

Tripartite Forum

ANNUAL REPORT
2008/2009



Table of Contents

A message from...

The Executive Chair	1
Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq	2
The Nova Scotia Government	3
The Government of Canada	3

History of the Forum	4
Executive Committee	4
Officials Committee	5
Steering Committee	5
Working Committee	5

Committee Reports

Steering Committee	6
Health Working Committee	6
Justice Working Committee	8
Sport and Recreation Working Committee	9
Education Working Committee	10
Culture and Heritage Working Committee	11
Economic Development Working Committee	14
Project Review Committee	15

Tripartite Forum Secretariat	17
Liaison Officers	17
Organizational Chart	18
Mission, Vision, Value Statements	19

Tripartite Forum News

And the award goes to	20
Addressing the issues	21
A new kind of placemat	22

Financial Overview	23-24
------------------------------	-------

A Message from the Executive Chair



Once again the Mi'kmaq–Nova Scotia–Canada Tripartite Forum has recorded a year filled with significant accomplishments on behalf of the Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia. There continues to be a solid show of support for the work and the direction of the Tripartite Forum by all partners involved.

With seven working committees holding meetings, tackling their work plans, and developing projects, it is no wonder that the Forum continues to move forward. This year the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change approved 11 projects. Projects ranged from measuring physical fitness activity levels in our children; the hiring of summer students; developing a plan for the 400th Anniversary of the Baptism of Chief Membertou; and developing a position for an outreach worker, just to name a few. The working committees have developed all of these various projects with the goal of advancing our First Nation communities.

As we drew to the close of another year at the Tripartite Forum, we unfortunately lost a long time supporter. Minister Michael Baker lost his battle with cancer in

early March. Minister Baker held the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio for almost ten years, the longest of any since the office was established. During that time he worked closely with the Mi'kmaq community and during his tenure the 13 Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the province and the federal government signed the Umbrella Agreement, marking the beginning of the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process negotiations on treaty and rights issues. It's also a period when the Tripartite Forum was reconstituted and its scope expanded. In 2007, Minister Baker, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice and Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy signed the Framework Agreement, which laid out a roadmap for future negotiations. In a tribute from the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs they praised his "diligent work on behalf of the Mi'kmaq people of Nova Scotia and for his extraordinary efforts to bring about greater understanding and respect for the Province's First Peoples."

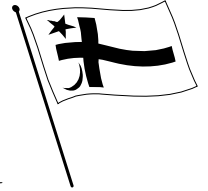
As we end another busy year, I ask everyone to stay committed so we can continue to move the work of the Forum ahead. With newly revised work plans, the Tripartite Forum working committees move ahead and work to make a better place for the Mi'kmaq people and our leaders of tomorrow. I encourage you to 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.

Wela'lioq

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth P.' followed by a long horizontal line.



A Message from Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq



As another year filled with activities winds down—we must take time to reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments.

We are proud of the dedication and commitment the Tripartite Forum members continue to make to this ongoing process. With the development of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, 11 projects were developed and completed throughout the past year. The fund not only provides support for the completion of these projects, but also ensures the successful management of the projects through the working committees.

Some samples of successful projects include:

- Continued research relating to the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs Site, work on this project has been approved at the Officials level and the next phase of work is in progress.
- A Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Summit was held to share results of the Mi'kmaq Tourism Strategy with the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities.
- A Procurement Officer was hired to compliment the

efforts of the Unama'ki Economic Benefits Office to explore and assist with opportunities within industry and the region.

- Research relating to Family Violence and Aboriginal Communities continues to progress. This past year the committee held information sessions with the communities to gather information, ideas and provide community members with the opportunity to share.

The working committees continue to move ahead with the items outlined in their yearly revised work plans. Their plans continue to guide the committees and ensure that their work aligns with the strategic direction of the Tripartite Forum.

The achievements of the Tripartite Forum show what can be achieved when partners work together to find common solutions through ongoing discussions. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to benefit all Canadians and all Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.



A Message from the Nova Scotia Government

Once again, the Mi'kmaq–Nova Scotia–Canada Tripartite Forum has made significant strides towards achieving positive change on behalf of Mi'kmaq communities. These achievements demonstrate our common interest in building the future prosperity of Mi'kmaq communities—and the province itself.

I am delighted with the level of commitment demonstrated by each of the three parties—evidenced by the many projects the Tripartite committees undertook over the past year. The Tripartite Forum continues to serve as a strong example of a unique collaborative

approach focused on strengthening relationships and resolving issues of mutual concern affecting Mi'kmaq communities.

The province of Nova Scotia places significant pride in the Mi'kmaq's contribution to the province's history, culture and economy. We feel privileged to participate in the Tripartite Forum and we remain committed to our common cause of improving the life of individuals in communities throughout the province.



A Message from the Government of Canada

On behalf of Canada, I would like to acknowledge another year of strong work and successful relationship-building by the Mi'kmaq–Nova Scotia–Canada Tripartite Forum. The Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change assists Mi'kmaq communities to reach their socio-economic potential. Together we will continue to build upon this success.

The Project Management approach of the Forum, started three years ago, continues to be the key to success and achieving progress.

It is with sadness that I would also like to acknowledge the passing of Michael Baker, Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Baker spent many years as a committed and dedicated supporter of this Forum. His

efforts helped lay the foundation of our continued work, making life better for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

This year will no doubt have its challenges; however, our combined strength will support us as we move forward together. In partnership with the Province and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the Government of Canada continues its commitment to this important initiative and to improving the lives of the Mi'kmaq people in the province.

Chuck Strahl
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians



History of the Forum

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 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 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 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 Affairs and Northern
Development Canada



Official's 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 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 – Nova Scotia Office of
Aboriginal Affairs

Other Federal/Regional Directors and Provincial
Deputy Ministers

Steering Committee

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

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 Committee

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

Justice

Economic Development

Social

Education

Sports & Recreation

Health



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, the officials and executive committees.

During 2008/09, the Steering Committee:

- Provided planning and administrative work for all Officials, Executive and Co-chairs Committee meetings.
- Provided direction and support to the newly-formed Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change.
- Continued to guide the implementation of work for communications planning for the Tripartite Forum.
- Provided direction to the working committees on operational and budget planning throughout the year.
- Assisted in the preparation of Officials Committee and Executive Committee meetings during the year.
- Created and submitted to the Officials Committee, the 2007/08 annual report.
- Planned the 2008 Annual General Meeting, which was held at Bear River First Nation.



Health Working Committee

The Health Working Committee had a busy and productive year in 2008/09, with several accomplishments to report as a result of the hard work of the membership.

At the outset of the year, an ambitious work plan was developed by the committee. Objectives included increasing stakeholders' capacity to take action on health priorities; strengthening linkages between First Nations communities and the District Health Authorities (DHAs); and, increasing collaboration with other Tripartite working committees on cross cutting areas of shared responsibility, such as early intervention services for children.

To increase stakeholders' capacity to take action on First Nations health priorities, the committee successfully spearheaded and completed a priority setting exercise. The project, entitled "*Exploring Health Priorities*" identifies health priorities, challenges, and community strengths to help guide stakeholders in strategic planning, resource management, and in the design and delivery of health services and programs for First Nations. The findings of the project have been shared broadly with stakeholders and discussions on how stakeholders can collaborate to take action on the priorities will continue under the leadership of the Health Working Committee in 2009/10.

To strengthen linkages between First Nations communities and the DHAs, the committee has undertaken a number of supporting activities. First, the committee has regularly invited key representatives from the DHAs to participate in regular meetings. In the past year, DHA representatives from Pictou County, Cape Breton, and Guysborough/Antigonish Strait have attended Health Working Committee meetings to share relevant information (i.e., information that relates to First Nations health priorities, such as mental health and addictions, and the related services and programs that are available). The increased awareness of DHA initiatives relating to First Nations has raised the profile of the Health Working Committee across the DHAs.

In addition to the inclusion of DHA representatives in meetings, the committee also initiated a research project that will explore what factors and conditions underpin successful DHA-First Nations relationships. The goal of this research is increase stakeholders' understanding of these factors and conditions, so that existing/new relationships between DHAs and First Nations can be nurtured and sustained. The Health Working Committee envisions that this research will promote increased and meaningful inclusion of First Nations in DHA business planning and program design

and delivery, and ultimately, improve First Nations access to health services and programs that are tailored to meet their specific needs.

To increase collaboration with other Tripartite working committees on cross cutting jurisdictional issues, a representative from the Health Working Committee joined a sub-committee made up of representatives from three Tripartite Working Committees (Health, Education, and Social) in August 2008. The aim of this sub committee is to identify ways for the three committees to jointly address issues of shared responsibility, particularly in relation to children and youth.

Other activities/accomplishments of the Health Working Committee in 2008/09 include:

- Expanding the committee membership to include a representative from Nova Scotia's Department of Health Promotion and Protection.
- Contributing committee specific information items to the Tripartite Forum's orientation package.
- Gathering information to update the 2003 *Compendium of Federal and Provincial Services Available to First Nations in Nova Scotia*. The updated version of the Compendium will be completed sometime early in 2009/10.



The increased awareness of DHA initiatives relating to First Nations has raised the profile of the Health Working Committee across the DHAs.

Justice Working Committee

The format of the following report is consistent with the strategic goals of the 2008/09 operational plan.

1. Support Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN) Advisory Committee, as requested, in achieving MLSN mandate.
 - a. MLSN governance transitioned from Tripartite Justice Committee to Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee consistent with Clairmont Report recommendations. Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Executive Director Don Julien continues to chair the MLSN Advisory Committee.
 - b. The Tripartite Justice Committee continues to support MLSN, as requested, with respect to issues involving the Court Worker program, process for parole releases to Aboriginal communities (National Parole Board Section 84), Correctional Services cultural programs, new emerging programs regarding translation services and victim services and assistance with Gladue report research.
 - c. The Tripartite Justice committee supported a submission to the Tripartite Forum Project Fund to assist MLSN in developing its planned governance model, which was very beneficial in laying out a foundation for next steps.

2. Support Family Violence Sub-committee in their work to identify program and service gaps in Mi'kmaq communities and to identify culturally appropriate models to assist women and their families through prevention and intervention.
 - a. Established full project funding with assistance from the Aboriginal Health Research Foundation and the Tripartite Forum Project Fund, which allowed research to proceed throughout 2008/09.
 - b. The research has been completed, with completion of an extensive literature review, a review of existing programs, services and gaps, front line worker consultations, and community focus groups.
 - c. Preliminary outcomes have been presented to the committee, with a final report which will be ready for the Tripartite Annual General Assembly. This research is the first in a multi step plan to develop new services to respond to family violence. These next steps will be the committee's focus for 2009 2010.
3. Establish crime prevention framework in collaboration with the Tripartite Health and Social Working Groups.
 - a. The Justice sub-committee has partnered with Health and Social sub-committees on the establishment of a joint Addictions Research Sub-committee. Terms of reference developed by the new sub-committee have been approved and the operational work for this sub-committee begins in 2009/10.
4. Promote cross-cultural awareness of Mi'kmaq issues among criminal justice system staff.
 - a. Cross-cultural awareness, including Aboriginal perspectives training, is on-going.
5. Collaborate with the Made-in-Nova Scotia negotiation table regarding framework and process for customary law application to hunting, fishing and forestry matters.



- a. The committee devoted time in 2008/09 to become familiar with the issues through presentations from representatives from KMKNO, MLSN and the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.
 - b. The committee supported the project development undertaken by MLSN relating to the Regulatory Offence Diversion Project, and has approved the submission of a bridging proposal to the Tripartite Project Fund to support this initiative along with Federal and Provincial contributing partners.
6. Respond to jurisdictional issues, which are brought to the attention of the Working Committee throughout the year.

- a. This is an ongoing responsibility of all committee members. This year-shared problem solving discussions proceeded in articulating the importance of status cards to Mi'kmaw individuals who may come before the courts.

2008/09 saw many changes to the composition of the Tripartite Working Committee, with the departure of long time Federal and Provincial co-chairs. A key discussion for 2008/09 was an expansion of Mi'kmaw membership for this committee and a recruitment plan was developed which will bear fruit for 2009/10 ahead.

Sport & Recreation Working Committee

Sport & Recreation Highlights from the year:

- Kji Keptin Alex Denny Memorial Sports/Education scholarship awards application was advertised once again.
- The summer students program will continue again this year in cooperation with The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.
- Summer Active & Winter Active programs are being utilized in all First Nation communities and the program is ongoing.
- Camilla Currie, Chapel Island School, has filled the committee vacancy from Mi'kmaq Kina'matneyew Principal Group.
- Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute pedometer pilot project is currently in process.
- Committee Members attended a two-day strategic planning session at Oak Island Resort March 26, 27, 2009.
- Sport & Recreation committee meetings were held regularly, and attendance was very high.



Activities/Events that Tripartite the Sport & Recreation Supports:

- Team Atlantic participation in the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) in April 2009 in Winnipeg, Manitoba with both Male/Female teams participating.
- Team Mi'kmaw Nova Scotia participated in the North American Indigenous Games, August 3-10, 2008, winning 27 medals.
- Third Annual Nova Scotia Schools Aboriginal Track & Field Championships were held in Eskasoni May 26, 27, 2009.

Education Working Committee

Education Annual Report, which is based on the 2008/09 Operational Work plan.

Goal #4: To promote Early Childhood Development/ Family Literacy in Mi'kmaw communities.

The final report of "The Environmental Scan of Human Resources in Early Childhood Programs in Mi'kmaw Communities in Nova Scotia" was completed and presented to the Education Working Group in November 2008. At this time the Education committee passed a motion to accept the full report.

In January and February 2009, the final report was presented to the Health and Social Tripartite representatives for review and discussion. The intent was to obtain their support and contribution of the work that needs to be undertaken in the area of Early Childhood Education such as: identifying First Nations capacity needs for a trained workforce in Early Childhood Programs within Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia.



The work of the sub-committee in Early Childhood Education will continue in 2009/10.

The interim report on the *Mi'kmaq Longitudinal study on Mi'kmaw Language* was also presented and approved by the Education working group in December 2008. It is anticipated that research on this initiative will continue for 2009/10.



(right) members of the Language Sub-committee pose with students from the Pictou Landing First Nation Elementary School who participated in the colouring contest. The contest runs every month in the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News.

Culture and Heritage Working Committee

In 2008/09, The Culture and Heritage (C&H) Committee achieved considerable success towards meeting the eight key items on its work plan. As planned, the C&H Committee held four meetings (June 2008, September 2008, January 2009 and March 2009) and convened in two First Nation communities (Millbrook and Waycobah). The Committee expended most of its \$10,000 in operational funding on activities to support the Committee's work. Two C&H projects were approved for funding under the Tripartite Fund for Social and Economic Change: 1.) Bedford Barrens Historical Research Data: \$20,420 approved September 2008 2.) 400th Anniversary of the Baptism of Chief Membertou: \$45,000 approved September 2008

Co-Chairs for the Committee continued to be:

- Tim Bernard, Director, History and Culture, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq;
- Bill Greenlaw, Executive Director, Heritage Division, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage; and,
- David Burton, Provincial Director, Nova Scotia, Department of Canadian Heritage.

However, Calum Ewing, Director, Museum Operations, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, assumed the Provincial Co-Chair role late in the fiscal year.

Examples of C&H work plan successes in 2008/09:

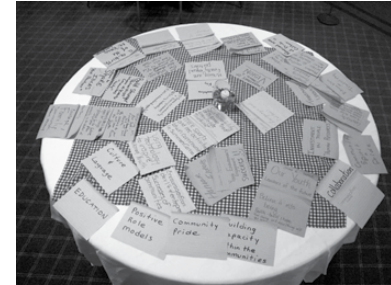
- The first Highway sign displaying a Mi'kmaq reserve was erected near Exit 8A off Highway 101, directing visitors to Glooscap Mi'kmaq Community.
- The C&H Committee endorsed a Mi'kmaq Oral History Picture Project, in partnership with the Treaty & Aboriginal Rights Research Centre of Nova Scotia (TARR Centre), to interview Mi'kmaq persons throughout the Province on pictures, drawings and other visual images.

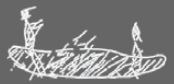
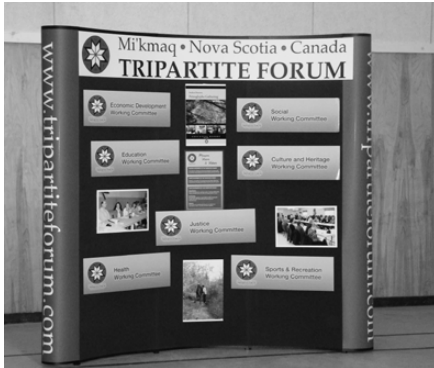
- A placemat highlighting the locations of Mi'kmaq communities and various cultural facts was completed and is ready for distribution to restaurants throughout the Province.
- In partnership with the Gorsebrook Research Institute, work continued on a development study on a Mi'kmaq Place Names Database and website to promote the understanding and use of Mi'kmaq place names throughout Nova Scotia.



- A C&H Sub-committee on Mi'kmaq language partnered with the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Nations News to develop material on Mi'kmaq language for inclusion in the newspaper each month.
- Work continued on the repatriation of a Mi'kmaq Chief's Regalia from Australia. It is still hoped to have the regalia loaned to the Glooscap Heritage Centre, with conservation expertise provided by the Nova Scotia Museum, until full repatriation issues are resolved.

The first Highway sign displaying a Mi'kmaq reserve was erected near Exit 8A off Highway 101, directing visitors to Glooscap Mi'kmaq Community.





Economic Development Working Committee

The Economic Development Working Committee (TEDWC) encourages employment and economic opportunities for Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia. TEDWC works actively to facilitate the development and delivery of integrated programs and services to increase Aboriginal economic development. TEDWC also seeks out and identifies opportunities to increase Mi'kmaq participation in the economy. In 2008/09, TEDWC focused on building capacity and fostering partnerships with several key Mi'kmaw organizations and communities.

Key projects and initiatives included:

- Working with the Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies (MACS) and the Cultural Tourism Network (MCTN) to develop an action plan for an integrated tourism and heritage strategy. Through the Tripartite Forum Project Fund, the economic development committee sponsored a Mi'kmaw cultural tourism summit in June 2008. The purpose of the summit was to lay the foundation for the creation of a multi-year strategy to preserve Mi'kmaw culture and heritage and develop Mi'kmaw cultural tourism in Nova Scotia.
- Working with federal and provincial partners and organizations on a Nova Scotia Coordinated Aboriginal Apprenticeship and Trades Strategy. This multi-level partnership will increase Aboriginal apprenticeship awareness, skills development, registration, apprenticeship program completion and employment. An apprenticeship information sharing workshop was held on February 26th, 2008.
- Working with all three partners to develop a Nova Scotia Integrated Aboriginal Labour Market Strategy. The objective of the Aboriginal Labour Market Strategy is to increase the number of Mi'kmaw people who successfully enter the Nova Scotia workforce.
- Working with the Unama'ki Economic Benefits Office on a pilot project to establish new and successful Aboriginal procurement strategies and initiatives.

This project will increase awareness of procurement processes and opportunities, and will build Mi'kmaw business capacity through training, counseling, procurement analysis and support.

- In December 2008, the economic development committee held an information sharing and planning workshop for all the 13 communities' Economic Development Officers (EDOs) and Native Employment Officers (NEOs). This workshop showcased current initiatives and projects and strengthened relationships, knowledge and opportunities among participants.
- A new sub-committee was established to explore opportunities around submitting an application to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program (ASEP). The program is designed to provide Aboriginal people with the skills and training they need to participate in major economic industries.
- A new sub-committee was established to develop a project proposal to provide entrepreneurship programs for Mi'kmaw youth.
- During 2008/09 the economic development committee continued to support the FirstNet Website. FirstNet offers many valuable linkages; Mi'kmaw employment opportunities; community website links; business scholarship information; assistance with entrepreneurship and employment; success stories and an up-to-date calendar of events.



Project Review Committee

PROJECTS APPROVED 2008/09



Bedford Barrens Historical Research Data - \$21,420: Approved Sept. 2008 / Active

This project will gather historical data from various sources (including oral tradition, remote sensing data, archival document, physical site assessment of 'historical use', trail user questionnaires and archeological resources) to assist in the development of the parkland and educational/interpretive paneling related to the Bedford Barrens and other educational tools.

400th Anniversary of the Baptism of Chief Membertou - \$45,000: Approved Sept. 2008 / Active

The year 2010 will mark the 400th Anniversary of the baptism of Chief Membertou. In an effort to mark this momentous occasion, the Mi'kmaq Association of Cultural Studies (MACS) would like to plan a year long celebration with events taking place in numerous communities and sites across the province.

Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Summit – \$41,050: Approved May 2008 / Complete

Two-day summit to share the results of the Mi'kmaq Tourism Strategy with the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities.

Unama'ki Procurement Officer – Pilot Project - \$35,600: Approved Sept. 2008 / Active

This project would provide funding for one year that would see a full time procurement officer hired to compliment efforts of the Unama'ki Economic Benefits Office, to explore and assist with opportunities within industry in the region.

NS Economic Development Organizations Information Session - \$3,180.50: Approved Dec. 2008 / Complete

Networking for Nova Scotia's Economic Development Officers and Native Employment Officers together with other agencies and

partners (e.g. the Native Council, Native Women's Council, the CMM Economic Development Advisor, the UNSI Economic Development Advisor and representatives of the Friendship Centre) to discuss recent initiatives and work-plans. This information sharing event will focus on the work currently being addressed by these programs and will allow for a greater understanding of, and participation in, various projects.

Family Violence and Aboriginal Communities: Building Our Knowledge and Direction Through Community Based Research and Community Forums - \$34,075: Approved May 2008 / Active

The main objective of this research is to find and develop culturally appropriate and effective intervention models that address family violence within the context of Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia.

Indianbrook / Millbrook Outreach Pilot Program - \$35,000: Approved Sept. 2008 / Active

This project is intended to increase the knowledge of victim issues in Aboriginal communities to ensure Provincial Victim Services Program staff in Nova Scotia are aware of the unique and often challenging issues facing clients of Aboriginal decent in the mainstream justice system. Note: A similar project was conducted for the Cape Breton communities of Membertou and Eskasoni.

Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) Congress 2009 - \$19,000: Approved Dec. 2008 / Active

Financial assistance with the presentation of the CCJA Congress 2009, entitled Problem-Solving Justice: What problems? Whose justice? Special Populations, Special Courts, Special Services. This Congress is held only once per decade in Nova Scotia and the intent is to showcase the Aboriginal community in the funding arena. The Aboriginal community has not been involved Canada-wide to date.

Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN) Transition from Program to Independent Entity - \$20,000: Approved Dec. 2008 / Active

This project will facilitate the transition of the MLSN from its current status as a program operated under the umbrella of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) to

an independent legal entity. After five years operating under CMM it is the natural course of evolution to progress to independence and achieve recognition as a stand-alone entity.

Measuring Physical Activity Levels of Aboriginal Children and Youth in Nova Scotia – Research Study - \$42,562: Approved May 2008/ Active

This project will provide objective measurement of the physical activity levels of children and youth for Mi'kmaq communities. This information will provide community leaders with information regarding the extent of physical inactivity, with the potential to provide the capacity to measure change over time and potentially contribute to the measurement of the success of physical activity promotion programs among this population.

2008 Tripartite Funding Forum - \$28,449: Approved May 2008 / Complete

To ensure that members of the Tripartite Forum are made aware of what local, Provincial and Federal partners provide with respect to programs and services to Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia, to improve the health and well-being of Mi'kmaq communities and individuals.

Summer Student: Support for Treaty Day, Mi'kmaq History Month and Scholarship Promotion - \$8,564: Approved May 2008 / Complete

The student will be expected to assist the Treaty Day Committee in the planning of a two-day Treaty Day event on September 30 and October 1, 2008 and plan activities for Mi'kmaq History Month (both under the 2008/09 Work plan of the Culture and Heritage Committee).



(left) Youth participation at the Track and Field Day held at St. FX

Tripartite Secretariat

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, the steering committee, 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 three full-time staff, an administrator, a project manager and a communications officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook, Nova Scotia.



Denise Gloade (top) and
Heather Hughes

Liaison Officers

Each First Nation organization within the Tripartite Forum has a Liaison Officer. Brenda Tracey is the Liaison Officer for The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq; Dee Campbell is the Liaison Officer for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians; and Patricia Doyle-Bedwell is the Liaison Officer for the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association.

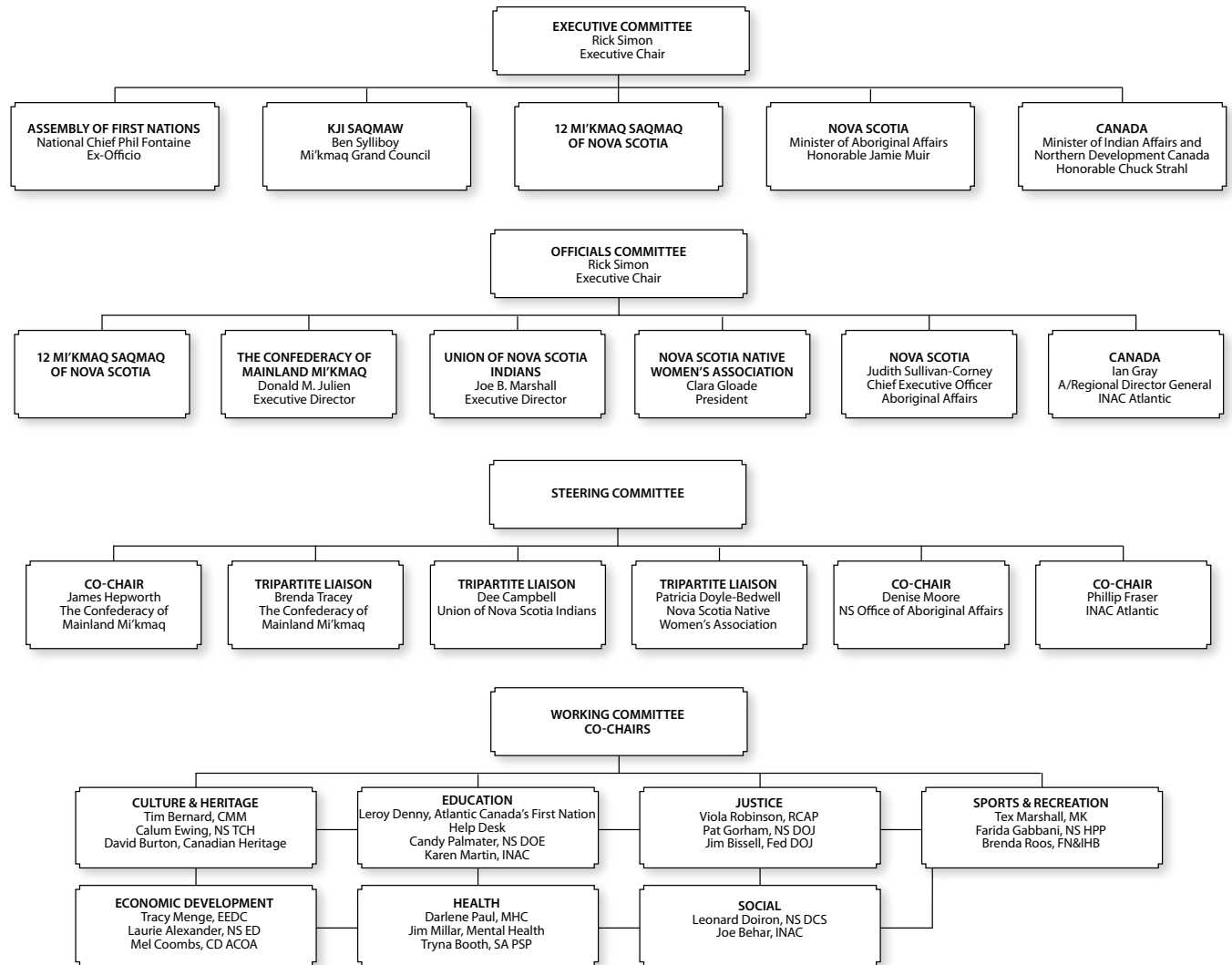
Their responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Report to their individual Board of Directors of the ongoing work of the Tripartite Forum
- Participate as active members on various working, steering and sub committees
- Provide general support when needed within the Tripartite Forum
- Liaison for all members appointed to working committees related to their individual organization



Dee Campbell (top); Brenda Tracey (bottom, left); Patti Doyle-Bedwell (bottom, right)

Organizational Chart April 2009



18

KEY

ACOA	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	FN&IHB	First Nations & Inuit Health Branch (Health Canada)	NS ED	NS Dept. of Economic & Rural Development
APC	Atlantic Policy Congress	INAC	Indian & Northern Affairs Canada	NS DOH	NS Dept. of Health
CMM	Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (The)	MK	Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey	NS HPP	NS Dept. of Health Promotion & Protection
EEDC	Eskasoni Economic Development Corp.	MHC	Membertou Health Centre	NS DCS	NS Dept. of Justice (Correctional Services division)
EH&PC	Eskasoni Health & Primary Care	NS DCS	NS Dept. of Community Services	NS TCH	NS Dept. of Tourism, Culture & Heritage
Fed DOJ	Justice Canada	NS DOE	NS Dept. of Education	RCAP	Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

Mission/Vision/Value

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.

Value 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.

commitment



Partnership

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

partnership

Respect

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

respect



Tripartite Forum in the News



And the award goes to...

The Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) recently recognized Louis Joe Bernard as Economic Developer of the Year. Louis Joe was presented the award at the 15th Annual National Conference and AGM for (CANDO), held in Montreal, Quebec on October 8, 2008.

This award is presented to an individual who has contributed to the advancement of Economic Development within the First Nation Community. This award reflects the work that Louis Joe does on a daily basis with the Union of Nova Scotia Indians (UNSI) and the Tripartite Forum and other initiatives. "CANDO has a certification process that demonstrates and recognizes the unique and cultural work that we as Economic Development Officers do in First Nation communities and work we do outside of the community that involves First Nation people."

"...It was one of the greatest feelings, to be recognized by my peers on a national scale."

"I didn't know that I was getting it until they called my name. It was one of the greatest feelings, to be recognized by my peers on a national scale," stated Louis Joe. Louis Joe works with the UNSI as Economic Development Advisor and is an active member with the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum Economic Development Working Committee. Louis Joe also serves as an active committee member on seven other various boards and advisory committees throughout the province.

Today the award is hung proudly in the hallway to Louis Joe's office, a great place for everyone to view and enjoy.

Addressing the issues...

“Aboriginal women in Canada are at least three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.” Source: Statistic Canada, Catalogue no. 85-224, Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005 and 2008.

In 2007, the Tripartite Justice Committee established a working group to explore the issues of Aboriginal family violence in Nova Scotia. Two areas of focus for the Working Group are: (1) the need for increased community outreach and education; and (2) the need for an intervention model, which will provide accountability and support to Aboriginal families experiencing violence. In order to effectively address the multi-faceted issues of family violence within communities, there is a need to develop culturally appropriate, pro-active responses involving women, families and communities at large.

The sub committee, formed through the Mi'kmaq–Nova Scotia–Canada Tripartite Forum, consists of members from the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN); Tripartite Justice Committee; Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centres; Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs; Nova Scotia Department of Justice; Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and Canada Research Chair Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Communities. The Atlantic Aboriginal Health Research Program (Dalhousie) headed by Fred Wein and Carla Moore have provided the funding for the research, and for two additional student researchers to be hired.

Jane McMillan, Canada Research Chair of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Communities at Saint Francis Xavier University is conducting the research. Over the



past few months, Dr. McMillan has conducted one-on-one interviews with women who have experienced family violence as well as focus groups with service providers, youth and Elders. “The research is very challenging emotionally and definitely points to the ongoing consequences of colonization and systematic discrimination experienced by Mi'kmaw people,” stated McMillan.

In addition, the Working Group hosted two community forums, which enabled community members the opportunity to address issues, raise concerns and offer suggestions on how to address family violence in their community. Community members, service providers, RCMP, health center staff, and band administrators from all 13 communities were invited to the sessions. Placed in talking circles, participants were asked a set of questions. Through facilitation participants discussed personal stories, stories of the past, history of violence in their communities and offered ideas for change. Throughout the day, the Mi'kmaq Family Healing Program offered support and an opportunity for participants to debrief from the days events. At the end of the day participants heard new ideas for change, and offered suggestions

...to effectively address the multi-faceted issues of family violence within communities, there is a need to develop culturally appropriate, proactive responses involving women, families and communities at large.

to help families and communities move forward. “The collaborative, participatory action research is a strategy that ensures community empowerment. I am particularly grateful, as everyone is so generous with their time and energy as we work toward building safer communities and creating meaningful processes to help people experiencing violence,” stated McMillan.

“The sessions were extremely powerful, stated Facilitator Grace Campbell, with the Mi’kmaq Legal Support Network. “Listening to individuals share their experiences, or hear a youth offer a suggestion for change is very moving,” stated Campbell.

“It was amazing to hear peoples stories with such courage, strength and determination for change and healing on so many levels, individually, communally and as a nation,” stated an employee of the Mi’kmaq Family Healing Program.

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’kmaq communities. To learn more about the Tripartite Forum visit the website, www.tripartiteforum.com.

A new kind of placemat

The next time you are dining out at your favorite local restaurant, you may want to take a closer look at the placemat on your table; it just may be in Mi’kmaq.

The Tripartite Culture and Heritage Working Committee created a sub-committee to promote the understanding and use of Mi’kmaq place names throughout the province of Nova Scotia. One goal of the sub-committee was to develop a placemat that would be seen by Nova Scotia’s as well as visitors to the Province while dining in family restaurants. The placemat shows a map of Nova Scotia with Mi’kmaq translations of many of the familiar places within the Province. Images of petroglyphs from Kejimikujik National Historic Site form a border, and visitors are guided to cultural centers and heritage sites.

“This is a simple but effective way for visitors and residents alike to discover the impact of Mi’kmaq culture throughout Nova Scotia,” say Rob Ferguson, chair of the sub-committee. “We hope it will lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of a heritage we can all share.”

The new placemat will be making its way into restaurants by October, just in time for Mi’kmaq History Month.

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’kmaq communities. To learn more about the Tripartite Forum visit the website, www.tripartiteforum.com.



REVENUES

	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA
Communications			
Province of NS	39,712.11		
INAC	39,712.11		
Deferred Revenue for Prior year	35,435.11		
Total Communications Revenue	134,368.01		
Core Services			
INAC	46,696.10	49,324.00	50,003.25
Province of NS	46,696.10	49,324.00	50,003.25
Total Core Services Revenue	93,392.20		
Secretariat			
INAC	142,263.28	-	
Province of NS	142,263.28		
Deferred Revenue for Prior year	175,825.37		
Project Management			
Province of NS		40,000.00	
INAC		40,000.00	
Total Secretariat Revenues	460,351.93		
Grand Total Revenue	633,168.37	178,648.00	100,006.50

EXPENSES

	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA
Communications Expenses			
Administration	79,424.24		
Total Communications Expenses	79,424.24		
Core Expenses			
Administration/office supplies	10,017.40		
Administration		-	9,901.50
Office Supplies		15,551.81	
Leadership/Executive Director	5,500.68		
Audit	2,000.00	1,525.00	2,400.00
Cleaning		1,786.67	
Consulting		11,182.77	
Equipment Lease		5,501.28	
General Assembly		-	
Honararia		3,207.00	

cont'd on next page

EXPENSES (cont'd)

	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA
Insurance		286.25	
Interest and Bank Charges		339.00	
Legal		-	
Legal/Contract			2,000.00
Tripartite Liaison Officer			42,000.00
Tripartite Policy Analyst/Native Women's Analyst & Project Dev. (Contract)			0.00
Salaries/Benefits/Pension	56,347.60		
Salary and Benefits		73,165.67	
Employee 's Benefits			4,515.00
Employee Share - UIC		1,900.52	
Employee Share - CPP		3,230.06	
Pension Plan		1,029.93	
General Assembly			3,500.00
Officials Meeting		4,837.74	
Meetings		9,833.07	
Board Meeting			8,000.00
Leadership Participation			11,000.00
Rent	6,000.00	9,316.66	6,000.00
Telephone		4,683.24	
Telephone/Fax	3,515.49		
Telephone/Fax/Internet			3,000.00
Travel & Accommodations	10,011.03		
Travel		23,738.68	
Coord. Travel			10,000.00
President Travel			3,300.00
Comm. Cord.		3,200.00	
Total Core Services Expensive	93,392.20	171,115.35	100,006.50
Secretariat Expenses			
Salaries/Benefits/Pension	62,861.70		
Administration/Travel	53,757.49		
Co-Chairs	414.09		
Working Committees	58,094.35		
Executive	-		
Executive Chair	14,432.21		
Officials	3,413.39		
Steering Committee	3,245.56		
General Assembly	40,806.43		
Deferred Expenses	14,677.56		
Total Secretariat Expenses	251,702.78		
Grand Total Expenses	424,519.22	-	-
Excess of revenues over expenses	208,649.15	-	-



Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada
TRIPARTITE FORUM
www.tripartiteforum.com

Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia •
Canada Tripartite Forum
PO Box 1590
Truro, NS B2N 5V3
Tel: (902) 895-6385
Fax: (902) 893-1520
www.tripartiteforum.com



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

The Confederacy of
Mainland Mi'kmaq
PO Box 1590
Truro, NS B2N 5V3
Tel: (902) 895-6385
Fax: (902) 893-1520
www.cmmns.com



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



Union of Nova Scotia Indians
47 Maillard St
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, NS 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, NS B4H 3Z3
Tel: (902) 661-6200
Fax: (902) 661-6237
www.inac.gc.ca



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.