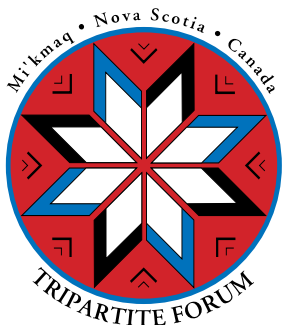


2002 - 2003 Annual Report

*The Tripartite Forum is
committed to working and
learning together
in true partnership to
improve the lives
of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.*



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



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Signing of Umbrella Agreement



The 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada signed an umbrella agreement at a ceremony held in Halifax on June 7, 2002. Shown at a news conference following the ceremony are (left to right): Grand Keptin Alexander Denny (at podium); Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook First Nation, Colchester Co.; Michael Baker, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and Chief Terrance Paul, Membertou First Nation, Cape Breton Regional Municipality.



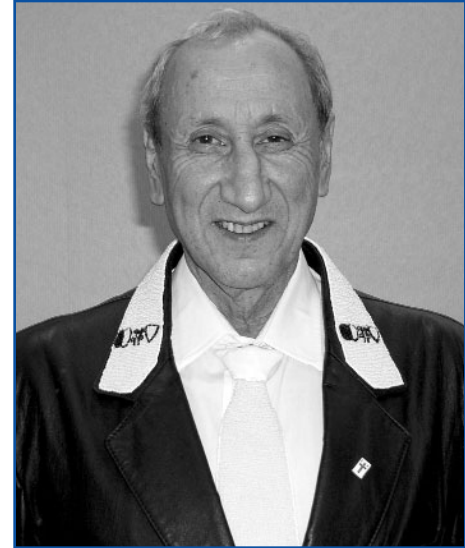
A Message from

...the Executive Chair

Kwe'. We began another stage in the relationship of the Tripartite Forum after the signing of the Umbrella Agreement on June 7, 2002. The three parties, the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, renewed their commitment to work together to resolve outstanding Mi'kmaw issues.

The Tripartite Forum brings the three parties together to participate in planning and negotiating issues of mutual concern. The Forum gets all levels of government talking and it gives all three parties a voice.

In our commitment to work together we will continue to develop positive results benefiting our future generations. We need to set examples for our children, grandchildren and all future generations as they are the leaders of tomorrow.



Wela'liek

Alexander Denny
Kji Keptin

*The Tripartite Forum
was established
to have the Mi'kmaq,
Nova Scotia and Federal
governments engaged
in discussions to resolve
issues of mutual concern.*



Executive Summary

Since the signing of the Umbrella Agreement on June 7, 2002 the Tripartite Forum continues to address Mi'kmaw issues of mutual concern. The representatives from the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada remain highly active.

The steering committee continues to provide support and monitors the working committees' mandates.

The working committees strive to reach their goals and act as a vehicle in addressing Mi'kmaw issues. This includes researching project ideas, sharing information and assisting in establishing organizations.

The Tripartite Forum hired an administrator to assist with the daily operations. There are also plans to hire an administrative assistant and a part-time communications officer.

The Tripartite Forum persists in working to resolve Mi'kmaw issues and building mutual beneficial relationships with its partners.

Accomplishments At-A-Glance

- Organized and administered 52 meetings
- Developed policies for committee membership and conflict of interest
- Staffed the Tripartite Forum Secretariat
- Produced a daycare options paper
- Prepared a draft compendium of health services
- Signed a language memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Treaty Day 2002
- Published Mi'kmaw Education – a newsletter
- Managed the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy and First Net Initiatives
- Prepared a communications plan and received funding for a part-time communications officer
- Researched several venues to increase employment opportunities
- Established the Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network



A Message from

...the Mi'kmaq



Since the signing of the Umbrella agreement on June 7, 2002 the Tripartite Forum provides an opportunity for discussion and negotiation to resolve Mi'kmaw issues of mutual concern between the federal and provincial governments and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq recognize and appreciate the value of the Tripartite Forum process and the benefits it provides to all three parities. As well, we recognize the ongoing dedication of the committee members to the Tripartite Forum.

The Mi'kmaq look forward to expanding community-based programs and projects for the Mi'kmaw people. There are also plans to promote the benefits of this relationship by enhancing communication efforts with the Mi'kmaw people and all Nova Scotians.

...the Government of Nova Scotia



The Tripartite Forum continues to be the main vehicle for the province's partnership with the Mi'kmaq and Canada. The last year has been one of revitalization within the Forum with a number of success stories that reflect a growing level of co-operation among parties. With the development of a strong communications arm, the important work of the Forum's six committees will now be better understood and communicated to Mi'kmaw communities and the public.

The work of the Forum will be a positive factor in providing Nova Scotians with a better understanding of how things can be achieved through a co-operative approach.

As in the past, the province will continue to play its role in this unique partnership, which is a model for other jurisdictions in Canada.

...the Government of Canada



The Government of Canada is pleased with the success made through the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum over the past year. Canada, along with the Mi'kmaq and the Province of Nova Scotia, recognizes the gains that have been made, both in terms of relationship building and projects arising from the Forum that have had direct results at the community level. The Government of Canada looks forward to working in partnership with the Mi'kmaq and the Government of Nova Scotia to continue achieving positive outcomes for Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw communities.



Introduction to the Tripartite Forum

The Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum was established on July 2, 1997. Through the Tripartite Forum, the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and Government of Canada engage in nation-to-nation discussions designed to implement the Mi'kmaq Nation's right to self-determination.

The Forum is comprised of three committee levels:

- ▶ Executive Committee
- ▶ Officials Committee
- ▶ Working Committees

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

Executive Committee

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

Composition

- Executive Chair
- Kji Saqmaw (Grand Chief)
- 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
- Nova Scotia Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Other relevant provincial and federal ministers

Officials Committee

The officials committee receives options and recommendations from the working committees and offers decisions within its authority and policy. The officials committee approves the working committees' mandate and provides direction as stated by the executive committee.

Composition

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



Working Committees

Providing organizational direction and operational support to the working committees is the steering committee. The steering committee focus is on the overall relationship between the provincial government, the federal government and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

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

Working committees:

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

Composition:

- Mi'kmaw representatives
- Provincial representatives
- Federal representatives



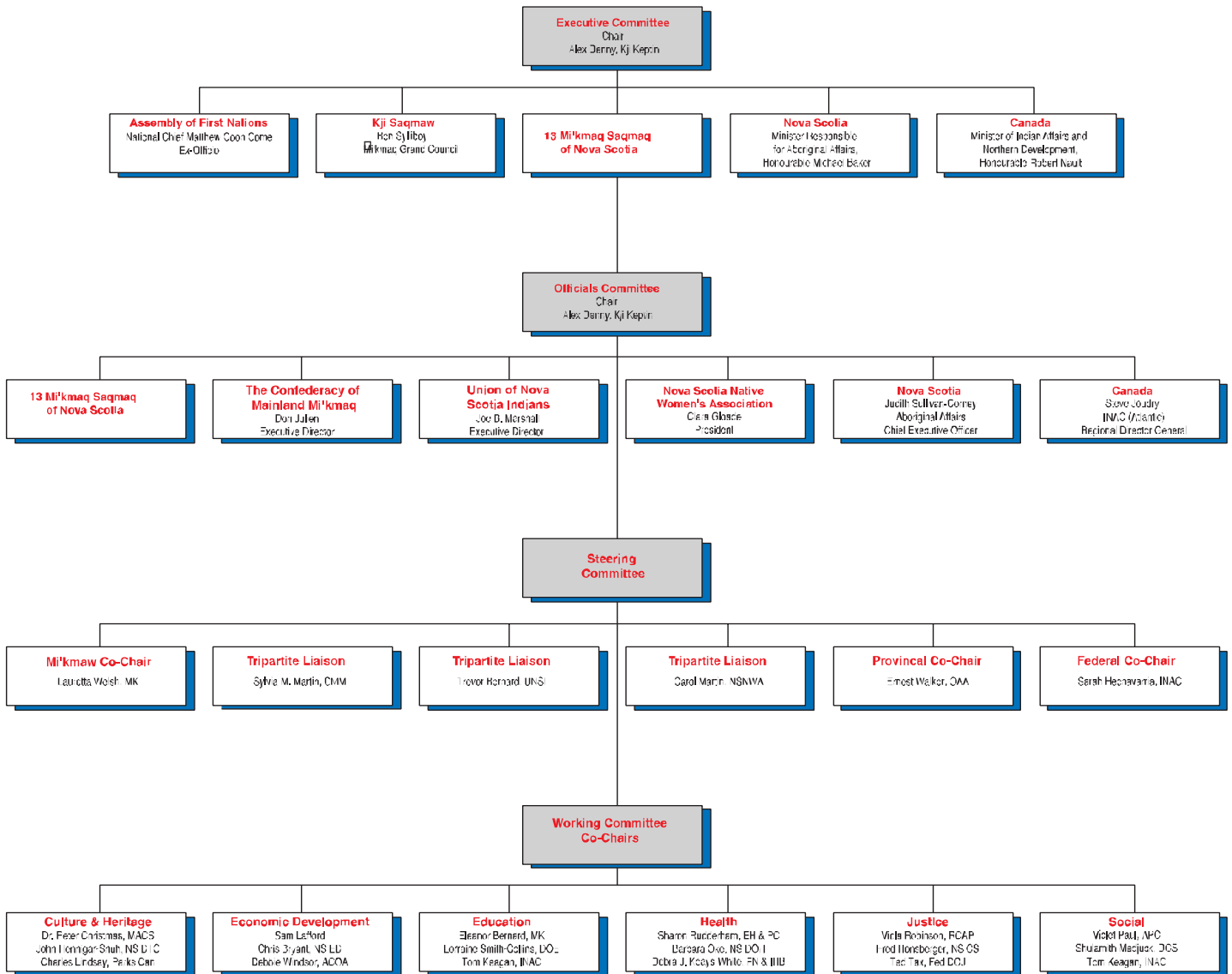
*The Tripartite Forum
is a strong vehicle to
address issues that affect
the lives of all
Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq*



Organizational Chart

(As of April 2003)

Mi'kmaq • Nova Scotia • Canada TRIPARTITE FORUM



ACOA : Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	EH & PC : Eastern Health & Primary Care	MK : Mi'kmaq Kinship Network	NSNA : Nova Scotia Native Women's Association
APC : Atlantic Policy Congress	Fed DOJ : Federal Department of Justice	NS ED : Nova Scotia Economic Development	CAA : Office of Aboriginal Affairs
CMM : The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	FN & IIB : First Nations & Inuit Health Branch	NS CS : Nova Scotia Correctional Services	Parks Can : Parks Canada
DCS : Department of Community Services	INAC : Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	NS DCH : Nova Scotia Department of Health	FCAP : Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
DOE : Department of Education	MACS : Mi'kmaq Association of Cultural Studies	NS DTC : Nova Scotia Department of Tourism & Culture	UCCB : University College of Cape Breton
			UNSI : Union of Nova Scotia Indians



Financial Overview

	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	TOTAL
REVENUES				
Core Services				
DIAND	\$43,041	\$65,005	\$43,969	
Province of Nova Scotia	\$55,063	\$64,685	\$44,322	
Deferred Revenue (beginning of year)				
Deferred Revenue (end of year)				
Other Income			\$6	
Project Surplus (beginning of period)			\$2,834	
Total Core Services Revenue	\$98,104	\$129,690	\$91,131	\$318,925
Secretariat				
DIAND	\$59,848			
Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey	\$1,563			
Province of Nova Scotia	\$62,112			
Total Secretariat Revenue	\$123,523			\$123,523
Deferred revenue from prior year recognized as revenue during the year	\$26,022			
Total Revenues	\$247,649	\$129,690	\$91,131	\$468,470
EXPENSES				
Core Services				
Administration	\$61,183 **		\$8,263	
Leadership	\$10,311			
Audit		\$673	\$2,600	
Cleaning		\$440		
Consulting		\$250		
Salaries/Benefits		\$81,071	\$47,412	
Equipment Lease		\$4,772		
Honoraria		\$3,364		
Interest & Bank Charges		\$297	\$217	
Meetings		\$5,093		
Office Supplies		\$5,404	\$833	
Rent		\$2,919	\$6,000	
Research		\$1,600		
Telephone/Fax		\$2,612	\$2,400	
Travel		\$20,120	\$21,814	
Legal			\$1,275	
Miscellaneous			\$75	
Total Core Services Expenses	\$71,494	\$128,615	\$90,889	\$290,998
Secretariat				
Administration	\$111,844			
Capital Expenditures	\$5,560			
Co-Chairs	\$993			
Working Committees	\$39,541			
Executive Committee	\$3,908			
Executive Chair	\$7,008			
Officials Committee	\$2,425			
Steering Committee	\$4,876			
Total Secretariat Expenses	\$176,155			\$176,155
Total Expenses	\$247,649	\$128,615	\$90,889	\$467,153
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$0	\$1,075	\$242	\$1,317

** During the year the funding structure for the Tripartite Forum was changed, and as a result, revenues and expenses have been segregated for the current year between core services and the Secretariat.



Steering Committee

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

During 2002-03, the steering committee:

- ▶ Guided the transition of the Forum to a new structure and assisted in the implementation of the Tripartite Forum Secretariat and other elements of the Report and Recommendations approved by the executive committee in June 2002
- ▶ Supported the development of a communications plan and worked to secure additional funding in support of the plan
- ▶ Through a subcommittee, encouraged dialogue among the three parties on the Mi'kmaq Youth, Recreation and Active Circle for Living initiative
- ▶ Updated and created a number of policy directives to assist committees in the conduct of their work
- ▶ Provided direction to the working committees on operational and budget planning throughout the year and assisted in the preparation of three officials committee meetings and one executive committee meeting during the year
- ▶ Created and submitted to the officials committee, the 2000-01 and 2001-02 annual report

Culture & Heritage Working Committee

The committee promotes an environment to discuss common issues, explore options, and recommend actions with respect to culture and heritage.

In May 2002, approximately 25 representatives from Mi'kmaq communities in NS received useful, practical information to guide them in developing proposals for cultural centres and similar ventures. As a result of this workshop, the Mi'kmaq Cultural Network was established.

In September 2002, the Mi'kmaq museum studies program, through the University College of Cape Breton, enrolled its first 13 students in a one-year certificate program. The expected date of graduation is March 2004.

On October 1, 2002 during Treaty Day celebrations at Province House in Halifax, NS, representatives from the Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia and Canada Tripartite Forum signed a resolution ratifying the Smith-Francis Orthography as the official Mi'kmaq language in public areas and on signage.

Ongoing projects include examining options to secure Mi'kmaq language in NS, promotion of Mi'kmaq language through the NS tourist guide and NS Map, and the development of a Mi'kmaq place names booklet.



Economic Development Working Committee

The committee encourages employment and economic opportunities to enhance the living conditions of Mi'kmaq Peoples. The committee strives to develop partnerships with First Nation communities, the government and businesses to build a strong economy.

The committee conducted several projects throughout the year.

Means to structure the Economic Development Officers Network (EDON) were researched and the committee is working to develop the organization as an independent entity.

The committee identified ways to increase community revenue. A outline was produced to help Aboriginal companies in placing bids on contracts. An evaluation framework and report of the First Nations Economic Development Fund, highlighting funding activities and results, were sent to funding partners. As well, an assessment study of Nova Scotia Native Women arts and crafts producers and its marketing venture was completed to determine its viability as a business venture.

First Net, a Web site promoting information technology and information sharing for First Nations communities and organizations is underway, as well, a junior achievement program for First Nations schools in Cape Breton.

On-going programs include the Open for Business in Eskasoni. It is thriving and there is an increase in entrepreneurship for Aboriginal youth. The committee newsletter also continues to be produced for Mi'kmaq communities.

Education Working Committee

The focus of the committee is educational programs. As well, related issues that impact Mi'kmaq students of all ages. The goal is to make a difference at the community level.

The committee produces Mi'kmaq Education, a newsletter. The newsletter includes personal success stories about Mi'kmaq students and the community. It is a 12 page full-coloured document. Committee members and others from the community contribute articles to the newsletter.

In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the committee assisted with the development of the Foundation for Mi'kmaq/Miigmao Language Curriculum document.

Health Working Committee

Health includes mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. The committee discusses the determinants of health, the health delivery system and the working relationship between Mi'kmaq and the federal and provincial governments.

The health committee began with five goals within a five-year plan and has since added a sixth goal as listed below:

Goal #6 - Identify options and available resources to address prescription drug misuse in Mi'kmaq communities



The health working committee established a subcommittee to address the problems with service delivery gaps. The subcommittee is reviewing the compendium of health services available to First Nations. Once this is completed and analyzed any concerns will be addressed.

The committee identified a lack of information sharing between hospitals and First Nations communities when discharging patients. Home Care Nova Scotia staff and First Nations staff are working together in a pilot project to remove this gap in Cape Breton.

The health working committee continues its research and analysis to improve health care for First Nations.

Justice Working Committee

The focus of the committee is to develop culturally appropriate justice services for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

In working with the recommendations in Dr. Don Clairmont's report and with approval from the Nova Scotia Chiefs, the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN) was established, a program director was hired and an MLSN advisory committee organized. The MLSN's priority is a Court Worker Program, then other justice related programs and delivery. Plans to incorporate the Mi'kmaq Youth Options Program with the MLSN are underway.

The committee met with Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and Chief Judges of the provincial court and family court regarding the Tripartite Forum justice working committee and a potential application for sentencing circles within the new Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The RCMP absorbed the former Unama'ki Tribal Police Force and a number of its police officers are now RCMP officers.

Meetings with the Nova Scotia Youth Centre senior superintendent and staff were held to discuss Mi'kmaq programs and services requiring support from the MLSN. Mi'kmaq programs for adult correctional facilities were also discussed.

To ensure proper management of the MLSN programs, a review of the Youth Justice Act, effective April 1, 2003, was completed.

Social Working Committee

The focus of the committee is the social needs of Mi'kmaq people including day care facilities, children and youth activities, on-reserve housing and social programs.

The social committee is working to acquire an approval process for the licensing and funding of day care facilities in First Nation communities. The committee received a draft memorandum of understanding, for day care licensing, prepared by the Province of Nova Scotia. The committee will review it before it's approved.

The committee is exploring and promoting early childhood activities, as well as monitoring and reviewing the Atlantic Policy Congress' social comparability study.

www.tripartiteforum.com



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

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The Government of Canada

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