

Na'teliag



November 2015

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey presented with a National Award



On November 13, 2015 in Calgary Alberta, Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey was presented with the Indspire Indigenous Organization Award.

Indspire recognizes and celebrates educators for their achievement and innovation in Indigenous education. Each year a number of educators are recognized for their community service, innovative practice and leadership. This was the first year for the presentation of the Indigenous Organization Award.

The Indigenous Organization award is given to a whole school or Indigenous education organization that has developed models, strategies, and programs that have made an impact in the field of Indigenous education. These innovative leadership teams are creating school models, strategies and programs that are leading the way in the field of Indigenous education.



“This award is presented to the entire organization because everyone works together as a team to accomplish our goals,” said Eleanor Bernard, Executive Director of Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey. “Our graduation rate is almost 90%. We couldn't do that without the support of the education directors, principals and teachers.”

The award was presented during the *Guiding the Journey gala* as part of the *National Gathering for Indigenous Education*. This year, more than 500 people attended the annual conference, which focuses on closing the gap in Indigenous education through holistic education. The conference is an opportunity for educators to share knowledge and work on solutions to improving the academic outcomes of k-12 Indigenous students.

The conference featured several workshops on topics such as Urban Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Culture-Based Integrated Planning, Peer Support, and Effective School Leadership. Eleanor Bernard and Linda Simon also presented on Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey: Supporting Student Success. Their presentation will be uploaded to the Indspire website in the near future.

Congratulations to all!

Trudeau goes online with Membertou students



(Photo taken by Adam Gould)

Students at Maupeltuewey Kina'matno'kuom were able to hangout online with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau this month! The school was nominated as a potential candidate for this exclusive event by Governor General David Johnston. "He visited our school a couple of years ago and we must have made a very good impression on him!" said Tim Jesty, Grade 6 teacher.

To prepare for the event, students in Grades 6 and 7 got together to brainstorm a question to ask the Prime Minister. This involved a lot of research, teamwork and classroom discussion between both grades.

The students were able to come up with a question that asked Mr. Trudeau how he could use his previous skills as a teacher and incorporate these traits as Prime Minister of Canada.

Alexis Christmas was the student chosen to ask the question to the Prime Minister. A few weeks prior to the election, the school held an in-school election to choose a Chief and Council. Alexis was elected Chief.

This impressive question was also featured on the National, as Peter Mansbridge documented the first day of Trudeau as Prime Minister. The students and staff at Maupeltuewey Kina'matno'kuom appreciated their time with the new leader of Canada, and will remember this moment for years to come!

The grade six and seven students will be heading to Ottawa in April of 2016 on an educational field trip. They will be touring the Parliament Buildings, museums and hoping for an opportunity to have an in-person meeting with the Prime Minister!

Great job Maupeltuewey Kina'matno'kuom!

Junior High Mash

Students from six communities attended the Junior High mash tournament in We'koqma'q on November 6. The youth were separated into 4 teams and played several rounds of "Doctor Dodgeball". The kids all had a fantastic day!



Third annual Trades Fair provides great opportunity for Aboriginal youth



Over 80 students from across Nova Scotia attended the third annual Aboriginal Youth Trades fair in Halifax from November 11-13.

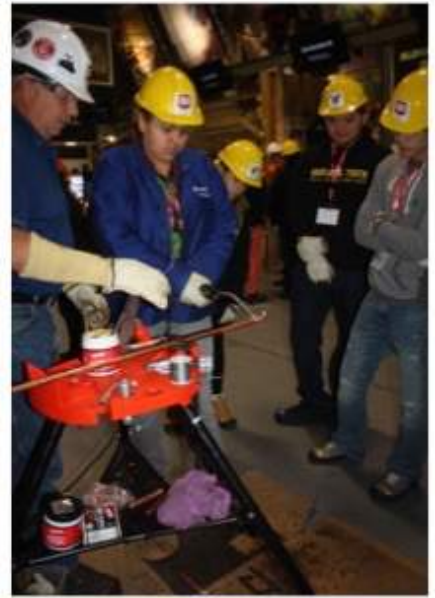
The activities began on Wednesday evening with a banquet where students listened attentively to Dr Don Julian, a veteran, speak about his career in the military and the importance of Remembrance Day.

On day two, students were separated into two groups. One group went to First Aid training with Jeff Ward while the other group went to the Trades Hall. The following day, they switched locations so that all students who attended the fair had the opportunity to become certified in First Aid and explore the trades.

During the evenings, students were entertained by going to the movies, shopping and doing cultural activities such as drum making, beading, and learning about the seven sacred teachings.

“Our Trades Fair was awesome,” said Ann Sylliboy, Post Secondary Consultant. “I look forward to next year!”

Trades Fair Snapshots



Treaty Education Forum



Close to 200 people assembled in the Paul O'Regan Hall at the Halifax Central Library to take part in a public forum on Treaty Education on Monday, November 16th.

The forum, which was jointly organized by Treaty Education Nova Scotia, Engage Nova Scotia and Canadians for New Partnership, saw educators, leaders, and the general public come together to discuss ways to build relationships through education.

The keynote speakers at the forum, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde and Former Prime Minister Paul Martin, stressed the need to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

"In order to close the gap we need to start making investments in First Nations education," Bellegarde explained. "When you open a door on a school, you close the door on a jail."

Paul Martin has always been a strong supporter of Aboriginal Education. Through initiatives such as the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative (MAEI), he has

proven that with proper investments, Aboriginal youth will be successful.

"Indigenous education is underfunded on-reserve and it's going to require an enormous amount of money to bring it up to where it ought to be," said Martin. "There is no way that anyone should ever say that we can't afford to teach the youngest and fastest growing population in the country to read and write. It's simply unacceptable."

The forum concluded with a real time survey asking the audience questions on Mi'kmaw history, treaties and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As a result of the poll, it was noted that many participants knew very little about Mi'kmaw culture and treaties. These results highlight the importance of including more aboriginal content and curriculum in the current system.

Other events will be held in the near future with regard to Treaty Education. Coming up on December 3, a banquet will be held in Membertou to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the James Simon ruling recognizing the Mi'kmaw right to hunt.

For more information about Treaty Education in Nova Scotia, please visit the Facebook page at Treaty Education Nova Scotia.



MK Sport Summit



On Saturday November 28th, the Mi'kmaw Sport Council of Nova Scotia presented the 9th annual Nova Scotia Aboriginal Sport Summit. Participants learned about "Lnu Kamakn" which is the the ski program, the MPAL program, Rugby and Lacrosse. They also heard about what is happening in sport in the community of Eskasoni.

The day concluded with the annual Sports Awards Banquet. This year's winners are as follows:

Male Athlete of the year

Levi Denny Jr.

Female Athlete of the year

Arianna Denny

Male Coach of the year

Levi Denny Sr.

Female Coach of the year

Angie Gillis

Lifetime Achievement Award

Robert Bernard

Communities also had the opportunity to recognize their own athletes or coaches during the banquet. Eskasoni recognized Jeannine Denny and Tuma Bernard for their contribution to youth sport. Wagmatcook recognized Dante Isadore and Claudia Pierrard for their dedication to sport.

Congratulations!

Elementary Hockey Snapshots



Eskasoni Student awarded the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



An Eskasoni First Nation high school student won the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, which recognizes those who volunteer and help create a smarter and more caring nation.

Kendra Gould, 17, was nominated by her school principal for volunteer work in her school, community and in the Dominican Republic. Gould, who attends Allison Bernard Memorial High School in Cape Breton, says she had no idea she was nominated.

"I was in English class when the teacher that nominated me pulled me out of class to tell me I won the award," Gould said.

"First I thought, 'What award?' And then he started explaining and I thought, 'Oh, that's nice.' And then I got really excited and shy."

Principal 'really, really pleased'

Gould recently helped build a home for a family of eight in the Dominican Republic. She had to fundraise for a year to make the trip.

Principal Newell Johnson says she returned inspired to make a difference.

"[She's] not the one to toot her horn or say look what I'm doing. She just wants to do something for the sake of doing some good for the community, for the people here in Eskasoni," Johnson said.

Johnson says when she nominated Gould, she thought the odds of winning were small.

"I know there is a lot of people that do a lot of stuff, a lot of good work in all the schools. But I was really, really pleased and happy and really shocked that our Kendra Gould is the recipient of this awesome award."

Gould is a member of her school's Interact program, which also ran the Coats for Kids drive this year and is taking part in Adopt a Family.

She says she finds volunteering rewarding. Next year she plans to go to university to study criminology.

(Adapted from CBC News)

Literacy News



Grades 7-12 literacy teachers attended a professional development session in Membertou on Tuesday November 24. The morning session involved Janean Marshall, Student Services Consultant, providing support on differentiated instruction. She explained that differentiated instruction is intended to “increase engagement, help students learn more efficiently and with deeper understanding

The teachers had many questions for her on the IPP process, including how to help students come off of an IPP.

In the afternoon, teachers discussed resources and student material that is beneficial for their students. They discussed other activities such as book talks, literature circles and shared



Many exciting things have been happening in early literacy this month. Cathy Cotton offers support to early literacy teachers in each school and has completed her first round of visits this month. Over the course of the year, she will visit each school four times and provide support to their literacy teachers.

Primary teachers visited the primary classroom in LSK this month. They watched a centre based activity take place with the primary students and discussed the classroom set-up and activities that they would like to use in their own classrooms. The same teachers will be attending a workshop in Membertou in early December to learn about the Nelson Literacy Program.

Mi'kmaw Language Update



This month we had the opportunity to sit down with elder Josephine Peck in Wagmatcook to learn about the new Immersion Program that is starting in Wagmatcook.

Can you tell me a little bit about the new Immersion classes?

The Immersion classes are starting in our daycare and K4 programs. There are 2 teachers in each classroom working with the students and they speak Mi'kmaw at all times to the kids. The classrooms are separated into K2, K3 and K4 with room for 14 students in each class.

What kind of support did the teachers have to get the program started?

Blaire Gould has been working with the teachers to help them develop the program. She helped them learn about centres and how to set them up. I work with them to help them learn to use proper Mi'kmaw and I labelled things in the classroom and kitchen so that the teachers can see it and remember to use the Mi'kmaw words for them. The most important thing is to remember to speak to the kids in Mi'kmaw.

Where did the reading materials that the teachers use come from?

The teachers have been using the Robert Munsch books for their read aloud and they also made books of their own. I actually think they like using the books they made even better because they create the story and they are familiar with the words. We have some great local artists in the community that can illustrate anything at all so they are very helpful too.

What did the parents think about having an Immersion Program?

I think the parents were open to the idea. Most people in the community really want to keep our language strong and they see that it isn't as strong with the younger generation. It's not just the schools that need to change in order to make the language come back stronger. Our whole community needs to make the change. We need people in the band office and the stores to speak Mi'kmaw all the time. We have to WANT to do it.

What are the plans for the program in the future?

I believe the plans are to move the Immersion Program up with the students every year so that next year, these kids will have immersion in primary and so on. The learning through play program and using centres is going to be really helpful in making that work.

First Nation Help Desk & Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey present...



Artwork by Nicole Simon - Bouctouche, NB

Christmas Concert Videoconference!

**Monday,
December 14,
2015**

10:00AM AST

www.fnhelp.com/livevideo

We are looking for schools to perform in our Christmas Concert! The videoconference is open to all First Nation schools in Atlantic Canada.

To register, please **e-mail** or **call** Faye at the First Nation Help Desk, faye@firstnationhelp.com 902-567-0842, ext. 5505

The Christmas song of your choice would preferably be sung in your native language.

iPad for each school that participates!



Upcoming Events

MK Sporting Events

Junior High Volleyball

Wednesday, December 2 at 11 am

For more information, contact Tex at tex@kinu.ca

Christmas Concert Videoconference

December 14 at 10:00 am

For more information, contact Faye at faye@firstnationhelp.com

We're on [Facebook!](#)



Have an event or story idea you'd like to see in the December newsletter? Contact Shara at shara@kinu.ca or 567-0336 ext.5603