



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada
TRIPARTITE FORUM

Annual Report 2006-2007



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada

TRIPARTITE FORUM

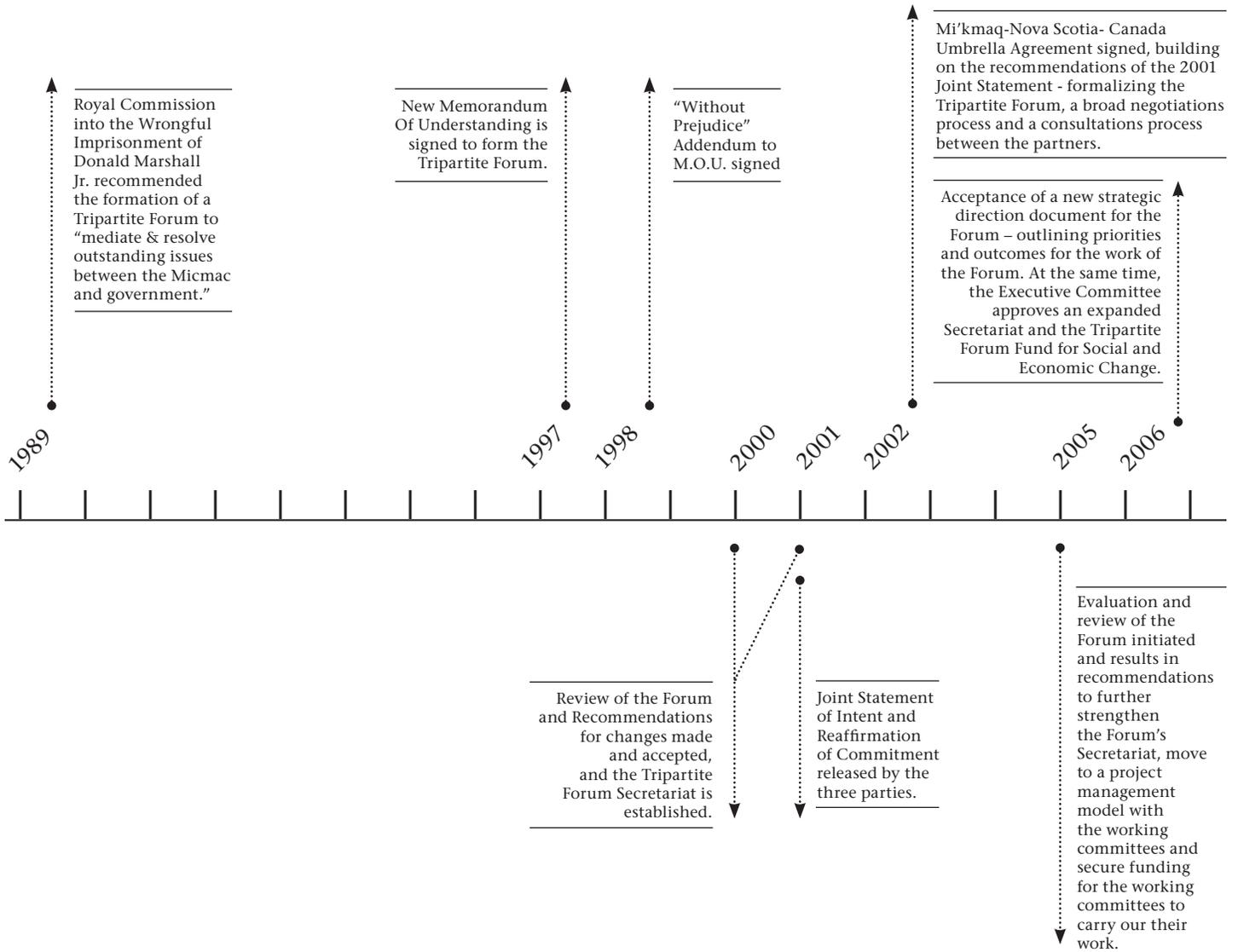
10th Anniversary

Ten Years of Partnership 1997-2007

Ten Years of Partnership

In 2007, we mark the 10th anniversary of working together as the Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum. On July 2nd, 1997 the 13 Nova Scotia Chiefs gathered at Province House in Halifax with then Premier John Savage and then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Hon. Jane Stewart. Together, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating the Tripartite Forum.

Ten years later, the work of the Forum continues to build on successes and form new partnerships. The Forum has made some changes to our operations over the years, and has helped pave the way for the Umbrella Agreement in 2002, beginning the negotiations and consultations processes between the Mi'kmaq, Federal and Provincial Governments in Nova Scotia.



A Message from the Executive Chair



It's hard to believe that 10 years have past since the signing of the Tripartite Forum's Memorandum of Understanding. It's been a building process over these 10 years – building relationships, new partnerships and a unique process of working together. A unique process that others across the country are watching and are beginning to replicate in other provinces and territories.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we must also celebrate accomplishments reached in the Forum in the past year. A major accomplishment was the solid show of support for the work and direction of the Forum by our Federal and Provincial partners. This show of support was demonstrated by their approval to expand the resources of the Tripartite Secretariat, and also create the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change – a pool of dollars that empowers the Forum's working committees to carry out their projects. The Executive Committee also approved a transition to a project management approach for the work and work plans of each of the seven working committees. These, and other changes will focus the work of the Forum - work that is done on behalf of all Nova Scotians.



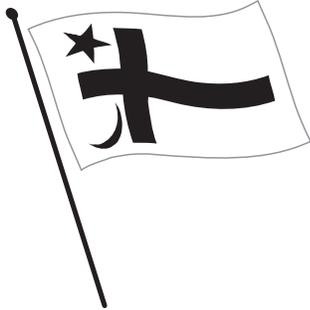
I encourage all people to get involved, ask questions and educate themselves about the work of the Tripartite Forum, and help shape the future for Mi'kmaq People in Nova Scotia – together.

Rick Simon

A Message From...

The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

As we wrap up the activities of the last year – we must take time to reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments.



We are very pleased with the commitment shown for the Forum by all partners over the last year, by adding new human, financial and strategic support to our activities. The Tripartite Secretariat was enhanced by increasing the Communications Officer position to a full-time position and the addition of a full-time Project Manager position. Additional financial commitments were brought to the Forum and its working committees by the establishment of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change. By creating a new path for the Forum through the adoption of a new strategic direction during the past year, we have also shown that the Forum is both a working relationship and a relationship that works.

2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the Tripartite Forum as a successful relationship based on partnership, commitment and respect. As we celebrate this important occasion we look forward to the work still to be done – together.

The Nova Scotia Government



The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum stands as a remarkable example of how we can all successfully work together to address issues of common concern in a manner that is based on partnership, respect and commitment.

2006/2007 was a year of renewal for the Tripartite Forum. With the agreement of all partners, the Forum adopted a new strategic direction and implemented a project management approach. This new approach is supported by the creation of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change.

As we near the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Forum we should all be proud of the work that has been accomplished while recognizing that there is much more to be done.

The Government of Canada



The work that has been accomplished this year by the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum should be celebrated for its contribution toward building a foundation for prosperous and vibrant Mi'kmaw communities. The progress we have made demonstrates the commitment of all the parties to strengthening their relationship and finding solutions to issues of mutual concern.

All three parties – the Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia and Canada are very proud of the Framework Agreement signed earlier this year under the Made-in-Nova Scotia negotiation process. This achievement is another step towards greater self-governance for the Mi'kmaq First Nations of Nova Scotia on issues such as lands and access to resources.

The Government of Canada looks forward to continuing to work together in partnership to the benefit of Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw community, and all Canadians.

About Tripartite Forum



(L-R) Paul Prosper, KMK; Joe B. Marshall, UNSI; Doug Brown, UNSI and Don Julien, CMM

The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum was 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'kmaw communities.

A strong backbone for the Tripartite Forum was established in the recommendations of both the 1989 Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution and the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

In 1997, the 13 Nova Scotia Chiefs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) with the Federal and Provincial governments. Under this M.O.U, the Chiefs would represent all of their registered band members in the Tripartite Forum. A "Without Prejudice" addendum to the M.O.U was signed in 1998 ensuring all Tripartite Forum meetings and discussions were not considered "consultation".

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.

Executive Committee



The Executive Committee meets in November, 2006

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 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 of the Executive Committee

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

Officials Committee



Judith Sullivan-Corney, OAA

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 of the Officials Committee:

- Executive Chair
- 12 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

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee provides organizational direction and operational support to the Tripartite Forum. The Steering Committee also functions to focus on the overall relationships between the three partners within each of the Forum's working committees.



(L-R) Dorothy Haché, Federal Steering Co-chair; Ernest Walker, Provincial Steering Co-chair and Jim Hepworth, Mi'kmaq Steering Co-chair

Composition of the Steering Committee:

- 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 Chair
- Provincial Chair
- Federal Chair

Working Committees



Members of the Culture and Heritage Working Committee (L-R) David Burton, Federal Co-chair; Calum Ewing; Rob Ferguson; and Tim Bernard, Mi'kmaq Co-Chair

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'kmaq communities.

The seven working committees:

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

Mission, Vision & Values

Mission Statement of the Tripartite Forum

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

Vision Statement of the Tripartite Forum

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

Values Statements of the Tripartite Forum

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'kmaq community that will benefit all Nova Scotians.

Respect

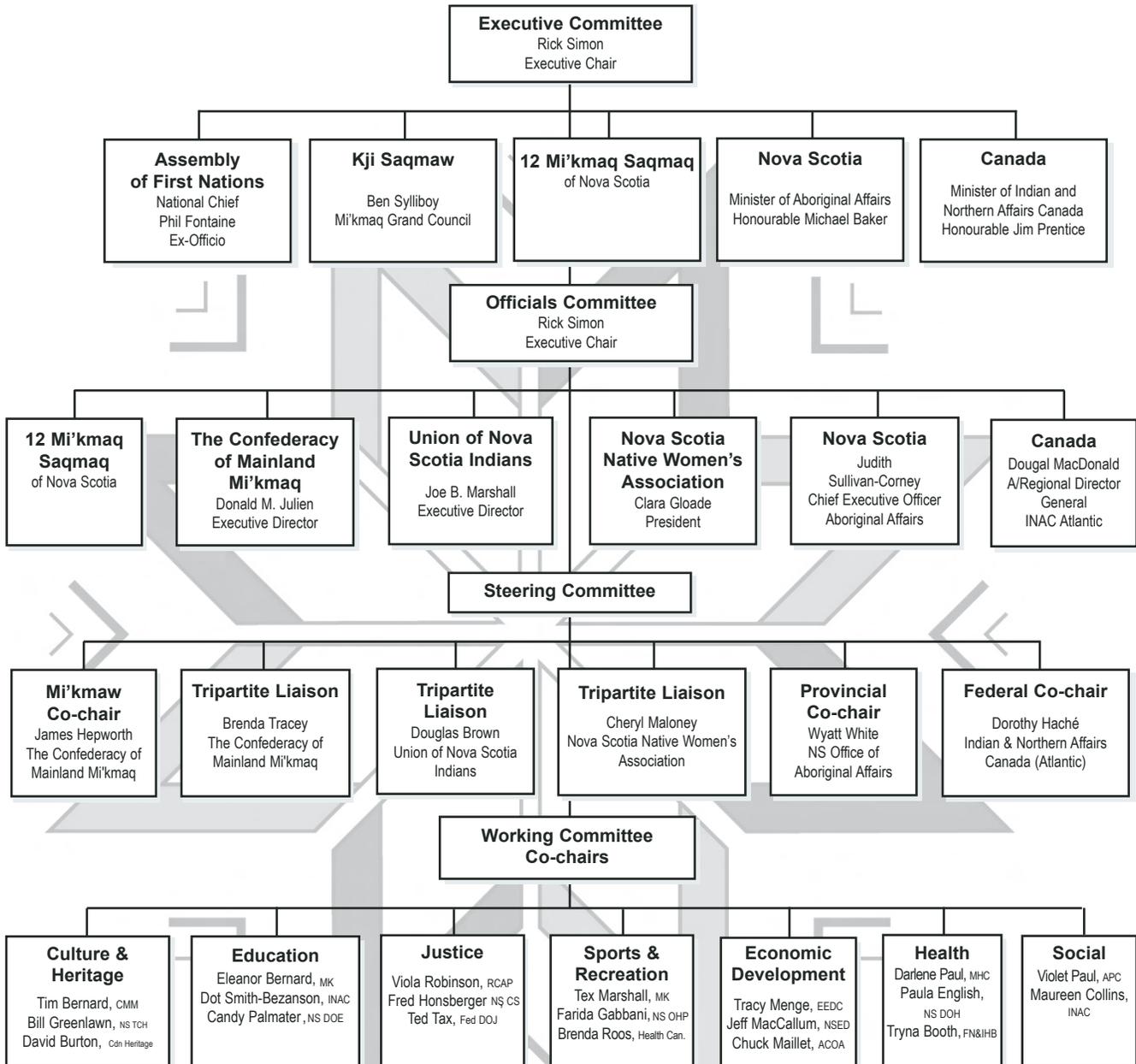
We develop our relationships based on mutual trust and respect, where we learn and grow together.

Renewed Strategic Direction

In 2006, the Executive Committee approved a new strategic direction for the Forum. The direction came as a result of from a number of meeting and documents compiled over the past few years – and were put together to point a concise way forward for the working committees and the Forum itself. The priorities of the Tripartite Forum were identified as: **Individual and community capacity; Youth; Community; and Relationships**. Each priority also contains measurable outcomes that working committees must match their annual work plan goals towards achieving. By working together on common, measurable outcomes the Forum provides additional accountability to our partners and all Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia.

Organizational Chart

June 2007



Key

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

INAC: Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
MHC: Membertou Health Centre
MK: Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey
NS CS: 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

Tripartite Forum Secretariat



Mary Sylliboy
Tripartite Forum Administrator



Denise Gloade
Tripartite Forum Administrator

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 four full-time staff; and two administrators, a project manager and a communications officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook, NS.



Wendy Casey
Interim Tripartite Forum
Project Manager



Jeff Bishop
Communications Officer

Committee Reports

Steering Committee



(L-R) Doug Brown, UNSI Tripartite Liaison and Brenda Tracey, CMM Tripartite Liaison

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 and executive committees.

During 2006-2007, the steering committee:

Provided planning and administrative work for all Officials, Executive and Co-chairs Committee meetings.

Guided the implementation of recommendations from the organizational review process, including the Forum's new Strategic Direction Document and the movement towards a Project Management approach for the working committees.

Guided the implementation of communications planning for Tripartite Forum.

Provided direction to the working committees on operational and budget planning throughout the year and assisted in the preparation of officials committee and executive committee meetings during the year.

Created and submitted to the officials committee, the 2005-06 annual report.

Health Working Committee

After a major investment of time and effort to guide the development of the Nova Scotia Blueprint report, *Providing Health Care, Achieving Health* in late 2005/06, the Health Committee turned its collective energy towards strategic planning in 2006/07. This year was a time of reflection and renewal. The Committee revisited past accomplishments, mandate, and members' roles and responsibilities. While *Providing Health Care, Achieving Health* continues to be the foundational document guiding the committee's discussions and efforts, the road ahead involves building on past accomplishments and lessons, and nurturing opportunities for new partnerships to improve the health of Nova Scotia's First Nations communities.

The results of the 2006 strategic planning process includes a comprehensive committee work plan linked to measurable outcomes deliverables, and an updated Terms of Reference document. Committee also aligned its efforts to the values, priorities, and expected outcomes in Tripartite Forum's September 2006 Strategic Direction Document.

Recognizing the importance of using available evidence to inform policy and program recommendations, the Committee invited Dr. Fred Wien and Carla Moore from the Mi'kmaq Research Group to review the results of the Atlantic Regional Longitudinal Health Survey. Committee members discussed program and policy implications for each party and how to best use this data, combined with information from the Blueprint Report, to inform our efforts and ongoing investments.

Highlights of the Health Committee's updated work plan include:

The development of communication strategy to capture progress made towards improving the health of Nova Scotia's First Nations communities since the Blueprint document was officially launched in February 2006, and to increase stakeholder capacity to use the Blueprint in their strategic planning efforts.

A planned expansion of the committee's membership to include a youth representative, and to foster stronger linkages with District Health Authorities.

A recommendation to the Drug Utilization Prevention and Promotion Working Group to partner with the Committee to undertake an environmental scan exploring needs and issues, available resources and programs related to prescription drug abuse/misuse in First Nations communities.

Continued support a research project focused on exploring gaps in mental health services in First Nations communities and ways to increase access and availability of programs.

Continued focus on the complex problem of prescription drug abuse/misuse, recognizing the need for long term, innovative, and concerted efforts by governments and communities working in partnership.



(L-R) Wyatt White, OAA; Tryna Booth, Federal Health Co-chair and Paula English, Provincial Health Co-chair

Justice Working Committee



(L-R) Ted Tax, Federal Justice Co-chair and Violet Paul, Mi'kmaq Social Co-chair

The primary focus of the Tripartite Justice Subcommittee during 2006/2007 has been related to the MLSN evaluation by Dr. Don Clairmont and response to that evaluation. Activities include:

MLSN:

Evaluation

Dr. Don Clairmont commenced evaluation in the spring of 2006 with a focus on mandate, structure, governance, funding and program outcomes.

Findings

Concern by Mi'kmaq leadership that Tripartite Justice Subcommittee is de facto board of directors of MLSN. Chief and Council must be more visible and advisory committee role needs to be strengthened.

Need to enhance community awareness of MLSN and identification through local Justice committees.

MLSN needs to enhance victim services – primary focus is on offender.

Service delivery model is not working as well on mainland as in Cape Breton.

Customary law program is well received but very limited use.

Outcome

MLSN workplan, funding and operational support will be administered by CMM through governance by MLSN advisory committee.

Tripartite Justice Subcommittee will support work of MLSN through advisory committee chair.

MLSN advisory committee will address evaluation report outcomes to enhance community stability/support.

Ongoing support to MLSN

Gladue court reports.

Needs analysis for circuit court at Indian Brook.

Work with NS Community College to establish Mi'kmaq translation service.

Cultural events at Waterville, Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia correctional facilities.

Aboriginal Perceptions training for Justice staff.

Subcommittee

Justice working committee has established family violence subcommittee to identify program/ service gaps in Mi'kmaq community and culturally appropriate models to assist women and families through prevention/ intervention.

Education Working Committee

This year was one of new beginnings and refocusing. Our meetings were productive and strategic as we began the work of focusing our endeavors as per the over all direction of the Forum. We are poised to create some concrete initiatives and outcomes in the months and years ahead.

The committee is committed to being answerable, not only to the officials committee but to the Miikmaq community at large. As a result we have made a conscious effort to expand our committee by including many new resource people in our work.

The IWK Children's Hospital have developed a iRead to Me program where all new mothers in the province are provided with a bag containing books and materials designed to encourage literacy through early interest in reading. The IWK has approached us with their interest in now designing a Miikmaq Read To Me program. The Early Childhood sub-committee will be meeting with representatives from the IWK shortly. As well as a literacy initiative, this program will also feed into our overall stated goal of preserving and promoting the Miikmaq language.

The Skills and Lifelong Learning sub-committee have expanded to include many non-Tripartite Forum current members both from the provincial department of Education as well as the Miikmaq community. In addition, they have, within days of this assembly met with 7 members of the Economic Development working group to discuss some joint ventures.

After being encouraged by the Forum, the joint language sub-committee is moving toward solid plans and procedures to further their goal of promoting and preserving the Miikmaq language.

The working committee is pleased to announce that they now have a web-page on the Tripartite Forum website where information and good news stories about Education will be displayed.



*(L-R) Tex Marshall, Mi'kmaw Sport & Recreation Co-chair
with Candy Palmater, Provincial Education Co-chair*

Sport and Recreation Working Committee

Meetings



Farida Gabbani, Provincial Sport & Recreation Co-chair

The Co-chairs have met several times, both in person and by teleconference. Welcome to Brenda Roos the new Federal Co-chair. Brenda brings the health perspective of sport and recreation to the table.

The Sport and Recreation Committee have had a number of meetings and attendance has increased over the year. Welcome to Dorothy Haché, our new Federal member. Dorothy's interest and commitment to the committee are much valued.

The Sport and Recreation Co-chairs met with the Health Committee Co-chairs and discussed the collection of baseline data on physical activity participation and healthy eating habits. This data will enable the Sport and Recreation Committee to evaluate their progress on the targets in the workplan. There were also plans made to share information relevant to sport and recreation from studies that are priorities of the Health Committee.

Scholarship Program

The committee has agreed to name the program the Kji Keptin Alex Denny Memorial Sports and Education Scholarship program. There were 3 successful applicants who will receive scholarships for demonstrating excellence in academics and athletics. These applicants will be attending post-secondary institutions in the fall of 2007.

Support



*Members of the Sport & Recreation Working Committee
Sara-Lynne Knockwood and Colin Bernard*

The following programs have supported the Tripartite Sport and Recreation Committee in working towards their goals and targets:

The Sport Animator position, co-funded by Sport Canada, the Department of Health Promotion and Protection and MK. The Animator, Tex Marshall, visited every community and hosted the first annual Aboriginal Track and Field Championships, with the support of St. FX University and a team of teachers.

Aboriginal Sport bilateral, funded by Sport Canada, that enabled a study to be conducted by Saint Mary's University to collect information from communities. This allowed 11 of 134 communities to receive funding to run pilot sport and recreation projects and to host the first annual Aboriginal Sport Summit.

The funding from Health Promotion and Protection, in partnership with the Department of Education for the Health Promoting Schools project, enabled a committee to plan projects for the upcoming school year

MYRACL, together with communities, enabled a number of athletes to participate in the NAIG in Denver Colorado. The team represented the Mik'maq communities of Nova Scotia proudly. The team represented the Mik'maq communities of Nova Scotia proudly.

Culture and Heritage Working Committee

The Culture and Heritage Working Committee (C&HWC) has been very active over the past twelve months. The committee met on the following Dates, May 25, 2006, Paq'tnkek; September 18, 2006 Milton; December 11, 2006 Halifax; and February 7, 2007 in Millbrook.

We have seen the addition or replacement of seven new members including two new co-chairs. We wish to acknowledge the contributions of both past federal co-chair Ken Paul and our past provincial co-chair David Christianson for a job well done.

With the creation of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, the C&HWC have progressed very well with three of our work plan goals. A four phase approach to enhancing the presence of Mi'kmaq signage was started in October 2006. A complete inventory of existing wayfinding signage was completed by December and an interim report was developed. Early in 2007, information packages were prepared for NS Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Councils for their review and information purposes. Our consultants, the CMM Lands Department are currently working on phase three and are gathering information from communities to develop a signage needs assessment.

The Bedford Barrens sub-committee developed a proposal to bring together members of the Mi'kmaq community with committee members and selected government officials to discuss the protection of the Bedford Barrens Petroglyph site. At year end, a proposal was approved by the Forum's Project Fund Review Committee to host a gathering in Bedford and to produce a video focusing on recommendations to be later presented to the officials committee on the preservation, protection and celebration of the site.

The Mi'kmaq Cultural & Tourism Network approached the C&HWC to garner support to put together a Strategic Action Plan. The Forum's Project Fund Review Committee funded the proposal that saw the creation of a 3 year Strategic Action Plan that will guide and direct the MCTN's move forward. It is anticipated that the plan will be implemented in the early fall 2007.

The Province of Nova Scotia has been developing its very first heritage strategy. Recommendations were put forth by the Voluntary Task Force on Heritage that was released on December 14, 2006. The C&HWC will continue to monitor the release of a provincial heritage strategy.

Other work plan goals that we continue to work on include: a Mi'kmaq place names database; repatriation of a Mi'kmaq Chiefs Regalia from Australia, as well as working on options to secure Mi'kmaq language.

The C&HWC has been able to use a portion of its budget to help fund the printing of a Mi'kmaq place names placemat; reprinting of Mi'kmaq Resource Guides; seed funding for the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs gathering; development of a Mi'kmaq place names database as well as the development of an archaeological bursary.



Tim Bernard, Mi'kmaq Culture and Heritage Co-chair

For the 2007/08 fiscal year, C&HWC have identified three items that require further discussion:

- *Archaeological Bursary*
- *Mi'kmaq Cultural Speakers in school*
- *Skills Development and capacity building for Mi'kmaq Heritage Workers.*

Social Working Committee



Buddy Walzak, Provincial Social Co-chair

The Social Tripartite Committee met on a regular basis during the course of 2006-07. The Committee's workplan for 2006-07 guided the work. Five meetings were held throughout the period; April 20, 2006, July 6, 2006, September 14, 2006, November 30, 2006 and March 23, 2007. All meetings were regularly held in First Nation communities.

Meetings usually included a community presentation or education/research component. Presentations during the 2006-07 period included; (i) Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs: NIHB Prescription Drug Project, (ii) Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program (AAHRP) - (procedures of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission from the point of view of Mi'kmaq), and (iii) Violence Against Aboriginal Women: a conference sponsored by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. As a result of this conference a group has been established and the focus of their discussions will include prevention education and intervention models. Social members intend to participate in these discussions.

A task team on continuing care has been established and this task team meets on a regular basis and reports to the Social Working Committee. The task team approach was introduced with a goal of expanding the work of the Social Working Committee beyond committee members in an effort to ensure that work was progressing between social meetings. The task team is developed a workplan that included understanding roles and responsibilities and identifying gaps in relations to persons living on-reserve who require community care support. They will further develop the concept of bringing band Social Development Administrators and NS Department of Community Services staff together for a joint learning session. In addition, the task team is exploring research opportunities in partnership with Dalhousie University, School of Social Work and the Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program (AAHRP).

The Social Committee continues to examine existing guidelines, policies and legislation related to day cares. The draft policy manual that was first developed is being reviewed to ensure the guidelines are current. The MOU which was previously prepared is being revised and the issue of options for licensing and regulating day cares on-reserve will be referred to Justice and the Negotiating Group as a jurisdiction issue.

In partnership with the Atlantic Policy Congress, the Social Working Committee is supporting the development of Social Development Policies and Programs Manuals. Manuals are being reviewed by the province and federal government and will be pilot tested in a number of jurisdictions. This work is further supported through the development of a social data network. The preliminary development work has been completed. Additional upgrades are being made to the system and similarly this system will be pilot tested.

The Social Working Committee continues to explore and identify crossover issues related to Social/Health Sectors.

Economic Development Working Committee

The Economic Development Working Committee encourages employment and economic opportunities to enhance the overall conditions of Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia. The Economic Development Working Committee acknowledges the importance of partnerships and continues to foster its relationship with First Nation communities and their representatives, the government, and businesses. This year saw Co-Chair representation replacement Federally from Tracey Williams to Chuck Maillet from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

It has been a significant year for the committee: dissolution of the Economic Development Officers Network (EDON), addressed by enhanced Economic Development Officer representation; adopted the Tripartite Forum Strategic Direction, addressed through adaptation of our work plan; concerted tourism industry development, addressed by the formation of a comprehensive committee including representation inclusive of tourism and culture interests, and; pursuit of nationally supported skills and labour market development, addressed through relationship building.

Based on the priorities named at a Forum Co-Chairs meeting, on identification of collaborative initiatives as well as earlier recognition generally, two significant working relationships have evolved:

Tourism Industry Development, a collaborative approach with the Culture and Heritage Working Committee to strategically develop the aboriginal tourism sector, and;

Skills and Labour Market Development, a collaborative approach with the Education Working Committee to develop an aboriginal apprenticeship framework.

The year has been filled with many rewards including work plan advancements through project efforts supported by the Tripartite Forum, Project Management Fund, namely:

Tourism Industry Development, submitted by the Mi'kmaq Culture and Tourism Network – supporting research and compilation of NS Aboriginal tourism sector development completed to date for a facilitated presentation to all NS Chiefs for development of a strategic plan for 2007 – 2010.

First Net – website (www.mns-firstnet.ca) – a community led effort (administered through CMM) supporting the ongoing web presence for Mi'kmaq and IT community capacity building.

First Net is the first source for information related to Aboriginal employment, starting an Aboriginal business, education, scholarships and bursaries, and to learn about First nation communities within Nova Scotia.

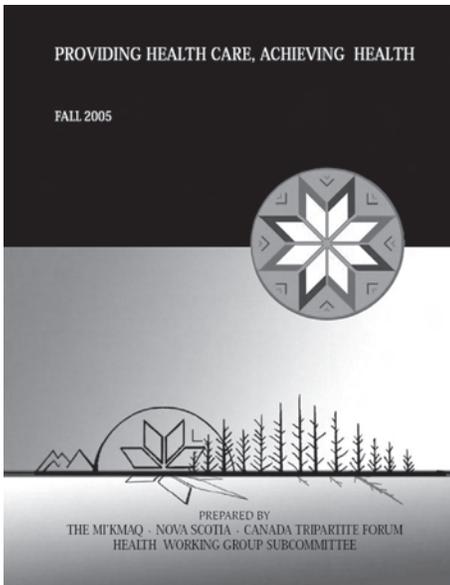
The Co-Chairs would like to thank all members for their contribution and dedication in embracing challenges and opportunities as well as active adoption of the Tripartite Forum Strategic Directions and adaptation of our work plan.



(L-R) Members of the Economic Development Working Committee Merina Sark, Matthew Tapper and Anne-Louise Dauphinee

News from Tripartite Forum

Thinking differently about health care



April 2006 - Health care is a topic that touches each one of us. From a trip to the hospital to finding a doctor. From healthy eating to fighting an addiction. Too often, we are touched by health care only when we need to be “fixed” or healed. And not enough times are we asked how the health care system should work with us, to make our whole life healthy.

But Mi’kmaq and Aboriginals in Nova Scotia have taken steps to ensure their voice is being heard on the future of their health care. In preparation for a meeting of First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders in November 2005, that collective voice came together in “Providing Health Care, Achieving Health,” a document articulating the state of Aboriginal health in Nova Scotia. This document, in its final form, was released today.

“By sharing our thoughts through the Blueprint process, Mi’kmaq people from across the province are taking ownership of their own health and health care system,” comments Tripartite Forum Executive Chair Rick Simon. “This opportunity to work together with Mi’kmaq, Federal and Provincial partners, to shape a vision of Aboriginal health care for the future is a new way of looking at this topic. Now the challenge becomes implementing this work with those partners.”

In Nova Scotia, the task of engaging Mi’kmaq and Aboriginal peoples was made easier through the existence of a unique organization - the Mi’kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. The Tripartite Forum, formed in 1997 brings Mi’kmaq representatives together with provincial and federal government representatives to work on issues of mutual concern effecting Mi’kmaq communities. As one can imagine, health care is a standing topic for discussion.

Because relationships already exist among the Tripartite Forum partners, using this collaborative approach was clearly the best option. Over an eight-week period, a total of six meetings were held across the province in the interest of hearing about health concerns both on and off reserve.

Each meeting was attended by a broad cross-section of people, including elders, Chief and Councilors, youth, health care workers, patients and family members, District Health Authority senior executives and front-line staff, doctors, policy advisors, educators and advocates. Several themes came forward as these meetings continued across the province, but participants kept coming back to one “key message” that later informed the title of the summary document. No matter what changes are suggested or made to the health care system, achieving health - not just providing health care - is the ultimate goal.

After the meetings ended, and people had the chance to share their point of view, the report entitled – “Providing Health Care, Achieving Health” was compiled to serve two purposes. One, to provide input to the development of the National Aboriginal Health Blueprint and two, to set a common course in advancing a shared goal of health for all Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.

The document isn't full of what people thought was wrong with Aboriginal health care, but instead gives suggestions of how to strengthen the system and how the partners can work together to ensure a strong future. “Providing Health Care, Achieving Health” sets a strong foundation for collaboration in closing the gaps in the health outcomes experienced between Aboriginal people and other Nova Scotians.

Sometimes thinking and working differently can give you different answers. And sometimes, different answers are just what you need.

Tripartite Forum gathers in Annapolis Valley First Nation

June 2006 - The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum held its 3rd Annual General Assembly on June 5th and 6th in Annapolis Valley First Nation.

The 2-day session brought together over 70 members of the 7 working committees, with a priority of looking at the strategic direction of the Tripartite Forum as an organization. This session was the next stage and follow-up from the evaluation process the Forum had recently undergone.

“It's important from time-to-time for an organization to step back and take a look at the direction they're taking,” comments Rick Simon, Tripartite Forum Executive Chair. “We're fortunate with the Tripartite Forum that we have such great involvement from all our partners while we take this step.”

The Annual Assembly also provided time to hear a presentation outlining some of the history and mandates for the Tripartite Forum – including the Forum's connection to the findings of the Marshall Inquiry. Members also had the chance to hear an update on the negotiation process with negotiators Theresa Redmond, Senior Negotiator for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Danny Graham, Chief Negotiator for the Province of NS; and Bruce Wildsmith, Lead Negotiator for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum was 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'kmaw communities. You can read more on the Tripartite Forum by visiting www.tripartiteforum.com.



Working Committee members at the 2006 Annual General Assembly



Negotiators for Federal & Provincial governments and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia give an update to Tripartite Forum Members

Minister Jim Prentice takes his seat with the Tripartite Forum Executive



(L-R) Federal Minister Jim Prentice, INAC; Rick Simon, Tripartite Executive Chair; and Provincial Minister Michael Baker, OAA

November 2006 - Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and his provincial counter-part Michael Baker, Nova Scotia's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, were among those in attendance at the Executive Committee meeting of the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite held on Friday (November 24th). This was the first time Minister Prentice had met with the Forum. In his role as Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, he holds a seat as the Federal Government's representative on the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is the lead decision-making committee of the Tripartite Forum – a unique partnership of Federal, Provincial and Mi'kmaq governments in Nova Scotia.

"We're very pleased with the results of the meeting," comments Rick Simon, Executive Chair of the Tripartite Forum. "The commitments made by all partners allow us to continue to work together towards concrete results for all Nova Scotians – especially the Mi'kmaq."

The key agenda items during the meeting were the approval of a new strategic direction process for the Forum, and the approval of a joint proposal earmarking new funding for the Forum. The new funding will allow the Forum to implement elements of the new strategic direction through the addition of a project manager, enhanced communications functions and the creation of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change. Further investigation of a multi-year financial arrangement for the Forum was also agreed to during the meeting. Currently, the Forum operates on a year-to-year budget but the long-term arrangement was a key commitment of the original memorandum signed between the partners in 1997.

The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum was 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'kmaw communities. You can read more on the Tripartite Forum by visiting www.tripartiteforum.com

Financial Overview

Revenues	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	Total
CORE SERVICES				
INAC	\$ 0*	\$ 0*	\$ 52,253.00	
Province of Nova Scotia	86,195.25	98,647.76	52,253.00	
Other Income			1,003.00	
Total Core Services Revenue	\$ 86,195.25	\$ 98,647.76	\$ 105,509.00	\$ 290,351.76
SECRETARIAT				
INAC	\$ 0*			
Province of Nova Scotia	402,042.56			
Total Secretariat Revenue	\$ 402,042.56			\$ 402,042.56
COMMUNICATIONS				
Province of Nova Scotia	\$ 61,862.92			
Total Communications Revenue	\$ 61,862.92			\$ 61,862.92
Deferred Revenue from Prior year	\$ 87,512.46		\$ (2,535.00)	
Total Deferred Revenue	\$ 87,512.46		\$ (2,535.00)	\$ 84,977.46
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 637,613.19	\$ 98,647.76	\$ 102,974.00	\$ 839,234.95
Expenses				
COMMUNICATIONS				
Administration	\$ 61,862.92			
Total Communications Expenses	\$ 61,862.92			\$ 61,862.92
CORE EXPENSES				
Administration	\$ 8,619.52	\$ 8,976.98	\$ 9,630.00	
Leadership	5,571.56			
Audit	2,000.00	1,848.30	2,600.00	
Cleaning		1,902.36		
Salaries/Benefits	57,213.13	44,130.31	42,444.00	
Equipment Lease		1,663.96		
Honoraria		3,123.00		
Interest & Bank Charges		17.68	288.00	
Insurance		-		
Meetings		15,164.80		
Office Supplies		4,200.08	1,673.00	
General Assembly		-		
Rent	6,000.00	6,000.00	5,250.00	
Telephone/Fax	3,474.63	1,969.10	2,400.00	
Travel & Accommodations	3,316.41	11,962.47	35,620.00	
Legal			3,500.00	
Total Core Services Expenses	\$ 86,195.25	\$ 100,959.47	\$ 103,405.00	\$ 290,559.72
SECRETARIAT EXPENSES				
Administration/Travel	\$ 49,227.29			
Salaries/Benefits/Pensions	53,978.67			
Co-chairs	4,232.39			
Working Committees	48,212.84			
Executive	2,753.13			
Executive Chair	3,109.07			
Project Fund Expensed	48,419.73			
Steering Committee	5,541.38			
General Assembly	17,899.19			
Total Secretariat Expenses	\$ 233,373.69			\$ 233,373.69
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 381,431.86	\$ 100,959.47	\$ 103,405.00	\$ 585,796.33
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 256,181.33	\$ (2,311.71)	\$ (431.00)	\$ 253,438.62

* INAC contributions for 2006-2007 were transferred to the Province of Nova Scotia in 2005-2006 and make up 50% of the 2006-2007 revenue attributed here to the Province of Nova Scotia. Numbers expressed as Revenue & Expenses for each organization have been generated by the management of each organization.



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TRIPARTITE FORUM

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The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

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Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

PO Box 805 Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E5
Tel: (902) 895-7402 Fax: (902) 897-7162
www.nwac-hq.org.com



Union of Nova Scotia Indians

47 Maillard Street, Membertou, NS B1S 2P5
Tel: (902) 539-4107 Fax: (902) 564-2137
www.unsi.ns.ca



The Province of Nova Scotia

Office of Aboriginal Affairs
PO Box 1617, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Y3
Tel: (902) 424-7409 Fax: (902) 424-4225
www.gov.ns.ca/abor/



The Government of Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
PO Box 160, Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 3Z3
Tel: (902) 661-6200 Fax: (902) 661-6237
www.inac.gc.ca



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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.