



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.

OCTOBER 2021



KMK Newsletter

LIVELIHOOD FISHERIES UPDATE

October 14th, 2021 was another huge day for the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia! Another day of celebration and acknowledgement of our collective right to self-governance and initial interim implementation of our affirmed Treaty Right to fish for livelihood. Annapolis Valley First Nation and Bear River First Nation will begin implementing the Kespukwitk District Netukulimk lobster fishery, collectively managing with Acadia and Glooscap First Nations, while these community's work to prepare their own members and harvesters for this interim implementation of our collective right.

Following a path that has been carved out by Potlotek First Nation this past spring, the Kespukwitk District plan is an evolution of this process and community-based management created and implemented by the members of Potlotek with the support of our fisheries team here at KMK.

This path has been achieved by utilizing two distinct working lanes – the first is on-the-record Consultation where we have maintained our legal position on limited access and DFO's seasonality not being applicable without adequate accommodation and justification. The second is the Implementation table where our team can develop working solutions with Canada and Nova Scotia to implement our Constitutionally protected rights to livelihood and the self-governance over our fisheries - while our legal positions are working through the Courts. It is important for community members to understand that our primary goal is the protection of our affirmed Treaty Right, and we are using tools that have been established by our leadership over the past 21 years to support this effort.

The Kespukwitk District plan enables community lead management development and capacity building with a chance for some members to get out on the water and begin building a livelihood from the lobster fisheries. Working together on a single vessel, harvesters may fish up to 210 traps, in and around Kespukwitk district, located in southern NS. This vessel limit creates a distinct separation from the Commercial fleet in the area - which fishes 300 traps per licence, while still providing a competitive number of traps, and an opportunity to create an individual livelihood to test out District based community management.

The Kespukwitk lobster plan supports fishing from September 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022. This Mi'kmaq harvest time was identified from community engagement and supporting knowledge on this species in the area. This harvest time may overlap with various DFO LFA seasons, and if fishing occurs within that overlap, DFO has agreed to support those efforts, if not DFO has demonstrated it does not support "out of season," and we expect enforcement action.

As we continue with our Nova Scotia Supreme Court applications, the Assembly maintain that they will support any harvester if they are fishing in accordance with their community plans.

FISHERIES



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SESSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021
3pm - 4pm

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://us06web.zoom.us/j/82206862202>

Highlights from your KMK departments

Governance

On October 8, 2021, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs met with the newly elected Nova Scotia Minister of L'nu Affairs, Karla MacFarlane to identify community and Assembly priorities for the new government.

The Chiefs shared perspectives on big-ticket issues like education, fisheries, social assistance, racial injustice, the sales tax exemption, and many other high-level topics, and on community specific priorities and projects like the 7 Paddles Project.

Minister MacFarlane was receptive to the concerns shared by the Chiefs and we are working with the Province on scheduling community visits for the Minister, a Joint Meeting between the Chiefs and Nova Scotia Executive Council, and to plan some issue-specific meetings to discuss the concerns shared at the October 8th meeting, more in-depth.



MKK Update

The MKK team has been very busy this past month hosting working group meetings. The team has heard a lot of great feedback so far which has helped them in drafting policy proposals for each of their five working groups.

The team has also started holding meetings with possible assessment consultants to help develop assessment frameworks that are based in Mi'kmaw principles, values, customs, and traditions. They have had great conversations so far, with hopefully more to come. They hope that the new assessments will help social workers help Mi'kmaw children and families, and that the assessments will give a voice to Mi'kmaw children and families on how they are supported by the agency.

Cultural Tourism

Are you a Mi'kmaw who beads? Sings? Dances? Drums? Makes baskets or art work? Harvests from the land? Speaks Mi'kmaw? Shares legends or teachings? Participates in ceremonies?

This fall, a series of in person community cultural discussions are taking place. Please consider joining us at one of these sessions to share your thoughts on how to protect our authentic Mi'kmaw culture. This information will be used to help us develop a Mi'kmaw logo, certification process and branding strategy to help Mi'kmaw individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to professional sell Mi'kmaw developed products and services to tourists in a way that is culturally responsible and economically viable.

For dates, times and more information, please contact your community cultural tourism representative at your community Band Office or contact Shannon at KMK.

Energy

Our Energy Advisor, Patrick, has been busy attending some great webinars focused on renewable energy projects happening in the Caribbean, Natural Gas in Nova Scotia and Women Leaders in the energy sector. Patrick also attended working group meetings this month regarding mining in Nova Scotia and learned about the Shared Solar Program. Here's an update on some of the many files that he's involved in:

Mining: The Touquoy Mine, operating in Moose River, is Atlantic Gold's only active mine currently in the province. KMK, Paqtnkek and Glooscap First Nation are soon to be scheduled for a site visit. KMK is also soon to meet with Acadia Chief and Council, Atlantic Gold and Boreas Heritage Consultants to educate Atlantic Gold on the cultural significance of that area to the Mi'kmaq. Our Energy Advisor also continues to sit on Technical Advisory Group Meetings with other Mi'kmaq representatives from CMM and Paqtnkek for the Atlantic Gold project.

Tidal Energy: This month we received operation updates from Nova Innovation and Patrick attended a Risk Assessment Program session with FORCE Personnel, DFO and MCG/CMM and learned about the monitoring effects and fish tags.



Forestry

Western Harvest Reviews: KMK is working to develop a strategy for efficient and effective harvest reviews. We have been asked to identify harvests planned for the west side of Rossignol and able to halt operations before they proceeded.

Spruce Budworm: We are working with CMM and UINR on spruce budworm. We acknowledge the impending importance of spruce budworm, understanding of course, that operations surrounding this forest pest may impact Mi'kmaq rights, land, and title. Right now, we are continuing our research on this pest.

ECCC: KMK has received funding from Environment Climate Change Canada to develop a multidisciplinary team that would work together to develop suitable projects for co-management. All projects would require preliminary research as well as boots on the ground research and surveys. Presently, the ECCC template has been approved and signed for KMK to proceed with the project in February 2022.

Mersey Corridor: Representatives from Acadia First Nation, KMK and Nova Scotia Power has a site visit to identify medicines and traditional uses such as canoe carries and speciality wood.

Protected areas Ingram River: Ingram River may pose hinderances to Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative (MFI) lands in St. Croix. KMK is working with the province to ensure that MFI lands have a means to proceed.

Parks Update

Ten years ago Parks Canada and KMK signed the National Parks Interim Arrangement to establish two Mi'kmaw advisory committees for Parks Canada in both mainland NS and Unama'ki.

These advisory committees discuss National Park site matters of interest to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Current committee membership includes representation from 12 NS Mi'kmaw communities and a number of organizations like KMK, CMM and UINR. Through our work together on these committees over the past decade, we have built a collaborative relationship based on openness, mutual trust, and respect between Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia.

We are currently in the process of planning our annual joint Parks advisory meeting and we are very much looking forward to this event!

Geographic Information System

This month our GIS Specialist travelled to the Mersey Hydro System with the team to collect GPS points. They travelled to multiple sites and accompanied team members as field surveys were taken. They also worked with the Applied Geomatics Research Group at NSCC to prepare for upcoming community presentations pertaining to the field work in the Bras D'Or.

With the help of KMKNO's Lands Officer, the GIS Specialist also provided several map series to Parks Canada and Knowledge Holders that present various spatial information along the Kejimkujik Seaside trail, using data provided by Parks Canada. The creation of these maps helps to visualize the areas and understand the culturally relevant information present.

They also completed various mapping requests from the team, created data pertaining to past and ongoing projects, and attended meetings with the team.

Consultation: Highways & Bridges

KMK is continuing consultation and will continue correspondence with NS Public Works and/or the Department of Transportation on various projects, including Highway 104-105 (Port Hastings Roundabout), Highway 104 (Sutherlands River to Antigonish Project), Highway 103 (Bridgewater Interchange Exit 12A), and Highway 102 (Lantz Interchange and Connector).

Consultation has also been requested under the Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process (TOR) on the Veinot Bridge (LUN 022) project.

