

KMK Newsletter

Summer 2023



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

MESSAGE FROM KMK

We're working to continue our seasonal newsletters again this year, with our third issue of 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!



Assembly Congratulates PJ Prosper on Senate Role



In July, Regional Chief Paul (PJ) Prosper was appointed to the Canadian Senate. The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs would like to congratulate PJ on this announcement.

"It is a great honour to congratulate PJ on his appointment as a member of the Senate. It has been a pleasure working alongside him as the former Chief of Paqtnek and then as our Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations," said Chief Sidney Peters, Co-Chair of the Assembly.

PJ has over 25 years of experience in Mi'kmaq and Indigenous legal issues. He is a Mi'kmaq lawyer from the Paqtnek community and has held the position of Regional Chief of Nova Scotia for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) since 2020.

"PJ has always advocated for the Rights of the Mi'kmaq and for Indigenous people across the country," continued Chief Peters. "He has been steadfast in his career working for, and with his people, and while he will be missed as our Regional Chief, we look forward to seeing him represent the Mi'kmaq Nation in the Senate."

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq has begun the process to fill the role of AFN Regional Chief for Nova Scotia.

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Urban Parks Survey

The KMK team hosted an information booth at NAIG this summer, speaking to community members about their vision for the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes National Urban Park being proposed in Halifax. If you would like to share your knowledge of the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Area and your vision for a National Urban Park.

Complete the survey by following the QR code below.

The KMK team spent time this summer planning several studies to support Mi'kmaw participation in the development of the National Urban Park. We look forward to sharing the results of these studies and engaging community members about the area over the next year.



Benefits

Bear Head Energy: In May 2023 the Assembly and Bear Head Energy, Inc. signed an MOU to develop a Mutual Benefits Agreement. The Agreement will build on the 2019 Benefits Agreement and reinforce the commitment by both parties to develop the project in an environmentally sustainable manner and ensure Mi'kmaq inclusion, participation, and benefits.

In 2022, Bear Head announced its plan to develop a green hydrogen and ammonia production, storage, and loading facility in Tui'knek / Point Tupper, NS. In April 2023, the project received Environmental Assessment approval from the Nova Scotia Department of Environmental and Climate Change.

Bear Head is committed to respecting Mi'kmaw rights and supporting First Nations partners' social, cultural, environmental, and educational goals and continuing to engage with Mi'kmaw communities throughout the facility's development process.

Everwind Fuels: In June 2023, the Assembly and Everwind Fuels signed an MOU that outlines how the parties will work together to develop a Mutual Benefits Agreement. EverWind Fuels is a private developer of green hydrogen and ammonia production and storage facilities. They plan to produce green hydrogen and convert it into green ammonia using a mix of certified green power from the Nova Scotia grid and onshore wind power and associated transportation assets. The project located in Point Tupper, Nova Scotia.

Mi'kmaw Supplier Business Directory: The Mi'kmaw Supplier Business Directory will be used to identify Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Business'. Scan the QR code to submit your business information.

Mi'kmaw Resume and Skills Database: The Mi'kmaw Resume and Skills Database will be used to identify Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq who are interested in working with various industry partners. To find out more and to include your resume in the database, follow the QR code.



RESUME & SKILLS



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

For more info, contact Tracy Menge tmenge@mikmaqrights.com or Stacy Marshall-Tabor stabor@mikmaqrights.com

Governance

This summer, the governance team developed an engagement strategy to speak to community members about their experiences with the justice system and work collaboratively with those with lived experience to develop recommendations to Canada on how the justice system can be improved to respond to the needs of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. We look forward to hearing your stories this fall!

Work is also being done to capture stories from centralization. Below is information on how to participate in the centralization project.

DID YOU KNOW?



In 1942, the Canadian government implemented a relocation program dubbed "centralization". In Nova Scotia, they wanted to move the Mi'kmaq to two locations that were isolated away from the main urban centres of the time.

The Government committed to improved health care and to provide new homes, employment, and resources for those who moved. Those who declined to move were told there could be consequences - including possibly losing Status.





MORE ABOUT CENTRALIZATION:

Even if people agreed to move, sometimes the government destroyed the homes of those families. Upon arrival at their new homes, those Mi'kmaq saw that the promises of an improved life were also untrue.



REALITIES OF CENTRALIZATION:



Mi'kmaq who relocated to new homes discovered that the residences were either unfinished or uninhabitable. The promised work was non-existent, and the healthcare, and other promised systems, failed to meet adequate standards. As a result, the overall quality of life for those who moved significantly declined.



HOW IT IMPACTED OUR NATION:

The relocation of Mi'kmaq to the two designated reserves - Eskasoni and Sipekne'katik - impacted their way of life. Both of these new communities were not equipped to handle the sudden and overwhelming influx of new people. Some of these effects continue to be felt today.



After seven long years, the government discontinued the centralization program; however, the damage would be felt for generations.



WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT CENTRALIZATION?

This Fall, KMK will be going to the Mi'kmaq communities to document stories from individuals affected by Centralization; this includes firsthand accounts and stories passed down through family.

We want to capture stories that will help us in our path to seek justice for the Mi'kmaq Nation.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO DO?

The government has yet to apologize for these specific injustices inflicted upon the Mi'kmaq during the 1940s. By collecting and sharing your stories, we hope to work towards getting the Mi'kmaq the justice they deserve and holding the government accountable for its actions regarding Centralization.



HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

We need your help to make this happen.

If you, or someone you know, has any information to share on the impacts of centralization, please complete the form available at this link.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK9DLWV>

We will follow up with you directly to set up a time to record your story.



Scan this QR Code to take you directly to the centralization form:



Archaeology Update

The summer is often a very busy time in the Archaeology Research department. For us, good weather means field season! This summer, our team was out and about all over the province. Here are some of our summer highlights:

Petroglyphs - This field season, three additional potential petroglyphs were discovered in Unama'ki. Our team will be going out this fall to do assessments, recordings and dating of imagery, on behalf of our member communities. These potential petroglyphs are said to be east of Sydney River/Portage, Mabou & North Sydney. We are very excited for this upcoming research!

Mi'kmaw Archaeology Youth Camp - This summer we supported Parks Canada in their development of a Mi'kmaw Archaeology Youth Camp. Two week-long summer camps were held bringing together Mi'kmaw Youth and several incredible Elders and Knowledge Holders to talk about Mi'kmaw history, culture and archaeology. The camp was a pilot project developed in concept by the Kejimkujik collaborative archaeology technical committee, involving the joint efforts of Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia (KMK). We were pleased to hear that the camp was a success and Parks Canada is already thinking about what can be done next summer! (*photos on page 5*)

Pastukopajitk / St. Peter's Canal NHS Oral History Recording Project - A new Mi'kmaw youth interviewer, Jessie Marshall, has undertaken completion of this project which began last fiscal year through the collaborative archaeology technical team with Parks Canada's Cape Breton Field Unit. This month Jessie will be conducting with further interviews and recording started in September.

Dykeland Systems Upgrade Projects - Upgrades are being done to a couple dykelands to increase climate change resilience (including sea level rise). Allain's River is in the first of four phases of dyke management. We are working to see this one include a path adjustment to better protect a Mi'kmaw site up above the project that was identified through testing in the preliminary stages of this project. Another project, Starr's Point is in the very early stages of discussions. Archaeological care will be complicated and critical as the dykeland system upgrade project area is in the midst of abundant recorded and likely, further potential, Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage.

Middle Head Trail - Just this month, we went to Ingonish, Middle Head Trail in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, to do some work with the technical collaborative archaeology team.

Collaborative archaeology has been on-going between Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaw of NS for the last five+ years. This collaborative model allows feedback provided by Mi'kmaw Knowledge Holders and community members to be taken into consideration when planning and developing infrastructure projects at national historic sites. Archaeology is a tool used to understand people, it also gives us an opportunity to tell our story, for example, a flake was found and that could mean that more will be found. In this case, the area in which the flake was found is thought to be a "look-out" site because you can see far out into the Atlantic Ocean.

However, the technical team goes beyond archaeology and discusses how it must've been for our ancestors when they were occupying the lands long before us, and how they're still occupying the lands and bringing us to these places through archaeology.

In the photo (*right*) is our KMK's Consultation Researcher, Tamara, with Keptin Jeff Purdy (archaeology liaison to the Grand Council), Wasuek Googoo (community member and researcher), Sara Beanlands (Boreas Heritage), and Parks Canada Staff, along with their Mi'kmaw Relations Officers, Lindsay Marshall & Ann Terese Doucette.



Introducing the Mi'kmawitasik Logo

During community engagement sessions, community members recommended that a new cultural authenticity logo be developed. *Mi'kmawitasik* (Meeg-maw-wee-duh-sick) - means *Mi'kmaw Made*.

The *Mi'kmawitasik* logo was a creative collaboration between Mi'kmaw artists, Loretta Gould (We'koqma'q First Nation) and Alan Sylliboy (Millbrook First Nation), and Mi'kmaw graphic designer, Hailey Isadore (Wagmatcook First Nation).



Mi'kmawitaski - the Mi'kmaw Cultural Authenticity Logo proudly represents the Mi'kmaw people and welcomes the world to experience authentic Mi'kmaw products and services.

Now that the *Mi'kmawitasik* logo has been adopted by the Assembly, work is being finalized on the membership certification guidelines. Based on community feedback, we are creating a "Rights and Responsibilities" framework to guide the use of the logo. This means with the right to use the logo (the benefits and opportunities) come the responsibilities (expectations in keeping with cultural values and respect) for using the logo.

In addition, we are developing an online system for registration for those eligible to use the logo, based on the Authenticity Guidelines completed in 2021. Once the full system is in place, we will be visiting communities and assisting community members - artists, crafters, performers, tourism operators, business owners, etc. to assist Mi'kmaq to register.

We plan to launch this new brand by early winter, along with a host of resources, including a Tool Kit and Intellectual Property Guide, to help support Mi'kmaw cultural tourism business owners.

Forestry: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is making headlines again. HWA is an aphid like insect that is causing havoc on our hemlock forests in Nova Scotia, resulting in mortality to old growth in as little as five to 15 years, and seedlings in as little as one year. Presently, it has been detected in eight counties in Mi'kma'ki and is suspected in others.

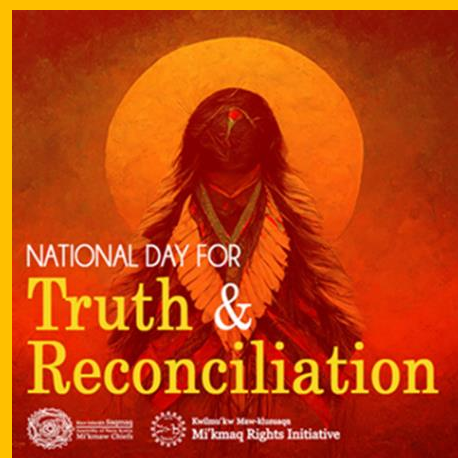
In early August, the CFIA received a report of a suspected HWA infestation at a private property in Bedford. Laboratory results from samples taken by CFIA confirmed the presence of HWA. This is the first confirmed detection of HWA in the Halifax Regional Municipality, approximately 100 km away from the nearest confirmed detection. While the affected property has been placed under regulatory control, we encourage all to keep an eye out for this insect and, while visiting infested areas, to take precaution so to not carry this invasive species to other territories within Mi'kma'ki.

While HWA's predominant method of travel is not through human activity, but rather, birds, mammals, and wind, it can use a human host to infect new areas.

Curious to know what you can do to stop the travel of HWA?

- ▲ Change and bag your clothing prior to leaving an infested site
- ▲ Use a lint brush over all fabrics to remove any possible HWA
- ▲ Wash your footwear immediately after traveling into infested areas.

HWA is active in all seasons. Using cautionary efforts to conserve our hemlocks could save these niche habitats.



Lands

The candidate list of properties for the 2023-2024 Negotiation Lands acquisitions is being finalized for review by the Lands Committee. Once reviewed, the list will be submitted to the Assembly for their review and decision-making. In 2022-2023, one property was added to the provincially held C4 inventory (Negotiation Lands). Provincial negotiators continued to face challenges such as high real estate values and property owners' reluctance to accept the province's fair market value offers.

The Assembly's current Lands Strategy was finalized in 2012 and has not since been modified. The Lands Strategy is instrumental in assigning priorities in Consultation and Rights Implementation discussions. It is crucial to update the Lands Strategy to reflect changing priorities. Stay tuned for updates regarding engagement on community needs and priorities.

Mi'kmaw Archaeology Youth Camp

Here are a couple photos from the Mi'kmaw Youth Archaeology Camp - Elapultimk, that took place in over two weeks August at Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site. The logo (right) was designed by Hailey, a member of KMK's Communications Team.

The youth had fun getting their hands dirty searching for artefacts and learning more about Mi'kmaw history and culture. More about these camps can be found in the Archaeology Update on page 3 of this newsletter.



Energy and Mining Update

20/20 Catalyst Program by Indigenous Clean Energy: KMK Energy Advisor successfully completed the 20/20 Catalyst Program hosted through Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) through Summer 2023. This program brought together Indigenous people across Turtle Island who are working in the renewable energy sector. This included three weeks of onsite work in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia where the ICE staff provided training on community engagement, energy efficiency and various renewable energy technologies. This concluded with a national forum where all participants provided an overview of the projects they are working on. The Energy Advisor provided background of the KMK consultation process and provided updates for energy projects happening in Mi'kma'ki in 2023. *(Photos: Left and top right)*

Learn more about the program at: <https://indigenouscleanenergy.com/our-programs/>

CGC Gypsum Mine: CGC are proposing to reopen their gypsum mine in Little Narrows and have one active site in Windsor. KMK's technical team, photographed below, attended a site visit along with Natural Resources and Renewables (NRR) to view their operations and see how CGC has actively reclaimed their mine during operations which included planting wildlife and forming new bodies of water as construction progresses.

For more information about CGC's plans for Mi'kma'ki and potential employment opportunities can be found here: https://www.usg.com/content/usgcom/en_CA_east.html

Atlantic Mining: Atlantic Mining (formerly Atlantic Gold) have announced they have decided to withdraw their proposed Touquoy expansion through the provincial Environmental Assessment process. This means operations at Touquoy will begin entering reclamation to begin restoring this site to a natural state. They have also announced they will be withdrawing Fifteen Mile Stream and Beaver Dam through the federal regulatory review through the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). KMK will continue to work with IAAC and the proponent to identify next steps.



Treaty Rights Protected Fishery Update

In September, the Assembly sent a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on behalf of several Mi'kmaq communities involved in the Treaty Rights Protected fishery, including Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Glooscap, Eskasoni, Pictou Landing, Potlotek, We'koqma'q, and Wasoqopa'q.

We are all working to protect your right to fish for a livelihood in our traditional lands and waters, but the numbers paint a clear picture of how the challenges we face continue to prevent us from succeeding.

1. **Too few traps:** In our communities combined, there were only 149 Mi'kmaq using 10,954 lobster traps in the Gulf and Maritimes Regions.

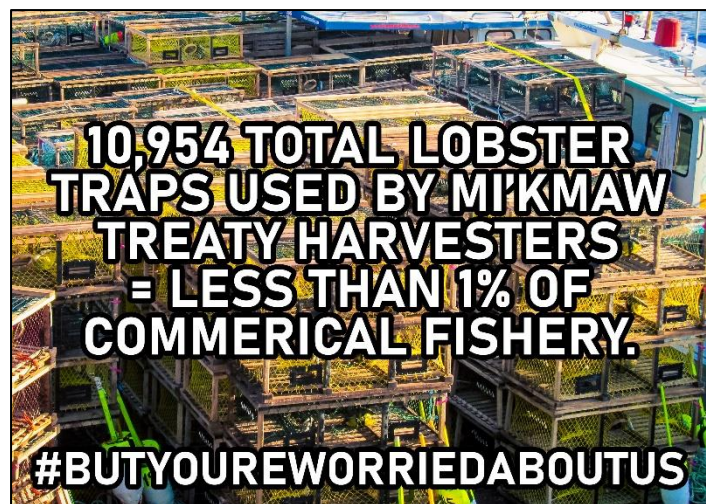
2. **Small % of fishery:** Our 10,954 traps are equal to just 42.44 commercial lobster licenses - which is less than 1% of all licenses in the region.

3. **Not catching enough lobster:** Between October 2022 and July 2023, Mi'kmaq harvesters only caught 193,273 pounds of lobster. This is much less than the expected amount of 1,548,600 lbs. for that number of traps.

4. **Comparing to others:** In 2016, commercial fishermen in our area caught 168,510,000 pounds of lobster. We caught less than 0.12% of that with the same amount of time this year.

5. **Not a big impact:** Even if we catch our expected amount, it would still be less than 1% of all lobster caught in our area.

Although participating in conservation-based data collection and reporting, we continue to face challenges from the government and non-Indigenous fishers regarding our efforts. We recognize that many who are out fishing to earn a livelihood are continuing to struggle because of the number of traps allowed and because you're having to fish in a mature, highly competitive space, alongside larger commercial vessels. Mi'kmaq harvesters are being harassed on wharf and water, and often find their equipment destroyed or tampered with. All these factors pose a safety risk to our harvesters and makes their already difficult job much harder. It is important to us that you know that we are voicing these concerns to DFO and pressing for change.



Research Update

This summer, KMK's Historical Researcher attended the annual *Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) Conference: Belonging* that was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He was able to make contacts within Indigenous and non-Indigenous archival organizations, while learning about best archival practices and building upon current knowledge and skills. The highlight of the conference was the engaging keynote address by Summerside, PEI Native, Poet Laureate, Julie Pellissier-Lush, who provided an overview of seven generations of women in her family through an archival lens.



CCGS Kopit Hopson 1752

On September 15th, the Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) *Kopit Hopson 1752* was officially renamed and rededicated. Originally commissioned as the CCGS Edward Cornwallis, this multi-tasked vessel was re-named to honour Mi'kmaq Chief Sagmaw Kopit and Governor Peregrine Thomas Hopson, who together negotiated and signed the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1752.

"The renaming of this vessel represents much more than just the unveiling of a new name. It represents a significant step forward, not only for the Mi'kmaq, but for all Treaty people. The name 'Kopit Hopson 1752' reflects the how long we've been working to build a nation-to-nation relationship and the importance of upholding Treaty commitments, while moving forward together in collaboration and cooperation" - Chief Sidney Peters, Assembly Co-Chair.

KMK was proud to help coordinate this event.

N'multis aqq Wela'lin

To stay up to date, check out our website or find us on Facebook or Instagram @ KMKNO1752

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