

MI'KMAQ NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

Vol.1 No.1

Fall 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mi'Kmaq brother and sisters, I am very pleased and excited about the fact that the FNI has began a newsletter publication, which will reach into individual homes of our membership, hopefully on a quarterly basis. On behalf of the FNI executive, staff and board of directors, I wish to welcome Ms. Bridget Morris of Stephenville Crossing as the communications officer and editor of our newsletter and I wish her all the very best in this relatively new position, within the organization. This publication can be a very effective tool for communicating information and updating happenings from the FNI, band councils and the general membership. I encourage all of you, the members, to participate in providing newsworthy information to Ms. Morris at your convenience. There are many stories that were told by our elders which could be placed in this journal for real interesting and educational reading by all, especially our young children, so let's not let this opportunity slip away. Let's keep the memories of our elders alive through their stories. There are many within our membership who are capable of writing attention-grabbing stories, poems, etc., others who have talent in artwork, and the list goes on. Share your information. I believe this newsletter is some-

thing we can all enjoy and bring to a level where we could be anxiously awaiting the next edition.

The beginning of the new fiscal year brought about encouraging activity as the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) joined with the Hon. Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs, the Hon. Gerry Byrne, M.P., and the Hon. Earnest McLean, provincial minister of Labrador & Aboriginal Affairs, to publicly announce a joint exploratory discussion process. This was the very first time the FNI had received such a positive and supportive response from the provincial government, which the federal government considered a necessity to engage in such a process. The Department of Indian Affairs has taken the FNI file to a new height and appears very serious about their role by appointing the Hon. Marc Lalonde as the lead representative in the exploratory discussions, which concluded in early September 2002.

The FNI executive has focused a great deal of attention to the exploratory discussions which is of the utmost importance to the grass roots people and the best possible hopes for reaching a reasonable settlement without a court process involved. The FNI

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Members of The Newfoundland Native Women Association, along with individuals who helped make the Wampum Belt are shown here with FNI's president Brendan Sheppard. Story on Page 7

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has had the opportunity to visit each band council and make a slide presentation of the 2002 Mi'kmaq Regime to the members and solicit feedback. The band council members present at each of these presentations, which were well advertised, unanimously accepted the 2002 Mi'kmaq Regime. As a follow-up to these presentations, the FNI revisited each band council community accompanied by Mr. Lalonde, who was very interested in seeing the communities and meeting with the chiefs, councils and other band members. Each band council was given the opportunity to speak to Mr. Lalonde, ask questions and make a combination of verbal and written presentations to him.

Since the community visits with Mr. Lalonde, the FNI has been very busy gathering information and making preparations for an additional report to present to him. We hope some of that report will be utilized by him as part of his report to the Hon. Robert Nault. The final meeting of the exploratory process took place September 13th, in Montreal. Mr. Lalonde presented his report to Minister Nault shortly after that date. Minister Nault will advise the FNI of his decision after he has had an opportunity to review the report in detail. The FNI is somewhat optimistic that Mr. Lalonde's report regarding the exploratory discussions will be positive and that Minister Nault will recommend that the FNI and the federal government move to the next stage, which would be a negotiation process. In the meantime, the FNI will continue to administer existing programs in a very fair, impartial and accountable manner and seek additional program funding that will be of benefit to our people.

The court case between the FNI and the crown is still in progress with the next hearing set for November 14th & 15th, 2002 in Halifax, NS. The court case will remain in progress until a more acceptable process for recognition is achieved.

The FNI has been successful in obtaining a funding agreement through Health Canada to continue with a diabetes awareness program. The primary target in this fiscal year is to educate children on diabetes and our coordinator has been very successful to date holding summer camps for the aboriginal children. This fall, the coordinator plans to take her presentations into the schools where the majority of aboriginal children attend in order to keep the information on diabetes active in the minds of our young people, and hopefully they will make the awareness of such a disease a topic of discussion in their homes.

Under the capacity building funds of Aboriginal Representative Opportunities Program (AROP), the FNI has hired a graduate of a communications course sponsored by Mi'kmaq Resources and Development (MRD) under the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) program. This person will be required to develop a quarterly newsletter in order to provide the grass roots people with information on what is happening within the organization. The FNI believes this is one way of insuring information on the organization and band councils reaches into the homes of the members. The success of this newsletter will depend on information not only from the FNI, but also from information being shared by band councils and members.

Once again the FNI has hired a youth coordinator to facilitate activities, communicate with youth organizations within the organization, and to seek available funding programs to assist the youth in personal and group endeavours. The youth coordinator will hopefully entice the aboriginal youth to become more active in their communities and set the stage for growth and development of youth councils.

The RCMP Youth Summer Cadet Program was well attended again this summer, and like always this program sets the stage for many of our aboriginal youth to gain valuable information into the law enforcement aspect and provides them with an excellent opportunity to decide on a career into the regular force. During the past years the FNI has had a large number of the RCMP Youth Summer Cadet Program trainees go on to join the regular force of the RCMP.

The Aboriginal Fisheries Guardian/Monitor program sponsored by DFO was back in operation on June 10 and concluded on September 13, 2002. This program is considered by many to be very effective in the enhancement, conservation and protection of the salmon and trout stocks. The employees have been working with an information-protected schedule, which enables them to be somewhat more effective with their duties. One of the monitors who have been with the FNI Fisheries Strategy Program for the past couple of years has been recently accepted into the RCMP. The FNI will not fill this position until next season.

Other Activities

The FNI conducted a board of directors meeting on May 31, 2002 and completed a two day Annual General Assembly (AGA) June 1st and 2nd. Prior to and after the dates just previously mentioned, I have had the opportunity to attend several of the band council general elections and speak with the members on many issues that concern them. I attended a board meeting of the National Organization, The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples in April, and have met and spoke with members of the executive on several occasions since then. I chaired two meetings of Mi'kmaq Resources and Development, which is an entity of the FNI under the AHRDA dealing with employment and training applications.

The FNI and board of directors took part in a two-day strategic planning workshop, which have assisted the organization map out a strategic plan of operation for the next few years.

I have been in contact with Rick Simon, vice-chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) on several occasions seeking a resolution for a letter of support to be put before their AGA. I have received notification that the AFN assembly has endorsed the resolution.

The everyday activities of the organization, such as meetings with different government department officials, writing interim reports for different programs, financial updates, answering specific calls for information, office visits, etc., keeps a long list of agenda items on the work schedule.

In closing, I am pleased to report that, personally I believe that the FNI has attained a great deal of credibility and respect with both federal and provincial governments, as well as the other agencies with whom we are involved.

DIABETES AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Shelley Garnier, Diabetes Coordinator

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians and Health Canada have joined forces to bring the members of the Federation a Diabetes Awareness and Prevention program. This program has already done a number of good things for its members, such as: assessing the need for such a program, holding seminars dealing with diabetes awareness and prevention, and working with children within the Federation to develop a set of culturally appropriate awareness tools for diabetes education.

The assessment has shown the members of the Federation are very interested in learning techniques to prevent the onset of Type 2 diabetes, and dealing with the affects of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. I am hoping to help the people of the Federation develop new healthy choices, and live healthier lives.

One project, which has been ongoing since April, will see the development of a set of culturally appropriate diabetes educational tools. To accomplish this we set up summer diabetes education camps in the nine band areas. Due to different reasons, such as low enrollment, and failure to attend the camps, only five of these camps went ahead. The summer camps were open to all children of Federation members between the ages of 6-16. The camps focused on teaching the children about the risk of diabetes and nutrition. During the camps the children developed an aboriginal diabetes awareness

calendar, a coloring book relating to health and exercise, and a children's cookbook. The recipes within the cookbook were brought in by the children.

The goal is to have these items printed and distributed to those who attended camp and to the nine band councils. I am hoping that these items can help families understand diabetes and become better aware so they can help deal with it if it happens to them, or to prevent diabetes from happening in the first place. Once the set of aboriginal awareness educational tools are developed they will be put into information boxes along with other diabetes information and games. These information boxes will be distributed to select schools in all nine-band areas.

It is known now that diabetes is an increasing problem among the aboriginal people and the Diabetes Awareness and Prevention program is doing its best to get the proper information out to its members. This is sometimes a slow process, but it is going to be of great importance to the aboriginal people of Newfoundland and Labrador. With your help and interest the diabetes program can be a success and help the aboriginal people of our province in the process.

THE EXPLOITS INDIAN BAND COUNCIL HAS BEEN BUSY

Marc LaLonde, the advisor to the federal government on the FNI status regime, his assistant Mark Davis, and Tracey King, an analyst for policy and planning for the Newfoundland and Labrador government visited the Exploits Indian Band Council in June. They got to see how big the area was and what the band was looking for regarding their Aboriginal rights. Chief Nellie Power gave them a short tour of Wigwam Point, the Salmon Ladder and Eagle's Haven Lodge where they were treated to a traditional feast and dancing. Mr. LaLonde was very impressed with the Band and their accomplishments to date. He noted their devotion to their elders, native dancers and knowledge of their culture.

The Exploits Indian Band Council also had another successful joint Elder's Feast last November. They are currently preparing this year's feast with the Exploits Native Women's Association.

The Exploits Native Dancers participated in National Aboriginal Day at the Mary March Museum on June 21st and then on to Gander Bay on June 22nd. Both days were celebrated with a traditional feast and an honour bestowed to Queen Elizabeth on her Golden Anniversary.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Chief Power at 709-489-8425.

THE YOUTH PROGRAM'S GOALS AND SUCCESSES

Claudette Pardy, Youth Coordinator

As the Youth Coordinator for the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, I am committed to promoting the growth and development of youth educationally, emotionally, physically, and morally. This program will promote a recreational environment for Aboriginal youth to enhance the quality of their lives and obtain their lifestyle goals. I will be working closely and interactively with all Aboriginal youth; enabling them to direct their futures and pursue their dreams.

Throughout the month of August the FNI Youth Program released a newsletter. This newsletter addressed the many opportunities and services available under the program, along with a reminder to "Get Involved & Stay Active as an Aboriginal Youth." A copy of this newsletter was distributed to all Aboriginal youth.

Amanda Stratton is one of the many Aboriginal youths who are creating a future of success and achievement. Amanda is presently enrolled in her second year

of Civil Engineering Technology with the College of the North Atlantic in Corner Brook. Amanda started this program in August 2001 and is expected to receive her diploma in June 2004.

Throughout this program Amanda has shown high levels of achievement. She maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 and with hard work and dedication she plans to keep this GPA. For the school year 2001-2002 Amanda received the Atlantic Accord Career Development Award of \$2000 for her academic excellence. Amanda's education is taking her on a path toward a bright, successful future!

The FNI Youth Program sets forth to address problems affecting Aboriginal youth, to increase participation in all aspects of education, to ensure Aboriginal youth have the capacity to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, to promote all elements of the Mi'kmaq culture, and to increase awareness regarding a range of economic opportunities. It is through the course of participation and the FNI Youth Program these goals will be accomplished.

BEAR CLIFF LODGE BEING ESTABLISHED IN GLENWOOD

The Glenwood Mi'kmaq First Nation is located at Glenwood along Route One of the Trans Canada Highway, approximately 23 km from the town of Gander.

The Glenwood Mi'kmaq has worked very hard over the years with its members to try and seek employment for them. There is an initiative shown by the band in the Cooperative Enforcement Program on the Gander River. This initiative is very positive for the management of salmon, and it shows the benefits of working together to find balanced solutions to difficult issues.

The Mi'kmaq First Nation was issued a license to establish a sport-fishing lodge on the lower Gander River. With financial assistance from Atlantic Canada's Opportunity Agency (ACOA), and the funding they received from the Miawpukek First Nation & the Mi'kmaq Resource Development programs, they started to establish their lodge.

The Mi'kmaq people of Glenwood have been guiding anglers down the Gander River for centuries. Now, they



These beautiful carvings made by Stan Hill and Clyde Drew can be seen at the Bear Cliff Lodge. They will be displayed throughout the lodge along with other aboriginal content.

have a real treat for their clients both old and new - Bear Cliff Lodge!

Bear Cliff Lodge is a fantastic place to stay as the Mi'kmaq guides of Glenwood show you where they fish.

The Gander, as the Gander River is known, has played host to visitors from all over the globe who come to experience the thrill of fighting the legendary Atlantic salmon. Their guides have been living and guiding

on the Gander River for generations. It is not uncommon for your guide to have three generations of guides in his or her family history.

The trip down the Gander River is a memory which you will hold with you for a long time. Drifting on broad stretches of placid river, plunging into the chute with rolling water beneath your keel, and churning through eddies all are part of the trip to and from the lodge.

Success is only something that you put a lot of time into. Since Glenwood has put a lot of time and money into this project, it is looking forward to the opening of the lodge for the fishing season in 2003.

THE CIRCLE

The symbol of the Circle is very highly revered and most prominently used in the Aboriginal world throughout both of the American continents. Its early simplicity in design and yet such a broad application and diversity in meaning and interpretation makes it very easy and useful in demonstrating the connection between man, the world, spiritual forces and eternity. In an Aboriginal function or ceremony the circle plays a major part organizing structure and formation, as well as the conduct management in group activities. As the activities begin to take place, the motion always respects the circular path and movement in the clockwise direction. For instance, when a pipe carrier passes on the pipe to the next person, or when the speaker's symbol begins to move through an assembly of people, the circular direction of the sun's path is respected. Another recognition of the circle is in the construction design of the teepee, the igloo or the wigwam, which is round in shape. Still other observations include the entry and exit path followed by participants in a sweat lodge ceremony, which follows the form of a circle. The earth, the sun, the stars and the planets all interrelate with each other in a circular formation. Time, in Aboriginal terminology, is based on cyclical order and function where there is no end or a beginning, but a recognition of a continuum till eternity. The circle is absolutely indispensable in the Aboriginal environment.

FLAT BAY FOCUSES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For many years the Flat Bay Band has promoted education as the tool required to achieve social/cultural/economic growth. Chief Calvin White and council members are now looking at economic development as a new drive. They will be promoting and assisting people who have skills and desire for entrepreneurship, family business, and small business. Development doesn't have to be in Flat Bay, but ownership will be within Flat Bay residence. The preferred route would be to promote enterprise, however the Band doesn't rule out the possibility

of undertaking or partnering in projects as well. One thing the Band will do is take an active role in job creation.

Flat Bay Represented by Assembly of First Nations

Chief Calvin White is very pleased to be one of the six hundred (600) chiefs across Canada who make up the Assembly of First Nations. Chief White participated with full delegate status at the Assembly recently held on "Kahnawake Mohawk Reserve" in Montreal.

CHECK OUT THE INDIAN HEAD FIRST NATIONS WEBSITE AT:

<http://indianheadfirstnations.150m.com/index.htm>

If anyone has any photos, family histories, or stories that they would like added to the website they can call Linda Wells at 646-2662 or e-mail them to:
lmwells@hotmail.com

ST. GEORGE'S ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Chief Violet Benoit-Dawson, St. George's Indian Band

The St. George's Indian Band held their first ever Aboriginal Day Celebrations on Friday, June 21, 2002. Thirty-five to 40 aboriginal and non-aboriginal people participated in the Sunrise Ceremony, which was held in the historic community of Seal Rocks. Shadowy silhouettes lined the top of Seal Rocks hill at 4 a.m. in order to take part in the ceremony.

Chief Violet Benoit-Dawson, with the assistance of band youth members Holly Muise and Garreth Bennett, led the people in the Sunrise Ceremony. Following it, a delicious breakfast was served at the Royal Canadian Legion in St. George's.

After breakfast, Melvin White, director with the St. George's Indian Band, led 15 people in a hike to the top of Steel Mountain. Traditional Mi'kmaq chants were sung while on the mountain, and the people were delighted to witness a white eagle in flight! The sighting of the eagle was taken as a good omen for the future of Aboriginal people.

In the afternoon, Lisa Atkinson, a member of the Cree Nation, told the story of the Dream Catcher to the people and taught them how to make one of their own. Atkinson generously donated all of the materials for making the Dream Catchers.

A traditional Giveaway Ceremony was held as well, which had adults and children alike very excited. A huge mountain of gifts, which had been donated by members of the St. George's Indian Band, was unveiled. Each participant, beginning with the elders, walked up to the table and selected a gift of his or her choice.

Yes, Aboriginal Day 2002 was well received this year. Next year we will have even more events to celebrate this day to show just how proud we are to be Aboriginal.

The St. George's Indian Band would like to express our appreciation to all of those who made the Aboriginal Day Celebrations a success. A special thank you to Liberal MHA Kevin Aylward's office for their generous contribution of \$500 towards the Aboriginal Celebrations.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Reminder from the St. George's Indian Band that applications for scholarships and bursaries are usually available around the middle of March. Check with Mi'kmaq Resources and Development around this time, and don't waste time as the deadline to have these applications in is usually close to the date they are issued.

The following is the website address for the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation: www.naaf.ca. You can download scholarship applications from this website, and get more information as to what the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation is all about.

- The St. George's Indian Band has membership I.D. cards for sale at \$5 each. Any member of the band interested in purchasing an I.D. card can contact Violet Dawson at 646-2005.
- The Diabetes program is looking for YOUR recipes. They are looking for traditional recipes to put in their cookbook. Please send in your recipes to the Indian Bands or to the Diabetes Coordinator at:

Shelley Garnier
P.O. Box 294
St. George's, NF A0N 1Z0

WELL KNOWN RESIDENT PASSES ON

One of Flat Bay's well known residents, Mr. Stanley Young, has passed away at the age of 78. Stanley was living in Shallop Cove at the time of his passing. He had also spent some time living in Stephenville Crossing. A large number of people attended his funeral mass at St Anne's Church in Flat Bay.

Stanley was a beachcomber and for that he was well known to the Flat Bay aboriginal community and many others. Stanley will be remembered in folk lore heros along with people like the late Moosy Burns.

NATIVE CRAFTWORK EXPRESSES HISTORY OF MI'KMAQ PEOPLE AND CULTURE

The Newfoundland Native Women Association gave a presentation to the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) Board of Directors at the Holiday Inn on September 21, 2002. It was of cultural significance to the Mi'kmaq people, which made the presentation all that much more meaningful.

The president of the Newfoundland Native Women Association, Ms. Dorothy George, gave the board of directors a brief background of how the project originated. Doreen Swyers spoke to the directors about the Wampum belt which was made by many Mi'kmaq people under the direction of an elder Ms. Jessie Alexander (Nee Muise).

The belt represents the plight of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians for the past 30 years in their attempt to obtain federal recognition with the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs on behalf of the Mi'kmaq membership. It reminded us of the struggle of the Mi'kmaq people to get to where we are today and it refreshed the hopes the Mi'kmaq people have for tomorrow.

Ms. Alexander presented Brendan Sheppard, president of the FNI, with the belt. Mr. Sheppard thanked her and all those involved and praised them on their cultural and creative idea displayed in the Wampum Belt.

The belt consisted of aboriginal symbolism to demonstrate aboriginal culture from the beginning of time through today.

Sheppard vowed to keep the belt and preserve it for future generations to come to ensure people can see and understand the Mi'kmaq people's way of life of yesterday and today.



Jessie Alexander presents Brendan Sheppard with a Wampum Belt.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

PROGRAMS & SERVICES PRESENTLY AVAILABLE

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) is undertaking the responsibility to provide employment and training initiatives where circumstances warrant and/or resources are available to enable Mi'kmaq people to obtain and maintain employment. This program began in 1999 and will sunset in 2004. The FNI presently delivers the following programs/services:

Training:

Adult Basic Education, post-secondary education and the last two years of a university degree if the graduate is job-ready upon graduation. Books, tuition, childcare, travel and living allowance maybe available to the applicant.

Employment:

Wage subsidy, self-employment assistance, grad incentive and job creation.

Youth & Disability: The FNI has a limited budget to assist youth and disability clients with innovative ideas of creating employment.

www.fni.nf.ca

For further assistance relating to the programs and services outlined, please do not hesitate to contact one of Employment and Training Aboriginal Client Relations Officers:

Bernadette Hanlon
489-6770

Hayward Young
647-3550

Securing the future for Employment & Training

Over the next four months the FNI will be involved in a Renewal process with Human Resource Development Canada in an attempt to secure another five-year agreement. The FNI has served hundreds of people over the past 3 and a half years and hopefully will have the opportunity of continuing this service in the future. Strength is in numbers, why don't you take a moment to write a support letter on behalf of the Mi'kmaq people, represented by the FNI, and explain the difference the past programming has made to the Mi'kmaq people and how important it is to continue this agreement into the next five years.

Annie M. Randell,
Coordinator of Employment & Training

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The Federation of Newfoundland Indians Board of Directors are seen here attending a meeting at the Holiday Inn.

FISHERY GUARDIAN REPORT

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Number of guardians-11
Number of river monitors-4

Number of guardians in western
Newfoundland-2
Number of river monitors in west-
ern Newfoundland-4
Number of guardians in central
Newfoundland-9
Number of violations detected-10
Number of person's charged-2
Rivers patrolled are as follows:
Harry's River
Flat Bay Brook
Gander River

MI'KMAQ NEWS

We are always looking for event listings, stories, suggestions, poems, ideas, and artwork. So please send them in.

You can send them to:
Bridget Morris
Communications Officer
35 Carolina Avenue
Stephenville, NL
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Phone/Fax: 709 643-4225
bridget@fni.nf.ca.

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