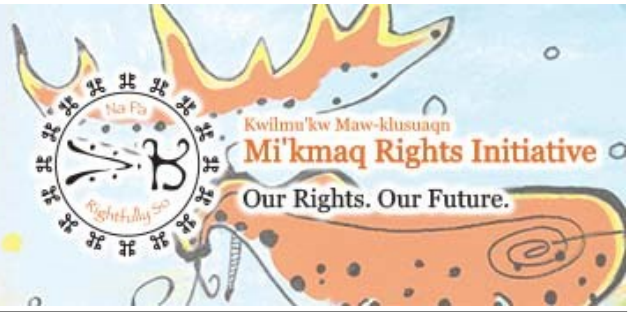


# Newsletter

SPRING 2022



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn  
**Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative**  
Our Rights. Our Future.

## MKK LAUNCHES NETAWEY

The Maw-Kleyu'kik Knijannaq Initiative (MKK) team is excited to announce the launch of Netawey.ca, an interactive mobile app for Mi'kmaq families and youth to easily access child and family welfare information including supports, services and resources.

The app named Netawey (pronounced Net-ah-way) means "I speak" and will help to give a voice to youth and families by informing them of their rights and provides them with tools and resources to better understand child welfare language and legislation.

The MKK team worked with several Mi'kmaq organizations to develop Netawey.ca to engage youth and provide legal and rights-based information to youth and families in an accessible format. Netawey.ca also includes information about prevention initiatives, support services, and cultural and traditional supports available within the community.

The app is designed to allow for growth and inclusion of new information, including eventual inclusion of youth rights under the Mi'kmaq Child Welfare Law, once developed. As part of the launch, we will host a contest on Facebook and a marketing campaign that will run for eight weeks to help spread awareness of this important resource. Check it out at [Netawey.ca](http://Netawey.ca)!



## MKK- CUSTOMARY CARE AND CUSTOMARY ADOPTION

### KEJITU'SIP?

Did you know?

#### Customary Care

Customary Care is a traditional form of caring for a child. Sometimes family or community takes in a child when a parent is receiving help and support.

This way the child keeps their Mi'kmaq identity, language, culture, and traditions.

The MKK Team has been working hard bringing together what they've heard from community members about children and family. They will be sharing info each month on our social media pages to help inform our Facebook followers about the important work they are focused on. This month we are covering Customary Care and Customary Adoptions.

### KEJITU'SIP?

Did you know?

#### Customary Adoption

Customary Adoption is a traditional form of adopting a Mi'kmaq child while keeping the traditions, practices, and customs of the Band.

Customary Adoption allows the biological parents or caregivers to stay connected with the child if it is in their best interest.

## CAP ROUGE / MKWESAQTUK CAMPGROUND

In Nova Scotia, the National Park Interim Arrangement established two advisory committees for the National Parks and Historic Sites operated by Parks Canada. KMK worked with Parks to develop the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) with representation from each community as well as the UINR and MCG. The Terms of Reference, executed March 25, 2014, sets out the purpose of the Advisory Committees:

- To discuss matters which affect the Mi'kmaq;
- To work toward achieving and maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship based on openness, mutual trust, and respect; and
- To provide on-going advice on a wide range of park, site planning and operational issues and processes, which are outside the formal Consultation process.

The TOR sets out that each committee will meet twice a year and jointly once a year, coordinated by Clifford Paul, on behalf of the Assembly.

Recently, Cape Breton Highlands National Park introduced the name of their newest campground, collaboratively named through the Advisory Committee with the local Acadians of Chéticamp.

This is the first ever French-Mi'kmaq facility name in Parks Canada. During the Unama'ki Advisory Committee meeting in September 2021, the committee had a chance to visit the area, now known as Cap Rouge/Mkwesagtuk Campground.

After discussions and research, verified through Elders, Mkwesagtuk became the word chosen. It is a Mi'kmaq word that describes a place or feature that distinctly changes to red, such as the sky. The Mi'kmaq used this expression to describe the coastal area that Acadians later called Cap-Rouge, on the western side of Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

This is a great testament to the hard work of the Mi'kmaq-Parks Advisory Committee for developing the campground's collaborative name as it honours our shared history and celebrates historic Mi'kmaq cultural and linguistic connections to the lands which we still call home. The naming of this campground also continues to build on efforts started with our Treaties of Peace and Friendship.



## LANDS UPDATE

The KMK Lands department and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs are proud to announce the acquisition of a commercial property through the Consultation Process. The former Government of Canada building, located at 32 Paint Street in Port Hawksbury is a 1,560 square metre pre-engineered steel frame building with a mix of office and warehouse space, with an existing floor plan to house multiple tenants.

The property is 150 km away from Sydney, 60 km from Antigonish, and 250 km from Halifax. Currently the communities of We'koqma'q and Potlotek are reviewing how this building can fit each of their community's needs. Due to the layout and the location of the building, the possible uses for the building are quite numerous, including a centre for business operations, remote office space, storage for fishing gear, or other light industrial uses.





## ENERGY AND MINES UPDATE

There's lots going on in the Energy and Mines department but here's an overview of some of the projects that we've been working on lately:

**Touquoy Mine (Atlantic Mining):** Atlantic Mining (Formerly Atlantic Gold) are proposing to expand their only operating mine in Moose River. This potential expansion has triggered a provincial Environmental Assessment (EA). Our office has reviewed the documents and provided feedback as part the Consultation process. On May 12, we received notice that Atlantic Mining did not provide enough information for the EA submission and NS requested clarification on in-pit mine tailings disposal, ground and surface water, fish and fish habitat, wetlands, and historical mine-tailings.

**Transition Metals:** Transition Metals are proposing mineral exploration for gold in the Cape Breton Highlands. The Assembly voiced opposition to this mineral exploration in the Highlands as the Mi'kmaq use it for harvesting moose and salmon and have a deep connection to the area. This work remains paused through consultation efforts and UINR is now leading a Two-Eyed Seeing study on the impacts of mineral exploration to moose and salmon.

**Natural Forces Wind Projects:** Consultation continues regarding the proposed Benjamin Mills and Westchester wind projects. These wind turbines would supply 50-150 Megawatts of renewable energy to the existing Nova Scotia Power Grid. These projects (upon approval) would be majority owned by the 13 Mi'kmaq communities of NS. Our office continues to identify concerns on behalf of our member communities on ground disturbance, bird migratory routes and floral and fauna species.

**East Coast Energy (Pictou Wells):** East Coast Energy to drill and stimulate up to four new coalbed methane wells in Priestville, NS. KMK is continuing consultation efforts and working with the Mi'kmaq Conservation Group for on site monitoring which will involve having community monitors on site from Pictou and Paqtnkek.

KMK met with We'koqma'q Chief and Council in May to discuss active projects happening near their community. Under direction of We'koqma'q, KMK is working on several active and upcoming projects and will ensure the province and proponents hear their community's concerns.

If any communities are interested in learning more about active Energy and Mining Projects, please reach out to Patrick Butler at [pbutler@mikmaqrighs.com](mailto:pbutler@mikmaqrighs.com).

## INDIGENOUS CONSERVED AND PROTECTED AREAS

KMK, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans North, Mi'kmaq Conservation Group and Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources produced a series of webinars for the Mi'kmaq of NS to learn about Indigenous Conserved and Protected Areas (ICPA) and specific management tools available to communities to protect and self govern land and sea. Highlighting stories from Inuit and First Nation communities from across Canada speak of their experiences regarding the ICPA process. Each webinar features new experiences and opens to community discussion afterwards. Webinars are available for viewing on the KMK YouTube page but the discussion portion is just for audience members. We are looking for Canadian examples of experiences with IPCAs as these sessions will start back up again in the Fall.

To participate as a speaker or register, email Bec, our Marine Protected Areas Coordinator, at [rborchert@mikmaqrighs.com](mailto:rborchert@mikmaqrighs.com).

We can't wait to hear from you!

**INDIGENOUS PROTECTED & CONSERVED AREAS WEBINARS SERIES**

Discussions for Mi'kmaq community members on marine IPCA's and marine conservation tools with special guests and representatives. Questions or comments can be sent to [rborchert@mikmaqrighs.com](mailto:rborchert@mikmaqrighs.com).

MUSHKEGOWUK COUNCIL - January 6th, 2022

DISCUSSION PANEL WITH DFO, DC, & ECCC - January 27th, 2022

MAMALIKULLA - February 3rd, 2022

GWAI HAANAS - February 17th, 2022

Check out our Marine IPCA channel on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/NSMikmaqRights>

Keep a look out for more webinars coming later this fall!

## GIS UPDATE

In the past few months, the GIS Specialist has accompanied a team of individuals to Mniku/Chapel Island to help install a protective barrier using hay bales to prevent coastal erosion (pictured below). This barrier will serve as an interim protection until more permanent measures can take place, which is an important implementation as the island is a very important area for Mi'kmaw.



Our GIS Specialist has also been hard at work creating maps for presentations and reports, both for internal team members and external organizations with which KMK is working on collaborative projects. They also conducted analyses and research for many team projects including analysing forestry areas, mining areas, and more, and created web maps for the team to be able to interact with data remotely, which often required the digitization of data and map georeferencing.

Our GIS specialist has also been delivering presentations on various topics, including web application creation and a collaborative presentation with NSCC's Applied Geomatics Research Group regarding the Bras d'Or underwater archaeology field work. Our GIS specialist provided GIS support to other presentations by showcasing specified data and they also took steps to catalog spatial data for the team. This cataloguing will help with faster retrieval of past information by creating an index of past archaeological tasks that can be of use and referenced by the team and added to existing project spatial documentation.

More recently the GIS Specialist began working with a team to map written historical records of Mi'kmaw historic use and occupation. This will help our team in presenting the records visually and help KMK with quickly obtaining relevant historic information as new projects arise.

## FORESTRY UPDATE

Hemlock woolly adelgid continues to play a significant role in the deforestation of Mi'kma'ki. Hemlock forests are incredibly important for not only biodiversity reasons but also acts as a combat mechanism for climate change. Did you know that an old growth hemlock forest will consistently be 15 degrees cooler in the summer than that of a forest with open pockets or fields? Its no wonder why so many animals, including the mainland moose call these forests home. The hemlock woolly adelgid continues to be a species that our forestry technician, Sherilyn, is looking more into with other Mi'kmaw environmental organizations, Parks Canada and others. To learn more about this species, reach out to Sherilyn at KMK for more information: [syoung@mikmaqrights.com](mailto:syoung@mikmaqrights.com)



## TRANSPORTATION AND SHIPPING

KMK continues consultation and correspondence with the NS Public works and/or the Dept. of Transportation on projects in Nova Scotia. These projects include Burnette Bridge Replacement Project in Colchester County, Westchester Quarry Expansion Project in Rose, Highway 102 Aerotech Connector Project, Highway 103 Bridgewater Interchange (Exit 12A) Project, Indian Path Bridge (LUN 058) Replacement Project, Lunenburg County, Pleasant River Bridge (QUE 024) Replacement Project, Queens County, Trunk 4 Antigonish Active Transportation Corridor Conversation Project, Haliburton Cemetery Culvert (PIC 388) Replacement & Eureka Mills Bridge, Pictou County.



## ARCHEOLOGY UPDATE

The Tusket Dam project will not see another drawdown this year as NS Power works to address their engineering issues with the leaky dam. This is good news for Acadia and the KMK Archaeology Team who have worked together to try to protect the loss and damage to Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage due to looters taking items and digging into sites. The re-establishment of water covering the previously exposed sites acts as a protection against the illegal looting of these non-renewable, irreplaceable parts of Mi'kmaw legacy.



Samples of archeological findings from Oak Island

The Collaborative Archaeology Tech Team model, which started in discussions at Kejimikujik between Parks Canada and KMK is expanding! Other Parks administered areas have caught on to the importance and benefit of working collaboratively and we now have collaborative relationships forming with the NB Parks field unit that administers the Grand Pré National Historic Site, which sits within the UNESCO inscribed landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site and buffer zone. The Cape Breton field unit is also all-in, with monthly Collaborative Tech Team meetings to discuss the projects at Ingonish, St. Peter's and Fortress of Louisbourg. Stay tuned for some exciting work to redress the lack of Mi'kmaw content in the Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for the St. Peter's area! The need to fix CISs applies to Parks Canada administered national historic sites across Canada and here, St. Peter's will hopefully set some new standards for the way to do good things across Canada.



If you watch the TV show "The Curse of Oak Island", you may have the impression that their archeological team only found a few pieces of ceramics from a time prior to contact. This simply is not the case. Two distinct sites are now on record, a home place (encampment) and a workspace (a stone tool manufacture/refinement location) where the seat of the craftsperson is clear – you can sit where the person previously seated. Very exciting! Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage, excavated prior to work stoppage (at the direction of Mi'kmaw leadership) included complete scraping tools, at least one projectile point, many flakes, a hammerstone AND ceramic sherds. The work to protect these places and better understand the full scope of Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage on the island is ongoing and we'll keep you updated.

## AVON RIVER UPDATE

Consultation on the Avon River Aboiteau and the highway twinning project has been ongoing, and discussions continue to find a suitable solution that allows for unimpeded fish passage for all species that have traditionally used that river. As the project has progressed an intermittent blowing dust issue developed where higher than normal winds would cause dust clouds from sparsely vegetated areas on the river.

As a result, KMK coordinated a collaborative opportunity with the CMM, Commercial Fishers, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, NS Department of Agriculture and CBWES, to mitigate this dust issue with a short-term solution. After a reconnaissance site visit to determine the scope of the project and to collect several soil samples, it was determined that seeding the area would be the most appropriate solution as the roots of the plants would prevent the fine sediments from mobilization.



On May 13, several governmental and Mi'kmaw representatives teamed up, along with two tractors and several bags of seed, provided by KMK, to carefully plant for the best opportunity for success.

We would like to extend our appreciation to all involved in the quick execution of this project. This is a true demonstration of how efficiently we can work collaboratively toward the same goal!

## CULTURAL TOURISM AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Oh, Cultural Tourism! What fun we are having exploring the exciting possibilities for raising the cultural profile of Mi'kmaq throughout Nova Scotia, the Atlantic, and yes, the world! We are still refining the Mi'kmaq authenticity logo and enrollment process and will be sharing information with communities very soon.

Also, as we have been meeting with community members and talking about the role that Cultural Tourism plays in building the Mi'kmaq Nation, we have had many questions about how to protect Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. Cultural expression refers to the ways we express our language and culture – through songs, stories, dance, art, etc.

In most countries around the world including Canada there is currently no mechanisms in place to protect Indigenous cultural knowledge. On the international level, they are working to address the protection of Indigenous cultural knowledge. The reason why this is such a challenge is that most legal instruments focus on individual rights, not collective rights and Indigenous knowledge is a collective worldview. However, there are still ways to protect as much of our cultural knowledge as possible with the systems in place right now, even if they aren't perfect and that's exactly what we are looking into.

**What is Intellectual Property?** Intellectual Property (IP) is the result of what the mind creates. It can include literary and artistic works, inventions, symbols, designs and more. As a maker or creator, you have rights that can protect your products and creations. This can help business owners establish stronger businesses, and help Individuals protect the culture. Essentially, IP rights give you a say over how and/or when others can use or copy something you have created. IP rights protect innovation and creativity through things like copyright, patents, trademarks, geographical indicators, industrial design, and trade secrets.

We have written a series of articles on IP for the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nation News if you are interested in learning more. As well, we are working on an easy-to-use Community Guide to help Mi'kmaq to understand their rights, and ways they can protect their cultural works. We will be hosting an IP session on May 31 and are looking for community members who are interested in IP and who would like to attend.

For more information, please contact Shannon Monk, Cultural Tourism Project Manager for KMK at [smonk@mikmaqrights.com](mailto:smonk@mikmaqrights.com).

## KMK CELEBRATES SPIRIT BEAR

The team at KMK participated in Spirit Bear Day on May 5, 2022, celebrating Spirit Bear's May 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

This special bear represents the 165,000 First Nations Children impacted by the First Nations child welfare cases at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society encouraged people to recognize Spirit Bear and Jordan's Principle on Spirit Bear's birthday.

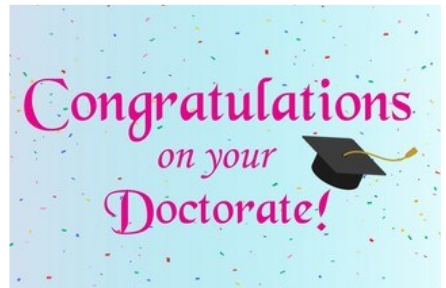
More information about Spirit Bear can be found at [fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear](http://fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear).





## KMK ACCOMPLISHMENTS & SHOUTOUTS!

A big congratulations to our newest Doctor in the house! KMK archaeologists, Talva Jacobson recently received her Ph.D. from Michigan Technological University, focussing her dissertation work on protection and risk mitigation for archaeological heritage, community-value driven strategies and climate change. Talva’s newly recognized skills are a big asset to our work for the Mi’kmaw Nation in Nova Scotia, where the Mi’kmaw Nation is often the leaders of care and custody of Mi’kmaw archeological items and places. Congratulations Dr. Jacobson!



KMK is also proud to say that we have a new Mi’kmaw lawyer in the house! Congratulations to Craig Paul for recently passing the Bar Exam and becoming one of Mi’kma’ki’s newest L’nu lawyers. Craig has been working at KMK as an Articled Clerk for almost a year.

## NEW FACES AT KMK

The KMK Team is constantly growing and evolving! Over the past little while, we have welcomed some new faces to our team!

James McCarthy started with us in January as our Human Resources Manager. Armand Paul joined the MKK team as a Policy Analyst in March. Greg Hart started as our NSPI Early Engagement Coordinator for the Consultation Team in May. Shaylene Johnson is our new Administrative Assistant for our Fisheries Department, joining us in May. Ashley Foster recently became the Administrative Assistant for MKK Team in May.

If you see them around in the communities, please help us to welcome them to the KMK Team!



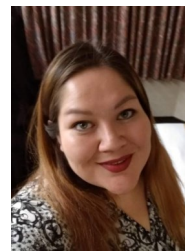
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