



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada
TRIPARTITE FORUM

Commitment

Respect

Partnership



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIR



I am proud to see the accomplishments the Tripartite Forum members have made over the past year. I continue to encourage strong dedication to the Tripartite Forum to make this relationship work and to build a stronger Mi'kmaq community. In working to resolve outstanding Mi'kmaq issues of mutual concern the Tripartite Forum has made several achievements in 2003 - 04.

One concern in our Mi'kmaq communities is health. With diabetes and obesity on the rise it was important to address this issue. At the executive meeting in November 2003, the 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada committed \$150,000 to the Mi'kmaq Youth, Recreation and Active Circle for Living (MYRACL) to promote active lifestyles in Mi'kmaq communities. This also led to the development of a seventh working committee called Sports and Recreation.

We had two new positions added to the Tripartite Forum secretariat, an administrative assistant and a part-time communications officer.

The addition of a communications arm allowed us to increase our communication with Tripartite members, First Nations communities, and others living in Nova Scotia. Some communication achievements included a website, a newsletter and newspaper stories.

The co-chairs from the six working committees participated in planning sessions. During the sessions the co-chairs developed a report identifying common Mi'kmaq issues involving all committees. It was great to see everyone working together towards a common goal. The next steps include involving all the Tripartite Forum members in an assembly to further address the issues and to develop a strategic plan.

It's been a busy year for those involved, but we must stay committed to the Tripartite Forum to make it work. Through our commitment to the Tripartite Forum we will continue to make a better place for the Mi'kmaq people and our future leaders of tomorrow.

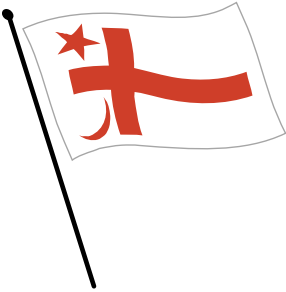
Wela'liek

Alex Denny



A MESSAGE FROM

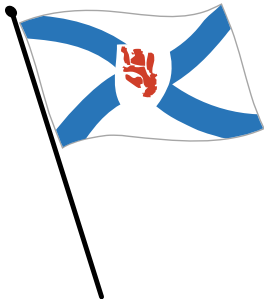
...THE NOVA SCOTIA MI'KMAQ



The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq are proud of the dedication and commitment the Tripartite Forum members continue to make to this process. There have been a number of successful events that have occurred over the past year; some of which include, the development of the seventh working committee, sports and recreation, the co-chairs facilitated sessions, a Tripartite Forum website and the addition of two secretariat positions, a communications officer and an administrative assistant.

These accomplishments represent the benefits of this partnership. Through these achievements we will continue to build a strong Mi'kmaq community.

...THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT



The Tripartite Forum remains the cornerstone of our partnership with the Mi'kmaq and Canada. The work being done by the Forum's seven committees is an excellent example of co-operation and achievement for the Made in Nova Scotia treaty discussions now underway. While the work of the individual committees continue, significant effort has been taken over the last year to identify key strategic directions for the future work of the Forum. Planning sessions held in January and the Tripartite Assembly in Wagmatcook First Nation in June gave all participants the impetus to continue their collaborative approach to social and economic issues within First Nation communities.

Over the last year communication has improved with a better sharing of information among the various committees of the Forum and the development of a website which now allows all Nova Scotians to learn about the work of the Forum.

...THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



The Government of Canada is encouraged by the ongoing work done within the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. The working committees continue to improve the Tripartite Forum's effectiveness in resolving issues of mutual concern. Canada is pleased with the effort over the past year to identify key strategic policy issues that will give future direction to the committees. Enhanced communications efforts have also been undertaken to help inform Nova Scotians about the role and function of the Forum and its successes. The Government of Canada looks forward to the continued partnership within the Tripartite Forum in 2004-2005.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	CMM/SECRETARIAT	UNSI	NSNWA	TOTAL
REVENUES				
Communications – Province of NS	\$17,390			
Total Communications Revenue	\$17,390			\$17,390
CORE SERVICES				
INAC	\$46,009	\$44,772	\$43,470	
Province of Nova Scotia	\$44,670	\$44,772	\$44,966	
Other Income			\$6	
Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey	\$2,302			
Total Core Services Revenue	\$92,981	\$89,544	\$88,442	\$270,967
SECRETARIAT				
INAC	\$113,401			
Province of Nova Scotia	\$96,782			
Total Secretariat Revenue	\$210,183			\$210,183
Deferred Revenue from Prior year	\$14,509			
Total Deferred Revenue	\$14,509			\$14,509
TOTAL REVENUES	\$335,063	\$89,544	\$88,442	\$513,049
EXPENSES				
COMMUNICATIONS				
Administration	\$25,554			
Capital Expenses	\$6,346			
Total Communications Expenses	\$31,900			\$31,900
CORE EXPENSES				
Administration	\$75,933		\$8,844	
Leadership	\$10,492			
Audit		\$807	\$2,600	
Newsletter and Annual Report	\$6,733			
Cleaning		\$519		
Salaries/Benefits		\$69,937	\$47,039	
Equipment Lease		\$2,950		
Honoraria		\$1,912		
Interest & Bank Charges		\$551	\$200	
Meetings		\$5,589		
Office Supplies		\$1,876	\$502	
Pension Plan		\$4,596		
Rent		\$5,000	\$6,000	
Telephone/Fax		\$2,560	\$2,400	
Travel & Accommodations		\$10,199	\$17,667	
Legal			\$3,135	
Total Core Services Expenses	\$93,158	\$106,496	\$88,387	\$288,041
SECRETARIAT EXPENSES				
Administration	\$135,024			
Capital Expenditures	\$4,874			
Co-Chairs	\$3,961			
Working Committees	\$53,775			
Executive				
Executive Chair	\$5,324			
Officials	\$4,789			
Steering Committee	\$2,435			
Total Secretariat Expenses	\$210,182			\$210,182
Total Expenses	\$335,240	\$106,496	\$88,387	\$530,123
Excess of revenues over expenses	(\$177)	(\$16,952)	\$55	(\$17,074)

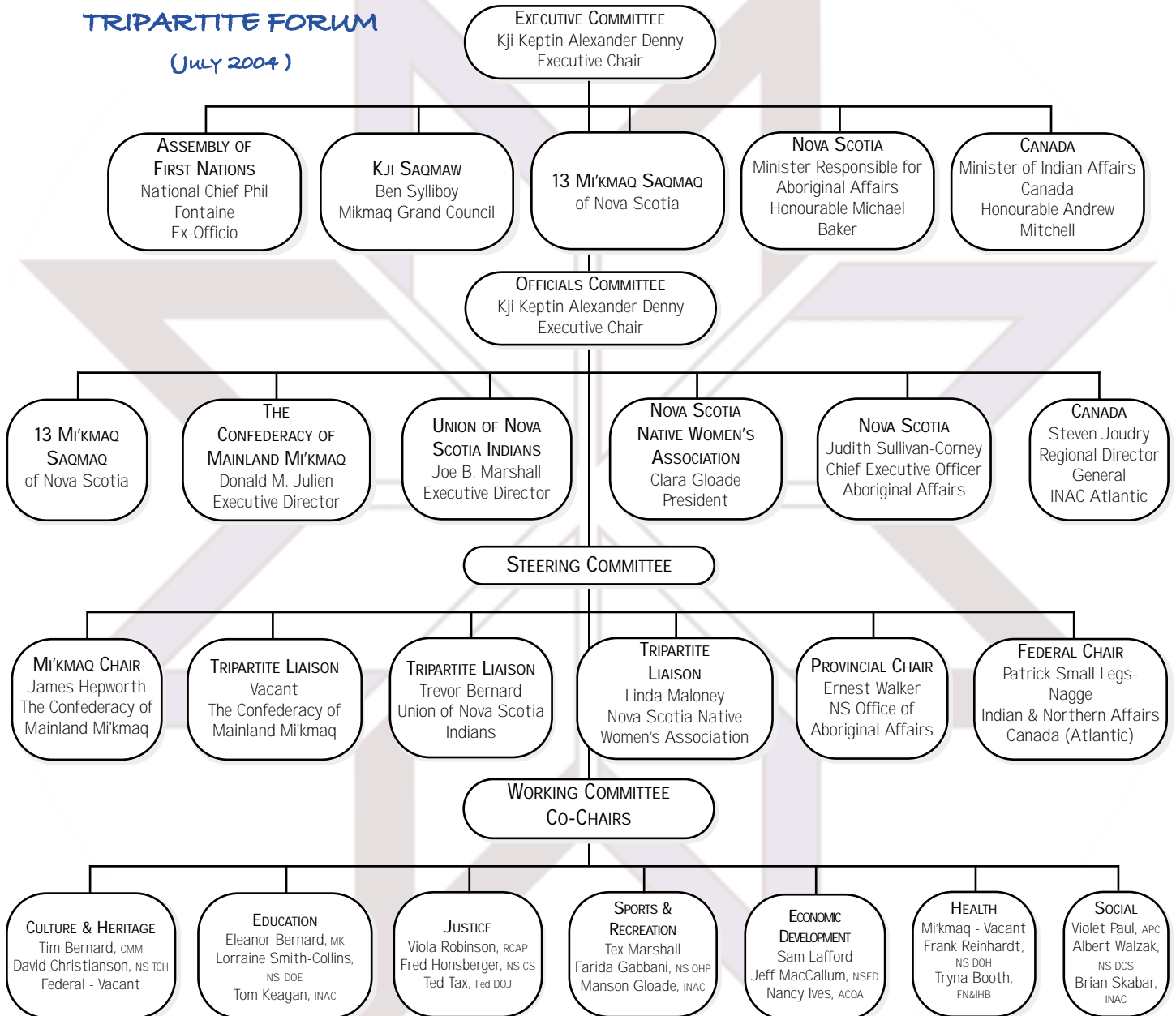


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada

TRIPARTITE FORUM

(July 2004)



KEY

ACOA: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
 APC: Atlantic Policy Congress
 CMM: Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (The)
 Fed DOJ: Federal Department of Justice
 FN&IHB: First Nations & Inuit Health Branch

INAC: Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
 MK: Mikmaq Kinamatnewey
 NS DCS: NS Department of Community Services
 NS DOE: NS Department of Education
 NS ED: Nova Scotia Economic Development
 NS CS: Nova Scotia Correctional Services

NS DOH: Nova Scotia Department of Health
 NS TCH: Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage
 NS OHP: Nova Scotia Office of Health Promotion
 RCAP: Royal Commission on Aboriginal People



ABOUT THE TRIPARTITE FORUM



(L-R) Sam Lafford, economic development co-chair and Linda Maloney, steering committee member

The Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum was formally established 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 outstanding Mi'kmaq issues of mutual concern.

The Tripartite Forum is a strong vehicle to address issues that affect the lives of all Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

The Forum is comprised of the following committee levels:

-  Executive Committee
-  Steering Committee

-  Officials Committee
-  Working Committees


Each level has representation from each of the three parties: the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. All parties agree to work together without prejudice and by consensus to discuss and resolve issues of mutual concern.






EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Composition:

-  Executive Chair
-  13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
-  Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

-  Grand Chief
-  National Chief (ex-officio)
-  Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Photos shown above (L-R): Chief Gerard Julian, Paq'tnkek First Nation, Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook First Nation, Rick Simon, Assembly of First Nations, Chief Reginald Maloney, Indian Brook First Nation and Lindsay Marshall, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. **Photo 2:** Robert Nault, former Minister of INAC and Michael Baker, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. **Photo 3:** Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chapel Island First Nation, Chief Anne Francis-Muise, Pictou Landing First Nation and Chief Shirley Clarke, Glooscap First Nation. **Photo 4:** Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook First Nation, Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation and Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chapel Island First Nation.



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' mandate and provides direction as stated by the executive committee.



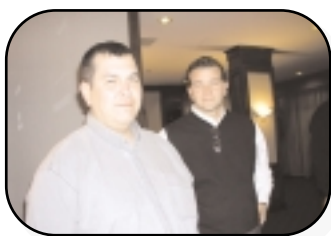
Composition:



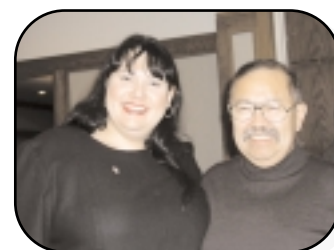
- ⊗ Executive Chair
- ⊗ 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
- ⊗ Executive Director – The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- ⊗ Executive Director – Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- ⊗ President – Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
- ⊗ Chief Executive Officer – Office of Aboriginal Affairs (Nova Scotia)
- ⊗ Regional Director General – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Atlantic)
- ⊗ Other federal regional directors and provincial deputy ministers

Photos from top: Barb Martin, of Han Martin Associates, co-chairs sessions facilitator. **Photo 2:** (L-R) Ernest Walker, steering committee co-chair, Chief Gerard Julian, Paq'tnkek First Nation and Chief Brian Toney, Annapolis Valley First Nation. **Photo 3:** (L-R) Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook First Nation, Candy Palmater, provincial member and Janice Maloney Mi'kmaq committee member.

STEERING COMMITTEE



The purpose of the steering committee is to provide organizational direction and operational support to the Tripartite Forum. As well, to focus on the overall relationship between the provincial government, the federal government and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq within each of the Tripartite Forum working committees.



Steering committee members Trevor Bernard and Jim Hepworth

Candy Palmater, Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Don Julien, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

WORKING COMMITTEES

The Tripartite Forum includes seven working committees. Each committee discusses issues, develops solutions and suggests actions to resolve issues of mutual concern for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Issues are identified through research and community concerns.

Working Committees:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| ⊗ Culture & Heritage | ⊗ Economic Development | ⊗ Education |
| ⊗ Health | ⊗ Justice | ⊗ Social |
| ⊗ Sports & Recreation | | |

Composition:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ⊗ Mi'kmaq representatives | ⊗ Provincial representatives | ⊗ Federal representatives |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|



TRIPARTITE IN THE NEWS!!

Aboriginal Youth Focus on Business

September 5, 2003



Maliseet Artist Arlene (Dozay) Christmas speaks to the youth at the two-day summit

The first annual First Nation Youth Business Summit was held in September 2003 and brought approximately 150 Aboriginal youth to Eskasoni and Sydney for a two-day conference. The Tripartite Forum's economic development working committee hosted the career fair. Topics included information technology and multimedia, arts and culture and career choices. There were many guest speakers including Susan Aglukark, Tom Jackson and community leaders such as Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. The event was a success and there are talks about holding the summit again next year to help Aboriginal youth continue to explore their career options.

Sister Dorothy Moore Honoured

October 21, 2003



Premier John Hamm, Sister Dorothy Moore, award recipient and Her Honour Myra Freeman

On October 21, 2003 Sister Dorothy Moore received the Order of Nova Scotia Medal. Sister Dorothy is an educator, respected elder and she strives to preserve and restore the Mi'kmaq language. The Order of Nova Scotia is the highest honour of the Province of Nova Scotia. The Order of Nova Scotia recognizes citizens for their outstanding contributions or achievements. The award was established in 2001. Sister Dorothy is a member of the Tripartite Forum education working committee.

Drumming Culture into the Youth Correctional Centre

October 21, 2003



Eastern Eagle Drum group

Mi'kmaq history month had a chance to visit the Waterville Youth Correctional Centre. During the month of October government officials, Mi'kmaq and youth centre staff had the opportunity to take part in the cultural gathering. The Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, an organization providing justice support services to Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, organized the event sponsored by the Tripartite Forum justice working committee. The committee strives to ensure fair treatment and access to the Mi'kmaq culture for Mi'kmaq in the justice system. The day was filled with drumming by

the Eastern Eagle drum group, story telling, music and all were encouraged to dance in the traditional two-step. The day provided cultural awareness to all the people that were in attendance. The events allowed Mi'kmaq youth who were in the centre to celebrate their heritage and culture. It is important that the Mi'kmaq culture is kept alive while the youth are incarcerated.



(L-R) Dale Sylliboy, Janice Maloney, MLSN director, Tanya Johnson, MLSN caseworker and Ella Paul MLSN caseworker



First Mi'kmaq Woman to win Frances Fish Award

October 31, 2003



Michael Baker, Minister of Justice and Aboriginal Affairs, Viola Robinson, award recipient and Don Julien, justice committee member

Dr. Viola Robinson, a member of the Acadia First Nation became the first Mi'kmaq woman to receive the Frances Fish Women Lawyers' Achievement Award. Dr. Robinson has spent most of her life advocating the rights of Mi'kmaq and women issues and was happy to dedicate the award to the Mi'kmaq people and especially the Mi'kmaq women. The award honours and celebrates Dr. Robinson for her outstanding achievements in Mi'kmaq communities and her commitment to the advancement of women equality through her legal profession. Dr. Robinson is a member of the Tripartite Forum justice working committee. The awards were held at the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel on October 23, 2003.

Partnership for a Healthier Mi'kmaq Population

December 2, 2003



Robert Bernard, MYRACL executive director

The 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the Province of Nova Scotia and the government of Canada committed \$150,000 to the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Youth Recreation and Active Circle for Living (MYRACL), an initiative that promotes healthier, more active lifestyles in Mi'kmaq communities. The MYRACL initiative was endorsed by the Tripartite Forum executive committee meeting in November 2003. The partnership formed by the three levels of government will create positive outcomes through an emphasis on healthy living and active lifestyles for Mi'kmaq youth. The Tripartite Forum sports and recreation committee supports the MYRACL initiative. The working committee is co-chaired by Farida Gabbani (NS Office of Health Promotion), Manson Gloade (INAC) and Tex Marshall (Eskasoni First Nation). A work plan for the initiative was established and Robert Bernard, executive director of MYRACL has been forgoing ahead promoting the initiative in Mi'kmaq communities across the province.

Don Julien Receives 2003 Archaeology Award



Don Julien, archeology award recipient

Don Julien, executive director of CMM and officials committee member of the Tripartite Forum received recognition from the Nova Scotia Archeology Society. Don aims to study and protect Mi'kmaq archaeological heritage. Protecting the Palaeo-Indian period archaeological sites at Debert is his largest contribution. Don was presented with the 2003 friend of Archeology award.



COMMUNICATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Tripartite Forum Communicates....

In 2003 the Tripartite Forum recognized a need for communication with its members, First Nations communities and other publics. The goal was to communicate the diverse benefits of the Tripartite Forum while encouraging others to participate in committee activities.

In less than a year the Tripartite Forum established a number of communication tools.

In 2003 - 04 the Tripartite Forum:

- ⊗ Launched a website. (www.TripartiteForum.com)
- ⊗ Introduced a newsletter
- ⊗ Printed stories in newspapers across Nova Scotia
- ⊗ Hosted booths at events throughout Nova Scotia
- ⊗ Created meeting summary sheets, called a highlights sheet



TWO YEARS LATER...



The negotiators (L-R) Jamie Campbell for Nova Scotia, Tom Molloy for Canada and Bruce Wildsmith and Eric Zscheile for the Mi'kmaq.

In June 2002, The 13 Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the province of Nova Scotia and the government of Canada signed an umbrella agreement renewing their commitment to work together through the Tripartite Forum. Also during that day, the three parties made the commitment that unresolved issues around Aboriginal title and treaty rights would not affect the positive work of the Tripartite Forum. Instead the issues would be negotiated in a separate process.

Two years later the three parties have maintained that commitment and formed the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process; the organizational body working to settle issues around Aboriginal rights.

Bruce Wildsmith, lead negotiator, and Eric Zscheile, associate negotiator, represent the Mi'kmaq. Jamie Campbell was appointed as chief negotiator for the Province of Nova Scotia and Tom Molloy has been appointed to represent Canada in negotiations in Nova Scotia.

The negotiators are in the process of developing a framework agreement. The framework will provide details of how the parties will work together to resolve issues around Aboriginal rights. It will also include a timeline to ensure concrete results are being achieved during the negotiations.

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process will allow the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, Canada and Nova Scotia to sit down together and negotiate outstanding issues of Aboriginal rights, including assertions of Aboriginal title and treaty rights. The process will be flexible enough to take into account the unique circumstances, needs, interests and rights of all involved.



Mi'kmaq lead negotiator (L-R) Bruce Wildsmith and associate negotiator Eric Zscheile



STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee provides organizational and operational support to the Tripartite Forum. In particular, the committee is a key link between the forum working committees and the officials committee.

During 2003-2004, the steering committee:

- ④ Conducted two strategic planning sessions with all co-chairs in January 2004. This work identified a series of policy areas that require the collaboration of forum committees. This work resulted in the first annual Tripartite Forum Assembly.
- ④ Guided the implementation of the communications plan and liaised with the communications subcommittee to ensure timely and effective implementation of the plan's strategies.
- ④ Through a subcommittee, encouraged dialogue that led to an agreement among all parties to support through a three-year funding commitment, the operation of the Mi'kmaq Youth Recreation and Active Circle for Living.
- ④ Updated and communicated a number of policy directives to assist committees in the conduct of their work.
- ④ Provided direction to the working committees on operational and budget planning throughout the year and assisted in the preparation of three officials committee meetings and one executive committee meeting during the year.
- ④ Created and submitted to the officials committee, the 2002-03 annual report.

WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

CULTURE AND HERITAGE WORKING COMMITTEE



Former Culture and Heritage co-chairs (L-R) Charles Lindsay, Federal chair, Peter Christmas, Mi'kmaq chair and John Hennigar-Shuh, provincial chair

The culture and heritage working committee promotes an environment to discuss common issues, explore options and recommend action with respect to Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. During the 2003-2004 year the committee met four times and addressed several issues.

Through the Mi'kmaq Association of Cultural Studies (MACS) the successful translation of a Mi'kmaq place names booklet was updated to meet the official Smith-Francis Orthography standards. The change is a follow-up to the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq language resolution that was signed by the Tripartite officials committee in 2002. The committee continues to research ways to promote the Mi'kmaq culture. One project example is a Mi'kmaq historical place names placemat that would be used in restaurants.



Culture & Heritage working committee during a meeting in November 2003

The committee recognized that Mi'kmaq communities were not always identified on highway signs and in Nova Scotia maps. The committee is in discussions with the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works to further promote Mi'kmaq communities and language on highway signs. The committee is striving to form a partnership with Tourism Nova Scotia for the inclusion of the Mi'kmaq culture in the provincial tourism guide.

A Mi'kmaq graduate student was contracted by the committee to develop a report of the on-reserve archaeological sites in Nova Scotia. The report will be distributed to Mi'kmaq communities and posted on the Tripartite Forum website in 2004. The Bedford Barrens, an off-reserve archaeological site, has sparked committee interest.

The land is owned by the Province of Nova Scotia and is protected from any development. The committee will re-examine the protection of the site.

The committee has paired up with the education working committee to form a language subcommittee. They continue to meet and discuss Mi'kmaq language inclusion in the provincial school system.

Unfortunately, the 2003 Treaty Day celebrations were cancelled due to Hurricane Juan. The hurricane left Halifax in a state of emergency for several days. The Treaty Day events will continue in 2004.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING COMMITTEE



Economic Development committee members (L-R) Louis Joe Bernard, Chris Googoo, Tracy Menge and Lindsay Marshall

The economic development working committee encourages employment and economic opportunities to enhance the overall conditions of Aboriginal Peoples. The committee develops partnerships with First Nations communities, the government and other businesses. The committee addresses topic areas focusing on entrepreneurship, information communications technology, community capacity building and professional development.

The committee hosted the Aboriginal Youth Business Summit in June 2003. There were 157 youth in attendance. As a result of the summit a youth steering committee was formed. The youth will provide direction to the economic development working committee in

terms of entrepreneurship and business development for youth. The group consists of Mi'kmaq youth and federal and provincial representatives.

The committee helped to facilitate funding and support for the Open for Business. It operates throughout the year and is a youth friendly walk-in centre that offers counseling, information and support to new entrepreneurs. Through the centre a number of junior achievement programs were delivered to Mi'kmaq students. Six youth entrepreneurship camps were also held throughout the summer of 2003.

Mi'kmaq Nova Scotia First Net has completed phase one. It included the development of a website and assistance has been provided to First Nations communities on how to seek public access to information technology. A community development consultant was hired to manage the First Net project and another company designed the website. A subcommittee committee is assisting First Net in the second phase.



(L-R) Chris Bryant and Sam Lafford, economic development working committee members

The Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) continues to promote and increase awareness of the ABSN sites in the communities. ABSN is a source of information for Aboriginals to establish, expand and modernize business opportunities. There are 15 sites in Nova Scotia and its services are available to on and off reserve Aboriginal Peoples.

The committee completed a business plan to establish a Mi'kmaq Tourism Association. As a result of the plan it was recommended that an Aboriginal tourism industry development officer position be developed. The committee has received funding for the position and will hire someone in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

The committee continues to produce an annual newsletter, which features economic success stories. The newsletter is available on the Tripartite Forum website at www.tripartiteforum.com.

EDUCATION WORKING COMMITTEE



Education Committee co-chairs (L-R) Eleanor Bernard, Mi'kmaq chair, Lorraine Smith-Collins, provincial chair, and Tom Keagan, federal chair

The focus of the education working committee is to promote an environment to discuss issues, develop solutions and recommend actions with respect to Mi'kmaq education in Nova Scotia. The education working committee focuses its attention on all aspects of education including elementary and secondary education, Mi'kmaq language instruction, adult education training and post-secondary education. The main goal of the committee is to make a difference at the community level.

The committee continues to work towards the restoration and preservation of the Mi'kmaq language in Nova Scotia. The committee achieves this by supporting ongoing activities such as the annual L'nui'sultinej Conference, the development of teaching materials for Mi'kmaq immersion classes and the increase of language curriculum and foundation documents.

The committee promotes and supports the Mi'kmaq studies curriculum, while looking for new ways to support the teachers and students. In the spring of 2004 a Mi'kmaq language teacher in-service was held at the Eskasoni Middle School.

The committee was successful in providing two Mi'kmaq students \$1000 scholarships in support of excellence and innovative careers. The scholarships promote lifelong learning and career advancement.

The Mi'kmaq Education newsletter continues to increase awareness of Mi'kmaq education activities in Nova Scotia. There have been three publications to-date highlighting new programs, First Nations students, graduates, teaching professionals and other community members who contribute to Mi'kmaq learning opportunities. This publication is widely distributed and provides valuable information and interesting stories for everyone to enjoy.



Education working committee members at a meeting in Paq'tnkek First Nation



HEALTH WORKING COMMITTEE



Phyllis Harlow and Sarah Archer at a health working committee meeting.

The health working committee works to address various health issues to meet the needs of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. As well, the committee develops solutions and recommends actions with respect to the health of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

One committee goal was to identify service delivery gaps and undefined jurisdictions for Mi'kmaq and health care. The committee developed a booklet called the Compendium of Federal and Provincial Health Services Available to First Nations in Nova Scotia. The compendium is a one-resource guide providing a summary of the health programs and services

available to First Nations in Nova Scotia. It lists the provincial and federal services and qualifications for accessing the service. It has been distributed to federal and provincial departments and Mi'kmaw communities. It is also available on the Tripartite Forum website at www.tripartiteforum.com.

The committee uses the Compendium and other resources as a guide in identifying health service gaps. As a result, the committee regularly invites health directors and guest speakers to meetings to help improve Mi'kmaw health services. A research proposal is being developed in collaboration with the Atlantic Aboriginal Research Program (AARP), which will address access to services such as mental health and traditional healing practices.

A project to improve information sharing between hospitals and First Nations communities in Cape Breton is ongoing. Discussions to expand that program province-wide have also begun. A subcommittee consisting of the five Cape Breton Mi'kmaq communities and Public Health Services continues to watch over the Cape Breton project and monitors its progress. The subcommittee will develop protocols to improve its efficiency.

The committee regularly discusses new federal and provincial programs in the health sector and serves as a source of proactive input for these programs. At every committee meeting updates are provided and roundtable discussions are ongoing and special guests are invited to present new projects.

The health working committee continues to encourage collaboration among the various federal, provincial and First Nations agencies that provide health-related services to Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

JUSTICE WORKING COMMITTEE



Justice committee co-chairs (L-R) Ted Tax, federal chair, Viola Robinson, Mi'kmaw chair and Fred Honsberger, provincial chair

The focus of the justice working committee is to provide a framework where the three parties can work together cooperatively to discuss issues, develop plans and recommend actions regarding Mi'kmaq justice-related services. The committee focuses on services, which promote culturally appropriate programs, and services with a secure funding base. Such services include Mi'kmaq restorative justice programs, sentencing circles, policing services and Aboriginal justice needs.

The committee acted as a strong vehicle in establishing the Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network (MLSN). The committee also helped to establish a MLSN advisory committee with representation from the

Mi'kmaq, federal and provincial organizations. The role of the committee is to provide advice to the MLSN regarding funding and operations.



The MLSN offers one program called the Mi'kmaq Court Worker Program. Training for the court worker positions and the Mi'kmaq Youth Options Program youth workers were held at the Nova Scotia Community College. After graduating from the program in the fall 2003, the court worker graduates were hired by the MLSN. Court workers provide information and promote an understanding of the court process to Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal clients. They also work to bridge the gaps and eliminate cultural barriers between the criminal justice system and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

In April 2004 the MLSN will also offer the Mi'kmaq Youth Options Program (MYOP) but the name will be changed to the Mi'kmaq Customary Law Program (MCLP). This follows the plan to house Mi'kmaq justice services under one roof.

The committee funded a powwow at Nova Scotia Youth Facility in Waterville on October 15, 2003. The day fell in conjunction with Mi'kmaq history month. Events included singing, dancing, drumming and a Mi'kmaq traditional feast. The committee also held their meeting at the facility during the event. The event helps to ensure that the Mi'kmaq culture and tradition is retained and kept alive while Mi'kmaq youth are incarcerated. As well, it was an opportunity for cross-cultural training for the staff and other non-Aboriginal youth.

The partnership between the justice working committee and the MLSN allows the committee to hear the issues the front line workers and their clients are facing. The committee continues to address justice-related issues for Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal Peoples living in Nova Scotia.

SOCIAL WORKING COMMITTEE



Social working committee members (L-R) Violet Paul, Mi'kmaq chair and Buddy Walzak, provincial chair

The social working committee focuses on the social needs of the Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal Peoples including day care, children and youth activities, on-reserve housing and social programs.

The committee is working to acquire an approval process for the licensing and funding of on-reserve daycare facilities. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared by the Province of Nova Scotia with input from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). Further feedback will come from the First Nations communities and the social working committee. The ongoing work for the MOU will continue until December 2004.

The social working committee is exploring early childhood activities in Nova Scotia for Mi'kmaq children. The social and health working committees held a joint meeting in February 2004. The session was, in part, a follow up to the National Dialogue on Early Childhood Development for Aboriginal Children that was held in Halifax in November 2003. The purpose of the session was to explore Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs for Aboriginal children. This was the first joint meeting for the working committees and future joint meetings are being planned.

A presentation by Ray Amiro from the Health Canada - First Nation and Inuit Health Branch highlighted a meeting in February. The presentation provided an overview of the federal strategy on early childhood development for First Nations and Aboriginal children. Directors of child care centres and other guests from First Nations communities were encouraged to give feedback on the program.

The committee also conducted a study – commissioned by the Atlantic Policy Congress – aimed at examining the comparability of social services on and off reserve. The study requires more clarity and the committee will review it.



SPORTS AND RECREATION WORKING COMMITTEE



Sports and Recreation co-chairs Tex Marshall, Mi'kmaw chair, Farida Gabbani, Provincial chair and Manson Gloade, Federal chair

The Tripartite Forum now consists of seven working committees. The Sports and Recreation committee was formed after the Mi'kmaq Youth Recreation and Active Circle for Living (MYRACL) was endorsed during the Tripartite Forum Executive committee meeting in November, 2003. The partnership, formed by the three levels of government, will create positive outcomes through an emphasis on healthy living and active lifestyles for Mi'kmaq youth. The committee is co-chaired by Farida Gabbani (NS Office of Health Promotion), Manson Gloade (INAC) and Tex Marshall (Eskasoni First Nation). The committee will address sports and recreation issues for Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal Peoples living in Nova Scotia.

TRIPARTITE FORUM SECRETARIAT



Top (clockwise) Stacey Devoe, communications officer, Amanda Dugas, administrator and Denise Gloade, administrative assistant

The Secretariat is responsible for the daily operations of the Tripartite Forum. This includes providing logistical support and coordinating meetings for the seven working committees and the steering, officials and executive committees. The Secretariat also works to communicate the positive results of the Tripartite Forum through a website, a newsletter, presentations and articles.

The Tripartite Forum Secretariat consists of two full-time staff, an administrator and an administrative assistant and a part-time communications officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook, NS



(L-R) Wyatt White, Debbie Windsor and Patrick Small at the co-chairs facilitated session in Millbrook



ALL TRIPARTITE FORUM CO-CHAIRS WORK TOGETHER



Day two in Millbrook (L-R) Brian Skabar, Ted Tax, Candy Palmater, Amanda Dugas, Reni Han, Barb Martin (back) Tim Bernard, Patrick Small-Legs Nagge, Trevor Bernard, Jim Hepworth, Debbie Windsor, Wyatt White, David Christianson, Ernest Walker and Buddy Walzak

The Tripartite Forum co-chairs from six working committees participated in two facilitated sessions to identify common issues and encourage resource sharing. One day was held in Eskasoni and a second day in Millbrook.

The process included reading work plans, identifying what does and doesn't work, deconstructing the issues and learning about the medicine wheel. The sessions were action-packed but at the end of the sessions the co-chairs identified ten key issues facing Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

The issues included: language, preserving and restoring the Mi'kmaq language; liability and jurisdiction, identifying and removing service gaps between the government and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq; youth, providing services and options to youth; community involvement, involving the community in the Tripartite Forum activities; skills development, providing appropriate training services to Mi'kmaq; cross cultural awareness, developing cross-cultural awareness among committee members and organizations; representation on provincial boards and agencies, placing more Mi'kmaq on non-aboriginal committees; tendering and procurement, having a clear process for Mi'kmaq organizations and promoting Mi'kmaq businesses; long-term care and special needs, providing required resources to those in need of long-term or special care.

All Tripartite Forum members will participate in a third session. Using the information from the past sessions the participants will work towards developing a strategic plan for the Tripartite Forum.

Barb Martin and Reni Han of Han Martin Associates facilitated the sessions.



Day one in Eskasoni, Front (L-R) Barb Martin, Sam Lafford, Candy Palmater, (second row) Brian Skabar, Tryna Booth, Lorraine Smith-Collins, Denise Gloade, Amanda Dugas, Patrick Small Legs-Nagge, (back row) Buddy Walzak, Jim Hepworth, Dot Smith-Bezanson and Reni Han



Trevor Bernard, steering committee member

(L-R) Tryna Booth, health committee member, Dot Smith-Bezanson, education committee member and Buddy Walzak, social committee member

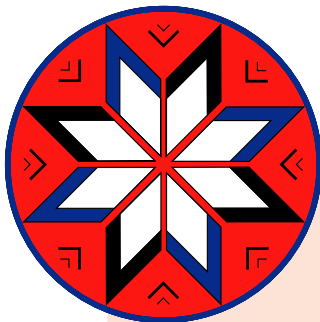


Right: (L-R) Jim Hepworth and Patrick Small Legs-Nagge



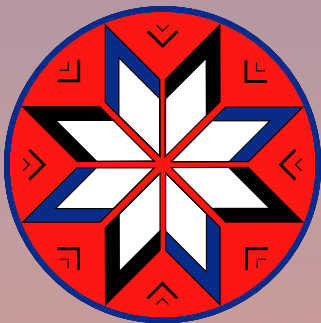
Above: (L-R) Loraine Smith-Collins, Brian Skabar, Sharon Rudderham and Candy Palmater at a facilitated session in Eskasoni





Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada
TRIPARTITE FORUM

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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TRIPARTITE FORUM

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Tripartite Forum

P. O. Box 1590, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5V3
Phone: 902-895-6385 Fax: 902-893-1520
www.tripartiteforum.com



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

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P. O. Box 1590, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5V3
Phone: 902-895-6385 Fax: 902-893-1520
www.cmmns.com



Union of Nova Scotia Indians

P. O. Box 961, Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6J4
Phone: 902-539-4107 Fax: 902-564-2137
www.unsi.ns.ca



Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

P. O. Box 805, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E5
Phone: 902-893-7402 Fax: 902-897-7162
www.nwac-hq.org

The Province of Nova Scotia



Office of Aboriginal Affairs
P. O. Box 1617, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Y3
Phone: 902-424-7409 Fax: 902-424-4225
www.gov.ns.ca/abor/

The Government of Canada



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
P. O. Box 160, Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 3Z3
Phone: 902-661-6200 Fax: 902-661-6237
www.inac.gc.ca