



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.

NOVEMBER 2021



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WOODS?

Our Forestry Department at KMK works on so many different elements of what happens in our forests. Part of the team that helps to gather information for the Consultation Process, Sherilyn is a Consultation Project Support Officer at KMK and her specialty is in everything forestry. Sherilyn works on things like the Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative, forestry co-management alongside the government of Nova Scotia, harvesting and forestry operations, protected areas, and invasive species in the woods.



We all know how important the woods and forests are to the Mi'kmaq. Sherilyn is part of an awesome group of people, which include members from UINR and CMM, who are working to ensure the health and sustainability of the forests, and all the important resources within it. Sherilyn is also a member of the Forestry Advisory Committee who has been working together to identify and resolve forest issues. This fall, for instance, they have been busy looking at NSCC's forestry program, species of trees that are important to the Mi'kmaq, and forest pests like Spruce Budworm and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Sherilyn is also part of the Indigenous Conserved and Protected Areas (IPCA) Committee and the Earth Keepers Network and works alongside partners on those very important projects.

On specific projects, this past month Sherilyn made a site visit to Baile Ard Park, where Cape Breton Regional Municipality's and the province are looking to install larger berms throughout the park and upstream to mitigate flooding downstream. She helped identify important features on the landscape for Membertou and provided an update to the community on the actions to date.



Work is also happening at KMK on the protection of Wisqoq (Black Ash). In fact, just this past month, KMK conducted a Wisqoq training exercise field day with Nova Scotia Power and participated in a Wisqoq experts meeting. Wisqoq has been used by the Mi'kmaq, most notably, in basket making as it has a porous quality making it easily pounded into splints. The connection of Wisqoq to our people, history and culture, makes it easy to see why this species is so important to grow and protect.

Another item that she is working on is a project funded by Environment Climate Change Canada, where KMK will be developing a multidisciplinary team to work together to develop suitable projects for co-management at Isle Haute. This project will include traditional knowledge, ecological knowledge, biodiversity, susceptible species, invasive species and coastal erosion. This is going to be an awesome project and we're excited to see where it goes!

We hope you can attend our upcoming Virtual Session on Nov 23 so you can hear lots more about what our Forestry Department is doing and what is in the works for the near future!

Highlights from your KMK departments

Energy Department Update

Tidal energy developer, DP Energy, is preparing their Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan (EEMP) before moving to the FORCE site in Parrsboro. DP Energy is proposing three bottom mounted turbines with a total power production of 1.5 MegaWatts.

To better understand interests as they relate to environmental monitoring of this project, DP Energy is inviting people to a discussion board to share ideas, comments, concerns, and suggestions about the project. In recognition of Mi'kmaw rights, it is important that additional information be collected that is specific to the Mi'kmaq nation in NS and NB. The discussion board is found here: <https://nexuscoastal.mysocialpinpoint.com/mikmaqengageuiscetapa/>

Beaver Dam– KMK provided feedback on Atlantic Gold's Mineral Lease Application and voiced concern that this project could directly impede the ability of the Mi'kmaq to hunt and harvest in the proposed project area.

Fifteen Mile Stream – IAAC and several regulators have reviewed Atlantic Gold's Environmental Impact Statement and identified several deficiencies known as Information Requirements (IR). IAAC has sent the IRs to Atlantic Gold for elaboration. The Energy Advisor continues to sit in on Technical Advisory Group Meetings (TAG) with other Mi'kmaq Representatives and Regulators. KMK is working with CMM to plan the next.

Pleasantfield Exploration– Atlantic Gold have still voluntarily paused their work in the Mersey Corridor after concerns voiced from KMK, including archeology and potential impacts on traditional use. KMK coordinated a meeting between Acadia First Nation, Atlantic Gold and Boreas Heritage. Boreas Heritage provided a presentation on the cultural significance of the Mersey Corridor and Lake Rossignal.

MKK/Child Family Update

The MKK Team has been working hard to secure funding and contracts to develop assessments that will work for Mi'kmaw children and families. These assessments will be a huge part of MKK's work moving forward, and it is anticipated that these new Mi'kmaw assessments will bring positive change for Mi'kmaw children and families.

The MKK team also hosted a Band Designate Information Sharing Session this past month with presentations to Band Designates and heard their feedback on the draft Mi'kmaw Band Designate Common Policy.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has begun a 30-day public comment period (until December 16, 2021) and are looking for feedback on the proposed

Atlantic Gold project in Beaver Dam.

The Agency is now seeking comments on the following documents, which have been posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80111>

They will be hosting a virtual information session for Mi'kmaw community members on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 from 1 – 2 pm.

If you are interested in participating, email bdmine-minebd@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Your voice matters!

Archaeology Update

Our Archaeology team has been all over the province doing site visits, community meetings, working group meetings, and participating in the annual Moose Checkpoint Survey Station on Hunter Mountain. The autumn weather has been a blessing, providing us a gift of more time to ready for the harsher weather coming with the winter season.

In late October, Kait & Heather participated in community sessions in four Unama'ki communities (Wagmatcook, Eskasoni, Membertou, and Potlotek). The sessions were organized to present the findings, so far, of the topobathy LIDAR surveys flown in autumn 2020, the analysis of those images and the follow-up underwater archaeology surveys carried out in August 2021, in collaboration with the NSCC's Applied Geomatics Research Group (AGRG). It was great to have community members come and provide such wonderful feedback and guidance. We will now draft the report document and bring the draft back to communities in January for community review and rewording before sending to the funders. Fingers-crossed, the funders will like what they read and support more topobathyLIDAR research on underwater Mi'kmaw archaeological sites!

Throughout the autumn, we met at Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct National Park to discuss trail development there with Parks Canada and Mi'kmaw Knowledge Holders. Some trails at the park had been damaged by Hurricane Dorian and have also been affected by ongoing climate change, with higher water and bigger storms. Parks Canada needs the revised route to avoid bear habitat that some park users have been getting too close to during their hikes. The collaborative relationship we have with Parks Canada, best developed so far in Kespukwitk, has us co-designing the archaeological testing strategy for the new trail layout, which will be further away from the shore and bear habitat, but still offers great views. The new trail will be tested at 5m intervals by Boreas Heritage Consultants under contract to Parks Canada, prior to the trail construction. The construction is planned to be completed by the end of the year. A community session for this was held at the Seaside Adjunct park on November 10th.

Working groups have continued between Nova Scotia Power (NSP) and Mi'kmaw communities with support from KMK on various hydroelectric system projects in NS. All three members of KMK's Archaeology team (Kait, Talva & Heather) are working to support communities in these discussions with NSP, resulting in stronger archaeological testing planned for the Mersey corridor, ongoing efforts to protect sensitive sites around the Tusket area, and site closure plans to protect precious Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage in Pasi'tuek.

The Archaeology team continues to provide appropriate background information about our heritage when we receive a request for information from consulting archaeologists and we continue push for better implementation of the expectations of the Mi'kmaw Nation in NS with respect to Mi'kmaw archaeology throughout this part of Mi'kma'ki.

Point-of-Sale Campaign

The Point-of-Sale Taxation Technical Team from KMK and UNSM launched two campaigns; an educational "Myth Busters" campaign targeted at ending stereotypes around Indigenous taxation, and the "Stop! Don't Shop!" Campaign, where we are asking community members to only shop where their exemption is offered this holiday season. We hope that this campaign will create social pressure to get more retailers on board and honouring the exemption, as they're legislated to do by CRA.

We are reaching out to vendors who we know are honouring the exemption to provide them a sign to post in their windows, so you know where to shop and reaching out to vendors we know aren't honouring the exemption to provide education, and inform them of our community members' decision to refuse to shop at their establishments.

STOP Shop at retailers that *honour* your Indian Status Card & Tax Exemption

This holiday season, shop at retailers that honour your *Indian Sales Tax Exemption*.

If a store refuses to honour your exemption, walk away and shop at another store that will.



MYTH

"Indigenous people don't pay any taxes"



Taxation Myths & Truths

TRUTH

Indigenous people are required to pay taxes just like everyone else. There are some limited circumstances in which tax exemptions apply – such as Status Indians living and working on a reserve - but in most cases, we pay taxes.



Geographic Information System

This month, our GIS Specialist travelled to Unama'ki to participate in the topobathymetric LiDAR community sessions, where KMK and the Applied Geomatics Research Group at NSCC presented the results of the work on the Bras D'Or to several communities.

They also travelled several times to the Kejimikujik Seaside trail, where they viewed ongoing archaeology work, as well as attended the community session. They also participated in several meetings related to ongoing projects, as well as completed mapping and analysis requests for the team.

They also travelled to Isle Haute with the team, capturing drone pictures and video, and helping members of the field team in their operations.



Consultation

Highways and bridges: KMK is continuing consultation with NS Public Works for various projects including Highway 104-105 (Port Hastings Roundabout) and Highway 107 (Sackville Bedford Burnside Connector).

Consultation with NS Transportation an Active Transit will also be requested on the Charlie Willie Bridge (HFX 065).

Aquaculture: The lack of known archaeological sites have proven the need for underwater archaeology. As a result of consultation on various aquaculture applications, underwater baseline videos are now required before a project can proceed. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be required to send those videos to KMK.

FORESTRY



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
— SESSION —

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021
10:30am - 11:30am

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.

Link to join webinar
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87084454698>

www.mikmaqrighths.com

Cultural Tourism

You might not think that cultural tourism applies to you... but guess again! If you share your culture and language through art, performance, crafts, or experiences and you get paid for it... then you are involved in cultural tourism!

We have completed 10 sessions as part of series of in-person community cultural discussions that are taking place. Artists, crafters, cultural performers, business owners, and knowledge keepers have provided great feedback about cultural authenticity and how to support the development of cultural tourism in our communities.

Please consider joining us at one of these sessions to share your thoughts on how to protect our authentic Mi'kmaq culture. This information will be used to help us develop a Mi'kmaq logo, certification process and branding strategy to help Mi'kmaq individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to professional sell Mi'kmaq 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 at smonk@mikmaqrighths.com