

MI'KMAQ NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

Vol.1 No.3

Summer 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Once again Mother Nature has sent the robin back to our territory as her sign that spring is finally here and soon other miracles of nature will unfold in our presence. On behalf of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians executive, the board of directors and staff, I wish you the members good health always, including pleasure and enjoyment for this precious time of the year with special thoughts for our elders. Gardening has always been a much-loved leisure pursuit for many Mi'Kmaq people and I encourage those of you who are not yet into such a hobby to give it a try and enjoy the gifts that mother Nature has to offer.

In the last edition of Mi'Kmaq news I mentioned that we, the FNI should remain patient and allow some additional time in order for Minister Nault to deal with such an important matter, this situation is still on-going and I remain optimistic that the minister will meet his goal in the near future and submit the FNI's proposal to cabinet. I believe that

justice will be obtained in the end and I encourage you the members, to keep your hopes alive.

On March 24th, 2003 I had an opportunity to appear before members of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs at which time I made a presentation on behalf of the FNI which outlined the injustice done to the Mi'Kmaq people of this land by both levels of government during Confederation in 1949.



Jackie Snook displaying her father's spruce root baskets. Anthony White was spotlighted, during the showcase.

I believe that the presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs was very useful in gaining support for our cause.

I wish to bring to the attention of our members that the Hon. Gerry Byrne and M.P. Bill Matthews are very strong supporters of our plight and are always available to listen and act on issues and concerns that I raise, regarding the FNI. On behalf of the FNI members I thank both those gentlemen for their devoted assistance.

In respect to the court case, progress is being made however a court case is not something that should be openly commented on in detail, other than the fact that it is proceeding with some minor problems along the way which require the attention of the FNI legal representative, the executive and board of directors.

In January 2003, the FNI attended an open forum on the Aboriginal Human Resources Development program in Halifax. The FNI gave a verbal and a power point presentation on the success of this program and how important it is for this program to continue for the Mi'Kmaq of Newfoundland. The presentation was well received by the members of the open forum committee as well as HRDC officials and other participants. As a follow-up, a meeting was attended by the FNI in Ottawa on March 12th & 14th and another in Montreal on May 14th, 15th, and 16th.

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As mentioned in the last issue of Mi'Kmaq News the FNI executive will work aggressively to remain as a successful partner in the next Labour Market Initiative with HRDC. To date I strongly believe we are meeting our goals.

The FNI and the Miawpukek First Nation at Conne River continues to foster a good relationship between each other, which in my view is greatly needed to show the unity that exist among the Mi'Kmaq people of this territory. Sagamaw Misel Joe and I met and have spoken on several occasions throughout the last year or so and in conversation it is always the best interest of our people that tops the agenda. Sagamaw Misel Joe has written letters of support for the FNI to different ministers and other organizations, a sign of cooperation, greatly needed among our people. I have been invited by

Sagamaw Joe to participate as a member on the First Nations Trust Fund Advisory Board and I willingly accepted the offer. The main objective of this organization is, to foster and promote through education, the preservation and growth of the culture, language, history, traditions, beliefs and spirituality of the Mi'Kmaq First Nations among Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans and other interested public. I am hopeful that in the near future the Mi'Kmaq people of Newfoundland will consider choosing one chief to represent all the Mi'Kmaq of Newfoundland at the Grand Council and in other forums where required. The FNI board of directors plan to meet with Sagamaw Joe to further discuss this initiative.

I am hopeful that once again this update report and newsletter will provide some insight for you on the organization.

BOTWOOD MAN RECEIVES AQUACULTURE AWARD



Terry Mills Has been fish farming for almost 19 years now, but the former well experienced commercial diver had a few hurdles to get over before he got the recognition he deserved.

He got the idea for fish farming while he was diving.

He decided to start with scallops but soon realized that he needed another source of income in order to run the day to day business. The growth cycle for scallops was 3-4 years while mussels only had a growth cycle of 18 months. so while he waited for scallops to mature he started with mussels.

Of course bad times are all a part of starting up a business and Mr. Mills was no exception. At one point he lost 2 million scallops over night. The Arctic ice also caused damage, this was trying as he had put all his life savings into the business.

At a point when most people would have given up, Mr. Mills hung on. His love of living in Newfoundland kept him persevering and he was always optimistic about fish farming to help rural newfoundlanders.

His commitment to the industry was rewarded when he was

presented with the first aquaculturist of the year award at the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Industry Association's annual general meeting.

Now Mr. Mills operates two well established businesses on the Island, Thimble Bay farms and Black Gold Incorporated. His farm employs six people with plans to expand to eleven. *Information for this story taken with permission of optipress publishing.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians has recently received calls and visits from some members inquiring about a general application for membership, which has been showing up in their mailboxes from the Mi'Kmaq Alliance. A \$10.00 and \$25.00 fee is required to be submitted with this application. The Federation of Newfoundland Indians would like it's members to know that, there is no cost to become a member of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, all a person needs is documentation which meets the criteria for membership. The Mi'kmaq Alliance is in no way affiliated with the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, they are a separate group who has come on stream in the last year. The Federation of Newfoundland Indians has been around since 1972. Those of you who receive this application take note, it has nothing to do with the Federation Newfoundland Indians.

PATHWAY TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

The Diabetes Awareness and Assessment Initiative has been granted funding from the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Health Canada for 2003-2004, to continue bringing awareness and information to the Federation members to help them fight the progress of Diabetes. We would like to thank Health Canada for their continued support.

We have several programs in development for this year. A resource manual will be developed which will include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of medical clinics, public health nurses, diabetes educators, and dietitians for each Indian band area. These resource manuals along with other diabetes educational tools will be mailed, one to each household, sometime over the next year.

The diabetes program will also be holding information sessions in all band areas for anyone interested in learning more about diabetes prevention. We hope to have on hand individuals who can give information on nutrition, foot

care, and ways to prevent the onset of Type 2 Diabetes. Information sessions will also be held for the Resource Centres and Healthy Baby Clubs in the band areas. Sessions with the youth are planned for the upcoming year as well.

The diabetes program will continue to give the FNI members updates on this program through the FNI newsletters. If you wish any additional information or wish to speak to the diabetes coordinator please feel free to contact:

Shelley Garnier
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St. George's, NL
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Telephone: 709-647-3009 Fax: 709-647-3509
Email: shelly@fni.nf.ca

CRIME PREVENTION FOR YOUTH CONFERENCE

Candace Russell, Youth Coordinator

Hello, my name is Candace Russell and I am pleased to introduce myself to you as your new Youth Coordinator. I am committed to bringing our aboriginal youth the programs and services that they feel are necessary in order for them to reach their highest potential. Our future is the one thing that we can make the most of and I am here to help you be all that you can be. The road to success is right before your eyes; you just have to reach out and grab it!

By incorporating both fun and adventure with education, I hope to make this journey to success an enjoyable learning experience for everyone, including myself. If anyone has any idea, interests or questions concerning any aspect of the aboriginal youth program, feel free to contact me at any time. I will try my best to answer anyone's questions or concerns and I promise that the voice of the youth will be heard. No question or concern will go unnoticed. The future of our culture lies in the hands of our youth and I believe that you are our strongest voice.

I will be in constant contact to fill you in on any upcoming events and opportunities. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future and working with you as a team in order to fulfill all of your hopes and dreams as an aboriginal youth. Remember, the sky is the limit!!

Just a note to also tell you that I am in the process of proceeding with the conference on crime and victimization that will be held in Grand Falls/ Windsor at an unspecified date.

This conference is designed to promote awareness of crime and victimization. The conference will focus on promoting the importance of crime prevention and the significance that social development has on reducing crime. The conference will stress the disadvantages of committing an unlawful act and the price that we must pay as a consequence of our negative actions. The conference is also designed to highlight the many other alternatives that will lead us down the road to success. This workshop is targeted towards youth at risk. If you would like to attend or know of someone that could benefit from this conference, please contact me.

(709) 634 6299
email: candace@fni.nf.ca

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Don't forget, this paper reaches over 4000 people which makes it a great place to advertise and our advertising rates are very reasonable.

If you would like to advertise please contact me at:

(709) 647- 3800
 or email: **michelle@fni.nf.ca**

OUR FIRST EVER ABORIGINAL SHOWCASE

By: Michelle Ploughman

The Aboriginal Showcase, held on May 3, 2003 at the Arts and Culture Centre in Stephenville was an amazing experience for anyone lucky enough to attend.

Everyone who entered was greeted by an outstanding display of art, craft, hooked rugs, baskets, paintings, carvings, woodwork plus so much more. This display was set up in the lobby for people to view. From there everyone was invited to take in the wonderful vocal talent of band members on centre stage.

The showcase was the brain child of chief Calvin White of the Flat Bay Indian Band. Calvin along with the St. George's, Port au Port and Indian Head Bands put together a beautiful one of a kind, cultural evening, which hopefully will become an annual event. The narration for the evening was done by Gordon White while Judy White emceed.

Each band spotlighted a member of significance and gave a history of their band. This was followed by musical performances by several members of each band including Jennifer Dawson, Ginger Bennett and Melinda Campbell. The final performance was a memorable piece by Jacinta Cormier who did a tribute to her Grammy Cormier who once ran Cormier's Hotel. The performance was both hilarious and heartbreaking as she became the different characters of her past and told the story of the happiness and the hardship of their lives. She concluded with her own composition which she wrote thirty years ago for her grandmother, to a standing ovation.

The grand finale was a gathering of all the cast singing "Osiem" and enticing the audience to participate. The show ended with a deserving standing ovation and the audience returned to the lobby to take in the display one last time.



Charlie White with his hand carved walking sticks



Wilson Gaudon's handcrafted items.



Scott Butt's renowned moose antler carvings.

THE DREAMCATCHER

The dream catcher has a special meaning to all Native American tribes. One of the most beautiful stories of Native American legend is that of the dream catcher. Tradition states that dreams, both good and bad float in the night air searching for their destination. A dream catcher, hung in the home, would catch the dreams. The bad dreams, being confused and ill intentioned, would get caught in the web of the dream catcher and would perish in the heat of the morning sun. The good dreams, knowing the right way, easily find their way to the center hole of the dream catcher, work their way down the web catching all the good energies of the stones and other adornments, and finally filter down through the soft feather to the sleeper.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Message from the president continued...

The FNI is currently planning an Economic Development Conference for June 25th & 26th 2003 in Gander. The conference participants will include four (4) individuals from each local band council that has business development ideas, funding agencies and a component of the conference will be a business plan development-training workshop. This will be one among more to come depending on the success obtained once evaluated.

The FNI has a new representative from the Bay St. George area on the Regional Economic Development Board, the aboriginal representative is Chief Laetitia MacDonald of Port au Port who replaces Chief Calvin White of Flat Bay, who just recently served a two-year term.

Michelle Ploughman is now the new communications officer for the FNI; her office is situated in St. George's in the same building as Employment & Training and the Diabetes staff. The communications office phone number has changed it is now 647-3800.

In March 2003, the FNI executive accommodated the request of certain band councils to carry out accountability workshops with Chief and council of each band; this seem to be very useful to most of the people that attended. The FNI provided all band councils with a small amount of funding to carry out local band capacity building activity.

The FNI is currently preparing for the 28th Annual General Assembly (AGA), which will be held on June 07th & 08th at the Mount Peyton Hotel in Grand Falls-Windsor.

The FNI will be sponsoring the third Aboriginal Youth Conference to coincide with the AGA. Each band council will be sending two youth delegates to attend this conference with the hopes of stimulating an interest and participation in local aboriginal youth councils and involvement in the local band council affairs. An election for a new provincial aboriginal youth representative will be part of the agenda.

The FNI have hired Ms. Candace Russell, originally from Stephenville as the new youth coordinator to replace Ms. Claudette Parly who has decided to move to Ontario in search of work more related to her field of certification.

I did an interview with Maureen Gogo, a correspondent for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) regarding the FNI participation in First Nations Governance Act consultations and what the outcome of an agreement with the federal government would mean to our people.

The FNI had a representative attend a workshop in Montreal sponsored by Canadian Heritage to give aboriginal people an opportunity to have input on potential tools for aboriginal people to use in the protection of their historic sites. Once this becomes a reality, I am certain that several of our bands could benefit from such an initiative.

I am hopeful that once again this update report and newsletter will provide some insight for you on the activities of the organization.

A Memory

I wind my way along the main though isolated road, that connects beginning to end, and as I lazily stroll am constantly aware of the warmth and friendliness of the people, seen and unseen, and cannot help but note between the houses, open spaces and fields with tall green grasses and bushes laden with wild ripe berries, offering passers-by temporary as well as lasting taste sensations, encouraging pickers to gather some to take home to satisfy later cravings.

The scent of pure salt-water air is overpowering, the beauty of the moment engulfs my very soul and in my heart of hearts I feel I can see the awesome and omnipotent face of God.

Bill John
Moncton, NB.

PARKS CANADA - EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FUTURE

The Parks Canada Agency is a multi-faceted organization that encompasses more than 244,540 square kilometres. That's almost twice as much land as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island combined! In essence Park Canada's mandate is to protect and present Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment while ensuring ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

The Western Newfoundland & Labrador Field Unit, which manages Gros Morne National Park, Port au Choix National Historic Site, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Red Bay National Historic Site, and works with the Agvituk Historical Society at Hopedale National Historic Site, is a part of a family of 40 National Parks and National Reserves of Canada and 145 National Historic Sites of Canada. We also include Marine Conservation Areas, and we continue to grow. In order to make this system be the best it can be, we need to encourage our leaders of tomorrow - today's youth.

In the next 10 years 2000 current employees throughout Canada can retire. They hold careers in conservation, engineering, architecture and planning, general labour and trades, historical research, interpretation, program management,

office administration and the warden service. These positions will need to be filled by a talented, diverse workforce.

In preparing for the future, what can we offer our Aboriginal youth today? We want you to apply for Young Canada Works competitions, Federal Summer Work Experience positions and internship positions. The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program is an initiative of the Parks Canada Agency specifically designed for Aboriginal employees. The program's goal is to develop a group of Aboriginal leaders within Parks Canada that will be a knowledgeable, skilled network of individuals in a variety of functions and levels in the organization. These individuals will serve as role models, enhancing and enriching Parks heritage by integrating Aboriginal culture within all aspects of our operations. The program's fundamental goal is a long term retention of Aboriginal leaders in the Agency.

For more information check at our website at www.parksCanada.gc.ca or contact our office at (709) 458-2417 and speak with Maggie (Aboriginal Affairs Specialist) or Geraldine (Human Resources Officer). Also visit www.jobs.gc.ca - there's a world of exciting possibilities waiting for you!

LOCAL MAN NAMED MOTHER EARTH GUARDIAN.



The Bay St. George Band Chiefs have recognized the genuine concern that Frank Russell, a Mi'kmaq member of the Indian Head First Nations has demonstrated for Mother Earth and they have collectively agreed to give him the title of, "Mother Earth Guardian". Congratulations Frank, remain alert for Mother Earth.

CHECK OUT THE INDIAN HEAD FIRST NATIONS WEBSITE AT :

<http://www.indianheadfirstnations.com>

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

MOTHER EARTH'S WARNING

Men of greed, you have set out to destroy me taking parts of my body,
Leaving behind just empty cavities
Over cutting my trees,
Poisoning my rivers, ponds and streams
Those are the veins of my body
You are trying to destroy me
If you continue I will destroy you
You can never take from me
What I can take from you
All your material things will be left behind
My empty cavities will be empty no more
I will regenerate, after you are long gone
Take care of me and I will take care of you
This is my final warning
You have seen what I can do

Frank Russell

UNDERSTANDING THE EARLY YEARS

This is a National Research Project in which data is collected on children between the ages of birth to 9 years. This information is then brought back to the communities in workshop form so the group can discuss the results and brain storm on ways to improve our community so our children can be given the opportunity to excel as young adults.

Remember: **"IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD."**

Interested persons may contact Ruby Bennett at 647-3431.

For more info:

Sharon Park,UEY Coordinator

email: tcen@nf.aibn.com **Phone:** (709) 643-5399

or

Mary Barter,UEY Researcher

email: marybarter@yahoo.ca

FISHERY GUARDIAN PROGRAM

The Federation of Newfoundland Indians Aboriginal Fishery Guardian program will commence operations starting June 9, 2003 in the following locations: Bay St. George and Central. In total the project will employ 15 people. The project will continue until September 2003.

Contact info: Calvin Francis (709) 676-2188 or (709) 424-3490. email: calvin@fni.nf.ca

LEARN TO READ

Occasionally the FNI has received applications from individuals that have literacy requirements. The FNI is presently considering hosting a literacy project for such individuals. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in such a project please have the individual contact Bernadette Hanlon at 489-6770 or 1-877-489-6770.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

THE FEDERATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND INDIANS

FNI'S Grad Incentive program places recreational therapist on the road to success

Recreational Therapy may have been the last thing on Todd Martin's mind a few years ago when he was living in Toronto, but today, thanks to the FNI for training and employment programs, it's a big part of his life.

Todd made the move to Corner Brook, NL a little over two years ago when his mom became ill and he took on the role as caregiver. It was her wish to return home, a place Martin left when he was eight years old.

After getting on track with his new life in Corner Brook, Martin enrolled in the therapeutic recreation program at Academy Canada. Martin, who is of Mi'kmaq descent received funding from the FNI. He excelled in his class and received a \$1000 scholarship after his first semester.

Martin who now had experience as a caregiver saw a need for recreational therapy among seniors. After graduation Martin, with the help of Hayward Young, Aboriginal Client Relations Officer with the FNI, secured a partnership



Todd Martin at work at Mountainview estates.

agreement for employment for Martin under the Grad Incentive program with Byron Brake, owner of Mountainview estates. "Martin and the Grad Incentive program offered by the FNI has shed a new light on government programming," says Brake. The Grad Incentive program is offered by the FNI to recent graduates of post secondary education.

"There is definitely a need for recreational therapists, everyone enjoys a little fun and recreation and I enjoy providing it," says Martin.

STATISTICS

During the year of 2002-2003 the FNI have financially assisted individuals to create the following stats.

- * 27 people that were EI eligible have secured employment.
- * 23 people that were not EI eligible have secured employment.
- * 32 youth have secured employment.
- * 3 disabled people have secured employment.

Programs offered by the FNI for aboriginal people

- *Training: ABE, post secondary and University training.
- * Employment: Wage Subsidy full time and seasonal, Grad Incentive program, self-employment assistance and job creation.
- *Youth and Disability: the FNI is also open to investing in innovative ideas of creating employment.

Annie M. Randell

Coordinator of Employment and Training.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CORNER

Did you Know

Section 9:01 of the FNI constitution states that, "Each band Council shall be entitled to have four Voting Members and two Alternate Voting Members who are Band members of that Band Council attend the Corporation's general meeting and vote thereat in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 9:02 There shall be no voting by proxy.

BAY ST. GEORGE SURVEY

The combined Councils of Bay St. George urges the membership to cooperate with the research project which is now on going.

Information collected will enable the Bands to plan the development needs of the members in all areas, such as, education, trades, cultured programs, job creations, etc. The researchers are available to conduct interviews at the members convenience. Your cooperation is important.

The researchers are: Flat Bay -- Allision Perrier; St George's --Judy Ducette; Indian Head First Nations -- Sabrina Pitcher; Port Au Port --Michelle White. You will be contacted by one of these people over the next 10 weeks.

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:

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