

2019

Drumming & Language Resource Manual



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1. About NCPEI

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island is a Community of Indigenous People residing off-reserve in traditional Mi'kmaq territory. NCPEI is the self-governing authority for all off-reserve Indigenous people living on Epekwitk (PEI).

The vision of the NCPEI is to have a strong political and structured organization that can deal effectively with other Governments, pursue renewal, while expanding some of its current activities. The NCPEI will be strong in its economic development capacity to develop business, tourism, and services for the organization and its members. The NCPEI will establish social activities which nurture Indigenous identities, Indigenous excellence in sports, as well host culturally sensitive programs for children, youth, adults, and Elders. The NCPEI regards both traditional and contemporary activities as beneficial.

The Mi'kmaq people are indigenous to Canada's Atlantic Provinces and the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, as well as the northeastern region of Maine. They call this territory *Mi'kma'ki* and it was divided into seven districts. These districts are, Eskikewa'kik, Unama'kik, Sipekni'katik, Epekwitk aq Piktuk, Kespukwitk, Sikniqt and Kespek. Oral and archeological evidence of the Mi'kmaq people inhabiting this land dates to 10,000 years ago.

Eskikewa'kik

Unama'kik

Sipekni'katik

Epekwitk aq Piktuk

Kespukwitk

Sikniqt

Kespek

Introduction to Speaking Mi'kmaq



2. Mi'kmaq Language Introduction

Traditionally, the Mi'kmaq people used a hieroglyphic system of writing in which a picture or symbol are used to represent words, syllables or sounds. In 1894, a method was first introduced using the Latin alphabet to help translate the Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs by an individual named Silas T. Rand. Bernie Francis and Doug Smith created a new system of writing in 1974 called the Francis-Smith orthography. Their system became the official orthography for the Mi'kmaq language in 1980. The following resource booklet is a result of their efforts.

3. Letters, Letter Combinations and Phonetics

a. Short Vowels

A E I O U †

A sounds like the A in **amen**

E sounds like the E in **bed**

I sounds like the EE in **beet**

O sounds like the O in **also**

U sounds like OU in **you**

† sounds like UH in **huh**

b. Long Vowels

A' E' I' O' U'

These long vowels sound the same as short vowels but are extended. Where A sounds like “AH”, A' sounds like “Ahhh”, where E sounds like “Eh”, E' sounds like “Ehhh”.

4. Consonants

P T K J L M N Q S W Y

P sounds like B as in **Ball**

PP sounds like P as in **Put**

T sounds like D as in **Dog**

TT sounds like T as in **Toy**

K sounds like G as in **Go**

KK sounds like K as in **Kick**

J sounds like J as in **Jog**

JJ sounds like CH as in **Church**

L sounds like L as in **Like**

M sounds like M as in **Me**

N sounds like N as in **New**

Q sounds like HK as in **Bach**

S sounds like S as in **Sit**

W sounds like W as in **Will**

Y sounds like Y as in **Yes**

a. Vowel-Consonant Combinations

These are vowel-consonant combinations where the resulting sound is different than might be expected.

AW – sounds like OU in ABOUT - a short “o” sound

A’W – sounds like the OW in VOW – a longer “o” sound

AY – sounds like the I in LIKE

AI – sounds like the I in EYE

EW – no English equivalent, can be compared to a shortened “ow” sound

E’W – no English equivalent, can be compared to a lengthened ‘ow” sound

EY – sounds like the A in CAKE

EI – sounds like the AY in BAY

IW – sounds like the EW in CREW

OW – sounds like the OA in SOAK

b. Consonant-Consonant Combinations – Glides

Glides are consonant-consonant combinations where the resulting sound is different than expected. Here are some examples of glides:

TL

NKWATL (my feet)

The TL in this word sounds like “dił”

TM

TMI’KN (axe)

The TM in this word sounds like
“dim”

TN

KWITN (canoe)

The TN in this word sounds like “din”

KL

NANKL (5 things)

The KL in this word sounds like “gul”

KM

KM’TN (mountain)

The KM in this word sounds like
“gum”

KN

KNA’JIJ (sesame seeds)

The KN in this word sounds like
“gin”

QM

NO’QM (cough)

The QM in this word sounds like
“hum”

QN

KA’QN (door)

The QN in this word sounds like
“hun”

ML

MLAKEJ (milk)

The ML in this word sounds like
“mul”

MN

MN’TU (bad spirit)

The MN in this word sounds like
“min”

ML

MLAKEJ (milk)

The ML in this word sounds like
“mul”

NL

SU’NL (cranberries)

The NL in this word sounds like “nil”

NM

JI’NM (man)The NM in this word
sounds like “nim”

WL

WLA (thing)

The WL in this word sounds like
“wul”

SL

WKWISL (his/her son)

The SL in this word sounds like “sil”

SN

JU'SN – (wind)

The SN in this word sounds like “sin”

PN

WAPNA'KI (Eastern Confederacy)

The PN in this word sounds like “bin”

PL

PLAMU – (salmon)

The PL in this word sounds like “bul”

LN

KASKMTLNAQN (the number 100)

The LN in this word sounds like “lin”



5. Numbers

1. Ne'wt – One
2. Ta'pu – Two
3. Si'st – Three
4. Ne'w – Four
5. Na'n – Five
6. Asukom – Six
7. Luiknek – Seven
8. Ukumuljin – Eight
9. Pesqunatek – Nine
10. Newtiska'q – Ten
11. Newtiska'q jel ne'wt- Eleven
12. Newtiska'q jel ta'pu – Twelve
13. Newtiska'q jel si'st – Thirteen
14. Newtiska'q jel ne'w - Fourteen
15. Newtiska'q jel na'n - Fifteen
16. Newtiska'q jel asukom- Sixteen
17. Newtiska'q jel l'uiknek -Seventeen
18. Newtiska'q jel ukmuljin – Eighteen



19. Newtiska'q jel pesqunatek – Nineteen

20. Tapuiska'q jel ne'w – Twenty

6. Colours

Mekwe'k - Red

Wataptek - Yellow

Wape'k - White

Maqtewe'k - Black

Tupkwanamu'k - Brown

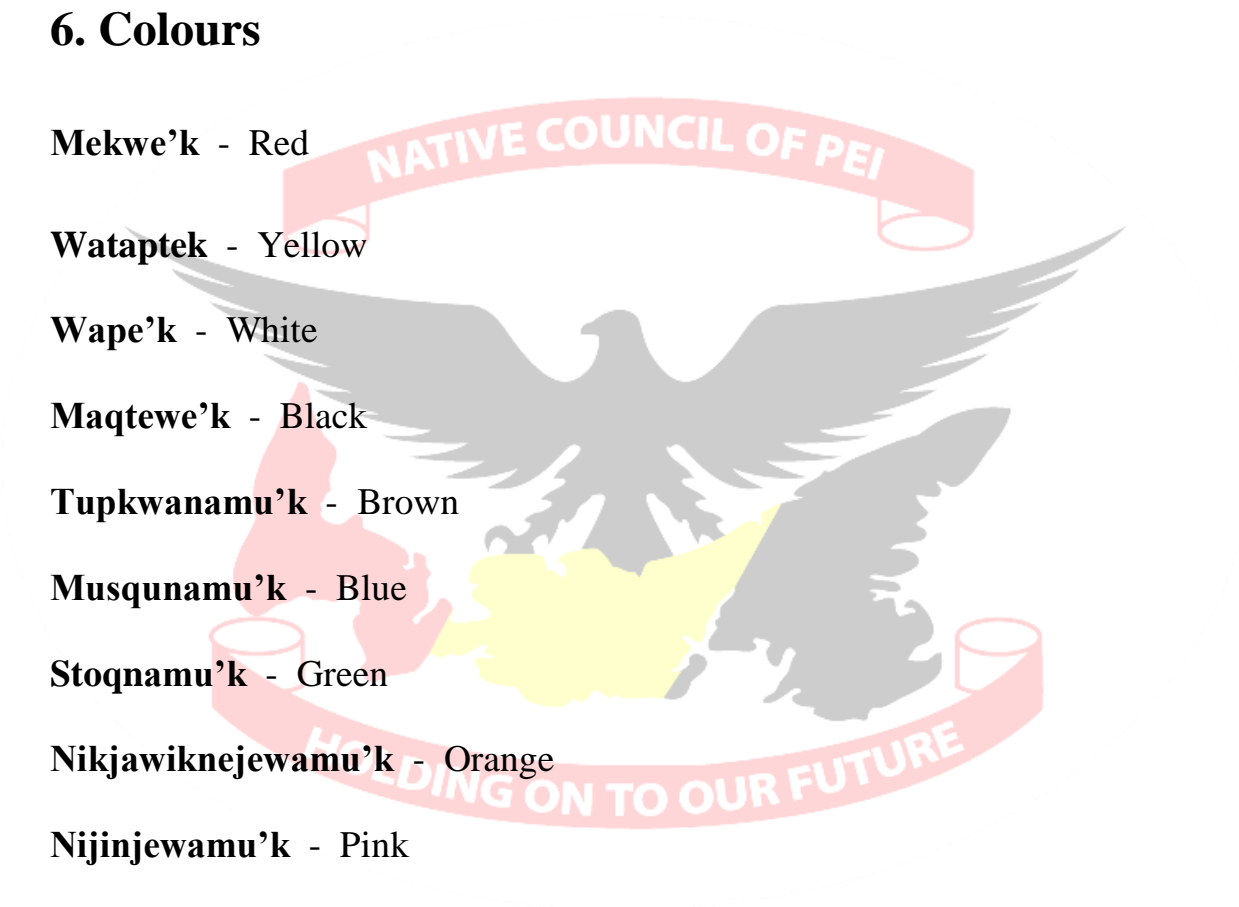
Musqunamu'k - Blue

Stoqnamu'k - Green

Nikjawiknejewamu'k - Orange

Nijinjewamu'k - Pink

Nisqunamu'k - Purple



7. Basic Conversation

Kwe' - (ka-way) - Hello

Teluisin – (del-u-eseen) - What is your name?

Teluisi - (del-u-ese) - My name is

Me'tal-wuleyn - (may-del-wa-layn) - How are you?

O'welei - (oh-wa-lay) - I am good

Muskajeweyi - (moos-ga-jeway) - I am great

Mu weleyu - (mu-wa-layu) - I am not good

Welta'si - (well-dah-see) - I am happy

Gesnugwat - (ges-new-gwat) - I am sick

Nmultis - (na-mul-dis) - See you later

Kewisin - (gow-we-seen) - Are you hungry?

Mijisi - (me-jis see) - Eat

Samqwa - (som-qua) - Drink

Ketu' samqwan (gedu som-quan) - Do you want a drink?

Piskwa' - (bis-gwa) - Come in

Jena'si - (jen- ah-say) - Calm down

Juku'e - (ju-gu-way) - Come here

Wela'lin - (wa-la-lin) - Thank you

Wela'lioc - (wa-la-lioc) - Thank you all

Kesalul - (gess-ah-lu) - I love you

Kesaluloq - (gess-ah-lu-la) - I love you all

8. Basic Commands

E'e - (Aa-a) - Yes

Moqwa' - (moh-wah) - No

Apaja'si – Come back

Juku'e - Come here

Wije'wi – Come with me

L'mie – Go home

Pasma'si – Go into Bed

Ajimpa – Go to sleep

Lisma'si - Lay down

Ankami - Look at me

Pa'si – Sit

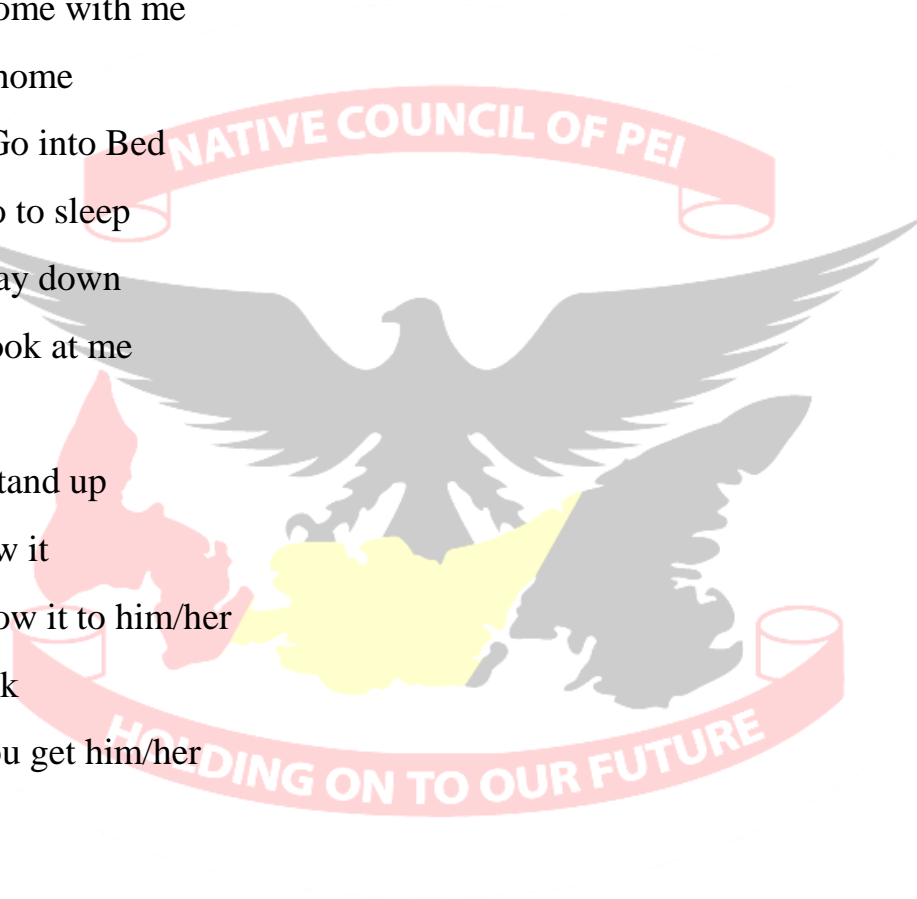
Qama'si – Stand up

Leke – Throw it

Laqtu – Throw it to him/her

Llika' – Walk

Mnisku - You get him/her



9. Animate Word List (Nouns)

Na'ku'set – Sun

Kloqoej – Star

Aluk – Cloud

Ji'nm – Man

Lpa'tuj – Boy

Nijan – My child

Nmis – My big sister

Nkwe'ji'j – My little sister

Saqmawi'skw – Chief (female)

Kisikui'skw – Elderly female

Tepknu'set – Moon

Walqwan – Rainbow

E'pit – Woman

E'pite'ji'j – Girl

Mijua'ji'j – Baby

Nsis – My big brother

Njiknam – M little bother

Saqmaw – Cheif (Male)

Kisiku – Elderly man

a. Animate Adjectives

Watapsit – Yellow

Nisqunamuksit – Purple

Stoqnamuksit – Green

Nijnjewamuksit – Pink

Musqunamuksit – Blue

Tupkwanamuksit -Brown

b. Animate Verbs

Nemi'k – I see

Nutaq – I hear

Example of sentences

Nemi'k Na'ku'set.

I see the sun.

Nemi'k Watapsit Na'ku'set.

I see the yellow sun.

Nemi'k Musqunamuksit Tepknu'set.

I see the blue moon.

Nutaq muin.

I hear the bear.

Natuq Tupkwanamuksit muin.

I hear the brown bear.

10. Inanimate Word List (Nouns)

Sipu – River	Qospem – Lake	Km'tn – Mountain
Miniku – Island	Wasuek – Flower	Wskitqamu'k – Earth
Puktew – Fire	Samqwan- Water	Kuntew – Rock
Apaqt – Ocean	Kapsku – Waterfall	Mtasoq – Cliff
Awti – Road	Ka'qn – Door	Kwitn – Canoe
Pleku – Nail	Wenjikkuum – House	Wikuom – wigwam
Tu'sati – Porch	Pui'kney – Broom	Kmu'jl – Stick

a. Inanimate Verbs

Nemitu – I see

Nutaq – I here

b. Inanimate Adjectives

Wataptek – Yellow

Nisqunamu'k – Purple

Stoqnamu'k – Green

Nijinnjewamu'k – Pink

Musqunamu'k – Blue

Tupkwanamu'k – Brown

i. Examples of Sentences and other

Nemitu sipu. - I see a river.

Nemitu musqunamu'k qospem. - I see a blue lake.

Nutaq Puktew. - I hear a fire.

Nutaq musqunamu'k sipu. - I hear a blue river.

11. Seasons

Siwkw – Spring

Kesik – Winter

Toqwa'q – Fall

Nipk – Summer

12. Months

Penamujuiku's – January: Frost Fish Runs

Apuknajit – February: Snow Blinding Month

Siewkesiku's – March: Forerunner of Spring

Penatmuiku's – April: Egg Hatching Time

Etqulijuiku's – May: Frog Croaking Time

Nipniku's – June: Leaves are Budding Time

Peskewiku's – July: Animal Fur Thickens Time

Kisikwekewiku's – August: Ripening Time

Wikumkewiku's – September: Mate Calling Time

Wikewiku's – October: Animal Fattening Time

Keptekewiku's – November: Frost Month

Kesikewiku's – December: Winter Month

13. Mi'kmaq Days of the Week

Amskwesewey – Monday

Ta'puewey – Tuesday

Si'stewey – Wednesday

Ne'wewey – Thursday

Kweltamultimk – Friday

Kespitek – Saturday

Ekntie'wimk - Sunday

14. Waisisk - Animals

Wowkwis - Fox	Mia'wj - Cat	L'mu'j - Dog
Paqtism - Wolf	U'lukwej – Coyote	Kajuewj – Bobcat
Apuksiskn – Lynx	Ka'qawej – Crow	Kwimu - Loon
Tia'm – Moose	Lentuk – Deer	Qalipu – Caribou
Kobit – Beaver	Muin – Bear	Wenjitia'm – Cow
Kulkwi's – Pig	Kiwnik – Otter	Ki'kwesu – Muskrat
Ki'kwa'ju – Badger	Na'jipuktaqnej – Bat	Tiake'wj - Mink
Ki'kli'kwej – Chicken	Te'sipow – Horse	Te'plj – Goat
Kitpu – Eagle	Tities – Bluejay	Ku'ku'kwes – Owl
Jujj – Bug	Pis – Fea	Klumuej – Mosquito
Amu – Bee	Kinikwejit – Ant	Mimikej – Butterfly
Wije's – Fly	Po'ks – Ladybug	Jipjawej – Robin
Waspu – Seal	Apukji'j – Mouse	Apukj – Rat
Apli'kmuj – Rabbit	Apikjilu – Skunk	Weti – Worm
Awo'kwejit – Spider	Ji'kaw - Bass	E's – Clam
Pejuc – Cod	Nmjinikej – Crab	Katew – Eel
Plamu – Salmon	Jakej – Lobster	Mntmu – Oyster
Atoqwa'su – Trout	Putup – Whale	Mikjikj - Turtle

15. Food

Wenju'su'n – Apple	Pkwiman - Blueberry	Su'n - Cranberry
Ajioqjimin – Blackberry	Maskwe's – Cherry	Aloqoman – Grape
Nikjawiknej -Orange	Ejkuj – Pumpkin	Wenjuikoqmin – Plum
Sqato'min – Raisin	Klitaw – Raspberry	Ika'taqne'l - Vegetables
Atuomkomin – Strawberry	Wikun – Beans	Pie'skman – Corn
Wisawipuneksit – Carrot	Tapatat – Potato	Pse'sis – Onion
Te'pi'sewey – Pepper	Pitlanji'jl – String beans	Wenju'sipekn – Turnip
Wius – Meat	Lentukuey – Deer meat	Nme'juey – Fish
Ki'kli'kwejuey – Chickenmeat	Tia'muey – Moosemeat	Kulkwi'sewey – Pork
Apli'kmujuey – Rabbit meat	Apitapikiejit – Turkey	Katawapu – Eel soup
Aptelmultimkewe'l – Rice	Apita'taqney – Yeast	Tipu'lewey – Butter
Wape'jkl – Flour	Koknawey – Cookies	Petaqn – Pie
Te'plma's – Cheese	Wikew – Fat	Mlakej – Milk
Kastio'mi – Molasses	Mimey – Oil	Salawey – Salt
Sismoqn – Sugar	Wikunapu – Coffee	Pitewey – Tea
Wen'ju'su'napu – Apple juice		

16. Body Parts

Nunji – My Head

Npukik – My Eye

Nsituaqn – My Ear

Nsiskun – My Nose

Ntun – My Mouth

Njitaqn – My Neck

Ntlmaqñ – My Shoulder

Npitnokom – My Arm

Ntluskinikñ – My Elbow

Npitñ – My Hand

Ntijin – My Thumb

Ntlewikñ – My Finger

Npsewikñ – My Chest

Nmusti – My Stomach

Nili – My Belly Button

Nkajikñ – My Thigh

Njikun – My Knee

Nkat – My Foot

Npsisqunan – My Toe



17. Prayer

“O Kji Niskam (O Great Spirit)”

O Kji Niskam

O Great Spirit

Ta’n wsitun nutmaq wkjusniktuk

Whose Voice we hear in the winds

Aqq ta’n wklamlamuti iknmatk Mimajuaqan Wksitkamuk.

and whose breath gives Life to all the world.

Nutui! Apjejiji, aqq menaqanay.

Hear Us. We are small and weak.

Nutai Mlkiknoti aqq Ksituoqnm.

We need your strength and wisdom

Asitelmi pmlikan ta’n me keluk aqq asiteten

Let us walk in beauty and make our

mpukikl nmitunew mekwe’k aqq

eyes behold the red and

musknamukw na’ku’set walkwasiej

purple sunset.

Asiten npitnn kepmitetmnew ta’n tesik kisitun

Make our hand respect the things you have made

Aqq asiteten nsituaqann nettistaqanan nutminew ksitun.

And our ears sharp to hear your voice.

Asitelmi nsitueyin, klaman kisi kjijtutis

Make us wise so that we may understand

Ta’n tesik kisi kinamajik Mi’kmaq.

the things you have taught our people.

Asitelmi kisi kinamasin ta’n tesik kisi katun

Let us learn the lessons you have hidden in

Etasiw nipi aqq kuntewiktuk.

every leaf and rock.

Etawey mlkiknoti, kwalaman Ma aji knaw

We seek strength not to be greater than

aqq Wijikitiek.

our brothers.

Pasik kisi wsuikneman ta'n mawi ksiktanit

But to fight our greatest enemy,

Na nekm, Ni'n.

Ourselves.

Asitelmi nekaw kisikajeyin kwalaman kisi aji asukultis

Make us always ready to come to you

Waqmektnn npitnn aqq kisi koqaji ankamulin.

with clean hands and straight eyes.

Kwlaman ta'n tujiw, Mimajuaqanm pemi, kaqiaq

So when life fades

Staqa nike Na'ku'set pemi walkwasiej asitelmatisk Njijaqamij kisi aji

asukulnin

our spirits may come to you

aqq ma tami iktnuk Ntaqoqon.

without shame.

Author – Chief Dan George

Translated by Dr. Bernie Francis

18. Honor Song – Mi’kmaq Lyrics, Phonetics and English Translation

Kepmite'tmnej ta'n teli l'nuwulti'kw

GEB – ME – DAY – DE – MAH – NEJ → → DON – DELLY – ULL – NOLE – DEEK →

Ni'kma'jtut mawita'nej

NIG – MAHJ – DOOG → GAY – MAH – WEE – DAH – NEJ

Kepmite'tmnej ta'n wettapeksulti'k

GEB – ME – DAY – DE – MAH – NEJ → → DON – WED – AH – BECK – SOOL – DEEG →

Ni'kma'jtut apoqmatultinej

NIG – MAHJ – DOOG → AH – BONE – MAH – DOLE – DE – NEJ

Apoqmatultinej ta'n Kisu'lkw teli ika'luksi'kw

AH – BONE – MAH – DOLE – DE – NEJ → DON – GEE – SOOLK – DELLY – EE – GAH – LOOG

wla wskitqamu

SEEG – OO – LA – SIT- KAH – MOOG

way-yah-hey-yoh

WAY--YAH--HEY –YA

Way-yoh-way-hi-yah

Way-yoh-way-yoh-way-hi-ya

Way-yoh-way-hi-ya Way-yoh-way-hi-yah

Way-yoh-way-hi-yah

Way-yoh-way-hi-yah

Way-yoh-way-hi-yah-hay-yoh

English Translation

Let us greatly respect our being
L'nu

My people let us gather

Let us greatly respect our native
roots

My people let us help one another

Let us help one another as Creator
intended when he put us

on the earth

Contact Us

Coordinator(s) & Facilitator(s)

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Drumming and Language Instructor

Gilbert Sark

Drumming Instructor

Classes

Zone 1 – Portage, located at the NCPEI Satellite Office

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm

Zone 2 – Charlottetown, located at NCPEI head office

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Zone 3 – St. Peters, Located at the St. Peter Bay Complex

Mondays at 5:30pm

