

**2023**  
**48TH ANNUAL**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**REPORT**

**NATIVE COUNCIL OF  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**



**NOVEMBER 3RD - 5TH, 2023**  
**MILL RIVER RESORT**



2022 47th Annual General Assembly  
Rodd Royalty, Charlottetown, PE

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TAB 1

## **President & Chief Opening Remarks**

Kwé Elders, Youth, Members, and Invited Guests,

Welcome to our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly and my 8<sup>th</sup> year as your President & Chief. I want to especially welcome our invited guests which include members of the Grand Council, representatives from the federal and provincial governments, representatives from our national organization the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, representatives from our regional organization the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council, and representatives from our sister organizations – the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and the Native Council of Nova Scotia.

NCPEI continues to see a healthy growth in our funding, financials, programs, services, and staffing. We now have a record number of employees and currently employ over 57 staff members which is up from 45 staff members last year. The increasing in staffing also means the increase in programs and services we provide to our off-reserve Indigenous community.

Over the next two days, we will be going to more detail on these programs and services, financial status of the Native Council of PEI, and new initiatives we have on the go. This is also an election year and I want to acknowledge all the candidates bringing their names forward and wish everyone of us candidates the best of luck.

We also have some great evening activities for everyone to enjoy which included our crib tournament last night, but also our bingo and theme dance this evening. Don't forget to buy tickets for our silent auction and our 50/50 Squares Game.

Once again, welcome to NCPEI's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly!

Lisa Cooper

## **Introduction of Guests**

Including but not limited to:

- Elmer St. Pierre, National Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Lorraine Augustine, Chief and President Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Theresa Cooke, Finance Director, Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Brendan Moore, Chief and President, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council
- Members of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council:
  - Keptin Benny Sark
  - Keptin Russel Julien
  - Keptin Keith Julien
  - Keptin Sean Paul
- Honourable Ernie Hudson, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Mark Sheridan, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Province of PEI
- Roger Hunka, Director, Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC)
- Vanessa Mitchell, Executive Director, Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS), MAPC
- Mary-Rose Watts, MAPC
- Barry Marsman, MAPC
- Bryan Martin, MAPC
- Christina Davis, MAPC
- James Veres, MAPC
- Gavin Scott, MAPC

## **Board Members, Coordinators and Staff Positions**

### NCPEI Board of Directors

President and Chief	Lisa Cooper
Zone 1 Director	Loretta Ross
Zone 1 Director	Richard Cooper
Zone 2 Director	William Bourque
Zone 2 Director	Mary Busch
Zone 3 Director	Kayla Larkin
Zone 3 Director	Dana Wakelin
Elder Representative	Georgina Knockwood Crane
Youth Representative	Ebony Larkin

### L'nu Fisheries Board of Directors

President	Jordan Crane
Vice-President	Lisa Cooper
Zone 1	Loretta Ross
Zone 2	Dawne Knockwood
Zone 3	Chris St. Onge
Ex-Officio	Kenny Tuplin
Fisherman Representative	Stephen Clements

### Nanegkam Board of Directors

President	Lisa Cooper
Director	Emily Bernard
Director	Jordan Crane
Director	Wendy Anderson
Director	Dana Wigmore

### NCPEI Administrative and Core Staff

Director of Finance	Emily Bernard
Finance Assistant	Matt O'Brien
Human Resources Director	Mary Lynn Blanchard
Staffing Coordinator	Ryan Knockwood
Funding Reporting Officer	Cynthia Cormier
Kelewatl Commissioner	Jordan Crane
L'nu Fisheries Assistant	Jody Jesso
Office Supervisor	Stephen Gauthier
President and Chief Assistant	April Whynot
Administrative Assistant	Joseph Seaman
Receptionist	Jamie Lee Augustine
Policy Analyst	Bradley Cooper
Policy Analyst	Jane Affleck
Policy Analyst	David Jamieson
Policy Analyst	Kristine Greenlaw
Housing Development Officer	- vacant -
Nanegkam Housing Manager	David Rooney



Nanegkam Maintenance  
Nanegkam Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant  
IT Administrator  
Digital Archives Coordinator  
Digital Archives Assistant  
General Marketing Coordinator  
Colleen Courturier

Rob McKinnon  
- vacant –  
Everton Kennedy  
Paul Martin  
Kyle LeClair  
- vacant –  
Addictions and Mental Health Navigator

#### NCPEI Program Staff

Engaging Indigenous Men & Boys Coordinator  
Environment Program Coordinator  
Environmental Technician  
Indigenous Courtworker  
Indigenous Skills & Employment Training  
Membership and Elder Support Coordinator  
Mobile Harm Reduction Team Coordinator  
MHRT Outreach  
MHRT Outreach  
MHRT Outreach  
MHRT Outreach  
Missing and Murdered Women and Girls  
Pjila'si Coordinator  
Reaching Home Coordinator  
Retrieving our Stories Part II  
Re-establishing Community Coordinator  
Language & Drumming Facilitator  
SAFE Coordinator  
Tapui'tjitja'amitj (2-Spirit)  
YESS Facilitator

Stephenson Joe  
Clara Jane Wood  
James Fraser  
Lynn Bradley  
Nancy MacLean  
- vacant -  
Amanda Trainor  
Nick Cheverie  
Lauren Smith  
Jean Claude Creamer  
Chris McGillivray  
Sarah Stewart Jackson  
Caitlyn McLean  
Chris Clay  
David Rawniak  
Dawne Knockwood  
Alicia Muttart  
Brenda Dion  
Kaelyn Mercer  
- vacant -

#### Winter Street Shelter

Shelter Manager  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker  
Shelter Resource Worker

Roberta Cosgrove  
Kyle Walsh  
Cassidy Gallant  
Matthew Forster  
Clayton Drake  
Janet Jones  
Tammy Nichols-Echlin  
Megan Chant  
Ying Chao Ma  
Ryan Dunn

Casual Shelter Workers

Nicole Gallant Gilks  
Gerard Deveau  
Devin Wagner

TAB 2

## **48<sup>TH</sup> NCPEI AGA AGENDA**

### **Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023**

4:00 – 6:00	Registration
7:00 – 10:00	Cribbage Tournament

### **Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:45	Opening Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grand Entry &amp; Opening Prayer</li><li>• President and Chief Welcoming Remarks</li><li>• Introduction of Board and Staff</li><li>• Introduction of Guests</li></ul>
9:45 - 10:30	Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nomination &amp; Selection of Chair/Co-chair</li><li>• Roll Call</li><li>• Acceptance of Rules of Order</li><li>• Acceptance of Agenda</li><li>• Nomination &amp; Selection of Resolutions Committee</li><li>• Nomination &amp; Selection of Elections and Credentials Committee</li></ul>
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break
11:00 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading and Adoption of 47<sup>th</sup> (2023) AGA Minutes</li><li>• Reading and Adoption of 47<sup>th</sup> (2023) Resolutions and Actions Taken</li><li>• Reading and Adoption of Resolution of the Board of Directors – Meeting held by Zoom April 6, 2023</li></ul>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delegate Roll Call</li><li>• Resolutions Committee Report</li><li>• Elections and Credentials Committee Report – Rules for Election Process</li><li>• Candidate Speeches/Question and Answer Period</li><li>• Election</li><li>• Election Results (Report from Election and Credentials Committee)</li></ul>
3:30 – 5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President &amp; Chief's Report</li><li>• National Chief's Report</li><li>• Program Reports</li><li>• Group Photo</li></ul>
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner
7:00 – 9:00	Bingo
9:00 – 10:00	All Ages Dance
10:00 – 1:00	Dance and Cash Bar (19+ only)

**Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Attendance/Roll Call
9:15 – 10:00	Audited Financial Statements – Presented by Lauren Vail, BDO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native Council of PEI</li><li>• Nanegkam Housing</li></ul> Appointment of Auditor
10:00 – 10:15	Health Break ( <b>Hotel Check out</b> )
10:15 – 11:00	5- Year Strategic Plan Introduction - BDO
11:00 – 12:00	MAPC Presentation
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Proposed Bylaw Amendments Resolutions
2:30 – 2:45	Health Break
2:45 – 4:30	Resolutions Continued
4:30	Prize Draws Other Business and Adjournment Grand Exit & Closing Prayer

## **RULES OF ORDER**

1. The assembly will meet each day at 9:00 am or as soon thereafter as a quorum of delegates is present.
2. An issue must be introduced by way of a motion duly moved and seconded before the Assembly can discuss it.
3. Any delegate may move or second a motion but may not do both for the same motion.
4. A motion may, at any time during discussion stage, be withdrawn or amended provided both the mover and seconder agree.
5. Any person wishing to speak on a motion shall proceed to one of the microphones provided for this purpose. When recognized by the Chairperson(s), the person shall identify themselves before addressing remarks to the question at issue.
6. No person may speak longer than five (5) minutes at a time on an issue and not speak more than once on that issue until all other persons who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
7. A motion shall be open for discussion until such time as the Chairperson is satisfied that everyone wanting to speak has had an opportunity to do so. Only after “any further discussion” has been asked three (3) times may “question” be called by the Chair. “Question” can be called by any delegate on the floor at any time, but this declaration may or may not be acted on at the Chairperson’s discretion.
8. Either a show of delegate voting cards or standing vote on the basis of one (1) vote per delegate may be the voting method used to decide the status of motions.
9. All motions and resolutions shall require the affirmative vote of a majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote in order to pass. For clarity, “those present and eligible to vote” shall be determined from the roll call conducted each morning of the AGA and any abstentions in a vote shall not change the number of affirmative votes required.
10. The Chairperson shall make every attempt to have the Assembly settle all disputes that arise from the floor. The Chairperson shall, however, be empowered to make dispute-settling decisions in order that the business of the Assembly may proceed.
11. The Chairperson shall be required to refer to the rules of order, the constitution and by-laws, and their own experience and knowledge when making decisions or settling disputes.

## **DRAFT RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Guidelines for Submitting Resolutions:**

1. All resolution will require a mover and a seconder who are registered voting delegates. If the mover or seconder are not present at the time resolutions are being discussed, another mover or seconder may be taken from the Assembly floor at the discretion of the AGA Chairperson(s).
2. All resolutions must be received in writing no later than \_\_\_\_\_. No resolution shall be taken after the deadline, including from the assembly floor.
3. Resolutions must be delivered to a Resolutions Committee member in person or emailed to \_\_\_\_\_ with the subject "AGA Resolution".
4. Any resolutions that appear similar in nature will be combined with the mutual consent from the movers and seconders of the resolutions.
5. Any resolution which deals with a constitutional change shall be noted as such prior to the discussion and vote. If carried, the resolution shall be brought forward as a Notice of Motion for Constitutional Change at the next AGA for a second vote and final approval.
6. Anyone requiring assistance with writing or preparing a resolution can ask for assistance from the Resolutions Committee.

### **Responsibilities of the Resolutions Committee:**

1. The Resolutions Committee shall select a Chair who shall oversee and act as a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee. The Chair shall present the Resolution Committee's report to the Assembly and shall select members of the Resolutions Committee, which must include the Chair, to read resolutions and track amendments on behalf of the Assembly floor.
2. All members of the Resolutions Committee, with support from NCPEI staff, shall be responsible for helping to write, collect, and prepare resolutions prior to discussion. Members must also be prepared to read and track amendments to resolutions if selected by the Chair.
3. The AGA Chairperson(s) shall be responsible for chairing the discussion and vote on resolutions in accordance with the adopted Rules of Order.

## **DRAFT ELECTIONS & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Guidelines for Candidate Speeches and Answers:**

1. All eligible candidates will require a nominator and seconder from the delegates at the AGA. A copy of each eligible candidate's letter of intent to run and biography, if available and as required by the By-Laws, will be made available to the Assembly by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Each nominator will be provided \_\_\_\_ minutes and each seconder provided \_\_\_\_ minutes to state why they are nominating / seconding the candidate for consideration.
3. Each candidate will be provided \_\_\_\_ minutes to address the Assembly with a speech.
4. Following candidate speeches, a period of \_\_\_\_ minutes will be provided for a question & answer period (per candidate / shared by all candidates). Each candidate will be limited to \_\_\_\_ minutes in answering a question.
5. Questions will be prioritized from voting delegates first before opening to questions from other attendees. Questions will be asked in order of (Zone by Zone / first to the microphone).
6. Individuals may only ask one question and to only a single candidate. Individuals asking questions must ask their question concisely and must not provide statements without a question.

### **Guidelines for Voting:**

1. Prior to voting, each candidate will be provided the opportunity to appoint (one / two) scrutineers, if they so choose. A scrutineer does not need to be a delegate or member. A scrutineer will work with the Elections & Credentials Committee to oversee that the correct procedures are followed.
2. The voting Elections & Credentials Committee members, Scrutineers, and candidates will be the first delegates to cast their vote. The Elections & Credentials Committee will then call each other voting delegate by Zone.
3. Each voting delegate, when called, will be provided a clean ballot and instructions for voting from the Elections & Credentials Committee. The delegate will proceed to a private voting booth to vote securely and then deposit their folded ballot into the vote box in view of the scrutineers.
4. Once all votes have been cast, the Elections & Credentials Committee and scrutineers will count the ballot results. A candidate must receive a simple majority (i.e., a whole number greater than 50%) of all votes cast in their favour to be successful. Spoiled ballots count as 'no' votes. The AGA Chairperson(s) shall announce the required threshold prior to voting.
5. If a candidate has not reached the successful threshold, then repeated rounds of voting must occur until a successful vote is recorded. If there are more than two candidates running, the (one / two) candidates with the fewest votes will be removed from running. The AGA Chairperson(s) shall be entitled to make other decisions as necessary to ensure that the AGA may remain on schedule.

6. If a candidate has reached the successful threshold, the Elections & Credentials Committee shall announce the successful candidate. The incoming President & Chief will then be given a short opportunity to address the Assembly.
7. At the end of the process, the AGA Chairperson(s) shall ask for a motion to destroy the ballots and a motion to dissolve the Elections & Credentials Committee. A motion to destroy the ballots means that the Elections & Credentials Committee and scrutineers shall not reveal the count of votes nor the margin by which the President & Chief was successful.

**Responsibilities of the Elections & Credentials Committee:**

1. The Elections & Credentials Committee shall select a Chair who shall oversee and act as a spokesperson for the Elections & Credentials Committee. The Chair shall present the Elections & Credentials Committee's report to the Assembly, shall assign duties and responsibilities to other committee members, and shall communicate voting results to the AGA Chairperson(s).
2. The Elections & Credentials Committee shall track time during speeches and answers. The Elections & Credentials Committee shall communicate to candidates when they are approaching their time control by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Elections & Credentials Committee shall work with NCPEI staff to prepare the voting area and ballots. The Elections & Credentials Committee will then work with the scrutineers to ensure that correct voting procedures are followed.
4. The Elections & Credentials Committee and the AGA Chairperson(s) shall coordinate efforts to resolve any issues that may arise during the election process.



TAB 3

**Native Council of Prince Edward Island**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**  
**Saturday, November 5, 2022, and Sunday, November 6, 2022**  
**Rodd Royalty Hotel, Charlottetown, PE**

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**

**Opening Ceremony**

- Grand Entry begins at 9:24 a.m.
- Opening prayer by Elder Representative, Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3)

**President and Chief Opening Remarks**

Chief Lisa Cooper delivered President and Chief Opening Remarks

**Key Points:**

- Past term has provided higher level of support, services, and programming than ever before
- NCPEI now employs over 45 staff
- Continued commitment to grow NCPEI financially and with programs and services
- NCPEI was fortunate to host annual Panmure Island Powwow this year
- Found strong allies in all levels of government, media, and broader community

**Nomination of Chairperson**

- Bradley Cooper nominated as Chair by Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2), and seconded by Diane Burke (Zone 2)
- No further nominations
- **Bradley Cooper accepts the nomination as Chair**

**Introduction of Board and Staff**

**Introduction of Guests**

- Mark Sheridan, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Province of PEI
- The Honourable Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Official Opposition, Green Party of PEI. Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker addresses delegates:

## Roll Call

Chair began roll call for delegates. Delegate count is 51. (Majority vote to pass a motion or resolution is 50% +1 of those present and eligible to vote)

ZONE 1					
Delegate Name	Present	Absent	Delegate Name	Present	Absent
Emma Bulger	X		Jamie Perry	X	
Tony Clements	X		Janelle Perry	X	
Terry Clements	X		Louis Perry		X
Jamie Clements	X		Tracey Perry MacEachern	X	
Richard Cooper	X		Francis Pineau	X	
Chris Ellsworth	X		Tim Ross	X	
Rachel Harper Pineau	X		Loretta Ross	X	
Wanda LeClair	X		Clara Jane Wood	X	
Murray Morrison	X		Judy Duguay	X	
Helen Perry	X				

ZONE 2					
Delegate Name	Present	Absent	Delegate Name	Present	Absent
Ray Bennett	X		Nelson Labobe	X	
Mary Lynn Blanchard	X		Margaret Labobe	X	
William Bourque	X		Louise Lamothe	X	
Lynn Bradley		X	Ebony Larkin	X	
Diane Burke	X		Destinee Larkin	X	
Lisa Cooper	X		Julie Pellisier-Lush		X
Jordan Crane	X		Sarah Stewart-Jackson	X	
Joyce Gallant	X		Mike Viau	X	
Bryan Hutchings	X		Dawne Knockwood	X	
Jody Jesso	X				

ZONE 3					
Delegate Name	Present	Absent	Delegate Name	Present	Absent
Sicilia Clements	X		Melvin Hinks	X	
Shane Clements	X		Mary Mills	X	
Roxanne Gallant	X		Dana Wakelin	X	
Donna Gregory	X		Lori Sanderson	X	
Katie Jordan	X		Chris St. Onge	X	
Georgina Knockwood Crane	X		Amanda Trainor	X	
Kayla Larkin	X		Deanna Walker	X	
Nicole Larkin		X (babysitting)	Doreen Woods	X	

### **Motion #1 – To Accept the Rules of Order**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)

**Motion Carried**

### **Motion #2 – To Accept the 2022 AGA Agenda**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)

#### **Discussion:**

- Chief Cooper indicates that the MAPC and Indigenous Court Worker presentations will not go ahead this weekend and requests if there is an agenda item from day two that can be moved to day one, to give more time for resolutions on day two
- Possibility if Lynn Bradley is available tomorrow, she can present the Court Worker report at that time

**Motion Carried**

### **Nominations and Appointment of Resolution Committee**

- Donna Gregory nominated by Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) and seconded by Lynda Mary Mills  
**Donna Gregory accepts the nomination**
- Katie Jordan nominated by Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) and seconded by Ebony Larkin (Zone 2)  
**Katie Jordan accepts the nomination**
- Shane Clements nominated by Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) and seconded by Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)  
**Shane Clements accepted the nomination**
- Lori Sanderson nominated by Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2), and seconded by Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)  
**Lori Sanderson accepts the nomination**

**Motion #3 – To Cease Nominations of Resolution Committee**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)  
Seconded by: Ebony Larkin (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

**Motion #4 – To Approve the 2021 46<sup>th</sup> AGA Minutes**

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)  
Seconded by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

*Health Break (10:06 a.m. to 10:32 a.m.)*

**Motion #5 – To Accept the Draft Resolutions Committee Report**

Donna Gregory, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, read the guidelines for submitting resolutions and the responsibilities of the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions will be accepted in writing, in person, or by e-mail until 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)  
Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

**Motion #6 – To Accept the 2021 AGA Resolutions and Actions Taken**

Chair reads only the “Be it Resolved” and “Actions Taken” from the 46<sup>th</sup> NCPEI AGA resolutions.

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)  
Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

## **President & Chief Report**

Chief Cooper read the “President & Chief Report” and provided a verbal update

## **Motion #7 – To Accept the President & Chief Report**

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3)

Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2)

### **Discussion:**

- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) commends NCPEI Chief, Board, and staff for their hard work to get NCPEI to where it is today. Thanks Mark Sheridan and Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker for attending. Mentions RCMP used to be in attendance and would indicate how they were partnering with NCPEI. Partnership with government, only fair for officials to be there to answer questions and to hear concerns and how well things are going with NCPEI. Suggests invites for RCMP, different commissioners, party leaders, government officials

### **Motion Carried**

## **Board of Director Reports**

- Richard Cooper provided a verbal update for Zone 1 and read the Zone 1 written report.
- William Bourque provided the update for Zone 2. He summarized from the written report the activities he attended since he was elected in February.
- Kayla Larkin and Shane Clements provided the update for Zone 3.
- Louise Lamothe read the Elder Representative Report. Newly elected Elder Representative, Georgina Knockwood Crane provided a verbal update.
- Ebony Larkin provided the Youth Representative Report.

## **Motion #8 – To Accept the Board of Director’s Reports**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)

### **Motion Carried**

Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) reminds all members in attendance to fill out the Community Mapping Survey that is included in the AGA Kit.

*Lunch Break (11:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)*

## **Nanegkam Housing Corporation Report**

Chief Lisa Cooper and Bryan Hutchings, Nanegkam Housing Manager, provide a verbal update on the Nanegkam Housing Corporation Report

### **Key Points to Verbal Update:**

- Bryan Hutchings officially took over as Housing Manager on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- Operations and Maintenance Budget – pays for things like oil, repair bills, maintenance, and electricity. Any surplus at end of the year is returned back to CMHC and any shortage, CMHC reimburses NCPEI.
- Capital Placement Reserve – meant for larger projects, i.e. decks, roofs, etc. Hired a maintenance coordinator in August.
- Challenging to get contractors; Bryan re-establishing a contractor list. Would like at least two contractors for any given principle (2 plumbers, 2 electricians, 2 carpenters)
- Occupancy is an issue – out of 56 units only one vacant right now and waiting list on average every month has 30-35 applicants looking for units
- Would love to have a building with 8-10, 1-bedroom apartments for Elders
- Aging out process is a challenge – A lot of 2-3 bedroom homes are occupied by one person
- Working on Capital Replacement Plan for next 5 years
- Rent collection challenging every month. Arrears should be no more than 4%, we are running 16-20% every month.
- High rental arrears don't look good on us. Have to show we are a responsible organization. The Nanegkam Board makes decision re: arrears, not Chief Cooper or Bryan

### **Motion #9 – To Accept Nanegkam Housing Corporation Report**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Mills (Zone 3)

### **Discussion:**

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) - any possibility of incorporating rent-to-own
  - Chief Cooper responds that it is likely not feasible but may be something to look at in the future
- The organization will have to take a hard look at the tenancies and income levels soon
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2) - any plan to get more affordable units in addition to the current six
  - Chief Cooper responds that an Elder's complex had to be sold as couldn't find Elders to rent it. No real funding available for affordable. Government needs to look at the most vulnerable and organizations like ours that serve a membership that can use these units.
- Bryan states that the Province, in conjunction with the federal government, has initiated affordable housing and offers collaboration with developers. Developers are building apartment buildings and the Province has negotiated a percentage to be attributed to low-income. Bryan asks Mark Sheridan to look at NCPEI for 1-bedroom apartments and would be happy with 1-2 units in every development.
- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3) asks what the protocol is for giving eviction notices.
- Bryan states that he gets a report from Finance on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month. If rent is not paid in full on the 1<sup>st</sup>, letter is sent asking tenant to call the office. 10 days to pay is given, otherwise eviction notice issued.
- PEI government doesn't recognize NCPEI as an Indigenous represented organization. The Province hasn't upheld their agreement regarding Panmure Island. To make an impact, at election time ask your MLA when they come to the door: Who is the Native Council and how do you support them?

### **Motion Carried**

### **Motion #10 – To Accept L’nu Fisheries Limited Report**

Jordan Crane, President of L’nu Fisheries Limited, provided a verbal update to the President’s Report

#### **Key points from verbal update:**

- Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 25 – this is the first time Jordan can remember that canners were worth more than markets at the start of the season
- Japan is still in recession – nobody is spending money or building restaurants
- Price of tuna in Japan is very low right now

Moved by: Ebony Larkin (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Dana Panchuk (Zone 3)

#### **Motion Carried**

Chair read the introductions for all NCPEI program reports since not all staff members were present due to COVID and logistics.

### **Motion #11 – To Accept NCPEI Program Reports**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

#### **Discussion:**

- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) inquires as to why the Indigenous Court Worker report is not included in the AGA Kit
  - Was missed in kit (April copied for all) Chief Lisa Cooper provides a verbal update on the Indigenous Court Worker program

#### **Discussion:**

- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3) wonders why we don’t as a council have a petition made to the government to let them know we are here
- Chief Cooper will talk to Elaine about drafting a survey to give out. She urges all members to fill out the Community Mapping Survey because then the government can’t deny that there’s over 500-800 families giving us direction.
- Chief Cooper states members are not being set up to succeed but are set up to fail over and over again. This is more than a legal issue, it’s moral and ethical
- NCPEI is well-ahead and is a model for the rest of Canada on how we provide a wrap-around approach to reduce recidivism and reduce high rates of incarcerations and provide support for mental health and addiction programs.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) Surveys and questionnaires can be used against us. We are not in the research and our statistics are being used against us. We need a relationship with the provincial government because there isn’t one. Our people are suffering we need to start working for our community and maybe that’s outside the government
- Federal government wants to work with NCPEI but they get push back from the provincial minister and Premier. Chief Cooper’s fear is the studies that are out there don’t reflect NCPEI. NCPEI policy analysts are submitting policy documents to the federal standing committees. We



have to take back what distinct means as a distinct indigenous represented organization residing off-reserve on traditional ancestral Mi'kmaq territory.

- We falter when there's programs with the province and cannot be mandated through the federal government. On questionnaires there's no third box besides First Nations, Inuit, or Metis. Government is pushing all responsibility from themselves onto the Bands.
- Chief Cooper acknowledges some of the successes. Wouldn't have a men's shelter without Shelley Cole and wouldn't have supplies for Mobile Harm Reduction Team without the \$50,000 from the province. Reconciliation is baby steps. Chief Cooper is always open to change, collaboration and co-development and is a strong believer in what we do is good. The province has everything to gain by supporting us.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) inquires as to how many government officials were sent invites for the AGA and how many are here today
- Chief Cooper answers that lots of invites were sent out and only one is in attendance (Mark Sheridan). Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker was in attendance earlier. Premier King sent a letter that is included in the AGA Kit.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) states the information here today is all very important but it's not being heard by government officials at the AGA and indicates if they can't clear their schedule for one day a year, how important is the relationship?
- Chief Cooper states that it can't be just her, it has to be the voters
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) speaks about the Forgotten People's Movement and indicates that we have to come together as a community, and everybody has to show up
- Chief Cooper agrees but would never want to jeopardize anyone's job and understands there are community members who work for the government. If people want to rally to demand the Premier to meet with us, she'll organize it
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) indicates we need to have enough time to organize a rally and to make sure we have enough members to attend.
- Chair indicates that PEI does have a Minister of Indigenous Affairs (Premier Dennis King) – many efforts to contact have been made and he was invited to the AGA.

#### **Motion Carried**

*Day one concludes at 3:20 p.m. with AGA group photo*

**Native Council of Prince Edward Island  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly  
Saturday, November 5, 2022, and Sunday, November 6, 2022  
Rodd Royalty Hotel, Charlottetown, PE**

**Sunday, November 6, 2022**

**Meeting called to order by Chair at 9:00 a.m.**

**Roll Call**

Chair began roll call for delegates. Delegate count is 49. (Majority vote to pass a motion or resolution is 50% +1 of those present and eligible to vote)

<b>ZONE 1</b>					
<b>Delegate Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Delegate Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Emma Bulger	X		Jamie Perry	X	
Tony Clements	X		Janelle Perry	X	
Terry Clements	X		Louis Perry	X	
Jamie Clements	X		Tracey Perry MacEachern	X	
Richard Cooper	X		Francis Pineau	X	
Chris Ellsworth	X		Tim Ross	X	
Rachel Harper Pineau	X		Loretta Ross	X	
Wanda LeClair	X		Clara Jane Wood	X	
Murray Morrison	X		Judy Duguay	X	
Helen Perry	X				

<b>ZONE 2</b>					
<b>Delegate Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Delegate Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ray Bennett	X		Nelson Labobe	X	
Mary Lynn Blanchard	X		Margaret Labobe	X	
William Bourque	X		Louise Lamothe	X	
Lynn Bradley		X	Ebony Larkin	X	
Diane Burke	X		Destinee Larkin	X	
Lisa Cooper	X		Julie Pellisier Lush	X	
Jordan Crane	X		Sarah Stewart-Jackson	X	
Joyce Gallant	X		Mike Viau	X	
Bryan Hutchings	X		Dawne Knockwood	X	
Jody Jesso	X				

ZONE 3					
Delegate Name	Present	Absent	Delegate Name	Present	Absent
Sicilia Clements	X		Hinks Melvin		X
Shane Clements	X		Mary Mills	X	
Roxanne Gallant	X		Dana Wakelin	X	
Donna Gregory	X		Lori Sanderson	X	
Katie Jordan	X		Chris St. Onge	X	
Georgina Knockwood Crane	X		Amanda Trainor	X	
Kayla Larkin	X		Deanna Walker		X
Nicole Larkin		X (babysitting)	Doreen Woods	X	

Patrick Trainor, Auditor from BDO, presented the financial statements for NCPEI, L'nu Fisheries, and Nanegkam Housing for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022

**Motion #12 – To Accept the NCPEI Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2022 (as amended)**

Moved by: Mary Lynn

Seconded by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

**Nanegkam Housing Audited Financial Statements**

Chair states that the Nanegkam Housing financial statements are still progress at this time and are unaudited. Chair calls upon Chief Lisa Cooper to provide a verbal update.

**Key Points:**

- Chief Cooper expected Nanegkam to be late because of the transition year. L'nu AGA is coming up and the Nanegkam Financial Statements can be covered at that time.
- Patrick Trainor, Auditor with BDO, reiterates that the NCPEI is in great shape, is a well-run organization, and to keep doing what we're doing.
- Chief Cooper and Patrick have had many discussions under economic development. Patrick Trainor has assured Chief Cooper that BDO will lead NCPEI in the process of developing that economic arm

**Motion #13 – To Appoint BDO as NCPEI Auditor for Coming Fiscal Year**

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Ebony Larkin (Zone 2)

**Motion Carried**

## **Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

In order for a bylaw to be amended, it must be voted on for two consecutive years at the AGA. These are Resolutions carried from the 2021 AGA and are being brought forward to the 2022 AGA for a second round of voting. If approved by the 2022 AGA, they become immediate ratification for the bylaws.

### **Resolution 2021-01: More Alternates**

WHEREAS currently only five (5) alternates are accepted for each zone;

BE IT RESOLVED that we accept ten (10) alternates from each zone as to accept more names for delegation.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)

Seconded by: Stella Sheppard (Zone 3)

### **Resolution Defeated**

### **Resolution 2021-17: Board Members as Extra Delegates**

WHEREAS the nine (9) board members are included in the delegates for AGAs;

AND WHEREAS the board members are taken from the sixty (60) total delegates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the board members are not included in the sixty (60) delegates, effectively increasing the total delegate count to sixty-nine (69) delegates.

Moved by: Diane Burke (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Joyce Gallant (Zone 2)

### **Resolution Defeated**

### **Board Resolution 2020: CAP Aboriginal Delegates**

Chair indicates that this was a resolution passed by the Board of Directors in 2020, which was then brought forward to the 2021 AGA and to the 2022 AGA

WHEREAS NCPEI is a constituent member organization of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and is entitled to send a delegation of members to attend each CAP assembly;

AND WHEREAS the CAP Bylaws allow for NCPEI to determine its own process for selecting members to attend CAP assemblies as delegates and does not explicitly restrict NCPEI's ability to select non-Aboriginal members;

AND WHEREAS NCPEI includes non-Aboriginal members as part of its membership that have been grandfathered in from past amendments to the Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the aims and objectives of NCPEI include to "give a collective voice to the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off-reserve in Prince Edward Island";

AND WHEREAS it has been the long-standing practice of NCPEI to prioritize the selection of Board of Directors – who must be of Aboriginal ancestry – as delegates for CAP assemblies, and then to select alternates from among the other Aboriginal members within the Zones, Youth Council, and Elder’s Council;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors have authority under Article XII, Section 2, to amend the Bylaws until such time as the amendments are confirmed at an annual or special assembly;

AND WHEREAS there was a resolution from the 2019 AGA directing the Board of Directors to mail a letter to each member when the Board of Directors use their power to amend the Bylaws;

BE IT RESOLVED that Article 6 (Zone Delegates) be amended to include a section titled, “Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Delegates”, to state that only NCPEI members of Aboriginal ancestry may be selected as delegates or alternates to attend CAP assemblies, which shall also apply to delegates and alternates selected by the Youth or Elder Board of Directors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the section title for Article 9, Section 7, “Congress of Aboriginal Peoples” be remanded to “Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Director” to avoid confusion with this new section;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above changes to the Bylaws be included in the notice sent to each member as part of the normal notice process given for conducting the zone, youth, and elder meetings prior to the annual assembly, and that the agenda for the annual assembly shall include the confirmation of such changes as a permanent amendment to the Bylaws.

Moved by: Sarah Stewart Jackson, Elder Representative  
Seconded by: Charlotte Morris, Zone 1 Director

#### **Discussion:**

- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) asks if this falls under discrimination or human rights or anything of the sort. We have accepted them as full-voting members of NCPEI but then we’re stripping away their rights as a full voting member based on ethnic background. He also would like to know if this was brought through the lawyer to make sure this is legally sound
- Chair responds that not this particular issue but another issue in which non-aboriginal members voted could not be on the Board of Directors. Legal counsel has indicated that we can make that distinction and it’s not a violation of human rights. Even though a non-Aboriginal member is a full-voting member of the organization, their ability to be on the NCPEI Board of Directors can be restricted

#### **Resolution Carried**

***Health Break (9:37 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.)***

Chair invited Donna Gregory, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to read off the proposed Resolutions

#### **Resolution #1:**

WHEREAS there is already program work being done on the 260-acre WMA in St. Chrysostome;

AND WHEREAS culturally, land-based ceremony, harvesting, and education is integral for community healing and well-being;

AND WHEREAS there is an allocated 1-acre of developable land in the St. Chrysostome WMA;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI commits to continuing work towards turning the 1-acre into a cultural area (program lodge, sweat lodge) to provide members an opportunity for land-based healing, retreat, and education.

Moved by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**Discussion:**

- Mover is not asking the Council to pay for it outright as this would be a “work towards resolution” Although the area is not very accessible right now, community members are invited to come out to see the work being done
- Chief Cooper is highly in support of this resolution. She commends Clara Jane and Emily as they are creating their own jobs. They’ve done very well putting proposals together and they are gathering data needed to justify another proposal. One of the goals Chief Cooper sees in the future is that we are our own management team – youth would be part of the education and the community would be involved. Resolution would help proposal development.
- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3) supports this resolution. She supports the program lodge and sweat lodge there because we have that in the east at Panmure Island and the west needs something like that too.

**Resolution Carried**

**Resolution #2:**

WHEREAS NCPEI has community members who are just learning about the past and the history of colonization and the effects on the Indigenous community;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI will provide an opportunity in each Zone for community members to attend a KAIROS Blanket Exercise in each Zone, free of cost.

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

**Discussion:**

- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3) asks for clarification explaining a KAIROS Blanket Exercise
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) explains it is an opportunity to show colonization taken place over Turtle Island, referencing important historical events (first contact, residential schools, Sixties Scoop, MMIWG) and provides an opportunity to see how our land was taken away.

**Resolution Carried**

**Resolution #3 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS NCPEI funds community members for trades education and training;

AND WHEREAS the community is full of talented tradespeople;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works to create an inventory of NCPEI community members who are tradespeople.

Moved by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Mary-Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**Discussion:**

- Mover states it would be nice to implement a program subsidizing the cost of services that those that have gone through ISET could provide, could hire within the community at a subsidized rate
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2) indicates that recently she took her class to the Construction Association for an information session. Facilitator and director are interested in doing a full Indigenous intake in their 24-week program - would be beneficial for NCPEI to reach out to the Construction Association regarding the Indigenous intake program
- Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) seeks clarification on this resolution. It says: “be it resolved NCPEI develops an income program that subsidizes services provided by ISET/tradespeople within the community for trades services”. She is cautious because after a two-year program you don’t have those years of experience—a mentorship program better; Construction Association partnership is a good idea. Asks if there needs to be another “whereas” or “be it resolved”
- Chair requests to hear from the Mover to see if she would like to clarify further
- Mover is open to changing the wording. Her vision is that we have tradespeople go through the ISET program. If the program ever comes to be we could be part of OJT but then we will have an inventory of community members who are doing the work and we can support tradespeople within our community. We would be helping them along right from their education into their work so if they do need hours for OJT we can provide that. Wouldn’t have to go on the Skills PEI website or other inventories are and filter through. It would be beneficial to have an internal program.
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) is cautious of this, in favor of supporting our community but 24 weeks doesn’t give enough experience. Mentorship is great but just a stepping-stone to further education as far as getting a red seal certificate
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) seeks clarity and asks the Mover if she is asking to subsidize wages of a member who is a tradesperson or is it the actual job, because that makes a big difference.
- Mover clarifies it would be subsidizing the service to encourage people to go through this program. She is envisioning not red seal-level work but installing a roof, floor, drywall, etc. Still gives ISET clients experience and provides a pipeline for the NCPEI community and allies hiring through this program.
- Bryan Hutchings (Zone 2), We need to focus on the education process in the trades. Bryan is in support of the resolution in theory but it’s the application of how we do it that will be the challenge
- Mover seeks to amend the resolution to be less specific. “Be it resolved that NCPEI works to create an inventory of NCPEI community members who are tradespeople.”
- Chair seeks confirmation for amendment from seconder - confirmed

**Resolution Carried**

**Resolution #4:**

WHEREAS the community is still struggling and dealing with the effects of ancestral, intergenerational trauma as a result of residential schools;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI will provide Healing Circles in each Zone and seek funding to offer culture-focused healing position.

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Louise Lamothe (Zone 2)

### **Discussion:**

- Secunder indicates intergenerational trauma and ancestral trauma are a space of their own - many circles but the healing circles are very specific to healing and getting educated about how we carry the ancestral knowledge and the ancestral trauma. Having someone specifically trained in the cultural historic content of the Indigenous peoples could benefit all of us.
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) does healing circles and is a trained circle keeper. To be a circle keeper and to have training you have to have some lived experience.
- Margaret Labobe (Zone 2) supports the talking circle - doesn't think you have to be qualified to be in a talking circle if you talk about your issues.
- Mover indicates this resolution wasn't specifically healing circles, but just more opportunities to heal as a community. It could be talking circles, healing circles, sweat lodge. She is open to suggestions to amend the resolution
- Chair asks if it's the wish of the assembly to amend the resolution as it specifies healing circles in the wording, but it does also say culture-focused healing. Could be open to interpretation.
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) asks for clarification. Are we wanting to create a position for a knowledge keeper/Elder to come in and provide sweat lodge ceremonies, talking circles, healing circles, smudging and any of the other ceremonies that are being offered currently
- Chair states that as one of the proposal writers for NCPEI to get funding, we are sometimes limited in what we can get so if the community is wanting to do this the government may not fund it, so we try to get very creative in trying to get what we want. He indicates it would probably be a position focused around providing healing with the communities, perhaps a mental trauma aspect. It would have to be worded to be broadly inclusive.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) seeks clarification and asks if this is funding to create a position for someone to hold a healing circle or a talking circle or whatever specific circle is wanted in each zone
- Chair confirms it is specifically culturally focused healing position, not limited to a circle
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) states there needs to be a safe place not only for participants but also the person hosting/presenting the circle as they have their own trauma. He urges Council that the person in this position would have to be knowledgeable in trauma-informed approach, de-escalation, and be well-versed in Indigenous culture
- De-briefing afterward is also important. She stresses that this possible position is something that we need to be very careful of.
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) indicates that the Mover asked her to make an amendment to read: "Be it resolved that NCPEI uses existing capacity to provide more healing opportunities while still seeking funding to ensure that these healing opportunities are well-funded and put on to the best of their ability." She did not discuss that with the Secunder and asks her to speak to it.
- Secunder indicates that in our cultural ways it was not a paid position to help in the healing process and she feels that herself and other Elders commit to offering that, not as a paid position but by doing whatever you can to ensure these healing spaces are opened very well. Secunder asks to withdraw the resolution as she doesn't want to see hurt in NCPEI but she does still resolve that healing circles are very important for all of us



- Mover agrees to withdraw

## **Resolution Withdrawn**

### **Resolution #5 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS the community is feeling the cost of inflation, increased rent, electricity, and gas;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI helps to find affordable housing units for community members in all Zones;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to seek funding for rent subsidy programs to assist in covering the cost of rent in higher, and for affordable, rental units for NCPEI members.

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Bryan Hutchings, Housing Manager, agrees that NCPEI helps to find affordable housing units for community members in all Zones. There are several issues with that from Bryan's perspective. The housing units that NCPEI manages are in the Urban Housing Program (federal government and CMHC). Housing units in outlying areas (i.e. O'Leary or Montague) are part of the rural housing units, managed by APHL. In terms of affordable housing for our units, they would primarily be restricted to both Summerside and Charlottetown. He sees a need for more housing for community members, specifically Elders. Bryan disagrees with seeking funding for rent subsidy programs covering the cost of rent in higher rent units. Anybody in a unit right now is paying 25% of their income. That is part and parcel of the arguables in the cooperation and legal agreement with CMHC. Bryan has to speak against that part of the motion
- Secunder rebuts what Bryan said and indicates the motivation for this resolution is it would be external to the Nanegkam program. She envisions a program offered that if an individual says they're struggling with rent and requests help, NCPEI can provide some assistance. If members are forced into higher-cost rental facilities out of necessity, they still deserve help.
- Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) disagrees with Bryan's statement that elders don't apply because they are not considered a priority. At least two Elders have been put in units in the past few years. She believes what the Mover means is different than affordable housing at Turtle Lane. Nanegkam is not affordable, it is low income. Seeks clarification on whether the "Be it resolved to seek funding for rent subsidy programs" mean the affordable housing or all types of housing subsidy or housing programs, because she doesn't have an issue with that either. Thinking about a proposal and what the best wording would be because she doesn't want to leave out affordable or subsidy. She would like to use this resolution for applying for funding because CAP has a housing table – Priorities is housing and wants to make sure this is a strong resolution in a direction coming forward but it needs to be split from Nanegkam because she doesn't know if we will get more units under Nanegkam now.
- Chair seeks direction from the Mover if the second "Be It Resolved" should be amended in reference to higher end units so that it is limited or exclusive of Nanegkam or affordable housing units.
- Mover indicates it is more designed towards affordable housing and not the Nanegkam units where it's lower income. Gives an example that it could be where you're spending \$1600/month for rent because that's the only 3-bedroom available and trying to find a way to make that cost of rent a bit more affordable. Social Assistance does something similar right now where they're

subsidizing and making supplements more affordable, but this would just be a priority for NCPEI members where instead of waiting months for help or support, you're able to go to Council and get help with rent for affordable housing

- Chair suggests an amendment: "Be it Resolved the cost of rent in higher rent" to "affordable units", so including the words "affordable housing" in the second be it Resolved
- Mover agrees to the amendment
- Chair reiterates "Be it Resolved to seek funding for rent subsidy programs to assist in covering the cost of rent in higher rent, affordable housing units for NCPEI members
- Chief Cooper suggests the words "and or"
- Chair inquires if this is specifically to address the affordable housing units that are of higher rent because affordable housing rent could be as low as \$200, or as high as \$1,000.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) believes clarification by the Chair was missed regarding the example given to Dawne's situation as Dawne wasn't in affordable housing. The amendment could say "and or" so it would fall under affordable housing and if you are just renting from some other landlord
- Lisa Cooper agrees with Chris St. Onge
- Mover indicates it is giving other options because you might not be able to afford to buy a bunch of affordable units but maybe we can get funding to help subsidize some higher rental units and make them affordable for the community
- Chair asks Mover if it won't just apply to the Turtle Lane affordable housing units but any units even if they're not owned or operated by Native Council
- Mover confirms if there is an available program
- Resolution Chairperson reads amended resolution: "Be it Further Resolved to seek funding for rent subsidy programs to assist in covering the cost of rent in higher and for affordable rental units for NCPEI members"

#### **Resolution Carried**

*Health Break (11:22 a.m. to 11:37 a.m.)*

#### **Resolution #6**

WHEREAS a resolution was passed in 2019 that members who attend Zone meetings or Town Halls throughout the year would receive priority selection as a delegate for the AGA;

AND WHEREAS there has been confusion in the interpretation and application of this resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED that the process for delegates selection be clarified that delegates will be prioritized based on the number of meetings they had attended, such that a member who attended three meetings has priority over a member who attended two meetings, etc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that priority selection for delegates shall only apply for the initial selection of delegates during the annual meeting of the Zone, and shall not apply if the process is opened to the Zone after the meeting to fill any remaining vacancies.

Moved by: Richard Cooper (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

#### **Discussion:**

- There is a request for clarification. Chair clarifies that there was a resolution passed in 2019 stating that whenever delegates are selected from the Zone they must first be selected from the delegates who have previously in that year attended Town Halls or Zone Meetings. Because those members have attended Town Halls or Zone meetings previously they know about Native Council and they show to be more active in participating in the Native Council politics and so they should be recognized and prioritized to be selected as delegates for the AGA. That was the intent of the Resolution in 2019. What has caused confusion with it is the two matters that are spoken in the “Be it Resolved” , the first is where it says delegates should be prioritized if they attend meetings, if they at least attended one they all get grouped into the same prioritization or is it if someone has attended three meetings have priority over somebody who has attended two meetings, and so on. That first “Be it Resolved” is meant to address that. The second “Be it Resolved” is meant to address a different process where whenever you have these Zone Meetings in which you select delegates the process for priority delegates would be followed. You’d have a list of priority delegates at the top of the delegate list. However, if there was still a shortfall of delegates and alternates at the Zone Meeting, the Board Directors would then have the option of opening up from more delegates and alternates from the Zone to come forward. However, because then the process is opened up again, if the delegate comes forward from the Zone, that delegate may have attended Town Halls, Zone meetings within the year and would then be selected as priority delegates. Because they were then selected as a priority delegate, somebody who was a delegate before but wasn’t a priority one, may then be booted off the delegate list. That had caused a bit of confusion and frustration for people who thought the list coming out of Zone meetings should have been the priority list and other names come forward should have been alternate rather than taking the delegates off the list as intended. The second point clarifies that priority selections are only for that initial list from the Zone meeting and doesn’t apply if there is still a vacancy at the AGA
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) indicates that Amanda Trainor asked her to relay her response to this resolution. Amanda’s job is outreach, so she works 3 to 11, Tuesday to Saturday, so the majority of her time when Zone meetings and Town Halls are held, she is disqualified from being a priority delegate despite being active in other ways. She’s concerned other members in her position will lose out on becoming a voting delegate at future AGAs just because of their work schedule. She’s also assuming that this would include other things like childcare and whatnot. Looking at an amendment to cover those situations for those members who are looking to participate but can’t due to scheduling
- Chair suggests perhaps not needing an amendment. This process would be open until the list is finalized at the zone and there are unique cases when delegates who can’t attend a zone meeting will put their name forward beforehand and would be counted as priority delegates.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) says if you have a zone meeting and you don’t attend but you call up and tell your director you want to attend but can’t because of work you are now on the list as attending that zone meeting because your priority comes based on how many zone meetings or Town Halls you attend. So, if you can’t make those meetings due to your work schedule, by calling your director you’re counted as being there. That’s the issue.
- Chair clarifies that could be a quirk in the system. He thinks that would ultimately be determined zone-by-zone by each Zone Director.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) asks if that is actually changing the system. If you’re not able to attend a meeting you’re leaving it up to the zone to then decide whether you will be counted in or not
- Chair clarifies it is the determination of the Board of Directors to track attendance at their zone meetings, so it’s up to the zone directors how they determine what attendance looks like
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2), indicates that from her understanding it’s the number of events that NCPEI holds. There are four zone meetings but only three count to that number because the fourth zone meeting is actually for delegates. There are also four Town Halls that NCPEI has and as members you can attend Town Halls, which isn’t always in the evening. If you know ahead of

time you can adjust your schedule. If you can't attend then it's like Jordan said, you can call your zone director and say you can't make the meeting but would like to be on the delegate list and the director then would put you on the delegate list. Recently at a zone meeting when it was done we knew who was there as in the meeting and then all of a sudden somebody who was a delegate was bumped to an alternate, which was a very hurtful feeling for them. Chief Cooper doesn't get involved into the politics of the zone directors because the decision was made long ago that the process for selecting delegates lies with the zone directors. She can't control what the zones do, it's up to the zone directors who are answerable to those who elected them in the zone meeting.

- Chair indicates there was a question asked if NCPEI's Resolutions is binding on Zone Directors. It would be binding upon them, so it isn't part of the Bylaws but it's still a Resolution of the assembly which defines a process that conforms to the bylaws.
- Chief Lisa Cooper asks if it is a constitutional change, Chair confirms that it is not a constitutional change as it is not changing anything within the constitution, it's defining a process in which the constitution can be upheld. This has been determined through other organizations Chair has been with, including CAP. A resolution can be passed that describes the process in which bylaws can be upheld and that process is as binding as the bylaws is. This is a process to be followed and applied to all zone directors in determination of how the delegates are selected in accordance with the bylaws. It would be binding upon zone directors to follow this resolution
- Diane Burke (Zone 2) asks if this means that when delegates are picked for a zone, once they are picked there's no phone calls after that. She attended a Zone 2 meeting and didn't know until after the meeting that people were being bumped and calling in after and there should have been a full delegation there. It wasn't voted on, it was just decided. Asks if this process would stop that
- Chair states that— no, bylaws doesn't interfere that, it's the zone Board of Director who must inform NCPEI that the list has a shortfall. A change in that process would be a bylaw amendment
- Diane Burke (Zone 2) indicates somebody mentioned somebody working during the Town Halls. Diane Burke works full-time. She would like to let the Assembly know that because there's a Town Hall meeting in Zone 1, nothing stops anybody from going to a Zone 2 Town Hall if they can make one. Seeks clarification on if that would count
- Chair indicates it would count for Town Halls because Town Halls are tracked
- Diane clarifies that she's not talking about zone meetings, she's Talking about Town Hall. If somebody here wanted to go to a Town Hall in their zone but they have to work that night, they can go to Zone 2 and that would be included?
- Chair confirms that yes, Town Halls in different zones would be tracked by NCPEI and included. If you attend a zone meeting in another zone, it is different. It's up to the zone directors to communicate with each other what their attendance will be, but Town Halls are tracked by NCPEI
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) asks if it is up to NCPEI to talk with the directors of the zones and if a member from Zone 1 attends a Town hall in Zone 3, NCPEI has to let the Zone Directors from Zone 1 know that one of their members attended a Town Hall in Zone 3 and add them to the list?
- Chair indicates that for Town Hall attendance NCPEI is responsible for informing each Zone.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) indicates that NCPEI will have to monitor because the actual delegate names for an AGA come from the zone, not from NCPEI, so we will have to ensure we inform that zone that one of their members attended a Town Hall in a different zone
- Chair disagrees as the attendance at Town Halls is the responsibility of NCPEI, the attendance at zone meetings are the responsibility of the zone director
- Chief Lisa Cooper (zone 2) clarifies that the zone directors do submit their report after their zone meeting and that the Constitution requires the report to be submitted within 10 days to the NCPEI. It would be identified at the board meeting that there was someone from Zone 1 who attended a Zone 3 or what have you. When it comes down to it we're all NCPEI members regardless of what zone you live in. She hopes the same information is being relayed at each zone

meeting because the idea of the zone meeting is to take back information from the Board Meeting, to the members of Council.

- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) seeks clarification that if wasn't able to make the Zone 2 meeting and wanted to travel to Zone 1, that counts as one meeting. Then if she wanted to go to Zone 3, there's two meetings. And if she attends the Town Halls in all three zones, that's five meetings and then would have priority. If she wanted to go to Zone 1, she could call Loretta and put her name down
- Chair confirms that Sarah's interpretation would be correct
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) states if that's the case she can attend up to six meetings, if not more, a year and she's in, but doesn't have to attend one of them. She could call, make sure her name was put forward and still get priority. If a member takes the time to attend a zone meeting or Town Hall, they should have priority because they've made effort to be there. Sarah speaks to a scenario whereby a member who goes to everything wasn't picked as a delegate and is not happy about it. They didn't call, they went in person and to Sarah, that says more than someone calling in saying I can't make it but add my name.
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) states if we have a member who wants to attend every Town hall and zone meeting they should absolutely be at the top of the delegate list. We have members that live in zone 2 and attend zone 3 meetings on a regular basis but never attended a zone 2 meeting because that's not where they were from. They lived in zone 3, know members in Zone 3, attended everything in Zone 3. We never stop them from doing that because that's the connection they have with that zone. They even attended as a delegate for zone 3 even though living in zone 2. If you attend, you attended and didn't call in. If you want to attend all three zone meetings or all three Town Halls, you should be at the top of the list of whatever zone you want to be a part of. This is not about every meeting, this is about the meeting to choose delegates. Your name does not go on a zone meeting that you're not going to attend. You can't call zone 3 and say you can't make the meeting but want your name down. If you don't show up, your name doesn't get added
- Chair clarifies that each zone director determines their own process of how they track attendance at the meetings and it is the discretion of the Zone
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) disagrees and states if you attend, you have to be there physically.
- Chair reiterates that is something determined by each zone.
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) thinks if someone wants to attend all, that's what we want – people at our assembly who know what's going on with NCPEI. If they want to know what's going on in a different zone, that zone should be open to delegates from other zones. This is a dividing and splitting of hairs of members in zones.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) states the only issue he sees is if because of where you live, you're in zone 2 but you're close to the boundaries, and you attend all the zone 3 meetings. When it comes time to picking delegates are you a zone 2 delegate or a zone 3 delegate because you might have priority because you attended all these other meetings, but you didn't attend the meeting in your zone so you're jumping ahead of somebody who was at that zone meeting. Jordan recommends to defeat this process and go back to the way we always did it and let the zones tweak it how they want to with their delegates
- Chair understands the intent in this resolution is to clarify the resolution as passed in 2019. If this resolution is defeated, the resolution as worded in 2019 will continue in effect until next year and shall only be over by another resolution Since we're past the deadline for resolutions to be submitted, it will carry forward to next year. It's just a matter of whether it's clarified this year or whether it will be fall back to 2019 interpretation
- Jordan Crane (Zone 3) unless there's a resolution from the assembly to make that change or move forward
- Chair if there is such a Resolution put in already but we are past the deadline for resolutions
- Jordan Crane asks if it can be by way of a motion

- Chair indicates motions are getting into tricky territory.
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 2) feels this resolution should be defeated. She thinks it's fine if you're from a different zone and you want to attend another zone meeting, but feels you only get a notch on your board if you're from that Zone and you attend that zone meeting.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) indicates this issue was argued about before but states if he works evenings and meetings, he's going to attend zero zone meetings. He asks if he's to be punished because of that. It's really coming down to the zone meetings and the people who can attend. He feels you should only be worried about the meeting in your own zone.
- Chair indicates this doesn't reference other zone meetings
- Mover feels that people are misunderstanding and thinks it needs to be broken down so people may understand what we're talking about instead of getting upset. The resolution passed in 2019 says "who attended", it doesn't say "called in". The resolution has already been passed. There is a priority delegation selection. The Resolution being put forward is where it says "Be it resolved that the process for delegate selection be clarified" – trying to clarify the process – "that delegates will be prioritized based on the number of meetings they had attended, such that a member who attended three meetings has priority over a member who attended two". So, that is priority selection. Somebody who has attended six meetings and has been involved within the Council, knows what's happening within the Council, should have a priority seat at the assembly where the business and affairs of the NCPEI is conducted for the year to have people who are educated/knowledgeable on what's happening within the organization, and know politically where the organization is and what is being discussed at important meetings such as zone meetings, and Town Halls. Somebody who attends more meetings than someone else should be selected first. If there's only one name on the delegate list that first name chosen from the hat or whatever the process is for that zone. That name will go on as a delegate. Every name subsequent to that, no matter if they've attended 30, 50, or 90 meetings will go down as alternates. They will not bump anybody off of the delegation list on to the alternate list. Richard invites any member to attend his Zone 1 meeting, they will be more than welcome to attend.

## **Resolution Carried**

***Lunch Break (12:10 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)***

### **Resolution #7:**

WHEREAS our yearly Powwow at Panmure Island is on sacred ground for our ceremony, healing and prayers;

AND WHEREAS the dogs interrupted the spiritual connection to our ancestors and our relations who passed on to the spirit world;

AND WHEREAS our powerful ceremonies need to be respected;

AND WHEREAS when the dogs are barking our ceremony is being interrupted and we cannot be connected to our prayers and ancestors;

BE IT RESOLVED that all dogs should be removed from Powwow grounds and if our members and people who bring their dogs can't get sitters, the dogs should have a closed-in fence away from the Powwow grounds (service dogs being exempted – one per person with papers from a doctor).

Moved by: Melvin Hinks (Zone 3)

Seconded by: Georgina Crane (Zone 3)

### **Discussion:**

- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) asks that since the Powwow is a public event and there is a Powwow Committee, is this something that the AGA should be dictating or should it go to the Committee to work on
- Chair indicates that if the Assembly wishes to leave this discussion to the Powwow Committee it would probably be the best solution, but he will leave it to the discretion of the Assembly
- Secunder supports this Resolution because last Powwow there were more than enough dogs there; she feels like the spiritual part of the ceremony is being pushed away and it's not sacred anymore
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) agrees with Secunder, but she intends to be part of the Committee for the 2023 Powwow. Her opinion is that she doesn't want to see a Resolution passed for events that a Committee can solve.
- Richard Cooper (zone 1) understands the spirit of this resolution and likes to remove barriers when we can and doesn't like to add restrictive barriers. Service animals are for many different reasons or some people feel protected by having an animal around. He feels that this is a conversation not for the floor at this Assembly but for the Powwow Committee and asks for the Mover and Secunder to withdraw this resolution and to have faith in the staff and the Council Committee that they'll have these discussions and make these decisions
- Chair asks the Mover if the intent is to withdraw the Resolution
- Mover refuses to amend the Resolution and would like it to go to a vote
- Secunder agrees with Mover and does not feel that the Resolution should be withdrawn or amended

### **Resolution Defeated**

#### **Resolution #8:**

WHEREAS people with allergies can't be around smoke;

AND WHEREAS smokers should limit their smoking around our sacred fire and sacred circle;

BE IT RESOLVED that smokers should have a designated area for smoking.

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3)

Seconded by: Melvin Hinks (Zone 3)

### **Discussion:**

- Mover is asthmatic and knows people who are asthmatic or with breathing problems. Would be great to have smokers down in another area so don't have to cross over to washroom with the smoke. Health-wise that would be more respectful
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) agrees with Mover and votes to amend the resolution to include that there be a 15-foot perimeter around the facility and add an additional designated area for non-smokers
- Chair asks if Mover and Secunder confirm amendment
- Mover would like to hear more comments before amending
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) thinks the part about the Powwow be taken out and leave it as any event that Native Council is putting on that it should be smoke free zones 15-feet away from any building and canteen

- Diane Burke (Zone 2) understands what Georgina is saying however she feels if this goes in as a Resolution we're not teaching others about our culture and she thinks it's taking away from the teachings the Elders teach in the community. The 15-foot is a provincial law
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2) offers an anecdote. She knows many Elders who through the **Indian Act** lost the ability to practice their ceremony and the same way for them to do it was to pray while smoking a cigarette. Even though restrictions are gone now, many still use that as their praying method. She wouldn't want to take that away from somebody.
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) is a smoker and an Elder and understands there are people with asthma/breathing problems. She tries to be conscious of that and aware of who she is smoking around. She understands what Georgina is saying but she should be able to participate in any ceremonies whether she smokes or not. The Powwow Committee can deal with that in-house. It's a matter of being respectful
- Mover agrees with Jordan Crane and will leave it with the Powwow Committee as she believes they will come up with a resolution that will benefit everybody. She moves to amend the resolution
- Chair asks Mover if she would like to amend or withdraw
- Mover moves to withdraw the Resolution
- Secunder confirms to withdraw Resolution

### **Resolution Withdrawn**

#### **Resolution #9 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS there are already programs and support for youth (between 15 and 29) and Elders (55 and over);

AND WHEREAS all members of all ages have been handed burden over the last few years (COVID, hurricane, inflation);

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works toward creating and implementing programs for those between the ages of 30 and 54.

Moved by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Tim Ross (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Red Fox Woman) (Zone 3) agrees with this resolution but asks if the age can be amended to 54, as 55 is age when you can join as an Elder's
- Secunder explains the Resolution was made years ago and in order to keep a growing population of people participating there needs to be something to attract that specific age group. Agrees to amend the age to 54.
- Mover also confirms amendment
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) says that as the MMIWG program coordinator, she holds meetings in each zone and has a difficult time getting people to attend any of her programming. She indicates it's hard when you take the time, send out information, use social media, send monthly calendars in the mail and maybe get 1-2 people attending. It's hard to do a job when you don't have anybody showing
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) is aware of the programs offered/events being held but they don't entertain his curiosity. It's a matter of getting into the zones and asking the targeted age groups what they are interested in. The NCPEI programs have an important role for the membership but



are not reaching the age group. He feels it is his job as a zone director to sit down with his members in these particular age groups, ask what they want to do, and bring it back to the Council

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) believes this was discussed a few years ago. There are programs out there that are open for everybody anyway but the problem with this age group is working full-time, taking care of your home and dependents, unless it's something really interested in, it's not that people don't want to be there, it's a financial issue – price of gas, babysitter etc. the programs work for the youth and the elders as they have more time.
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) hears what Richard is saying Sarah's programs dealing with mental health and addictions are flexible. Urges when members fill out the Community Mapping Survey, don't check what you think the Council should do, check what you would like to see and attend. Maybe have a local meeting and bring in the program coordinators from each of the three zones and have members brainstorm with the program coordinators on what they would like to do. Program coordinators are trying to engage the community and are looking for feedback. Chief Cooper does not have an issue with this resolution
- Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2) agrees with Chief Cooper regarding the Community Mapping Survey and states it is important. It's a great opportunity to share ideas and there's no idea shared that will go unheard

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Resolution #10:**

WHEREAS eating nutritious and healthy foods are the basis of living a healthy lifestyle of any individual;

AND WHEREAS sourcing and pricing healthy meal plans and recipes currently in 2022 can be overwhelming and financially costly due to factors such as inflation, hurricane, and COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS developing cooking skills is beneficial for any individual;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI facilitates "Healthy Eating Sessions" with a dietician to promote well-being and healthiness within our community.

Moved by: Judy Dugay (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Chair indicates we are doing a proposal for a community kitchen and a food truck which does provide sessions for healthy eating
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) - We have a SAFE coordinator who does healthy eating and community kitchen. We do have a funder quite capable of offering healthy eating options and education on eating healthy without breaking the bank
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) has been a part of the SAFE program. To be a part of the community kitchen you need to check certain criteria and not everyone meets those criteria. There was a part of Community Kitchen where they were delivering food and meals which was amazing. Now you go and make the meal together, but you must eat it there and there's not enough to take home. If you're a parent and you need a break from your kids, you're taking the time to go to the Community Kitchen to make a meal with other people but there's only enough for the individuals at the meeting not enough to take home for family.

- Louise Lamothe (Zone 2) indicates that the inclusivity of a family as a whole is important in gatherings. Ancestrally, the way we learn is through speaking/storytelling/talking to each other. Reading was not a way to receive important information about communities. Short video clips may be a way to reach people
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) is in total support of this resolution and believes it was well thought through. As a proposal writer she can relate to it as it is specific to healthy foods to live a healthy lifestyle. Used to have a dietician who would go to each zone and talk about healthy diet. The Health Policy Analyst can take this to the province and meet with them. We can partner/collaborate with nursing/dieticians. Kayla's comment about the Community Kitchen is concerning to Chief Cooper and she will check into that.
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) indicates that after hearing the discussion she would not qualify for the SAFE program, Community Kitchen, but she would like to learn how to eat healthy on a budget. She falls well beyond the qualifications and doesn't have a family yet, but she wants to be able to participate in an activity like this

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Resolution #11 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS fishing and gathering together has been central in Indigenous culture;

AND WHEREAS Epekwitk has many productive fishing areas;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI host a fishing derby in all three Zones.

Moved by: Richard Cooper (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) asks why is the ice fishing derby limited to Hebron, PEI, if there are many productive fishing areas
- Mover will put in a friendly amendment that we will open it up to all zones
- Seconder agrees with amendment
- Chair amends Resolution to include ice fishing derbies across all zones
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) seeks clarification. Are these fishing derbies going to be facilitated by the Zones or does NCPEI have to facilitate all three derbies and deal with costs
- Mover indicates when we had our deep-sea fishing in all three zones it was a very successful event that brought all three zones together. If financially feasible to NCPEI he would like to use the vessels of the NCPEI native fishery. NCPEI could find funding in collaboration with the zone directors
- Chair confirms NCPEI would provide funding to the zone directors to help coordinate it
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) seeks further clarification from the Mover. There was a request from a staff member doing programming to have one evening/one day to go out on one of the commercial vessels with a group of members and we couldn't make it happen. Too many things go into planning a deep-sea fishing trip such as boats actively fishing, liabilities and financial considerations
- Mover indicates to the Chair that the Resolution would just refer to ice fishing
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) It would be nice if Zone 1 hosted the first derby, Zone 2 the next one, then Zone 3 and us as members locals are in charge of the derby instead and be responsible for some of the cost

- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) would like to make a further amendment. Eliminate ice fishing and leave it as a fishing derby in all three zones.
- Mover agrees to amend resolution
- Secunder agrees to amend resolution

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Resolution #12:**

WHEREAS the Council should facilitate programs that promote and provide opportunities to learn how to make traditional items;

AND WHEREAS traditionally, Mi'kmaq used seal pelt to create traditional items;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works with an Elder to facilitate a workshop on how to process seal pelt for use with traditional items.

Moved by: Murray Morrison (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) agrees with this resolution as long as there is someone who knows the tradition and knows what they are doing, as it's a process
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) is not familiar with seal skin but has worked with moose hide and deer hide and asks if it specifically needs to be seal skin
- Mover states he would like to do seal as some people may be unaware that we are able to hunt seal through NCPEI. It would be nice to hunt and have an Elder teach us the proper way to preserve the meat and whatever we can from the animal and process into making traditional items
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) wasn't aware that there was a lot of seal on PEI
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) can see it go through a program to get a seal from a hunter, but her concern is liability towards our members going out with guns. She can see where this fits into a program as it's a teaching opportunity for our members where the seal is provided and an Elder brought in to teach to skin it, dry it out, etc.
- Chair indicates if the Resolution carries forward it would be vetted for liability
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) clarifies that 10 years ago DFO added grey seal to the FAC license. The reason added was some members from Newfoundland traditionally hunted seal. DFO is okay with us harvesting 1-2 seals a year. Not supposed to use rifles on PEI other than for rabbit hunting and small game. Now we're taking high powered .22 shooting across the strait. DFO would have to be informed that we are going to hunt and harvest the seal. FAC license is necessary in order to do it. Would hope an Elder would be picked in advance to show the harvester how to prepare the seal/meat etc.
- Secunder speaks to the summer games 25-30 years ago and building traditional items such as pill boxes, etc. There was someone hired by NCPEI put on the course and taught us how to prepare the hides. The course lasted 2-3 years and many people attended. Important to carry on traditions of our Elders as it's part of our heritage
- Margaret Labobe (Zone 2) indicates many years ago we skinned seals whenever Mr. Tuplin was the President. Each person had a job for each part of the skin.
- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3). We need to have the teaching behind the seal hunt beforehand

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Resolution #13 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS society have been driving towards being more present online;

AND WHEREAS continuing to commute as a whole assembly to a particular part of the Island develops increases in gas emissions;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI explore the feasibility of conducting the AGA by streaming online applications (Zoom, Teams, etc.) for those members who are either unable to attend as delegates or non-delegating members to watch.

Moved by: Murray Morrison (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) seeks clarification as there is a difference between being able to watch the events and interacting, there's a big financial difference between being able to log on and watch the event that takes place and being able to interact back and forth
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) indicates he has a friend who does this very thing. Being interactive requires a lot of equipment and money. The stream could be open to everybody as there's no way to verify. It's far beyond our capabilities at the moment.
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) puts forward to amend to remove the interactive portion of the Resolution and have a starting point of just online presentation of our goings on
- Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) Some internet capabilities not as fast as others and it gets time consuming because of delays which can go on for hours
- Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1) asks Chair why he didn't ask the Mover and Seconder to amend the resolution
- Chair asks Mover and Seconder to remove interaction portion of Be it Resolved and to just keep the streaming/watch only
- Mover agrees with amendment
- Seconder agrees with amendment
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) Voting delegates should be at the AGA in person, no issues with others logging in to watch.
- Chair indicates there is still a discussion with parts being amended. Delegates watching on platform that would not be interactive whereas voting delegates must be present. Asks mover to confirm amendment
- Mover and Seconder both confirm amendment
- Resolution amended to remove the portion of "Be it Resolved" that deals with interacting so only would be able to watch the stream. This would only be a one-way stream with no interaction
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) thinks it will be due diligence to price the cost before we look at doing something like this and how much would be incurred on top of AGA costs as is. He's not sure if voting by proxy is allowed through the internet because you're not here in person so if delegates are on Zoom, they would be voting by proxy since they are not actually in attendance
- Chair states it would not be voting by proxy. It's different than voting through electronic means.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) seeks clarification. If it's an anonymous vote, you put your name on ticket and in the box and nobody is supposed to know who you're voting for – how is that done online

- Chair states the Resolution has already been amended that it's not interactive, just a stream
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) thinks it seems like a nightmare and it's something that needs to be talked more about. He's open to the idea but needs discussion/research.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) has brought this up many times and she's in full support. It is great for members who can't be there in person. Good opportunity for members to see what is going on at AGA.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) indicates we'd be looking at something similar to the federal legislature. It would be on a webcam on a laptop, a camera pointed at each mic, a camera pointed to head table, a camera operator. Would have to hire somebody to come in – hopefully with the equipment – and operate the camera. It's feasible and more so if not interactive. Have to approach somebody and see what the cost would be
- Chair asks Mover and Seconder if they are willing to amend Resolution to explore the financial and logistic feasibility of it and the result be brought forward as a report to the Assembly next year
- Mover and Seconder are both in agreement
- Chair reads amendment: "Be it Resolved that NCPEI explore the feasibility of conducting the AGA by streaming online applications" and the rest of the wording, minus the part of delegates interacting
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) asks if this should go back to the Assembly next year or to the Board of Directors for approval
- Chair states it could go to the Board but generally on the agenda there's resolutions and actions taken presented next year, so it will be reported on at the next AGA
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) feels it's a shame to go an entire year for something that could be done in a month
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) agrees with Jordan and wonders if it could be withdrawn and left for the Board to make a decision on
- Chair agrees that it could be withdrawn but if members want this reported it, suggests to keep it as a resolution
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) is not a technical person but wonders if there's a way of viewing so it's just for the membership and not open to the public
- Chief confirms that is a technical question and unless we know every Zoom/Team account for all members, we could set a password
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) agrees and a password could be sent out for the day of the AGA so it can be watched live
- Chair agrees it can be done via password but passwords can be shared so there's no guarantee it's not shared beyond community members.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2) indicates that our assemblies are open to the public so why would a password be necessary. It could be put on the website for people to log on there
- Chair agrees that assemblies are generally open to the public and records are publicly available. Chair asks Mover and Seconder if it's their intention to withdraw the Resolution or put it to vote
- Mover and Seconder wish to put the Resolution to a vote with the amendment
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asks if our AGA is open to the public or to the membership because if it's not open to the general public it would be unconstitutional to broadcast the assembly on the internet. By broadcasting you would have to make the assumption it's being recorded, and our assembly is not recorded, just the minutes. There may be constitutional questions as well
- Chair confirms it is not constitutional question because there's nothing in the constitution that says all members are entitled to be at the AGA. It's not constitutional, it's the **PEI Companies Act**. Chair confirms amendment is to explore feasibility of it and that it's to be a watch only stream and not interactive

## **Resolution Carried**

*Health Break (2:41 p.m. to 2:57 p.m.)*

### **Resolution #14:**

WHEREAS starting and promoting a small business can be overwhelming for our members;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI provide assistance to our members to help them in the process of obtaining grants, loans, etc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this assistance can include mentorship to guide members who are starting up small businesses into successful ventures.

Moved by: Tim Ross (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

### **Discussion:**

- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) seeks clarification. Is that they will provide you resources for whoever wants to start a small business
- Mover says no, looking for someone to give guidance. There's lots of things offered by the government but anybody starting a small business doesn't have the knowledge of where to go. There's people in our existing NCPEI staff that could assist a member in starting up their own business or even point them in the right direction on where to apply for loans.
- Sarah Stewart Jackson (Zone 2) knows there is the Council of the Arts and grants we can apply for and there are Indigenous artisans who do sit on that Board
- Mover says if there is a contact within the NCPEI staff with business experience who can guide in which way to go, who to see and how to get started and then if there's any members who want to do an advisory or mentor the person who wants to start up their own business. It could be like a Big Brother-type thing
- Chair indicates the term it could be called navigator to navigate the entrepreneur through assistance

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Resolution #15:**

WHEREAS the Native Council of PEI consists of three Zones identified as Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3, being Prince, Queens, and Kings County, respectively;

AND WHEREAS each Zone is represented by two Zone Directors who are elected to the NCPEI Board by Zone members as outlined in the NCPEI Constitution and Bylaws;

AND WHEREAS in the past, Directors have been elected to vacant positions on the Board when from different Zones;

AND WHEREAS there is no clear direction for the Zones (1, 2, and 3) regarding voting/appointing members from other Zones into Director positions for other Zones;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Zone Directors reside in the Zone that they are representing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Directors of the NCPEI create a policy regarding appointments across Zones.

Moved by: Katie Jordan (Zone 3)

Seconded by: Dana Wakelin (Zone 3)

### Discussion:

- Chair advises this is a constitutional change being discussed
- Mover is looking for clearer process to define how we select our Board of Directors and thinks it is important that zone directors live in the zone they're representing
- Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) agrees because zone directors know what is going on within their zone and if you have a problem you can go to them and they'll take it further
- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 3) isn't sure if she agrees or disagrees. If no one steps up to sit on the Board for a Zone then and they can't go and look for someone in other zones what happens? To keep the organization going and to keep members interested, we need to support each other in zones
- Chair reminds Assembly to keep it generic and not speak about specific directors or zones
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) feels very disheartened over this Resolution. Need unity and inclusion, not infighting. If nobody steps forward in a zone to be elected and that zone has faith in a member from a different zone to elect them, who are we to question that zone. It's up to the process outlined in the Constitution and we are having to support and trust each zone that each zone is following due process and respect the results of that zone election. As long as the process and Constitution is followed, there should be no issue. Members need to stick together, unite, and trust each other.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) indicates for as long as she can remember she's never seen something like this. Asks Chair to clarify if this is a loophole within the Constitution and Bylaws
- Chair reads Article VI, Section 2 of the Bylaws: "*Each zone shall elect two Board members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Native Council.*" It doesn't specify that board members have to live in that zone. Chair reads final sentence from Sections 3 and 4 of Article VI: "*All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.*" There is no specification in the Bylaws that a Board member must live within the zone that they are a Board Director of. However, if they are a Board of Director for a zone in which they do not reside, they cannot vote within the zone meetings of that zone. It's not necessarily clarified whether a Board of Director can live within another zone, it's just that the Bylaws are silent on whether they cannot live within the other zone. It's a matter of interpretation rather than being black or white
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) has heard the discussion and if you want a voice in your zone and consider yourself an active member it's time for that zone to step up and make your voice heard. It's time we start coming back together to build ourselves up again and build our zones up again. It's important to represent our own zones and we should be from our own zones to be at the head table to help push the agenda forward
- Chief Lisa Cooper (Zone 2) knows where this is coming from and it's disheartening. Putting this in is not helping each other up. If that's how members feel, we should not be taking delegates from other zones to fill other zones because they're not from that zone. Alternate list can fill other zones if there's not enough. If we start with this, where does it split. If Zone 3 can only find 8 members, that's all you get. The issue is how do we make our zones more active and if it takes another zone director to mentor that group or support that group until that happens then be it. Let's not punish a zone because they didn't have someone step forward and had someone they felt could help them advance the zone, do it. She cautions the Assembly on how far this can be

taken. We're all members of NCPEI and when you come to the AGA if you're an alternate and gone into a delegate, you're a member. Chief Cooper is not comfortable with this constitutional change. It would cause more work in our zones to build them up and if we need help from another zone director to that or a member, all be it.

- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) is against this resolution. It was put in the Constitution purposely this way so it wouldn't limit who could or couldn't be directors and our zones are quite capable of picking who they want to represent them. Zones shouldn't be dictating how other zones pick their directors
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) is conflicted. She thinks each zone is capable of looking after themselves and a Board of Director is not the same as a delegate. Board of Director is someone who has a say in the day-to-day stuff as far as NCPEI goes. She worries that when it comes to our zones if there's a lack of interest or because are so busy, they're not able to have that representation. She also wonders if people just don't know what the expectations are and because of that they are hesitant about putting their name forward. There's a lot of extremely intelligent members across PEI and she thinks sometimes we're afraid to put names forward because we don't know. She would warn her director who is representing her at the Board of Directors to be from her zone because they know what's going on. She understands but struggles with people feeling the need to step into another zone.
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) responds to Chief Lisa Cooper's comments. There's a difference with having someone represent as a delegate for one weekend versus having a Board of Director who represents you for 2-3 years. She questions what the point in having zones is if someone can become a Board of Director for whatever zone is free
- Kayla Larin (Zone 3) agrees with Lori. She feels if we open this door what's going to happen is we'll have two zone 3 people running for zone 2 and they get in, and then if we have two zone 2 people running in zone 1 and they get in, there will be no representation for zone 2 and no longer have a voice for zone 1 or 2. She's never heard of this.
- Donna Gregory (Zone 3) indicates that she doesn't know how it happened or why or who is in whatever zones, but she believes the system is that usually the person in zone 2, there's people fill it and then it's filled from zone 2 or 3 or 1. She asks for clarification on if it's unfilled, is it better to leave it unfilled
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) states as long as she's held a Board of Director position with the youth and now in her own zone, she's always seen it where if a position was not filled at the zone meeting, it was put out to the community to fill that position for the year until the next year or when elections are held again. She started in Zone 3 filling a position because one of the Board of Directors left. The next year she had to put in her intent to run and then run as a Board Director
- Chair indicates that within the Bylaws there are two processes for which a Board of Director can be elected or appointed. First is at the annual zone meeting which is the zone meeting prior to the AGA. A Board of Director can be elected for a three-year position. If a Board of Director vacates the position in between annual zone meetings, the Board of Directors have the power to appoint an interim Board of Director for that position until the next annual meeting. An interim appointment is no longer than one year – only until the next zone meeting. At the zone meetings where the full final election happens for a 3-year position
- Diane Burke (Zone 2) states that the reason we have zones is because it's closer to our home and we don't have far to drive. She doesn't see an issue with getting another Zone Director. She would never interfere with another zone.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 1) hears a lot of assumptions but no facts. If there's an election in zone 2, he's under the impression that zone 2 has chosen the best person for that position and will trust zone 2 that they chose who they felt was best to represent them. Zone 3 is doing amazing with membership and bringing people there – he's very happy to hear that and he supports zone 3. He would never go in and start criticizing. He will have faith that they're doing what they're supposed to be doing. Zone 1 is asking for the same respect. A process was followed, and



someone was elected. Instead of supporting that person we're divided again. There is a process on elections and we're arguing instead of not respecting the elections of a zone. Put this to a vote accept what the membership has to say about it.

- Chair clarifies that regardless of what the Resolution says, it will be a Constitutional change. It will be voted on this year and if it is approved that gives NCPEI a year to figure out how it will be inserted into the bylaws and it will bring it back next year. It would be an amendment to the Bylaws to essentially restrict zone directors to be within the zone they normally reside. There is mention about policy, but policy does not supersede the Bylaws. The Resolution would be seeking a Bylaw amendment be made as we are following the Bylaw amendment process for a Notice of Constitutional Change

## **Resolution Defeated**

### **Resolution #16:**

WHEREAS UPEI has established a new Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies faculty, the first of its kind in Canada;

AND WHEREAS this faculty was inspired by a speech provided by President and Chief Lisa Cooper;

AND WHEREAS the NCPEI supports all students wishing to learn about Indigenous knowledge in pursuit of reconciliation;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI establishes an annual scholarship for students pursuing a degree or designation in IKERAS to be offered for fall 2023 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCPEI work with UPEI to have this scholarship listed in the official scholarships and awards directory for all students to see.

Moved by: Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

## **Resolution Carried**

### **Motion #14 – To Adjourn the 47<sup>th</sup> NCPEI AGA**

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

(Motion to adjourn does not need seconder)

*47<sup>th</sup> NCPEI AGA adjourned at 4:04 p.m.*

Name:	Signature

**RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE**  
**Native Council of Prince Edward Island**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**

**Resolution #1:**

WHEREAS there is already program work being done on the 260-acre WMA in St. Chrysostome;

AND WHEREAS culturally, land-based ceremony, harvesting, and education is integral for community healing and well-being;

AND WHEREAS there is an allocated 1-acre of developable land in the St. Chrysostome WMA;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI commits to continuing work towards turning the 1-acre into a cultural area (program lodge, sweat lodge) to provide members an opportunity for land-based healing, retreat, and education.

Moved by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI is in discussions with the Province to increase the 1 acre parcel to 5 acres for further ecotourism development. NCPEI received funding to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan, which will include a section on economic development.**

**Resolution #2:**

WHEREAS NCPEI has community members who are just learning about the past and the history of colonization and the effects on the Indigenous community;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI will provide an opportunity in each Zone for community members to attend a KAIROS Blanket Exercise in each Zone, free of cost.

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI received funding to hold a public Mass Blanket Exercise on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30<sup>th</sup>). NCPEI is continuing to deliver and ramp-up Kairos Blanket Exercise opportunities to meet growing demand. Training opportunities for community members to experience and facilitate Kairos Blanket Exercises will be explored as an economic development opportunity in the 5-year Strategic Plan.**

**Resolution #3 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS NCPEI funds community members for trades education and training;

AND WHEREAS the community is full of talented tradespeople;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works to create an inventory of NCPEI community members who are tradespeople.

Moved by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Mary-Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI collected membership information in the 2022-23 Community Mapping report. The continuance of this effort will be to develop an inventory on tradespeople and skills. ISETS continues to provide training opportunities and maintain records on Indigenous clients with skillsets that may be of interest for NCPEI's interests.**

**Resolution #5 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS the community is feeling the cost of inflation, increased rent, electricity, and gas;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI helps to find affordable housing units for community members in all Zones;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to seek funding for rent subsidy programs to assist in covering the cost of rent in higher, and for affordable, rental units for NCPEI members.

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Clara Jane Wood (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI's Reaching Home program continues to support Indigenous clients facing homelessness and other barriers in housing. NCPEI has applied for funding to continue subsidizing housing costs after the COVID-19 supports have expired. NCPEI continues to write and present policy positions explaining the need for affordable and safe housing opportunities on PEI, with a specific focus towards single-bed units that are in high demand.**

### **Resolution #6**

WHEREAS a resolution was passed in 2019 that members who attend Zone meetings or Town Halls throughout the year would receive priority selection as a delegate for the AGA;

AND WHEREAS there has been confusion in the interpretation and application of this resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED that the process for delegates selection be clarified that delegates will be prioritized based on the number of meetings they had attended, such that a member who attended three meetings has priority over a member who attended two meetings, etc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that priority selection for delegates shall only apply for the initial selection of delegates during the annual meeting of the Zone, and shall not apply if the process is opened to the Zone after the meeting to fill any remaining vacancies.

Moved by: Richard Cooper (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**This process was clarified with Zone directors and used for selecting delegates at the annual Zone meetings.**

### **Resolution #9 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS there are already programs and support for youth (between 15 and 29) and Elders (55 and over);

AND WHEREAS all members of all ages have been handed burden over the last few years (COVID, hurricane, inflation);

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works toward creating and implementing programs for those between the ages of 30 and 54.

Moved by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Tim Ross (Zone 1)

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**Programs and services for this demographic continues to be a struggle for obtaining funding. NCPEI has also struggled in securing youth program funding this year. Proposals aimed towards an all-age demographic continue to be approved on a regular basis.**

**Resolution #10:**

WHEREAS eating nutritious and healthy foods are the basis of living a healthy lifestyle of any individual;

AND WHEREAS sourcing and pricing healthy meal plans and recipes currently in 2022 can be overwhelming and financially costly due to factors such as inflation, hurricane, and COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS developing cooking skills is beneficial for any individual;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI facilitates “Healthy Eating Sessions” with a dietician to promote well-being and healthiness within our community.

Moved by: Judy Dugay (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**The SAFE program continues to offer healthy eating sessions on a monthly basis, and has been extended for an additional year of funding. NCPEI also received funding to purchase new kitchen equipment and a refrigerated trailer to address food insecurity in the community.**

**Resolution #11 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS fishing and gathering together has been central in Indigenous culture;

AND WHEREAS Epekwitk has many productive fishing areas;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI host a fishing derby in all three Zones.

Moved by: Richard Cooper (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Loretta Ross (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI held a fishing derby in Zone 1 and on the border of Zones 2 & 3. There was a great turn out with friendly competition amongst community members.**

**Resolution #12:**

WHEREAS the Council should facilitate programs that promote and provide opportunities to learn how to make traditional items;

AND WHEREAS traditionally, Mi'kmaq used seal pelt to create traditional items;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI works with an Elder to facilitate a workshop on how to process seal pelt for use with traditional items.

Moved by: Murray Morrison (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI is seeking funding opportunities to cover the costs associated with this activity. The Community Mapping next steps will also identify Elders in the community who may have this knowledge.**

**Resolution #13 (written as amended):**

WHEREAS society have been driving towards being more present online;

AND WHEREAS continuing to commute as a whole assembly to a particular part of the Island develops increases in gas emissions;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI explore the feasibility of conducting the AGA by streaming online applications (Zoom, Teams, etc.) for those members who are either unable to attend as delegates or non-delegating members to watch.

Moved by: Murray Morrison (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI's IT Administrator reviewed the feasibility of conducting a streaming AGA. Due to logistical concerns with video and audio setups required, and the costs associated with hiring a third-party setup, it was recommended that this approach would not justify value it would bring.**

**Resolution #14:**

WHEREAS starting and promoting a small business can be overwhelming for our members;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI provide assistance to our members to help them in the process of obtaining grants, loans, etc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this assistance can include mentorship to guide members who are starting up small businesses into successful ventures.

Moved by: Tim Ross (Zone 1)

Seconded by: Chris Ellsworth (Zone 1)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**NCPEI is developing a 5-year strategic plan with a section on economic development opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners. NCPEI will also be expanding the community mapping efforts to identify community members with backgrounds in business and mentorship.**

**Resolution #16:**

WHEREAS UPEI has established a new Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research, and Applied Studies faculty, the first of its kind in Canada;

AND WHEREAS this faculty was inspired by a speech provided by President and Chief Lisa Cooper;

AND WHEREAS the NCPEI supports all students wishing to learn about Indigenous knowledge in pursuit of reconciliation;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI establishes an annual scholarship for students pursuing a degree or designation in IKERAS to be offered for fall 2023 semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCPEI work with UPEI to have this scholarship listed in the official scholarships and awards directory for all students to see.

Moved by: Dawne Knockwood (Zone 2)

Seconded by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (Zone 2)

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

**Scholarship proposal has been developed and submitted to the UPEI senate for approval. The \$1,000 annual scholarship will be available for any Indigenous student living off-reserve who is seeking a minor in IKERAS. This scholarship will be listed on the UPEI website once approved.**

## **Motion of the Board of Directors**

### **April 6, 2023 Zoom Meeting**

Whereas Article IX, Section 3 of the NCPEI By-Laws states that the term of the President and Chief shall be "until the fourth Annual General Assembly following his or her election;"

And Whereas NCPEI did not hold an Annual General Assembly in 2020 owing to Covid-19 restrictions;

And Whereas the Board of Directors interpret the intent of this section to refer to an election term lasting four years;

Be it Resolved that Article IX, Section 3 be amended to state that the President and Chief's term of office shall be until the Annual General Assembly in their fourth year in office;

Be it Further Resolved that this amendment take effect immediately with an election to be planned for the upcoming 2023 NCPEI Annual General Assembly.

Moved by: Lisa Cooper

Seconded By: Kayla Larkin



TAB 4

**President & Chief Summary Report**  
**Annual General Assembly**  
October 2022 to October 2023

As stated in my opening remarks, NCPEI continues to see a healthy growth in our funding, financials, programs, services, and staffing. We now have a record number of employees and currently employ over 57 staff members which is up from 45 staff members last year.

This increasing in staffing also means the increase in programs and services we provide to our off-reserve Indigenous community. With the increase in staffing, NCPEI applied for and received funding for a second Human Resources to work alongside Mary-Lynn to assist with staff who may have concerns, oversee Occupational Health & Safety, hiring of new staff, the onboarding that comes with that and other Human Resource activities.

NCPEI also received funding this past year for our *Building Indigenous Resilience and Community Healing* (BIRCH) project that focuses on identifying causes of toxic stress in the lives of our employees and assist staff in building resiliency both at work and in their personal lives. The BIRCH project also provides frontline staff the opportunity to participate in culturally appropriate and safe mental health activities and workshops toward building their own personal mental health resiliency with a focus on the four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel (mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual). Staff are also provided with a list of mental health counselors should they feel the need to talk to someone with many of these counsellors being Indigenous themselves or are trauma informed, as well as those that would be covered under NCPEI's Health Plan or use a "sliding scale" based on person's income. I know of no other organization, business, or community group that provides this type of program or support to their staff and NCPEI is proud of the BIRCH project and the supports we can provide to our staff, especially those that work the frontline.

We've also been working hard on advocating, networking, and collaborating with other organizations, community groups, provincial and federal governments. In doing so, we were able to secure another year of funding for our Mobile Harm Reduction Program with the federal government and financial support from the provincial government for a mental health addictions navigator/support worker until we can secure multi-year funding.

The Men & Boys project received another year of funding and is now partnering with PEI Public & Justice Safety to deliver the "Walking in Her Moccasins" project to our clients who are incarcerated. It is hoped that our Indigenous clients will want to continue this program with our Program Coordinator, Stephenson Joe, when they are released. Other provincial partnerships include the opening of NCPEI's Men's Shelter in Summerside in partnership with PEI Social Development & Housing and Income Support. We are proud of the increased partnership with the province and look forward to a more positive and productive partnership moving forward.

Other highlights this year include the total renovation of Panmure Island which now includes a new roof, windows, and doors. Re-leveling of the floor with new supports, new floor in the kitchen, and purchase of two new commercial fridges, stove, grill and sinks. The storage room was renovated to include a first aid room and mother's area with fridge, change table, and chairs.

Portage also received a complete renovation this past year to open the main area up for members, new insulation in the walls, new roof, windows and doors, kitchen area, washroom, storage building and commercial freezer for food security.

Our North River Road location received a commercial fridge and freezer for food security and McAulay Court received a new stair lift. We will be installing a wheelchair ramp in both locations as well to make these spaces more wheelchair accessible. We are currently working on installing generators at Portage and McAulay Court to enable both locations to be accessible during power outages so members can charge their phones, use the kitchen area, and stay warm.

We have also begun having regular meetings with the provincial government and have successfully advocated for financial assistance to assist with existing gaps in programming such as the Path Forward Program and our Engaging Indigenous Men & Boys. We are currently in the process of attending meetings with Deputy Ministers from various departments within the provincial government toward developing long-term partnerships.

When Fiona hit, NCPEI stepped up as quickly as we could to secure emergency funding to assist members affected by Fiona. In doing so, NCPEI was able to provide emergency gas and food cards within days after Fiona hit. NCPEI opened our North River location for members who needed a clean shower, access to stove, charge their phones, and stay warm. I am proud of how quickly we were able to assist our members in a time of crisis and learn from each crisis what needs to be in place for the next.

NCPEI also received the Round 6 COVID funding which enabled NCPEI to assist clients with their phone bills, electric bills, rent and mortgage payments, food security, educational needs, and other impactful expenses as needed. We also provided Walmart cards at Christmas time to ensure every member's household could have a Christmas meal, presents for their children, and winter clothing if needed.

There is so much more I could add but I just wanted to provide some key highlights over this past year. I have included a much more detailed report attached to this on the different meetings I attended on your behalf, as members, and I look forward to any comments or questions members may have for me.

## **President and Chief Report**

October 2022 – January 2023

### **NCPEI Staff Meetings**

Participated in two monthly staff meetings for staff to share their successes, struggles, challenges and upcoming events and activities to promote collaboration and teamwork between programs.

### **Bi-Weekly Management Team Meetings**

NCPEI now has a Management Team consisting of the Office Supervisor (Bryan Cassels), Human Resources (Mary-Lynn Blanchard), Finance Director (Emily Bernard), Funding Relations Manager (Todd King), and Senior Staff (Jordan and Lisa). The purpose of these meetings is to assist with the on-boarding of new key positions, review financials and report, discuss workplans and deliverables, and assist/support the transition from COVID delivery of programs/services to in-house programming. To date we have had 6 meetings.

### **NCPEI Board of Directors' Meeting**

Participated and facilitated NCPEI's BOD meeting of October 2022 to discuss upcoming Annual General Assembly, Christmas bonuses for Staff and Board of Directors, Children's X-mas Parties, NCPEI's Open House, and Townhalls/Members X-mas Dinners.

### **L'nu Board of Directors' Meetings**

Attended one L'nu BOD meeting to review financial reports, fisherman's contract, and other topics relevant to L'nu Fisheries. See Jordan's report for more detail on meeting.

### **MAPC Board of Directors' Meetings**

Attended three MAPC Board of Directors' meetings to discuss moving forward on the EMSA project and next quarter funding.

### **CAP Board of Directors' Meetings**

Attended three CAP BOD meetings to discuss Bill C-29, review updates from Priority Tables, financials, Executive reports, and outcome of Negotiation Team meetings. Also attended a two day strategic session with CAP Board of Directors to provide feedback on the direction of CAP.

### **CAP-Canada Political Accord Meetings**

Participated in two meetings on the Political Accord Negotiation team meeting to discuss our Rights & Recognition, Political Accord Agreement, and Priority Table meetings.

### **CAP Justice Prep Meetings**

Participated in four Justice Prep meetings to discuss what will be on the agenda for upcoming Justice Priority Table meetings that include representatives from Justice Canada. Also briefly discussed the Indigenous Strategy Renewal and the outcome from CAP's Justice Strategy Symposium that included representatives from each PTO.

### **CAP Justice Priority Table Meetings**

Participated in four Justice Priority table meetings to discuss and update our Justice Workplan that will now focus on three key areas: Prevention, Intervention, and Re-Integration.

### **CAP Co-Chair Meetings**

Participated in two Co-Chair meetings to discuss topics across the six Priority Tables to ensure no duplication of discussions, any challenges with participation on the Tables, and the development of any proposals/bi-lateral agreements.

### **NCPEI's Policy Analyst Team (PAT)**

Participated in four PAT Team meetings to discuss various policies NCPEI is focusing on and developing policy papers on. Last meeting we invited frontline staff to share their barriers, concerns, and issues with the current provincial/federal government to assist our PAT in understanding the challenges facing our staff when working with high-risk, vulnerable community members.

### **NCPEI's Shelter Committee**

Participated in four meetings to discuss the Shelter in Summerside and the upcoming Allen Street. We have now formed a semi-formal Committee to review Shelter Policies, Staffing, and prepare for our Summerside Shelter to open. Currently we have representative from Justice & Public Safety and will soon bring in Housing and Social Development, and Income Support.

### **Other Meetings / Engagement Sessions**

- CAP Rights and Recognition presentation and discussion.
- Attended Indigenous Veterans Day at Province House.
- Meeting with Erick Melillo, MP to raise awareness of NCPEI, our programs/services, and communities.
- Attended Townhall/X-mas parties in all three Zones.
- Attended NCPEI's Open House which had an amazing turnout.
- Meeting with CLIA to discuss their existing project on ensuring cultural material/design is implemented on resource guides.
- Meeting with Mary-Luisa Kapelus, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to discuss justice related issues.
- Meeting with John Howard Society to discuss increasing our Reaching Home funding.
- Meeting with our YESS funders to discuss extending our funding into 2023-2024.
- Meeting with Canadian Heritage to discuss Language Program funding.
- Meeting with Salvation Army to discuss moving forward in a positive and supportive way.
- Meeting with Nicole Barnes, Family Violence Prevention, to discuss new approved project.
- Meeting with Lisa Boyce, INAC, to discuss possible Capacity Projects for upcoming fiscal year.

## **February 2023-October 2023**

### **NCPEI Staff Meetings**

Participated in monthly staff meetings promoting teamwork and providing staff with pertinent information.

### **Bi-Weekly Management Team Meetings**

The current Management Team consists of:

- Stephen Gauthier, Office Supervisor
- Emily Bernard, Finance Director
- Mary Lynn Blanchard, Human Resources
- Cynthia Cormier, Funding Reporting Officer
- Senior Staff (Jordan Crane, Lisa Cooper)

Discussions include ensuring deliverables of programs are being met, staffing issues, including new hires and how they will be on-boarded, as well as updating and ensuring workplans are meeting funding requirements.

### **NCPEI Board of Director's Meetings**

Facilitated and participated in 6 BOD meetings to review quarterly financial statements, program reports, President & Chief reports, and membership files and applications.

Facilitated two weekend BOD's meetings with the first being held in March 2023 as our yearly Board Retreat to review policies and procedures and the second being held in May 2023 to review and discuss our membership process. This Board meeting in May 2023 included a presentation by William Glen, Genealogist, to discuss memberships applications.

Other Board meetings outside our regular quarterly Board meetings were held to discuss the Constitution & By-Laws as it pertained to the Board appointing a Zone 1 member, and clarification of the term of office for the President & Chief which required the presence of our lawyer, Ken Lecky to discuss the Constitution & By-Laws, as well as other legal question of NCPEI.

### **L'nu Board of Directors Meetings**

Attended quarterly L'nu BOD meetings to review financial reports, President's report, fisherman's contracts, and other topics relevant to L'nu fisheries.

### **Nanegkam Board of Directors Meeting**

Participated in quarterly Nanegkam BOD meetings to review and discuss Manger's report, tenant issues, Capital Replace Plan activities, tenant selection, tenant issues, maintenance repairs, and other topics relevant to Nanegkam Housing Corporation.

We have also had discussions on how to proceed with taking 26 Allen Street off the Nanegkam Housing for NCPEI to bring back our Nitapk Men's Rooming House.

### **NCPEI Policy Analyst Meetings**

Attended bi-weekly Policy Analyst meetings to discuss policy development and review, gaps in programming/services, funding opportunities, and strategies in moving NCPE forward politically.

**NCPEI Town Halls**

Facilitated community Town Hall with BBQ's in each of the three Zones in May and August. This year Town Halls focused around providing members a chance to meet our Policy Team Lead and also to obtain feedback on a number of topics such as MAID, PEOLC, UNDRIP, and the federal government's Indigenous Justice Strategy.

**MAPC Board of Directors Meetings**

Attended five MAPC BOD meetings to discuss regional issues among the three Native Councils (NCPEI, NBAPC & NCNS) including environment and fisheries.

**Shelter Committee Meetings**

Participated in three Shelter Committee meetings to discuss the opening of the Winter Street Shelter in Summerside. Committee members includes representative from Social Housing & Development, Income Support, Justice & Public Safety, NCPE Senior Staff, and NCPEI's Human Resource. Once the Shelter was open, I stepped back to allow those directly involved in the Shelter to continue meeting as necessary. In saying this, I do still attend the odd meeting when it is requested of me to do.

**Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) Board of Director Meetings**

Attended seven BOD meetings for CAP with most being through Zoom/Teams and others in person to review National Chief's Report, Vice-Chief's Report, CEO's Report, and financial reports. Meetings also included discussions with CAP's Lawyer around various government Bills, court proceedings CAP will intervene in, and political strategies to ensure CAP's voice is heard.

**CAP Justice Prep Meetings**

Attended five CAP Justice Prep meetings to review workplan, strategies, and upcoming agenda items that will be covered at our quarterly Justice Table Meetings.

**CAP Justice Table Meetings**

Attended seven Justice Table meetings to provide input and feedback on the Justice Table's Workplan. Meeting discussions are around gaps in programs, services, and policy development for CAP's Provincial/Territorial organizations and discuss ways we can collaborate toward effecting policies to reduce these gaps in justice programs and services.

**CAP Political Accord Meeting**

Attended my final CAP Political Accord meeting and have stepped away from these meetings to focus more on moving NCPEI forward politically. I have faith and confidence in my replacement on the Political Accord Table and will continue to provide support when requested.

**CAP Co-Chair Meetings**

Participated in two Co-Chair meetings to discuss topics across the six Priority Tables to ensure no duplication of policy discussions or workplan items, any challenges CAP has around participation on the Tables, and the development of any proposals/bi-lateral agreements that can go to the CAP Board of Directors for review, discussions, and approval.

**Meetings with PEI Senators**

Met with Senator Percy Downe and Senator Brian Francis separately to discuss CAP's exclusion on the National Council for Reconciliation. Also followed up with letters outlining who NCPEI is, who we represent, and the importance of our national organization, CAP to be included in the National Council for Reconciliation.

## **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Attending this year's Permanent Forum on Indigenous People in New York. Provided members with a short clip on why I was there.

Also took part in CAP UNDRIP Engagement Sessions – participate in the engagement sessions to provide feedback on UNDRIP, specifically on the preamble to UNDRIP that uses a distinction-based approach.

## **Government of PEI**

Had several meetings with Mark Sheridan, Director Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (PEI) and Elizabeth Iwunwa, Policy Analyst Indigenous Relations Secretariat, to better acquaint them with NCPEI programs and services and to discuss how he can further assist NCPEI. Mark was able to secure a one-time \$50,000 transfer from the Province for our Mobile Harm Reduction Team as well as contacting CIRNAC to match the \$50,000.

We have also been able to secure funding for MMIWG and Engaging Indigenous Men and Boys through the Province and most recently, we have been able to secure funding for a Health Navigator with Mark's assistance.

## **CIRNAC Meetings**

Lisa Boyce is no longer NCPEI's contact person with CIRNAC and has been replaced with Ted Yeomans and Melanie LeBer. I had several meetings with Ted Yeomans, Anastasia Alexopoulos and Melanie LeBer regarding issues around their funding and reporting requirements.

## **Indigenous Services Canada**

Introduction meeting with Natasha Fillmore and subsequent follow-up meetings to discuss our denied Jordan's Principle proposal, discuss why members with non-status children are not receiving funding support to go over to the IWK, other funding opportunities.

## **MMIWG**

Attended the MMIWG event at Victoria Park Pavilion. This event was special as it was the first time that all Indigenous organization/groups participated together for the same event.

## **Urban Peoples Indigenous Programs**

We have been discussing concerns around how the UPIP funding is being allocated and why NCPEI was not being funded more considering there are no Friendship Centres on PEI and there is no need for one as NCPEI provides all the same type of programs and services a Friendship Centre would provide.

Since then, representatives from UPIP visited the Island and met with staff and community members in both Portage and North River satellite offices to discuss our challenges, gaps in programming, and "wish list" of programs and services we would like to see.

## **Federal Provincial/Territorial Meetings (FPT)**

Participated in the FPT meeting at the Delta in Charlottetown and was hosted by Natalie Jamieson, Status of Women and Women and Gender Equity Federal Minister. I attended the meet & greet the evening before and networked with various ministers.

## **Other Meetings**

- Had an introductory meeting with Health PEI Nurse Educators Mitchell Bingley and Sarah Smith on ways they can better serve Indigenous patients within the Mental Health Division of Health PEI as well as what they could offer NCPEI staff in the way of training (Mental Health First Aid)



- Virtual Meeting with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to re-establish a collaborative working relationship, discuss existing agreements, Capital Replacement Plan and NCPEI's plan to remove one of our housing units from social housing to develop a men's rooming house.
- Ken Lecky, lawyer, regarding NCPEI and L'nu Constitution & By-Laws.
- Kateri Coade, MCPEI to discuss the development of a better relationship between NCPEI and MCPEI.
- Peter Bevan Baker – discussed the disappointment on the lack of involvement with NCPEI this past year and ways we can improve the relationship.
- Michelle O'Brien, ESDC to discuss our funding and provide an update on how the project is going.
- BDO meetings to review financials of NCPEI and Nanegkam in preparation for our annual audit.
- Meeting with Charlottetown Police Chief Brad McConnell to discuss partnership and collaboration.
- Meetings with Sita MacMillan and Sara Tanner regarding Child and Family Services Act
- Debbie Langston – Department of Education and Early Years toward developing positive partnership.
- Numerous CBC interviews regarding Truth and Reconciliation, issues surrounding our Mobile Harm Reduction Team, and other topics toward advocacy and education.

## **Events**

- Christmas Open House, North River Road
- Red Dress Walk
- Winter Steet Shelter Open House
- Public Safety Canada – Firearms Engagement
- Heritage Award – City Hall
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Climate Challenge Fund Photo Op with Government Official
- Presentation of Eagle Feather to UPEI
- Governor General Mary Simon – event at Government House
- Nova Scotia Native Council AGA
- Visit to new Women's Unit at PEI Provincial Corrections Centre Charlottetown
- Elder and Youth AGA's

**Zone 1 Board of Directors Report**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022- November 2023

Loretta Ross and Richard Cooper

Throughout the year we update Zone 1 members via phone calls, texting, messages and social media. Members and Friends of Zone 1 Facebook page is updated daily with events, jobs and happenings in our community and elsewhere.

We help support Program Coordinators as much as possible for things like COVID relief funding, Back to School Kits, etc.

Events and Meeting attended:

- November 2022 NCPEI AGA in Charlottetown
- December 6<sup>th</sup> - Town Hall Portage Office Christmas Dinner
- December 10<sup>th</sup> - Kids Christmas Party in Portage (Santa, presents and treats)
- January 17<sup>th</sup> Zone 1 Meeting in Portage to fill vacancy (Loretta got re-elect on the interim)
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Members Meeting at the Portage Office in zone 1 re: election process of Loretta's re-election
- February 5<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors meeting in Charlottetown - NCPEI Board of directors – Oath of Office read and signed by Loretta
- February 19<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors meeting
- February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> - NCPEI Community Engagement Conference Loyalist Inn in Summerside: Feedback on UNDRIP
- March 5<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Ice- fishing event in Hebron (West Prince)
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Honouring our Elder Photo Session at the Portage Office
- March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors retreat in Charlottetown
- March 18<sup>th</sup> - L'nu Annual General Meeting in Summerside 11:00-5:00 (Canceled)
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - NCPEI Board of Director zoom meeting 6-8
- April 11<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 meeting 6-8 Portage Office
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - L'nu Annual General Assembly in Summerside. Loretta was re-elected as Board of Director for L'nu Fisheries

- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - MAID presentation by Bradley Cooper The Loyalist Country Inn in Summerside
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Townhall Portage Office
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - NCPEI Board of Directors meeting in Charlottetown Re. Membership and Genealogist
- June 21<sup>st</sup> - National Indigenous Day ( NIPD)
- June 27<sup>th</sup> - NCPEI board of Directors zoom meeting 6 pm
- July 18<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Bass Fishing event with Clara Jane and James Fraser at Whites Cove
- July 26<sup>th</sup> - Feehan's Shore Bass Fishing event
- August 28<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Townhall Portage Office 5-7
- September 11<sup>th</sup> - Zone 1 Meeting with Scott Milford and Annabelle Glazer UPIP. Lisa Cooper President Chief of NCPEI and community members: Discussions on: How Government programs could change to benefit the rural indigenous population on PEI re funding
- September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> - The 52nd CAP Annual General Assembly in Edmonton, Alberta.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> - Zone 1 Meeting - Election of Board of Director- Loretta re-elected for 4 year term. Picked delegates for the NCPEI AGA in November. Guest in attendance was Lisa Cooper and Georgina Knockwood Crane
- October 7<sup>th</sup> - Mawi'omi at Bloomfield Park

Up and coming events:

- NCPEI Board of Directors meeting before AGA
- NCPEI Annual General Assembly November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> at the Mill River resort
- Holiday events
- NCPEI Board Meetings

**Zone 2 Board of Directors Report**  
**Annual General Assembly**  
November 2022 – September 2023

William Bourque, Board of Director  
Julie Pellisier-Lush, Board of Director (Out-going)  
Mary Busch, Board of Director (In-coming)

- November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 - September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Language and Drumming (Will) Attended as many as we could.
- November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> – 47<sup>th</sup> Annual NCPEI AGA (Julie and Will)
- November 8<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous Veteran's Ceremony Downtown (Will)
- November 11 – Veteran's Day Ceremony – Stratford (Julie)
- November 26<sup>th</sup> -Indigenous Artisans Market (Julie and Will)
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>, NCPEI Art Expo (Julie and Will)
- December 6<sup>th</sup>, Purple Ribbon Event Opening (Julie)
- December 7<sup>th</sup> MFRC Mi'kmaq Tea (Will)/ Native Council Christmas Dinner (Julie and Will)
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – MFRC Christmas Party
- December 11<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI Zone 2 Children's Christmas Party (Julie, Will, Ebony)
- January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Family Cultural Retreat at Mill River (Julie and Will)
- January 20<sup>th</sup> – Walking in her Moccasins (Will)
- January 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> - Helped with loss in Community Ceremonies at North River Office (Julie, Will, Ebony)
- February 5 – Board Meeting (Will and Julie)
- February 19 -Membership Files Meeting (Will)
- February 25-26 –Engagement Conference Summerside (Julie)
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Zone 2 Meeting (Will and Julie)
- March 10-12 – Board Retreat Holiday Inn Express (Will and Julie)
- March 11 – Mini Mawiommi Show and Crafting Confed Centre with NCPEI Youth
- March 25-26 – Cultural Retreat NCPEI-Summerside (Will and Julie)
- April 6 – Special Board Meeting – (Will and Julie)
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Zone 2 Meeting and CAP delegate selection/alternates -(Will and Julie)
- April 22 – Earth Day Event North River Road –(Will and Julie)
- April 23 – L'nu Fisheries AGA – Summerside (Julie)
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – MMIWg2S+ Walk in Victoria Park – (Will and Julie)
- May 11 – NCPEI Townhall Zone 2 (Julie)
- May 27– Board Meeting – Hotel on Pownal (Will and Julie)
- June 21 – Indigenous Peoples Day Event (Will and Julie)
- June 27 – BOD Zoom Call (Will and Julie)
- June 29<sup>th</sup> – Zone 2 Meeting (Will and Julie)
- July 29 – Pride Parade (Will and Julie)
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> – Kairos Blanket Exercise Train the Trainer (Will)
- August 29 – Townhall Meeting North River Rd (Julie)
- September 28<sup>th</sup> – Two-Eyed Seeing Project (Will)

- September 29<sup>th</sup> – Truth and Reconciliation Day Events at UPEI (Will)
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Kairos Blanket Exercise at UPEI (Will)
- October 5 – Zone 2 meeting (Will and Julie)
- Bi-weekly Cheque Signing (Julie)

**Zone 3 Board of Directors Report**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022 – October 2023

Kayla Larkin, Board of Director  
Shane Clements, Board of Director (Out-going)  
Dana Wakelin, Board of Director (In-coming)

Dear Zone 3 members/delegates,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for having us as Zone 3 Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and to have the opportunity to get to know each and every one of you individually, as well as in a group setting. We have not only gained friendship with the members but mentors, elders, confidants, and lifelong connections. It has been our pleasure to serve you over the past 3 years, and are looking forward to serving you for the next year. We have seen a growth withing the Zone 3 members that makes us so proud to be a part of Zone 3.

Over the past year Shane Clements and Kayla Larkin have worked diligently to support the Zone 3 members. Our work consists of attending board meetings, holding zone meetings, attending the CAP AGA in Edmonton and working one on one with members on request. A major role we play within our community is ensuring that the voices of our Zone are heard, this includes concerns, and ideas.

Over the past year we focused on getting members to attend meetings, and events. We reached out through social media, word of mouth, and making phone calls. We had decisions within our Zones to bridge the gap of membership attendance and looked at other avenues to ensure no one was left out, we found setting up car pools for members was a great help and seemed to work. But we didn't want to end there, we had other plans we wanted to set in motion. As many know the Zone 3 election took place in September 21, 2023 and Dana Wakelin was elected by the Zone as their new representative, and we welcomed her as we know she will bring new ideas, and perspectives to the Board.

Below you will find a small list of some of the other activities that were performed throughout 2023:

- Helping navigate members to the right supports
- Assisting with the Covid applications
- Assisting with the back-to-school backpack program
- Contacting members for drives
- Setting up drives for members
- Planning and setting up for Zone meetings

## **ELDER REPRESENTATIVE Annual General Assembly Report**

October 2023

Mekwe’k Wowkwis Kisikui’skw  
Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane

Kwe’ Greetings,

A year has come and gone, it was a great pleasure and a great honour to hold this position of Elder Representative.

It was a very busy and rewarding year. Monthly Elder meetings were held in each of the three Zones. Our meetings were once a month and we spoke on program planning and special guest visits such as:

- Barb McKenna spoke on Wekatesk Aboriginal HeadStart
- Mathilda Knockwood Snache spoke on Red Man (Glooscap)

Many more recently at our Elders AGA our guest speakers were:

- Bayshore Healthcare Presentation
- Health PEI Navigators-Tanys Murphy & Melanie Melanson Senior Supports

We had a great support worker, Jody Jesso, who arranged for the Special Guests, fed us well and provided fun games like BINGO as well as a pool party at Linda MacConnell’s and a lovely Christmas dinner and party with lots of gifts.

We always enjoy the Youth. I spoke on Mi’kmaq Culture, Traditional Teachings, and the Seven Scares Teachings and History and Crafts.

Some highlights of events and gatherings:

- I attended The Connecting with Culture Child and Youth Retreat.
- I did Mi’kmaq Storytelling, songs and language through the Language and Drumming Program at the Native Council Programming Office.
- Attended Striped Bass fishing event in Mount Stewart.
- Participated in “Honoring our Elders Portraits”. It was done by Jody Jesso and Wayne MacDonald who arranged to take portraits of our Elders that were then framed and placed in the Programming Office. We had an Open House so the Elders could see their portraits on the wall and invited guests. The Native Council was presented a Heritage Award from the City of Charlottetown for this initiative.
- Went to the Mawi’omi in Bloomfield Park. Great time and lots to eat and family and friends.
- Opening prayer at Earth Day.

- UPEI Presentation of an Eagle Feather with Chief Cooper.
- Visited our Elders in the manors took gifts and sang for them.
- Did talks and gave paper info on Medicine Walks.
- Called and made contact with Elders.
- Worked with Jody regarding previous meetings, Elders Meals, and Games.

Wela'lin,  
Thank You.



EBONY LARKIN

# NCPEI AGA REPORT

## YOUTH BOARD OF DIRECTOR

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### 2022-2023

Over the past year the NCPEI youth group has met a couple times to make dream catchers, game night, and had a pizza party. We have also partnered up with other programming within the NCPEI to have the first every 2slgbtqqia+ prom, as well as clay/pottery classes.

At our recent youth aga we have had a seal skin key chain making workshop. Medicine pillow making, as well we had invited the Native Council of Nova Scotia's youth rep Hayley over to attend and give a little presentation, she had also taught the youth how to make medicine ties. With a teaching on what they mean and are used for.

As the youth board of director I have sat in on a few different zoom calls with the NYC, RCMP and 60 scoop survivors table. NYC recently gave out school bags as their final COVID relief fund.

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TAB 5

## **Addictions and Mental Health Navigator**

New Program starting October 2023

The Native Council has obtained gap funding from the Province to be utilized for an Addictions and Mental Health Navigator until we are able to secure longer term funding.

The Addictions and Mental Health Navigator will be responsible for providing culturally sensitive addictions and mental health support to individuals, families, and the community. The Navigator must possess a strong working knowledge of harm reduction strategies, trauma informed approach to care, and a comprehensive knowledge of the compliment of services offered to individuals and their families on Prince Edward Island. The Navigator will advocate for appropriate programs and services to meet the needs of clients.

Colleen Courturier has accepted the position and we look forward to having the opportunity to provide this service to our community.

**DIGITAL ARCHIVES**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
September 2022 – September 2023

Paul Martin  
Digital Archives Coordinator

Kyle LeClair  
Digital Archives Assistant

**Introduction:**

The Digital Archives Program main function is to sort, scan and, catalogue all documents within NCPEI. We meticulously go through all documents by hand to sort the materials and get them ready for scanning. Once scanned we upload to the Archives, where we then add meta data to make the documents easily searchable. All documents are recorded on either a scanned (keep/dispose) log or added to a disposed log for further board review. Once given the “okay” from the board we will then shred all the documents not being kept. Any documents that we are keeping are being boxed and stored in a climate-controlled storage unit. This will help preserve the documents going forward.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

- Cleaned out the basement closet of the McAulay Ct office
- Cleaned up all the books and documents in the front room of the barn
- We also sorted and scanned all documents stored in Archive office
- We Have also finished Cleaning out the Barn and all filing Cabinets in the back room
- We have also taken two loads of materials from the McAulay Ct Office Archives (furnace room)
  
- 468 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in September 2022
- 457 additional documents marked for disposal in September 2022
  
- 1065 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in October 2022
- 1153 additional documents marked for disposal in October 2022
  
- 886 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in November 2022
- 722 additional documents marked for disposal in November 2022
  
- 272 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in December 2022
- 558 additional documents marked for disposal in December 2022
  
- 924 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in January 2023
- 933 additional documents marked for disposal in January 2023
  
- 791 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in February 2023
- 778 additional documents marked for disposal in February 2023
  
- 832 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in March 2023
- 690 additional documents marked for disposal in March 2023

- 939 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in April 2023
- 630 additional documents marked for disposal in April 2023
- 1051 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in May 2023
- 1091 additional documents marked for disposal in May 2023
- 320 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in June 2023
- 771 additional documents marked for disposal in June 2023
- 431 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in July 2023
- 1177 additional documents marked for disposal in July 2023
- 816 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in August 2023
- 1543 additional documents marked for disposal in August 2023
- 799 documents scanned and uploaded to the Archive in September 2023
- 1043 additional documents marked for disposal in September 2023
- At the end of each month we also back up all files

#### **Future Activities:**

Once we are done working our way through the paper items, we will then turn our attention to a few other tasks. We will be adding more meta data tags to make the archive more searchable. We will also be working through photographs and cassette tape recordings (meeting minutes). Also, there are old 8mm film reels we will need to investigate. From there we should just be cleaning up odds and ends and sorting the archive.

#### **Conclusion:**

Once finished we will have a comprehensive archive with functional search. This will become a strong resource for NCPEI going forward.

# **ENGAGING INDIGENOUS MEN AND BOYS**

## **Annual General Assembly Report**

Stephenson Joe  
Program Coordinator  
November 2022 to September 2023

### **Introduction:**

Walking in her Moccasins (WIHM) is an experiential violence prevention resource for Indigenous men and boys. This project is rooted in the rights of Indigenous women and girls to live free from all forms of violence and encourages Indigenous men and boys to play positive and culturally relevant roles to promote gender equality. The project partners, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and White Ribbon acknowledge the impact of colonialism on Indigenous communities, and through this Bundle offer healing-based exercises, specific to Indigenous communities, which can be adapted as needed. While the Bundle is geared towards engagement with Indigenous communities, it is hoped this resource can also enhance non-Indigenous women, girls, men and boys' awareness and understanding of the diversity and beauty of Indigenous cultures and healing practices.

### **Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

The bundle will be delivered in monthly meetings to a cohort of men and boys with the support of an Indigenous Elder and/or community role model as recommended by the bundle. Participants will be encouraged to assess the program and provide feedback. The coordinator will also seek other opportunities to engage participants in understanding MMIWG and Gender Based Violence throughout the duration of the project, as well as establishing a biweekly men's drum group.

### **Activities and Deliverables:**

- Facilitated number of Circles of Support A.A.
- Facilitated many WIHM events
- Facilitated Drumming Circles
- Engaged with a number of men and youth looking for assistance or that had questions/concerns around gender based violence
- November 23 – spoke to AWA about the WIHM bundle and wishes to partner and have me speak to males that they are working with.
- Assisted with many Kairos Blanket Exercises
- Assisted with Language and Drumming classes
- Provided Train the Trainor for WIHM
- Meeting with Diane Burke, Indigenous Caseworker with Justice and Public Safety to plan and facilitate WIHM to incarcerated males
- Provided Prayers, drumming and speeches at a number of events, including a Conservation Group, Mental Health Association
- Assisted with Language and Drumming Retreat in March
- Attended two events hosting students from Holland College
- YESS Program student engagements teachings in May, August and September
- National Indigenous Peoples Day event June 21

- Held a drum making session July 8
- MacPhail Farm Medicine wheel teachings July 12
- Cultural camp Drum teachings July 14
- MacPhail Woods Camp - WIHM and grandfather teachings August 16
- Re-establishing Community and WIHM resin jewelry event August 19
- Meeting with Laura Johnson
- MMIWG and Engaging Men and Boy's Retreat August 25-26 at Panmure Island Cultural Grounds
- Meeting with MMIWP September 7
- Office Reestablishing Community/2 spirit/ WIHM healing yoga event – September 14

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

I have made significant progress regarding community impact through not only word of mouth but through posters, events hosted and through social media postings of all the events that the program is involved in.

### **Future Activities:**

- Mass Blanket Exercise on September 30<sup>th</sup>
- More WIHM events and more partnering with 2-Spirit and Re-establishing Community programs to bring more activity and teachings as well as events to the community.
- Men's drum group
- Possibility of bringing the WIHM to the NCPEI men's shelter
- WIHM teachings will be taught in corrections to help incarcerated men for 16 weeks.

### **Conclusion:**

The Engaging Indigenous Men and Boys program, along with the Walking in her Moccasins Bundle has grown very well and has made a very positive and significant impact and I look forward to seeing more participation and growth of the program.

**HUMAN RESOURCES - GOVERNANCE**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
October 2022 to September 2023

Mary-Lynn Blanchard  
Human Resources Administrator/ BIRCH

**Introduction:**

**Human Resources Administrator**

The Human Resources Administrator (HRA) is responsible for gathering, organizing, and executing all HR related functions for the Native Council of PEI. This position ensures the policies and procedures put in place by NCPEI are followed. The Human Resource Administrator also ensures there is an active Health and Safety program in place.

**BIRCH**

The Building Indigenous Resilience and Community Healing (BIRCH) project is designed to build the capacity of NCPEI's frontline staff. NCPEI recognizes vicarious trauma and the effects it can have on frontline staff. The BIRCH Facilitator collaborates with Program staff to determine the needs of the group and work towards providing culturally appropriate healing opportunities, and relevant training.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

**Human Resources Administrator**

- Administer human resources policies, procedures, and programs for the organization.
- Lead the process for recruitment, onboarding, and exit strategy.
- Plan and execute annual performance evaluations in conjunction with Office Manager, Management Team and President & Chief.
- Coordinate staff education, learning opportunities, and cultural competency training.
- Assist in the coordination of safety programs, workers compensation claims management, and employee accommodation plans.
- Compile, maintain, and update personnel files.
- Provide guidance and oversee mediation processes for managers/supervisors, and employees.
- Research and recommend new human resources policies to the benefit of the organization and the employees.
- Staying informed on any changes for legal compliance.
- Perform other related duties as required.

**BIRCH**

- Increase the capacity of NCPEI frontline staff to deliver a range of mental wellness strategies and activities to their clients.
- Creation of a training resources manual, lesson plans, and promotional material to continue the delivery of relevant training to NCPEI front line staff to build resilience, wellness, and sustainable self-preservation.
- Collaborate with Front-Line staff to determine training and support needs.



- Increase in resilience and mental wellbeing in the larger NCPEI community, as friends and families of NCPEI frontline staff will also benefit from staff's knowledge of how to manage toxic stress and engage in self-care activities.
- Engage Elder(s) or Knowledge Keeper(s) to lead any relevant cultural activities, following proper protocols and ensuring the honorarium is paid, along with travel reimbursement.

### **Activities and Deliverables:**

- Facilitated and attended monthly staff meetings.
- Attended bi-weekly Management Team meetings.
- Organized and facilitated interviews throughout the year.
- Met with staff to discuss workplans and deliverables with the Office Supervisor.
- Met with the Outreach team for a case-planning meeting.
- Mediated questions brought up by staff and address concerns.
- Worked with Office Supervisor to prepare and facilitate performance reviews.
- Met with Funding Relations and Office Supervisor to discuss upcoming projects and ending projects.
- Worked with Office Supervisor in offboarding transition.
- Orientations for new hires.
- Planned and organized an OHS committee meetings.
- Attended Shelter Committee meeting, facilitated interviews for staff.
- Facilitated and assisted with several Kairos Blanket Exercise events.
- Planned and facilitated staff events through BIRCH – Yoga, axe throwing and BBQ, Cultural Workshop with Louise Lamothe.
- Assisted with numerous community events including Christmas Dinners, Mawi'omi, Powwow and AGA.

### **Other Activities:**

- Assisted with Fiona Relief to drop off gift cards in Summerside.
- Attended Zoom meeting on HR software.
- Attended Zoom meetings to discuss administrative access to Chamber's benefits and Sunlife GRSP.
- Organized OHS committee training for OHS committee members.
- Worked with Funding Relations to arrange contracts for Language Program projects.
- Worked with Nishka Smith to wrap up the community mapping project.
- Attended a meeting to review drafted policies and procedures to be sent to the Board for approval.
- Attended WCB Educational Session at the Loyalist Inn in Summerside
- Attended a two-day EMO training conference via Zoom 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Corrinne Chappell to secure YESS class location at UPEI.
- Shelter safety walkthrough on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Organized Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for staff through BIRCH.
- Attended MHFA training on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> through BIRCH.
- Visited the YESS class space at UPEI with Program Coordinators on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended online webinar on Mental Health and Resiliency in Front Line Workers on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the YESS class on June 19<sup>th</sup> as a presenter to prep for mock interviews and held mock interviews.

- Attended the NIPD event at Confederation Landing on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Attended a Mental Health Community Practice Webinar via Zoom on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Helped organized Ground Search for missing person, took part in search and debrief.
- Attended meeting with UPIP funders at North River Road on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Promotion and Outreach:**

- Legal Panel Review hosted by the CPHR Network at Holland College on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Career Day at UPEI on November 25<sup>th</sup> to network with other organizations.
- Attended two of NCPEI's Town Hall Christmas dinners.
- NCPEI's Open House event on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- CPHR event at the Charlottetown Library on HR legislation on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Staff self-defense class on October 12<sup>th</sup> through BIRCH.

#### **Conclusion:**

The position of Human Resources Administrator has been expanding along with the Native Council. There is now a need for the position to adapt to help account for the fast-paced growth. For the future you may see updated software to help streamline a lot of these processes. The position has grown to a point where the council has recognized the need for a second Human Resource position.

With fast-paced growth often comes growing pains. The BIRCH project was an addition designed to help alleviate this stress. This project allows for staff driven ways to support their mental health needs. This could be training, cultural activities, or even social activities.

Currently the Native Council of PEI has close to 75 staff and is continuing to expand and develop. I am looking forward to supporting the Native Council as it grows and expands to support the community.

**INDIGENOUS COURT WORKER**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022 – September 2023

Lynn Bradley  
Indigenous Courtworker

**Introduction:**

The Indigenous Courtworker Program helps Indigenous people in PEI involved in the criminal justice system to obtain fair, just, equitable, and culturally relevant treatment. The Indigenous Courtworker (ICW) works with Indigenous clients involved in the criminal justice system to navigate the criminal justice process, increase their understanding of their rights during the justice process, and provide restorative justice options whenever possible.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

- Assist Indigenous people involved in the criminal justice system to better understand their rights and the functioning of the criminal justice system.
- Respond to problems and special needs caused by communication barriers between Indigenous people and those who are involved in the administration of the criminal justice system.
- Promote and provide, where applicable, restorative justice & healing options for off-reserve Indigenous peoples involved in the criminal justice system.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

- Ensured all service providers had access to medicine and encouraged their clients to smudge.
- Continue to promote cultural healing opportunities such as smudging and sweat lodge to program participants, Indigenous community members and other service providers.
- Point of contact between PEI Public Defenders and Indigenous community members on upcoming court dates, whether they are required to appear or not, and updates on progress so far.
- Extensive case planning and management for release plan. Case plan takes all four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel into consideration, when developing healing journey to decrease recidivism.
- Reconnecting with sentenced individuals to assure that Gladue Factors were considered in their sentencing.
- ICW was able to be present for court appearances via zoom link from the Correctional Center for those that are currently remanded. Provincial Correctional Staff have been accommodating and understanding.
- ICW has been able to provide Gladue Reports without going through Crown and Province's MOU with MCPEI. These requests came from Legal Aid and community members in conflict with the law. This ensures client's right to a fair and speedy judicial process.
- Crown Attorney approached ICW about preparing a Gladue Report for an Indigenous male that was facing charges in PEI and did not have legal representation. This was a huge success working with Crown Attorney's office and having them help us navigate the criminal justice system. Through this case, we were able to connect with Public Defender in Ontario. An updated Gladue Report with recommendation specific to Oneida territory was submitted to Ontario Courts. An

email from the Public Defender was received and a note was sent to senior staff regarding the positive comments on our program from Ontario Provincial Courts.

- ICW advocated for an Indigenous community member to be released from remand at the Provincial Correctional Center and be transported to an Indigenous Treatment Facility. They were released and transported to Eskasoni First Nation and successfully completed treatment.
- Attended CAP Housing Initiative March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended MMIWG Healing Retreat March 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended CAP Gender Based Violence Symposium March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Facilitated KBE for Social Development and Housing March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Attended Sentence Hearing. Provincial Judge Krysta MacKay adjourned hearing until April 3<sup>rd</sup> to review aggravating and mitigating factors. ICW spoke to Defence Lawyer, Robert MacNeil and spoke about the importance of a conditional sentence. This individual has a large family that he supports and was employed full time. By removing him from the work force, the Department of Justice is continuing to support the cycles of poverty that Indigenous Peoples have faced for generations. Native Council of PEI was integrated into the conditions of this release. Home visits, supports with mental health and addiction referral as well as cultural supports, are all agreed upon. A case plan was drafted, signed, and sent to all involved.
- Offered support and guidance to victims of crime.
- Introductory meeting with Mary Lynn Kane, PEI Law Society April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ongoing discussion with Hal Atwood and the Canadian Police Knowledge Network on Authentic engagement with Indigenous Communities.
- Assisted vulnerable members with COVID applications.
- Attended Mental Health First Aid and received certificate of completion.
- ICW was able to provide pretrial coaching for a two-day Supreme Court trial.
- Attended court May 5<sup>th</sup>, in this instance, sentence was handed down with no Gladue Factors considered. While awaiting transfer to Provincial Correctional Center, Public Defender and ICW advised male to appeal sentence since Gladue Factors were not mentioned. ICW advised the male on the admission and discharge process for Provincial Correctional Centers policy.
- Assisted On Reserve Band Member who received a federal sentence, connect with family, have access to smudging and advise on the appeal process. This individual has no court support during any of their court appearances and felt alone during this trying time. ICW was able to connect with their children to ensure them that their parent was ok and was trying to book visits. ICW advised their children on visiting procedures and Federal classification process.
- Attended Case Management meetings and brought forward those on ICW case plan.
- Attended Zoom meeting with Larissa Rutquist – Senior Advisor of National Policy with the Indigenous Justice Program.
- Attended two Sentence Hearings in May that had Gladue Reports submitted. Statement of Facts and the Gladue Reports were evident of severe Intergenerational Trauma within the two cases. One of these cases was for an off-reserve youth who was given a period of custody. In the month of May, ICW was present for seven court appearances.

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

- Promoting Gladue Rights to those involved in the Criminal Justice System.
- Continue to foster and strengthen networks with service providers to ensure full wrap around supports for Indigenous peoples living off reserve who are involved in the criminal justice system.
- Continue to strengthen relationships with key players in the Criminal Justice System.

- Participate in Advisory Committees such as Indigenous Justice Program and CLI – Justice Avenues.

### **Numbers of program participants per month**

November 2022 - 15  
 December 2022 - 4  
 January 2023 - 14  
 February 2023 - 13  
 March 2023 – 20  
 April 2023 - 18  
 May 2023 - 15  
 June 2023 - 6  
 July & August 2023 - Out of office

### **Future Activities:**

- Offering tobacco to Elders and Knowledge Keepers for input on what Restorative Justice means and how ICW can support traditional healing and how justice was traditionally handled by all Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.
- Provide educational presentations on ICW and Restorative Justice.
- Provide an opportunity for members to be educated on the new Missing Persons Act.

### **Conclusion:**

The ICW program offered through Native Council of Prince Edward Island has been operating with one staff member since April 2022. We have formed a trusting and equal relationship with PEI Legal Aid Lawyers, Provincial Court Judges, Crown Attorneys, Management of the Provincial Correctional Center but most importantly, our community members who conflict with the law.

We have successfully completed four Gladue Reports. While conducting these reports, we ensure that culturally appropriate supports are put in place.

We have ensured that community members facing a court appearance are giving lesson in court room etiquette. We have strived to have our community members facing criminal charges, court appearances and possible custodial sentences, navigate and endure this process with their dignity intact and to promote the hope of a healing journey.



## ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM Annual General Assembly Report November 2022 – September 2023

Clara Jane Wood  
Program Coordinator



### Introduction:

In the heart of our planet's most precious ecosystems, there exists a profound connection between nature and indigenous knowledge. It is within this harmonious balance that NCPEI has found its inspiration to stand as a beacon of hope, education, and empowerment within the realm of environmental conservation on Epekwitk. Safeguarding the delicate ecosystems of Epekwitk, advocating for indigenous stewardship, and promoting the holistic wellness of indigenous communities is at the root of why the Environment Program was created.

As stewards of our planet, we understand that the wellbeing of our environment is intrinsically linked to the health and prosperity of indigenous peoples. Our work is not just about preserving pristine landscapes; it is about respecting the deep-rooted connections indigenous communities have with their ancestral lands and traditions.

EnvNCPEI was born from a vision that recognizes indigenous knowledge as an integral force for positive change in the world of environmental conservation and stewardship. We firmly believe that by amplifying and honoring the ancestral wisdom of indigenous cultures, using two-eyed seeing, we can pave the way toward a more sustainable and harmonious future for all.

Our programming is achieved through projects funded by federal, provincial, and local entities. We aim to apply for funds that align with our environmental values while also providing wellness opportunities to our membership.

### Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

EnvNCPEI has been operating with its current capacity since May 2021. Part of the responsibility of the Environmental Coordinator role has been to seek out funding that aligns with the Environmental Program's values and goals, as well as to create project proposals to receive funding. The current and completed projects are below.

### Projects at a glance:

#### *Indigenous Habitat Participation Fund (IHPP); 2021-2023*

- Water quality monitoring in aquatic stream in Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in St. Chrysostome, PE.
- Coastal erosion monitoring along the coast of the WMA
- eDNA sampling in aquatic stream for culturally significant species (American eel, Atlantic salmon)
- Capacity building (staff, field truck, monitoring equipment)

*Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO-AFSAR); 2022-2023, 2023-2024*

- Striped Bass Life Stages Survey project; looking for juvenile or young Striped Bass in four PEI rivers (Egmont, Summerside, Hillsborough, Midgell)
- Plankton and seine net surveys for juvenile and young-of-the-year surveys, respectfully

*Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, Environment and Climate Change Canada; 2022-2024*

- Multi- Species at Risk (SAR) Monitoring Project (Two bat species, two shorebird species)
- Educational component (installing signage)

<b><i>IHPP Deliverables (May 2021 – March 2023)</i></b>
Training: Safety, cultural, Standard First, Electrofishing, CABIN, RAPID, eDNA, Watershed Delineation, Intro to FASD, TIC
Source, purchase, prepare equipment; Equipment maintenance
Update project protocols and operational plans
Conduct aquatic ecosystem baseline monitoring activities: watercourse mapping, sampling site selection, aquatic monitoring (habitat, barriers), coastal erosion survey
Build relationships and partnerships with surrounding private landowners, NGOs; expand NCPEI's involvement in aquatic habitat monitoring and planning initiatives
Engage with Community Members/ATK Holders (educational material, volunteer opportunities, citizen science, community roundtable/forum(s))
<b><i>DFO-AFSAR Deliverables (April 2022-2023, 2023-2024)</i></b>
Increase NCPEI's capacity to monitor aquatic species at risk
Increase organization knowledge of striped bass populations in Hillsborough River, Midgell River, Wilmot River, and Egmont Bay
Engage with community members and ATK holders to share knowledge on the species and four waterways
<b><i>ECCC-AFSAR Deliverables (2022-2024)</i></b>
Increase NCPEI's capacity to monitor terrestrial species at risk
Implement monitoring protocols for four species at risk on PEI
Form relationships with other parties to collaborate on species at risk conservation measures
Contribute to the long-term Stewardship Plan to manage NCPEI properties

## Activities and Deliverables: 2022

### October

Events/Activities/Meetings completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer field work is wrapping up for the season (water quality measurements, coastal erosion monitoring, installed wildlife cameras, and collected, and submitted water chemistry samples to PEI Analytical Labs)</li> <li>• Attended the Indigenous-Led Area Based Conservation funding program information sessions on October 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Started Hurricane Fiona cleanup at Panmure Cultural Park on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Completed clearing access road to the fence. Further cleanup on the property will take place late fall or early spring.</li> <li>• Participated in DFO Wild Atlantic Salmon conservation engagement session on October 14<sup>th</sup> with MAPC and NBAPC staff. A follow up meeting will likely be scheduled in late November</li> <li>• Met with DFO (Graham Chisholm) to discuss the DFO-AFSAR Overprogramming funds that have recently become available. We applied for an additional \$13,153.</li> <li>• Met with Volume 18 Consulting Group to discuss NCPEI providing comments on and potentially being involved in the second phase of the Living Labs Agricultural Project being completed by the East Prince Agri-Environmental Association</li> <li>• Attended the NABat community session on October 18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Attended the Atlantic Canada BANS Working Group Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss how field work went, uploading data, and any concerns.</li> <li>• Met with MAPC's new Environment and Biodiversity Advisor to discuss Species at Risk Projects and potential collaborations</li> <li>• Completed seine netting field work on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Grande Digue/Egmont Bay</li> <li>• Attended the Framework for Aquatic Species at Risk Conservation engagement session on October 25<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Completed seine netting field work October 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> in Summerside, Hillsborough, and Midgell</li> </ul>

### November

Could not find this report. EnvNCPEI would have been processing data that was collected from the summer and would have been focused on creating relationships with other environmental entities.

## 2023

### December 2022/January 2023

Events/Activities/Meetings completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative effort with MAPC to undertake eDNA sampling in the St. Chrysostome WMA; Gavin Scott gave NCPEI ENV team opportunity to see the backpack eDNA sampler in person and get a brief explanation on how it works.</li> <li>• December 6<sup>th</sup>: ZONE 1 Community Christmas Dinner – Clara Jane helped with set up and serving.</li> <li>• December 8<sup>th</sup>: Basin Head Advisory Committee Meeting (DFO): Emily V.</li> <li>• December 9<sup>th</sup>: Wild Atlantic Salmon conservation Strategy Discussion (DF): Emily V</li> <li>• December 13<sup>th</sup>: Atlantic Canada Bank Swallow Working Group: Emily V and Clara Jane</li> <li>• December 12: NABat community session: Emily V and Clara Jane</li> <li>• December 15<sup>th</sup>: North River Road Open House: Emily V and Clara Jane</li> <li>• January 10<sup>th</sup>: East Prince Agri-Environmental: Clara Jane</li> </ul>



- January 12<sup>th</sup>: Basket Making with Elder Fran Jadis at NRR; Invited by Aleida Tweten, Mi'kmaq Forestry Coordinator for the PEI Forested Lands Priority Place Initiative
- January 18<sup>th</sup>: Advanced Thinking on Human Dimensions Monitoring for Oceans Act MPAs (DFO)
- January 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>: CLIMAtlantic Workshop – Developing a community of practice for environmental entities on PEI “Thinking about climate change differently”

## February

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Zone 2 Striped Bass Community-Led Population Survey
- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Meeting with Minister Jaime Fox re: funding opportunities
- February 9<sup>th</sup>: Zone 1 Striped Bass Community-Led Population Survey
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>: Emily and Clara Jane attended CAP's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Environment and Climate Change Summit held in Ottawa.
- February 13<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane helped with KBE at Holland College (indigenous narrator)
- February 13<sup>th</sup>: Emily met with Emily Bernard to discuss finance component of our project(s)
- February 28<sup>th</sup>: City of Charlottetown Climate Action Plan Interview (Emily) with WSP (consulting group)

## March

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- March 1<sup>st</sup>: Teams meeting with Dylan McLellan to discuss our interest in tree planting initiative
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Worked on writing and submitting 3 articles for the spring Gigmanag
- March 7<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with Karen Potter (Provincial Government) re: living labs Emily and Clara Jane attended
- March 9<sup>th</sup>: Field tour with Dylan McLennon (Team Lead, Indigenous Projects Atlantic *Colliers Project Leaders*) and Drew Bernard (Energy Lennox Island) to show them our St. Chrysostome WMA re: seeing if there is enough area for a substantial tree planting effort
- March 14<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane participated in OHS training in Summerside
- March 14<sup>th</sup>: Emily, Clara Jane, and James had a meeting with Emily B in finance to discuss budgets
- March 20-21<sup>st</sup>: Clara Jane and Emily attended the FSRs Conference and AGM in Dartmouth on behalf of MAPC
- March 22-23<sup>rd</sup>: Partnership Workshop with Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Native Council of PEI; Acoustic Bat Monitoring A-Z for Indigenous Organizations in Atlantic Canada
- March 28<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane participated in OHS training in Summerside
- 30<sup>th</sup> March: Due to popular demand, an additional Striped Bass Community Population Survey was hosted in Zone 3 at the St. Peters Complex
- March 31<sup>st</sup>: Clara Jane helped facilitate a KBE in Charlottetown

## April

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- April 4<sup>th</sup> HR directed team meeting. Overall positive discussion focusing on having clear communication between envNCPEI team members.
- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane (OHS) attended “Hazard Assessment and Control” hosted by WCB PEI at the Loyalist Inn, Summerside.

- April 12<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with Teresa Hennebery – contact was made through Nancy McLean. Teresa came to the Portage office to discuss Holland Colleges micro credential course offerings, and explained the courses that may be applied
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane helped to facilitate a KBE for Westisle High School as the indigenous narrator
- April 21<sup>st</sup>: Clara Jane attended the NABat working group community session – this session had speakers from Atlantic region discussing their projects and successes. Very informative and inspiring.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day 2023: The env team hosted an Earth Day 2023 event at the North River Road programming office. This event was used as an outreach opportunity to inform participants on the finalization of the IHPP projects as well as the ECCC-AFSAR and DFO-AFSAR projects that we are/were working on. Participants also had the chance to learn about Mother Earth and have a group discussion on why protecting her is important. Elders and knowledge keepers had the opportunity to speak which resonated with me and the youth who attended.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - L'nu AGA: The env team worked at the L'nu AGA at the registration table as well as general running around for the event. This was an additional opportunity to have outreach with our program through dispersion of up-to-date pamphlets. Always an opportunity for envNCPEI to meet the community.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>: Clara Jane and James participated in NRTG (BC) online course "Species at Risk" where participants learned how to assess for species at risk in a general area, as well as mitigation efforts during land use activities.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>: Emily, Clara Jane, and Todd worked to ensure the IHPP report was submitted to funders by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April deadline. Report was successfully submitted, and with that, IHPP project is complete.
- Emily submitted application for DFO Experimental Licence Application for striped bass netting and surveys (DFO-AFSAR 23-24)
- Emily submitted application for Watercourse Alteration Permit in order to drive the environment side by side on the WMA beach to create a safer and more efficient work environment.
- **Please note:** IHPP and DFO-AFSAR (22-23) will be removed from this report template as they will be completed projects. We will be adding a DFO-AFSAR (23-24) section.

## May

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- 4 May: Climate Disaster Mitigation Group Meeting, invited by Stephanie Arnold. This group was interested partners and stakeholders for a large DMF group project. Organizers did not have enough capacity for such a large project, so the project ultimately fell through.
- 5 May: Piping Plover Conservation working group meeting at the Beaconsfield Carriage House. Clara Jane participated by explaining past survey effort by NCPEI and our observations
- 5 May: Clara Jane facilitated a KBE in the afternoon
- 9 May: Zone 1 Town Hall; Clara Jane and James set up and tore down event equipment. Both participated as members.
- 12 May: DFO-AFSAR 23-24 Work Plan discussion with Jordan C. and Martin Leger.
- 15 May: 1-4PM; CWS National Biodiversity Framework Webinar
- 15-16 May: MAPC and ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) Canada Symposium. Chidi O. and panelists discussing ABS in Canada and the councils' role in beginning this conversation
- 17 May: OHS Meeting; Clara Jane participated as committee member.
- 17 May: Meeting with Jordan C., Bryan M., discussing IHPP Schedule 7
- 18 May: Meeting with Nadine Landry (IHPP) to go over our report submission.
- 23 May: Meeting with Emily B. to gather envNCPEI project legers to re-categorize
- 25 May: BANS Working group meeting to discuss how to move forward to tackle Bank Swallows roosting in pits/quarries
- 29 May: NABat (CWHC) Community meeting; Clara Jane attended

## June

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- June 2: Meeting with Jordan C. re: striped bass nights
- June 8: Clara Jane sent Stephen G. current committees/communities and Clara Jane requested Emily V's past commitments to catch up to speed-
- June 9: Clara Jane and James attended the cultural work retreat. Was an amazing day – we hope to see more in the future.
- June 12: Online meeting with MAPC (Kaitlyn Curran + Vanessa Mitchell) re: ABS Canada and Indigenous Innovation Fund
- June 13: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 1 (Egmont Bay; Grand Digue); World Ocean Day (WOD) Beach Clean Up Zone 1
- June 14: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 1 (Midgell)
- June 15: Online meeting with MAPC and other councils to gauge interest in a large, joint Invasive Species project.
- June 16: Clara Jane completed filtering all eDNA samples thus far for DFOAFSAR plankton surveys
- June 19: Clara Jane and James attended a workshop facilitated by CLIMAtlantic and indigenous poet, Julie Bull. “For the love of the land” workshop; meeting with Jordan C. re: environmental updates
- June 20: Field work in the St. Chrysostome WMA. ECCC-AFSAR Installed 2 bat monitors and completed shorebird monitoring.
- June 21: Clara Jane and James attended NIPD.
- June 23: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 1 (Summerside Harbour)
- June 26: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 2 (Egmont Bay; Grand Digue); ECCC-AFSAR Switched out SD cards in bat monitors and completed shorebird survey at WMA. Saw one bank swallow over DUC pond!
- June 27: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 2 (Midgell); ECCC-AFSAR Installed bat monitor in Panmure and surveyed for shorebirds.
- June 28: DFO-AFSAR Plankton Survey 1+2 (Hillsborough)
- June 30: Clara Jane submitted the Final Report and provisions for DFO-AFSAR 22-23 required to Martin Leger with confirmation of receipt.

## July

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- July 5: Clara Jane prepared a presentation on ENV at NCPEI for the YESS class. There were no participants who showed up but the presentation is still available for future guest speaking opportunities.
- July 13: Clara Jane and James switched out SD cards in bat monitors in Panmure Cultural Park. Additionally, these two also completed PIPL and BANS shore surveys on the beach adjacent to the Panmure Cultural Park. Both activities correspond to ECCC-AFSAR2224 project delivery.
- July 14: Clara Jane and James switched out the SD cards in bat monitors in St. Chrysostome WMA. Additionally, CJ and J completed shorebird surveys for PIPL and BANS.
- 18 July: Brooke Doucet starts at the ENV summer student for CSJ. Also on this day, the whole ENV crew (CJ, J, and B) plus Chief, Brad, and Wayne attended the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) photo release event at the UPEI Climate Lab in St. Peters, PE.
- July 18: In the evening, Clara Jane and James facilitated the White's Cove Striped Bass community fishing night. There were 12 members participating including 1 youth.
- July 19: Received bat monitor from PEI Watershed Alliance (PEIWA) Equipment Manager Rebecca Ramos to install behind the Portage NCPEI office. This is collaboration on one of their projects, not ours.

- July 20: Received an invite from Stephanie Arnold (they/them) of CLIMAtlantic (community of practice) re: Climate Challenge Adaptation Program (CCAP) for a collaboration webinar. This webinar will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup> to go over the project as a community and to investigate collaborative routes.
- July 25: Chase Guindon of the PEI Invasive Species Council reached out to schedule an invasive species survey on the Panmure property. This survey was completed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July – we are waiting to hear their results!
- July 26: Clara Jane applied for the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) re: improving fish habitat in the WMA. Duration of this project is from April – December 2024 with a total ask of \$49,250, including salary.
- July 26 In the evening, Clara Jane, James, and Brooke facilitated the Feehan's Shore Striped Bass community fishing night. There were 12 members participating including 2 youth. Three (3) non-members also attended to learn how to fish striped bass.

## August

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- August 9: Clara Jane submitted a REEP (Rural Employment Enhancement Program; Provincial Gov) application to cover wages. The program coordinator responded that all the funding for this year has been allocated but will keep our application on file when the program opens up again in the new year (2024).
- August 15: Clara Jane, James, and Brooke completed Seine Net 1 – Egmont Bay (Percival Bay).
- August 16: Clara Jane, James, and Brooke completed Seine Net 1 – Midgell as well as uninstalled bat monitors for maintenance at the Panmure Cultural Park. Additionally, our crew completed a shorebird survey on the beach adjacent to the park.
- August 17 Env crew completed Seine Net 1 – Summerside Harbour
- August 18: Brooke completed her Canada Summer Jobs exit questionnaire with Cynthia at McAulay Ct
- August 22: Env crew completed Seine Net 2 – Egmont Bay (Baptiste Creek)
- August 23: Clara Jane attended meeting with MAPC/NBAPC re: Aquatic Invasive Species project proposal draft discussion. Additionally, the env crew completed Seine Net 2 – Midgell and a shorebird survey on the beach adjacent to the park.
- August 24: Env crew completed Seine Net 1 – Hillsborough
- August 25: Env crew completed Seine Net 2 – Summerside Harbour. After field work, James helped Georgina Knockwood Crane facilitate a medicine walk in Charlottetown
- August 26: Clara Jane facilitated a Striped Bass fishing learning session at the MMIWG + Engaging Men and Boys retreat in Panmure.
- August 28: Clara Jane and James helped pack up and tear down for the Zone 1 Town Hall.
- August 29: Env crew completed Seine Net 2 – Hillsborough. With this, the field work for the Striped Bass project (2023-2024) is now complete!
- August 31: Brooke's last day.

## September

### Events/Activities/Meetings completed:

- September 1: Vanessa Mitchell from MAPC submitted a project with EnvNCPEI as a partner through the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund. EnvNCPEI's role in this project will be spearheading the outreach component – this will look like creating and distributing educational materials and updates on the project to MAPC associated PTOs.
- September 1-15: EnvNCPEI helped distribute children's schoolbags with materials obtained from CAP from the Portage office for Zone 1 members.

- September 22: Met with Israel of Agora in Portage to introduce ourselves and our respective projects. Agora is a business with a focus on sustainability with the goal to create an NGO to promote sustainable business practices as well as get the general community involved / have a say in environmental spaces.
- September 26: The CCF (Climate Challenge Fund) contribution agreement has been signed by NCPEI and sent back to CCF coordinator!
- September 27: Clara Jane had a remote meeting with Chase Guindon, Coordinator at the Invasive Species Council of PEI to discuss upcoming collaboration and support opportunities between our organizations. PEIISC committed to providing in-kind support for a WCF (wildlife conservation fund) proposal.
- September 28: EnvNCPEI meeting with Martin Leger of DFO-AFSAR to get final recommendations before signing new contribution agreement (2023-2024 project).
- September 28: Clara Jane attended the Bank Swallow Working Group meeting to share our summer results and ask some questions regarding data uploading to Nature Counts database.
- September 29: Clara Jane wrote a draft project for the open Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF) and Cynthia C. submitted this proposal via their portal. Submission was confirmed.
- The majority of EnvNCPEI work this month has been wrapping up data collection from the summer and uploading said data to our work computers. Now, we are beginning to process the data collected from Spring/Summer 2023 to be able to begin writing final reports for both DFO-AFSAR 23-24 and ECCC-AFSAR 22-24
- James Fraser (technician) has been working hard maintaining and improving the Portage property. He has filled a major pothole from the driveway to prevent damage to members cars using gravel. This is hard work, and he has been doing a phenomenal job! He has also been cleaning the patio stones, pressure-washing the building siding, organizing our field gear, detailing the work vehicle, and much more. He's always on the go!

## **Promotion and Outreach:**

### *DFO Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk*

We hosted Striped Bass Community Population Surveys this past year. The goal of the three workshops that were hosted in each of the NCPEI zones was to gather community knowledge on Striped Bass. We understand it's a fun and important fishery that our community enjoys, so who better to get more information on our Striped Bass population than our community? We gathered important information at each meeting that will supplement the field results from this project.

On top of hosting the Community Population Survey Workshops, EnvNCPEI hosted two successful Striped Bass community fishing nights this summer at White's Cove and Feehan's Shore. Our participants didn't catch much these evenings, but a lot of fun was had sharing our fish stories and experiences. Members of all ages were able to attend, in hopes that our youth may get involved in learning how to be successful fishing Striped Bass. It's an exciting experience!

Clara Jane attended the MMIWGMB retreat at the NCPEI Cultural Park in Panmure to host an educational session on how to best set up your gear for successful bass fishing. Clara also had the opportunity to share the results of the field work that was completed through this project with retreat participants.

### *Indigenous Habitat Participation Program*

EnvNCPEI hosted an Earth Day event at the North River Road to encourage stewardship amongst our community and celebrate the beauty of nature on Epekwitk. This event included Earth Day Trivia, a planting workshop, a wonderful meal, and a guest speaking session by Herbalist Helena Perry. Clara Jane was also able to present on the ongoing work that EnvNCPEI had been working on at the time. It was a popular event on a beautiful day – we are looking forward to our next Earth Day event.

EnvNCPEI hosted an early Beach Clean Up in honor of World Ocean Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. There were few participants – hoping to get more out next year! Keep an eye out for the notice once things start to warm up next year.

There are still some events that are upcoming for our various environmental projects. Please keep an eye out for announcements!

### **Future Activities:**

One of the responsibilities of the Environmental Coordinator is to seek out and apply for funding from for relevant environmental projects. Dependent on available funding, the Council will seek out environmental projects that include, but are not limited to environmental monitoring, land-based healing, habitat management, collaborative action, general indigenous wellness, and education.

#### *Climate Challenge Fund*

EnvNCPEI had applied for funding through the Climate Challenge Fund and recently we have gotten word that we were **approved** to follow through with our proposed project. This project will focus on facilitating Emergency Preparedness workshops for our off-reserve indigenous community. Additionally, this fund is allowing the McAulay Court and Portage NCPEI office buildings to receive updated infrastructure to better serve our community during times of climate emergency (winter storms, post-tropical hurricanes, extreme heat, etc.) – increased accessibility, higher capacity generators. These workshops will begin rolling out fall/winter 2023 and run through March 2025.

#### *Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund*

The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) has a well-developed environmental group and has been doing environmental work long before NCPEI began their environmental work. MAPC has recently submitted a project proposal for monitoring aquatic invasive species where MAPC and NBAPC environmental teams will be monitoring within Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. EnvNCPEI will be partnering with MAPC to develop outreach and educational materials for this project.

#### *Environmental Damages Fund (EDF)*

EnvNCPEI has submitted a project proposal through the Environmental Damages Fund in July 2023. We are currently still awaiting a status report on the approval of this project. The project would occur from April – December 2024.

### **Project Goals / Objectives**

Goals:

1. Strengthening NCPEI's capacity for delivering stream enhancement and climate disaster habitat restoration education to NCPEI community members.
2. Form relationships with other parties (NGOs, private landowners) to collaborate on long-term stewardship measures on Epekwitk.
3. Improve fish habitat within NCPEI's St. Chrysostome Wildlife Management Area (WMA) while making the adjacent wetland area more resilient to climate storm events.

Objectives:

1. Collaborate with Trout Unlimited Prince County Chapter (TUPCC) to educate staff on stream enhancement and brush matting (2 education sessions for staff; session agenda and photos)

2. Procure tree-planting equipment for 2-3 people (invoices)
3. Advertise internally for and complete 2 engaging volunteer events (tree planting, WMA brush collection)
4. Procure Turbidity Meter for NCPEI's YSI-ProDSS water quality multimeter for long-term monitoring
5. Plant 500 native trees and shrubs along WMA shoreline bank and within fish habitat wetland
6. Install 5 brush mats along fish habitat to mitigate sedimentation and cool water temperatures
7. Culminate report on trees planted, brush mats installed, methodology, volunteer effort, and environmental group collaboration

#### *Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF)*

EnvNCPEI has submitted a project proposal through the Wildlife Conservation Fund to address the invasive species problem within the Wildlife Management Area in St. Chrysostome, as well as within the NCPEI Panmure Cultural Park. EnvNCPEI will work with local environment groups to develop an invasive species management and action plan and will also remove the aggressive and invasive Japanese Knotweed from NCPEI properties. This species spreads like wildfire and requires specific removal techniques to ensure it doesn't spread. Educational opportunities for NCPEI members may be a part of the project delivery. Given this project becomes approved, work will begin fall/winter 2023 and will continue until March 2024.

#### *St. Chrysostome WMA Recreation Trail System (Active Transportation Fund)*

NCPEI is the owner of a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in St. Chrysostome, Victoria West, that has an area of approximately 300 acres. This area includes numerous beautiful ecosystems such as wetlands, meadows, tree plantations, beach, and forested areas of various age.

In 2020, through AFSAR funding, NCPEI had consulted with local biologist Rosemary Curley and other environmental professionals to create a Stewardship Plan for the WMA. Some members may remember a survey that was completed through this project. The Forestry section of the proposed Stewardship Plan included recommendations to create a trail system through the WMA to give better access across the area for habitat improvement/documentation and educational/recreational purposes.

EnvNCPEI is planning on applying for funding to create this trail system through the WMA to continue following the Stewardship Plan for the St. Chrysostome WMA. These trails will allow youth, elders, and everyone in-between to access traditional medicines and fully enjoy what nature has to offer.

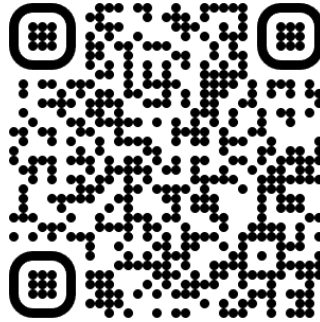
Proposals for the fund are due in December 2023 and if the project is approved, action for this project will most likely begin mid-late 2024. If there are other sources of funding for this project, they will be looked into as well.

*Please keep an eye on Facebook and the mail-outs to keep up to date on upcoming environmental events! They will be coming soon now that the busy summer field season has ended.*

## Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to review the Environmental AGA Report! Additionally, I would like to extend a thank you to those NCPEI members and friends who have joined the environment team for event programming. It truly is a pleasure to get to know the folks who are keen on preserving our environment for generations to come – so that they may be able to enjoy and utilize Epekwitk as we do now.

If you would like to keep up to date on the results of projects or photos, please scan the QR code that is below. It will navigate your smartphone to the Environment Program NCPEI webpage, where you can follow the link to a Google Drive folder. This folder will hold some fun photos and reports from completed projects. *Please keep in mind this is a work in progress!!*



If you would like to know more about past, present, or future environmental programming, please contact me at:

**35262 Western Road, Portage, PE C0B1H0**  
**1-902-859-1472**  
**enviro2@ncpei.com**

Wela'lin,  
Clara Jane Wood



**Indigenous Land Claims  
Annual General Assembly Report  
November 2022 – September 2023**

David Rewniak  
Indigenous Land Claims Researcher

**Introduction:**

The work described herein represents a process of research conducted with the Native Council of Prince Edward Island. This research is carried out at a time when awareness of Canada's colonial past, its impacts, and the precarious position of Indigenous peoples is growing. Indigenous rights and legislation have been shaped by colonial ideals for more than a century, and they still influence racial discrimination and injustice against Indigenous peoples. The lack of currently accessible factual knowledge, awareness, and information about this past contributes to the persistence of negative opinions and social inequalities.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

The significance of the Indigenous Land Claims Research project is twofold. First, as the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island enter re/negotiations within the political context of the Federal Government's directive to negotiate aboriginal land claims, the research presents an opportunity for the Mi'kmaq to express their position and inform how land claims may move forward. Second, this research aims to center informal Indigenous experiences as a form of action for realizing other ways to assert land claims and treaty rights and toward identifying potential strategies for land use.

**Activities:**

- As an Indigenous Land Claims Researcher, I worked with the NCPEI Archivist and local Indigenous community to organize and gather documents, histories, and stories (e.g., oral) regarding Indigenous land claims, ownership, and application in Prince Edward Island. A component of this position encompassed compiling, standardizing, and indexing all relevant documents and material for the NCPEI.
- Extensive online research regarding the Indigenous history on Prince Edward Island and applied several platforms towards this research (i.e., JStor, Research Gate, Internet Archive, and Island Registry).
- Researched several document portals: (i.e. Candiana... [https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9\\_00960](https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.9_00960)), this portal contains the "Journal of the House of Assembly of PEI" and the Island Registry, it holds "Duncan Campbell's History of Prince Edward Island 1875" (<http://www.islandregister.com/campbell/intro.html>).

**Deliverables:**

- Delivered monthly reports and quarterly Board Reports to keep NCPEI staff and stakeholders informed about activities and achievements regarding research initiatives.
- Collaborated with other non-profit Indigenous organizations, academic institutions and established successful liaison with academics, technical experts, and legal consultants.

## Promotion:

- **November 25, 2022, with Dr. L. Jane McMillan** ([ljmcmill@stfx.ca](mailto:ljmcmill@stfx.ca)) (St. Francis Xavier University). We discussed her research paper “Koqqwaja’Itimk: Mi’kmaq Legal Consciousness”, and reference associated with Dwight Dorey, former chief, and president of the Nova Scotia Native Council. Dr. McMillan mentioned that I should contact his daughter Crystal who works with KMKNO (Kwilnu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office: Mi’kmaq Rights Initiative) in Millbrook, NS.
- **November 26, with Crystal Dorey** (Director of Communications). I spoke with Crystal about her father's earlier research, specifically the 1994 Native Council of Nova Scotia publication of his paper entitled "Aboriginal Self Government for the Mi'kma'ki People of Nova Scotia." She mentioned to me that she had found a copy of his thesis and will send it in the mail.
- Communicated with **Vanessa Mitchell** (Executive Director of the MAPC) in late August of 2022 and finally received a response from her on December 6, 2022. What transpired was several informative Microsoft Teams Meetings with Vanessa Mitchell and Roger Hunka (Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: MAPC).

## Outreach:

To extend our reach, the NCPEI partnered with neighboring Indigenous organizations and held Virtual meetings various stakeholders (i.e., legal consultants, technical experts, academics, and academic institutions) to share the significance of the Native Council and to foster awareness about its evolution and what sets them apart from other organizations on Prince Edward Island. The outcomes or results of these activities and how they have contributed directly or indirectly to the Native Council's goals are outlined below.

## Virtual Meetings:

- **December 15, 2022, with Roger Hunka** ([rhunka@mapcorg.ca](mailto:rhunka@mapcorg.ca)), Director of Intergovernmental Affairs: Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council. The conversation with Roger covered a wide range of subjects, including treaties, the functions of Indigenous organisations that represent the Mi'kmaq, on- and off-reserve status, and Mi'kmaq people in the Maritimes, to mention a few.
- **December 11, 2022, with Vanessa Mitchell** ([vmitchell@mapcorg.ca](mailto:vmitchell@mapcorg.ca)), Executive Director of the MAPC. We discussed the **Mawqatmuti’kw (We All Live Together)** journal and several resources she had mailed to me (Booklets about the Daniels case; Mi’kmaw Resource Guide published by the NCNS; The Mi’kmaq Treaty Handbook; and KOQAJA’TAQATINEN Volume 2 regarding testimonials of community members who assembled in Halifax in 2001).
- **December 9, 2022, with Vanessa Mitchell** ([vmitchell@mapcorg.ca](mailto:vmitchell@mapcorg.ca)), Vanessa Mitchell mentioned to me in an email that MAPC have several other resources that may be of use to my research that may not be on their website – many of which have been written with the support of the Councils’ leadership over the years. Such as information regarding the NCPEI in 2009 text report, “MAWI’AQNUTMA’TMK Let us talk together. MAWI’AKANUTMA’TIMK - Text Report.
- **January 5, 2023, with Crystal Dorey** ([cdorey@mikmaqrighits.com](mailto:cdorey@mikmaqrighits.com)), Director of Communication for Mi’kmaq Rights Initiative. The discussion with Crystal was centered on Dwight Dorey's (her father's) earlier studies on the Mi'kmaq people's right to Aboriginal Self-government and his opinions on- and off-reserve status.
- **February 3, 2023, Andrew Lokan**, the legal consultant we retained for our national organization (CAP), attended our Policy Analyst meeting to go through two years' worth of land

claims research that NCPEI has conducted as well as information about submission process to TAG.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Strengthened partnerships with local Academic Institutions (e.g., University of Prince Edward Island), and other non-profit Indigenous organizations to enhance our impact.
- Through several virtual gatherings and interviews, a sizable amount of information about the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island were obtained. The qualitative information gathered from these official interviews, which were brief and minute, were supplemented with recordings of conversations and contacts with a variety of persons from diverse backgrounds.
- Extensive archival and bibliographic research has been done to contextualize these perceptions and narratives. To paint a full and accurate picture of the island and its eco-political processes, every attempt was made to combine qualitative data from interviews and firsthand testimonies with more formal academic or institutional reports.
- I acquired and carefully studied publications over the past 40 years that discussed the NCPEI's involvement with Indigenous issues.
- Connected and discussed with Elders and other members of the Mi'kmaq community about their oral knowledge of Mi'kmaq treaties and agreements.
- Consulted with members of the community and Elders about NCPEI's use of ancestral land, and history of initiatives/locations.

#### **Recommendations:**

Based on research and analysis relevant to the NCPEI's mandate and its advocacy work for Indigenous people living off-reserve and without status during its existence, we have included some suggestions that may apply to the organization's future direction:

1. **Establish a comprehensive outreach program:** The NCPEI could initiate a robust outreach program to connect with off-reserve Indigenous peoples and inform them about their rights and options regarding land claims. This program could include public meetings, workshops, and training sessions to educate Indigenous peoples about their legal rights and provide them with the tools they need to advocate for themselves.
2. **Develop a land claims database:** Create a database to track all land claims and related issues in the province, which would help the NCPEI stay informed on all issues, identify patterns, and ensure that information is accessible to those who need it.
3. **Collaborate with other Indigenous organizations:** The NCPEI could work with other Indigenous organizations in the province to share information and resources.
4. **Establish partnerships with government agencies:** Establish partnerships with government agencies responsible for land claims and other related issues.
5. **Provide legal support:** The NCPEI could offer legal support to off-reserve Indigenous peoples who are involved in land claim disputes.
6. **Develop culturally appropriate communication tools:** Developing educational materials in Indigenous languages or using traditional storytelling methods to communicate important messages.

**Conclusion:**

I made a sincere effort to evaluate the available data to the best of my knowledge and skill, and I concentrated on dissecting and refuting the inaccurate studies, laws, and rhetoric concerning Indigenous peoples made by other academics and researchers. A variety of peer-reviewed and unpublished literature on Mi'kmaq history, Mi'kmaq-settler connections on Prince Edward Island, and Indigenous justice has been essential to placing this research in its proper context.

I hope that this research will aid in the ongoing effort to change how the NCPEI is perceived by different organizations, governments, and Canadians as a whole and to recognize the hard work and commitment they put forth on behalf of all Indigenous people living in the province of Prince Edward Island. We may build a stronger foundation for our contacts with other organizations, governments, non-Indigenous Peoples, and Canada in the present and the future, in my opinion, by acknowledging the history of the NCPEI.

**INDIGENOUS SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (ISET) &  
“THE WAY FORWARD” YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS STRATEGY (YESS)**

Annual General Assembly Report  
November 2021 – September 2022

Nancy K. MacLean,  
Employment & Training Coordinator

**Brief overview of the ISET Program:**

The ISET Program provides assistance and funding for training and skills development to Indigenous Peoples living off-reserve in PEI.

**Career Exploration:** Assistance to individuals with career planning, labour market information, job searches, interview strategies, resume development and more.

**Outreach:** Assistance to individuals to connect with local employers or training opportunities

**Education/Skills Training:** Assistance to individuals with education/skills development by providing funding for post-secondary, university and/or industry recognized training.

**Wage Subsidies:** Assistance to individuals by gaining work experience by providing 14-weeks of wage subsidies to employers.

**Activities/Outputs:**

- Prepared information and financials for monthly ISET Committee meetings/updates
- Prepared of quarterly/annual reports to funding agency
- Ongoing client recruitment and support for students while in class then 3- and 6-month follow-up after training completion
- Ongoing maintenance of Accountability & Resource Management System (ARMS) reporting has been reviewed and additional information has been added to the database including action plan, skills/employment and documents which increases the reporting capabilities of the ARMS system as well as ensuring continuity of client support
- “*Career Planning Guide*” and “*School Success Guide*” developed
- A “*School Retention Guide*” is currently in the development process.
- ISET Survey developed and delivered
- Meetings with the leads of the Student Well-being Teams from across the province
- Meetings/Activities:
  - Interview with Employment Journey
  - Survey – Understanding the Career Services Ecosystem
  - Atlantic Colleges consultation interview
  - Attended Employment Network monthly meeting
  - PEI Indigenous Recruitment Information Session
  - George Roy and Katrina Woods, CBDC Restigouche Inc. – “Skills in Action” program
  - Career Development Association – Annual Meeting

- PLATO Information Session
- Westisle Family of Schools: Student Well-being Team
- PEI Home & School Annual Meeting Booth
- CDAPEI Trauma Informed Practice: Lunch & Learn Webinar
- Attended information session of the Public Service Procurement Canada that was hosted at the Abegweit Band Office
- Presentation and Q&A for the Team Lead of the Student Well-being Teams in the public school system
- Zoom meeting with Dr. Shawn Dalton, Executive Director with the Wabanaki Artist Collective

**Attached:**

- **ARMS Client Report** (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023)
- **ISET Survey**

**Brief overview of the YESS Program:**

The “Way Forward” Program is a thirty-hour weekly training program for Indigenous off-reserve youth ages **15 to 30** that is tailored to the needs of youth who are facing barriers to employment.

**Learning Center (Classroom)** Supports for individuals to attend 12 week individual and group activities during which time the individuals will develop the skills necessary to move forward with their career plans.

**Wage Subsidy (Work Experience)** Supports for individuals with gaining 12-weeks of work experience by providing wage subsidies.

**Activities/Outputs:**

- Attended classroom activities twice weekly for employment skills aspect of student training
- Worked closely with classroom instructor to assist with case planning/customization of training that will best benefit the strengths of the individuals who are taking the training.
- Collaborated with Nishka Smith regarding program and student evaluation
- Prepared of quarterly/annual reports to funding agency
- Developed partnership with “Skills in Action” online training through Community Business Development Corporation Inc. to offer online essential skills training opportunity for students
- Collaborated on preparation of quarterly/annual reports to funding agency as well as Participant Information Templates (PIT) student reports
- Attended graduation of students, supported work placement interventions, start-up for new intakes and follow-up reporting for students from Intakes #4 to Intake #10
- Assisted with reporting and information gathering for amendment to agreement to be able to offer an additional intake.
- YESS Survey developed and delivered

### **Promotion and Outreach for ISET and YESS Programs:**

- Promoted ISET and other programs of the NCPEI by hosting an information table at the Powwow
- “*Career Planning Guide*” and “*School Success Guide*” were shared with all School Guidance Counselors and Youth Workers in the public school system.
- Promotion of the program on Facebook and in NCPEI mailouts
- Promoted program through sharing photos and information the “*Gigmanag*” and success story of ISET graduate featured in “*The Employment Journey*” provincial newsletter.

### **ISET Successes:**

#### **Client Testimonials:**

- *Thank you for your support! I am beyond proud of myself. It's a big accomplishment for myself. The program was life changing.*
- *Thank you and the ISET program for all the help you've provided, I sincerely appreciate it!*
- *You guys have been so graciously helpful throughout my whole program, and I can't thank you enough. I really appreciate it.*
- *I attached a picture of my final transcript with all my classes and grades. I plan on ordering an official one as well, I will send a copy once I do. Not bad for someone that failed grade 4 and almost failed out of college the first time.*
- *I just wanted to say thanks again, the Native Council has helped me so much throughout my schooling and I know I wouldn't not have been able to do it without the help. And thank you for your help throughout my schooling as well, you have been so helpful through everything and it's not hard to see how hard you work.*
- *Attached is a copy of my graduation certificate. Couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you!!*
- *Thank you for all your help and for the help from the Native Council as a whole. It was truly a blessing.*
- *I want you to know how much I appreciate everything you have done, both you and ISET. I would really love the chance to thank them personally. Is there an email address I can send an email to. Nancy, I have valued your support over my years of study. I would love it if I could continue to receive the check ins and emotional support from you in the future. I really attribute a huge amount of my success to this program and the support you provide. You are very good at your job, and I feel like I connect with you so well. I know there are going to be bumps in the road, nothing worth doing is ever easy. Just having you in my corner would mean so much to me. I hope that ISET will be on board with this, the support system you provide is something not available to most students... and I believe I really do need it to succeed.*
- *I just wanted to let you know I've graduated and start work casual tomorrow. And extend my gratitude for the help getting me into and through this program. I sincerely appreciate every effort you and the program has given to me and my children to set up in a path to a better future.*

### **Outreach Testimonials from receiving the Career Planning and School Success Guides:**

- *Thanks very much for this. I teach a grade 9 course at East Wiltshire called "Career Explorations" and this will be very helpful. I appreciate you sharing this resource! **East Wiltshire***
- *This is wonderful! Thank you so much for reaching out. **Westisle***
- *Thank you for these resources.  
Are we able to obtain printed versions of these. If we are, how many is a school permitted to ask for? I can see our school using the medicine wheel educational unit within our grade 9 curriculum as a support for career development work but also as an educational piece around Indigenous teachings.  
We have our careers explorations classes in grade 10, which covers a lot of the same topics as the first booklet, but I could see re-vesting topics using these booklets in grade 12 with all grade 12 students as they are well organized and cover many useful topics. **Kensington***



**Future Activities:**

- The ISET and YESS Programs will continue to inform the community of activities and successes of the programs
- Promotion of the ISET and YESS Programs with program partners, other agencies and the community
- Continuing support of ISET clients, YESS instructor and clients
- Working on draft of “Student Retention Guide”
- Meeting with Student Well-being Team Lead
- Partnership with PEI Literacy Alliance
- Continuing partnership with Supported Employment Network (SEN)

### **NCPEI Employment and Education Support Programs**

In September 2023, a check-in survey was sent to 62 past and current Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET) participants and 57 Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) participants. Overall, 22 ISET participants completed the survey and 11 YESS participants. When asked how they found out about the programs, in both cases most noted via word of mouth, as outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: How Found Out About Programs (n=33)**

<b>How Found Out</b>	<b>ISET Respondents (n=22)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>YESS Respondents (n=11)<sup>2</sup></b>
Word of mouth - e.g., from other NCPEI staff, friends, family, etc.	18	9
NCPEI website	5	0
Agency referral – e.g., CDS, MCPEI, Band, etc.	3	3
ISET website	0	0
Social media – e.g., Facebook, twitter, etc.	0	0

When asked about their status with the program, 13/22 ISET respondents noted they are still involved in the program and 9/22 have completed it. When those currently involved in the program were asked how its going, three of the 13 noted it is going “very good” and 10 “good”. All 22 respondents noted that the ISET program has helped them with their education and employment goals.

*“It has helped me so much in being able to pursue my career.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“The ISET program helped to fund my certification course.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“I was able to return to school and have already completed 3 courses thanks to ISET. I am just starting my next 3 and am so thankful for the support I have received thus far.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“I am currently enrolled at Holland College thanks to the ISET program for funding my tuition. It’s only the beginning of my success story, I’m so grateful. Thank you ISET!” (Survey Respondent)*

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<sup>1</sup> Totals don’t add up to 22 because several respondents noted they learned about the program from multiple sources.

<sup>2</sup> Totals don’t add up to 11 because one respondent noted they learned about the program from multiple sources.

*"There would have been no way for me to afford this course and graduate, without the help of you all!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!! I now have a career." (Survey Respondent)*

*"I was trying to prepare to pay for my course without seeking out any funding, but the ISET program helped me by funding my tuition. I was very surprised and grateful and will encourage others to apply for help with further education." (Survey Respondent)*

*"I am forever grateful to ISET and to Nancy for all that was done to help me succeed in my career. Thank you for helping me achieve my dreams!" (Survey Respondent)*

*"If I didn't have Nancy along the way helping me with paperwork, I would not have accomplished even getting signed up for the program." (Survey Respondent)*

*"I wouldn't have graduated from UPEI without this program, and I wouldn't be continuing my education to become a social worker." (Survey Respondent)*

*"Completed my first semester and while balancing 7 courses my overall GPA so far is 95.5%. With constant communication support I believe it will help with the rest of my program!" (Survey Respondent)*

When asked if there are any other ways respondents feel ISET participants could be supported, three respondents suggested providing more information on other programs, support services and training opportunities available, one respondent suggested providing some one-on-one education counselling, and one respondent suggested encouraging students to access emotional support from other members or Elders for any trauma intensive programs they take.

*"Referral for other programs or in house trainings." (Survey Respondent)*

*"Wouldn't hurt to have a resource of all other services and help available." (Survey Respondent)*

*"It would be helpful to remind and encourage students to access emotional support by other members or Elders for any trauma intensive programs that students take (for example in the form of an email with contact information for emotional support)." (Survey Respondent)*

As for the YESS program, four of the 11 survey respondents are still involved in the program, five have completed it, and two did not. Of the four currently involved in the program, three feel the program is going “very good” and one “good”. Six respondents feel the program has helped them with their education and employment goals and five feel it somewhat has.

*“The staff was excellent and so helpful.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“I felt supported by the program.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“Both times I was in the program I did not complete it because of health issues but the program was still a huge help on a lot of aspects that will help me gain employment once I’m able.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“My goal was to work at the Native Council and I’m currently the receptionist. I look forward to going up the ladder.” (Survey Respondent)*

*“I love the YESS program, it’s very helpful and you learn a lot about a lot of different things and get to meet new people.” (Survey Respondent)*

When asked if there are any other ways respondents feel YESS participants could be supported, one respondent suggested offering more cultural activities and inviting past program graduates to come in and speak to participants to share their experience and achievements.

**Client Report**  
**10/1/2022 to 9/20/2023**

**7492003: ASETS - CAP - Prince Edward Island**

Case Manager: NMaclean

Interventions	New Starts	In Progress	Incomplete	Complete	Total
Career Research and Exploration	<a href="#">28</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	0	<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
Employment Counseling	0	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>
Employment Retention Supports	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
Intake/Client Assessment	<a href="#">26</a>	0	0	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
Job Starts Supports	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Certificate	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Degree	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">4</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Diploma	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	0	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Vocational / Industry Recognized	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
Skills Development-Academic Upgrading	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
Work Experience - Wage Subsidy	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>

# Client Report

## 10/1/2022 to 9/20/2023

<b>Gender</b>	
Male	<a href="#">16</a>
Female	<a href="#">35</a>
Other	0
Unspecified	<a href="#">1</a>
<b>Disability</b>	
<b>Visible Minority</b>	
	<a href="#">1</a>
<b>AGE (as of start of reporting period)</b>	
Under 15	0
15-24	<a href="#">19</a>
25-39	<a href="#">25</a>
40-54	<a href="#">5</a>
55 and over	<a href="#">3</a>
Unspecified	0
<b>Aboriginal Group</b>	
First Nations	<a href="#">16</a>
Metis	<a href="#">1</a>
Inuit	0
Non-Status Indian	<a href="#">35</a>
Not Aboriginal	0
Unspecified	0
<b>Highest Level of Secondary Education Received</b>	
Less than grade 9	0
Some highschool	<a href="#">14</a>
Highschool graduation	<a href="#">38</a>
Unspecified Secondary Education	0
<b>Highest Level of Post-Secondary Education Received</b>	
1 Year Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">3</a>
2 Year Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">6</a>
3 Year Diploma/Certificate	0
1 Year No Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">1</a>
2 Year No Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">2</a>
3 Year No Diploma/Certificate	0
Bachelors Degree	<a href="#">3</a>
Masters Degree	0
Doctorate	0
No Post Secondary	<a href="#">2</a>
Unspecified Post Secondary	<a href="#">35</a>
<b>Clients receiving funded interventions</b>	
	0
<b>Clients receiving only non-funded interventions</b>	
	<a href="#">51</a>
<b>Total Clients:</b>	
	<b>52</b>
<b>New Clients:</b>	
	<b>17</b>
<b>Continuing Clients:</b>	
	<b>35</b>

**Client Report**  
**10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023**

**7492003: ASETS - CAP - Prince Edward Island**

Interventions	New Starts	In Progress	Incomplete	Complete	Total
Career Research and Exploration	<a href="#">28</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	0	<a href="#">28</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
Employment Counseling	0	<a href="#">2</a>	0	0	<a href="#">2</a>
Employment Retention Supports	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
Intake/Client Assessment	<a href="#">26</a>	0	0	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
Job Starts Supports	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Certificate	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Degree	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">4</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Diploma	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">8</a>	0	<a href="#">9</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
Occupational Skills Training - Vocational / Industry	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
Recognized					
Skills Development-Academic Upgrading	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>	0	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
Work Experience - Wage Subsidy	<a href="#">1</a>	0	0	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>

# Client Report

## 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023

<b>Gender</b>	
Male	<a href="#">21</a>
Female	<a href="#">36</a>
Other	0
Unspecified	<a href="#">1</a>
<b>Disability</b>	
<b>Visible Minority</b>	
	<a href="#">1</a>
<b>AGE (as of start of reporting period)</b>	
Under 15	0
15-24	<a href="#">19</a>
25-39	<a href="#">31</a>
40-54	<a href="#">5</a>
55 and over	<a href="#">3</a>
Unspecified	0
<b>Aboriginal Group</b>	
First Nations	<a href="#">18</a>
Metis	<a href="#">2</a>
Inuit	0
Non-Status Indian	<a href="#">38</a>
Not Aboriginal	0
Unspecified	0
<b>Highest Level of Secondary Education Received</b>	
Less than grade 9	0
Some highschool	<a href="#">18</a>
Highschool graduation	<a href="#">40</a>
Unspecified Secondary Education	0
<b>Highest Level of Post-Secondary Education Received</b>	
1 Year Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">5</a>
2 Year Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">6</a>
3 Year Diploma/Certificate	0
1 Year No Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">1</a>
2 Year No Diploma/Certificate	<a href="#">2</a>
3 Year No Diploma/Certificate	0
Bachelors Degree	<a href="#">3</a>
Masters Degree	0
Doctorate	0
No Post Secondary	<a href="#">3</a>
Unspecified Post Secondary	<a href="#">38</a>
<b>Clients receiving funded interventions</b>	
	0
<b>Clients receiving only non-funded interventions</b>	
	<a href="#">57</a>
<b>Total Clients:</b>	
	<b>58</b>
<b>New Clients:</b>	
	<b>17</b>
<b>Continuing Clients:</b>	
	<b>41</b>



# How this P.E.I. woman overcomes employment barriers and reconnects with Mi'kmaw culture

Thinh Nguyen · Journalist | Posted: Sept. 27, 2023, 7:10 a.m. | Updated: Sept. 27, 2023, 12:33 p.m. | 7 Min Read



Jaimie Lee Augustine, who works as a receptionist at the Native Council of P.E.I., is a past participant of The Way Forward program offered by the council to help Indigenous youth living off-reserve get employment experience. - Thinh Nguyen/SaltWire

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. — Jaimie Lee Augustine recalls a time from several years ago when she felt lost.

The Charlottetown resident, who had been a stay-at-home mom for a number of years, realized at one point that she lacked essential skills to find a job as well as important soft skills, which she wasn't taught in school.

She also felt lost culturally.

Born in Elsipogtog First Nation, N.B., but raised in an adopted family, Augustine had not grown up immersed in the Mi'kmaw culture.

“It was tough finding that identification for myself because I didn't feel like I was Indigenous (and) because I didn't know much about being Indigenous, like my culture or anything,” she told SaltWire in an interview on Sept. 25.

After dedicating her time to her children during their early years of development, she decided to focus more on her personal growth.

“I figured it was time for me to start my growth and healing process. And that was finding culture and doing better for myself and my kids.”

She enrolled in a program called [The Way Forward](#), offered by the Native Council of P.E.I., that aims to help Indigenous youth living off-reserve get employment experience.

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“I feel very proud of myself from where I have come from to where I am today. It took a lot of hard work and determination and a lot of support from my support group as well.” – **Jaimie Lee Augustine**

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That was three years ago. Today, Augustine works as a receptionist at the council, has earned her GED and is planning to pursue further education in accounting.

Her ultimate goal is to establish her own business, centred around crafting artisanal works inspired by her culture.

“I feel very proud of myself from where I have come from to where I am today. It took a lot of hard work and determination and a lot of support from my support group as well,” she said.

## Employment barriers

Nancy MacLean, who is the employment and training co-ordinator at the Native Council of P.E.I., said like Augustine, many Indigenous youth face a number of challenges when entering the workforce.



Nancy MacLean, who is the employment and training co-ordinator at the Native Council, has been running The Way Forward program for about five years. Behind her is her "wall of successes." - Tinh Nguyen/SaltWire

Apart from lacking crucial skills, one key challenge is lack of education, MacLean said.

“For many of these youth, they've fallen through the cracks in the public school system. And so that is a big challenge. If you don't have your Grade 12 or your GED, you're going to be very limited what your career path is,” she said.

MacLean, who has been running The Way Forward program for about five years, said its success lies in helping participants either enrol in a GED program or create a plan to pursue one.

“Or if they do have their Grade 12, well, let's start looking at careers. Think outside of the box, what is your dream job? What can we do to help support you on that path to get the dream job?”

Dream career

For Augustine, she discovered her dream job as a business owner through the program, and she's well on her way to achieving it.



Apart from her day job, she crafts custom Indigenous artwork, including traditional earrings, dream catchers and necklaces.



Apart from her day job, Jaimie Lee Augustine crafts custom Indigenous artwork, including traditional earrings, dream catchers and necklaces. - Tinh Nguyen/SaltWire

The program wasn't just about entering the workforce; it was also a way to reconnect with her culture.

Through it, she learned to create Indigenous arts and immerse herself in cultural activities – from learning different drum songs and prayers to land acknowledgements. Now, she's involving her children in these activities so they can learn about their heritage, too.

And she's learning the Mi'kmaw language. Her name in Mi'kmaw is Kitpu pi'gun Epit – Eagle feather woman.

"I'm slowly learning to speak it again, like, take back what is mine," she said.

Wall of successes

Back in MacLean's office at the Native Council, there's something she called her "wall of successes" adorned with photos of students who have transformed their lives through the programs she has been running over the years.

Augustine's picture proudly hangs on that wall.

“When you're working with these youth, they constantly amaze me with their resilience. They have, for whatever reason, faced the barriers or had these challenges that they weren't able to surmount on their own. But when they get into the program, and with the support of the program, then they build on that belief that they have in themselves,” MacLean said.

“They haven't lost hope. They're reaching out for help, and for us to be able to help them to do that and to take that next step is very rewarding.”

**KELEWATL COMMISSION**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Jordan Crane  
Kelewatl Commissioner

Good morning/afternoon, Elders, Youth, Members and Observers,

I am pleased to present you with an overview of my work activities and achievements as the Commissioner of the Kelewatl Natural Life Harvesting Commission. We have had a busy year dealing with the individual Food, Social and Ceremonial Harvest, the Pow Wow fishery, environmental issues, as well as the work that went into our Communal Commercial Fishing Entity, L'nu Fisheries Limited. The follow is a brief description of the activities that took place pertaining to the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) Agreement Work plan and the Northern integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) Agreement Work plan. Any information pertaining to L'nu Fisheries Limited will be shared during the L'nu Fisheries Limited report.

**Program Overview:**

Under the guidance of NCPEI leadership the Commissioner will lead and manage program development, annual work plans, consultations, and negotiations of the AFS and NICFI Arrangement between the Council and DFO.

The Commissioner will manage the overall day to day activities listed under this AFS and NICFI Arrangements including but not limited to:

- Prepare and execute “one on one” pre-fishery information session with individual members on the Kelewatl Commission FSC Fishery guidelines as per the AFS Arrangement.
- Operate a telephone-based information line which member can call if they have questions when they are exercising their Aboriginal rights.
- The Commissioner will report weekly on catch rates by NCPEI fisheries of various species to DFO and the Council.
- The Commissioner and staff will participate in various fisheries related resource management meetings on PEI and within the Gulf Area to and including, the L'nu and Native Council Boards, commercial fisheries advisory committees, recreational fishery user groups, etc.
- Staff will prepare financial reports and narrative reports focused on Arrangement results for the Council and DFO.
- The Commissioner will develop the Annual NCPEI Food Fishery Management Plan.
- The Commissioner will update and print the annual Community Harvesters Guide and distribute to community members who will participate in the fishery. Also, the Harvest Effort Report will be updated as required.
- The Commissioner will do monthly monitoring of the FSC Fishery.
- The Commissioner will do weekly monitoring of Communal Commercial Fisheries.
- The Commissioner will write a minimum of One (1) report for the Council/DFO.

- A post-season review session will be held with DFO personnel (C & P, Area Aboriginal Coordinator, etc.) to address any issues that may have occurred during the fishing season.

## **Events and Deliverables:**

### **2022**

**October 17<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI/DFO/AFSAR** – Met with Carter Russel and Graham Chisholm from DFO to discuss the Aboriginal fisheries Species at Risk funding. Emily Vanlderstine and Clara Jane Woods was also in attendance. This was an update on the funding and conversation around the new deliverable of holding Striped Bass surveys within the NCPEI Community. Also, we discussed the additional purchase of equipment for the environment team, i.e. new software, a drone, and training for the drone. If approved membership consultations will begin over winter to discuss the Striped Bass survey.

**October 19<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI/Nature Conservancy of Canada** – Met with Lanna Martin to discuss some of the projects currently taking place on PEI with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Also discussed possible interest of working with the Native Council of PEI on future projects.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> – NCPEI Board of directors meeting** – I attended this meeting as an advisor to the Board. Agenda items for this meeting included, program reports, president report, AGA prep and presentation to the Board from BDO on the audited financial statements.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> – MAPC/EMSA/Transportation Safety Board of Canada** – Met with Barry Marsman and other members of the MAPC team and Marie-Helene Roy from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB). This was an information and awareness sharing engagement. Discussions took place around who the TSB is their mandate and the difference between TSB and Transport Canada. TSB is an independent agency created to advance transportation safety in Canada. They conduct investigations when incidents occur. They are responsible for Air, marine, pipeline and rail safety. Their Mission “to advance transportation safety in the air, Marine, rail and Pipeline modes of transportation that are under federal jurisdiction”. Commercial Fishing Safety has been on the TSB watchlist since 2010.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI AGA** – attended the Native Council Annual General Assembly as a delegate, Kelewatl Commissioner and President of L’nu Fisheries Limited. Report was provided in the program kit for the Kelewatl Commission. Brief report was giving to the assembly on the 2022 commercial fishery activities as the President of L’nu Fisheries. I was also available through out the assembly to talk with members, discuss issues or concerns and answer any questions related to both the Kelewatl Commission and L’nu Fisheries activities.

**November 21<sup>st</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup> – Fisheries Enterprise Management Training** - The Fisheries Enterprise Management Training Program was implemented in 2011 and involves the development and delivery of a series of six 4-day training sessions for the Managers and Fisheries Coordinators of the Communal Commercial Fisheries Enterprises (CFEs) to provide the skills and knowledge needed in the day-to-day and long-term enterprise management of a fishing operation. During this time, I attended Module 6, Human Resource Management. This course focuses on human resource management in community CFEs. The course content includes workplaces that work, integration of human resources,

recruitment, hiring, training, performance evaluations, labour relations, and conflict management. There are 6 modules in total, and I will be taken additional training in November 2023.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI XMAS Open house** – Attended open house to meet with community partners, government officials and funders.

**December 19<sup>th</sup> – PEI MSC Client Group meeting** – met with the PEI MSC client group to discuss the moderate livelihood fishery and whether or not it would affect our certification and whether we wanted to invite them into the group so that everyone who is harvesting and selling Lobster on PEI would carry MSC certification. More info is still needed so no decision was made at this time.

## **2023**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> - PEI Fishermen's Association/ NCPEI** – Meeting with Molly Alward the executive Director of the PEIFA and Bobby Jenkins the President of the PEIFA to discuss the NCPEI Food, Social and Ceremonial fishery. Focus being on carapace size being fished in our FSC lobster fishery. Carapace size in the commercial fishery has been increasing and the carapace size in the FSC fishery hasn't changed. I reminded them that the 72 mm carapace size we retain is what's needed to meet all DFO's conservation needs. The commercial fishery has increased their size for marketing purposes. We have no intention at this point to increase the size in our FSC fishery.

**January 9<sup>th</sup> – L'nu Fisheries Board of Directors Meeting** – Fourth Quarter Lnu Board meeting.  
Agenda included:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of minutes from July 14, 2022 meeting
- Audit
- LFA 25 lobster update
- L'nu annual meeting – Planning
- By-laws review discussion

**January 10<sup>th</sup> – MAPC/DFO- Engagement Meeting on the Potential Listing of Shortfin Mako under the *Species at Risk*** - This meeting provides an opportunity for two-way communication and information sharing between DFO, NCNS, NCPEI, and NBAPC regarding the potential listing of Shortfin Mako under SARA. Sara Deller from DFO presented information on population status and trends, summaries of Recovery Potential Assessment, socio-economic analysis, and management options (if you do or don't list under SARA).

**January 10<sup>th</sup> – DFO PEI Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting** – Agenda included action items from the previous meeting. Discussions took place on the following recreational fisheries: Striped Bass, Groundfish, Atlantic Salmon, Smelts, brook and rainbow trout. Matt MacEwen shared an update on DFO Conservation and Protection. Erin Perry provided the provincial enforcement update on actions taken in 2022.

Round table feedback took place on the 2022 recreational fishery. Discussion also took place around the damages that occurred in a lot of the recreational areas across PEI due to tropical storm Fiona.



**February 2<sup>nd</sup> – NCPEI/ Wildlife Management Area/ Jamie Fox- Native Council**

Fisheries/Environment team meet with Jamie Fox Provincial Minister of Fisheries and Communities to discuss the work being done by on team on the Wildlife management Area in Victoria West and the work we have been doing around Striped Bass. We also discussed ways his department would be able to assist us moving forward.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI Board of Directors Meeting.** Agenda and discussion included:

- Vacancy on the Board
- President and Program reports
- Financial update
- Membership Applications
- March retreat details

**February 7<sup>th</sup> – PEI Mechanical Bar Clam Advisory Committee meeting** – Attended this meeting hosted by DFO. Agenda/discussion items included Review of the 2022 fishery. Industry gave an update on how the 2022 fishery went. Discussion on Bar clam management measures for 2023, basically a roll over from 2022. Also, an Update from C&P on the enforcement hours spent on this fishery.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – MAPC/DFO/Native Councils – FSC North Atlantic Right Whale Engagement** - This engagement was between DFO Maritimes and the Native Council of Nova Scotia, I was invited to participate as the measures being discussed will have effects on the FSC fishery. Discussion was focused on the Marine Mammal Mitigation Measures. These measures included:

- Fisheries Closures due to the presence of NARW
- Marine Mammal interaction reporting
- Lost gear reporting
- Gear(rope) markings

These measures have been introduced into our FSC fisheries pertaining to Lobster harvesting. On PEI we have since 2021 been practising some of these measures. There is concern around the additional cost associated with these measures and others that are being looked at.

**February 9<sup>th</sup> – PEI EEL Advisory Committee Meeting** - Attended this meeting hosted by DFO. Agenda/discussion items included Review of the 2022 fishery. Industry gave an update on how the 2022 fishery went. A lot of Striped Bass being reported. Presentation from Science, Management measures and C&P enforcement hours was presented by DFO. Round table discussion on Licence condition Changes.

**February 9<sup>th</sup> - MAPC/EMSA/ Global Maritimes Distress Safety System Awareness Session** – Attended this session where Transport Canada presented on the Global Marine Distress Safety System (GMDSS). The presenters went over the Distress and Radio telephone Procedures. They Gave an overview of GMDSS and its functions. Discussion around VHF radios and the DSC capability. Testing of radios and EPIRBS. We also discussed smaller personal locator beacons which could be worn by our fishers.

**February 13<sup>th</sup> – PEI Estuarial Advisory Committee Meeting** – Attended this meeting hosted by DFO the smelt and gaspereau fisheries. Agenda items discussed included:

- 2022 review of fisheries – lost of Striped bass being seen
- Management measures – implementation of Logbooks
- Update from C&P – no real issues but a reminder that the requirement of filling out logbooks will be enforced for the upcoming and future seasons.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> – Gulf Pre-Alpac Meeting** – Attended this meeting with DFO, the three Provinces, the provincial fishing industry groups i.e. PEIFA, MFU, and the Indigenous groups within the Gulf tuna fishery. Agenda items included:

- Review of the action items from 2022 meeting
- Review of the draft terms of reference
- 2022 outcomes from ICCAT
- 2022 review of the Bluefin tuna fishery, which included commercial fishery stats, catch and release stats and then two pilot projects out of NS.
- Presentation on Fisheries Management, including the New logbook, new license conditions for 2023 and the Mexican quota Collaborative Agreements
- Conservation and Protection update was giving.
- Other updates were discussed briefly around electronic BFT catch document system and BFT tagging projects.

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – Lnu Fisheries Limited – Ken Lecky** – We met with our Legal Council Ken Lecky to discuss updates to the By-laws of L’nu Fisheries Limited. The By-laws haven’t been updated since the incorporation of the company in 2007. We have made a lot of changes over the years as we have grown, and we are now working on updating the By-laws to reflect the changes. We hip to bring these changes to the 2023 L’nu Fisheries Limited Annual meeting.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – MAPC.EMSA Training Session** – This session took place in Summerside at the Loyalist hotel. It was facilitated by Barry Marsman (MAPC) and Colby Murphy (Atlantic Electronic Limited). Session was on updates to the MAIS Vessel Software Training. Agenda:

1. AIS history and purpose - Barry Marsman
2. AEL -Nobeltech Time Zero Overview and opening video
3. Time Zero functionality review)
4. Advanced System functionality
5. ComNav AIS Review and questions

L’nu Fisheries employees from the lobster fishery took part in the training.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery information session-** Zone 1. Portage Satellite Office. Held a session in Portage to meet with members, go over the FSC Community Harvest Guidelines, discuss new measures around the North Atlantic Right Whales like lost gear reporting, no floating rope, and marine mammal reporting. Also issued designation and handed out tags and copies of the guidelines.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – NCPEI Board of Directors Retreat** – Attended this 2-day board meeting as an advisor to the Board. Agenda Items included:

- Roles and responsibilities of Board of Directors
- Policy Manual Review
- Health and Safety Manual review
- Constitution and By-laws review

**March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> - VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION ON WHALESafe GEAR (LOW BREAKING STRENGTH) – Attended this two-day info session on Whale safe gear. Agenda items discussed over the two days included:**

- Whalesafe Gear Implementation Update by Catherine Merriman
- Low Breaking Strength Gear Presentations by: • Canadian Wildlife Federation; Area 19 Snow Crab Fisherman's Association, Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie, Acadian Crabbers Association
- Low Breaking Strength Gear Presentations by: • PEI Fishermen's Association, Homarus Inc, Mi'gmaq Wolastoqey Indigenous Fisheries Management Association
- Gear On-Demand Presentations by: • Canadian Whale Institute & Sustainable Sea Technology, and the Mi'gmaq Wolastoqey Indigenous Fisheries Management Association
- Gear On-Demand Presentations by: • Acadian Crabbers Association & Canadian Wildlife Federation

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – MAPC/EMSA/Transport Canada GMDSS Awareness Session # 2 (Global Maritime Distress Safety System) – Barry Marsman (MAPC) & Alexander Lavoie (Transport Canada) - Presentation and Discussion based on the following Agenda:**

- Brief History of the GMDSS
- Basic Concept of the GMDSS (Figure based overview of the Sea Areas and the various components)
- Functional Requirement of the GMDSS (i.e. Ship-to-Ship, Ship to Shore terrestrial and Satellite
- Components of the GMDSS -VHF, MF, HF, EPIRB, DSC radio
- NSR 2020 and the GMDSS – Requirement that are applicable to the participants present at the session (mostly <15 gt Fishing)
- PLBs vs EPIRBs and SARTS
- TP 9878 - Distress and Safety Radiotelephone Procedures
- Daily, Monthly and Weekly Tests of GMDSS equipment on board Ships

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery information session- Zone 2.** Held a session in Charlottetown to meet with members, go over the FSC Community Harvest Guidelines, discuss new measures around the North Atlantic Right Whales like lost gear reporting, no floating rope, and marine mammal reporting. Also issued designation and handed out tags and copies of the guidelines.

**March 20<sup>th</sup> – Conservation and Protection Round Table** – Attended through Zoom – Glen Gillespie Area Chief of C&P – Agenda and discussions around the following: Review of Detachment Activities, hours spent on each fishery. Sentences by virtue of the Fisheries Act/fines/warnings. PEI Justice and Public Safety Presentation including hours of effort, challenges etc. from the Province. Group discussion on the commercial fishery from industry and a group discussion on the recreational fishery.

**March 23rd – Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery information session-** Zone 3. St. Peters Bay Community Centre. Held a session in St. Peters to meet with members, go over the FSC Community Harvest Guidelines, discuss new measures around the North Atlantic Right Whales like lost gear reporting, no floating rope, and marine mammal reporting. Also issued designation and handed out tags and copies of the guidelines.

**April 12<sup>th</sup> – Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery information session-** Zone 1. Portage Satellite Office. Held a session in Portage to meet with members, go over the FSC Community Harvest Guidelines, discuss new measures around the North Atlantic Right Whales like lost gear reporting, no floating rope, and marine mammal reporting. Also issued designation and handed out tags and copies of the guidelines.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Emergency Preparedness for Indigenous Communities** – Virtual two-day session with presenters from across Canada discussing Emergency preparedness within their communities. Topics presented on included:

- Building on your strengths and connections during an emergency
- Hurricane Fiona and deploying an Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Creating Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Plans
- Supporting First Nations Communities in Recovery from Wildfires
- Success of Emergency Alerting
- Emergency Health Services and First Responder Business Planning Lessons Learned North of 60 and Beyond
- Storm Surges and Flooding: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies through Interactive 3D Community Modelling
- A Community Perspective to Responding to Flood Events
- Providing Essential Services During & After the Initial 72 Hours

Presentations were strongly focused on First Nation Based communities but there were points/highlights that could be implemented within our own community.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> –L’nu Fisheries Limited Annual meeting** – The Annual meeting of L’nu Fisheries Limited took place in Summerside at the Loyalist Hotel this year. This is only the third time since L’nu’s incorporation that the meeting took place separate from the Native Council of PEI’s AGA. Agenda included:

- President’s report
- Review of Audited Financial Statements
- Elections of Directors
- Presentation on Whale Safe Gear
- Presentation on the Enhanced Maritime Situation Awareness

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – Eastern Canada Communal Commercial Licensing Policy Review** – Teams meeting with Julia McCleave and Jilian Sexton from DFO Indigenous Fisheries Policy, and MAPC. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is currently undertaking the *Eastern Canada Communal Commercial Licensing Policy Review*. This review aims to make adjustments to DFO’s communal commercial licensing framework to

better support outcomes for Indigenous communities and organizations in Eastern Canada. DFO wants to hear from Indigenous groups to understand their needs, perspectives, irritants, and pressure points with respect to communal commercial licensing. With this information, the goal is to develop policy options to support greater clarity, transparency, and predictability around communal commercial licensing decisions.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – Information Session “Indigenous Marine Coordinator”** – Teams Meeting – MAPC and ACCFE’s – Information session between MAPC and the three Native Councils on a new program from Transport Canada Indigenous and Local Communities Engagement and Partnership Program. Indigenous Marine Coordinator component. The objective of this new program component is to provide capacity funding for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, organizations, and entities to fund a marine coordinator position to help build their internal capacity to support their meaningful participation in the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) and/or other Transport Canada marine initiatives.

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – LNU Fisheries EMSA/MAIS Review Session** – Teams meeting – Facilitated by Barry Marsman, Zach Klaas and Magda Ayarbe. Topics covered included: EMSA Basics review; Fleet Management trips and tracking review; and Fleet report types and generation review.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> – Native Council of PEI Townhalls, Zone 1, 2 and 3** – Attended these townhall to hear from members on issues, or information sharing within the communal commercial and FSC fishery.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – Public Safety Canada – Firearms Engagement** – Met with Rachel Mainville-Dale, Director General of the Firearms Policy Directorate at Public Safety. Government is engaging with stakeholders on the Government of Canada’s firearms legislation, Bill C-21. When the Government introduced Bill C-21 in May 2022, the intention was to continue working to ensure a comprehensive ban of assault-style firearms. As such, in November 2022, amendments to Bill C-21 were proposed to accomplish this. The core intent of the amendments was to prohibit assault-style firearms that are not suitable for civilian use, and not to target firearms that are commonly used for hunting. The Government heard the concerns raised by Indigenous organizations and peoples, acknowledging that some firearms commonly used for hunting may have been unintentionally caught by the proposed amendments. The Government also understands that more dialogue with Indigenous Peoples is needed to gain a deeper understanding of the impacts of prohibiting firearms. On February 3, 2023, the Government withdrew these amendments to create an opportunity to engage and cooperate with Indigenous and firearms communities on the best way forward, while indicating its desire to refine the motions introduced in November.

**May 17<sup>th</sup> – Stacey Maguire – Fisheries Training Technical Advisor and Coordinator, Ulnuweg.** Met with Stacy to discuss any training requirements our fishers may need as well as other training opportunities through NICFI programing. We also discussed our Lnu fisheries Vessel Safety Program.

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – EMSA System and Search and Rescue – Transport Canada and MAPC** - Aim of the meeting: To review the existing SAR (Search and Rescue) regime to better understand how EMSA fits in, and to identify any areas of concern from a SAR management perspective. Discussion around SAR management, its authorities and responsibilities; the use of EMSA in fleet management; Opportunities for EMSA support to SAR. From the discussion it seemed clear that if EMSA was to be a help in SAR it would be after a distress has been reported to SAR. Some group within the EMSA regime were not happy with this and had hoped that they could become that first point of contact.

**June 1<sup>st</sup> – EMSA Mobile App Introduction Meeting** – Met with Barry Marsman and Zack Klaas to go over the new Mobile EMSA App. Part of the EMSA system is the ability to track our fishing vessels

using AIS tracking software. This meeting was to look at the functionality of the Mobile App and to discuss the additional needs/functions the Native Council would like to see incorporated into the App. This App now allows us to monitor our vessel position from our mobile devices.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – DFO/AFSAR/NCPEI** - Met with Martin Legere to discuss the funding for the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk agreement with the NCPEI. This agreement is for our Striped Bass project. Meeting was to go over the work plan and Budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year, making the changes needed to the workplan due to reduced budget amounts.

**June 14<sup>th</sup> – DFO/PEIFA/MCPEI/NCPEI – Tuna Working Group** – Meeting was chaired by Ben Moore – DFO resource Management. Agenda items included:

- Review of the 2022 tuna fishery, which included the commercial, catch and retain fishery and the charter fishery highlights.
- Projected Canadian quota 2023.
- Recommendations and Discussion for 2023 CHP

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – MAPC/NCPEI – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund Maritimes Region** – Met with MAPC to discuss the possibility of funding through this program that would encompass all three councils. The primary goal of this project is the early detection of AIS in rivers that are important to the community for several reasons - those that are culturally significant, as well as being home to many species at risk. Upon identification of AIS, the team will prepare a prevention plan based upon the specific characteristics of the watershed, resulting in a secondary goal of prevention planning for the further distribution of AIS throughout important waterways.

**June 28<sup>th</sup> - DFO/AFSAR/NCPEI** - Met with Martin Legere again to further discuss the funding for the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk agreement with the NCPEI. This agreement is for our Striped Bass project. Meeting was to go over the work plan and Budget for the 2023/24 fiscal year, making the changes needed to the workplan due to reduced budget amounts.

**June 29<sup>th</sup> – DFO/NCPEI/TUNA** – Met with Ben Moore and Carter Russel from DFO to discuss the 2023 tuna fishery. Discussion took place around how many tags the NCPEI would be eligible for and how the reallocation process would take place. We also discussed the Mexican allocation to Canada and what that time frame may look like for receiving quota. We also discussed the idea of a pilot project for 2024 where the NCPEI would receive, and risk manage its own quota of tuna taken from the PEI quota based on the percentage of licenses we currently own. This would allow us to target smaller fish earlier in the year maximizing the market conditions.

**July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> - Lnu Fisheries Limited/MAPC-EMSA Safety Engagement Training Session** –

This session was facilitated by Barry Marsman. Participants included NCPEI/L’nu Fisheries Ltd employees, Transportation Safety Board of Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada Marine Safety, Atlantic Electronics Limited, Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council. Agenda items included a review of the Lnu fisheries safety program, presentation from DFO on lost and ghost gear. A presentation from the Transportation Safety Board, presentation from Transport Canada Marine Safety, a review of Emergency response procedures and Life saving gear familiarization review.

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> – MAPC/DFO- Maritimes/FSC-NARW measures** – Was invited by the NCNS to sit in on a team meeting with DFO Maritimes as an observer to hear about the new North Atlantic Right Whale

closure protocols and fixed gear fishing activities undertaken under the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Regulations. These protocols will affect Food Social and Ceremonial fisheries. Whale safe fishing gear will be implemented as well as other measures such as fishing area closures. This same process is also happening in the Gulf region.

**August 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> – Town Hall Meeting in Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3** - Attended these townhall to hear from members on issues, or information sharing within the communal commercial and FSC fishery.

**September 7<sup>th</sup> – DFO/NCPEI - review and update session** with DFO Area Aboriginal Coordinator to address any issues that may have occurred during the fishing season. Discussion on the FSC fishery, LFA 25 commercial fishery, tuna fishery and silverside fishery. Also discussed DFO capacity funding for 2023.

**September 28<sup>th</sup> - DFO/AFSAR/RMOT/NCPEI** - Met with Martin Legere and Josee Dione again to further discuss the funding for the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk agreement with the NCPEI. We also discussed the RMOT program and whether NCPEI is going to be eligible. NHQ has given DFO at the regional level to start the process of applying to the program. We had already submitted an application to this program, in 2022 and have been waiting for a decision. That original proposal has been revamped to fit 2023 timeframes. RMOT is “Resource Management Officer Technician”. This funding would allow NCPEI to hire One or two technicians (Monitors) to work in the field monitoring our FSC fishery with a focus on lobster and striped bass.

### **In Summary:**

- Had numerous DFO/industry meetings dealing with the commercial fishery, ie - rock crab, lobster, tuna advisory committee meetings.
- Had numerous DFO meetings dealing with the Food, Social and Ceremonial fishery, ie – Striped Bass, Halibut, Pow wow fishery.
- Met with Stewart LeClair in Alberton to discuss this year’s fishing season (Maritime Select Lobster)
- Also met with B & C Fisheries, Arsenault’s Fish Mart, and Chubby Fish
- Met with L’nu Employees to finish off the signing of employee contracts.
- Met with Peter Boudreau, a conservation officer for the Province. Went over our harvesting guidelines with him and gave him enough copies for his other officers.
- Numerous meetings were held with DFO on the AFS agreement, ATP and the FSC fishery
- Held numerous L’nu Fisheries Board Meetings
- Staff Meetings
- Attended a LFA 26a Lobster Advisory Committee meetings
- NCPEI Town Hall/BBQ’s Meetings
- Met with PEI Aquaculture Alliance
- Numerous Meetings with the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatics Resource Secretariat on different issues, including: DFO policy changes; Species at Risk Consultations; Transport Canada; Canadian Wildlife Service and DFO Habitat Branch
- Attended the DFO PEI Tuna Working Group meetings.
- Annual Hunting and Trapping User Group Breakfast meeting with the Minister

## **Client Contacts**

Day to day contact with clients took place either by email, cell phone, office phone or in person, in and out of the office on the following issues throughout the year:

- FSC fishery
- Covid 19
- The commercial mussel lease fishery
- The communal commercial fishery (i.e., lobster, rock crab, tuna, gaspereau, eel, shellfish, ground fish, mackerel/herring ...)
- Membership
- Firearms safety
- The commercial oyster lease's
- The pleasure craft operator's card
- Lobster trap building
- Hunting & Trapping
- Transport Canada personnel requirements
- Employment
- L'nu Fisheries Limited

## **Upcoming Session:**

- In our next sessions of Town Hall Meetings, I will be asking the members to put forth any changes they would like to see to the existing Community Harvest Booklet. (For example, new information, other fish species, changes to harvest methods) This collected information would then be used in negotiating next year's AFS agreement and developing next year's Community Harvest Booklet.
- Also, any members interested in receiving Firearms Safety Training should put their name forward as soon as possible.
- Starting in January members should be submitting names to the NCPEI/L'nu Fisheries Limited for interest in the Commercial shellfish fishery ie (Clam, Spring and/or Fall Oyster). These Licenses are becoming very popular and get spoken for very quickly. Members of NCPEI have first opportunity to receive these license designations so the sooner we confirm the membership need the easier it is to prepare.
- We are also collecting names of Members interested in receiving commercial fishing training through the Holland College Marine Centre.

## **Conclusion:**

### **AFS Agreement**

Each year since the early 1990's the Native Council of PEI has signed an Agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The Agreement is called the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy (AFS) Agreement. These AFS agreements came about as a response by DFO to the Supreme Court of Canada's Sparrow Decision. The Sparrow Decision recognized that Aboriginal People had the Aboriginal Right to fish for Food, Social and Ceremonial needs. The AFS agreement gave the NCPEI the means to provide access to a Food, Social and Ceremonial harvest for aquatic species to the NCPEI membership. This



access is regulated and monitored within the AFS agreement. The Agreement also gives the monetary assistance needed to facilitate the management of this fishery from year to year. In 2011 DFO did an evaluation and assessment on the NCPEI pertaining to its annual AFS agreement. NCPEI scored extremely high on the evaluation. This put us in a situation where we became eligible to sign a multi-year AFS agreement with DFO. In June 2011 NCPEI signed a five-year AFS agreement with DFO. The last time DFO signed a multi-year agreement with NCPEI was in the mid 1990's. In the Spring of 2016 DFO assessed the NCPEI again in moving forward in signing another five-year agreement. The NCPEI again scored at a level which makes a multiyear agreement possible. March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 was the end of this Five year agreement with DFO. We have signed and are now presently engaged in another five-year agreement which would end March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026.

### **Food, Social and Ceremonial Harvest**

The main part of the annual AFS Agreements is the section on food, social and ceremonial harvest. This section of the agreement is issued to the NCPEI in the form of a license. There are conditions attached to each license that determines species fished, quantity, gear used, season dates and times. All these conditions are part of the yearly negotiation process each year between the NCPEI and DFO. All decisions are based on best practices to ensure conservation of the species. The Kelewatl Commission has taken this FSC license and developed a Community Harvest Booklet. The booklet itself is an educational tool for members to use as a guide when harvesting.

Some of the sections covered in the booklet include:

- Rights
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Responsible Harvest Methods and Equipment
- Methods of Live Release
- Species Conditions
- Fishing and Water Safety
- Operator Competency Requirements

Whenever a member comes in for a FSC designation he/she receives a designation card (ID Card), a copy of the Harvest Booklet and 12 report cards to record their monthly catches which they have to submit once a month to the Kelewatl Commission.

To date our AFS FSC license covers the following species:

- Trout
- Salmon
- Striped Bass
- Eel
- Smelt
- Oysters/Clams/Mussels
- Lobster
- Flounder/Cod/Halibut
- Gasperaux/Herring/Mackerel
- Grey Seal

In 2022 there were 269 clients that received designation cards from the Kelewatl Commission to take part in the NCPEI Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery. 269 harvesters, (178 harvesters from Zone 1), (45 harvesters from Zone 2) and (46 harvesters from Zone 3). 122 members took part in the FSC lobster fishery, 117 members received salmon tags and 32 members received pelagic tags. Report cards were sent in by mail or verbally reported over the phone by Members taking part in the FSC harvest. These figures are on par with the previous year. Membership participation is growing. With the increase in Membership participation, we will be limiting the amount of lobster tags being issued out to each harvester. We have made numerous requests to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to increase our FSC lobster tag allocation but to date we have not received any word on the request. We will be discussing this further with DFO over the winter. There was no Annual pow wow fishery for Halibut this year.

**Below is the 2022 Food Social and Ceremonial Harvesters Report:**

		AQUATIC SPECIES REPORT										
		Speckled Trout		Rainbow Trout		Striped Bass		Smelts		Eels		
( Body of Water)	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released		
Big Pierre J	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cape Wolfe	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0		
Egmont Bay	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0		
Hebron	21	16	2	8	7	5	0	0	0	0		
St. Peters Bay	36	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	0	0		
Hillsborough	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Indian River	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Dunk River	13	0	46	12	0	0	0	0	0	0		
West Point	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0		
Linkletter Beach	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0		
March Bank Pond	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Midgell	24	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0		
Savage Harbor Beach	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0		
Solomons Hole	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Summerside Wharf	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0		
Morell	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Montague	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Trout River	68	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Leards Pond	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Mill River	78	3	33	0	0	0	8	0	0	0		
Roseville	50	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Scales Pond	38	17	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
MacLures Pond	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Valleyfield	5	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL	365	103	110	25	19	40	15	0	0	0		

**GROUND FISH REPORT**

<b>River (Body of Water)</b>	Cod		Halibut		Flounder	
	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released
Mill River	0	0	0	0	45	0
Trout River	0	0	0	0	21	0
Hebron	0	0	0	0	1	1
Trout River	0	0	0	0	2	0
Alborton	3	0	0	0	232	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>1</b>

**PELAGICS REPORT**

<b>River ( Body of Water)</b>	Mackerel		Herring		Gasperaux	
	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released
Egmont Bay	15	0	0	0	0	0
Georgetown Wharf	33	0	0	0	0	0
Summerside	28	14	0	0	0	0
Alborton	15	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**SHELLFISH REPORT**

<b>River ( Body of Water)</b>	Oysters	SS Clam	Bar Clam	Quahog	Razor Clam	
	Kept	Kept	Kept	Kept	Kept	
Mill River	10	0	0	0	0	
The Brae	0	0	20	0	0	
Campbellton	0	0	10	20	0	0
Cascumpec	0	0	100	0	0	0
Fortune	0	0	1150	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**SALMON REPORT**

River ( Body of Water)	Male		Female			
	Kept	Released	Released	Released	Released	Released
	Grilse	MSW	slink	Grilse	MSW	Slink
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**LOBSTER REPORT**

River ( Body of Water)		Kept	Released	Released
			Berried	Under Carapace
LFA 25	Ives Point	211	23	37
LFA 25	MacDonalds Shore	325	0	0
LFA 25	Roseville	180	0	0
LFA 26a	Montague	53	2	3
LFA 24	Malpeque Bay	790	54	116
LFA25	Norththumberland Strait	290	0	0
LFA26a	Charlottetown	68	2	4
LFA25	Percival Bay	336	37	287
LFA 25	West Point	843	156	123
LFA 25	Hebron	304	20	39
LFA 24	Grand River	90	26	30
LFA 25	Brae Harbor	425	0	0
LFA 25	Whites Cove	850	285	328
LFA 26a	Cardigan Bay	70	11	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4835</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>978</b>

**Estimated Lobster LBS****4,593****GREY SEAL  
REPORT**

River ( Body of Water)	Date	Approx Weight	Male/Female
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## **MEMBERSHIP/ELDER SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

### **Annual General Assembly Report**

November 2022 – September 2023

Jody Jesso, Coordinator

#### **Introduction:**

I have been maintaining the database and member mail list, with current membership information. Available to providing help with the membership process to interested members and available to assist new members and connecting them with the appropriate staff for their specific need. I am also available to help with Status Card applications.

As the Elders Support Coordinator, I have been a support to our Elder' community when needed and worked with the Elder Rep. to implement the Elder Council monthly meetings. As the Elder Support coordinator, I will support the continued social participation and inclusion of Elders/Seniors through twice – monthly activities in each zone, creation of a telephone tree for enhanced communication, and two all-zone events.

#### **Events and Deliverables:**

##### **Membership**

- Received 77 new application submissions.
- Prepared 131 files for Board review.
- 42 new members were accepted.
- Maintain database and mailing list.
- Mailed/Emailed membership, Status card and housing applications.
- Assist individuals to fill out applications.
- Met with new member to receive membership cards.
- Answered membership related questions through email, phone calls, in person and Facebook.
- Prepared acceptance/denial letters.
- Checked in with potential members that are still missing documents.
- Helped with all NCPEI mail-outs.
- Took lead with all three Christmas Townhall Dinners.
- Contacted members if mail is returned.
- Monthly contact tracking and reporting.
- Organized membership recruitment sessions in all three Zones.
- Attended 3 townhalls to give update on membership process.
- Submitted timesheets and related emails.
- Worked with local genealogist to assist potential members with their family history.
- Input new members into database.
- Direct interest persons on where to begin their family research.
- Helped individuals apply for their Status Cards or renewal.

### **Elder Support**

- Was available for phone calls and emails for questions and concerns.
- Elder visits to help with taxes, applications and transportation.
- Arranged transportation for Elders to doctor and therapy appointments and NCPEI activities.
- Monthly Elder Council meetings. Work with Elder Rep.
- Held monthly Elder activities and game nights in all three Zones until March.
- Organize an Elder Christmas Bingo and gift exchange at NRR.
- Held an end of program Elder Feast – potluck and Bingo in March.
- Organized a pool party for an Elder meeting.
- Organized the Elder Portrait project and it's unveiling.
- Deposit Elder collection.
- Printed minutes and agenda's every month.
- Help Treasurer to fill out an expense claim.
- Shared the Covid poster and application.
- Created posters.
- Prepared final evaluation for program and emailed to all Elders.
- Maintaining the Silver Eagles Facebook page.
- Planned and organized our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mawi'omi, to be held on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Planned and organized the Elder AGA to be held on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other Duties:**

- Attended the Men's Shelter to meet with clients.
- On Pow Wow Committee, before and after clean-up committee.
- Book cakes for events.
- Assist members with Status card applications and available to be their Guarantor.
- Fill in for Admin Assistant when needed.
- Assist with Townhalls when needed.

## **MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN AND GIRLS (MMIWG)**

### **Annual General Assembly Report**

November 2022 – September 2023

Sarah Stewart Jackson

Program Coordinator

#### **Introduction:**

The NCPEI-MMIWG Program Coordinator will work to promote the fulfilment of the Calls to Justice outlined in the 2019 Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

#### **Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

1. Be the NCPEI spokesperson on MMIWG and associated issues such as Residential Schools and intergenerational trauma. The coordinator will provide educational sessions to schools, government, and community groups as well as the off-reserve Indigenous community on PEI.
2. The coordinator will work to promote healing among off-reserve Indigenous women on PEI through quarterly meetings/ talking circles and workshops on making of ribbon skirts, dream catchers, and other cultural materials. A companion grant, Reconciliation and Healing, is designed to offer specific activities to community members to promote cultural understanding and healing.
3. Provide cultural activities and educational sessions on reducing poverty to community members, rotating between zones.
4. Suggested activities/topics include (but not limited to):
  - Making Indigenous crafts and learning about their significance
  - Presentations on identifying causes of poverty and reducing stigma
5. Learning about available support systems (financial, food security, healing, etc.)

#### **Activities and Deliverables:**

##### **November 2022**

- Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies
- AWA Sisters in Spirit Presentation and MMIWG.
- Kairos Blanket Exercise
- Men's Group at Smith Lodge Developing Women's wellness in partnership with Charlottetown Outreach Centre (COC)
- Justice Strategy Meeting
- Met with 3 clients over the month to support them.

##### **December 2022**

- Justice Strategy Meetings
- Met with Justice Worker and SAFE program Coordinators to create list of participants for retreat

- IWC zoom meeting

#### January 2023

- Retreat in Mill River on the 7 sacred teachings
- Drumming and language class on-line - Teaching on the Skirt.
- KBE
- Drum making for the youth
- Looking Out for Each Other
- Justice Strategy
- Family Violence Prevention Strategy meeting
- Presentation at Holland College Child and Youth Care Worker program

#### February 2023

- Presentation at St. Eleanor s House - Smudging ceremony
- Drumming at COC.
- Zone 1 Healing Circle
- MMIWG Skirt making session
- Two KBE's
- Rattle making for Mi'kmaw Family Resource Centre
- UNDRIP Retreat – sat on panel
- Smudging ceremony in Summerside.
- Kūwiingu-néewul Engagement Services (KES) Justice Strategy.

#### March 2023

- IWC zoom meeting.
- Drumming at COC.
- MMIWG OVERSIGHT Teams Meeting
- Two KBE's
- MMIWG Advisory committee meeting.
- MMIWG Retreat
- Opening and closing Prayers for Event held at MCPEI
- Drumming Retreat

#### April 2023

- Drumming at COC
- Meeting with AWAPEI- Red dress Day
- KES Justice Strategy Zoom meeting.
- Red Dress Day meeting at Victoria Park
- Two KBE's
- Teams meeting for Red Dress Day.
- MMIWG Skirt making session.
- Assisting clients with travel and applications

#### May 2023

- Summerside Smudging ceremony at St. Eleanor's house
- Worked with other NCPEI Programs to get client into housing
- Planning committee meeting for Red Dress Day
- Red Dress Day May 5



- MMIWG Advisory meeting.
- MMIWG CAP orientation meeting.
- Moose hide Campaign Queen Elizabeth Park.
- CAP 60 Scoop meetings
- Assisted clients
- MMIWG CAP Presentation.

MMIWG Red Dress was a HUGE success. First time all 5 Indigenous Organisations came together to work on 1 event. Over 250 people showed up to show their support. It was family led and the support and recognition for the families showed.

MMIWG Presentation for CAP was also a great success.

#### June 2023

- JSP-KES zoom meeting Justice Strategy
- Smudging Ceremony
- Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre presentation
- YESS Program presentation at UPEI
- Smudging at St. Eleanor's house.
- IWC Teams meeting.
- YESS Program presentation at UPEI
- KBE Parks Canada.
- National Indigenous People's Day ceremony
- KBE with John Howard Society
- MMIWG CAP meeting.
- Ribbon Shirt and skirt session
- MAID PEOLC Engagement
- Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre meeting
- 60's Scoop zoom meeting
- Memorial for clients at COC
- Presentation from Author Melody Paul

Partnered with Kaelin Mercer for the ribbon shirt and skirt session. It was a great session with everyone.

#### July 2023

- Looking Out for Each Other meetings
- Meeting at COC with client.
- CAP MMIWG meeting zoom.
- United Way meeting
- Ottawa for 60's Scoop meeting.
- Meeting with Ramona Nicholas for upcoming retreat
- 

#### August 2023

- Held an MMIWG/Engaging Men and Boys Retreat August 26 – entailed numerous planning meetings and clean up of the Panmure Island Cultural Grounds as well as creation of registration forms, etc.
- Met with and assisted clients
- MMIWG2S and Prep Meeting
- Teams meeting With Jennifer Moore Rattray, Minister, Calls to Justice/Calls to Action

- Number of meetings to plan for Mass Blanket Exercise
- Teams meeting with CAP MMIWG

MMIWG and Engaging Men and Boys Retreat was a success.

September 2023

- Teams meeting with Kristine on Missing Persons Act and next steps.
- Case Management meeting with support staff, client and SS
- Meeting with staff with UPIP to share information on our programs and what our needs are
- Interview with CAP on MAID
- Preparations and Rally at Province House for MMIWG2S+
- Met with Irma Huges (Summer Kneebone's mother) and Lynn to offer support and what we (NCPEI) can do to help
- Retreat feedback evaluation
- Edmonton for 60's Scoop Ceremony and presentation
- MMIWG Advisory committee meeting
- Mass Blanket Exercise at UPEI on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



**Upcoming event for October 2023:**

- Skirt making Session on October 15, 23

## CONCLUSION:

Over this year the MMIWG Program has been very busy. MMIWG is providing cultural and traditional teachings to a variety of members and youth with and other Indigenous organizations. As MMIWG Coordinator I have worked hard on building relationships to provide a louder voice when promoting cultural events. I am working hard to promote, educate, and reach as many members as possible within NCPEI as possible.

Yours in Unity  
Wela 'in  
Ekose  
Thank you.

**Mobile Harm Reduction Team  
Annual General Assembly Report  
November 2022 to September 2023**

Amanda Trainor  
Program Coordinator

**Introduction:**

The Mobile Harm Reduction Team (MHRT) program is catered to delivering harm reduction materials and resources to people who use drugs.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

MHRT program goals are to continue to provide safer drug use/resources to all islanders who reach out and to have the tools/materials to help every individual who use our services. The responsibility of MHRT are not only to provide clean kits but also provide a safe space where clients can feel comfortable knowing they are not judged and that MHRT is able to connect them with resources they may not know how to.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

MHRT has two full time teams reaching all three zones, Summerside, Charlottetown and Montague while operating seven days a week. MHRT provides clean kits to allow safer drug use. MHRT also provides nutritional snacks and water. MHRT now carries taxi vouchers for emergencies, naloxone, and plan b.

Promotion and Outreach: Back in March of 2023, MHRT attended the Atlantic Stimulus Meet, suggested by Peers Alliance who also attended, for decriminalizing drugs. While attending this meet, MHRT was introduced to the hammer pipe. The hammer pipe is specifically made to replace and reduce the use of injecting. With a lot of research, MHRT was able to introduce hammer pipes on a trial basis in hopes to decrease injection use. MHRT is also part of the Second Harvest Food Rescue where MHRT is able to claim food rescues. Food rescues contain items from fruit to veggies to canned items and dairy products. Once rescues are secured, MHRT are able to distribute food items to clients.

MHRT works alongside with Peer Alliance, the Charlottetown Outreach Center and programs such as Reaching Home, Safe, and other programs offered by the Native Council. MHRT has been working with the MHRT Evaluation Consultant conducting client surveys over the summer months and will conduct partner surveys this fall.

Here are some client testimonials: *"It is going well."* (Survey Respondent)

- *"Great people, always helpful."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"Great to have around for the help and support."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"I think they are the best support group on the streets and keep up the good job."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"It keeps me safe..."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"Keep it going! You are amazing! Thank you for everything you do."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"Always welcoming and non-judgmental."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"Keep on the good work – you're helping a lot of people."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"Do good things for everyone. I couldn't make it without them! Thank you."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"As for all the staff, they've all been extremely helpful. They've provided water when we were dehydrated and are helpful."* (Survey Respondent)
- *"I support your work with great respect and appreciation..."* (Survey Respondent)

Here are some numbers from the client survey as well.

The types of help/supports clients have received through the program are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Types of Services Accessed (n= 27)

Services Accessed	Frequency
Snacks and drinks	26
Bulb pipe kits	19
Straight pipe kits	16
Naloxone kits	16
Emotional support	16
Told about or referred to other services	10
Clothing	9
Clean injection kit	9
Harm reduction teaching	8
Plan B	2

When asked how they benefited from the program, clients noted in a variety of ways as summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Benefits (n=27)

Benefits	Frequency
Felt welcome and supported	25
Felt heard and respected	24
Was helped with some basic needs – e.g., food, drinks, clothing, etc.	23
Learned about services available in the community – e.g., Upper Room, Harvest House, Outreach Centre, NCPEI programs	22
Had someone to talk to - was provided with some emotional support	21
Learned about harm reduction and how to keep myself safe	19
Accessed services in the community – e.g., Upper Room, Harvest House, Outreach Centre, NCPEI programs	19
Practiced harm reduction – e.g., safe injection practices, safe sex, etc.	19
Reduced drug or alcohol use	18
Helped prevent overdosing (naloxone kits)	16

In addition, 13 of the 15 respondents who identified as Indigenous noted that the program helped them connect to their Indigenous culture.

### **Future Activities:**

With new hires, MHRT will be looking into getting some more training/refresher for Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) along with Naloxone training. MHRT plans to reach more islanders by coming up with an incentive to stop at smaller communities along the way to Summerside and Montague.

### **Conclusion:**

From November, 2022 to September, 2023 MHRT has seen 5, 651 clients and distributed 4,046 clean kits. MHRT has provided 330 naloxone. MHRT has also distributed a total of 4,056 food/water etc., which includes, water, nutrition, donations, etc. Overall, MHRT not only is a much-needed program but has been the first contact and first step in helping clients connect with resources and supplies they need. MHRT sees clients at their worst but also at their best.

Here are just a couple of success stories from MHRT.

- We had a male client who was not doing so well. He was very hard on himself, felt no one cared, felt he was never supported, until he met MHRT. MHRT listened to him, offered supports and always encouraged him even when he felt he had nothing left. Months had gone by without seeing him. One day a car pulls up beside the MHRT vehicle and out pops this client. He approached MHRT with the biggest smile and said “thank you”. He was doing so well, he was clean, working and wanted to visit MHRT to let them know this. He stated without MHRTs encouragement, believing in him and most times just simply being there to listen, he would not be where he is today.

- MHRT had met a gentleman who was new to the island. He was pretty down on his luck and down on himself as well. He was using drugs but hated asking for clean supplies and it took a while to build trust and to be comfortable enough with MHRT. MHRT encouraged him, supported him, helped him with resources and little by little his drug use lessened. He was so proud to let MHRT know he was clean for a day, for 1 week, for a month, and MHRT let him know how incredibly proud we were of him as well. He continues to stay clean and is doing very well.

MHRT continues to get thank you's, appreciation and respect from clients within the community and MHRT continues to be the support for so many clients within our community.

**Pjila'si Program**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
August 2023 – September 2023

Caitlyn McLean  
Program Coordinator

**Introduction:**

This program had a later start than anticipated so planning activities was hard, main event was pride week during July which overall went great. There was lots of involvement with other staff members and community members. During the pride parade float there were lots of positive comments.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

The goal of this program was to aid the Two-Spirit Coordinator to provide community members to feel included in all activities and ensure attendees to have the best experience. Ensuring community members felt welcome and free to participate in any activities hosted by the council.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

- Two-Spirit Beaded Earring with Jaimie-Lee Augustine
- Two-Spirit Movie Showing
- Pride Parade

**Promotion and Outreach:**

- Provided the option to meet with volunteers for the pride parade float decorating.
- Worked with TransPEI, BIPOC USHR, Peers Alliance for many things.

**Future Activities:**

This program was a short term funded program for 16-weeks which has ended.

**Conclusion:**

Overall, I think this program had a lot of potential to be great for the community if the coordinator would have been hired on time. This would have provided much more time for planning and given the coordinator the ability to help Two-Spirit Coordinator to better plan and execute ideas for pride week and allow for stronger connections with other organizations within the community.

**CONSULTATION & POLICY DEVELOPMENT**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022 – November 2023

**Bradley Cooper**  
**Political Advisor**

**Introduction:**

The Political Advisor position supports the President & Chief and enhances the political advocacy efforts of NCPEI. The focus of the Political Advisor's policy development is to analyze commitments made by the Federal Government towards Indigenous peoples, including TRC, MMIWG, UNDRIP, court cases, and more. The Political Advisor also leads the Policy Analyst Team (PAT) to coordinate policy efforts.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

- Improve the political advocacy of NCPEI and develop policy positions on various topics
- Research and understand Federal commitments made towards Indigenous peoples and ensure that their implementation is consistent with the rights, interests, and needs of NCPEI's constituency
- Lead the NCPEI Policy Analyst Team to develop policies and proposals that will benefit the off-reserve Indigenous community

**Activities and Deliverables:**

- Understand documents of political significance including MMIWG, TRC, UNDRIP, RCAP, CAP-Canada Political Accord, CAP-Daniels Decision, Federal Budget, and more
- Research and recommend political stances for NCPEI on various topics
- Attend meetings in place of or alongside the President & Chief
- Draft political letters, media press releases, and internal documents
- Develop proposals for program funding
- Support the work of the Board of Directors and management of NCPEI
- Sit on committees and take ownership of initiatives as directed by the President & Chief

**Promotion and Outreach:**

- Community engagement conference for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and Palliative and End of Life Care (PEOLC) held June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Community townhalls to discuss United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) Action Plan held on May 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>
- Community townhalls on changes to membership process and Indigenous Justice Strategy held on August 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

**Future Activities:**

- Continued support and advocacy on emerging topics yet unknown
- Participate in discussions and engagements on the future of Panmure Island



- Support the development of a five-year strategic plan with external consultants
- Take lead on actioning the UNDA Action Plan federally and Minister mandate letter provincially
- Identifying opportunities to maintain and improve relationship with PEI and Federal politicians

## **Conclusion**

Political advocacy is at the forefront of NCPEI's Aims & Objectives. Having a coordinated Policy Analyst Team, including the Political Advisor, to support the President & Chief politically has already shown great benefits with NCPEI being discussed more frequently at all levels of government. Change is slowly coming and you can expect great changes in the next year to come.

**POLICY ANALYST**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022 – September 2023

Kristine Greenlaw  
Policy Analyst

**Introduction:**

The Policy Analyst, Diversity and Inclusion works to research issues surrounding inclusion in government initiatives. Areas of focus will be distinctions based on gender, age, and diversity. They work collaboratively with other NCPEI Policy Analysts as well as the President and Chief, sharing information through regular meetings.

Initiatives worked upon focus on: Gender, age, and diversity to identify gaps, barriers, or opportunities from and develop initial policy positions aligned to support federal mandates. The MMIWG portfolio is now part of the Diversity and Inclusion work plan to help determine which calls to action NCPEI can lead with in terms of taking action.

This position has also participated in discussions related to the Calls to Action related to Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ persons that are associated with the Indigenous Justice Strategy.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

- Become familiar with NCPEI policy and objectives
- Research and understand Federal policy that NCPEI lobbies for/against in terms of its membership and organizational mandate(s).
- Support the NCPEI Policy Team with its aims and objectives when working with the Provincial government and/ or other community partners.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

Internal:

1. Completed NCPEI policy position on MMIWG (submitted, March 2023)
2. Preparation of talking points for Chief Cooper/ Brad Cooper for WAGE meeting (August 2023).
3. Preparation of slide show for the Indigenous Justice Strategy for Town Halls in August/ Sept. 2023
4. Preparation of talking points to support Chief Cooper in the meeting with the Jennifer Moore Rattray, Ministerial Special Representative on Call for Justice 1.7 that is being attended by Chief Cooper and Sarah.

External:

Reports: Summary Report summarizing MMIWG actions taken by NCPEI to CAP (March 2023).

Proposals:

1. The first stage of the Family Violence Prevention (FVPP) Indigenous women's shelter application (stream 2) was written and passed on to the Tripartite Policy Analyst for completing under the housing portfolio (March 2023).
2. 'Rebuilding Lives' proposal to fund both MMIWG and SAFE programs from Canadian Women's Association (June 2023)
3. Funding LOI for the Aboriginal Community Safety Plan Initiative (June 2023)
4. 'Tapui'tjijaa'mitj Program' – a sub program under the Pjila'si Project (July 2023)
5. Ted Rogers Community Grant (August 2023)
6. The Enn Fil Project [Girls' club] (stream 1 of FVPP) (September 2023)
7. Veteran's Community Project (commemorating Indigenous war veterans)

**Promotion and Outreach: Not Applicable**

**Future Activities:**

MMIWGs/ MMIMBs 'Action plan' - is being discussed as a collaborative project with the program coordinators.

**Conclusion:**

Proposals bring funding and support via wrap around services that benefit NCPEI membership. Providing research or talking points before key meetings and attending others helps to distribute NCPEI interests to ensure our organizational voice is heard. The success of this particular policy analyst position has been mostly with gender and diversity programs but hopefully the stream 2 FVPP Indigenous Women's Shelter will be funded as PEI urgently needs this support. An MMIWG/MMIMBs Action Plan needs strategic planning and further discussion.

**REACHING HOME**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
November 2022 – September 2023

Chris Clay  
Program Coordinator Reaching Home Project

**Introduction:**

- The Reaching Home Program supports off-reserve Indigenous People that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Reaching Home offers front line support, referral, housing placements, along with access to culturally relevant activities to promote self-sufficiency and involvement in the NCPEI community.
- The Reaching home program also works towards the implementation of a homeless tracking tool called HIFIS (Homeless individual and family identification system) and are the indigenous entry point to the provinces coordinated access to housing program.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

- Find affordable long-term housing for homeless clients.
- Aid clients who are struggling to maintain housing.
- Provide outreach services to clients who are living rough.
- Help grow and develop the H.I.F.I.S. program.

**Activities and Outreach:**

**November 2022:**

- Regular client check-ins at home, the shelters or the Community Outreach Center.
- Attended one Bilateral Names List meeting as part of the Coordinated Access to Housing working Group. This group meets every two weeks to try to find suitable affordable housing for clients entered in the H.I.F.I.S. system.
- Regularly update our client files in H.I.F.I.S. (Homeless Individuals and Family Identification System)
- Attended two Public Meetings on the Winter Street Shelter project.
- Attended the Summerside City Council meeting for the vote to approve the Winter Street Shelter.
- Attended two IRAC eviction appeals hearings to support clients.
- Attended two regular Case Management meetings for the Community Outreach Centers working group.
- Advocated to get a client into the Adult Education Program run through the Community Outreach Center.
- Attended 2 meetings for the Shape Stratford committee, this group meets to create ways to advocate the community of Stratford on behalf of rezoning their density Bi-Laws in the hopes of creating more affordable housing.
- Met with case workers from Community Legal Information to discuss supports they can provide to our clients and tenants.

- Helped two clients get food through the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Attended a Presentation on housing advocacy hosted by the Housing Transformation Center.
- Met with the case workers from the John Howard Society to discuss wrap around support options for mutual clients.
- Toured the Park Street Shelter.
- Performed in a Kairos Blanket Exercise.
- Helped find housing for one client.
- Helped a client in zone 3 get electric set back up and get food from the Montague food bank,
- December 2022:
- Attended two Bilateral Names list meetings for Coordinated Access to Housing.
- Updated our client files in H.I.F.I.S.
- Made regular client check-ins and home visits with clients.
- Helped six clients with food for the holidays with grocery cards.
- Provided rent assistance for five clients.
- Transported two clients to the food bank for their holiday hampers program.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Meetings.
- Met with Matt McKay, Provincial Minister of Social Development & Housing to discuss housing issues in the province.
- Met with two different landlords to settle disputes between the landlords and tenants.

#### **January 2023:**

- Attended two Bilateral Names List Meetings for Coordinated Access to Housing,
- Set up H.I.F.I.S. training for other N.C.P.E.I. coordinators.
- Attended my first Occupational Health & Safety committee meeting with N.C.P.E.I.
- Made regular check-ins and home visits with clients.
- Attended two case management meetings for the Community Outreach Center.
- Provided rent assistance for three clients.
- Met twice with the staff of New Roots transitional housing to work with clients living in the house,
- I was interviewed twice by C.B.C. and once by C.T.V. to discuss the growing homeless issues in the province and our shelter project.
- Performed in one Kairos Blanket Exercise.
- Transported two clients to the Food Bank.,
- Housed one client.
- Provided ten grocery cards to clients in need.
- Advocated to get a client into St. Eleanors House from Mt Herberts Addictions Treatment program.
- Met with staff from Mi'kmaq Confederacy to provide wrap around support for mutual clients.
- Attended Workplace Hazards & Control training provided by the Workers Compensation Board.
- Attended my first Eviction Prevention and Shelter Diversion Community in Practice meeting with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.
- Discussed program and future funding with the NC.P.E.I. Policy Analyst Team
- Attended a client support meeting with the case workers from the John Howard Society.
- February 2023:

- Attended one Bilateral Names List meeting with the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.
- Update our client files in the H.I.F.I.S. system.
- Regular client check-ins and visits.
- Participated in our monthly O.H.S. committee meeting.
- Attended one Case Management meeting with the working group at the Community Outreach Center.
- Traveled through Zone 1 to see clients.
- Met to discuss the progress of the Winter Street Shelter.
- Made regular visits to our client stay at St. Eleanors house.
- Helped transport a client from the Provincial Corrections Center to The Eskasoni Wellness Center for addictions treatment.
- I was interviewed by C.B.C. to discuss the provinces preparations for an incoming weather system bringing extreme cold (-42c) to the Island.
- Spoke on our work with the homeless community at the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Justice Strategy Event hosted by N.C.P.E.I..
- Purchased ten tents and ten sleeping bags in preparation for the upcoming spring.
- Made two visits to the Provincial Correctional Center at Sleepy Hollow to see clients.
- Started attending the Language & Drumming classes in Zone 3 to support a client.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Housing Supply Challenge meetings.
- Helped house three clients.
- Provided rent assistance to twelve clients.
- Provided fifteen grocery cards to clients in need.
- Transported three clients to the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Provided two Monthly Bus Passes to clients to help get to and from appointments.
- Attended one meeting with the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness's Eviction Prevention and Shelter Diversion Community in Practice.

### **March 2023:**

- Attended two Bilateral Names List Meetings as part of the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.
- I was invited to speak at the National Housing Engagement Seminar held in Vancouver B.C. and hosted by the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.
- Attended two OHS training sessions about Workplace Wellness and Committee Creation and Regulations hosted by the Workers Compensation Board.
- Made regular check-ins and home visits with clients.
- Provided 16 grocery cards to clients in need.
- Helped 10 clients with rent assistance.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Committee meeting.
- Advocated and helped move a client from St Eleanors house To Lennon Recovery House.
- Met the new staff of Winter Street.
- Attended two Case Management Meetings at the Community Outreach Center.
- Provided two bus passes for clients to get to and from appointments.
- Performed in two Kairos Blanket Exercises.
- Attended one Eviction Prevention and Shelter Diversion Community in Practice meeting.

- Met with three landlords to address issues with clients.
- Took a S.P.D.A.T. (Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool) train the trainer course hosted by the John Howard Society. I am now certified to train coworkers to use this important tool.

#### **April 2023:**

- Attended one Bilateral Names List Meeting as part of the Coordinated Access to housing Committee.
- Set up and Attended a HIFIS training session with the staff of Winter Street.
- Made regular check-ins and home visits to clients.
- Transported two clients to the food bank.
- Provided two grocery cards to clients in need.
- Met with the director of Life House Women's Shelter.
- Began making referrals to the Emergency relief program and sent ten clients to the program for supports.
- Provided a monthly bus pass for a client to get to and from appointments.
- Provided Rent Assistance for five clients.
- Attended two case management meetings as part of the Community Outreach Center Working Group.
- Attended a session with Holland College Students where we discussed our roles and programs offered by N.C.P.E.I.
- Met with the case managers and director of Lennon Recovery house to create wrap around case plans for two clients living in the house.
- Met regularly with the staff of New Roots (Salvation Army Transitional Housing) to discuss case management of three clients living in the house.
- Met with the director of Harvest House to discuss referrals for clients.
- Took a Naloxone refresher course.
- Took a food safety course.
- Attended a W.H.I.M.I.S. course.
- Performed in two Kairos Blanket Exercises.
- Met with a landlord to help a client avoid eviction.

#### **May 2023:**

- Attended one Bilateral Names List Meeting as part of the Coordinated Access to housing working group.
- Provided regular check-ins and home visits to clients.
- Attended two public open houses for the opening of the Winter Street Shelter.
- Provided food cards to seven clients in need.
- Attended our second sessions with Holland College to discuss our roles and programs.
- Attended our regular O.H.S. meeting.
- Housed our first client through the Winter Street Shelter.
- Housed one other client.
- Met a client in the Provincial Corrections Center in Summerside.
- Began Making regular weekly visits to Winter Street to work with shelter clients to find housing.

- Began attending meetings held by the Fight for Affordable Housing Group and the Cooper Institute. The goal of these meetings is to create a guide for tenants to better understand their rights and how to maneuver through the eviction process. This project will continue until December 2023.
- As I missed the in-house Mental Health First Aid training session, I attended a two-day online course to receive my certification.
- Attended an all-day seminar held by the City of Charlottetown called Safe Spaces for Everyone it was an in-depth discussion on the growing homeless issues in the city.
- Spoke to the Y.E.S.S. class about tenant rights.
- Attended two case management meetings as part of the Community Outreach Centers working group.
- Met with the case managers and clients at Lennon Recovery House.
- Provided a monthly bus pass for a client to get to and from appointments.

### **June 2023:**

- Attended three Bilateral Names List Meetings as part of the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.
- Made regular check-ins and home visits to clients.
- Provided a monthly bus pass to a client to get to and form appointments.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Housing Supply Challenge full day seminar.
- Made regular weekly visits to see and support clients at the Winter Street Shelter.
- Met with the case management team at Lennon Recovery House.
- Met with the case management team from C.M.H.A.'s housing first project.
- Provided a food card to a client in an emergency.
- Continued to refer clients to the Emergency Relief Program through N.C.P.E.I.
- Coordinated with M.C.P.E.I. and housed two clients' mutual clients.
- Took a resilience Masterclass workshop.
- Attended an all-day case conference with the working group from the Community Outreach Center.
- Attended our monthly O.H.S. meeting.
- Attended a memorial hosted at the community outreach center to pay tribute to clients lost in the past year. Unfortunately, two of the memorials were for clients of N.C.P.E.I.
- Attended three meetings with the Fight for Affordable Housing Committee as well as our first public consultation meeting.
- I was interviewed twice by C.B.C., the first was about a proposal for a mental health outreach team by the province and the second was about the Winter Street Shelter.
- Met regularly with the case management team at New Roots to help solve issues they were having with clients of N.C.P.E.I. living in the house.
- Attended a second full day forum on the homeless issue in Charlottetown.
- Attended a session on Poverty Eradication Strategies.
- Attend National Indigenous Peoples Day event hosts by N.C.P.E.I.
- Performed in two Kairos Blanket Exercises.

### **July 2023:**

- Attended one Bilateral Names List meeting as part of the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.



- Updated client files in the H.I.F.I.S. system.
- Held a S.P.D.A.T. training session with the staff at Winter Street.
- Did regular check-ins and home visits to provide support for clients.
- Attended two Case Management Meetings with the Community Outreach Center working group.
- Met with the Director of the Cooper Institute.
- Attended four one on one community engagement meetings with the Fight for Affordable Housing committee.
- Attended two Fight for Affordable Housing Committee meetings.
- Met with Case workers from C.M.H.A.'s Housing First Program.
- Met with the case management team at New Roots.
- Met with a landlord housing two of our clients to address issues the clients were having with the property.
- Kept coordinating and referring clients to the Emergency Relief Program.
- Met with the Director of Lennon House.
- Made regular visits to Winter Street.
- Provided transport for clients to appointments.
- Provided a bus pass for a client to go to and from appointments.
- Met with Minister Lantz to discuss housing issues in the province.
- Helped transport a client to the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Met regularly with the Provincial Housing Navigator to come up with a housing solution for mutual clients.
- Attended the community meeting on the Park Street Shelter and proposed Overdose Prevention Site.
- Provided Rent assistance for one client.
- Housed one client.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Housing Supply Challenge Meeting.

#### **August 2023:**

- Attended two Bilateral Names List Meetings through the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.
- Continued to monitor and update our clients in the H.I.F.I.S. system.
- Made regular Check-ins and home visits to support clients.
- Attended one case management meeting as part of the Community Outreach Centers working group.
- Made regular visits to Winter Street.
- Met with the staff of New Roots to deal with issues with our clients living in the house.
- Met a client at the Provincial Corrections Center in Sleepy Hollow.
- Attended a court session to support a client.
- Attended one Shape Stratford Housing Supply Challenge meeting.
- Attended one Fight for Affordable Housing Committee meeting.
- Attended an Advocacy Strategy training session.
- Spoke to the Y.E.S.S. class about tenant rights.
- Attended two meetings with Child Protective Services to discuss a client who is aging out of the group home system into homelessness.
- Provided two grocery cards for emergency situations.

- Transported two clients to the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Provided a bus pass for a client to get to and from appointments.
- Attended our Monthly O.H.S. meeting.
- Appeared on C.B.C Island Morning to discuss Overdose Awareness Day and my work in the homeless community.
- Provided Rent Assistance for two clients.
- Gave out two tents and sleeping bags to clients who are sleeping rough.
- Performed a Kairos Blanket Exercise as a training event for staff of N.C.P.E.I.
- Attended one Eviction Prevention and Shelter Diversion Community in practice meeting hosted by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.
- Attended a planning meeting for the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. I have been asked to be a speaker at their national convention held in Halifax in November 2023. This is being put on by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.
- Attended a planning session for a Mass Kairos Blanket Exercise that will be hosted by N.C.P.E.I. on Reconciliation Day September 2023.

### **September 2023:**

- Planned a search for a client who had gone missing in August.
- Searched two sites for a missing client based on tips obtained from the Charlottetown City Police.
- Attended a community meeting set up for the community to address concerns with the Community Outreach Center hosted by the Charlottetown City Police.
- Advocated for two clients to enter the New Roots Transitional Program.
- Made regular visits to New Roots to deal with issues our clients living in the house are having.
- Attended two Bilateral Names List Meetings as part of the Coordinated Access to Housing working group.
- Update our client files in the H.I.F.I.S. system.
- Went to Winter Street to help a client who was struggling.
- Attended a meeting with a landlord in Zone 1 and helped a client avoid eviction.
- Met with the court services worker from M.C.P.E.I. to discuss the referral system to get clients into my program.
- Met with the case management team from John Howard Society to discuss mutual clients.
- Attended two Shape Stratford Housing Supply Challenge meetings.
- Attended two committee meetings with the Fight for Affordable Housing group.
- Attended two case management meetings with the Community Outreach Center working group.
- Met with a client at the Provincial Corrections Center in Sleepy Hollow.
- Coordinated with the court system to refer a client to off island treatment centers.
- Performed regular client check-ins and home visits.
- Attended two community in practice meetings hosted by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.
- Helped make sure clients were set for a potential hurricane when Lee entered our forecast. Thankfully it was a near miss but that weekend we had all clients with food supplies and indoors.
- Helped transport a client to the Upper Room Food Bank.
- Helped house a client who was aging out of the group home system.
- Met with the Provincial Housing Navigator to find a housing solution for two clients we are both working with.

- Attended a day long seminar on Human Trafficking Hosted by Truckers Against Trafficking.
- Provided a bus pass for a client to get to and from appointments.
- Helped provide transport from Charlottetown to the Winter Street Shelter for a client in need.
- Continued to coordinate with the Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- Met with the Director of the Park Street Shelter.
- Attended the City of Charlottetown Council meeting to observe the vote on a variance to keep Part Street Shelter open for another year as well as the vote for a variance to open and Overdose Prevention site. The shelter vote was passed the O.P.S. vote was declined.
- Provided rent assistance for two clients in need.
- Performed two Kairos Blanket Exercises.
- Performed in the Mass Blanket Exercise held at UPEI on Truth & Reconciliation Day, we had a huge turn out of over 100 participants and the event was a huge success.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Continue to provide support to community members in need.
- Continue my advocacy work on affordable housing and homeless supports.
- Continue to build and develop the HIFIS program with the Coordinated Access to housing working group.
- Continue to work with the committees I sit on.

#### **Conclusion:**

This year has been a struggle as we see the vacancy rate in the province fall as well as the cost of day to day living increasing substantially. We have seen a massive increase in homelessness in the province as well as public opposition to our efforts to work with people who are struggling to make it day by day. All we can do is to continue to rise above the adversity be the best and provide the best service to our community members in need.

**RE-ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
January 2023 – September 2023

Dawne Knockwood  
Program Coordinator

**Introduction:**

The Re-establishing Community project focuses on re-establishing a sense of community and belonging for the survivors and families of the Sixties Scoop and other historic injustices committed against Indigenous peoples. This project will run from January 2023 to December 2023.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

Through this project, NCPEI will establish a network of support and mental health awareness / resources among Sixties Scoop survivors and their families. At the end of the project, it is expected that all participants will feel welcomed and accustomed to attend community events, will have techniques and referrals available for ongoing mental health support, and will have a stronger sense of Indigenous identity and community belonging.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

**January**

- January 18, 2023 – Attended Language and drumming in Zone 2 to talk about the Re-establishing Community program and advertise the first workshop of medicine bag making scheduled to take place on January 27, 2023.
- January 27, 2023 – Had the Youth Board of Director, Ebony Larkin lead the participants on making their own medicine bags. The participants were lead in making a medicine bag and then encouraged to paint their bags in the way they feel would most honour themselves and their ancestors. Medicines were given out, cedar, sage, tobacco and sweetgrass with a teaching by Jaimie Augustine and Stephenson Joe.
- January 28, 2023 – Attended the Youth meeting to explain what and who the Re-establishing community program is for, and what will be upcoming in the future. We also made Medicine Bags with those who were in attendance and offered medicines for their bags with a teaching on each medicine.

**February**

- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Invited by Language and Drumming to do eagle feather holders with the Zone 2 class.
- February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Had a poster created for Moccasin making class posted at 10:30am and by 11:00am, I had a full class list and a large list of people who are wait listed.
- February 24, 2023 – Drop-in session for people to come and finish any project that they have started and needed to finish. This could have been a craft, report, homework, anything that body doubling could help with.

### March

- March 6, 7, 8 traveled to Vancouver, BC attended the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples *National Housing Engagement*. I was chosen to go as a representative of the NCPEI as I sit on the CAP-Canada Housing Working group with CAP representatives, CIRNAC and CMHC.
- March 15, 2023 – Presentation to the language and drumming class in Zone 2 on pre-contact clay pots, archaeology and a quick slideshow on the work I did on Hog Island at the Pitawelkek dig site with Dr. Kristmanson. I then lead the group in making clay pots.
- March 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2023 – Travelled to Ottawa for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Gender Symposium *Making a Circle for Everyone*.

### April

- April 1, 2023 – Moccasin making Workshop with Jolene Rolle workshop 1 of 6 in this session.
- April 15, 2023 – Moccasin making workshop with Ebony Larkin leading everyone in beading their vamps for their moccasins.
- April 21, 2023 – Wristlet making for Re-establishing community with Kaelyn Mercer. Open to all three Zones.
- April 19, 2023 – Moccasin making class 3 of 6

### May

- May 5, 2023 – Participated in the MMIWG walk to support families and friends who have MMIWG in their lives.
- May 11, 2023 – Mayors Conversation on Encampments
- May 12, 2023 – Was asked to judge the Provincial Heritage fair. This is something that I have been doing as a general judge for the past 6 years. This year, I was asked to judge the Indigenous projects and that was a great honour.
- May 12, 2023 – Movie Screening. We watched *Birth of a Family*. Synopsis: When is a family reunion not a reunion? When your family has never met. Three sisters and a brother, adopted as infants into separate families across North America, meet together for the first time in this deeply moving film. Birth of a Family follows them through the challenges, trepidations and joys of their first steps towards forming their family.
- May 13, 2023 – Moccasin making class with Jolene Rolle – 4 of 6 class.

### June

- June 21, 2023 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 27, 2023 – Moccasin Class with Jolene Rolle class 5 of 6.
- July 7, 2023 – Met with a Sixties Scoop Survivor in their home. Discussed what information they wish all Scoopers knew when searching for their families, and what traumas might be expected when they do finally find their families. This information will help me in putting together a resource binder for Sixties Scoop clients across the nation.
- July 14, 2023 – Opened the office for the entire afternoon for any clients to come and again finish any unfinished projects, reports, etc.
- July 29, 2023 – Pride Parade with Kaelyn Mercer and Caitlyn McLean. I represented NCPEI and my amazing daughter who just so happens to be 2 Spirit.

### August/September

- August 19, 2023 – Resin and medicine workshop
- September 1, 2023 – Began screening Little Bird. Series about 60's scoop at the North River Road office.

- September 14, 2023 – Healing Yoga with Re-establishing Community, Engaging Men and Boys and Tapui'tjitja'amtj programs.
- September 19 – 24<sup>th</sup>, attended the 52 Annual CAP AGA.
- September 30, 2023 – KAIROS Mass Blanket Exercise – I created a committee comprised of Chris Clay, Sarah Jackson, Alicia Muttart and Kaelyn Mercer. Together we planned the Mass Blanket Exercise that took place on September 30<sup>th</sup> with UPEI partnering. It was a great success with amazing effort and work put in by the committee as well as all the staff and outside hands who helped.

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

I have been working with Scoopers who are looking to get their adoption records, CPS documents and any other information that is needed by clients to apply for compensation from the Sixties Scoop Settlement.

Worked with the family of Summer Dawn Peters. Helped organize the NCPEI search and kept in close contact with Summer's family members in the days and weeks since, providing support in any way possible.

### **Future Activities:**

- In October we will be having a joint project, between Re-establishing Community, MMIWG, 2 Spirit and WIHM. We are pooling our funds together to bring this expensive workshop to the members.
- In November, I will be leading a medicine pillow workshop, please email [community@ncpe.com](mailto:community@ncpe.com) to register for this event!
- There will be another Moccasin workshop offered over 2 weekends in November for the next class of participants to make moccasins.
- A resource manual is being prepared for future Sixties Scoop and Millennial Scoops survivors guided by the information that has been collected by 60 Scoop members during the year.

### **Conclusion:**

The Re-establishing Community program was only a program funded for one year. The goal was to reintroduce Scoopers and any other Indigenous person who has suffered through any historical injustices to help reintegrate into ceremony and traditional teachings. It has been wonderful to see the passion of the participants and to listen to their stories. I would highly recommend that the policy analysts to seek funding for this program to be continued in the future.

**RETRIEVING OUR STORIES**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
May 2023 – September 2023

David Rewniak  
Project Coordinator

**Introduction:**

The memories of the Native Council are not confined to dusty archives or forgotten pages of history; they live on in the hearts and minds of those who have witnessed its evolution. As we sit with our beloved Elders and community members, we are bestowed with the gift of their recollections. Their stories offer a glimpse into the moments that have shaped this council and, in turn, shaped their lives.

In the heart of Prince Edward Island's rich cultural tapestry lies a story of resilience, unity, and the power of collective memory. This book is an exploration of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island's remarkable history, a narrative woven together by the memories and experiences of Elders and community members. As we embark on this journey through time, we uncover the pivotal moments that shaped the council's path, the challenges it confronted, and the profound impact it had on both on-reserve and off-reserve Indigenous communities.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

As the "Project Coordinator Retrieving Our Stories" Phase II, I will elaborate on the initiative's Phase I. Phase I focused on interviewing and recording (when possible) stories from NCPEI's Elders and community members about their historical memories of NCPEI, including when and why they joined, what was happening at the time, what significant memories they had of NCPEI, what the issues were, who the key players/leaders were at the time, and how they contributed to NCPEI's evolution. In contrast to the Historical Researcher project NCPEI is currently working on, Phase II of Retrieving Our Stories will only focus on "filling in" the gaps from a grassroots perspective.

**Activities:**

- June 7, 2023, Simon Lloyd (UPEI Archives and Special Collections): Meeting with Simon Lloyd at the University of Prince Edward Island, where we examined all records and files associated with the history of the NCPEI and its community members. Keptin John Joe Sark had a extensive list of records kept at the library and we were able to retrieve some useful information that may be relevant to the NCPEI.
- June 21, 2023, Indigenous Days (Confederation Landing). As part of the NCPEI staff, I provided information and general knowledge to visitors at our information booth.

**Deliverables:**

The first phase of "Retrieving Our Stories" centered around gathering stories from NCPEI's Elders and community members. Star Bennett set out on a journey to speak with Mi'kmaq elders and community members who possess invaluable firsthand knowledge and experience to provide an accurate and detailed perspective. These dialogs provided the foundation for the NCPEI book, ensuring that the narratives and perspectives of the Mi'kmaq people are preserved and celebrated.

Phase II of the book project "Retrieving Our Stories" builds on Phase I and is solely dedicated to filling in the gaps within the framework of a "grassroots perspective."

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

#### **Promotion:**

The NCPEI utilized social media platforms, community newsletters, and local events to promote our book project:

- poster campaign encouraging elders and other members of the community to share their memories and stories that vividly depict a significant period in the Native Council's history.
- mail-out to promote various services and activities including the "Retrieving Our Stories" campaign, which invited Elder and Community Members to participate in contributing their personal memories and stories about the Native Council.

#### **Outreach:**

To extend our reach, we partnered with neighboring Indigenous organizations and held public presentations to share the significance of the Native Council and its historical memory collection project. With assistance from the P.E.I. Seniors' Secretariat, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island inaugurated a gallery titled "Honoring Our Elders". Elders from the local Indigenous community are depicted in black-and-white portraits that hang on a wall.

#### **Future Activities:**

In the coming year, we plan to expand the NCPEI's historical memory collection project by conducting additional interviews and initiating the publication of the book. We will also focus on strengthening our partnerships with local institutions to promote Indigenous culture.

I am hopeful that the social media promotional announcement and poster mailing that were released in July and August may encourage Elders to come forward and speak up and share their memories.

#### **Conclusion:**

Throughout the book, we will hear directly from the Elders and community members whose stories paint a vivid picture of a pivotal chapter in the Native Council's history. Through their voices, we'll better understand the intricate dance between unity and representation, and how these threads continue to shape the tapestry of Indigenous life on Prince Edward Island.

I believe there is room for fruitful cooperation with other organizations, authorities, and/or specialists that will be advantageous to all parties given the NCPEI's commitment to fostering a varied variety of opinions and boosting cross-cultural understanding. I see myself collaborating with organizations like academic institutions, publishers, and retailers to broaden the scope and impact of my project. Together, we can make sure that more people, including historians, libraries, business owners, and everyone else interested in grassroots and Indigenous histories, read this important piece of history.

With the questions we asked our Elders and community members, our hope is to unearth treasures of memory, anecdotes that breathe life into history, and reflections that honor the journey taken by the Native Council and its role in shaping the narrative of Prince Edward Island's Indigenous communities.



**Sharing our Stories  
(Language and Drumming)  
Annual General Assembly Report  
November 2022 – September 2023**

Alicia Muttart  
Language and Drumming Facilitator

**Introduction:**

The Language and Drumming Program has been providing 4 classes per week across the Island to off-reserve Indigenous people. Run by community Elders and knowledge-keepers, the lessons teach the Mi'kmaq language, and are differentiated to all learning abilities and ages. The classes also include drumming and singing of traditional songs, and cultural teachings. There is often a 'storytime' when the Elder or participants share an experience they've had with the group, and occasionally there is a 'craft' element to the lesson, or a guest speaker who comes to share traditional cultural knowledge and skills. We also encourage Indigenous people of different tribal nations to attend and share traditions and language not local to PEI.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

- Regular instruction and sharing of language and traditional activities at beginner and intermediate levels.
- Teaching and learning of traditional hand-drum songs, and Elder guidance on appropriate protocols.
- Every week working with participants to create a 'word of the week' video, occasionally linked to public holidays or seasonal events. The video is then shared on the Language and Drumming YouTube channel and the NCPEI Facebook Page.
- Regular creation and maintenance of class resources, which include: flashcards, posters, word games such as bingo, crosswords and wordsearches, and Elder-teaching handouts.
- Occasional recording of classroom activities, also shared to the YouTube channel.
- Zoom classes have now become a staple weekly event on Thursdays, allowing people to access teaching from home.
- Transportation provided to participants who need it to be able to attend; not required during this time period but still available.
- We've created new posters and been put up in various locations in each zone with our new Language and Drumming LOGO.
- Our New Language and Drumming Resource Manual for 2023 was completed, approved and printed – with the help of Perry Williams who recorded Katie, Stephenson Joe, Michael Julian, and Georgina Knockwood-Crane, each page and all the songs so that participants can follow along and learn from home. 300 copies were printed and handed out to the participants of Language and Drumming Classes.
- Planned and executed a wonderful retreat at the end of March – We held a weekend long retreat for adults and kids at the Loyalist Country Inn in Summerside. We had lots of cultural teachings, crafts, and Mi'kmaq heritage performed. Sweat lodge teachings, drum making session along with the teachings, how to smudge, how to make drumsticks, how to wake up your drum, and

medicine/plant teachings, with the help from Stephenson Joe, Sarah Jackson, Michael Julian, Helena Perry, and other staff.

- Guest speakers occasionally invited to share cultural knowledge and skills:
  - Elder Mathilda Knockwood-Snache visited Zone 2 and 3 this year as a guest speaker talking about The Red Man Story.
  - Lone cry visited our Zone 2 class to give us teachings about the big drum, all the protocols around it, what songs to sing and appropriate times to sing them, etc.
  - Elder Sarah Jackson came to our online class to talk about teachings and history of the ribbon skirts.
  - Jolene Rolle attended all three zones as a guest speaker to talk about her Inuit culture and teachings.
  - Dawne Knockwood attended a zone 2 class to talk about pre-contact clay pottery and held a craft session for the second half of class.
  - Stephenson Joe was in all three zones talking about Sundance and what that weekend ceremony entails.
- Healthy snacks and refreshments provided at every in-person class.
- Still partnering up with Brenda, in-person language classes have sometimes combined with the SAFE program, creating a community kitchen event, where recipes made are distributed in Mi'kmaq, and food vocabulary is practiced.
- Asked participants to complete the Funders Program Surveys to collect data on effectiveness and results of the L&D program.
- Watched the Chicken Run Movie in Mi'kmaq – tried to recognize as many words as the participants knew.
- We had an Indigenous advisor from NFLD reach out asking if they could to a screening and conversation about the Mawi'art Wabanaki Artist Collective Org – they are planning to come in 2024 to PEI for a weekend long event to show off artist work and connect to culture.
- Had craft nights almost once a month in each zone – drumsticks, talking sticks, paintings, rocks/sticks/leaves art, rattles.
- Made fried bread in class – a staple food in our culture.

#### **Other Activities:**

- Christmas 2022; gifts arranged and delivered to all participants.
- Purchase of more drumsticks made by Michael Julian
- Katie and I attended Thomas Christmas classes online.
- Creation of a large map of PEI in Mi'kmaq with Wayne MacDonald to hang up in our program space.
- Worked with Julie Neufeld from AFN providing visuals for their project on inter-general language transference. Examples of our participants learning Mi'kmaq and WOTW video will be used in a written and online resource available nationwide for students ages 13-17.
- Started working with the Outreach centre after Bethany Keoughan reached out asking for support for Indigenous clients – once a month we go four an hour and a half and gave healing to those who came.
- Did a presentation for the Transitions class through Holland College in April and May– the class came to our programming office, we got all the coordinators to come out and discuss what their program does, and at the end we did a little language and drumming class.

- Stephenson Joe and Katie attended a grade 11/12 social studies class at Colonal Grey – delivered a lesson on history or Indigenous language and taught the class simple words.
- NIPD day – Participants from our Language and Drumming Classes are going up on stage for about 15-20 minutes to go up on the stage to drum and sing. We will be picking 5-6 songs and practiced in the weeks leading up to this event.

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

- Regular Facebook posts advertising the classes each day.
- Sharing the ‘Word of the Week’ video to Facebook each Friday.
- Each class-day, calls are made, and e-mails sent to regular participants to gauge attendance.
- Large number of phone calls made to membership to promote the classes.

### **Future Activities:**

- Continuation of 4 classes a week for the foreseeable future
- Continuing to learn from our new L&D 2023 Manual, creating write ups of new words, sentences, focusing on building conversational words.
- Continuing to attend weekly Online Language classes through HLIC
- Arranging more guest speakers/artists to classes to promote their traditional skills, and other Language keepers.
- A push on recruiting new participants from the membership – in order to maintain an interest in the classes, promotion through phone calls, posters and attending events is required.
- Aim in 2023 to arrange another drum-making workshop, prioritising regular language class attendees.

Funding for the Language and Drumming Program ended in March 2023 and a new 5-year funding stream was not introduced until May 2023. A proposal has been submitted.

### **Conclusion:**

The program continues to draw a core of regular attendees, whilst still reaching Indigenous people who are new to the language and culture. It has been gratifying to see the development in confidence in particular class participants who are now ready to take on more advanced lessons and learn about verb conjugation which is so central to the language. I see the program bringing real value to the community and the continuity of classes is of course essential to the continuity of language learning and development of social bonds.

# **STRENGTHENING ABORIGINAL FAMILIES EFFECTIVELY**

Annual General Assembly Report  
November 2022 – September 2023

Brenda Dion  
Program Coordinator

## **Introduction:**

The SAFE program is designed to work with indigenous families who are at risk of becoming involved with Child Protection Services (CPS). As the coordinator for the program, I work closely and advocate on behalf of indigenous families who do not know the system and how it works. I help the families navigate and understand what the process is like and guide them through it. The goal of the program is to keep families together and when need be, conduct cultural teachings to CPS workers so that the workers better understand intergenerational trauma generated by residential schools. The program also collaborates with other NCPEI program to better serve and support these families.

## **Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

Conduct home visits with families who become involved with Child Protection Services. Support the families and advocate for them during meetings with CPS. Establishing effective relationships with the workers and agencies involved and offer cultural teachings when needed. Work with foster families who have indigenous children in their care and promote cultural programming available to them. Work with and help youth navigate their life after aging out of care by supporting them and teaching them basic life skills. The program will support these youth for as long as needed by keeping in contact with them the way they want and doing home visits.

## **Activities and Deliverables:**

My program holds and promotes Community Kitchen in each of the three Zones across the Island. I prepare meals and give the families the opportunity to learn how to make healthy meals on a budget. I have held two eight-week sessions of Handle with Care which is a group based parenting program that focuses on building healthy relationships with parent and child. For each of the sessions my co-facilitator and I have had 6 participants and planned culturally focused activities.

The SAFE Program partners with other programs at NCPEI to further support families and children who require supplementary assistance.

The SAFE program has been invited to quarterly Conversation Circles with Social Development and Housing to discuss options regarding children in care.

## **Promotion and Outreach:**

For the past year I have been attending Multi Agency Services Teams (MAST) meetings that are held monthly at Souris Regional School. These monthly MAST meetings are convened regarding families that require further supports from other agencies like Youth Justice, Public Health, CPS and the Student Well Being Team. I am also on a steering committee that meets monthly, and it is a multitude of CPS workers and a couple of the indigenous community representatives that are working collectively to amend and

implement new assessment tools for CPS. The program has witnessed in Family Court that an indigenous child in care was recognized as being indigenous and that her rights are being upheld.

**Future Activities:**

Continue to work with families and conduct home visits to support them and advocate for with CPS. Continue to support youth who are aging out of care and teach them basic life skills so that they can thrive on their own. Continue to hold Community Kitchen in all three of the zones so that families have access to recipes for healthy meals on a budget. Continue to facilitate Handle with Care so that families are taught the tools to thrive in their home life with their children. Continue to support families through the family court process and cultural case planning to mitigate their children's time in care. Continue to facilitate and support the Kairos Blanket Exercise sessions that have grown exponentially since last year.

**Conclusion:**

The SAFE program has seen families reunited and youth find homes after being in care. The program is greatly needed for the indigenous people who live off reserve. The support that the SAFE program offers to the families in need shows that this program is working and is essential. The SAFE program has also seen an increase in numbers of children in care within the past year. These numbers have not been reported by the government as they have stated that the numbers are too low to document. I have stated in numerous meetings that these numbers still matter and are worth recording. The program will be collaborating with an analyst to conduct a survey with the families and youth to better enhance the program.

**TAPUI'TJITJA'AMITJ (2 SPIRIT) PROGRAM**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
October 2022 to September 2023

Kaelyn Mercer  
Tapui'tjitja'amtj Program Coordinator

**Introduction:**

The Tapui'tjitja'amtj Program at NCPEI provides supports and programming to the off-reserve 2S+ community, as well as provides education to community members and allies on 2S+ history and current issues. I host events monthly that include cultural teachings, cultural crafts, and presentations, and am partnered with Pride PEI to provide programming during Pride week, along with partaking in the Charlottetown Pride parade. I partner with other programs at NCPEI such as MMIWG and Engaging Men and Boys to increase education to reduce gender-based violence against women and gender-diverse people.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

Program goals are to strengthen the connection to, and inclusion of 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples living off-reserve on Prince Edward Island through the development and delivery of community-based, culturally appropriate supports and outreach activities.

Responsibilities are to plan and organize events for Pride week, creation and distribution of promotional material and resource manual, public and community outreach and education sessions highlighting the historic role of 2S+ peoples in Indigenous culture, as well as current issues, land-based teachings, healing circles based on needs of participants, and prepare reports on the progress and delivery of the program.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

April 2023:

- Creation of an Instagram account for the program, @ncpei2spirit
- Drop in event to promote the program
- Started the creation of a program advisory committee, including connecting with an Elder.
- Created partnerships with other 2S+ and BIPOC organizations on PEI:
  - Wabanaki 2 Spirit Alliance
  - PEI Transgender Network
  - Peers Alliance
  - BIPOC USHR
  - Pride PEI
  - Received Mental Health First Aid training.

May 2023:

- Distribution of promotional materials (posters, brochures, NCPEI pride pins) to organizations and businesses in downtown Charlottetown, as well as on Facebook and Instagram.

#### June 2023:

- Pride Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Workshop: for people to wear during pride week activities and Charlottetown Pride parade.
- Queer Prom: kick off event for the Tapui'tjitja'amtj program, in partnership with Peers Alliance.

#### July 2023:

- Most of these events were in partnership with the Pjila'si program at NCPEI.
- Safe Space and 2SLGBTQIA+ Terms Presentation to NCPEI Staff
- 2-Spirit Beading Workshop: Pride week activity.
- Exploring Gender Identities from Indigenous Perspectives: Pride week activity using the Walking in Her Moccasins Teachings bundle.
- PEI Pride parade/NCPEI pride parade float.
- Interview with CBC Radio about my program and 2Spirit identities.
- Town Hall meeting in Three Rivers (Montague) about the raising of the Pride flag during Pride week.
- Met with external evaluator Nishka Smith to prepare a survey for Pride week participants.

#### August 2023:

- ASI Atlantic Policy Forum Concurrent Skill Development Workshop in partnership with Climatatlantic, PEI Transgender Network, and Wild Child: Using Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing) to Create Hope for the Climate's Future
- Smoking Cessation Talking Circle for Indigenous and 2S+ peoples
- 2-Spirit presentation with YESS class
- Partnered with the Reach Foundation, an organization that supports youth with mental health or addiction issues.
- Orientation for the PEI Anti-Racism Table.

#### September 2023:

- Healing Yoga with Re-Establishing Community and Engaging Men and Boys programs at NCPEI.
- KAIROS Mass Blanket Exercise
- In-person meetings with the Indigenous Women's Circle
- Schedule of activities made for October and in creation for November/December.
- Events planned in Zones 1 and 3.
- Elected as a board of director with the PEI Transgender Network to represent NCPEI and 2S+ Indigenous peoples.

## **Promotion and Outreach:**

The Tapui'tjitja'amtj program was promoted on the Native Council Facebook page, as well as on the Instagram that was newly created at the start of the program in April 2023.

I printed off pamphlets for the program as well as an information poster about the program and distributed them to different businesses and organizations downtown in May 2023, including the mall and other stores, non-profits, partnered organizations, and the poster boards that are outside in downtown Charlottetown.

I hosted a drop in event in April to start the program and to reach out to people to let them know about the Tapuit'jitja'amtj program.

The different partnerships that I have created have promoted this program, on their social medias as well as their Email lists. I also spread this program by word of mouth, telling friends and colleagues, so that they can share with their communities and families.

## **Future Activities:**

- Queer Hiking Event, in partnership with PEI Transgender Network.
- Youth AGA, including a medicine pillow workshop I will be teaching.
- Drop in crafting events in Zone 1 and 3.
- Feast for the queer community.
- 2-Spirit teachings with Engaging Men and Boys program.
- 2-Spirit teachings with YESS class.

## **Conclusion:**

The Tapui'tjitja'amtj Program offers supports and programming to 2S+ peoples and education to allies about the history and current issues 2S+ people are facing. Through the programs I have offered from April to September 2023, I have provided cultural teachings and crafts to 2S+ peoples as well as presentations for people that are not in the community, which includes common terms used in the 2S+ community as well as the history of 2Spirited peoples and Indigenous perspectives on gender identity.

The organizations that I have partnered with have aided with programming and outreach to the 2S+ community, and my Indigenous perspective and culture has helped them with their services and programming. My kickstart event, Queer prom, partnered with Peers Alliance, was received very well, and created a safe space for the 2S+ community. I have done some cultural teachings and crafts, as well as presentations for the NCPEI staff and YESS class. Partnered with the Pjila'si program at NCPEI, we hosted 2 events during Pride week, including a cultural craft and a workshop on Indigenous gender identities and perspectives. We also created a float for the Charlottetown Pride parade, and several staff from NCPEI joined in, along with Elder Stephenson Joe.

I have much planned for the future, including cultural craft workshops, monthly drop-in sessions, and Indigenous gender identity workshops for other programs at NCPEI.



**TRIPARTITE POLICY ANALYST**  
**Annual General Assembly Report**  
October 2022 to September 2023

Jane Affleck  
Tripartite Policy Analyst

**Introduction:**

The Tripartite program involves maintaining and growing NCPEI's relationships with the federal and provincial governments, toward ensuring that the needs of NCPEI membership are addressed, specifically in priority areas identified for a given fiscal year or other designated periods. These priority areas are identified by the membership in the Community Mapping Surveys and at the AGA in resolutions. The Tripartite contribution agreements have provided the opportunity for enhanced expansion of research, collaboration, and partnership with governments, non-profit/community service organizations, and the private sector toward benefiting and meeting the unique needs of Indigenous people residing off-reserve in Epekwitk/Prince Edward Island. In recent years, Tripartite initiatives have included data collection, research, advocacy, and collaboration toward enriching meaningful partnerships in matters concerning health, housing, education, governance, human rights, economic development, and justice, among other key areas. The current focus of the tripartite coordinator/policy analyst is on the three priority areas identified in the most recent Community Mapping Survey (conducted at the end of 2022 and into 2023, with a draft report sent to NCPEI by the external data analyst/consultant in April 2023): housing; health & wellness, with an emphasis on mental health and wellness; and economic development, with an emphasis on education.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

As noted above, the current focus of the tripartite coordinator/tripartite policy analyst is on the three areas identified in the 2022–2023 Community Mapping Survey: housing; health & wellness, with an emphasis on mental health and wellness; and economic development, with an emphasis on education.

**Goals & Objectives:**

Actions that advocate for the rights and needs of NCPEI's off-reserve and non-status Indigenous members and constituents, and that work toward ensuring that gaps in policy and other legislative or regulatory documents are eliminated, are aimed at furthering the wellbeing and economic self-sufficiency of the organization and its members and constituents. These actions include but are not limited to:

- Seeking out opportunities for research partnerships and the development of further health and wellness initiatives with stakeholders.
- Promoting and increasing access to culturally sensitive healthcare, including traditional medicines, supports, and programming through collaboration and partnership, and by

seeking out funding opportunities to help support this programming, in collaboration with the Funding Relations/Reporting Manager and with the other policy analysts.

- Establishing housing supports available through the National Housing Strategy, PEI Housing Action Plan, and municipal housing supports in collaboration with the housing development officer, including seeking out funding opportunities, as noted above.
- Assessing opportunities and the capacity for NCPEI to develop an Economic Development branch, toward greater self-sufficiency and self-determination, including any initiatives that increase economic development capacities through education (from primary to post-secondary).

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Attending committee meetings in areas of health & wellness and housing at the provincial and regional (Maritime/Atlantic) levels to advocate for NCPEI members and constituents, i.e., the rights and needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples, in relation to the three main areas identified above.
- Attending meetings with representatives from federal and provincial government departments, divisions, and agencies, to advocate for the rights and needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples.
- Analyzing new federal and provincial policy and legislation, as well as revisions of existing policy/legislation, in relation to the three main priority areas as identified above, to ensure they are equitable and address the needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples, and writing responses and recommendations as needed/appropriate.
- Identifying funding opportunities relevant to the three key areas (housing, health and wellness, economic development/education) and drafting funding proposals to ensure that current programming will continue, and additional programming may be provided, according to membership needs and organizational capacity.

### **Other Responsibilities:**

- Following up on meetings and initiatives undertaken on policy development, writing briefs, letters, and other forms of feedback as needed.
- Summarizing meetings in briefing notes.
- Assessing funding opportunities and advising senior management of the feasibility and/or benefits of these opportunities.
- Participating in focus groups and other types of engagement/consultation to provide federal, provincial, and municipal leaders with information about the needs of NCPEI's off-reserve and non-status Indigenous members and constituents and organizing focus groups or other types of engagement with staff and membership, as required.
- Developing a yearly Tripartite focus in collaboration with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), PEI's Indigenous Relations Secretariat, and the Native Council's President and Chief.
- Attending high-level meetings and conducting networking and collaboration activities with all levels of government and with other community service and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), working closely with the President and Chief and with the other members of the Policy Analyst Team.

- Assessing data provided in the 2022–2023 Community Mapping Survey Report, and adding contextual data from federal and provincial, as well as academic, sources of data, to clarify the relative position of off-reserve Indigenous peoples vis-à-vis on-reserve Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.
- Attending various Native Council public-facing advocacy events, including the Red Dress Walk and National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Continued coordinating the Kairos Blanket Exercise until a staff member was assigned to this task.

## **Activities and Deliverables:**

### **Housing:**

- Attended webinars hosted by the Expert Community on Housing, a working group of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), to learn more about innovations in the housing sector that might help address the overall housing crisis and in particular be of benefit to off-reserve Indigenous peoples.
- Continued attending the quarterly meetings of the John Howard Society’s Community Advisory Board, ensuring that any actions the JHS takes around housing and homelessness prevention are inclusive and carried out as promised.
- Wrote a report to update the Nanegkam Housing Board of Directors on activities/actions taken in relation to Nanegkam, including the benefits of including some buildings/properties in the CMHC’s Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI) Phase 2, which provides rental supplements to not-for-profit housing corporations to ensure that they can continue to offer rent-geared-to-income housing to tenants.
- Joined the Coordinated Access System Governance Committee, as a “non-voting” member officially, but with the ability to raise points and influence decisions regarding issues such as the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), as well as funding allocation through such initiatives as the John Howard Society’s Prevention & Diversion pilot program.
- Liaised with various CMHC staff to learn about new funding programs and to ensure that eligibility and other requirements were met in any funding proposals submitted.
- Attended events organized by the City of Charlottetown aimed at addressing housing-related issues, including the “encampments” in various parts of the city (events included a Community Partners Workshop and a Community Forum on Homelessness).
- Attended the CMHA’s “Modular Housing Craning Event” in Alberton, networking with provincial officials, including the minister of housing, and with other staff at other community service organizations.
- Wrote a draft proposal for funding from the John Howard Society’s Prevention and Diversion pilot program.
- Wrote a draft proposal for funding from CMHC an emergency shelter for women and 2S people, with or without children, leaving gender-based violence (GBV) or domestic/intimate partner violence, along with a proposal for funding from Indigenous Services Canada for preliminary development costs.
- Drafted a response to the National Housing Council regarding their request for comments on the “Financialization of purpose-built rental housing.”

## Health and Wellness:

- Continued attending the Atlantic Summer Institute (ASI) Advisory Committee, including special workshops aimed at furthering the work in support of implementing mental health in all policy (MHiAP) in PEI; provided feedback in a focus group on the committee's progress; also contributed to an action plan toward creating knowledge products aimed at educating the public and government leaders in all jurisdictions on the importance of upstream investment in mental health for infants, children, and youth.
- Continued attending the Structured Decision Making (SDM) Steering Committee intermittently (when the other relevant policy analyst position was not filled), ensuring that off-reserve Indigenous peoples are considered in policy and other documents associated with the new SDM system, as well as in provincial child, youth, and family legislation; also attended the informal "conversation circles" with representatives from Child and Family Services and the Native Council, to keep track of work being done by the provincial division and to follow up as needed.
- Wrote a response to proposed revisions to the PEI Mental Health Act, pointing out ways in which the reinforcement of existing power structures may be harmful to Indigenous peoples.
- Drafted a proposal for the Wabanaki-Labrador Indigenous Health Research initiative, around providing and assessing culturally relevant/appropriate mental health supports for shelter clients.
- Met with external consultant working with Health PEI regarding the provincial prescription drug plan.
- Attended an information session on current research on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and an intro on provincial alcohol policy, hosted jointly by the Public Health Agency of Canada and Livewell PEI (a division of the chief public health office).
- Attended a Canada Revenue Agency webinar info session on how to take advantage of new federal housing and dental benefits and passed on media package to the marketing and promotions coordinator to share with the membership via social media.
- Assisted the Housing Development Officer with creating a "Policy and Procedures" document for the Summerside Men's Shelter and a "Terms of Reference" document for the Ad Hoc Shelter Committee; also attended committee meetings with HDO and Native Council senior management, as well as provincial government representatives, to address any issues related to the opening and operation of the shelter were addressed in a timely manner.
- Attended the first Provincial Alcohol Policy Forum, held virtually, to learn about gaps in existing provincial and federal legislation around the sale and distribution of alcohol, as well as advertising, etc.; the impacts of alcohol on health, including mental health; and the costs to the healthcare system.
- Attended webinars on housing and aspects of health and wellbeing on PEI, hosted by the provincial Green Party leader and Green MLAs.
- Attended the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples engagement session in Ottawa with select NCPEI delegates about medical assistance in dying (Maid) and palliative and end-of-life care (PEOLC). Subsequently, organized an engagement session for/with NCPEI

membership and wrote two reports to send to CAP based on the findings / “what we heard.”

- Organized a staff engagement session with a consulting group working with the province on improving cancer screening access for Indigenous peoples and improving screening rates for different types of cancer.
- Attended a virtual roundtable hosted by the federal government (Public Health Agency of Canada) on sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI), to inform them of the gaps around access to culturally safe/relevant STBBI screening, treatment, and related programming for off-reserve Indigenous peoples.
- Participated in Mental Health First Aid Training, through the Canadian Mental Health Association.
- Attended a “Master Class in Resilience” workshop offered through the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing.
- Attended the ASI Policy Forum in Charlottetown, including opening and closing keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, to learn more about upstream initiatives in infant, child, and youth mental health and to network.
- Provided feedback to various federal government departments, including Statistics Canada on their “Uniform Crime Reporting Survey,” to inform them of the need to consider how data collection excludes off-reserve Indigenous peoples and needs to be better disaggregated.
- Participated in a short engagement session/conversation with a representative from Health PEI regarding how the province could better provide culturally safe and appropriate care around MAID and PEOLC for off-reserve Indigenous peoples.
- Participated in an info-sharing engagement session with ISC around proposed Indigenous Health Legislation and drafted a 6-page response on a “Key Elements” overview document.
- Attended the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing’s Research Forum.

### **Economic Development:**

- Collaborated with the Housing Development Officer to submit a proposal for the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund, through Infrastructure Canada, to provide energy-efficiency retrofits and accessibility features to the Portage building.
- Attended virtual info sessions and networking events hosted by Public Service Procurement Canada, to get tips on how to get Indigenous businesses on the federal government’s procurement lists.
- Completed a draft proposal for the Community Services Resiliency Fund (though senior management later decided this proposal should go in a different direction).
- Attended a couple of information sessions about the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2) program at Holland College and passed on information about free courses to appropriate staff (mainly the environment team at Portage).
- Observed meetings of the Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) Parliamentary Standing Committee, on the topic of “Improving Graduation Rates” among Indigenous youth, to learn about potential gaps in education curricula and policy.

- Drafted a funding proposal for Indigenous Services Canada's Fiona Indigenous Community Response Fund, requesting substantial funding to help with Hurricane Fiona damage/repairs to Panmure Island Cultural Park and to members' properties.
- Drafted a funding proposal for Agriculture Canada's Local Food Infrastructure Fund, Phase 6 (the final phase) to request funds for small, raised-bed gardens for lower-income community members, to further build food security.
- Met with the founder of L'Nu Energy to brainstorm ideas and steps forward on applying for the Canada Greener Affordable Housing funding, through CMHC, toward doing energy efficiency assessments for Nanegkam.
- Attended a couple of information sessions presented as part of Education and Social Development Canada's Labour Program Open House.

### **Promotion and Outreach:**

- In SDM-related conversation circles, raised issues about aspects of federal and provincial child welfare legislation that excludes off-reserve Indigenous peoples and organizations; also offered feedback on a provincial training module about the federal "Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children," and as a result, the Native Council was included in a key aspect of the training as a go-to organization.
- Attended the Community Partners Workshop organized by Social Development and Housing, participating in various round-table discussions and raising awareness of the role of NCPEI in the housing area, as well as the particular needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples.
- Participated in ASI's Provincial Workshops for PEI, raising awareness of the presence and position of the Native Council's upstream family programming, and in the ASI Policy Forum at the end of August, participating in various workshops and networking events.
- Informed community service organizations and local government leaders, including the Mayor of Summerside, about the Kairos Blanket Exercise, providing them with the appropriate contact info for staff coordinating the event.
- Provided advice to Health PEI's Patient Experience Manager about the need for culturally appropriate healthcare services, including, but not limited to, access to smudging, an Indigenous cultural room in all hospitals, and transportation for those living off-reserve so they can get to medical appointments.
- Provided information about numerous opportunities (such as information sessions, provincial initiatives in health care, Indigenous artisan websites looking for new members, etc.) with the marketing and promotions coordinator, so he could share them with the membership on social media.

### **Future Activities:**

1. To continue assisting with funding applications, including the upcoming Canada Greener affordable Housing program through the CMHC (as noted above), and the next round of the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing's grant program, which will help ensure that the BIRCH program will continue potentially for another 2 years.

2. To incorporate the results of the next Community Mapping Survey and AGA resolutions into the Tripartite Workplan to ensure the rights and needs of NCPEI's members and constituents are addressed in all activities and outreach, particularly regarding the crossover between education and economic development.
3. To continue developing relationships with key stakeholders in the provincial government, to ensure that these relationships continue to improve for the benefit of NCPEI members and constituents.
4. To continue collaborating with NCPEI staff, not just those on the Policy Analyst Team but any others, toward meeting the organization's programming and other needs.
5. To continue seeking out other opportunities to codevelop and collaborate with all levels of government and with other community service organizations and non-governmental organizations, locally and nationally.
6. To continue to seek housing solutions that address the needs of off-reserve Indigenous peoples experiencing core housing need (i.e., that housing is affordable, adequate, and suitable).

## **Conclusion**

Key objectives of the Tripartite agreement will continue to be the focus of the Tripartite Policy Analyst position with the goal of providing maximum benefit to the membership, and as identified by membership in Community Mapping Surveys and Annual General Assembly resolutions. The Tripartite Policy Analyst will continue to work closely with the President and Chief and the Political Advisor, along with other members of the Policy team and the Funding Reporting Manager.

# **Winter Street Men's Shelter Annual General Assembly Report**

Roberta Cosgrove  
Shelter Manager  
May 2023 to October 2023

## **Introduction:**

The Winter Street Men's Shelter is a low-barrier shelter providing safe accommodations to Indigenous male-identifying adults aged 18 and older who are experiencing homelessness and/or in vulnerable living arrangements.

The shelter opened on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 and is staffed 24 hours, 7 days per week and focuses on using harm reduction and trauma-informed care approaches, with person-centered case management providing specialized support services for those experiencing addictions, mental health, and other challenges including navigation of housing supports, referrals, and needs assessment with a housing focus.

Housing is a basic human need and right. All persons deserve safe, secure, affordable, and well-maintained housing. The focus of shelter service delivery is to help guests find and maintain housing consistent with their service plans.

## **Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

Guests are required to work with their case manager and shelter staff to prepare for long-term housing solutions. Every day, shelter staff and housing outreach workers work with guests to support their needs, including access to a breadth of social, cultural and community supports through the Native Council's programming as well as access to education and employment supports. Shelter staff work closely with the guests to create goals and support the guest in achieving these goals.

The Native Council's outreach staff emphasize meeting clients where they are at, providing wrap-around and client-centred services across PEI, responding to emergency situations, and providing access to health, justice, housing, education and employment supports.

## **Promotion and Outreach:**

We have a wide outreach around Summerside and housing workers that come into the shelter weekly to chat with the guests to help them find housing.

## **Conclusion:**

Since opening, the shelter has been at capacity. We have been able to house four individuals. Being open for such a short period of time we are very proud of this and anticipate seeing many more.



**THE WAY FORWARD PROGRAM  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SKILLS STRATEGY (YESS)  
Annual General Assembly Report**

May 2023 to Sept 2023

**TAB 6**  
Dr. Rachel Hasan  
Program Facilitator

**Introduction:**

The Way Forward Program is a 30-hour weekly training program for Indigenous off-reserve youth ages 15-30. It is tailored to the needs of youth that are facing barriers to employment. Indigenous youth can face unique circumstances and the YESS program is designed to maximize opportunities for them, which includes culturally specific supports and services.

I joined the program in May 2023, and have facilitated two intakes until now. During this time, I organized guest sessions which were to facilitate the indigenous teachings aspect, as well as employment/career opportunities for the students. Sessions were also organized for students to give them an insight into the life skills required to live a successful and wholesome life. For this, the students were engaged in class activities as well as guest speaker sessions were held.

**Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:**

- To equip the Indigenous youth with life skills for effective integration into the society.
- To enlighten the students about skills required for employment.
- To bridge cultural gap for off-reserve Indigenous youth through engagement in cultural activities.

**Activities and Deliverables:**

**Personal development:**

- Communication skills
- Time management
- Self esteem
- Goal setting
- Building a support network
- Diversity rights
- Resume writing & cover letter
- Entrepreneurship and small business ownership
- Creative thinking skills – making an advertisement for your business
- Developing analytical skills through research
- Assertiveness
- Essential skills (workbook & class activities)
- Setting healthy boundaries and refusal skills
- Self care
- Preparing for interviews
- Career Fair 2023, Delta Hotel
- GED information by Holland College staff

**Lifestyle & health development:**

- Drumming
- Healthy eating habits
- Mi'kmaq language
- Painting
- Meal planning

**Community kitchen / indigenous culture:**

- Indian tacos, chicken casserole, stir fry vegetables
- Food prep
- 7 Grandfather teaching
- Beading
- Sacred medicines and herbal plants
- Medicine pouches
- Smudging
- Singing
- Fajitas
- Fringe earrings
- Medicine wheel
- Dream catchers

**First aid training & online courses:**

- Eforce training – WHMIS, improving personal productivity, food safety, MS Word, MS Power Point, MS Outlook, Customer service skills
- 2-day Standard first aid training by Island First Aid Services

**Promotion and Outreach:**

Various media were used to reach out to potential candidates for registration in the intakes. Write-up featured in Employment Journey to promote the program as it is accessible to third party users. Emails were sent to group homes for participation from the residents, and to the staff of NCPEI for referrals. Personal contacts were also used to connect with individuals working for various programs to recommend the participation in The Way Forward program.

**Program activities:**

- For personal development that would facilitate students in effective integration into the society, sessions were arranged with guest speakers, in person and online, presenting on and discussing various pre-decided topics, such as work habits, time management, self esteem, group work, team building and goal setting, to name a few. These also incorporated in-class activities and motivational videos to provide a wholesome experience for the students.
- For professional development, students were taught to write a cover letter and develop their resumes. Furthermore, they were required to take online courses such as MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and MS Office, that would add value to their resumes. Essentials Skills developed by the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, were introduced to the students, and practiced through dedicated exercises as designed in the workbook. Class assignments were incorporated to act as further extensions of the workbook for effective understanding and implementation. One student got work placement at a toy store, and one is in search of a job.
  - Online job search was carried out by the students, where they applied to numerous jobs.

- Students also attended the Career Fair, where they gave their resumes to prospective employers.
- Students were required to take mandatory courses / trainings such as WHMIS, Food Safety course and a 2-day Standard First Aid training.
- Courses such as Improving Personal Productivity, and Customer Service Skills were also incorporated to the program to facilitate the students' engagement at workplace.
- For cultural engagement, Elders and Knowledge keepers were invited to teach about the Indigenous culture to the students. This was done with the help of presentations, Indigenous cooking sessions, and crafts making. Moreover, the students also participated in the National Indigenous Peoples Day.

#### **Future Activities:**

- Standard first aid training for the current intake of students.
- Job search.
- Participation in job fairs if any in the coming months.
- Job placement for the current intake.
- Recruitment for the next intake.

#### **Conclusion:**

The program gives ample opportunities to the Indigenous youth to develop and learn skills that they would need in the job market. These skills will provide confidence when seeking employment.

TAB 6

Type text here

**NCPEI Constitution and By-Laws**  
**Proposed Amendments**



## NCPEI Constitution and By-Laws

(Last Amended November 2017)

Instructions: The left-side (odd number) pages reflect the current By-Laws as approved in November 2017. The right-side (even number) pages indicate the proposed amendments. Changes will be highlighted in yellow for ease of reference. Separation lines indicate a jump forward in the By-Laws to the next change.

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### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIVE COUNCIL

	<b>SECTION 6.</b> To foster and establish a relationship with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and other Aboriginal groups in dealing with the treaty rights and land claim issues which affect the <b>Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginals</b> of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
	<b>SECTION 8.</b> <b>To advocate and hold all levels of government accountable on behalf of the Mi'kmaq and all Aboriginals on Prince Edward Island for treaty rights and land claims.</b>

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### ARTICLE II – INTERPRETATION

<b>General</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>a) “Aboriginal” means the <b>indigenous people</b> of North America;</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>SECTION 2.</b> All words used herein which import number shall be read and considered with such changes of number as the context may require. All words used herein which import gender shall be read and considered with such changes of gender as the context may require. Furthermore, such wording shall include reference to <b>bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersexual, hermaphrodites, and other individuals.</b></p>
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# **Proposed NCPEI Constitution and By-Laws**

(Proposed Amendments for November 2023)

Note: Some changes to the By-Laws will result in changes to Section numbers. These changes will not be highlighted in yellow as they are simple updates rather than fundamental transformations. For this reason, the Section numbers may not match between the current and proposed By-Laws. Likewise, any Section in the By-Laws which makes references to another Section will be updated for the new numbers.

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## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIVE COUNCIL**

	<b>SECTION 6.</b> To foster and establish a relationship with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and other Aboriginal groups in dealing with the treaty rights and land claim issues which affect the <b>Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal Members</b> of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
	<b>SECTION 8.</b> <b>To consult and cooperate in good faith with all levels of government to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent of the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off-reserve in PEI.</b>

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## **ARTICLE II – INTERPRETATION**

<b>General</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <p>a) “Aboriginal” means the <b>Indigenous peoples</b> of North America;</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>SECTION 2.</b> All words used herein which import number shall be read and considered with such changes of number as the context may require. All words used herein which import gender shall be read and considered with such changes of gender as the context may require. Furthermore, such wording shall include reference to <b>2SLGBTQIA+</b> individuals.</p>
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### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP

<b>Classes of membership</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> There shall be the following membership classes in the Native Council: (1): Full Voting; (2) Youth; and (3) Honourary
<b>Full Voting</b>	<b>Subsection 2.1.</b> Full Voting membership shall be open to any adult (16 or over) who meets the requirements identified above in this article and has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. Each adult member shall have one vote.
<b>Youth</b>	<b>Subsection 2.2.</b> Youth membership shall be open to any minor between the ages of ten and twenty-nine who meets the requirements identified above in this article and has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. This membership may be applied for by the parent or legal guardian of any minor. Youth members may apply for full voting citizenship once they turn 16; they are not automatically adult members. Youth members aged thirteen and older are entitled to vote for their youth director but are not otherwise entitled to vote until they are full-voting members of the Native Council.
<b>Honourary</b>	<b>Subsection 2.3.</b> Honourary membership shall be open to any individual or organization which the majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors desires to recognize as supporting the Native Council, being sympathetic to the aims and objections of the Native Council, or otherwise warranting recognition. Honourary Membership does not entitle the holder to any vote.

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### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP

(There is no current process outlining how to withdraw membership from the Native Council.)

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### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP

<b>Classes of membership</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> There shall be the following membership classes in the Native Council: (1): Full Voting; (2) Youth; (3) Honourary; and (4) Dormant Membership.
<b>Full Voting</b>	<b>Subsection 2.1.</b> Full Voting membership shall be open to any adult (16 or over) who meets the requirements identified above in this article and has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. Each adult member shall have one vote, unless that member becomes a Dormant Member as provided herein.
<b>Youth</b>	<b>Subsection 2.2.</b> Youth membership shall be open to any minor under the age of sixteen who meets the requirements identified above in this article and has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. This membership may be applied for by the parent or legal guardian of any minor. Youth members will become full voting members once they turn 16; they do not need to apply. Youth members aged thirteen and older are entitled to vote for their youth director but are not otherwise entitled to vote until they are full-voting members of the Native Council.
<b>Honourary</b>	<b>Subsection 2.3.</b> Honourary membership shall be open to any individual or organization which the majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors desires to recognize as supporting the Native Council, being sympathetic to the aims and objections of the Native Council, or otherwise warranting recognition. Honourary Membership does not entitle the holder to any vote.
<b>Dormant Membership</b>	<b>Subsection 2.4.</b> A full voting member who physically moves off of Prince Edward Island or who physically moves to reside on-reserve shall be deemed a dormant member after physically living off of Prince Edward Island or on-reserve for a continuous period of six months. A dormant member shall be reinstated as a full voting member after physically moving back to residing off-reserve on Prince Edward Island for a continuous period of six months. A Dormant Member shall have no voting rights, cannot be elected as a Director, and cannot be appointed as an Officer.

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### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP

<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> A member may withdraw membership by document or email indicating their desire to resign and mailing it or emailing it to the Native Council Head Office. The withdrawal shall be effective immediately upon being received by the Native Council Head Office. Acceptance of the withdrawal shall not be required.
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ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The Native Council shall hold an annual meeting, to be known as the Annual General Assembly, once in every <b>calendar year</b> at such time and at such place as shall be determined by the decision of the majority (50% +1) of the Board of Directors for the purpose of transacting all such business as may be properly dealt with at the meeting, including the review of the previous year's annual meeting minutes, review of the report from the President and Chief, review of any report from program managers and/or staff, review of the audited financial statements, and so forth.
<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone along with the <b>youth group and the elder group</b> shall hold a meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 3 along with Article 7 Section 4.
<b>Notice of Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Annual General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the <b>elder and youth group</b> shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the Annual General Assembly on its website and on its <b>Facebook page</b> and do such other things to give notice of meetings.

ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> A quorum for any Annual General Assembly of the Native Council shall be <b>one-half (50%)</b> of the voting delegates <b>selected for such assembly.</b>
<b>Passing</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote.

#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The Native Council shall hold an annual meeting, to be known as the Annual General Assembly, once in every <b>fiscal year</b> at such time and at such place as shall be determined by the decision of the majority (50% +1) of the Board of Directors for the purpose of transacting all such business as may be properly dealt with at the meeting, including the review of the previous year's annual meeting minutes, review of the report from the President and Chief, <b>review of the reports from the Board of Directors</b> , review of any report from program managers and/or staff, review of the audited financial statements, <b>discussing and adopting resolutions</b> , and so forth.
<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone along with the <b>Youth Council and the Elder Council</b> shall hold a meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 3 along with Article 7 Section 4.
<b>Notice of Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Annual General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the <b>Elder and Youth Councils</b> shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the Annual General Assembly on its website and on its <b>social media pages</b> and do such other things to give notice of meetings.

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#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> A quorum for any Annual General Assembly of the Native Council shall be a <b>simple majority (50% +1)</b> of the voting delegates <b>selected for such assembly and present at the start of the Annual General Assembly. The minimum quorum for any Annual General Assembly shall not be fewer than twenty full voting members. For further certainty and ease of reference, see Appendix A.</b>
<b>Passing</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a <b>simple majority (50% + 1)</b> of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote. <b>For further certainty and ease of reference, see Appendix A.</b>

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#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> A Chairperson shall be nominated or selected by the voting delegates from those individuals present at the Annual General Assembly. No voting or alternative delegates shall be eligible to be Chairperson; the Chairperson shall be chosen from the other individuals present; the individual need not be a Member of the Native Council. The majority (50% + 1) vote of the voting delegates present shall determine the Chairperson.
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#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(There is no current process outlining how to conduct an Annual General Assembly by electronic means.)

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#### ARTICLE V – SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Each zone along with the youth group and the elder group shall hold a meeting prior to the Special General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 4 along with Article 7 Section 5.
<b>Notice of Special General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Special General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the elder and youth group shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the Special General Assembly on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of meetings.

#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Chairpersons</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> Chairperson(s) shall be nominated by the voting delegates from those individuals present at the Annual General Assembly; the individual(s) need not be a Member of the Native Council. The Chairperson(s) may be voting delegates of the Annual General Assembly. In such cases, the Chairperson(s) must step down from chairing for any motions in which they intend to speak or vote on. In addition, any Chairperson(s) entitled to vote shall always be eligible to vote in secret ballot votes, including for elections, but must still step down from chairing to speak on the motion. The majority (50% + 1) vote of the voting delegates present shall determine the Chairperson.
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#### ARTICLE IV – ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Electronic Meeting</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> The Annual General Assembly may be held by video or electronic means in extenuating circumstances upon advance approval of the Board of Directors which shall not be carried without the affirmative vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%). The exact means of the meeting shall be further specified by the Board of Directors as appropriate in the circumstances. The Board may specify that such electronic meeting may be one time only or continue for further meetings. Extenuating circumstances shall include but not be limited to: pandemic, health crisis, natural disaster such as flood or storm, or other unforeseen circumstances which are uncontrollable in operation.
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#### ARTICLE V – SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Each zone along with the Youth Council and Elder Council shall hold a meeting prior to the Special General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 4 along with Article 7 Section 5.
<b>Notice of Special General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Special General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the Elder and Youth Councils shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.  The Native Council may also post a notice of the Special General Assembly on its website and on its social media pages and do such other things to give notice of meetings.

ARTICLE V – SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (cont.)

<b>Members to Provide Contact Details</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> Each member shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current mailing and email address. It shall be the responsibility of each member to contact the Native Council in writing by letter or email to update his or her current mailing and email address; failure to do so shall not be an excuse or invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or returned mail.
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any voting delegate who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall be noted in the minutes.
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> A quorum for any Special General Assembly of the Native Council shall be one-half (50%) of the voting delegates selected for such Assembly.
<b>Passing</b>	<b>SECTION 8.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote.
<b>Voting for President Position</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> If a vote is taken for the position of President and Chief (if the position is vacant), the voting shall be by secret ballot.
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>SECTION 10.</b> A Chairperson shall be nominated or selected by the voting delegates from those adult individuals present at the Special General Assembly. No voting or alternative delegates shall be eligible to be Chairperson; the Chairperson shall be chosen from the other individuals present; the individual need not be a member of the Native Council. The majority (50% + 1) vote of the voting delegates present shall determine the Chairperson.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> The voting delegates shall not vote by proxy; no proxy or agent voting shall be permitted. Only those voting delegates (or alternative voting delegates if applicable) present and eligible to vote shall vote.

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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES

<b>Two Board members for each Zone</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone shall elect two Board members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Native Council.
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ARTICLE V – SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (cont.)

<b>Same provisions as Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> The same provisions included in Article IV, Sections 4 to 11 inclusive, shall apply to a Special General Assembly as they would for an Annual General Assembly.
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(Note: This includes the amended changes for Quorum, Chairpersons, and Electronic Meetings.)

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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES

<b>Two Board members for each Zone</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone shall elect two Board members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Native Council. These Board members may be referred to as “zone directors” for the Zone which they are elected from.
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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES (cont.)

<b>Annual Zone Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Each zone shall hold an Annual Zone Meeting at least twenty days prior to the date of the Annual General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Annual General Assembly and for the purpose of electing zone Directors (if a vacancy exists) and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Annual General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Zone Meetings Prior to Special Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Each zone shall hold a meeting at least ten days prior to the date of the Special General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Special General Assembly and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Special General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Notice of Meeting - Method</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i> The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.

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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES

<b>Directors to Hold Other Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 17.</b> The zone directors in each zone shall call for, chair, and hold a minimum of three meetings annually (the Annual General Assembly shall be considered one), for the purposes of discussing current issues and events and business of the Native Council.  Notice for these meetings shall be given to each Member within the zone and minutes shall be kept and provided to the Native Council. Notice may be given as above in this article, or the Board of Directors may by resolution of the majority (50% +1) chose to vary the notice requirements for these meetings from time to time including not providing email or mailed notice but instead posting a notice on the Native Council’s website. However, at an absolute minimum, notice indicating the time and place of the meeting must be posted on the Native Council’s website at least seven days prior to the meeting (though the Board of Directors may choose to give further notice). For further certainty, the notice requirements in this article above for the meetings prior to the Annual General Assembly and the Special General Assembly cannot be varied or modified.
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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES (cont.)

<b>Annual Zone Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> The zone directors in each zone shall hold an Annual Zone Meeting at least twenty days prior to the date of the Annual General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Annual General Assembly and for the purpose of electing zone Directors (if a vacancy exists) and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Annual General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Zone Meetings Prior to Special Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> The zone directors in each zone shall hold a meeting at least ten days prior to the date of the Special General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Special General Assembly and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Special General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Notice of Meeting - Method</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i>  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its social media pages and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.

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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES

<b>Directors to Hold Other Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 17.</b> The zone directors in each zone shall call for, chair, and hold a minimum of four meetings in each fiscal year (the Annual General Assembly shall be considered one), for the purposes of discussing current issues and events and business of the Native Council.  Notice for these meetings shall be given to each Member within the zone and minutes shall be kept and provided to the Native Council within 2 weeks of the zone meeting. Notice may be given as above in this article, or the Board of Directors may by resolution of the majority (50% +1) chose to vary the notice requirements for these meetings from time to time including not providing email or mailed notice but instead posting a notice on the Native Council's website or social media pages. However, at an absolute minimum, notice indicating the time and place of the meeting must be posted online at least seven days prior to the meeting (though the Board of Directors may choose to give further notice). For further certainty, the notice requirements in this article above for the meetings prior to the Annual General Assembly and the Special General Assembly cannot be varied or modified.
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ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES (cont.)

(There is no current process outlining how to conduct a Zone meeting by electronic means.)

(There is no current process outlining how to conduct a Zone meeting by electronic means.)

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ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

<b>Elder Group and Youth Group</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> In addition to the three zones, there shall be an elder and a youth group. Each of these two groups shall elect one Board member.
<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> All members of the Native Council between the ages of ten and twenty-nine shall be automatically part of the youth group. Youth members aged thirteen and older shall be eligible to vote for Youth Director. For further clarity, until they are full voting members of the Native Council, they shall have no other voting powers.
<b>Elder Group</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> All members aged fifty-five years of age and over shall be automatically part of the elder group.

ARTICLE VI – ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES (cont.)

<b>Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Delegates</b>	<p><b>SECTION 18.</b> The President &amp; Chief shall be responsible for selecting the delegates and alternates for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly. The President &amp; Chief shall first select delegates and alternates from the Directors in office before selecting other names.</p> <p>Each Director shall gather the names of alternates at their respective meetings held prior to the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly and provide these names to the Native Council Head Office by the deadline specified during the callout. All names for delegates and alternates must be members of Aboriginal ancestry. The President &amp; Chief may also post on the Native Council website and social media pages to gather additional names.</p> <p>If a Director is unable to attend the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly, they shall be entitled to appoint an alternate of their choosing from their respective Zone or Council. Notwithstanding, the President &amp; Chief shall have authority to select other names to fill any vacancies as needed to ensure a full delegation is able to participate.</p>
<b>Electronic Meeting</b>	<p><b>SECTION 19.</b> A Zone meeting may be held by video or electronic means in extenuating circumstances upon advance approval of the Board of Directors which shall not be carried without the affirmative vote of <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%). The exact means of the meeting shall be further specified by the Board of Directors as appropriate in the circumstances. The Board may specify that such electronic meeting may be one time only or continue for further meetings. Extenuating circumstances shall include but not be limited to: pandemic, health crisis, natural disaster such as flood or storm, or other unforeseen circumstances which are uncontrollable in operation.</p>

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ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

<b>Elder Council and Youth Council</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> In addition to the three zones, there shall be an Elder Council and a Youth Council. Each of these two groups shall elect one Board member, who may be referred to as “Youth director” and “Elder director,” respectively.</p>
<b>Youth Council</b>	<p><b>SECTION 2.</b> Any Aboriginal youth between the ages of ten and twenty-nine shall be automatically part of the Youth Council. Aboriginal youth aged thirteen to twenty-nine shall be eligible to vote for Youth Director. For further clarity, until they are full voting members of the Native Council, they shall have no other voting powers.</p>
<b>Elder Council</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> All members aged fifty-five years of age and over shall be automatically part of the Elder Council.</p>

**Note: All other references to youth or elder groups in later Sections of Article VII are updated to Youth Council and Elder Council, respectively. This includes Sections 4, 5, 10, 11, and 14.**

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## ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

<b>Notice of Meeting - Method</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i>  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.
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## ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

(There is no current process outlining how to conduct a Youth Council or Elder Council meeting by electronic means.)

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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Any Member of the Native Council shall be eligible to be elected as a director so long as they are:  (a) An individual who is eighteen years or age or older; (b) Not an individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada; (c) Not an individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the <i>Bankruptcy Act</i> of Canada as amended and successor statutes; and (d) Otherwise, eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws.  <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i>
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## ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

<b>Notice of Meeting - Method</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i>  The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its <b>social media pages</b> and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.
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## ARTICLE VII – ELDERS AND YOUTH

<b>Electronic Meeting</b>	<b>SECTION 18.</b> A Youth Council or Elder Council meeting may be held by video or electronic means in extenuating circumstances upon advance approval of the Board of Directors which shall not be carried without the affirmative vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%). The exact means of the meeting shall be further specified by the Board of Directors as appropriate in the circumstances. The Board may specify that such electronic meeting may be one time only or continue for further meetings. Extenuating circumstances shall include but not be limited to: pandemic, health crisis, natural disaster such as flood or storm, or other unforeseen circumstances which are uncontrollable in operation.
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Any Member of the Native Council shall be eligible to be elected as a director so long as they are:  (a) An individual who is eighteen years or age or older; (b) Not an individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada; (c) Not an individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the Bankruptcy Act of Canada as amended and successor statutes; and (d) The individual has been a full voting Member for at least one year prior to the date of their election; (e) The individual must be of Aboriginal ancestry; (f) Otherwise eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws.  <i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i>
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#### ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)

<b>Automatically Ceases to be Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> Any director automatically ceases to be a director if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) An individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada or by two medical practitioners;</li><li>(b) An individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the Bankruptcy Act of Canada as amended and successor statutes;</li><li>(c) They die;</li><li>(d) They resign as further set out below;</li><li>(e) They fail to obtain a criminal record and vulnerable sector check and provide it to the Native Council within Sixty (60) days of his or her appointment or election to the Board of Directors.</li></ul> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
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#### ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<p><b>SECTION 5.</b> The President and Chief may call Board meetings as he or she may determine but no fewer than four board meetings shall be held in each calendar year. The meetings shall be held at such time and such place as the majority (50% + 1) of the Directors may determine from time to time.</p>
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#### ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Resolution Without Meeting</b>	<p><b>SECTION 10.</b> Any action which could be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if a written resolution of the majority (50%+1) setting forth the action so taken is signed by the Directors along with a waiver of notice. This provision shall not apply with regard to meetings for the removal of a director, the appointment of a director, or the amendment or change in any way of the Constitution and By-laws.</p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)

<b>Automatically Ceases to be Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> Any director automatically ceases to be a director if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) An individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada or by two medical practitioners;</li><li>(b) An individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the Bankruptcy Act of Canada as amended and successor statutes;</li><li>(c) They die;</li><li>(d) They resign as further set out below;</li><li>(e) They are absent for four consecutive meetings of the Board;</li><li>(f) They fail to obtain a criminal record and vulnerable sector check and provide it to the Native Council within Sixty (60) days of his or her appointment or election to the Board of Directors.</li><li>(g) They have a previous criminal or summary conviction, or has been convicted since appointment or election of a criminal or summary conviction, which is relevant or related to the position of director and / or is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council (a conviction for the purposes herein includes a guilty plea and includes an absolute or conditional discharge);</li></ul> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<p><b>SECTION 5.</b> The President and Chief may call Board meetings as he or she may determine but no fewer than four board meetings shall be held in each <b>fiscal year</b>.</p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Resolution Without Meeting</b>	<p><b>SECTION 10.</b> Any action which could be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if a written resolution of the majority (50%+1) setting forth the action so taken is signed by the Directors along with a waiver of notice. <b>For further clarity, a resolution by email and/or an email confirming a Director's intent to sign or approve the resolution shall be considered binding and the equivalent of a written and signed resolution.</b> This provision shall not apply with regard to meetings for the removal <b>or suspension</b> of a director, the appointment <b>or reinstatement</b> of a director, or the amendment or change in any way of the Constitution and By-laws.</p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 12.</b> A simple majority (50% +1) of the Directors then sitting in office shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided herein for certain decisions. For further certainty and ease of reference:	
	<b>Sitting Directors</b>	<b>Number needed for meeting</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Compensation</b>	<b>SECTION 16.</b> Other than the <b>Chief and President</b> , Directors shall not receive any stated salaries or payments for their services. Directors may if approved by the majority (50%+1) of the board from time to time, receive travel expenses fixed at the same rates as set by the Treasury Board of Canada.
<b>No Loan</b>	<b>SECTION 17.</b> The Native Council shall not loan money to any Director or Member.
<b>Not Eligible to Apply for Positions</b>	<b>SECTION 18.</b> No Director of the Native Council shall <b>not</b> accept a paid or salaried position unless he or she first resigns from the Board. For clarity, nothing shall prevent a current Board member for running for the position of President and Chief.
<b>Resignation</b>	<b>SECTION 19.</b> A Director may resign by <b>signing a letter or document</b> indicating their desire to resign and mailing it or emailing it to the Native Council or any Director of the Native Council. The resignation shall be effective immediately upon being received by any Director or the President and Chief or at the Native Council Head Office. Acceptance of the resignation by the Board of Directors shall not be required.



## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 12.</b> A simple majority (50% +1) of the Directors then sitting in office shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided herein for certain decisions. For further certainty and ease of reference, see Appendix A.
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**Note: All other tables specifying the required number of sitting directors, directors needed for meetings, or director votes needed to pass a motion are removed from Article VIII and included in a newly added Appendix A at the end of the By-Laws. This includes tables in Sections 13, 20, and 22, as well as Article XII, Section 2. These sections will be amended to refer to Appendix A.**

**Note: The table in Article VIII, Section 22 incorrectly states that 75% of eight is seven instead of six. This mathematical error will be fixed as part of this amendment.**

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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Compensation</b>	<b>SECTION 16.</b> Other than the President and Chief, Directors shall not receive any stated salaries or payments for their services. Directors may if approved by the majority (50%+1) of the board from time to time, receive travel expenses, per diems, and other eligible reimbursements fixed at the same rates as set by the Treasury Board of Canada.
<b>No Loan</b>	<b>SECTION 17.</b> The Native Council shall not loan money to any Director or Member. This provision shall not apply to a Member who is also an employee and requesting an advance on their employee pay, subject to the Financial Policies of the Native Council.
<b>Not Eligible to Apply for Positions</b>	<b>SECTION 18.</b> No Director of the Native Council shall accept a paid or salaried position unless he or she first resigns from the Board. For clarity, nothing shall prevent a current Board member for running for the position of President and Chief.
<b>Resignation</b>	<b>SECTION 19.</b> A Director may resign by signed document or by email indicating their desire to resign and mailing it or emailing it to the Native Council or any Director of the Native Council. The resignation shall be effective immediately upon being received by any Director or the President and Chief or at the Native Council Head Office. Acceptance of the resignation by the Board of Directors shall not be required.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)

<b>Removal of Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 20.</b> The Board may remove a Director (including the President and Chief) who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) ceases to qualify as a director due to mental incompetency or bankruptcy or death as further provided above in this Article;</li><li>b) ceases to qualify as a director due to resignation as further provided above in this Article;</li><li>c) fails to provide a criminal record and vulnerable sector check and provide same to the Native Council within sixty days of appointment or election;</li><li>d) has a previous criminal or summary conviction, or has been convicted since appointment or election of a criminal or summary conviction, which is relevant or related to the position of director and / or is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council (a conviction for the purposes herein includes a guilty plea and includes an absolute or conditional discharge);</li><li>e) is absent for more than four consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors;</li><li>f) suffers from an illness or disease rendering the Director incapable of exercising the duties of a Director;</li><li>g) puts himself or herself in a conflict of interest or breaches the Native Council Constitution and By-laws, Policies, Code of Conduct, and any other rules that may apply in such a manner that is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council;</li><li>h) is incompetent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular);</li><li>i) is negligent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular); or</li><li>j) fails to render proper reports of workings such as the financial statements of the organization, project reports, and so forth when expected to do so or when requested by the majority of the Board of Directors (the Chief in particular).</li></ul> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
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(There is no current process outlining how to suspend a Board of Director.)

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ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)

<b>Removal of Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 20.</b> The Board may remove a Director (including the President and Chief) who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) ceases to qualify as a director due to mental incompetency or bankruptcy or death as further provided above in this Article;</li><li>b) ceases to qualify as a director due to resignation as further provided above in this Article;</li><li>c) suffers from an illness or disease rendering the Director incapable of exercising the duties of a Director;</li><li>d) puts himself or herself in a conflict of interest or breaches the Native Council Constitution and By-laws, Policies, Code of Conduct, and any other rules that may apply in such a manner that is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council;</li><li>e) is incompetent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular);</li><li>f) is negligent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular); or</li><li>g) fails to render proper reports of workings such as the financial statements of the organization, project reports, and so forth when expected to do so or when requested by the majority of the Board of Directors (the Chief in particular).</li></ul> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
<b>Suspension of Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 21.</b> The Board may suspend a Director (including the President and Chief) who meets any of the criteria listed in Section 20, or for extenuating and justifiable circumstances not included in Section 20. A Director who is suspended loses all rights and obligations as a Director until they are reinstated.</p> <p>All of the relevant sections in this article and in Section 20 for meetings shall apply for any meeting to suspend or reinstate a Director. A motion to suspend a director shall indicate the minimum duration of the suspension and/or any conditions for the Director to be considered for reinstatement. For further clarity, the Director is not automatically reinstated at the end of the duration or upon fulfilling the conditions of their suspension until a vote for reinstatement is passed by the other Directors.</p>

## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Vacancy on Board</b>	<p><b>SECTION 22.</b> In the event of any vacancy on the Board, the Directors then in office have the power to fill any vacancy by appointment. The Director so appointed shall hold office until the next applicable annual meeting just prior to the Annual General Assembly.</p> <p>All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications:</p> <p>(1) A director(s) cannot be removed and a new director(s) appointed at the same meeting;</p> <p>(2) Any three directors may together call the meeting (which may or may not include the President and Chief as one) and set the time and place of the meeting;</p> <p>(3) The notice shall be sent same as specified above in this article but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the consideration of whether someone should be appointed as a director of the Native Council and the notice shall also set out the names of not fewer than three proposed individuals who may be appointed and the notice period shall be seven days;</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
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## ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Term if Elected at Annual General Assembly</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> If the President and Chief is elected at an Annual General Assembly, the President and Chief shall serve until the fourth Annual General Assembly following his or her election, or until he or she is no longer a Director in accordance with these bylaws. The President and Chief shall be eligible for re-election.</p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Vacancy on Board</b>	<p><b>SECTION 22.</b> In the event of any vacancy on the Board, the Directors then in office have the power to fill any vacancy by appointment. The Director so appointed shall hold office until the next applicable annual meeting just prior to the Annual General Assembly.</p> <p>All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications:</p> <p>(1) A director(s) cannot be removed and a new director(s) appointed at the same meeting;</p> <p>(2) The President and Chief or any two other directors may together call the meeting and set the time and place of the meeting;</p> <p>(3) The notice shall be sent same as specified above in this article but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the consideration of whether someone should be appointed as a director of the Native Council and the notice shall also set out the name(s) of proposed individual(s) who may be appointed and the notice period shall be seven days. Any Director may propose the name(s) of other individual(s) for consideration up to three days prior to the meeting. No other names shall be accepted after this, including at the meeting;</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>(Note: Unchanged wording removed for length...)</i></p>
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## ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Term if Elected at Annual General Assembly</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> If the President and Chief is elected at an Annual General Assembly, the President and Chief shall serve until the Annual General Assembly in their fourth year in office following his or her election, or until he or she is no longer a Director in accordance with these bylaws. The President and Chief shall be eligible for re-election.</p>
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## ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Congress of Aboriginal Peoples</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> The individual elected as President and Chief shall be elected on the floor of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples AGA to be on the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. In the event that the President and Chief cannot attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the President and Chief shall select an alternate from the Board of Directors who shall attend such meeting in place and instead of the President and Chief and on behalf of the Council.
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## ARTICLE XI – GENERAL

(There is no current process outlining who is responsible for appointing legal counsel.)

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(There is no current Appendix in the By-Laws.)

## ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Director</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> The individual elected as President and Chief shall be elected on the floor of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples AGA to be on the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. In the event that the President and Chief cannot attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the President and Chief <b>may select</b> an alternate from the Board of Directors who shall attend such meeting in place and instead of the President and Chief and on behalf of the Council.
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## ARTICLE XI – GENERAL

<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> The Board of Directors, from time to time, shall appoint legal counsel on behalf of the Council by a simple majority (50% +1) vote.
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## **APPENDIX “A”: EASE OF REFERENCE FOR ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER NUMBERS**

<b>Sitting Directors / Directors Present</b>	<b>Number needed for meeting / To Pass by Simple Majority</b>	<b>Number needed for meeting / To Pass by 75% Majority</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>General Assembly Delegates</b>	<b>Number needed for Simple Majority (50% +1) Quorum / To Pass</b>
<b>60</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>29</b>

TAB 7



## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

### **NATIVE COUNCIL OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

THE NAME OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE: **THE NATIVE COUNCIL OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIVE COUNCIL**

	<b>SECTION 1.</b> To aid and assist all off-reserve people of Aboriginal ancestry in Prince Edward Island for the purpose of advancing their general living conditions and achieving a level of self-determination.
	<b>SECTION 2.</b> To work with all levels of government, public and private agencies, and private industry to improve social, educational and employment opportunities for off-reserve Aboriginal peoples of Prince Edward Island.
	<b>SECTION 3.</b> To foster and strengthen Aboriginal languages, cultural identity, traditional practices and pride among Aboriginal peoples of Prince Edward Island.
	<b>SECTION 4.</b> To inform the general public of the special needs of the off-reserve Aboriginal peoples of Prince Edward Island and of their efforts to achieve full participation in self-determination and in the economic, social and political life of the province.
	<b>SECTION 5.</b> To co-operate with all other Aboriginal organizations whose aims are similar to those of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island;
	<b>SECTION 6.</b> To foster and establish a relationship with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and other Aboriginal groups in dealing with the treaty rights and land claim issues which affect the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginals of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
	<b>SECTION 7.</b> To assist and give a collective voice to the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off reserve in Prince Edward Island;
	<b>SECTION 8.</b> To advocate and hold all levels of government accountable on behalf of the Mi'kmaq and all Aboriginals on Prince Edward Island for treaty rights and land claims.
	<b>SECTION 9.</b> To provide resources and a community setting for the Mi'kmaq and all Aboriginals on Prince Edward Island (off-reserve) in exercising traditional rights, customs and practices.
	<b>SECTION 10.</b> To advocate on behalf of and to give a collective voice to the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off reserve in Prince Edward Island, including bringing court proceedings on their behalf.

**ARTICLE NO. I**  
**HEAD OFFICE**

<b>Head Office</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The head office of the Native Council shall be in Charlottetown, in Queens County, Province of Prince Edward Island.
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**ARTICLE NO. II**  
**INTERPRETATION**

<b>General</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) “Aboriginal” means the indigenous people of North America;</li><li>b) “Act” means the <i>Companies Act</i>, RSPEI 1988, Cap. C-14, as amended, from time to time and at any time, and any other Act enacted in substitution or replaced of such Act;</li><li>c) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Native Council;</li><li>d) “Council” or “Native Council” means the Native Council of Prince Edward Island; the body corporate originally constituted as the P.E.I. Association of Métis and Non -Status Indians by Letters Patent dated May 22, 1975, together with any Supplementary Letters Patent granted and issued subsequent to such date;</li></ul> <p><b>SECTION 2.</b> All words used herein which import number shall be read and considered with such changes of number as the context may require. All words used herein which import gender shall be read and considered with such changes of gender as the context may require. Furthermore, such wording shall include reference to bisexual, transsexual, transgender, intersexual, hermaphrodites, and other individuals.</p> <p><b>SECTION 3.</b> Article and section headings contained herein are included solely for convenience and are not intended to be full or accurate descriptions of the content of any article or section.</p>
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**ARTICLE NO. III**  
**MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP**

<b>Eligibility for Membership</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> Membership in the Native Council is open to anyone who is of Aboriginal ancestry, self-identifies as being of Aboriginal ancestry and acceptance in the Aboriginal community, and is a permanent resident of Prince Edward Island who does not reside on an Indian Reserve (within the meaning of the <i>Indian Act</i> of Canada). Further meaning is given below in subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4.</p>
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<b>Aboriginal Ancestry</b>	<p><b>Subsection 1.1</b> Aboriginal ancestry means proof that an individual had an ancestor who belonged to a historic Aboriginal community. The prospective member must provide satisfactory evidence to the Native Council of Aboriginal ancestry by providing not less than three of the following four which are credible and acceptable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) A birth, baptism, marriage or death record issued by a church or government;</li> <li>(2) An official government document such as a census record, a court record (including probated or filed wills) or a land registry document;</li> <li>(3) A written statement of a historian or a registered genealogist;</li> <li>(4) Such other evidence in written or verbal form provided that it is coupled with other documentation, which the Board of Directors deems credible and acceptable.</li> </ol>
<b>Self-Identification and participation</b>	<p><b>Subsection 1.2.</b> The prospective member must self-identify as a member of an Aboriginal community; the member must hold himself or herself out and believe or consider he or she is an Aboriginal. The prospective member should be proud of his or her Aboriginal ancestry and openly identify himself or herself as being of Aboriginal ancestry.</p> <p>The prospective member may also demonstrate past and ongoing participation in the shared culture and the customs and traditions that constitute the Aboriginal community and distinguish it. This may include participation in community activities and events and participation in and connection to the community and culture, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Aboriginal community.</p>
<b>Permanent Resident</b>	<p><b>Subsection 1.3.</b> Permanent resident of Prince Edward Island means an individual who has physically lived within the Province of Prince Edward Island for a continuous period of at least six months at the time of application.</p>
<b>Form and Information</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.4.</b> The prospective member must complete any prescribed form and submit all required documentation to the Native Council. The majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors may prescribe any form and any required documentation from time to time, in furtherance of the eligibility criteria in this Article.</p>
<b>Classes of membership</b>	<p><b>SECTION 2.</b> There shall be the following membership classes in the Native Council: (1): Full Voting; (2) Youth; and (3) Honourary.</p>
<b>Full Voting</b>	<p><b>Subsection 2.1.</b> Full Voting membership shall be open to any adult (16 or over) who meets the requirements identified above in this article and</p>

	has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. Each adult member shall have one vote.
<b>Youth</b>	<b>Subsection 2.2.</b> Youth membership shall be open to any minor between the ages of ten and twenty-nine who meets the requirements identified above in this article and has been accepted as a member of the Native Council by the Board of Directors. This membership may be applied for by the parent or legal guardian of any minor. Youth members may apply for full voting citizenship once they turn 16; they are not automatically adult members. Youth members aged thirteen and older are entitled to vote for their youth director but are not otherwise entitled to vote until they are full-voting members of the Native Council.
<b>Honourary</b>	<b>Subsection 2.3.</b> Honourary membership shall be open to any individual or organization which the majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors desires to recognize as supporting the Native Council, being sympathetic to the aims and objections of the Native Council, or otherwise warranting recognition. Honourary Membership does not entitle the holder to any vote.
<b>Membership decision</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> The majority (50% + 1) decision of the Board of Directors shall determine whether or not a prospective member shall be accepted as a member of the Native Council.</p> <p>The decision of the Board of Directors shall be communicated to the prospective member by letter, email, phone, or other means in a reasonable timely manner.</p>
<b>Membership dispute: appeal</b>	<p><b>SECTION 4.</b> Any individual who is not accepted as a member of the Native Council may provide a letter or written submissions only of not more than five pages in totality indicating why he or she believe he or she should be accepted as a member. If youth membership is an issue the letter or submissions may be provided by the parent or guardian.</p> <p>The Board of Directors <i>may</i> review the letter or documented submissions and have a further vote at a later meeting (within six months) but nothing shall require the Board to accept that individual as a member or hear from that individual in person. The decision of the majority (50% +1) of the Board of Directors shall be binding and final for that application. If circumstances change and new information can be provided, a new application can be submitted.</p>

**ARTICLE NO. IV**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

<b>Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The Native Council shall hold an annual meeting, to be known as the Annual General Assembly, once in every calendar year at such time and at such place as shall be determined by the decision of the majority (50% +1) of the Board of Directors for the purpose of transacting all such business as may be properly dealt with at the meeting, including the review of the previous year's annual meeting minutes, review of the report from the President and Chief, review of any report from program managers and/or staff, review of the audited financial statements, and so forth.
<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone along with the youth group and the elder group shall hold a meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 3 along with Article 7 Section 4.
<b>Notice of Annual General Assembly</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Annual General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the elder and youth group shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.</p> <p>The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the Annual General Assembly on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of meetings.</p>
<b>Members to Provide Contact Details</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Each member shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current mailing and email address. It shall be the responsibility of each member to contact the Native Council in writing by letter or email to update his or her current mailing and email address; failure to do so shall not be an excuse or invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or returned mail.
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any person who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall

	be noted in the minutes.
<b>Quorum</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> A quorum for any Annual General Assembly of the Native Council shall be one-half (50%) of the voting delegates selected for such assembly.
<b>Passing</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote.
<b>Voting for President Position</b>	<b>SECTION 8.</b> If a vote is taken for the position of President and Chief (if the position is vacant), the voting shall be by secret ballot.
<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> A Chairperson shall be nominated or selected by the voting delegates from those individuals present at the Annual General Assembly. No voting or alternative delegates shall be eligible to be Chairperson; the Chairperson shall be chosen from the other individuals present; the individual need not be a Member of the Native Council. The majority (50% + 1) vote of the voting delegates present shall determine the Chairperson.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 10.</b> The voting delegates shall not vote by proxy; no proxy or agent voting shall be permitted. Only those voting delegates (or alternative voting delegates if applicable) present and eligible to vote shall vote.

**ARTICLE NO. V**  
**SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

<b>Special General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> Any three members of the Board of Directors may together (which may or may not include the President and Chief as one) call a special meeting of the members to be known as a Special General Assembly for the purpose of transacting special business such as the election of a new President and Chief (if the position has become vacant) and other special situations that may arise.
<b>President and Chief Vacancy</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Upon a vacancy in the position of President and Chief, the Board of Directors shall immediately call a Special General Assembly so that a new President and Chief may be elected.
<b>Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Each zone along with the youth group and the elder group shall hold a meeting prior to the Special General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 4 along with Article 7 Section 5.

<b>Notice of Special General Assembly</b>	<p><b>SECTION 4.</b> Notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the Special General Assembly at the same time as the notice under Article 6 Section 5 and 6 along with Article 7 Section 6 and 7. For further clarity, the notice for the zones shall state the time and place of the zone meetings and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The notice for the elder and youth group shall state the time and place of the elder and youth meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.</p> <p>The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the Special General Assembly on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of meetings.</p>
<b>Members to Provide Contact Details</b>	<p><b>SECTION 5.</b> Each member shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current mailing and email address. It shall be the responsibility of each member to contact the Native Council in writing by letter or email to update his or her current mailing and email address; failure to do so shall not be an excuse or invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or returned mail.</p>
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<p><b>SECTION 6.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any voting delegate who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall be noted in the minutes.</p>
<b>Quorum</b>	<p><b>SECTION 7.</b> A quorum for any Special General Assembly of the Native Council shall be one-half (50%) of the voting delegates selected for such Assembly.</p>
<b>Passing</b>	<p><b>SECTION 8.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote.</p>
<b>Voting for President Position</b>	<p><b>SECTION 9.</b> If a vote is taken for the position of President and Chief (if the position is vacant), the voting shall be by secret ballot.</p>
<b>Chairperson</b>	<p><b>SECTION 10.</b> A Chairperson shall be nominated or selected by the voting delegates from those adult individuals present at the Special General Assembly. No voting or alternative delegates shall be eligible to be Chairperson; the Chairperson shall be chosen from the other individuals present; the individual need not be a member of the Native</p>

	Council. The majority (50% + 1) vote of the voting delegates present shall determine the Chairperson.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> The voting delegates shall not vote by proxy; no proxy or agent voting shall be permitted. Only those voting delegates (or alternative voting delegates if applicable) present and eligible to vote shall vote.

## **ARTICLE NO. VI**

### **ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES**

<b>Three zones</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> There shall be three territories called “Zones” which shall be based on the Counties of Prince Edward Island: Zone 1 - Prince County; Zone 2 - Queens County, and Zone 3 - Kings County.
<b>Two Board members for each Zone</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Each zone shall elect two Board members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Native Council.
<b>Annual Zone Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> Each zone shall hold an Annual Zone Meeting at least twenty days prior to the date of the Annual General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Annual General Assembly and for the purpose of electing zone Directors (if a vacancy exists) and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Annual General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Zone Meetings Prior to Special Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Each zone shall hold a meeting at least ten days prior to the date of the Special General Assembly for the purpose of selecting voting delegates and alternative voting delegates who will represent the zone at the Special General Assembly and also for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Special General Assembly. All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.
<b>Notice of Meeting Method</b>	<p><b>SECTION 5.</b> Notice shall be given to each member eligible to vote at the meeting by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery; (b) by email; or (c) by regular postage paid mail.</p> <p>In the case of personal delivery, the notice shall be delivered personally to each member at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting. In the case of email, the notice shall be sent to each member’s email address at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting.</p>



	<p>In the case of regular postage paid mail, notice shall be deposited into a Canada Post mail box at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting. Confirmation of receipt shall not be necessary.</p> <p>The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.</p>
<b>Notice of Meeting Contents</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> The Notice shall state the time, place and requirements (as set out in Article 3 Section 8) of the meeting for the zone and be sent by personal delivery, email, or regular paid mail to the Members last known address or email address submitted by the Member. The notice shall state the time and place of the zone meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly or Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.
<b>Member to Provide Contact Information and Keep up to Date</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> Each Member shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current mailing and email address. It shall be the Members responsibility to contact the Native Council in writing by email or mail to update his or her current mailing and email address; failure to do so shall not be an excuse or invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or returned mail.
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<b>SECTION 8.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any person who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall be noted in the minutes.
<b>Voting for Board Members</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> At the Annual Zone Meeting held prior to the Annual General Assembly, the members of each zone shall cast votes by secret ballot for the two Directors who will represent them in that zone, if there is a vacancy.
<b>Vacancy on Board</b>	<b>SECTION 10.</b> If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors for a zone, the position shall remain vacant until the next annual zone meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors, in accordance with Article 8 Section 23, may appoint an individual to serve until the annual zone meeting.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> Members shall not vote by proxy; no proxy or agent voting shall be permitted. Only those present and eligible to vote shall vote at any zone meeting.
<b>Director to</b>	<b>SECTION 12.</b> An individual interested in running for a vacant director

<b>Declare Intention to Run</b>	position or running for re-election shall submit a letter by mail or an email to the Native Council indicating their intention to run as a director and enclosing or attaching a biography which must be received within seven days of the upcoming meeting. Only individuals who have complied with this provision shall be eligible for the vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if no individuals whatsoever have submitted their intention as aforesaid, or if those who have submitted their names do not receive 50% + 1 of the vote of those in attendance at the Zone meeting, names may be taken from the floor at the meeting. At the meeting copies of the letter and the resume shall be posted or made available to all eligible to vote.
<b>Twenty Voting Delegates</b>	<b>SECTION 13.</b> At the zone meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly or the Special General Assembly, each zone shall choose twenty voting delegates (this count to include the board of directors for that Zone) in addition to five alternate voting delegates. All Board Directors shall be voting delegates at the Annual General Assembly or the Special General Assembly and be counted among the zone in which they normally reside in.
<b>Directors to Provide List</b>	<b>SECTION 14.</b> At least ten days prior to the Annual General Assembly, the zone Directors of each zone shall provide a written list to the head office of the Native Council of the names of the voting delegates and alternate voting delegates. In the case of a Special General Assembly, the above time period shall be five days.
<b>Shortfall of Delegates</b>	<p><b>SECTION 15.</b> If after a zone meeting there is a shortfall of delegates for a zone (i.e., less than twenty delegates and five alternate delegates), the zone director(s) may request that the Native Council place a notice of the shortfall on the Native Council's website and on its Facebook page, calling for any eligible member in the Zone to serve as a voting delegate for the zone or as an alternative voting delegate. Any interested eligible member shall contact the Native Council by email or express mail asking to be a voting or alternative voting delegate. Names shall be added to the voting or alternative voting delegates list on a first received basis.</p> <p>This process shall only be open until 11:59pm on the eleventh day prior to the Annual General Assembly (the following day the list is provided in accordance with Section 15 above). In the case of a Special General Assembly, the above time period shall be 11:59pm on the sixth day.</p>
<b>Shortfall at Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 16.</b> In the event any zone has a shortfall of delegates at the Annual General Assembly or at a Special General Assembly, the shortfall of delegates shall be made up by the alternative voting delegates from the other zones in equal proportion between the other

	<p>zones, the alternative voting delegates from each other zone to be chosen randomly from the other zones.</p> <p>If a shortfall still exists, the voting shall proceed; no names shall be taken from the floor.</p>
<b>Directors to Hold Other Meetings</b>	<p><b>SECTION 17.</b> The zone directors in each zone shall call for, chair, and hold a minimum of three meetings annually (the Annual General Assembly shall be considered one), for the purposes of discussing current issues and events and business of the Native Council.</p> <p>Notice for these meetings shall be given to each Member within the zone and minutes shall be kept and provided to the Native Council. Notice may be given as above in this article or the Board of Directors may by resolution of the majority (50% +1) chose to vary the notice requirements for these meetings from time to time including not providing email or mailed notice but instead posting a notice on the Native Council's website. However, at an absolute minimum, notice indicating the time and place of the meeting must be posted on the Native Council's website at least seven days prior to the meeting (though the Board of Directors may choose to give further notice). For further certainty, the notice requirements in this article above for the meetings prior to the Annual General Assembly and the Special General Assembly cannot be varied or modified.</p>

## **ARTICLE NO. VII**

### **Elders and Youth**

<b>Elder Group and Youth Group</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> In addition to the three zones, there shall be an elder and a youth group. Each of these two groups shall elect one Board member.
<b>Youth Group</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> All members of the Native Council between the ages of ten and twenty-nine shall be automatically part of the youth group. Youth members aged thirteen and older shall be eligible to vote for Youth Director. For further clarity, until they are full voting members of the Native Council, they shall have no other voting powers.
<b>Elder Group</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> All members aged fifty-five years of age and over shall be automatically part of the elder group.
<b>Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> Both the youth and elder group shall hold a meeting at least twenty days prior to the date of the Annual General Assembly for the purpose of electing a Board Member (if a vacancy exists) and also for the

	purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Annual General Assembly.
<b>Meetings Prior to Special General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> Both the youth and elder group shall hold a meeting at least ten days prior to the date of the Special General Assembly for the purpose of discussing issues and business that may arise at the Special General Assembly.
<b>Notice of Meeting - Method</b>	<p><b>SECTION 6.</b> Notice shall be given to each member eligible to vote at the meeting by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery; (b) by email; or (c) by regular postage paid mail.</p> <p>In the case of personal delivery, the notice shall be delivered personally to each member at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting. In the case of email, the notice shall be sent to each member's email address at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting. In the case of regular postage paid mail, notice shall be deposited into a Canada Post mail box at least twenty full days before the time set for the meeting. Confirmation of receipt shall not be necessary.</p> <p>The Native Council <i>may</i> also post a notice of the meeting on its website and on its Facebook page and do such other things to give notice of the meeting, but this shall not constitute the required notice.</p>
<b>Notice of Meeting - Contents</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> The notice shall state the time and place of the meeting for the zone and be sent by personal delivery, email, or regular paid mail to the Members last known address or email address submitted by the Member. The notice shall state the time and place of the meeting and the notice shall also state the time and place of the Annual General Assembly or Special General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary.
<b>Member to Provide Contact Information and Keep up to Date</b>	<b>SECTION 8.</b> Each Member shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current mailing and email address. It shall be the Members responsibility to contact the Native Council in writing by email or mail to update his or her current mailing and email address; failure to do so shall not be an excuse or invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or returned mail.
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any Member who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall be noted in the minutes.
<b>Voting for Board</b>	<b>SECTION 10.</b> At the meeting of the youth group and of the elder group,

<b>Members</b>	the members shall cast votes by secret ballot for the Director who will represent them, if there is a vacancy.
<b>Vacancy on Board</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> If a vacancy occurs on the Board for the Elder or Youth group, the position shall remain vacant until the next annual elder or youth group meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors, in accordance with Article 8, Section 23 may appoint an individual to serve until the next annual meeting.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 12.</b> Members shall not vote by proxy; no proxy or agent voting shall be permitted. Only those present and eligible to vote shall vote at any zone meeting.
<b>Director to Declare Intention to Run</b>	<b>SECTION 13.</b> An individual interested in running for a vacant director position or running for re-election shall submit a letter by mail or an email to the Native Council indicating their intention to run as a director and enclosing or attached their resume, which must be received within seven days of the upcoming meeting. Only individuals who have complied with this provision shall be eligible for the vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if no individuals whatsoever have submitted their intention as aforesaid, or if those who have submitted their names do not receive 50% + 1 of the vote of those in attendance at the Zone meeting, names may be taken from the floor at the meeting. At the meeting copies of the letter and the resume shall be posted or made available to all eligible to vote.
<b>Own Rules/By-laws; Cannot Conflict with these</b>	<b>SECTION 14.</b> The elder and youth groups shall be entitled to adopt such by-laws and/or rules to govern their affairs provided however that such by-laws and/or rules shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-laws herein, with the Companies Act, and such other statutes and principles of law that may apply.

**ARTICLE NO. VIII**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The overall business, affairs, and policy of the Native Council shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors which shall consist of nine Directors comprised as follows: The President and Chief; one youth Director, one Elder Director, and six Zone Directors.
<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> Any Member of the Native Council shall be eligible to be elected as a director so long as they are: (a) An individual who is eighteen years or age or older;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) Not an individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada;</li> <li>(c) Not an individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the <i>Bankruptcy Act</i> of Canada as amended and successor statutes; and</li> <li>(d) Otherwise eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws.</li> </ul> <p>Additional non-binding considerations: Members voting for a Director or the President and Chief should also consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the proposed director is aware and is prepared to accept the fiduciary duty and responsibility of a corporate director of the Native Council;</li> <li>(b) Whether the proposed director has any education, such as university or college degrees or diplomas, or any valuable working experience;</li> <li>(c) Whether the proposed director is capable of understanding the important role they will have;</li> <li>(d) Whether the proposed director has any valuable skills or perspectives which may be of value to the Native Council;</li> <li>(e) Whether the proposed director is a team player and has interpersonal skills;</li> <li>(f) Whether the proposed director has a vision for the Native Council;</li> <li>(g) Whether the proposed director is dedicated and capable of thinking and acting in the best interests of the Native Council, as opposed to the best interests of perhaps only themselves or their family;</li> <li>(h) Whether the proposed director has strong ties to the community;</li> <li>(i) Whether the proposed director possesses a passion for the Native Council;</li> <li>(j) Whether the proposed director has the capacity to serve and attend meetings;</li> <li>(k) Whether the proposed director has any criminal convictions which may be relevant and which may impact on his or her ability to serve and act in the best interests of the Native Council;</li> <li>(l) Whether the proposed director has the willingness to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Conduct, policies, procedures, and any other rules that may apply;</li> <li>(m) And such other factors as may be important.</li> </ul>
<b>Automatically Ceases to be Director</b>	<p><b>SECTION 3.</b> Any director automatically ceases to be a director if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) An individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada or by two medical practitioners;</li> </ul>

	<p>(b) An individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the <i>Bankruptcy Act</i> of Canada as amended and successor statutes;</p> <p>(c) They die;</p> <p>(d) They resign as further set out below;</p> <p>(e) They fail to obtain a criminal record and vulnerable sector check and provide it to the Native Council within Sixty (60) days of his or her appointment or election to the Board of Directors.</p> <p>For further clarity, nothing shall require the Board to remove the individual; the individual at law shall no longer be a Director. However, the Board may, for further certainty, remove the individual as provided below in this article.</p>
<b>Chief both Officer and Director</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> The President and Chief shall serve as both an Officer and Director of the Native Council.
<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> The President and Chief may call Board meetings as he or she may determine but no fewer than four board meetings shall be held in each calendar year. The meetings shall be held at such time and such place as the majority (50% + 1) of the Directors may determine from time to time.
<b>Notice and Methods and Times</b>	<p><b>SECTION 6.</b> Notice shall be given to each Director by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery; (b) by email; or (c) by regular postage paid mail.</p> <p>In the case of personal delivery, the notice shall be delivered personally to the director at least three full days before the time set for the meeting. In the case of email, the notice shall be sent to the director's email address at least three full days before the time set for the meeting. In the case of regular postage paid mail, notice shall be deposited into a Canada Post mail box at least three full days before the time set for the meeting. Confirmation of receipt shall not be necessary.</p>
<b>Notice of Meeting - Contents</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> The Notice shall state the time and place of the meeting and shall indicate in general terms what business will be transacted at the meeting.
<b>Director to Provide Contact Information</b>	<b>SECTION 8.</b> Each Director shall be required to provide the Native Council with their current email address and mailing address. It shall be the Directors responsibility to contact the Native Council in writing to update his or her email address and mailing address and to regularly

	monitor his or her email address and mail. The failure of a Director to update his or her email address or mailing address, or the failure of a Director to retrieve his or her email or mail, shall not invalidate notice even if the Native Council receives notification by returned email or mail that the address is invalid or was otherwise returned.								
<b>Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest</b>	<b>SECTION 9.</b> Notice of a meeting shall be deemed given to any Director who attends the meeting without protesting before or at its commencement about the lack of adequate notice which, if given, shall be noted in the minutes.								
<b>Resolution Without Meeting</b>	<b>SECTION 10.</b> Any action which could be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if a written resolution of the majority (50%+1) setting forth the action so taken is signed by the Directors along with a waiver of notice. This provision shall not apply with regard to meetings for the removal of a director, the appointment of a director, or the amendment or change in any way of the Constitution and By-laws.								
<b>Meeting by Conference Telephone and Other Methods</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> The Board may participate in a meeting by means of teleconference or videoconference equipment provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other and such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.								
<b>Quorum</b>	<p><b>SECTION 12.</b> A simple majority (50% +1) of the Directors then sitting in office shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided herein for certain decisions. For further certainty and ease of reference:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sitting Directors</th><th>Number needed for meeting</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Sitting Directors	Number needed for meeting	9	5	8	5	7	4
Sitting Directors	Number needed for meeting								
9	5								
8	5								
7	4								
<b>Passing</b>	<p><b>SECTION 13.</b> No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a simple majority (50% + 1) of those present. For further certainty and ease of reference:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Directors present:</th><th>Number needed to pass</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>9</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Directors present:	Number needed to pass	9	5	8	5	7	4
Directors present:	Number needed to pass								
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7	4								
<b>Presumed Assent</b>	<b>SECTION 14.</b> A Director present at a Board meeting at which action on any matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless his or her dissent is entered in the minutes of the meeting, or unless he or she files his or her written dissent to such action with the person								



	acting as the Secretary or Minute taker of the meeting before the adjournment thereof, or unless he or she forwards such dissent by mail to the Native Council and received within ten days after the adjournment or close of the meeting. A Director who voted in favor of such action may not dissent.
<b>No Proxy</b>	<b>SECTION 15:</b> A Director shall not vote or attend by proxy; Directors may not delegate their powers in accordance with law.
<b>Compensation</b>	<b>SECTION 16.</b> Other than the Chief and President, Directors shall not receive any stated salaries or payments for their services. Directors may if approved by the majority (50%+1) of the board from time to time, receive travel expenses fixed at the same rates as set by the Treasury Board of Canada.
<b>No Loan</b>	<b>SECTION 17.</b> The Native Council shall not loan money to any Director or Member.
<b>Not Eligible to Apply for Positions</b>	<b>SECTION 18.</b> No Director of the Native Council shall not accept a paid or salaried position unless he or she first resigns from the Board. For clarity, nothing shall prevent a current Board member for running for the position of President and Chief.
<b>Resignation</b>	<b>SECTION 19.</b> A Director may resign by signing a letter or document indicating their desire to resign and mailing it or emailing it to the Native Council or any Director of the Native Council. The resignation shall be effective immediately upon being received by any Director or the President and Chief or at the Native Council Head Office. Acceptance of the resignation by the Board of Directors shall not be required.

<p><b>Removal of Director</b></p>	<p><b>SECTION 20.</b> The Board may remove a Director (including the President and Chief) who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ceases to qualify as a director due to mental incompetency or bankruptcy or death as further provided above in this Article;</li> <li>b) ceases to qualify as a director due to resignation as further provided above in this Article;</li> <li>c) fails to provide a criminal record and vulnerable sector check and provide same to the Native Council within sixty days of appointment or election;</li> <li>d) has a previous criminal or summary conviction, or has been convicted since appointment or election of a criminal or summary conviction, which is relevant or related to the position of director and / or is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council (a conviction for the purposes herein includes a guilty plea and includes an absolute or conditional discharge);</li> <li>e) is absent for more than four consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors;</li> <li>f) suffers from an illness or disease rendering the Director incapable of exercising the duties of a Director;</li> <li>g) puts himself or herself in a conflict of interest or breaches the Native Council Constitution and By-laws, Policies, Code of Conduct, and any other rules that may apply in such a manner that is not consistent with the best interests of the Native Council;</li> <li>h) is incompetent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular);</li> <li>i) is negligent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular); or</li> <li>j) fails to render proper reports of workings such as the financial statements of the organization, project reports, and so forth when expected to do so or when requested by the majority of the Board of Directors (the Chief in particular).</li> </ul> <p>All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Any three Directors may call the meeting (which may or may not include the President and Chief as one) and set the time and place of the meeting;</li> <li>(2) The notice shall be sent same as specified above in this article but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the consideration of the named director's future and whether that director should be removed as a director of the Native Council and the notice period shall be seven days;</li> <li>(3) The quorum requirement shall be a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) of the sitting Directors (see below for ease of reference); and</li> <li>(4) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) of those present (see below for ease of reference).</li> </ul>
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	<p>Quorum</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Sitting Directors</th><th>Number needed for Quorum</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> </table> <p>Passing</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Directors present</th><th>Number needed to pass</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	Sitting Directors	Number needed for Quorum	9	7	8	6	7	5	Directors present	Number needed to pass	9	7	8	6	7	5
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<b>Ineligible to Run</b>	<b>SECTION 21.</b> A Director who has been removed shall be precluded from running for the remainder of the term they would otherwise have served plus an additional term.																
<b>Vacancy on Board</b>	<p><b>SECTION 22.</b> In the event of any vacancy on the Board, the Directors then in office have the power to fill any vacancy by appointment. The Director so appointed shall hold office until the next applicable annual meeting just prior to the Annual General Assembly.</p> <p>All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications:</p> <p>(1) A director(s) cannot be removed and a new director(s) appointed at the same meeting;</p> <p>(2) Any three directors may together call the meeting (which may or may not include the President and Chief as one) and set the time and place of the meeting;</p> <p>(3) The notice shall be sent same as specified above in this article but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the consideration of whether someone should be appointed as a director of the Native Council and the notice shall also set out the names of not fewer than three proposed individuals who may be appointed and the notice period shall be seven days;</p> <p>(4) The quorum requirement shall be a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) (see below for ease of reference) of the sitting Directors;</p>																

	<p>(5) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) (see below for ease of reference) of those present; and</p> <p>(5) The office of President and Chief may not be filled by this process, but instead the Board of Directors shall call a Special General Assembly as set out in this Constitution and Bylaws.</p> <p>Quorum</p> <table> <tr> <th>Sitting Directors</th><th>Number needed for Quorum</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <p>Passing</p> <table> <tr> <th>Directors present:</th><th>Number needed to pass</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	Sitting Directors	Number needed for Quorum	9	7	8	7	7	6	Directors present:	Number needed to pass	9	7	8	7	7	6
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<b>General Conduct of Meetings</b>	<p><b>SECTION 23.</b> The President and Chief shall preside as Chairperson at all meetings of the Board and has full power to cast votes even as Chairperson. If the President and Chief is not in attendance the majority (50%+1) of the Board shall choose a different Chairperson. All members of the Board have the right to be heard and the right to vote. A director that is in a conflict of interest or may be perceived as such as per the Council's Conflict of Interest policy shall not vote. All meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws or with the <i>Companies Act</i> (PEI) as amended and successor statutes and such other statutes and principles of law that may supercede Robert's Rules of Order.</p>																
<b>Director Term</b>	<p><b>SECTION 24.</b> Each elected zone and elder director (except the President and Chief) shall hold office for a term of three years or until they are no longer a director in accordance with these bylaws. Each elected youth member shall hold office for a term of two years or until they are no longer a director in accordance with these bylaws.</p>																

## **ARTICLE NO. IX**

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL**

<b>Officers</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1.</b> There shall be one executive officer of the Native Council: a President and Chief.</p>
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<b>Both Officer and Director</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> The President and Chief shall serve as both an Officer and Director and shall be elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Assembly or at the Special General Assembly by a simple majority (50% + 1) vote into both the position of Director and President and Chief.
<b>Term if Elected at Annual General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> If the President and Chief is elected at an Annual General Assembly, the President and Chief shall serve until the fourth Annual General Assembly following his or her election, or until he or she is no longer a Director in accordance with these bylaws. The President and Chief shall be eligible for re-election.
<b>Election at Special General Assembly</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> If the President and Chief is elected at a Special General Assembly, he or she shall serve the remaining term of the position, or until he or she is no longer a Director in accordance with these bylaws. The President and Chief shall be eligible for re-election.
<b>Overall Responsibility</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> The President and Chief of the Council shall be its chief executive officer and as such shall be responsible and shall control all day-to-day management and the business and affairs and operation of the Native Council. The President and Chief may appoint or remove any staff or consultants for the Native Council and establish the rate of compensation for any such staff person or consultant. In general, the President and Chief shall perform all duties incident to the office of President. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the President and Chief, just like all Board Members, shall follow the Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and all policies and other rules that may be in place and is always subject to same.
<b>Removal from Office</b>	<b>SECTION 6.</b> The President and Chief may be removed from office (both as a Director and as an Officer) by the Board of Directors as specified in Article 8 Section 21.
<b>Congress of Aboriginal Peoples</b>	<b>SECTION 7.</b> The individual elected as President and Chief shall be elected on the floor of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples AGA to be on the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. In the event that the President and Chief cannot attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the President and Chief shall select an alternate from the Board of Directors who shall attend such meeting in place and instead of the President and Chief and on behalf of the Council.
<b>Declare Intention</b>	<b>SECTION 11.</b> An individual interested in running for the position of President and Chief or running for re-election shall submit a letter by mail

	or an email to the Native Council indicating their intention to run and enclosing or attached his or her biography, which must be received within seven days of the upcoming Annual General Assembly or Special General Assembly. Only individuals who have complied with this provision shall be eligible for the vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if no individuals whatsoever have submitted their intention as aforesaid, names may be taken from the floor at the meeting. At the meeting copies of the letter and biography shall be posted or made available to all eligible to vote.
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## **ARTICLE X**

### **Local Associations**

<b>Formation and Recognition</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> Any fifteen or more individuals who are members of the Native Council may, subject to the majority (50% +1) approval of the Board, form a local association.
<b>Letter</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> A letter shall be submitted, signed by at least fifteen individuals, with reasons why they should be accepted as a local association and proposing a name for the local association. The reasons shall include reference to the purpose of the association.
<b>Own Rules</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> The local association set their own rules to govern their internal affairs, though such rules may not be inconsistent with or in conflict with the Constitution and By-laws or with the <i>Companies Act</i> (PEI) as amended and successor statutes and such other statutes and principles of law that may apply, and also subject always to approval of the Board of the Native Council in advance from time to time.
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> For further clarity, the purpose of a local association or club is not directly political. A local association may be formed for the purpose of discussing important matters, sharing Native traditions or practices and customs, for community development, and so forth.

## **ARTICLE NO. XI**

### **GENERAL**

<b>Instruments and Binding Effect</b>	<b>SECTION 1.</b> All contracts, deeds, documents or other instruments, including cheques or other orders for payment of money will be signed on behalf of the Council by any two of the following three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the President &amp; Chief;</li> <li>b) two (2) board members selected by the majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors from time to time as signing authorities.</li> </ul>
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<b>Chief Remuneration</b>	<b>SECTION 2.</b> The President & Chief shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for services as the majority (50% + 1) of the Board may from time to time determine.
<b>Borrowing and Banking</b>	<b>SECTION 3.</b> The Board may from time to time without authorization from the membership borrow money upon the credit of the Council's aims and objectives and, in connection therewith, may grant and give security for such borrowing; provided, however, that no such borrowing shall be authorized unless two-thirds or more of the directors have authorized the borrowing by resolution passed at a meeting of the Board specifically called for the purpose of considering such borrowing.
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>SECTION 4.</b> The fiscal year of the Council shall end on the 31 <sup>st</sup> day of March in each and every year.
<b>Audit and Accountant</b>	<b>SECTION 5.</b> The accounts and financial affairs of the Council shall be audited annually or as often as may be necessary by an auditor recommended to the membership by the Board of Directors and appointed at the Annual General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE NO. XII**

### **REPEAL AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

	<b>SECTION 1.</b> The Board of Directors may from time to time repeal, amend or re-enact all or any of the provisions hereof as further provided in this Article below; but no such change, unless in the meantime confirmed at a Special General Assembly of the members of the Native Council duly called for such purpose, shall have any force and effect beyond the time of the next Annual General Assembly of the Native Council which follows such change, and if such change is not confirmed at such Annual General Assembly it shall cease to have any force and effect whatsoever.
	<b>SECTION 2.</b> In the event the directors wish to repeal, amend or re-enact the bylaws, it shall be done at a Board of Directors meeting and all of the relevant sections in Article 8 above for meeting shall apply with the following changes or modifications: (1) Any four Directors may together call the meeting (which may or may not include the President and Chief as one) and set the time and place of the meeting; (2) The notice shall be sent same as specified above in Article 7 but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the

	<p>meeting is the consideration of whether the bylaws should be modified and the notice period shall be seven days;</p> <p>(3) The quorum requirement shall be a <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) (see below for ease of reference) of the sitting Directors; and</p> <p>(4) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> (75%) (see below for ease of reference) of those present.</p> <p><b>Quorum</b></p> <table> <tr> <th>Sitting Directors</th><th>Number needed for Quorum</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Passing</b></p> <table> <tr> <th>Directors present:</th><th>Number needed to pass</th></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>	Sitting Directors	Number needed for Quorum	9	7	8	7	7	6	Directors present:	Number needed to pass	9	7	8	7	7	6
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### **ARTICLE NO. XIII**

#### **WINDING UP DISTRIBUTION**

<b>Winding up Distribution</b>	<p><b>SECTION 1:</b> In the event of the winding-up or other dissolution of the Council there shall not be distribution of any kind among the Membership of any funds or other assets of the Council, if any shall remain following payment of the debts and obligations of the Council, shall be distributed to one or more recognized charitable organizations in Canada with aims and objectives similar to those of the Council or to any other recognized charitable organization in Canada.</p>
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TAB 8

# Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council



The Maritime Regional Aboriginal Leaders  
Intergovernmental Council of Aboriginal Peoples  
Continuing to Reside on Traditional Ancestral Homelands

## Forums

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- ☐ Leaders Congress
- ☒ MAPC Commissions/Projects
- ☒ MAARS Secretariate
- ☐ IKANAWTIKET SARA
- ☒ MAPC Administration

### MAPC Regional

#### Administrative Office

80 Walker Street, Suite 3  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 4A7

Tel: 902-895-2982  
Fax: 902-895-3844  
Toll Free: 1-855-858-7240  
Email: [frontdesk@mapcorg.ca](mailto:frontdesk@mapcorg.ca)

### Governmental

#### APRO Councils

### Native Council of

#### Nova Scotia

P.O. Box 1320  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 5N2

Tel: 902-895-1523  
Fax: 902-895-0024  
Email: [chiefaugustine@ncns.ca](mailto:chiefaugustine@ncns.ca)

### New Brunswick Aboriginal

#### Peoples Council

320 St. Mary's Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3A 2S4

Tel: 506-458-8422  
Fax: 506-451-6130  
Email: [chief@nbapc.org](mailto:chief@nbapc.org)

### Native Council of

#### Prince Edward Island

6 F.J. McAuley Court  
Charlottetown  
Prince Edward Island  
C1A 9M7

Tel: 902-892-5314  
Fax: 902-368-7464  
Email: [chief@ncpei.com](mailto:chief@ncpei.com)

## Native Council of Prince Edward Island: Annual General Assembly

### Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate Annual Report 2023-24

Dear members of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island,

On behalf of all of us at the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council & the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAPC-MAARS), I'd like to provide you with a copy of our annual report for this year.

Over the past few years, the MAPC-MAARS team has grown with a number of new initiatives and it can be challenging to ensure that you, as the community on whose behalf we work, receive an adequate update at the annual general assembly (AGA) in the short time for presentations. As such, we put together this written report to accompany our presentation. Please find details and contact information for each of the initiatives occurring at MAPC-MAARS.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to reach out to us if you have any questions or comments or to become involved directly. We would love the chance to interact more broadly with the community at large about existing or new initiatives at MAPC-MAARS.

Advancing, Promoting, and Advocating the Reality of the  
Maritime Off-Reserve Community of Aboriginal Peoples

Vanessa Mitchell  
Executive Director, MAARS & MAPC Projects

## **Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS)**

This year marks year one of a new five year agreement with Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) to administer MAARS on behalf of the three partner Councils: Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS); Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI); and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC). While Mr. Roger Hunka has retired, he continues to play an important consultant role for MAPC, working closely with the three elected representatives for the NCNS, NBAPC, and NCPEI. MAARS's overarching goal is to collectively advance the rightful share of Atlantic aquatic resources for the sustained economic growth of the off-Reserve Maritime Aboriginal Peoples. With this, we have a few key activities that MAARS focuses upon, including: involvement in fisheries management, science, and policy; involvement in the processes surrounding impacts to habitat (primarily fish habitat); involvement in biodiversity approaches with a key focus on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and species at risk; engaging in Canada's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and building and maintaining relationships and partnerships to advance the Councils' participation in the governance of fisheries and oceans. We have a small but mighty team to support this work - their summary briefings are below.

### ***Aquatic Resources Manager - Kathryn Townsend***

[ktownsend@mapcorg.ca](mailto:ktownsend@mapcorg.ca)

The primary role of the Aquatic Resources Manager (ARM) is to support the partner Councils' fisheries (communal commercial and AFS arrangements) by providing technical and science advice regarding species of interest. MAARS participates in as many species-specific advisory committee processes as possible, as well as participating in the science advisory processes. We also stay on top of proposed legislative, policy, and/or management changes and coordinate meetings with Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to discuss any proposed changes and provide comments.

Most recently, Kathryn continues to participate in the Atlantic Mackerel Rebuilding Plan Working Group. The purpose of the working group is to develop a rebuilding plan consistent with the Fish Stock Provisions under the *Fisheries Act* and its related regulations and guidelines, including primary and secondary objectives for rebuilding, and management measures aimed at achieving the objectives. The goal is to have a draft by fall 2023 and for the plan to be in effect by April 2024.

Two particularly contentious advisory committee meetings Kathryn attended throughout the year included the Atlantic Mackerel Advisory Committee (AMAC) and the Atlantic Large Pelagic Advisory Committee (ALPAC). The conversation at AMAC largely focused on the Atlantic mackerel moratorium of 2022 (and if it will continue into 2023), and the status of the stock, as well as the science related to the most recent stock assessment. Discussions at ALPAC revolved mostly around bluefin tuna science and the recent Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process and how it impacts Atlantic Canadian harvesters. The upcoming swordfish MSE was also a focal point of discussion.

Kathryn continues to maintain a presence at both elvers and North Atlantic Right Whale meetings, which includes attending the upcoming North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium.

Currently, Kathryn has begun preliminary work on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy with the intent for further involvement during the next stage of the policy. As well, she has attended preliminary discussions in regards to offshore wind and any impacts it may have on fisheries, and has begun preliminary work on proposed amendments to the Maritime Fishery Regulations. On these three topics, MAARS will continue to monitor the development and provide feedback to the fisheries management teams within the partner Councils.

***Environment & Biodiversity Advisor - Olisaemeka (Kelvin) Ndubuisi***  
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Kelvin has recently joined the MAARS team upon Kaitlyn Curran's departure. The Environment & Biodiversity Advisor is responsible for staying apprised of developments related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and species at risk.

This year, MAPC-MAARS is working to rekindle the working relationship with Dr. Chidi Oguamanam and ABS Canada with whom we worked previously to develop the *Petkoutkoyek Statement On the Access, Use, and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising Out of the Utilization of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Canada* and the *Iskenisk Declaration on the Access, Use, and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising Out of the Utilization of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in Canada*. Jointly, we have applied for funding from the Indigenous Intellectual Property Program Grant through Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada. This funding would be used to hold a workshop for interested members of the three partner Councils to build capacity to mainstream Indigenous intellectual property rights, particularly throughout the current discussions related to Canada's 2023-2028 *Action Plan to Implement the UNDA* (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act). Similar workshops were held throughout 2016-17 relating to access and benefit-sharing - i.e., the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

To date, MAARS has supported the Councils in species at risk engagement on the following species: wood turtle (Critical Habitat orders in NB); Porbeagle (fishing interactions - science process); aquatic species at risk framework; bobolink and meadowlark recovery strategies; shortfin mako; Atlantic whitefish recovery; and blackfoam lichen. Upcoming engagement on species at risk includes: eastern wood pewee, lumpfish, and harbour porpoise, in addition to continuing engagement with Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding Critical Habitat orders for wood turtle.

***Habitat Impacts Advisor - Christina Davis***  
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The Habitat Impact Advisor (HIA) acts as the key point of contact on behalf of the three partner Native Councils regarding the review of projects submitted for provincial and federal

Impact Assessments (IA). When an IA is submitted, it is the responsibility of the HIA to: participate in early engagement, inform leadership and communities regarding the IA, and providing a written response on behalf of the respective Native Council. Christina initially joined the MAPC team in 2022 as the Fish and Fish Habitat Coordinator and has now moved into the Habitat Impact Advisor role as of April 2023.

Over the past year, Christina has reviewed a variety of IAs across the Maritime provinces. Projects of significance occurring in Nova Scotia include; early engagement on proposed quarry expansions throughout the province, engagement on a variety of onshore wind turbines, and quarry expansions, as well as early engagement as it relates to developments in the Halifax Harbour including the Irving Shipyard Expansion and the King's Wharf Development. Projects occurring in New Brunswick include; early engagement participation on J.D. Irving's Glenvale Gypsum Mine approval & Pulp and Paper Mill improvements, and the proposed development of a new harbour in Woodward's Cove on Grand Manan Island.

The HIA and team have also played a role in continuing conversations, and early development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in collaboration with Signal Gold, on behalf of the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS). The MOU will facilitate, and hopefully provide the funding necessary to develop a Mutual Benefits Agreement to bolster the economic growth of the NCNS and its constituency as Signal Gold's open pit gold mine continues development.

While there is no longer a formal Fish and Fish Habitat Coordinator, Christina continues to be involved in the engagement for the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP) and engaged in Fisheries Act authorizations on behalf of MAPC's three partner Native Councils; the Native Council of Nova Scotia, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island. These engagements include meeting with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), as well as project proponents to discuss any projects requiring authorization to cause the "harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction" to fish and fish habitat (HADD). To date, the information collected during these sessions has been compiled and presented to Council leadership and fisheries or natural life harvesting managers. Our next step is to communicate directly with the zone representatives in the affected areas to ensure that community members residing in those areas are informed and able to participate in matters important to them and their families. This step will allow MAPC to include critical community perspectives and feedback when providing our responses on a particular project and provides a streamlined outlet for the community to express concerns over projects that may impact their free liberties on their traditional lands.

DFO's Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program initiated the engagement platform as a tool to engage with the general public on the amendments to the Fisheries Act. In 2018, the Government passed several amendments to the Fisheries Act, including restoring the HADD provisions, which has been removed from the Fisheries Act in 2012. Other amendments strengthened the protection of all fish and fish habitats, along with the HADD provision. The definition of fish habitat was amended to mean "water frequented by fish and any other areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes, including spawning grounds and nurseries, rearing, food supply, and migration areas" meaning all species are protected regardless of their commercial or cultural value. The amendments of the Act created the opportunity to develop a framework that



modernizes the management of fisheries, the conservation of fish and fish habitat, the reduction and identification of environmentally harmful activities, and the protection of all aquatic species in Canada. Following the implementation of these new amendments, in the Fall of 2020 DFO began to engage with communities and stakeholders on a variety of topics under the Wave 1 of engagement. Wave 1 topics included: offsetting and banking; cumulative effects; the public registry; prescribed works and waters; codes of practice; and the engagement framework. Wave 2 has now been completed which included the topics of; offsetting and banking; cumulative effects; prescribed works and waters; and codes of practice. New topics covered under Wave 2 include: position statements on both the death of fish and existing facilities and structures; ecologically significant areas framework; aquatic species at risk framework; and restoration priorities. Now we have moved to Wave 3 which involves continued engagement across all of the topics previously set out.

Since the last update had been provided in March 2023, MAPC engaged on one Fisheries Act Authorization for the proposed King's Wharf Development in the Halifax Harbour. This engagement included the involvement of Zone representatives at the meeting held with DFO, as well as attendance at a Zone meeting in Dartmouth to discuss the project further with community members. There are not currently any updates as it relates to this project, however the community will be kept informed of any developments as MAPC receives them.

The Fish Habitat Project has now developed an easily-comprehensible guide book to the Fisheries Act authorizations process for community members. This guide book is intended to support the understanding of community members about the processes behind any projects requiring HADD/Fisheries Act authorizations. It is our hope that this guide book will increase the capacity in each of the local zones to be involved in matters relating to fish and fish habitat authorizations for projects occurring in your areas. Please note that this is not to offload MAPC's responsibilities in this matter, but rather to support our coordinated efforts with interested community members.

***Executive Director - Vanessa Mitchell***  
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Outside of the 'official' projects and objectives, MAPC-MAARS has supported Mime's Seafoods Ltd. in defending a gaspereau fishery operating on the Shubenacadie River immediately adjacent to Hyde's Bridge near Lantz, NS. Due to the province of Nova Scotia's bridge replacement project, the fishery operating at that site was required to shut down prior to the end of the season. MAPC-MAARS provided support in petitioning the provincial Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Public Works to compensate Mime's Seafoods and the fisherman for the income lost as a result of the closure.

MAPC-MAARS has also been working very closely with the NCNS and the Netukulimkewe'l Commission during the renewal of the AFS arrangement. Some of the key support that MAARS has provided has been related to proposed measures for North Atlantic right whales and changes in the language of the agreement.

MAARS is also providing support to the Councils for the Eastern Canada Communal Commercial Licencing Policy review. This review is being led by DFO out of Ottawa and is reviewing all

elements of policy and legislation that apply to Aboriginal communal commercial licences. Most recently, DFO has approached MAARS to provide funding in order for us to coordinate a series of information/engagement sessions.

The Earth and Environmental Science department at Acadia University has initiated a working partnership with the MAPC-MAARS team. Over the summer, we had the opportunity to visit several of the labs and begin preliminary discussions about the lab and analysis support, as well as capacity building support that could be provided at no or little cost to us. This has opened a new door of available equipment and support as we consider new projects.

We have been working alongside the environmental teams at the NBAPC and NCPEI to develop a new project to address aquatic invasive species. Together, we have developed a project spanning Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward island which will seek to identify early detections of key aquatic invasive species that can be problematic to the ecosystem, such as chain pickerel, smallmouth bass, and zebra mussel - the latter of which has been recently spotted in Saint John, NB. This would use eDNA methods and other detection methods, such as electrofishing or seine nets, to determine the presence of aquatic invasive species and develop mitigation plans to prevent the spread. This project would seek to inform the Councils' communities and the general public of the species to be on the lookout for, but also make strides to eliminate the presence without the use of broadband pesticides which affect all fish species and not only the "problem species".

MAARS has been approached by Environment and Climate Change Canada to provide a key person on behalf of the Councils to become the point of contact for the inner Bay of Fundy conservation planning initiative. As part of this project, we would hire one individual to be that primary point of contact, as well as provide additional support to the marine conservation target team. The contribution agreement is currently being negotiated and finalized.

MAPC-MAARS has continued to promote World Oceans Day on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This year, we again participated in the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic's event on the Halifax waterfront. The team brought our underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) (aka, an underwater drone) and interacted with several youth and interested members of the public using the ROV to show the world below the water's surface. We also participated in World Wetlands Day at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park on the coldest day of the year. Visitors had the chance to build their own wetland, create some 'polluted' water, and see how well their wetland could perform in filtering the polluted water. We also brought this activity to the Indigenous Peoples' Day event hosted by Zone 9, NCNS.

MAPC hosted the Director General of Indigenous Relations for Transport Canada, Ms. Isa Gros-Louis. During this meeting, MAPC spoke of the impacts that Transport Canada funding has provided for the Councils and described some of the successes and challenges that the Councils' communities, in particular, the communal commercial fisheries, have experienced over the past few years. We also discussed the value that the new Indigenous and Local Communities Engagement and Partnership Program (ILCEPP) funding would bring to the partner Councils.

We have been working diligently to advance a number of partnerships and working relationships with organizations and individuals who share common goals. In addition to the Acadia example above, we have introduced new partnerships with the Canadian Wildlife Federation on a couple of different elements: the fish and fish habitat protection program, with a particular focus on offsetting and banking and cumulative effects where we recognize that a great deal of small projects are going unnoticed and not considered into the grand total of potential impacts on a given watershed; as well as a marine focus and relationship relating to the testing and potential application of “whale safe” (sometimes referred to as “ropeless” or “pop-up” or “on-demand”) gear. We have loaned our ROV to the CWF team to perform observation and assessment of ground line movement between lobster traps to help support the understanding of how ground lines move in different circumstances. We have continued to foster our relationship with FORCE tidal research centre which has allowed us to speak with new potential tidal developers as they propose new units for the FORCE berths. We have also begun discussions around the concept of green hydrogen with the Clean Foundation who is currently undertaking a preliminary study to inform the Province of Nova Scotia’s Green Hydrogen Action Plan which is in the very early stages.

## **MAPC Projects**

In fiscal year 2023-24, MAPC has three projects currently active with two incoming and another one proposed. The active projects include the: Comparative Assessment of Ecological Conditions for Atlantic Salmon in the Northern Minas Basin Rivers; Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA-MAIS) project; and the Marine Conservation Targets (MCT) project. The incoming projects include the: “Restoration through Overhead Refugia Exploration - ResTORE” project; and another marine conservation targets project focused on conservation planning for the inner Bay of Fundy. We have also proposed a new project, in conjunction with the environmental teams at the NBAPC and NCPEI, which focuses on early detection and mitigation planning for aquatic invasive species within the maritime provinces. All of the projects are summarized below with contact information for each project lead.

***Comparative Assessment of Ecological Conditions for Atlantic Salmon in the Northern Minas Basin Rivers (colloquially known as the “Salmon Comparative Assessment Project”) - Gavin Scott (Project Manager)***

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The Salmon Comparative Assessment team has been diligently working towards a common goal; the recovery of the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon. As a continuation from last year, the team has continued to routinely monitor water quality in five watersheds of the Northern Minas Basin (Debert River, Folly River, Great Village River, Portapique River, and Economy River) as a metric of studying in-stream habitat health. Parameters including temperature, pH (acidity of the water) metal content, and turbidity are very important factors that the team are investigating, along with many others that play a pivotal role in the success of Atlantic salmon. In combination with water quality analysis, the project is also collecting macroinvertebrate samples as a means of determining food availability for juvenile Atlantic salmon. A healthy and functioning habitat is a key facet to salmon survival in these watersheds where there has been a lot of human interference.



Additionally, the project team has been conceptualizing a new approach to incubating salmon eggs, a method that will hopefully help retain all the baskets in the event of a severe weather event, that has dislodged baskets from the redds previously. Using decommissioned lobster traps, the cages (which will retain no fish) should help bolster the baskets in place during their 7-month incubation period.



With respect to the eDNA collections they conducted last summer, the team is currently electrofishing each site to validate if and where salmon are present. The team is very pleased to announce that they have identified 13 juvenile salmon in just 500 meters of electrofishing surveys, a count which has already exceeded any previous year of MAPC electrofishing. The surveys will continue until October, then the focus will then shift to the next iteration of eggs being prepared for incubation. A video illustrating the entire incubation process will be drafted this coming winter!

***Enhanced Marine Situational Awareness Initiative (EMSA-MAIS) - Barry Marsman, Project Manager***

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The Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) Project, under Canada's Oceans Protection Plan, commenced in May 2019. The EMSA Initiative has been included as an accommodation measure to provide Indigenous Coastal Communities with near, real-time information on maritime activity in local waters through a user-friendly web platform and user-friendly phone application.

Coastal Indigenous host communities and partners have been working in partnership with Transport Canada to improve functionality, test, and evaluate the system. EMSA, as one of the core initiatives under the Oceans Protection Plan, is a critical instrument in the healing path forward for Indigenous communities and all Canadians in the spirit of reconciliation.

Transport Canada is working closely on this Initiative with the Canadian Coast Guard and other Federal partners such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Space Agency and the Department of National Defence.

MAPC and our Communal Commercial Fisheries continue to play a significant role in the development, and enhancement, of the core pillars of the EMSA system, specifically maritime marine safety, maritime activity and space based data functionality. MAPC and the Fisheries entities will continue to participate in the future, as echoed by the MAPC Board, Chiefs as participation has only positive benefits for the respective Native Councils and MAPC.

### **Participation rationale and desired outcomes**

Marine safety being one of the core pillars of the EMSA Initiative, and the reality that commercial fishing still remains one of the most dangerous occupations on the planet, our participation was an easy decision to make. Safety advocacy is critically important and must remain so.

Participation in the EMSA project has provided the ACCFE management teams access to funding to allow select vessels to be furnished with top of the line marine electronics, with ongoing support training, and educational awareness on key safety areas of concerns while nurturing a positive safety culture within, with no direct cost to the organizations.

Participation in the EMSA Project also provides MAPC with key funding resources that contribute to organizational upkeep and staffing continuity, expenses and key organizational expenditures such as salaries, benefits, staff training, travel expenditures, rent and professional fees.

MAPC's steadfast advocacy and support to ensuring organizational safety remains strong, has been unwavering, and has not gone un-noticed with the participating regulatory agencies and the Government of Canada.

Through continued delivery of safety awareness, education, and training, and collaborative safety engagement sessions with Transport Canada, DFO, and the Transportation Safety Board, meaningful and important relationships are being developed and nurtured in the spirit of collaboration, reconciliation and safety.

Participation in the EMSA Project at no real costs to the organizations and access to key functionalities of the EMSA platform will only further contribute to support our organizational efforts to achieve our safety goals, objectives and desired outcomes, in protecting our most important assets, being our people, property, equipment and the environment.

### **Vessel Participation Selection Process**

Specific fisheries entities vessels were chosen to participate after being subject to a vessel suitability assessment. Subsequently, all selected vessels were equipped with Class A, AIS systems, Time zero bathymetry reading software, new marine grade computers, DSC radios, and marine grade tablets, with no direct organizational cost.

AIS and time zero software training is ongoing and more is planned in future to ensure operational proficiency.

The following development features allow the fisheries management teams and boards of directors to further enhance its oversight capabilities, such features include organizational specific sub-fleet functions that allow pinpoint targeting of vessel positioning in near real-time while on the water. This functionality feature is supported by breadcrumb data (think, path of data) to monitor trip routes, and heat map data to identify areas of concentrated harvesting. The EMSA system allows for easy to use automatic report generation capabilities to capture real-time data in relation to port exit and entries, time spent at sea, total kilometres travelled, and the number of trips from port specific during harvesting seasons. These reports can be automatically generated daily, weekly and on a monthly basis specific to the seasonality of fishing grounds. Vessel port departures and returns can be automatically sent to the Fisheries Management teams and board of directors via email, or cell phone, providing an enhanced level of comfort knowing the captain and crews and assets are where they should be and arrived back to port from harvesting activities.

In summary, Transport Canada would like to thank MAPC and the respective Native Councils for their continued meaningful participation in the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness Project, by using the system in real time day-to-day operational contexts and participating in critically important marine safety awareness and training sessions.

The benefits of our continued participation are demonstrably evident and can only support continued participation in the EMSA project as well contributing to safer harvesting practices and working environment for our fisheries entities, while providing the fisheries management teams and board directors enhanced oversight capabilities and tools in order to meet their safety obligations and duties under the Law.

Recently, the Government of Canada has announced another nine years of funding to Transport Canada under the Oceans Protection Plan for continuing the EMSA initiative.

***Marine Conservation Targets initiative - Bryan Martin, Ocean Advisor and Kate Spooner, Marine Social Science Coordinator***

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**Bryan:** The marine conservation targets initiative was developed in fall 2022 primarily to support the capacity development of MAPC and our partner Councils to be engaged in Canada's efforts towards the global marine conservation targets of preserving 30% of the ocean by 2030. These efforts include the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Parks Canada. This project ensures that the voices of the respective Communal Commercial fisheries are heard. This is the second year of a four-year project. As part of the project, a mapping component is underway to identify areas that should be 'off-limits' for conservation/protection in order to avoid areas of current communal commercial fishing use, but also to identify areas that would be supported to be set aside for conservation purposes. If anyone would like to discuss any of these areas, please contact Bryan. Throughout the project, MAPC-MAARS will continue to participate in future and ongoing consultations related to marine conservation.

The project also continues to prioritize ocean literacy and outreach as well as facilitate discussions surrounding general ocean health. As part of the ocean literacy component, six additional podcast episodes were released, including one related to hurricane Fiona (with Elder Knockwood-Crane), climate change, sea level rise, pollution, noise, and general biodiversity. These can be found on MAPC's website under 'Clocean Engager' or wherever podcasts are found by looking up 'The Clocean Podcast'. In addition, Bryan had the opportunity to participate in planning sessions for the 2022 and upcoming 2023 Ocean Governance for Indigenous Peoples course in partnership with the International Oceans Institute – Canada. The next course will take place in October 2023, if free of charge, and is open to Indigenous people in the Maritimes.

Ad hoc conversations and government responses related to dredging operations and molluscan aquaculture leases were completed, and Bryan participates in any of the larger responses and strategies affecting the Partner Councils' aquatic or marine interests. Similarly, assistance with or leading proposals for various endeavours related to marine conservation, fisheries, or marine safety were made a priority whenever necessary.

Given the diversity of marine related work that MAPC works on, Bryan shares the responsibility of certain ocean related files, especially those that are cross boundary or those that currently have no dedicated staff. Related to conservation, Bryan and MAARS' Kathryn Townsend continue to participate in engagement with various partners as related to the endangered North Atlantic right whale, including coordinating gear trials, summarizing the findings for numerous meetings, and disseminating ongoing policy changes. Similarly, Bryan and MAPC's Kate Spooner have shared tasks of gathering information on both offshore wind energy initiatives as well as the proposed amendment to the Accords Act (i.e., change from the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator).

**Kate:** As part of the marine conservation targets initiative, Kate has moved from the Marine Spatial Planning Coordinator role into one of the newer projects at MAPC; the Social Impacts of Marine Conservation project. The project began in April and is funded for a total of three years. The project is looking to identify and assess the ways that marine conservation areas impact the coastal communities of Off-Reserve Indigenous Peoples in the Maritimes. There has been a lot of attention on the environmental and economic impacts of marine conservation, but there has been limited attention and research on the social impacts of marine conservation areas. The hope of the project is to help fill that gap by better understanding how marine conservation areas impact people and coastal communities, particularly the off-reserve Indigenous community. These social impacts can include anything socially related that is valued by the community, with some examples being health and wellbeing, economics, infrastructure or access to culturally significant areas. If anyone would like to discuss any aspects of the project, please contact the coordinator.

In the first six months of the project, the Coordinator has developed an educational booklet to help introduce the concept of marine conservation areas and social impact assessment. The booklet describes the different types of marine conservation areas, how social science is necessary and useful in the development of marine conservation areas, and how marine social science is conducted. It contains interactive QR codes to learn more about certain topics and a link to fill out

contact information if the reader wanted to be more involved in the project. It will be distributed at the AGA and other relevant meetings or can be sent out personally via the MAPC office.

While working on the project, the Marine Social Science Coordinator has continued to monitor marine spatial planning (MSP) in the Maritimes and Gulf Regions, as DFO began external engagement sessions in summer 2023. DFO are using MSP to help inform the offshore wind energy initiatives in the Maritimes and Gulf Regions, developing multiple decision-support tools such as the Search for Offshore wind Areas using MSP (SeaFOAM). As the ongoing search for offshore wind energy areas will inevitably be linked to social wellbeing, the coordinator has had the opportunity to attend multiple DFO-led MSP presentations, and continued to facilitate engagement between DFO and the partner Councils on the MSP file. Bryan Martin, the Ocean Advisor, has been working closely with the Coordinator on the offshore wind energy file, as these energy initiatives will likely have an effect on the broader ocean environment.

### **Restoration through Overhead Refugia Exploration - ResTORE project**

The *Restoration through Overhead Refugia Exploration - ResTORE project* is a four-year project that aims to restore estuarine and/or freshwater habitats that have been identified as Critical Habitat for the endangered inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon (Species at Risk Act). MAPC will draw upon data collected as part of our previous project “Rehabilitating and Restoring Unique Landscapes Within Five Nova Scotia Watersheds Along the Bay of Fundy” regarding water crossing barriers - primarily, the ‘Water Crossing Atlas’, which identifies all the barriers on the five watersheds of that project (which includes all four watersheds in this proposal). Our primary goal is to assess and improve the quality and increase the amount of suitable habitat that is accessible to the endangered inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon in the Debert, Folly, Great Village, and Portapique watersheds. MAPC will achieve this by performing regular monitoring of the water chemistry, quality, habitat, in addition to using a LiDAR and thermal imaging-capable unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (i.e., an aerial drone) for aerial assessments of habitat. We are placing emphasis on the identification of cold water refuges and areas of warm water that would benefit from restoration activities to either protect existing cold water refuge areas as a climate change mitigation measure or add areas of cold water refuge when and where warm waters prevail in otherwise suitable habitat.

Previous projects conducted at MAPC found that there was a scarcity of information about the abundance of cold water refuge areas in the Northern Minas Basin watersheds. Cold water refuges are particularly important as water temperatures increase - in the short-term, for seasonality changes, and in the long-term, as climate change and industrial or residential development cumulatively impact water systems. MAPC has been working in these watersheds for the past five years and is familiar with the seasonal variability, which can be dramatic at times. Given that there two of the rivers are subject to annual release of unfed Atlantic salmon fry by the Coldbrook Biodiversity Facility, MAPC has a project upstream wherein iBoF Atlantic salmon eggs are incubated in-situ, and previous eDNA research has identified that there are Atlantic salmon present, there is an immediate need to ensure access to cold water refuge areas for both the short and long term.

Areas for restoration could include barriers to fish passage or shallow, warm stretches of river.

Objective 1: Identify and numerate cold water refuges for Atlantic salmon to seek out, particularly during times of elevated water temperatures.

Objective 2: Investigate water crossings that are impeding/limiting fish passage to potentially favorable iBoF salmon habitat that were previously identified during MAPC's Five Watersheds Project.

Objective 3: Restore fish passage to habitat which could be critical to the survival of iBoF salmon, and generally improve fish habitat via restorative measures on the Debert, Folly, Great Village and Portapique watersheds.

TAB 9



