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**Disabilities Project Gatherings**

The Tripartite Forum Disability Research Project welcomed community members to Gatherings in Cape Breton and the Mainland in February and March. Parents, caregivers, service providers and project members got together to discuss their experiences living with disabilities or caring for persons with disabilities and to make recommendations for improvements to services. Mawita'mk Society's Margaret Poulette and Rosie Sylliboy captivated and motivated their audiences with their story of how Ni'knen home came to be in We'ko-qma'q. There was pride and determination in the room to follow the Mawita'mk example. FASD Community Coordinators Jyllian Cress and Leah Doiron explained their work



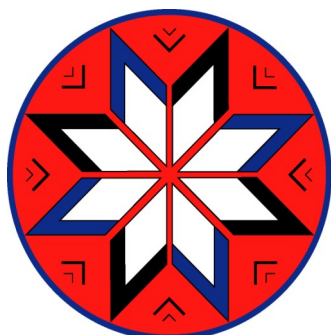
*(L-to-R) Janet Pothier, Philippa Pictou, Shannon Kelly, Jyllian Cress, Adele McSorely and Margaret Fowler.*

with preschool age children and the opportunities available for young families to get help. Health benefits from Non Insured Health Benefits and Nova Scotia's Pharmacare programs were presented by Louise Cholock, Regional Director, NIHB and Marina Keeping, Pharmacare Administration. APC NIHB Navigator, Patricia Saulis, was on hand

to offer her help in making NIHB claims.

Work sessions kept participants busy too identifying the issues most important to them in their daily lives and making suggestions for improved services in First Nations communities. The Project Steering Committee will put together the...

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(Above) Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Ellis, AANDC.

“The next deadline for Project Fund applications is Friday, May 24, 2013.”



(Above) Lead consultant Adele McSorely.

## Welcome, Minister Valcourt

The Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum would like to extend a sincere and enthusiastic welcome to the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt. The New Brunswick native was first elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) in 1984 and once again in 2011.

Before recent changes to Cabinet, Valcourt was Minister of State for both Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and La Francophonie. From 1984-1993, Mr. Valcourt subsequently served as Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism), Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development),

Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Employment and Immigration and Minister of Labour.

The Forum looks forward to working with Minister Valcourt and members of the Executive Committee in the future.

## Project Fund Update

The next deadline for Project Fund applications is Friday, May 24, 2013, by the end of the day. The committee will meet on June 5 to discuss

new proposals.

Information on recently funded projects will follow soon.

For more information

on the Project Fund, contact Robyn Crowe at (902) 895-6385 or [robyn@tripartiteforum.com](mailto:robyn@tripartiteforum.com).

## Disabilities cont'd...

recommendations from both Gatherings and present them to the Tripartite Forum Health and Social Committees to be considered in their annual work plans. Information about the

Project can be obtained from Co-Chairs Janet Pothier, Health Advisor, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq ([health@cmmns.com](mailto:health@cmmns.com)) or Shannon Kelly, NS Department of

Community Services ([KELLYSH@gov.ns.ca](mailto:KELLYSH@gov.ns.ca)).

-Adele McSorely,  
Disabilities Project  
lead consultant



## Marshall Inquiry Project Update

The release of the Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall, Jr., Prosecution in 1989, was an empowering turning point for the Mi'kmaq to regain authority over all aspects of their lives, to counter colonization, and to govern themselves. The Marshall Inquiry reports made real the racism many Mi'kmaq experienced in the Canadian justice system.

The Marshall Inquiry Recommendations,

along with other inquiries across the country (RCAP), confirmed the fact that Mi'kmaq, and other Indigenous nations, have distinct cultural understandings and ways of being that require alternative sets of institutions to accommodate and sustain those realities.

The Marshall Inquiry Review team is working to address the justice issues raised in the community forums. We are very

grateful for the time, energy and courage with which community members participated in this research. We look forward to completing the project and building the action plans to move forward with the community recommendations to improve access to justice for all Indigenous peoples in Nova Scotia.

-Dr. Jane McMillan,  
Marshall Project  
principle investigator



(Above) Community members attend the public discussion in Millbrook.



(Above) Dr. Jane McMillan is the principle investigator for the Marshall Inquiry project.

## Annual General Assembly

The Tripartite Forum hosts its 10th Annual General Assembly (AGA) on Thursday, May 30, and Friday, May 31, at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre in

Wagmatcook, NS. Wagmatcook played host to the Forum's inaugural AGA in 2004. As the Forum hosts its 10th assembly, it was only appropriate to return to

where the annual event started.

For information on the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, visit [www.wagmatcook.com](http://www.wagmatcook.com).

“Wagmatcook played host to the Forum’s inaugural AGA in 2004.”

## Mi'kmaw Crayons Go Viral!

With the help of social media, the Tripartite Forum's Culture and Heritage Committee's Mi'kmaw Crayons gained some wonderful exposure in February

when a Mi'kmaw community member posted a photo of the now popular language tool on her Twitter account. The image would go on to be re-tweeted sev-

eral more times.

On Facebook, the trend continued with Mi'kmaw community members who took keen interest in the Mi'kmaw crayons.



(Above) The original photo 'Tweet' of the Mi'kmaw Crayons from Twitter.

All Tripartite Forum Working Committee meetings are open to the public. If you wish to attend and/or have a topic added to the agenda, contact Denise and/or Sam. All meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified. For more information, please visit the Tripartite Forum website calendar at [www.tripartiteforum.com/calendar](http://www.tripartiteforum.com/calendar). All guests must RSVP with either Denise or Sam.

Please contact Administrators, Samantha or Denise, to confirm location and date. They can be reached at [sam@tripartiteforum.com](mailto:sam@tripartiteforum.com) and [dgloade@tripartiteforum.com](mailto:dgloade@tripartiteforum.com) or by calling (902) 895-6385.

The Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum Aknutmaq is a summary of the Tripartite Forum activities for distribution to the committees. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Adam Gould, Communications Officer at (902) 895-6385 or email at [adam@tripartiteforum.com](mailto:adam@tripartiteforum.com).

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### April

- Office closed on April 1 for Easter Monday Holiday.
- Steering on April 8 in Waycobah.
- Social on April 10 at Atlantic Policy Congress in Dartmouth.
- Sport and Recreation on April 19 at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook.
- Economic Development on April 24.

### May

- Culture and Heritage on May 2 in Potlotek.
- Education on May 14 at Atlantic Policy Congress in Dartmouth.
- Office closed on May 20 for Victoria Day holiday.
- Applications for Project Fund due on Friday, May 24.
- Annual General Assembly on May 30 and 31 in Wagmatcook.

### June

- Project Fund Committee on June 5 in Membertou.
- Office closed on June 11 as staff attend CMM's Semi-Annual meeting.
- Office closed on June 21 for National Aboriginal Day.
- Deadline for Summer edition of Tripartite Forum Aknutmaq newsletter is June 28, 2013.