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**KMKNO**  
**ARCHAEOLOGY:**  
*From the Ground Up*

*Special Bulletin:*  
**Boat Harbour**

June 2014

## Message from KMKNO

By: Janice Maloney, Executive Director, KMKNO



As Mi'kmaq, taking care of the lands, waters and environment is an important part of who we are. It will continue to play a major role in how we move forward as a Nation, today and in the future.

How the environment is impacted by development is always a concern for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and our organization, Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO).

As we all know, the Mi'kmaq have never ceded Rights or Title to the lands of Nova Scotia—It is our responsibility to ensure that the decisions we make today don't negatively impact the next seven generations.

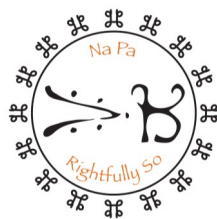
In our discussions with Government, Proponents or industry, we have always remained strong that not only do the lands, waters and resources need to be protected, but that our Mi'kmaq Rights to them should be the primary focus. On June 12th, the Assembly issued

a public statement showing their support for Pictou Landing and since that time, many of the Chiefs have been in touch with Chief Andrea Paul to see how they could help.

At KMKNO, we have also closely followed the efforts of the Pictou Landing Chief, Council, and community members, most recently sending our Staff Archaeologist to ensure the protection of any possible archaeological resources.

As always, KMKNO works in the best interest of the Mi'kmaq of NS and we hope that this bulletin will help to answer some of the questions that you may have.

*Our Rights.*  
*Our Future.*



## The Five Pillars of Mi'kmaq Values

1. To achieve recognition, acceptance, implementation and protection of treaty, title and other rights of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia;
2. To develop systems of Mi'kmaq governance and resource management;
3. To revive, promote and protect a healthy Mi'kmaq identity;
4. To obtain the basis for a shared economy and social development;  
*and*
5. To negotiate toward these goals with community involvement and support.

# Archaeology Report

By: Heather MacLeod-Leslie, Archaeologist KMKNO

In light of the recent spill at Boat Harbour, Chief Andrea Paul requested that I visit Pictou Landing to provide her, the Council and community members with advice, archaeology speaking, on what may need to be done and protected in Boat Harbour.

My first visit on Sunday, June 15th, Chief Paul took me to the Boat Harbour site and afterwards, I attend a community meeting to answer questions and explain the process used by archaeologists in Nova Scotia. Since that initial visit, I have returned several times to do research and to monitor the ongoing work by Northern Pulp, keeping a watchful eye for Mi'kmaq archaeological resources.

This bulletin will hopefully answer some of the questions that have frequently been asked about the archaeology in Boat Harbour.

## Question: *Is someone monitoring the digging?*

Yes, the KMKNO Archaeologist was onsite of the pipeline break and repair with fellow archaeologist, Laird Niven (subcontracted through KMKNO) to monitor the excavation necessary to expose the pipe and create a safe and stable work environment for repair crews. The Archaeologists arrived onsite at approximately 8pm on Monday, June 16th and closely monitored the excavations until they were complete at 1am. The Archaeologists requested that the excavator operator remove the soil slowly, and in thin layers, so that they could detect any indications or soils changes before any possible damage happened, and so that work could be stopped quickly if needed. As material was deposited in the stockpile behind the machine, KMKNO's archaeologist monitored and examined it on several occasions to ensure nothing was missed.

## Question: *Was anything found?*

During the excavation, no soil colours, consistencies or contents were present that suggested anything of a cultural nature.

On the morning of June 18th, Chief Andrea requested that the Archaeologists examine stones and features that had been identified as possible petroglyphs and burials, by the traditional people who were attending the Sacred Fire. Upon examination, the Archaeologist noted that the stones did not bear petroglyph markings, but rather interesting, natural marks due to mineral crystallization, freeze/thaw, or natural wear from collision with other rocks and natural forces. Two rock cluster features were also examined - one which is certainly human-made and could be a burial, stone stockpile from road construction, privy (outhouse) pit filled in, or field clearance. The second stone cluster feature could be natural, although it's context suggests it bears careful consideration as a possible human-made feature.

To ensure these features are not disturbed by the digging necessary to repair the pipe break, the perimeter of the area was flagged, although it is outside the area of any excavation, and the archaeologists told the site construction crew management that they were not to go into these areas for any purpose, even necessary pipeline repairs.

## Question: *Can you confirm if there are any burials?*

Aside from the rock cluster feature mentioned above, several hundred meters up the coast from where the pipe broke, the Archaeologists did find an area that showed signs of an original burial ground. Since no digging is ever recommended in, on or near possible burial features they cannot confirm what these are with any great degree of certainty. This area, however, is a safe distance from Northern Pulp's current work.

## Question: *What will the Archaeologists do next?*

Laird Niven will continue to be on site to conduct additional monitoring with KMKNO's Staff Archaeologist, Heather, returning to the site next week oversee the placement of water monitoring wells, which will affect very small areas (less than 12 inches in diameter) as a 2-inch pipe will be inserted to collect ground water samples.

A proactive research project is also expected to happen in July as a partnership between the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and KMKNO to delineate the specific area of the burial ground. This work will allow the private landowner to transfer the legal ownership of the burial ground lands back to the Mi'kmaq, which he would like to do.

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KMKNO works on behalf of the Assembly of NS Mi'kmaq Chiefs in the negotiations and consultations between the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. The purpose of these negotiations and consultations is to implement our Aboriginal and Treaty rights from the treaties signed by our ancestors in the 1700's.

