

Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada  
**TRIPARTITE FORUM**  
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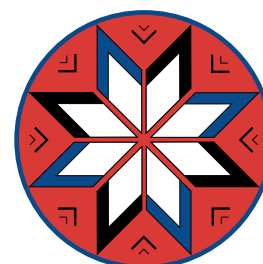
# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2013 - 2014



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# A greeting from the Executive Chair



Another year has come and gone and another year awaits us. As Executive Chair of the Tripartite Forum, I continue to be amazed at the work and progress of the working committees.

Also as Executive Chair, I would like to welcome some new members to the Tripartite Forum including Nova Scotia's newest Premier Stephen McNeil. Premier McNeil is also the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I also wish to welcome recently elected Chiefs from Paqtnkek, Paul "PJ" Prosper, and welcome back Carol Thompson of Bear River.

At meetings during the year, I stressed the importance of the Seven Sacred Teachings; love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth. The teachings are central to our Mi'kmaq culture and I believe that we must keep these values in mind and in heart when we are working for the betterment of our people.

As we end another busy year, I ask you

all to remain committed so the Forum can continue to move with the work ahead. With newly revised work plans, the Tripartite Forum working committees work to make a better place for the Mi'kmaq people and our leaders of tomorrow. I encourage you to become involved, ask questions and to educate yourself about the work of the Tripartite Forum and to help shape the future for the Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia together.

Yours in Unity,

Executive Chair Morley Googoo  
AFN Regional Chief NS/NFLD

***"The Tripartite Forum working committees work to make a better place for the Mi'kmaq people and our leaders of tomorrow."***

# A message from the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq



The achievements of the Tripartite Forum show what can be achieved when partners work together to find common solutions through ongoing discussions. When a unit works together then there is no limit to what can be accomplished and the Forum is fortunate to be comprised of dedicated partnership.

in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia to benefit all Canadians and all Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

***“The achievements of the Tripartite Forum show what can be achieved when partners work together to find common solutions through ongoing discussions.”***

This year we welcomed some new faces to the Forum's committees including the Executive and Officials committees and also the working committees. New Executive and Officials committee members include Chiefs Paul “PJ” Prosper of Paqtnekek and Carol Thompson of Bear River. Shelly Martin is now Mi'kmaq Co-chair for the Justice Working Committee. The Tripartite Forum Secretariat also welcomed Administrator Chantelle Larocque, who fills in for Samantha Trites while she is on maternity leave.

Some of the outstanding work completed this year, with support from the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, include: Mi'kmaq History Month Project Officer, Aboriginal Warrior Community Training program, and the Aboriginal Health Sciences Initiative's Junior University.

The working committees continue to move ahead on the items that have been outlined in their revised work plans. These plans continue to guide the committees to ensure that their work aligns with the strategic direction of the Tripartite Forum.

We look forward to continuing to work



# A message from the Province of Nova Scotia



The Tripartite Forum provides a unique and effective way for the Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to collaborate on issues that can create new opportunities and improve outcomes for First Nations communities. As Premier and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I want to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Mi'kmaq and appreciate the progress that can be made on shared priorities through the committees and partnerships facilitated by the Tripartite Forum.

These are exciting times for Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq communities, with real accomplishments being made on the economic and social priorities that can affect the future of the whole province. Since forming government in Fall 2013, I have had the opportunity to visit several First Nation communities around the province and learn more about their hopes and aspirations. I have been impressed with their positive outlook and commitment

to making change possible for their residents. With the work taking place to implement the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation Economic Development Strategy and the ongoing progress being made in areas such as educational achievement, health care and skill development I am confident that the work of the Tripartite Forum will continue to benefit First Nations and their communities.

We are stronger as a province when we work together to meet the challenges facing our communities and celebrate the achievements made possible through collaboration and innovation. In the year ahead we will have many opportunities to celebrate the contributions made by the Mi'kmaq and the successes they have realized.

Wela'lin,

Stephen McNeil  
Premier  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

***"I am confident  
that the work  
of the Tripartite  
Forum will  
continue  
to benefit  
First Nations  
and their  
communities.."***

# A message from the Government of Canada



*“The Forum  
continues to  
be a great  
example of  
partnership.”*



Congratulations to everyone who played a role in the success of the Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canadian Tripartite Forum in 2013-2014. With your efforts, the Forum continues to be a great example of partnership and intergovernmental collaboration.

The Government of Canada continues to pursue opportunities that improve the overall well-being and economic prosperity of Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia, by working in partnership to further develop full participation in political, social and economic fabric of the province, and the country.

Two great examples of this collaboration are: the review of The Marshall Inquiry Recommendations and The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation Economic Development

Strategy. As the strategy itself pointed out, success will come when everyone works together. This also supports our work with the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development, and the expansion of the First Nations Land Management Regime, in creating greater opportunities for all.

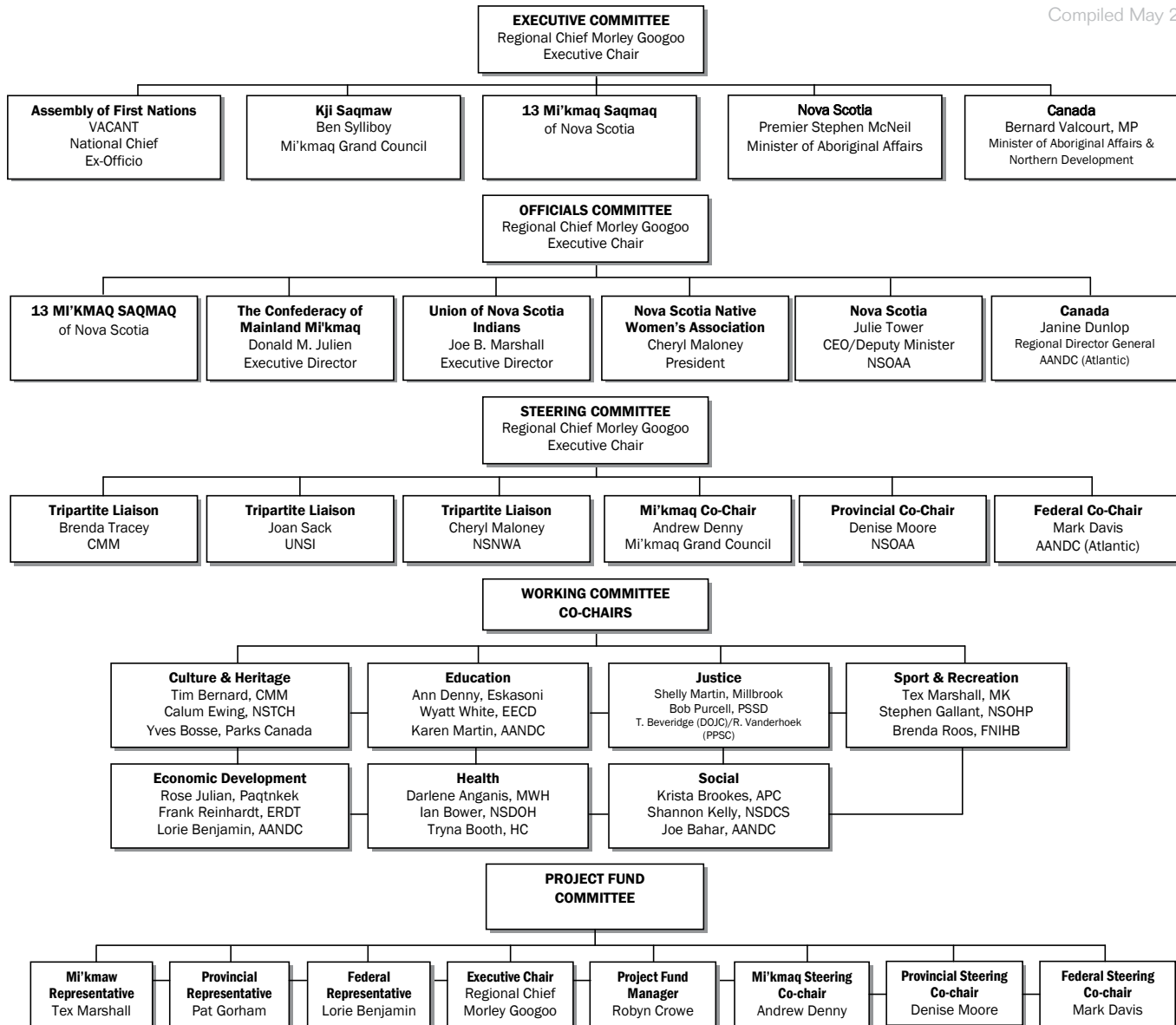
The recently passed First Nations Elections Act is another example of what can be achieved by working together. This Act was only possible in collaboration with, and through the vision of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs. The Act sets the conditions for strong, accountable and transparent government, and is a positive testament as to what can be achieved by working together.

In partnership with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada looks forward to ongoing dialogue and collaboration in the Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum for the benefit of the Mi'kmaq people in the province.

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt,  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern  
Development

# Organizational Chart

Compiled May 2014



<b>AANDC</b> Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada	<b>EECD</b> NS Department of Education & Early Childhood Development	<b>MK</b> Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey	<b>NS OHP</b> Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion	<b>PPSC</b> Public Prosecution Services of Canada
<b>APC</b> Atlantic Policy Congress	<b>DOJC</b> Department of Justice Canada	<b>MLSN</b> Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network	<b>NS TCH</b> Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage	<b>PSSD</b> Public Safety and Security Division (DOJ)
<b>CMM</b> Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (The)	<b>FNIHB</b> First Nations & Intuit Health Branch	<b>MWH</b> Membertou Wellness Home	<b>NSNWA</b> Nova Scotia Native Women's Association	<b>UNSI</b> Union of Nova Scotia Indians
<b>DCS</b> NS Department of Community Services	<b>HC</b> Health Canada	<b>NSDOH</b> Nova Scotia Department of Health	<b>NSOAA</b> Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs	

# About the Tripartite Forum

The Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum formed in 1997 as a partnership between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, to strengthen relationships and to resolve issues of mutual concern affecting Mi'kmaq communities. In 1997, the 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal and

Provincial governments. Under this MOU, the Chiefs would represent all of their registered band members in the Tripartite Forum.

A "Without Prejudice" addendum to the MOU was signed in 1998 ensuring all Tripartite Forum meetings and discussions were not considered "consultation." A strong backbone for the Tripartite Forum was established in recommendations of both the 1989 Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution

and the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The Forum operates with the following committee levels: Executive, Officials, Steering and Working Committees.

Each committee level has representation from the three parties: the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. The parties work together with tolerance and by consensus to discuss and resolve issues and act as a catalyst for change.

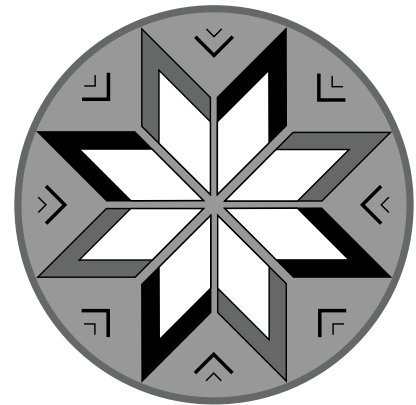
## Mission Statement

Committed to working and learning together in partnership, in a manner that respects the needs of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

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## Vision Statement

Building a foundation for prosperous and vibrant Mi'kmaw communities through partnership, commitment and respect.



## Value Statements

### ***Commitment***

We are committed to working in open-minded relationships where all parties strive to reach the organization's vision.

### ***Partnership***

We will work together in good faith to build a strong and healthy Mi'kmaw community that will benefit all Nova Scotians.

### ***Respect***

We develop our relationships based on mutual trust and respect, where we learn and grow together.



# Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the highest level of decision-making process in the Tripartite Forum. Final decisions are made at this level with consensus from all members. Decisions made here can overrule present policy, change future policy, initiate and provide input into legislative change if necessary. All Tripartite committees require approval from the Executive Committee in their formation, mandate and resolutions.

Composition:

- Executive Chair
- Grand Chief
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- National Chief (ex-officio)
- Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development



# Officials Committee

The Officials Committee receives options and recommendations from the working committees and offers decisions within its authority and policy. The Officials Committee approves the working committees' mandates and provides direction as stated by the Executive Committee.

Women's Association

- Chief Executive Officer – Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs
- Other Federal/Regional Directors and Provincial Deputy Ministers

Composition:

- Executive Chair
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- Executive Director – The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Executive Director – Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- President – Nova Scotia Native



# Steering Committee



The Steering Committee provides organizational direction and operational support for the Tripartite Forum. The Steering Committee also focuses on the overall relationships between the

three parties within each of the Forum's Working Committees.

Composition:

- Tripartite Liaison – The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Tripartite Liaison – Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- Tripartite Liaison – Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- Mi'kmaq Co-chair
- Provincial Co-chair
- Federal Co-chair



# Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change

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The Tripartite Forum Fund for Social & Economic Change, or Project Fund Committee, meets on a quarterly basis or more depending on necessity with all meeting dates set at the beginning of the year. Its membership includes three (3) Steering Co-chairs; one representative from The Province of Nova Scotia, one from the Government of Canada, and the Mi'kmaq representative; and three Working Committee Co-chairs, one from each party.

To approve funding of a project, a quorum of six (6) voting members must be present. For the committee to reach quorum, a designated alternative can be utilized in voting. The Executive Chair is a non-voting committee member. Robyn Crowe is the Tripartite Forum Project Fund Manager.

In 2013-14, four (4) working committees accessed the Project Fund and 11 projects were approved for a total of \$310,350.00. These projects include:

- Aboriginal Health Sciences Junior University: Building a Nation of Science: Health Care Professionals of Tomorrow for \$48,200.00 (Education)
- Lacrosse project for \$31,500.00 (Sport and Recreation)
- Aboriginal Community Warrior Personal Fitness Trainers Certification program for \$37,353.55 (Sport and Recreation)
- Mi'kmaq History Month Project Officer for \$28,500.00 (Culture and Heritage)
- Sharing Our Knowledge of Moose:

Developing Resource Materials on the Importance of Moose to the Mi'kmaq booklet for \$15,970.00 (Culture and Heritage)

- District Health Authorities Relationships & Collaboration project for \$37,325.00 (Health)
- Bedford Barrens for \$15,730.00 (Culture and Heritage)
- P'jilasi Mi'kmaki Place Names Digital Atlas and Map: Building Capacity Around Grants Writing for First Nations for \$10,000.00 (Culture and Heritage)
- Voices of Knowledge Mi'kmaq language video for \$49,449.00 (Education)
- Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Culture, Heritage and Archaeology Strategic Planning Symposium for \$10,350.00 (Culture and Heritage)
- Mawkinumasultinej! Let's Learn Together! Integrated Inquiry Projects for P to 12 Project for \$25,972.45 (Education)

# Tripartite Forum Working Committees

The “grass roots” of the Tripartite Forum is established through the seven working committees. As the various working committee members identify issues through research and community engagement, these issues are brought to the working committee table for discussion, solution development and next steps. Comprised of representatives from the three parties, experts and technicians in each of the seven areas work together to develop and carry out their annual work plans. Open and public community participation is also encouraged as

working committees attempt to host their meetings across the province in Mi'kmaw communities.

The seven working committees are Culture and Heritage, Economic Development, Education, Health, Justice, Social, Sport and Recreation.



# Culture and Heritage

The Culture and Heritage Committee continues to be an active and productive committee and has met three times in the past year with good attendance and participation at each meeting while making significant efforts to meet in or near Mi'kmaw communities and involve community members and Elders in our meetings. In 2013, at the request of Executive Chair Morley Googoo, we held our first meeting at the Friends United Cultural Centre in Cleveland on May 1, 2013. On September 17, 2013, we met at the Kejimikujik National Park and most recently in Paqtnekek on January 17, 2014. The committee held a final meeting before the end of the fiscal year by conference call to approve all final reports for the Project Fund. The committee also fully engaged in participating in the 2013 Annual Assembly held at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre.

The committee's purpose is to promote an environment in which the three (3) parties can come together in cooperation and discuss common issues, explore options and recommend actions with respect to culture and heritage. The mandate is to focus on achievable objectives with respect to language, research, culture and heritage resource management and the commemoration and presentation of Mi'kmaw culture and heritage.

## Heritage Preservation

Scope: to foster and support

the preservation of heritage sites, buildings and objects or collections that relate to Mi'kmaw heritage. This would include issues of archaeological sites and artefacts, development of Mi'kmaw heritage collections, archives and heritage site protection. Recent activities include:

### *Bedford Barrens Petroglyph Site*

Following the direction received from the Officials Committee, a proposal was submitted to the Project Fund to commence with the creation of a new 78-metre trail segment in order to re-route foot traffic around the petroglyphs that the trail currently passes over. The trail route was selected to be an easy walk and minimize commuting over difficult or steep terrain in order to allow easy access to persons with reduced mobility (e.g., seniors, persons using wheelchairs, etc.). From the results of the community gathering and site-visits, it is known that the site is of significant spiritual importance to the Mi'kmaq and it is critical to ensure continued access to the site, while protecting the petroglyphs from further damage and wear. This project will design and build a trail beside the petroglyphs which will be accessible from the park trail system or path from Emerson Street. Interpretive signage will be designed and installed at the site to assist visitors in understanding and appreciating the significance of the site and its importance to the Mi'kmaq.

A project proposal to the Tripartite Forum Project Fund was approved in October 2013 in the amount of \$20,530.00, which leveraged an additional \$19,000.00 and in-kind support for a total project cost of \$39,332.00. The project has been delayed due to weather and access to the trail site but the construction of the trail and

the installation of the interpretive signage should be completed in the fall of 2014.



## Community Identity and Language

Scope: to assist and support communities with enhancing and celebrating community identity and promotion. This includes language, community branding, naming and location aids (for example: maps, signage, etc.).

### *Mi'kmaw First Nations Guide Signage Program*

Over the past 10 years, Culture and Heritage Working Committee has been working diligently with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation to revise the existing requirements for guide signage. The goal is to actively promote Mi'kmaw communities with directional signage along 100-series provincial highways.

Since its inception, changes were made by Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for band and reserve name changes, and Geographical Names program have made some revisions to their policies, resulting in a more efficient and streamlined process.



The project owes its success to the relationship between the various stakeholders, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Assembly of Chiefs and the Culture and Heritage Tripartite Forum committee in working towards promoting the Mi'kmaq as a Nation.

There are currently four communities engaged in the Guide Signage Program on Nova Scotia highways 101 and 102. Three communities are in the process of working towards name changes and community identity/guide-sign requests. A toolkit is in the final revisions which will be available by the end of fiscal year, and will assist communities with either process.

### ***Mi'kmaq Language***

Members of the Culture and Heritage Language Subcommittee continue to meet jointly with members of the Education Working Committee. This year we successfully distributed over 2700 packages of crayons, coloring books and

CDs throughout Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities and also to several schools where there are Mi'kmaq students at the elementary school level.

In partnership with the Kji-keptin Alex Denny Language Lab, we have completed a language environmental-scan of all the available Mi'kmaq language resources (books, posters, teaching tools, websites, etc.) that are currently produced or have been produced in the past and aren't available to communities. Two things we are finding are that:

- There is not centralized holding place or repository of Mi'kmaq language material and unfortunately, of the several Mi'kmaq organizations interviewed, very few could provide a detailed database or list of the materials that they have; also
- The material that is available was printed only once and that there are very few "sustainable language resources" available. In other words, there is no

funding or plan in place to reprint language materials when supplies expire.

An online database can be viewed at:

<http://www.goventuremarketing.com/jilaptoq/index.asp>

The committee will be coordinating efforts with the Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey Mi'kmaq Language Advisory Committee to explore potential partnership that will assist both groups in developing and promoting the Mi'kmaq language. The committee also partnered with Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources to produce two (2) booklets on the cultural and historical importance of the moose to the Mi'kmaq. Although moose is not listed as a species-at-risk, it is a species of cultural significance to the Mi'kmaq. The UINR is creating a children's book that will tell the story of the Unama'ki moose and its important relationship to the Mi'kmaq. A second booklet will be written on the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge (MEK) and traditional resource management of moose. Both books will be illustrated by Arlene 'Dozay' Christmas and will also be translated into our Mi'kmaq language.

In partnership with the Tripartite Culture and Heritage Working Committee a proposal was put forward to the Tripartite Forum Project fund and received \$15,000.00 towards a \$43,417.00 dollar project. The two booklets are expected to be published by April 2014.

## *Pjila'si Mi'kma'ki Place Names Digital Atlas and Web Site project*

Pjila'si Mi'kma'ki: Mi'kmaw Place Names Digital Atlas and Website fulfils the long overdue need of First Nations and the general public to create a sophisticated, authoritative digital atlas and website to document and display the ancient history of the Mi'kmaq of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral lands of the Mi'kmaq of Eastern Canada. Over the past three-and-a-half-years, we have gathered, recorded, translated, transliterated, and mapped approximately 700 Mi'kmaw place names, traditional land use areas, and oral histories that attest to their ancient history. We are planning to launch a multimedia, interactive, educational website that ultimately will be accessed throughout the world early in the new fiscal year.

A proposal to the Tripartite Forum Project Fund for \$10,000.00 to support development and training was approved in December 2013. The project will see both geographic information systems (GIS) and website training provided to staff of both The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) and Mi'kma'ki All Points Services (MAPS); both of whom were identified as the potential 'keepers' or 'stewards' of the database and website for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The project will also be submitting, along with St. Mary's University and in-collaboration with both the Innu and Sami Indigenous Nations, a project titled Reclamation,

Retention and Resilience: Co-creating sustainable communities for Mi'kmaw and Innu First Nations of Atlantic Canada to Social Sciences Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

### **Cultural Expression and Presentation**

Scope: to support and foster the development and presentation of cultural expression in all forms. The work includes literary and performing arts, visual arts, music, dance and cultural celebration.

### ***Mi'kmaq History Month***

The working committee was successful in receiving significant support from the Tripartite Forum Project fund to support the Mi'kmaq History Month Project Officer. In cooperation with the Treaty Day Committee, funding in the amount of \$27,000.00 was provided to support growth and development of Mi'kmaq History Month across Nova Scotia. The focus of the project was to increase community engagement and activity during Mi'kmaq History Month. Tanya Johnson-MacVicar was hired by MACS as the project officer to create a database of existing History Month activities, develop new ideas for community activities, create a community engagement and promotion plan and assisted with the development of a website to promote Mi'kmaq History Month throughout the year. The website can be viewed at [www.mikmaqhistorymonth.com](http://www.mikmaqhistorymonth.com).

With the support of the Project Fund, the committee leveraged an additional \$23,000.00 and in kind support to carry out this project. As a result, the project has additional tools that will assist in the promotion of Mi'kmaq History Month.

It is worth noting ongoing discussions between lead Chief Wilbert Marshall and

the past Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage had laid the foundation for two (2) announcements on the creation of the Mi'kmaw Cultural Activities Fund and annual commitment to provide core funding to support Mi'kmaq History Month. Congratulations is extended to Chief Wilbert for accepting this challenge and with the support of both the Made in Nova Scotia Process and the Tripartite Forum, the committee was successful in securing a relationship with the Support4Culture funding programs.

### ***Mi'kmaq Culture, Heritage and Archaeology E-Scan***

The committee's proposal to the Tripartite Forum Project Fund has been approved to host a one-day symposium in March 2014. This will generate a network of relationships between Mi'kmaw experts and organizations involved in the culture, heritage and archaeology sectors and allow them to discuss their needs and capacities with respect to the Culture, Heritage and Archaeology portfolio of the Nova Scotia Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

The primary objectives of this project are to bring together Mi'kmaw experts and organizations to discuss Mi'kmaw involvement in the culture, heritage and archaeology sectors. The main deliverable will be the summary of the questionnaires after it is quality checked with the participants. This summary will present goals, visions and capacities of Mi'kmaw parties with respect to Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq involvement in the culture, heritage and archaeology sectors in a way that directly exemplifies Lnu'i'ta'simk, the Mi'kmaq way of thinking and doing.

# Economic Development

## Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation Economic Development Strategy

The Tripartite Forum Economic Development Working Committee (TFEDWC) focused its efforts in 2013-14 on facilitating the development of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation Economic Development Strategy: Strengthening Our Nation Through Community Success.

The Strategy is built on the principles of our Seven Sacred Teachings, a foundation for the Aboriginal and Mi'kmaw way of life. Our vision, through a Nationhood approach to long-term economic and social well-being that is grounded in Mi'kmaw culture and language, and connected to our land and resources, is a vibrant and prosperous Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation. The five-year Strategy outlines five (5) priorities as well as achievable goals and objectives to move the Nation and individual communities forward. The Strategy's scope is based on a broad definition of economic development that includes training, employment, strategic relationships and asset development. The Strategy is Nation-driven and community-led, recognizing and supporting the different opportunities, strengths and starting points for each community in the province.

The Strategy was completed with many stakeholders including community leaders and members, support organizations, and was endorsed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs on December 19, 2013. A very special congratulations and thank you is extended to everyone involved in the Strategy's creation. The amount of time and dedication it took to complete the project is tremendously appreciated.

To view and download your copy of

the Strengthening our Nation Through Community Success - Mawi'lukuti'k: Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation Economic Development Strategy, please visit [www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com).

### Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly meetings have focused on information sharing and networking opportunities to support economic development activities through increased awareness of programming, funding, strategies and community activities.



### Engagement with Other Working Committees

A joint subcommittee with the Tripartite Forum Education Working Committee, Bridging the Gap, was created with the objective to bridge gaps of education, training and employment, and transition from training to employment.

### Committee Membership

The membership expanded to include a representative of the Mi'kmaq Employment and Training Secretariat (METS) and ex-officio membership from Employment and Social Development Canada (Service Canada).



As he departed the role of Provincial Co-Chair of the TFEDWC would like to take this opportunity to thank and extend best wishes in the future to Ross MacDonald for his commitment and many contributions to the committee and the Tripartite Forum.

### 2014-15 Work plan

Work plan activities for 2014-15 include identification of best practices and opportunity exploration regarding social enterprises, supporting continuous capacity development for economic development officers, creating learning opportunities, exploring ways to enable partnership opportunities, and partnering with other Tripartite Forum working committees. The Tripartite Forum Economic Development Working Committee will also assist in implementing, where appropriate, the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation Economic Development Strategy.

# Education

The committee had three (3) meetings: August 2013, November 2013 (two-day meeting and strategic planning session) and March 2014. At every meeting we invited different resource people to do presentations on topics that are relevant and informative to the Education Working Committee. Initiatives are undertaken to do more collaborative work with the Economic Development Working Committee and ongoing collaboration with the Culture and Heritage Working Committee. We are also very fortunate to have our committee members participating in different subcommittees and other working committees such as Mi'kmaw Language, Science and Math, Early Childhood, Tepi'Ketuek Mi'Kmaq Archives, Bridging Gaps (Educational/ Training to Employment) and Economic Development Working Committee. The areas of interest that our work plan concentrated on and the projects for 2013-14 are:

Committee, the Mi'kmaw Language Committee works to promote the restoration and preservation of Mi'kmaw Language. The Mi'kmaw Language E-Scan report and follow-up has been completed. There are new initiatives to be undertaken by this committee to look at innovative ways to develop and deliver Mikmaq Immersion strategies. There is much emphasis on the concept of "L'nui sultinej – Let us speak Mikmaq."

## Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) department has moved from the Department of Community Services to Education and has expanded its mandate to include the early years of development. The Early Childhood Development department is now a part of the Nova Scotia Department of Education. There is on-going dialogue with the sub-committee in terms of information sharing and to better engage the Mi'kmaw communities in the new changes. There are conversations to develop a course in Mi'kmaw language and culture that looks at methods of teaching young children the Mi'kmaw language and culture.

## Science and Math

*"Mi'kmaq culture is based on science and math."*

This statement by an elder at a 2011 Education Working Committee meeting was part of a discussion which led to our focus on science and math.

During the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years, two (2) separate Project Fund proposals supported the Show Me Your Math (SMYM) Mi'kmaq cultural mathematics fair. This event was a previously-successful initiative



of Dr. Lisa Lunney Borden of St. Francis Xavier University that had great potential to grow. The Project Fund support brought this Mi'kmaq math fair to a whole new level of success. The enhanced activity began with consultations with schools, communities and elders. The further activity was contracting a website, acquiring new video equipment for schools to empower students to create movies from their Math Projects, and an enhanced annual Show Me Your Math Fair' where Mi'kmaq students showcase their Mi'kmaq math projects. Long term sustainability was achieved when the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) committed to running the SMYM fair going forward and it is still used in the school system.

In 2013-14 the Mawkinumasultinej: Let's Learn Together! project was funded toward the development of a series of inquiry projects that draw on Mi'kmaw community culture. The Mawkinumasultinej project builds off the success of SMYM yet is unique in building teacher resources for meeting Provincial Curriculum Outcomes. The project's focus was to create school inquiry projects which begin with open questions for students while moving toward an investigation of a subject. While the projects are designed to emphasize the mathematics learning, they are cross-curricular and engage students in collaborative inquiry into relevant topics. A suite of Inquiry Projects are available on the SMYM website including Kataq/Eels, quill boxes and quill work, indigenous languages,



## Mi'kmaw Language

In a collaborative effort with the Culture and Heritage Working



paddle making, and more are in development. There is a great value in this project looking forward as it provides a framework for educators and students to meet provincial outcomes through investigating Mi'kmaq culture.

Another forward-looking project is the Aboriginal Health Sciences Junior University (AHSJU) held at Dalhousie University in the summer of 2014. The AHSJU is lead by the Aboriginal Health Science Initiative (AHSI) coordinator Kara Paul, who in 2013 ran a pilot AHSJU. Based on that success, the Education Working Committee supported a developmental 2014 AHSJU toward sustainability. During two separate week-long camps 33 Aboriginal Youth, ages 14-17 years old, participated in a series of activities provided by Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, and other Health Professions at Dalhousie while a Mi'kmaq medicine walk was lead by Tuma Young. As part of a comprehensive set of activities the youth also set academic and healthy lifestyle goals. The sum of the experience provides youth participants with the inspiration, goals and individual plans to meet and exceed university entrance requirements.

The success of the AHSJU, demonstrated by participant and faculty feedback, has lead to long term support within Dalhousie University. We are encouraged by student participation in this event which will play



a role in developing a new generation of Mi'kmaq healthcare professionals.

### **Student Transition from Education and Training to Employment**

A “Bridging the Gaps” subcommittee has been set up, and had two meetings thus far. The subcommittee is comprised of representatives from the Education and Economic Development Working Committees, NS Department of Labour,



Mi'kmaq Education and Training Secretariat (METS) and NS Office of Aboriginal Affairs. The Economic Development Working Committee presented to the Education Working Committee on their document “Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Nation Economic Development Strategy – Strengthening Our Nation Through Community Success”. This document can be used as an important tool in the Bridging the Gap mandate.

### **Grade Eight Mi'kmaq Language Curriculum**

The Department of Education will promote the printing of Grade Eight Mi'kmaq Language Curriculum, when suitable corrections are completed. To date, a Mi'kmaq curriculum consultant has recently been hired and the Grade Eight Mi'kmaq Language Curriculum is one of the areas of priority. The other areas of priority are the Mi'kmaq Studies Ten and the preparation of curriculum on Treaty Education.



### **Tepi'ketuek Mi'kmaw Archives**

The Tepi'ketuek Mi'kmaw Archives were launched at the Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum Annual General Assembly on May 30, 2013, in Wagmatcook. It was very successful and there was a special dedication made to the late Caroline Gould (basket maker) and her children were invited to receive a plaque in her honour. The Tepi'Ketuek Mi'kmaw Archives are online at [www.mikmawarchives.ca](http://www.mikmawarchives.ca).



# Health

In 2013-14, the Health Committee focused its work in two key areas:

## **Promoting relationship-building between health staff in Mi'kmaw communities and staff who work in the Nova Scotia's District Health Authorities**

In 2013-14, the committee shared the final versions of the Inventory of Promising Practices and its companion learning tool Roots of Strong Relationships with key partners. Developed in 2012-13 as part of a multi-year project being implemented by the committee, the inventory and the learning tool are designed to support the development of new and enhance existing relationships between community health staff and staff who work for Nova Scotia's District Health Authorities (DHAs). The Health Working Committee considers these relationships to be essential. Along with the federal and provincial governments, the communities and the DHAs share responsibility for delivering health care services that Mi'kmaw

people need and use for good health. Due to complex political and historical factors, roles and responsibilities of the partners are not always clear or agreed upon. Many misconceptions about what health services are available both on- and off-reserve remain. Through community and DHA staff relationships, gaps in needed health services can be identified and addressed. Many other positive benefits can be achieved through relationship-building, such as enhanced cultural competence and safety in the delivery of services, increased access, and ultimately, improved health status for Mi'kmaw people and communities.

from six (6) communities and four (4) DHAs participated in one of the workshops.

In 2014-15, the committee plans to wrap up the project by taking steps to ensure the long term sustainability of the inventory and the tool. Activities will include identifying and seeking partners' commitment to incorporate content from the inventory and the tool into existing training/orientation programs for community health and DHA staff.

The final versions of the inventory and the tool can be found on the Tripartite Forum's website at [www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com).



## **Supporting increased access to mental health and addictions services**

Also in 2013-14, also with financial assistance from the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, the committee hired external expertise to design and deliver a series of workshops. These workshops brought together community and DHA health staff in half-day sessions held in Mi'kmaw communities. At the workshops, the learning and processes contained in the inventory and the tool were discussed. Participants also identified some initial next steps. In all, health staff

In 2013-14 the committee continued to share and discuss pertinent information regarding initiatives intended to increase access by Mi'kmaw people and communities to the provincial/DHA mental health and addictions services. As part of the Give Us Wings project, community working groups were established that included staff from the communities, the DHAs, and the Give Us Wings project coordinator. The working groups were busy identifying the resources currently available in each community and

determining where the gaps were. One of the key goals of the project was to place mental health and possibly addictions clinicians in Mi'kmaw communities across the province to begin to address these gaps. Some communities already have DHA employed clinicians providing services on reserve so the focus is on getting clinicians into those communities without this resource. It is expected that by 2015-16 all 13 communities will have at least a

part time mental health and/or addictions counsellor providing services on reserve.

In support of First Nations-specific objectives in the provincial mental health and addictions strategy, a cultural safety training module for mental health and addictions clinicians was developed in 2013-14. The module was recently piloted and training is expected to roll out in 2014-15. The committee will give a presentation

on the training at the Tripartite Forum's May 2014 Annual General Assembly.

## Justice

The Tripartite Justice Working Committee was able to complete a key initiative this year, and lay out the foundation for the next, as follows:

A Review of the Implementation and Efficacy of the Marshall Inquiry Recommendations in Nova Scotia - a collaborative research project, taken on at the request of the Officials Committee. This project has focused on a research and community consultation approach to evaluating the outcomes from and impact of the recommendations in the 1989 Report of Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Junior Prosecution (also known as the Marshall Inquiry). The project's goal is to develop a thorough picture of the impact of the Recommendations, where there are successes and gaps, and to bring into this picture the input, vision and hopes of the Mi'kmaw community members, who were engaged in the research through a series of community forums.



With the community consultations concluded, the project report provided a comprehensive overview of Mi'kmaw perceptions of justice. During the community forums, community members were very generous and innovative in the suggestions they made for enhancing and implementing Marshall Inquiry Recommendations. Four (4) thematic areas emerged from these dialogues, reflections and experiences:

- Institutionalizing Mi'kmaw/ Indigenous Justice Services
- Aboriginal legal services enhancement, education and training

- Kinship Services and Family Law
- Community Policing

Following from the general direction provided by the Officials Committee, the working committee will work together to arrange and host a comprehensive symposium designed to bring together all stakeholders referenced through the research to explore in depth these pathways and consider how to work together to move forward. This will be undertaken in a phased manner, with a series of pre-symposium focus groups to allow all key stakeholders an opportunity to engage with and consider the pathways from their perspectives, and a facilitated symposium with an action focus.

The Tripartite Forum Justice Working Committee welcomes new Mi'kmaq co-chair, Shelly Martin, and new Provincial co-chair, Bob Purcell. The committee changed its structure somewhat and now has alternate co-chairs, thereby ensuring leadership can engage collaboratively as the work for 2014-15 proceeds.



# Social

At the request of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, the Tripartite Forum Social Working Committee suspended its meetings while the judicial review hearing at the federal court level in the Simon et al. case was ongoing. The Nova Scotia Chiefs agreed to revisit the matter after the ruling on November 4, 2013, which they did at the February 13, 2014, Officials Committee

meeting, where it was agreed, via resolution, to allow the meetings to resume but asked that all committee discussions be limited to social program and policy matters outside that which is being litigated in the Simon Case (for example, daycare licensing and disability report follow up) and that the three (3) co-chairs will ensure that this happens by signing a letter indicating so.

The Social Working Committee did not

meet during the 2013-14 fiscal year, however the Disability Research Project Steering Committee was allowed to meet to conclude the Tripartite Forum Disability Research Report project with the printing of Final Report: Identifying Critical Pathways of Access to Provincially and Federally Funded Disability Services for First Nations People Living on Reserve.

The Social Working Committee will begin meeting again in spring 2014.

# Sport and Recreation

The Sport and Recreation Working Committee continues to meet in various communities for each meeting and enjoy having the opportunity to visit communities and meet community members. We always try to meet during the Mi'kmaw Summer Games which was held in Waycobah this year.

## Aboriginal Community Warrior Program

In October 2013, Native Way Training Services was contracted to offer their Aboriginal Community Warrior training to Mi'kmaq from across the province. Once completed, the participants would be certified Canfitpro personal trainers, giving them the knowledge and skills to design and evaluate specialized one-on-one exercise programs for clients in communities.

The training, hosted in Millbrook First Nation, involved five (5) days of extensive classroom and hands on work. In November 2013, participants completed both a written and practical

exam, and a CPR-A certification course, as required. A total of 29 participants took part in the training, and there was a long wait list of others who were

interested. To date, 22 of the 29 participants have written the exams. Of those, 13 have passed and are now certified personal trainers. Arrangements are being made with the facilitator, who will be in the province in May 2014, to offer another opportunity for those who still wish to write, or rewrite, their exams.

As of March 28, 2014, nine (9) of the 13 communities now have a personal trainer, with another representing the off-reserve community members. It is anticipated that more will follow in the coming months as we continue to mentor and tutor those who hope to write again in the future.



## Sport and Recreation work with Cultural and Heritage Working Committee

Gerald Gloade from the Culture and Heritage Committee attended the August Sport and Recreation Working Committee meeting and shared information related to lacrosse and Mi'kmaq games. A committee will be struck to work on a project to develop a book of indigenous games to be used in Mi'kmaw communities

## Recreation Nova Scotia involvement

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, the Tripartite Forum Project Fund paid for Mi'kmaq participants to be involved in the Recreation Nova Scotia (RNS) Conference for the first time. As a result of that involvement, there was a shift in some RNS priorities. For example, RNS received money from the province and the Public Health Agency of Canada, to implement High Five Training in the Mi'kmaq communities. There have been 11 trainers trained and over 100 High Five Leaders. Also, at this year's RNS conference, six (6) communities sent representatives and two (2) communities sent more than one participant, all without additional financial support. This participation demonstrates the value that Mi'kmaq communities found in the networking and learning opportunities provided at the conference. There were also two sessions with a focus on partnering with Mi'kmaq communities, and Mi'kmaq dance was incorporated into the Regional Games evening ceremonies.



## Lacrosse Project

This project was the next step in our Lacrosse Development Program with youth in Nova Scotia First Nation communities. It focused on maintaining the foundation pieces of promoting healthy active lifestyles through participation in the game; focusing on the importance of teamwork, self confidence, and self esteem while developing skills necessary for the game. The basis of the program is also to embrace the historical and cultural pieces of the game and its importance to the Mi'kmaq youth and the Nation.

The lacrosse project achieved its mandate by focusing on mentorship and training of gym teachers and sport coordinators in the communities, developing coaching abilities of youth who already are active in the sport, and giving the communities a chance to participate in a Friendship Tournament.



Lacrosse sticks have been placed in the hands of community youth. They now have the fundamental skill set to continue with lacrosse in a way that suits each community. Youth now have been exposed to a sport that has a strong connection to Mi'kmaq culture. It is anticipated that with this exposure to the game, more youth will continue to play the sport and, in the long term, will lead healthier more active lifestyles. Also, confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills were developed.

The feedback from participants was very positive. The program created a lot of excitement and enthusiasm around the sport. Youth also seemed very interested to learn how lacrosse had a strong connection to the Mi'kmaq culture. In the communities, a common sight is to now see youth with a lacrosse stick in his or her hand. This program has sparked the interest, now it is important to ensure there are more sustainable programs offered in communities to continue the momentum to grow the sport.

# Tripartite Forum Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the Tripartite Forum's daily operations. This includes providing logistical support and coordinating meetings for the seven Working Committees, the Steering Committee, the Officials Committee and the Executive Committee. The Secretariat also works to communicate the positive results of the Tripartite Forum through its website, newsletter, presentations and publications.

The Tripartite Forum Secretariat consists of four full-time staff; two Administrators, a Project Fund Manager and a Communications Officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.

Staff include Robyn (Siteman) Crowe, Project Fund Manager; Denise Gloade, Administrator; Adam Gould, Communications Officer; and Chantelle Larocque, Administrator.



# Tripartite Forum Liaisons

Each First Nation organization within the Tripartite Forum has a Liaison Officer. They are: Brenda Tracey, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq; Joan Sack, the Union of Nova Scotia Indians; and Cheryl Maloney, Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.

Responsibilities:

- Report the ongoing work of the Tripartite Forum to their respective Board of Directors.
- Participate as active members on the Steering Committee, various sub-committees, and the seven Working

Committees.

- Provide general support when needed within the Tripartite Forum.
- Liaison for all members appointed to working committees related to their individual organization.



Joan Sack, Liaison Officer for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians



Cheryl Maloney, Liaison Officer for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association



Brenda Tracey, Liaison Officer for The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

# Annual General Assembly 2013



The 2013 Tripartite Forum celebrated its 16th anniversary at its 10th Annual General Assembly (AGA) at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre in Wagmatcook, NS. On May 30 and 31, the working committees shared its stories of success with each other along with special presentation on the Tepi'ketuek Mi'kmaw Archives project. The presentation was joined by special guests, the family of the Mi'kmaw Elder Caroline Gould.

Day one featured the usual Working Committee presentations where yearly team accomplishments were highlighted. Forum members also had an opportunity to mingle during a very puzzling icebreaker session. On day two, the Forum hosted a World Café-style of meetings, which allowed the seven Working Committees and Steering to brainstorm ideas for future collaborations. The World Café allows various groups to meet with one another in timed sessions before changing and pairing up with a different group.

A special thank you is extended to the Tripartite Forum Secretariat for its hard work in planning and preparing the Annual General Assembly. An extra special thank you is extended to the Denny Family of

Eskasoni, who provided a delicious traditional meal for the Tepi'ketuek presentation.

Another extra-special thank you is also extended to the amazing staff of the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage society who accommodated the Forum over two days with amazing hospitality. The Tripartite Forum certainly looks forward to its next visit to the centre.



# Financial Overview 2013-14

REVENUES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA
<b>Communications</b>			
OAA	42,363.00		
AANDC	42,363.00		
Deferred from prior year			
<b>Total Communications Revenue</b>	<b>84,726.00</b>		
<b>Project Fund</b>			
Project Funding - AANDC	39,973.00		
Project Fund - OAA	39,973.00		
Deferred Project Fund	341,524.25		
<b>Total Project Fund / Manager Revenue</b>	<b>421,470.25</b>		
<b>Core Services</b>			
OAA and AANDC			
Core Funding - AANDC	50,703.00	58,500.00	55,500.00
Core Funding - OAA	50,703.00	58,500.00	55,500.00
Deferred			2.96
Other income			2541.89
<b>Total Core Services Revenue</b>	<b>101,406.00</b>	<b>117,000.00</b>	<b>110,002.96</b>
<b>Secretariat</b>			
Secretariat Funding - AANDC	157,185.00		
Secretariat Funding - OAA	157,965.01		
<b>Total Secretariat Revenue</b>	<b>315,150.01</b>		
<b>Grand Total Revenue</b>	<b>922,752.26</b>	<b>117,000.00</b>	<b>110,002.96</b>

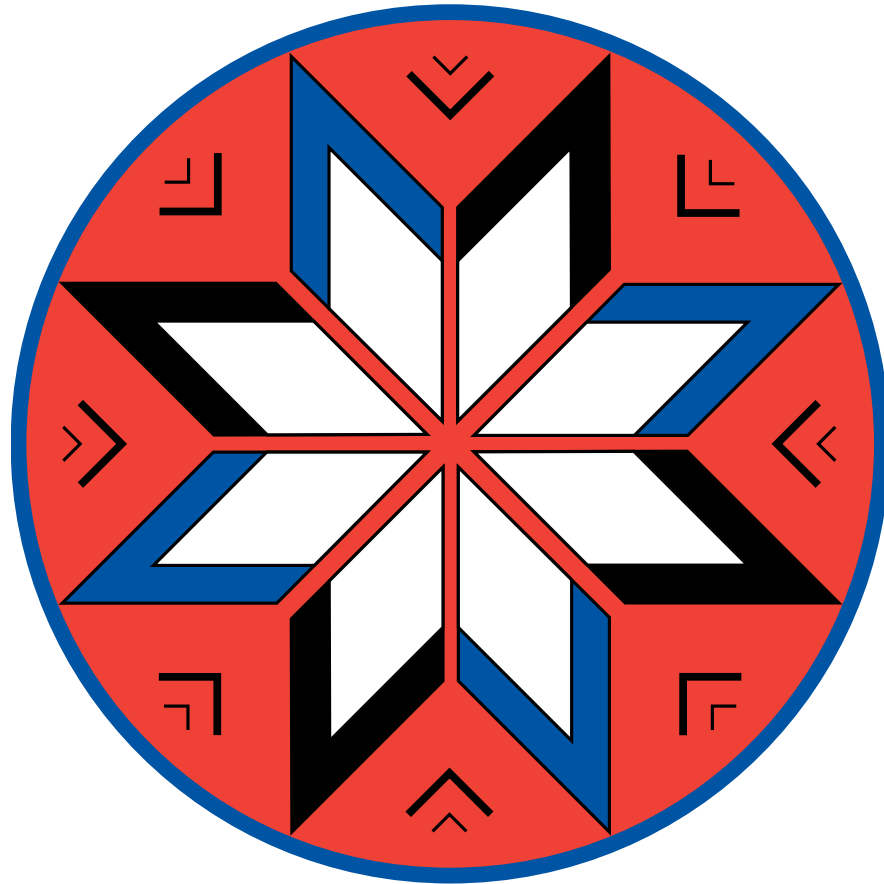
EXPENSES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA
<b>Communications</b>			
Administration	9,816.53		
Salary/Benefits/Rent	58,443.60		
Travel/Advertise/Promotional	16,465.87		
<b>Total Communications Expenses</b>	<b>84,726.00</b>		
<b>Project Fund</b>			
Project Funds	252,780.88		
Administration	7,268.00		
Salary/Benefits/Pension	57,775.54		



<b>EXPENSES (continued)</b>	<b>CMM/Secretariat</b>	<b>UNSI</b>	<b>NSNWA</b>
Audit	1,578.00		
Rent	3,600.00		
Telephone/Fax	1,265.57		
Travel	8,458.89		
<b>Total Project Fund/Manager Expenses</b>	<b>332,726.88</b>		
<b>Core Expenses</b>			
Bank Charges			150.91
Administration		8,119.29	9,984.00
Leadership/Executive Director			
Audit		1,554.50	
Cleaning		900.00	
Legal and audit			5,212.50
Tripartite Liason Officer			
Salary/Benefits		58,816.48	60,755.00
Rent		6,000.00	6,000.00
Telephone/Fax/Internet		1,723.34	2,424.01
Travel & Accommodations		39,871.82	22,342.79
<b>Total Core Services Expenses</b>		<b>116,985.43</b>	<b>109,369.21</b>
<b>Secretariat Expenses</b>			
Salary/Benefits/Pension	101,697.20		
Administration/Travel	61,811.61		
Co-chairs	1,199.40		
Working Committees	47,323.48		
Executive Chair	9,338.11		
Executive/Officials	1,660.54		
Steering Committee	3,505.50		
General Assembly	12,479.97		
Deferred			
<b>Total Secretariat Revenue</b>	<b>239,015.81</b>		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>922,752.26</b>	<b>117,000.00</b>	<b>110,002.96</b>
<b>Less Total Expenses</b>	<b>757,874.69</b>	<b>116,985.43</b>	<b>109,369.21</b>
Excess of revenues over/under expenses	\$164,877.57	\$14.75	\$633.75

\*Financial report results may be unaudited for 2013-14.

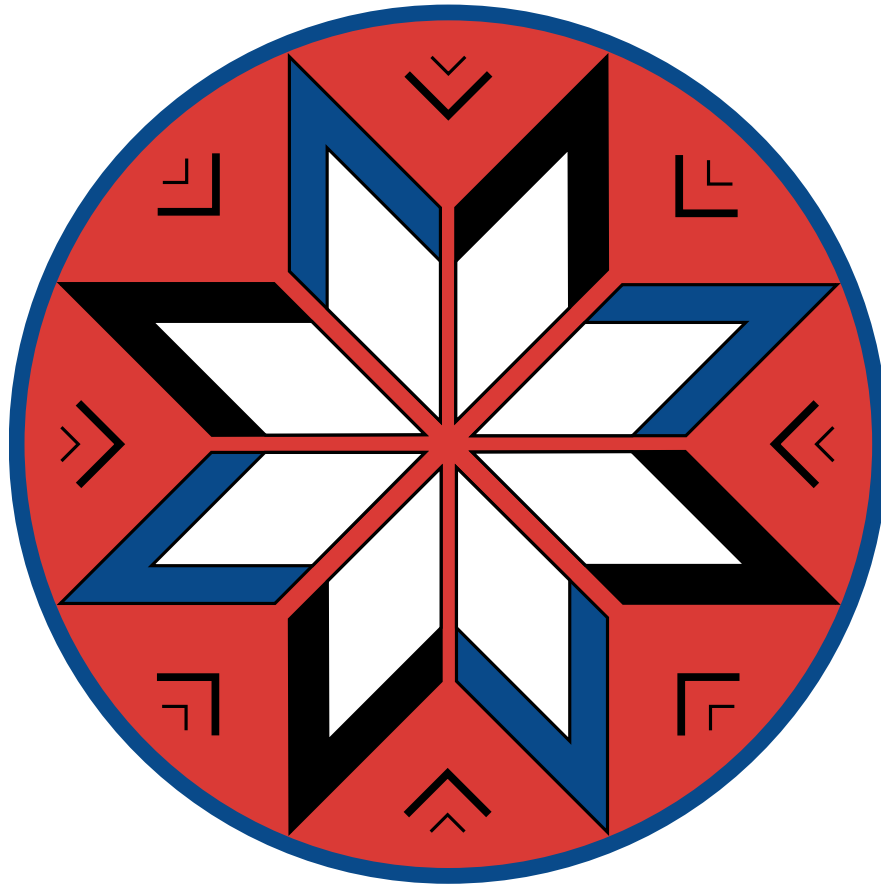
# Our Logo



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada  
**TRIPARTITE FORUM**  
[www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com)

The chosen logo of the Tripartite Forum is the Mi'kmaq eight-pointed star. The historic Mi'kmaq symbol originally had seven points to represent the traditional seven districts of the Mi'kmaq Nation. An eighth point, representing the British Crown, was added when the Mi'kmaq began signing treaties with the British Crown. All discussions of the Tripartite Forum will be guided by the spirit and intent of the treaties and the treaty relationship.

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The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



NOVA SCOTIA NATIVE  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



**Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada  
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