



# TRIPARTITE FORUM AKNUTMAQN

TRIPARTITE FORUM  
Upcoming committee  
meetings

## Executive

To be determined

## Officials

September 29

## Steering

June 3

## Culture & Heritage

June 24

## Economic Development

June 23 & Sept. 21

## Education

September 16

## Health

To be determined

## Justice

September 14

## Social

June 24 & 25

## Sports & Recreation

June 4

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

## COMMITMENT TO TRIPARTITE FORUM EMPHASIZED

At a meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> the Officials committee emphasized the commitment to the Tripartite Forum.

The comments were made in the opening remarks by Judith Sullivan-Corney, chief executive officer for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of the Province, Steve Jourdy, regional director general for Indian and Northern Affairs, on behalf of Canada and Membertou Chief Terry Paul on behalf of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

All three recognized the great work the committees are doing but also stressed the importance of the Tripartite Forum relationship.

Chief Terry Paul said, "This commitment is important in making the relationship work. We need the commitment from the three parties on all committees. Representatives need to be there, contributing to the Forum."

During the meeting Han Martin Associates presented the co-chairs facilitated report. The



Chief Lawrence Paul, Millbrook, Chief Terry Paul, Membertou and Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chapel Island at the Officials Committee meeting. (See more pictures on page four).

committee was impressed with the report. Barb Martin gave credit to the members involved saying, "It's their words and accomplishments." The report is available through the Tripartite Forum secretariat.

The officials committee encourages each working

committee to incorporate the results into their work plans.

Each working committee also presented their work plan for the 2004-05 fiscal year. These plans will soon be posted on the Tripartite Forum Web site ([www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com)).

## ABORIGINAL HEALTH BENEFITS

The Health working committee released a booklet called the Compendium of Health Services.

The one-resource guide provides a summary of the health programs and services available to First Nations in Nova Scotia.

The booklet lists the provincial and federal funded services and qualifications for accessing the service.

The Compendium of Health Services is available on the Tripartite Forum Web site at :

[www.tripartiteforum.com/health.htm](http://www.tripartiteforum.com/health.htm)



## PULLING RESOURCES TOGETHER

The Tripartite Forum co-chairs from six working committees recently participated in facilitated sessions to identify common issues and to encourage resource sharing. The sessions were divided into two days. One day was held in Eskasoni and a second day in Millbrook.

The sessions were facilitated by Barb Martin and Reni Han of Han Martin Associates.

The process included reading work plans, identifying what does and doesn't work, highlighting issues, learning about the medicine wheel and deconstructing the issues.

The sessions were action-packed, but it allowed time for the committees to be heard and hear others. In the end about ten issues were identified.

They included: **language**, preserving and restoring the Mi'kmaq language; **liability and jurisdiction**, identifying and removing service gaps between the government and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq; **youth**, providing services and options to youth; **community involvement**, involving the community in the Tripartite Forum activities; **skills development**, providing appropriate training services to Mi'kmaq; **cross cultural awareness**, developing cross-cultural awareness among committee members and organizations; **representation on provincial boards and agencies**, placing more Mi'kmaq on non-aboriginal committees; **tendering and procurement**, having a clear process for



Day one, Eskasoni - (front, left to right) Barb Martin, Sam Lafford, Candy Palmater, (second row) Brian Skabar, Tryna Booth, Lorraine Smith-Collins, Denise Gloade, Amanda Dugas, Patrick Small-Legs Nagge, (back) Buddy Walzak, Jim Hempworth, Dot Smith-Bezanson and Reni Han



Day two, Millbrook - (front, left to right) Brian Skabar, Ted Tax, Candy Palmater, Amanda Dugas, Reni Han, Barb Martin (back) Tim Bernard, Patrick Small-Legs Nagge, Trevor Bernard, Jim Hepworth, Debbie Windsor, Wyatt White, David Christianson, Ernest Walker and Buddy Walzak

Mi'kmaq organizations and promoting Mi'kmaq businesses; **long-term care and special needs**, providing required resources to those in need of long-term or special care.

Patrick Small-Legs Nagge, federal steering committee chair said, "The sessions gave the committees key areas where to focus their time and resources." He felt it was an invaluable session and a great opportunity to meet other members in the Forum.

Strategies put forth by the facilitators included: developing

shared values and goals, developing a code of ethics, clarifying the scope and type of issues, creating a clarification of roles and responsibilities, working together on related issues and sharing best practices.

On June 10 and 11, all Tripartite Forum members will participate in a third session. The participants will develop tangible tactics to reach the goals outlined in the report.

This will be a great opportunity to pull resources together in the LARGEST session the Tripartite Forum has ever planned.



## The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process is Underway

For the first time, since the signing of the Umbrella Agreements, the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process came forward to speak with the media.

When addressing Aboriginal rights questions, Canadian courts had consistently encouraged governments and First Nations to approach questions of Aboriginal and treaty rights through negotiations rather than in court. Such was the case in 1999 when the Supreme Court of Canada in the Donald Marshall Jr. case confirmed the existence of Mi'kmaq rights as outlined in the Treaties of 1760-61.

The Supreme Court did not define how these rights were to be implemented, but instead encouraged the Parties to negotiate a resolution in a fair and equitable manner.

"We hope that the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process will help us further the goal of reconciliation," said

Mi'kmaq Lead Negotiator Bruce Wildsmith.

Mr. Wildsmith and Eric Zscheile, Associate Negotiator, represent the Mi'kmaq. Jamie Campbell was appointed as chief negotiator for the Province of Nova Scotia and Tom Malloy has been appointed to represent Canada in negotiations in Nova Scotia.

The Negotiators are in the process of developing a Framework Agreement to create a road map of how the parties will move forward to resolve outstanding issues regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights. Within the Framework the parties will set out a timetable for the negotiations to ensure tangible results are achieved.

Mr. Campbell said the process will include the best interests of both Nova Scotians and Mi'kmaq in hopes to, "reach some common ground on where we actually have some shared interests."



Mi'kmaq lead negotiator Bruce Wildsmith and associate negotiator Eric Zscheile

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Process will allow the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, Canada and Nova Scotia to sit down together and negotiate outstanding issues of Aboriginal rights, including assertions of Aboriginal title and treaty rights. The process will be flexible enough to take into account the unique circumstances, needs, interests and rights of all involved.

For more information contact either Eric Zscheile or Bruce Wildsmith at 446-3540.

### TOP 10 REASONS TO VISIT WWW.TRIPARTITEFORUM.COM

- 10 Visit links related to the Tripartite Forum
- 9 See which departments and organizations are represented on each committee
- 8 Download working committee documents
- 7 View event and committee pictures
- 6 Gain knowledge about the Tripartite Forum
- 5 Print the 2002-2003 annual report
- 4 Read recent news about the Tripartite Forum
- 3 Find out what other committees are doing in the meeting highlights sheets
- 2 Know when and where meetings are happening
- 1 **...Download a copy of the latest newsletter**

### New Committee

The Tripartite Forum now has seven working committees.

The Sports and Recreation working committee was formed after the Mi'kmaq Youth Recreation and Active Circle for Living (MYRACL) program was endorsed during the Executive meeting in November, 2003.

The committee will address sports and recreation issues for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq.

The three co-chairs are listed on page four.



Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada  
Tripartite Forum



Alex Denny, Tripartite Forum Executive Chair and Kji Keptin.



Barb Martin, Han Martin Associates, shares the co-chairs facilitated sessions report with the Officials committee.



The Economic Development committee meets in Annapolis First Nation in April. (left-right) Louis Joe Bernard, Chris Googoo, Tracy Menge and Lindsay Marshall.



(left-right) Bill Flowers, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Patrick Small-Legs Nagge, federal steering committee chair, Janice Maloney, Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network and Violet Paul, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat at the Officials committee meeting.



(left-right) Sam Lafford, Economic Development co-chair and Linda Maloney from Nova Scotia Native Women's Association

Please welcome **Heather Hughes**, the new communications assistant!

Heather Hughes of Trenton, NS, a student in the advanced diploma public relations program at the NSCC, has been selected as the communications assistant under the Public Service Commission's Co-operative Employment Program. Heather began her four-month employment period on May 10. She will work with at the Office of Aboriginal Affairs as well as providing communications support for the Tripartite Forum and the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN). She will be responsible for developing a variety of communications materials as well as providing presentation and Web site support for OAA, the Tripartite Forum and MLSN. Heather has a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in political science from Dalhousie University.



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Mi'kmaq - Nova Scotia - Canada Tripartite Forum Aknutmaq (newsletter) is a summary of the Tripartite activities. The newsletter is also available on the Web site at :

[www.tripartiteforum.com](http://www.tripartiteforum.com)

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

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**Culture & Heritage**

Tim Bernard Mi'kmaq chair  
David Christenson Provincial chair

**Economic Development**

Jeff MacCallum Provincial chair  
Nancy Ives Federal chair  
Gerald Toney Mi'kmaq member  
Anne Louise Dauphine Federal member

**Education**

Charles Duncan Mi'kmaq member

**Health**

Sarah Archer Federal chair  
Sally Schafer-Gibbs Federal member

**Justice**

Shawn O'Leary Federal member  
Bill Nye Federal member  
Pat Gorham Provincial member

**Social**

Buddy Walzak Provincial chair  
Brian Skabar Federal chair  
Wyatt White Provincial member

**Sports & Recreation**

Tex Marshall Mi'kmaq chair  
Farida Gabbani Provincial chair  
Manson Gloade Federal chair

**Steering**

Linda Maloney Mi'kmaq member

