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A message from the Executive Chair

“With seven working committees in place, the Tripartite Forum continues to move forward on a number of projects.”

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. There continues to be a solid show of support for the work and direction of the Tripartite Forum by all partners involved. With seven working committees in place, the Tripartite Forum continues to move forward on a number of projects.

The Economic Development Committee has been working with Mi'kmaq leaders and other partners to begin developing a project proposal for the establishment of entrepreneurship programs for Mi'kmaq youth. On October 15 and 16, 2007 a Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop brought together community representatives, youth and government partners to explore entrepreneurial programming and support in First Nations' communities across Nova Scotia.

The Culture and Heritage Committee held two gatherings this past May in Bedford to gather suggestions on what could or should be done with the Bedford Barrens and the protection of the petroglyphs. The first gathering brought Mi'kmaw Elders from across Nova Scotia together with archaeologists and experts to discuss options for the site. The second gathering

brought together community members that live around the Barrens site and other community members and groups that have shown interest in the site over the years – again to discuss options.

From these discussions, a report was developed and the committee is moving ahead with the recommendations that they made, which were approved by the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs at the Officials meeting held in March. This project is just one example of the benefit to all Nova Scotians of the work of the Tripartite Forum.

As we continue to move forward, I encourage all to get involved, ask questions, and educate themselves about the work of the Tripartite Forum and to help shape the future for the Mi'kmaq People in Nova Scotia - together.

Rick Simon

A message from...



Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

The Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum is an excellent example of how we can all work together to address issues of mutual concern.

The development of the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change has helped ensure the successful management of various projects being undertaken by the working committees. In the first year of operation, the fund has helped generate various projects being undertaken by the Working Committees.

Here are some examples of successful projects that were completed with the help of the fund. The Culture and Heritage Committee produced a report on the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs site. The Justice Committee produced Court Translator Modules, and the Sport and Recreation Committee was able to collect some physical activity data, which will help teachers in the classroom with their students. The Education Committee completed an Environmental Scan of Human Resources in Early Childhood Programs in Mi'kmaq Communities.

The working committees continue to move ahead on the items that have been outlined in their revised work plans. These plans continue to guide the committees to ensure that their work aligns with the strategic direction of the Tripartite Forum.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia to benefit all Canadians and all Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.



The Nova Scotia Government

Once again the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum recorded a year of significant achievements on behalf of Mi'kmaq communities, always with a spirit of partnership, respect and commitment.

It is a pleasure to review the many projects that the tripartite committees undertook during 2007/2008 when the Forum was celebrating its 10th anniversary and undergoing a period of renewal with greater financial and strategic support. Little wonder that it has become the envy of many jurisdictions across Canada.

As we look into the future, our aim must be to ensure that the people we serve are always aware of the work being done on their behalf, as our common cause is to improve the quality of life of individuals in communities throughout the province.



The Government of Canada

The progress made over the past year through the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum affirms its commitment to achieving positive socio-economic change for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The scope of the Forum's work is extensive ranging from culture, education, health, economic development, justice, sport, and social issues.

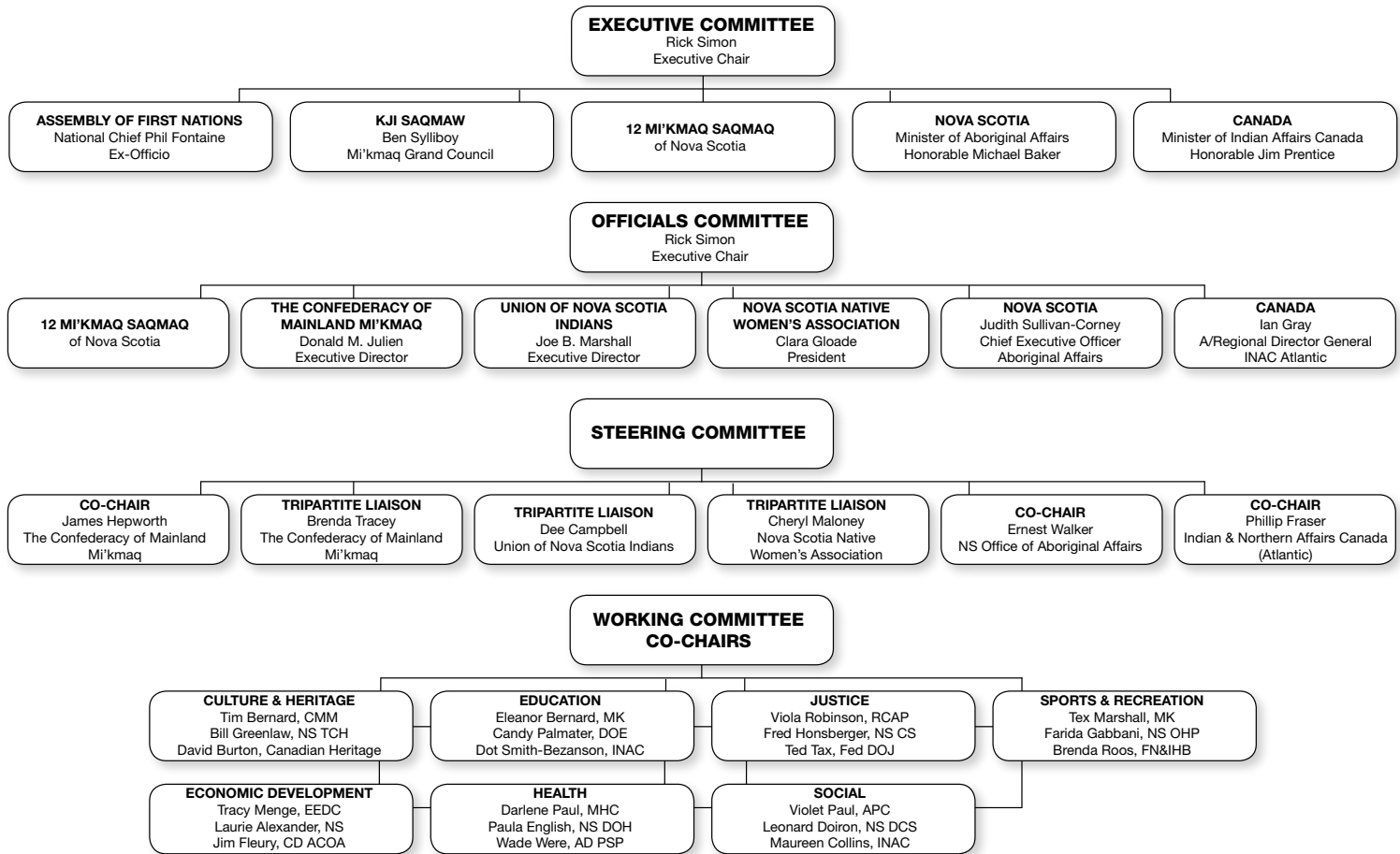
During the past year, the parties have strengthened the partnership of the Tripartite Forum by implementing a new project management approach. At the same time, work has continued toward enhanced mutual understanding, project results, and policy change within and across the various committees.

The Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change, just over a year old, is playing an integral part in the success of the project management approach. The Fund is also ensuring that the projects that are undertaken are geared toward achieving results in a consistent, open and fair manner.

The achievements of the Tripartite Forum show what can be achieved when partners work together to find common solutions through dialogue. The Government of Canada looks forward to continuing to work with the Mi'kmaq and the Provincial Government for the benefit of Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq community and all Canadians.



Organizational Chart



KEY

ACOA Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
APC Atlantic Policy Congress
CMM Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
DCS NS Department of Community Services
DOE NS Department of Education
EEDC Eskasoni Economic Development Corp.
EH&PC Eskasoni Health & Primary Care
Fed DOJ Federal Department of Justice
FN&IHB First Nations & Inuit Health Branch

INAC Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
MK Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey
MHC Membertou Health Centre
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

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'kmaw 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.

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

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

Strategic Direction

In 2006, the Executive Committee approved a strategic direction for the Forum. The direction came as a result of a number of meetings and documents compiled over the past few years – and were put together to point to 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 toward achieving. By working together on common, measurable outcomes the Forum provides additional accountability to our partners and all Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia.

About Tripartite 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'kmaq 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 (MOU) with the Federal and Provincial governments. Under this MOU, the Chiefs would represent all of their registered band members in the Tripartite Forum. A "Without Prejudice" addendum to the MOU 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 and Northern Affairs Canada



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



Tripartite Forum Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the daily operations of the Tripartite Forum.

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, an administrative assistant and a Communications Officer. The office is located at The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq in Millbrook, NS.



Committee Reports

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, the working committees, the officials and executive committees.

During 2007-2008, 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 and assisted in the preparation of Officials and Executive Committee meetings.
- Created and submitted to the Officials Committee, the 2006-2007 annual report.
- Facilitated with the Secretariat Staff the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

Health Working Committee

This year, the Tripartite Health Working Committee focused on charting a course to inform future health planning, through strategic partnerships and knowledge. Three funding sources merged to initiate a project that revisits Providing Health Care, Achieving Health 2005, and confirms current health priorities for Mi'kmaq communities. Results will be shared broadly to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to remain relevant in their response to the priorities heard by First Nation communities.

Health partners also dedicated their efforts this year to strengthening relationships related to mental health and addiction services and programs. Committee meetings were utilized to support information exchange and linkages with strategic health partners. Committee discussions supported by guest speakers also focused on Aboriginal Health Transition Fund project developments, child and youth mental health issues, access to culturally appropriate care, and early intervention for children.

Collaboration among health partners was expanded by continuing to align efforts with other Tripartite working groups including the Sports and Recreation, Education and Social Committees.

Highlights of the Health Committee's Accomplishments include:

- The initiation of a "priority setting" project engaging Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities and building on previous health planning efforts.
- A full day event with discussions among District Health Authorities (DHA's), Provincial Health representatives, First Nations, and researchers about initiatives, research programs and services related to mental health and addictions.
- In conjunction with AAHRP and Dalhousie, the completion of a qualitative study to explore gaps in mental health services in Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities.
- Informing the policy and program direction of tripartite health partners through the development of mental health recommendations that support a holistic strategic approach to accessing programs.
- Further exploring opportunities to enhance early intervention programs within First Nation communities including a presentation on Early Intervention Services in First Nation Communities.
- Laying the foundation to further develop relationships between DHA's and Mi'kmaq communities through strategic discussions about DHA's involvements in Mi'kmaq communities.
- Aligning the work of the Health Committee with the Sports and Recreation Committee through information exchange about interrelated project proposals.
- Nearly a dozen Tripartite projects were developed and initiated under Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund. These successful planning efforts were enabled in large part by the pre-existing positive relationship base established through the Health Working Group.

Justice Working Committee

The format of the following report is consistent with the strategic goals of the 2007-2008 operational plan.

Support Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN) Advisory Committee, as requested, in achieving MLSN mandate.

MLSN governance transitioned from Tripartite Justice Committee to Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee consistent with Clairmont Report recommendations. Don Julien chairs the advisory committee.

Tripartite Justice committee continues to support MLSN, as requested, with respect to issues involving 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.

Continued support to MLSN regarding confirmation of core funding.

Support Family Violence Sub-committee in their work to identify program and service gaps in the Mi'kmaq community and to identify culturally appropriate models to assist women and their families through prevention and intervention.

Justice Committee supported submission by Family Violence Sub-committee. Dr. Jane MacMillan, St Francis Xavier University will lead project.

Approval for program is currently pending. It is hoped that approval will be received in April 2008 to facilitate hiring of student researchers in May 2008.

Establish crime prevention framework in collaboration with Tripartite Health and Social Working Groups.

Action on these objectives has been deferred to 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Justice sub-committee will partner with Health and Social sub-committees on crime prevention strategies focusing on addictions and family violence.

Promote cross-cultural awareness of Mi'kmaq issues among criminal justice system staff.

Cross-cultural awareness, including Aboriginal perspectives training, is ongoing.

Respond to jurisdictional issues, which are brought to the attention of the Working Committee throughout the year.

Meetings held during the year with Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre regarding their potential involvement with Tripartite Justice Sub-committee.

Meeting initiated with Treaty Negotiation Committee to discuss potential Justice sub-committee role regarding customary law response to fishing, hunting and forest product offences.

Education Working Committee

The Education committee has taken on a number of projects that pursue the mandates of language retention/promotion and skills development. The committee is larger than it has been in the past and we are moving in new collaborative directions.

The Grade 8 Mi'kmaq language curriculum has been completed and plans are underway to complete the Grade 9 curriculum during this next academic year. The committee has also supported and garnered financial support from the project fund for a longitudinal study on the Mi'kmaw Language being carried out jointly by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and McGill University.

Work is underway to establish an Aboriginal Apprenticeship Strategy by the province of Nova Scotia. This work is being supported by the Joint Skills and Lifelong Learning sub-committee.

The Project Fund supported a social initiative; "The Environmental Scan of Human Resources in Early Childhood Programs in Mi'kmaq Communities in Nova Scotia. This scan was designed to identify factors that could lead to having a trained workplace providing programs and services related to childhood education and care. The final report is expected in April 2008.

Eleanor Bernard has just stepped down from her position as Mi'kmaw co-chair of the committee. The committee members want to take this opportunity to thank her for her many years of dedication and hard work as co-chair of this committee. We are pleased that Eleanor will continue to sit as a member of the committee.

Work is underway to establish an Aboriginal Apprenticeship Strategy by the province of Nova Scotia.

The Grade 8 Mi'kmaq language curriculum has been completed and plans are underway to complete the Grade 9 curriculum during this next academic year.

Sports and Recreation Working Committee

The Tripartite Sports and Recreation Committee is chaired by George Tex Marshall (Mi'kmaw); Farida Gabbani (Provincial); and Brenda Roos (Federal). The committee has had meetings regularly since June of 2007. Meetings were held in Millbrook, Wagmatcook, Eskasoni, and Indian Brook. It is our intention to eventually meet in every First Nation Community in Nova Scotia.

One of our current goals is to establish baseline data that will produce a synopsis of the current levels of physical activity among Mi'kmaw youth in Nova Scotia. We are currently working on proposals that will hopefully produce funds to establish initiatives to examine activity levels of our youth.

The committee is also examining ways and means to establish daily physical activity in all schools in Nova Scotia. We are hoping to encourage, promote and lobby the public school boards; along with Department of Education officials to establish much needed daily exercise programs in all schools within Nova Scotia. This should be a priority for Mi'kmaq students who are within the mainstream public school system.

We are also in the process of restructuring our scholarship program. It is our intention to establish sustainable funding through a variety of funding partners, so that opportunities for students who excel both in Academics and Sport & Recreation will be honored and recognized.

On behalf of all Committee members we would like to thank the Tripartite Forum for allowing us the opportunity to function, as we feel that Sport and Recreation is quite often one of the most neglected sectors of our society.

Ujit Kuji'jinaq Elmi'knikmual

For Our Grandchildren's Future...

One of our current goals is to establish baseline data that will produce a synopsis of the current levels of physical activity among Mi'kmaw youth in Nova Scotia.

Culture and Heritage Working Committee

The Culture and Heritage Working Committee continued to show steady progress with items in their 2007-2008 work plan. The committee as a whole met on four occasions and have spread their meeting coverage across the region and have held three out of four meetings in Mi'kmaq communities. The committee met on the following dates; April 18, 2007, Membertou; September 12, 2007, Bear River; December 13, 2007, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History; and February 20, 2008 in Eskasoni.

The highlight for this fiscal year was the Bedford Barrens Gathering, which was hosted by the Tripartite Culture and Heritage Working Committee on May 31, 2007. The gathering of Mi'kmaq Elders, community and other stakeholders provided input to form the basis of the report titled: Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs Executive Report. The report was presented to the Tripartite Officials Committee at the end of March 2008 for their leadership and direction on what the next steps towards preservation, protection and interpretation of this important sacred site will be.

The Highway Signage Project moved into phase three with the development of a community needs assessment. Mi'kmaq communities were given the opportunity to input into the assessment and indications are that communities will move forth with accessing the highway directional signage. The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq lands department will continue to act as a liaison between the bands and the provincial and federal departments and have been involved with both Paq'tnekek First Nation and Glooscap First Nation directional signage intentions. The remaining bands will then have a template to follow and with the cooperation of both Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Province, all 13 communities could have directional signage in place by 2009.

The Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Network (MCTN) has successfully begun implementing the MCTN Strategic Action Plan through the offices of Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies (MACS). In October; 15 Mi'kmaw participants and 9 Federal and Provincial employees representing Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), INAC, Canadian Heritage, Nova Scotia Office of Economic Development, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, and Culture and Heritage attended a Best Practices Tourism Trade Mission. A final report is being developed by ACOA and MACS and will be distributed early in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Operating support from the Province of Nova Scotia of \$95,000 was also realized in November, which enabled MACS to hire three individuals on a short-term contract to carry out actions items from the Strategic Action Plan.



The highlight for this fiscal year was the Bedford Barrens Gathering, which was hosted by the Tripartite Culture and Heritage Working Committee on May 31, 2007.

With financial assistance from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), St. Mary's University Business Development Centre has been contracted to carry out a comprehensive Mi'kmaq Culture and Tourism Market Analysis. The analysis will identify target markets and preferences for the "Ideal Mi'kmaq Heritage Experience". The project has three main objectives:

- Explore various Mi'kmaq traditions and cultures and identify those most reflective of Mi'kmaq heritage;
- Explore what visitors would consider to be an ideal Mi'kmaq experience and determine what would encourage their participation – what themes, programming styles, products and services are most attractive;
- Assess visitors appeal for potential participation in various proposed offerings and how best to reach this market.

The Mi'kmaq Culture and Tourism Market Analysis will be available early in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Discussions are currently underway between the Victoria Museum in Australia and MACS to have the Mi'kmaw Chiefs Regalia loaned to the Glooscap Heritage Centre in Millbrook with conservation expertise provided by the Nova Scotia Museum. At this point, a loan was considered the easiest route to have the regalia returned to Nova Scotia while details of repatriation are worked out.

Late in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Culture and Heritage Committee has also engaged with the Gorsebrook Research Institute to carry out a development study

on a Mi'kmaw Place Names Database and website that would be used to promote the understanding and use of Mi'kmaw place names throughout Nova Scotia. The study is expected to be completed by June 2009.

The Mi'kmaq Language Sub-Committee completed a report entitled "We Lost our Talk" in 2007. Several recommendations were made in the report on options to secure the Mi'kmaw Language in Nova Scotia. One project the committee worked on was the commemoration of Silas T. Rand as a person of national significance.

Also upon endorsement by the officials committee it was recommended that we honour a Mi'kmaq person for commemoration. Research on Grand Chief Tuma Denny is being undertaken to recommend him as a person of national significance. The committee is also working with the Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Nations News on ideas and themes relevant to the month and activities associated with each theme.

Members of the Mi'kmaq Language Sub-Committee are also used as resource people for other committees in terms of language translation and knowledge.

New for this years work plan include new three goals:

- Investigate measures for the protection of on-reserve archaeological site;
- To explore means of encouraging and presentation of traditional arts and crafts as well as current and future artistic expressions of Mi'kmaw culture;
- Inclusion of Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month in our work plan.



Social Working Committee

The Social Committee met on a regular basis during the course of 2007-2008, the Committee's work plan for 2006-07 guided the work. Six meetings were held over the course of this year: January 24, 2007, March 23, 2007, April 23 & 24, 2007, September 13, 2007, November 26, 2007, and February 18, 2007. There were also two Continuing Care Sub-Committee meetings and one Day Care Guidelines sub-committee meeting. These meetings were held in a variety of First Nation communities, including Pictou Landing First Nation, Membertou First Nation, Millbrook First Nation and Waycobah First Nation.

This year has seen the opening of an Assisted Living Facility in Waycobah First Nation, implementation of case management/assessment services for existing and new residential Assisted Living clients funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and a feasibility study/needs assessment conducted via Eskasoni First Nation. As a result of these new initiatives, the subcommittee felt their work had been completed and the committee was disbanded.

The subcommittee on day care guidelines met only once this year. Much of the work of the subcommittee has been contracted to individual organizations by Health Canada. As a result, this work was dealt with ongoing as a "reporting back" piece only.

The Social Working Committee has representation on the Justice Working Committee's Family Violence subcommittee as this has been identified as a crossover issue. As well, there is representation at the Health Working Committee as several crossover issues were identified there, including Early Childhood Development and Youth Addictions. Joint meetings were anticipated between the various Working Committees, however due to the myriad of schedules involved, this was not achieved.

Specific achievements of the Social Working Committee this year have included a training session/workshop for the First Nation Social Development Administrators (funded by INAC), introduction of the Draft Regional Social Manual (developed by the Atlantic Policy Congress), and the introduction of the Social Data Project (funded thru the Tripartite Fund for Social and Economic Change).

The Social Working Committee experienced considerable change in its' membership this year, from a federal, provincial and Mi'kmaw perspective. These changes have been reflected in the work of the committee this year, both in terms of the need for time to become oriented to the committee's work and changes in perspective and approach to the various issues that come to the table. Particular attention will be paid in the upcoming year to ensure that there is an appropriate level of Mi'kmaw representation at the table.





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 is focused on fostering relationships with First Nation communities and their representatives, the government and businesses. The year saw co-chair representation replacement federally from Chuck Maillet to Jim Fleury from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and provincially from Jeff MacCallum to Laurie Alexander, Nova Scotia Economic Development (NSEED).

The year has been filled with many rewards and work plan advancements. During 2007-2008, the working committee built capacity and fostered partnerships with several key Mi'kmaq organizations and communities.

Projects and initiatives included:

- Working with the Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Network (MCTN) to begin implementation of an action plan for an integrated tourism and heritage strategy;
- Supporting the work of a steering committee and the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada on a Nova Scotia Coordinated Aboriginal Apprenticeship and Trades Strategy;
- Establishing a new working group, in collaboration with the Education Committee, to focus on Aboriginal skills and labour market issues;
- Supporting First Net website www.mns-firstnet.ca a community led effort (administered through CMM) that provides an ongoing web presence for Mikmaw;
- Working with Mi'kmaq leaders and other partners to begin developing a project proposal for the establishment of entrepreneurship programs for Mi'kmaq youth. On October 15 and 16, 2007 a Youth Entrepreneurship Workshop brought together community representatives, youth and government partners to explore entrepreneurial programming and support in First Nations' communities across Nova Scotia.

The co-chairs would like to thank all members for their contribution and dedication to embracing challenges and opportunities and to establishing the partnerships and connections that will increase Mi'kmaq communities' success and well-being.



Tripartite Fund Review Committee

In 2005 the Tripartite Forum Secretariat engaged the services of the St. Mary's University Business Development Center to conduct an organizational review of the Forum to improve the Forum's effectiveness. In March 2006 the officials committee moved to adopt a staged approach to the recommendations in the review. The fund is jointly funded by Nova Scotia (Office of Aboriginal Affairs) and Canada (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada).

Guidelines for the Tripartite Forum Fund for Social and Economic Change were originally established in February 2007. This is a living document it was revised in September 2007 to strengthen the accountability and transparency systems of the Fund. Procedures were updated and progress and end of project reporting requirements were established.

The Tripartite Fund Review Committee meets quarterly to discuss, review and provide recommendations on project proposals submitted by the Tripartite Form Working Committees. The committee consists Co-chairs within the Forum, The Executive Chair and two ex officio members.

In 2007-2008 the fund helped support and enable ten valuable projects of the working committees. These projects include:

- Court Translator Project submitted by the Justice Working Committee
- Development of Youth Entrepreneurship submitted by the Economic Development Working Committee

- Environmental Scan of Human Resources in Early Childhood Programs in Mi'kmaq Communities in Nova Scotia submitted by the Education Working committee
- Social Data Network Deployment Plan submitted by the Social Working Committee
- Mi'kmaw Language and Band Operated in Nova Scotia Provincial Schools; An assessment and implementation initiative submitted by the Education Working Committee
- Youth Industry Pre-Employment Training submitted by the Economic Development Working Committee
- Measuring the Physical Activity Levels of Aboriginal Children and Youth in Nova Scotia submitted by the Sports and Recreation Working Committee
- Family Violence and Aboriginal Communities submitted by the Justice Working Committee
- Moving Forward Together on Health Priorities submitted by the Health Working Committee
- Place Names Database and Website Development Study submitted by the Culture and Heritage Working Committee

The project review committee has set their schedule for meetings for the 2008-2009 funding year.

The Tripartite Fund Review Committee meets quarterly to discuss, review and provide recommendations on project proposals submitted by the Tripartite Form Working Committees.

Tripartite Forum News

Tripartite Forum looks to the Bedford Barrens

In 1983, public attention was cast upon a tract of land known as the Bedford Barrens. This attention was stirred when Michael Ross, while visiting his mother in the area, re-discovered Mi'kmaw petroglyphs carved into the quartzite ridge that overlooks the Bedford Basin.

Since their re-discovery, the petroglyphs and the site itself have been the topic of numerous discussions. The site, a 35-hectare parcel of land, is currently under the ownership of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. In 1994, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, at the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, declared the site a National Historic Site.

To date, although the site is 'protected' by the designation, no major movement has been taken towards options for physical protection and presentation of the site or the petroglyphs themselves. And that is where the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum – through its Culture & Heritage working committee - is stepping in to take the lead. The Culture & Heritage committee has been given the mandate to take on this project by the Nova Scotia Chiefs as part of the committee's annual work plan.

In May of this year, two gatherings were held in the Bedford area with one goal in mind – to gather suggestions on what could or should be done with the site. The first gathering will bring Mi'kmaw Elders from across Nova Scotia together with archaeologists and experts to discuss options for the site. The second gathering brought together community members that live around the Barrens site and other community members and groups that have shown interest in the site over the years – again to discuss options.

From these discussions a report will be developed and later presented to the Mi'kmaq Chiefs of Nova Scotia for their leadership and direction on this important site. The Bedford Barrens Gatherings project is one of 3 projects recently funded by the Tripartite Forum Fund for Economic and Social Change.

"Although we weren't able to invite everyone to the gatherings – we hoped to hear from anyone who may have had a comment to make about the Bedford site," says David Burton, Federal Co-chair for the Culture & Heritage Committee heading up the gatherings.

When asked about the possibilities for the site Tim Bernard, Mi'kmaw Co-chair with the Culture & Heritage Committee comments, "We're not sure what the suggestions for the site will be at all. All we do know at this point is we want Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and other stakeholders to be the leading voices in making the decisions."



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.

Increasing youth participation

Increasing youth participation was one topic discussed recently at an Officials committee meeting of the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. The Officials met in Dartmouth on October 19th.

Identified as a priority for the Forum in its 2006 Strategic Direction document, this discussion on youth participation was a result of recent research by the Tripartite Secretariat into methods of involving youth in other organizations. Next steps were approved by the Officials – which will lead to talks with youth from First Nations across Nova Scotia as to how they would like to see youth involved in the Tripartite Forum.

“Youth involvement in the Forum has to be meaningful,” says Jill Morrison, Project Manager with the Tripartite Forum Secretariat. “It has to be something that works for everyone – we don’t want this to be ‘window dressing’. We want youth leaders from across the province to tell us how they could be involved. They’ll get to see how the Forum works, and they’ll become a part of the decisions and discussions of the Forum.”

The Officials committee also heard project updates from the Forum’s seven working committees – including an update on the Bedford Barrens Petroglyphs project and a new partnership with the NSCC to develop a training program for Mi'kmaq court translators.

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.

“Youth involvement in the Forum has to be meaningful”

Financial Overview

2007-2008 Un-Audit

REVENUES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	Total
Communications				
Province of Nova Scotia	98,932.92			
Total Communications Revenue	98,932.92			98,932.92
Core Services				
INAC	Funding flowed to Province			
Province of Nova Scotia	86,925.41	98,648.00	102,239.00	
Other income			1.00	
Total Core Services Revenue	86,925.41	98,648.00	102,240.00	287,813.41
Secretariat				
INAC	Funding flowed to Province			
Province of Nova Scotia	256,079.67			
Total Secretariat Revenue	256,079.67			256,079.67
Deferred Revenue from Prior year				
Total Deferred Revenue	154,601.06			154,601.06
Grand Total Revenue	596,539.06	98,648.00	102,240.00	797,427.06

EXPENSES	CMM/Secretariat	UNSI	NSNWA	Total
Communications Expenses				
Administration	68,167.81			
Total Communications Expenses	68,167.81			68,167.81
Core Expenses				
Administration	9,062.33		9,720.00	
Office Supplies		17,472.77	208.00	
Meetings		20,117.79		
Leadership/Executive Director	14,275.39			
Audit	2,000.00	825.00	2,600.00	
Cleaning		2,025.00		
Equipment Lease		5,069.80		
Employers Share - UIC		1,342.16		
Employers Share - CPP		2,584.42		
Salaries/Benefits/Pension	47,256.33	61,858.16	49,690.00	
General Assembly			2,769.00	
Leadership Participation			11,101.00	
Mini-summit			2,572.00	
Rent	6,000.00	5,350.00	6,400.00	
Telephone/Fax	3,536.37	2,569.17	3,565.00	
Travel & Accommodations	4,794.99	18,636.67	11,394.00	
Honoraria		3,980.73		
Legal			2,000.00	
Interest and Bank Charges		8.80	281.00	
Total Core Services Expenses	86,925.41	141,840.47	102,300.00	331,065.88
Secretariat Expenses				
Salaries/Benefits/Pension	61,278.14			
Administration/Travel	73,006.99			
Co-Chairs	2,157.87			
Working Committees	59,655.27			
Executive	1,668.71			
Executive Chair	8,806.64			
Officials	9,848.80			
Steering Committee	2,133.37			
General Assembly	17,173.75			
Total Secretariat Expenses	235,729.54			235,729.54
Grand Total Expenses	390,822.76	141,840.47	102,300.00	634,963.23

Excess of Revenues over Expenses	205,716.30	(43,192.47)	(60.00)	162,463.83
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The imagery used on the cover is representative of a Mi'kmaq Wampum belt.

Wampum belts were used as a memory aid in the oral tradition where the wampum shell beads could be read as a story describing recorded history.