



MAW-KLEYU'KIK KNIJANNAQ INTIATIVE

“Keeping our children together”



Leadership, organizations, stakeholders, & 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.

VISION

To engage in a collaborative approach to the development and implementation of a child welfare system that places the child, with their family, in the center and promotes healing and wellness in a manner that respects our Mi'kmaw values, customs, traditions, and practices.

MISSION

Timeline of Mi'kmaw Child Welfare

	2015	Since 2015, the Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia have engaged in a Mi'kmaw child welfare reform, which resulted in over 25 legislative amendments to the Nova Scotia Children and Family Services Act that directly affects the Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia.
	2016	In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found that Canada was discriminatory in its funding models for child welfare for children and families on reserve resulting in the Federal government introducing Bill C-92: An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families.
	2017	The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs knew that decisions impacting Mi'kmaw children and families should come from a Mi'kmaw perspective leading to the creation of the Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq Initiative, which when translated means “keeping our children together.”
	2020	On January 1, 2020 Bill C-92 came into force, which reaffirmed Indigenous communities' right to self-determination to freely develop policies and laws based on their histories, cultures, and circumstances.
	2023	The goal of the Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq Initiative is to assume complete jurisdiction and governance over matters affecting all Mi'kmaw children within Nova Scotia by creating and implementing a Mi'kmaw child welfare law.

Highlights from your KMK departments

Cultural Tourism Update

As we continue our exploration of Mi'kmaw Cultural Tourism in Nova Scotia, we will be profiling Mi'kmaw cultural tourism entrepreneurs as well as Nation owned entities. KMK's Cultural Tourism Project Manager, recently visited with Susan Googoo and Ella Nicholas from We'koqma'q First Nation to talk about cultural authenticity.

After a wonderful discussion, we ended up taking a walk on the beautiful Skye River Trail. Susan and Ella shared many wonderful stories. At the end of the walk, I told Susan I wished I had thought to bring my camera and recorder to interview her. She laughed and told me that she had just been interviewed a few weeks previously and an article had been published by Ardelle Reynolds, who gave me permission to share the interview.

Please check out this month's Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nation News for the full story.

Energy and Mining Update

Mining

Pleasantfield Exploration (Atlantic Gold)

KMKNO continues to correspond with Department of Lands & Forest to voice concerns over the exploratory work being proposed in the Mersey Area by Atlantic Gold. Lands and Forest have issued exploratory permits after several letters, phone calls and meetings with KMK voicing concern to this work. KMK and Acadia leadership worked together in releasing a media statement and letter to Premier Rankin requesting all permits be withdrawn and future developments be put on hold.

Fifteen Mile Stream (Atlantic Gold)

The Energy Advisor continues to sit in on Technical Advisory Group Meetings with Paqtnkek, Sipekne'katik & Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. These sessions are hosted by the Impact Agency of Canada and provide The Mi'kmaq reps with firsthand information regarding Atlantic Gold and their plans for Fifteen Mile Stream.

Tidal Energy

Nova Innovation

Nova Innovation has submitted a Fisheries Act Application for Phase 1 of their demonstration project in Petit Passage. Our office is currently awaiting letters from Department of Fisheries & Oceans to comment on their application where we will provide comments and voice concerns on behalf of our member communities. *(con't page 3)*

MAW-KLEYU'KIK KNIJANNAQ



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
— SESSION —

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021
2:30pm - 3:30pm

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.



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Link to join Webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/97849933928>

www.mikmaqrights.com

Energy and Mining Update (Continued)

Sustainable Marine Energy

SME continues to commission their 420 kW tidal energy project in Grand Passage, Nova Scotia. KMK participated in an update call with their Management Team this month and learned about their plans for grid connection this year, provided advice for moving to the FORCE site and reaching out to the neighboring Mi'kmaw communities. A site visit will be planned once COVID cases are down.

Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project

The Assembly of Chiefs passed a resolution at their last meeting that will allow The Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project to continue until 2026. This will allow Efficiency Nova Scotia to continue their work in the 13 communities to perform retrofits and energy upgrades in all band owned and privately owned homes.

**ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT
WORK CAMPS IN NOVA SCOTIA?
WE ARE TOO!**

**JOIN US FOR A
WOMEN'S ONLY
FORUM FOR
LUKOW LODGE
VIRTUAL SESSION
WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 30, 2021
AT 10 - 12 PM**

**WE
NEED
YOUR
VOICE!**

**TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT TRACY MENGE AT
TMENGE@MIKMAQRIGHTS.COM OR 902.305.6254**



Benefits Department Update

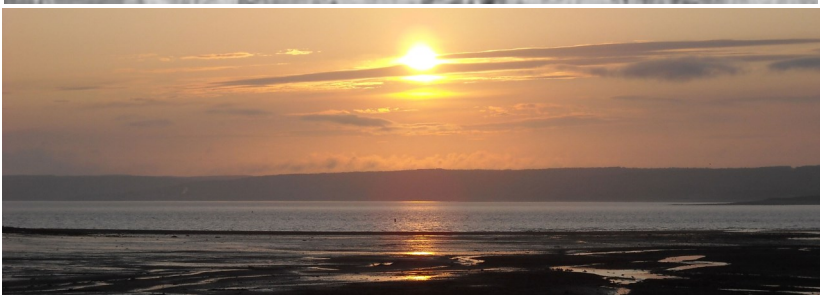
The Benefits Department will be hosting a Women's Virtual Forum on June 30th, 2021 from 10am-noon. This will be a safe, respectful environment to hear concerns, questions and/or comments related to the Lukow Lodge.

Lukowinuok'kuon means Workers Lodge. Lukow Lodge (for short) is a majority Mi'kmaq owned company that will construct the workforce accommodations and provide services for individuals involved in building the potential Goldboro LNG facility. Recognizing the impacts of Human Trafficking in Nova Scotia and the recommendations from the MMIW report we want to hear from you. **We will take what we hear at the Forum and report to Mikmaq Leadership, partners and stakeholders to ensure that concerns are addressed, implemented and monitored.** *Pre-registration is required.*

GIS Update

This month our GIS Specialist worked with the Archaeology Research Division to help with upcoming field work preparations by digitizing and analyzing areas, working with raster data, and project discussion meetings.

The GIS Specialist also collaborated with the team regarding mapping historic use information, used web applications and georeferenced maps to present data for Energy and Mines projects, dialogued with the team regarding the development of the Knowledge Holder Data Collection application, and has been working to acquire new equipment for the team.



Forestry Update

KMK has been approved for funding on a contribution agreement with Environment Climate Change Canada. The Consultation Project Support Officer has been tasked to develop a multidisciplinary team that would in turn work together to develop suitable projects for co-management.

The baseline study and co-management project summaries include:

- **Traditional knowledge:** Mi'kmaq regional knowledge to gain a better understanding of the islands and their relationship to the Mi'kmaq as well as ecological knowledge and what parts of the island were predominately used.
- **Biodiversity:** Develop a clear understanding of the species present on the island and their susceptibility to invasive species. How can we protect our water courses from erosion of stabilizing species?
- **Coastal erosion:** Develop an in depth understanding of coastal erosion on the islands and how that relates to archaeological sites of significance. Are there artifacts present on/ near the coast?

Western Harvest Reviews: KMK is working to develop a strategy for efficient and effective harvest reviews.

Spruce Budworm: KMK, CMM, and UINR have organized a working team to sit on spruce budworm working groups. We acknowledge the impending importance of spruce budworm, understanding of course, that operations surrounding this forest pest may impact Mi'kmaw rights, land, and title.

Siviculture: KMK has received the latest Siviculture guide to the ecological matrix for review. We are working closely with CMM and UINR to provide appropriate comments as a response to ensure that Mi'kmaw interests, thoughts and options are included as this process moves forward.

Our Mi'kmaw Lawyers are shining and we're exciting to see them grow!



Twila Gaudet
Director of Consultation

We'd like to congratulate Twila Gaudet, from Glooscap First Nation, for being newly appointed and sworn-in as Adjudicator of the Small Claims Court of Nova Scotia!



Houston Barnaby
Governance Researcher

Houston Barnaby, has been called to the Nova Scotia Bar! Congratulations Houston! You make us, and the community of Listuguj very proud!

Thank You and Happy Retirement!



Bittersweetly, we announce the retirement of Bruce Wildsmith, Q.C, from KMK and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs. Bruce is well known for his role on many important Treaty-related cases - including *Isaac* (1975), *Simon* (1985), *Denny* (1990), *UNSI* (1996), *Marshall* (1999), *Bernard* (2003) and *Stephen Marshall* (2005). Bruce's work and dedication to seeing that the Mi'kmaw RIGHTFULLY have access to natural resources via our covenant chain of Treaties, has unquestionably resulted in clearer understanding of Aboriginal Rights not only here in Mi'kma'ki, but throughout Canada. Bruce leaves us with very big shoes to fill, but we wish him the best in his retirement. Wela'lin Bruce!

Our team is growing & we are so excited !



We're pleased to welcome some new people to the KMK Team!

Eldon Paul (top left) is from Sipekne'katik and joined us this Spring as an Articled Clerk. We're excited to have Eldon as part of the team!

Kinsey Francis (top right) is from Acadia First Nation and has joined the MKK Team as their Youth Coordinator. Watch for Kinsey in your community—we are sure that she will be a great youth representative!



Talva Jacobson (bottom left) is the newest member of our team and will be joining us as an Archaeologist. Talva just recently returned to Nova Scotia after years of working in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Welcome to the team, Talva!

Craig Paul (bottom right) is from Eskasoni and joins us as an Articled Clerk. We know that Craig will be a great addition to our Team!

**EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS**

