



2018/19



Annual Report

THE CONFEDERACY OF MAINLAND MI'KMAQ

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Cover photo: Imagine communities of people who lived at the base of the Cobequid Mountains for more than a thousand years. This is the story of the **Mi’kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail**.

PDF for WEB: We are pleased to be able to show colour photos in the activity report sections of this year’s on-line version of the Annual Report.

Both colour and b/w photos in this PDF have been saved at 150 dpi to reduce file size for downloading.



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Executive Director's Message

Kwe' to all my relations. It brings me great pride to provide you with this annual report of the Tribal Council. It is hard to believe that this year

we will host our 33rd CMM Annual General Assembly—a time to gather and reflect back on what our organization has accomplished over the last year for our Member Communities, whilst also ensuring we are providing the best services to all.

We have had some major developments over the past year. Primarily, the addition of Acadia First Nation to our CMM Family. After 25 years of serving as your Executive Director at CMM, I cannot express the pride felt when, for this first time in history, I will witness CMM providing services to all eight of Nova Scotia's mainland Mi'kmaq communities.

At our AGA, we will be rolling out our new five-year strategic plan at CMM. The Board of Directors advised that this would be the best avenue for introducing our Chiefs and Councils to the changes we are hoping to implement over the next few years. A lot of time and effort has gone into developing this plan and it will take more time to see it fully implemented—but we are already starting to see those changes.

One of the first and most important steps to implementation was naming my successor and Associate Executive Director, Angie Gillis, who will play a large role in rolling out the strategic plan at CMM.

As we roll out this plan, it will be important to know the process that took place to get it where it is today. Many individuals contributed to the strategic plan.

For example, over the course of the last year, CMM held consultation sessions with each of its Member Communities. At that time, we heard your messages regarding gaps in capacity and services. We reflected on those messages and addressed them in the strategic plan. We knew that developing any new programs or identifying any new opportunities for our communities would require us to first meet with all Chiefs and Councils and listen to how we can better serve them.

To achieve what is set out in the strategic plan, CMM will undertake further work to identify program and project funding—both for the organization and for its Member Communities. A tribal organization is only successful if its communities are as well, so making sure there is capacity within our communities to continue to work alongside CMM staff will be important. This will inevitably increase the size of the organization; however, together, and upon your approval of the plan, we can all move forward and grow as one—which includes creating more jobs for our Member Communities.

Currently, CMM is housed in four locations: 1) the headquarters office at 57 Martin Crescent; 2) Hilden Office (aka H20); 3) the Old Millbrook Day Care building (aka M30); and, 4) Eastern Woodland Print Communications. Once implementation of the strategic plan is underway, efforts will be made to work through our development corporation (*Mainland Mi'kmaq Development Inc.*) to build an office space where we will all be housed under one roof again.

CMM has been very fortunate to have many talented employees researching numerous prospects for funding and resources in a number of important sectors for our Member Communities. They are responsible for ensuring there are no missed opportunities.

As an organization is only as strong as the personnel who work for it, we strive to identify staff who maintain a passion for improving the way of life and providing important services to our communities.

Our *Summer Student Program* is one of those programs that helps our Mi'kmaw Youth pursue their future aspirations. It provides them with hands-on experience working for our Member Communities in a professional setting. This experience is very important, as they will be our future leaders.

It is for all these reasons that we are pleased to provide this Annual Report to you, our Member Communities, so you can see how much we have done and will continue to do, for all of you.

In recent years, we have seen the federal government do a lot for Aboriginal people across Canada. In my time as Executive Director, I have never witnessed the amount of support and funding equal to what this government has committed to our people. As you are well aware, this Fall we are facing another federal election. It is my hope that the positive relationships and progress we are making will be further strengthened by future federal leaders.

Our Member Communities will also be going into their own election processes. These elections start in the Fall, with Paqtnekek (Nov 2019), Pictou Landing (Nov 2019), Bear River (Dec 2019), Annapolis Valley (Dec 2019), Millbrook (Feb 2020) and Sipekne'katik (Nov 2020). Within our Member First Nations we have also two Custom Election Bands: Acadia (June 2020) and Glooscap (March 2022).

In conclusion, I strongly encourage all of you to take the time and read what we have been up to over the last year. The report will also provide information of CMM's staff who fill several initiatives and deliver them to our

Member Communities. Please feel free to reach out and ask questions to either myself or the CMM Senior Directors or Program Managers.

We are in exciting times, especially with the continued support and leadership of our Member First Nations Chiefs and Council Members!

We are watching very closely a number of situations that have to be addressed in 2019–2020 fiscal year. This includes but is not limited to the following: Tripartite Secretariat (Forum), Mi'kmaq Nova Scotia Health Authority Development social project, Mi'kmaq Fisheries, Mi'kmawey Forest Initiative (including any future Mi'kmaq Lands)—just to name a few large-scale portfolios currently under review and implementation.

At CMM we promise to continue to build on our solid reputation, financial responsibility, and accountability to our Member Communities as well as our business partners. We will continue to follow the wisdom and guidance of our Leadership and continue to engage with our youth!

Wela'liek



Dr. Donald M. Julien, C.M., O.N.S., DCL., DHumL
Executive Director




Executive Director Don Julien congratulates his long-time friend and now Senator, Dan Christmas, at the opening of Dan's new office in his home community of Membertou

NOVA SCOTIA Mi'kmaw Communities




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Chief Michael P. Sack

CMM Board of Directors



A Board of Directors, comprised of the eight Chiefs of the member Mi'kmaw communities and the District Chief, governs CMM. They meet on a monthly basis to give their expertise and guidance to ensure the best interests of the community members are being supported and promoted.



CHIEF DEBORAH ROBINSON
ACADIA



CHIEF GERALD B TONEY
ANNAPOLIS VALLEY



CHIEF MICHAEL SACK
SIPEKNE'KATIK



CHIEF CAROL D. POTTER
BEAR RIVER



**DISTRICT CHIEF
RODERICK (RODDIE) FRANCIS**
PICTOU LANDING



CHIEF ANDREA PAUL
PICTOU LANDING



CHIEF SIDNEY PETERS
GLOOSCAP



**CHIEF PAUL JAMES (PJ)
PROSPER**
PAQTNKEK



CHIEF ROBERT GLOADE
MILLBROOK

Organizational Profile

The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) is a Tribal Council representing the interests of eight Mi'kmaq communities: Acadia, Annapolis Valley, Bear River, Glooscap, Millbrook, Paqtnkek, Pictou Landing and Sipene'katik.

In 1986, CMM was registered as a non-profit organization in the province of Nova Scotia.

The list of programs and services has expanded and diversified over the past 30+ years of operation. Initially mandated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to deliver advisory services in finance, economic development, community planning, technical services and band governance, CMM soon looked to member communities for direction. The mandate from its member communities took priority and continues to do so today.

The mission statement best summarizes the objectives of the organization:

*To proactively promote and assist
Mi'kmaq communities' initiatives
toward self-determination
and enhancement of community*

The clear support and direction from the member communities has enabled the organization to grow and flourish far beyond the INAC mandate.

Affiliated Entities

The Confederacy operates within a solid accountability framework offering transparency, disclosure and redress to all stakeholders. The organization has consistently maintained a positive financial position since its inception.

From its strong foundation, CMM has also expanded its services and programs by establishing several affiliated entities:

Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News
(MMNN) in 1992

Eastern Woodland Print Communications
(EWPC) (originally called Eastern Woodland Publishing) in 1996

Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre
(MDCC) in 2002



Management Structure



Dr. Donald M. Julien,
DCL, DHUML, O.N.S.
Executive Director



Lynn Knockwood
Director of Common Services



Jim Hepworth
Director of Community
Programs & Corporate
Services



Angie Gillis
Associate Executive Director
Director of Dept. of Environment
& Natural Resources



Tim Bernard
Director of History & Culture



Mary Jane Abram
Legal Advisor

Common Services



The Common Services department provides a foundation of support services and accountability from which all services and programs evolve and operate. From inception to completion, Common Services is an integral component of all CMM Initiatives. Common Services staff offer advisory services to member communities upon request to enhance administrative and financial capacity.

Finance

With the completion of its 33rd unqualified audit, CMM closed the fiscal year once again with a modest surplus (0.01%). The Finance department administered 155 funding agreements from 31 different funding sources, successfully providing the financial accountability and fulfilling the financial reporting requirements of each agreement.

There were 109 Service Contracts administered, and payroll numbers topped at 78 employees, reflecting the continuing pattern of the growth of the Tribal Council.

Meetings, Conferences, Workshops

At the request of CMM leadership, a CMM General Assembly was held December 7, 2018, bringing together the Chiefs and Councillors of member communities for a day of networking, general discussion of current issues and the strategic direction of the Tribal Council.

Participants of Emergency Management Training – Risk Management Session



Participants of EMT – Business Continuity Planning (Emergency Management Training)

In the past year, three sessions were delivered to prepare communities for emergency situations:

1. Risk Management/ISO 100 (June)
2. Business Continuity (July)
3. Public Information Office (November)

Adult Alternative Care

CMM administers contracts with Special Care Facilities throughout Nova Scotia to support First Nations clients formerly resident on reserve.

CMM visited all clients and will continue to be the bridge for guidance and support for members entering Adult Care Facilities. In 2018/19, CMM had 20 clients in 7 different facilities throughout Nova Scotia.



(above) Staff Training Session on Finance – CMM Finance Manager Oriana Galfi with CMM Program Manager (July); (below) Emergency Management Training – Business Continuity Planning (July)

Office Management

CMM opened a new office location in Millbrook this year to house additional staff. CMM now occupies and provides day-to-day management for four locations:

- Main Office – 57 Martin Crescent, Millbrook (beneath the Community Gym)
- Millbrook Community Hall – MMNN & EWPC 72 Church Road, Millbrook
- Hilden Sub-Office – Health Department and MCG 1174 Hilden Road, Hilden
- Millbrook Sub-Office – Green Communities & Health Department, 851 Willow Street, Millbrook

ACRS/Maintenance Management

Common Services once again project managed the NS/Nfld ACRS contract. This year, We'koqma'q, Paqtnekek, Pictou Landing, Millbrook & Miaqpukek Conne River were subject to ACRS inspections and reports. New reporting processes were implemented to allow compliance with changes at Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

Maintenance management reports were also provided to ISC and communities. Preliminary discussion began with ISC and NSTC to link maintenance management and ACRS. At year-end, plans for a FN Atlantic Asset Management Conference were well underway.



Consultations

As a requirement under its accountability framework, CMM held its bi-annual community consultation sessions. The CMM Senior Management Team met with the Chief and Counsellors of member First Nations to discuss specific concerns and needs of each community and provide an opportunity for feedback to the tribal council regarding programs and services. Following these sessions, findings were summarized and a plan for action was shared with leadership.

Strategic Planning

Building on the results of the leadership consultations and the current changes in government services and programming, CMM expanded its Strategic Plan to create an organizational structure to meet the current and anticipated needs of its Member Communities. The new structure and plan were well accepted by the CMM Board and will be presented to the CMM Annual Assembly in June 2019.

Policy Development

Responding to a request from the CMM Board, policy was drafted regarding the recruitment, oversight, evaluation, compensation, job descriptions, etc. for the Senior Director positions of the organization. Work began on revisions to the Governance Policy, and job descriptions needed to support the new organization structure proposed in the CMM Strategic Plan.

Capacity Development

Mi'kmaw leadership, community members, Band staff, elders, and youth are often appointed to boards of various organizations or business entities. CMM has developed a series of modules to address various aspects of such appointments to ensure confidence and capacity for effective performance.

The series is titled “The Confident Board Member” and covers four main components:

1. Financial Statements – Understanding the financial position and health of the organization
2. Key responsibilities and duties of the board members of an organization
3. Liabilities and risk of board members and how to mitigate exposure
4. Corporate governance processes and structures, including board membership, selection, meetings, committees, resignations, performance evaluations of board and individual board members

Delivery of this capacity development initiative will be piloted early in the next fiscal year.

Legal Services

The Legal Services unit provides corporate legal services to CMM, protecting the interests of the Tribal Council. Oversight and recommendations regarding the legal affairs, requirements and operations of the entity fall within this unit to ensure compliance with current legislation.

During 2018/19, CMM Legal Services continued to develop capacity, resources and materials in response to community interests and legislative change. Three topics provided the platform for attention this year: Matrimonial Real Property, Cannabis Legislation, and Wills and Estates.

MATRIMONIAL REAL PROPERTY (MRP)

Legal Services worked with Paqtnkek, Sipekne'katik, Pictou Landing and Bear River to develop strategies for the implementation and enforcement of community MRP laws. The process included a review of MRP laws, a gap analysis to determine each First Nation's ability to meet its obligations and exercise its rights, and a procedural process map tracking the documentation from the first instance, through action(s) taken, to final filing and storage. MRP Implementation and Enforcement Strategies were drafted for each participating community.

Important components of the MRP process when addressing issues/concerns/disputes, and fulfilling the obligations of leadership, are privacy and confidentiality. Legal Services delivered a two-day workshop to five member communities to discuss these topics and provide information and recommendations on Domestic Agreements. Following the workshop, a draft Domestic Agreement Guide and presentation (PDF with audio) were produced. Both of these resources are now available on-line.

CANNABIS LEGISLATION

CMM engaged legal expertise to review the Personnel and/or Human Resource Policies of CMM Member Communities and make recommendations for changes as needed to accommodate the Cannabis Act and any other applicable provincial legislation. Template policies were developed and posted on the CMM website.

A four-day information session was held with representatives from each community. Two days involved individual meetings to discuss findings and recommendations for each community. The remaining two days covered cannabis education, health implications and legislation.

Bylaws regarding cannabis and/or smoking were drafted and forwarded to the communities for their consideration.

WILLS AND ESTATES

CMM contracted eight lawyers in proximity to each of CMM's seven member communities to hold education/awareness sessions about wills and estates. Communities now have legal support that is both near to and familiar with their community, and well-versed on aspects of wills and estates that apply to First Nations members who live on reserve. Seventy individual wills were prepared during this initiative.

The following resource materials were reprinted, distributed to the communities, and are posted on the CMM website:

- How to Write a Will
- How to Settle an Estate
- How to Write a Power of Attorney and Personal Directive



Two of the legal services guides available through the CMM website

Looking Forward >>> 2019–2020

- Download ACRS, Maintenance Management, Emergency Management, etc. as the organization transitions to its proposed new structure, and provide mentorship for new staff as needed
- Develop a plan and proposal for HR management to address the needs of the Tribal Council and to respond to the needs and issues identified through the CMM consultation process
- Revise and ratify Financial Policy and Travel Policy
- Install and implement computer software to track leave sheets. Provide staff training and back-up for processing payroll
- Regarding legal services, CMM will continue to offer capacity development opportunities and follow-up in areas identified by Member Communities. Several communities have identified interest in several aspects of governance and accountability structures for community leadership, private companies, and non-profit organizations
- In keeping with the CMM Strategic Plan, CMM will be looking at community needs as well as corporate needs for legal services, and will develop a structure that assists communities to best utilize limited resources
- Pilot delivery of capacity development sessions – “The Confident Board Member”

Community Programs & Corporate Services



Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Tripartite Forum



The Mi'kmaq–Nova Scotia–Canada Tripartite Forum was formed in 1997 as a partnership between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada, to strengthen issues of mutual concern affecting Mi'kmaq communities. It is a strong vehicle in addressing issues that affect the lives of all Mi'kmaq living in Nova Scotia. All parties agree to work together without prejudice and by consensus to discuss and resolve issues.

2018/19 REVIEW

The Tripartite Forum continues to hold its working meetings all over the province in an effort to be accessible to all its member communities. The two Tripartite Forum Administrators organized well over 30 meetings and conference calls for the various levels of the organization in the past year.

The Administrators ensure that all members and organizations are kept up-to-date, that meetings materials are clear, concise and current and shared with all members of the organizations and partners, and that materials are then cataloged for future work.

After the 20th Anniversary Working Development Session in Digby last fall, the communications officer took those efforts and elevated them to a more holistic approach for the Forum moving forward—To engage with member organizations and leadership to ensure that all communications efforts work towards the same goal.

The Tripartite Communications Officer continued efforts to streamline communications during the 2018/19 fiscal year. This included:

- Engagement sessions with stakeholders to create a baseline of information to move strategic communications practices forward
- Drafting new information
- Ensuring key stakeholders are engaged in a timely manner
- Creating a strategic communications mechanism for information flow, both internally and external to the organization
- Ensuring tactics, timelines and materials mirror that of our member organizations for fluidity

Next Steps

- Continue engagement sessions with stakeholders to ensure that communication exercises meet the needs of all organizations and partners at the Tripartite Forum.
- On-going commitment to transparency and timely information.
- Continue to create and draft new outreach mechanisms for future outreach goals.

Tripartite Forum Justice Committee visiting the Wagmatcook Wellness Court the day before its Grand Opening, with Judge Laurie Halfpenny MacQuarrie





Tripartite Forum Culture and Heritage Co-chairs viewing the Shubenacadie residential school site

Tripartite Forum Project Fund for Social and Economic Change (PFFSEC)

The Project Fund for Social and Economic Change funds projects that close the gap in social and economic outcomes for Mi'kmaq communities and individuals in Nova Scotia. The fund is used to support unique activities and initiatives that may not fit within existing government programs or budget plans, and to leverage other funding.

2018/19 REVIEW

The following projects stood out this year for their contributions to Mi'kmaq communities all over Nova Scotia:

- **Phase One: Mi'kmaq Jurisdictional Authority Over By-Laws**
Justice Working Committee — At the November 2017 Tripartite Officials meeting, the Tripartite Forum Justice Committee was asked to add by-laws to their work plan. With this direction they began with Phase One of the multi-phased project: *Mi'kmaq Jurisdictional Authority over By-laws*.
 Phase One of the by-law project focuses on exploring and documenting existing information in the field of First Nation by-laws, through research and data collection. This includes: a literature review, interviews and comparative by-laws across Canada.
- **IRS Commemoration – Phase One: Engaging Survivors and Descendants**
Culture and Heritage Working Committee — Outlined in the 94 Calls to Action for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the Culture and Heritage Committee began phase one of the IRS Commemoration. The project hosted engagement sessions with survivors to find out how to commemorate the survivors of the Indian Residential School in Shubenacadie, and the legacy of the residential school experience.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE TRIPARTITE FORUM PFFSEC 2018/19

- Phase II Mawio'mi Economic and Cultural Impact Study
- Mapping Death and Burial on Bras d'Or
- Printing and Distribution of Racism in Sport Signage
- Exploring "Wraparound" Service Delivery Development of Addictions Journey Aftercare in Mi'kmaq Communities

Next Steps:

- Ongoing continuity and consistency of the Tripartite Forum Project Fund Guidelines
- Continued monitoring of projects and assurance of keeping the Project Fund on track

Tripartite Liaison

Under the direction of CMM and aligned with the overall vision and policy of Tripartite Executive and Officials Committees, the Liaison Officer actively promotes the Forum represents the interests of their organization. The Liaison participates as an active member of the Forum's Steering Committee, helping to foster the relationship between the three government parties as it relates to the substantive issues of concern to the Forum working committees.

The Liaison role, carried out by Brenda Tracey since 2004, also ensures that priorities and issues identified within the Committee workplans reflect CMM Member Community needs.

2018/19 REVIEW

The following are some of the duties the Liaison Officer carried out this past year, and on an on-going basis:

- The Liaison Officer met monthly (or as needed) with the Board of Directors, keeping them updated on issues and concerns arising within the Forum
- Provided a yearly budget for CMM to present to our Funding Partners
- Provided briefing notes and committee updates to the CMM Board; as well as information to help prepare them for the Tripartite Officials and Executive meetings
- Worked with CMM's working committee representatives to relay information from the Board and get updates on the work they are doing within their committees

*2018 Sammy Gehue Achievement
Award winners and family, with
CMM Executive Director Don Julien*

- Helped both the Board and representatives with the policy and procedures of the Forum
- Provided quarterly reports to our Federal and Provincial partners at the Forum
- Sat on the Steering committee and was a Steering representative for the following committees: Culture & Heritage, Health, and Social; and an alternate for the Education committee

Next Steps

- The Liaison will undertake the following initiatives:
 - Work with members of CMM on a Move Forward Plan for the Tripartite Forum
 - Work with CMM Board of Directors on communication and information needs
 - Work with the Secretariat and CMM's finance department to ensure the quarterly reports are completed

Education

In the 2018/19 academic year CMM sponsored 90 students (79 of whom were full-time and 11 part-time). Nine of the part-time students came from Pictou Landing and enrolled in the CBU Community-based BA Program.

We are anticipating 11 graduates in Spring 2019. They vary in programs from Certificate in Utility Line Work, Bachelor of Fine Arts/Education to Master of Chemical Engineering.

The 2018 **Sammy Gehue Achievement Award** winners:

- 1st Place: Marlee Paul, Pictou Landing
- 2nd Place: Grazen Gould, Eskasoni
- 3rd Place: Thunder Thomas, Pictou Landing
- The 2018 Grade 12 Graduate winner was Duma Bernard, Eskasoni

The Education Advisor sits on the following committees:

- CMM Education Advisory
- The Education Tripartite;
- Council on Mi'kmaq Education (CME)
- Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Education Working group
- Unama'ki College Board.



Health

Welo'tijik Mimajuinu'k - Welo'tikl Wutanl



(Healthy People – Health Communities)

The Health unit continues to grow, with an aim for better service for all the Member Communities. The unit consists of the Health Services Manager, Diabetes Community Consultant, Child and Youth Advisor (FASD project), Resolution Health Support Advisor, Hospital Interpreter Liaison, and Jordan's Principle Team.

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGER

The Health Services Manager oversees the CMM Health unit and provides liaison services to ensure CMM represents the health needs of its communities. The manager works with provincial and federal partners, and focuses on creating and supporting opportunities for First Nations and their partners to develop strong collaborative relationships that will support access, quality care, and help resolve jurisdictional issues and misunderstandings related to First Nations access to provincially and federally funded health programs and services.

• JANUARY 2019 SESSIONS

CMM hosted Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) regional engagement sessions for communities: January 10th (Old Orchard Inn) and February 4th (Millbrook Community Hall).

The sessions were facilitated by ISC Atlantic planning leads Geoff Cole and Wade Were, with the participation of Debra Keays-White in Wolfville.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue a conversation on the creation of the new federal department – Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The conversation started in Spring 2018 to help bring the Atlantic voice into the development of the departmental Strategic Plan, and the subsequent development of regional implementation plans. These

plans are intended to guide and transform the way ISC does business in the region and nationally to support Indigenous services delivery and Indigenous self-determination. At this session, themes of earlier engagements were presented and participants had an opportunity to identify what was missing and what was most important. Vision, values/guiding principles, and goals were discussed.

HOSPITAL INTERPRETER LIAISON PROGRAM (HILP)

Navigating the healthcare systems can be a confusing and complex undertaking. CMM’s Hospital Interpreters Liaison Program provides supports and services to all Atlantic First Nations and Inuit community members (and their families) who request support while receiving and/or about to receive medical treatment in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Translation services (Mi’kmaq/English) are an integral part of this service. Mi’kmaq communities in Nova Scotia have indicated to CMM that the HILP provides valuable and excellent service to individuals and families accessing medical services and treatment in the Halifax/Dartmouth area.

During 2018/19 the HILP provided 742 services to 203 clients.



Kenny Prosper has been our Interpreters Liaison for over 25 Years

ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE (ADI)

The Diabetes Community Consultant (DCC) continues to collaborate with CMM Health Staff, community health center staff and community members to facilitate events and programs that meet the needs of community members and promote the prevention and management of diabetes.

The DCC supports health promotion and diabetes prevention and management activities/services along with the following areas of focus: Healthy Living initiatives for children, youth, parents and families; Diabetes in pre-pregnancy and pregnancy; Community-led food security planning; and, Physical activity initiatives.

2018/19 ADI HIGHLIGHTS

Two **Diabetes Self-Management Journeys** took place in Nova Scotia. Participants from various CMM communities learned about all aspects of diabetes and its management. Communities could send two people living with diabetes, plus their supports to attend.

The Diabetes Community Consultant continues to deliver **presentations on diabetes and healthy lifestyle topics** in all the CMM Member Communities and with Community schools. Topics included healthy snacks for youth, healthy eating for seniors, meal planning, diabetes prevention, diabetes management, healthy eating on a budget, community gardening, label reading, physical activity, foot care, and healthy weights.

Education sessions offered to expecting or new parents include prenatal nutrition, gestational diabetes, feeding healthy toddlers, picky eating and baby food making.

JORDAN’S PRINCIPLE

The Jordan’s Principle Service Coordination Program is rapidly growing to meet the needs of First Nations children and their families in mainland Nova Scotia. Currently there are four Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinators and one Administrator. This program currently supports over 380 children. First Nations children are now able to access respite, assessments, educational support and medical equipment and supplies to help improve their lives.

The program is expected to continue to grow in 2019/20 and we will look to add a team Lead as well as an additional Jordan’s Principle Service Coordinator who will focus on the education needs of children.

Youth in communities participating in the ADI’s Healthy Eating Workshops as a way of diabetes prevention and health management



CHILD AND YOUTH ADVISOR

A change this year has been to combine the **FASD project** with the **National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy** (NAYSPS) into one position. This position is now called the Child and Youth Advisor.

The Child and Youth Advisor works with the eight mainland Mi'kmaw communities to provide support for people with neurodevelopmental conditions including FASD, and their families, by providing family-centered identification and helping to get intervention services in place.

We provide a comprehensive early identification and intervention system of support services for children (from birth to age 6) and we work to build relationships between provincial services such as Developmental Intervention and the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres.

In total, 128 children (birth to age 6) were screened within our communities in 2018/19. Referrals were made to Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services, Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech, and Jordan's Principle.

The Child and Youth Advisor also now hosts Youth Retreats such as the Celebrating Life events and Keji Youth event. In total 66 youth were reached through this program.

RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

This program provides emotional and referral support services to Residential School Students and their families in the Mainland Bands. The Resolution Health Support Advisor (RHSA) meets with former students and their families to help them find ways of healing from Indian Residential School experiences.

The goal of the RHSP is to support in *"Helping Families Heal – Apoqnmukik Kikmanaq Tupkwia'tinew."*

2018/19 UPDATES

- Outreach continued through community visits, cultural and educational workshops. The program now has over 250 regional clients.
- The Nepisultikw Gathering took place at Liscombe Lodge in November 2018. Over 75 descendants of residential school students took part in a weekend healing retreat. Some services available over the weekend included: Key-note speaker Senator Dan Christmas, trauma education,



Community members at the Keji Youth Gathering took part in mental wellness, healthy eating, and cultural activities

counsellors for grief focused counselling, traditional teachings and ceremonies including a sweat lodge that was open all weekend, meditation, drum-making, a blanket exercise and art therapy.

Next Steps

- The Resolution Health Support Program is continuing to grow and spread awareness, educational support and navigation of healthcare services for clients. Moving into the 2019/20 fiscal year, we received funding and will be adding an additional RHSA.

MAINLAND MENTAL WELLNESS TEAM

The Mainland Mental Wellness Team works in Pictou Landing, Millbrook, Sipekne'katik, Glooscap, Annapolis Valley, Bear River and Acadia. The team works with individuals on developing a wellness plan and advocating and navigating the mental health system (and other associated provincial systems), as well as helping connect clients with traditional healers if requested. We work individually with clients who live both on and off reserve, and provide workshops and groups to communities and community partners.



Bridget Gloade (Millbrook) proudly displays her door prize after participating in Mental Wellness workshop

This year we have offered a total of 66 workshops with a total of 466 participants. Some of these programs were:

- 4-week Path to Wellness program in most of the communities
- Anger Management
- Healthy Aging
- Self-Care

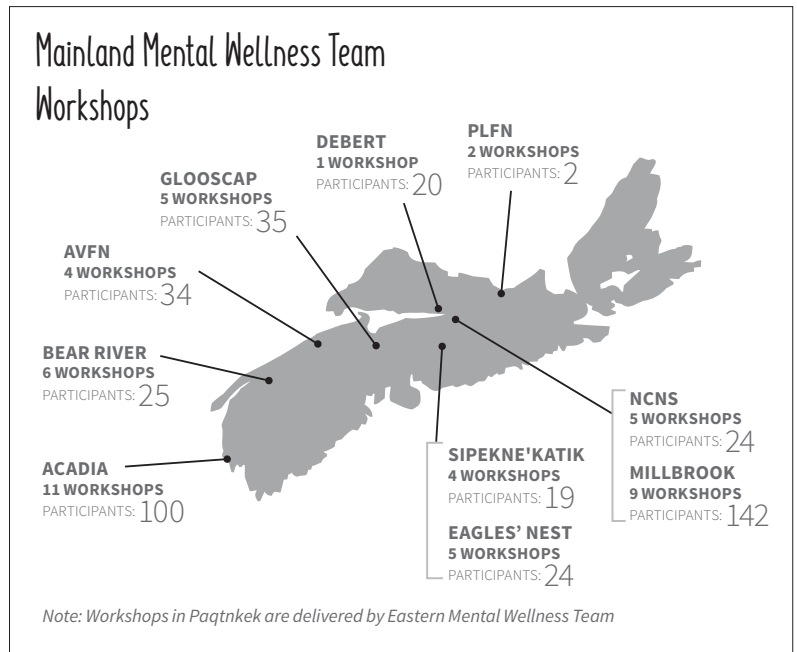
(cont'd)

- Mindfulness
- Self-esteem
- Anxiety
- Kids Mental Health
- Dementia Workshop
- Optimal Aging (4-week program)
- Healthy Boundaries
- Amazing Race for families and youth

Next Steps

Planned workshops for the summer months include:

- **Walk and Talk** program in Glooscap, and possibly Gold River
- **Mental Health** escape room
- **Family and Community** trivia night
- **Pre-Summer Challenge:** 8-week path to Wellness
- **Optimal Aging** in Millbrook, and possibly in Pictou Landing and Annapolis
- **Planning and participating** in **Kejimikujik Youth Gathering** (set to take place September 2019)



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

This program assists band members with applications for registration and membership. The Membership Clerk issues Indian Status cards within the policy and guidelines set out by the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. All status Indians are registered through the Indian Registry. This confidential database holds information on births, marriages, divorces, transfers, name changes and deaths.

Confirmation of Indian Status is often requested for gas tax exemption, access to health benefits and distribution of band funds from claims settlements or other communal revenues. Band lists compiled by the Membership Program are used to determine voting eligibility for community leadership elections. Membership lists also form the basis for per-capita community funding agreements.

FEB 2019 MEETINGS

CMM facilitated a session with members comprised of the Chief, Council and band administration on the Collaborative Process on Indian Registration, Band Membership, and First Nation Citizenship. (The meetings were held on February 11 in Millbrook First Nation and February 12 in Glooscap First Nation.)

The sessions covered topics under the Collaborative Process on Indian Registration, Band Membership, and First Nation Citizenship so that participants could provide their response around: Removal of the 1951 cut-off and its implications; Remaining inequities related to registration and membership

POPULATION STATISTICS

Indian Registration System for April 2019
Age Range: From 0 to 115

Community	Members On Reserve	Members Off Reserve	Total Members
Paqtnkek	453	143	596
Annapolis Valley	122	176	298
Bear River	113	233	346
Pictou Landing	509	161	670
Millbrook	944	982	1926
Glooscap	98	291	389
Sipekne'katik	1381	1353	2734
Acadia	240	1378	1618
Grand Total	3860	4717	8577

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
NOTE: Sipekne'katik and Acadia administer their own membership program

under the Indian Act; and, First Nations' exclusive responsibility for determining membership/citizenship (moving beyond the Indian Act).

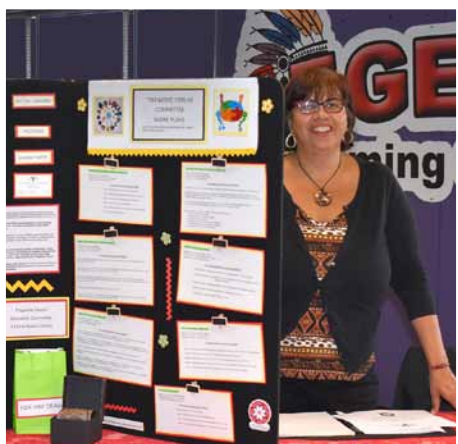
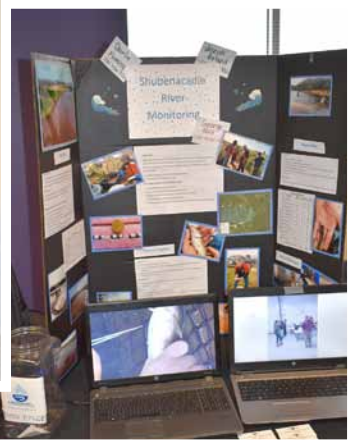
The Minister's Special Representative, Ms. Claudette Dumont-Smith, and Chad Kicknosway, Minister's Special Representative Liaison and Subject Matter Expert, led the consultation to ensure that the dialogues account for and reflect the diversity of viewpoints of the participating individuals and communities.

The report from these two sessions were then submitted March 15, 2019 to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada as input for CIRNAC's Parliamentary Progress Report and for the Minister's Special Representative's Report which is due for June 12, 2019.

Annual General Assembly

June 2018





Department of Environment & Natural Resources



The DENR Senior Director provides oversight and guidance on several files, projects and services offered to CMM's member communities. She is also responsible for building relationships and acting as the spokesperson for the DENR on behalf of the communities her department represents. As a result, the director sits on several committees and boards, including: Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) Board of Directors; the Assembly of NS Chiefs' Mi'kmaw Fisheries Committee and Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative; Dalhousie's Faculties of Management and Agriculture Advisory Boards; and, the National First Nation Solid Waste Management Initiative.

Over the past seven years, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has undergone significant growth. Moving forward, the Director strives to continue building her department to service the needs of our member communities and further develop the capacity within our communities to play an equal role in the Environmental and Natural Resources sector. Her vision includes implementing smaller-scale DENR offices in each of CMM's member communities and build the capacity to prepare and deliver projects with guidance from CMM for generations to come.



DENR Common Services

COMMUNITY LIAISON

The DENR Community Liaison Officer is responsible for planning and organizing all the workshops, community events, outreach and education, and event booth set up for MCG, Mi'kmaw Forestry, Mi'kmaw Green Communities, and Climate Action. This ranges from booking event spaces, connecting key community members and knowledge holders with projects and programs within DENR, and making sure cultural aspects such as opening prayers and smudging are included in our events.

The Community Liaison Officer also provides connections to our eight communities and supports in the field when needed for each department. Staying current with community priorities and issues, the officer helps develop culturally relevant and respectful education and outreach materials.

GIS SPECIALIST

The GIS Specialist is responsible for developing and maintaining a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. The database—used for mapping the geographic data of Nova Scotia's watersheds and landscapes—provides several key values to DENR. For example, it contains Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge on sites used for fishing and conservation, which has been gathered from past DENR projects. The database provides simple and easy visual access, which helps staff shape future Species-at-Risk (SAR), conservation, and management projects. The GIS Specialist also works closely with other DENR staff to create maps and visual representations of data used by the researchers for field work and education.

DENR showing their support at the Pictou Landing First Nation No Pipe 2020 event

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

DENR Communications continues to strengthen and expand on strategies for effective communication with our eight member communities and partner organizations—providing communication opportunities and access across Mi'kma'ki. Throughout 2018/19 DENR maintained a strong presence in *Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nation News* and on various social media platforms (like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn).

The Communications Officer is responsible for all DENR social media and media relations, and maintains websites for Mi'kmaw Conservation Group, Mi'kmawey Forestry, and CMM. Working closely with DENR staff, the Communications Officer helps create logos, flyers, posters, templates, educational tools and materials, and engage targeted audiences to create awareness around conservation issues. She communicates career, scholarship, and training opportunities, as well as workshops and other resources for community members through Advisory Committees and community contacts; and attends career events and workshops with the DENR Community Liaison Officer. The Communications Officer also facilitates, attends and takes minutes for the DENR Advisory Committee meetings. This past year the Communications Officer assisted with the completion of several new educational items including the creation of "Our Sacred Forest," a significant species identification game for Mi'kmawey Forestry, and the MCG Chain Pickerel Cookbook.

The Mi'kmaw Conservation Group (MCG)

MCG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Annapolis Valley, Fort Folly, Glooscap, Millbrook, Pictou Landing, Sipekne'katik

The MCG Advisory Committee is currently comprised of representatives from five CMM Member Communities and Fort Folly First Nation. The MCG Advisory Committee acts as a conduit between MCG's member communities and leaders and MCG staff. Each representative is appointed by his/her Chief.

The MCG advisory body meets four times throughout the year to establish research, education and communication priorities for the MCG. It brings MCG's member communities together and identifies opportunities for greater co-operative efforts among the group, and maximizes the use of available resources within the group. Once a MCG project idea or proposal is developed, it is then delivered to the Chiefs for

Alanna Syliboy speaking at the International Year of the Salmon kick-off

approval. After a project is approved, an announcement is delivered to each Community. The MCG Advisory Committee receives ongoing updates for the duration of each project. These updates are relayed to the communities and/or leaders via word of mouth and/or via DENR communications.

Moving forward, the MCG is focused the following priorities, as identified by the MCG Advisory Committee:

- Species-at-Risk that are of significance to the Mi'kmaq
- Conservation of Fisheries Habitat
- Stream and Habitat Restoration
- Watersheds & Water Quality
- Contaminants
- Youth Engagement
- Community capacity building/training related to aquatic resource management

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES SCIENCE LIAISON COORDINATOR (CFSLC)

The role of the Commercial Fisheries Science Liaison Coordinator (CFSLC) is to help member communities achieve greater participation in commercial fisheries. The CFSLC's key responsibilities are to participate in and report on commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings, collaborative management meetings, science assessments, as well as industry meetings for important commercial fisheries. The CFSLC strives to keep fisheries managers of each community informed about key issues that could affect their fisheries operations, and to provide technical advice when requested.

In 2018/19, quarterly Commercial Fisheries meetings were re-established for Mi'kmaw community fisheries managers to direct commercial fisheries activities at CMM, as well as to provide a venue for updates on commercial fisheries, and to plan collaborative projects.

In January 2019, a new working group was developed to focus on communal commercial fisheries issues in mainland Nova Scotia. The Mainland Mi'kmaq Commercial Lobster Working



Group brings together mainland Mi'kmaw community fisheries managers with key Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel from Maritimes Region. The group identifies and addresses fisheries managers' concerns about communal commercial fisheries management. These range from the new lobster bycatch monitoring program, harassment and racism in fisheries management and industry, to licensing regulations.

SENIOR FISHERIES RESEARCH ADVISORY (SFRA)

The Senior Fisheries Research Advisor (SFRA) provides technical advice on environmental concerns that impact, or have the potential to impact, Mi'kmaw fisheries. In 2018/19 the SFRA assisted communities with topics including species-at-risk, tidal power, fish passage, gold mines, Boat Harbour remediation, the Northern Pulp Pipeline, Marine Protected Areas, and power generating stations. Additionally, the SFRA attended meetings and workshops that involved collaboration between the Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK) Negotiation Office, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources (UINR), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and many others.

Participating in various committees and working groups (such as the Mi'kmaq Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) and the DFO-KMK American Eel and Atlantic Salmon Working Groups) has allowed the SFRA to share Mi'kmaw values to help with the move towards two-eyed seeing processes. The SFRA has also assisted with the development of CMM's future Centre of Expertise—a new initiative through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to assist communities with cumulative effects monitoring and management.

2018/19 Summer Students



2018/19 PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **MCG Chain Pickerel Project** was created to gain more knowledge and spread awareness around the impact and mitigation of Chain Pickerel, and determine its presence/absence within the Shubenacadie watershed and areas of interest and concern brought forward by our communities.

In 2018/19 the project team conducted angling surveys at 18 locations across 14 lakes within the Shubenacadie watershed. This project attracted media attention from numerous media outlets like the Chronicle Herald.

- **Avon River Project** is a baseline assessment project to characterize the use of waters leading to, and upstream of, the current Avon River Causeway gate system. This work gives us a better assessment of fish species, numbers, life stages, and seasonal timing in this watershed area.

In the past year MCG conducted 15 baseline electrofishing surveys along the Avon River (5 sites x 3 visits each), and collected data on 347 fish. Any White Perch or American Eel caught were tagged with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. (Surveys included 3 American Eel recaptures.)

- **Shubenacadie River Monitoring Project (SRM)** gathers baseline data and community-level understanding for fish species in the Shubenacadie River while promoting scientific capacity within Mi'kmaw communities. SRM samples fish using a hoop net from mid-July to mid-November.

The SRM team successfully implanted acoustic tags in 20 Atlantic Tomcods in 2018 and will continue to track these fish throughout the Shubenacadie River watershed. Six sites were surveyed along a 63 km stretch of the Shubenacadie River; including both estuarine and fresh water. The team also sampled using a beach seine (specialized net) at the same six locations from mid-August mid-November. Over 1,000 fish (made up of 14 different species) were sampled using the beach seine.

- **Aboriginal Fund for Species-at-Risk Project (AFSAR)** concerns the stewardship and monitoring of species-at-risk in mainland Nova Scotia rivers. The AFSAR team performs data collection and community engagement activities that contribute to an understanding of inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF) Atlantic Salmon and Brook Floater populations. Monitoring takes place throughout the spring, summer and fall to assess Salmon population and distribution in the Stewiacke River, and to identify Brook Floater populations in several rivers throughout Nova Scotia (including Stewiacke River, Gays River and River Philip).

Martin Simon
and Carrie
Michael in
the field with
the Culvert's
project



In the past year AFSAR monitored the Stewiacke River rotary screw trap in collaboration with DFO Science to assess Atlantic Salmon smolt migration. They identified Brook Floaters in numerous Nova Scotia rivers; coordinated and participated in the release of Live Gene Bank iBoF Salmon in the Stewiacke River; and conducted multiple snorkel surveys for Atlantic Salmon in the Stewiacke River, River Philip and East River (Pictou).

- **Remediations of Barriers to Fish Migration in the Stewiacke Watershed** – This project began in 2014. By remediating culverts that act as barriers in the Stewiacke watershed, MCG creates access to quality upstream habitat for iBoF Atlantic Salmon, as well as other migratory fish.

During 2018/19 MCG received financial and in-kind support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nova Scotia Salmon Association's *Adopt-A-Stream* program to focus on remediations and culvert assessments in the Stewiacke watershed. MCG field staff visited 43 sites on watercourses in this watershed, and completed 6 culvert remediations at sites that were deemed as barriers to fish passage—creating access to 26.9 km of upstream habitat that was previously inaccessible due to the barriers.

- **Coastal Restoration Fund (CRF)** – MCG is a recent recipient of funding for a four-year (2018–2022) project from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Coastal Restoration Fund (DFO-CRF). The DFO-CRF is part of the national Oceans Protection Plan, launched in May, 2017. MCG's CRF Project—*Strengthening Mi'kmaw Capacity in Coastal and Watershed Assessment and Restoration in the Northumberland Strait and Bay of Fundy*—is focused on capacity-building within Mi'kmaw communities and the assessment and restoration of integral coastal landscapes along the Northumberland Strait and Bay of Fundy watershed. MCG's project will be comprised of separate activities carried out along the Northumberland Strait coastline and within the Bay of Fundy watershed.

In the past year the project team met with community rightsholders to determine and prioritize project sites, and developed numerous partnerships with organizations specializing in coastal restoration. The Jr. Coastal Restoration Project Coordinator participated in on-going restoration activities with the CB Wetland and Environmental Specialist to gain experience for the inner Bay of Fundy project activities, and also started collecting traditional ecological knowledge of tidal barriers in that region.

- **MCG/Clean Northumberland Strait Coastal Restoration Project** – This DFO-funded initiative will restore at least 15 hectares of salt marsh habitat that has been impacted by humans along the North Shore. The five-year project will identify, restore and monitor salt marsh habitat and will help local communities become stewards of the areas in which they live. Through a Collaborative Partnership between MCG, CMM and Clean Foundation, the project engages with local and Mi'kmaw communities to gather local and traditional knowledge that will guide the prioritization and selection of restoration sites, and map knowledge of historic, contemporary and degraded tidal wetland sites.

The project received approval for the traditional knowledge study through the Mi'kmaw Ethics Watch. The project team has been seeking knowledge from Elders, traditional fishers, hunters, trappers, etc. A three-day project partner event took place last fall with the many international and local partners. Five community engagement sessions and five training sessions have been held across the region.

- **East River Pictou/Gulf Region** – During 2018/19 MCG's focus within the gulf region moved from Barney's River to River Philip and East River Pictou. Restoration and habitat assessment work was primarily on McLellans Brook—the largest tributary of the East River. This year the project received funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF). They partnered with Pictou County Rivers Association (PCRA), Pictou Landing First Nation (PLFN), Adopt-A-Stream, and DFO-Gulf Region on various aquatic restoration, and monitoring activities.

The team assisted Mainland NS DFO with electrofishing surveys for Atlantic Salmon at six sites in River Philip, East River Pictou, and West River in Antigonish. Using electrofishing, the team sampled at nine sites in McLellans Brook (56 fish sampled). Pre- and post-restoration water quality sampling was also done. Over 300 kg of debris was removed from McLellans Brook and ten in-stream restoration structures were installed. Snorkel surveys for Atlantic Salmon took place in East River Pictou and River Philip.

TECHNICAL FILES

- Force Fundy Tidal
- Marine Protected Areas
- Marine Emergency Response Planning
- Avon River Monitoring
- Species-at-Risk (e.g. Atlantic Salmon, American Eel, Atlantic Right Whale, Brook Floater Mussel)
- Atlantic Gold
- Several DFO Regulatory Review Files

Next Steps

- **The MCG Chain Pickerel Cookbook** (to be published in late Spring 2019) will demonstrate how to filet and prepare Chain Pickerel in various recipes to encourage catch and consumption of the invasive fish species. Angling surveys, beach seine surveys and eDNA will be introduced in the 2019 field season.
- **The Avon River project** will continue conducting electrofishing surveys and other activities from 2018/19 season throughout the Avon, Halfway, and Cogmagun Rivers.
- **The Shubenacadie River Monitoring team** will continue its baseline study within the Shubenacadie River watershed into 2019/20. The team will replicate components of the 2018/19 season but will add a feature project based on community and Working Group input. Those components will include:
 - Water Quality/Acoustic Receiver River Monitoring
 - CMM Communities/Sipekne'katik Information Session(s)
 - Atlantic Tomcod/Juvenile Striped Bass Monitoring
 - Hoop Net/Beach Seine Multi-species Monitoring
 - Community Awareness
- In 2019/20, **AFSAR** will continue monitoring Atlantic Salmon smolt migration in the Stewiacke River watershed using a rotary screw trap and counting fence. They are introducing monitoring of Chain Pickerel predation on Atlantic Salmon smolts and collaborative use of eDNA with Cape Breton University to identify new Brook Floater locations in Nova Scotia. There



will be continued snorkel surveys for Atlantic Salmon in the Stewiacke River, River Philip and East River Pictou while using extensive Atlantic Salmon habitat surveys in the Stewiacke River watershed to quantify habitat quality and distribution for future hydraulic egg planting. Finally, AFSAR plans to develop an acoustic telemetry study of Atlantic Salmon in East River Pictou to guide future population assessment efforts.

- **Mi'kmaw Conservation Group** (through its on-going fish barrier removal project) will continue to focus efforts in the Stewiacke watershed on the following activities:
 - Migration barrier prioritization involving spatial analysis of the information from the previous and current migration barrier assessments, habitat assessments, eDNA analysis, and previous remediations
 - Migration barrier assessments and remediations
 - Habitat assessments to help prioritize remediation sites going forward as it will determine the amount of suitable salmon habitat upstream of migration barriers
 - Fish passage monitoring: Two remediation sites will be selected to monitor fish passage pre- and post-remediation using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. This will allow us to quantify the success rate of fish passage pre- and post-remediation
 - Continued community outreach and education
- **The CRF team** will hire a Coastal Restoration Project Assistant in May 2019 to assist with reef ball construction in Spring and Summer, and the installation and monitoring activities in the Fall in the Northumberland Strait region. We will conduct tidal barrier audits, and hope to complete ten comprehensive tidal barrier restoration plans. One of these plans will be selected and implemented in 2020 in the inner Bay of Fundy region.
- **The MCG/ Clean Northumberland Strait Coastal Restoration Project** will continue traditional knowledge studies in 2019/20, compiling knowledge about Netukulimk activities, traditional species, archaeological information, etc. The project will continue to offer opportunities to learn about completing site assessments, pre-restoration monitoring, and further support of capacity development in communities. The project will include a two-way knowledge transfer outreach approach with booths at community events, powwows and farmers markets, and continue to deepen relationships with communities and landowners. The project will take part in any additional consultation work required by communities and the Assembly as part of the consultation process.
- **The East River Pictou/Gulf Region team** will introduce acoustic monitoring and habitat assessments to the 2019/20 project activities. The project will focus more on the main East River Pictou and River Philip, with some activities taking place in the Middle and West Rivers.

Charlie Fleming and Bernie Syliboy releasing Adult Salmon



Mi'kmaw Forestry Initiative Funding Announcement

(l to r) Chief Gerald Toney Jr. (Annapolis Valley FN), Chief Andrea Paul (Pictou Landing FN), Angie Gillis (Associate Executive Director, CMM) The Honourable Iain Rankin (Minister of NS Lands & Forestry), Councillor Jeff Purdy (Acadia FN), The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi (federal Minister of Natural Resources), Chief Mike Sack (Sipekne'katik FN), Dr. Donald M. Julien (Executive Director, CMM), MP Andy Filmore, Chief Bob Gloade (Millbrook FN)

Mi'kmawey Forestry

The mission of Mi'kmawey Forestry –

“To support Mi'kmaw participation in the transformation of Nova Scotia's forests through the practice and promotion of Netukulimk.”

Through workshops, training, events and activities, Mi'kmawey Forestry works with community members on all aspects of forestry—including sustainable forestry management, habitat and species-at-risk stewardship, silviculture, conservation, non-timber forest products, and many more. They also serve as a liaison, assisting with access to provincial forest expertise and resources.

Mi'kmawey Forestry believes in a holistic, integrated forestry approach. This method realizes the importance of *Netukulimk: Taking only what you need and leaving something for future generations*. Holistic thinking is melded with today's forestry treatments and management techniques, promoting a balance between immediate economic needs, protection of the forest life, and maintaining standing forests for our future.

MI'KMAWEY FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mi'kmawey Forestry is guided by an Advisory Committee. Members have been appointed by the Chief from each Community. We value their insights and guidance as we move forward together.

The committee is currently made up of one representative from the eight CMM member communities including one Elder advisor and one observer from Bear River First Nation, and two Parks Advisory members.

Current members of the Advisory Committee are:

Jeff Purdy (Acadia); Gerald Toney Sr. (Annapolis Valley); Gail Tupper (Glooscap); Andrew Johnson (Millbrook); Kerry Prosper (Paqtnkek); Barry Francis (Pictou Landing); Keith Julian (Sipekne'katik); and Rob McEwen (Bear River).

PROGRAM & SERVICES

- Research & Education
- Youth Engagement
- Capacity Development
- Training
- Species-at-Risk Recovery
- Communications
- Strategic Planning
- Employment

2018/19 PROJECTS

- **Paving the Way for Success (IFI) 2018–2019** – This project's goal is to advance development of the Mi'kmaq-led forestry initiative in NS by providing foundational activities in commercial forestry, non-timber forest products, and training.
- **Mi'kmaw Engagement in Species-at-Risk Stewardship and Recovery of Black Ash in Nova Scotia (AFSAR) 2017–2019** – This project's goal was to increase Mi'kmaw participation in Black Ash recovery through community engagement efforts and partnerships in recovery activities as prioritized in the Recovery and Action Plan for Black Ash in Nova Scotia. (Project wrapped up on March 31, 2019)
- **Mi'kmaw Engagement in Species-at-Risk Stewardship and Recovery of Black Ash in Nova Scotia (AFSAR) 2018–2020** – This project was approved and funded in Fall 2018 and will continue to target the same goals as the previous Black Ash project, with species conservation and community engagement the main priorities. The project also includes efforts to monitor for the invasive Emerald Ash Borer Beetle that is now present in Nova Scotia.
- **Wildlife Trace Monitoring at the Touquoy Gold Mine Site (Contract with Atlantic Gold Corp.) 2018–2019** – The purpose of this contract is to monitor vertebrate diversity on the mine's property and to assess whether the site hosts Mainland Moose. This contract entails two separate visits to the site by Mi'kmawey Forestry staff and is set to wrap up in Spring 2019.
- **Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources/The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Parks Guardian Program (ECCC) 2018–2019** – This project was approved through the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program. Its goal was to engage community members (including youth, elders, natural resource managers, etc.) and leadership in the creation of a common vision for the co-management of culturally, spiritually and ecological significant areas across Nova Scotia to determine the role that Guardians for lands and natural resources will play.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Signed the “Mi’kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Framework Agreement” on March 15, 2019
- Secured multi-year proposal through the Indigenous Forestry Initiative for both CMM & UINR
- Commenced activities on the MFI blocks for economic development, capacity and employment opportunities
- Prepared and delivered a successful Non-Timber Forest Product Symposium where community members gathered to share their artwork and hear presentations on successful cooperatives. This symposium helped build momentum for the up-coming cooperative
- Successful block layout, PTA, supervision, and harvest of three blocks through the PHP & CMM Agreement: Georgeville, Sterns, and Maple Lakes
- Secured funding for the first lands and natural resource-based Guardians Program
- Invited to visit and present to Natural Resources Canada staff and view their facilities to establish and begin to form new partnerships
- Continued contract work for transect surveys
- Secured funding for the development of a Comprehensive Analysis on Forestry Opportunities in Nova Scotia for a SPI submission to the Treasury Board
- Located 94 previously unrecorded Black Ash, now added to the provincial inventory, which will help protect them from incidental harvest and improve the accuracy of future provincial population estimates for the species
- Black Ash seed collected from five locations, four of which represent populations that were not previously represented in the National Tree Seed Centre’s seed bank
- Black Ash plantations were established at two new sites: Kejimikujik National Park and Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Protective measures were put in place at both sites to prevent white-tailed deer browse
- Documented nine Nova Scotian species-at-risk during Black Ash surveys. These were added to their respective provincial inventories, aiding the conservation and recovery efforts for these species with other organizations
- Held White Ash basketmaking workshop was at LSK school with the aim of engaging youth in the art of basketmaking
- Entered a partnership with the University of Guelph, CMM & UINR secured funding on a research grant titled *Conservation as Reconciliation Partnership*

Booth Set-up at the Non-timber Forest Product Symposium hosted by Mi’kmawey Forestry in collaboration with UINR



Christian Francis and Justin Fiddes presenting to YMCA exchange program near Pictou Landing First Nation

Next Steps

- CORP/ACOA: Non-Timber Forest Product Cooperative – Business Plan
- ACOA: Non-Timber Forest Product Cooperative – Marketing Plan, Trademark and Licensing Agreement and Market Research
- IFI: Non-Timber Forest Product Cooperative – Mushroom Foraging Workshop, Eco-Tourism Training: Field Guide (Hiking)
- IAFSI: Non-Timber Forest Product Cooperative – Shiitake Mushroom Cultivation Workshop, Good Agricultural Collection Practices Course, Certification Committee Meetings
- AFSAR: Mi’kmaw Leadership in the Conservation of Black Ash and Eastern White Cedar in Nova Scotia – Multi-year 2019-2021
- Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program: Fly Like a Butterfly, Sting Like a Bee in Mi’kma’ki – 2019/20 (approved – overseen by CMM’s Climate Action Program)
- ECCC (Canada Nature Fund Challenge Program): Collaborative Nova Scotia Proposal 2019-2022
- ECCC (Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program): Tier 3: Established and Emerging Network Initiatives 2019-2022
- ECCC (Community Nominated Priority Places): Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Community Nominated Place for Species-at-Risk Stewardship and Recovery 2019-2023



Climate Action Program

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our generation. As the atmosphere surpassed 410 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in 2018/19 with no signs of emissions slowing down, we have already begun to see the impacts in our lives. Over the next 50 years we are anticipating a further 2 to 3 degrees of warming which will drive altered precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, and changes in the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events. These climatic changes have the potential to severely impact our infrastructure, health, and ecosystems.

To address these needs, the Climate Action Program focuses on developing research and education programs to respond to climate change concerns in our communities. Our goal is to ensure communities have the information and capacity to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Emergency Preparedness project is guided by an Advisory Committee. Members have been appointed by the Chief from each Community. We value their insights and guidance as we move forward together. Currently, the members of the Advisory Committee are: Gerald Toney Sr./Nastasya Kennedy (Annapolis Valley); Kerry Payson/Fred Robar-Harlow (Bear River), Lynwood Peters (Glooscap); Colin Bernard/Dennis MacLeod (Millbrook); Darlene Paul/Kerry Prosper (Paqtnek); Dominic Denny/Chris Strickland (Pictou Landing); Keith Julian/David Nevin(Sipekne'katik). For 2019/20 the Advisory Committee's mandate has expanded to cover all Climate Action projects.

2018/19 PROJECTS

- **First Nations Adapt: Climate Analysis & Adaptation** – Since 2014 this project has worked to understand and address the impacts of climate change in our communities. Climate vulnerability assessments have gathered local knowledge to identify hazards, LiDAR and GIS modelling has been used to generate flood risk models, and the community has been engaged through various outreach and education initiatives. To continue the drive towards action, we received an additional two years of funding for 2018–2020 to develop adaptation strategies for priority vulnerabilities in each community.

The 2018/19 fiscal year saw our team undertake a prioritization process based on all of our previous community



Climate Action Advisory Committee (l to r) Alex Cadel, Amber MacLean-Hawes, Dennis MacLeod, Alanna Syliboy, Colin Bernard (Millbrook FN), Chris Strickland, Dominic Denny (Pictou Landing FN), David Nevin (Sipekne'katik FN), Douglas Bernard (Pictou Landing FN), Elder Gerald Toney Sr. (Annapolis Valley FN), Kerry Payson (Bear River FN), Lynwood (Woody) Peters (Glooscap FN)

reports; conduct research on a number of adaptation strategies that could address identified vulnerabilities and support community resilience; continue our educational outreach at schools and community workshops; and explore additional funding opportunities to support new on-the-ground adaptation projects in communities.

- **Emergency Preparedness in Mi'kmaw Communities** – The purpose of this project is to ignite and continue community efforts to build community capacity and readiness for emergency events. This year we incorporated needs assessments, priority risks and associated health impacts to form a more holistic and all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness. The project worked with community concerns, suggestions and areas of interest based on each community and focused on assessments, planning, mitigation, community awareness and training. Incorporation of increasing youth participation in emergency preparedness is continuing to be valued priority. Understanding the relationships and connectivity between climate change, emergencies and health has also been important to communities, and for this process. The project encouraged the support and acknowledgement of Mi'kmaw and neighbouring communities working alongside one another in the future to further increase preparedness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Wildfire Community Assessments on all communities excluding Acadia First Nation
- Youth Camp in Kejimikujik National Park (Sustainable food source for emergencies - smoking fish)
- Wildland Firefighter Training Courses: approximately 40 community members have been trained and certified across communities
- Established Emergency Planning Committees (updating plans)
- Presented & shared efforts at conferences across Canada
- Hosted Winter Survival Training for communities



- Organized two youth to attend the Youth Emergency Preparedness Gathering in Osoyoos B.C.
- Participated in Halifax Regional Municipality's development of a new Community Energy and Climate Action Plan
- Participated in Natural Resources Canada's forthcoming Canada in a Changing Climate Report: Atlantic Chapter
- Participated in the new Indigenous Technical Working Group on Flood Mapping
- Participated in Indigenous Services Canada's Selection Committee for the Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program for First Nations South of 60°N

Next Steps

- The Climate Adaptation Project is moving into the second year of a two-year project to develop adaptation solutions for identified climate change vulnerabilities. We will be conducting a cost-benefit analysis for our proposed adaptation options and support communities in identifying funding to implement these projects. Drone training for community members, a climate change symposium, and tree planting events are also being prepared.
- The Emergency Preparedness project is seeking renewed funding to continue the positive strides that communities have been making in emergency preparedness. The funding request is to assist with increasing capacity and actionable items within communities. The funding request is for 2019-2021 and will include emergency planning, training, mitigation, further assessments, community engagement and awareness. The project is hopeful for the addition of two more project positions (planning officer and community engagement officer).
- Fly like a Butterfly, Sting like a Bee in Mi'kma'ki: New in 2019, this project will address the ongoing disturbance to pollinator habitat in mainland Mi'kma'ki communities from the effects of climate change. This project will develop an actionable plan to implement tangible efforts to augment the habitat for native insect pollinators known to be important for the pollination success and seed yield of Mi'kma'ki traditional/cultural significance plant species. The scope of the project will include climate change impacts on health and wellness of our community members and promote related adaptation efforts to increase the communities' environmental health.

Mi'kma'wey Green Communities Program

In traditional Mi'kma'wey society, there was no long-term waste. When waste was all organic, there was no need for solid waste management. But today, when even ordinary household waste consists of a potentially hazardous mix of plastics, metals and chemicals, waste needs to be dealt with in ways that are safe and healthy for people, wildlife and the environment.

Solid waste management—which includes a range of services from collection, separation, and recycling of household waste to the transfer, treatment and disposal of waste—is a challenge for some communities. Through pilot projects, community engagement, and working with leadership, Mi'kma'wey Green Communities works to assist Mi'kma'wey Communities reach their goals to become greener, cleaner and more sustainable. Our focus is on recycling, reduction of waste and waste diversion. We are reminded by the concept of Netukulimk, to only take what is needed and waste nothing to ensure there is something left for the next generation, as we work towards a greener tomorrow.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mi'kma'wey Green Communities is guided by an Advisory Committee. Members have been appointed by the Chief from each Community. We value their insights and guidance as we move forward together. Currently the members of the Advisory Committee are: John McCaul (Annapolis Valley); Jason MacLeod (Glooscap); Leana Kennedy (Millbrook); Betty Googoo (Paqtnkek); Gordon Prosper (Pictou Landing); Katrina Paul (Sipekne'katik); Carol Ann Potter (Bear River).

Highlights from the MGCP Advisory Committee Meetings:

- Sustainable Facility Tours
- Landfill Site Visits; Strategic Planning
- Creating Educational Materials
- Investment Planning for Future Projects

PROJECTS

From the needs assessment and awareness campaign we learned that waste diversion programs, bylaw development and MTSA review/implementation are among the top priorities for Communities within the CMM Tribal Council (Paqtnkek, Pictou Landing, Millbrook, Sipekne'katik, Annapolis Valley, Glooscap, Bear River, and Acadia First Nation).

Issues relating to waste diversion are leading to high tipping fees, non-compliance fines and in general are acting as barriers to effective waste management. This is leading to higher operations and maintenance fees, more illegal dumping/disposal, more mass going to landfills and ultimately a larger environmental impact.

Further issues like the lack of formal MTSA's and waste management bylaws are leaving Communities paying high waste management fees and furthermore lacking the capacity to enforce best practices/Community standards regarding waste management.

2017/2018: PAQTNKEK, PICTOU LANDING, MILLBROOK, SIPEKNE'KATIK

2018/2019: ANNAPOLIS VALLEY, GLOOSCAP, BEAR RIVER

Mi'kmawey Green Communities' objective is to assist Communities in the development of sustainable waste management systems. This means reducing the amount of waste generated, reducing associated fees, mitigating environmental impact(s) and developing tools for Community administrators to effectively and sustainably manage solid waste.

The overarching initiatives to reduce waste, costs, environmental impact and enhance Community capacities is broken down into the following initiatives:

- Waste Management Advisory Committee
- In-Home Sorting Station Pilot Program / Community Engagement
- MTSA Review / Enhancement / Bylaw & Policy Development
- Organic Composting Stations
- Household Hazardous Waste Events
- Waste Audits for Each Community

*Mi'kmawey Green Communities Team
clean-up Merigomish Island*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past fiscal year saw the MGCP team busy on several projects that fell outside of our deliverables. These projects were exciting, fun and most importantly, encouraged community engagement on waste diversion.

- Pumpkins for Pigs (Millbrook Composting Initiative)
- Moose Feast in the Highlands
- Bear River Harvesters Gathering
- Island Day
- MCG Days
- Mentoring Summer Students
- East River Clean Up
- Planned and Hosted a Regional Compost Forum
- Workshops at The Request of Communities

Other behind the scenes accomplishments included:

- Over \$8 Million in proposals written for community initiatives
- Participation in the National Advisory Committee for SWM (Solid Waste Management)
- Establishment of the Regional Advisory Committee for SWM
- Clean Oceans Conference Steering Committee
- Participation in National Advisory for mercury in lamps
- Co-Chair Ocean Plastics and Marine Litter Committee (Regional)
- Diversion Centre support
- Pictou Landing School: Nature trail & waste management planning support
- Curriculum development
- Supporting other First Nations communities in the region with planning



Next Steps: 2020 and Beyond

The Federal Government has identified Solid Waste Management as a priority and has begun to fund programming to support SWM in Communities across Canada. In response to this new opportunity, CMM created a program specifically targeting this funding. Since 2016 Mi'kmawey Green Communities Program (MGCP) has been striving to identify and meet the needs of the Communities. This has resulted in many funding proposals and projects being written at CMM and delivered either by CMM or by the Communities. Some of the challenges of this process have been:

- Cumbersome application process
- Slow approval process
- Lack of capacity to deliver programming
- Can't deliver funding in real-time to address immediate needs

To alleviate some of these issues, ISC has approached CMM to act as flow through for funding. Meaning that there would be an allocation of funds at CMM that could be used for projects or activities that come up through the year that were unexpected or meet a specific need in regard to SWM. CMM would be responsible for the administration of the funds including final reporting while the Communities would determine the type of projects, activities, locations of infrastructure etc. This would ensure no time delays in funding for activities and alleviate the pressure of final reporting from band administration. All funding / activities would still have to meet ISC criteria and standards of reporting, but this proposed structure would see programming happen in real time rather than the delays experienced to date.

Mi'kmawey Green Communities Program is excited for this shift in funding structure and what it means for the overall success of program delivery to Communities.

PROJECTS FOR 2019/2020

- Advisory Committee meetings (quarterly)
- HHW events
- Compost station support
- Sipekne'katik & PLFN bin projects
- Investigation and planning for illegal dump site clean-ups
- Solid waste management planning
- Diversion centre support
- Waste diversion support at events (Pow Wows, Mawi'omis, AGAs, St. Anne's Day Feasts etc.)
- Composting Classmates: Curriculum on composting with worms (vermiculture)
- Food Waste and Food Security Issues



*Composting:
part of the
Mi'kmawey
Green
Communities
Program*

PROJECT REQUESTS

As the capacity and programming grows so do the requests for projects and initiatives. Some additional activities the team has been asked to work on are:

- Investigation & Strategic Plan for Clean Up of Hunters Mountain
- Mi'kmaq Summer Games Waste Management Planning
- NAIG Waste Management Planning
- Assistance with Spring and Fall Clean UP
- More HHW Events Including Compact Florescent Bulb Exchange
- Green Cart Cleaning
- Pest Control and Mitigation
- Equipment for Communities
- Illegal Dumping Signage and Awareness
- Bottle Depots
- Municipal and Mi'kmaq Relationship Building Summit

Mi'kmawey Green Communities Program looks forward to continuing to support Communities in their efforts to divert waste.



Outreach & Development Officer Allison Myatt teaches about vermicomposting in Glooscap First Nation

History and Culture



Specific Claims Research Department

This past year has presented a variety of new challenges and opportunities to the Specific Claims Research department.

In October 2018 our department, and Nova Scotia in general, was featured on a national stage by hosting the 26th Annual National Claims Research Workshop (NCRW) in Dartmouth. This three-day event brought together claims research units from across the country to gather and learn about advancements and challenges in this area of law. The event was well attended—over 85 individuals from across Canada came to enjoy CMM’s hospitality. Of particular interest was a guided bus tour to Cape Split with Mi’kmaw knowledge keeper Gerald Gloade, who educated attendees about the importance of the land in Mi’kmaw culture.

The NCRW also featured a showcase of Mi’kmaw legends projected onto the night sky, entertaining guests at Halifax’s Discovery Centre planetarium while they enjoyed local Nova Scotia desserts.

The workshop events were well received and also provided CMM with an opportunity to partner with the CIBC’s Indigenous Engagement branch in hosting many of these activities.

This year also presented many challenges to the Specific Claims department as continued under-funding of services have hampered the amount of research we are able to accomplish. The Supreme Court of Canada’s recent decision in *Williams Lake Indian Band v. Canada 2018 SCC 4*, has put Specific Claims back in the forefront of Canadian engagement with First Nations. In the Williams Lake case the Supreme Court of Canada has agreed that the Federal Government continues to be responsible for historic wrongs committed by the Crown pre-confederation. Here in Nova Scotia many of the claims we deal with—including *River Philip* and *Shiminicas*—are pre-confederation claims. This favorable ruling has presented opportunities our department would like to seize.

In September 2018 our department also welcomed a new researcher. Laura Moore, a recent Acadia University graduate, has been enthusiastic and diligent in her work and committed to working collaboratively with communities to develop their claims. Laura joins long-time Researcher Trevor Tracey, and Research Manager Andrew John.

On December 4 the CBC released a story which stated that Carolyn Bennett (Minister Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs) has begun a review of the Specific Claims process. AFN has taken the lead in engaging with communities



National Claims Research Workshop was held in Dartmouth in October



to develop a framework to determine what an independent claims process will look like and how it will function. Minister Bennett stated that she would like the new process to be more collaborative with First Nations communities, to develop a better Nation-to-Nation relationship.

There have been delays to this process, as can be seen in some of the Specific Claims submitted to the Negotiation Branch for review. The CMM Specific Claims Research department has noted that two of the claims that have been submitted have been awaiting a Ministerial response for over three years. As the deadline for a response is three years, the Negotiation Branch has noted the lateness of the reply and has assured us that they are working to resolve the backlog. Unfortunately, no timeline has been given for a decision on these matters. But, with the new commitment to Specific Claims there should be some movement on these files, which will be communicated to the affected Bands once we receive correspondence.

As the 2019/20 Federal budget shows commitment to the resolution and support of Specific Claims, we are hopeful that these claims will be resolved soon.

The proposed budget renews and replenishes the fund meant to settle specific claims until March 2022. There are also provisions for Claims Research Units, with a prospective increase of \$40 million over the next 5 years. These increases will allow us to better develop our communities' claims in a more timely and efficient manner. Exciting changes are happening in the areas of Specific Claims and we look forward to helping create a new system that will work well for CMM in the years to come.

(below) Mi'kmawey Debert Staff (l to r) Trevor Gould, Sheila Pierro, Sharon Farrell, Tim Bernard, Donald Julien, Gerald Gloade and Leah Rosenmeier. Missing from the photo is Ashley Stevens; (right) The Elders Advisory Council for MDCC



Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre Project



The Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre continues with three primary tasks:

- (1) Planning for the future Cultural Centre
- (2) Supporting Mi'kmaw community cultural initiatives through the Key Stories project and other efforts
- (3) Educating students, teachers and other Nova Scotians about Mi'kmaw culture and history through educational outreach, teacher support, website resources, external exhibition development, and Mi'kmaw History Month support.

2018/19 HIGHLIGHTS

Mi'kmawey Debert structures its work through seven planning streams: Land and Site Management, Facility Development, Development and Communications, Governance and Staffing, Key Stories Project, Visitor Experience and Education/Outreach, and Collections and Research.

1) Land and Site Management

- Continued to work with the NS Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal on the environmental site assessment
- Determined NS Management Plan is not required
- Continued Debert Regulations implementation including Debert Standards Orientation
- Facilitated relationship with the County of Colchester
- Continued site protection partnership NS Department of Lands and Forestry

2) Facility Development

- Management continues to work with our funding partners to secure significant capital commitments.



3) Development and Communications

- Strengthened Federal outreach and cultivation with support from Indigenous Services Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage and ACOA
- Maintained FB & Twitter, and added Instagram
- Maintained and enhanced MDCC website
- Completed Mi'kmaw History Month (MHM) poster
- Managed MHM social media and project admin.
- Supported MHM video production
- Hosted an event at the Parliament of Canada to promote the project with Federal partners
- Continued to raise the public profile of MDCC
- Continued to cultivate positive news stories including the gift from Elder Lillian Marshall
- Engaged the *100 Women Who Care* group in Truro
- Continued with cross-sector groups, including: Tripartite sub-committee on Culture and Heritage and the sub-committee on language, Mi'kmaw History Month Committee, ANTEC, MK Language Adv. Committee, Mi'kmaw Tourism group and Treaty Education Roundtable

4) Governance and Staffing

- Re-initiated MDCC Steering Committee
- Continued NSAMC, Millbrook, and Sipekne'katik outreach
- Maintained and grew the Elders' Advisory Council with four new members
- Maintain BOD, org. and charitable status

5) Key Stories Project

- Determined new steps for Gaspereau Lake
- Held PLFN Maligomish education day
- Produced Key Stories films, 2–4, for BRFN
- Supported the BRFN Harvester's Gathering
- Grew archives for some communities
- Discussed monument project with PMN
- Transitioned PLFN to a veteran's project
- Amended plans for GFN history book
- Progressed the WWI Smaknisk project for MFN with research and data collection

6) Visitor Experience and Education/Outreach

- Continued to implement and develop Cross Cultural Facilitation Program and Sharing our Stories programs
- Continued to support Mi'kmawe'l Tan Teli-kina'muemk through classroom support and professional development
- Supported the French translation of Mi'kmawe'l Tan Teli-kina'muemk
- Progressed Treaty Education with Gr 4-6 curriculum resource
- Continued MDCC IRS Legacy work (profiles, curriculum, archives)

- Supported the IRS Commemoration project
- Maintained Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail
- Assisted Parks Canada with Chignecto and Citadel interpretation

7) Collections and Research

- Continued to develop information and collections management processes and procedures as part of overall collections policy
- Progressed data dictionary for Qi
- Continued to build Qi base data and controlled vocabularies
- Initiated controlled vocabulary project with the National Museum of the American Indian and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey
- Progressed archiving of Lillian Marshall interviews
- Continued Debert research at the Canadian Museum of History, completing a digital copy of primary research records
- Continued repatriation dialogues with the Province of Nova Scotia, Canadian Museum of History, and the NMAI
- Continued to support WWI veteran research project
- Continued research partnerships with Atlantic Geo Soc., College of William and Mary, Univ. of Maine and others

DETAILED NOTES ON 2018/19 OUTCOMES

Land and Site Management

A number of ongoing projects for land and site management continued: implementing the Debert Standards Regulations and the site protection efforts. An orientation was held for all archaeologists working in Debert and a new site was protected this year. MDCC staff determined that a NS Management Plan will not be required in the construction of Mi'kmawey Debert. We made new efforts to facilitate a relationship with the County of Colchester as part of re-igniting the Steering Committee for the project. A number of meetings and discussions had led us to believe the ESA would be completed this year, but some additional analysis is warranted. This ESA work is being led by NS TIR, and will not impact the location of the building or parking lot; it may alter the route and location of the access road.

Facility Development

At this time we are working concertedly towards matching Federal and Provincial commitments. Work is ongoing to transition the long-term Federal and Provincial engagement with the project to a capital investment. We continue to have excellent support from various Federal and Provincial departments on a project-by-project basis.

Development and Communications

The project benefitted greatly from the first full year of the Communications Officer, Ashley Stevens. The project maintained a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter and added Instagram this year. We maintained the Mi'kmawey Debert website (www.mikmaweydebert.com), which saw between a 17% and 18% increase in number of users, sessions and pageviews. Educators are using the site heavily, as the most visited pages after the home page are the curriculum resource page, its audio translations, and the supplementary materials. The staff completed the Mi'kmaw History Month (MHM) poster and managed all of the MHM social media. Staff also supported the production of the wonderful MHM videos that were launched last fall in celebration of MHM's 25th celebration.

Staff worked to host an event on Parliament Hill that was co-sponsored by MP Bill Casey and Senator Dan Christmas, part of an overall effort to raise the profile of the project with Federal leaders and partners. The generous gift from Lillian Marshall earned us a story on the APTN. An anonymous individual nominated the MDCC to present in front of the *100 Women Who Care* group in Truro; unfortunately we were not the chosen recipient—next time!

MDCC staff continued to engage cross-sector groups including the Tripartite Subcommittee on Culture and Heritage, and the subcommittee on Language; Mi'kmaw History Month Committee; ANTEC; the MK Language Advisory Committee; Mi'kmaw Tourism; and the Treaty Education Initiative Roundtable.

Governance and Staffing

The project re-initiated the MDCC Steering Committee, bringing together representatives from multiple provincial, federal, and municipal governments to help advise the project. We also continued to outreach to the Nova Scotia Assembly of Mi'kmaw Chiefs and the leadership of Sipekne'katik and Millbrook First Nations.

Sadly, three cherished Elders who sat on the MDCC Elders' Advisory Council passed away this year, Lillian Marshall, Douglas Knockwood and Murdena Marshall. Given the loss of the Elders, four new Elders were invited to join the Council: Ernest Johnson, Rebecca Julian, Maynard Marshall, and Gerald Toney, Sr.

The project maintained its Board of Directors, and the organizational and charitable status for the project including all necessary reporting and procedures as required by the Registry of Joint Stocks and the Canada Revenue Agency.



Doug Knockwood, Lillian Marshall and Murdena Marshall, three cherished members of the Elders Advisory Council, passed away this past year

Key Stories Project

The Key Stories project continues to anchor our service and outreach to communities across Nova Scotia. At Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation, project lead Trevor Gould met and updated Chief and Council on three occasions to provide clarity on the role that the MDCC Key Stories could provide. We continue to support the Treaty Protectors Project with design and facilitation.

At Pictou Landing First Nation, MDCC helped to organize the second joint education day for the students of their elementary school and Elders. Project lead Trevor Gould continued to engage teachers, discussing how to use and work with the digital iBooks. Trevor continues to build our collections records for Mi'kmawey Debert and continues archiving and scanning their communities' photos and videos.

Glooscap First Nation's Key Story project is creating a timeline that tells the history of the community and its people. The community has requested some revisions and editions to the current draft. The final version will include new and largely unknown information about the history of the community as well as the broader historical context of this very important area.

At Millbrook First Nation, we had the opportunity to partner with the Mi'kmaw History Month Committee and focus the research work of Dr. Donald M. Julien on Mi'kmaw WWI veterans from Nova Scotia. Through the research from 2014–18, Dr. Julien provided profiles of over 90 Mi'kmaw WWI veterans. The documentation formed the basis of the 2018 Mi'kmaw History Month poster.

Working with Bear River First Nation on the Key Stories project, the direction has always been to “follow the stories wherever they take us.” As a way to share those stories, a video series was developed that focuses on the Peters family. The seven videos create a rich and meaningful record of experiences by combining footage from interviews from Peters siblings, Bazil, Kay and Leo, ancestral site visits, historic photographs found in archives, and community cultural activities.

At Annapolis Valley First Nation, the project has been delayed and in a holding pattern since Spring 2018. In July, MDCC staff gained approval from the Chief and Council to proceed with discussions with Nova Scotia Power, and MDCC staff met with NSPI in early October. Staff are seeking options to implement the monument beyond the existing relationship with NSPI.

Visitor Experience and Education

The project continued to develop its programs for the Visitor Program Plan as well as reach students of all ages across the province. Gerald Gloade, the Program Development Officer, reached 5000 students as well as numerous other large gatherings. Staff continued to distribute the remaining Mi'kmaw'e'l Tan Teli-kina'muemk: Teaching About the Mi'kmaq (MTTK) to schools across Nova Scotia (and beyond), as well as to present to a number of professional development sessions for teachers and administrators. MDCC staff supported the completion of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) translations of the curriculum resource into French, which turned out to be a major undertaking. Extensive work was done on the Grades 4 to 6 Treaty Education resource, including educator workshops, and partnership with both Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and the Department of Education. A final draft is expected in Spring 2019; this was a major commitment of staff time and resources this fiscal year.

The MDCC IRS Legacy Project focused on the Commemoration Project, supported by the Tripartite Forum. The project's overall intent is to provide respectful and appropriate commemoration of the survivors of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. Project facilitator, Dorene Bernard and MDCC staff member Sheila Pierro, have met with more than 100 survivors and descendants in 11 communities across Mi'kma'ki. This is the first of three phases of the project. To date, we have

identified 35 survivors who want to contribute their profile for the MDCC IRS Legacy Project. The documentation of survivors' lives through their profiles provides valuable teachings and history for future generations. This is urgent work that takes time and special consideration for the Elders.

The Mi'kmawey Debert Interpretive Trail continues to get sustained use, and we maintain the trail to a high standard, providing a porta potty from May to October, and ensuring user safety.

An engagement process with Parks Canada was lengthy and intense. MDCC has been a core consultant to the development of a major exhibition at the Citadel and to a travelling exhibition in Chignecto. We elected to take on these projects due to the impact these narratives will have with a general audience, and as a staff development effort.

Collections and Research

Project staff grew curatorial records this year (250+), with much more data to be entered. Developed in tandem with the Content Management System (CMS) are three controlled vocabularies (CV), which will strengthen data quality and search results. The CV project is essential to the functioning of the CMS. The MDCC digital archive grew by more than 250 records, primarily from the communities of Pictou Landing, Paqtnekek, Potlotek, and Glooscap, as well as from IRS survivors. The CMS and its related CV is invisible to people outside the project at this time, but it is a core operation of the Centre, and has taken considerable staff time to configure and implement. Parallel to this work, the collections policies and protocols continue to be developed.

We completed the data capture project at the Canadian Museum of History (CMH)—an important piece in reassembling the research record for the Debert-Belmont sites. At the same time, we held a formal meeting with the CMH about the repatriation of the Debert collections to Debert. The CMH has agreed to receive a request for the entire collection.

In partnership with Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, and with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the project initiated the controlled vocabulary project with the National Museum of the American Indian/Smithsonian Institution. In Fall 2018 ten speakers and staff visited the museum and another similar group returned in March 2019. It has been an



MP Bill Casey (right) and Senator Dan Christmas co-hosted a reception for the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre project on May 8, 2018 at Centre Block.

amazing project, growing our knowledge of the language and strengthening our relationship with the NMAI. While our staff spends many hours mired in the documents and records, it is easy to forget that the language of the museum is a world unto itself. Often, one object would lead to a long discussion of root words and meanings. One of the greatest insights from the visit was understanding more fully what a “verb-based” language was. For example, in discussing a netting needle used for snowshoes, the discussion was around the words that mean creating even spaces (as with the snowshoe webbing), but this term could be used in many contexts. Ultimately, we came to see that Mi’kmawey Debert would be curating “doing” rather than curating “things”—it was a profound outcome and one that will reverberate throughout the future of the project. Alongside long lists of terms, the project is producing visual word webs to be used in community and at the spring L’hui’sultinej Conference.

As part of a longer term engagement with the National Claims Research Workshop group, Trevor Gould and Leah Rosenmeier presented at the annual workshop in Halifax on the digitization of stories and other audio-visual cultural resources.

Staff documented the collection of Lillian Marshall, which she donated to the MDCC at the time of her passing. Along with an artifactual collection, a very important collection of tapes and interviews were given to the Centre. Staff have made progress on the archival storage of Lillian Marshall’s collection.

Research partnerships were the College of William and Mary (regarding living places, toolstone sources and oral histories in Cumberland County) and the University of Maine (regarding histological and radiocarbon dating of Debert samples). Staff went to the University of Maine in Summer 2018 and completed the initial research on the bone samples from the Canadian Museum of History. The data is now being analyzed by Sky Heller at the University of Maine.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND OTHER PARTNERS

The Province of Nova Scotia provides critical funding to the project that anchors core operations. The MDCC would not sustain itself without this core operational commitment.

This year additional partnerships allowed us to support our Key Stories project, a new language project, an IRS project that flows from a Tripartite workplan, and a Canada Summer Jobs position. Funding was received from:

- Department of Canadian Heritage (NMAI/Smithsonian language project)

- Employment and Social Development Canada (summer student)
- First Nation Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (MDCC Key Stories project)
- Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline (NMAI/Smithsonian language project)
- NS Department of Education (MDCC education and outreach)
- NS Office of Aboriginal Affairs (MDCC operations)
- Parks Canada (exhibition consulting)
- Treaty Education (Treaty Ed resources, Grades 4-6)
- Tripartite Forum (IRS Monument project)

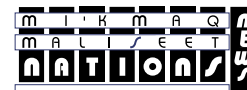
Eastern Woodland Print Communications

The year 2018 has seen many changes for Eastern Woodland Print Communications. The company has invested substantially this year to be more competitive and cost effective. We are very grateful for all the support we receive from the Board and the Confederacy. It has been a successful year for EWPC and we will strive to do the same in the coming years.

2018/19 KEY ITEMS

- Continued focus on excellent customer service—to maintain and grow our base of loyal customers
- Strategic Plan for expansion
- Purchase new equipment
- Expand social media outlets
- In-house printing whenever possible (reduce outsourcing)
- Better time management skills

MI’KMAQ MALISEET NATIONS NEWS (MMNN)



MMNN continues to be one of the top First Nations papers, and although subscribers have declined in some areas, we have gained subscribers in others.

Mise'l Prosper continues to produce MMNN with care and in a timely manner. We are also fortunate to have many people who provide content each month. The stories are not a paying job, so we are truly grateful to these individuals who provide relevant and local content. PR George Paul (Eskasoni FN), Sharon Culbertson (LSK), Mi’kmaw Conservation Group, Danny Paul, and Shirley Christmas are just a few of these dedicated contributors. In a time when newspapers are seeing a huge decline and even stopping print, we have been able to consistently deliver this monthly paper for many years.

EASTERN WOODLAND PRINT COMMUNICATIONS



EWPC serves a variety of customers, but all are looking for customized service for their particular communications needs. Whether it be newspaper ads, graphic design or promotional items, we do our best to fill each need.

Promotional items continue to grow for EWPC as more clients have come to realize that we do that type of work and are not just the newspaper. Promotion has grown slightly over the past year and remains one of the top sellers at EWPC. Design revenue has also increased this year as Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey has kept the team very busy with the development of new curriculum as well as other items such as Mi'kmaw flash cards.

The Grand Chief Series of books launched this year and with the help of artists Gerald Gloade (CMM), Loretta Gould, and EWPC graphic designer Nadia Martin. The books were well received in great demand. Currently we are working on Mi'kmaw versions as well. Nadia is a part-time graphic design who joined EWPC last year.

Over the past year we have partnered with several different clients to produce exceptional design. Evangeline Dedam worked with Tripartite Forum and created the Juji'jk book about bugs. She is currently working on a Mi'kmaw Teachers Learning Guide for MK, which will be distributed to all schools in September of 2019.

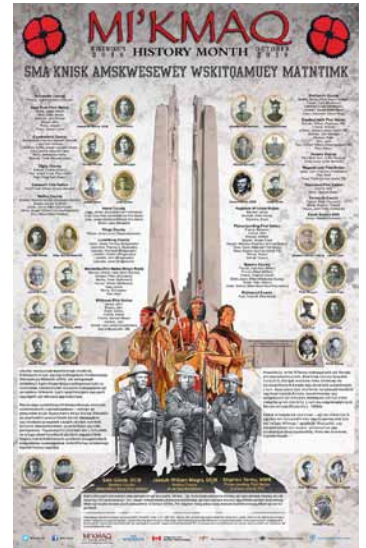
Stephen Logan and Gerald Gloade continued to design and create the Mi'kmaw History Month Poster. This year's theme

(l to r) Graphic Designers Steve Logan, Nadia Martin and Evangeline Dedam, and Manager Carol Busby—The EWPC Team



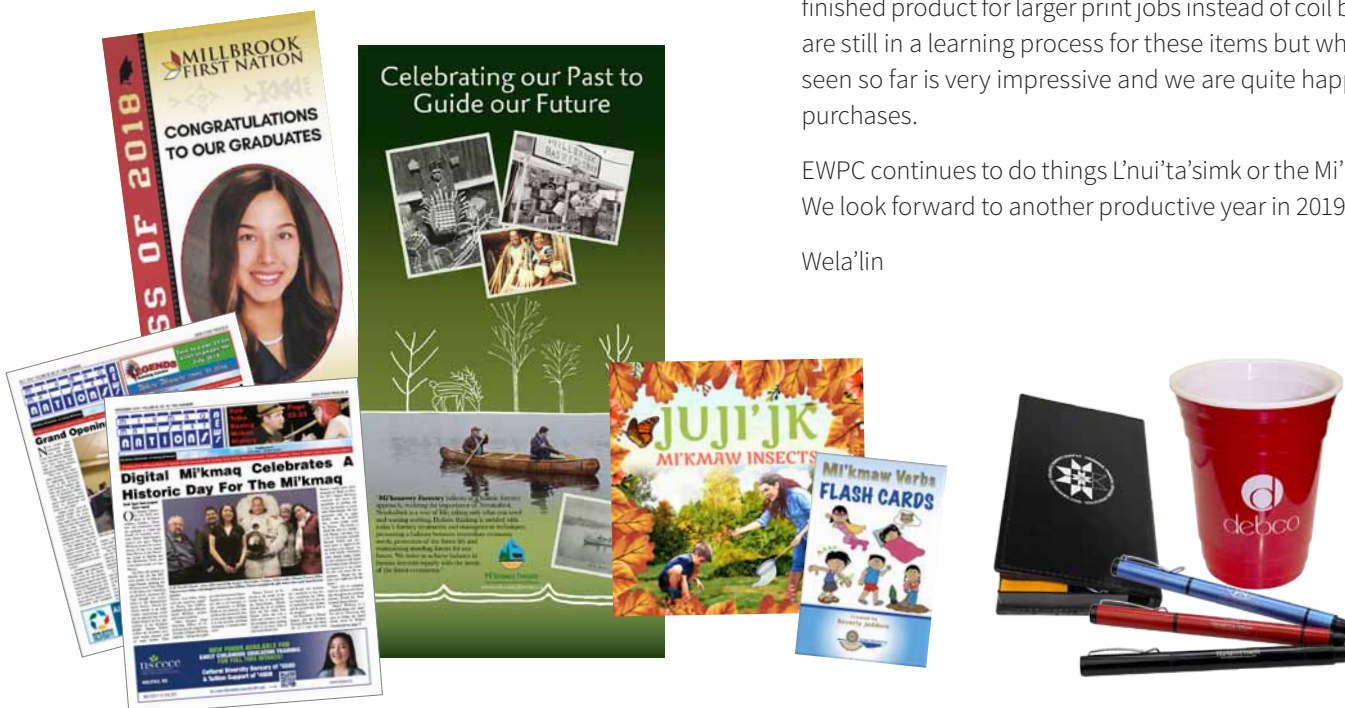
was based on World War 1 veterans. It may be one of the most popular posters to date. Steve is also working with MK on a curriculum book with Leah Rosenmeier and the CMM team, to be published in the coming months.

One of the biggest events for EWPC was purchasing a new printer as well as other equipment to enhance productivity as well as sales. It was a very large purchase and originally EWPC had hoped to move to the Power Centre, however after researching and pricing the move, it was decided to stay and renovate slightly in our current location. The printer has capabilities to produce a more finished book, as well as printing envelopes, tabs and letterhead—all of which we previously had to outsource at a higher cost. EWPC also purchased a GBC binder which will allow for an alternative finished product for larger print jobs instead of coil binding. We are still in a learning process for these items but what we have seen so far is very impressive and we are quite happy with the purchases.



EWPC continues to do things L'nui'ta'simk or the Mi'kmaw way. We look forward to another productive year in 2019.

Wela'lin



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CMM Organizational Chart



The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

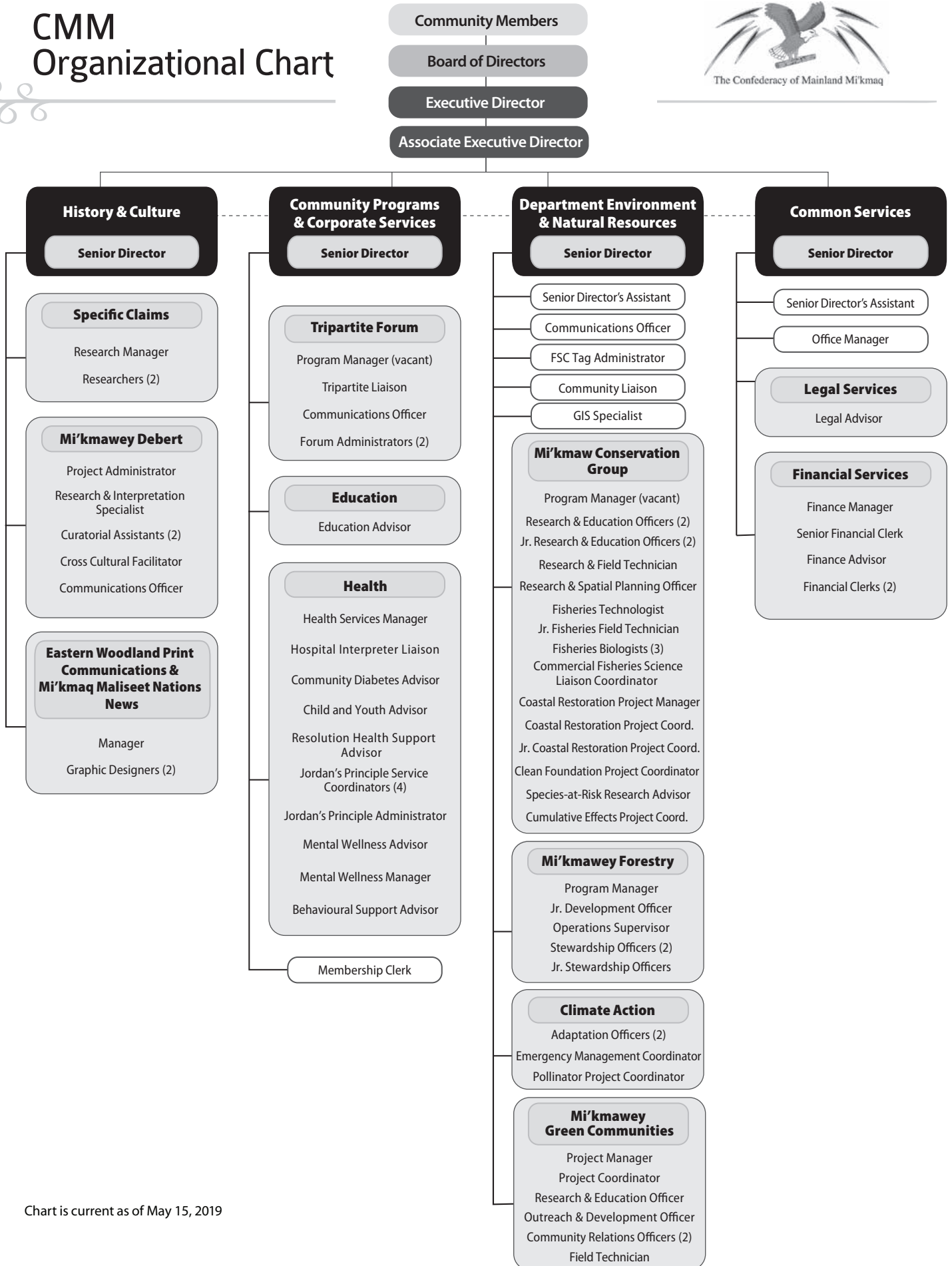


Chart is current as of May 15, 2019

CMM Staff Listing



BY DEPARTMENT / AS OF MAY 15/ 2019

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The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



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