

MI'KMAQ NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members, I am certain a great deal of talk in the past couple of months is about the good weather we have been experiencing thus far in our homeland however; just so we all don't get too comfortable keep in mind words of wisdom from our elders who would say, "don't throw your mittens away yet".

I would assume by now most if not all of you have heard about the accelerated process option reached between the Government of Canada and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) which I briefly mentioned in the December issue of the Mi'Kmaq News. I indicated that the Federal Government and the FNI was aware of peoples concern about the second timeframe of three years and that both parties had been meeting to discuss options that might be available within the framework of the Agreement to speed up the process rather than have people wait the full three years before being registered as members on the first founders list of the Qalipu First Nation Band (QMFNB). I stated that, " I was confident that a reasonable resolve would be reached". While there was activity within the media relating to the Enrolment process of the QMFNB, I remained silent and would not be party to nonsense discussions. I preferred to wait until Canada and the FNI settled on an agreed process, and then provide you with concrete information. Well after months of working on a process that would be as fair as possible to all who had submitted completed applications for registration up to November 30th, 2009 and to those individuals who were approved up to that date, the following option was agreed to by both parties as stated below in excerpts from the press release.

(From the Press Release Feb. 01/2010)

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Brendan Sheppard, President of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI), today announced an accelerated process for updating the membership list for the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band to be established in early 2010 for the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland.

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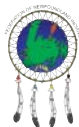
**IMPORTANT
UPDATE ON
REGISTRATION
PROCESS!!!**

**HEALTH TRANSITION
REPORT CARD!**

BAND UPDATES

THIS ISSUE

1. President's Message
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**Federation of
Newfoundland
Indians**



Today's announcement ensures the creation of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band will not be delayed and provides for the amendment of the membership list every four months after the Band is established, until the backlog of applications has been addressed. The date of the first Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band election will also be extended to permit those added to the Band list under this process the opportunity to run for office and vote in the first election.

November 30, 2009 marked the conclusion of the first stage of the enrolment process held under the Agreement for the Recognition of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band. This historic process received overwhelming support and the uptake among the Mi'kmaq population was significantly higher than expected. As of November 30, 2009, nearly 26,000 applications had been received and approximately 11,000 had been approved for the initial members list by the Enrolment Committee, chaired by Mr. Tom Rideout.

As of January 29th, The Enrolment Committee has reported that they have completed the first founders list in the manner prescribe in the agreement. The Enrolment Committee will continue to review applications, therefore within a short period of time responses to application will be sent out to applicants. Late summer the current founders list will be amended to include all individuals who have received an acceptance letter from the Chair up to that time and likewise for others every four months thereafter. I believe this accelerated process truly demonstrates the sincere concern FNI and Canada has for the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland, any other process that would cause further delays is certainly not in the best interest of our people.

In conclusion I would like to commend the enrolment chair, Mr. Tom Rideout, the Enrolment Committee, Laetitia MacDonald, Marilyn Bruce, Susan Kennedy and Aidan Moores; the Enrolment Clerks, Violet Dawson, Shelia LaSaga, and Charmaine Bath; INAC associates, Lori Horton and Andy Dorthy and all administrative Assistants associated with the Enrolment process for their outstanding effort over the past fourteen months to accomplish the goal of submitting the membership list to form the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band.

~ Brendan Sheppard, FNI President

Happy New Year from Indian Head First Nations

The executive hope that all members experienced a good Christmas season and your New Year has continued that way.

Our first scheduled band meeting of the New Year is scheduled in Stephenville on Monday, February 8, 2010 at the Seniors Club on Queen Street. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Please note that all members are encouraged to attend.

Since September, our secretarial position has been done by one of our directors, Delores Gallant. Thanks to Delores for performing this function. The position of secretary is now being filled by Kim Butler, thanks to Kim for coming on board.

To all our members that have received letters to the Qalipu Band. Congratulations. To our members who have their files in to be read, the process is continuing in the New Year and will continue for the remaining registration period.

A reminder that the new Newfoundland Mi'Kmaq cook book is available to all members at our office, at 143 Main Street, Suite 2, Stephenville or at any band meetings.

~ Chief Gerard Alexander

GLENWOOD MI'KMAQ FIRST NATIONS



Norma Gillingham

Congratulations from the Chief, Councillors and all members of the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation to Norma Gillingham, a member of the band, who was selected to work with security at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Norma was chosen from a great number of applications, and we are sure that being a person with a lot of preservation and determination, helped her to be one of the selected workers by the Olympic Committee.

With so many food banks serving people in small towns and rural areas, the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation during Christmas, took part in a food drive to help and provide food to some of the unfortunate people in and around the surrounding area, by placing a food box in the our office and donating \$100.00 to this worthwhile cause. We would like to thank

everyone who helped make this a success.

A recognition of services took place at the band office on December 22, 2009, when the Chief Marie Vaters made a presentation to Mr. Tony John on behalf of Vice Chief, councillors and all the members of the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation, for his services to the band for the last 35 years. Tony was a very determined and hard worker, who was very passionate about his culture. He later resigned from his position as Chief and moved on to other ventures. Tony's involvement and input with the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation will be greatly missed. Tony, you are wished nothing but the best on your journey.

WELA'LIEG (Thanks)

~ Chief Marie Vaters



Tony John, Audrey Stanford, and Chief Marie Vaters.

MAMKA MARINE EDUCATION YOUTH SESSIONS

MAMKA is currently planning free youth sessions for March 6th or 7th in Central, NL and March 13th and/or 14th in Western, NL. The sessions will be focused on engaging youth in aquatic/marine resources that are culturally important to the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland. Elders and resource users will be present at the sessions to share stories and knowledge about the resources. This is a great opportunity for youth to learn about culturally important aquatic and marine resources in Newfoundland. If you have any questions or are interested in attending one of the sessions please feel free to contact Roger Gallant. More information will be made available on the www.MAMKA.ca website under the PROJECTS page.

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ELMASTOGEOG FIRST NATIONS



Picture: Kevin Barnes (Chief), Annie Randell (FNI, General Manager), Brendan Sheppard (FNI, President) and Ross Companion (Vice-Chief).

Pictured above is Chief Kevin Barnes, General Manager of the FNI Annie Randell, President Brendan Sheppard, and Vice Chief Ross Companion presenting both Brendan and Annie with vests made by the Elmastogeog First Nation band in appreciation and recognition for the great work they have done, for not only the Elmastogeog First Nation members, but all the FNI members.



Picture: Kevin Barnes (Chief), Marion Evoy (Town Clerk/Manager), Karen Donahue (Assistant Town Clerk) and Ross Companion (Vice-Chief).

Elmastogeog First Nations making a donation of \$5000.00 to the Town of Humber Arm South/Humber Arm South Youth Recreation Committee. Town of Humber Arm South \$3000.00 for the development of a Museum in the town. Humber Arm South Youth Recreation Committee \$2000.00 for the development of a Fitness Center.

ABORIGINAL PATIENT NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM

Eastern Health (EH) is delighted to inform you about The Aboriginal Patient Navigator Pilot Program. Two Aboriginal Patient Navigators (APN) are employed to assist Aboriginal patients/clients, caregivers and their families to specifically address:

- " Language Barriers
- " Navigate to scheduled appointments within the Health Science Centre, Janeway, Waterford and St. Clare's
- " Social isolation and cultural separation during extended stays

The APNs are based in the Health Science Centre in St. John's. They work in cooperation with the multi-disciplinary teams to support the provision of health care services to aboriginal people.

These positions are a resource for health care providers and Aboriginal patients to ensure care is culturally specific and ethno sensitive. The APNs provide a link between Aboriginal communities and Eastern Healthcare providers. They assist Aboriginal patients to better avail of the health care services and work to improve their satisfaction with the care provided.

This Pilot Project is an initiative put in place through funds from the first Nations Inuit Health, of Health Canada and managed by Eastern Health in partnership with the St. John's Native Friendship Centre.

The FNI Health Transition Project

The FNI Health Transition Project has been an 11 month exploration of the health needs of our members and the accessibility of services available to the Regions.

The FHTP team used a triad, or three separate, methods of data collection:

- Household questionnaires
- Community meetings
- Service Provider focus groups

The use of questionnaires was very successful. The total number sent out was 7265 with a total return of 2121. The percentage of member participation is 29.23%. Male respondents were 943 or 45%. Female respondents were 1133 or 53%. The age grouping was well mixed. The lowest percentage was younger than 25 years of age at 12.4%. The percentage for 25-45 was 31.9% and for respondents over 45 - 55.2%. These percentages give a good sampling for accuracy purposes.

The Project also allowed for discussion with members regarding their knowledge of services available within their Region. Community meetings were held in each of the 9 Band boundaries. The total number of participants which attended the sessions held from September 8 - 30/09 was 48.

The 3 key areas of concern voiced throughout the Bands are:

- 1) The ability to attract and retain personnel
- 2) Funding for programs
- 3) Communication (between members, physicians, Health Authorities and FNI)

The various Bands also put forward innovative suggestions to approach service accessibility challenges experienced by Members. These suggestions include:

- 1) Training Band members as first responders
- 2) A special needs vehicle within Band boundaries for Elders and disabled members
- 3) Travelling clinics (physicians, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, physiotherapy and laboratory technicians to collect samples)
- 4) FNI (Qalipu) members as active board members for each Health Authority

Service Providers' (ie: health care workers) Focus Groups were also planned. One session was set up and held in Stephenville. The group was composed of nurses and social workers, one of whom was a manager. All participants were receptive to the recognition and adherence to Traditional practices for Aboriginal clients. It was noted, however, adherence to best practice standards of policy and procedure and education of all health care providers in the traditions and rites of Aboriginal people would be necessary.

The FHTP Off-Reserve Mi'kmaq Health Research Project has been successful. The data collected through the survey highlights areas of greatest concern and illustrates a need for change in health delivery to provide more accessible service.

Information gathered through the Band Community Meetings and Service Providers' Focus Group displays both members and the Regional Health Authorities as reliable partners eager to be part of the solution to the challenges faced by the present health care service.

These Challenges will not be resolved overnight but the participation of the members demonstrates their willingness to be actively involved in future change. The data collected through this project allows valid information to be present to decision makers to bring about change.



FLAT BAY RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



The Aboriginal Fishery Guardian Program has come a long way since the mid 1980's when the first co-operative efforts at fisheries management began between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and First Nations People. Later, in 1991-92 DFO began a region-wide training initiative for the program, which now employs several Aboriginal Guardians each season. Geared toward employing Aboriginal people as managers and guardians of rivers throughout the province, the training was designed to parallel DFO's Fishery Officer Career Program. It was based around principles such as providing effective management of the fishery; improving the conservation, management and enhancement of the resource; and, providing a stable, predictable, profitable fishery for the benefit of all Canadians now and for future generations.

In 2009 the program remains relevant. Members of the guardian team based in the Bay St. George Area, Rodney Bennett and Melvin White, demonstrated its success and continued growth as well as the leadership abilities of our men, with a new initiative for Flat Bay Brook, one of the nine main salmon and trout fishing rivers in Western Newfoundland that are included in the Guardian Program, and a place they have come to hold more dearly to their hearts.

Patrolling the river by both day and night Bennett and White remarked that brush was blocking access to the river, making it difficult not only to spot illegal poaching activity, but also making it difficult for anglers to access the river legally. The two approached the St. George's Indian Band with a project in mind: cleaning up the river banks. Collaboratively, with the help of the band, they prepared a proposal outlining three goals: Conservation and protection of the salmon from poachers and greater visibility for Guardians to patrol the river; beautification of the river area for local residents and tourists and, accessibility to the river for anglers. This proposal would go on to be submitted for approval to the Community Enhancement Employment Program, a provincially-funded program that provides funding towards projects that contribute to tourism development, economic development, community/municipal infrastructure, and community services.

Their efforts were rewarded when the facilitators of the Community Enhancement Employment Program said yes to the proposal and granted funding for at least 6 workers for 10 weeks on the river.

In total 9 people were hired and were able to contribute their skills to the success of the project as well as reach the required number of hours for insurable earnings, something that is very important for those who carve out a living on the beautiful island of Newfoundland where work is not always readily available.

To be commended on a job well done are Mark Sheppard, project manager; Greg Young, Pat Muise, Bertha White, Amos Gabriel, Kevin Pye, Cecilia But, Shane Fleming and Daniel Pye as well as Rodney Bennett, Melvin White and the St. George's Indian Band for their initiative.

Why not get out and walk or snowshoe along Flat Bay River and find out for yourself the success of their hard work.



EMPLOYMENT + TRAINING

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING APPLICATIONS FOR SKILLS TRAINING

The FNIET program would like to thank everyone for their applications for training but at this time funds have been exhausted for the current year and applications are not being reviewed for the March 15th deadline.

SERVICES OFFERED BY SERVICE CANADA CENTRES!

- * How to apply for a Social Insurance Number
- * Information on the Canada Pension Plan
- * How to apply for a passport
- * Information on Apprenticeship Incentive Grants
- * Information on Canada Education Saving Grants and Canada Learning Bonds
- * How to submit Records of Employment on the web
- * How to file for Employment Insurance Benefits
- * Information on opportunities to work with the Federal Public Service
- * Information on Canadian Forces and RCMP Recruitment

Please visit the website servicecanada.ca
or Call 1-800- O Canada (1-800-622-6232)



ATTENTION YOUTH

New job search engine to help you search for summer or full time employment can be found at www.job-sinnl.ca Also another great place to look for jobs is through the Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) all information can be found at <http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca/fswep-pfete/index-eng.htm>.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Call for Designated Fisherpersons and Licenses

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians do have an opening for at least one person to obtain the designation to fish a Core Enterprise consisting of ground fish(except lumpfish) area 2J, 3PN, 4RST, lobster (13B), snow crab(queen) and bait licenses. This individual must be a member of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and may have to meet membership criteria established by the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band following the bands formation. Please submit a letter outlining your fishing experience and your membership into the FNI prior to February 26th, 2010.

To date, the FNI has not received funds to purchase any other licenses in the 4R area however, this may change within a very short time frame, therefore; we are placing a call for proposals from interested fisherpersons that are interested in selling Core Licenses in the 4R fishing area. The license must be a core enterprise consisting of Lobster in 13A or 13B. Please submit proposals with the selling price included to the FNI by Feb 26th, 2010 with a copy of your licenses. The FNI will not be purchasing any used fishing gear or equipment

Written submissions to:

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MI'KMAQ NEWS

Contributors:

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

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\$75.00 per hour art services. We have a growing distribution that is currently over 8000.

Please contact us at:

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