



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.

APRIL 2021



HELPING OUR PEOPLE: BENEFITS ROLE

What is the role of the KMK Benefits Department?

The KMK Benefits Department works to ensure Mi'kmaq inclusion and participation in projects happening in Nova Scotia. For too long, development of the lands and resources of Mi'kma'ki have been happening without any meaningful benefits for Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. Our Benefits Department has the responsibility to ensure that developments are done in a responsible manner that reflects Mi'kmaw values and priorities, while also ensuring that benefits of development are received by the Mi'kmaq.

The benefits process is separate, but parallel to the Consultation process. While the Crown has the duty to consult, proponents legally don't but are benefiting from the lands and resources of Mi'kma'ki, so they are expected to develop a relationship with Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and ensure that benefits are received. Both the Assembly and the KMK Benefits Department work with proponents and companies to ensure that Mi'kmaw Rights and Title are protected.

As we review and examine projects happening in Nova Scotia, we are aware that it is important to our community members that they have opportunities to succeed, build capacity and to provide for their families. But we also need to ensure that protection of cultural resources, wildlife, fish, the environment, and possible archaeological resources are priority. No financial discussions take place until such time that the Assembly is satisfied with those sections of any potential agreement. Understanding the economic need and balancing that with our environmental, Rights and Title concerns, is important for us to find the best way forward for the Mi'kmaq of NS.

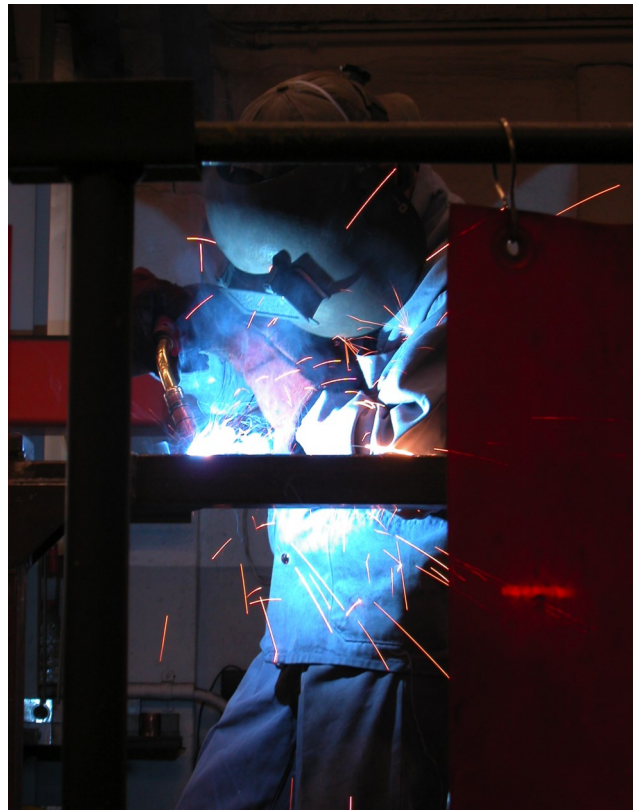
What is a MOU?

A MoU is the abbreviation for a Memorandum of Understanding. This is often the first step to working with a proponent or organization. In our case, a MoU is not a legally binding agreement, but more simply a commitment to communicate and to work together to develop an IBA.

What is an IBA?

Each IBA, or Impact Benefits Agreement, is different. An IBA is a legally binding agreement that is entered into after much discussion between the Assembly and a proponent. An IBA is a means of ensuring increased and meaningful Mi'kmaq participation in a project, and outlines how this can be done, all the while ensuring that Mi'kmaq Rights and Title to the lands and resources of Nova Scotia are respected and continue to be protected.

A Benefits Agreement is much more than a financial offer. It must also address protection of Aboriginal Rights and Title, environmental monitoring, archaeological concerns, fisheries impact, wildlife impacts, employment, and procurement, as well as a host of other potential issues.



Highlights from your KMK departments

Forestry Update

We continue to be active in working with our fellow Mi'kmaw Organizations, especially UINR and CMM on projects like the Earth Keepers Network and the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA). Right now, specifically we are working with the IPCA Working Group to identifying other possible IPCA's in the province and to ensure Mi'kmaq inclusion in the Province's work and processes.

KMK, CMM, and UINR have organized a working team for spruce budworm. We all acknowledge the impending importance of spruce budworm, understanding of course, that operations surrounding this forest pest may impact Mi'kmaw Rights, land, and Title. We are continuing our research and are hoping to hold a Mi'kmaw Knowledge Holder session in the future on this very topic.

We have also recently been approved for funding with Environment Climate Change Canada. With this funding, we are in the process of developing a multidisciplinary team that would work together to develop suitable projects for co-management and looking at Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge; Biodiversity; and coastal erosion.

Cultural Tourism Update

We are starting to hear whispers of interest from other tourism entities as the conversations about cultural authenticity continue. We have received requests to sit in on various meetings and be part of the discussion as Nova Scotia seeks to plan for tourism post-COVID. This included conversations with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Peggy's Cove, and the City of Halifax. It's important that we continue to be at those tables and to ensure that Mi'kmaq are represented authentically and respectfully.

We had the privilege of hosting our Authenticity Working Group meeting at Friends United Convention Centre. The artwork was incredible and inspiring, featuring many of our Mi'kmaw artists from across Nova Scotia. Some of the comments from this important meeting will continue to help to guide us forward – especially those that encouraged us to “dream big” and “ensure our youth have space where they are supported and inspired.” Our goal with Cultural Tourism is to create space for Mi'kmaw art and culture to be enjoyed by all and to ultimately benefit our people, from an economic standpoint, and also from a language and culture aspect.



BENEFITS

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
SESSION**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021
2pm - 3pm

In-person gatherings have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and we want to keep community members informed about our work. We will be hosting a virtual community session each month featuring a different department.

Sessions are recorded for viewing at a later time.

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Link to join webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/95782640857>

www.mikmaqrights.com

Energy Update

Atlantic Gold is currently undergoing an open comment period on their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fifteen Mile Stream Project. As part of this, The Impact Agency and Office of L'nu Affairs are hosting bi-weekly sessions to address concerns of the First Nations. Representatives from Paqtnkek, Acadia, Millbrook, Sipekne'katik and CMM are all invited and attend. CBCL is currently reviewing the EIS on behalf of KMK and our communities will provide comments after the review is done.

Atlantic Gold is also looking to revive the Beaver Dam Gold Mine Project. The project is currently in the early stages and they have submitted their EIS to the Impact Agency for review. The Impact Agency is hoping to finish The Fifteen Mile Stream Project before continuing Beaver Dam.

Sustainable Marine Energy (SME) recently launched their second generation in Grand Passage. The platform is still in it's testing phase and SME intends to connect to the grid this year. Our Energy Advisor has been working with MCG to review SME's Final Mi'kmaq Engagement Plan for Department of Energy and Mines.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mi'kmaq Community Policy Liaison

Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) is currently seeking a Mi'kmaq Community Policy Liaison to support the work of the Policy Analysts from the Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq (MKK)/Child and Family Initiative. The successful candidate will lead community outreach in our member Mi'kmaq communities to obtain feedback and input into the policy and laws currently being drafted by the MKK team.

Specific duties included but not limited to:

- Develop and enhance communication strategies for MKK specific to the policies and laws being developed on behalf of member communities;
- Work with Mi'kmaq communities to gather thoughts and opinions on the path forward for MKK and to ensure an understanding of ongoing projects;
- Work alongside organization's communications and youth departments to engage Mi'kmaq community members regarding child welfare laws and policies currently under development;
- Work in coordination with, and in support of, fellow MKK Policy Analysts who are conducting research to develop Mi'kmaq-focused policies and laws for child and family care;
- Liaise with communities and other organizations to ensure cohesion in activities;
- Work alongside Communications Department to develop, design and implement newsletters, brochures, communiqués, and other related materials;
- Assist with website updates.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Mi'kmaq communities and their perspectives;
- University degree or College diploma in Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, or other related field, or equivalent experience;
- Strong interpersonal skills with ability to work in a team environment;
- Excellent communication, public speaking, writing and editing skills;
- Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office;
- Production experience in other media (video, graphic design, photography), considered an asset;
- Knowledge of the Mi'kmaq language, a strong asset;
- Must be willing to travel, have a vehicle and a valid NS driver's license.

Term: One (1) year term contract

Salary: To be determined based on knowledge and experience

Deadline for applications is May 17th, 2021 at 4:00pm AST

Please forward cover letter and resume with two references to
Crystal Dorey at crystaldorey@mikmaqrights.com or via fax: (902) 843-3882

Note: Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply; however, qualified Aboriginal applicants will be given priority in accordance with the Aboriginal Employment Preference policy of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

**Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.
Position is subject to final budgetary approval.**

GIS Update

Our GIS Specialist has been creating several digital applications to help our KMKNO team view consultation data in new ways. One of the applications being developed highlights the numerous consultation projects that have been worked on by KMKNO by way of maps. The development of this data organization is ongoing to ensure that the data is comprehensive and overlaps well with the written files that the Consultation Team has maintained and utilized.

Our GIS Specialist has also worked this month on projects that support the broader KMK team including helping with analysing forestry parcels for our Forestry Department, and digitized maps for our Energy Department.

NSPI Update

With warmer weather on the horizon, projects are beginning to gear up. The Mersey and Gaspereau Working Groups have started back this month and we are preparing for archaeology and bridge work that is scheduled for this Spring.

A site visit was scheduled with the Glooscap on-site monitors to canvass for Chaga and other Mi'kmaq medicinal resources. An update will be provided in April on the outcome of the site visit.



Archaeology Update

KMK's Archaeology Research Division (ARD) spent much of our time since the last newsletter supporting communities' Working Groups for Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) projects such as Gaspereau Lake, Tusket and Mersey. At Tusket, the archaeological needs created by the water drawdown were a big discussion point. Mi'kmaw artefact protocols for this work have included input from the Grand Council's burials liaison, Keptin Tom Sylliboy, as well as Keptin Jeff Purdy to support the community-developed archaeological protocols, standards and principles. The ARD has also supported the Mersey Working Group discussions including fish passage for one of the Mersey Dams because the construction of fish passage may have to find its way through archeologically sensitive areas. Finding the right balance between protecting both our fish and archaeology is a delicate and critical task.

We are furthering the work with Parks Canada, especially at Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site, through our Collaborative Archaeology Tech Teamwork. This has included setting objectives for Mi'kmaw cultural and archaeological site identification and protection at the Kejimkujik Seaside National Park as well as the infrastructure-related archaeological investigations within the National Park and National Historic Site in the interior. The Seaside Adjunct project is just beginning and, we are hoping to dive into more research for archaeology, coastal modelling and climate adaptation there soon! We are also involved in consultations on management planning at Grand Pré National Historic Site and the broader work within the UNESCO Landscape of Grand Pré and the buffer zone of the world heritage site. At other Parks Canada locations, such as St. Peters, Louisbourg and Cape Breton Highlands National Parks, our talks involve the management planning and implementation, artefact care and repatriation discussions and site detection and protection.

In Unama'ki, we are developing a fieldwork plan to submit to the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) planning team to begin documenting archaeological potential and sites to support establishment of IPCAs. Other fieldwork planned for the upcoming summer season will include some underwater ground truthing of the topographic bathymetric LIDAR data we visited communities and discussed pre-COVID (stupid COVID). We plan to prepare some the data from the LIDAR sensor and the observations underwater for community session that we hope to have this autumn.

Below are photos taken during archaeology work in Kejimkujik National Park in the fall 2019. Our Archaeology team worked along Parks Canada staff on this important project.

