

# KMK Newsletter

Winter 2023



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

## MESSAGE FROM KMK

This is our first newsletter of 2023! We're working to continue our seasonal newsletters again this year, but you will notice that we've launched a new template for 2023!

As always, this newsletter will provide updates on what our team has been working on over the past few months, so if you see anything that you'd like to learn more about, please feel free to reach out to our team!



## Kluskap Wilderness Area

In January, KMK worked with UINR and the Province of Nova Scotia to plan a signing event to commemorate the shared management of Kluskap Wilderness Area, including Kluskap's Cave, a sacred place to the Mi'kmaq that is in Unama'ki.

Chief Norman Bernard and Chief Leroy Denny represented the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs (Assembly) at the event held on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Wagmatcook.

The Province and the Assembly, through the support of UINR, have committed to working toward the shared governance and the long-term care of nearly 2,800 hectares of land included in the Kluskap Wilderness Area which is part of a larger area identified by the Mi'kmaq for inclusion as an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA).



*Event photos courtesy of Communications Nova Scotia*

## TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

### PAGE 2

Governance and Fisheries Updates

### PAGE 3

MKK Update  
Resume and Skills Database  
Archaeology Conference

### PAGE 4

Energy and Mines Update

### PAGE 5 & 6

IMPAC5 Congress Story

# Governance Update

Our Governance team has been out in communities hosting a series of community information sessions to talk about the history, articles, and application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada. We are also looking to hear the priorities of community members for the implementation of UNDRIP to Canadian law.

Did you miss out on the sessions in your community, want to hear more, or want to talk about UNDRIP? Check out the recording of our first virtual session [www.youtube.com/watch?v=D77ghuQ3Q2w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D77ghuQ3Q2w) or reach out to a member of our Governance team!

The KMK team wants to hear from you on how Canada's laws impact your daily life, and what needs to change to make sure their laws are consistent with the Rights outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Scan QR code to access survey



Data collected as part of this survey will be anonymous, and will be reported collectively, as to not attribute any input to any one person. Your input will remain confidential and identifying information will not be collected. Data will be used to inform recommendations to Canada to align their laws with UNDRIP.

# Fisheries Update

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans recently sent a letter to all First Nations in the Maritimes requesting consultation or response to their proposed approach for the 2023 elver fishery. KMK conducted an initial review to DFO's approach and presented our findings to the Assembly for direction and response. The Assembly directed KMK to demand consultation and to continue to support their member communities in building their self-governing Treaty plans for this year's elver harvest.

Lobster Treaty Rights implementation discussions are also ongoing in preparation for the spring fishery for Pictou Landing First Nation and the Unama'kik communities.

**Netukulimk Policy update:** Several NS Mi'kmaw communities have been developing their Treaty-based harvesting plans. After much discussion with the communities, we have decided to replace "Livelihood" with "Treaty Rights Protected" fisheries throughout all our existing policies. You will likely see this in any future communication on our communities' fisheries work.



Photo taken at UNDRIP Engagement Session in Acadia's Gold River Community on March 27, 2023

# MKK Update

Our team continues to work on drafting and reviewing the Mi'kmaw Child and Family Well-Being Policy Manual and drafting a Customary Code. We have been continuing to hold working groups and stakeholder engagements to hear the thoughts of others on this important work. Most recently we held customary care working group and foster care working group meetings. We have also been working with Wikimanej Kikmanaq to learn more about the Wikimanej Kikmanaq circles. And we have had an opportunity to talk to some incredible people who are working on birth rights, midwifery, and child welfare practices and assessments. We're very excited to be meeting with people and organizations who are supporting Mi'kmaw children and families and we have been learning a lot from these folks.



## GATHERING PERSPECTIVES ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

**The Assembly of Nova Scotia  
Mi'kmaw Chiefs are proud to co-host  
the 55th Annual Meeting of the  
Canadian Archaeological Association.**

**This marks the first time in history this  
national conference is co-hosted by an  
Indigenous nation or community.**

### MAY 3-6, 2023

### Membertou Trade & Convention Centre

*Special conference rates available for  
Mi'kmaw and African Canadian  
community members!*

For more information:  
[canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting](http://canadianarchaeology.com/caa/annual-meeting)



Kwilnu'kw Maw-klusuaqn  
**Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative**

## Mi'kmaw Resume & Skills Database & Mi'kmaw Business Directory

This database and business directory will be used to identify Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq who are interested in working with industry partners.

To find out more and to have your  
resume/business information included in the database, please contact

Tracy Menge [tmenge@mikmaqrighs.com](mailto:tmenge@mikmaqrighs.com)  
or Stacy Marshall-Tabor [stabor@mikmaqrighs.com](mailto:stabor@mikmaqrighs.com)

*Resumes will be shared with potential employers for employment purposes only.*



RESUME & SKILLS



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

# Energy and Mines Update

**Mersey Wind Farm:** Rosswall is proposing a wind farm on the Mersey Corridor. In December 2022, Acadia First Nation, KMK, Rosswall and Boreas Heritage attended a site visit of the proponent's planned locations for wind turbines. Rosswall discussed their project and answered questions posed by Mi'kmaw representatives. An open house followed in February 2023 for Acadia First Nation band members to learn more about this proposed project. KMK will be reviewing the proponent's Environmental Assessment Registration Document to identify how this project may impact Mi'kmaw Rights and Title.

**EverWind Fuels:** EverWind is proposing a Green Hydrogen Project in Point Tupper at the former NuStar Site in partnership with Membertou, Paqtnkek and Potlotek. KMK has reviewed the Environmental Assessment Registration Document and has provided comments to the province on how this project may impact Mi'kmaw Rights and Title.

**Geological Survey:** KMK and Acadia First Nation attended a site visit with Natural Resources Canada in Fall of 2022. This is an ongoing geological survey taking place in SouthWest Nova Scotia collecting baseline data of the mineral lithium. While there is not enough of a resource to become economically viable, it is possible to collect environmental data to see how lithium interacts with the nearby environment.

**Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador:** The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) are conducting a Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador. This will better inform the regulatory piece for offshore wind moving forward. The Energy and Mines Advisor brought forth a resolution to the Assembly in December providing an overview of the Regional Assessment and to get direction for KMK to conduct work on this project on their behalf.



*Left and top: Photos taken during the Geological Survey with Acadia First Nation.*

*Bottom: Photo taken during tour of proposed Mersey Wind Farm.*

# IMPAC5 Congress

Recently, members of our Consultation Team attended the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) that was focused on Indigenous-led conservation and connected nations worldwide in Vancouver, British Columbia. We thank the First Nations of xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) for bringing us together for IMPAC5 and hosting this event on their traditional lands and offering insights from their cultures through keynote and session speakers.

IMPAC5 was an opportunity for marine protected area professionals, officials, and leaders worldwide to take a stand to protect the ocean. This gathering was the most significant congress to date, with up to 3,000 in-person attendees and 1,000 virtual participants. The congress focused on five themes: building a global marine protected area network; advancing conservation in the blue economy; actively managing marine protected areas and human activity; conserving biodiversity and addressing the climate crisis; and connecting ocean, culture and human well-being as well as connecting Indigenous peoples' leadership initiatives.

From coast-to-coast-to-coast, stories of Indigenous-led marine conservation initiatives were shared along with success and lessons learned from across the globe. Significant takeaways for Indigenous leadership initiatives in the marine environment includes: understanding that true collaboration takes time; learning to value knowledge streams equally; connecting people to land through IPCAs that balance Indigenous Knowledge and western science; and the importance of culture for conservation success.

We connected with Indigenous stewards from Tahiti, Hawaii, New Zealand, Africa, the Arctic, and oodles of small island nations, including stories from Polynesia about reconnecting to traditional ways of marine navigation. Our delegation laughed, cried, paddled, and learned to dance with nations all over the world.

Participants included Indigenous groups and ocean guardians, government officials, civil society organizations, marine protection specialists, young professionals, members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), members of ocean-focused environmental non-governmental organizations, marine recreation community groups, businesses working in the blue economy, media and marine scientists.

We had the opportunity to experience an interpretative paddling tour (provided by Takaya Tours) in a replica ocean-going canoe like those historically used by the Tseil-Waututh Nation. The guides from the Coast Salish Nation sang songs and shared stories. One story that stuck to mind was that canoes were also illegal during the potlatch ban. To get around the use of the canoe ban, one individual cut off one end of the canoe and attached a motor, making it a legal vessel. *(continued on next page...)*



## IMPAC5 Congress continued....

After the paddling tour, we were able to catch the last hour of the Indigenous Caucus taking place at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This was an open floor moment for participants to reflect on discussions that took place throughout the morning. There was mention of the creation story from the west coast, which is much different from our creation story here on the east coast. Their creation story (Haida Gwaii) begins with a clam; the raven could hear little creatures inside a clamshell. With his beak, the raven began to coax the little people out of the shell. It was only men at first, but then the raven got tired of watching the men. The raven then found a chiton; he opened it up and found a little woman. He brought the women to the men, who began to elope and move across other parts of the island. The Mi'kmaq creation story starts with lightning striking the ground, and Kluskap is then created from the Earth.

We heard from speakers Aulani Wilhelm, Sr VP for Oceans at Conservation International and Cristina Mittermeier, one of the co-founders and lead storyteller of Sea Legacy. Mittermeier and her husband were making a name for themselves with National Geographic when they realized they could do more meaningful work independently. They left National Geographic and started their own business, Sea Legacy, using their skills and experience to support critical ocean science and conservation action.

The Indigenous Banquet was a sold-out event that brought together so many attendees. Entertainment for the evening was brought on from Tsatsu Stalqayu (Coastal Wolf Pack). Our keynote speaker could not attend, so it became an open mic night where other nations could share songs/dances.

Our time at IMPAC5 was captured by Kamloops-based videographer Nolan McAllister from Orenda Flms Inc and will be posted to our socials soon.



*Photos on pages 5 & 6 were taken at the IMPAC5 Congress in Vancouver, BC on February 3-9, 2023.*

## N'multis aqq Wela'lin

To stay up to date, check out our website at [www.mikmaqrights.com](http://www.mikmaqrights.com), find us on Facebook at Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative or follow us on Instagram at KMKNO1752.