



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.

MAY 2021



FEATURING: CONSULTATION

Consultation Overview

KMK works to promote and protect Mi'kmaq Treaty Rights. Consultation must happen when projects could have any impacts on Mi'kmaq Rights and Title, to ensure that our Rights are protected and that Mi'kmaq concerns are formally addressed. We also work to mitigate impacts to the environment, fish and fish habitat, archaeological resources, surface and groundwater, and Mi'kmaq current and traditional use activities.

Since 2004, KMK has been actively engaged in meaningful and productive consultations on a number of projects in diverse fields, on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. We currently have over 600 active consultations which include a broad scope of areas in various stages of development.



What's Happening with Fish?

Mi'kmaq communities are currently working toward the implementation of their Treaty Right to fish for a moderate livelihood, through the development of community-based Netukulimk Livelihood Fishery Plans. Despite having a community plan, harvesters have been harassed by DFO - most recently, on the opening day of Potlotek's 2021 spring fishery, with the seizure of 37 traps.

Potlotek First Nation has filed a legal proceeding against DFO challenging the validity of the DFO regime in its limitations of Mi'kmaq livelihood harvesting activities and while this case is brought to court, KMK has also been supporting community efforts at the Consultation table.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and KMK's Consultation team have drafted a Netukulimk Livelihood Fisheries Collaborative Enforcement Protocol. The Protocol was provided to DFO earlier this month and is intended to further demonstrate to Canada that the Mi'kmaq have developed rules around productive monitoring, enforcement and oversight of fishing activities in relations to our community plans.

The Mi'kmaq are also concerned about the safety of harvesters and the conservation of species. We know that. DFO needs to recognize it as well.

We hope that by developing this collaborative plan, the door will open for more productive discussions with DFO on how we can move forward in our shared waters peacefully.



Highlights from your KMK departments

Fisheries Update

April 30th marked the opening of the spring Netukulimk lobster season. This should be an empowering day as Potlotek members were in agreement to fish within the commercial seasons as directed by the Minister. The Minister had failed to coordinate priority access for this fishery in LFA 29, which led to continuous seizures by DFO enforcement.

DFO refuses to accommodate the Mi'kmaw Treaty protected right to a moderate livelihood as reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

To support this continuous enforcement activity and the Assembly's Notice of Application submitted to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, the KMK Fish Team has developed a draft Enforcement Protocol for the Netukulimk Livelihood Fisheries, which would outline the expectations from DFO when seeking to enforce the *Fisheries Act* against our Treaty fishers. This Protocol is centered in traditional concepts of respect, communication, safety, and protection of species, and would require DFO officers to discuss potential enforcement actions against harvesters with communities prior to taking any action, especially seizing gear.

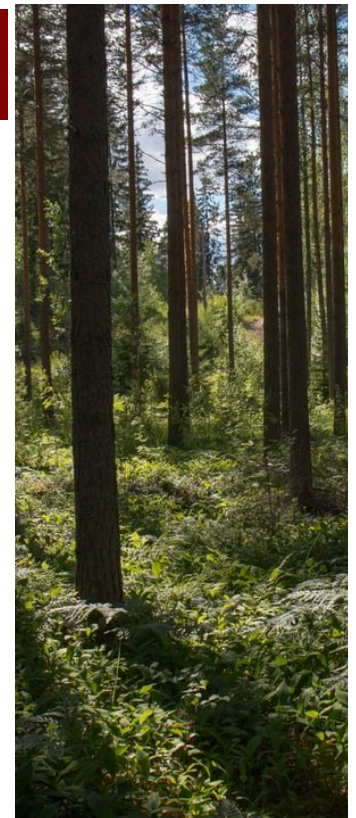
Livelihood Plan Update: Plans continue with communities looking to implement their fishing plans this year. We continue to participate in any community engagement sessions with those community's that are requesting assistance from our office to develop their Rights implementation plan.

Netukulimk Community Liaisons: Communities have begun to hire Netukulimk Community Liaisons with the dollars KMK was able to obtain for the communities. We're happy to see communities be able to expand their fisheries departments with these dollars!

Forestry Update

This past month we've been working with the Forest Advisory Committee on biocultural indicators, Crown land management and invasive species. We've also met with the Earth Keepers Network; with CMM and UINR on spruce budworm; and with Parks Canada and Nova Scotia on hemlock woolly adelgid.

KMK has been approved for funding on a contribution agreement with Environment Climate Change Canada and with this, we are developing a multidisciplinary team to develop suitable projects for co-management. We will be looking at Traditional knowledge to gain a better understanding of the islands and their relationship to the Mi'kmaq as well as ecological knowledge. What parts of the island were predominately used; Biodiversity: susceptible species, invasive species to 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; and Coastal erosion to 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? All projects will require preliminary research as well as boots on the ground research and surveys.



Energy Update

Mining - Fifteen Mile Stream (Atlantic Gold): Our Energy Advisor sits on Technical Advisory Group with other representatives from Paqtnkek, Pictou Landing, Sipekne'katik and CMM. KMK submitted CBCL's review of Atlantic Gold's Environmental Impact Statement for Fifteen Mile Stream as part of the Impact Agency's review. KMK's submission as well as Health Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other regulators comments can be found here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/exploration?projDocs=80152>

Pleasantfield Exploration (Atlantic Gold): KMK continues to correspond with DEM and L&F and voice concern over the exploratory work being done by Atlantic Gold in the Mersey Area.

Tidal - Nova Innovation: Nova Innovation has submitted an application to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for authorization to begin their demonstration project in Petit Passage. They are now in the 90 Day decision making window and an approval/denial will be made on the project by August 3, 2021.

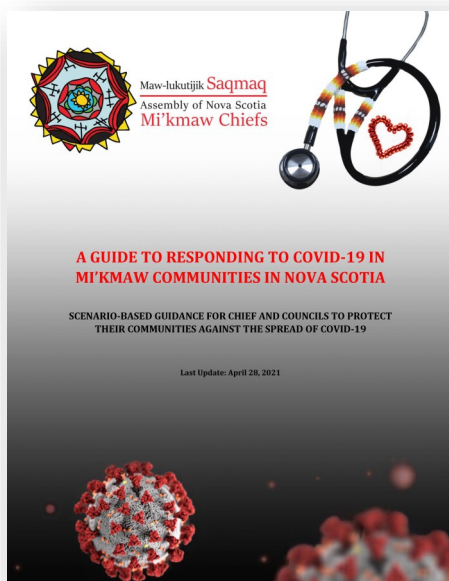
FORCE: This month our Energy Advisor received an update from FORCE on the berths, plans for environmental monitoring and collecting baseline data.

Renewable/Other Energy Projects - Goldboro LNG Plant: This past month our Energy Advisor sent comments to ECC on Pieridae's plans for the highway realignment and on their EA review. The Energy Advisor also attended the Fisheries Advisory Committee where discussions focussed on Pieridae's offsetting plans.

NSPI's Tusket Hydro Dam: The Energy Advisor received NSP's Monitoring Plan to review and will be providing comments.

Green and Inclusive Community Building Program: KMK met to discuss a potential funding opportunity for upgrading buildings in Mi'kmaw communities. This funding would cover projects starting at \$100,000 in costs. Information on the program has been send to all the Economic Development Officers.

Mi'kmaw Home Energy Efficiency Project: We have had discussions with DEM about the possibility of renewing funding for the Home Energy Efficiency Project. They are hoping to apply for next set of funding soon.



COVID Update

Over the last several months, a team of dedicated policy, legal, health, and emergency management experts from KMK, UNSM, CMM, and MHWA worked collaboratively to develop a Guide to support community leadership in responding to COVID-19.

On April 29th, the Guide was passed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs, through resolution, and has been shared with Chiefs to support them and their councils in implementing emergency measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in their communities and ensure everyone's health and safety.

The KMKNO, UNSM, CMM, and MHWA teams remain committed to helping communities navigate the pandemic.

CALL FOR PHOTOS

Do you have any photos that showcase our amazing Mi'kmaw cultural tourism?

We are looking for photos of community landmarks, attractions, special locations, events, cultural activities, and cultural products.

Your name, or the photographer's name would always be acknowledged when using the photo.

Cultural Tourism Update

As part of our exploration of Mi'kmaw Cultural Tourism, we are beginning to profile different entrepreneurs and Mi'kmaw entities for our articles in the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News. This month we interviewed Loretta Gould, a Mi'kmaw artist from We'koqma'q. Loretta was a quilter for many years before trying her hand at painting. She has created a beautiful collection of artwork, drawing inspiration from many different sources - by spirit, by community, by nature, by her ancestors, by her family and children, by dreams, and by the stories and teachings of the Mi'kmaq. Her use of colour is vibrant and passionate and full of life. Her artwork draws you in and tells you stories and connects you in a way that is visceral and timeless. Loretta is meticulous about doing her research and talking to experts. Authenticity is a very important part of her identity as a Mi'kmaw artist. Running her own business is not easy and she has had to learn through trial and error along the way. Loretta's vision for the future is to open a facility in her community to sell her work as well as that of other local artists. She wants to be able to employ other people and contribute to the economic well-being of the community. She is looking forward to when things open up again (post COVID) and she can welcome visitors back to We'koqma'q. For the full story on Loretta, check out this month's Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nation News article.

Do you have suggestions, or would you like to be featured in our monthly news article? We are looking for interested Mi'kmaw cultural tourism business owners, community entities, crafters, artists, etc. If so, please let us know!



TOURISM WEEK
May 23RD 2021

Staying local this Summer?
Don't forget to check out these amazing Mi'kmaw Cultural Tourism venues!

- BEAR RIVER HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE
- MILLBROOK CULTURAL & HERITAGE CENTRE
- WAGMATCOOK CULTURE & HERITAGE CENTRE
- WE'KOQMA'Q SKYE RIVER TRAIL
- MEMBERTOU HERITAGE PARK
- ESKASONI CULTURAL JOURNEYS
- POTLOTEK CANAL LANDING



MKK Update

While much work and research is happening in the MKK Department on a variety of topics, this past month, the KMK team supported Chief Robinson and Regional Chief Prosper in a meeting with Deputy Premier Kelly Regan on Bill C92 - *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, youth and families*. The Chiefs spoke to Deputy Premier Regan about some of their concerns with C92, from a Mi'kmaw perspective and the importance of Canada engaging the Mi'kmaq on these important discussions.

GIS Update

This month our GIS Specialist met with KMKNO team members to discuss internal GIS applications to help with data visualizations and workflows, as these applications help to share data effectively and assist with data interaction. They are also actively discussing the Knowledge Holder Data Collection application in development with members of the team to continue its preparation.

The GIS Specialist also created digital maps and files to help the team, and georeferenced maps and digitized data related to new projects and past projects. They are also planning for upcoming GIS data collection and field work with the Archaeology Research Division.

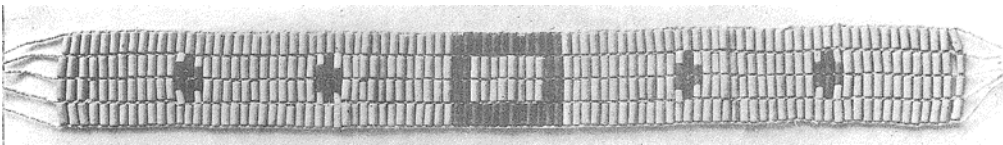
History Matters: Wampum and the Mi'kmaq

The use of wampum by First Nations predates the arrival of Europeans. In the early days, wampum mainly consisted of string and was used to preserved fundamental principles rather than details. The wampum strings would be carried by runners who acted as messengers between nations or villages.

Messengers who carried the wampum belts or strings were rigorously instructed in the speeches they were to deliver, with the symbols on the belts or strings corresponding to the content of the messages.

It is believed that wampum belts and strings were likely introduced to the Mi'kmaq by the Mohawks around 1680, at the time when the Wabanaki Confederacy formed. After negotiating a permanent peace agreement, the Mohawk sent a wampum belt to the Mi'kmaq as a symbol of their new relationship and to record the alliance between the two nations. This belt was made of shells, stone beads and fish teeth sewn into a leather band.

Wampum was an effective communications tool: it was not damaged by heat, cold or wetness, and most importantly, it was portable. Wampum was considered sacred by many First Nations and was treated with great respect because the messages it carried were of great importance.



It has been recorded that the wampum belt pictured above represents the union of the four eastern tribes: the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Wolastoqiyik, and the Mi'kmaq in their local alliance at the larger Wabanaki Confederacy.

In 1872 the Wabanaki Confederacy consisted of an Eastern section, which included the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and later the Abenaki, and a Western section, which included the Haudenasaunee of Kahnawake and Oka, the Ottawa and Innu of the St. Maurice River area.

Among the Mi'kmaq the Putus is known to be the holder of the wampum and treaty alliances. It is believed that Putus, Andrew Alex, who passed away in 1965, was the last Mi'kmaq Putus who was capable of recording and reading wampum belts in their entirety.

Wampum belts and strings were used by the Wabanaki Confederacy to record all of their transactions, their organization as allies and to send summonses or invitations. They served as "reminder documents" that would be read over at each meeting to refresh the memories of the delegates about the details of the organization and union.

Oral history tells us that Mi'kmaq use of wampum belts dates back to at least 1610, when Grand Chief Membertou sent Pope Paul V a wampum belt after his baptism. It is believed that this wampum symbolised the Mi'kmaq Nation's first treaty with a European nation and the agreement made by the Mi'kmaq with the Vatican and the Holy See.

Below is replica of a wampum belt believed be the wampum sent by Grand Chief Membertou to the Vatican, which is held at the Vatican Ethnographic and Missionary Museum, Vatican City, Rome, Italy

