

MI'KMAQ NEWS

WINTER 2009



IMPORTANT

See president's message regarding updates on programs and services.

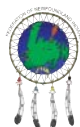
Question and Answers regarding the Enrolment process!

Employment & Training Deadline dates.

Diabetes Program says Goodbye!

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Published By:
**Federation of
 Newfoundland
 Indians**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The season has once again changed and hopefully all are prepared for the winter months and very soon the celebrations of Christmas. It is amazing how quickly time has gone by since the previous Mi'kmaq newsletter.



Left to right: Chief Kevin Barnes, Western Vice President; President Brendan Sheppard, and Terry Mills, Central Vice President; picture at the FNI 34th AGA.

A huge amount of business has taken place over the past months and of course the initiative that received the most attention by all involved was the enrolment process. November 30, 2009 was the deadline of the first stage for review of applications in respect to the registration process with the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band, as of that date there were thousands of applications left to be reviewed, this does not mean that the process for registration is finished. It is important to know that the first founders list and the second founders list are just stages of the agreement in creating the main founders list of the Qalipu Band. This does mean that there will be two Lists. Rather the reference to 'First' and 'Second' was made only to make it clear that there will be two stages in creating the Founders List; the first before the Qalipu Band is formed and the second after it is formed. Once the Qalipu Band is formed, the List will be amended to add more names. A person's status as a Founding Member is no different regardless if you were added from the first list or any list after.

The agreement allows an additional three years from November 30, 2009 for applications that have not been reviewed and for those individuals who have not yet applied. At the end of the second stage all individuals who have been approved by the committee will be recommended to the Minister to become founding members of the Qalipu Band. I realize that many people are concerned about the timeframe of three years, but I would ask that you understand that we have an agreement that has to be carefully implemented.

Continued on next page.....



...Continued from president's message

I will take this opportunity to commend the Enrolment Committee for their efforts with the volume of applications they received; I think they did a tremendous job. A committee made up of three representatives appointed by the FNI and three appointed by the Government of Canada have been meeting to discuss options that might be available within the Agreement to speed up the process rather than have people wait the full three years before being registered. I will keep you updated on these discussions. Some people are of the understanding that the Qalipu Band is already formed, that is not so, this band will hopefully be established early in 2010. There is still a great deal of work to be completed and many decisions to be made as we move a step closer to the establishment of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band.

Aboriginal Housing

The off-reserve aboriginal housing program is moving along well and there has also been a huge response to this initiative and it is an initiative that we are most happy to provide to the FNI members. The FNI strongly encourages all applicants who have been approved to complete their work in the timeframe specified and if there is something that prevents this from happening please notify Mrs. Monique Carroll, (not the inspector) explain the problem and provide a written request for an extension. There is a very good possibility that some funds may be available for new applications to be considered for the spring of 2010.

Diabetes Program

The Federal Government only renewed the current contribution agreement for the Diabetes Program up to November 30, 2009. The FNI and other provincial organizations have lobbied the Minister of Health Canada to extend the program but to date no success; therefore the program has concluded as of November 30, 2009. The FNI diabetes coordinator Barbara Lannon has concluded her activities as of November 27, 2009. The FNI extends the very best to Barbara in her future endeavors.

Communications

I have heard the rumbles that the people are not aware of what is happening with the Enrolment Process, "not enough communication". The FNI have received many positive reviews of the Mi'kmaq News and we continue to provide all our updates through this newsletter. We continue to mail this newsletter to the head of households and post it on our websites for non-members to read. If urgent news has to be relay to you in between regular timing for a newsletter I'm committed to having a special bulletin mailed out.

All other initiatives of the FNI are progressing well and to date; we the executive and board are certainly content with the outcomes being reported on each program.

On behalf of the FNI executive and board of directors, I conclude by wishing each and every one of you, the members, a very Merry Christmas and the best of health for the New Year and years to come.

~Brendan Sheppard - President, FNI



ENROLMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

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. In my last report to the Mi'kmaq News I suggested that it was likely that we would receive in excess of 20,000 applications before the end of this calendar year. That number has been significantly surpassed already. The statistics for each Enrolment Office current to November 30, 2009 is:

Bay of Islands	13,501
Bay St. George	9,931
Central	2,480
 Total	 25,912

Current to November 30, 2009 the Enrolment Committee has considered 11,507 applications from the 3 Regional Offices. Decisions taken are:

Approved	11,012
Rejected	403
Deferred	88
Added/Appeal	57
Other (Deceased)	4

All approved, rejected and added /appeal letters have been mailed to the applicants.

The Agreement's first deadline has now passed. The First Stage of the Enrolment process concluded on November 30th. When the Agreement was signed the FNI membership stood at 10,498 members. In order for the Qalipu Band to be formed 5,249 of those members would have had to apply and be approved to be on the First Founders List. It is noted that twice the number of people on the FNI membership list have applied to be members of the Qalipu Band and it is gratifying to report that 11,069 of those applicants have been approved (or added on Appeal) and will comprise the First Founders List.

We have made every effort to deal with all applications fairly and in the order in which they were submitted. To that end, all three offices were advised to transfer applications to the Enrolment Committee in the order in which they were received at those offices. While there may have been some oversights to that instruction, it was, for the most part, followed.

We also attempted to treat each office equally in determining applications. The committee developed a self-imposed rule and as a result we were able to complete all applications submitted to us by the Bay of Islands and Bay St. George offices to the end of February, 2009. In both cases we began consideration of March applications but were not able to finish all March applications before November 30th. For the Central office, we were able to complete all applications submitted to the end of March, 2009.

We know we weren't perfect. We acknowledge that mistakes were made. But we made every effort to be fair to all applicants. To the extent that we succeeded we are humbled; to the extent that we failed we





~ Enrolment Committee report continued...

apologize. I recognize the tremendous effort and support that the Enrolment Committee received from our staff in helping us deal with the unexpected number of applications. I thank each of them for their efforts. The four Members of the Enrolment Committee (the two Canada representatives and the two FNI representatives) were unselfish in their dedication in getting the maximum number of applications possible reviewed by November 30th. These Members worked evenings and weekends when necessary and it was that kind of effort that allowed us to review more applications in 12 months than we were originally expected to review in four years. A great effort, indeed!

The Second Stage of the Enrolment Process will begin shortly and as currently provided for in the Agreement will carry on for a further 3-year period.

The Enrolment Committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~Tom Rideout; Chair

Exploits Native Women's Association Annual Elder's Feast

The Exploits Native Women's Association held another successful Elder's Feast on Saturday, November 28, 2009. Marie Eastman, President of the Exploits Native Women's Association, greeted the guests and she thanked there group for all their help throughout the year. She then asked Elder, Louie Barker, to say grace. One hundred and forty six quests were seated to a beautiful hot roast beef dinner served by Doreen's Catering.

After dinner was served, the Exploits Native Drummers and Singers did a smudge and invited everyone to join the drummers and singers sang the Honour Song and the Feast Song.

ENWA President Marie Eastman along with several members of the association and the junior drummers presented each Elder with a gift along with one for their guest.

Chief Nellie Power from Sple'tk First Nation thanked the board and the staff for being there for her throughout the year. She was glad once again that the ENWA were able to provide such a beautiful dinner. She then presented each Elder with a ham on behalf of the Band.

Both Marie and Nellie presented Bernie Hanlon with a gift in appreciation for her help throughout the year. Marie then presented a framed bear print by renowned photographer, Eric Myher, to our Chief Nellie Power on behalf of the ENWA. Then Bernie Hanlon presented another print by Eric to Marie Eastman on behalf of the Women's Association.

Terry Mills, Mary Gillis and Bernie Hanlon presented an electric fire place to Chief Nellie Power on behalf of the band in recognition of her 21 years of service as Chief. The main door prize, another bear print by Eric Myher, was won by Irvan Manuel from Norris Arm.

Ed Power, Joe Kennedy, Howard Barnes, Weldon Drodge, Gerard Whelan, Ron Kelly, Mike Murray and Francis Newhook entertained the Elders with traditional music. Some of the Elder's then stepped up to the dance floor.

The evening was a huge success with many Elders being overwhelmed by the food; the entertainment and the gifts. Any person from Sple'tk First Nation Band who wants to be on the Exploits Native Women's Association email list to please send their email address to bernie@nf.aibn.com.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year were extended to each and every person there with the hopes of seeing them there next year.

~ Bernie Hanlon



Q & A: ENROLLMENT PROCESS

1) *How many Founding Members Lists will there be for the Qalipu Band?*

There will be only one List. The 23 June 2008 Agreement made between the FNI and the Government of Canada does make reference to a First and Second Founding Members List. This does mean that there will be two Lists. Rather the reference to 'First' and 'Second' was made only to make it clear that there will be two stages in creating the List; the first before the Qalipu Band is formed and the second after it is formed. Once the Qalipu Band is formed, the List will be amended to add more names. A person's status as a Founding Member is the same regardless if they were added on the first list or afterwards.

2) *Will I be on the First Founding Members List if my application was in before November 30th?*

Not necessarily. Under the terms of the Agreement made between the FNI and Canada, only those Applicants considered by the Enrolment Committee prior to November 30th and have received notification from the Chair that they have met the eligibility requirements will be recommended for inclusion on the First Founding Members List.

3) *Why wasn't my application dealt with?*

Time was not available. The Enrolment Committee was formed on the basis that an estimated 12,000 applications would be received over a four year period. The number of applications received by the Enrolment Committee prior to November 30th is more than double that number.

4) *When will the Enrolment Committee deal with my application?*

The Enrolment Committee has reported that it reviews applications by region (i.e. Bay of Islands, Bay St. George and Central) on a rotating basis with the applications in each region reviewed in the order in which they were received. During the months of December and January the committee will be occupied with finalizing first founding list for submission to Canada and the FNI. As soon as the list is submitted the committee will begin reviewing applications again.

5) *Why wasn't the number of applications foreseen?*

During negotiations on the Agreement, the FNI funded a study by an independent consultant to estimate the number of applications the Enrolment Committee could receive from FNI members and members of their extended families, including those living outside Newfoundland and Labrador. That study estimated between 10,000 - 12,000 potential applicants, not all of whom would necessarily apply within the first year of applications becoming available. At the time another sizable aboriginal organization on the Island of Newfoundland indicated that it would not participate in the process and instead proceeded with its existing Court case against Canada. That organization later reversed that decision and recommended that its members participate in the process negotiated by the FNI. No doubt that this has contributed to the increase in the number of applications received by the Enrolment Committee.





Questions Continued...

6) *Can more people be hired to deal with the backlog?*

More staff than originally contemplated was hired to assist the Enrolment Committee so as to free up as much time as possible to review applications. This has allowed the Enrolment Committee to review more applications than originally contemplated. The actual review of the applications however has to be done by the Enrolment Committee members - there are five - the Chair, two Mi'kmaq representatives and two representatives appointed by the Government of Canada. It is not possible to expand that Committee under the Agreement.

7) *Will I be eligible to go on the First Founding Members List if the Enrolment Committee approves my application after November 30th?*

Under the framework of the Agreement, you would not be eligible to go on the First Founding Members List. The Agreement provides for a Second Founding Members List that is to be submitted by the Enrolment Committee to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in three years. However; the Government of Canada and the FNI are working together to see how we can speed up the process of adding more names to the Founding Members List prior to the three year period.

8) *Will I be a member of the Qalipu Band if the Enrolment Committee recommends that my name be added to the Second Founding Members List?*

If you are recommended for the Second Founding Members List, you will become a member of the Qalipu Band once the federal Cabinet approves adding those names to the Founding Members List.

9) *Will I be able to obtain benefits if I am not on the First Founding Members List but I receive my letter stating that Enrolment Committee has recommended that I be added to the Second Founding Members List?*

You would not be able to access benefits solely available to Band members such as non-insured health benefits but you might be eligible for other programs and services offered to aboriginal people by the Government of Canada and/or the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, such as the current Employment and Training program delivered by the FNI.

10) *Why isn't the completion of the First Founding Members List being delayed until all applications filed before November 30th are dealt with?*

First extending the time for the completion and submission of the First Founding Members List still might not guarantee that all applications filed before November 30th would be dealt with by the new time limit. Second and more importantly the Agreement contemplates the formation of the Qalipu Band following the submission of the First Founding Members List to the FNI and Canada. Delaying the First Founding Member's List will delay the timetable for the Band's formation. In that time, unforeseen issues and events may affect the federal Cabinet's timetable for passing the Order creating the Band.

Questions Continued...

11) *What are the FNI and Canada doing to try to find a way to speed up the process for adding more names to the Qalipu Band's membership list?*

A committee made up of three representatives appointed by the FNI and three appointed by the Government of Canada have been meeting to discuss options that might be available within the framework of the Agreement.

RCMP Aboriginal Pre-Cadet Training Program

We are always having Career Presentations/Examinations for Entrance into the RCMP monthly. We are promoting applications for the Aboriginal Pre-Cadet Training Program at the following link <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/recruiting-recrutement/aboriginal-autochtone/aboriginal-autochtone-atpt-pfaa-eng.htm>

Now accepting applications for the 2010 session! The 2010 APTP session runs from May 3rd, 2010 through to August 27th, 2010.

Positions are limited to 32 candidates so apply early so you don't miss out on discovering a career nowhere near ordinary. Deadline for application is January 31st, 2010.

****Please note this program is administered through the RCMP it is not the FNI Summer RCMP program, please check your local papers in February for information regarding the FNI RCMP program.*



ST. GEORGE'S INDIAN BAND HOST ELDER'S FEAST



Elders who attended the the Feast came from as far as Corner Brook and Heatherton to attend our feast.



Cooks for the Elders Feast Mark Bennett and Chief Gerard Alexander.

The St. George's Indian Band held its Christmas Elders Feast at the Canadian Legion, St. George's on Saturday December 5. Over 80 elders attended, the most we have had in our 6 years of hosting this event. This years feast was prepared by Mark Bennett, with help from the directors and youth volunteers. We also appreciated the help of Chief Gerard Alexander of Indian Head First Nations. A delicious meal was served, prizes given out and afterward music was provided by Bill's Disco.

Chief Karen White and the board of directors: Marlene Farrell, Mary Garnier, Shelley Garnier, June Galpin, Violet Dawson, Yvonne MacDonald, Howard Skinner and Melvin White would like to take this opportunity to wish all band members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2010.

~ Chief Karen White



Memorial University, Faculty of Medicine Hosts First Pre-Med Orientation Program for Indigenous Students

On October 23rd and 24th seven Indigenous students interested in becoming physicians had an opportunity to learn more about what it is like to be a medical school student. Sessions over the two days held at Memorial University in St. John's ranged from presentations by a current medical student on how to prepare for the application and by faculty members on steps to apply for admission and what to expect as medical candidates. Sessions also included things to think about like scholarship and funding sources and as well as managing debt load, a presentation offered by a certified financial planner. Participants learned about additional support provided to them through such agencies as the Native Liaison Office at Memorial University and the Native Friendship Centre. Perhaps the highlight of the two-day program for the participants (the mentees) was the chance to meet their perspective mentors (current medical students) and to socialize with them. To date, fifteen medical students have volunteered to take on the mentorship role. The exchange between the two groups was most positive. A mentee wrote in the program evaluation that one of the strengths of the sessions was "having actual medical students here to provide input, experiences, stories and to give us hope". Likewise, a mentor stated that "directly meeting and socializing with the mentees" was one of the highlights of the event. Since the program, mentor-mentee links have been established and communication between the two has already started.

The Orientation Program, earmarked as an ongoing annual event, is sponsored by the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative funded by Health Canada. *The main goal of the initiative is to increase the number of Indigenous candidates in the Faculty of Medicine. To start, two seats have been specifically reserved for Indigenous students of Newfoundland and Labrador for the application year 2010-2011.* Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, program coordinator, states that "these two seats are the beginning. The intent is that over time as the interest increases among the Indigenous youth of the province more seats will be designated for them". Dr. Sturge Sparkes also states that while seven were available to attend the orientation program, there are actually thirteen who wish to be a part of it. She continues that given that this initiative has only been in existence for a year, the degree of response is phenomenal. "No one can say that students in our province belonging to Indigenous communities have not thought about medicine as a possible career path".

~ Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes

The FNI Health Transition Project (FHTP)

The FNI Health Transition Project (FHTP) has begun its final stage. All information has been collected and now the organization of the final reports begins.

The final report is expected to be completed by January 8, 2010. A summary of the results of the needs assessment, or Report Card, will be included in the FNI Spring 2010 Newsletter.

The FHTP team would like to thank all members and Councils for their assistance throughout this process. Your participation will make this project a success.

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 Federation of Newfoundland Indians
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 Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J3
 709-634-0989

The Diabetes Program Says Farewell

These past several years have flown by so quickly to a position that I dearly loved doing. I enjoyed my time as the Diabetes Coordinator with the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and met many fascinating people on my travels.

Being able to participate and bring activities to members in the different communities has been eye opening in many ways, not only for me as a Diabetes Coordinator, but also for many of the participants. One example would be the presentations held in the schools on Healthy Nutrition. Seeing the children's faces when I explained to them about their food choices was priceless.

My summer camps were a way of children having fun but being physically active without them realizing. The physical activities with the older members were also very positive.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to promote Diabetes Awareness and Prevention. I have learned a lot not only from the program, but the participants as well.

I wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Pictured from left Nellie Power, student Michael Martin and Barbara Lannon. Donation to "Spruce Wood Academy" in Grand Falls-Windsor of \$500 towards the school breakfast program.



Sugar Free Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

½ cup shortening
3 tablespoons equal (sugar substitute)
1 egg
Several drops of food coloring (optional)
2 ½ cups cake flour
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ cup skim milk
2 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

1. Cream shortening. Add sweetener, egg, and food coloring (if desired); beat well
2. In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients, add the milk, vanilla, and water. Put in flour mixture and stir well.
3. Chill dough 2 to 4 hours
4. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
5. Roll out 1/8 inch thick and cut the cookies into desired shapes. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes.
6. Cool. Store in air tight container

Calories:	104	Protein:	3 g
Sodium:	95 mg	Cholesterol:	9 mg

PORT AU PORT INDIAN BAND ELECTION RESULTS

The Port au Port Indian Band recently held its election and the following make up the executive of the band for the next three years:

Chief Litty MacDonald
Secretary Dianne Stapleton

Vice Chief Tammy Scott
Directors Melinda Campbell, Harold Doucette, Mary O'Quinn

Treasurer Kay Gaudon



GLENWOOD MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION

On November 7, 2009 the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation band held their band council elections; despite poor weather conditions 135 members turned out to vote. The new executive is as follows:

Chief- Marie Vaters **Vice Chief-** Inez (Blundon) Davis **Secretary/Treasurer-** Charmaine Bath
Councillors: Audrey Stanford, Delphine Richards, Donna Stacey, and Byron Jeddore.

The new council look forward to working with all members, and will accept any help and advice that anyone is willing to give to make the Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation band council a place to be proud of. Our first presentation as a new council took place at the peace park in Appleton on November 11, 2009, Remembrance Day made by Mrs. Mary John and Mrs. Audrey Stanford, two elders of our band and whose husbands were war veterans, placed a wreath at the peace park in honor of all war veterans, especially our aboriginal veterans.



ELDERS MARY JOHN AND AUDREY STANFORD LAYING THE WREATHSOMBER WALK - MASTER CORPORAL VICTOR HATCHER ESCORTS (FROM LEFT) ELDERS AUDREY STANFORD, AND MARY JOHN, WHO LAID A WREATH ON BEHALF OF THE GLENWOOD MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION

PROJECTS ON GOING AT THE BAND OFFICE:

There is a Job Creation Program (JCP) through Service Canada where we presently have two band members hired to help with the registration process, and to help band members with updating resumes, answering phone calls, helping with EI claims, photocopying, and other related duties that are required. We encourage all membes to visit our office and to avail of our services if needed. At this time the council would like to take the opportunity to thank the FNI and its executive for all the support this past year and to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

~ Chief Marie Vaters

Indian Head First Nations

The new exective of the Indian Head First Nations was installed at the annual General Assembly held in Stephenville in September 2009. Our new exective are as follows:

Chief Gerard Alexander **Vice Chief** Myron Gallant **Treasurer** Joan Fromm
Directors Louis White , Sharron Bennett, Wayne Rusell, Delores Gallant
Youth Director Sarah Wells

A new office location has been found for our Band, we are now located at 143 Main st Stephenville. Our office is on the second floor Suite #2. The new office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4. Our phone number remains the same 709 643 5215. All Band meetings will be posted in the Georgian, Radio and Community channal. From the Exective of the Indian Head FirstNations we would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all have a healthy and safe holiday season.

~ Chief, Gerard Alexander

EMPLOYMENT + TRAINING

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING APPLICATIONS FOR SKILLS TRAINING

The next deadline for applications is **JANUARY 15, 2010** completed applications must be received by our offices no later than **4:00 pm** on the deadline date; no exceptions will apply. If you would like to submit an application please make sure it is complete and send to either the **St. George's** or the **Grand Falls** office; addresses are below. For more information regarding the Employment and Training program visit www.fni.nf.ca

*Federation of Newfoundland Indians
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5 Church Road, Suite 1
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2A 1Y9*

*Federation of Newfoundland Indians
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SERVICES OFFERED BY SERVICE CANADA CENTRES!

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- * 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)

FNI 34th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 34th Annual General Assembly for the Federation of Newfoundland Indians was held on October 24th and 25th at the Glynmill Inn in Corner Brook with 32 delegates in attendance. The highlight of this AGA was a resolution affecting the organizations future, the following resolution was carried:

On October 24th, the FNI's Annual General Assembly considered the following Resolution to address the future of the FNI following the formation of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band. Due to an expected dramatic decline in revenue to the FNI after the Band's formation and after receiving advice from the FNI's legal counsel that the FNI should be maintained to carry out its obligations under the June 23rd 2008 Agreement that set the terms to create the Band, the AGA adopted this Resolution to limit the FNI's activities to fulfilling its commitments under that Agreement. Pursuant to this Resolution, the FNI's assets will be transferred to the Band and the FNI's affairs will be directed by the Band Council of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band once the Band is formed.

During this assembly all programs were reported on through narrative and financial reports. At this time a number of individuals were recognized for over 15+ years of service, those individuals were:

Brendan Sheppard, President of the FNI
Marie Vaters, Chief of Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation
Nellie Power, Chief of Sple'tk First Nation
Audrey Stanford, Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation
Steve May, Legal Council, FNI



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