51ST ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

November 7th & 8th, 2026
Loyalist Country Inn
Summerside, PE



M.M. '91



50th Annual General Assembly

November 8th & 9th 2025

Rodd Royalty Hotel

Charlottetown, PE

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Language & Drumming - Coordinator

Language & Drumming - Curriculum Development Specialist

Membership Clerk

Political Advisor

Policy Analyst - Tripartite

Policy Analyst – Strategic Relationship

Reaching Home

Resource Management Officer Technician
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President & Chief Opening Remarks



Kwé Elders, Youth, Members and Invited Guests,

Welcome to our 51st Annual General Assembly. I would like to take this time to welcome everyone to Epekwitk, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

It has been another highly successful year for the Native Council. I am proud to announce that Geggunas'g House (Women's Shelter) officially opened in June 2026. We were pleased with the turn out for the Open House and all those that attended were amazed with the renovations and commented what a welcoming and beautiful space it is.

We have also been successful in getting multi-year agreements signed for some of our more recent key projects, such as Two-Spirit, Wele'g Living Well, Child and Family Violence Prevention Services, and the SAFE program with funding for two full-time coordinators.

However, funding has otherwise been a little disappointing for fiscal year 2026/2027. With the new government, it seems that a lot of our funding is being cut. The federal government has also cancelled its commitments to the CAP-Canada Political Accord. Now is a time for unity and action among our people, to stand up and say that we have a rightful place within Canada. I'm looking forward to a lot of powerful resolutions that I can use in my meeting with the Ministers.

Over the next two days, we will discuss current NCPEI initiatives, our programming and services, as well as NCPEI's financial status in more detail. To everyone here this weekend, let's have a great AGA together!

Wela'lioq.

Lisa Cooper

Lisa Cooper
President and Chief



Introduction of Guests

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the invited guests and dignitaries we have joining us today, including but not limited to:

- Lorraine Augustine, Chief and President, Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Melissa Diotte, Chief and President, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council
- Hayley Sherman, National Youth Representative
- Mi'kmaq Grand Council (Sante' Mawio'mi):
    - Keptin Benny Sark
    - Keptin Keith Julien
    - Keptin Larry Peters
- Mark Sheridan, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Province of PEI
- Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council
    - Vanessa Mitchell, Executive Director
    - Becca Hunka, Administrative Support
    - Christina Davis, Habitat Impacts Advisor
    - Christopher Smith, CIRCLE Monitoring Coordinator
    - James Veres, ResTORE Project Coordinator
    - Codie MacKinnon, Climate Action & Oceans Project Coordinator
    - Tammy Proulx, CIRCLE Engagement Coordinator
    - Jessica Seward, Species at Risk & Fisheries Advisor

CAP National Chief Brendan Moore sends his regret for not being able to attend.

I would also like to recognize all of the NCPEI Staff and Board members for their hard work and dedication over the last year. It is thanks to them that NCPEI was able to have another successful year.

Board Members, Coordinators and Staff Positions

NCPEI Board of Directors

President and Chief	Lisa Cooper
Zone 1 Director	Christine Butler
Zone 1 Director	Jonathan McNeill
Zone 2 Director	Robert Panchuk
Zone 2 Director	Amanda Blackett
Zone 3 Director	Kayla Larkin
Zone 3 Director	Dana Wakelin
Elder Representative	Georgina Knockwood Crane
Youth Representative	Destinee Larkin

L'nu Fisheries Board of Directors

President	Jordan Crane
Vice-President	Lisa Cooper
Zone 1	Wesley Hustler
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	Jordan Crane
Director	Wendy Anderson
Director	Dana Wigmore
Director	Dawne Knockwood
Director	Richard Cooper

NCPEI Administrative and Core Staff

Finance Manager	Adele McGuire
Finance Assistant	Matt O'Brien
Human Resources Director	Janessa Culleton
Funding Reporting Officer	Stephen Gauthier
Kelewatl Commissioner	Jordan Crane
L'nu Fisheries Assistant	Amanda Trainor
Executive Assistant	April Whynot
Administrative Assistant	Hannah Jackson
Policy Analyst	Bradley Cooper
Policy Analyst	Jane Affleck
Policy Analyst	Sophia Simon

Membership Clerk	Jody Jesso
IT	Paul Martin
Nanegkam Housing Manager	David Rooney
Nanegkam Maintenance	Merle Chappell
Nanegkam Bookkeeper	Emily Bernard

NCPEI Program Staff

Child & Family Violence Prevention Coordinator	Jannett Jones
Environment Program Coordinator	Clara Jane Wood
Environmental Technician	Brooke Doucet
Marine Safety Coordinator	Ryan Knockwood
FSC Monitor	Richard Cooper
Fleet Assistant	John Perry
Gender Based Violence Prevention Coordinator	Kyra Barlow
Indigenous Skills & Employment Training	Nancy MacLean
Language and Drumming Coordinator	Alicia Muttart
Language & Drumming Facilitator	Stephenson Joe
Curriculum Development Specialist	Kiya Milligan
Reaching Home Coordinator	Meleni O'Reilly
SAFE Coordinator	Mackayla Morrison
SAFE Coordinator	Vacant
Sixties Scoop Project Coordinator	Aleida Tweten
Tapui'tjitja'amitj (2-Spirit)	Chase LeBlanc
Wele'g Coordinator	Ebony Larkin

Geggunas'g House Staff

Shelter Manager	Wanda Pardy
Marketing and Communications Coordinator	Rafe Wright
Shelter Resource Worker	Stephanie Anonyuo
Shelter Resource Worker	Dianne Laybolt
Shelter Resource Worker	Crystal McTague
Shelter Resource Worker	Drew Weir
Shelter Resource Worker	Sarah Jackson
Casual Shelter Workers	Victoria Murphy
	Vickey Peters
	Tess Wigmore
	Oyiri Ikegwuono

Winter Street Shelter Staff

Shelter Manager	Andrea Schurman
Shelter Resource Worker	Nicole Gallant Gilks
Shelter Resource Worker	Mathew Forster
Shelter Resource Worker	Clayton Drake
Shelter Resource Worker	Ryan Dunn
Shelter Resource Worker	Marley Durant
Shelter Resource Worker	Sandra MacInnis
Shelter Resource Worker	Ying Chao Ma
Shelter Resource Worker (50%)	Jeremiah Bernard
Shelter Resource Worker (50%)	Steve Guy
Casual Shelter Workers	Madison Bryant-Hustler
	Cassidy Gallant
	Scott McNeill
	Stephanie Anonyuo
	Marvin Wonodi
	Courtney Ross
	Jody Hustler
	Abigail Schurman

51st NCPEI AGA AGENDA

Friday November 6th, 2026

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

Saturday November 7th, 2026

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 –10:00	Opening Ceremonies • Grand Entry & Opening Prayer • President and Chief Welcoming Remarks • Introduction of Board and Staff • Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests • Welcoming Remarks from Guests/Dignitaries
10:00 - 10:30	Procedures • Nomination & Selection of Chair/Co-chair • Roll Call • Acceptance of Rules of Order • Acceptance of Agenda • Nomination & Selection of Resolutions Committee
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break
11:00 – 12:00	• Reading and Adoption of 50th (2025) AGA Minutes • Reading and Adoption of 50th (2025) Resolutions and Actions Taken • Resolutions Committee Report
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	• President & Chief's Report • Board of Director Reports • National Chief's Report • Program Reports
2:30 – 3:00	Health Break
3:00 – 3:30	MAPC Presentation
3:30 – 4:00	Mi'kmaq Grand Council Presentation
	GROUP PHOTO
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner/Presentation of Crib Trophies
7:00 – 9:00	Bingo
9:00 – 10:00	All Ages Dance (Theme: Halloween Dance Party)
10:00 – 12:00	Dance and Cash Bar (19+ only)

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Sunday November 8th 2026

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Attendance/Roll Call **Moment of Silence for Indigenous Veteran's Day**
9:15 – 10:30	Audited Financial Statements – Presented by Lauren Vail, BDO • Native Council of PEI • Nanegkam Housing Appointment of Auditor
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break **(Hotel Check out)**
11:00 – 12:00	L'nu Fisheries Update Nanegkam Housing Corporation Update
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

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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” by 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 **resolutions@ncpei.com** 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.

MINUTES
Native Council of Prince Edward Island
50th Annual General Assembly
Saturday, November 8, 2025 and Sunday, November 9, 2025
Rodd Royalty, Charlottetown, PE

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Opening Ceremony

- Grand entry began at 9:23 am
- Opening prayer by Georgina Knockwood Crane

President and Chief Welcoming Remarks

Chief Lisa Cooper delivered President and Chief Welcoming Remarks (*found at Tab 1 of 50th Annual General Assembly Report*).

Introduction of Board and Staff

Chief Lisa Cooper introduced NCPEI Board of Directors, L'nu Fisheries Board of Directors, Nanegkam Board of Directors, NCPEI administration and core staff, program staff, and Winter Street Shelter staff.

Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane thanked the young lady who created the slideshow.

Introduction of Guests

- Randy Way, National Vice-Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Hayley Sherman, National Youth Representative
- Jim Devoe, Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Lorraine Augustine, Chief and President, Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Theresa Cooke, Finance Director, Native Council of Nova Scotia
- Melissa Diotte, Chief and President, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council
- Members of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council:
    - Keptin Benny Sark
    - Keptin Sean Paul
    - Keptin Keith Julian
    - Keptin Michael Denny
- Mark Sheridan, Director of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Province of PEI
- Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council
    - Vanessa Mitchell, Executive Director
    - Chris Smith, Lead Field Technician – ResTORE
    - Barry Marsman, Project Coordinator – EMSA
    - Codie MacKinnon, Project Coordinator – Climate & Oceans
    - Joshua Barucha, Project Coordinator – AFSAR
    - Payton Truyens, Marine Social Science Coordinator – MCT
    - James Veres, Project Coordinator – ResTORE

- Ryley Crowe, Environmental Policy & Species at Risk – MAARS
- Kathryn Townsend, Aquatic Resources Manager – MAARS
- Tammy Proulx, Project Coordinator – iBoF Conservation Planning Initiative

Nomination and Selection of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson

Bradley Cooper was nominated as Chairperson by Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) and seconded by Robert Panchuck (Zone 2). Bradley Cooper accepted the nomination.

Lorraine Augustine was nominated as Chairperson by Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) and seconded by Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3). Lorraine Augustine declined the nomination.

Bradley Cooper appointed as Chairperson

Roll Call

Chair Bradley Cooper began roll call for delegates. Delegate count is 60 (majority vote to pass a motion or resolution is 50% +1 (31) of those present and eligible to vote).

ZONE 1					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Christine Butler	X		Tracy MacEachern	X	
Corinna Butler	X		Jonathan McNeill	X	
Jamie Clements	X		Danielle Moore Rayner	X	
Terry Clements	X		Chris O'Halloran	X	
Vanessa Clements	X		Helen Perry	X	
Jennifer Collicutt	X		Jamie Perry	X	
Clayton Delaney	X		Mary Phillips	X	
Judy Duguay	X		Colleen Richards	X	
Louanne Gavin	X		Loretta Ross	X	
Wesley Hustler	X		Tim Ross	X	

ZONE 2					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Jaimie Augustine	X		Nelson Labobe	X	
Amanda Blackett	X		Destinee Larkin	X	
Lisa Cooper	X		Ebony Larkin	X	
Bradley Cooper	X		Parker Larkin	X	
Richard Cooper	X		Billy Larkin	X	
Jordan Crane	X		Greg MacLean	X	
Megan Gallant	X		Robert Panchuk	X	
Sarah Jackson	X		Mike Viau	X	
Jody Jesso	X		Roger Walker	X	
Georgina Knockwood Crane	X		April Whynot	X	

ZONE 3					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Claude Bergeron	X		Adele McGuire	X	
Janice Bergeron	X		Mary Lynda Mills	X	
George Cheverie	X		John Richard	X	
Roxanne Gallant	X		Lori Sanderson	X	
Donna Gregory	X		Chris St. Onge	X	
Dawne Knockwood	X		Amanda Trainor	X	
Jennifer Langley	X		Dana Wakelin	X	
Kayla Larkin	X		Clifton Walker	X	
Liz Laybolt	X		Melanie Walker	X	
Kim Laybolt	X		Deanna Walker	X	

Motion #1 – To Accept the Rules of Order

Rules of Order (*found at Tab 2 of 50th Annual General Assembly Report*) were read by Chair Bradley Cooper

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Chris St. Onge (Zone 3)

Motion Carried

Motion #2 – To Accept the 50th (2025) Annual General Assembly Agenda

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (Zone 3)

Discussion:

- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) asks to make an amendment to the agenda and vote for 2024 resolutions that were missed last year
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated there is an agenda item to discuss resolutions from last year. If resolutions from last year didn't have seconder they would have been considered invalid from last year and not carried forward. If the resolution did have a mover and seconder from last year, they will be discussed as part of resolutions on tomorrow's agenda.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asked for clarification. Over 100 resolutions were made last year and not all were signed. Interested to know what resolutions will be allowed to be put forward and how much discussion needed
- Chair Bradley Cooper directed all to tab 3, page 40, 31 resolutions from last year plus by-law amendments from 2023. Of 31 received last year, only first 6 or 7 were discussed. The next 13 were tabled for vote this year as they had proper mover and seconder. From number 21 to 31, they are listed as invalid as they did not have a seconder last year. They are included in minutes towards end for clarity. Can be resubmitted this year but not carried over from last year.
- "Strongman Vote" held – unofficial result was that last year's resolutions would be discussed and voted on tomorrow's agenda
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) requested an official count
- Mover and seconder both agree with amendment to amend agenda so that last year's resolutions are discussed/voted on today

Motion Carried as Amended

Nomination and Selection of Resolutions Committee

Chair Bradley Cooper read the Draft Resolutions Committee Report *(found at the end of Tab 2 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) was nominated by Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) and seconded by Dana Wakelin (Zone 3)
Kayla Larkin accepted the nomination

Destinee Larkin (Zone 2) was nominated by Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) and seconded by Ebony Larkin (Zone 2)
Destinee Larkin accepted the nomination

Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) was nominated by Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) and seconded by Dana Wakelin (Zone 3)
Dawne Knockwood accepted the nomination

Amanda Blackett (Zone 2) was nominated by Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) and seconded by Kayla Larkin (Zone 3)
Amanda Blackett accepted the nomination

Louanne Gavin (Zone 1) was nominated by Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) and seconded by Jamie Augustine (Zone 2)
Louanne Gavin declined the nomination

Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) was nominated by Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) and seconded by Jaime Augustine (Zone 2)
Mary Lynda Mills accepted the nomination

Christine Butler (Zone 1) was nominated by Coleen Richards (Zone 1) and seconded by Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1)
Christine Butler accepted the nomination

Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) was nominated by Jaimie Augustine (Zone 2) and seconded by Destinee Larkin (Zone 2)
Ebony Larkin accepted the nomination

Motion #3 – To Cease Nominations & Selection of Resolutions Committee

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1)

Motion Carried

Motion #4 – To Accept Resolutions Committee

Resolution Committee members are:

1. Ebony Larkin
2. Christine Butler
3. Mary Lynda Mills
4. Amanda Blackett
5. Dawne Knockwood
6. Destinee Larkin
7. Kayla Larkin

Recognition and Moment of Silence for Indigenous Veteran's Day

Chair Bradley Cooper invited Grand Council Member Keptin Michael Denny to deliver a prayer. The Assembly had a moment of silence to honour fallen indigenous veterans.

Two indigenous veterans present in the Assembly, Murray Morrison and Clifton Walker, were honoured and thanked for their service

Health Break (10:17 am to 10:55 am)

Motion #5 – To Accept the Adoption of the 49th AGA Minutes (2024)

Chair Bradley Cooper reads motions from 49th AGA *(found at Tab 3 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Kim Laybolt (Zone

Discussion:

- Chief Lisa Cooper sought clarification on Motion 13 to accept the NCPEI financial statements, it was not carried.
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated that he stated motion was defeated. Minutes indicate "motion did not carry" but the proper terminology is "motion defeated"

Motion Carried

Motion #6 – To Accept Adoption of the 49th NCPEI AGA Resolutions and Actions Taken (2024)

Chair Bradley Cooper read "Be it Resolved" and "Action Taken" on actionable resolutions from 2023, and "Action Taken" on resolutions carried over from 2024 *(found at Tab 3, pages 41 to 50 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1)

Discussion:

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) requests explanation on Resolution #2023-03: Zone Interim Elections in the third highlighted section (page 41)
- Chair Bradley Cooper explained gives the right and entitlement to Board of Directors to appoint to a vacant Board of Director position. The Board can't appoint until next zone Meeting or Elder's meeting to follow their process first. If zone or Elder's Council fails to elect a director, Board of Directors maintain authority to appoint for a vacant position after waiting for the next meeting

Motion Carried

Motion #7 – To Accept the Draft Resolutions Committee Report

Draft Resolutions Committee Report can be found at the end of Tab 2 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report

Chair of the Resolutions Committee is Mary Lynda Mills

- All resolutions must be received in writing no later than 8 pm on Saturday, November 8, 2025.
- Resolutions must be delivered to a Resolutions Committee member in person or emailed to *resolutions@ncpei.com* with the subject *"AGA Resolutions"* and submitted by either the mover or the seconder

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1)

Discussion:

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asked if the deadline can be moved to 9 pm and if resolutions will be accepted from the floor if there is a mover and seconder
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered no resolutions accepted after that deadline which includes no resolutions on the floor
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asked if original mover and seconder are not in room, will movers and seconders be taken from the floor
- Resolutions Committee Chair answered yes
- Resolutions Committee member Dawne Knockwood indicated a lot of time is dedicated by members and the deadline will be 8 pm
- Chair explained that with resolutions from last year, if the mover and/or seconder are not present, a mover/seconder will be taken from the floor. AGA was adjourned early last year and remainder of resolutions got tabled. By-Law amendments take two subsequent AGA's to be adopted. Usually don't get new movers and seconders in second years. Will be a lot of contentious amendments that may come forward. Strongly recommends mover and seconder who can agree to amendments. Mover and seconder from last year will remain unless not present.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asked if a mover and seconder can be taken from the floor if the original mover and seconder are not present
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered yes, if the resolution was validly moved and seconded last year, can have new movers and seconders if necessary, from the floor

Motion Carried

Resolutions tabled from the 2024 AGA can be found at Tab 3, pages 51 to 61

Resolution #2024-10: Dedicated Space for Youth

Moved by: Jaimie Augustine (present)
Seconded by: Amanda Trainor (present))

Discussion:

- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asked if since not renewing lease on North River Road, does this resolution with the lack of space we'll have when North River Road shuts down or is this with the understanding that we're looking for a new building
- Chair Bradley Cooper interpreted the resolution as the Board of Directors are looking for new space
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) has been around the organization since 1988 and anytime there's been a youth organization event there's always been provided space. North River Road provides amazing space to hold events but it's extremely expensive. Still room to hold events at MacAulay Court. Doesn't matter what building it is.

Resolution Carried

Resolution #2024-11: NCPEI Audited Financial Statements

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Sarah Jackson (present)

Discussion:

- Chief Lisa Cooper does not agree with resolution. Board of Directors should be knowledgeable about financial statements. Presentations, board retreats, and Auditor are given to educate the Board. If an individual is not sure they can read financials or represent their zone, maybe need to look at criteria of zone director. Upsetting and embarrassing
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicates must be addressing the Chair. This resolution doesn't talk about the AGA not accepting the audit. This is about Board of Directors being able to review the audit
- Chief Lisa Cooper indicates the auditor does the audit with the Board of Directors and reviews with the Board of Directors
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicates under the PEI Companies Act the Board of Directors do have this right. It is somewhat of a moot point. Board of Directors were presented with a copy of the audit and auditor explained two or three minor changes they needed to do and wished for the Board to accept it. This resolution would speak to the auditor not allowed to make small amendments after the fact
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) is disappointed to hear pressure is on Board of Directors and who is educated enough and who is not. It is a clear resolution. All that is being asked for is to see final results and that the changes made are simply given for awareness. Board of Directors need to have due diligence to ensure financial statements are properly done
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified that it was the motion from the Board to accept finances in principle. This resolution is speaking to the fact that the Board of Directors no longer would be able to accept in principle and must accept final copies with no further additions
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) stated if Board of Directors are signing their names, important to know what they are signing. Important to know if changes, where changes are done. Board of Directors are ultimately responsible to make sure things are done properly and informed

- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) suggested it should be implemented to have the whole Board sign off
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated that goes beyond scope of resolution
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) Been on Board for a long time, never seen this happen before. Usually, financials are given to the Board in a respectful time frame. The language used is throwing off, "unacceptable oversight." Doesn't believe it was done intentionally. Board needs to work together and just not accept until necessary information is provided

Resolution Carried

Resolution #2024-12: Forensic Audit

Moved by: Jennifer Collicutt (present)
Seconded by: Christine Butler (present)

Discussion:

- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) said after this happened with financials, the Board of Directors have taken upon themselves to check into things especially when it comes to financials. Even requesting sections not understood. Has emailed Emily and she will send all documentation requested. Moving forward, ask more questions, get into things deeper and have a good understanding
- Chief Lisa Cooper is not in favour because a forensic audit is expensive. Auditor went to all three zones to explain financials. Front part of audit has to go to funders. Deferred revenue is used by government, used to be cash in/cash out. A lot of members didn't understand deferred revenue. BDO said no issues with financials. A lot of these resolutions were put forward in not a good way or mindset. Not in favour
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) feels strongly as a Board of Director in allowing every member at AGA an opportunity to voice opinion. Will not ever tell anyone that this type of resolution is not valid or not important. Everybody within this room/organization has right to their opinion and put it on paper for us to look at

- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) asked the Chair if not the President and Chief and financial director and staff are not responsible to answer questions, who do questions get directed to
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered ultimately under NCPEI and Nanegkam By-Laws, the President and Chief is the ultimate final authority for day-to-day management. Board of Directors also play a role
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) fails to see where witch hunt if people are asking for accountability
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered getting off the point of what this resolution is calling for – a forensic audit into the Native Council. Asks to keep discussion to that
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) remembered AGA last year BDO person was in airport and not able to make it. Someone else was present but unfamiliar with financials of NCPEI and was trying to present on them. Not able to answer questions. In Zone meetings, BDO person said organization doing great financially. Not necessary to have a financial audit

Resolution Defeated

Resolution #2024-13: Operational Management of NCPEI

Moved by: Parker Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)

Chair Bradley Cooper explained that this is a requested by-law amendment. Copy of by-laws can be found at tab *7 of 50th AGA, Article No. IX, Section 5 (page 19 of 22)*. This resolution is requesting to remove the phrase "and shall control" from the first sentence.

Discussion:

- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asked how can you be responsible for something out of your control. Former administration was fond of micromanaging, and we moved away from that. Staff can speak to that
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified in asking for "and shall control" to be removed, this would make the President and Chief responsible for all actions of staff. It's not a "be it resolved"
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) sought further clarification from Chair regarding Section 5
- Chair Bradley Cooper quoted Section 5 – could be written as "shall be responsible for only". In new reading of Article IX, Section 5, "the President and Chief of the Council shall be its chief executive officer and as such shall be responsible for all day-to-day management and the business and affairs and operations of the Native Council". It removes the phrase "and shall control". President and Chief shall not be able to control day-to-day management
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) indicated staff are hired for their capabilities/knowledge they bring to the organization. As a former program coordinator, she had an obligation and responsibility to membership to make sure they are safe. Was micromanaged and questioned constantly, made it difficult to do her job. If we can't trust people we are working for and with, that's concerning. Why would you put someone in position if not able to do that job or trust them.

- Georgina Knockwood Crane (Red Fox Elder) (Zone 2) has been with the Council for many years. Many Chiefs before controlled programs. Doesn't think this resolution is needed with present Chief. Doesn't agree with this resolution. Respect is a big word here. Respect the Chief, respect people on the job.
- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) suggested an amendment. Instead of saying "control", change to "oversee"
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified "shall be responsible for and oversee day-to-day management"
- Mover and seconder agree to amendment
- By-law so amended to "shall be responsible for and oversee day-to-day management"
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) sought point of clarification. What are we trying to achieve between "control" and "oversee"
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered functionally it's the exact same, just slightly better sounding wording
- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) agreed that oversee sounds better
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) commented that as an organization, we elect a leader who is the face of organization, who accepts responsibility, runs the organization, and advocates politically for the organization. How can President and Chief of the organization take that

responsibility if they don't have control of the day-to-day management, control of the operations and business and affairs of NCPEI. Chief was elected and have to respect that and people in positions. We're moving forward. We're doing great. When an election happens, doesn't matter which side you're on. If we are moving forward, why trying to tie hands of leader who was elected. Doesn't understand the role of HR in this. Are we asking HR to be in control of operations along with program coordinators?

- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified that the WHEREAS clauses don't have any force and effect. Be it resolved is the key part of this. If changing the intent of resolution, the "be it resolved" would only read that we're changing the word "control" to "oversee". The whereas clause would have to be substantially changed as well, i.e., "whereas the term "control" is a colonial term that has negative implication…" There wouldn't be any reference to HR
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) urged to be careful – can't ask someone who was brought in from an election be ultimately responsible and then restrict their power. To restrict or change role of President and Chief to not allow her to run the organization at best capacity for their leadership. If something working, why trying to change it
- Chief Lisa Cooper stated this whole constitution is blowing up. We don't sit down and work together. Bigger issues to fight. She is a CEO and President and Chief, face of the Native Council, voice of the Native Council, representative of the Native Council. As CEO, responsible for the day-to-day management. I don't hire and fire. Someone has to run the organization, someone is accountable for how the organization is run. She has brought this organization forward tenfold. Bigger issues to fight than each other.
- Chair Bradley Cooper reiterated we're not discussing resolution as was written. Now just changing "control" to "oversee". No functional change.
- Jaimie-Lee Augustine (Zone 2) is a member and staff. Doesn't matter who is Chief, she just wants to be seen and wants to be heard. Standing as an Indigenous, Mi'kmaq mother of two, 7th generational survivor of residential school in Canada. Doesn't want to be controlled but seen. Will always trust the Chief. Chief will always oversee us. You oversee me, you don't control me.
- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) stated we are Indigenous people and we've been controlled for long enough. It's just a word, let's change it.
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) suggested to start amending it to be Mi'kmaq instead of all this word, that word. There's a Mi'kmaq term for working together for common purpose. Should be replacing those words with Mi'kmaq words.
- Chair Bradley Cooper foresees some challenges. By-laws are under provincial/municipal/colonial law. Very hard to introduce Mi'kmaq words. Have to be colonially incorporated
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) indicated that NCPEI represents all Indigenous people across PEI. Agrees with changing "control" to "oversee". Appreciates President and Chief, she doesn't control us, she oversees us and represents us.
- Jonathan MacNeill (Zone 1) feels like Chief Cooper is taking this personally. It's not geared towards her per se, geared towards the Chief.
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) thinks if any other word was more triggering, wouldn't be this long of a discussion. Is a triggering word and it's a word change – shouldn't take this long to change it. By-Laws are written as we go. Not directed at anyone currently, this is down the road for any future leader. A true leader can lead without control. Out of respect, change word. It doesn't change the role, just makes it less harsh, less triggering

- Chair Bradley Cooper is satisfied there's been enough discussion. In terms of actual by-law itself, "be it resolved" will just say the word control is being changed to "oversee". Chair will draft something up for the "whereas" to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval/final wording. No longer entertaining discussion at the microphones
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asked if this will be sent to the Board or to the membership
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified it will be a by-law amendment, has to be two years regardless. Whether changed or not, it requires voting on it at two different AGAs. Will be voted this year, by-law amendment moved forward to next year. Doesn't functionally change the role of President and Chief

Resolution Carried – Notice of Constitutional Change for next year

Lunch (12:15 pm to 1:00 pm)

Resolution #2024-14: Universal Suffrage

Moved by: Dawne Knockwood (not present at time of discussion)
Seconded by: Mary-Lynn Blanchard (not present)

Mover from floor: Kayla Larkin
Seconder from floor: Dana Wakelin

Discussion:

- Chief Lisa Cooper indicates it costs a lot of money to set up universal suffrage. If this is how the membership wants to go, no issue but need to bring up the membership and determine what membership criteria looks like, how far back, etc. Will take years to get there - won't happen overnight
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) sees it that regardless of universal suffrage, until membership fixed and process in place, nothing is changing anyway. Same people allowed to vote/attend/have access to rights we have currently. Asks Chair Bradley Cooper to give everyone definition of universal suffrage
- Chair Bradley Cooper explained is the idea of one person, one vote. Suffrage is another word for voting. Multiple ways to go about universal suffrage. Two examples – here on PEI there are polling stations set up for certain dates/times to cast vote. Another way is our sister organization in New Brunswick does mail-in voting. Send ballots to every household, has to be witnessed, mail ballots back in. either or both processes would be considered universal suffrage where voting for President and Chief would not be limited to 60 delegates at the AGA but the whole membership either through ballot stations or mail-in ballots
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) feels it is very unfair to have only 60 delegates here every year for 1500 members. When it comes to president position, should be one member, one vote. It's the right thing to do.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) has two visions on this. There are different PTOs (provincial/territorial organizations) that do universal suffrage. Had opportunity to speak with some leaders. Some PTOs had lawsuits because of universal suffrage which cost them a lot of money. Leaderships had to have injunctions put in and there was no President and Chief for a long time – months to years. If appealed and have to go through legal process, can be held for a very long time. Report came back, very costly and not

feasible for PEI. Opposed to this. Financially, doesn't make sense. Have to put the organization first. Can understand the need/want for every member to have one vote. Don't believe we're in that place now. Have to deal with the membership first.

- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) indicates there are lots of options. Asked last speaker to clarify legal grounds and specify specifically on why lawsuits brought forth
- Chair Bradley Cooper speaks to Kayla's question. Happened to a sister organization and it was a legal matter. Doesn't want to air sister organization's legal troubles in the open.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) indicates the band she is from, Swan River, has universal suffrage. She gets all information through email, snail mail, text messages. Every member that belongs to NCPEI has the right to have a voice. A lot of people are overlooked and overshadowed
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) thinks to say huge financial barrier is simply untrue. We can set up spot in Portage, MacAulay Court, Zone 3. Have a three-hour period on a particular day. Members to show ID to confirm they are a member. Have a vote. Not complicated
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) stated when NCPEI first started, nobody put up walls like now. Try to find solutions. Do your job.
- Chair Bradley Cooper asked mover and seconder if the intent of resolution to introduce by-law amendment to be brought forth for next year and introduce universal suffrage into by-laws, or is working "move towards it"
- Mover Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) clarified it is for a by-law amendment. Asked if it can be added in policy and procedures for voting
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered it would have to be a by-law amendment as this is a fundamental change to the President and Chief's election.
- Mover Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) clarified it is a by-law amendment
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated exact wording will be drafted by himself to provide to the Board of Directors and brought back to AGA for final reification.

Resolution Carried – Notice of Constitutional Change for next year

Resolution #2024-15: Board of Directors Documented Proof of Indigenous Ancestry

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Jennifer Langley (not present)

Seconder from floor: Louanne Gavin

Chair Bradley Cooper offered interpretation for this by-law. This would be a constitutional change. There is a section in by-laws already, Article VIII, Section 3 "Automatically Ceases to be Director", which talks about how when a Board of Director is elected, they have 60 days to provide a criminal record check to the Organization or else they are automatically removed.

This resolution would borrow similar wording in order to say that upon being elected a Board of Director has 60 days to produce a certified Level 2 Genealogist report or otherwise they are automatically removed. This would be a constitutional change to that effect.

There is an issue with the wording of the resolution, which talks about affecting current board members. It is something explained to the Board by legal counsel that when there is changes in the organizational fundamental by-laws, these are all changes that will be on a go-forward basis.

They are not meant to retroactively go back in time to undue what has already been made. Would not affect current Board of Directors who are properly elected, properly sworn in due to current processes in place.

Discussion:

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) states in order to become a member of NCPEI you're supposed to prove ancestry
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified may have ancestry but may not have level 2 certified genealogist letter
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) states she is 100% Cree, generations back. She will not pay a genealogist to have somebody who is not indigenous, tell her she is. Board of Directors need to know what they're talking about. Need to have a level of understanding what the organization is, what's going on, vision, etc., to move forward and make decisions. Criminal record check is part of the process and should be a given for Board of Directors because of the people we work with and represent. To be part of the organization, there has to be no question who you are as indigenous person
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) confirmed this resolution would be going forward. She was a spousal member at one time but did not have any documentation. Only intent behind this is then there's no question according to membership rules and nobody's talking behind the scenes.
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) referenced Bill C-31 and how it caused a lot of trouble. White women who married Indian guys got full status and their kids. When our women married out they lost status and their kids as well. Bill C-31 brought that back but didn't take it away from those white women. Pretendians don't have enough blood and are not going to count. If you are not on the government list of entitlement to be an aboriginal person, you don't count.
- Chief Lisa Cooper understands where Patsy is coming from. Watching (government) Bills very closely. This membership needs to make a decision – are we a friendship centre or rights bearing organization. Treaty rights, Peace and Friendship are her rights on this land. We are moving towards friendship centre-type organization. That will keep her as President and Chief from any table when it comes to rights. Need to have some strong conversations among membership of these hard questions. What is the Native Council? Fighting is not ever what NCPEI was intended to be. There are changes coming. We need to decide what we are. If rights-bearing, have to look at what Roger recommended, two-tier, not one above the other but we are in Mi'kmaq territory. With rights comes money, funding, recognition, and a seat at the table
- Keptin Michael Denny indicates Grand Council never looked at people as different. Have to look at our people as one. Have to find ways to work together. Our hearts are here for everybody. Have to work and respect each other. The job we want to do is to work together and be our people
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) suggests a friendly amendment. With mess we are in with current membership, moving forward when Board of Director is elected or re-elected, regardless of where they stand, status, non-status, etc., NCPEI should have process where membership in file. Kayla found out her file was incomplete with no documentation other than copy of application her mom signed in 1997. Suggests a friendly amendment that moving forward, add any re-elected Board of Director or Board of Director, that their files are going through by membership to confirm full member/full file.

- Chair Bradley Cooper can help wordsmith. Still will be constitutional change. Will borrow wording similar to criminal check with the 60-day buffer period: within being elected and appointed to office, within 60 days to have complete membership file with the organization to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors
- Chief Lisa Cooper agrees with Kayla. We've had someone elected who wasn't indigenous. Membership is a mess, process is a mess. Need to stop membership process and do real work with the Board and community of how far back are we going to go (generations). Genealogist is a tool for us to use. Need to decide on a process that we all feel comfortable with. Go back and redefine who are we and who do we represent.
- Mary Phillips (Zone 1) indicates recently there have been genealogists on First Nation. First on Lennox Island, Scotchfort, and NCPEI. What's going to happen to us? Lennox Island is a mess. Community has to get more involved. Elders dying off. Roddie Gould was right on saying get your work done, even if you have to step on toes. In 2019, got a letter from Ottawa, saying if you guys don't do this we're going to do it for you. Process has started. NCPEI has to start with grandmothers/grandfathers. Going to be in deep trouble. Need to do something for NCPEI.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) stated when it comes to this question about membership, it's going to be difficult trying to figure out what's fair, criteria, DNA, etc. Very complex question/issue. Her concern is how far back do we go? What impacts have we had to deal with as a family re: residential schools which opened in 1829, closed in 1996; day school; 60's scoop, We have a history with the Government of Canada and impacts it has had on indigenous people. We know as a board how hard this choice is. People are going to be extremely upset with us. As organization we have an obligation and responsibility to the organization and what/who it represents. Not an easy question, no right answer. Organization can only do so much with what it has. Want to ensure those who are indigenous have the ability and opportunity to get programming or access to the organization in the way it is intended. Lots just want to be without understanding impact of intergenerational trauma. Not an easy question. Doesn't need a genealogist to tell her she's indigenous
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated Kayla requested amendment to drop the level 2 certified genealogist part and put more focus on whether they have a complete membership file.
- Mover and seconder agree with amendment.
- Chair Bradley Cooper will wordsmith but in general, in future, Board of Directors who are elected must have within 60 days upon being elected, a full membership file to the satisfaction of the Board

Resolution Carried as Amended – Notice of Constitutional Change for next year

Resolution #2024-16: Definition of Position

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Roger Walker (present)

Mover and seconder agree to withdraw Resolution

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #2024-17: NCPEI Housing and President and Chief Conflict of Interest

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Jennifer Langley (not present)

Seconder from floor: Johnny Richard

Mover and Seconder agree to withdraw Resolution

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #2024-18: President and Chief Position Clarification

Moved by: Louanne Gavin (present)
Seconded by: Jonathan MacNeill (present)

Discussion:

- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) seeks clarification
- Chair Bradley Cooper quoted Article VIII, Section 24. Two different issues – one situation where President and Chief unable to attend meeting. In that case, by-laws gives Board of Directors that they can vote to select chairperson. That chairperson does not have to be director. Other situation is if Chief is present, she is the chairperson at the meeting but may temporarily allow someone else to chair certain agenda items. If President and Chief is absent in the middle of a meeting, by-laws already dictate the Board selects another chairperson and that chairperson does not need to be a Board of Director
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) states this makes it sounds like the Chief is designating a chair in their absence when by-law already stated the Board chooses the chair, This is not fixing anything
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies that this is again the whereas clauses are sometimes misleading. A be it resolved would say that Chief, in their absence, Board of Directors must select another Board of Director to chair the meeting. That would be the change – that it must be another Board of Director chair the meeting, not a staff person
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) is one of the longest standing Board of Directors right now. President has never missed a meeting so she's normally the chair. She does give us the opportunity if we so like, to chair certain sections of the board meeting. She does a roundtable, not every meeting but every so often. Only time seen Bradley chair was recent, but Chief was in a Zoom call. Bradley knows his stuff and we're comfortable with that.
- Chief Lisa Cooper would like to know what occasions as it suggests she's doing something she's not doing. Not easy to chair. Part of the process of being on a Board. She doesn't stick around for membership and will ask someone else to chair. She's never not been at a board meeting. Anyone else is more than welcome to chair.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) seeks clarification from mover and seconder. Hard time understanding exactly what it's stating and what it's asking for
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified – unable to hear due to background noise

- Kim Laybolt (Zone 3) stated [unable to hear due to background noise] She has to stop taking it personally
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) [unable to hear due to background noise]
- Chair Bradley Cooper confirms this would be a constitutional change. Right now the Board is allowed to appoint anyone they choose to be a chairperson. This would limit that it would have to be a Board of Director
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) hasn't heard any Board of Director say they've had this issue personally. If this is more an operational order at a board meeting, maybe the Board should determine at the beginning of board meeting through order of operations. If the Board doesn't want to have a certain person chair, they have the authority to vote who they want in as a chair
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified that no, they do not. By-laws state the President and Chief must be the chairperson. The President and Chief can temporarily give the chair and power to another director for the full extent of the meeting, technically, but the by-laws are clear that the President and Chief must be the official chairperson
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked if the resolution specifies the absence
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered, in her absence, yes. The authority of the Board picks the next chairperson
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked if in the absence of Chief that the Chief cannot by proxy select another individual to Chair that meeting unless it is a current Board of Director sitting at that board meeting
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered the President and Chief does not have the power to select the chairperson, it must be majority of the Board
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) is not saying Chief selects it. Currently, the Board of Directors would then vote at that meeting in the absence of the President and Chief to determine who chairs that meeting moving forward
- Chair Bradley Cooper agreed with Richard Cooper
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked what part of the resolution are we trying to change?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered that currently, the Board of Directors can vote for any person whatsoever to be the chair. This would limit that the Board of Directors must select another Board of Director to chair the meeting.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) states the Board has autonomy to make its decision. If they feel comfortable selecting a certain individual because they feel comfortable with that person chairing, and all Board of Directors are comfortable with that, why would we make an issue out of that. Board is either going to vote or not vote for someone to chair
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) gained clarification on resolution. Thinks it is misworded and misinterpreted. Intent was when President and Chief cannot attend an event, either out of province, instead of delegating someone on their own, they want a process put in place to select a member from the NCPEI
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated this is to chair the Board meeting. Intent of this resolution is very clear when talks about chairing board meetings specifically. Real information is in the "be it resolved" clauses
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked if are mover and seconder okay with withdrawing? Easier to leave it to the Board
- Mover and seconder agree to withdraw resolution

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #2024-19: Process for Assigning a CAP Proxy/Alternate

Moved by: Dana Wakelin (present)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (present)

Discussion:

- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) clarified this is just in fairness. [unable to hear due to background nose].
- Chief Lisa Cooper indicated Constitution and By Laws allow zone directors to choose an alternate to go on their behalf. Any zone director can choose a member in their community to go on their behalf. Chief doesn't interfere in zone meetings or zone directors, how they want to do their zone meetings. If I'm not allowed to go, I have a right by the Constitution to pick someone to go on her behalf. Takes her job seriously, is representing our province. Going to send someone in her absence that has a long history of long understanding and can stay connected with while they're up there. Not in favour of this resolution. Zones have their process, she doesn't interfere in their process. There needs to be that respect back to the position of the President and Chief. Elected by community to be the representative and to make decisions. If going to tie the hands of the President and Chief, this organization will not succeed
- Chair Bradley Cooper provided clarification. Chief is correct, zone directors could still have full authority to choose an alternative. CAP delegation – we don't know how many CAP delegates we can send from year-to-year
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) stated when picking alternates at zone meetings, names go in a hat for those who want to be an alternate. We don't have to do that; don't have to be fair. It's principle more than anything. It's showing your community you want them involved. She trusts her community. When going to Ottawa you're representing the whole organization – very serious job. Giving fairness and transparency to zone is the right thing to do. Should be a process put in place
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) elaborated on what Kayla said. It's not in by-law amendments, can just choose anyone but decide to do this and do it fairly. Suggested a friendly amendment for NCPEI come up with by-law amendment making a fair process and adding President and Chief into it. Also added if really concerned about your voice and opinions you should be there
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) feels you want to send people that know the organization, history, etc. Used Daniels Symposium as an example. It's not about the membership, the organization comes first. Want people there that have expertise and knowledge on the topic. Conversation on environment – hopes Clara Jane is at that meeting. Meeting on justice, send someone that knows about justice. Send someone because they have that field expertise, not just because they want a trip. Need to have contribution to topic of conversation. Zone directors have their own process and they get to choose through their own autonomy how their process works. Are we benefiting by telling President and Chief she has to pick a random from a hat
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) heard a lot about growth and learning but we're not going to give people opportunity to learn and grow in the organization and sister organizations and learn other PTO's, etc. What is growth if we're not going to put steps in to grow
- Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1) went to CAP AGA this year, picked as alternative. Very dedicated in learning what Daniels Symposium was about. Learned a lot and was able to

put her two cents forward. If not going to make our community known and understand what they're trying to learn, what are we doing

- Chief Lisa Cooper explained when it comes to CAP, if she can't go, she'll send who she feels best represents her and her mindset on a particular topic for NCPEI. Not here to dictate to zone directors. When there are conferences for CAP, she will sit down with April and say we've had a session on MAID and had people in community who attended session. Go back and see if any of them would like to go to Ottawa. This is policy. Who is attending sessions in community? Opportunities for conferences which are learning-based. Environment is not her portfolio so going to send someone involved in environment. Zone directors have their own way given through the Constitution and By-Laws. She respects and follows that but respect/following has to go both ways. This resolution is tying hands of present/future chief with barriers and blockers. Board or member dictating is not always the way. Needs to be a lot of work done between directors and President and Chief
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) stated if the Board of Directors have a process, President and Chief is also part of that Board; she should live up to that process. Has been on a Board for five years, been to past five CAP AGAs. When did selection process, not once was an alternate an immediate family member. Not once was same individual in her zone selected over and over again. Ensured it was out of a hat, fair process

Resolution Defeated

Resolution #2024-20: President & Chief Term of Office

Moved by: Mary Lynn Blanchard (not present)
Seconded by: Lori Sanderson (present)

No one willing to move from the floor

Resolution Invalid

Health Break (2:30 pm to 3:00 pm)

<u>Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) Presentation</u>

The MAPC/MAARS Annual Report for 2025-26 can be found at Tab 10 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report. A booklet was also handed out separately at the AGA,

Vanessa Mitchell, Executive Director of MAPC/MAARS, paid tribute to Roger Hunka, former Executive Director of MAPC/MAARS, who passed away at the end of September. Roger left a unique history. Although he was not indigenous, he fought every day to right a lot of issues that face indigenous people. His loss is felt every day in the office and his spirit, tenacity and commitment stays within all of us.

"Because I said so" – Roger Hunka
August 5, 1947 - September 20, 2025

Motion #8 – To Accept the President and Chief's Report

Chief Lisa Cooper read the President & Chief Report *(Tab 4 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Robert Panchuk (Zone 2)

Motion Carried

Motion #9 – To Accept the Board of Director Reports

All Board of Director Reports can be found at Tab 4 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report

- Judy Duguay, Board of Director for Zone 1, read the Zone 1 Report
- Sarah Jackson, Board of Director for Zone 2, stood for questions regarding the Zone 2 Report
- Dana Wakelin, Board of Director for Zone 3, read the Zone 3 Report
- Destinee Larkin, Youth Representative, read the Youth Representative Report
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane, Elder Representative, read the Elder Representative Report

Moved by: April Whynot (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Vanessa Clements (Zone 2)

Discussion:

- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) requested Zone 2 Board of Directors to read their report out loud as not everyone can read
- Sarah Jackson, Board of Director for Zone 2, read the Zone 2 Report

Motion Carried

National Chief Report

National Chief Report can be found at Tab 9 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report

Randy Way, National Vice-Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, delivered the National Chief Report on behalf of Brendan Moore, National Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Chair Bradley Cooper acknowledged Hayley Sherman as the newly elected National Youth Representative

Motion #10 – To Accept Program Reports

All Program Reports can be found at Tab 5 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report

Chair Bradley Cooper acknowledges extra attention given by Clara Jane Wood to her report *(Tab 5, page 18 of 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (Zone 1)

Motion Carried

Motion #11 – To Accept the L'nu Fisheries Update

Jordan Crane, President of L'nu Fisheries Limited read the L'nu Fisheries Limited President's Report *(found as a separate document in AGA Kit)*

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)
Seconded by: Robert Panchuk (Zone 2)

Discussion:

- Chair Bradley Cooper asked Jordan Crane, President of L'nu Fisheries Limited, if there is a date for the L'nu AGA
- Jordan Crane answered no, but it will be end of February or early March

Motion Carried

Motion #12 – To Accept the Nanegkam Housing Corporation Report

Jordan Crane read the Nanegkam Housing Corporation report written by David Rooney, Housing Manager *(Tab 6 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (Zone 1)

Motion Carried

Day one concluded at 4:55 pm

MINUTES
Native Council of Prince Edward Island
50th Annual General Assembly
Saturday, November 8, 2025 and Sunday, November 9, 2025
Rodd Royalty, Charlottetown, PE

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Roll Call

Chair Bradley Cooper began roll call for delegates. Delegate count is 57 (majority vote to pass a motion or resolution is 50% +1 (29) of those present and eligible to vote).

ZONE 1					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Christine Butler	X		Tracy MacEachern	X	
Corinna Butler	X		Jonathan McNeill	X	
Jamie Clements	X		Danielle Moore Rayner	X	
Terry Clements	X		Chris O'Halloran	X	
Vanessa Clements	X		Helen Perry	X	
Jennifer Collicutt	X		Jamie Perry	X	
Clayton Delaney	X		Mary Phillips	X	
Judy Duguay	X		Colleen Richards	X	
Louanne Gavin	X		Loretta Ross	X	
Wesley Hustler	X		Tim Ross	X	

ZONE 2					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Jaimie Augustine	X		Nelson Labobe	X	
Amanda Blackett	X		Destinee Larkin	X	
Lisa Cooper	X		Ebony Larkin		X
Bradley Cooper	X		Parker Larkin	X	
Richard Cooper	X		Billy Larkin	X	
Jordan Crane	X		Greg MacLean	X	
Megan Gallant	X		Robert Panchuk	X	
Sarah Jackson		X	Mike Viau	X	
Jody Jesso	X		Roger Walker	X	
Georgina Knockwood Crane	X		April Whynot	X	

ZONE 3					
Delegate Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Delegate Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Claude Bergeron	X		Adele McGuire	X	
Janice Bergeron	X		Mary Lynda Mills	X	
George Cheverie		X	John Richard	X	
Roxanne Gallant	X		Lori Sanderson	X	
Donna Gregory	X		Chris St. Onge	X	
Dawne Knockwood	X		Amanda Trainor	X	
Jennifer Langley	X		Dana Wakelin	X	
Kayla Larkin	X		Clifton Walker	X	
Liz Laybolt	X		Melanie Walker	X	
Kim Laybolt	X		Deanna Walker	X	

Motion #13 – To Accept the NCPEI Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2025

Lauren Vail, Partner with BDO, presented financial statements for NCPEI for fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 (*found in separate booklet entitled: Financial Statements and Supplementary Matters March 31, 2025*)

- The audit opinion of BDO for the Native Council of PEI is no significant deficiencies were noted, no major errors were noted, and there was nothing reportable to the Board of Directors.
- There was a small management letter brought to the Board and management with four recommendations for improvement.

Moved by: Robert Panchuk (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3)

Discussion:

- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) complimented Lauren on a very good presentation. He asked if exact same financials were presented to the Board of Directors at the board meeting
- Lauren Vail (BDO) answered that the financials were presented to the Board on July 20, 2025, and approved and accepted. The financials were signed off by Lauren on July 21, 2025
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked if in Lauren's opinion there was any suggestion of theft or mismanagement, or is the organization in good standing and doing very well
- Lauren Vail (BDO) answered that there were no errors in accounting and no indicators found for fraud and/or theft. Lauren indicated that from a financial standpoint, the NCPEI is doing very well and is strong, positive this year

Motion Carried

Motion #14 – To Accept the Nanegkam Housing Corporation Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal year 2025

Lauren Vail, Partner with BDO, presented financial statements for Nanegkam Housing Corporation for fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 *(found in separate booklet entitled: Financial Statements of Nanegkam Housing Corporation (Urban Native Housing Program) Year ended March 31, 2025)*

- BDO met with the Board of Directors on July 30, 2025, and the report was signed same day.
- The audit was free from error and no fraud was discovered.
- There was a small management letter with four recommendations for improvements on financials and operations. No significant deficiencies found.
- The audit opinion of BDO for the Nanegkam Housing Corporation is no significant deficiencies were noted, no major errors were noted, and there was nothing reportable to the Board of Directors.

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Donna Gregory (Zone 3)

Discussion:

- Chair Bradley Cooper pointed out a typographical error on page 2. The first numerical column header should read 2025, not 2024
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asked if exact same financials were presented to the Board of Directors at the board meeting, were they accepted, and if Lauren has any concerns with the financials and how is the NCPEI from an organizational standpoint
- Lauren Vail (BDO) answered that the financials were presented to the Board on July 30, 2025. No fraud or errors found. Really pleased with results of Nanegkam. Really great to recover on the theft in 2024 and issues with suppliers. With funding cooperation of CMHC and any funding initiatives, cash is being used appropriately for improvements to housing units

Motion Carried

Motion #15 – To Appoint BDO as NCPEI Auditor for 2026 Fiscal Year

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (Zone 3)

Motion Carried

Proposed By-Law Amendments

Chair Bradley Cooper read proposed By-Law Amendments to be brought forward as a Constitutional change (*Tab 8 of the 50th Annual General Assembly Report)*

Proposed By-Law Amendments were pre-approved by the Board of Directors and if carried, will come into effect immediately after this Assembly.

Proposed By-Law Amendment #01 – Membership Removal and Appeal

Chair Bradley Cooper summarized the meaning of this proposed by-law amendment

Discussion:

- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) concerned that if members have 15 days from time of notice, with Canada Post mail strikes, mail might be received past the 15 day limit. Not a fair process.
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered we can't dictate when Canada Post goes on strike. Some leniency to allow for more time to be given. 15 days from when notice received or sent successfully. Can be mail, email, word of mouth, etc.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asked for clarification on "Membership Removal: appeal", bottom paragraph, first sentence
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered it's not an appeal of the membership file. This is an appeal of whether the Board was biased/conflicted in process. Appeal of board decision, not membership file. Appeal committee must receive exact same information that Board

received and make a decision based on if they believe Board acted in good faith based on evidence provided. Not considered a second chance for member to make a second case.

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) [unable to hear due to background noise] If that was the case, reason at the time was because Board of Directors not qualified enough to make that decision. Why would directors go through files? What makes them qualified?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered there has been discussion on qualifications of genealogists. Ultimately, a board decision to make
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) asked even though it's been done by a certified genealogist. Doesn't understand what the point is of that requirement in there if Board can still make decision
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered as board members are elected, things can change. Board ultimately approves members, not genealogists. Board determines what evidence is credible

  Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) doesn't think it's a matter of whether the Board is qualified/not qualified. Genealogist has worked with us and said there's an issue. Asked us for a process, giving you a process. This wasn't kept secret or not discussed. been in discussion for past two years. Members are well aware. Proud of Board of Directors as this is the second time she's seen all in agreement. Giving members what they asked for – a process
- John Richard (Zone 3) indicated members have to meet rules as written today. [unable to hear speaker]
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered there's the concept of moving forward. Previous Board of Directors can't tie hands of future Board of Directors. This is challenging in terms of having past members who accepted by the time period being no longer accepted. Board feels best interest of strengthening membership files of the organization. Modern day criteria in determining aboriginal ancestry of membership
- Johnny Richard (Zone 3) asked if you can't have any new evidence, what's the point of the appeal?
- Chair Bradley Cooper reiterated that the appeal is not an appeal of membership file, it's appeal of whether Board of Directors made right decision with evidence they were given. Up to the members to present their best defence
- Johnny Richard (Zone 3) asked if the Board that sits today, if they did his review and found he is to remain a member, in two years from now with new Board of Directors, he can be brought back again on same information? A person could be up 3-4 times being reviewed over next 10 years on same information. Would only support if an amendment indicated a person could only go before the Board one time with information
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicated there are challenges. Past Board of Directors can't tie the hands of future Board of Directors. First line of section added "Directors may, from time to time, by simple majority vote review all of the membership files…". Won't be on annual basis. Sister organization in Nova Scotia went through similar process, took three years. Lengthy process on Board's behalf
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) agreed with Kayla as this is something members have asked Board to come forward with. We're off to a good start. Needs to be more research/time to refine the current model being presented. Maybe table back to the Board for a year for Board to do research. This may not be the best model for NCPEI. Should do it properly and have another year to discuss it.

- Johnny Richard (Zone 3) thanked Richard and agrees should be tabled for at least a year. Has issue with someone being forward time and time again. Can't support the way it's written.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) stated for two years they've met with legal counsel and done work as Board of Directors. We're here to bring these things forward. If you don't support, bring friendly amendments up. How much more time is needed? Reality is something needs to change in our membership. We do it or the government will do it for us.
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) thinks we should challenge membership and constitution as well because it's garbage. Urges to write letters to premier and aboriginal minister. Need to rally and get attention.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asked if legal counsel has been obtained regarding a member who met requirements at one time, we change requirements, no longer meet it. Has opinion been obtained.
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered that legal counsel has confirmed that is valid.

Resolution Carried – By-Laws will be amended

Health Break (10:15 am to 10:50 am)

Proposed By-Law Amendment #02 – Recognition of Adopted Members

Discussion:

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) doesn't remember voting on this last year
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified it was at a Board meeting, not at AGA
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) stated as somebody who was adopted she is First Nations. Was able to continue her rights as an indigenous child within provincial and federal governments, child and family services. Was adopted into a white family, doesn't make her white. To adopt a non-indigenous child into an indigenous family, how can you make that child indigenous? You don't change who you are just because you're adopted.
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) commented that her sister and husband adopted baby girl from China. Can understand that child being raised in a status First Nations household. While under their care, she agrees with it. But when she grows up, to have a woman from China going around with status card, she can't agree with that. Torn
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) asked who's to question who a child is when they go in a home. They could be black, Chinese, etc. They bring that child in and bring them up, that is their child that they adopted - doesn't matter what race. Feels that children adopted into homes become that family. She doesn't question what nationality a child is. Opening a can of worms with family with adopted children. We as indigenous people have been discriminated all our lives. Why do that to our children and they're children? Cannot be discriminating anymore. Have to think when we're passing things what it's going to do to those children, families. Passing resolutions is very, very important. Not just paper to look at. Have to start thinking about what we're doing here on adoption
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) stated if she was unable to have a child and adopted a child from away, that child is her's, blood or not, child will be raised in indigenous home and the indigenous way. That will be their teachings/culture/who they are.

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) appreciates what Kayla says but reiterates it doesn't make them indigenous. Just because welcomed into a home, cared for, loved, taught culture, doesn't change who they are. She was fortunate able to hang onto indigenous ancestry being brought up on non-indigenous home. Doesn't make her white. She lost her culture, language, identity as indigenous person/child. Was taught the culture and language. Does not change the fact that she is an indigenous person. If she was to adopt Chinese, black, etc. child and brought up in her home, taught culture/language, etc., doesn't make them indigenous. Makes them an amazing ally who understands indigenous people, understands intergenerational trauma, history, who we are and what we represent. Doesn't make them indigenous. Doesn't change who they are.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) disagrees with Sarah and states it 100% changes who they are. Growing up with trauma changes who you are. Growing up in a cultural environment changes who you are. Nobody thinks about the child. Some grow up in situations they don't know where they come from, who they are. We're putting our culture, teachings, us into them. We're putting us in those children. Doesn't agree they are just an ally.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) states as a 60's scoop survivor who lost identity, adopted into non-indigenous homes, they do not have that connection. Ally is not a bad word. You can't change who they are. Yes, might be brought up in traditional home, doesn't change the fact not indigenous. Understands where Kayla's coming from and empathizes. Can't change a person's nationality just because of the home they are brought up in. Doesn't change the fact they are not indigenous.
- Chief Lisa Cooper asks to be mindful that not always going to agree. Hot topics. Agrees with what Kayla is saying. When adopted when you're a child you are being exposed to that trauma. People who adopted you experienced that trauma. Everyday these children are seeing parents/siblings go through trauma. Residential school, Red Skirt Day. Always will see people who use loopholes and adopt adult children over 18 to get a status card for education, etc. paid for. Government let that happen. When a child is adopted into our community, that child is fully engaged into our community. Trauma stems from experience, home, community. Also understands where Sarah is coming from because she's been adopted and can sympathize as an adoptee the culture she missed. Children experience trauma from parents. Her trauma has been passed down to her kids
- Chair Bradley Cooper asks those remaining at microphone to keep comments short. No need to circle back on opinions already heard
- Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) commented when raising kids we're not changing kids to be who they are, we're raising them to be who they are. Raising them to be part of us.
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) is concerned about kids. Had a teaching one time about how we choose our lives before we're born. She chose her life as a spirit. Knew people were going to hate her and don't want to hear anything she has to say. Talks to her Elders and ancestors and they tell her who to be, where to be and what to fight for and what to say. Does a lot of research/reading. Mom and dad both survivors. Any child that gets adopted, they chose that life. Trust that child's life is going to be okay. Stop arguing over it.
- Lola Chaisson (Zone 1) asks to help her understand why her ancestry constantly being questioned but it's okay for a different (Chinese) to be accepted as indigenous but she's not and she's not adopted
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) has intergenerational trauma. Family adopted into did not and they didn't understand trauma she and birth family went through. Mother hasn't talked to her in 17 years because she found her birth family. She thought she was being replaced.

We need to be mindful. Understands raising a child gives them an amazing wish – life. Doesn't make them indigenous.

- Christine Butler (Zone 1) respects what's coming out here. Her problem is in Zone 1, they are in this and part of it, raising their children but line has been questioned. Feel like constantly checking if someone's trying to get rid of us. When walked up yesterday, drums playing, in her heart she felt like she was home. Constantly fighting my line. If she's not indigenous, she's not indigenous, but she knows she is. Doesn't want a division. Clements and Delaneys - Delaneys fought for years to show heritage. Clements have been in it a long time and yet it's a fight. We can't say we're constantly going to check our lines and go against our people and then accept a child from China or anywhere else and say that child is accepted when we're fighting constantly to stay in.

Resolution Carried
By-Laws will be amended

Resolutions

Chair Bradley Cooper invited Resolutions Committee to head table to read the proposed Resolutions.

At Chair's discretion and in accordance with the Draft Resolution Committee Report, all resolutions require mover and seconder who are registered voting delegates. Any resolution without mover and seconder will be stricken and will not come to the floor.

Resolution #03-2025 – NCPEI to Seek Funding for the Elders Council

WHEREAS the Elders Council currently has no secure funding;

AND WHERAS funding that is received is minimal and does not allow for many activities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Native Council seek to find funding through the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples or the Government.

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood Crane
Seconded by: Michael Viau

Discussion:

- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) is the Elder representative and program very strong. Elders group meets in Charlottetown and Portage. Every time they meet there's a guest speaker, dinner, craft or somebody comes to talk about culture/language. Also have Bingo. With no funding it's hard to get to meetings sometimes – have to pay for gas. Funding is there for food and crafts. With no funding, less ability for what they can do. Is asking NCPEI to give a hand.
- Chief Lisa Cooper loves the resolution. Always here to seek funding. CAP also looking at national level. Can't ask CAP for money they don't have but they can direct us. Chief and political advisor can meet with seniors. At provincial level, new senior secretariat funding geared towards Elders - both have been applied for. Met with senior secretariat and spoke about elders needing navigator as they are residential school survivors, trauma informed. Navigator hired with province doesn't have proper training – doesn't have the

understanding, has to come from within. Much of our culture is non-verbal. Door not shut on funding.

Resolution Carried

Resolution #04-2025 – Zone/Board of Directors Must Reside in Their Zone

WHEREAS Zones 1, 2 and 3 must hold elections to vote for vacancies on the NCPEI Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS community members from one zone can submit Intent to Run in another zone and potentially be elected;

AND WHEREAS the current Constitution and By-Laws does not provide guidance to this issue;

BE IT RESOLVED that any community members submitting Intent to Run must reside in the zone they are running in;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any elected Zone/Board of Director must reside in the zone they are elected to.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)
Seconded by: Janice Bergeron (present)

Discussion:

- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies this would be by-law amendment. Would need some work with draft wording. First be it resolved, on a procedural level we can't control what members do. Can't stop them from running. Second be it resolved, would have two sections added to by-laws. First section would be on eligibility for director – must be member of that zone at time of being elected. Second part would be added to the removal of a Board of Director that Board of Directors can vote to remove zone director if they don't live in that zone. Will be challenges around automatic removal process – would be better as vote for removal.
- Chief Lisa Cooper seeks clarification. In past had zone directors resign. Names brought to the Board for consideration. Didn't matter what zone you were from, going to fill a vacancy. Does this change that or is this another section that has to be changed? Good to see Zone 3 being more active. Not a lot of people want to run – doesn't come lightly to be a representative of a community. Is this taking away from zones to change whoever they want? NCPEI is membership of all peoples regardless of where they live. How does this affect if interim position as well?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers used to have director at large - if zone unable or unwilling to elect their own director, director from different zone could apply for that position for a one-year interim basis. Directors at large no longer part of the Constitution, removed back in 2017. Current process is appointment is made by Board of Directors for a temporary one-year term still. If eligibility requirement that you must reside in that zone, would no longer have directors from other zones be eligible for position. Wonders if intent is to make an amendment and clarification to the by-laws for director at large provision.

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) is concerned that this proposal seems to change this resolution. Maybe Whereas needs to be written out differently. Feels it's important the zones have their own representation. If going to appointed into a position on temporary basis, that's what it should be, a temporary basis. Doesn't mean they become a board of director for years afterwards, supposed to be for each zone. If working in zone 3 and get a job in zone 2, does that mean as board of director have to step down because had to move because of job?
- Chair Bradley Cooper provides interpretation. Two amendments in by-law – eligible requirement at time of election. Vote for removal criteria. Doesn't agree they can be automatically removed. Grey area.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asks if Board has authority to do that, why doesn't the community? It's the community they're representing.
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers this is a larger conversation. *PEI Companies Act* – Board of Directors must have ability to remove and appoint directors regardless of what membership wants.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) agrees with Chief Cooper. Mentioned last year passed amendments to vacancy section where zone now has authority to select/elect individual. Proud of community/zones. Went from 6-8 members showing up, now have full capacity at 30 plus. There's very well-educated members capable of holding these positions. Unfair to have someone come in from different zone and put their name in. Need to put trust into members.
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) indicates she was interim board of director for Zone 1 even though living in Zone 3. Had a blast doing it. Met a lot of members and really enjoyed time spent with them. When election held for full-term, Richard, Lori, and Christine ran. Members had their say. Moot point. Anybody can submit their intention to run. Should be up to the members who they vote in. Vote for the person running in their zone. Members shouldn't be limited/told/dictated to who their respective board of directors must be. Offers best wishes to Christine. Members decided and that's the way it should continue to go.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) agrees with Lori. Richard had no intention of running for that position at that meeting. Members of zone at that time went around table three times with nobody wanting to run. Richard was asked if he would be interested. Made sure at meeting he said only if no one else from zone wants to run and zone feels comfortable to put him as a zone director. What evolved into today is not what intention was at meeting. Zones have autonomy. This motion is dictating to the zones. Let the members appoint their leader. A lot of elections come down to popularity contest. It doesn't matter why people vote the way they do – that's democracy.
- Johnny Richard (Zone 3) is concerned about denying the opportunity of a better director. If only one person running in zone and zone not happy, would deny that opportunity to someone else. Rules are clear. If someone runs in a different zone and you don't want them, don't vote for them.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) [unable to hear due to background noise]. Should be closed – reside in zone you belong to. Being abused at this point. Knows someone from Zone 1 – teacher, well educated, put her name in and was refused. Process was not followed. Need to remember we are here as delegates to vote. Here to make decisions for betterment of not only zones but NCPEI as well. Zones are well off in membership, doing very good. Intelligent people to step up. Up to us to close loopholes.

- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) has also seen the other side of what Kayla said. Not one-sided conversation, seeing both sides. Suggests friendly amendment – maybe in first round of zone elections only those from zone are brought forward in first round. If they don't achieve 50% + 1, open up to other candidates in other zones who submitted intent to run.
- Mover and seconder agree with amendment.
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies that part of process of election, in first round zone can apply, subsequent rounds open up to others. Would still be removal criteria at a later point in time. Asks mover and seconder if that is their intent or just leave it to how the zone elected.
- Mover and seconder agree to amendment on first round to live in zone and then open out afterwards.
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) is not in agreement with amendment as it adds another loophole. Make things black and white.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) agrees with Dana. Just created another loophole. Resolution itself was solid. Want zone directors to be in zone so they can be contacted/discuss. Familiarity in zone. This creates more opportunities to open the door to other people not in the zone. Important that director is in your zone.
- Brandy Googoo (dormant member of NCPEI) offers input. Three different zones for a reason -needs are different. Director from another zone may not be making proper decision for that zone. Don't know full needs for people in zone. Was Vice President, father was Vice President. Was board of director for many years. Aunt was founding member. Take out personal feelings. Think rational/logical/legal.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) states Council runs best when full board. Shouldn't eliminate alternative to selecting directors. If lock this down and zone doesn't approve any good directors, what's the next step?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered if a zone does not select an individual for whatever reason, Board has authority to appoint replacement for less than one-year term until next annual meeting. Board not restricted/bound on who they elect/zone they come from
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asks how does a director appointed by Board better represent somebody the zone would have chosen as last case scenario.
- Chair Bradley Cooper verified the intent of appointment is less than a one-year term. Board agrees intended for there to be full 3-year term for zone elected director. Appointment is interim/temporary until next full election.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asks if amendment could be made where zone does choose to pick someone from another zone, only for one year.
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered that goes beyond scope of this resolution.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) states appointed director has no input from zone. Doesn't see how an appointed director is better choice for a zone. Would be fine as last case scenario.
- Seconder (Janice Bergeron) wishes to have their name removed
- Seconder from floor is Destinee Larkin
- Chair Bradley Cooper confirms with mover and seconder to undo amendment
- Chief Lisa Cooper seeks point of order – discussions with other people influencing
- Chair Bradley Cooper agrees mover and seconder are of sound mind and capable of making their own opinions
- Mover and seconder agree to undo amendment.

- Chair Bradley Cooper confirms will come forward next year as Constitutional amendment. Eligibility at time of election must be within that zone and removal votes if someone is outside of zone.
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asks how this applies to the board appointing a director
- Chair Bradley Cooper answered director appointed must be from that zone

Resolution Carried – Notice of Constitutional Change for next year

Lunch 11:58 pm - 1:01 pm

Resolution #05-2025 – Cooling/Warming Space for Elders

WHEREAS global warming has caused a significant increase in temperature as experienced this past summer;

AND WHEREAS our Elders and members who have medical conditions and respiratory issues may be impacted by this increase in temperatures;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI provide a cooling/warming station in each zone for its members and Elders

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Judy Duguay (present)

Discussion:

- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – clarification. Charlottetown office – generator added for elders and community members in case of storm like hurricane. Can go there and warm up, food. Portage office also received this. Zone 3 left out because no space. Asking for this or asking for something to be set up at these locations for someone to open the space
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – not to start anything new but to facilities provided to provide space or make it be known at times when there's extreme temps either way, the space available for anyone to come, water, cool down. Just someone there to watch out for our elders. No extra expense on council to provide extra space
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) – change wording since we already have a location in Zone 1 and 2. Don't have one in zone 3. Telling us to provide a place. We have a hall we rent in zone 3. Might not be a cooling/warming. Change wording – seek access to building in zone 3
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – provide a place. Can see his point. Make a space available. There are places – portage, FJ MacAulay. Make aware there is an area
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – word "provide" sounds like "have to do this". All staff and members are going through it. Asking the word be changed to "seek". Great opportunities for zones to tone into their locum and to have individual within locum who will take initiative when situation like this happens. Great opportunity to give back to our locals. Taking a staff member away from their crisis to help our crisis is asking a lot
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – all in agreement - can be amended. Not fair to land on locum either. If warnings to stay off roads, stay off roads. Unusually warm summer – no rain/relief. Office still open on those days. Cool place with water. Moreso to have that space and make members aware they come in if they need to

- Chair Bradley Cooper – therefore be it resolved that NCPEI seek to provide
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – NCPEI "seek a colling/warming station in each zone for it's members and elders. Lori fine with "seek" to provide
- Mover and Seconder agree to amendment
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) would like in case of Zone 3 to make members aware of local spaces
- Resolution amended
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – do know the St. Peters Complex does have a safety zone for hurricane situation. Another good amendment would be the NCPEI seek funding to find EMO team. Team that activates in emergencies for elders
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – with the amendment covers Kayla's first concern. Second one would have to be a second resolution
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) – add NCPEI working with MAPC looking at disaster plan

Resolution Carried as Amended

Resolution #06-2025 – Board Minutes

WHEREAS NCPEI claims transparency to its members at Town Halls, AGA's, etc.;

AND WHEREAS members are no longer permitted to attend Board meetings;

AND WHEREAS the minutes from these Board meetings are only available to view at the head office in Charlottetown;

BE IT RESOLED that the minutes from all NCPEI Board meetings be made available at both the head office in Charlottetown and at each zone meeting, following approval.

Moved by: Johnny Richard (present)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (present)

Discussion:
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) – I always state previous board meeting minutes available for
- Friendly amendment – most previous approved set of minutes from previous board meeting.
- amended
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) – Officer should be amended to Office
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – also carry books in our cars. Ask for last zone meeting for all copies of minutes from board minutes for last year and a half
- Chief Lisa Cooper – clarification – "made available" made available to view or to take with them?
- Chair Bradley Cooper – administration question. Some zones might want a copy handed out to every person. At least one physical copy

Resolution Carried as Amended

Resolution #07-2025 – Membership Documentation DNA

WHEREAS there are very limited documents available showing Indigenous ancestry;

AND WHEREAS the current membership rules states what documentation is acceptable, also limits the amount of documentation available confirming Indigenous ancestry;

AND WHEREAS because we use a level 2 certified Genealogist makes the documentation available even more limited;

BE IT RESOLVED when an individual from the past has been documented and is scientifically proven to be Indigenous, the Board cannot refuse the documentation for the membership application based on DNA document alone. Scientifically proven documentation of an individual from the past is better than any written baptism records or census, due to human errors in the recording information provided:

1. The scientific documentation has been accompanied with all links and documentation to the connected Indigenous ancestor.
2. The scientific documentation has been verified as accurate by level 2 Certified Genealogist
3. A certified genealogist letter is also required to prove that all the links have been established.

Moved by: John Richard (present)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (present)

Mover and seconder withdraw resolution

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #08-2025 – Program Staff to Attend Town Halls and Zone Meeting

WHEREAS the President and Chief holds quarterly Town Hall meetings;

AND WHEREAS Zone directors hold quarterly Zone meetings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Native Council have programming staff attend Zone meetings and Town Halls to bring information to the members.

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood-Crane (present)
Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)

Discussion:

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) –Zone meetings are opportunity for members to speak without feeling like they're being watched. Should be kept separate from Town Halls.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) – some members that came to me said they didn't want to go to Zone meetings. Wasn't to have zone meetings and town halls together. Staff come and give information. Hoping that would continue on – staff come in and give info on programs and council.

- Chief Lisa Cooper – bring 35 staff members? All programs are going to be relevant. Wondering if more effective way. If you have new members coming in, they don't know all programs available. Should be a request. Sometimes not a lot of time to arrange bringing Program staff in.
- Process to amend to say program guide.
- Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) – good resolution. Number drop in attendance. Didn't have connection with coordinator. Not all 35 programs. Amend to say 2-3 employees out so you get hands on interaction, face to face meet and greet. Community doesn't know who staff is, staff doesn't know who community is.
- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) – ISET program, fisheries, like the idea not all the programs bring two. ask what they'd like to see.
- Johnny Richard (Zone 3) – been at a few meetings. By the time the info presented no time for anything else. A lot of info they had to share. Should be discretion of zone director.
- Chair Bradley Cooper – two amendments to this. Drop reference to Zone Meetings. Town Halls are the control of head office. Zone meetings political – Town hall program updates.
- Second – not all program staff. Rotation selection
- Mover and Seconder agree

Resolution Carried as Amended

Resolution #09-2025 – Youth Participation

WHEREAS truth and reconciliation involves acknowledging the harms of the past, particularly through truth sharing in order to heal relationships and achieve mutual respect;

AND WHEREAS NCPEI's mandate is to foster and strengthen Aboriginal languages, cultural identity, traditional practices and to inform the 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;

BE IT RESOLVED that all youth be permitted to participate in youth programs and events provided by NCPEI regardless of whether or not they are members of NCPEI without repercussions to the child, their family members, or the youth director or program coordinator.

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (present)

Discussion:

- Chief Lisa Cooper – can't think off top of head any youth event where any youth was discouraged or family. Door is open. Don't discriminate. Embrace different cultures. Shocked if this is happening. Never discouraged any youth
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – at AGA prior to election my children were the only two that showed up. Daughter took a friend, welcomed and treated beautifully. Totally accepted. Lisa and Bradley for sure. They came out to the car with arms loaded, smiles. Had the time of their lives. Was made aware of an issue – putting this forward just for a safeguard

to make sure this does not happen in future. Safeguard that we are an accepting community. All children allowed to participate. Here at AGA we have adults involved/participating.

- Deanna Walker (Zone 3) – know of two children – father passed away – indigenous. issues with trying to get them involved – told not members or member's children. Christmas party – have to send an email every year. As soon as people see their names – don't recognize. Parent not living to become a member. This means not going to have to explain every time I try to sign them up for something. People know them.
- Chair Bradley Cooper – three different categories of events – contract with government. Youth council, not gov. funding – Christmas children's. Board decision all children will receive. Support for our allies
- Chief Lisa Cooper – nothing is like you think. Last year – family where half kids indigenous, half not. Extended family of non-indigenous kids wanted their kids involved. Have had to say no – has to be immediate family. In favour of this – we will make it work
- Brenda Tuplin (Zone 2) - Every Child Matters
- Brandy Googoo (dormant NCPEI member) – remember sometimes funding restrictions. Does limit sometimes, unfortunately
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – funding contract have to be indigenous. Funding guidelines are funding guidelines, throw in funding contract will supersede the by-law
- Christine Butler (Zone 1) – voted on something earlier saying if we have children that are adopted into the system, automatically become members. But if I have a couple kids that are in my family, they don't count
- Chair Bradley Cooper – different situation. If members of NCPEI, considered indigenous. If not, wouldn't be treated as indigenous but would still be considered
- Christine Butler (Zone 1) – have 5 grandchildren. Don't treat them different because two are aboriginal and three are not. How do I bring 5 to party and say you two younger ones you don't get gifts. How do you explain that
- Chair Bradley Cooper – discussion at Board – all children can participation for quality, just not extended family.

Resolution Carried

Resolution #10-2025 – Diabetes Program

WHEREAS the Indigenous community are the highest population living with diabetes;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no Indigenous diabetes health programming, support, or medical health advocate;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCEPI seek funding to bring back a diabetes program, who will not only educate members but also be a diabetes support person

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Dana Wakelin (present)

Discussion:

- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – miss diabetes program. Been a long time since we had one. Thankful for having consistent info, updated info. Lacking in last while. Important.

Highest population living with diabetes. Don't feel comfortable going to diabetes program in Charlottetown – hard to get in., diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, no one to take to my appts. Cousin Tyler died of same thing. Didn't have someone to educate on this. Didn't hear from renal clinic or nurse. No one to advocate for me on my behalf. Need help. Need someone to advocate on our behalf.

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – agree with this. Only concern with way it's worded – support person – fab. Educate members makes me nervous. Depends on who person is – wrong info or not updated, held liable if something happened?
- Chair Bradley Cooper – some challenges legal/medical advice to individuals. Generalized info okay
- Chief Lisa Cooper - used to have Aboriginal diabetes program – Kim ran for many years. funding got cut. Have not seen it come back. Gov has initiatives and then they subset – no longer available. Not worried about liability. Always do support and navigate. Giving them a source of info. Will speak with policy people. Runs in my family – Richard is diabetic, both my parents.
- Patsy Bernard (Zone 2) – is diabetic. Did a lot of research. Nutrition. Can google it. Don't need a program, just need willpower. Managing through food and eating properly. Bread to eat – sourdough. Eat a couple pickles. Apple cider vinegar shot every now and then. Lemon in your water. Don't need a program.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Crane Knockwood (Zone 2) – diabetic for last 10 years. Two kinds of needles and pills. Remember when Kim had diabetic clinic. One of the major things was their toenails. If you don't get toenails cut properly, you're in trouble. Special people talking about their diabetes and how they could control it and their eating. Need education of how to take our medication. Sometimes I forget about my needles or pills. 76 years old, memory not as good as it used to be.
- Chair Bradley Cooper – health policy. year or two ago released distinction based. excludes NC from mandate. Elected new PM, slashing budget and reducing debt. Funding for next 4 years looks very grave. Mi'kmaq health navigators. Near and dear to my heart.
- Clara Jane Wood – advocate for someone diabetic – two forms of arthritis, blind in one eye, can't read or write. Stops in quite frequently. Seeking companionship, someone to talk to. Through conversations – gaps. Newsletter doesn't mean everybody's reading it. Whether we move forward with diabetic program or senior navigator, can't read, rely on community.

Resolution Carried Unanimously

Resolution #11-2025 – Fishing License Tag Distribution

WHEREAS non-status card carrying members of NCPEI have access to the discounted fishing license/tags in the fishing season;

AND WHEREAS some of the status card-holding members are unable to get a license due to high demand and low number of tags received by DFO to L'nu Fisheries;

BE IT RESOLVED that priority be given first to members who have a status card from ISC, can receive a discounted fishing license/tag;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 75% of the fishing license/tags are set aside for members who are recognized status Indians by ISC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED after the first two weeks, the license/tags open to the rest of the membership for distribution.

Moved by: Jaimie-Lee Augustine (present)
Seconded by: Parker Larkin (present)

Discussion:

- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) – not sure why this came in. no one ever turned away for commercial or food fishery. Still have tags not issued. Don't have a lot of card-carrying members coming in trying to access. Small percentage ?? not because giving these out to non-status individuals.
- Chair Bradley Cooper – L'nu has their own AGA. Commercial fishing not able to be changed by this AGA.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – don't agree with this resolution. ISETS, struggle for participation. To cut that off again we're going to lose our tags if not being used and lose funding if programs not being used. Going to hurt membership and council.

Resolution Defeated

Resolution #12-2025 – Equality at AGAs

WHEREAS the NPEI is an indigenous organization;

BE IT RESOLVED make it more equal using more cultural teaching with traditional circles to create the feeling of community and a safe way to resolve our differences.

Moved by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (present)

Discussion:

- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) – clarification
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – members here today - not delegates but still matter. Clear division within the organization and within this room. Tables spread out across, back-to-back, face-to-face. Why not have it in a situation where we're face-to-face. Equal. Able to bring issues forward and discuss and have solutions. Making the setting more culturally appropriate to a healing circle almost. Would like to ask that individual to speak on it as well.
- Chair Bradley Cooper - if they wish to come forward
- Cassidy Gallant (Zone 2) – separate groups of us. Sit with who you are comfortable with, who you know etc. can see the divide. I had circle keeping training recently. Want to be equal. Sit face to face. See how others are interpreting what we are saying. We all are equal. As indigenous people that's what we are trying to do. Sitting in circle great way to do that.
- Claude Bergeron (Zone 3) – resolution 20, pretty well the same thing.

- Chair Bradley Cooper – a little different. This one is speaking about how the AGAs are conducted
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) – love the idea. Share and talk respectfully. Human nature – go to who we are more comfortable with. In spirit we're here for the betterment of the native council.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) agrees to a certain extent. AGA – we don't have the room sometimes. To put this in a circle going to be quite a ways from each other. If we need to talk to next table, go to table, sit with and talk. We're all in the room. Can talk to each other. If we need a circle we can extend hands. I'm one that likes to go face to face and likes cultural connection.
- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) – understand what Georgina's talking about. Maybe NCPEI can work when planning to make them more culturally appropriate. Not always going to happen – depending on space/situations.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) – can definitely try for next year. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. Lots of forums are set up like that.
- Chair Bradley Cooper - purpose – action taken for all resolutions for next AGA. Some challenges - only one April. Can work with BOD closely on to see how we can indigenous-ize more of our proceedings

Resolution Carried

Health Break (2:14 pm to 2:51 pm)

Resolution #13-2025 – Youth Council Funding

WHEREAS the youth council do not have a program specifically access for funding;

AND WHEREAS the youth council's terms of reference states in their mandate and objectives to create and provide opportunities, but with no funding for everyday meeting and events;

AND WHEREAS at the NCPEI AGA all the 50/50, $100 squares, and silent auction are used for NCPEI AGA cost;

BE IT RESOLVED that this assembly grant the permission to the Youth Council to do whatever type of fundraising they see fit, whether the NCPEI committee is doing the same type of fundraiser or not.

Moved by: Destinee Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Ebony Larkin (present)

Discussion:
- Destinee Larkin (Zone 2) would like to amend this resolution. If AGA committee and Youth Council can come together as one, can split the profits 50/50
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicates that can be done but sometimes challenging. Could be discussion that only one set of fundraising done and profits can be split through AGA and Youth Council
- Mover and Seconder agree to amend

- Chair Bradley Cooper clarified that intent is that at AGA there will be one set of fundraising and profits will be split between AGA and Youth Council
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) asks if going to split with Youth Council and AGA, what happened to Elders? Should be a way we can have something with youth that we can do besides AGA stuff. Youth can make crafts and sell or make 50/50 and other activities rather than with AGA
- Ebony Larkin (Zone 2) suggests friendly amendment. CAP matches National Youth Council's funding and it goes to National Youth Council. Asking NCPEI AGA match Youth Council funding. Has no help from NCPEI staff for the last 7 years, did everything herself. Asking this stays as it is between AGA committee and NCPEI Youth Council. Already a resolution in to get Elders funding.
- Chief Lisa Cooper asks if there was just amendment for half for NCPEI and half for youth
- Chair Bradley Cooper confirms that was the amendment – all funding from AGA, half profits to AGA and half profits to youth
- Chief Lisa Cooper suggests friendly amendment so that all funds raised at AGA go to Youth
- Mover and Seconder agree to amendment for all profits from fundraising at AGA to go to Youth Council

Resolution Carried as Amended

Resolution #14-2025 – Definition of Position

WHEREAS the President and Chief currently on the board as both President and Chief and as a director;

AND WHEREAS this causes confusing during the voting procedures both as the President and Chief who voting role is to break a tie or a director who is vote able to vote only on things they are passionate about;

BE IT RESOLVED that the President and Chief is to sit on the Board only as the President and Chief and not as a director;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Chief can only vote to break a tie.

Moved by: Amanda Blackett (present)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (present)

Mover and seconder wish to withdraw

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #15-2025 – President & Chief Term of Office

WHEREAS the current term for President and Chief of NCPEI is four years;

AND WHEREAS there is no cap on the number of terms that the President and Chief can run consecutively;

AND WHEREAS new yes, ideas and approaches are needed with close alignment with the seven sacred teachings of Humility, Love, Respect, Courage, Truth, Wisdom, Honesty;

BE IT RESOLVED that the President and Chief be limited to two consecutive terms, with a one-term pause (four electoral years).

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)
Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (present)

Discussion:

- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) explains Zone 3 had a meeting to talk about resolutions and drafting them. In looking at past 30 some years, noticed that after second term when someone re-elected, seems like things start to crumble a little bit. This resolution would mean that the President and Chief would have two terms and take one term break. If membership wants that back, can revote after that 4-year term. This allows person to take a step back, re-evaluate their plan, new vision/new future. Hopefully growth will happen. Need to bring back seven sacred teachings in all aspects within NCPEI
- Lisa Cooper thinks this is taking away from membership to make that decision. Be careful of limiting it. Not working well for New Brunswick. In order for change to be made and effect to be seen, need 3-4 years. You're developing your team/mission/dream, bringing forward and bringing members with you. Could lose a great leader. Should be members decision if they want to re-elect President and Chief or not
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Fox (Zone 2) agrees with Lisa. Feels that coming in as president, don't have all the knowledge. Takes 4 years to get comfortable. With the seven sacred teachings - coming around now. Shouldn't be two years
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies it would be two terms, not two years
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) offers a point of clarification – two terms would be eight years, not four years
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies two terms for eight years and then required to take one term off (four years) before able to run again
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) is trying to see this from a futuristic standpoint. The organization grows every day, never same day-to-day. Fears this is restricting. If President and Chief doing amazing job and still have passion/drive and organization is growing, don't want to limit us in the future. Sometimes leader can go for more terms and do amazing work. If not great, just don't vote them back in.
- Chief Lisa Cooper explains when in Ottawa in meetings with government officials, President and Chief is not only representing NCPEI, you're there for L'nu, Nanegkam, MAPC, etc., not just one organization. Does take years to get that extra piece behind you. Have to know a little about a lot of things to start conversations. Developing networks with government/funders. Relationships being built with federal/provincial/municipal

governments. States this is her last term. If you get someone good, then someone new going in, can jeopardize funding. A lot of it depends on relationships built.

Resolution Defeated

Resolution #16-2025 – Indigenous Ancestry for Housing

WHEREAS NCPEI currently has non-Indigenous tenants living in housing without dependents;

BE IT RESOLVED the NCPEI to seek legal advice on how to remove non-indigenous, or with no dependent tenants who are over-housed.

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Amanda Blackett (present)

Discussion:

- Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) sees struggle in community with members who are indigenous members and have children. Sees houses/units taken up by tenants who don't have children under the age living with them. Sees single units with single white men living in those homes. Opportunity for our young people moving to Charlottetown for university or Holland College. Not an attack, simply have units that should be for indigenous. A lot of legal standpoint with IRAC. Asking that we as NCPEI look at this from a legal standpoint on what we can do. Members are stakeholders in organization. If own a house, can evict for a family member, can we evict a non-member for a member who is a stakeholder in the organization? Our housing is for indigenous people
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies intent is to seek legal advice. NCPEI v. Nanegkam. NCPEI owns assets, Nanegkam manages them. Might be more appropriate for Nanegkam seeks legal advice. Keep housing issues local to Nanegkam. Legal counsel would come into Nanegkam board meeting and discuss
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) sat on board before and did let somebody go. Nanegkam Housing was for natives only. Non-natives were kicked out before
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) explains stuck with *PEI Tenancy Act*. Very hard, comes down to human rights. Tricky to do anything with removal. Should be looking at when unit becomes vacant, protections put in place so capability moving forward. Hard to remove someone from housing right now due to housing situation. Need to cover ourselves. Can seek legal advice on that
- Roger Walker (Zone 2) indicates it's a business, not a right. Only takes one bad tenant to lose two years of income. If you have a good tenant, don't want to get rid of them. Takes a long time to get money back if bad tenant wrecks the place. You can go in and rent but it's not a right. If you want the right, you buy your own place. This belongs to the NCPEI. Not in it to be friends, it's a business.
- Chair Bradley Cooper explains Nanegkam is non-profit. Affordable housing do offer a bit of a profit to cover future renovation costs, etc. Intent is well understood. Seeking legal counsel and second opinions so information can be presented to Nanegkam board

Resolution Carried

Resolution #17-2025 – NCPEI Silver Eagles Elders Circle

WHEREAS the Native Council Silver Eagles Elders Circle meet monthly and are required to pay $5.00 each to participate in the meetings;

AND WHEREAS a Bingo is offered, but to participate you must bring a $10.00 gift to add to the prizes;

AND WHEREAS this is creating a barrier for those who cannot afford to do this every month but want to remain engaged and participate;

BE IT RESOLVED that the $5.00 collected at every monthly meeting be used to purchase gift cards for the prizes for Elder's Bingo.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)
Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (present)

Discussion:

- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) speaks on behalf of someone else. In speaking with people who want to help create the resolutions, this one was very strong from one of the elders who wants to participate but has financial barriers. Used to have gift cards as prizes for Bingo – gas, groceries – would go further in this situation rather than $2 trinket.
- Lori Sanderson (Zone 3) has no issue with this resolution especially for Elders in Zone 3 who always have to travel to attend Elder's meeting. Only concern - uncomfortable voting on anything regarding the Elders, not her decision. Should be brought up at the Elder's AGA and brought forward as a resolution there
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) is the Elder rep and knows the Elder who asked for this. Always says to every Elder, don't have to do put money in the collection. Always up to the individual if they want to do it. The money gets gift cards for those sick, in hospital, birthday cards/cake. Most of the Elders agree with it. Most Elders appreciate what's going on with the Elders. This should not be at the AGA. Come to me as the rep and ask me. You don't have to give money if you can't afford it. Doesn't agree and is insulted by this resolution
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) states taking this is not personal and is not what should be happening. Simply asking the $5 collected be used to purchase for prizes. Member said can still come to the meeting but can't participate in bingo or win a prize if don't bring $10 gift.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) disagrees. If you don't bring a gift, can still play Bingo.
- Chair Bradley Cooper offers it could be social pressure. Don't want Elders to feel that this is a financial barrier
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) agrees with Georgina. When she was Elder rep, never asked for money from anybody. Collection - you gave what you gave, if you couldn't give, you didn't. No one questioned or made to feel bad. At Christmas never asked if anyone was struggling but always made sure we had extra gifts. If someone didn't bring one, one available. Never made to feel they were put on the spot or embarrassed. Elders look after the Elders, that's why we have our own AGA. Heartbreaking someone feels like they can't participate because of financial situation. Youth need help - able to get that support

here today. Elders group is different. As former Elder rep, always made sure those things were taken care of

- Lola Chaisson (Zone 1) has been attending Elder meetings and Bingo for over a year. Didn't realize there's a collection. Asked what can on table was for, said you can donate for gift cards or someone sick, etc. Have witnessed people came in and said I can't play Bingo because they didn't bring a gift – Georgina has always said "don't worry dear, lots of gifts". Not sure where this is coming from
- Brandy Googoo (Dormant Member of NCPEI) reminds resolutions brought to floor are people present today who have experienced or feel need is there. Not attacking Georgina, Judy, etc., personally. That person felt there was a barrier. Take the personal out. When you take something personally, you're harming your own soul. Supposed to feel safe to bring forward in this room and not attacked.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) is not trying to attack the Elder or anybody else. Don't want them to feel it's a stress to bring stuff/put money in. Will always be here for the Elders if they need her. Not taking it personal. Don't want the Elders to feel they are being attacked about anything at all

Resolution Defeated

Resolution #18-2025 – President & Chief in Office Availability

WHEREAS the President and Chief is vital to the operational of the NCPEI

AND WHEREAS the office of the President and Chief is held in high regard and is expected to operate in full compacity in the head office of the NCPEI, and be available to members, staff and public;

AND WHEREAS the integrity of the President and Chief's office has been degrading, with very limited time spent in the office being available to members and staff;

BE IT RESOLVED that all current sitting President and Chief Executive resume their office duties, as all other employees are required to do;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this is not a possibility, the President and Chief take a leave of absence until this can be accomplished.

Moved by: Dawne Knockwood (present)
Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)

Discussion:

- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) would like to make a friendly amendment. Third Whereas - integrity of President and Chief's office has been "affected with varying time spent in the office". Not "degrading"
- Chair Bradley Cooper asks if the first Be it Resolved would be "President and Chief" and drop the word "executive"
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) agrees with Chair Cooper. Offers background – when she was staff, return to office after COVID. A lot of time members asking how to see the President and Chief without being available in office. Have to make an appointment/call.

Recently, still limited time in the office which limits time available to members. To compel the President and Chief to come back into the office more to be available in-office to staff and members

- Chief Lisa Cooper explains last year was cancer, this year knee replacement. Not offended. She is under doctor's order and note. Illegal to ask me. Has had staff off on medical/mental/physical/emotional leave - HR respects accommodations. HR has her notes from doctor. Cannot go back to work legally until doctor's note clears her to do so. First note was three hours/week. Went to Pow Wow/zone meeting/Elder's meeting, hurt knees. Since COVID we can do a lot by Zoom. She Zoom's staff. Bi-weekly meetings with MAPC, NCPEI, Nanegkam Housing, L'nu Fisheries. April is the gatekeeper – if you need me, go through April. This is Human Rights. If you have a medical note, she can't say you need to come back, need your note to come back. Part of HR policies. Scary resolution.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) states being former staff member, she knows how much accommodation there is. After so many months and years, maybe there could be a solution so there is a figure head there.
- Chief Lisa Cooper outlined in her report that she has senior staff that support me – Housing Board, April, Teams. Has arranged with staff to be available to them at any point in time. Has to follow doctor's note and HR policy.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) seeks a point of clarification. Maybe can't ask this. Doctor's note stating you can't come back to work. Doesn't understand.
- Chair Bradley Cooper explains there's a difference between doctor's notes and not able to be physically present at work (working from home) and requiring a leave of absence.
- Brandy Googoo (Dormant NCPEI member) wishes to make a legal point. If taking off work and unable to return to work, accommodations are made. Lengthy accommodations over six months is not normal. EI available for those not able to work and have a doctor's note.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) seeks clarification. First "Be it Resolved" mentions employees and requirements of employees. Does the Assembly have the power/authority to tell employees how to do their job or when they are supposed to come back?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers no. This is under legal laws of PEI. Can't overturn legal laws.
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) asks for this to be withdrawn
- Mover and seconder agree to withdraw resolution

Resolution Withdrawn

Resolution #19-2025 – Vice President Role

WHEREAS in the past, the NCPEI elected both President and Chief and Vice President;

AND WHEREAS the Vice President was the second elected official to take the place when the President and Chief could not attend an event, meeting, or otherwise any engagement as they come up;

AND WHEREAS there has been a significant decline in the attendance of the President and Chief at local and national events, with a proxy being sent in her place regularly;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Office of the Vice President be reactivated to a full-time position to serve alongside the President and Chief for the same four electoral years.

Moved by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)
Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (present)

Discussion:

- Chief Lisa Cooper questions where the money is going to come from. Full salary for vice president - BOC (basic organizational capacity funding) has been set at $250,000 for 25-30 years. Asking for more because it doesn't cover salaries we have now. Have to take out of other core funding to pay other salaries. 35 staff will be looking for their 3.5% cost of living increase. Vice president was volunteer position before. Going into challenging times with American politics, tariffs, funding on fisheries etc. Future not guaranteed. BOCF not looking to increase anytime soon.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) clarified it was a paid position, former vice presidents in the room were paid full salary. Was done away with when we were destitute and had no money. Hearing we have a good budget now, surplus of money. Understands $2.8 billion cut for Indigenous Services Canada and CIRNAC. Can look elsewhere for funding. Great safeguard for when Chief needs break.
- Chair Bradley Cooper asks mover and seconder if intent is for this to be a paid position
- Mover and Seconder agree intent is to be a paid position
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) knows CAP has a vice president and is present. Not a paid position
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies National Vice Chief is a paid position
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) apologizes. As far as vice president goes, if President and Chief isn't able to go, that's their role. Enough times President and Chief not able to attend due to different reasons - respects that. We need representation that members/community elects so voice being heard in best way possible, not just somebody being allocated. Budget is phenomenal. Let's continue to be represented in the very best way that we as NCPEI deserves to have. Yes, government cutting back. Doesn't mean we can't find different resources/avenues

  Kayla Larkin (Zone 3) reminds that just because resolution comes forward, doesn't mean set in stone. Takes a year. Great year for NCPEI to go back and look at budget/funding avenues. This is for future reference
- Chief Lisa Cooper asks who is going to fund the vice chief's salary. Already doing cost of living for staff, Christmas bonuses for Board and staff. How can we keep good workers to the Board. We incentivize as much as we can. You're tying this Council to $60-90,000 to vice chief position that we don't have the money for. Any extra money should go to L'nu. L'nu aways going to support NCPEI. We don't have guaranteed funding for this position. It says significant decline in attendance of President and Chief at local and national events - she didn't go to CAP. If sending someone as proxy, it's their portfolio. Can guarantee attends CAP, MAPC, and anything else accessible on Zoom. Is defensive about saying not doing job - doing job 110%. Not going to be long-term - needed surgery, got the surgery. Doing the best she can. Where is the money going to come from?

- Dana Wakelin (Zone 3) likes the idea of electing someone to be another strong face of organization. If a government official walks into the NCPEI, there's another face - someone we chose to be there and speak for us.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) clarifies when first decided to eliminate vice president position and change to non-monetary, was because Constitution and By-Laws stated the vice president only had two duties – to oversee Powwow and AGA. Not against having vice president. Heard from auditor today – she said we are a money in/out organization. On paper, looks like extra money. If government funding comes in, we have to spend that money. Should be zero balance at end of the year. Should be for BOC to secure additional funding so we can go back to having a vice president. Should have a resolution saying we want federal government to give extra money for this position. If we just create the position, may have to let other people go in order to fund it.
- Roger Walker (Zone 2) states if there's extra money, instead of hiring someone, give to young people to put food on the table at Christmas
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) responds to Jordan's comment about resolution from the floor – witnessed many times the Board making resolutions that supersede the floor. Could come from the Board as a motion to seek more funding for BOC. As Kayla said, look for funding. Don't come at members asking where is the funding. Our job is to bring you suggestions and you find the funding
- Mary Phillips (Zone 1) was vice president years ago. Had to go to all meetings with president at the time. Was a paid position. Was busy night and day.
- Jordan Crane (Zone 2) clarified when it was decided the vice president position would be a volunteer position, the duties were just the AGA and Powwow. Before that, very busy.
- Mary Phillips (Zone 1) can see it being busy again because it's not good out there regarding genealogists – snakes have to watch out for
- Claude Bergeron (Zone 3) points out he's sitting beside auditor who can tell us if we have the budget and answer a lot of questions
- Lauren Vail (BDO) said overall this is a good position beneficial to organization. As of right now, set amount received for operational capacity funding - $377,000/year to cover operational salaries such as Chief, finance team, executive assistant. A lot of salaries get covered by that fixed amount and amount hasn't increased in 20 years. Cost of living increases, building work/repairs/maintenance, anything not program based covered by L'nu Fisheries. Part of reason organization is in positive position- L'nu increased normal $250,000 donation to $500,000. Not sustainable for L'nu. L'nu took on a loss this year to financially contribute to NCPEI. In Lauren's professional opinion as auditor, the resolution is worthwhile to pursue but would change wording to say that the office of the vice president be reactivated to full-time position "when funding can be obtained to pay for that position"
- Mover and Seconder agree to amendment.
- Brandy Googoo (Dormant NCPEI member) started this 20 years ago. NCPEI in bad financial position 20 years ago - close to having doors closed. She motioned to have term of vice president made into a voluntary position. Over time it was phased out. To have a vice president again would be great idea for organization. Agrees with Jordan to take steps – try to get money through BOC - not going to be easy. Try to find sources of income elsewhere. Not feasible to create as full-time paid position immediately. Turn into voluntary position again then have someone there to help advocate to get a salary.

- Mary Lynda Mills (Zone 3) asks if it was a paid position at one point in time, where did that funding come from
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers formerly the position was funded through BOC – funding has been the same for past 20 years. Position removed from BOC. BOC not only covers salaries but things like AGA costs, audit costs, etc. Government hasn't increased for 30 years.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) asks if a paid position, may not have to be full-time. Can be part-time, 20-30 hours/week or on an as-needed basis. If president not able to do or fulfill duties, that's what vice president is for. No reason why we can't have someone in place to represent us in the very best way
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) agrees with Sarah. Feels we have somebody already representing us amazingly. Asks for round of applause. Resolution comes off as somebody who is declining attendance. Asks the National Vice Chief if NCPEI President and Chief she has been at the CAP Board meetings?
- National Vice Chief confirms NCPEI President and Chief was very clearly present at all three CAP board meetings
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) has seen her in attendance at zone meetings and town halls he's been at. Good to have a vice chief to have a second voice to assist when one is needed. Appreciate Lauren saying that right now with the amendment it makes no sense to seek the funding. Let's do it right, take it step by step. L'nu took a bit of a deficit. Gives the Board a year to try to seek funding. Asks Chair if this is a Constitutional amendment
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies as originally written it would have been a by-law amendment. As it reads now, it's giving direction to see if funding is available. Challenge to write a by-law amendment for a position we don't know can be funded next year
- Richard Cooper (Zone 2) supports the amendment as it stands. Hopes this moves forward in a good way
- Chair Bradley Cooper interprets the by-law as amended "Be it Resolved that the office of the vice president be reactivated to a full-time position if funding is available to serve alongside the President and Chief for the same four electoral years." Policy team would try to seek funding through different avenues. If funding can be found/secured, policy team would work with Board of Directors on creating a by-law at that time for vice chief position and bring to next AGA. Doesn't see this as a by-law amendment for next year. Could be next year, five years, 20 years. If/when funding is secured, would then write it into the by-laws. As currently written, not a by-law amendment. This is just direction to policy team to seek funding for vice chief position if it is available
- Chief Lisa Cooper agrees. When looking at North River Road, L'nu's biggest debt was helping us. Have to let North River Road go. For position to serve alongside the President and Chief for same 4 year electoral, would like to see it alternate. Four years, two years. Have the core memory of president and then newly elected vice president coming in and next term.
- Chair Bradley Cooper responds this is skipping ahead a couple steps. At time of by-law amendment, will discuss role/responsibility/when elected, etc. Some organizations have vice president on same ballot as president, some separate. Some organizations have vice president appointed by Board rather than elected by community. All would be decided later on, have to get funding first

- Chief Lisa Cooper doesn't support that. What the Council needs is a CEO. CEO oversees office/programs/staff/HR/funders, etc. so we can do political work. Cautious of vice president and president – be careful who you elect. Should be some kind of criteria.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) states without North River Road, frees up $180,000/year.
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicates NCPEI is purchasing a new building
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) states if purchasing a new building, taking out loans and pay it back. Not outright purchasing the building. Asks if Chair is saying on the first day there's not going to be a loan
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers there will be a huge down payment initially. [unable to hear due to background noise] Expenses could be near or similar to North River Road
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) states was asked to find the money and within 5 minutes we found the money
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) agrees with Dawne. Seeks clarification, thought Chief Cooper said she was the CEO yesterday
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies she is CEO under the by-laws. Discussion about separating two positions, President and Chief being one, CEO being separate. Two separate people
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) answers that yesterday she said she was CEO
- Chair Bradley Cooper confirms she is the CEO under the by-laws
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) indicates should be able to find the money for the vice president
- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) disagrees with Sarah - didn't find money in 5 minutes. L'nu took a hit, not sustainable. Going forward we still need to purchase a building. We're still out money. Just because we're in the positive this year for Council funding, not dependable year to year. Should be posting slightly negative to show we need more money. NCPEI can't fund vice president position without BOC funding increase
- Chair Bradley Cooper indicates the wording of resolution as amended would be seek funding for it. Could be BOC, could be other programs, L'nu. Board will have to agree that there is sustainability for that position based on all financial resources available to us
- Patsy Bernard (Zone 2) indicates there's mixed messages being sent on what we have and don't have. Only ones speaking up is Lisa and her boys. This is not a family business.
- Claude Bergeron (Zone 3) indicates from my calculations, even without North River Road we're still going to be $70,000 in debt by the time we pay L'nu
- Chair Bradley Cooper clarifies resolution as amended is we will try to find out where funding could be available. If we do find funding, a formal by-law amendment will be introduced at AGA. This is just a resolution to seek funding if available

Resolution Carried as Amended

- Chris St. Onge (Zone 3) asks if we're going to ask for funding for BOC?
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers we'll look for funding wherever we can, whether it's BOC, government programming, L'nu Fisheries, finances after the purchase of a building. Will see if we can find money for the vice president position

Resolution #20-2025 – Healing Circle

WHEREAS although there has been considerable animosity within the three zones;

AND WHEREAS healing is necessary for zone unity;

BE IT RESOLVED that healing circles be facilitated by circle keepers quarterly for those interested in all three zones.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)

Discussion:

- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) questions if circle keepers will be trained circle keepers, not just random people that have knowledge and/or is considered an Elder. There's requirements and a 9-month course at UPEI to get proper training. Wants to make sure that's what's going to happen regarding this resolution.
- Red Fox Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane (Zone 2) states that a circle keeper should have experience on how to conduct a circle. She has been a circle keeper for many years and there's a lot of process that goes along with this. Not just passing a feather around to let everyone to talk. Have to smudge, can't be alcoholic/drinking/on drugs. Have to be clean. Have to have experience. Circle keeper is someone who has knowledge, wisdom and caring and could conduct a circle. Important that each zone could be able to sit down and have a circle talk to talk about what's going on or what they're feeling. Have to have knowledge and wisdom
- Roxanne Gallant (Zone 3) knows we usually don't speak on past resolutions that are carried. Number 12 is about the AGA and how we want it to become more culturally sound. Suggests for this resolution we work on it for the year and become a culturally rich community. Hold sweats, healing circles, blanket ceremonies, learn about culture together so next year at AGA we can be a team and work as one community for greater good of our kids. Has two kids, 16 and 17 - are they going to want to be part of indigenous community that fights amongst themselves. Right now her kids could become members but don't want to be part of an organization that's always fighting amongst themselves. Her children need to learn about the Mi'kmaq culture. Her mom comes once a year to teach kids cultural stuff not learning it here on the island. Doesn't have a community. NCPEI is supposed to be my community. Every meeting she's been to she's had to stand up and say this is enough. Doesn't want to come to anything because everybody ends up fighting always. Why are we not a community together? Need to work on healing for the next year. a year. Has ADHD and worries/get anxious when Lisa says she's leaving – scared of abandonment.
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) points out this is specifically a healing circle, not a sharing circle or a justice circle. Specific training needed. Culturally informed, trauma informed. Would highly recommend people chosen for this are certified. Will be trying to help heal people. Certifications very important.
- Sarah Jackson (Zone 2) thanks Roxanne for sharing and understands the abandonment issue. To be certified circle keeper, not the same as being a traditional elder. Very different set of skills. To be certified circle keeper, need to go to school to get training. We work with elders, not just one elder but many elders. Each zone if interested should participate in healing circle to help promote, grown, heal, grow about culture and

tradition. In order to be able to do that, need to be trained/certified. Important to understand how to work with people dealing with trauma so you don't re-traumatize and work through the circle in a way that everybody feels safe.

- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) suggests a friendly amendment – reword that healing circles be facilitated by "certified circle keepers quarterly for those interested in all three zones."
- Mover and seconder agree to amendment
- Dawne Knockwood (Zone 3) indicates one of the main things trained about is vicarious trauma so that you're making sure you're not going to traumatize yourself. If you don't have the proper training to do that, very detrimental to your own health.
- Patsy Bernard (Member from Zone 2) has been in healing circle - not easy, very hard. Once in the circle you can't leave, have to stay and listen to everybody. Can't have people running in and out – disturbs everyone. Watch who you go into the circle with – have to go in with a good heart and good mind.

Resolution Carried as Amended

<u>Other Business</u>

- Mary Phillips (Zone 1) has families who want to go to Powwows, events, zone meetings, local meetings, asking where she can find support for that
- Chair Bradley Cooper answers that if it's for financial support, it is on a case-by-case basis. Approach April who can direct you to other resources and we can try as best we can to support them
- Greg MacLean indicates if anyone needs a drive somewhere, April can give him a call. Doesn't matter where it is – can drive someone wherever they want to go

Motion #16 – To Adjourn the 50th Annual General Assembly

Moved by: Sarah Jackson (Zone 2)

50th NCPEI Annual General Assembly adjourned at 4:33 pm

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

#2024-10	Dedicated Space for Youth	Carried
#2024-11	NCPEI Audited Financial Statements	Carried
#2024-13	Operational Management of NCPEI	Carried – Constitutional Change
#2024-14	Universal Suffrage	Carried – Constitutional Change
#2024-15	Board of Directors Documented Proof of Indigenous Ancestry	Carried – Constitutional Change
#2025-01	Membership Removal and Appeal	Carried – By Law Amendment
#2025-02	Recognition of Adopted Members	Carried – By Law Amendment
#2025-03	NCPEI to Seek Funding for the Elders Council	Carried
#2025-04	Zone/Board of Directors Must Reside in Their Zone	Carried – Constitutional Change
#2025-05	Cooling/Warming Space for Elders	Carried
#2025-06	Board Minutes	Carried
#2025-08	Program Staff to Attend Town Halls and Zone Meetings	Carried
#2025-09	Youth Participation	Carried
#2025-10	Diabetes Program	Carried
#2025-12	Equality at AGA's	Carried
#2025-13	Youth Council Funding	Carried
#2025-16	Indigenous Ancestry for Housing	Carried
#2025-19	Vice President Role	Carried
#2025-20	Healing Circle	Carried

All Constitutional and Bylaw amendments can be found in Tab 8.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Tabled Resolutions from 2024 AGA

Resolution #2024-10: Dedicated Space for Youth

Whereas the NCPEI currently does not have any programming for youth,

And whereas indigenous youth are at a higher risk for negative social outcomes when disconnected from the land and their culture,

And whereas the importance of indigenous culture and traditional teachings need to be readily available and accessible in a safe and accepting environment.

Be it resolved that the NCPEI creates programming for their youth based on age categories and development, to introduce cultural knowledge and language in a peer-to-peer environment,

Be it further resolved that the NCPEI allocate a dedicated space for youth activities and provide access to mentors and traditional Elders/ knowledge keepers on a day-to-day basis to promote healthy youth in our community.

Moved by: Jaimie Augustine (present)
Seconded by: Amanda Trainor (present)

ACTION TAKEN

Management continues to look for suitable office space within the Charlottetown area with the intention there could be a dedicated space for youth.

Resolution #2024-11: NCPEI Audited Financial Statements

Whereas the NCPEI began their financial audit with BDO in the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year;

And whereas BDO had to return multiple times to ask for agreements that were not submitted;

And whereas the sitting board of directors were not given the chance to review the finalized audited financial statements before they were added to the AGA kits to be presented today.

Be it resolved that this unacceptable oversight never happen again, and that all current sitting board of directors have the right to review and approve the audited financial statements before being presented on the agenda floor.

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Sarah Jackson (present)

ACTION TAKEN
This process was upheld for the March 31, 2026 Financial Statements and will continue going forward.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Proposed By-Law Amendment #01 – Membership Removal and Appeal

WHEREAS the Native Council is an organization with a mandate to represent and service the off-reserve Indigenous population;

WHEREAS the Native Council funding and political advocacy is reliant on a strong membership list consisting of Indigenous peoples;

AND WHEREAS there is an evolving understanding of historical Aboriginal ancestry and an increase of non-Indigenous individuals claiming a false Aboriginal ancestry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the By-Laws create a process to allow the Directors to revoke membership for individuals with credible evidence calling into question their Aboriginal ancestry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appeal committee process is established for disputed members that involves elected representatives from each Zone.

Approved by a motion of the Board of Directors on October 19, 2025.

Moved by: **Robert Panchuk**
Seconded by: **Dana Wakelin**

Membership removal	**ARTICLE III, (NEW SECTION).** The Directors may, from time to time by simple majority vote (50% + 1), review all of the membership files held by the Native Council for the purposes of ensuring the Aboriginal ancestry of its membership. Upon review of any membership files and finding a lack of evidence to substantiate a claim of Aboriginal ancestry, the Directors may vote to remove the named member(s) from the membership list of the Native Council and deny access to any rights or privileges reserved for individuals of Aboriginal ancestry by the Native Council. All of the relevant sections in Article VIII for meetings shall apply with the following changes or modifications: (1) A simple majority (50% + 1) of sitting Directors (see Appendix A for ease of reference) must pass a motion to call for a meeting to remove the named member from the membership list; (2) The notice shall be sent same as specified in Article VIII but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the consideration of the named member's future and whether that member should be removed from the membership list of the Native Council and the notice period shall be ninety days. The notice shall be updated with the date, time, and place of the meeting by the President & Chief within seven days of the meeting; (3) The named member shall be provided with a copy of the notice and an opportunity to submit a letter or written submissions indicating why he or she believes he or she should remain as a member; (4) The quorum requirement shall be a ¾ (75%) of the sitting Directors (see Appendix A for ease of reference); and (5) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of ¾ (75%) of those present (see Appendix A for ease of reference).

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Membership removal: appeal	**ARTICLE III, (NEW SECTION).** Any individual facing removal of his or her name from the membership list of the Native Council shall have fifteen days from the date the notice of the board decision was sent to the individual to submit a request for appeal to the President & Chief. A request for appeal may be submitted by one immediate family member on behalf of other affected immediate family members ("immediately family members" shall be as defined in the Appeals Committee Terms of Reference). Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the President and Chief shall begin the process to convene an appeal committee to meet within six months. Until the appeal process has concluded, the named member shall not have any voting rights within the Native Council and may have other restrictions placed on their membership as determined by the Directors. The appeal committee shall consist of at least two members and one alternate elected from each Zone who have been full voting members of Aboriginal ancestry, are not a Director of the Native Council, and do not share an Aboriginal family line in common. The appeal committee shall be presented with the same information as was made available to the Board of Directors for their decision; no new evidence may be presented. A ¾ (75%) majority vote of the appeal committee shall be required to overturn the original decision of the Directors. The composition, qualifications, election process, terms of office, and other rules of procedures for the appeal committee shall be determined by the Appeal Committee Terms of Reference as adopted by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Directors from time to time (see Appendix A for ease of reference).

ACTION TAKEN

Bylaws have been amended.

Terms of Reference for the Appeals Committee were created and approved by the Board of Directors. Zone meetings were held for election of Appeals Committee members – two plus one alternate from each Zone.

Current Appeals Committee is:
Zone 1 – Danielle Moore Rayner, Clara Jane Wood, Alternate – vacant
Zone 2 – Patsy Bernard, Jaimie Lee Augustine, Alternate – Sarah Jackson
Zone 3 – Dawne Knockwood, Amanda Trainor, Alternate – Clifton Walker

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Proposed By-Law Amendment #02 – Recognition of Adopted Members

WHEREAS the Native Council is an organization with a mandate to represent and service the off-reserve Indigenous population;

AND WHEREAS the 1996 NCPEI By-Laws previously recognized that "Full membership shall be open to any person of Aboriginal Ancestry, and included spouses and children," but has since left the issue of adopted children silent;

AND WHEREAS the Indian Act of Canada defines a child as including "a legally adopted child and a child adopted in accordance with Indian custom" and allows for a child to use either their biological or adoptive parent's lineage for gaining Indian Status;

AND WHEREAS the PEI Human Rights Act and Canadian Humans Rights Act prohibit discrimination on the grounds of "family status," which is defined as "being in a parent and child relationship" including adoptions;
AND WHEREAS the PEI Adoption Act states that "Notwithstanding whatever hereditary, social, emotional and other forms of relationship may be possible, an adoption order has effect as follows: (a) for all purposes of law, an adopted child becomes the child of the adopting parent and the adopting parent becomes the parent of the adopted child;"

AND WHEREAS the PEI Vital Statistics Act states that "Nothing shall appear on any [birth] certificate issued by the Director that would disclose that the child is an adopted child," thereby placing an administrative barrier on NCPEI's ability to determine adoptive status;

AND WHEREAS Article III, Section 1.1 of NCPEI's By-Laws defines Aboriginal ancestry as "proof that an individual had an ancestor who belonged to a historic Aboriginal community" as may be evidenced by a "birth, baptism, marriage or death record issued by a church or government;"

BE IT RESOLVED that the By-Laws be amended to reflect that children adopted by Indigenous parents shall be considered "of Aboriginal Ancestry" for the purposes of obtaining membership within NCPEI;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for clarity on how to interpret the By-Laws:

1) an adopted child may use either their biological parent's or adoptive parent's lineage for proving their Aboriginal ancestry;

2) the adoption must be legally registered with the government or recognized by the NCPEI Board of Directors as being "in accordance with Indian custom," but shall not include kinship care, foster care, temporary custody, etc.;

3) the adoption must have occurred while the child is a minor under 18 years of age;

4) the provisions for adoption shall equally apply to situations of "assisted reproduction" and "surrogacy" as defined by PEI's Children's Law Act.

Approved by a motion of the Board of Directors on October 19, 2025.

Moved by: Kayla Larkin
Seconded by: Destinee Larkin

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

General	(Article II) SECTION 1. In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires: a) "Aboriginal" means the Indigenous people of North America; b) "Act" means the *Companies Act*, 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; c) "Adopted child" means a person who, while a minor, is adopted pursuant to a law relating to adoptions recognized in Canada or pursuant to Aboriginal customs, and includes a person born as a result of assisted reproduction or surrogacy agreement. d) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Native Council; e) "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;
Aboriginal Ancestry	**(Article III) Subsection 1.1** Aboriginal ancestry means proof that an individual, including an adopted child, 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: (1) A birth, adoption, baptism, marriage or death record issued by a church or government; (2) An official government document such as a census record, a court record (including probated or filed wills) or a land registry document; (3) A written statement of a historian or a registered genealogist; (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.

ACTION TAKEN Bylaws have been amended.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-03 – NCPEI to Seek Funding for the Elders Council

WHEREAS the Elders Council currently has no secure funding;

AND WHERAS funding that is received is minimal and does not allow for many activities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Native Council seek to find funding through the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples or the Government.

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood Crane
Seconded by: Michael Viau

ACTION TAKEN

NCPEI Policy Analysts continue to seek funding for Elders. Multiyear program funding was secured for "Wisdom Flows Forward – Connecting Seniors through Nature and Technology". As this project is participant-led, it provides opportunities for participating members 55+ to help guide what activities and programs are offered, given they fall within the program pillars as outlined in the project agreement (community, nature/gardening, and technology). This project has a broad scope and will allow for many different forms of activities, events, and products. Participants can expect semi-regular monthly programming to empower our seniors to build community connection, increase digital literacy, and participate in accessible nature teachings. Given adequate project management and member participation, this project will run until 2030.

Funding was approved through New Horizons for Seniors which will enable NCPEI to continue running Elders meetings in Zone 1 and 2 each month.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-05 – Cooling/Warming Space for Elders

WHEREAS global warming has caused a significant increase in temperature as experienced this past summer;

AND WHEREAS our Elders and members who have medical conditions and respiratory issues may be impacted by this increase in temperatures;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI provide a cooling/warming station in each zone for its members and Elders

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Judy Duguay (present)

ACTION TAKEN
Both NCPEI Portage Office and Main Office in Charlottetown are equipped with heat pumps and Generac systems to use as cooling/heating stations for community members.

NCPEI is working to put together a Resource Manual for the community that will include a list of warming and cooling centres.

A full list of Emergency Reception Centres on PEI can be found at:
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/feature/search-reception-centres/#/service/ReceptionCentres/ReceptionCentresSearch

Resolution #2025-06 – Board Minutes

WHEREAS NCPEI claims transparency to its members at Town Halls, AGA's, etc.;

AND WHEREAS members are no longer permitted to attend Board meetings;

AND WHEREAS the minutes from these Board meetings are only available to view at the head office in Charlottetown;

BE IT RESOLED that the minutes from all NCPEI Board meetings be made available at both the head office in Charlottetown and at each zone meeting, following approval.

Moved by: Johnny Richard (present)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (present)

ACTION TAKEN

Signed minutes are provided to the Board of Directors to take to each Zone Meeting. Signed minutes are available to be seen at NCPEI Head Office.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-08 – Program Staff to Attend Town Halls and Zone Meetings

WHEREAS the President and Chief holds quarterly Town Hall meetings;

AND WHEREAS Zone directors hold quarterly Zone meetings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Native Council have programming staff attend Zone meetings and Town Halls to bring information to the members.

Moved by: Georgina Knockwood-Crane (present)
Seconded by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)

ACTION TAKEN

When feasible Program Coordinators have been scheduled for each Town Hall. Should a Program Coordinator be requested to attend Zone meetings, Management makes every effort to carry out the request. Will continue going forward.

Coordinators for Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively (Brenda Dion, Mackayla Morrison), Child & Family Violence Prevention Services (Jannett Jones), and Environment (Clara Jane Wood) have all attended Town Halls and provided presentations.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-09 – Youth Participation

WHEREAS truth and reconciliation involves acknowledging the harms of the past, particularly through truth sharing in order to heal relationships and achieve mutual respect;

AND WHEREAS NCPEI's mandate is to foster and strengthen Aboriginal languages, cultural identity, traditional practices and to inform the 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;

BE IT RESOLVED that all youth be permitted to participate in youth programs and events provided by NCPEI regardless of whether or not they are members of NCPEI without repercussions to the child, their family members, or the youth director or program coordinator.

Moved by: Lori Sanderson (present)
Seconded by: Chris O'Halloran (present)

ACTION TAKEN

Will continue to work with the Youth Board of Director.

A youth focused project, Unity in Action, was funded for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. The project was aimed at youth 11-17 with a focus on leadership, advocacy, cultural development and anti-racism concepts. The Coordinator held numerous events in all three Zones which were not well attended despite reaching out to youth to gather feedback on event suggestions, activities ,event times and incorporating that information into their planning. The project was not as successful as it should have been due to lack of participation.

The Language and Drumming Coordinator has been reaching out to families to encourage them to come to classes.

The Environment Coordinator actively organizes programming that is youth focused and continuously seeks funding and grants for fun youth oriented environmental activities. "Sowing Seeds of Change" sessions were funded through a micro-grant from the City of Charlottetown. These sessions were designed to give youth a hands-on sustainable crafting experience using scrap paper and learning basic linocutting techniques to carve unique stamps. Two sessions were scheduled and there was only one participant.

A Cultural Retreat was held in September (a collaboration with Language and Drumming, Wele'g and Two-Spirit programs) that was family focused. Participation was lower than expected, possibly due to weather.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-10 – Diabetes Program

WHEREAS the Indigenous community are the highest population living with diabetes;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no Indigenous diabetes health programming, support, or medical health advocate;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCEPI seek funding to bring back a diabetes program, who will not only educate members but also be a diabetes support person

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Dana Wakelin (present)

ACTION TAKEN

A survey was conducted with NCPEI membership to compile a report and seek funding. Funding for a Diabetes Program is not available at either the federal or provincial level, nor from diabetes-focused non-governmental organizations.

NCPEI Tripartite Policy Analyst arranged for 2 sessions with a PEI Public Health Nurse to provide Diabetes information to the community. Sessions were scheduled at the McAulay Court office and members were asked to reach out if they would like a session in Zone 1 or 3.

No one registered, so the sessions were cancelled.

NCPEI has recently been in contact with **Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada** about their Eye Health Screening Initiative (EHSI). If feasible, sessions will be arranged and will likely take place at the McAulay office in Zone 2 or in other locations if registration indicates sufficient demand exists.

Resolution #2025-12– Equality at AGAs

WHEREAS the NPEI is an Indigenous organization;

BE IT RESOLVED to make the AGA more equal by using more cultural teachings with traditional circles to create the feeling of community and a safe way to resolve our differences.

Moved by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)
Seconded by: Kayla Larkin (present)

ACTION TAKEN

NCPEI will make every effort to arrange the meeting spaces in a more welcoming layout. This will depend on available space and will not always be feasible.

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ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-13 – Youth Council Funding

WHEREAS the youth council does not have a program to specifically access funding;

AND WHEREAS the youth council's terms of reference states in their mandate and objectives to create and provide opportunities, but with no funding for everyday meetings and events;

AND WHEREAS at the NCPEI AGA all the 50/50, $100 squares, and silent auction are used for NCPEI AGA cost;

BE IT RESOLVED that this assembly grant the permission to the Youth Council to do whatever type of fundraising they see fit, whether the NCPEI committee is doing the same type of fundraiser or not.

Moved by: Destinee Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Ebony Larkin (present)

ACTIONS TAKEN

NCPEI will continue to support the Youth Council fundraising efforts at the AGA.

NCPEI will continue to look for funding and grants that can be utilized for Youth Council events. An Anti-Racism micro grant through the Province of PEI was received for the fiscal 2026/2027 year that was used towards the Youth Council AGA. An application has been submitted to receive this grant again for the 2027/2028 fiscal year.

Resolution #2025-16– Indigenous Ancestry for Housing

WHEREAS NCPEI currently has non-Indigenous tenants living in housing without dependents;

BE IT RESOLVED that NCPEI seek legal advice on how to remove non-Indigenous, or with no dependent tenants who are over-housed.

Moved by: Kayla Larkin (present)
Seconded by: Amanda Blackett (present)

ACTION TAKEN

This will be dealt with at the Nanegkam Board level.

50th Annual General Assembly
November 2025
ACTIONABLE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2025-19– Vice President Role

WHEREAS in the past, the NCPEI elected both President and Chief and Vice President;

AND WHEREAS the Vice President was the second elected official to take the place when the President and Chief could not attend an event, meeting, or otherwise any engagement as they come up;

AND WHEREAS there has been a significant decline in the attendance of the President and Chief at local and national events, with a proxy being sent in her place regularly;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Office of the Vice President be reactivated to a full-time position to serve alongside the President and Chief for the same four electoral years.

Moved by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)
Seconded by: Dawne Knockwood (present)

ACTION TAKEN

To date there is no funding available to pay for a Vice-President position.

NCPEI is currently in a good financial position; however, current funding agreements have reduced or eliminated administration fees, leaving NCPEI with less money in the Core budget which would need to be available for a Vice President position. The Political Accord funding has also been cut/eliminated by the Federal Government which funded the positions of Human Resources Administrator and Membership Clerk. These positions are essential and will need to be paid out of the Core budget.

Resolution #2025-20 – Healing Circle

WHEREAS although there has been considerable animosity within the three zones;

AND WHEREAS healing is necessary for zone unity;

BE IT RESOLVED that healing circles be facilitated by circle keepers quarterly for those interested in all three zones.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills (present)
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner (present)

ACTION TAKEN

There have been no requests to date.

President & Chief Report
November 2025 – February 2026

Federal Government Meetings

February 11/12 –National Indigenous Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people – only invited to attend virtually

March 3 – CIRNAC Meeting – met virtually with the Director General, Krista Apse, Director for MMIWG Secretariate, Tara Chisholm and Ted Yeomans. Provided them with a presentation on NCPEI and our programs. Main purpose of meeting was to discuss the removal of NCPEI in the 2026 National Indigenous Federal, Provincial, Territorial Meetings on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People. Mark Sheridan had advocated for our GBV Coordinator to attend the meetings in person (in Ottawa) and was subsequently removed from the delegate list and only allowed to attend virtually.

March 6 – Indigenous Services Canada – UPIP Funding Beyond 2025/2026 – this meeting was initiated after finding out that the UPIP/SAFE funding was ending. We provided them with a presentation on who NCPEI is and our programs and services and questioned them why they are no longer going to fund the SAFE Program. The response was that the Federal Government is making lots of cuts and there are 100 organizations like ours that will lose the funding. They also mentioned that it is not likely the decision will be overturned. We argued that without a Friendship Centre on the Island and taking the funding away from us leaves a gap in services. It was agreed to set up another meeting to provide information on other potential funding opportunities.

March 12 – Indigenous Services Canada follow up of the March 6 meeting to discuss potential funding opportunities

May 8 – Discussion with Robert Ring (Canadian Heritage) to discuss increasing Powwow Funding. This connection was a result of discussions earlier in the year with ISC on potential other funding opportunities.

July 21 – Was invited to attend the Council of the Federation meeting at the Holman Grand to support CAP, but my invitation was cancelled last minute due to a medical emergency of the CAP National Chief. I attended the reception afterwards to network with different provincial leaders and representatives.

Provincial Government Meetings

January 15 – Virtual Meeting with Consultant hired by Government of PEI Department of Health and Wellness on a Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Project.

January 29 – Meeting with Mark Sheridan, Director Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation – this was a regular meeting to discuss current projects being funded by the Province, what we would like to see funded, etc.

August 11 – Meeting with Minister Kent Dollar (Housing & Communities), Deputy Minister Jamie MacDonald (Housing & Communities) and Cheryl Paynter (PEI Housing Corporation) to discuss the potential of Provincial support and funding to turn 26 Allen Street property into a men's transition home. The Province was receptive to the idea and requested a proposal be submitted. There would be higher chance of funding if the Federal Government agreed to share the costs. It was also discussed the biggest challenge would be getting the City of Charlottetown to agree as the Province is currently dealing with the same issue attempting to open a transitional home. The meeting gave us the chance to discuss the

Winter Street Shelter budget as it has not yet been approved. We were assured the funding is not at risk, just hasn't gone to the Treasury Board yet.

Meetings with RCMP
February 6 – yearly RCMP meeting with C/Supt. Kevin Lewis and Supt. Sarah Drummond in an effort to work towards an MOU. All parties agreed it would be good to have meeting twice per year to keep each other up to date on what is going on.

NCPEI Staff Meetings
Facilitate monthly staff meetings to provide staff with any important information related to HR policies and staffing, as well as to give staff opportunity to talk about their programs and any issues they may be having. It is also opportunity for the staff to provide their successes with their programs.

Bi-Weekly NCPEI's Management Team Meetings
The current NCPEI Management Team consists of:

- Senior Staff (Lisa Cooper & Jordan Crane)
- Stephen Gauthier, Funding Reporting Officer
- Janessa Culleton, Human Resources Administrator
- Adele, McGuire, Finance Manager
- Bradley Cooper, Political Advisor
- April Whynot, Executive Assistant

Facilitated bi-weekly Management Team Meetings to discuss staffing issues/concerns, financial budgets, HR policy and procedures, housing initiatives, and other topics that come up in between meetings. We included Lauren Vail from BDO in meetings to assist with financial questions prior to the annual audit to ensure we were on track with having a clean audit.

Nanegkam Housing Management Team Meetings
The Nanegkam Housing Management Team meetings are not required frequently with all of our units being full and the fact that the larger funding agreements (NICHI, UI560) are coming to an end or being managed efficiently. Meetings are now scheduled as required.

November 25 & December 18 – Zoom discussions with Nanegkam Management
January 13 – in person Nanegkam Management Meeting

NCPEI Board of Director's Meetings
November 16 – To present and review year to date financials, to discuss and approve staff Christmas bonuses and discuss Christmas dinners, parties and Open House. Discussed looking for a new location/building and made a motion to explore mortgage option of no more than $2 million.

February 28 & 29 – Board Retreat – BDO presented draft Board Policies document to receive feedback, President and Chief and Board Reports were presented, discussions on the Appeal Process and Committee, Financial Training was provided by Lauren Vail of BDO, financial update and membership application review.

April 17 – Special Meeting to address an ancestry concern.

June 14 – Approval of Appeals Committee Terms of Reference, Bradley Cooper presented on survey results from the community on Indigenous Identity and Universal Suffrage, review and approval of membership applications, discussed resignation of a BOD and swearing in of Interim Directors for Zone 1 and 2.

July 18 – BDO presented March 31, 2026 Financial Statements for approval, discussions on constitutional changes and membership criteria, discussion on how universal suffrage would work and costs involved, review and approval of membership files.

October 17 – Regular Board of Directors meting to approve minutes, complete Oath of Office for all Board of Directors, and discussion the upcoming AGA and Christmas events.

NCPEI Policy Analyst Team Meetings (PAT team meetings)
Attended bi-weekly PAT Team meetings to discuss current proposals in progress, completed proposals, new funding opportunities, federal/provincial reports and policy documents, upcoming policy workshops and information to be provided to community members through Townhalls.

Nanegkam Board of Directors Meeting
Attended three Nanegkam Board of Director's Meeting to discuss financials, Manager's Reports and changes to application forms and lease agreements. Lauren Vail (BDO) attended the July meeting to present the Financial Statements for March 31, 2026.

MAPC Board of Directors Meetings
Attended three MAPC BOD meetings (January 27, April 28, and September 1) to discuss regional issues among the four Native Councils (NCPEI, NBAPC, NCNS, and NIPA) including environment and fisheries, Indigenous rights and recognition, and program and staffing concerns. The Native Alliance of Quebec has requested to join MAPC, which is an ongoing discussion among the directors.

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) Board of Director Meetings
Attended a number of CAP Board of Directors meetings virtually:

- November 12 – CAP Engagement of Second-Generation Cut Off
- December 3-5 – A three-day regular board meeting to review the National Chief's Report, Vice-Chief's Report, CEO's Report, financial reports, and other discussions brought up on the agenda, or by BOD member.
- December 11 – MMIWG2S+ Action Planning Meeting
- February 18 – 20 – CAP Strategic Planning meetings
- March 18 & 19 – Board of Director's Meeting that included PTO updates, financial and bylaw reports, Executive, National Youth and Elder and CEO Reports, legal update and political and strategic plan.
- June 15 – 17 – CAP Strategic Planning Meetings
- July 7 – Board of Directors meeting to discuss CAP real estate.
- September 8-9 – CAP Board of Director's Meeting
- September 23 – CAP Board of Director's Meeting

NCPEI Town Halls
Was not able to attend Christmas Town Halls for medical reasons.
Attended Town Halls in all three zones in March, May and October.

Other Meetings

2025

- November 14 – Roundtable of Criminal Justice Priorities with Justice Canada
- November 26 - Meeting with CMHC re. Geggunas'g House to discuss release of remaining funds
- December 2 – meeting with United Way as follow up to a recent funding proposal submitted
- December 9 – Justice Canada- Technical briefing – Protecting Victims Act
- December 18 – BDO – virtual discussion on NCPEI Policy development to identify gaps

2026

- January 20 – in office discussion with HR and Management on current NCPEI Policies and Procedures document
- January 23 – virtual meeting with Dr. Wendy Rogers, President UPEI
- January 27 – internal meeting re. Geggunas'g House
- January 30 – 2 separate BDO virtual discussion on their draft Gap Assessment for NCPEI Policies as well as Economic Development
- February 2 – internal meeting to discuss our priorities for the upcoming RCMP meeting
- February 5 – in person meeting – PIPL Consultation RAP
- February 23 – Zone 2 Meeting
- March 9 – Zone 2 Meeting
- March 12 – Meeting with BDO
- March 28 – Attended the L'nu AGA at the Loyalist Inn Summerside.
- April 23 – BDO presentation and discussion on Financial Policies draft document.
- May 11 – Planning meeting for Open House at Geggunas'g House
- May 12 – Youth Spirit Project discussion – approved but will need to revise budget and deliverables as funding not as much as requested (this project is still in discussions)
- May 14 – attended the UPEI Convocation for Arts and Education
- May 15 – Attended an announcement from Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages providing the Confederation Centre with $750,000. Unfortunately, was unable to get a chance to speak to the Minister on the decreasing funding for our Language Programming.
- June 21 – Attended National Indigenous Peoples Day at Confederation Landing
- July 3 – Internal meeting to discuss the upcoming People's Agenda Symposium being held during the Council of the Federation Meetings being held in Charlottetown July 21. NCPEI was asked to sit on a panel to discuss Treaty Rights and Housing/Poverty. Decided it may not be worth presenting since none of the Premiers would be in attendance as they have meetings that day
- July 6 – Virtual meeting with CAP National Chief Brendan Moore and CEO Jim Devoe to discuss agenda and topics related to the upcoming Council of the Federation Meetings.
- July 6 – Attended Zone 2 Community Information Session on Indigenous Identity.
- July 10 – Virtual meeting with BDO on draft NCPEI Economic Development Plan
- July 16 – further meeting with CAP to prepare for upcoming Council of Federations Meeting
- July 21 - Attended L'nu Board Meeting
- August 4 – Attended Zone 2 meeting
- August 15-16 - Attended the Panmure Island Powwow
- September 5-6 – Attended New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council AGA
- September 12-13 – Attended Nova Scotia Native Council AGA
- September 30 – attended and spoke at a TRC event hosted by Premier Rob Lantz
- October 1 – attended a Treaty Day event hosted by Premier Rob Lantz
- October 10 – Attended and chaired the Elder AGA and spoke to youth at the Youth AGA

Zone 1 Board of Directors Report
Annual General Assembly
November 2025 to October 2026

Christine Butler, Director
Jonathan McNeill, Director

I attended the Zone Board of Directors election meeting held on October 7, 2025 at the St. Luke Hall where I was elected. I was grateful for all the members of Zone 1 that voted for me to represent them in Zone 1.

October 19th, 2025

- I attended my first board meeting on October 19th, 2025 where I was sworn in for the next three years as Board of Director for Zone 1 with Director, Judy Duguay.

November 16th, 2025

- Due to my scheduling conflict, I was unable to attend this Board meeting but Zone 1 Director, Judy Duguay was able to attend and represent our zone.

November 29th, 2025

- On November 29th, 2025 we had our Children's Christmas Party at St. Luke's Hall. It was hosted by Judy and me. We had approximately 40 children who attended and lots of members who volunteered to helped with food, games and activities. We had the famous St. Nick arrive to give each child a gift. It was a delight to see the excitement on each child's face as they opened their gifts.

December 5th, 2025

- On December 5th, 2025 we met at St. Luke's Hall for a full turkey dinner. We were honoured to have NCPEI Staff serve this amazing meal. Our President & Chief Lisa Cooper, spoke about the upcoming year and then mingled throughout the crowd wishing everyone a Happy New Year. The food was amazing and a good time was had by all.

February 28th and March 1st, 2026

- The board met in February at the Rodd Charlottetown (Downtown). The discussions focused on mainly training on financial spreadsheets with BDO who gave us a wealth of information.

March 7th and 8th, 2026

- The Community Retreat which was held in Summerside at the Loyalist. The main focus on Day 1 was MMIWG and Day 2 focused on AGA resolutions around universal

suffrage and the Indian Act. A survey was completed on this weekend based on Universal suffrage.

May 27, 2026

- It was announced at the Town Hall in Zone 1 that with great regret Judy Duguay resigned as a Director of Zone 1 due to health issues. There will be an election soon to replace her.
- During this time on the Board, I had the privilege of working closely with previously elected Zone 1 Director, Judy Duguay. Through our time working together, I had the opportunity to get to know Judy on a more personal level and came to appreciate the strong, remarkable, and beautiful woman she truly is.

June 8, 2026

- Jonathon McNeil was voted in as interim Zone 1 Director replacing Judy Duguay. Jonathon McNeil has been involved for a few years and care about the Zone 1 community.

October 6th, 2026

- Jonathon McNeil was voted as Zone 1 Director for the next three years. He will be a valuable support for Zone 1.

Overall, it has been a very interesting rewarding year attending board and Zone 1 meetings. It has been a great learning experience and a pleasure to work alongside such a strong, active and dedicated group.

Going forward, I hope we can continue to work together for the betterment of all the zones and NCPEI as a whole.

Best regards,

Christine Delaney Butler
Zone 1 Director

ZONE 2 Board of Directors Report
Annual General Assembly
November 2025 to October 2026

Robert Panchuk, Director
Amanda Blackett, Director

Kwe Everyone,

It has been a pleasure to serve as a board director for NCPEI throughout the 2025-2026 year Throughout this past year, I have been grateful for this opportunity to be involved in such events and gatherings.

During the 2025-2026 year I had the opportunity to work alongside the youth director Destinee to throw a festive and Joyful Christmas party for the youth in Zone 2. As a Board of Director for Zone 2 it was important to me to help create a welcoming Christmas party to all the youth. We welcomed over 30 kids who all went home with a Christmas present of their own. Overall, this event was a highlight of my year. I am proud of the work we did together to bring children in our community together and look forward to supporting more activities that encourage participation and connection among our youth and families.

Board of director meeting - February 27 & 28, 2026
On February 27 2026 I attended the NCPEI board of directors meeting which brought the board members together to review important organizational updates and discuss ongoing work within the council.

During the meeting, we reviewed the President and Chief report, as well as the Board of Director reports, we also received financial updates and discussed matters relating to the council. The meeting provided an opportunity for board members to stay informed about the council's work. Participating in these meetings is an important part of my role as a Zone 2 Board of Director as it allows me to stay informed.

Language and Drumming Retreat March 21 & 22, 2026
In March of 2026 I had the opportunity to participate in the drumming in language retreats at the Loyalist Inn in Summerside. The retreat provided an opportunity to participate in cultural activities including making drum bags. The day started with an opening prayer from Elder Georgina Knockwood Crane and the Elders participating drummed and sang the Honour song. The opening prayers and drumming were meaningful parts of the retreat, emphasizing the importance of our culture. As a member and Zone 2 Director, I value opportunities like this.

March 6 Zone 2 meeting

Our zone had a zone meeting which is important for me to attend as a board of director of this zone. The chief, Lisa Copper, is the one hosting it at the town hall which is very important to attend to stay informed. We had light refreshments such as snacks provided for us for the ones who attended. Every zone had one ours was on March 6 of 2026 it went from 6-8. In that time we also had a presentation from one of our NCPEI coordinators. Later we had a survey and had a chance to win a prize.

Missing Murder Indigenous People walk May 5 2026

In May of 2026,I participated in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls walk that was in Summerside to honour and remember all of the woman and men who have gone missing and the ones who lost their lives. It was joyful to see lots of youth and other participants, including many NCPEI members, come together to show their support, and raise awareness, Participants wore red to honour the ones we lost throughout the walk as a symbol of remembrance and respect for those who lost a loved one or affected by this tragic that happened.

As a zone 2 board director for the NCPEI participating in the walk was a meaningful opportunity to stand alongside families, honour the lives of those lost, and help bring awareness to missing and murder people.

National Indigenous People Day June 21, 2026

On June 21 2026, I attended the national Indigenous People Day celebration at the waterfront. This is an event I go to every year. The celebration featured a powwow- style gathering with indigenous dancers and vendors, creating an opportunity for community members and visitors to experience and appreciate indigenous culture as well as a free BBQ and blueberry cake were provided for everyone and water was provided for all dancers and Elders throughout the event. The dancers were also paid for their participation recognizing their time and dedication, another highlight of the day was being posted on Ocean 100. It was a very fun event and I think NCPEI did an amazing job doing this event and look forward to it every year.

Board of directors Meeting July 18, 2026

Beginning with an opening prayer from Georgina Knockwood Crane, this was a productive meeting reviewing minutes from the Board Retreat. The Auditors were in attendance to present the Board with the March 31, 2026 financial statements to review and approve.

NCPEI Annual Pamure Powow

I look forward to the Annual Pamure Island Powwow and camped there for three days. These are the type of gathering that I get a chance to see people I haven’t seen for a long time. Breakfast and dinner are also provided on Saturday and Sunday that if free for everyone. The staff work

hard at this event and I can see their dedication. It’s great to see all of the dancer, drummers and as a Board of Director and Elder who attends to this powwow every year the contributors and NCPEI never does it wrong and I meet amazing meeting new people every year.

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) Ottawa September 2026
During the 2025-2026 reporting year I attended a three-day gathering with the Congress of Aboriginal People (CAP) in Ottawa This is an opportunity to participate in meetings, review important information, and connect with representatives involved in indigenous leadership. These meetings are valuable because they bring people together to discuss matters affecting indigenous people and communities across Canada.

Participating in national meetings is an important part of staying connected to the indigenous community. I value the opportunity to take part in these gatherings.

On October 8 I chaired the Zone 2 meeting for the upcoming NCPEI AGA. We picked 20 delegates and 4 alternates at this meeting.

Also, in October, along with fellow board of directors, I reviewed membership files.

I look forward to another year with NCPEI continuing to support our community.
As your board of Director, I will always put NCPEI first in any decisions I make.

Wela’lin,

ROBERT PANCHUK

Zone 3 Board of Directors Report
Annual General Assembly
November 2025 to October 2026

Dana Wakelin, Director
Kayla Larkin, Director

Good afternoon, fellow members, Elders, youth, and staff,

The 2026 year has certainly been one for the books for many of us. We have faced obstacles, hardships, and health challenges, but through it all, Zone 3 has continued to show up, stand together, and ensure that our voices are heard.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all Zone 3 members for the meaningful conversations, the help with preparations, and, most importantly, for speaking up, standing together, and supporting us throughout the year. Your dedication, encouragement, and willingness to come together have made a difference, and we are truly grateful.

Since the 2025 AGA, we have remained committed to representing and supporting our members. Throughout this reporting period, we have attended numerous board meetings, facilitated all Zone 3 meetings, organized the 2025 Children's Christmas Party, participated in town halls and the CAP AGA, and attended many NCPEI programs.

Each of these gatherings and opportunities has allowed us to stay connected, share concerns, strengthen relationships, and continue advocating for our members and our community.

As we reflect on the year, we recognize that although challenges remain, the strength of Zone 3 lies in our people, our voices, and our willingness to stand together. We look forward to continuing this work with the same commitment, determination, and unity in the year ahead.

Wela'lioq,

Dana Wakelin
Kayla Larkin

Elder Representative Report
Annual General Assembly
September 2025 – September 2026

Georgina Knockwood Crane

A year has come and gone, and it has been a great year. I have been re-elected again as the Elder Representative, and it is such an honor. I have been very busy, going to the Elder's meetings at Native Council and Portage. I also attend board meetings as an Elder Representative

I have done the open prayers at the Indigenous gatherings at the waterfront, at the Powwow In Panmure Island, and the Mawi'omi in Bloomfield. I have recently given up the Mi'kmaq Language and drumming teaching the cultural teachings and storytelling at the McAulay Court office and St. Peter's Community Complex, for the time being.

Visited some Elders and members in the hospital and the Elder's home. Our Elder Janet MacDonald has passed away, Elder Pat Burke has passed away, our deepest condolences to the family's.

I had RCMP in to talk to the Elders on Elder abuse and on scams.

Also, I had Methilda Knockwood Snache talk on the Redman Story, and the Water Healing.

I was in Ottawa for the Elder and Youth Conference, and it was very important informative gathering. We did a group picture, and we have a website now only for the National Elders. We had guest speakers come in to talk to us on how to use the website.

With our Elder meetings here on PEI, we still have guest speakers come in and our Bingos which are lots of fun. We did not get to do our Panmure Potluck this year in Panmure Island. We did do a Elder gathering in Portage which was a great time.

We also do crafts and singing. We donate money for the Elders who were in the hospital or lost a loved one. Money is used for cards or gift cards.

I have meet very lovely Elders, guests and family.

I want to give a special thanks to Emily who has been my helper as she goes way beyond to help the Elders.

Thank you all for another great year!

We are hoping to have more special gatherings with our Youth to share our stories, our knowledge, our wisdom, and their stories and knowledge.

Thank you everyone!

Mekwe'k Wowkwis Kisiuikui'skw, Red Fox Elder, Georgina Knockwood Crane.

Youth Representative Report
Annual General Assembly
November 2025 to October 2026

Destinee Larkin

Kwe',

My name is Destinee, and I serve as the Youth Board of Director for the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.

Over the past year, I organized the youth Christmas party. A youth meeting was also held to determine how to allocate the funds raised by youth at the previous AGA. At that meeting, youth identified a youth retreat as their priority, with suggested activities including skiing or ziplining.

In partnership with Bradley Cooper, we secured a grant of $5,000 to support a youth anti-racism program.

Our Youth AGA was held in October and was very successful. Youth provided significant input regarding their priorities and the initiatives they would like to see undertaken over the coming year.





CHILD & FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Jannett Jones
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Child and Family Violence Prevention Services Coordinator (CFVPS) with the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) supports individuals who have experienced family violence (FV) and/or gender-based violence (GBV), with a focus on reducing the risk of future violence and supporting pathways toward safety, stability, and well-being.

The coordinator primarily works with off-reserve Indigenous individuals residing at Geggunas'g House, NCPEI's shelter providing support to Indigenous women, Two-Spirit people, and youth leaving situations of violence. Services include support, resources, referrals, and culturally appropriate programming that promotes safety, empowerment, and prevention.

In addition to direct client support, the CFVPS Coordinator works to increase awareness and understanding of family and gender-based violence within the broader off-reserve Indigenous community on Prince Edward Island.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

The Child and Family Violence Prevention Services Program provides support, advocacy, and case management to women, Two-Spirit individuals, and families who have been impacted by domestic, intimate partner, and family violence. Operating within an Indigenous-led women's shelter, the program promotes safety, healing, empowerment, and family well-being through a culturally responsive and trauma-informed approach.

Key services include safety planning, individualized support, advocacy, referrals, and assistance navigating health, social, legal, and community-based services. Support is tailored to the individual needs, circumstances, and goals of each resident.

Through collaboration with community organizations, service providers, Elders, and other partners, the program works to reduce barriers to support, improve access to appropriate resources and services, and strengthen pathways toward safety, stability, and long-term well-being.

Activities and Deliverables:

The coordinator is also responsible for planning, coordinating, and facilitating workshops, educational sessions, and family-focused events across all three zones. These activities support community engagement, cultural connection, education, family well-being, and violence prevention.

Activities and workshops have included:

- **Sweetgrass Teaching** facilitated by Elder Barb Jadis, providing participants with cultural teachings and knowledge surrounding sweetgrass.
- **Porcupine Quill Strawberry Art Workshop** facilitated by artist Kay Bernard, providing participants with an opportunity to learn traditional art techniques and cultural teachings.
- **Fleece Knot Blanket Workshop & RCMP Human Trafficking Presentation**, providing participants with an opportunity to develop practical skills while encouraging social connection and community participation receiving education and awareness regarding human trafficking, risk factors, prevention, and available supports.
- **Family and Community Activities** included apple picking, family swims, bowling, and other recreational events designed to encourage positive family experiences, physical & mental well being and community connection.

In addition to community programming, the Coordinator provides ongoing **case management, counselling, advocacy, referrals, and wraparound support** to participants residing at Geggunas'g House. Support is provided on an ongoing basis and is responsive to the individual needs, circumstances, and goals of each participant.

The Coordinator is also responsible for maintaining accurate and confidential client records and ensuring that required documentation is completed in accordance with organizational and reporting requirements. Administrative responsibilities include maintaining confidential case files, completing government reporting requirements, and preparing NCPEI monthly and annual activity and financial reports in a timely and accurate manner.

Promotion and Outreach:

The Child and Family Violence Prevention Services (CFVPS) Coordinator represents the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) on a number of community-based committees, working groups, and collaborative initiatives. These include the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Community Case Conferencing Table, Geggunas'g House Shelter Committee, and the Coordinated Access Team with the John Howard Society.

Participation in these committees provides opportunities to strengthen communication, develop partnerships, and coordinate client services with organizations and professionals across Prince Edward Island. The coordinator works collaboratively with government departments, non-profit organizations and other support services, including Health PEI, PEERS Alliance, the Department of Justice and Public Safety, PEI Housing Services, Financial support and Legal and Victim Services, Child Protection and other DV shelters, the Aboriginal Women's Association, Provincial Indigenous Justice Court Workers and support agencies throughout the province. These relationships support effective referrals, coordinated service delivery, and improved access to resources for individuals and families.

Community Partnerships and Initiatives:

The CFVPS Program has developed partnerships with organizations such as Best Buy Express and PEI Provincial Libraries to support the **"Phones with a Purpose"** initiative. This initiative provides shelter participants who have identified a need with access to a mobile device at no cost, helping them maintain essential connections with service providers, family members, community resources, and personal safety supports.

Through partnerships and outreach activities, the CFVPS Program continues to strengthen community connections, improve access to services and resources, and promote collaborative approaches to supporting individuals and families impacted by violence.

Future Activities:

Future programming will focus on strengthening cultural connection across all three zones., community engagement, personal and family well-being, safety, and healthy relationships. Planned activities may include a Bass Fishing Derby, Healing Sweats, Tapestry Beading, Family Game Nights, a Hat Burning Workshop, Moonlight Snowshoeing, Christmas and holiday craft activities, and other community-based initiatives.

All activities are be offered at no cost to participants which supports removing barrier to access and encourage community participation. Programming will provide opportunities for new and existing members to strengthen their connection to culture and language, develop practical life skills, build positive relationships, and participate in safe and supportive community environments.

The program will continue to adapt and expand its activities based on community needs, participant interests, and opportunities to collaborate with local partners and cultural knowledge holders.

Conclusion:

The Child and Family Violence Prevention Services Program has successfully completed its first full year of operation, establishing a strong foundation for continued service delivery, community engagement, and violence prevention across Prince Edward Island.
The program coordinator has provided direct case management, advocacy, counselling, referrals, safety planning, and wraparound supports to individuals and families impacted by violence. In addition to individualized support, the program has developed and delivered a range of culturally relevant workshops, educational sessions, and family-focused activities across all three zones. These initiatives have created opportunities for participants to strengthen cultural connections, develop life skills, build healthy relationships, and engage in safe and supportive community environments.

A key achievement during the first year has been the development of strong working relationships with shelter management and support staff. NCPEI programs, community service providers, government departments, & Elders, these partnerships have strengthened referral

pathways, improved access to resources, and supported a more coordinated approach to addressing family and gender-based violence creating positive outcomes for program participants.

Moving forward, the Child and Family Violence Prevention Services Program will continue to build on the foundation established during its first year. Through continued collaboration, culturally grounded programming, community outreach, and individualized support, the program will remain focused on promoting safety, strengthening individuals and families, increasing awareness and prevention of violence, and contributing to healthier and more connected Indigenous communities across Prince Edward Island.



NCPEI Environment Program — Year in Review

2025-2026 NCPEI AGA Report

Clara J. Wood

10/9/26

Environment

NCPEI Environmental Program… A Year in Review

October 2025 – September 2026

2026-10-09

Letter from the Environmental Coordinator

Kwe', delegates!

This past year, the NCPEI Environmental Program grew from a handful of projects into five active, funded initiatives that reach across land, water and community. We monitored species at risk, put new instruments into the waters of the St. Chrysostome Wildlife Management Area (WMA), welcomed our first Indigenous Aquatic Habitat intern, and brought Elders and youth together around gardens, seeds and technology.

None of this work happens alone. It is carried out by our field team, our summer students, the Elders and Knowledge Keepers who generously share their teachings, the members who show up to workshops in all three zones, and the partners and funders who trust us to care for these places. *Wela'lioq* to every one of you – these programs wouldn't happen without you.

This report gathers highlights from October 2025 to September 2026. As we move into the off-season, our focus turns to processing a full summer of data, sharing what we learned with community, and securing the capacity to keep this work going for years to come.

Have a safe winter and holiday season, and enjoy the rest of the AGA!

Clara Jane Wood

Environmental Coordinator, Native Council of Prince Edward Island

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The year at a glance

Five projects were active in 2026, alongside the close-out of earlier work such as the WMA walking trail and the 2025–26 aquatic monitoring project.

Project	Funder	Period	Focus
Multi-Species at Risk Monitoring	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Apr 2024 – Mar 2027	Bats and Bank Swallows
Aquatic Multi-Species Monitoring	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (AFSAR)	Apr 2026 – Mar 2027	Water quality, eDNA, Winter Skate
Mawie'jig ugjit Nme'j: Fish Habitat Stewardship	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (IHPP)	2026 – Mar 2027	Interns, training, winter habitat
Wisdom Flows Forward	Southeast Environmental Association (New Horizons)	2026 – 2030	Elders, nature and technology
Sowing Seeds of Change	City of Charlottetown	Jun 2026 – Feb 2027	Youth, native seeds, recycling

By the numbers:

- **4** acoustic bat monitors deployed at Panmure and the WMA
- **5** water-level loggers and **4** temperature loggers installed in the WMA
- **10** Winter Skate sediment samples collected at Higgins Wharf
- **24** Elder and senior participants across six Wisdom Flows Forward sessions
- **10** members at three citizen science workshops, one in each zone
- **~150** brochures and native seed bookmarks shared with the public
- **1** Indigenous Habitat intern hired (**still looking for #2!**)
- **10 +** partner organizations

Species at risk: Bats and Bank Swallows

All required summer monitoring for our three-year species at risk project is complete, and 2026–27 is its final year. The project follows two at-risk species groups: Myotis bats (Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis) and the Bank Swallow.

- **Bat acoustic monitoring.** In July, the field team deployed four acoustic monitors, two at the NCPEI Panmure Cultural Park and two in the St. Chrysostome WMA near the beaver pond. Monitors were checked regularly and collected recordings through August following national NABat protocols. One monitor continues recording in the WMA into the fall.
- **Bank Swallow surveys.** Colony surveys were completed at the Panmure Cultural Park cliffs, the Panmure Island Lighthouse and the WMA. Field staff also noted threats to colonies such as erosion, dogs off leash, litter and foot traffic on cliff edges.

- **Citizen science workshops.** In June we hosted workshops in Portage, St. Peter's and Charlottetown, showing members how they can help monitor species at risk using smart technology.
- **New partner monitor.** The PEI Watershed Alliance installed one of its acoustic bat monitors at our Portage office as part of its own bat project.

Over the coming months, data (non-sensitive) will be shared with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre and NABat, and our final report will compare results across all three years.

Aquatic monitoring in the Wildlife Management Area

Our aquatic monitoring project is on track, building a baseline picture of the WMA's fresh, brackish and marine waters. It also closed out its 2025–26 year with a final report to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

- **Water-level loggers.** Five HOBO depth loggers were installed in August: two in the beaver pond, two in the tidal marsh, and one on a nearby tree to measure air pressure for comparison.
- **Water quality.** Through the summer the field team measured water quality and collected water chemistry samples every one to two weeks.
- **eDNA for American Eel and Atlantic Salmon.** Starting in July, the team collected water samples to detect environmental DNA from these two species. One sampling round remains.
- **Winter Skate.** In September, using a small boat, the team collected 10 sediment samples (two at each of five sites) in the Higgins Wharf channel. These are being preserved until a lab test for Winter Skate DNA becomes available, which is still in development. Another 10 samples will be collected this fall.

These results will feed into the WMA's Aquatic Management and Habitat Improvement Plan.

Mawie'jig ugjit Nme'j: Fish Habitat Stewardship

This new grant, signed in March 2026, builds Indigenous capacity to understand and care for fish habitat, with a focus on winter conditions. Our first Indigenous intern joined the team on August 31 for ten weeks of training and hands-on fieldwork. As of this report, we are still recruiting a second Indigenous intern through the program.

- **Instruments in the water.** Four of nine temperature loggers are installed in the beaver pond and the upper tidal marsh, alongside the water-level loggers.
- **Training.** The intern has begun an Environmental Field Skills certification. Drone surveying, first aid and fish habitat restoration courses are planned for staff and interns.
- **Hands-on experience.** In September, our team joined the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) in Nova Scotia to help install digger logs that improve stream habitat at Matheson Brook.

Coming this winter: a Fish Habitat Strategy Workshop with partners, a Winter Stewardship and Ice Safety Social once the ice is safe (usually February, with ice fishing), and a virtual Winter Gear and Conservation Workshop.

Wisdom Flows Forward

Wisdom Flows Forward launched this summer with 24 Elder and senior participants across six sessions in all three zones. This four-year program, part of the Connecting Seniors through Nature and Technology Teachings initiative, uses our greenhouse and wildlife cameras to share gentle technology skills with members 55+, while building connection between generations.

- **Agreement and outreach.** The agreement was signed in May, and the program was introduced at the Zone 1 and Zone 3 town halls to recruit participants.
- **Greenhouse reactivated.** The Portage greenhouse is growing again, with tobacco, garden sage, peppers, tomatoes and peas. A new pollinator garden was also dug in front of the Portage office. Staff used this first year to learn and "grow" our skills before offering facilitated activities.
- **First gatherings.** In August and September, members shared their ideas for what the program should offer around culture, nature and technology. Several evenings ran past their end time because the conversation was so lively.
- **Measuring change.** Participants began anonymous baseline surveys on connectedness, digital literacy and connection to nature, so we can track how the program helps over four years.
- **Network.** NCPEI joined the program's steering committee alongside eight other community organizations.

Next up: tablets for participants (at events, not take-home), wildlife camera sessions, and gardening workshops with community partners.

Sowing Seeds of Change

Supported by a City of Charlottetown Climate Action Microgrant, Sowing Seeds of Change turns office paper waste into seed bookmarks that encourage native planting across the city. The project supports several actions in Charlottetown's Climate Action Plan (2025–2030), including waste reduction, native species planting and engaging Indigenous communities.

- **Workshops.** Youth workshops were held in June and July, with a community Knowledge Keeper sharing teachings at the July session.
- **Public outreach.** We shared Swamp Milkweed seeds and information at NCPEI's National Indigenous Peoples Day event. At the 2026 Charlottetown Pride Parade, in partnership with NCPEI's 2S+ program, we handed out about 75 seed paper bookmarks and 75 brochures.
- **Seeds for next year.** In September, Swamp Milkweed pods were harvested from the Portage property to supply future events.

Youth turnout has been lower than hoped, so the next workshop will be held at the NCPEI Elder and Youth gathering this October.

Community, partnerships and training

Beyond our funded projects, the team took part in community life and built skills and partnerships that strengthen the program.

On the land and in community

- The St. Chrysostome WMA walking trail was cut and opened in fall 2025, and its parking area was cleared and mulched in spring 2026.
- Budding Biologists youth camp wrapped up with Striped Bass fishing evenings in Zones 1 and 3 in October 2025.
- Supported a sweetgrass harvesting teaching with an Elder, in partnership with NCPEI's CFVP program.
- Took part in the Red Dress Walk, the NCPEI Powwow at Panmure, World Ocean Day outreach, and the new Kelewatl Commission meetings and firearms safety course.
- Served as special judges on Indigenous topics at the Provincial Heritage Fair.

Partners

- Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council: drone training, stream restoration fieldwork, and support for their coastal bat monitoring proposal.
- PEI Watershed Alliance, Birds Canada, NABat and the Atlantic Bank Swallow working group.
- Dalhousie University and the Ocean Tracking Network, exploring fish tagging and telemetry.
- Southeast Environmental Association and eight partner organizations through Wisdom Flows Forward.

Training

- Outdoor Council of Canada Field Leader (Hiking) certification, delivered with community members and Lennox Island staff.
- CLIMAtlantic Climate Advocacy and Resiliency Training (CART).
- Introduction to Bird Identification for staff and intern.

Looking ahead

As field season ends, our priorities shift to sharing results with community and securing the program's future.

- **Finish fall fieldwork:** the last Winter Skate and eDNA samples, and barrier and beaver dam walks with watershed partners.
- **Share what we learned:** two watershed mapping sessions, and Elder and community knowledge-sharing sessions from November to March, guided by OCAP principles.
- **Bring people together:** a partner open house on the future of the WMA's aquatic area, and winter stewardship and ice safety events.
- **Wrap up a three-year project:** final species at risk reporting, with results compared across all three years.
- **Build long-term capacity:** applications to multi-year federal and provincial funds so NCPEI can keep a dedicated environmental team in place to ensure stewardship continuity.

Wela'lioq to our participating members, our partners, and our full NCPEI staff who provide endless support for our program delivery!

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Kyra Barlow
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The position of Gender Based Violence Prevention Coordinator is a multifaceted role focused on addressing the prevention of violence and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Designed to provide support to those at risk or impacted by GBV/MMIWG, the GBV Coordinator meets with community members, friends and families of those impacted by Missing and Murdered Indigenous people, and those at risk of or who have been impacted by violence.

Working towards the goal of prevention of violence and the impacts of violence the GBV Coordinator works with police, supports/service, all levels of government, and community organisations to advocate for the change/implementation of policies & protocols aimed at promoting and improving the safety, healing, and wellbeing for the off-reserve Indigenous community of PEI.

Additionally, the GBV Coordinator works internally with the NCPEI policy team, police, supports/services, all levels of government, and community organizations to develop an Action Plan for the community. The action plan outlines detailed roles for each organization in case of a disappearance of an Indigenous person within the community and aimed at how to work towards the prevention of MMIWG entirely.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

By meeting with community members, families and friends of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, and those at risk of or who have experienced violence the GBV coordinator provides support and advocation. The GBV Coordinator provides trauma informed care from an Indigenous perspective to provide support and advocacy aimed at individual and community healing and growth; to achieve this goal access to Indigenous knowledge and culture is offered during programming events, while working at an individual level with community members to achieve self actualization.

The GBV Coordinator will work with individuals to create relationships built on trust and safety, and to promote healing & growth. The GBV coordinator can support individuals in the creation of safety plans and support community members during interactions and when engaging with law enforcement and other organizations to ensure their voices are heard while their indigeneity is respected.

Develops relationships by working with police, supports/services, all levels of government, and community organizations the GBV Coordinator acts as a voice to advocate for changes to the systems that continue to perpetrate violence on indigenous community members with the goal of improving the safety, healing, and wellbeing for the off-reserve Indigenous community of PEI.

Activities and Deliverables:

November 2025 2S Retreat

Working with PEERS Alliance, the 2Spirit Coordinator from NCPEI, the GBV Coordinator helped facilitate a 2Spirit retreat in November of 2025. Interest was significant and the event was successful with registration meeting full capacity, with individuals coming together from across the island and different communities.

The retreat looked at impacts of violence on Indigenous community who identify as 2Spirited/ Queer and the lack of available supports & community. By utilizing Indigenous ways of knowing and being, trauma informed care from an indigenous perspective, and access to Indigenous ceremonies participants were encouraged to participate in events that offer chances for growth, healing, and connection within the 2spirit community and their non-indigenous allies. Activities throughout the weekend provide the opportunity for access to indigenous knowledge through the creation of items that they were able to take home with them, adding to their personal bundle.

The retreat itself was exclusive to Indigenous 2 Spirit/ Indigueer Individuals to ensure we created a safe space for healing and wellness. The final day was opened to all queer community members and allies to encourage healing, reconciliation. Together through honouring truth we become reconciled in our relationship to each other and creation to create a space of reciprocity, experiential learning, and encourage camaraderie.

January 2026 Bone Carving (Men's Workshop)

Recognizing the lack of support and programs for our Men & Boys, the GBV Coordinator worked with a community member to facilitate a Bone Carving workshop specifically for our male identifying community members, focused on teaching our male community members about gender roles, how those have changed with the modern world and colonialism, and how those roles relate to GBV & MMIWG.

Utilizing a male knowledge keeper and community member, the workshop was done as a men's only workshop with the intent to provide our male community members a safe and comfortable space to provide cultural teachings on gender roles; specifically, what those gender roles looked like traditionally within Indigenous communities. In addition to exploring how the impacts of colonialism have impacted the view on these roles, what they look like within modern culture, and how those changes have had an impact on our communities and culture.

This event was successful, reaching full capacity and the community indicating that they would be interested in an event open to everyone.

March 2026 MMIWG Conference

In March 2026 a MMIWG Conference was held for community members to provide information on the process and development of the NCPEI Action plan. Members we provided a chance to review the draft of the Action Plan NCPEIs team has been developing to address the MMIWG crisis from a provincial perspective, provide feedback, and provide feedback on the wants/needs of the community pertaining to GBV/MMIWG.

Members were given a chance to review the Action Plan, brochures on the Action Plan and GBV, and were provided anonymous surveys and questionnaires to provide their input on the proposed information before the final draft is completed.

March 2026 Red River Panel

Invited by the executive Director of the PEI Advisory Council on The Status of Women, the GBV Coordinator was asked to participate in an event as a panelist in an event featuring a screening of the short documentary "This River," a short documentary by Katherena Vermette that provides a look at the perception of what it is like for members of Indigenous communities when a loved one goes missing.

Three Indigenous women and community leaders who work for nonprofits in PEI were asking to participate in breakout sessions and a panel following the documentary to discuss the impacts of MMIWG on individuals, families, and communities. As the event was being hosted by a mainstream organization the panelist discussed the impacts of MMIWG with participants, most of who were not Indigenous. The event also provided the opportunity to look at what true reconciliation looks like and how allies can work towards achieving it.

May 2026 Red Dress Walk

The GBV Coordinator worked with other NCPEI staff and Indigenous organizations across PEI to organize the annual Red Dress Walk. Held to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls that have been lost to systemic violence, bring awareness to the highly disproportionate and significant rate at which Indigenous women and girls experience violence in their daily lives, go missing, or get murdered. Community members and representatives gathered in Summerside, wearing red, and walking together to remember our relatives that have been lost, bring awareness to the continued impacts of systemic violence that impacts Indigenous communities in an effort insight change.

Women's Safety – Sukwisims Lodge **E'pijig Gathering – Embracing Safety & Healing**

Sukwisims Lodge hosted a safety and healing event for the women in the community approaching and in honor of Red Dress Day. The GBV Coordinator was invited by the lodge to do a presentation on the impacts of violence and harm to the Indigenous & 2SLGBTQUIA+ community, how those experiences impact our communities, and why. The presentation included how we can look at and address a variety of safety measure and what they mean. As an example: how does having access to culture impact safety for Indigenous women, girls, and members of the 2SLGBTQUIA+ Community. Working with the Trans Community Outreach Coordinator from PEERS Alliance to ensure it was culturally appropriate, while speaking to the specific challenges and issues the Indigenous and 2S LGBTQUIA+ community experience.

July 2026 – Water Walk

Working in collaboration with Sukwisims Lodge and PEERS Alliance we held the second annual Epekwit Water Walk for 2026. The Water Walk is an Indigenous ceremony in which water is carried in a copper vessel, traditionally carried by women as life bringers. Held over a 4-day period, covering a total of over 80km. The first 3 days focusing on the walking portion of the ceremony with the final day having everyone come together to release the water back during a closing ceremony followed by a feast.

This years Water Walk was a continuance of last years walk with a focus on Reconciliation. Indigenous community members, allies, and non-Indigenous organizations were invited to join us, recognizing that water is imperative for everyone's survival and the changes we have seen from pollution impact us all. There was support from a number of organizations across the island such as the RCMP, Women's network, PRIDE PEI, PEITN, and more providing the opportunity to demonstrate what true reconciliation looks like between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community here on the island.

Other Events

- Strawberry Quill Workshop
- Sword Yoga
- Christmas Ornaments
- Valentines Day – Self Care Event
- Paint your partner date night

Promotion and Outreach:

Action Plan Development

Working internally with the policy team the GBV Coordinator has supported, provided feedback, and advocated for the needs/wants of the community in the development of the Action Plan that details the roles of organizations in the case of a disappearance of an Indigenous person within the community. Aimed at how to work towards the prevention of MMIWG entirely, to work towards this goal the GBV Coordinator has developed relationships with the RCMP, municipal police services, city councils, community organizations, and all levels of government to better address and advocate for the needs of Indigenous community members.

Women's Network

Invited to take part of a partnership facilitated by the Women's network that provides funding and access to resources used to address Gender Based violence as a whole in PEI.

Premier's Action Committee (PAC) Working Group – Family Violence Prevention Week

Despite not sitting on PAC, the GBV Coordinator was specifically asked to sit on the working group for Family Violence Prevention Week to assist in the planning and organizing of the theme, events, and the Charlottetown Walk in Silence to expose and bring awareness to the impacts of family violence.

PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Center Human Trafficking Training
Attended a training session with the PEIRSAC staff about Human Trafficking with the goal being to explore the possibility of developing training on Human Trafficking specific to PEI for other organizations, understanding of what Human Trafficking is, and how we shift that understanding knowing that Human Trafficking does happen here.

New African Canadians Mental Health & Trauma Informed Care Panel – The GBV Coordinator was invited to participate in a panel exploring trauma informed care within minority communities, how we can better understand those communities and therefore better support them, and how to develop a relationship built on trust.

Future Activities:

Birch Bark – October 2026 - The GBV Program has a Birch Bark Event that will be offered at the end of October where community members will have the opportunity to create a set of Birch Bark Jewellery.

2S Retreat November 2026 – Working with the Indiqueer Coordinator from PEERS Alliance the GBV Coordinator has start planning the November 2026 2Spirit Retreat. Building on the retreat from last year the coordinators hope to further facilitate the development of relationships within the community, as well as allowing participants to create and build on items for their personal bundles.

PEER Support – On-Going
Based on feedback from community both during the MMIWG conference and provided directly to the coordinator, the GBV Coordinator aims to provide further support and advocation for individuals at risk or impacted by GBV/MMIWG by meeting independently with community members. To address the impacts of violence and work towards the goal of prevention of violence the GBV coordinator aims to provide trauma informed care to support growth, growth, and self actualization from an indigenous perspective to encourage individual healing to reduce impacts of violence.

Invitation to Explore Indigenous Community in Uganda January 2027 –
Following the Mental Health & Trauma Informed Care Panel, the GBV Coordinator was invited to travel to an Indigenous community in Uganda. This community has recently experienced the impacts of colonialism in the last couple of decades, noting the parallels of what Indigenous communities in Canada experienced. The GBV coordinator is invited to explore the community to share knowledge and help create relationships in hopes of better understanding how to support the growth and healing of communities experiencing violence.

Conclusion:

The GBV Programming offered over the last year has been extremely successful, with most events reaching full capacity. Applying lateral thinking to provide events that have not previously been offered to increase interest in events, the GBV coordinator utilized events to provide knowledge and education directly to community members about the impacts of violence

and gender-based violence. Through this programming the GBV coordinator has developed relationships with community members built on trust. Open and honest feedback has been provided about the wants and needs of community so the GBV coordinator could better advocate and support the community, both directly with NCPEI but also with other supports/services, organizations, and government. By better understanding the needs of the community and what supports/services are or are not available, the GBV coordinator has been able to look at and explore how NCPEI can better support those impacted by GBV & MMIWG.

The GBV Coordinator has successfully built relationships with people and representatives from other organizations responsible for addressing violence and gender-based violence across the communities in PEI. These relationships have increased NCPEIs ability to better understand and support community members, accessing spaces that we were not previously a part of.

By utilizing relationships built on positive rapport the GBV Coordinator has been able to work with the RCMP in the development of the Action Plan. Allowing for an environment in which honest feedback can be exchanged between the RCMP and the coordinator about the ways they support our community members and how we can each do better.

Human Resources Administrator
Annual General Assembly Report 2026
October 2026 to September 2026

Janessa Culleton
Human Resources Administrator

Position Summary:

The Human Resources Administrator serves as a key point of contact for employees and management at the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI). The role supports the organization through the administration of human resources policies and procedures, recruitment and onboarding, employee records and documentation, payroll coordination, performance management, staff development, health and safety, accommodation, compliance, and employee relations.

Key Activities and Accomplishments:

Recruitment, Hiring & Onboarding

Recruitment and staffing continued to be a significant part of my role throughout the year. I've supported the recruitment and onboarding of both existing vacant positions and several newly created positions as the organization continued to grow. New positions filled during the year included the Strategic Relationships Policy Analyst, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Iga'tagu'tieg – "We Are Planting" Coordinator, and Environmental Intern. Two summer students were also hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program for Event Planner and Environmental Technician positions. Recruitment continues to present challenges, particularly in finding qualified candidates who meet the specific requirements of our positions. In response, I have begun advertising positions earlier where possible in an effort to build larger and stronger candidate pools and improve the overall recruitment process.

Training & Staff Development:

Supporting staff training and professional development remained an important area of focus throughout the year. Staff were supported in accessing a wide range of training opportunities, including ASIST, First Aid, Food Handler Safety, DBT, CBT, and ABT training, as well as training related to budgeting, human trafficking, peer support, language revitalization, aquaculture, climate adaptation and resiliency, 2SLGBTQ+ inclusivity, and other areas relevant to their roles and responsibilities. These opportunities allowed employees to strengthen their knowledge and skills while supporting the organization's commitment to employee development and quality service delivery. As part of my own professional development, I also attended an information session on PEI employment standards and a legal clinic focused on workplace and harassment policies to continue building my knowledge in areas relevant to the HR role.

Policy Development & Compliance:

A significant focus this year was the review and finalization of NCPEI's policies and procedures. I worked with BDO to review and update the organization's policies to ensure they were aligned with current labour and employment requirements and also reflected the needs of the organization. The updated policies were implemented with staff in June 2026. I have continued to provide ongoing guidance to employees and management regarding the application of policies and procedures and have worked to promote greater consistency and clarity in workplace practices.

Performance Management:

The annual performance evaluation process was also an area of continued focus this year. I worked with management and supervisors to get the organization's performance evaluation process back on track and support the completion of annual evaluations. Almost all staff have now completed their evaluations for the year. These regular performance evaluations provide an opportunity to recognize employee strengths and accomplishments, identify areas for growth and development, establish clear expectations, and address concerns where necessary.

Health, Safety & Employee Support:

I continued to provide ongoing support related to occupational health and safety, employee accommodations, workplace concerns, and risk management. Throughout the year, I've assisted employees and management with a variety of workplace matters and worked to ensure that employee needs were considered while also maintaining organizational requirements and compliance with applicable policies and legislation. This included providing guidance on employee relations matters, accommodations, workplace concerns, and other issues that arose throughout the year.

Payroll, Benefits & Operational Support:

In addition to traditional HR responsibilities, ongoing support was provided in a number of operational areas throughout the year. I've continued to work closely with Finance on payroll-related matters, including employee changes, payroll adjustments, and ensuring that information was accurate and up to date. I have also continued to support the administration of employee benefits, personnel records, employment documentation, and other day-to-day HR processes. Compliance, risk management, occupational health and safety, and general operational support remained important components of the role.

Community Events & Organizational Support:

I have also assisted with the coordination and staffing of several major NCPEI events throughout the year. This included providing support for National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Panmure Island Pow Wow, and the Mawi'omi for Truth and Reconciliation Day. HR support at these events included staffing coordination, employee support, and assistance with health and safety needs as required.

The past year has involved continued growth and development within the Human Resources function at NCPEI. The focus has been on strengthening policies and processes, supporting employees and management, improving compliance, and ensuring the organization has the staffing and resources needed to deliver its programs and services. Moving forward, I will continue to focus on maintaining strong and consistent employment practices, supporting staff development and performance, improving recruitment processes, and providing responsive day-to-day support to employees and management as NCPEI continues to grow.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to October 2026

Paul Martin
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Information Technology Program focuses on exploring new technologies for NCPEI. while keeping existing systems working reliably for staff's day-to-day use. This includes account management, from password support and account setup to account maintenance, as well as computer setup, repairs and cleanup. I also support peripherals and equipment, including some tablets, printers and meeting equipment. Alongside this work, I have been exploring time-management tools to help HR track hours, vacation time and sick time. I have also been researching ways to introduce artificial intelligence (AI) to the council while maintaining the council's distinct identity.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

The primary objective of IT is to keep the organization operating smoothly behind the scenes. My day-to-day responsibilities include maintaining computers and printers; managing accounts, including passwords, new account setups, backups and cleanup; setting up new computers; and preparing damaged or outdated laptops for disposal. I have also been researching and testing AI tools and time-management software. Another priority is account security, including assessing the potential impact of implementing multi-factor authentication. I am also exploring how to integrate AI responsibly and ethically to support staff in their work.

Activities and Deliverables:

Beyond day-to-day IT support, a key deliverable is the first phase of the AI project: setting up a document repository that staff can use to find the materials they need. For example, a staff member could locate an expense claim form in the repository. The next step would be to allow AI to access selected documents under strict permissions. If someone had trouble finding or understanding a policy in the handbook, they could ask the AI for clarification. It could then retrieve the relevant section of the policy manual and provide context. The goal is a multipurpose resource that staff can use directly, with AI serving as an assistant that draws on the same approved materials.

Future Activities:

Future work will include building and rolling out the remaining phases of the AI project, with clear policies and strict permissions governing how AI uses the repository. I also plan to move forward with multi-factor authentication and continue working with HR on the time-management

tools described earlier. These are substantial projects that will require implementation, training and supporting policies, so the work will continue in stages. We will also need to account for the rapidly changing AI landscape.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I will continue advancing these projects while supporting staff with their day-to-day IT needs, including account management and keeping equipment in working order. The document repository will be a useful internal resource for staff and a foundation for the planned AI implementation. With appropriate permissions and policies, AI could help staff find information, clarify documents and work more efficiently. I will also continue working with HR on the proposed timekeeping tools. Together, these efforts represent meaningful progress for the organization.

Indigenous Skills & Employment Training (ISET) &
"The Way Forward" Youth Employment & Skills Strategy (YESS)
Annual General Assembly Report
September 2025 – October 2026

Nancy K. MacLean
Employment & Training Coordinator

Brief overview of the ISET Program:

The ISET Program provides support 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 client reports for funding agency
- Ongoing client recruitment and support for students while in training then 3- and 6-month follow-up after training completion
- Ongoing maintenance of Accountability & Resource Management System (ARMS) reporting has been maintained.
- Partnership with BIPOC Business & Professionals Network (BPN) and Futurpreneur has enabled the ISET to be able to assist with planning of the annual Career Expo.
- BIPOC Business & Professionals Network monthly meetings and annual meetings
- Supported Employment Network (SEN) monthly meetings
- Attended PEI Literacy Alliance annual meeting
- Attended Career Development Agency (CDA) annual meeting
- Attended Supported Employment Symposium

Attached:

ARMS Client Report (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026)

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 weekly 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 weeks of work experience by providing wage subsidies to the employers.

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 on preparation of quarterly/annual reports for funding agency as well as Participant Information Templates (PIT) student reports.
- Due to the creativity and support of the NCPEI team, we were able to offer a scaled down version of the program with only one intake per year. Recruitment will soon start for a January 2027 intake.

Promotion and Outreach for ISET and YESS Programs:

- Promotion of the programs on Facebook, partnership information sharing and in the various NCPEI mailouts.
- Promoted programs through sharing photos and information the "Gigmanag" and the NCPEI mailouts.

Future Activities:

- Hosting of another YESS employment program for youth in January 2027

Conclusion:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the NCPEI staff and community for supporting the ISET and YESS programs. **AND** a special **"Thank You"** to the **ISET Committee** and **Senior Staff.** Without their help and support neither of these programs would be able to operate with the successes that have been demonstrated in the past and I look forward to continuing to work with these important programs that so greatly benefit our community.

Casefile Summary

7492003 - ISETP - CAP - Prince Edward Island

10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026

Case Manager: Nancy MacLean

Intake / Outcomes

Casefiles	65
Casefiles at Beginning of Period	20
New Casefiles	46
Open Casefiles at End of Period	25
Casefiles Open Longer Than 12 Months as of Report End Date	3
Casefiles Closed as Incomplete	0
Casefiles Closed as Unspecified	8
Casefiles Closed to Employed	30
Casefiles Closed as Unemployed	0
Casefiles Closed to Returned to School	0
Casefiles Closed to Stay in School	0
Casefiles Closed to Ready for Work	2
Casefiles Inactive 24 Weeks	0

Clients

Clients with Casefiles	63
Clients with New Casefiles	45
Clients with Intakes and No Interventions	0
Clients - Active	26
Clients - Followup	0
Clients - Inactive	37
Active/Followup Clients with No Case Manager	0

Note: In some cases multiple offices may have input into the same casefile, but results will only appear for those casefiles "owned" by the current office (i.e. the office that started the intake)

Detailed Intervention Report

7492003 - ISETP - CAP - Prince Edward Island

10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026

Filter Criteria
Case Manager: Nancy MacLean

Intervention Code	Intervention	# Interventions	# New Interventions	# Clients
5669040	Career Research and Exploration	56	41	54
5669042	Employment Counseling	1	0	1
5745006	Work Experience - Wage Subsidy	3	3	3
5749010	Job Starts Supports	6	6	6
5749012	Employment Retention Supports	14	13	14
5756025	Occupational Skills Training - Degree	4	4	4
5756026	Occupational Skills Training - Diploma	11	8	11
5756027	Occupational Skills Training - Certificate	15	8	15
5756028	Occupational Skills Training - Vocational / Industry Recognized	10	7	10
5756029	Skills Development-Academic Upgrading	1	0	1
9990123	Intake/Client Assessment	46	46	45
9990134	Followup (Employment)	7	7	6
9990136	Followup (Unemployed/Unspecified)	9	9	9
9999567	Outcome (Unemployed/Unspecified)	16	16	15
9999569	Outcome (Employment)	23	23	23
		222	**191**	**64**

KELEWATL COMMISSIOM
Annual General Assembly
October 2025 – September 2026

Kelewatl Commissioner
Jordan Crane

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:

2025

October 17th, 22nd, and 24th – Townhall meetings in Zone 1, 2 and 3 - Attended these meetings with the membership from Zone 1, 2, and 3, was there to address any concerns or to answer any question around the communal commercial or FSC fishery.

October 23rd – Ulnooweg (NICFI)/NCPEI – Stacey Maguire – Met with Stacey Maguire and Ryan Knockwood to discuss a safety training plan for the Lnu Fisheries fleet. This plan would compliment our already existing Lnu Fisheries Vessel Safety initiatives. We also discussed other opportunities available to us through NICFI for training and vessel safety. Ryan will be working with Stacey on a draft of what that plan will look like.

October 29th – MAPC/NCPEI/EMSA/ - Vanessa Mitchell – Met with Vanessa to discuss the EMSA program and how we have been using it to date. We discussed ideas on how we can further use the program and what would work best for L'nu Fisheries. L'nu Fisheries and NCPEI's priority has always been safety and that will continue.

November 8th and 9th – Native Council of PEI Annual General Assembly - 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 2025 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 19th – ILCEPP Agreement Monitoring Meeting – Indigenous and Local Communities Engagement and Partnership Program – The ILCEPP is a Transport Canada program that funds our Lnu Fisheries Marine Safety Coordinator position. This was the first meeting of annual meeting we will be having for the duration of the project. Discussion took place around the program requirements, project updates, and project risks.

December 3rd, 5th and 8th – NCPEI townhall/Xmas dinners Zone 1, 2and 3 - Attended these meetings/dinners with the membership from Zone 1, 2, and 3, was there to address any concerns or to answer any question around the communal commercial or FSC fishery.

December 9th – DFO/NCPEI – Carter Russel – Met with Carter to discuss the AFS agreement, reporting update and a general conversation on how the overall 2025 fishing season went.

2026

January 8th – NCPEI/DFO – Carter Russell – Met with Carter to follow up on some additional information required for the AFS agreement final report. Additional info on the RMOT section. Also discussed the draft 2026/27 FSC license and the new Multiyear agreement that will start April 1st 2026. Drafts are being worked on for both currently.

January 8th – Tim Rayner – Off Bottom Oyster lease – Bideford River – Yearly discussion took place with Tim on plans for upcoming season and review of the 2025 season. MSX played a crucial role on the entire fishery and market being the major concern.

January 22nd – NCPEI/Province of PEI/wildlife management area – Myself and Clara Jane Wood met with Chad Quigley from The Province. Discussion took place around a *watercourse, wetland and buffer zone activity permit* for the development of a parking lot on the WMA property. Discussion around the history of how we acquired the land and the intent of what the property would be used for was explained. Chad will work with on the process moving forward.

February 3rd – PEI Rock Crab area 24 Advisory Committee - Meeting is chaired by Chris Mills, DFO and includes representatives from the commercial fishing industry, PEIFA, MCPEI, NCPEI, and then Province. Agenda items discussed included a review of action items from the 2025 meeting. A review of the 2025 rock crab fishery: Landings, C&P update and E-Log update.

February 3rd – PEI Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee - This meeting was chaired by Lori Cuddy, Area Director for PEI. Agenda items discussed included:

Updates on Striped Bass, Groundfish, Atlantic Salmon, Smelts, Recreational Mackerel, Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Winter Perch. Glen Gillespie (Conservation and Protection) gave an update on Violations and checks from DFO, and Erin Perry gave a Provincial enforcement update.

February 5th - PEI Mechanical / Bar Clam Advisory Committee Meeting – Meeting is chaired by DFO and includes representatives from the commercial fishing industry, PEIFA, MCPEI, NCPEI, and then Province. Agenda items discussed included an update from science, no new science to report for 2025. A Review of the 2025 fisheries for both mechanical bar clams and regular bar clam fisheries. Overall season was good, sales were good, and product had high meat yield. Bar Clam management measures will remain the same as in 2024. Conservation and Protection gave a short update on the fishery with no issues to report.

February 12th - PEI EEL Advisory Committee Meeting – This meeting was chaired by DFO resource Management (Chris Mills). Agenda items included Review of the 2025 Eel fishery, Management measures for 2026, Update from Conservation and Protection. Overall fishery for Eel on par for the previous season. In 2025 there was a continued increase in Striped Bass which is becoming a huge issue. Striped Bass in the Eel fishery caused some fishers to stop fishing. Discussion around needing more buyers, it was a slow start this year, and smaller bass are showing up in the nets. C&P committed to more drone usage in the 2026 fishery.

February 13th - NCPEI/Province of PEI/wildlife management area – Myself and Clara Jane Wood met with Chad Quigley from The Province. This was the second discussion around a *watercourse, wetland and buffer zone activity permit* for the development of a parking lot on the WMA property. Discussion took place around next steps and reaching out to a contractor.

February 17th - PEI Estuarial (Smelts, Gasperau) Advisory Committee Meeting – This meeting was chaired by DFO resource Management (Chris Mills). Agenda items included Review of the 2025 Gasperau fishery, Management measures for 2026, Review of the 2025 smelt fishery, Management measures for 2026, Update from Conservation and Protection. Overall fishery for Gasperau had a huge uptake in 2025 but there was also a huge increase in

Striped Bass which is becoming a huge issue. Striped Bass in the Smelt fishery caused some fishers to stop fishing as there were no smelts to catch and nets were filling with Striped Bass. Continuous issues around dip nets being used in close proximity to Gasperau nets. Smelt fishery had extremely poor landings, main cause being bass.

February 26th – Gulf Large Pelagics Advisory Committee (GLPAC) – Meeting took place in Moncton and was chaired by Sylvie Leger from DFO. This is the Gulfs premeeting before the Atlantic Large Pelagics Advisory Committee meeting in Halifax later this year. Agenda items included:

- Review of the 2025 action items
- 2025 ICCAT outcomes –(20% increase to western quota)
- Review of the 2025 bluefin tuna fisheries:
    - Commercial fishery, Catch and release fishery, catch and retain pilot project
    - Industry round table
    - C&P update (hail outs need to be properly recorded)
- Bluefin tuna fisheries management:
    - Logbook (Mackerel needs to be reported in pounds not Fish)
    - New license conditions for 2026
    - Management measures reminder
    - Regulations applying to bluefin tuna fishery
- Other updates included:
    - Scientific tagging program
    - Collaborative agreement
    - Swordfish harpoon fishery
    - Shark recreational fishery
    - Shark interactions

February 28th & March 1st – NCPEI Board Retreat – Attended this retreat as an advisor to the Board

March 3rd – Prince Edward Island Silverside Advisory Committee – This meeting was chaired by Lori Cuddy, DFO. Agenda items included Review of the 2024 action items. Review of the 2025 Silverside fishery, Landings, update from Conservation and Protection, round table discussion from industry reps. Biggest issue is still the Striped Bass. PEIFA has submitted for a pilot project to retain bass as a bycatch.

March 4th, 6th and 9th – Townhall meetings in Zone 1, 2 and 3 - Attended these meetings with the membership from Zone 1, 2, and 3, was there to address any concerns or to answer any question around the communal commercial or FSC fishery.

March 16th - 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 16th – Lnu Fisheries employee meeting – Met with the employees of Lnu fisheries limited to discuss contracts for the upcoming 2026 lobster fisheries. At this time employees also signed off on there Vessel Safety procedures.

March 17th - Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery information session- Zone 3, St. Peters Satellite Office. 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.

March 18th and 19th – Atlantic Large Pelagic Advisory Committee – zoom meeting – Attended this meeting with DFO and Industry reps from Atlantic Canada. Meeting was broken into two days. The first being Swordfish and other tunas, and the second day Bluefin Tuna. Agenda included:

Swordfish and other tunas: Regional updates, C&P update, Bycatch Mitigation measures and industry proposals for 2026. Also, a presentation from Rb freak, with transport Canada on Safety at Sea.

Day two was spent discussing the Bluefin tuna fishery: Industry presented proposals for 2026. Discussions on Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, Fisheries Monitoring Policy, an exception for the use of Mackerel for bait, Elogs and conditions of license.

March 23rd – NCPEI/MAPC/EMSA – Commercial fishing Safety Engagement and training session Pre-meeting – Meet with Barry Marsman to discuss all the details of the upcoming Safety Engagement scheduled for April 1st and April 2nd 2026. Day one will focus on some training drills with the employees of Lnu Fisheries and overview of the Vessel Safety Manuals.

March 23rd – PEIFA LFA 26a Advisory Committee – Attended this meeting as an observer. Meeting was chaired by Mike Dixon. Agenda included : Minutes from the last meeting, and business arising from the minutes. Update on the US/Canada townhall meeting. PEIFA meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Wood Islands Dredging project. Scallop Buffer Zones. Discussion on any new conditions coming for 2026.

March 24th - PEI Soft Shell Clam Advisory Committee Meeting – Meeting is chaired by DFO and includes representatives from the commercial fishing industry, PEIFA, MCPEI, NCPEI, and then Province. Agenda items discussed included an update from science; Review of the 2025 fishery; summary report from Conservation and Protection; review of any new management plans for 2026. No new science to report for 2025. Active fishing licenses reduced this year by approx. 80% which also means landings have also reduced from 2024. No new management plans for 2026. Industry reported that soft shell clam numbers in eastern PEI are exceptionally low.

March 24th – PEI Oyster Advisory Committee Meeting – This meeting was chaired by Steve Maud from DFO. Agenda items included approval of previous meeting minutes, review of the 2025 relay fishery, fall fishery and processors update. Update from Conservation and protection, Science update. Industry round table. Overall spring and fall fisheries went well, more C&P work is needed on recreational fishers and fishers would like to have helpers again which would help with future recruitment. MSX is challenging and C&P is working closely with CIFA. The

whole island will eventually have MSX and at that point all waters would be regulated equally. Overall industry reported that fishers did well if you were willing travel farther and work harder.

March 26th – Gulf Groundfish Advisory Committee – Zoom meeting – Discussion took place on the following: Science stock assessments on Greenland Halibut 4RST, Yellow Flounder 4T, and Cod 4RS/3PN; Stock indicator and rebuilding plan advice; Atlantic Halibut Longline Survey; Atlantic Halibut temporary transfer of quota from the mobile gear to the fixed gear fishery; IFMP rebuilding plans; Socio-economic updates; gear modifications; Safety at Sea presentation Transport Canada; Species at Risk; Ghost Gear; and advice on TAC for Greenland Halibut, Atlantic Halibut and Northern Cod

March 28th – Lnu Fisheries Limited Annual General Meeting - I attended and presented the annual Lnu fisheries limited report to the members of the Native Council of PEI. Agenda Items included:

- Review of the 2025 minutes
- L'nu Fisheries Audited Financial Statements
- Presidents Report
- DFO Conservation and Protection review of the 2024 season Q&A
- Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council / Canadian Whale Institute
- Barry Marsman – EMSA
- Environment Coordinator – Clara Jane wood
- Marine Safety Coordinator – Ryan Knockwood

March 30th – PEI Conservation and Protection Round Table - Meeting was chaired by Glen Gillespie C&P DFO. Agenda topics discussed included: Detachment overview discussing the Charlottetown and Alberton detachment, their assets, vessels and regional tools. Discussing took place around what C&P does within the commercial fishery, Recreational fishery and the Food, social and ceremonial fishery. C&P provided an enforcement presentation breaking down hrs of effort versus each fishery and a summary of offences. Discussions took place around challenges within C&P as well as open discussions on commercial fishery, bait, recreational fishery, striped bass, and logbooks.

April 2nd – NCPEI/Lnu Fisheries/EMSA - Commercial Fishing Safety Engagement and Training Session – Participant included: Lnu fisheries employees, Transportation Safety Board of Cananda, Transport Canada Marine Safety, PEI Workers compensation/OHS, Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and Transport Canada EMSA. **Transportation Safety board of Canada** presented on, Who are we and our Mandate, Marine Occurrence Reporting, what to and how to report, and Vessel onboard fire awareness. **PEI Workers Compensation /OHS** presented on the Internal Responsibility System(IRS), OHS Act and employers' precautions and duties, Employees precautions and duties, reporting requirements and Hoisting and Rigging (responsibilities, service and inspection). **Transport Canada Marine Safety**, Rob Freak was there and presented on Marine safety, Jurisdictional Responsibility. Duties of Captain, Owner and crew. Compliance and enforcement and also discussed vessel modifications. Short Platform Utility demonstration from **Transport Canada/EMSA** on the EMSA system.

April 25th and 26th – DFO Weather calls - for the opening of the LFA 24 lobster fishery and 26a lobster fishery

April 30th – NCPEI/PEI Justice and Public Safety – Met with Erin Perry Manager of Investigation and Enforcement. Erin oversees the Provincial Conservation officers. Discussion took place around communication and partnerships between NCPEI and Province. Working closer on issues/education with members in the FSC fishery. NCPEI in the past had a great relationship with this department but over the years communication got less and less from both sides. We are reestablishing that relationship now. We will have continued communication on issues within the FSC fishery, we will be having annual preseason meetings with the department, and Joint Patrols with our RMOT program (FSC Fishery Monitor) will begin again.

May 12th – Gasperau/NCPEI – Met with Randy Bernard to discuss the Gasperau fishery, annual meeting where we look into what leases are producing and which ones are not. We also discuss repairs to gear needed, market conditions and overall cost from the previous year.

May 14th – MAPC/NCPEI/FSC reporting – Met with MAPC to discuss options available to us on creating a mapping system for tracking our FSC fishery. We are looking at creating a tool that will allow us to enter data into a map to show exactly where we are harvesting on PEI. This data is for inhouse use only. It will pinpoint location for when we send out our own FSC monitor and will also give us a better understanding on where this harvest areas are and their importance to our community. This was a brainstorming meeting to look at what be our best resource. It was decided to look into our EMSA program that we already use for tracking our commercial fishing vessels. MAPC will be looking further into this to see if that platform will work for us.

May 19th – NCPEI/DFO – Met with Carter Russell, the Indigenous Program Coordinator for the area office. This meeting was to give an update on how the FSC and communal commercial fishery was going and to also discuss the new draft multi-year NCPEI AFS contribution agreement.

May 25, 27th and 29th –– NCPEI townhall Zone 1, 2and 3 - Attended these meetings with the membership from Zone 1, 2, and 3. I was there to address any concerns or to answer any question around the communal commercial or FSC fishery.

June 4th – PEI Tuna Working Group Meeting – This group consist of reps from the PEIFA, Charter boat association, NCPEI, MCPEI and DFO. Chaired by DFO, discussion took place around the review of the 2025 tuna fishery. Report was presented on landings in the communal commercial, commercial and catch and release fishery. Update on enforcement from Conservation and Protection, and an industry round table discussion on how the fishery went in 2025. Also discussed was the conservation harvesting Plan for 2026.

June 9th – Alberton Fisheries/Lnu Fisheries Limited – Met with Alberton Fisheries to discuss with them the purchasing our Lnu Fisheries lobster catch from our three vessels that fish out of Alberton. Our previous buyer stopped buying lobster and moved their business out of PEI. Meeting was very positive and Alberton Fisheries and we will continue to do business with Alberton Fisheries in the 2027 season.

June 9th – Ulnooweg(NICFI)/NCPEI – Stacey Maguire – Met with Stacey Maguire and Ryan Knockwood to discuss the draft safety training plan for the Lnu Fisheries fleet. This plan would

compliment our already existing Lnu Fisheries Vessel Safety initiatives. We gave an update on where we are with the Plan and also discussed vessel safety drills that we are planning for July.

June 9th – L'nu Fisheries Limited/ Tuna Fishery – met with our tuna captain to discuss opening dates for Blue Fin tuna and when we wanted to start. Review of the 2025 season dates and fish sizes vs quality and price. Also discussed any new ideas or needs for this year's fishery.

June 25th – DFO Lobster Fishing Area 25 – Special Advisory Committee Meeting on Management Measures – Attended this meeting Chaired by Mario Gaudet. Agenda items included, a 2026 LFA 25 Lobster Fishery Dock Side Monitoring Project Pilot Project and Whale Safe Management Measures. The commercial fishermen in the room were against the pilot project; they were very frustrated with DFO always throwing these new initiatives at them at the last minute before the start of the season. They stated that they refused to take part. The frustrations in the room then quickly turned towards the Indigenous fishery, mainly the NB FSC fishery but eventually all FSC fisheries were mentioned. Calling out DFO for not dealing with the "problem". The meeting at this point was really over, DFO defended the FSC fishery the best they could but fishers were not listening.

July 14th – L'nu fisheries/ East Coast Ocean Products inc.- Met with Fredrick Arsenau the owner of East Coast Ocean Products to discuss buying our LFA 25 lobster out of Howards Cove. Discussion took place around price, bait, ice, use of equipment i.e. forklift and tanks. We also talked about continued communication through out the fishery. East Coast bought out Arsenault Fish Mart two years ago and this will be our third year selling to this company.

July 20th – DFO/Lnu Fisheries/NCPEI – Myself, Ryan Knockwood (marine safety coordinator) and Richard Cooper (FSC fishery monitor) met with DFO to discuss potential issues that may arise in both the communal commercial and FSC lobster fishery this fall (August to October Fishery). Present from DFO at this meeting was Glen Gilespie from Conservation and Protection, Lori Cuddy the Area Director and Carter Russell Area Indigenous Program Coordinator. This meeting stemmed from concerns I had that came out of the June 25thh LFA 25 advisory committee meeting. From that meeting fishermen from NB and PEI were very vocal on their issues with the FSC fishery. They even mentioned looking after things themselves if DFO was not going to take action. My communal commercial fishers also heard rumors of or vessels in Howards Cove being forced out of the harbor this fall. All though this was just rumors and frustrated fishermen venting for the most part. I wanted to meet with DFO to insure they were aware and prepared to deal with what ever may happen. This was a positive meeting, and we were told DFO would support us in all possible ways if any incident took place. They were also going to follow-up with the RCMP and the Howards Cove Harbor Authority on this issue.

July 21st – Lnu Fisheries Limited Board Meeting - Held a board meeting on the July 21st to discuss Audited financial statements presented by BDO. Update on are present financials, update on the Spring LFA 24 and 26a lobster fisheries, update on the 2026 tuna fishery. Update on how the LFA 25 lobster fishery was going. Discussion on Vessel safety and Compliance.

August 8th – DFO/Environment Canada Weather Call for the opening of the LFA25 lobster fishery.

the LFA25 lobster fishery.

August 15th and 16th – NCPEI Annual Panmure Island Pow Wow – Set up the event, worked the weekend communicating with members while working the event. Cleaned up the grounds afterwards. Provided Halibut and Lobster for the supper Saturday night and the feast on Sunday.

August 25th – MAPC/NCPEI/FSC reporting – Met with MAPC to discuss updates on the options available to us for creating a mapping system for tracking our FSC fishery. We are looking at creating a tool that will allow us to enter data into a map to show exactly where we are harvesting on PEI. This data is for inhouse use only. It will pinpoint location for when we send out our own FSC monitor and will also give us a better understanding on where this harvest areas are and their importance to our community. We looked at the mapping program and some of the options available to us and how the draft system was set up. Further recommendations were suggested. MAPC will be looking further into this and making the recommended changes. Hoping to have this system running for 2027 season.

September 7th - L'nu fisheries/ East Coast Ocean Products inc.- Met with Fredrick Arsenau the owner of East Coast Oceans Product. Mid season meeting to talk about how the LFA 25 season was going, if we were happy with the service we were receiving on the wharf and if there was anything else they could provide.

In Summary:

- Had numerous DFO/industry meetings dealing with the commercial fishery, i.e. - rock crab, lobster, tuna advisory committee meetings.
- Had numerous DFO meetings dealing with the Food, Social and Ceremonial fishery, i.e. – Striped Bass, Halibut, Pow wow fishery.
- Met with buyer in Alberton to discuss this year's fishing season (Maritime Select Lobster)
- Also met with B & C Fisheries, East Coast Oceans Products, and TnT Tuna
- Met with L'nu Employees to finish off the signing of employee contracts.
- Met with conservation officers for the province.
- 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 PEIFA 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
- 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

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 31st, 2026, was the end of this Five-year agreement with DFO. We are now presently waiting on another Five year agreement with DFO.

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 2025 there were 241 clients that received designation cards from the Kelewatl Commission to take part in the NCPEI Food, Social and Ceremonial Fishery. 241 harvesters, (166 harvesters from Zone 1), (33 harvesters from Zone 2) and (42 harvesters from Zone 3). 139 members took part in the FSC lobster fishery, 81 members received salmon tags, and 8 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 lower than the previous year. Membership participation in the lobster fishery 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 2025 Food Social and Ceremonial Harvesters Report: April 1st, 2025 – March 31st, 2026

	AQUATIC SPECIES REPORT									
	Speckled Trout		Rainbow Trout		Striped Bass		Smelts		Eels	
River (Body of Water)	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released
Tignish					64	18				
Whites Cove					28	18				
Miminegash					98	55				
Hope River	23	6							1	
Tryon River	4					6				
Dunk River	34	3	21				3			
Bedeque					2	3				
Tyne Valley	2	6								
West Point	4	8		10						
Midgel River	17	17								
North Shore					21	41				
Rustico	2									
Morell	7	21								
Alberton					2	73	32			
Trout River	65	25								
Kildare					19	19				
Leards Pond										
Mill River	94	11	11							
Roseville	35	51			18	11	3	2		
Foxley River	5	23								
Corran Ban	4									
Scales Pond		15		8						
Bideford	18	43	2			4				
Big Pierre	14	8								
Conway					20	56				
Montrose		1		2	10	120				
Indian River	13	3								
Naufrage			20	5						
Brudenell River	3	3								
Tracadie	3									
Milton	6									
Grand River	5				2					
Fortune River	12	7								
Cascumpec Bay					27	246				
Affeck Pond		12		12						
Coleman	4	2								
Goff Bridge	4				5					
Covehead					2					
Lakeside					16					
Bakers Shore						20				
MacDonald Beach					2					
Ives Point					1					
Belle River						20				
Solomans Hole	2									
Nail Pond					3					
Cabot Park						32				
TOTAL	**380**	**265**	**54**	**37**	**340**	**452**	**38**	**2**	**1**	**0**

			GROUND FISH REPORT							
			Cod		Halibut		Flounder			
River (Body of Water)			Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released		
	Kildare		5	12			7			
	North Shore						30			
	Mill River						75			
	Trout River						9			
	Grand River						1			
	Bideford						3			
	Dunk River		4							
	Cascumpec						3			
	Alberton						130	6		
		TOTAL	**9**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**258**	**6**		
			PELAGICS REPORT							
			Mackerel		Herring		Gasperaux			
River (Body of Water)			Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released		
Charlottetown Wharf			27							
	Alberton		118	68						
	West Point		12							
	Hardys Channel		25							
		TOTAL	**182**	**68**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		
			SHELL FISH REPORT							
			Oysters	SS Clam	Bar Clam	Quahog	Razor Clam			
River (Body of Water)			Kept	Kept	Kept	Kept	Kept			
	West Point				150	150				
	Fortune				375					
	Mill River		150	500						
	Fortune Bay				532					
	Souris				200					
	Grand River				100	90				
	Campbells Shore					100				
	Big Pierre			110	275					
		TOTAL	**150**	**610**	**1632**	**340**	**0**	**0**		

			SALMON REPORT					
			Male			Female		
			Kept	Released	Released	Released	Released	Released
			Grilse	MSW	slink	Grilse	MSW	Slink
River (Body of Water)								
	Mill River			1				
		TOTAL	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
			LOBSTER REPORT					
			Kept	Released	Released			
				Berried	Under Carapace			
River (Body of Water)								
LFA 26a	Georgetown		90	34	32			
LFA 24	Egmont Bay		105	47	30			
LFA 24	Bideford River		158	31	54			
LFA 25	Campbelton		164	70	97			
LFA 25	Summerside		90	12	37			
LFA 25	Miminegash		45					
LFA 24	Malpeque Bay		385	70	96			
LFA 25	West Point		2935	15	14			
LFA 24	Grand River		139	26	38			
LFA 25	Brae Harbor		480					
LFA 25	Ives Point		196	20	19			
LFA 25	Roseville		157	79	100			
LFA 25	MacDonalds Cove		155					
LFA 25	Whites Cove		699	185	77			
LFA 26a	Burnt Point		120					
LFA 24	Kildare Cape		82	7	21			
LFA 25	Union Corner		100					
LFA 25	Percival Bay		534	14	27			
LFA 25	Enmore		223	7	16			
LFA 26a	Cardigan Bay		295	53	88			
		TOTAL	**7152**	**670**	**746**			
Estimated Lobster LBS								
6,794								
			GREY SEAL REPORT					
			Date	Approx Weight		Male/Female		
River (Body of Water)								

L’NU FISHERIES ASSISTANT
Annual General Assembly Report
September 2026 to October 2026

Amanda Trainor

My name is Amanda Trainor, and I am proud to be the administrative assistant for the L’nu Fisheries/Kelewatl Commission. In my role I provide day-to-day administrative assistance to Jordan and the Kelewatl Commission while also offering support to other staff members when needed.

My administrative duties include preparing and organizing documents, maintaining records, managing correspondence, coordinating schedules and appointments, assisting with designation cards and related paperwork, organizing courses and meetings, preparing notices and communications, and helping ensure that important administrative tasks are completed accurately and on time.

An important part of my role is also supporting our community and participating in community initiatives and events. I assist with organizing and preparing for community events, helping with set-up and coordination, communicating information to community members, and stepping in wherever I can to help make events and activities run smoothly. I enjoy being involved in these opportunities because they allow me to connect with community members and contribute beyond my regular office responsibilities.

I take pride in being dependable, organized, and willing to take on whatever tasks are needed to support our work and our community.

I value the opportunity to contribute to the L’nu community through my position and am proud of the work I have been able to accomplish throughout the year. My goal is to continue providing reliable administrative support while playing an active role in the community events, initiatives, and services that are important to the people we serve.

Wela'lin (Thank you)

Amanda Trainor
L'nu Fisheries Administrative Assistant

LANGUAGE AND DRUMMING PROGRAM
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Alicia Muttart
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Language and Drumming Program provides weekly classes in each zone of PEI, Tuesday-Thursday for NCPEI community members and we welcome other Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants. The 2-hour classes consist of Mi'kmaq language teaching, singing and drumming of traditional songs, vocabulary instruction, sentence structure and storytelling.

Cultural teachings are also shared through verbal instruction, practical demonstration, worksheets, and crafts. We are also incorporating other languages and cultural sharing's of all First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

The Facilitator and I have worked together to ensure all classes make everyone feel welcomed and safe. We provide snacks and beverages for those attending as well as accommodate our members by inquiring what they would like to learn. We take initiative and go forwarding planning worksheets and activities for the participants with the information gathered at previous classes and events. This had proven to boost attendance and provide understanding of how and what they would like to learn.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

- 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.
- Regular creation and maintenance of class resources, which include flashcards, posters, word games such as bingo, crosswords and wordsearches, and Elder-teaching handouts.
- Posting our Language and Drumming Posters around each zone to spread the word of our program and hopefully opening the program up to non-indigenous peoples as well, we can gain more attendance.
- Kiya Milliea, Curriculum Development Specialist, has been working on creating 12 lesson plans for the program – from beginner level to more advanced language.
- Healthy snacks and refreshments provided at every in-person class.
- Would like to partner up with Brenda again for community kitchen in each zone, in hopes that it can bring more participants for both our programs. When the language program previously partnered with S.A.F.E, we would connect the language with the foods, sometimes have conversations about our Peoples diets, traditional foods and recipes, etc. It created a good interactive class and brought some new people in that have never attended the language program.

- We are going to start partnering up with Ebony's program, Wele'g – This will hopefully bring some new faces to continue to attend our class after attending our joint programming events. We will still be practicing the language, but it will revolve around the activities we do with Ebony's program.
- The Language and Drumming Community Questionnaire was created by Kiya, to gather feedback from community members to help guide this year's programming. It was brought to a retreat to get feedback on if they have attended the program before, feedback on the program, etc.
- We created a questionnaire to bring to each Zone regarding the program. If they have heard of it, what they would like to see, if the location works, any suggestions, etc. This will help us moving forward on any changes that need to be made.
- Had craft nights almost once a month in each zone – drumsticks, talking sticks, paintings, rocks/sticks/leaves art, rattles.
- 2026 Language and Drumming retreat
    - leather drum bags, with Jaimie Lee, Stephenson Joe and Ebony Larkin.
    - Big Drum Practice with Parker Larkin
    - Waltes game with Robbie Squires
    - Guest Speaker Dawne Knockwood about petroglyphs

Activities and Deliverables:

- Christmas 2025 there was ornament making in classes.
- Partnered with the 2s+ program, on January 22nd, 2026, we held a drag show at the Guild facilitated by Chase (Coordinator of 2s)
- Big Drum events began sometime around November – was having good attendance but had to discontinue big drum because participation dropped.
- Stephenson is still going up to the Winter St. Shelter to teach the culture and language to those in the shelter. It is having a positive impact on those men and will be continuing to do this every Monday.
- Alicia will be attending Savvy Simon's Conversation Online course this February to expand our conversational skills

Promotion and Outreach:

- Regular Facebook posts advertising the classes each day.
- Each class-day, e-mails sent to regular participants to gauge attendance.
- Large number of phone calls made to membership to promote the classes will begin again to tell members about the program and hopes it will pique their interest and gain new participants.
- Posters around each zone in high traffic areas.

Future Activities:

- Continuation of the 3 classes each week for the foreseeable future – hopefully bring back the Monday Online class (still searching for a teacher that is available for Monday evenings)
- Following our new curriculum that Kiya is building while continuing reviewing old material from the L&D 2023 Manual to maintain retention, creating write ups of new words, sentences, focusing on building conversational words.
- Attending any online language courses to learn from other fluent speakers to gather more knowledge on Mi'kmaq dialects.
- Arranging more guest speakers/artists to classes to promote their traditional skills, and other Language keepers.
- Attending more ceremonies and developing connections with our People across Mi'kma'ki to learn from and bring that knowledge into our program.
- A push on recruiting new participants from the membership – to maintain an interest in the classes, promotion through phone calls, posters and attending events is required.

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.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Kiya Milligan
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

Since beginning my position as the Curriculum Development Specialist, I have been working alongside the Language & Drumming Program to support the continued development, organization, and growth of the program. A major focus of my work has been listening to community members, participants, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and program staff to better understand the current needs of the program and find opportunities for growth.

Through this work, I have been developing a new curriculum that will provide participants with a more structured and progressive approach to learning the Mi'kmaq language. The curriculum is currently in development with the goal of creating a sturdy foundation for language learners while respecting community knowledge, dialect, cultural teachings, and the significant role of Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Throughout my time in the position, I have also focused on building relationships, supporting program activities, increasing community engagement, and creating opportunities for participants to learn through both language and cultural experiences.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

The overall goal of the Language & Drumming Program is to create meaningful opportunities for community members to learn, practice, and strengthen their Mi'kmaq language and cultural knowledge.

Key goals and responsibilities include:

- Developing a structured and progressive Mi'kmaq language curriculum.
- Creating various levels of learning, beginning with foundational language skills, and progressing toward more advanced language learning.
- Instructure content, including audio and visual resources.
- Supporting language revitalization and encouraging participants to use Mi'kmaq in their everyday lives.
- Incorporating cultural teachings, traditional knowledge, and land-based learning into programming.
- Working collaboratively with Language & Drumming Coordinators, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members.
- Gathering community feedback to ensure programming reflects the needs and interests of participants.

- Supporting language programming across the different zones served by the program.
- Creating opportunities for participants to develop confidence in speaking and understanding Mi'kmaq.
- Supporting the long-term sustainability and growth of the Language & Drumming Program

Activities and Deliverables:

Several activities and initiatives have launched over the last seven months to support the development of the program.

One of the primary areas of work has been the development of a new Language & Drumming curriculum. The curriculum is designed as a progressive learning pathway, beginning with foundational concepts such as letters, vowels, consonants, sounds, blends, and glides. Establishing these foundations will help participants become more comfortable with pronunciation and sounding out Mi'kmaq words before progressing into more complex language learning and conversation.

The curriculum will eventually include multiple modules, allowing participants to continue building their knowledge and skills. The long-term goal is for advanced learners to develop enough knowledge and confidence that they can eventually support new participants entering the program.

Community engagement has been an important part of the curriculum development process. A community questionnaire was developed to gather feedback and learn more about what members would like to see from the Language & Drumming Program. This has offered an opportunity to listen directly to participants and consider their ideas when developing future programming.

Work has also been undertaken to connect with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and individuals with experience in Mi'kmaq language and cultural programming. These relationships are important in ensuring that curriculum development continues to respect community knowledge and is guided by the proper cultural teachings.

The program has also taken part in and supported several cultural learning opportunities. These have included the Language & Drumming Retreat, where participants took part in a variety of activities. Participants had the opportunity to learn from guest speakers, take part in a medicine walk, make drums, and learn about the cultural meanings and teachings associated with building a teepee with Eliza Knockwood.

During the retreat, a language class with participants. Members are encouraged to use and practice Mi'kmaq words throughout the activity, creating an opportunity to connect language learning with a larger cultural experience.

Promotion and Outreach:

Promotion and outreach have focused on increasing awareness of the Language & Drumming Program and encouraging community members to take part.

An important part of this work has been listening to members and understanding what they would like to see from the program. This feedback is resourceful to help shape future activities and curriculum development.

Efforts have also been in the process to encourage participants to actively use the Mi'kmaq language during programming rather than only learning individual words or concepts. Creating opportunities for participants to speak, practice, and become comfortable using the language is an important part of supporting language revitalization.

Future Activities:

Moving forward, the Language & Drumming Program will continue to strengthen through the continued development of the new curriculum. The goal is to show a clear and progressive learning pathway that supports participants from beginner levels through more advanced language learning.

As the curriculum develops, participants will have clearer learning goals and opportunities to build upon the knowledge they have already gained. The long-term goal is to create a strong enough foundation that advanced participants may eventually be able to support and teach new learners entering the program.

At this stage, one of the program's primary areas of focus is improving attendance and participant engagement. Efforts are made to better understand barriers to consistent attendance, listen to participant needs, and create programming that encourages members to take part regularly.

Improving attendance will be important to the success of the new curriculum, as consistent participation will allow learners to progress through the various levels and build their language skills over time.

Future activities will also include:

- Establishing clear beginner, intermediate, and advanced learning levels.
- Continuing to develop language modules based on community needs.
- Increasing opportunities for participants to speak and practice Mi'kmaq.
- Continuing to involve Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Providing cultural and land-based learning opportunities.
- Continuing community outreach and engagement.
- Increasing consistent attendance and participation.
- Exploring ways for advanced learners to eventually support newer participants.

Conclusion:

The Language & Drumming Program has continued to develop through curriculum development, community engagement, cultural programming, relationship building, and language-learning opportunities. The work completed so far has helped identify the needs of participants while also creating a stronger foundation for the future of the program.

The development of a new, structured curriculum is a crucial step toward creating consistency and progression within the program. By establishing learning levels and building foundational language skills, participants will have greater opportunities to develop their confidence and continue advancing their Mi'kmaq language abilities.

Moving forward, the focus will continue to be on strengthening the curriculum, improving attendance and engagement, building relationships with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and creating meaningful opportunities for community members to learn, practice, and use the Mi'kmaq language.

Overall, the program is continuing to grow, and the work being completed now is helping to grow a stronger foundation for a sustainable and community-centered Language & Drumming Program in the future.

MEMBERSHIP CLERK
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 – September 2026

Jody Jesso

Introduction:

I continue to work with members to ensure their files include complete and up-to-date genealogical information. I also made myself available to work with the Board of Directors to review member files and ensure they were complete and included the required genealogical information. I provide guidance to individuals interested in the membership process and connect new members with the appropriate staff based on their specific needs. I also assist with Status Card and Genealogy Search applications through Indigenous Services Canada. In addition, I have supported NCPEI's major events, including the Christmas Town Halls, NIPD, Pow Wow, Mawi'omi, and the NCPEI AGA.

Deliverables:

- Facilitated three community recruitment and engagement sessions to provide information and guidance on the membership application process.
- Received 22 new application submissions.
- 23 new members were accepted.
- Submitted 6 genealogy applications to Indigenous Services Canada.
- Updated 48 files with new genealogy reports and documents.
- Input new members into database and maintain database and mailing list.
- Mailed/Emailed membership, status card, birth certificate and housing applications.
- Assist individuals to fill out applications.
- Met with 26 members to receive membership cards.
- Answered membership related questions through email, phone calls, in person and Facebook.
- Prepared acceptance letters for new members.
- Checked in with potential members that are missing documents.
- Helped with all NCPEI mail-outs.
- Work with staff to produce our monthly calendar of events.
- Contacted members if mail is returned.
- Worked with local genealogist to assist potential members with their family history.

- Direct interest persons on where to begin their family research.
- Helped individuals apply for their Status Cards or renewal.
- Made myself available at our Portage office to help with membership applications.

Other Duties:

- Led the planning and coordination of all three Christmas Town Hall dinners.
- Helped with our Community Consultation Conference.
- Served on the Pow Wow Committee and supported pre- and post-event cleanup.
- Served on the Mawi’omi Committee.
- Helped with Community Engagement Sessions.
- Provided administrative support by filling in for the Administrative Assistant as needed.
- Assisted with Town Hall events as needed.
- Collaborated with senior staff to purchase furnishings and prepare Gegguna'sg House for opening.

Tripartite – Political Advisor
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

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. Funded under the Tripartite agreement, the Political Advisor also carries two dedicated portfolios: 1) MMIWG and GBV, and 2) Youth, Economic Development, and Entrepreneurship. The Political Advisor also carries other portfolios absent from other policy analyst positions, such as Justice and Education.

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 & Provincial Budget, and more
- Researching and recommending political stances for NCPEI on various topics
- Attend meetings in place of or alongside the President & Chief
- Drafting political letters, media press releases, and internal documents
- Developing proposals for program funding
- Supporting the work of the Board of Directors and management of NCPEI
- Sitting on committees and taking ownership of initiatives as directed by the President & Chief

Promotion and Outreach:

The Political Advisor assists the President & Chief in first introductions with many governmental departments and other organizations. After first introductions, the Political Advisor supports ongoing policy discussions and developments in collaborative partnerships.

The Political Advisor also sits on many committees to ensure representation for NCPEI as necessary. The new committees joined in the past year include:

1. PEI Anti-Racism Table (Co-chair)
2. UPEI Indigenous Council
3. Holland College Indigenous Advisory Council
4. PEI Minister of Justice's Advisory Committee on Crime Prevention and Policing

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. NCPEI has seen an amazing year of new funding opportunities and we are eager to see what the new Premier and Prime Minister have in plan to support off-reserve Indigenous peoples.

TRIPARTITE: HEALTH & WELLNESS AND HOUSING

Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Jane Affleck
Policy Analyst

Introduction:

The Tripartite program involves maintaining and growing The Native Council's relationships with the federal and provincial governments, toward ensuring that the needs of the membership are addressed, specifically in priority areas identified for a given fiscal year or other designated period(s). 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 opportunities for enhancement and 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 peoples residing off-reserve across 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 and wellbeing (often with a focus on mental health, but also access to health care more generally, including culturally safe and appropriate health care, and diabetes care); housing (including shelters and transitional housing, as well as support for Nanegkam Housing Corporation); education; governance; human rights; economic development; and justice, among other key areas. The recent focus of the Tripartite Policy Analyst is on two of the 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): 1) housing; 2) health & wellness, with an emphasis on mental health and wellness; and 3) economic development, with an emphasis on education. More recently, economic development has been outsourced to BDO so the Tripartite Policy Analyst can better address the two complex and interconnected areas of housing and health and wellness.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

As noted above, the current focus of the 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; economic development matters that pertain to these two areas remain relevant, but the balance of this work has shifted to external partners (BDO, as noted above).

The goals of the Tripartite program are to undertake actions that advocate for the rights and needs of The Native Council's off-reserve and non-status Indigenous members and constituents, and that work toward addressing/eliminating gaps in policy and other legislative or regulatory documents; all of these are ultimately aimed at furthering the wellbeing and economic self-sufficiency of the organization and its members and constituents.

These actions have included but are not limited to:

- Promoting and increasing access to culturally sensitive healthcare, including traditional medicines, supports, and programming through advocacy, collaboration, and partnership with provincial government agencies and representatives, and by seeking out funding opportunities that would help support culturally safe and appropriate health programming, in collaboration with the Funding Reporting Manager and the other members of the policy analyst team and with direction from Chief Cooper and the Policy Advisor.
- Seeking out opportunities for research and funding partnerships, and further developing health and wellness initiatives with various stakeholders, including government jurisdictions (federal and provincial – for example, the Live Well PEI, the Department of Health and Wellness's health promotion unit, and the Community Action Networks), and with other community service organizations (for example, LungNSPEI).
- Investigating new housing and related supports available through funding opportunities tied to the National Housing Strategy, the PEI Housing Action Plan, and other housing initiatives.
- Assessing opportunities and the capacity for the Native Council to develop an Economic Development branch, toward greater self-sufficiency and self-determination (as noted above, much of this work is now being done by BDO), and considering initiatives that increase economic development capacities through education from primary through to post-secondary (as noted elsewhere, education is now largely in the portfolio of the Policy Advisor).
- Attending committee meetings in areas of health & wellness and housing at the local and provincial levels to advocate for the Native Council's members and constituents, i.e., the rights and needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples.
- Attending targeted meetings with representatives from federal and provincial government departments, divisions, agencies, and units, to advocate for the rights and needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples.
- Analyzing federal and provincial policy and legislation, as well as any proposed amendments to and subsequent revisions of existing/current policy/legislation, in relation to the main priority areas as identified above, to ensure the policies and/or proposed changes will be equitable and address the needs of off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples; this has involved providing written responses/feedback with recommendations, as appropriate.
- Identifying funding opportunities relevant to the key areas and drafting funding proposals, often including budgets, to ensure current programming will continue and that additional/new programming can be provided, according to membership needs and organizational capacity.

- Following up on meetings and initiatives undertaken on policy development, writing briefs and letters, and providing other forms of feedback (e.g., filling out surveys).
- Providing summaries of all meetings attended to senior management, as relevant to their given positions, either in written form or during the bi-weekly Policy Analyst Team meetings.
- Participating in focus groups and other types of engagement/consultation to provide federal and provincial leaders/representatives with information about the needs of NCPEI's off-reserve and non-status Indigenous members and constituents, and also organizing focus groups or other types of engagement with staff and membership, sometimes with external organizations (e.g., Atlantic Summer Institute), as required/prioritized.
- 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.
- Using data provided in the 2022–2023 Community Mapping Survey Report and in the most recent AGA resolutions to inform various funding proposals and other initiatives, and to identify gaps in information about the membership, in order to inform future research/mapping surveys.
- Developing targeted surveys (e.g., on mental health, addictions – including smoking/vaping, etc.) to gather information from the members and constituents to help direct funding applications and policy-related work.

Activities and Deliverables:

HOUSING:

- Continued attending the quarterly meetings of the John Howard Society's Community and Rural Advisory Board (CRAB), toward ensuring that any actions the JHS takes in its role as "community entity" for the Reaching Home program (re: housing and homelessness prevention) are inclusive and carried out as stated/intended/promised and in line with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada's mandate re: "designated communities"; drafted the proposal for the renewal of the Native Council's Reaching Home Coordinator position, which received funding from the JHS as Community Entity for the federal Department of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC).
- Participated in the Live Well PEI Feel Well Community Action Network (CAN), which identified that one of the key priorities in addressing mental health is increasing access to affordable housing; the committee will continue to advocate for the creation of more units of affordable housing across PEI; recently, the committee had the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders in government, including Cheryl Paynter, the CEO of the PEI Housing Corporation, who offered a presentation on the provincial government's progress to date with respect to the PEI Housing Action Plan, and which confirmed that the housing starts for affordable housing are not only behind what has been promised but also not meeting existing and ongoing demand.
- Liaised/collaborated with various CMHC representatives to ensure that all requirements for Geggunas'g House, the shelter for women and 2S+ people in Cornwall, were met in a

timely manner, including working with the project management firm (Coles Associates), to renew insurance certificates and provide other essential documentation. The renovation aspect of the project encountered many delays, but the opening took place in Spring 2026. Currently, the project is transitioning into the next phase, i.e., reporting to CMHC on operations, which will be the responsibility of the Native Council's Funding Reporting Officer.

- Also regarding Geggunas'g House, worked in collaboration with other NCPEI staff to do the followijng: 1) drafted a Policies and Procedures document and related forms (intake, rights and responsibilities, etc.), using the templates CAP created; 2) met with senior management and the manager of the shelter to discuss the draft proposal and make recommended changes; 3) revised the start-up budget and operating budget to better reflect costs and needs on the ground; 4) attended the open house just before the shelter opened in spring 2026, speaking with other community service providers in gender-based violence prevention and shelters, and also with the few political leaders who were invited or were able to attend; 5) met with the shelter manager and the child and family violence prevention coordinator to discuss further amendments to the policy and procedures, after the shelter had been operating for several months and new situations arose; coordinated ordering and pick up of books donated by The Bookmark in Charlottetown, liaising with to relevant NCPEI staff (executive assistant, finance, etc.) to ensure the invoice for the amount above and beyond the donation was paid; 6) drafted a funding proposal for a top-up amount for operational funding through a two-year grant program offered by the United Way Maritimes (although the application passed through the first round, it was not ultimately awarded funding); 7) drafted a letter inquiring about slippage funds to the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, in hope that money would be available to top up the start up costs; 8) wrote a letter of reference for the shelter manager to join the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women standing committee; 9) proofread/link checked the draft shelter website and offered feedback to the shelter manager.
- Related to the operation of Geggunas'g House, drafted a brief that was submitted to the FEWO (Status of Women) Parliamentary Standing Committee for their study on the "Role and Capacity of Women's Shelters and Transitional Housing to Support Women and Girls in Canada," highlighting the challenges with providing consistent programming in the context of short-term funding cycles, particularly for staff positions or when funding does not include staff positions, as well as the high levels of burn out in shelter staff when compensation (not only financial, but also health benefits, including access to mental health supports) is not adequate.
- Continued attending the Coordinated Access System (CAS) Governance Committee (now monthly, rather than biweekly), officially as a "non-voting" member; however, decisions are generally made through discussion and consensus, and so I have the ability to raise points and influence decisions regarding issues such as the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), as well as directions for research projects; and in relation to member and other surveys done to gauge which direction the CAS committee should take this fiscal year, which has included organizing a "resource fair" aka community service expo, at which NCPEI will have a booth to showcase Geggunas'g House, as well as various NCPEI programs.

- Ensured that the $3.6 million National Indigenous Community Housing Inc. (NICHI) project was wrapped up in a timely manner, including all documents and completion of online reporting in the "GrantVantage" portal; etc.
- Coordinated meetings for the ad hoc shelter committee to ensure that issues arising at the Winter Street Men's Shelter were addressed among/by all stakeholders, taking notes and making an action items list, distributed via email to committee members after the meetings. Also began revising the "Policy and Procedures" document for the Winter Street Low-Barrier Men's Shelter, with feedback / assistance from the Shelter Manager and NCPEI Human Resources Manager, as well as from other members of the Ad Hoc Shelter Committee. Also added the manager of Geggunas'g House and the child and family violence prevention coordinator to the meetings, to ensure they have an opportunity to discuss issues and share information toward satisfactorily addressing the issues.
- Wrote a draft proposal around establishing a rooming house at 29 Allen Street in Charlottetown; once approved by senior management, the proposal will be sent to the provincial Minister of Housing in hope that he will be interested in partnering to provide start-up and operating costs, similar to the partnership with the province to run the Winter Street men's shelter in Summerside.
- Reached out to organizers with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) about a call to participate in research on housing and mental health supports for off-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples, and helped coordinate a focus group as well as an interview (which had to be cancelled due to participant injury), in which participants shared their observations about needs, gaps and barriers, as well as what is currently working with respect to keeping people housed and provided with some kind of wrap-around support.
- Provided written feedback in response to the call from the Director of Residential Tenancy (aka IRAC …) re: the maximum allowable rent increase for 2027, advocating for a 0% increase, due to the rising cost of living and the fact that the current and projected minimum wage ($17/hour at the time of writing, rising to $17.30 in October 2026) is still well below what researchers refer to as a living wage or the "rental wage," i.e., how much one needs to earn per hour to afford to pay average rent on a 2-bedroom apartment in Charlottetown/across PEI. It was announced some time in September that the maximum allowable rent increase will be 2.1% for 2027, which is lower than the legal maximum of 3% but still more than people on low incomes can afford.
- Provided two sets of written responses to two different National Housing Council review panels: one on the housing needs of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples living off reserve (with the assistance of the Tapui'tjitja'amitj (Two-Spirit) Program Coordinator), and another one on the housing needs of disabled Indigenous peoples living off reserve; these have been or will be reviewed by the office of the Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, as she writes reports that will be submitted to the federal government with recommendations about how to address the gaps identified by stakeholders.
- Attended the CMHC's 2025 Research Open House (virtual), to gather and analyze information about the CMHC's understanding of housing needs across Canada and to anticipate the kinds of funding programs they might provide to address these needs.

- Attended various housing-related webinars, including a couple that provided information about the new federal entity, Build Canada Homes, to see if any of the programs will be a good fit to further expand the Native Council's affordable community housing offerings.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Continued attending the Atlantic Summer Institute (ASI) Advisory Committee, including special workshops aimed at supporting the adoption of implementing mental health in all policy (MHiAP) in PEI, and participated on the "communications working group" to guide messaging aimed at promoting "upstream investment in mental health for infants, children, and youth." However, as the committee and working group both demanded a lot of time and seemed to be focused more on moving the project coordinator's agenda forward rather than on doing meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities with respect to their needs, I advocated that I be removed from this committee; Chief Cooper agreed that my time would be better spent elsewhere (e.g., on the new Live Well CANs, as noted elsewhere in this document, or the new Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Project under the Department of Health and Wellness, also noted elsewhere in this document). The last meeting attended was in April 2026.
- Continued working on the draft Mental Health Action Plan, as time permitted; the goal is to complete a full draft by the end of 2026.
- Continued attending the meetings of Live Well PEI's new Community Action Networks (CANs), namely the "Feel Well" CAN on mental health and the "Breathe Well" CAN on smoking reduction/cessation. In both, advocated for priorities that will benefit the off-reserve Indigenous community; for example, advocating for a culturally appropriate version of the provincial smoking cessation program; and prioritizing the construction of a greater number of affordable housing and/or community-led rent-geared-to-income housing units, as well as a basic income guarantee (BIG) program that would be rolled out across PEI, expanding the small pilot project to all who are eligible. Related to this, attended the Basic Income Nova Scotia Conference (online), which featured speakers from PEI but also from NS (which has a similar economic situation and issues with the healthcare system as PEI). In the Breathe Well CAN, gave a presentation about the Native Council and also provided an overview of the importance of tobacco to many Indigenous peoples, and why it is thus problematic to use the word "tobacco" in the context of policy that bans access to it.
- Attended the "Patient Medical Neighbourhoods and Partners" conference and expo in person in Charlottetown, speaking with presenters and gathering information relevant to the needs of off-reserve Indigenous peoples, including Jessica Doyle with Health PEI, who has answered questions about the MyHealthPEI portal in regard to access as well as OCAP principles and data sovereignty.
- Attended the Community Accessibility Expo in Summerside, visiting various kiosks to find out about services and programs that might benefit disabled Indigenous peoples living off reserve.
- Joined the Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Project Community Advisory Group (CAG) under the Department of Health and Wellness; the project is a "pilot" that involves including a voluntary question about race/ethnicity on the PEI Health Card application form and renewal form, with the aim of correlating race/ethnicity with cancer rates in order to identify whether a disproportionate number of people in a racial/

racialized group experiences cancer and to ultimately reduce health care inequities. This work also involved coordinating a focus group for NCPEI, to discuss the project and gather feedback (e. g., whether the collection of this data would cause any harms to Indigenous peoples living off reserve, etc.). Also, because of the historic and ongoing ethical issues surrounding the collection of data about Indigenous peoples, I also did some research on the OCAP Principles, including opportunities to do a presentation on OCAP to members of the committee. Later in 2026, the project coordinator confirmed that OCAP training will be provided for all committee members and for some project team members (all of whom are with Health PEI or the Dept. of Health and Wellness). While the project coordinator has asserted that the project team had already received OCAP training, that some of them will also attend these upcoming sessions suggests that their training may not have been substantive (which also explains the gaps in the project with respect to "ownership, control, access, and possession"). This committee also involves assessing requests to access the data collected, which are made by staff with the PEI Cancer Registry; the first request has been submitted and comprises simply a request to assess the quality of the data that has been collected thus far.

- Helped coordinate a focus group for women and gender-diverse people who are experiencing or have experienced perimenopause and/or menopause, which was led by Leading Impact on behalf of ASI, with funding from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat; although the number of participants was low, the quality of the discussion was high and the responses were included in the "what we heard" report summarizing participants' needs, and that identified gaps in the healthcare system and in workplaces, and offered several recommendations to address the issues identified. A phase-two workshop will take place late in fall of 2026.
- Attended the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples' spring symposium, "Honouring Our Health: Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Healthcare," listening to and learning from talks from special guests and feedback from attendees with lived experience, and offering some feedback / asking questions from a policy perspective.
- Drafted a proposal for funding from the National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation, to create a position and program for healing gardens at McAulay and at Portage; while the funding was awarded, no one has yet been hired for the position (to my knowledge).
- Started drafting various health-related "fact sheets," e.g., on diabetes, on mental health, etc. which can be made available to NCPEI members in mail outs, at town halls, etc. and can also be gathered in a binder for anyone to access.
- Participated in various engagement sessions with government agencies and departments, including Health PEI, Live Well PEI, Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, etc. on various policy initiatives, awareness programs, website content, etc., providing advice and recommendations regarding how these can be more inclusive and culturally appropriate to the needs of Indigenous peoples, and in particular those living off-reserve and/or without status.
- Attended various health-related webinars, including one offered by the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health on an Indigenous-specific health impact assessment; the Indigenous Diabetes health Circle's 2-day forum on culturally appropriate care (focused on Ontario); numerous webinars on topics related to gender-based and family violence prevention and programs and best practices for service

providers (which helped inform the policy and procedures document for Geggunas'g House.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- Attended various "webinar" information sessions for funding opportunities offered by the federal and provincial governments, to ensure that key positions/programs can continue and to expand the program offering, as/where possible.
- As noted above, economic development has been shifted out of my portfolio, as BDO has taken on the work of recommending how to move forward with an income stream for the organization. Education is, as I understand it, part of the Policy Advisor's portfolio.

Promotion and Outreach:

Activities in these areas are largely taking place within the numerous committees I am on, which often includes educating the other committee members what the Native Council is, who the members are, what it means to live off reserve or outside of a land claims area, etc. Specific instances of this include, as noted above, the presentation for the Breathe Well Community Action Network and participation in the CAS Governance Committee's resource expo planning and ensuring that NCPEI has a booth/table at this event.

Future Activities:

- To incorporate the results of future Community Mapping Surveys (pending funding) 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.
- To continue developing relationships with key stakeholders in the provincial government, including through participating in Live Well PEI's Community Action Networks (as described above), and to ensure that these relationships continue to improve for the benefit of NCPEI members and constituents.
- To continue advocating for the needs of NCPEI's members via other committees (CAS, CRAB, the Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Project, the ASI IWS gender steering committee, etc.).
- 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 to ensure continuity of services/programming and to develop new programs/initiatives that meet identified needs in the community.
- 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, particularly to resource housing and health needs and gaps. This includes investigating funding opportunities at all levels of government and from other not-for-profit organizations or foundations, particularly funding that would address areas that have been designated as priorities, e.g., housing, diabetes care, mental health, education, etc.

- Finish drafting the Mental Health Action Plan and continue working on the health-related fact sheets.
- Other activities as they arise, based on needs identified by the community and opportunities to collaborate and/or receive funding from various jurisdictions.

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. All objectives will be related to those identified by membership in Community Mapping Surveys and Annual General Assembly resolutions and as brought forward by senior management. 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, and with other staff members, including at both of the shelters, in order to realize these objectives and improve the lives of NCPEI's off-reserve and non-status Indigenous membership.

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP POLICY ANALYST
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Sofia Simon
Policy Analyst

Introduction:

The Strategic Relationships Policy Analyst focuses on developing, strengthening and formalizing strategic relationships between the NCPEI and government departments, police services, community organizations, NGOs, service providers, businesses, and other external partners. The primary goal of this position is to support NCPEI in developing and maintaining meaningful, sustainable relationships that contribute to stronger services, partnerships, policies, resources, and opportunities for Indigenous people living off reserve in Prince Edward Island.

A key component of the position is identifying organizations and agencies that have collaborated closely with NCPEI but do not have formal partnership agreements in place. The position supports the development, renewal, and implementation of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), communication protocols, working groups, and other formal or informal partnership frameworks that establish clear, mutually beneficial objectives and responsibilities.

The strategic Policy Analyst works closely with NCPEI leadership and political staff to identify partnership opportunities, research best practices, assess existing programs and service models, and develop practical approaches to sustainable collaboration. The position also supports the coordination of meetings, documentation of outcomes and follow-up actions, and communication and information-sharing between NCPEI and external partners.

Key Objectives and Responsibilities:

1. Research and Policy Development

- Conduct focused research on specified area of interest identify gaps, barriers, or opportunities from their initial research to develop initial policy positions aligned to support federal mandates.
- Research existing programs, services, models, and other approaches that may inform NCPEI initiatives and policy development.
- Analyze research findings and ensure developing projects align with NCPEI priorities and relevant federal and provincial mandates.
- Identify opportunities for policy development, program improvements, collaborative initiatives, and enhanced service delivery.
- Use approved policy position to inform relevant initiatives, discussions, meetings, conferences, and other advocacy activities.

2. Community Engagement and Consultation

- Work collaboratively with NCPEI political staff and leadership to identify priority areas for community engagement.
- Support and facilitate community workshops and consultations to gather feedback on identified subject areas.
- Incorporate community feedback into development and revision of policies, reports, and recommendations.

- Ensure that community perspectives and priorities are reflected in policy development and partnership discussions.

3. Government Relations and Policy Engagement

- Present policy positions, research findings, and reports to NCPEI political staff for review and direction.
- Build relationships with government departments to align policy work with department mandates, priorities, directions, and feedback.
- Establish process with Minister departments to provide more timely and intermittent reporting, communication, and information-sharing.
- Support NCPEI leadership and political staff in discussions with government departments and other decision makers.
- Supporting NCPEI`s policy priorities and organizational objectives through research, relationship development, and project planning.

4. Strategic Relationship and Partnership Development

- Building and maintaining strategic relationships with government departments, local police services, The RCMP, community organizations, businesses, service providers, and other external partners.
- Identifying opportunities for partnerships, collaborative projects, MOUs, protocols, working groups, and other formal or informal partnership arrangements.
- Assess the priorities, capacity, resources, and needs of potential partners to determine opportunities for meaningful and sustainable collaboration.
- Support the development, renewal, and coordination of partnership agreements and formal relationship structures.
- Facilitate ongoing communication and information-sharing between NCPEI and external partners.
- Coordinate meeting with external partners and ensure that decisions, outcomes, responsibilities, and follow-up actions are documented and monitored.

5. Program and Initiative Development

- Support initiatives related to MMIWG, GVB, Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ priorities, child welfare, family supports, community safety, and healthy relationships.
- Identify gaps in existing services and exploring opportunities for collaborative solutions.
- Develop project concepts, proposals, MOUs, briefing materials, and other documentation.
- Identifying potential funding and partnership opportunities relevant to NCPEI initiatives.
- Support the development of initiatives from initial research and relationship-building stage through planning and, where possible, implementation.
- Researching existing programs, services, models, and other approaches that could inform NCPEI initiatives.
- Use research, policy positions, community feedback, and partner input to inform the development of new programs and collaborative initiatives.

6. Internal collaboration and Knowledge Management

- Work collaboratively with other policy team members and program coordinators to coordinate research, policy development, community consultations, reports, and related documentation.
- Combine relevant policy positions, research, consultation findings, reports, and supporting materials into comprehensive subject-area binders or other organized resources.
- Ensure that information gathered through external relationships and consultations is documented and available to support NCPEI`s policy, advocacy, and program-delivery activities.

7. **Reporting and Evaluation**
    - Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on program activities, progress, partnerships, and outcomes.
    - Document partnership activities, meetings, decisions, action items, and emerging opportunities.
    - Monitor progress towards established partnership and policy objectives and identify areas requiring further action or follow-up.
    - Identify experiences and opportunities to improve NCPEI`s approach to relationship management, partnership development, and collaborative service delivery.

This position also requires flexibility because many partnership opportunities develop through conversations and relationship-building. As a result, part of the work involves responding to emerging opportunities, researching potential approaches, and determining how they may align with NCPEI`s priorities.

Activities and Deliverables

1. Research and Policy Development

Supported NCPEI`s strategic priorities, partnership development, and the planning of initiatives intended to address service gaps and community needs. This work has included researching existing programs and service models, reviewing proposed agreements, identifying potential partners, and developing recommendations and project concepts for further consideration.

Activities and deliverables included:

- Researched existing volunteer models, policies, and procedures to inform the development of volunteer structures for Safe Pet and Care Circle initiatives.
- Researched coordinated-support and service-navigation models to identify approaches that could inform the development of the Care Circle initiative.
- Developed the Safe Pet Network concept, including rationale, objectives, proposed operating model, potential partnerships, referral procedures, and implementation considerations.
- Identified potential operational requirements for the Safe Pet initiative, including volunteer recruitment, confidentiality, referral procedures, and participant safety.
- Reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Futurpreneur, sought clarification regarding the proposed agreement, identified potential risks and considerations for NCPEI, and revised the document before submitting to administration for consideration.
- Researched and explored approaches relevant to child welfare collaboration, cultural safety, family intervention and safety planning, and information sharing.
- Contributed to the development of the Healthy Relationships collaborative initiative by identifying potential educational topics related to healthy and unsafe relationships, boundaries, relationship safety, and prevention.
- Continued identifying potential partnership and funding opportunities relevant to NCPEI`s priorities, including MMIWG, GVB, Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ priorities, sex and human trafficking, child welfare, and family supports.

This work provides a foundation for informed decision-making, supports the development of practical project models, that helps NCPEI assess potential approaches before committing resources to implementation.

2. Community Engagement and consultation

Community engagement and consultation activities have been focused on identifying shared priorities, understanding the roles of potential partners, and exploring the opportunities to strengthen supports for Indigenous people and families living off reserve in PEI.

Activities included:

- Initiated and maintained outreach to potential community and organizational partners whose work aligns with NCPEI`s priorities.
- Explored the opportunities for collaboration related to MMIWG and GVB.
- Identified potential partners and service providers that could contribute to the Safe Pet Network, including animal welfare organizations, veterinary clinics, pet-related businesses, and volunteers.
- Considered barriers that Indigenous women and children may face when accessing shelter services because of concerns regarding the safety and care of their pets.
- Explored approaches to coordinated support through the Care Circle initiative, including how volunteers and existing service providers could contribute to connecting participants with appropriate resources.
- Began developing an inclusive Healthy Relationship initiative intended to support Indigenous community members while allowing opportunities for participation by allies and non-Indigenous partners where appropriate.
- Incorporated consideration of Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people and individuals affected by relationship abuse or trafficking into emerging project discussions.
- Continued identifying opportunities for community-based education, awareness, prevention, and support initiatives.

3. Government Relations and Policy Engagement

Government relations and policy engagement have been focused on strengthening communication with government departments, identifying shared priorities, and exploring opportunities for improved coordination on matters affecting Indigenous people and families in PEI.

Child welfare and family supports

- Organized and facilitated a meeting between NCPEI and the Department of Social Development and Seniors to discuss opportunities for improved collaboration.
- Facilitated discussion regarding a potential joint working group, communication protocols and/or an MOU, cultural safety, family intervention and safety plans, training and conferences, information sharing, and ongoing meetings.
- Documented meeting outcomes and action items and distributed the information to participants for follow-ups.
- Requested further discussions with relevant coordinators regarding opportunities to establish an ongoing collaborative working relationship.
- Identified potential areas for continued engagement concerning child welfare, family supports, information sharing, and culturally appropriate approaches.
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MMIWG, GVB, and related priorities

- Continued work related to NCPEI`s MMIWG priorities, including its “5 Goals in 5 Years” work.
- Initiated outreach to potential partners to explore collaboration related to MMIWG and GVB.
- Identified opportunities for further government and organizational engagement on issues affecting Indigenous women, children, families, and other community members.

4. Strategic Relationship and Partnership Development

Building and maintaining strategic relationships has been a central component of the position. Activities have been focused on establishing communication with government departments, police services, community organizations, businesses, and other external partners and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

Police services and community safety

- Participated in a semi-annual meeting with the RCMP and provided updates on NCPEI`s ongoing work and progress involving police-related initiatives.
- Participated in an Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting, providing updates on collaborative work with the RCMP and other police departments and receiving information regarding current RCMP priorities.
- Communicated with the Summerside Police Department`s Chief and initiated arrangements for a meeting to explore potential collaboration.
- Participated in a meeting with Kensington Police Department`s chief, learned about the Department`s priorities and developed action items to strengthen relationship.
- Continued developing relationships with local police departments across PEI, alongside engagement with the RCMP.
- Explored opportunities to strengthen communication and identify areas for future collaboration, including potential protocols, MOUs, or other formalized agreements.

"Futurpreneur" and Entrepreneurship

- Participated in a meeting with "Futurpreneur" to learn about its services and discuss a potential partnership with NCPEI.
- Reviewed and revised the proposed MOU to address potential risks and considerations for NCPEI.
- Submitted the revised agreement to administration for consideration.

The proposed partnership provides an opportunity to explore access to entrepreneurship resources and supports for Indigenous community members.

5. Program and Initiative Development

Safe Pet Initiative/Network

Conducted research and developed the concept for a safe Pet initiative to help Indigenous women and children access shelter services when concerns about the safety and care of their pets create barriers.

Reviewed potential volunteer involvement, including recruitment, screening, documentation, confidentiality, safety, and supervision requirements. Considered potential referral procedures, partner responsibilities, and options for evaluating the pilot`s effectiveness. The initiative remains in development, with further coordination needed to clarify operational procedures, partner commitments, and implementation requirements.

Care Circle

Researched coordinated-support and service-navigation models and explored volunteer involvement to help inform the development of the Care Circle model.

Healthy Relationships Initiative

Developed the concept for an initiative focused on healthy relationships, personal boundaries, relationship safety, and prevention education and training. Considered inclusive approaches for Indigenous communities, Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ people, couples, allies, and the broader public. Identified potential

areas for educational content, including recognizing unhealthy or unsafe relationship behaviours, communicating boundaries, responding to boundary violations, and increasing awareness of relationship abuse and human trafficking.

Promotion and Outreach

Maintained and developed external relationships to strengthen awareness of NCPEI`s work, identify opportunities for collaboration, and support the development of initiatives responsive to the needs of Indigenous communities. Outreach included communication with police services, government departments, community organizations, and potential program partners. Shared updates on NCPEI services, available training opportunities, materials and resources.

Followed up on existing contacts, initiated discussions with prospective partners, and explored opportunities to improve communication and coordination between NCPEI and external organizations. These activities supported relationship-building, increased opportunities for information sharing, and helped identify potential areas for future collaboration.

Outreach also supported the early development of proposal initiatives, including the Safe Pet Network, Care Circle, and Healthy Relationship initiative. Engagement with relevant organizations and service providers will remain important to determining partner roles, identifying available resources, and establishing practical pathways for implementation.

Future Activities and Priorities

Future activities will focus on advancing existing relationship-building efforts, following up on outstanding actions, and moving priority initiatives from concept development toward implementation where appropriate.

Key priorities include:

- **Police and RCMP relationships.** Continue engagement with local police services and the RCMP, follow up on potential collaboration opportunities, and support ongoing communication regarding Indigenous community priorities and safety.
- **Child welfare and government engagement.** Follow up with the Department of Social Development and Seniors on proposed next steps, including regular meetings, a potential joint working group, communication protocols and an MOU, cultural safety, training, and information sharing practices.
- **Safe Pet initiative/Network.** Continue refining the proposed model, clarifying partner responsibilities and referral procedures, identifying operational requirements, and exploring the feasibility of a pilot.
- **Care Circle.** Further develop the coordinated-support model and clarify the potential role of volunteers, including the requirement, screening, training, documentation, and supervision processes, as well as, conducting internal and public research to identify gaps in services and potential partnerships.
- **Healthy Relationship Initiative.** Continue developing the project framework, identifying potential partners, and outlining educational priorities relating to healthy relationships, boundaries, relationship safety, Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ inclusion, and awareness of abuse and trafficking.
- **Policy research and strategic priorities.** Continue research and policy development related to MMIWG, GVB, child welfare, and other priorities affecting Indigenous communities.
- **Funding opportunities and proposal development.** Continue exploring federal and provincial funding opportunities and developing proposals aligning with NCPEI`s priorities and governmental mandates.

- **Relationship management and reporting.** Maintain partner contact records, document meetings and follow-up actions, strengthen internal Knowledge sharing, and continue preparing required activity and progress reports.

Conclusion:

The Strategic Relationships Policy Analyst work has been focused on strengthening NCPEI`s external relationships, supporting government and community engagement, conducting policy and program research, and developing potential initiatives addressing priorities affecting Indigenous communities.
Relationship-building with police services, the RCMP, government departments, and prospective partners has helped establish channels for communication and identify opportunities for collaboration. In parallel work on the Safe Pet Initiatives, Care Circle, Healthy Relationships initiatives, partnerships and approaches that may support community safety, access to services, healthy relationships and economic opportunities.
Much of this work remains in the relationship-building, research, planning, and development stages. The next phase will focus on maintaining momentum, following on agreed actions, clarifying partner commitments, and identifying feasible next steps toward implementation. Continued collaboration, internal coordination, and alignment with NCPEI`s strategic priorities will be important to advancing these efforts.

REACHING HOME
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Meleni O'Reilly
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Reaching Home Program provides support to off reserve Indigenous individuals who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The program offers front line support, referrals, housing placements, and access to culturally relevant activities that promote self sufficiency, stability, and meaningful involvement within the Indigenous community of PEI. The Reaching Home Program also supports the implementation and ongoing use of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), a homelessness information tracking system. In addition, the program serves as the Indigenous access point for the province's Coordinated Access system, helping individuals experiencing homelessness connect with appropriate housing and support services.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

- Assist individuals experiencing homelessness in securing safe, affordable, and sustainable long term housing.
- Provide ongoing support to clients who are experiencing challenges maintaining stable housing, with the goal of preventing housing loss and promoting long term stability.
- Provide outreach services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and connect them with appropriate housing, resources, and community supports.
- Participate in weekly Bilateral Names List (BNL) Case Management Meetings as a member of the Provincial Coordinated Access to Housing Working Group, supporting collaborative case management and coordinated housing placements.
- Contribute to the ongoing development, maintenance, and expansion of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) database to support effective service coordination, data collection, and program planning.

Activities and Deliverables:

October 2025:

- Attended 2 community case management meetings as part of the community outreach center working group.
- Assisted 10 clients with transportation assistance, rental assistance and damage deposits
- Helped a client move form Winter Street shelter into permanent housing with rent assistance
- Attended our quarterly Justice Avenues meeting with C.L.I., B.I.P.O.C. & I.R.S.A.
- Due to the postal disruption at the first of the month I hand delivered checks for landlords.
- Did regular client check-ins and home visits.

- Attended a memorial service at the Community Outreach Center for clients who had passed this year.
- Worked with the Community Outreach Center and the PEERS Alliance street outreach team to find a missing person, after 2 weeks of looking with help from Ground Search and rescue the client was found alive and unharmed.
- Made regular stops at the 2 provincial supportive housing projects to see clients.
- Worked with the S.A.F.E. Coordinator and the C.O.C. case management team to help provide support for a client.
- Attended a peer support meeting with members of C.M.H.A., PEERS Alliance and the C.O.C.
- Attended a special case conference for a client hosted by John Howard Societies Youth Program.
- Attended a reception for Community Legal Information.

November 2025:

- Attended 2 community case management meetings as part of the community outreach center working group.
- Helped a client get to and from the food bank.
- Made regular client visits and home check-ins.
- Provided bus passes to 3 different clients.
- Attended 2 supportive housing meetings.
- Coordinated with M.C.P.E.I. to help house a mutual client.
- Received a donation of 180 Lbs of potatoes from the organizers of the Afton Community Kitchen to go towards our community Christmas dinners.
- Worked with the staff to begin closing our North River Road office.
- Worked at the information table at this year's annual general assembly of the Native Council.
- Attended a planning session for the P.E.I. Coalition for Public Services, this group is still in its infancy, and we are just meeting to work out goals for the group. I see great networking and advocacy opportunities once the group gets up and running.
- Attending a Rental 101 webinar hosted by Community Legal Information.

December 2025

- Attended one Community Case management meeting as part of the community outreach center working group. I Took our new C.F.V.P.S. coordinator to the meeting to begin introducing her to other service providers which will in turn begin referrals to our new program.
- Worked with M.C.P.E.I. to provide support for two clients.
- Worked to help support and try to find housing for a client displaced by fire, I also reached out to pass condolences to another client who was lost in the fire.
- Dropped off gift cards for three clients.
- Supported 2 clients by providing rental assistance.
- Helped a new client by providing first months rent to a new unit.
- Attended 2 supportive housing check-ins.
- Worked with PEERS Alliance to provide support for 4 mutual clients.

- Made regular client check-ins and visits.
- Did a presentation to the Community Case Management Table highlighting the services and supports provided by N.C.P.E.I.
- Attended a committee meeting for The Coalition for Public Services.
- Helped PEERS Alliance work through a client's emergency eviction.
- Helped support 4 clients by providing bus passes.

January 2026

- Helped 4 clients by providing bus passes.
- Helped clients with rental supports
- Provided damage deposits for 2 clients moving into new housing.
- Helped support a client displaced by fire.
- Attended 1 community case management meeting as part of the community outreach center working group.
- Attended a meeting for the P.E.I. Coalition for Public Services.

February 2026

- Provided rental assistance and bus passes to clients
- Completed Trauma and Violence Informed Care Training
- Completed Fetus Alcohol Syndrome Training
- Completed Indigenous Perspectives Training
- Completed HIFIS Training

March 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 6 clients
- Working with 2 clients in obtaining housing
- Provided check ins with housed clients
- Dropped off cheques in person, providing an opportunity to connect with landlords

April 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 10 clients
- Working with 3 clients in obtaining housing
- Provided check ins with housed clients
- Provided support to a family that experienced a housefire
- Dropped off cheques in person, providing an opportunity to connect with landlords

May 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 10 clients
- Working with 2 clients in obtaining housing
- Provided check ins with housed clients
- Dropped off cheques in person, providing an opportunity to connect with landlords
- Provided tent and sleeping bag to client
- Took multiple clients to apartment viewings

June 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 15 clients
- Continued working with a client toward securing housing; the client has maintained 9 months of sobriety.
- Conducted regular check ins with housed clients to provide ongoing support and promote housing stability.
- Delivered rent cheques in person, creating opportunities to strengthen relationships and communicate directly with landlords.
- Accompanied multiple clients to apartment viewings, providing advocacy and support throughout the housing search process.

July 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 9 clients
- Continued working with a client toward securing housing to meet CFS requirements.
- Conducted regular check ins with housed clients to provide ongoing support and promote housing stability.
- Delivered rent cheques in person, creating opportunities to strengthen relationships and communicate directly with landlords.
- Accompanied multiple clients to apartment viewings, providing advocacy and support throughout the housing search process.
- Donated essential household items to a client who secured housing last month, helping them establish a comfortable and stable living environment. This support eased the financial burden associated with furnishing a new home, allowing the client to focus on maintaining their housing and settling into their community.
- Established a connection with the case manager at the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to strengthen collaboration and enhance client supports.

August 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 7 clients
- Continued working with a client toward securing housing to meet CFS requirements and assisted client with transportation to attend weekly custody meetings.
- Conducted regular check ins with housed clients to provide ongoing support and promote housing stability.
- Delivered rent cheques in person, creating opportunities to strengthen relationships and communicate directly with landlords.
- Accompanied multiple clients to apartment viewings, providing advocacy and support throughout the housing search process.
- Working to maintain and update HIFIS files

September 2026

- Provided rental assistance, damage deposits and bus passes to 9 clients
- Supported a client navigating a cancer diagnosis by securing rent assistance and identifying, navigating, and providing referrals to additional community resources, expanding my knowledge of available supports for clients facing complex health and housing needs.

- Conducted community outreach to connect with new and existing clients, build awareness of available supports, and provide bottles of water to individuals while engaging with community members and identifying potential service needs.
- Referred and supported a client in completing an application for Nanegkam Housing, helping them navigate the application process and access potential long term housing options. Their application was approved and they moved into a new unit.
- Supported a client with completing a job application, including reviewing application materials and helping them present their experience effectively, contributing to their employment goals and overall financial stability.
- Worked closely with a client experiencing a complex financial situation to develop a realistic and sustainable three month financial plan, with a focus on strengthening stability, anticipating upcoming expenses, and reducing the likelihood of needing emergency assistance again in the near term.
- Conducted regular check ins with housed clients to provide ongoing support and promote housing stability.
- Delivered rent cheques in person, creating opportunities to strengthen relationships and communicate directly with landlords.
- Accompanied multiple clients to apartment viewings, providing advocacy and support throughout the housing search process.
- Working to maintain and update HIFIS files

Promotion and Outreach:

- Increase awareness of Council initiatives, programs, and services by sharing information and highlighting their positive impact within the community.
- Strengthen community engagement by building relationships with residents, community organizations, and local partners and encouraging participation in Council initiatives.
- Promote opportunities for community members to access supports, resources, and services while ensuring information is accessible, timely, and inclusive.

Future Activities:

- Continue providing support and assistance to community members experiencing challenges or in need of additional resources.
- Continue promoting and highlighting the important work and positive impact of the Council within the community.
- Continue advocating for affordable housing and enhanced supports for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Continue developing and strengthening the HIFIS program in collaboration with the Coordinated Access to Housing Working Group.
- Continue contributing to and supporting the work of the committees on which I serve.

Conclusion:

Over the past year, I have remained focused on providing practical, client centered support to individuals and families experiencing housing instability, financial challenges, and other barriers. I provided 42 clients with rental assistance, supported 12 clients with damage deposits to secure new housing, and assisted 3 clients with rent arrears to help prevent eviction. I also distributed 33 bus passes to help clients access essential services, appointments, employment opportunities, and community resources. In addition to financial assistance, I provided ongoing check ins, housing advocacy, transportation support, apartment viewing assistance, housing applications, and referrals to community resources.

Collaboration and community partnerships continued to be an important part of my work. I worked closely with landlords, the Community Outreach Center, PEERS Alliance, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Community Legal Information, and other service providers to respond to complex client needs to strengthen support networks. I also continued developing my professional skills through training in Trauma and Violence Informed Care, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Indigenous Perspectives, and HIFIS, while continuing to maintain and update HIFIS files and contribute to coordinated access and housing initiatives.

Overall, this year demonstrated the importance of providing both immediate assistance and ongoing support to help clients achieve and maintain housing stability. I remain committed to advocating for affordable housing, preventing homelessness, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring that individuals and families have access to supports and resources they need to move toward greater stability and independence.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER TECHNICIAN
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2026 to September 2026

Richard Cooper
Fisheries Monitor

Kwe, bonjour, hello to all members, delegates, honorary members, and invited guests,

My name is Richard Cooper, and I am the Kelewatl Commission Fisheries Monitor for the Native Council of Prince Edward Island. The Kelewatl Commission Fisheries Monitors responsibilities include but are not limited to attending community meetings, travel to areas in the province where the Native Councils FSC Fisheries take place, educate and assist where necessary about harvesting safety, proper trap/usage and promoting an awareness of the aquatic environment including species at risk that might appear in a trap, and convey to members how important catch report cards are and ensure that they are being filled out properly as deemed necessary by the Community Harvest Plan.

It has been a very busy year, and I am excited to share some of the highlights and partnerships that I was able to participate in and create. The year started off with going to all 3 zones and meeting with members to hand out their Harvesting Cards, tags, guideline books, and report cards. Every member was told the importance of filling out their report cards and sending them in monthly, adhering to the guidelines or contacting me if they had questions to make sure they were keeping in compliance with the guidelines. I continued to attend meetings hosted by Public Safety Canada and The Firearms Policy Directorate for a briefing on former Bill C-21, new licence suspension regime, and enhanced licence revocation and ineligibility provisions. This will influence members who own firearms, the red flag and firearm suspension criteria have updated. I attended the L'Nu Fisheries Annual General Meeting at the Loyalist Country Inn.

I was able to work with Fishery Officer Glen Gillespie earlier this year to update and establish changes to our FSC Harvesting Guidelines around Grey and Harp Seal. The changes included a 3-stage harvesting method, proper firearms to be used in the harvesting, change of dates for the season, and a hailing system for members when they decide to go out to harvest the species.

I was able to reach out and set up a meeting with Chief Conservation Officer Erin Perry and the rest of her officers along with Jordan. We did a presentation on the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, who we are, who we represent, and the Kelewatl Fisheries Harvesting and Guidelines. The outcome of this meeting was a very positive working relationship and information sharing opportunities to help our members. I was able to do a patrol with C/O Peter Beadreau and have another joint patrol scheduled with C/O Sgt. Locke Jones soon. Throughout the year I was able to join in on a few Bass Blitz operations with DFO, joint patrol inspections of trout and salmon harvesters. On these patrols members were in compliance with a few reminders of having harvesting cards on their person.

I reached out to Fishery Officers Jillian Macphee and Simon Robichaud to offer a presentation for the new officers in their respective department to educate them on our FSC harvesting and guidelines. This promotes the Native Council's FSC fishery and educates officers for when they encounter one of our harvesters in the field. We have had an increased number of lost or stolen gear this year, I have reached out to DFO with the locations of the lost or stolen gear and asked to be a part of the retrieval attempt at the end of the season. We were able to receive replacement tags and get them back out to members so they could continue with their harvesting.

I was able to assist Policy and Program Advisor: Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Aaron Waddell in this years Firearm Safety course that was held in Zone 1. I am glad to say that all participants who attended passed with flying colors.

I am currently collaborating with Janett to host a fishing derby in two locations for members to come out and enjoy an evening of Bass Fishing, prizes, refreshments, and family friendly activities. I reached out to DFO and Conservation Officers to attend both events and have heard back from both that officers will be available to attend both.

Moving forward, I have reached out to DFO for some more compliance checks before the end of Striped Bass season on October 31st, more gear retrieval patrols, more opportunities for collaboration, team building, and networking. I was able to partner with Conservation Officers this year and was invited to do patrols with them in the future which is very important that we branch out into both departments and work together. I plan to grow, strengthen, and create educational opportunities with both DFO and Wildlife Conservation Officers around the Kelewatl Commission, its members, and our guidelines for any future contact that will be made with our membership.

Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Brenda Dion
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively (SAFE) Coordinator of the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI) will offer a wide range of supports to off-reserve Indigenous families living across Epekwitk/PEI who are involved, or at risk of being involved, with provincial Child and Family Services (CFS). Supports offered through the SAFE program are aimed at increasing awareness, and reducing instances of, Gender-Based or family violence; strengthening community bonds and identity; improving community parenting practices; and preventing Indigenous children from being apprehended by provincial CFS.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

- The program continues to support families who become involved with CPS in every aspect that I am able to be there for them
- Provide families with other programming information and direct them to the support they are needing for their families.
- One support that is frequently asked for is grocery supports, some families go through adjustments and are basically one pay away from either paying rent, bills or feeding their families.
- Their struggles are often very heavy for them and have a hard time asking for help, I would sometimes reach out to families I have worked with in previous years to see how they're doing. They are more often comfortable with me and will tell me what is going on with them, and I would offer support as much as I can.
- Conducting home visits with families and give them support if their children are removed from the home. Whether that removal takes place there are often times when preventative supports are needed. Most of the time CPS get involved is either cleanliness of the home or there is a need for intervention and protection if the home is unsafe. I would then work with the family and go by the case plan that is placed by CPS.

Activities and Deliverables:

This past winter was the first ever SAFE Retreat and we had such a great weekend! Families were able to enjoy themselves and have new experiences. I wanted to focus on mental health and well being but wanted to include other activities that they would not otherwise be able to experience. We planned for someone to come teach Zumba, Sound Bath and Reiki, Sharing Circle and had onsite childcare. The families were very appreciative as some are not able to do the activities without having to worry about childcare. It was such a great weekend, and we also

had Family Bingo, teachings about the Kokom Scarf and a Sharing Circle. The event itself was very successful and by the end of the weekend families told me they would like to have another one if possible. My colleague, Mackayla and I were exhausted by the end of the weekend but felt very good that everyone enjoyed themselves too! We got plenty of gifts and everyone loved them along with door prizes that families could do activities with one another.

The SAFE program received a grant to purchase food for the community that allowed us to purchase shelf stable food items for families. Shopping bags of groceries have been dropped off to families and community members who are attending the SAFE Program. The community members have been very grateful for this support.

Promotion and Outreach:

The SAFE program was featured on CBC in October 2025 and the reporter did such a wonderful job with the piece. I was very nervous, but she made it enjoyable and interviewed participants through the evening. I was apprehensive about doing the interview but the outcome of it was positive and I thanked the reporter for showcasing the program and focussing on connections in the Indigenous community on PEI.

I have been involved with a Multi Agency Services Teams meeting with the Souris Regional School Student Well Being Team and going there once a month to give updates on families that I have been working with in the area. Alana Macgregor is a counsellor for the high school and works with students who are facing mental health challenges or working with them on their college applications.

I work closely with the MCPEI Justice program and collaborate with its coordinators. We support shared clients by stepping in when another coordinator is unavailable. This partnership provides a valuable referral option for clients who need Justice program services.

I continue to work with and collaborate with other service providers for the families that I work with and support. Most service providers have never heard of the program and often say that they would let their colleagues know about what supports are offered. There have been times where they would think of MCPEI and often think that we are the same organization. I tell them that MCPEI is for Indigenous families who live on reserve and that the Native Council supports off reserve Indigenous people.

Future Activities:

- Parenting programs are being planned for the winter, and I am looking into several types of programs that will be accessible to families. I reached out to the program coordinator for Caring Families, but they are in the middle of restructuring with other programs and the director said she would reach out to me for updates once the changes are implemented. There is also another program that is focussed on indigenous families, and training is being held through MCPEI, the partner SAFE coordinator will make contact with them and inquire about training costs. I will also be collaborating with Lynn Bradley to plan support circles for parents and caregivers. We will go over cultural teachings that will be able to support families who want to know more about the culture.

- Looking at the possibility of another SAFE Retreat or other similar activity that is fun for families.

Conclusion:

The SAFE program has been supporting families across PEI with accessing program supports, CPS meetings, housing issues, and grocery supports. There has been an increase of families who are reaching out more frequently to get grocery support. I have partnered with my local food bank in Montague to pick up hampers for several families that I work with. The volunteers for the food bank are very helpful and the program director was very understanding of the families that cannot go pick up their hampers. The increase that the food bank has seen in the last year has grown so much that at times they are having a hard time keeping the shelves stocked.

Families who have reached out for support in the last year are all struggling in one way or another. There are some who tell me that they are one pay away from not being able to pay rent, get groceries or pay other bills. Some families have reached out for support multiple times throughout the year. If they have accessed grocery support within the year I ask if rent support would help take some burden off so they can catch up on bills and groceries. I then can reach out to those Programs on behalf of the family.

The SAFE program has grown by adding another much-needed full-time staff a The full-time staff and I will be splitting Zone 2. The transition will take a bit of time but will be more efficient.

There have also been more youth who are in need for mental health supports and CMHA does not work with youth under the age of 16. This has been something that I was surprised by and would often refer youth to their Student Well Being Team at their schools. There is also a program called STRENGTH and that program is in Summerside with a facility for those who choose to comply with their program's rules. There were a couple of youth who tried to attend the program, but they felt the rules were to restrictive for them. There needs to be a mental health support program for youth as the numbers are continually rising for accessible support.

SAFE PROGRAM
(Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively)
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Mackayla Morrison
Program Coordinator Zone 1 & 2

Introduction:

The SAFE coordinator (Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively) offers a wide range of supports to off-reserve indigenous families living across Epekwitk/PEI who are involved, or at risk of being involved with provincial child and family services.

The goal is to increase awareness and reduce instances of gender-based or family violence and strengthening community bonds and identity, while also improving community parenting practices and preventing Indigenous children from being apprehended by provincial Child and Family Services.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

- Offering monthly community kitchens (meals and events)
- Provide home visits for individuals who are clients and the SAFE program
- Create and actively maintain case management files of clients
- Organize and facilitate parenting classes
- Emergency Client Advocacy
- Providing referrals to other internal/external supports
- Advocating for families and youth dealing with CFS
- Advocating for youth aging out of care with provincial government
- Developing care plans for clients

Activities and Deliverables:

- Organize and facilitate Community Kitchens for members, focusing on healthy food options. During this we work with the clients with shopping for the food, reading information on labels, getting the best option for the best price or buying in bulk, meal preparation & also how to store remaining food safely for future use. All extra food from meal is sent home with clients.
- Organize and facilitate Cultural activities for families and youth, sessions are held in all 3 zones and coordinating with partner organizations for presentations, social gatherings and cultural activities.
- Keep events engaging so members form community together.

Promotion and Outreach:

- Represent NCPEI on committees, working groups, boards and advisory groups as required.
- Maintain and develop partnerships with community partner organizations etc.

Future Activities:

- Continue to provide support to clients in need who reach out or I get notified about
- Continue growing my client list
- Continue hosting community kitchens & providing meals and learning to families and members
- Continue learning and helping out in areas I am needed
- Brainstorm some new events to keep things fun and engaging for clients
- Possible host a *Handle With Care* group
- Future programs : DIY blanket workshop, Christmas Hampers, Winter Wellness baskets supporting mental health through out the winter

Conclusion:

The SAFE program is a highly needed support system for off reserve indigenous families and youth. Over the past year I have seen multiple requests for help with groceries, bills, rent and families struggling. There is huge need in helping families find suitable housing and making a monthly budget to enable families to live more comfortably, ensuring children have what they need for back to school and that there are supports in place to assist with Christmas expenses.

My hopes is for the Program to continue assisting families as it has been but also provide some broader supports for both families and Elders.

TAPUI'TJITJA'AMITJ/TWO-SPIRIT PROGRAM
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Chase LeBlanc
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The 2025–2026 year was a period of significant growth, relationship-building, community engagement, and program development for the Tapui'tjitja'amitj (Two-Spirit) Program. Throughout the year, the program worked to create culturally grounded, inclusive, and community-driven opportunities for Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, transgender, gender-diverse, and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members across Prince Edward Island. Programming included land-based gatherings, cultural teachings, wellness activities, youth programming, artistic and creative events, community celebrations, educational workshops, retreats, and Pride programming.

A major focus throughout the year was building relationships with community organizations, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, artists, performers, youth-serving organizations, and other partners. These relationships helped expand the reach of the program and create opportunities for Two-Spirit community members to participate in spaces that were affirming, culturally meaningful, and accessible.

The year also demonstrated the importance of flexibility and participant-driven programming. Weather, facilitator availability, scheduling changes, and other circumstances required events to be adapted throughout the year. The program was able to respond to these challenges while maintaining its focus on community connection, cultural safety, and meaningful engagement.

Program Goals, Objectives & Key Responsibilities:

The Tapui'tjitja'amitj Program focused on the following key areas throughout the reporting year:

- Creating opportunities for Two-Spirit and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members to connect, build relationships, and access culturally relevant programming.
- Increasing visibility and representation of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer people within the broader Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- Providing culturally grounded programming that incorporates Mi'kmaq teachings, land-based learning, ceremony, language, traditional medicines, arts, storytelling, and community knowledge.
- Supporting wellness, healing, and community care through retreats, circles, land-based activities, and other wellness-focused programming.
- Developing youth-focused programming and creating affirming spaces for queer and Two-Spirit youth.
- Building relationships and collaborative partnerships with organizations throughout PEI.
- Supporting community members through referrals, resource sharing, outreach, and connections to appropriate services and organizations.

- Supporting cultural representation and appropriate Indigenous protocols at community events.
- Creating opportunities for Two-Spirit artists, performers, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and community members to share their knowledge, experiences, and talents.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of Two-Spirit identities and experiences within the broader community.
- Developing programming across different regions of PEI rather than concentrating activities exclusively in Charlottetown.
- Continuing to identify community needs and adapt programming based on participant feedback, relationships, and emerging priorities.

Activities & Deliverables:

During the reporting year, the Tapui'tjitja'amitj Program delivered and supported a broad range of programming.

Cultural & Land-Based Programming
The program incorporated land-based learning and cultural teachings throughout the year. Activities included:

- **Rhythm & Regalia** – a collaborative cultural gathering combining sewing, regalia-making, drumming, singing, food, and community knowledge sharing.
- **Two-Spirit Weekend Retreat** – a three-day retreat focused on cultural revitalization, healing, connection, ceremonies, medicine bag and rattle-making, cultural teachings, experiential circles, sound healing, and community wellness.
- **Thunderhead Rock Selection & Ceremony** – participation in a ceremony connected to the Thunderhead 2SLGBTQI+ National Monument, grounded in Indigenous ceremony, prayer, cultural protocol, and storytelling.
- **Rooted in Tea & Teachings** – a Two-Spirit land gathering focused on medicines, tea, Indigenous knowledge, Two-Eyed Seeing, and community conversation.
- **Two-Spirit Wellness Retreat** – a land-based wellness retreat incorporating breathwork, sound healing, yoga, forest bathing, shared meals, and community connection.
- **Medicine Pouch-Making Activity** – facilitated as part of an MMIWG Working Group gathering, creating an opportunity to share cultural knowledge while connecting Two-Spirit perspectives to broader discussions.
- **Medicine Walk at Bonshaw Park** – September programming focused on land connection, medicine knowledge, and community learning.

Youth & Community Programming
Youth and community engagement became an increasingly important part of the program during the year.

Programming included:

- **Queer Prom**, delivered in partnership with PEERS Alliance, which welcomed approximately 29 queer and trans youth and allies.
- **Queer Awareness, Community & Inclusion Workshop**, providing education around LGBTQ+ identities, Two-Spirit identity, pronouns, inclusion, and belonging.

- **Camp Aspen**, where the program engaged with youth around Two-Spirit issues and introduced participants to Two-Spirit talent and artistic expression, including drag.
- Development of additional youth-focused programming, including an upcoming **Youth Halloween Queer Dance**.

The program also supported informal community engagement at a variety of queer arts, cultural, advocacy, and social events.

Wellness, Healing & Community Care
Wellness and healing remained central to the program throughout the year.

Activities included:
- Two-Spirit Wellness Retreat programming.
- Land-based gatherings.
- Tea and medicine teachings.
- Nature walks and outdoor gatherings.
- Community circles and opportunities for reflection and connection.
- Participation in the **Transcending Grief: Joy as Resistance** panel.
- Development of future **Healing Community 2S Queer Circle** programming.
- Collaboration with partners to explore additional culturally grounded wellness opportunities.

Arts, Culture & Pride Programming
The program significantly increased its visibility within the broader PEI arts and Pride community.

Activities included:
- Participation in the **NCPEI Pride Parade**.
- Support for the **T4T Shake That BOOTY** dance.
- Participation in **Queer AF Stand-Up Comedy**.
- Participation in **Poetry OUTloud**.
- **Sacred & Fierce: A Celebration of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Excellence**, a major Pride event featuring Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer performers.
- Participation in the **World AIDS Day Ceremony**, including a candle-lighting moment recognizing Two-Spirit and Trans people impacted by HIV/AIDS.
- Participation in community arts and cultural events that provided opportunities for Two-Spirit visibility and representation.

Education & Community Awareness
The program also supported education and awareness through:
- LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit awareness workshops.
- Community discussions and panels.
- Two-Spirit film programming.
- Public land acknowledgements and cultural protocol.
- Outreach at community events.
- Sharing information about Two-Spirit resources and available supports.

- Conversations with organizations and community partners about Two-Spirit inclusion.

Promotion & Outreach:

Promotion and outreach were important components of the program throughout the year.
The program promoted activities through community partnerships, direct outreach, social media, event promotion, resource tables, word-of-mouth, and relationships with organizations serving Indigenous, queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities.

Community events provided particularly valuable opportunities for informal outreach. During Pride programming, the program connected with community members through the NCPEI Pride float, T4T programming, arts events, comedy, poetry, and Sacred & Fierce.
At Queer Prom, a Native Council of PEI resource table provided youth with pamphlets, booklets, program information, and other resources. The strong interest in these materials demonstrated the value of having program information available in spaces where young people already feel comfortable.

Participation in **Politics with a Drag Queen** also generated significant outreach opportunities, with more than ten individuals reaching out afterward for information about programming, supports, and future activities.

The program continued to strengthen connections with organizations including:

- PEERS Alliance
- PEI Transgender Network (PEITN)
- Pride PEI
- PEI Sexual Assault Centre
- Holland College
- The Guild
- Other community organizations, artists, performers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members

These partnerships allowed the program to reach new audiences while creating opportunities for shared resources, collaborative programming, and stronger community networks.

Major Accomplishments & Successes:

Several accomplishments stood out during the 2025–2026 reporting year.

Growth of Community Relationships
The program established and strengthened relationships with a wide range of organizations and community members. These relationships have created opportunities for future collaboration and helped integrate Two-Spirit perspectives into broader community programming.

Increased Two-Spirit Visibility
The program significantly increased the visibility of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer people within community, cultural, artistic, youth, and Pride spaces.

The success of Sacred & Fierce was particularly significant, creating a dedicated platform for Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer performers during Pride and bringing together local and visiting Indigenous artists.

Strong Youth Engagement
Youth programming emerged as an important area of growth. Queer Prom demonstrated a strong need for joyful, affirming, and low-pressure spaces for queer and trans youth.
The program also began expanding its youth outreach through Camp Aspen and future youth-focused programming.

Cultural & Land-Based Programming
The year demonstrated the value of culturally grounded programming. Smaller gatherings such as Rooted in Tea & Teachings provided opportunities for deeper conversation, relationship building, and cultural learning.
The program also continued exploring ways to expand land-based and ceremonial opportunities in future programming.

Adaptability
Throughout the year, programming was affected by weather, cancellations, facilitator availability, injuries, and other unexpected circumstances. The program consistently adapted rather than cancelling opportunities for community connection whenever possible.
This flexibility allowed activities to remain participant-centered and ensured that community needs remained at the forefront.

Community Demand
Increased participation, inquiries, and requests for collaboration demonstrated growing awareness of the Tapui’tjitja’amitj Program.

Community members and partner organizations increasingly approached the program for educational opportunities, cultural participation, collaborations, resources, and Two-Spirit perspectives.

Continued Development:

Regional Accessibility
Providing programming across PEI remains an important priority. Much of the program’s activity naturally occurs in Charlottetown, creating challenges for community members in rural and more geographically isolated areas.

Continued development of programming in Western and Eastern PEI will help improve regional access.

Transportation
Transportation continues to be a barrier for some participants, particularly for land-based activities and programming outside Charlottetown.

Future programming should continue exploring transportation supports, carpooling, shuttles, and partnerships that can help reduce these barriers.

Weather & Outdoor Programming
Weather affected several activities throughout the year, particularly land-based and outdoor programming. Continued contingency planning will be important for future activities.

Program Capacity
As awareness of the program grows, there is increasing demand for events, collaborations, outreach, and individual community support.
Balancing administrative responsibilities, event coordination, community engagement, relationship building, and program development will remain an important consideration moving forward.

Sustainable Programming
Continued access to appropriate funding, venues, transportation, facilitators, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, artists, and community supports will be important to maintaining and expanding the program.

Future Activities:

The coming year will continue building on the relationships and programming established during 2025–2026.

Planned and developing activities include:

- **Youth Halloween Queer Dance** in October.
- **Healing Community 2S Queer Circle**.
- **PEERS Alliance Two-Spirit Retreat** in November.
- **Two-Spirit community gathering in Western PEI**.
- **Two-Spirit community gathering in Eastern PEI**.
- Continued development of **NCPEI Two-Spirit Retreat programming**.
- Additional land-based and cultural programming.
- Continued youth engagement and outreach.
- Additional community education and Two-Spirit awareness activities.
- Continued collaboration with PEITN, PEERS Alliance, Pride PEI, The Guild, and other community partners.
- Continued development of Two-Spirit wellness, cultural, artistic, and community-building opportunities.
- Continued exploration of programming involving Mi’kmaq language, drumming, medicine teachings, storytelling, and other cultural activities.

A key goal moving forward will be to continue expanding the program beyond individual events and build a stronger, sustainable network of Two-Spirit community connection across Prince Edward Island.

Looking Ahead:

The 2025–2026 year established a strong foundation for the continued development of the Tapui’tjitja’amitj Program.

The program has grown from individual activities into a broader network of community relationships, cultural programming, youth engagement, wellness opportunities, artistic expression, and collaborative initiatives.

Moving forward, the program will continue to prioritize **community connection, cultural grounding, accessibility, youth engagement, wellness, and Two-Spirit visibility**.

There is an ongoing opportunity to create more spaces where Two-Spirit community members can gather not only around challenges and advocacy, but also around joy, culture, creativity, friendship, healing, and belonging.

The continued growth of the program will be guided by community needs, participant feedback, cultural teachings, and relationships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, organizations, and partners across PEI.

WELE'G PROGRAM
"Living Well Program"
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2025 to September 2026

Ebony Larkin
Program Coordinator

Introduction:

The Wele'g (Living Well) program at the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) is dedicated to providing holistic health, wellness, cultural connection, and community engagement for off-reserve Indigenous community members across Prince Edward Island. Operating across Zones 1, 2, and 3 (Portage/West Prince, Charlottetown/Central, and St. Peter's Bay/Eastern Kings), the Wele'g program bridges traditional cultural knowledge with modern health, safety, and community support initiatives.

During the 2025–2026 operational year, the program underwent a seamless leadership transition from Danielle Moore-Rayner (October–December 2025) to Ebony Larkin (January–September 2026). Throughout all 12 months, the program successfully delivered consistent multi-zone workshops, interactive cultural skill-building sessions, wellness education, and a landmark multi-day land-based community retreat at Panmure Island.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

- **Cultural Revitalization & Skill Building:** Preserve and pass down traditional Indigenous crafts, skills, and teachings—including porcupine quill harvesting and artwork, ash/sweetgrass weaving, beadwork (poppies, hats, accessories), leathercraft, traditional medicine/gardening, and big drum cultural practices.
- **Tri-Zone Community Reach:** Ensure equal access to programming across Zone 1 (Portage), Zone 2 (Charlottetown/North River Road), and Zone 3 (St. Peter's Bay Complex).
- **Holistic Health, Wellness & Safety:** Provide targeted education and workshops on personal safety, human trafficking awareness, moral distress, clinical health, and community safety in collaboration with health professionals, law enforcement (RCMP), and internal NCPEI programs.
- **Youth & Intergenerational Engagement:** Foster safe, clean, and welcoming spaces for youth, families, and Elders to connect, learn together, and strengthen community bonds.

Activities and Deliverables:

Program activities October 2025 to December 2025 with Danielle Moore-Rayner:

- **October 2025:** Porcupine Quill Workshop across Zones 1, 2, and 3 held at Sukwi'sim Lodge (21 participants covering harvesting, cleaning, dyeing quills, and quill art creation). Participation in Zone 1 & 3 Town Halls..

- **November 2025:** Beaded Poppy Workshops hosted across Zone 1 (Portage), Zone 2 (North River Road), and Zone 3 (St. Peter's Bay) in honor of Indigenous Veterans Day.
- **December 2025:** Delivered festive ash/sweetgrass reindeer weaving workshops in Zones 1, 2, and 3 with guest knowledge keepers Ashley Moore and Noella Moore.

Program activities January 2026 to September 2026 with Ebony Larkin:

- **January 2026:** Program leadership transition with Ebony Larkin assuming the role of Wele'g Program Coordinator. Completed comprehensive file reviews, workplan development, resource allocation, and program scheduling for Q1 2026.
- **February 2026: P**artnered with Aboriginal Women's Association **to** Conduct a hands-on candle making Diabetes Awareness workshops across Zones 1, 2, 3, and a specialized session at Lennox Shelter. Hosted family-focused wellness sessions on parenting strategies and community support systems.
- **March 2026:** Delivered youth art workshops across Zones 1, 2, and 3. Launched Ladies' Night evening social and wellness gatherings across all zones. Hosted cultural drumming and song workshops in Zone 1 and Zone 3 in collaboration with language and cultural facilitators.
- **April 2026:** Executed a 2-part Spring Gardening & Medicine Day initiative in Charlottetown, Portage, and St. Peter's Bay, focusing on traditional plant knowledge, soil preparation, and planting.
- **May 2026:** Held multi-zone skill-building workshops teaching traditional flatwork and raised beadwork on hats across Zones 1, 2, and 3.
- **June 2026:** Hosted weekly/bi-weekly drop-in craft evenings across all three zones to encourage peer support and social connection. Facilitated leatherwork sessions teaching basic tooling, cutting, and pouch/accessory construction across Zones 1, 2, and 3.
- **July 2026:** Organized outdoor physical activity and play workshops using hula hoops, alongside regular drop-in craft sessions and zone drop-in socials in Zones 1, 2, and 3.
- **August 2026:** Organized interactive multi-zone family scavenger hunts promoting outdoor activity, teamwork, and community exploration. Completed supply purchasing, venue booking, and safety protocols for the fall retreat.
- **September 2026:** Held a major 3-day land-based community camping retreat at Panmure Island Powwow Grounds (September 18–20, 2026). Recorded attendance of 33 participants (Day 1), 44 participants (Day 2), and 34 participants (Day 3). Activities included land-based teepee pole harvesting and tree identification with Knowledge Keeper Eliza; Human Trafficking Awareness presentation delivered by RCMP Officers Mark and Justin; Truth and Reconciliation youth painting session; storytelling, card games, camping, and intergenerational bonding, all while accompanied by elder Marie.

Promotion and Outreach:

- **Zone Meetings & Town Halls:** Direct promotion and flyer distribution at monthly Zone 1, 2, and 3 membership meetings, sending flyers with other staff traveling in-between zones. As well as flyers in each event space of upcoming events.
- **Digital Communication:** Direct email broadcasts to membership lists, NCPEI social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), and internal Staff Teams chat updates.

- **Cross-Program Collaboration:** Joint promotional outreach with all other NCPEI Programming.
- **What Wele'g future programming looks like:** Funding for Wele'g was renewed for three years and I will be planning a large event in each of those three years. I will be looking at holding a two-day event each year rotating between the Zones talking about self-esteem, relationship aggression, and sense of belonging. The event will include working on traditional crafts like concho belts, moccasin classes, and some chill relaxing nights to stop by for talks and munchies.

Future Activities:

- **Halloween Safety & Creativity Workshops (October 2026):** Scheduled across Zone 1 (Portage – October 16), Zone 3 (St. Peter's Complex – October 17), and Zone 2 (Main Office – October 19).
- **In-Depth RCMP & Human Trafficking Follow-Ups:** Delivering expanded safety and protocol sessions based on direct community member requests during the Panmure Retreat.
- **Expanded Land-Based Learning:** I have been talking with Eliza Knockwood about her recently released movies around survival tactics and how she had a group of young boys out on the land and they had to build their own shelter and learn how to build a fire for warmth and cooking. I would like to look at potential resources and possibly partner with Eliza to do something similar and film our members living off the land here in PEI.
- **Increased Youth Programming:** Strengthening youth engagement initiatives through joint partnerships with youth and family coordinators.

Conclusion:

The 2025–2026 operational year was a landmark period for the Wele'g (Living Well) program. By consistently reaching off-reserve members across all three zones, offering diverse cultural and wellness workshops, and culminating in the phenomenally successful Panmure Island Summer Retreat, Wele'g continues to fulfill its core mandate of fostering health, safety, and cultural pride within the NCPEI community.



Geggunas’g House

Annual General Assembly Report

October 2025 to September 2026

Wanda Pardy

House Manager

Introduction:

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls revealed that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

Following the release of the MMIWG Inquiry Final Report (call 4.7) the federal government announced the $724.1 million **Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative** to facilitate the construction of additional shelters and transitional homes for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people escaping gender-based violence. This initiative launched in November 2021 and includes support for projects in urban areas and in the North and also includes the construction and operation Geggunas'g House.

After many years of advocating, planning and researching Geggunas'g finally opened its doors in June of 2026.

Objectives:

Geggunas'g House aims to provide a safe space for survivors to heal, plan, and prepare for their next steps. Recognizing this process needs to be self driven and looks different for everyone. To support clients on this journey Geggunas'g House offers comprehensive services designed to meet the needs of all women, female identifying, 2s+ adults and their children who are fleeing gender-based violence. Our approach is rooted in Indigenous cultural understanding and a deep commitment to safety and well-being. Our services are designed to support survivors as they move from crisis toward safety, healing, and independence.

Our goal is to provide more than a safe place to stay we strive to create a supportive environment where women and children can feel respected, empowered, culturally connected, and hopeful about the future. Our support does not have to end when a resident leaves the shelter. When possible, we provide follow-up, referrals, advocacy, and connections to community resources to help survivors maintain safety and stability as they transition into their next chapter(s).

Activities and Deliverables:

The primary activities of this project up to about January of 2026 were still focused on construction and policy development. Construction aspects of the project were overseen by Jordan Crane on behalf of NCPEI Management Team. Jordan worked closely with reps from Ridgeline Construction (Main Contractor), Coles Associates (Project Management) and Signature Installs (Secondary Contractor) to ensure the work was being done per the agreements and per the CMHC requirements and deadlines. Early policy development work was directed by Jane Afflack of the NCPEI policy team. Jane was also responsible for the development of the original application to CMHC and Indigenous Service Canada (ISC).

In October of 2025 the job listing was posted for a manager, and the position was filled in early 2026. The manager started work in April. With a manager in place, administrative work began

on staffing models, required training, operational policy and procedures, HR policies, house set up and the hiring of support staff was completed.

Support staff began orientation and some online training in early June of 2026, and our doors opened on June 8 2026 and we received our first, in-house client on June 15. While intakes were slow to ramp up it was a blessing in that it gave us lots of time to refine our operations, build our resources network and establish much needed connections in the large support community. We have made connections with various agencies including but not limited to Victim Service, John Howard Society, The Mobile Mental Health Team, The PEI Health Detox and Transition Unit, Sarah Carr Psychological Services who are providing free mental health counselling to clients who do not qualify for NIHB or do not have insurance.

Promotion and Outreach:

Promotional work for Geggunas'g House began following the approval of the funding application in 2024 with NCPEI leadership and staff making clients and connections aware that the facility was coming. Efforts to promote the soon to open facility increased in early May with the new manager reaching out to various service providers, police services and Government of PEI departments. NCPEI and Geggunas'g House held an open house event in late May and invited service providers in to tour the facility and ask any question they had about operations and policies.

In June a website and Facebook page were created and began sharing information about the house and its services. In September NCPEI hired a new Promotions and Communications person who is developing a communications strategy for the House and is working with the manager to develop and eventually launch that strategy. The first phases of the strategy focus on branding and promoting the House the third stage will focus on fundraising.

Activities:

With public awareness of the house having increased as well as client intakes increasing, management and staff are preparing to launch an inhouse programming plan focusing on Cultural awareness, life skills, improving individual mental health and of course including some fun therapy. To date in house, we have done various crafting activities including the start of the house's very own painted rock garden, art after dark paint classes, beading sessions and movie nights. Clients have gone out to other NCPEI events such as the Powwow and an apple picking day. Plans are in the works to visit some PEI haunted houses and of course talks of Christmas plans are already creeping in. Our first Thanksgiving was a huge success with several staff who were not working volunteering to come in and spend the day with residents of the house. Clients did the majority of the cooking for dinner, one of our staff took advantage of the surplus of apples in the house to prepare desert for the day.

The kitchen is definitely the hub of activity for the house and everyone who works there, visits there or lives there is quick to notice this. Clients and staff alike have taken turns cooking their favorite meals, or meals from their homes that may be different to typical Canadian or PEI food.

Clients and staff are excited for the recent purchase of sewing machines, so of course a skirt making session is in the works, and we will soon be attending a sweat at the women's lodge.

Conclusion:

In conclusion I feel confident saying the opening of Geggunas'g House has been an overwhelming success. It is tragic that services like this are still needed today but we are thankful to be here to help all those who need us.

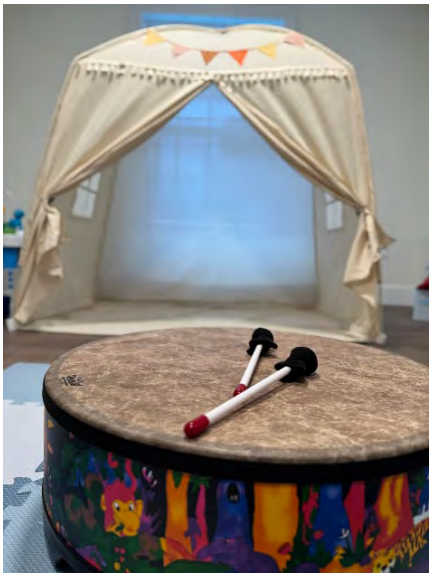
The road has definitely not been completely smooth. There have been plenty of bumps and growing pains. I have certainly learned a lot in these first few months. These key things learned are of course directing the focus of activities for the House over the next year. Items of note:

1. Human Trafficking is present and growing in PEI.
2. Gender based violence rarely exists outside of Mental Health and/or Addition Issues.
3. When it comes to Mental Health and Addiction issues in PEI, what support systems do exist are still very siloed.
4. When supporting survivors of GBV there is no one size fits all, workers have to be comfortable operating in the grey.

Photo Gallary:

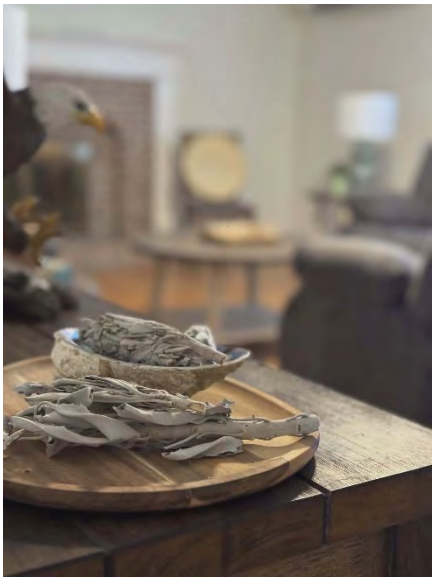


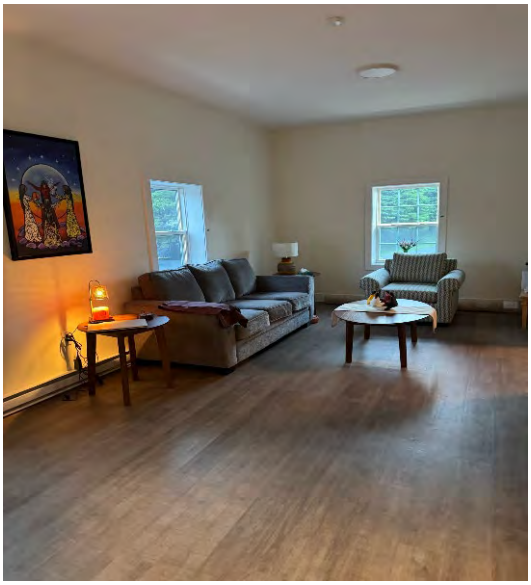




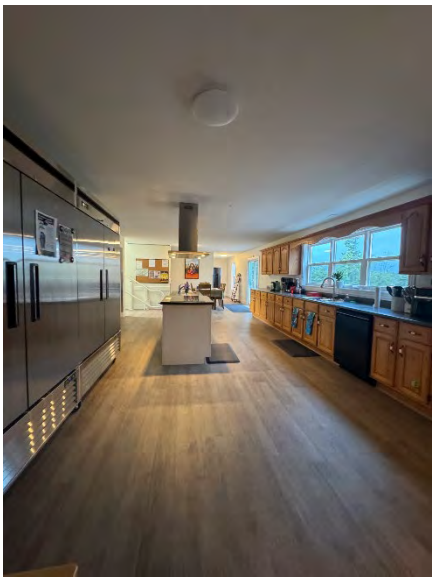

I AM Smart
I AM Brave
I AM Confident
I AM Grateful
I AM Loved
I AM Enough





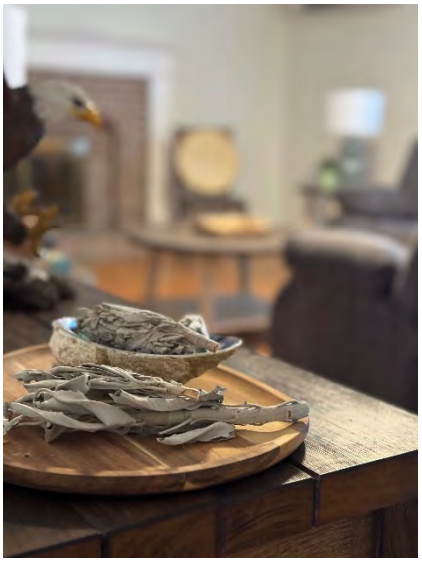







SMILE
HOPE





WINTER STREET SHELTER
Annual General Assembly Report
October 2026 to September 2026

Andrea Schurman
Shelter Manager

Introduction:

Winter Street Men's Emergency Shelter is a 10 bed, 24-hour, low barrier shelter serving Indigenous and non-Indigenous male identifying adults age 18 and older. The shelter provides immediate safety, basic needs, individualized support and connections to health addictions, mental health, cultural and housing services. It is a housing focused approach that helps clients address barriers and work towards appropriate stable housing.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

The goal of Winter Street is to provide a safe, respectful, low barrier and culturally responsive emergency shelter while supporting clients to address immediate needs, reduce barriers and move towards stable housing.

- Provide immediate safety
- Support housing stability and transitions
- Connect clients with health and wellness services
- Provide culturally responsive and inclusive support
- Promote client engagement and personal development
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Maintain a safe and accountable program

Activities and Deliverables:

- Provide 24/7 emergency shelter and low-barrier access
- Complete client intake needs assessments and individualized housing plans
- Conduct daily housing-focused staff meetings
- Assist clients with housing searches, applications and referrals
- Connect clients with health, mental-health, addictions, detox and community services
- Provide transportation assistance and support with appointments
- Provide food, clothing, hygiene supplies and other necessities when available

- Facilitate cultural activities including language, drumming, and crafts
- Support participation in cultural and community events, including the Panmure Island Powwow
- Provide recreational and engagement activities such as Xbox and other social activities
- Maintain partnerships with Indigenous organizations, housing providers, health services and community agencies
- Advocate for clients and identify gaps in local services

Promotion and Outreach:

- Maintaining strong relationships with community organizations, health-care providers, housing agencies, Indigenous organizations, police, addictions and mental-health services, and other community partners.
- Promoting Winter Street as a low-barrier, supportive, housing-focused service for men experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Providing information and referrals to clients regarding available housing, employment, health, addictions, mental-health, and community resources.
- Participating in community events and cultural activities to build positive relationships and reduce stigma surrounding homelessness.
- Highlighting client successes, housing outcomes, cultural programming, and community partnerships to demonstrate the impact of the shelter.
- Advocating for increased awareness of the service gaps in Summerside, particularly the lack of daytime shelter, food, basic-needs supports, detox access, and affordable housing options.
- Supporting opportunities for community members and organizations to contribute through donations of food, clothing, personal-care items, and other essential supplies.
- Continuing to build awareness of Winter Street's role in providing 24/7 safety, stability, connection, and pathways to permanent housing.

Through ongoing promotion and outreach, Winter Street has strengthened its reputation within the community, increased awareness of available supports, and developed stronger partnerships that benefit both clients and the broader community.

During the reporting period, Winter Street supported clients in transitioning to a variety of housing and living arrangements. 21 clients successfully transitioned from the shelter:

- 4 moved into supportive housing
- 2 moved into social housing
- 2 transitioned to other accommodations/transition placements
- 6 secured market rentals
- 7 returned to reside with friends or family

Client Demographics & Characteristics:

- The shelter served primarily Indigenous men, with as many as 10 Indigenous clients staying at one time and never fewer than 5.
- 2 clients identified as gender diverse.
- 1 client was 18 years old, however, the majority of clients were between 25-49 years of age.
- 1 client was over the age of 50.
- veterans accessed the shelter during the reporting period.
- Most clients were from Prince County, with only 2 clients identified as transient/non-local.
- Most clients received social assistance as their primary source of income, while a smaller number were employed.
- Clients presented with a range of complex needs, including housing instability, mental-health and addictions challenges, and barriers to accessing affordable housing and community supports.

Overall outcome: Winter Street demonstrated a strong focus on moving clients beyond emergency shelter toward more stable housing and community-based living arrangements, with 21 clients successfully transitioning to alternative accommodations during the reporting period.

Future Activities:

Team Building & Cultural Learning

Moving forward, Winter Street will place a stronger emphasis on staff team building, cultural learning, and professional development to support a positive, respectful, and collaborative workplace.

Future activities will include:

- Regular team-building activities to strengthen communication, trust, morale, and relationships among staff
- Opportunities for staff to participate in Indigenous cultural learning and awareness activities
- Learning opportunities focused on Indigenous history, traditions, language, cultural protocols, and lived experiences
- Continued participation in cultural activities such as drumming, crafts, language learning, and community cultural events
- Inviting Indigenous community members and cultural knowledge holders to share teachings and experiences with staff where appropriate
- Providing staff with opportunities to reflect on cultural safety, trauma-informed practice, and respectful client engagement

- Creating a workplace culture where staff feel supported, valued, and comfortable learning from one another
- Incorporating cultural learning into ongoing staff development rather than treating it as a one-time training opportunity

Conclusion:

The shelter continues to face significant challenges, including a shortage of affordable housing, limited detox and treatment availability, increasing complex client needs and lack of consistent daytime services in Summerside causing longer shelter stays.

Winter Street delivers 24/7 emergency shelter, individualized client support, housing-focused case management, basic-needs assistance, health and addictions referrals, cultural programming, community engagement and coordinated service planning.

Key deliverables include completed assessments, housing applications and referrals, service connections, cultural activities, documented client outcomes and successful transitions to appropriate housing.

L’nu Fisheries Limited

Presidents Report

Jordan Crane

NCPEI ANNUAL GERNERAL ASSEMBLY

2026

2026 L'nu Fisheries Limited

Presidents Report

Good morning/afternoon Elders, Youth and Members. Before I begin this brief report, I would like to acknowledge and thank the L'nu Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment to the growth of our communal commercial fishing entity, L'nu Fisheries Limited. The L'nu Board consists of myself as President, Lisa Cooper as Vice-President, Wesley Hustler from Zone 1, who was elected to the Board in the spring at the Annual Lnu Fisheries Limited AGM, Dawne Knockwood from Zone 2, and Chris St' Onge from Zone 3. Also, Kenny Tuplin, who sits on the board as a non-member who has extensive knowledge of the commercial shellfish and lobster fisheries and Stephen Clements who is the L'nu fisheries employee representative on the Board who is chosen from other L'nu employees yearly. Decisions this group must make are not always easy but are necessary in moving the business forward and continuing the growth of the company. I would also like to acknowledge John Perry for his hard work as the Marine Fleet assistant, and Amanda Trainer the Lnu fisheries administrative assistant and Ryan Knockwood for his hard work as the Marine Safety Coordinator.

Here is a brief overview of our 2026 Fishing Season

The LFA 24 and LFA 26a lobster fisheries season takes place during May and June each year. L'nu Fisheries has three lobster licenses taking part in the LFA 24 fishery and two licenses taking part in the LFA 26a fishery. Again, we continued with daily internal vessel safety checks every morning before leaving the harbor and ensuring all crew members were not feeling ill and were fit for duty. Lobster prices were up from last year, with a range from $7.50 – $9.25 per pound for Markets and the same per pound for Canners. Our vessels in these two fisheries had a good season with a increase in landing revenue of just over 1.2 million dollars and landing approximately 160,000 pounds of lobster. So, we landed 10,000 pounds less this year but the price per pound increased our overall revenue.

In 2026 members took part in the shellfish fishery for clams and oysters. 11 licenses were issued to Members, and 27 licenses were issued to non-members. Overall participation from members and non-members is low. We have a total of 89 shellfish licenses. Like 2025, we only issued 38 in 2026 so 45% of our licenses were issued, which brought in a revenue of approx. $15,000.00. This is down from last year as most licenses issued were clam licenses instead of Oyster. We lease clam licenses to members for $200.00 per license and 300 to non-members. We lease oyster licenses to members at a rate of 250 per member and 700 per non-member. All lease fees are also charged HST.

LFA 25 lobster fishery took place August through October. L'nu Fisheries has two lobster licenses taking part in the LFA 25 fishery. Again, we continued with daily internal vessel safety checks. Lobster prices were lower this year; Markets and canners were both $8.70 a pound this year. Landings were down this year by approximately 2,000 pounds. Our vessels in these two

fisheries had a landing revenue of just $510,000.00 dollars and landing approximately 58,000 pounds. The overall profit in this fishery suffered this year due to high fuel and bait costs.

In 2026, to date we landed 30 of a possible 33 Bluefin Tuna. This fishery is still active as of the time this report was written. The quality of tuna landed was fair, a lot of fish this year went to the domestic market. Overall tuna caught this year had little to no fat showing which is needed if you are to send fish to the Japan Market. The market conditions in Japan were reasonable if you had a good quality high fat tuna. Overall, our revenue had been increasing each year. This year the market was soft and the fishery brought in revenue of approximately $88,000.00 with 30 of 33 tuna landed which is down from last year. 2025, 29 tuna were landed and $106,000.00 in revenue. 2024, 31 tuna were landed and $113,000.00 in revenue. The domestic market continued to be strong at the beginning of the season but weakened by mid-September this year.

2026 the Native Council and L'nu Fisheries applied again for funding through the DFO Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) Program. We applied again under the Capacity Building component for an administrative assistant for the fishery. This was approved.

In 2024 the NCPEI/Lnu Fisheries applied to Transport Canada under their Indigenous and Local Communities Engagement and Partnership Program to hire a Marine Safety Coordinator. This is a 4-year project. Ryan Knockwood was hired to fill the position, and we are now in year three with our second fishing season behind us. The program has been a success. This position complements the already existing Lnu Fisheries Vessel Workplace Safety Program. The coordinator's role and responsibilities include:

- Safety checks on communal commercial vessels.
- Ensuring fishers have all the up-to-date safety equipment.
- Receiving the daily emailed safety check list.
- Ensuring crews have up to date safety training certificates.
- Conducting safety drills.
- Discussing vessel safety with the Spring/Fall shellfish harvesters.
- Conducting safety discussions with members around vessel safety in the food, social, ceremonial fishery.
- Acting as a liaison with Transport Canada on marine safety matters.

The coordinator also be works closely with the MAPC's EMSA program. Emergency Marine Safety Awareness program. This program is used as a safety tool for tracking our vessels as they leave and enter the harbours each fishing trip.

Again, this year L'nu Fisheries put out a notice to members looking for those interested in joining our fishery and offered hands-on training on each of our lobster boats as well as holland college marine training. We had 3 members apply this year, 2 were trained in the spring and 1 was trained for the fall fishery. Again, this year we will be looking for more trainees so if anyone knows of a member looking to get into the fishery, please let them know to reach out to me in case they don't see the notice when it comes out again in the new year.

This was just a brief overview of some of L’nu Fisheries Limited activities over the 2026 fishing season. A more detailed report will be provided at the upcoming Lnu Fisheries Annual Meeting tentatively scheduled February/March 2027.

In conclusion, through accountable and responsible fisheries practices and the hard work and dedication put in by all those involved in L’nu Fisheries Limited, the Board, the Staff, and our fishers, we continue to be competitive players in the commercial fishery on PEI.

Promoting, Advancing and Managing

Aquatic Resources Access and Share

Jordan Crane

President

NANEGKAM HOUSING CORPORATION
Annual General Assembly Report
November 2025 to October 2026

David Rooney
Housing Manager

Introduction:

Nanegkam Housing Corporation (NHC) exists to provide off reserve housing to Indigenous peoples in urban areas of Prince Edward Island on a rent-geared-to-income basis. We currently own and manage fifty-six housing units made up of twenty-four (24) single dwellings, fourteen (14) duplexes, five (5) townhouses and thirteen (13) apartments. The composition is broken down as follows: three (3) one (1) bedroom units, twenty-five (25) two (2) bedroom units, twenty-seven (27) three (3) bedroom units and one (1) four-bedroom unit. Forty-eight (48) of these units are in Charlottetown, seven (7) are in Summerside and one (1) is in Murray Harbour. Additionally, NHC has been tasked with the management and repairs of six (6) two (2) bedroom units on Turtle Lane consisting of two (2) one (1) bedroom units and four (4) three (3) bedroom units. We have also taken over the management of (11) NICHI units in Charlottetown and Cornwall.

The NHC staff consists of three people: David Rooney; Housing Manager, Merle Chappell, Maintenance Coordinator and Emily Bernard, Finance Manager.

Program Goals/Objectives/Key Responsibilities:

NHC manages two budgets: the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and the Capital Replacement Reserve. The collection of rental payments is the responsibility of NHC. The function of acquiring the contractors, awarding the contract, monitoring of the work and approval of the invoice and payment is the responsibility of NHC.

NHC works closely with CMHC to ensure that the funding arrangements are in place to ensure the viability of the Corporation.

The occupancy of the units to ensure maximum rental income is achieved is also, the responsibility of NHC. There has been a chronic issue with several tenants being chronically late in paying their rent and being in arrears, this has improved in the last year. At present, there are Twenty-six (23) people on our waitlist.

Keeping the Board of Directors informed is achieved by regular quarterly meetings where the status reports are tabled.

Activities and Deliverables:

NHC. Has completed several large renovations including 99 Upper Prince Street and 26 Allen Street, this included full interior and exterior renovations to both properties.

All NHC units are now equipped with heat pumps and power distribution panels have been upgraded to 200AMP services.

Additionally, NHC has carried out several repairs and upgrades to all 56 units. This includes several total washroom renovations, fire escapes, kitchen cabinets, painting, flooring, patios, new roofs, handicap ramps etc.

NHC has completed and received approval for the 2026-2027 operating budget, based on last years actuals and our financial report.

The Capital Reserve Budget for FY 2023-2024. Actual expenditures amounted to $536,555.36. The Capital Reserve Budget for FY 2023-2024 balance is at $1,324,880.15.
this fiscal year. The increased spending is a result of lapsed projects and funding from previous years and the push by NHC management to “get these projects done” by the end of this fiscal year.

There is three (3) vacant unit at the time of writing. There is a plan in place for occupancy.

We are attempting to increase the level of tenant satisfaction by reducing the response time for both normal maintenance calls and by keeping the tenants better informed of when contractors are expected to be on site. The same applies for capital projects.

Promotion and Outreach:

The staff of NHC has put the needs of its tenants at the forefront of our operations and we strive to meet or exceed our tenants’ expectations in all aspects of their tenancy while balancing that with our fiscal responsibilities.
I have been participating in regular monthly staff meetings and quarterly board of director meetings. We assist in the annual Powwow and several other cultural events.
We have attended several meetings in the public forum relating to affordable housing to keep informed about the issues.

Future Activities:

We have continued to work with CMHC on several areas, such as reporting and seeking further funding.

We continue to reduce the amount of outstanding debt as it relates to the tenants paying their "rent on time". We will have been more aggressive in managing this aspect of our program, this has been working very well.

The current plan entails the conversion of 26 Allen Street into a men's shelter. W are currently working with all levels of government to obtain permissions and funding.

The CMHC funding model is moving from an "operating expense" model to a "rent subsidy" model. The full impact of this change is not yet fully understood but will be monitored by NHC.

Conclusion:

We are continuing to reach out to tenants to help find out what their wants and needs are to ensure a quality and safe environment for them to live. We have found more tenants reaching out for maintenance and repairs as many units have not been maintained properly prior to our arrival.

NCPEI Constitution and By-Laws

(Last Amended November 2025)

THE NAME OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE: **THE NATIVE COUNCIL OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.**

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIVE COUNCIL

	SECTION 1. 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.
	SECTION 2. 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.
	SECTION 3. To foster and strengthen Aboriginal languages, cultural identity, traditional practices and pride among Aboriginal peoples of Prince Edward Island.
	SECTION 4. 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.
	SECTION 5. To co-operate with all other Aboriginal organizations whose aims are similar to those of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island;
	SECTION 6. 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 Aboriginal Members of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
	SECTION 7. To assist and give a collective voice to the Mi'kmaq and other Aboriginal persons living off reserve in Prince Edward Island;
	SECTION 8. 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.
	SECTION 9. 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.
	SECTION 10. 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.
	SECTION 11. 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.

ARTICLE NO. I
HEAD OFFICE

Head Office	**SECTION 1.** The head office of the Native Council shall be in Charlottetown, in Queens County, Province of Prince Edward Island.

ARTICLE NO. II
INTERPRETATION

General	**SECTION 1.** In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires: a) "Aboriginal" means the Indigenous people of North America; b) "Act" means the *Companies Act*, 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; c) "Adopted child" means a person who, while a minor, is adopted pursuant to a law relating to adoptions recognized in Canada or pursuant to Aboriginal customs, and includes a person born as a result of assisted reproduction or surrogacy agreement. d) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Native Council; e) "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; **SECTION 2.** 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 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. **SECTION 3.** 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.

ARTICLE NO. III
MEMBERSHIP / CITIZENSHIP

Eligibility for Membership	**SECTION 1**. 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 *Indian Act* of Canada). Further meaning is given below in subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Aboriginal Ancestry	**Subsection 1.1** Aboriginal ancestry means proof that an individual, including an adopted child, 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: (1) A birth, adoption, baptism, marriage or death record issued by a church or government; (2) An official government document such as a census record, a court record (including probated or filed wills) or a land registry document; (3) A written statement of a historian or a registered genealogist; (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.
Self-Identification and participation	**Subsection 1.2.** 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. 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.
Permanent Resident	**Subsection 1.3.** 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.
Form and Information	**SECTION 1.4.** 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.
Classes of membership	**SECTION 2.** There shall be the following membership classes in the Native Council: (1): Full Voting; (2) Youth; and (3) Honourary.
Full Voting	**Subsection 2.1**. 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.
Youth	**Subsection 2.2.** 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.
Honourary	**Subsection 2.3.** 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.
Membership decision	**SECTION 3.** 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. 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.
Membership dispute: appeal	**SECTION 4.** 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. The Board of Directors *may* 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.
Membership removal	**SECTION 5.** The Directors may, from time to time by simple majority vote (50% + 1), review all of the membership files held by the Native Council for the purposes of ensuring the Aboriginal ancestry of its membership. Upon review of any membership files and finding a lack of evidence to substantiate a claim of Aboriginal ancestry, the Directors may vote to remove the named member(s) from the membership list of the Native Council and deny access to any rights or privileges reserved for individuals of Aboriginal ancestry by the Native Council. All of the relevant sections in Article VIII for meetings shall apply with the following changes or modifications: (1) A simple majority (50% + 1) of sitting Directors (see Appendix A for ease of reference) must pass a motion to call for a meeting to remove the named member from the membership list; (2) The notice shall be sent same as specified in Article VIII but the notice shall clearly state that the purpose (or one of the purposes) of the meeting is the

	consideration of the named member's future and whether that member should be removed from the membership list of the Native Council and the notice period shall be ninety days. The notice shall be updated with the date, time, and place of the meeting by the President & Chief within seven days of the meeting; (3) The named member shall be provided with a copy of the notice and an opportunity to submit a letter or written submissions indicating why he or she believes he or she should remain as a member; (4) The quorum requirement shall be a ¾ (75%) of the sitting Directors (see Appendix A for ease of reference); and (5) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of ¾ (75%) of those present (see Appendix A for ease of reference).
Membership removal: appeal	**SECTION 6.** Any individual facing removal of his or her name from the membership list of the Native Council shall have fifteen days from the date the notice of the board decision was sent to the individual to submit a request for appeal to the President & Chief. A request for appeal may be submitted by one immediate family member on behalf of other affected immediate family members ("immediate family members" shall be as defined in the Appeals Committee Terms of Reference). Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the President and Chief shall begin the process to convene an appeal committee to meet within six months. Until the appeal process has concluded, the named member shall not have any voting rights within the Native Council and may have other restrictions placed on their membership as determined by the Directors. The appeal committee shall consist of at least two members and one alternate elected from each Zone who have been full voting members of Aboriginal ancestry, are not a Director of the Native Council, and do not share an Aboriginal family line in common. The appeal committee shall be presented with the same information as was made available to the Board of Directors for their decision; no new evidence may be presented. A ¾ (75%) majority vote of the appeal committee shall be required to overturn the original decision of the Directors. The composition, qualifications, election process, terms of office, and other rules of procedures for the appeal committee shall be determined by the Appeal Committee Terms of Reference as adopted by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Directors from time to time (see Appendix A for ease of reference).
Withdrawal	**SECTION 7.** 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.

ARTICLE NO. IV

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 1.** The Native Council shall hold an annual meeting, to be known as the Annual General Assembly, once in every fiscal 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 the reports from the Board of Directors, review of any report from program managers and/or staff, review of the audited financial statements, discussing and adopting resolutions, and so forth.
Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings	**SECTION 2.** Each zone along with the Youth Council and the Elder Council shall hold a meeting prior to the Annual General Assembly as set out in Article 6 Section 3 along with Article 7 Section 4.
Notice of Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 3.** 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 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 Annual General Assembly; separate notice shall not be necessary. The Native Council may also post a notice of the Annual General Assembly on its website and on its social media pages and do such other things to give notice of meetings.
Members to Provide Contact Details	**SECTION 4.** 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.
Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest	**SECTION 5.** 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.
Quorum	**SECTION 6.** A quorum for any Annual General Assembly of the Native Council shall be a simple majority (50% +1) of the voting delegates 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.

Passing	**SECTION 7.** No matter shall be carried without the affirmative vote of a simple majority (50% + 1) of those present and eligible to vote. Each voting delegate shall have only one vote. For further certainty and ease of reference, see Appendix A.
Voting for President Position	**SECTION 8.** If a vote is taken for the position of President and Chief (if the position is vacant), the voting shall be by secret ballot.
Chairpersons	**SECTION 9.** 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.
No Proxy	**SECTION 10.** 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.
Electronic Meeting	**SECTION 11.** 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 ¾ (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.

ARTICLE NO. V

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Special General Assembly	**SECTION 1.** 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.
President and Chief Vacancy	**SECTION 2.** 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.

Zone Meetings and Youth and Elder Meetings	**SECTION 3.** 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.
Notice of Special General Assembly	**SECTION 4.** 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.
Same provisions as Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 5.** 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.

ARTICLE NO. VI

ZONES, ZONE MEETINGS, ZONE DELEGATES

Three zones	**SECTION 1.** 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.
Two Board members for each Zone	**SECTION 2.** 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.
Annual Zone Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 3.** 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.
Zone Meetings Prior to Special Assembly	**SECTION 4.** 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.
Notice of Meeting Method	**SECTION 5.** 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. 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. The Native Council *may* 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.
Notice of Meeting Contents	**SECTION 6.** 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.
Member to Provide Contact Information and Keep up to Date	**SECTION 7.** 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.
Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest	**SECTION 8.** 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.
Voting for Board Members	**SECTION 9.** 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.
Vacancy on Board	**SECTION 10.** If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors for a zone, an election shall be called to fill the vacancy at the next meeting of that zone. A director that is elected at a zone meeting that is not the annual zone meeting shall only serve until the next annual zone meeting. Proper procedures for notice of an election and declaring intent to run shall be followed, insofar as such procedures can be conducted in time between the vacancy occurring and the next zone meeting. 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.
No Proxy	**SECTION 11.** 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.
Director to Declare Intention to Run	**SECTION 12.** 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 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.
Twenty Voting Delegates	**SECTION 13.** 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.
Directors to Provide List	**SECTION 14.** 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.
Shortfall of Delegates	**SECTION 15.** 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. 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.
Shortfall at Assembly	**SECTION 16.** 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 zones, the alternative voting delegates from each other zone to be chosen randomly from the other zones. If a shortfall still exists, the voting shall proceed; no names shall be taken from the floor.
Directors to Hold Other Meetings	**SECTION 17.** 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. Zone meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Zone Guidelines, as approved by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Directors from time to time and made available on the Native Council website. 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.
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Delegates	**SECTION 18.** The President & Chief shall be responsible for selecting the delegates and alternates for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly. The President & Chief shall first select delegates and alternates from the Directors in office before selecting other names. 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 & Chief may also post on the Native Council website and social media pages to gather additional names. 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 & Chief shall have authority to select other names to fill any vacancies as needed to ensure a full delegation is able to participate.
Electronic Meeting	**SECTION 19.** 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 ¾ (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.

ARTICLE NO. VII
Elders and Youth

Elder Council and Youth Council	**SECTION 1.** 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.
Youth Council	**SECTION 2.** 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.
Elder Council	**SECTION 3.** All members aged fifty-five years of age and over shall be automatically part of the Elder Council.
Meetings Prior to Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 4.** Both the Youth and Elder Councils 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.
Meetings Prior to Special General Assembly	**SECTION 5.** Both the Youth and Elder Councils 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.
Notice of Meeting - Method	**SECTION 6.** 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. 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. The Native Council *may* 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.
Notice of Meeting - Contents	**SECTION 7.** 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.
Member to Provide Contact Information and Keep up to Date	**SECTION 8.** 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.
Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest	**SECTION 9.** 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.
Voting for Board Members	**SECTION 10.** At the meeting of the Youth Council and of the Elder Council, the members shall cast votes by secret ballot for the Director who will represent them, if there is a vacancy.
Vacancy on Board	**SECTION 11.** If a vacancy occurs on the Board for the Youth or Elder Councils, an election shall be called to fill the vacancy at the next meeting of that council. A director that is elected at a council meeting that is not the annual council meeting shall only serve until the next annual council meeting. Proper procedures for notice of an election and declaring intent to run shall be followed, insofar as such procedures can be conducted in time between the vacancy occurring and the next council meeting. 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.
No Proxy	**SECTION 12.** 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.
Director to Declare Intention to Run	**SECTION 13.** 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.
Own Rules/By-laws; Cannot Conflict with these	**SECTION 14.** The Youth and Elder Councils 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.

Electronic Meeting	**SECTION 15.** A Youth Council or Elder Council annual 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 ¾ (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.

ARTICLE NO. VIII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors	**SECTION 1.** 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.
Eligibility	**SECTION 2.** 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; (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; and (f) Otherwise eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws. Additional non-binding considerations: Members voting for a Director or the President and Chief should also consider the following: (1) Whether the proposed director is aware and is prepared to accept the fiduciary duty and responsibility of a corporate director of the Native Council; (2) Whether the proposed director has any education, such as university or college degrees or diplomas, or any valuable working experience; (3) Whether the proposed director is capable of understanding the important role they will have; (4) Whether the proposed director has any valuable skills or perspectives which may be of value to the Native Council; (5) Whether the proposed director is a team player and has interpersonal skills; (6) Whether the proposed director has a vision for the Native Council;

	(7) 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; (8) Whether the proposed director has strong ties to the community; (9) Whether the proposed director possesses a passion for the Native Council; (10) Whether the proposed director has the capacity to serve and attend meetings; (11) 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; (12) 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; (13) And such other factors as may be important.
Automatically Ceases to be Director	**SECTION 3.** Any director automatically ceases to be a director if they are: (a) An individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada or by two medical practitioners; (b) An individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the *Bankruptcy Act* of Canada as amended and successor statutes; (c) They die; (d) They resign as further set out below; (e) They are absent from four consecutive meetings of the Board; (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. 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.
Chief both Officer and Director	**SECTION 4.** The President and Chief shall serve as both an Officer and Director of the Native Council.
Board Meetings	**SECTION 5.** 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 fiscal year.
Notice and Methods and Times	**SECTION 6.** 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. 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.

Notice of Meeting - Contents	**SECTION 7**. 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.
Director to Provide Contact Information	**SECTION 8.** 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.
Deemed Notice on Attendance Unless Protest	**SECTION 9.** 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.
Resolution Without Meeting	**SECTION 10.** 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. 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. This provision shall not apply with regard to meetings for the removal or suspension of a director, the appointment or reinstatement of a director, or the amendment or change in any way of the Constitution and By-laws.
Meeting by Conference Telephone and Other Methods	**SECTION 11.** 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.
Quorum	**SECTION 12.** 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.
Passing	**SECTION 13.** 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, see Appendix A.
Presumed Assent	**SECTION 14.** 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.

No Proxy	**SECTION 15:** A Director shall not vote or attend by proxy; Directors may not delegate their powers in accordance with law.
Compensation	**SECTION 16.** 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.
No Loan	**SECTION 17.** 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 Polices of the Native Council.
Not Eligible to Apply for Positions	**SECTION 18.** 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.
Resignation	**SECTION 19.** 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.
Removal of Director	**SECTION 20.** The Board may remove a Director (including the President and Chief) who: a) ceases to qualify as a director due to mental incompetency or bankruptcy or death as further provided above in this Article; b) ceases to qualify as a director due to resignation as further provided above in this Article; c) 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); d) suffers from an illness or disease rendering the Director incapable of exercising the duties of a Director; e) 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; f) is incompetent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular); g) is negligent in his or her duties (the Chief in particular); or h) 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).

	All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications: (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; (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; (3) The quorum requirement shall be a ¾ (75%) of the sitting Directors (see Appendix A for ease of reference); and (4) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of ¾ (75%) of those present (see Appendix A for ease of reference).
Suspension of Director	**SECTION 21.** 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. 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.
Ineligible to Run	**SECTION 22.** 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.
Vacancy on Board	**SECTION 23.** In the event of any vacancy on the Board, the Directors then in office have the power to fill any vacancy by appointment. The Directors shall first consider providing the opportunity at the next zone or council meeting for a Director to be elected before filling a vacancy. The Director so appointed shall hold office until the next applicable annual meeting just prior to the Annual General Assembly. All of the relevant sections in this article for meetings above shall apply with the following changes or modifications: (1) A director(s) cannot be removed and a new director(s) appointed at the same meeting; (2) The President and Chief or any two other directors may together call the meeting and set the time and place of the meeting;

	(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; (4) The quorum requirement shall be a ¾ (75%) (see Appendix A for ease of reference) of the sitting Directors; (5) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of ¾ (75%) (see Appendix A for ease of reference) of those present; and (6) 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.
General Conduct of Meetings	**SECTION 24.** 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 *Companies Act* (PEI) as amended and successor statutes and such other statutes and principles of law that may supercede Robert's Rules of Order.
Director Term	**SECTION 25.** 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.

ARTICLE NO. IX

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Officers	**SECTION 1.** There shall be one executive officer of the Native Council: a President and Chief.
Both Officer and Director	**SECTION 2.** 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.

Term if Elected at Annual General Assembly	**SECTION 3.** If the President and Chief is elected at an Annual General Assembly, the President and Chief shall serve until the Annual General Assembly of 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.
Election at Special General Assembly	**SECTION 4.** 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.
Overall Responsibility	**SECTION 5.** 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.
Removal from Office	**SECTION 6.** 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.
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Director	**SECTION 7.** 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 may 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.
Declare Intention	**SECTION 8.** 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 thirty 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. All individuals who have submitted their intention to run shall be invited to the zone and council meetings prior to the Annual General Assembly or Special General Assembly to introduce themselves.

ARTICLE X
Local Associations

Formation and Recognition	**SECTION 1.** 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.
Letter	**SECTION 2.** 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.
Own Rules	**SECTION 3.** 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 *Companies Act* (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.
Purpose	**SECTION 4.** 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

Instruments and Binding Effect	**SECTION 1.** 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: a) the President & Chief; b) two (2) board members selected by the majority (50% + 1) of the Board of Directors from time to time as signing authorities.
Chief Remuneration	**SECTION 2.** 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.
Borrowing and Banking	**SECTION 3.** 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.
Fiscal Year	**SECTION 4.** The fiscal year of the Council shall end on the 31st day of March in each and every year.

Audit and Accountant	**SECTION 5.** 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.
Legal Counsel	**SECTION 6.** The Board of Directors, from time to time, shall appoint legal counsel on behalf of the Council by a simple majority (50% +1) vote.

ARTICLE NO. XII

REPEAL AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

	SECTION 1. 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.
	SECTION 2. 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 meeting is the consideration of whether the bylaws should be modified and the notice period shall be seven days; (3) The quorum requirement shall be a ¾ (75%) (see Appendix A for ease of reference) of the sitting Directors; and (4) The vote shall not pass or be carried without the affirmative vote of ¾ (75%) (see Appendix A for ease of reference) of those present.

ARTICLE NO. XIII
WINDING UP DISTRIBUTION

Winding up Distribution	**SECTION 1:** 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.

APPENDIX "A": EASE OF REFERENCE FOR ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER NUMBERS

Sitting Directors / Directors Present	Number needed for meeting / To Pass by Simple Majority	Number needed for meeting / To Pass by 75% Majority
9	5	7
8	5	6
7	4	6
6	4	5

General Assembly Delegates	Number needed for Simple Majority (50% +1) Quorum / To Pass
60	31
59	30
58	30
57	29

ZONE GUIDELINES

Revised October 2, 2026

Approved by the Board of Directors
October 3, 2026

Disclaimer

These Zone Guidelines are meant to provide guidance and consistency to Zone Directors in the process and details of conducting Zone meetings. These Zone Guidelines will make reference to sections of NCPEI's By-Laws where applicable. Between any inconsistency in this document and the NCPEI By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order, or other Canadian laws, the latter shall take precedence.

[Article VI, Section 17] "Zone meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Zone Guidelines, as approved by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Directors from time to time and made available on the Native Council website."

Purpose of Zone Meetings

In general, Zone meetings are held for the purpose of discussing the political nature and future of the Native Council. This includes topics relating to Board of Director meetings, discussion items at General Assemblies, the financial position of NCPEI, desired amendments to the NCPEI By-Laws, etc.

In contrast, quarterly Townhall meetings are hosted by the President & Chief to discuss the programs, services, policies, and external advocacy of the Native Council. Likewise, Local meetings are hosted by Local Presidents as needed for entertainment and cultural purposes. It is encouraged that discussions meant for Townhall or Local meetings are not discussed at Zone meetings, and vice versa. Some concerns brought forward by members at Zone meetings are better addressed to NCPEI head office.

Planning a Zone Meeting

Zone Directors are required to hold a minimum of four Zone meetings annually [Article VI, Section 17]. Zone Directors are encouraged to hold Zone meetings in the week(s) prior to Board of Directors meeting, rather than the week(s) after a Board of Directors meeting. NCPEI head office shall provide assistance and coordination support for Zone Directors and encourage different Zones to coordinate their meeting times.

Zone Directors can begin to schedule a Zone meeting by determining an agenda, date, time, and place in agreement with their other Zone Director. Zone Directors must send their notice of intent to hold a Zone meeting, including details, to the NCPEI head office preferably seven days in advance of the notice deadline (see below) so that the notices can be prepared and sent to all respective Zone members in time. Zone meeting notice deadline and limitations include:

- Notices must be mailed out and received by members twenty days in advance of a Zone meeting [Article VI, Section 5] or to a minimum of seven days with Board approval [Article VI, Section 17];
- An annual Zone meeting must be called twenty days ahead of an NCPEI AGA [Article VI, Section 3] or a regular Zone meeting called ten days ahead of an NCPEI Special General Assembly [Article VI, Section 4]; and
- Zone meetings must be conducted at an in-person location unless a 75% majority of the Board of Directors approve for an electronic meeting [Article VI, Section 19];

Zone meetings that must be postponed for unforeseen circumstances (e.g. storm dates) can be arranged with less than seven days notice, but preferably more than 24 hours notice, so long as it is agreed by the Zone Directors and communicated on NCPEI social media platforms.

Zone Meeting Agenda

Zone Directors should come prepared for each Zone meeting with an agenda covering the following items:

- Welcoming and opening prayer;
- Brief report (preferably written) of the agenda items discussed at the last Board meeting and potential agenda items for the next Board meeting;
- Discussion regarding the quarterly Zone Directors' report, President & Chief report, financial reports, program reports, and other such reports made available to the Zone Directors and with a copy brought to the Zone meeting for the Zone Director to reference;
- Member's questions, comments, and/or concerns regarding new discussion items to bring to the next Board of Directors meeting;
- Necessary agenda items, such as elections or delegate selection; and
- Summarizing any 'next steps' from the meeting and closing prayer.

Zone members in attendance may, by formality, put forward a motion to approve the Zone meeting agenda and add other discussion items. The Zone Directors shall chair all Zone meetings [Article VI, Section 17], though they also have discretion to appoint another person to temporarily chair some agenda items.

Minutes and Attendance

Zone Directors are responsible for ensuring that minutes are taken for a Zone meeting and provided to NCPEI head office within two weeks of the Zone meeting [Article VI, Section 17]. The minutes shall reflect the discussion that takes place at the Zone meeting and the individuals who participated in those discussions. The minutes shall also include a complete list of attendees, which shall be determined by the following process:

- Zone Directors shall provide a sign-in sheet at each Zone meeting and remind attendees to sign the sheet;
- The sign-in sheet shall not be signed by other individuals on another person's behalf, especially for absent attendees (e.g., even for medical or work purposes);
- Individuals who attend an in-person Zone meeting by electronic means (i.e. "call-ins") shall have their name removed from the sign-in sheet;
- Individuals who attend in-person for less than ½ (50%) of a meeting's stated duration shall have their name removed from the sign-in sheet;
- The Zone Director shall make edits to the sign-in sheet (with their signature) to ensure compliance to these rules.

Upon receipt of draft Zone meeting minutes, NCPEI head office shall edit Zone meeting minutes to ensure consistency of document formatting and content. Zone meeting minutes are considered in draft until they are automatically approved at the next Zone meeting if no objections are raised. Sign-in sheets and minutes are available for review by NCPEI membership at the Zone Directors' discretion.

The sign-in sheets are used in determining priority selection of delegates at NCPEI AGAs. With respect to the count of Zone meetings attended, the following additional considerations are used:

- The list of meetings attended shall only count for officially called Zone meetings with proper notice. The Zone Directors or other Zone members may choose to host other 'Community Meetings of the Zone' that do not count towards the number of meetings attended;
- Zone members are only eligible to vote in the Zone meeting for the Zone in which they normally reside [Article VI, Section 3]. Zone members interested in attending Zone meetings in another Zone are entitled to attend, but shall not have the right to vote;
- If a member attends multiple Zone meetings within a quarter, whether in their own Zone or in other Zones, attendance at multiple meetings within the same quarter shall only be counted once;
- The sign-in sheets shall be the definitive proof of attendance. Names can only be added retroactively to approved sign-in sheets if the individual is listed in the minutes as part of a discussion or if a difficult-to-read signature needs clarification. It is ultimately each attendee's own responsibility to sign the sign-in sheet and to provide their most recent contact information.

The sign-in sheet shall be available to be signed by other guests and prospective members. However, the attendance of these individuals shall not count towards the number of meetings attended.

Voting and Quorum

Only full voting members who reside in that Zone may vote [Article VI, Section 3]. Only members who are physically present may vote; there shall be no proxy voting [Article VI, Section 11]. All motions of the Zone require a 50% + 1 majority (a whole number greater than half) to pass. For ease of reference [By-Laws Appendix A]: if 10 or 11 votes are cast, the necessary votes in favour must be 6 in both cases.

There is no minimum quorum necessary for a Zone meeting, so long as proper notice has been made. Quorum for the remainder of the meeting shall be determined as half of the voting members present at the start of the meeting. If half of the voting members leave a Zone meeting, the meeting is deemed to not have quorum and no further business may arise from that Zone meeting.

Annual Zone Meetings

Annual Zone meetings must be held a minimum of twenty days prior to the date of the NCPEI AGA [Article VI, Section 3]. These annual Zone meetings must include agenda items for the election of any vacant Zone Director positions, the selection of AGA delegates and alternates, and discussing business that may arise at the AGA.

Election of Zone Directors

Zone Directors are elected for a term of three years [Article VII, Section 25]. The term of office begins and ends at the close of the Zone meeting.

Intent to run for Zone Directors, including a biography, must be received by the NCPEI head office seven days in advance of the annual Zone meeting [Article VI, Section 12].

If a vacancy occurs in a Zone director position throughout the year, an interim Zone Director can be elected at the next Zone meeting [Article VI, Section 10] or be appointed by a Board motion [Article VIII, Section 23]. Interim Zone directors shall only serve until the next annual Zone meeting [Article VI, Section 10].

At the Zone meeting, the election process shall be held with respect to Robert's Rules of Orders, summarized as follows:

1. Only candidates who have followed the proper process for declaring intent to run shall be eligible to be placed on the first ballot [Article VI, Section 12] and shall have their names read aloud;
2. Eligible candidates will need to be nominated and seconded by voting members in attendance and will need to verbally confirm their nomination;
    a. Candidates who do not receive a nominator and seconder, or who are unable to verbally confirm their intent to run at the time of nomination, are removed from the ballot.
3. Each of the nominated candidates shall be provided a brief opportunity for a speech, followed by a shared Question & Answer period for all candidates.
    a. The Chair shall enact any time restrictions necessary to conduct the meeting in time.
4. Each candidate shall be given the opportunity to appoint a scrutineer, if they so choose. A scrutineer need not be a member of NCPEI. The scrutineers, alongside a staff member appointed by NCPEI, shall oversee the process and fairness of all voting.
5. A secret ballot voting process must occur, even if there are the same or fewer candidates running than vacancies available [Article VI, Section 12].
    a. Votes must be cast by secret ballot [Article VI, Section 9]
    b. Scrutineers and candidates are allowed to vote, unless they are not eligible voters (see Voting and Quorum section above)
    c. The scrutineers and appointed staff shall jointly resolve any issues or circumstances that may arise during voting, such as ballot mistakes and accommodations for disabilities
6. Voting shall continue until a candidate has received 50% + 1 (a whole number greater than half) of the votes cast [Article VI, Section 12]. For ease of reference: if 10 or 11 votes are cast, the necessary votes in favour of one candidate must be 6 in both cases.
    a. The first time that a candidate does not receive 50% + 1 of votes cast, other names may be taken from the floor and added to the ballot [Article VI, Section 12].
    b. Each time that there are three or more candidates on the ballot and a candidate does not receive 50% + 1 of votes cast, including the first time, the candidate with the fewest votes cast in their favour is removed from the ballot.

c. If there are two vacancies, each vacancy requires its own election. All names that had once been placed on the first ballot, including any names taken from the floor, are automatically placed on the second ballot. No new names may be taken from the floor.

7. The successful candidate(s) are typically given a brief opportunity for a speech.
8. A motion to destroy ballots must be taken from the floor. If passed, the ballots are delivered to the appointed NCPEI staff member overseeing the election for later destruction and the scrutineers are informed to not discuss the number of votes cast for any candidates.
    a. If the motion is defeated, NCPEI shall keep ballots at head office for one year. The number of votes cast for each candidate may or may not be revealed based on Zone discussion.

Selecting Delegates and Alternates for NCPEI's AGA

The NCPEI AGA delegate list will consist of twenty delegates and five alternates from each Zone [Article VI, Section 13]. All Directors, including the President & Chief, Youth Director, and Elder Director, are automatically selected as delegates for the Zone in which they reside [Article VI, Section 13]. If an election for a Zone Director occurs at the same meeting, the election must occur prior to the selection of delegates.

> Resolution 2021-03. Be it resolved that potential delegates for the AGAs be picked first from the members who have attended either zone or town hall meetings in the year prior, excluding the one where delegates actually get picked.
> Resolution 2023-06: 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.;

The required remaining delegates and alternates are selected based on the number of Zone and Townhall meetings they have attended since the last AGA, excluding the current meeting for selecting delegates. See the section on Minutes and Attendance for details on counting meetings attended. A list of Zone members with their number of meetings attended ("meeting list") shall be prepared by NCPEI head office and provided to each Zone Director prior to the Zone meeting for delegate selection. The process for selecting delegates shall then proceed as follows:

1. All Directors residing in that Zone are first added as automatic delegates;
2. The meeting list shall be read, beginning with those who have attended the most meetings. Each Zone member whose name is read off must either: 1) be physically present and give verbal confirmation that they wish to be a delegate, or 2) have given prior written confirmation to their Zone Director that they wish to be a delegate.
3. Names continue to be read off until the remaining number of delegates is less than the number of members who have attended the same number of meetings on the meeting list (i.e., three members but only two delegate spots). In this case, each candidate must confirm their wish to be a delegate as previous but the names are selected at random (i.e., ballots placed in a box and drawn) to fill the delegate list in order of selection.

4. After the list of twenty delegates is selected, the next five names selected following the above process shall be included as alternates. The order of names for alternates is important and shall be recorded on the delegate list.
5. If the membership list has been fully read and there are delegate and alternate spots remaining, other eligible names may be taken from the floor so long as they can provide verbal confirmation or prior written confirmation of their intent to be a delegate.
6. After all delegates and alternates available at the meeting have been added to the delegate list, the list shall be read aloud and confirmed by all members present (by consensus or by vote). After the list is confirmed, the list shall no longer be eligible for any changes by late arrivals, omissions, mistakes, or otherwise. The sole exception is a prior written request to be a delegate that was overlooked by the Zone Directors.
7. If there remains a shortfall of delegates and alternates by the end of the process, the Zone Directors may choose to have the NCPEI head office make a social media post asking for other names from the Zone [Article VI, Section 15]. Names shall be added to the delegate list on a first-come basis and shall continue until a full delegate list for the Zone is confirmed. If the Zone Directors do not provide this permission, it shall not be undertaken by NCPEI head office.

Zone Directors shall submit the delegate list to the NCPEI head office at least ten days prior to the AGA [Article VI, Section 14]. The Zone Directors shall not alter the delegate list after the Zone meeting, unless they can provide evidence of a written request to be a delegate was received prior to or during the Zone meeting. Once the delegate list is provided to the NCPEI head office, the copy held and managed by the NCPEI head office is deemed the true and definitive copy.

NCPEI head office shall contact each delegate to confirm their attendance and other AGA logistics. Any delegate who cannot be contacted within a reasonable period prior to the AGA or who is unable to confirm their attendance at the AGA may have their names moved to the bottom of the list, below all other potential names. Delegates who later confirm that they would be able to attend may or may not have priority over other alternates who have been contacted first.

Notwithstanding the above, NCPEI head office reserves the rights to make any and all other adjustments to the delegate list allowed by the By-Laws to ensure a maximum delegate count at the AGA.

Selecting Delegates and Alternates for the CAP AGA

The date and number of delegates for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples' (CAP) AGA varies from year to year. All Board of Directors have priority selection as delegates [Article VI, Section 18], plus a Whip (delegate coordinator) selected by the President & Chief.

At the Zone meeting prior to the CAP AGA, names of alternates may be taken from Aboriginal members in attendance or from those who have provided written consent to their Zone Director prior to the meeting. There is no maximum list of alternates; all interested members shall have their names added to the list. Names received from previous years may continue to be listed in future years automatically.

Zone Directors unable to attend the CAP AGA shall be asked to designate an alternate from the names listed for their Zone. Any other vacancies in the delegate list caused by the changing number of delegates

allowed by each Province or by Directors not designating an alternate shall be selected at random by NCPEI head office, alternating between Zones.

Zone Meeting Conduct

NCPEI is committed to ensuring a safe environment at all offices, events, and meetings. Zone Directors must chair Zone meetings in a way that respects the mental and physical well-being of all attendees. All attendees of Zone meetings must commit to promoting a positive, safe environment for others.

Zone Directors and/or chairs shall be empowered to ask any individual at a Zone meeting to leave the meeting if they present as a possible source of physical or mental harm to other individuals or possessions at the meeting. If a situation escalates further, the Zone Directors and/or chairs shall be empowered to call the meeting to a close and take further actions to ensure attendees may remain safe.

Any individuals found to have caused or give indications that they will cause an unsafe environment at any NCPEI office, event, or meeting shall be subject to being forbidden from future attendance by vote of the Board of Directors, until such time that the Board of Directors deem the individual to have reflected upon their actions. Notwithstanding, the President & Chief and Board of Directors reserve the right to pursue other legal actions against individuals for harms committed at NCPEI offices, events, and meetings.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Resolution #2024-13: Operational Management of NCPEI

Whereas the Constitution and By-Laws currently states in Article IX Section 5: Overall Responsibility that the President and Chief shall be responsible and control all day-to-day management and the business and affairs and operations of the Native Council.

And whereas all programs of NCPEI are run by individual staff who are hired to be responsible for the overall management of a program.

And whereas the President and Chief having control of the overall management, business, affairs, and operation of all programs can cause bias and undue stress for individuals who are automatically controlled for fear of job loss, retribution, etc.

And whereas the operational control should be at the discretion of the program coordinators with the human resources officer to avoid bias and influence of President.

Be it resolved that Article 9 Section 5 have the words and control removed from the section so it could be written as shall be responsible for only.

Moved by: Parker Larkin
Seconded by: Danielle Moore Rayner

Overall Responsibility	**ARTICLE IX, SECTION 5.** The President and Chief of the Council shall be its chief executive officer and as such shall be responsible for 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.

Note: This is only a wording change in the By-Laws to address colonial language, it does not change the authority of the President & Chief for day-to-day management.

Resolution #2024-15: Board of Directors Documented Proof of Indigenous Ancestry

Whereas NCPEI claims transparency to its members at town halls, AGA's, etc.

And whereas under the new membership rules a member must have proof of Aboriginal ancestry from a certified level 2 genealogist (i.e. William Glenn);

And whereas there have been questions regarding the Aboriginal ancestry of a board of directors;

And whereas a member was prevented from sitting on the board after a zone meeting election due to unverified Aboriginal ancestry;

Be it resolved that all current and future board members must have proof of Aboriginal ancestry from a certified level 2 genealogist to avoid any uncertainty among the membership.

Moved by: Lori Sanderson
Seconded by: Louanne Gavin

General	**ARTICLE II, SECTION 1.** In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires: a) "Aboriginal" means the Indigenous people of North America; b) "Act" means the *Companies Act*, 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; c) "Adopted child" means a person who, while a minor, is adopted pursuant to a law relating to adoptions recognized in Canada or pursuant to Aboriginal customs, and includes a person born as a result of assisted reproduction or surrogacy agreement. d) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Native Council; e) "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; f) "Historian or registered genealogist" means a historian or genealogist having received accreditation from a body recognized by the Board;
Aboriginal Ancestry	**ARTICLE III, SUBSECTION 1.1** [No changes, included for reference.] (3) A written statement of a historian or a registered genealogist;

Eligibility	**ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 2.** 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 of 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; (d) An individual who has been a full voting member for at least one year prior to the date of their election; (e) An individual who must be of Aboriginal ancestry as verified by a written statement of a historian or registered genealogist; and (f) Otherwise eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws. Additional non-binding considerations… [Omitted to reduce printing.]

Note: This is not retroactive to current directors, only those elected in the future.

Resolution #2025-04 – Zone/Board of Directors Must Reside in Their Zone

WHEREAS Zones 1, 2 and 3 must hold elections to vote for vacancies on the NCPEI Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS community members from one zone can submit Intent to Run in another zone and potentially be elected;

AND WHEREAS the current Constitution and By-Laws does not provide guidance to this issue;

BE IT RESOLVED that any community members submitting Intent to Run must reside in the zone they are running in;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any elected Zone/Board of Director must reside in the zone they are elected to.

Moved by: Mary Lynda Mills
Seconded by: Janice Bergeron

General	**ARTICLE II, SECTION 1.** In this Constitution and Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires: g) "Aboriginal" means the Indigenous people of North America; h) "Act" means the *Companies Act*, 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; i) "Adopted child" means a person who, while a minor, is adopted pursuant to a law relating to adoptions recognized in Canada or pursuant to Aboriginal customs, and includes a person born as a result of assisted reproduction or surrogacy agreement. j) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Native Council; k) "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; l) "Normally reside" shall be as determined by the "address" in which they are "ordinarily resident" under the *PEI Election Act*, RSPEI 1988, Cap. E-1.1, as amended, from time to time and at any time, and any other Act enacted in substitution or replaced of such Act;
Annual Zone Meetings Prior	**ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3.** [No changes, included for reference.] …All voting members of the Native Council shall be eligible to vote in the zone in which they normally reside.

Eligibility	**ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 2.** 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 of 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; (d) An individual has been a full voting member for at least one year prior to the date of their election; (e) An individual who must be of Aboriginal ancestry; (f) In the case of a zone director, an individual who is elected to serve the zone in which they normally reside; and (g) Otherwise eligible under the provisions herein in this Constitution and By-laws. Additional non-binding considerations… [Omitted to reduce printing.]
Automatically Ceases to be Director	**ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 3.** Any director automatically ceases to be a director if they are: (a) An individual who has been found mentally incompetent by any court in Canada or by two medical practitioners; (b) An individual who has the status of bankrupt (undischarged) as defined in the Bankruptcy Act of Canada as amended and successor statutes; (c) They die; (d) They resign as further set out below; (e) They are absent from four consecutive meetings of the Board; (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; (g) In the case of a zone director, the individual ceases to normally reside in the zone they were elected to serve. 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.

Resolution #2024-14: Universal Suffrage

Whereas the NCPEI paid for a study regarding universal suffrage;

And whereas the report stated that it would be a good model for the NCPEI to follow;

And whereas the full membership of the NCPEI should have a voice in electing their president of the organization.

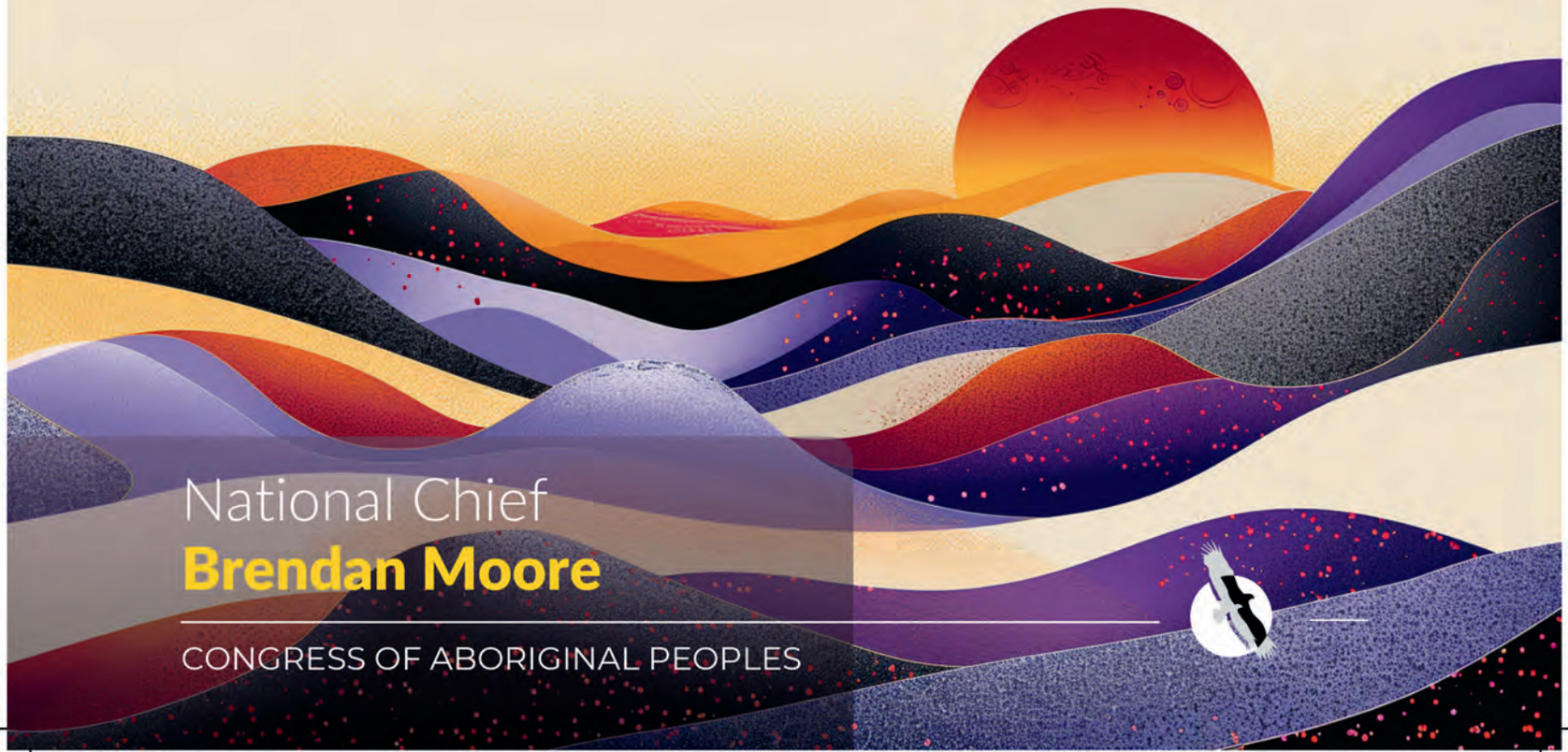
Be it resolved that the NCPEI move towards universal suffrage for future elections for President and Chief (every 4 years). Every member should have a voice in electing their leader.

Mover from floor: Kayla Larkin
Seconder from floor: Dana Wakelin

[Amendment was still in review by legal counsel at time of AGA kit printing. A separate handout will be provided in AGA bags to address this resolution.]

NATIONAL CHIEF REPORT

2026



National Chief
Brendan Moore

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Acknowledgement

I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered on the unceded and unsurrendered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin People. We honour these lands and the peoples who have stewarded them since time immemorial.



Introduction

I am pleased to provide my report on the work of the National Chief's Office from September 2025 to August 2026.

We began this year together at our 2025 Annual General Assembly and CAP–Daniels Summit, where delegates, PTOs, Elders, youth, community members, and experts gave us clear direction on the work ahead. Throughout the year, that direction has remained at the centre of our advocacy.

It has been a significant and, at times, challenging year. We have continued to press for the full implementation of the CAP-Daniels decision, strengthened our political advocacy, engaged communities on major policy and legislative issues, and challenged the continued exclusion of CAP communities from decisions that directly affect them. We have also faced a major change in our relationship with Canada through the termination of the Canada-CAP Political Accord.

Through all of this, our focus has remained on the priorities our communities have entrusted to us. Whether at policy tables, in Parliament, through the courts, at national and international forums, or directly with our PTOs and communities, CAP has continued to make the case that the Peoples we represent must have a meaningful voice in the decisions affecting their rights, opportunities, and futures.

This work is collective. I want to thank the National Vice-Chief, Board of Directors, our National Elder and Youth Representatives, PTO leadership, committee members, staff, and especially the community members who have given their time, knowledge, and experience throughout the year. Your participation gives our advocacy its strength and its direction.

This report reflects that collective effort and the work we have undertaken together over the past year.

National Chief, Brendan Moore

Executive Leadership & Governance

CAP's Executive, Board of Directors and Committees continued to meet regularly throughout the year to provide leadership and oversight, respond to emerging issues, and advance CAP's national priorities. A key focus has been strengthening coordination across CAP's leadership and governance structures and ensuring timely and strategic responses to issues affecting the Peoples and communities we represent.

The Executive continued to work collaboratively to identify priorities, clarify areas of responsibility, and strengthen working relationships across the organization. The Technical Executive Committee, chaired by the National Vice-Chief, supported this work by advancing policy priorities, identifying emerging issues, and providing regular updates and recommendations to the National Chief.

CAP's governance committees also continued their important work. The Bylaw and Governance Committee advanced its ongoing review of CAP's By-Laws and broader governance matters, while the Finance Committee, chaired by the National Vice-Chief, provided oversight and guidance on CAP's financial matters. The Board of Directors met throughout the year to provide



National Chief, Brendan Moore

direction on CAP's strategic priorities, governance, finances, advocacy, and other matters affecting the organization.

The National Vice-Chief and I have also continued to engage directly with PTO leaders to discuss regional priorities, challenges, and opportunities for greater collaboration and support. Strengthening these relationships and maintaining open communication across the CAP network remain important priorities as we work together to build organizational capacity and advance our shared objectives.

I would like to thank the National Vice-Chief, Board of Directors, and our Committee members, for their continued leadership, collaboration, and commitment to CAP and the peoples we collectively represent.

Canada-CAP Political Accord

The Canada–CAP Political Accord, signed in 2018, established a renewed relationship between CAP and the Government of Canada intended to advance the priorities and improve the socio-economic conditions of off-reserve status and non-status Indians, Métis and Southern Inuit.

Over the past nearly eight years, an extraordinary amount of work has been undertaken through Political Accord implementation. CAP, our Provincial and Territorial Organizations, community members, policy representatives, and federal partners contributed significant time, knowledge, and expertise to this process. This work extended from the grassroots level to national policy tables and created an important body of research, community knowledge, policy recommendations, and practical experience that continues to inform CAP's work today.

At the community and PTO level, Political Accord implementation supported governance, membership and citizenship systems, community mapping and needs identification, research, and direct engagement with communities across the country. The National Mapping initiative and other community-based research helped identify priorities and barriers in areas including housing, education, health, employment, culture, language, justice, and access to services.

At the national level, six policy working groups brought CAP representatives together with federal departments to address Family Programming, Housing, Indigenous Languages, Justice, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ people, and Post-Secondary Education. These tables were intended to identify legislative and policy barriers affecting our communities and develop recommendations and solutions to improve equitable access to federal programs and services.

Important work emerged from these tables. CAP communities contributed to national discussions on Indigenous languages and language revitalization; urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing; the Indigenous Justice Strategy and justice reform; MMIWG2S+ and the Calls for Justice; child and family services and Jordan's Principle; and barriers facing off-reserve Indigenous learners seeking access to post-secondary education. This work strengthened the evidence available to CAP, built relationships with federal departments, and created opportunities for the lived experiences and priorities of our communities to inform national policy discussions.

I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed to this work. Community members shared their experiences and knowledge, PTOs undertook extensive engagement and capacity-building, and representatives at the policy tables worked persistently to identify barriers and advance solutions.

CANADA-CAP POLITICAL ACCORD (CONTINUED)

I also want to recognize the members of the Political Accord Negotiations Team, comprised of members of CAP's Board of Directors, for their hard work, dedication, and leadership throughout the implementation period. Their continued guidance and commitment were instrumental in advancing CAP's priorities and navigating the opportunities and challenges that arose over the course of the Accord.

Whatever happens to the Political Accord itself, the work undertaken since 2018 has lasting value. The knowledge, research, relationships, and recommendations developed through this process will continue to inform and strengthen CAP's advocacy moving forward.

We must also be candid that implementation did not always live up to the commitments of the Accord. Progress was often slow, federal participation varied considerably between tables, and key commitments were not fulfilled. Despite a commitment to hold annual ministerial meetings, no ministerial meetings took place. Some joint work remained unfinished, and in the area of post-secondary education, the table was suspended after efforts to resolve discriminatory barriers in federal programming with the department failed to result in meaningful policy change.



CAP subsequently launched a Charter challenge seeking to address this discrimination through the courts. These were significant shortcomings, but CAP viewed them as reasons to improve and strengthen the relationship, not to end it.

Termination of the Political Accord

For nearly two years, CAP worked to secure the next phase of Political Accord implementation, including developing and submitting a new five-year proposal for 2026–2031. Throughout this period, we repeatedly sought updates from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and advocated for continuity of the relationship and the work underway.

On July 31, 2026, CAP received a letter from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations advising that Canada had decided to terminate its participation in the Canada–CAP Political Accord, effective immediately, including funding associated with the Accord. The decision came without prior discussion or engagement with CAP while we continued to engage in good faith on its future.

Canada explained the decision as part of an evolution toward what it described as "distinctions-based and rights-based engagement." This rationale is about much more than the Political Accord. For years, CAP has raised concerns that distinctions-based approaches are increasingly excluding our communities from federal policy development, programs, funding, and decision-making. The termination of the Accord represents a significant escalation of these concerns and raises fundamental questions about how Canada intends to engage with the communities CAP represents.

This is particularly concerning nearly a decade after the Supreme Court of Canada's CAP-Daniels decision confirmed that Métis and non-status Indians fall within federal jurisdiction under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. CAP continues to challenge policies and processes that leave many of these same people without equitable access to federal programs or meaningful participation in decisions that affect them.

Since receiving the letter, I have worked closely with the Executive and Board of Directors to assess the implications and determine our path forward. The Board considered a range of strategic options and directed that our immediate approach prioritize political engagement and dialogue, while firmly defending CAP's mandate and the rights, interests, and needs of our communities.

TERMINATION OF THE POLITICAL ACCORD (CONTINUED)

CAP has provided Minister Alty and senior departmental officials with a comprehensive series of questions seeking clarity on the decision-making process; the policy, legal, and financial rationale; how "distinctions-based" and "rights-based" engagement are being defined and applied; the impacts on CAP and our PTOs; and, critically, what mechanism Canada intends to put in place for its future relationship with CAP. We have also issued a public statement and opinion piece and written to federal party leaders to ensure the broader implications of this decision are understood.

The Political Accord was never simply about funding. It created a formal space for CAP, our PTOs, our communities, and Canada to identify barriers and work toward solutions. Its implementation was imperfect, but eliminating that space does not eliminate the issues it was created to address.

CAP remains committed to constructive dialogue and to establishing a meaningful, durable, and accountable political relationship with Canada. We will continue to press for answers, challenge exclusionary approaches, and defend the right of our communities to participate in decisions that affect them.



CAP-Daniels Implementation

The full and meaningful implementation of Daniels v. Canada remains CAP's highest priority. The 2016 Supreme Court decision confirmed that Métis and non-status Indians fall within federal jurisdiction under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. Ten years later, however, that recognition has still not translated into equitable federal policies, programs, funding, and inclusion for many CAP communities.

Daniels was an important priority under the Canada–CAP Political Accord, providing an avenue to raise implementation gaps across federal policy areas. Following the termination of the Accord and Canada's increasing reliance on distinctions-based approaches, advancing Daniels has become even more critical. The decision cannot simply remain a legal victory from 2016. Its recognition must be reflected in federal policy and in the everyday realities of our communities.

Building on the 2025 CAP-Daniels Summit held alongside last year's Annual General Assembly, we have spent this year turning what we heard from delegates, PTOs, community members, Elders, youth, and experts into a plan for action. The Summit has informed a What We Heard report, Critical Pathway and National Engagement Plan, providing a community-informed roadmap for advancing Daniels implementation. The pathway focuses on direct engagement with responsible federal departments, addressing policy and legislative barriers, legal avenues, strengthening PTO-led engagement, and establishing measurable federal accountability.

This work also responds to direction provided by this Assembly through the 2025 resolution and resolutions that came before it, and is reinforced by Action Plan Measure #90 of Canada's UN Declaration Act Action Plan, which specifically addresses implementation of the Daniels decision. CAP has continued to advance the call for a whole-of-government Daniels implementation plan and a CAP-Daniels Implementation Secretariat. Daniels touches virtually every area of federal responsibility affecting our communities, and meaningful implementation requires coordination and accountability across government rather than a department-by-department approach.

CAP-Daniels Implementation

The 10th anniversary of Daniels on April 14, 2026, provided an important opportunity to reinforce that message nationally. Rather than treating the anniversary as commemorative, CAP used it as an advocacy and accountability initiative, supported by public education and communications materials and political outreach. We again called on Canada to address the implementation gap and turn the constitutional recognition achieved through Daniels into meaningful action. The direction from our communities and this Assembly is clear. CAP will continue to make Daniels implementation our highest priority and press Canada to turn constitutional recognition into meaningful and measurable change for the communities we represent.



National Chief, Brendan Moore

Political Advocacy & Government Relations

Political advocacy and government relations have remained a significant part of my work throughout the year, particularly as we respond to major changes in federal Indigenous policy and the continued exclusion of CAP from key national decision-making processes.

A major focus has been strengthening relationships with Parliamentarians across political parties. Over the past year, I have met with dozens of Members of Parliament and Senators. These discussions have advanced CAP's priorities on Daniels implementation, the Political Accord, housing, education, economic development, MMIWG2S+, Indigenous languages, justice, and the impacts of distinctions-based policies. We have also used these relationships to respond quickly as new issues have emerged and to ensure CAP's concerns are being raised directly with those in positions to act.

We have continued to challenge CAP's exclusion from important federal processes. This included repeated correspondence with Minister Alty regarding CAP's limited participation in the national Indigenous-Federal-Provincial-Territorial process on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Despite CAP's longstanding work in this area, we were ultimately offered only observer status at the in-person meeting. We continue to challenge approaches that create different levels of participation among National Indigenous Organizations and limit our ability to contribute directly to decisions affecting our communities.



National Chief Brendan Moore (left)
Michael Kram - Member of Parliament (right)

POLITICAL ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (CONTINUED)

Our government relations work has also extended beyond the federal government. In July, CAP worked with the Native Council of Prince Edward Island around the meeting between Canada's Premiers and National Indigenous Organizations. Briefing materials and key messages were developed on economic and workforce development, major infrastructure, urban Indigenous programming, UNDRIP implementation, MMIWG2S+, disability inclusion, justice, and community safety. These discussions were an opportunity to reinforce the importance of stronger relationships between provincial governments and CAP's PTOs, particularly in areas where provinces have significant responsibilities.

Targeted advocacy has continued throughout the year on other issues as well. This has included barriers facing Indigenous learners in accessing educational supports; Indigenous participation in major projects and emerging economic initiatives; and ensuring our communities benefit from investments in infrastructure, skills development, procurement, employment, and other opportunities.



Michael Kram - Member of Parliament (left)
National Chief Brendan Moore (right)

This work will continue to be a priority. At a time when important decisions are being made about the future of Indigenous policy in Canada, CAP must continue to build political relationships, challenge our exclusion when it occurs, and ensure the priorities and concerns of our communities are heard directly by decision-makers.

Indian Act Registration Reform

Indian Act registration reform has been a significant focus of my work this year, particularly efforts to address the second-generation cut-off (SGCO) and proposed changes to Section 10 voting thresholds.

I have participated throughout the year on the Registration Reform and Legal Solutions Committee, working alongside Indigenous leaders, legal experts, academics, and policy specialists to examine potential solutions and their legal, policy, and implementation impacts. For CAP, this work is particularly important because changes to registration and membership can have significant implications for the families and communities we represent.

CAP has worked to ensure that our communities have a meaningful voice in this process. We held three national engagement sessions with PTOs and community members and developed a survey to gather further input on the second-generation cut-off, voting thresholds, and membership reform. Participants spoke about the impacts of the cut-off on families, identity, recognition, and belonging, as well as the importance of ensuring reforms do not create new barriers or further exclusion.



CAP has also continued its advocacy as Bill S-2 moves through Parliament, providing written submissions and seeking opportunities to participate in the legislative review process. We support addressing the second-generation cut-off while continuing to raise the broader implications of reform for off-reserve and non-status people.

As this work moves forward, CAP will continue to engage wherever opportunities are available and advocate for our communities to be directly involved in decisions affecting registration, membership, representation, and access to programs and services.

Human Rights / UNDA / International Advocacy

United Nations Declaration Act Implementation (UNDA)

CAP has continued to participate in processes related to implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and its Action Plan. While current funding is insufficient to support the level of community engagement this work requires, we have continued to advocate for meaningful implementation and accountability.

As part of the 2025–2026 annual reporting process, CAP reviewed federal progress on the Action Plan and raised concerns that many shared priorities have seen limited advancement. This included Action Plan Measure #90 on implementation of the CAP-Daniels decision, where CAP reported that we have not been included in shared decision-making and have yet to see measurable impacts from federal implementation.

CAP also responded to the Minister of Justice's request for advice on priority Action Plan measures and approaches to consultation, cooperation, and engagement. Our submission drew on previous community engagement and legal and policy work, including input gathered through a dedicated UN Declaration session at CAP's Urban Indigenous Rights gathering. It called for more inclusive participation, sustained capacity and funding, stronger accountability, and meaningful involvement of our communities in federal decision-making.

I also wrote directly to the Minister to reinforce these priorities and raise concerns about the limited resources available to CAP. Meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration requires meaningful engagement with communities, and that engagement must be adequately supported.



United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

I attended the 25th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York City as part of the Canadian Delegation. The Forum was held from April 20 to May 1, 2026, under the theme "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges."

Prior to the opening of the Forum, I also participated in the Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus, which brought together Indigenous representatives from around the world to discuss shared priorities, emerging issues, and coordinated approaches to matters being advanced through United Nations Indigenous mechanisms.

While attending the Forum, I participated in as many engagements as I could, including UN sessions, Canada's Opening Reception, delegation activities and side events, and a special breakfast reception hosted by Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, David Lametti. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with Indigenous leaders, government representatives, and international partners while strengthening relationships that support CAP's advocacy efforts both nationally and internationally.

Participation in UNPFII complements CAP's work on implementation of the UN Declaration in Canada and provides another avenue to advocate for the recognition, inclusion and meaningful participation of the communities we represent.

Day Of Dialogue – Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers On Human Rights

I attended the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Day of Dialogue on Human Rights, where I was invited to participate in a panel discussion alongside other Indigenous representatives. Unfortunately, CAP's participation was handled in a discriminatory and disrespectful manner. Despite being invited as a panelist, I was excluded from participating alongside the other Indigenous representatives. This was especially concerning at a national forum focused on human rights, inclusion, and meaningful participation.

CAP raised these concerns directly with the Minister and federal officials following the event and sought accountability for how the situation was handled. We will continue to challenge discriminatory treatment and exclusion when it occurs and to insist that CAP and the communities we represent are treated with respect and afforded meaningful participation in national discussions.



(left to right) Chief Melissa Diotte, National Elder Representative Mary Palmater, National Chief Brendan Moore, Chief and President Lorraine Augustine, Chief Lisa Cooper, National Youth Representative Hayley Sherman

National Tables & Advocacy

Correctional Service Canada's National Indigenous Advisory Committee (NIAC)

I continue to serve as a member of Correctional Service Canada's National Indigenous Advisory Committee (NIAC), which provides advice and recommendations to the Commissioner on the provision of correctional services to Indigenous people. The Committee provides an important forum for Indigenous perspectives to inform CSC policies, programs and services and to identify areas where further action and improvement are needed.

Over the past year, NIAC's work has addressed a broad range of issues affecting Indigenous people in the federal correctional system, including Indigenous-specific correctional programming, culturally responsive interventions, Pathways initiatives, healing and treatment supports, community reintegration, and partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations. The Committee has also considered the experiences of Indigenous women, culturally appropriate approaches to gang disaffiliation, and opportunities to strengthen Indigenous involvement in correctional and reintegration services.

Through my involvement with NIAC, I have had opportunities to engage directly with CSC leadership and Indigenous partners, including participating in a virtual meeting with newly appointed Commissioner Talal Dakalbab and attending the Committee's May meeting in Ottawa. I was also invited to attend the Commissioner's Affirmation of Command Ceremony, providing another opportunity to engage with senior CSC officials and Indigenous partners.

I value the opportunity to bring the perspectives of CAP's communities to this national table and will continue to advocate for correctional policies, programs and services that recognize the diverse experiences and needs of the Indigenous peoples we represent.

Indigenous Peoples Survey (IPS)

In 2025, CAP received concerning news from Statistics Canada regarding the pause of the Indigenous Peoples Survey (IPS), including the planned 2027 cycle. This represented a significant setback for evidence-based policymaking and for the visibility of CAP's communities at the national level. CAP wrote to the Chief Statistician of Canada outlining the implications of the decision. In early October 2025, Statistics Canada acknowledged that the pause would create critical data gaps, citing whole-of-government fiscal pressures. CAP remained concerned about the disproportionate impact on the populations and communities we represent and continued to advocate for the survey's reinstatement.

While the Census provides important information, it does not replace the depth, detail, and topic-specific insights provided through the IPS. The survey is particularly important for understanding the social and economic conditions and lived experiences of Indigenous peoples living off reserve, tracking changes over time, and assessing whether federal policies, programs, and investments are meeting the needs of our communities.

On August 28, 2026, CAP received welcome confirmation that development of the seventh cycle of the IPS had resumed. The questionnaire content has now been finalized, with Statistics Canada expecting to begin fielding the survey in early 2028 and results anticipated during the 2029–2030 fiscal year. While CAP welcomes this important development, we were not involved in the development of this iteration of the survey.

CAP welcomes the resumption of the IPS and encourages the federal government and Statistics Canada to work directly with CAP throughout all stages of its development, implementation, analysis, and dissemination. Meaningful engagement with CAP is essential to ensuring the survey reflects the realities and priorities of the Indigenous peoples living off reserve whom we represent and that these communities are fully visible within national Indigenous data.

National Summit on the Future of Sport

The National Summit on the Future of Sport was held in early September. I was unable to attend in person, but I submitted recommendations ahead of the summit to inform the development of the national strategy.

I also participated in the Sport for Social Development in Indigenous Communities (SSDIC) Review

Committees for a period:

- Stream Two focuses on initiatives that improve health and education, increase employability, and reduce at-risk behaviours in Indigenous communities. I attended my first Stream Two committee meeting in November, and will review applications in the near future.

- Stream Three focuses on five social development goals: physical and mental health, suicide prevention, sexual trafficking awareness and prevention, safe and healthy relationships, and sexual positivity for 2SLGBTQI+ communities. The first meeting of this committee will be held just ahead of the December Board meeting.

While I was initially interested in contributing to this work, after further reflection I informed the organizers that I would be unable to fulfill the commitments associated with these committees and resigned.

CAP continues to monitor developments related to the National Summit on the Future of Sport and federal programs connected to sport and social development in Indigenous communities.

Engagements

Community engagement has been at the heart of much of CAP's work this year. Across a number of national gatherings and engagement processes, we heard directly from community members, Elders, youth, PTO leadership, knowledge keepers, advocates, and other participants about the issues affecting their lives and the changes they want to see.

The knowledge, experiences, and recommendations shared through these engagements are invaluable to our work. They have helped shape CAP's policy positions, submissions, advocacy, and priorities throughout the year. I want to sincerely thank everyone who gave their time, energy, knowledge, and lived experience to these discussions. Your contributions strengthen our work and ensure that what we bring forward nationally is grounded in the voices of our communities.

MMIWG2S+ Summit

In February, CAP hosted the National MMIWG2S+ Summit, Illuminating the Way, in Ottawa. The gathering brought our communities together to share experiences, identify priorities, and discuss what is needed to strengthen prevention, safety, supports, accountability, and meaningful action on MMIWG2S+.

The discussions also highlighted the important work already being led by our PTOs and communities across the country. What we heard continues to inform CAP's advocacy, including our efforts to secure meaningful participation in national MMIWG2S+ discussions and ensure the experiences and priorities of our communities are represented.

Urban Indigenous Rights

Later in February, CAP hosted a national gathering focused on Urban Indigenous Rights, bringing community members and leadership together to discuss the recognition and implementation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples living off reserve and in urban settings.

Participants shared perspectives on self-determination, self-government, representation, and the barriers created by existing federal policies and structures. The discussions also examined the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Canada's United Nations Declaration Act as tools for advancing these rights.

The input received through this gathering has been particularly important to CAP's work on implementation of the UN Declaration and informed submissions and recommendations advanced over the past year. I discuss this work further in the following section.



Honouring Our Health: Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Healthcare

On March 30–31, CAP hosted the Honouring Our Health: Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Healthcare Symposium in Ottawa. The gathering built on several years of CAP research and engagement and brought together community members, Indigenous leadership, healthcare professionals, researchers, and knowledge keepers.

Participants shared experiences of racism and barriers within healthcare systems and identified priorities for improving access, accountability, cultural safety, and health outcomes. Their contributions will continue to guide CAP's advocacy and the next stages of this work.

Federal Men and Boys' Health Strategy

CAP also participated in Health Canada's engagement process toward the development of a Federal Men and Boys' Health Strategy, including engagement related to the health of Indigenous men and boys.

This provided another opportunity to bring forward community perspectives on health, wellness, access to care, and the particular barriers experienced by Indigenous men and boys. CAP will continue to engage in this work as opportunities arise and advocate for the priorities of our communities to be reflected as the federal strategy develops.

Community & PTO Activities

Engagement with CAP's Provincial and Territorial Organizations is a central and valued part of my work. Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to attend the AGAs of NAQ, OCIP, NBAPC, NCPEI, NIPA and NCNS, reconnect with leadership and community members, hear directly about local priorities, and celebrate the work taking place across our communities. CAP was also represented at the IPAM AGA by National Vice-Chief Randy Way, and I look forward to upcoming opportunities to join NCPEI and NIPA this fall.

These gatherings are always an important part of the year. They provide an opportunity to spend time together, hear what is happening on the ground, celebrate the accomplishments of our PTOs and communities, and better understand the challenges they are facing. I am grateful for the hospitality extended to CAP and for the conversations, advice, and perspectives shared with us throughout the year.

Our strength as a national organization comes from our PTOs and the communities they serve, and I look forward to continuing these visits and conversations in the year ahead.



Gérard Coulombe, President of NAQ, Todd Russell, President of NCC (center) National Chief Brendan Moore (right)

Community & PTO Activities

Throughout the year, I continued to represent CAP through media, public events, meetings, and other opportunities to build relationships and advance our advocacy. These activities complement the political, policy, and community work outlined throughout this report and help ensure that CAP's perspectives remain part of national conversations.

CAP continued to strengthen its relationships with national media. The Hill Times has increasingly sought CAP's perspective on Indigenous policy and reconciliation, including an interview with me on the state of reconciliation and the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government. In February, The Hill Times also published an opinion piece highlighting CAP's priorities and the continued need for our communities to be included in federal Indigenous policy discussions.

Our relationship with The Globe and Mail has also provided opportunities to bring CAP's perspectives to a national audience. In October, my opinion piece, ***"Abandoned in the Ashes,"*** drew attention to the gaps experienced by off-reserve and non-status Indigenous people during wildfires and other emergencies and called for more inclusive emergency planning and response.

CAP also issued public statements throughout the year and I participated in interviews to respond to developments affecting our communities and reinforce our advocacy. Key communications included:

- Federal Budget 2025 – Raised concerns that off-reserve and non-status Indigenous people continued to be overlooked in federal investments and called for a more inclusive approach.

- Indian Act Second-Generation Cut-Off – Called on Members of Parliament to support the Senate amendment to Bill S-2 and eliminate the second-generation cut-off, reinforcing CAP's longstanding advocacy to end discriminatory registration provisions.

- MMIWG2S+ and CAP's Exclusion from National Discussions – Publicly challenged CAP's exclusion from the national MMIWG2S+ roundtable and emphasized that effective responses to violence must include the experiences of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people living off reserve.

- Call for Action on MMIWG2S+ – Following Illuminating the Way, called for real and effective action to address violence and for coordinated responses that reflect the realities of our communities.

COMMUNITY & PTO ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- 10th Anniversary of the Daniels Decision – Used the anniversary to reinforce that recognition must be followed by implementation and accountability, supported by public education, advocacy materials and media engagement.

- National Inquiry Calls for Justice – Marked the anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry's Final Report and continued to call attention to the need for meaningful implementation of the Calls for Justice.

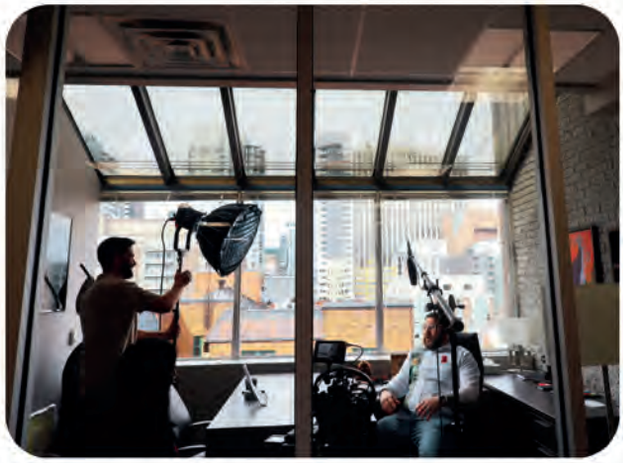
- Canada–CAP Political Accord – Responded publicly to Canada's termination of the Political Accord and reinforced the broader implications for CAP's relationship with the federal government and the communities we represent.

Public engagement has also extended beyond traditional media. Throughout the year, I participated in commemorative, cultural, diplomatic, and public events that provided opportunities to represent CAP and strengthen relationships. I also continued to explore new partnerships, including discussions with the National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council about opportunities for greater collaboration with organizations serving Indigenous people in urban and rural communities.

Storytelling and public education have remained another part of this work. I participated in CAP's Truth Telling documentary project, alongside CAP leaders and knowledge holders, to help preserve and share CAP's history, advocacy, and the experiences of our communities.

I also provided narration for CAP's Indigenous STEM initiative, supporting resources designed to encourage Indigenous youth to explore opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. I want to thank the Elders and youth who generously gave their time, experiences, and voices through interviews and filming for this initiative.

Public communications, media, storytelling, and relationship-building are important parts of how we advance CAP's advocacy. They allow us to respond when our communities are excluded or overlooked, bring greater attention to the issues we are advancing, and ensure that our own voices and stories are heard.



Conclusion

This has been an important year for CAP and for the communities we represent. We have made progress, faced significant challenges, and received some difficult reminders that the work of achieving meaningful recognition, inclusion, and equality is far from finished.

But we have also seen the strength of our network. Across the country, our PTOs and communities continue to lead, organize, advocate, build capacity, share knowledge, and push for change. The direction provided through this Assembly and through the many community engagements held throughout the year continues to guide our national work.

As we move forward, CAP-Daniels implementation and the recognition of our rights will remain our highest priority. We will continue to challenge policies that exclude our communities, press for meaningful participation in federal decision-making, strengthen relationships across governments and Parliament, and pursue every available avenue to advance the rights, interests, and needs of the Peoples we represent.

The challenges ahead are significant, particularly as Canada changes the way it approaches its relationships with Indigenous Peoples. This is not a time for CAP to become quieter or less ambitious. It is a time to remain united, strengthen the relationships across our network, and be clear about who we represent and what our communities expect.

I want to thank the Board of Directors, PTO leadership, our Elders and youth, staff, and all those who have contributed to this work throughout the year. Most importantly, I thank our communities for continuing to place their trust in CAP and for reminding us why this work matters.

We have important work ahead of us, and we will continue to do it together.

Wela'lin,



Brendan Moore
National Chief

APPENDIX

Media 2025-2026

Outlet	Title	Link
The Globe and Mail	Manitoba's wildfire response exposes gaps for non-status and off-reserve Indigenous peoples	www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-manitoba-wildfire-response-nonstatus-offreserve-indigenous-peoples/
CJDC TV	National Indigenous Peoples Day brings renewed call for support of off-reserve Indigenous communities	www.cjdctv.com/news/article/national-indigenous-peoples-day-brings-renewed-call-for-support-of-off-reserve-indigenous-communities/
Thorold Today	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples marks National Indigenous Peoples Day with call for inclusion	www.notllocal.com/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-marks-national-indigenous-peoples-day-with-call-for-inclusion-12448323
InnisfilToday	Congress marks National Indigenous Peoples Day with call for inclusion	www.innisfiltoday.ca/local-news/congress-marks-national-indigenous-peoples-day-with-call-for-inclusion-12446940
Flamborough Today	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples marks National Indigenous Peoples Day with call for inclusion	www.notllocal.com/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-marks-national-indigenous-peoples-day-with-call-for-inclusion-12448323
Oakville News	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples marks National Indigenous Peoples Day with call for inclusion	www.oakvillenews.org/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-marks-national-indigenous-peoples-day-with-call-for-inclusion-12447267
Cambridge Today	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples marks National Indigenous Peoples Day with call for inclusion	www.cambridgetoday.ca/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-marks-national-indigenous-peoples-day-with-call-for-inclusion-12447011

APPENDIX

Media 2025-2026 (continued)

Outlet	Topic	Link
SooToday	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples raises concerns over budget	www.sootoday.com/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-raises-concerns-over-budget-11455260
OrilliaMatters	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples raises concerns over federal budget	www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-raises-concerns-over-federal-budget-11457024
Elliot Lake Today	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples raises concerns over budget	www.elliotlaketoday.com/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-raises-concerns-over-budget-11455251
Pelham Today	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples raises concerns over budget	www.pelhamtoday.ca/local-news/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-raises-concerns-over-budget-11455665
The Spectator / St. Catherines Standard	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples excluded from national MMIWG2S roundtable	www.thespec.com/news/canada/congress-of-aboriginal-peoples-excluded-from-national-mmiwg2s-roundtable/article_bcd8ac0b-f91a-5fa7-8764-155127cbc477.html
Ottawa Citizen	Seven years on, MMIWG inaction is painful, advocates say	Ottawacitizen.com/news/seven-years-on-mmiwg-inaction-is-painful-advocates-say


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