

## Message from KMK

We're excited to bring you a Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) specific update newsletter. We have a number of people at KMK working on the NSPI file (introductions on page 2) who will be providing updates and information on what they are working on and items that may be of interest to our Mi'kmaw community members.

The team you will meet in this newsletter, as well as all those working for Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK), works on behalf of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and under the direction of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs.

We want to be able to keep community members informed as NSPI projects move forward and to also bring forward any concerns or questions that you may have to NSPI. If any community member has questions or inquires about some thing in this newsletter, NSPI or their projects, please reach out to any of our team members. They would all be happy to chat!

## NSPI Mi'kmaq Bursary Recipients

There were 29 Candidates considered for this year's NSPI Mi'kmaq Bursary, with four individuals being awarded \$2,500 to further their studies in respected fields and academic aspirations. Congratulations to the 2024 recipients:



- Benjamin Marshall, Eskasoni First Nation
- Jocelyn Paul, Membertou First Nation
- Lori Paul, Wasoqopa'q First Nation
- Quinton Abram, Millbrook First Nation

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# About the KMK Team Working on NSPI Files

NSPI has been conducting refurbishment work to their hydro dams primarily to be compliant with the Canadian Dam Association Dam Safety Guidelines. Most of these structures across Nova Scotia are outdated, in need of repair/refurbishment or require fish passage to meet Department of Fisheries & Oceans requirements. There is a team at KMK who works on different aspects of the NSPI file. Below is a bit of information about each of them and you can find their contact information by visiting Our Team page on [www.mikmaqrights.com](http://www.mikmaqrights.com).



## **Kalolin Sullivan - NSPI Community Relations Liaison**

Kalolin started in her role as the NSPI Community Relations Liaison in November 2023, but has been working at KMK since 2022.

Her role is to develop and maintain relationships and participation with NSPI, Mi'kmaw communities and regulators. It is important to KMK that we ensure communication and transparency with NSPI projects and communities, and that we're able to educate and assist community members on active NSPI projects, power consumption and relationship building.

## **Greg Hart - Early Engagement Coordinator**

Greg's role is to develop and maintain relationships with NSPI, Mi'kmaw communities, regulators, and subcontractors before, during and after construction, ensuring minimal impacts to Mi'kmaw rights & title throughout the process.

Greg works with KMK's Consultation team, specifically on all NSPI Projects including capital projects, refurbishments, and new construction. He has over 15 years experience in construction and project management. Some of the projects he's working on include the Sheet Harbour Hydro System-Governor Dam Refurbishment; Black River Hydro System-Pasi'tuek (Gaspereau) Main Dam Refurbishment; Tusket Hydro System-Tusket Main Dam Refurbishment; and Wreck Cove Hydro System-Penstock intake/Infrastructure upgrades.



## **Tracy Menge - Benefits Officer**



Tracy has been the Benefits Officer at KMK since July 2020. Her role is to help ensure Mi'kmaw inclusion and participation in projects happening in Nova Scotia. Benefits can include, but are not limited to, employment and procurement opportunities. One of the proponents that the Benefits department engages with is Nova Scotia Power. In 2019, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and NSPI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to work together to cultivate a relationship of mutual respect, understanding and collaboration, with the goal to develop an Umbrella or Comprehensive Agreement. The MOU remains the focus for the evolving relationship between the parties and provides a framework for collaboration and initiatives related to environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, economic capacity, and community engagement.

## Stacey Tabor - NSPI Implementation Coordinator



Stacey works with both the NSPI and Benefits teams at KMK. Her main responsibility as Implementation Coordinator is to reach out to our Mi'kmaw communities to find potential employees/businesses that may want to be involved in the NB-NS Transmission Line Intertie Project. Within her role as Implementation Coordinator, she is also responsible for NSPI Community Monitors that will soon be employed.

Through this work, Stacey has also been able to build and maintain information for the Mi'kmaw Database and to help organize community sessions regarding procurement, training and employment. It is hoped that this database will be a place where we can provide the Mi'kmaq with opportunities to seek Procurement and Employment from a variety of companies within Nova Scotia. If you are an excavator operator, truck driver (35t or larger articulating truck), dozer operator, general laborer, spotter (for working under overhead utilities/high voltage wires), or want to work as a monitor, get in touch with Stacey! These are a few opportunities that are currently available.

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## Heather MacLeod-Leslie - Senior Archaeologist & Manager of Archaeology and Research

Heather has been with KMK since 2008 and has a Ph.D. in Archaeology from Memorial University of Newfoundland and has studied GIS and Remote Sensing. Heather's role focuses on conducting archaeological research that is required by the Nation to engage in rights implementation and title discussions with the Crown, as well as supporting the formal Consultation process. Heather and the Research and Archaeology Team are involved in field, community and document research, advising and governance readiness.



Heather has a wealth of experience in geomatics, remote sensing, satellite and aerial image interpretation, base-mapping and disaster response. She has previously worked to help with community-based technology knowledge transfer to northern First Nation communities in Yukon Territory and Ontario, and now as the Senior Archaeologist and Manager of Archaeology and Research for KMK. Heather and her team work to uphold the Assembly's mandate given them for the protection of Mi'kmaw archaeological, burial and sacred sites.

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## Patrick Butler - Senior Mi'kmaq Energy & Mines Advisor



Patrick is the Senior Mi'kmaq Energy & Mines Advisor with KMK, having joined the team in August 2020. He previously worked in the tidal energy industry and for his community of Potlotek First Nation. As the Energy & Mines Advisor, Patrick oversees the various energy and mining projects coming to Mi'kma'ki. This includes the wind energy, tidal energy, green hydrogen, and various mining efforts happening in the province.

If any community member has questions about Nova Scotia Power or their projects, please reach out to any of our NSPI team members, as they would all be happy to chat!

# Archaeology Update

Our Archaeology and Research Team attends the communities' working groups to support them on the Tusket, Mersey, Pasi'tuek (Gaspereau) and Roseway hydro system works, as well as performing research to contribute to formal discussions through the Consultation Department.

Work at Tusket is slow at the moment as NSPI and their utility regulators work out viable next steps due to unforeseen engineering challenges. The Mersey system refurbishment is slowly moving forward, with the next major effort being around the Cowie Falls area.

Pasi'tuek is still in the engagement and discussion stages, with some new, lesser-footprint options being brought to the table for discussion.

Roseway has adjusted to protect a previously unrecorded Mi'kmaw archaeological area of sensitivity from impacts, with the goal of ultimately decommissioning a piece of infrastructure and restoring natural flow.

A small group trip to the upper reaches of the Sheet Harbour Hydro system, to Governor Lake Dam, recently took place. While there, a recently recorded Mi'kmaw site was recommended for additional protection from works in the area to ensure no accidental impacts occur as a small spillway is replaced.



## Potential Employment Opportunities



RESUME & SKILLS



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

For more info, contact **Tracy Menge** [tmenge@mikmaqrights.com](mailto:tmenge@mikmaqrights.com)  
or **Stacy Marshall-Tabor** [stabor@mikmaqrights.com](mailto:stabor@mikmaqrights.com)

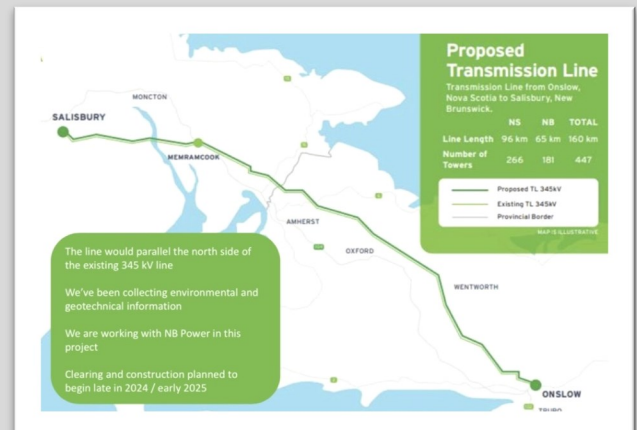
KMK and NSPI have adopted the “Mi'kmaw First Program” as a means of identifying and realizing potential project opportunities for Mi'kmaw communities. The Mi'kmaw Supplier Business Directory will be used to identify Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Business' and the Mi'kmaw Resume and Skills Database will be used to identify Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw who are interested in working with various industry partners. To find out more and to include your information in the database, follow the QR codes.

# About the Intertie Transmission Project

NSPI is proposing to construct a new 345 kV transmission line parallel to an existing transmission line (L8001) from Onslow, Nova Scotia to the New Brunswick border. This line will be strung on 266 separate steel towers and will run approximately 96 km within a 40m wide right-of-way.

The proposed project is part of a longer transmission line called the NS-NB Reliability Intertie. This line will extend from the Nova Scotia provincial border to Memramcook and then Salisbury; those segments will fall under New Brunswick's permitting process. This second Interconnection to New Brunswick is intended to assist NSPI in meeting provincial renewable energy targets, balance wind generation, and strengthen grid connectivity.

The proposed project will require tree clearing, site preparation, heavy equipment operation, site security, and assembly and installation of the steel structures. For construction, it is anticipated that various temporary facilities will be required including the temporary installation of bridging and matting for watercourse and wetland crossings, temporary marshalling and laydown yards, temporary access roads/trails, pull sites, and where required, improvements to existing access roads/trails.



In September 2023, KMK received an official request for consultation on the project by the NS Dept. of Environment and Climate Change on the Environmental Assessment. A Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS), Mainland Moose Assessment, and an archaeological screening report, have already been undertaken by NSPI. Since then, KMK has met regularly with the province and NSPI on the transmission line project and geotechnical site work has begun near areas that could have a high potential for Mi'kmaw archaeological interest, as laid out in the Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (ARIA) and MEKS. Discussions about this project will also be going to Paqtnkek and Pictou Landing First Nations, and in fact, community engagement with Pictou Landing is already underway.

## Battery Energy Storage Site Visit



As we work towards creating a greener future and more renewable energy sources are integrated, battery energy had become a solution that will help on days the wind isn't blowing, and the sun isn't shining.

Chief Peters and members of the KMK team visited the Battery Storage site in Bridgewater. Tree clearing has started, so they were able to get a look at where the future construction will take place.

Three 50 MW, 4- hour battery facilities have been proposed. The first site is planned to be operational in 2025.



# Site Visits

On May 22, the KMK team visited the Tusket site with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The visit included stops at the Tusket Main Dam, Tusket Tidally Influenced Pool & Carelton back dam, all of which are active in consultation.

On June 6, KMK team members visited the Roseway site with Wasoqopa'q First Nation, Mersey Working Group members and Nova Scotia Power. Pictured on the right are team members on the Roseway Project site visit.

An archaeologist retained by NSPI elaborated on artefacts found on site at the Roseway Dam.



On June 10, KMK team members attended a Cowie Falls Site visit with NSPI and DFO. Locations included were: Cowie Falls Powerhouse/fishway, bridge crossing; Deep Brook Powerhouse tailrace; Deep Brook Powerhouse/fishway.

Pictured left is the the Black River Hydro System. It is a rubber dam that we reviewed, connected to the Pasi'tuek/Gaspereau River.

Bottom left is Stacy at the Mactaquac Dam in New Brunswick .

Ruth Falls Dam in Sheet Harbour (bottom middle) is a refurbishment project we got to see before heading to Governor Dam.

There are two major turbines down inside a mountain at the Rhett Cove Hydro Operations where Stacey Tabor is standing (bottom right).



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

**Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn**

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