

Youth Assembly Meeting Highlights

JUNE 14, 2026

Purpose & Participation:

Youth representatives from across Mi'kmaw communities gathered to continue advancing the Nova Scotia Youth Assembly. Members focused on strengthening governance, increasing representation, and deepening discussions on youth priorities. Youth emphasized the importance of cultural connection, community engagement, and bringing forward issues impacting youth. The Assembly continues to meet quarterly, with one annual joint meeting with Chiefs.

Meeting Details

Policy & Governance Updates:

Youth reviewed and refined the Rules & Procedures document, including membership eligibility, responsibilities, and governance structure. Quorum was updated to reflect increased membership (7 members). The Assembly reaffirmed a formal motion and voting process.

Leadership Development:

Youth confirmed the establishment of two Co-Chair positions. A motion was passed requiring one Co-Chair from mainland and one from Cape Breton. Elections will include candidate statements and anonymous voting.

Representation & Participation:

The Assembly has grown to 10 members. Remaining representation gaps include Bear River, Annapolis Valley, and Paqtnkek. Youth continue recruitment efforts. Monthly rotation for attendance at the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs meetings was updated.

Communications:

Youth will continue using KMK for Youth social media channels. A Youth Assembly webpage is in development, including member profiles, highlights, and photos. Professional headshots are planned.

Major Issues Identified:

- Cultural Revitalization: Need for more cultural camps, teachings, and land-based programming; concern over loss of elders and knowledge keepers.
- Youth Engagement Challenges: Low participation, post-COVID impacts, and need for stronger outreach.
- Substance Use Concerns: Increasing alcohol and cannabis use linked to lack of opportunities.
- Older Youth Gap: Limited programming for ages 20–30.
- Community Differences: Uneven access to programs and resources across communities.
- Collaboration Needs: Strong interest in sharing resources, programs, and visiting communities.

Overall, the meeting reflected strong engagement and a growing Assembly from youth to lead, collaborate, and advocate for meaningful change across Mi'kmaw communities.



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