

MI'KMAQ NEWS

FALL 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Left to right: President Brendan Sheppard, Central Vice President Terry Mills, and Western Vice President Kevin Barnes

Dear members, first and foremost, I hope that each and every one of you is experiencing good health and that you have had an enjoyable summer. I am pleased to announce that I was elected as president of the FNI by acclamation at the FNI's 35th Annual General Assembly held on September 18th and 19th in Grand Falls-Windsor. Also elected by acclamation were Mr. Terry Mills as vice president for central Newfoundland region and Chief Kevin Barnes as vice president for western Newfoundland. The youth representative on the FNI board Ms. Kristina Duffy was also elected by acclamation. The 35th AGA was indeed successful, informative and pleasant for all in attendance. The executive, board of directors and staff of the FNI look forward to serving its members as it did in the past and are enthusiastically prepared to take on all future challenges that will improve the social, economic and cultural growth of the Mi'kmaq people it represents and all those who will become the responsibility of the organization.

Continued on next page.....



**IMPORTANT
UPDATE ON
REGISTRATION
PROCESS!!!**

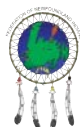
**LABOUR FORCE
STRATEGY SURVEY
INSIDE!!!**

BAND UPDATES

FNI AGA RESULTS

THIS ISSUE

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Newfoundland
Indians**



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The enrolment process for registration is on-going and will continue to move forward until the timeframe identified in the agreement is met. As you will see in the report from the independent chair, included in this edition, he and his committee members have completed a huge amount of work, most of which is difficult for most to realize who are not directly involved in the process. A note of extra good news for the enrolment process was the results of a discussion I had with Mr. Ray Hatfield of Indian Affairs on September 06, 2010 regarding the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band (QMFNB) members' registration after the establishment of the Band. The Department's intention now is to recommend the amendment of the schedule to the Recognition Order as soon as possible after the adoption by the Governor-in-Council for the inclusion of the additional founding members that will have been identified close to that timeframe. The FNI has encouraged the Department to take every step necessary to make this happen. In other words, the first amendment to the schedule to add members will occur as soon as possible instead of the four months after the creation of the Band, thereafter, amendments will be recommended to the Governor-in-Council every four months as agreed to.

On September 09, 2010 I attended the Federal Court Oral Hearing in St. John's regarding the court motion

which is currently delaying the establishment of the QMFNB; all parties had legal counsel in attendance who presented their arguments. A decision on the hearing will be rendered by the Federal Court Judge at a time convenient to her. The FNI will provide an update on this matter as soon as possible after the decision is announced to all relevant parties.

The FNI continues to implement the regular programs which we report on in the Mi'kmaq News and it is evident by the comments of many members that some of the FNI programs are considered far more valuable to them than other programs however; all our programs are necessary to build the capacity of the organization.

The off-reserve aboriginal housing program was well received by the FNI members and there is still a great need for this program in order to serve all eligible applicants, this program is now winding down and the remaining funds have been committed. The province and aboriginal groups were initially advised in the beginning that this funding was a one-time arrangement from the federal government to the province for off-reserve aboriginal people. The FNI will continue to seek programs and services that will benefit the general membership as well as the organization.

~ President, Brendan Sheppard

BAND NEWS

NEW LOCATION FOR INDIAN HEAD FIRST NATIONS OFFICE

Since our last newsletter our band has had several training courses for our band members. These courses are advertised on radio, in the Georgian newspaper and on our local TV channel. The courses were well attended and included Boat Safety, Firearm and Hunter Safety and a First Aid course. If funding becomes available in the future we will again advertise for expressions of interest from our members.

Funding for our summer student program became available again this year and two students were hired for 8 weeks. Their employment took place at the K'taqmkuk Mi'maq Museum in St. George's as this allowed the museum to operate with full time hours for an 8 week period. Both students worked well and on behalf of all other band members I would like to thank them for their hard work. Our students were Stephen Rose and Shane Legge.

The Band also made a financial contribution to our

yearly Pow wow and our summer students were assigned to work with the Pow wow committee during the two day event.

At our last band meeting it was decided to close our office at 143 Main Street in Stephenville; our new location is now 76 Main Street in Stephenville Crossing. The mailing address is P.O. Box 673 Stephenville Crossing, NL A0N 2C0 and the office phone number is now 646-2324, if you get the answering machine please leave a message and your call will be returned as quickly as possible.

Our annual AGA will be held on September 26, 2010 in Stephenville Crossing at the Parish Hall on Hospital Road, the meeting will begin at 2 pm and all members are asked to attend.

On behalf of our board of directors I hope you have a good summer and the Fall will continue with more of the same.

~ Chief, Gerard Alexander



QALIPU MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION BAND ENROLMENT COMMITTEE

As on previous occasions, on behalf of the Enrolment Committee, I am pleased to have the opportunity to report on the Enrolment progress through the Mi'kmaq News.

Applications continue to arrive at the Enrolment Offices but at a reduced rate since November 30, 2009. Since December 2009 we have received approximately 1,694 applications. This means that we still have approximately 9,238 applications remaining to be determined. Total applications received at each office to September 3, 2010 is as follows:

Bay of Islands	14,099
Bay St. George	10,181
Central	2,466
Total	26,746

Current to September 9, 2010 the Enrolment Committee has determined 6102 applications since the beginning of the Second Stage (February 1, 2010):

Approved	6,008
Rejected	90
Added/Appeal	32
Other (Deceased)	4

The Committee is currently working on applications received in July and August 2009 from all regional offices.

The Parties to the Agreement announced on February 1, 2010 "an accelerated process for updating the membership list for the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation band" which provided "for the amendment of the membership list every four months after the Band is established, until the backlog of applications has been addressed".

As a result of this process, as of this date, an additional 6,040 members (approved and added on appeal) are now ready to be added to the Founders List on the Band's formation. This means that current to today there are 17,180 persons eligible to be members of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band.

The Enrolment Committee continues its work. We anticipate that we will determine between 8,000 and 10,000 applications for the year ending January 30, 2011 (February 1, 2010 - January 30, 2011).

Tom Rideout, Chair; Enrolment Committee

ABORIGINAL FISHERIES STRATEGY



AFS Guardians removing salmon from a 75 foot net removed from Ragged Harbour)

In the 2010/2011 season twelve FNI River Guardians patrolled a number of water sheds in the Gander River and Bay St. George area. Thus far in the season the guardians have observed and confronted a number of infractions of the Fisheries Act ranging from illegal netting and retention of large salmon; to use of barbed hooks. The AFS Guardians concluded a successful season as of Friday, the 17th of September, and now are able to continue to patrol the rivers while conducting field work for several research projects acquired and facilitated by MAMKA.

~ Andrew Oxford, Coordinator AFS





Labour Force Strategy

In 2005, the FNI conducted an organizational review; one of the items that was recommended to assist the members was a Labour Force Strategy; the FNI are currently undertaking this task. The FNI has recently hired 3 individuals to conduct a survey to aid the Labour Force Strategy in terms of accurately determining the levels of education, training and literacy of its members. This information will provide the FNI with a comprehensive understanding of the human resource capacity of the Mi'kmaq population in NL. This information will also be crucial in terms of providing potential industries and employers with accurate and timely information on the skills and abilities of the local work force. Included in this newsletter is a hard copy of survey that is currently being conducted by the 3 individuals via telephone. It is realized that some individuals would prefer to answer these questions themselves and mail the survey back to the FNI. Please feel free to do so or if you have not received a phone call, please call the regional representative listed. This survey should include all individuals in your household 18 yrs of age and older. Currently the FNI only has access to the FNI membership contact information, however if you would like to pass this survey on to individuals that has received a letter confirming eligibility for registration into the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band, those individuals can also participate into the survey.

To return completed surveys, or to take part in a survey, please see the contact information below for the staff in your area:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY MAMKA-WEST (FNI)

MAMKA-West regularly looks for skilled workers to help with our projects. If you would be interested in being placed in a pool of candidates to work on a MAMKA-West projects (project lengths run from weeks to months) please send us a resume highlighting your skills. The skills we are interested in can be related to (but not limited to) science research, youth education, fish harvesting, community engagement, natural resources, media production, traditional knowledge (arts, practices, resource use), and boat operations.

Send resumes to: MAMKA-West Resumes, P.O. Box 956, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J3



Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Western Health is committed to a Primary Health Care approach to care in the Bay St. George area. There are five principles of Primary Health Care that are meant to improve the health outcomes of our residents and communities. One of these principles is community involvement in the promotion of health and well being. We hope to reach this goal by forming a Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

The purpose of this committee is to provide an opportunity for community representatives to work with a Primary Health Care team to assist in planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives to improve the overall health and well being of their communities. The CAC will be comprised of community members representing towns, churches, volunteers, youth, senior groups and other agencies. This committee will be working on improving the health status of their area by supporting Western Health staff in identifying and participating in opportunities for health and well being initiatives.

We are currently recruiting members for a CAC in the Bay St. George area. Anyone interested in becoming a member is asked to please contact Danielle Shea, Primary Health Care Manager at (709) 646-3727 or danielleshea@westernhealth.nl.ca.



Preparing the Healers of Tomorrow

The Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland has launched a program, the Aboriginal Health Initiative, to encourage students of Aboriginal ancestry to choose a career in medicine. The initiative focuses on students from First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities primarily in Newfoundland and Labrador. A component of the initiative is to reserve two seats in the Faculty of Medicine for successful candidates. A pre-med orientation program and a mentoring system are currently being offered to help Aboriginal students take the initial steps to fulfill their goal of being admitted into Memorial University as a medical student. Other support programs such as a Pre-Med Summer Institute and the Faculty Advisory Program for Aboriginal Medical Students are currently being developed. More details about the initiative are now available on our Website: www.med.mun.ca/AHI/home.aspx

For more information please contact Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, coordinator of the program, at carolyn.sturge@med.mun.ca.

FNI/RCMP SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM



The FNI/RCMP program was a success again this past summer, a total of nine youth from the Central, Bay of Islands and Bay St. George took part in the program. These youth use this opportunity to get insight into the workings of the RCMP and to decide if this is a career they wish to pursue. This program has had a long standing success rate and the FNI is very fortunate to be able to deliver this program to our youth.

We extend a sincere thankto the RCMP and all those connected with this program for your hard work, is what makes this program a success.

Top row from left: Scott Fleming, Chuck MacDonald, Tyler Neilson, Second row from top at left: Kyle Spencer, Kelsey Collier, third row from top at left; Desiree Foote, Kaitlin Garnier, bottom row from left; Asst. Commissioner W.A.Smith, Commanding Officer "B" Division, Vonnita Hepditch, Erica Hicks.



FLAT BAY INDIAN BAND UPDATE

Since July of 2009 The Flat Bay Mi'kmaq Band has completed the following projects:

For 31 weeks, we hired a "Community Assistant" through the Career Focus program of Service Canada. For 8 weeks in 2009 we hired a Student Summer project, funded by Service Canada. For 8 weeks in the Summer of 2009, The Federation of Newfoundland Indians, (FNI) Youth AHRDA program. For 8 weeks, in the Summer 2009, we hired a Proposal Writer under the SWASP Summer Student funded, by the Community Services Council Newfoundland and Labrador. For 29 weeks in 2009-2010 we partnered with the St. George's Indian Band and Mi'kmaq Women's Association in the "Sound of Our Own Drum" project, a Job Creation Partnership program. For 11 weeks in 2009-2010, we completed phase 2 of the Flat Bay Big Pond Enhancement project, sponsored by the Community Enhancement NL. In 2009-2010, Chief Liz LaSaga delivered 9 Capacity Building Workshops, sponsored by Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, to the St. George's Indian Band. Chief Liz LaSaga delivered 7 Capacity Building Workshops, sponsored by Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, to the Flat Bay Indian Band. In 2010 for 26 weeks, the band office was renovated by sponsorship of the Job Creation Partnership project, of the NL Labor Market & Development Agreement.

For 20 weeks in 2010, we delivered "Lnuşgwaq Segwa't Virtual Violence Prevention Initiative," funded by the Women's Policy Office, NL. For 72 weeks, we have pending "The Living Circle," a partnership with the College of the North Atlantic, funded by Service Canada Essential Literacy Funding.

In 2010 we have pending a 30 week, "Financial and Administrative Assistant," under Career Focus, funded by Service Canada. In July 2010 we delivered 5 cultural workshops in, "Passing On Traditions," funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. For 8 weeks during the summer of 2010 we delivered "Captive Expression of the Flat Bay Mi'kmaq," sponsored by the FNI and Service Canada. For 8 weeks, summer 2010, we delivered the "Mi'kmaq Youth Mentorship Program," funded by Conservation Corps NL.

The band is also working on a detailed band website which will be available in the very near future. We also began the creation of a "Traditional Wellness Centre" in the band office. In the spring of 2010, the band also provided a number of citizens with short training courses funded by the FNI. We hosted the 4th Annual Mi'kmaq Powwow July 16th to 19th, 2010. Our local "Ewipkek Drum Group" meets every Monday from 6-7:30 at the Community Centre in Flat Bay. We have also lobbied for improved roads and water development for the Flat Bay area, assisted with Qalipu registration, aboriginal politics, membership and other administration. We have hosted a variety of presentations, focus groups and smaller projects. So much more, not mentioned here! A number of proposals are also in the works at this time and will be featured next year!

If you would like to know more about the programs we have offered or about our band activities, please feel free to call Marley Kendall, Administrative Assistant, at 647-1370.

~ Chief, Liz Lasaga

ST. GEORGE'S BAND UPDATE AND AGA

St. George's Indian Band AGA will be held Sunday November 14, 2010 at the Museum in St. George's at 2:00 pm. All members are encouraged to come to the meeting to get up to date information on the band and the events that have been ongoing.

This past summer the K'taqmkuk Mi'kmaq Museum was once again open for tourists from the end of June until the end of August. The St. George's Indian Band was able to hire two youths from the Band to work in the Museum and the band was fortunate enough that Indian Head First Nations assigned their two students to work in the Museum along with the St. George's Bands

students. All four students did a great job and were very efficient at their job this summer. There was great feedback from the tourists and the band looks forward to more visitors next season.

The St. George's Indian Band would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief and members of Indian Head First Nation for their support with the summer program at the Museum, with their students, in addition to the two that the St. George's band hired the Museum was able to be open 7 days a week for 8 weeks.

~ Chief Karen White

Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS)

The Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) which the FNI has will sunset on September 30, 2010 and on October 1, 2010 a new program will take it's place; the Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS). The FNI is pleased to announce that the organization has been approved for an ASETS program. This program, as was the AHRDA program, is a Labour Market Program. However there are some differences in the program, the major difference being the AHRDA program was Individual focused -the ASETS is demand driven linked to employers within the FNI Strategic Business plan (which has been based on the future employment demands). The three pillars of the strategy are:

- supporting demand-driven skills development,
- fostering partnerships with the private sector and the provinces and territories, and
- placing emphasis on accountability and results.

As we move into the ASETS program we are pleased to inform all the individuals who are currently approved under the AHRDA program the duration of your contracts will be extended. Having said this, once all of the AHRDA clients are transferred to ASETS the training funds for this calendar year have been exhausted. We encourage individuals to continue to apply for the January 15, 2011 deadline because funds do free up if a student quits or is terminated. For those individuals that has applied for funding in the July 15th, 2010 deadline and did not receive approval or review because lack of funds, you will be first priority for consideration as funds become available, if you keep your file updated with marks after each semester.



"How to Apply for Jobs in the Federal Public Service"

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) has made arrangements with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to conduct half-day seminars, for FNI members, on "How to Apply for Jobs in the Federal Public Service". We are tentatively planning sessions the week of October 18, 2010 in Stephenville, Corner Brook and Grand Falls. Each session can accommodate up to 16 people.

If you are interested in attending a session in one of these locations, please contact Bernie Hanlon, Aboriginal Client Relations Officer at 1-877-489-6770 no later than September 30, 2010.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Drug & Alcohol Awareness Project Educator

This position is open to all Members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (please outline with what band council you have affiliation). To qualify for this position you must have a minimum of a Community Studies or Business Administration diploma. A copy of your diploma must be attached to your resume.

This project is research and promotional in scope. The successful applicant will research the current resources available to aboriginal people with Drug & Alcohol problems and provide culturally appropriate educational materials to the community and homes. A meeting with each the FNI band council will take place with the Educator as the lead presenter. Location of employment will depend on the person that is hired for this position.

This position is classified as Casual employment. \$700 per week for 10 weeks.

Deadline for applications is October 14th, 2010 @ 4:00pm mailing address is:

Federation of Newfoundland Indians P.O. Box 956, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J3.

We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



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MI'KMAQ NEWS

Contributors:

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

Advertise with us:

We have great rates: (Special rates for FNI members and students).
 \$40.00 half page; \$75.00 full page;
 \$75.00 per hour art services. We have a growing distribution that is currently over 8000.

Please contact us at:

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