

Ikanawtiket

Informing • Educating • Linking
Partnering • Involving • Co-ordinating

Due to our need for a dedicated person to liaise between our community and all other stakeholders in the Species At Risk Act (SARA), the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI), the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS), the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Gulf and Scotia Fundy Region (DFO), and Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS), have collaborated, through the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC), to launch a regional focal point initiative called “Species at Risk IKANAWTIKET”.

Ikanawtiket (ee-gone-aawh-dee-get) means to find a path (pathfinder) in Mi’kmaq. Species at Risk Ikanawtiket will help the Councils and the councils’ community members find our preferred path through the many choices available to us in the implementation of the SARA throughout Mi’kma’ki.

There are many activities underway throughout the Maritimes, Canada, and the world, involving many people from diverse backgrounds, moving towards the salvation of our planet from our own neglect and maltreatment. As Aboriginal Peoples living on our traditional ancestral homelands for thousands of years, we have either direct knowledge or have a sense and understanding of those lands (a world view) which we may choose to share among ourselves and/or with others.

SARA, Canada’s Biodiversity Strategy, several Articles of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and many Canadian Environmental Interests recognize and want to learn from, share with, and partner with Aboriginal Peoples.



Joshua McNeely, our new Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator

Some ways in which Ikanawtiket can work with you to help fulfill our responsibility to species at risk are to:

- Hold sessions to **inform** you and/or others about SARA and the processes of assessing and recovering species at risk
- Help to develop, design, produce, or conduct **educational** sessions specially geared toward the transfer of traditional knowledge from elder to youth
- Help establish a network of **links** throughout the maze of organizations already actively involved in species at risk
- **Partner** you with other elders, educators, program managers, recovery teams, scientists, government employees, etc.
- Help **involve** Aboriginal Peoples, especially youth and elders, in assessing and recovering wildlife
- **Co-ordinate** all of these activities to help insure that Aboriginal Peoples’ input into species at risk activities are meaningful and respected

For this large undertaking, MAPC has hired Joshua McNeely, a recent graduate of Mount Allison University with a B. Sc. in biology and chemistry. Joshua has work experience in field conservation, as a researcher in an environmental laboratory, and in human resources and supervision in the military. Joshua also belongs to the Society for Conservation Biology and the National Eagle Scout Association (Boy Scouts of America). He loves exploring science and history and examining how people inter-relate through culture, religion, and politics. Joshua hopes to use his organic approach to life to build a strong and lasting Ikanawtiket program.

Ikanawtiket will be a regular column in Gigmanag, featuring articles on local species at risk, ideas on how to be involved, and links to other SARA stakeholders in the Maritimes.

“TREAT THE EARTH WELL:
WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR
ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN”
Ancient Proverb