
News Release**Communiqué**

**LOCAL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY
OF PARKS CANADA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES**

Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland, August 10, 2005--By spending three weeks in three of Parks Canada's national historic sites this summer, two Mi'kmaq students, members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians – employed through the Young Canada Works Program - learned valuable knowledge about Newfoundland and Labrador's natural and cultural history.

As historical assistants, Kayla Mills of Flat Bay and Adriana Bennett of Corner Brook did lab work with underwater archaeology experts in Red Bay, worked visitor centre staff in Port au Choix, and even helped to present the story of L'Anse aux Meadows in period Viking costume with the site's encampment interpreters.

Miles said that this opportunity to work at such significant cultural sites has taken her on a journey into history. "Overall, it was a great experience. I learned how to properly deal with artefacts and about the richness of Red Bay's history", she said.

Both students spent time in Port au Choix helping the Heritage Committee in town to preserve important historical videotapes. They said they were enlightened by the history of the three ancient Aboriginal cultures and the more modern cultures that have flourished there over the last 5000 years. The students also assisted the archaeology team to back fill in an artefact burial site.

Corner Brook's Adriana Bennett said that her experience at the national historic sites has given her a much better appreciation and awareness of our province's cultural heritage. "Working in L'Anse aux Meadows was fantastic because we not only read about the Norse culture of 1000 years ago, but we also lived it for a few days", Bennett said. "We dressed as costumed interpreters and played the role of a Norse woman for the week, and we performed traditional work those women would have done during that era", she added.

Miles returns to St. Thomas University in New Brunswick and Bennett to Memorial University of Newfoundland in the fall. "Both Adriana and I chose to work with Young Canada Works because it was a great employment opportunity, but we believe that we have been given so much more. It was an excellent chance for us both to have been able to learn so much", said Miles.

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