



TRIPARTITE FORUM AKNUTMAQN

Volume 1, Issue 1

December-January 2003/04

TRIPARTITE FORUM
Upcoming committee
meetings

Executive

June 2004

Officials

February 19

Steering

January 8

Culture & Heritage

March 25

Economic Development

TBA

Education

January 15th

Health

TBA

Justice

TBA

Social

TBA

\$150,000 COMMITTED THROUGH THE TRIPARTITE FORUM PROCESS

The 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada have committed \$150,000 to the Mi'kmaq Youth, Recreation and Active Circle for Living (MYRACL) to promote active lifestyles in Mi'kmaq communities.

The MYRACL initiative was endorsed during the Tripartite Forum executive meeting in November attended by Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Michael Baker, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Nova Scotia Chiefs.

Robert Bernard, executive director of MYRACL, feels the partnership will create positive outcomes through sport and recreation activities for First Nations peoples.

"We're excited about the



Tripartite Forum Executive Meeting in Halifax on November 19th attended by Alex Denny, executive chair, Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Michael Baker, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and other Mi'kmaq and government representatives

opportunity to promote and present healthy choices to children and youth and move towards healthy, active living," Bernard said.

Minister Baker said the promotion of healthy lifestyles in First Nations should lead to a healthier population in the future.

Bernard said the first steps include hiring a staff person and identifying the needs on Nova Scotia's 13 First Nations communities.

Bernard then plans to help the communities develop the resources for sport and recreation activities.

The Tripartite Forum was formally established in 1997 as a partnership between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, Province of Nova Scotia and Government of Canada to strengthen relationships and resolve outstanding Mi'kmaq issues.

15 Aboriginal Business Service Network Sites Open in Nova Scotia—economic development

The nation-wide initiative, the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSNS), provides business products and information resources tailored directly toward Aboriginal communities using information technology.

Sam Lafford, economic development working committee, believes the ABSNS

will provide existing and potential entrepreneurs resources within their own communities to help them succeed.

Each ABSNS site has a computer with internet access and a resource library with business and Aboriginal related material.

ABSNS sites are located in the First Nations communities

of Acadia, Paq'tnkek, Bear River, Chapel Island, Eskasoni, Glooscap, Membertou, Millbrook, Pictou Landing, Shubenacadie, Wagmatcook and Waycobah. Sites are also hosted by the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre and Ulnooweg Development Group.

Please call Amanda at 895-6385 to confirm location and date.

Add these links to your favorites:

tripartiteforum.com

www.mns-firstnet.ca

EDUCATION WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Mi'kmaw language curriculum is available to all grades primary and one Band operated schools.

respected Elder and she strives to preserve and restore the Mi'kmaw language.

To order a copy phone Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) at (902) 567-0336.

Congratulations Sister Dorothy.



On October 21 Sister Dorothy Moore, an honorary member, received the Order of Nova Scotia Medal.

Sister Dorothy is an educator,

Premier John Hamm, Sister Dorothy Moore and Lt.-Gov. Myra Freeman

HEALTH WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee is working to understand how federal and provincial laws apply in Mi'kmaw communities. INAC provided a presentation to help explain how the laws apply.

The Union of Nova Scotia Indians approached the committee about a need for chronic health care services. UNSI presented the status of First Nations and Home and Community Care. The presentation highlighted the need for chronic health services.



Health and Social Committees Cross Paths

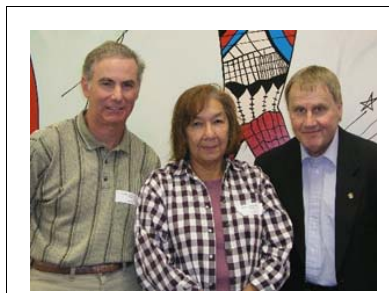
Not surprisingly, the Tripartite Forum committees and their projects sometimes overlap. The health and social committees identified an common concern for early childhood development in Mi'kmaw communities.

On September 19 the co-chairs from the two committees met to discuss the issue. The committees plan to come together for further discussion.

This is a great example of committees pulling resources together to address common issues and concerns.

JUSTICE WORKING COMMITTEE HOSTS CULTURAL EVENT

The Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network organized a cultural gathering at the Waterville Youth Centre sponsored by the Tripartite Forum justice working committee in October.



Justice working committee co-chairs: Ted Tax, federal, Viola Robinson, Mi'kmaw, and Fred Honsberger, provincial

"It's important to ensure that the Mi'kmaw culture and tradition is retained and kept alive while the youth are incarcerated," says, Viola Robinson, Mi'kmaw co-chair on the Tripartite Forum justice working committee.

"As well, there is the value in the cross cultural training these visits provide to others within an institution."

The committee strives to ensure fair treatment and access to the Mi'kmaw culture for Mi'kmaw in the justice system. This reflects the recommendations of the Donald Marshall Royal Commission report.

executive director of Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities feels this "is an excellent example of the benefits of the Tripartite partnership and the application of that partnership to front line services that benefit native and non-native youth in Nova Scotia."

With the success of this event the committee looks forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Fred Honsberger,

FIRST NATIONS DAY CARES—SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Those who have children understand the demand in finding adequate child care; especially a place of comfort.

All Nova Scotia day cares require a license except on First Nations Communities.

The committee is working to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the licensing and funding of on-

reserve day cares. The Province of Nova Scotia, with help from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), prepared a draft MOU. It was handed to First Nations communities to provide input.

This initiative is important in providing valuable early childhood education in Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw communities.

STEERING COMMITTEE CHANGES



Patrick Small Legs-Nagge

Please welcome Patrick Small Legs-Nagge as the new federal chair. Patrick is a treaty, claims & self-government officer at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

Former federal chair, Sarah Hechavarría, is assuming other roles in her INAC position. Sarah thank you for your time and commitment.

JUSTICE CO-CHAIR WINS AN AWARD

Dr. Viola Robinson, member of Acadia First Nation, overcame age, gender and culture barriers when she ended her homemaker career and started her law career. Spending much of her life advocating the rights of Mi'kmaw and women issues Dr. Robinson is the first Mi'kmaw woman to receive the Frances Fish Women Lawyers' Achievement Award.

The award honours and celebrates Dr. Robinson for her outstanding achievements in Mi'kmaw communities and her commitment to the advancement of women equality through her legal profession.

Acadia First Nation employs Robinson as an advisory consultant and land claims negotiator. As well, she is the Mi'kmaw co-chair on the Tripartite Forum Justice working committee.

According to Donald Julien, executive director of The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, "As the Mi'kmaw co-chair Viola is a blessing as she has the ability to listen, explain and to promote equal and fair treatment for Mi'kmaw people in the justice system."



Michael Baker, minister of justice and aboriginal affairs Viola Robinson and Don Julien, CMM

DON JULIEN RECEIVES 2003 ARCHAEOLOGY AWARD



Don Julien

Officials committee member, Donald Julien received recognition from the Nova Scotia Archeology Society .

Julien aims to study and protect Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage. He has established relationships with many archaeologists in the province and has worked to protect archeological resources.

Protecting the Palaeo-Indian period archaeological sites at Debert is his largest contribution to archaeology.

With the opening of the Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretative Trails the NSAS presented Julien with the 2003 *Friend of Archeology* award.

WHERE IS ESKASONI??

- CULTURE & HERITAGE WORKING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Don't look for a Eskasoni highway sign. First Nations communities are not marked on highway signs and are not listed in Nova Scotia maps.

The lack of signage has proven to be a problem for many travelers. Including John Hennigar-Shuh, provincial chair. John drove to North Sydney from Halifax before realizing he missed the exit to Eskasoni.

The committee is working to add highway signs and to include the communities in maps.

Special thanks to the three culture & heritage working committee co-chairs for their time and commitment to the Tripartite Forum.

Charles Lindsay, federal chair, is retiring from Parks Canada. Peter

Christmas, Mi'kmaw chair, is resigning from his role. John Hennigar-Shuh, provincial chair, is leaving his position at the Museum of Cultural History to pursue another position.

The Tripartite Forum and its members wish Charles and John all the best in their future endeavors. Peter Christmas will remain active in the committee.



Above: culture & heritage working committee at a meeting in Halifax on November 27



The culture & heritage working committee said goodbye to the three co-chairs. (Left: Charles Lindsay, provincial chair, Peter Christmas, Mi'kmaw chair and John Hennigar-Shuh, provincial chair). Peter will stay active as a member.



(above) The officials committee discuss Mi'kmaq issues and concerns in Halifax on November 13th.



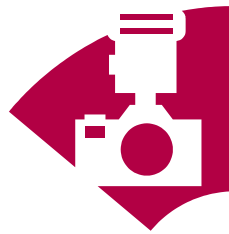
(above) Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chapel Island First Nation, Chief Anne Francis-Muise, Pictou Landing First Nation and Chief Shirley Clarke, Glooscap First Nation



(above) A special ceremony was held at Government House in Halifax to present Treaty Day Awards. Receiving awards were (L to R) Chance Angus Paul, Millbrook, Chief Noel Doucette Youth Education Award; Annie Tina Marshall, Chapel Island and Doug Knockwood, Indian Brook, Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior Elder Awards; Zabrina Whitman, Glooscap First Nation, Chief Noel Doucette Youth Education Award.



(above) Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation, Lindsay Marshall, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation Development, Chief Gerard Julian, Paq'tnekek First Nation, Trevor Bernard, UNSI and Candy Palmater, OAA at the executive committee meeting.



(left) Robert Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Michael Baker, NS Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Don Julien, CMM, signed an agreement to develop employment opportunities for Aboriginal people at Michelin North America.



(above) Chief Lawrence Paul, Milbrook First Nation, names Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Robert Nault (right) honorary Milbrook Chief Thunderstick at press conference for the Truro Power Centre in November.

The Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum Aknutmaq (newsletter) is a summary of the Tripartite activities for distribution to the committees.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact:

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (NEW MEMBERS THIS FISCAL YEAR)

Executive & Officials Committees

Andy Mitchell Minister of INAC
Chief Frank Muese Bear River

Steering Committee

Jim Hepworth Mi'kmaq chair
Patrick Small Legs-Nagge Federal chair

Economic Development

Gordon Johnson Mi'kmaq Member

Culture & Heritage

Deborah Ginnish Mi'kmaq Member

Health

Cheryl Copage Mi'kmaq Member

Social

Janice Maloney Mi'kmaq Member
Wyatt White Provincial Member

Communications

John Soosaar Provincial Member