

# FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

Newfoundland Mi'kmaq:  
our success in the fight  
for recognition





Mi'kmaq people lived in Newfoundland for generations before European contact.



Mi'kmaq women – Bay St. George, 1859



Even into the late 1800s,  
many non-Mi'kmaq Newfoundlanders  
were not aware of their existence.



Two Mi'kmaq hunters – Badger's Brook, 1914



In 1949, when Newfoundland joined Canada,  
the Federal Government failed to take  
responsibility for the Native peoples of the province.



Mi'kmaw men – Badger's Brook, 1914

# FNI: a brief history



Chief Larry Jeddore, 1994



# 1971

Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador  
was formed.

It represented the aboriginal people of Labrador  
and Newfoundland Mi'kmaq.



Circle of the founding conference of the Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

The logo consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**1972**

Labrador Aboriginal people  
chose not to remain members.

Native Association becomes  
Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI).

Members:

6 affiliated Mi'kmaq bands and their members.

The logo consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

## **Mandate**

To promote the social, cultural, economic  
and educational well-being  
of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq.



## 1980s

Members: six affiliate bands.

Newfoundland Mi'kmaq not recognized  
under the *Indian Act*.

FNI regards this as a failure of the Government.  
FNI begins negotiations with Canada  
to redress this.

FNI conducts genealogical studies  
to support eligibility claims.  
Canada takes no action.



**1982**

Mi'kmaq of Conne River achieve eligibility.

Mi'kmaq outside Conne River do not.

Why?

Only Mi'kmaq 'resident in designated native communities' are eligible.

The logo consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**FNI**



**1989**

FNI and the Chiefs begin action against Canada  
to obtain Federal Recognition.

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

## **1990-1992**

FNI gains 3 new affiliated bands.

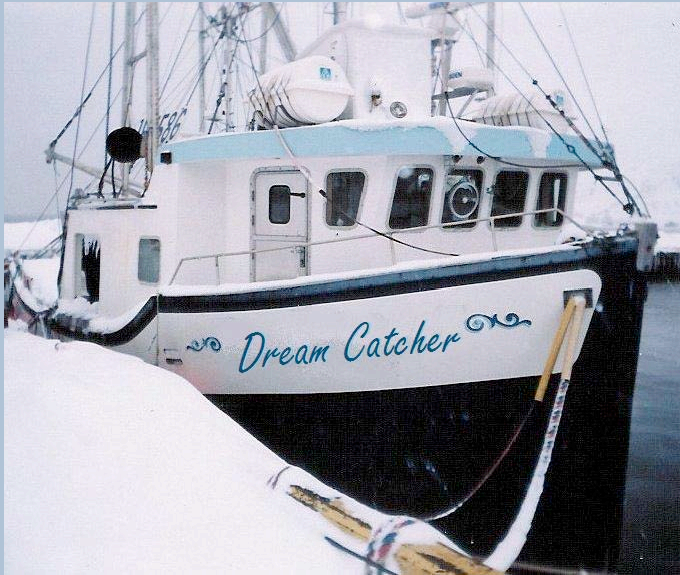
FNI applies to add new bands to list of Plaintiffs  
in court action.



## 1992-2002

Decade of unsuccessful on- and off-negotiations.

Other agenda items moved.





Regional Bilateral Agreement Signing Ceremony – Conne River, 1995



St. George's Mi'kmaq Dancers – Native Council of Canada AGM, 1992

FNI



Sweet Grass Ceremony – AGA, Glynmill Inn, 2001

# steps leading to the Agreement-in-Principle



Dwight Dorey, CAP President; Brendan Sheppard, FNI President; Robert Nault, Minister INAC;  
Ernie Maclean, Provincial Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs; Gerry Bryne, MP Humber St. Barbe

The logo for FNI (First Nations Institute) consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

## 2002

FNI presents Canada with a proposal called the '2002 Mi'kmaq Regime'.



## exploratory discussions

Board moves to explore options with  
Canada re: settling the court action.

FNI and Canada hold consultation sessions  
with Mi'kmaq communities and FNI members.

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Consensus:

FNI members want registered status  
under the *Indian Act*.

FNI commitment:

All members will be able to vote on  
any agreement reached with Canada.



## 2003 preliminary discussions

Canada offers a proposal:

That Newfoundland Mi'kmaq be registered under the *Indian Act* through a landless band if they meet established membership eligibility criteria.

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

FNI consults community:  
proceed with negotiations that include  
landless band component?

Consensus:

Yes.

The logo consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**2004**

Members: 9 affiliate bands and their members.

FNI adds 'General Membership'  
(Mi'kmaq with no band affiliation).

**FNI**



# 2004-2006

FNI and Canada undertake official negotiations  
re: Agreement-in-Principle.



FNI and Canada Negotiation Teams, 2006

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

FNI establishes negotiation team.

Court case means negotiations  
must be confidential.

Negotiating team can consult with  
Board of Directors.



## 2006

Tentative Agreement-in-Principle:

Identifies process for recognition.

•

Includes creation of landless band.

•

Stipulates entire FNI membership  
can vote on ratification.

The logo for FNI (Federation of Newfoundland Indians) consists of a red rectangular box containing the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

## **2007 membership**

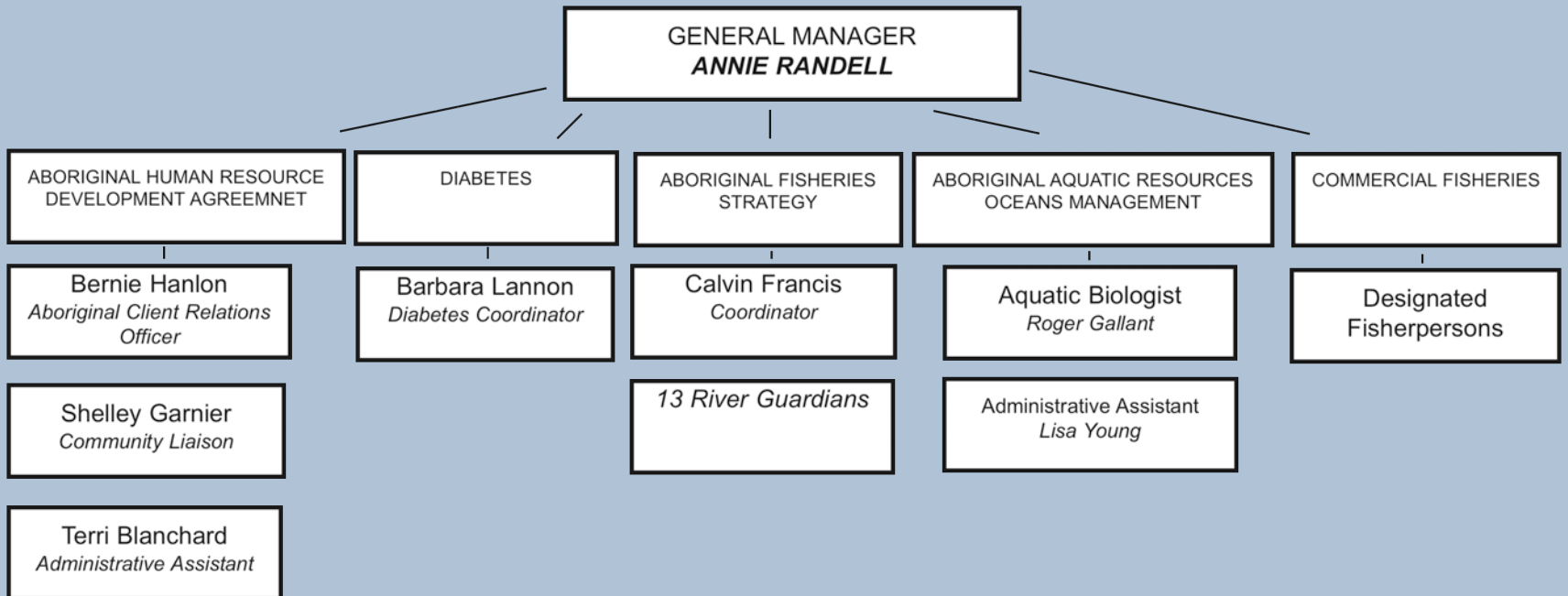
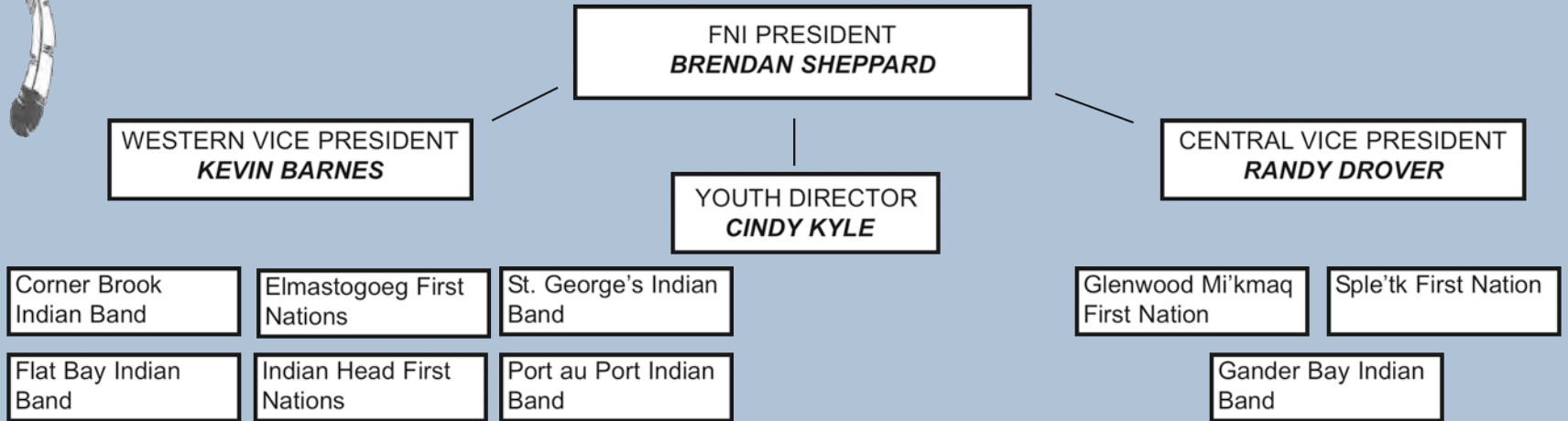
FNI represents 10,500 Newfoundland Mi'kmaq.

Over 10,000 members have band affiliation.

Nearly 500 are General Members.



# organizational structure



The logo consists of a red rectangular box containing the white letters 'FNI' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**FNI**



## **membership governance**

Each band governs its own members.

FNI governs the General Membership.

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

## **FNI point of service locations**

FNI maintains 3 offices:

Western region: Corner Brook + St. George's

•

Central region: Grand Falls-Windsor



## committees

Mi'kmaq Culture

•

Health Advisory

•

Employment & Training  
(AHRDA)

•

Fisheries

•

General Membership

•

MAMKA





# November 30, 2007

Agreement-in-Principle is initialed.  
Historic day for the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister Chuck Strahl (INAC), Brendan Sheppard (FNI)

FNI



# February 2008

FNI undertakes communications campaign to inform membership.



- Campaign includes:
- Information sessions
  - Printed material
  - Web site
  - Advertising
  - Voter cards

FNI



Information Sessions – Benoit's Cove, Sple'tk, March 2008



**March 29, 2008**

90% FNI membership votes YES.



FNI has ratified Agreement-in-Principle.

Canada must also ratify it.

Next: enrolment process begins.

**FNI**



# March 30, 2008



Counting the ballots

# the Agreement-in-Principle: the benefits



FNI



## recognition benefits

Newfoundland Mi'kmaq recognized  
as Status Indians under the *Indian Act*.



Jessica Collier

Post-secondary  
education.

- Non-insured health  
benefits programs.

- Direct core funding  
to Band.

- Economic development  
funding.

- Other programs  
(as available).

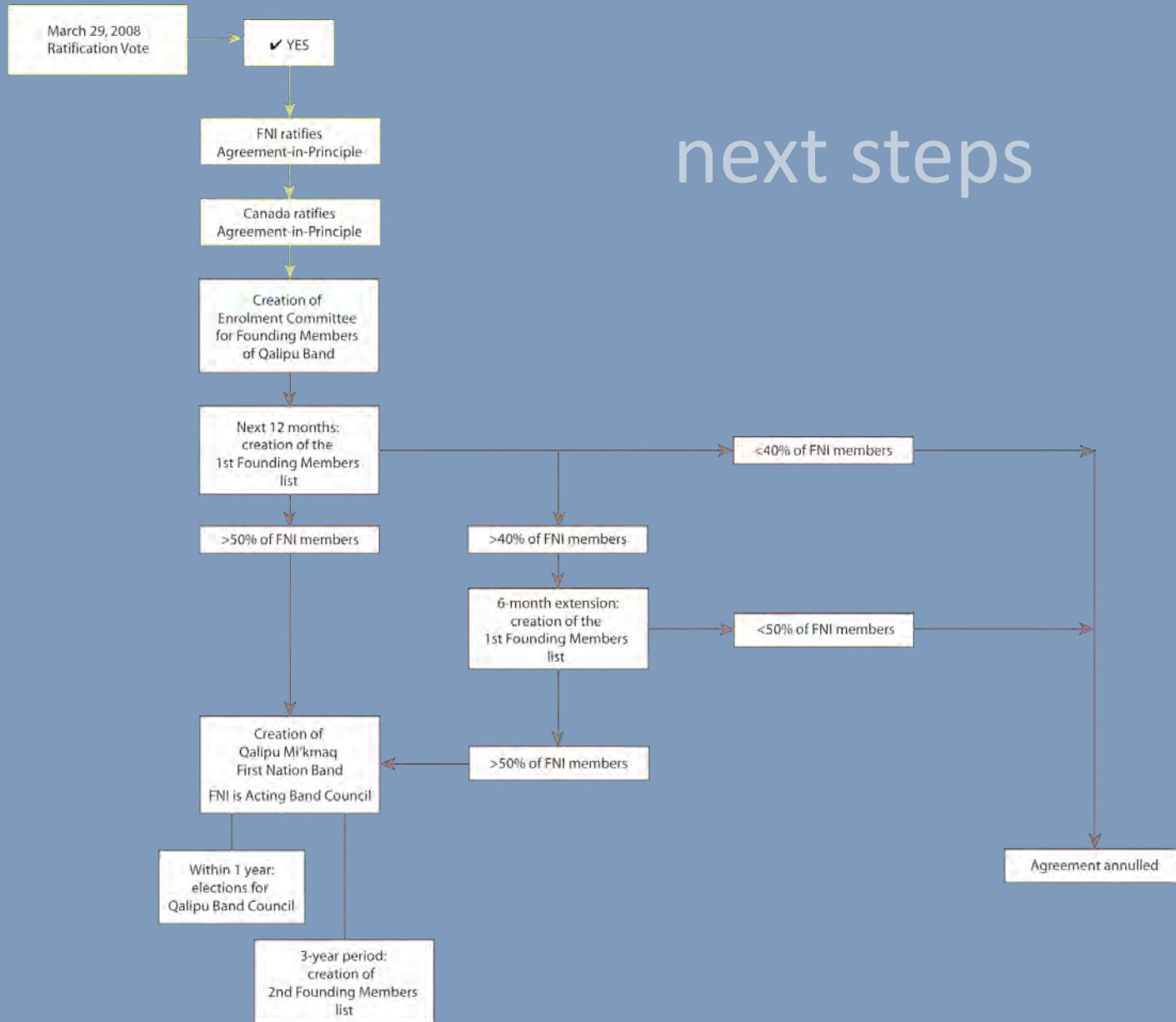


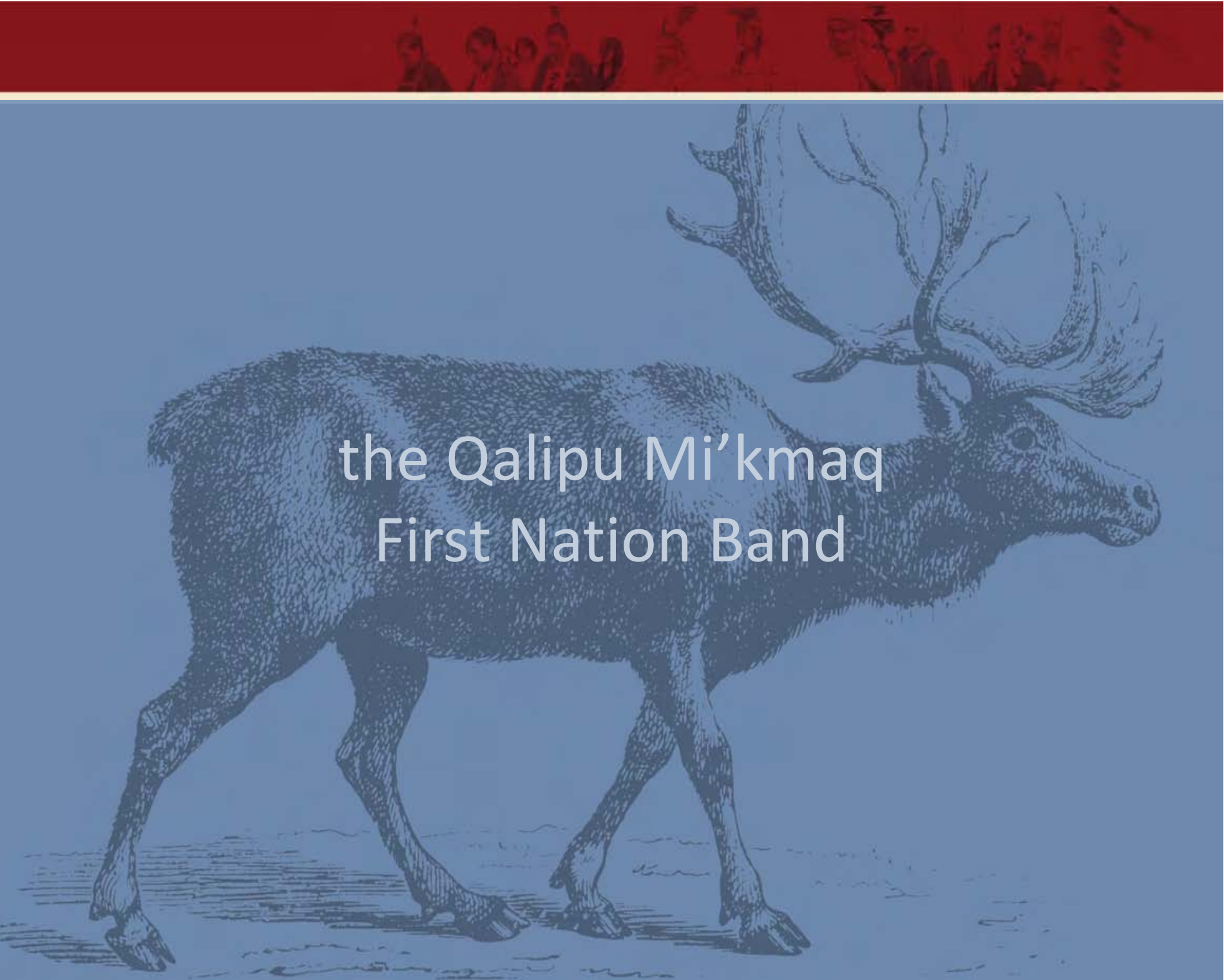
Registration to verify Mi'kmaq population.

•  
A stronger Mi'kmaq culture.



# next steps





the Qalipu Mi'kmaq  
First Nation Band

**FNI**



## **governance**

1 Chief

•

1 western region vice-Chief

•

1 central region vice-Chief

•

9 electoral ward Councilors

The logo consists of the letters 'FNI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Elections: every 3 years.

First election: within 1 year Band establishment.

FNI Board of Directors will serve as  
Acting Band Council  
until the new council has been elected.

in conclusion



Brendan Sheppard taking questions from the floor – Corner Brook Information Session, February 2008



Establishment of the  
Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band  
will realize for Newfoundland Mi'kmaq  
many long-sought benefits:

Registration to verify Mi'kmaq population.

•

Eligibility for recognition under the *Indian Act*.

•

Access to federal programs

•

Stable funding for  
band development and programs.



FNI



If the enrolment process is successful,  
the Qalipu Band will become  
one of the largest bands in Canada.



## future

With the creation of the  
Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band,  
we hope to:

Leverage funding for developing cultural curriculum  
for grade schools.

•

Develop Newfoundland-based university programs  
that specialize in Mi'kmaq culture.

•

Enhance economic development in our rural areas.



**FNI**



**thank you**

For further details, visit:

[www.qalipu.com](http://www.qalipu.com)

presentation music: courtesy of Miawpukek Choir

