MAW'KLEYU'KIK KNIJANNAQ (MKK)

VISION

The vision of the Initiative is for leadership, organizations, stakeholders and community service providers coming together, in a coordinated manner, to work collaboratively to create a better future for our Mi'kmaw children and families; a future where Mi'kmaw children are resilient, strongly connected to their culture and community while living in safe, healthy and nurturing homes. The overall goal of the Assembly is to exercise complete jurisdiction and governance over child welfare and to establish a Mi'kmaw child and family services body governed by Mi'kmaw law and policy offering culturally appropriate family support services.

2015

In 2015, the Assembly engaged in consultation with the province regarding the lack of Mi'kmaw content in the Child and Family Services Act.

2018

In 2018, the MKK Initiative received federal funding to commence its work towards the development of a Mi'kmaw chid welfare law in NS.





In 2020, the final draft of the Custom Adoption protocol was completed.

The MKK team received funding to develop an application aimed at informing Mi'kmaw youth of their inherent and treaty rights.

In 2020, the MKK team will create decolonized policies and standards that support Mi'kmaw law going forward.

2017

On March 1, 2017 in response to the engagement held in 2015, the province adopted 25 legislative amendments that reflect the unique cultural differences for Mi'kmaw people in NS.

2019

In 2019, the team formed several working groups including: Customary Care and Custom Adoption, Facilities and Family Resources, Foster Care and Assessments, Wikimanej Kikmanaq, and Housing and Membership (formerly Systemic & Structural Barriers).

By the end of 2019, the team had successfully drafted the Custom Adoption protocol.

In November, the MKK team held a third Mi'kmaw Law for Mi'kmaw Children Symposium.

2021

By 2021, the goal is to have a skeleton law for child welfare.

FUTURE

The MKK team seeks to have a Mi'kmaw child welfare law approved by the Assembly and accepted by the community with the goal of keeping our Mi'kmaw children in their communities where they are safe, loved and nutured.