thus, establishing a financial arrangement to maintain our operations while waiting for committed program funding to arrive.

The FNI is happy to report that the Diabetes program, the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, the Allocation Transfer Program, Aboriginal Representative Organization program with a communications component, the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement with a youth component have all been approved for this fiscal year and implementation of these programs are in operation.

The preliminary negotiations are still on going and the next meeting is currently planned to take place in late July 2004, with the representatives of both parties and it is anticipated by the Hon. Marc Lalonde that with all the necessary information gathered he hopes to complete his report for the federal government by late August 2004. It is the desire and expectation of the FNI that a cabinet submission be ready for presentation to cabinet by the fall of 2004.

One special initiative which began late in 2003 was launched on National Aboriginal Day June 21, 2004, (See cover page for story) at the Museum and Archives in the city of Corner Brook was the exhibition, The Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland, A Celebration

The FNI held it's 29th Annual General Assembly (AGA) on the 12th and 13th of June 2004 in Stephenville and as always the AGA was very successful.(See page 6 for details) The FNI was very pleased to have Mr. Robert Boulay, a national representative from Heritage Canada in attendance; it was the first time in many years that a national representative from Heritage Canada attended our

AGA. Heritage Canada funds the FNI under the Aboriginal Representative Organization Program, which covers a fair portion of the yearly operating expenses.

The FNI executive, some chiefs and a few members attended the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, (CAP) Annual General Assembly in Ottawa, on April 15th, 16th and 17th, 2004. The national assembly was very interesting with a high focus and concern as to where CAP was placed on the agenda in the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Round Table discussions with Prime Minister Martin and his cabinet. There were sincere discussions regarding the need for participation of aboriginal representation from the western provinces. The executive of CAP has been trying their best to reach these people and will continue to show CAP's commitment by involving service delivery agencies in those areas to assist in that process and to maintain national unity.

In concluding, on behalf of the board of directors, executive and staff of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) I extend best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable summer in whatever your hobbies, recreational activities are and any other plans that you have scheduled.



The Federation of Newfoundland Indians executive, along with some of the band chiefs gather for a picture during the Exhibition held on June 21, 2004.

ELMASTOGOEG FIRST NATIONS: (BENOIT'S COVE BAND) DEBT FREE.....

Thanks to the support of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, Eddie Joyce (MHA) and a wonderful group of fundraisers. The band council is pleased to announce that our band is finally debt free.

For the past eighteen months we have been focused on paying off the debts left by the former council. This was complicated by the lack of financial records; i.e., deposit books, cheques, receipts and disbursement journals. It was a difficult process.

Thanks to the FNI and their support, without them none of this would have been accomplished. Brendan Sheppard and Annie Randell have been there to answer our many questions. Their leadership, guidance and financial support have been immeasurable. No words can express our gratitude.

To the Board of Directors of the FNI, your words of encouragement around the table meant a great deal to a new council. Many of you had traveled the road that we were on and knew how to avoid the many bumps; your experience helped us, thank you. To the staff of the FNI who listened and helped in every way they could, thank you.

In a meeting with our MP, Gerry Byrne, he promised to assist us to get federal funding for future projects. Mr. Byrne has long been a supporter of the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland in Ottawa. He will continue to be a strong voice for the people of his riding. We look forward to working with Gerry in the future.

Thanks to our MHA, Eddie Joyce has always been there to offer financial and moral support. Whenever we need Eddie he is only a phone call away.

To the people of our band who gave their time to fund raise. With your tireless efforts much has been accomplished. You gave prizes, came to our bingos and we thank each and every one of you. Your band is on the road to a brighter future. In the next few weeks we will be setting up an economic development group. This group will be made up of people from our community with a wide variety of interests. The purpose will be to help people develop business plans that will truly help our community.

Community projects to assist people are the way to make our band a part of the whole community. We will be looking to partner with our local town council and other community groups. We will be looking to develop projects that will benefit all. If you help your community grow, you will grow along with it.

Chief and Council, Elmastogoe First Nation

PATHWAY TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

Well here we are into our summer and we need to focus our energy on exercise and staying healthy so that we can enjoy all that summer has to offer. In the summer with the nice sunny weather we can spend more time outside and in doing so we can work our exercise into a fun activity. Swimming, canoeing, hiking, biking, and other fun activities are great ways to burn off the sugar we take in during our meals. We all need to exercise, even if we are not looking to loose weight, even though exercise is a great way to take off those pesky extra pounds, find ways to enjoy your summer by becoming more active.

During the summer months we want to spend more time outside because the weather is warmer and we want to enjoy our time in the sun so we find ways to spend more time outdoors. One great way to spend time in the sun and enjoy a low fat meal is to barbeque because you do not have to add any fat or oil when cooking over the barbeque. Even though this is a great way to enjoy low fat food we must be sure not to cut fat out of our diet all together. Our bodies need a balance between protein, vegetables, fruit, grains and fat to be able to be healthy and strong. When you are planning a meal try to include all of the food groups from Canada's Food Guide and this will ensure that you have a meal that is well balanced and healthy.

Notice

The FNI has a website and within that website the diabetes program has a web page. This is an interactive webpage with many different sections dealing with diabetes and related activities. Please visit our website and let us know what you think of the diabetes web page, or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to let us know.

WEBPAGE: www.fni.nf.ca

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN

The diabetes program is planning to develop a children/youth magazine or story book and we are looking for your ideas, stories, drawings, pictures, games and any other fun thing you can think of to add to our book. If you have any ideas please send them to the diabetes coordinator at the address given and we will look at them to see if we can use them in our book. Please note that if we use your story, drawing or any other item you send in we will put your name and band in as well so when you send in anything please add your full name, address, and phone number along with which indian band you are with. THANKS for all the help making our book great.

Schedule of Summer Camps:

Port au Port Indian Band July 12th
Community Center Father Joy's Rd

Corner Brook Indian Band July 14th
Humber Community YMCA

Elmastogoeg First Nations (Benoit's Cove) July 16th
Community Center

Indian Head First Nation July 19th
Stephenville Crossing Lion's Club

Flat Bay Indian Band July 21st
Flat Bay Indian Band Building

St. George's Indian Band July 23rd
Recplex

Sple'tk First Nations(formerly Exploits) July 27th
Friendly 50 Club

Glenwood 1st Nation July 28th
Appleton Community Center

Gander Bay Indian Band July 29th
Gander Bay North Community Center

REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY TO ATTEND CAMP

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN

The diabetes program is now going into it's summer programs which will include summer camps for children age 6 to 16. These camps will be one day in each band area and we will be doing many different projects with special focus on exercise and nutrition. The summer camps will be held in each of the nine band areas during the month of July and registration forms will be sent out to each household or you can contact the diabetes coordinator for a registration form. See listing of time and location of the summer camp nearest you or contact the diabetes coordinator for a registration form.

SHELLEY GARNIER Diabetes Coordinator
(phone) 709-647-3009

or toll free:

1-866-647-3009

mail:

P.O. Box 294

St. George's, NL

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email: shelly@fni.nf.ca



YOUTH ACTION NEWS

Drum Workshop

Traditional Mi'Kmaq Cultural Revival Workshop

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians has been in existence since 1972, unfortunately our Mi'Kmaq culture has not.

Over the years, our culture has been gradually slipping away as our Elders are becoming increasingly scarce. However thanks to a project that is being partially funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, the youth of the FNI will be given the opportunity to gain a sense of themselves and learn about the traditional teachings of the sacred drum, song and dance of their Mi'Kmaq people.

From July 5-8, 36 youth from across the nine band areas of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians will have the chance to take part in a workshop led by a group of professional Mi'Kmaq Singers.

Eastern Eagle Singers are a group of young Mi'Kmaq men from the Indian Brook First Nation in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. They proudly represent the Mi'Kmaq Nation. The group has been singing together since 1993, and has traveled to Pow Wows throughout Canada and the United States.

The uniqueness of this workshop is entailed in the passing on of Mi'Kmaq traditions and culture to up and coming young Mi'Kmaq artists who have not had a previous opportunity to learn or benefit from the power of their Mi'Kmaq culture.

A culture, that is near non-existence will have the opportunity to rise again in this unforgettable experience which will give our youth a chance to carry on their lost culture in the form of song, drum, and dance.

The workshop will take place in Stephenville, NL, and will involve 4 youth between the ages of 14-18 from each of the nine band areas throughout the FNI. The first two days of the workshop will focus on the teachings of the drum by Eastern Eagle. Throughout these two days, the participants will learn how to respect, honor, and carry on the drum as a significant part of their culture. Eastern Eagle will also share with the youth participants some of the teachings of song and dance. The final day of the workshop, Thursday, July 8 will involve a traditional Mi'Kmaq Celebration Day to be held at Indian Head Park at Little Port Harmon, Stephenville. This day will include a cultural presentation given by the youth participants and Eastern Eagle. The youth will be given the opportunity to show the community what they have learned over the course of the workshop, and to give our people a sense of pride for the beginning of our Mi'Kmaq cultural revival. Various other traditional activities will also be taking place, which will include a Traditional Feast. All members of the community are welcome to share in our Mi'Kmaq Celebration Day!

Youth Speak - Interview

An Inside Look

At this point in time the majority of people have heard of or attended the events which have been given by the FNI Youth Committees over the last few months such as The Dream Catcher Work Shops, etc... However, this just happens to be an outer shell to what the committees actually are.

To develop a greater understanding of and to give an inside look into the committees, in every Youth Speak, there will be an interview with a committee member.

Randy Drover is from Bishop's Falls, NL, and a member of the Sple'tk First Nations. When the idea of Youth Committees was brought to light, it caught his interest like fire works. When he was younger there were no opportunities like this to partake in, and he wanted to make sure this age group had the chance that he did not.

Randy became the mentor of the Sple'tk First Nations Youth Committee from the moment they started. He gladly took on this role along with his role as Youth Director on the Sple'tk First Nations Board of Directors. As mentor he does his best to guide the committee, reassures them of their abilities, and gives aid in any way possible.

Randy has learned a great deal from being involved in many things. It has given him the chance to obtain knowledge from elders that under other circumstance he would have never received. It has given Randy the feeling that through this he has taken his part in preserving our Mi'Kmaq Culture by making sure that the younger generations are involved. Along with the most important: youth are capable of any thing no matter what age.

When asked what would he say to encourage participation Randy said: 'If you have any curiosity in your culture the Youth Committees is the place to be involved; it is the stepping stone to learning. If you think it's any thing else, come find out for yourself'.

Thanks go out to Cindy Kyle for taking the initiative on starting this column. Great Job!

Congratulations to the youth group of Indian Head First Nations who have just won a Computer and Digital Video Camera for their essay on "why we should invest in education and technology". For more information, and to read their essay check out the website at:

<http://firstnationshelp.com/2004feb/entries.php>

Also, check out the Indian Head First Nations Youth Page at:

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

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THE DREAMCATCHER LODGE

In 2003 the Federation of Newfoundland Indians assisted Mr. Francis Bennett with establishing a renovations company. Mr. Bennett is a member of the Flat Bay Indian Band who has used his initial business venture to expand into another industry - hotel/ restaurant business. Mr. Bennett and other partners purchased an existing hotel that had been closed and began the renovations. As work progressed on the lodge and final touches were to be made, Mr. Bennett decided that he would use his heritage and the heritage of the region as the theme of his establishment. The business has been named the "DreamCatcher Lodge," using dreamcatchers within their decor and 40% aboriginal employees. The aboriginal theme and the no smoking policy certainly attracts a fair share of the market. The menu has been designed by award winning chef, Eric Hynes who is a non-aboriginal employee who is finding that working at the DreamCatcher Lodge is a totally unique experience for him. "Aboriginal people work totally different, everybody's family here. I've worked on the mainland where the chef is the boss, but here you're a member of a team, literally part of the family," states Mr. Hynes. The employees, aboriginal and non-aboriginal all echo the same sentiment, "it's like a big family and it's a wonderful place to work!" The staff commends Francis for his ability to work well with them and give them a voice. Francis and his wife Stella are extremely thankful to the Federation of Newfoundland Indians for the financial support toward the 14 wage subsidies. "Because of the time of the year we opened, (02/13/04), I think without the assistance from the FNI it would have been difficult to make the positive start we have thus far and for that reason I am truly appreciative to the FNI," states Mr. Bennett. "It was a powerful help to the DreamCatcher Lodge and I think it was a wonderful boost to our economy to have some of these people return to work, and others to enter the work force for the first time."

Tara Benoit, Head Bartender utilized the Federation of Newfoundland Indians wage subsidy program and she likes the fact that they are all so well respected. "We are all putting our ideas together, we're all helping and chipping in wherever possible. There's a lot of respect here, it's like we are one big family and everyone gets an opinion here," states Ms. Benoit.

Stella Bennett helps out as assistant manager and is also thankful for the FNI's help. "The wage subsidy program offered by the Federation of Newfoundland Indians was invaluable, we wouldn't have been operational if we hadn't had the wage subsidy," states Mrs. Bennett.

To date the DreamCatcher Lodge is doing well in its infancy stages.



Francis Bennett (far left) with his staff at the DreamCatcher Lodge.

The staff currently utilizing the FNI wage subsidy program are:

**Brian Bennett
Barbara Roberts
Mary Campbell
Wanda Russell
Tara Benoit
Terri-Lee Burton
Sarah Connolly**

**Colleen Leroux
Corinna Lee
Karen White
Patricia Duval
Willie Macneil
Rachel Bennett
Jillian Ridgeley**

The aforementioned success story is certainly a win/win for everyone involved. An Aboriginal business person hiring aboriginal individual for re-entry back into the work force and an aboriginal organization assisting both the business and the individual to enhance their lives through employment opportunities.

Elmastogoeg First Nations AGM

The Elmastogoeg First Nations will be holding their Annual General Meeting on July 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Band office. Please come out and get involved.

FNI HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During the weekend of June 11 to the 13, 2004 the FNI held their Annual General Assembly (AGA) at the Holiday Inn in Stephenville, Newfoundland.

The AGA is a regular annual meeting of the FNI Chiefs, delegates, executive as well as the National Chief & President of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, (CAP), Dwight Dorey.

Also in attendance were Stephenville Mayor, Cecil Stein, Terry Hickey of the Ulnooweg Development Group, Jeff Hancock Western Newfoundland & Labrador Field Unit of Parks Canada, Steve May, the legal representative, Kevin Anderson, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, notable observers included: Robert Boulay & Harold Hiscock representing Canadian Heritage, Lloyd Pope & Scott Graham representing Human Resource Skills and Development and a number of FNI members.

"Mr. Sheppard states, "the 29th AGA was very successful, there were great discussions, debates and numerous questions on many subject matters, which gave all delegates, observers and guest a great insight on the openness and accountability of the FNI."

This years AGA was quite a success on all fronts especially with the election of the executive.

Brendan Sheppard retained the position as president of the FNI by acclamation. Mr. Hayward Young of the Indian Head First Nation was elected vice-president by acclamation. The position of Central Vice-president went to a vote and Tony John of Glenwood Mi'Kmaq1st Nation was the choice of the delegation.

Other items on the agenda were an official opening of the Mi'Kmaq burial plot in the Stephenville cemetery, a court case update by Mr. Steve May, a Preliminary Negotiations update by President Brendan Sheppard, a business development presentation by Terry Hickey of the Ulnooweg Development Group, a Power Point display shared by the president of the FNI, Brendan Sheppard and Jeff Hancock from Parks Canada on the 2004 Exhibition "A Mi'Kmaq Celebration," which includes a collection of historical photographs and artifacts of the Mi'Kmaq people of Newfoundland, coming here for the first time, as well as a collection of contemporary portraits This exhibition opened on aboriginal day, June 21, 2004, 3:00 p.m. at the Corner Brook Museum. Included on the agenda were updates from the programs that the FNI now has in place including the Employment and Training Program, Youth Program, Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, Allocations Transfer Program and Diabetes Program.



Dwight Dorey, National Chief and President of the Congress of Aboriginal People speak to the assembly during the weekend event.



The Federation of Newfoundland Indians Executive as a result of the 29th Annual General Assembly in Stephenville.

From Left: Tony John, Central Vice-president, Annie Randell, Executive Assistant, Brendan Sheppard, President and Hayward Young Western Vice-president.

Mi'kmaq Award

ELMASTOGOEG FIRST NATIONS BAND

Value: Two awards of \$250

Eligibility: A member of the **ELMASTOGOEG First Nations Band** entering the second year of a degree program. Who is eligible for acceptance into the second-year at any University? The student must have proof of holding a minimum grade point average of 75%, with no failures; carry a full course load according to the requirements of the program; and demonstrate financial need.

Narrative: Applicant must submit a brief narrative describing, "what you think being Mi'kmaq means to people in the 21st century".

Date to be awarded: September of each calendar year

Deadline: July 31st

Address: **Chief Kevin Barnes**
Elmastogoeg First Nations Band
Box 93
Benoit's Cove, NL, A0L 1A0

NEWS FROM SPLE'TK

The Exploits Native Dancers were at Riverwood Academy, Gander Bay on June 7th for a Read-A-Thon with the Special Needs Class of Mrs. Lynn Penney. The day started with Bernie Hanlon making bracelets for the K-3 classes with the assistance of her sister Margaret Humber. The Dancers joined in for a feast at noon and then performed traditional dancing for the K-3 and 4-6 classes. All who attended enjoyed the day. Many questions were asked and answered. We felt that the children were left with a better understanding of our culture.

The Exploits Native Dancers have a busy schedule lined up for the summer.

June 21st Corner Brook Indian Band Council National Aboriginal Day Festivities.

June 21st opening of the 2004 Mi'Kmaq Celebration at the Corner Brook Museum.

June 26th Mary March Museum in GFW for Aboriginal Awareness Day

July 1st Wigwam Point for an Aboriginal Gathering

July 3rd Conne River Pow Wow

July 8th Stephenville Youth Drum Workshop.

Aug 7th Boyd's Cove Interpretation Centre's Caribou Celebration

September 10th Grand Falls-Windsor's Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life

September 25th Exploits Native Women's Retreat Part II

You may contact Bernie Hanlon for information on booking a performance by the Exploits Native Dancers by calling 489-3695 after 6 pm.

St. George's Band Council Receives Funding for Court House

The historic court house located in St. George's is about to receive a makeover. The St. George's Indian band has received funding in the amount of \$414,058 from the Atlantic C a n a d a Opportunities Agency (ACOA), to restore the building, for research and planning and for the production of i n t e r p r e t i v e exhibits.



MP Bill Matthews with Chief Violet Dawson and President of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians Brendan Sheppard, during the historic court house announcement in St. George's.

The completed museum will explore the history of the Mi'Kmaq settlement of the St. George's area, which dates back to the 18th century.

"The Mi'Kmaq people have lived in this part of Newfoundland and Labrador since the 18th century," said Violet Benoit Dawson, chief of the St. George's Indian Band. "Seal Rocks, a site located in St. George's, was the largest Mi'Kmaq settlement on the West Coast. Steel Mountain and Spirit Mountain are sacred sites for the Mi'Kmaq. This project will create greater awareness of the Mi'Kmaq history here, and Mi'Kmaq culture on the island generally. We're looking forward to the work ahead and to the cultural and economic benefits the museum will bring to our community."

The project is expected to take about eighteen months to complete and will hire approximately ----people during that time.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Labour Market Programs provided by the FNI

Individual Training (skills development)
Wage Subsidy Program
Job Creation Programs
Disability Program
Youth Program
Grad Incentive Program
Self Employment Assistance Program

If you would like more information on these programs, please contact an Aboriginal Client Relations Officer near you.

Aboriginal Client Relations Officers. (ACRO'S)

CENTRAL

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FNI WEB SITE

The new Federation of Newfoundland
Indians website is now up and running.

Check it out at:
www.fni.nf.ca

Mi'Kmaq Words

Atoqwa'su - Trout
pronounced (a-tohk-waa-su)

Mewisit - Pick berries
pronounced (me-wi-sit)

Welp'teg - Nice and warm
Pronounced (wel-bê-dek)

check out <http://www.mikmaqonline.org/>

CONSTITUTIONAL CORNER

Did you Know

13.01 The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, one representing the Central Region and one representing the Western Region. Only Members from the Bands comprising the Central region shall be nominated as Vice-President for the Central Region. Only members from the Bands comprising the Western Region shall be nominate as Vice-President for the Western Region.

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

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