

Youth Assembly Meeting Highlights

MARCH 7, 2026

Purpose & Participation:

At their initial meeting, youth representatives from six of the Mi'kmaw communities gathered to introduce themselves, discuss motivations for joining, and begin shaping the structure and priorities of the Nova Scotia Youth Assembly. Members emphasized wanting to uplift youth voices, strengthen community engagement, and bring youth issues forward to Chiefs & Council. Youth Assembly will meet quarterly, with one annual joint meeting with all Chiefs.

Meeting Details

- **Welcome Message:** Meeting began with a message from Assembly Co-Leads Chief Sidney Peters and Chief Leroy Denny. In their message they highlighted:
 - Youth as the next generation of leaders
 - Importance of youth voice in governance
 - Background of the Mi'kmaw license plate youth fund
 - Encouragement to speak up and bring knowledge back to communities
- **Policy Reviews:** Youth reviewed and accepted the following with no edits:
 - Photo/Image Consent Policy
 - Financial Policy
 - Confidentiality Agreement
- **Representation Gaps:** Communities still needing youth representatives are Bear River, Annapolis Valley, Sipekne'katik, Millbrook, Paqtnkek, Wagmatcook. This was brought to the attention of the Assembly at their March 2026 meeting.
- **Governance Development:** Work began on Rules & Procedures of the Youth Assembly
- **Communications Decisions:** Youth Assembly decided they will use the existing "KMK for Youth" social media channels to get out any messages or notices. They also asked if KMK could create a Youth Assembly tab on their webpage, to feature Youth Assembly member names, community representation, and non-confidential meeting highlights.
- **Major Issues Identified:** The Youth raised several priority areas for future advocacy:
 - Policing & Dispensary Raids in communities
 - Child Welfare and youth placed off-reserve
 - Lack of Youth Spaces & Programming (youth centers, sports facilities, safe walking areas)
 - Limited Support for Older Youth (20–30)
 - Post-COVID Engagement Challenges (anxiety, low turnout, difficulty reaching off-reserve youth)
 - Disability Inclusion (confirmed as within mandate)



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn
Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.

75 Treaty Trail
Truro, NS B6L 1W3
1-888-803-3880

www.mikmaqrightrights.com