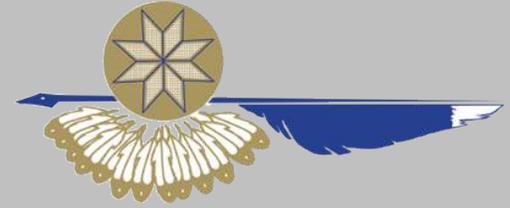


# Na'teliag



September 2015

## Eskasoni Mi'kmaw Nation Opens First Mi'kmaw Immersion School



The community of Eskasoni marked a milestone for Mi'kmaw Education this September when it opened its doors to the first ever Mi'kmaw Immersion School.

In order to get to such an important event, it took years of research and preparation behind the scenes. It began with a dream and through the hard work and dedication of many passionate community members, it has finally become a reality.

In the early 2000's, the idea was put forward to offer an immersion class to a small group of students. Once this program was put in place, interest began to grow throughout the community and more and more parents wanted their children involved.

The program began to extend from one small class of immersion students to include students from K-4 through to grade 4. Due to this increasing interest in the program, staff and language specialists began to discuss the idea of having a separate school for their immersion students.



The main reason for this request was so the students attending immersion classes would hear Mi'kmaq at all times in school. It would be used for school announcements, on the playground, in the hallways and encouraged by all teachers in student communication with each other and staff. Finally in the spring of 2015, it was announced that the school would open its doors in September.

The new school is located in the old TEC building and it accommodates over 120 students from K4 - Grade 4. They have a small gym, music classes, a kitchen, and complete immersion in all subjects. In the near future, there will be an expansion of the building and a new playground will be in place.

As expected with any new program, there have been some "growing pains". The bussing has been a challenge and the lunch program is not yet up and running but parents have been very supportive of the situation and have been helping out in any way they can.

Ida Denny, Principal of the Immersion School expressed extreme gratitude to everyone who has worked so hard to make this possible.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of so many people. We have TLE right here in the school and they provide us with so many resources. We have also had great support from our Education Office, community and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey."

Everyone is very proud of the community of Eskasoni for taking such an important step toward the preservation and revitalization of the Mi'kmaw Language. Congratulations!

# Trauma Informed Care in the Classroom



On September 3rd 2015, Janean Marshall, Student Services Coordinator for Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey provided a professional development workshop on Trauma Informed Care in the Classroom. Presenters included Judy Elliot, the program developer and School Mental Health Facilitator at the IWK, Holly Murphy, RN and Clinical Coordinator of trauma informed care at the IWK, along with Art Fisher and Nancy MacDonald, directors of Family Services Western and Eastern Nova Scotia.

During the workshop, teachers learned about increased awareness of the effects of trauma, how to deal with it in a classroom, the importance of self care and the different resources that are available to them.

Trauma was defined for the teachers as "any experience that overwhelms an individual's capacity to cope". When thinking about their students in their classes, teachers were encouraged to remember to build a safe environment for their students and focussing on all of the positives instead of their deficits.

Murphy explained to the group that "it is irrelevant to focus on what the kids do. It's important to focus on what triggered the event." She said that educators must be attentive to triggers. They need to develop a proactive approach by planning for challenging incidents. In the beginning, it is important to help students learn to calm down and diffuse situations.

Art Fisher and Nancy MacDonald also shared their experiences with Trauma Informed Care and building trauma informed communities.

Fisher explained that trauma informed practices can't work on an individual level. It involves community and families.

"We don't live our lives alone. We are members of families and communities. We all share stories."

The educators who attended the workshop felt that the subject matter was very important for their work with students, families and communities.

# Registration Open for 3rd Annual Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair



Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey is now accepting applications from students for the 3rd annual Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair being held November 11,12 and 13 in Halifax.

Youth aged 17-25 are encouraged to apply. Application forms must be accompanied by a letter of interest and letter of recommendation.

Students must address the following questions:

- Why do you want to attend the trades fair?
- What do you know about the trades?
- What do you want to learn?

Deadline for applications is October 9. Only fully-completed applications will be considered. For more information, contact Ann at [ann@kinu.ca](mailto:ann@kinu.ca) or 567-0336.

# 3rd Annual Nova Scotia Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair



**November 11th to 13th 2015**

**Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council  
Halifax**

## Come Explore the Trades

This three day exploration into the Trades will provide a hands-on learning experience with individuals who are experts in the industry.

The Nova Scotia Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair is open to aboriginal youth between the ages of 17 to 25 across Nova Scotia.

To apply please fill out the attached registration form. All costs (hotel, meals and transportation) will be covered by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey, Native Council of Nova Scotia, MPIC, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs and MEBO.

Submit your application by email to [ann@kinu.ca](mailto:ann@kinu.ca) or by fax 902-567-0336

**Deadline October 9th at 4pm**

Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair  
November 11, 12 & 13, 2015  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
School: _____
Gender: _____                      Sweater Size _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

(under18): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Card Number (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctors Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions/

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions:

1) Why are you interested in attending the Trades Fair?

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2) What do you hope to learn while attending the fair?

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3) What do you know about the construction trades?

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Signature (Student): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Parent/Guardian (under  
18): \_\_\_\_\_

Include a letter of recommendation from either your Principal, teacher, Guidance  
Councilor, Education Director or Employment officer.

To be submitted by October 9<sup>th</sup> to Ann Sylliboy [ann@kinu.ca](mailto:ann@kinu.ca) or fax 902-567-0337

# “Keep Jumping Off Rocks” Red Road Project Recaps A Great Summer!



“Keep jumping off rocks”, a quote from Elder Rose Morris from Gold River First Nations in Nova Scotia, was the motto for the Red Road youth this summer. It reminded them to disregard their fears, and to keep going through life courageously, just as if they were to jump off a huge rock and find themselves safe in a pool of water.

This Motto carried them through many exciting opportunities including the Stone Bear camp, powwows, film making, community events and summer games.

## Stone Bear Camp

Hosted in Bear River First Nation, the Red Road Youth kicked off their summer at a camp for a week. “Words cannot simply explain what we experienced at the camp this year,” observed Tammy Bernard, Red Road Leader. “It was truly magical, and an honor to experience the youth getting together, and becoming a team right before our eyes.”

Frank Meuse lead the group a few times a day with a talking circle focussing on their journeys. Rose Morris (Gold River) taught the youth basket making, and Lu’lan Wells (Membertou) guided in the construction of a sweat lodge and conducted a ceremonial sweat with the youth.

## Film Making with Cathy Martin

Cathy Martin began her activities with a talking circle. Although the group felt that they were very open to sharing with each other, they realized that they were quite closed off to their creative side. After many hours of exploring, the youth began to open up and some found a creative side that they had never realized they had!

The following day, the youth spent time planning, preparing and filming their videos which were based on the 7 Sacred Teachings. These videos will soon be available for viewing on the Red Road YouTube channel.

## Summer Games

During the Nova Scotia Mi’kmaw Summer Games, Red Road youth set up a booth promoting the many activities that they are involved with. They had a sucker pull game for the children and other opportunities for prizes for those who visited the booth. They had a daily draw and also connected with the entertainers, one of which has made plans to work with the Red Road youth on future projects.

## Community Events

At the beginning of the summer, community supervisors and youth leaders brainstormed plans for activities that they would like to do within their own community. Each community was provided with \$2000 to use toward cultural activities. One community brought together the leadership in the community and planned the activities as a group.

# Third Annual Nitap Day Celebrations



On Friday, September 25, over 3,000 elementary, junior high and high school students in Mi'kmaw communities across Nova Scotia celebrated the 3rd annual Nitap Day.

Nitap Day was celebrated in MK schools through individual school events. Community walks, dances, games, drumming and storytelling were some of the many activities that students enjoyed throughout the day.

Family, friends and community members were also invited to take part in the festivities.

“Nitap” was chosen to honour the day, because in addition to educating students and staff on the identification, dangers, and solutions to bullying in schools, the day’s events also focused on cultivating friendships between students to help prevent instances of bullying.

Principals feel that this is an important event to be held in September each year because it helps create awareness for the students, staff and the entire community. It sets the tone early in the school year and encourages a community of friendship and support.

The Nitap day buzz made it way to social media as photos, videos and messages of friendship were shared on Facebook and Twitter. The smiles on the faces of all the students, community members and staff show that starting the school year by celebrating our “Nitaps” is a wonderful tradition that will likely continue for years to come!

# Nitap Day Snapshots



# Introducing the Mi'kmaw Advisory Committee



*Over the past two years, a Mi'kmaw Advisory Committee has been working behind the scenes on many of the projects at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. We chatted with Blaire Gould, Mi'kmaw Language Coordinator, to find out more about their role and accomplishments.*

## **Who are the members of the Advisory Committee?**

The advisory committee members are (from left to right - front row) Elizabeth Paul, Rosemary Marshall, Barbara Sylliboy, Sheila Francis and Curtis Michael. (Back Row) Yolanda Denny, Ian Doucette, Arlene Stevens, Blaire Gould and Jacqueline Sullivan. (Missing from photo - Jane Meader, Phyllis Googoo, and Josephine Peck)

## **How was the committee chosen?**

The committee was selected by the Directors of Education and mandated by the Board of Directors and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Eleanor Bernard and John Jerome Paul.

## **What is the role of the committee?**

The Advisory was an important part of the first work-plan developed by MK for Mi'kmaw Language and they are continuing again on the new work-plan. The committee also played an important role in the translation and editing process of the Robert Munsch collection, the revision of the Foundation for Mi'kmaw Language document, Professional Development, App Development, etc - they are consulted prior to any work being published or created.

## **Do the committee members also work within their communities with respect to Mi'kmaw language activities?**

The committee members are working within their communities in every aspect of Mi'kmaw language from curriculum development to Elder advising. Together they have over a hundred years combined in working in schools and communities just solely on Mi'kmaw language - they have witnessed progression and they are also witnessing the decline of language fluency. They bring so much knowledge to the table and are motivated in the survival of the Mi'kmaw language through revitalization, preservation, and development.

## **What are some of the plans for the group in the future?**

We are working together on a new work-plan, which were suggestions requested by the Mi'kmaw language teachers - we are excited for the new developments and activities to come. An announcement will be made from the Advisory team in each Newsletter - stay tuned!

# 2015 Celebrating 50 years of X-Project



## What is X-Project?

X-Project is a student society at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. that offers small group educational assistance, recreational and leadership programs for African Canadian and Mi'kmaw youth in five communities in the surrounding area. It has been in existence since 1965 and is run entirely by volunteers.

## Success is the Best Reconciliation: Youth Leadership Conference Friday, October 16, 2015 at STFX!

In the spirit of the teach-ins held in the 1960s and 1970s, X-Project is inviting Mi'kmaw and African Nova Scotian youth in grades 10-12 from MK Communities and SRSB High schools to come to StFX on October 16, 2015 to attend this amazing Youth Leadership Conference. Our keynote speaker is writer, journalist, and Anishinaabemowin Activist **Wab Kinew**. Wab is also currently the Vice-president for Indigenous Relations at the University of Winnipeg. He will deliver a keynote address entitled "**Success is the Best Reconciliation.**"

### Tentative Agenda

10:00 am arrival & welcome (campus tours can be arranged for those schools who are able to arrive earlier)  
10:15 am Opening remarks  
10:30 am Keynote Address by Wab Kinew  
11:00 am Q&A with Wab Kinew  
11:45 am Feathers of Hope - Tamara Cremo  
12:00 pm Lunch  
12:45 pm Small group discussions  
1:45 pm Closing session  
2:45 pm Departure (campus tours can be arranged for those schools who are able to stay later)

Ask your teacher, principal or director of education how you can be part of this amazing opportunity!



Sponsored by X-Project with support from the McKenna  
Centre for Leadership



# Upcoming Events

## **Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey AGA**

Thursday, October 15 at Park Place Ramada

## **Elementary Basketball**

Thursday, October 15 at 11 am in Membertou

## **High School Co-ed Volleyball**

Friday, October 23 at 11 am at ABMHS

We're on [Facebook!](#)



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Have an event or story idea you'd like to see in the October newsletter? Contact Shara at [shara@kinu.ca](mailto:shara@kinu.ca) or 567-0336 ext.5603