



Departmental Highlights and Updates Report



Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqnn
Incorporated



HIGHLIGHT REPORT OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE

MTI is a not-for-profit organization created by the nine Mi'gmaq First Nations in New Brunswick. Our objectives include promoting and supporting the recognition, affirmation, exercise, and implementation of Aboriginal and Treaty rights and the right of self-determination. MTI works on behalf of eight Mi'gmaq communities on consultation matters.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to our leadership, which includes the Chiefs and Councils of all the Mi'gmaq communities we represent, regarding the notable accomplishments and ongoing initiatives within MTI. This booklet aims to offer an informative overview of the various activities undertaken by each department throughout the past year, as well as their upcoming plans for 2024. Within its pages, you'll discover the diligent efforts and dedication of our departments, both within our communities and beyond, as we work together towards shared prosperity and progress.

ADMINISTRATION – TAN ALSUSUTI WESGOWA’S EG

As the Administration Department, we are responsible for the overall organization through implementing and updating policies and procedures to ensure organizational standards and goals are met. We support and coordinate activities at the management level and liaises with all the MTI Directors. Specific responsibilities include policy development, human resources, and organizational/work planning.



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **MTI Progress:**
 - Formed almost nine years ago.
 - Over the past year, hired ten new employees, totalling thirty-seven employees and six contractors.
 - Planned additional postings for the upcoming year.
- **Employee Development:**
 - Six employees completed UNB’s Management Development Program.
 - Four employees completed the Energy Fundamentals for Leaders course.
 - Twelve staff completed a writing course.
 - One staff member completed a tax course offered through the Tulo Centre and First Nations Tax Commission.
 - Commitment to searching out and providing opportunities to improve staff skills to better serve communities.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS – MAWQATMU’TIMG ASUA’SIT

The main responsibility of Community Liaisons is to be the key contact between the organization and community members. They work to provide their communities with regular updates on projects that affect their communities, in cooperation with MTI staff, consultants, and advisors. This is usually done through organizing workshops, meetings, and written updates.

In addition to their liaison responsibilities, each liaison is assigned to work with a specific department within the organization.



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- Regular meetings with chief and council, community groups, and individuals to discuss matters and projects involving MTI.
- Routinely organize multiple meetings, including Community Engagement Sessions for departments including Fisheries, Trilateral, Energy and Mines, and Lands.
- Liaisons report to and follow directions from the organization while maintaining their primary responsibility to the communities.
- Available for meetings or consultations involving MTI upon request.

Liaisons:

Georgianna Barlow – L’nui Menigog, Amlamgog, Tjipogtotjg

Tracy Gray – Oinpegitjoig

Brienne Simonson-Dempsey – Ugpi’Ganjig

Junior Denny – Natoaganeg

Mindy Ward – Metepenagiag

Marsha Summerville – Esgenoopetitj

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS - G'PNNO'LEWEY MTMO'TAGAN AQ AGNUTMAQAN

The Government Affairs and Communications team has grown to three individuals, with Mindy Ward being the latest addition in the Fall of 2023. We have the opportunity and privilege to work with and support the other departments within MTI on advancing project and policy-specific files. Our department provides support by preparing speaking notes, letters, presentation slides, posters for events, media releases, talking points, and setting up meetings on matters of interest and importance to the Chiefs and organization.



"The Mi'gmaq and the Peace and Friendship Treaties"

The Mi'gmaq are the original inhabitants of what is now known as "New Brunswick". We have occupied and cared for our lands and waters since time immemorial. Along with our Wabanaki brothers and sisters, we entered into historic, constitutionally protected Treaties of Peace and Friendship with the Crown, and continue to exercise our Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including the rights to hunt, fish and gather up to the present day. The Treaties have been upheld, and these rights have been repeatedly proven and affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada and the Courts of New Brunswick. The Mi'gmaq have never ceded their Aboriginal Title of ownership and stewardship over the lands and waters of New Brunswick to the Crown.

Contact Us

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Mi'gma'we'l Tplu'taqn:
How we govern ourselves or
Mi'gmaq people's laws

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES



- **Team growth:** Now three members, including Mindy Ward (joined Fall 2023).
- Support preparing speaking notes, letters, presentation slides, posters, media releases, and setting up meetings such as Senate Committee hearings on moderate livelihood and the Chignecto Isthmus.
- Focus on improving materials to engage and inform community members, resulting in increased attendance at community sessions.
- Ongoing website revamp aimed for completion early summer, 2024 - We hope to better reflect what MTI does and can be a resource for community members and the broader public.
- Production of two videos over the past year, with plans for more to complement written materials on various subjects.
- The working relationship with the current provincial government has been strained, highlighting the need for improved consultation practices by the Government of New Brunswick. MTI has been active, with representatives appearing at Senate Committee hearings on moderate livelihood and the Chignecto Isthmus over the past year.
- In preparation for the provincial election in Fall 2024, MTI plans to develop materials to share with parties, meet with candidates, and create surveys to ensure a clear understanding of the Mi'gmaq Nation's priorities in New Brunswick.

LANDS AND CONSERVATION – MAQAMIGEW AQ ANGO'TAQAN

The Lands and Conservation Department is committed to protecting and nurturing our traditional territory of Mi'gmaqi. Led by Director Tanya Barnaby, they are acquiring more land for Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, engaging communities in stewardship planning, and exploring a Guardianship program. Their goal is to ensure the preservation of Mi'gmaq lands for future generations through strategic conservation efforts and inclusive community engagement.



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **New Director:**
 - Tanya Barnaby of Listuguj
- **Land Acquisition and Conservation:**
 - Funding approved for purchasing more lands in Mi'gmaqi.
 - Focus on securing private lots for conversion into Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).
 - Lands to be added to the newly established **Mi'gmaq Land Trust, Keki'namuanen Msit Wen Wlo'tmnen Nmaqami'kiminu.**
- **Stewardship Planning Sessions:**
 - Currently conducting engagement sessions in each community.
 - Sessions focus on stewardship of the lands within the mi'gmaq land trust.
- **Guardianship Program:**
 - Considering the implementation of a Guardianship program.
 - Aimed at having Mi'gmaq people maintain the secured lands.
 - Ensuring protection and maintenance of the lands.
 - Seeking guidance from other Nations with similar programs.

IMPACT ASSESMENT – TA'N TELAPETG AWTU'GWEMGE'WE'

The Impact Assessment Team coordinates, disperses, and reviews materials to help determine the impact of a proposed project on the lands and waters in Mi'gmaqi territory. The department will lead discussions with the relevant departments to collect, research, and summarize that information, and make recommendations based on input from Chiefs and communities.

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- Impact Assessment Coordinator on maternity leave, temporarily filled by Eli Larry, Impact Assessment Coordinator Assistant.
- Over 100 projects have undergone consultation using Migmawel Connect since 2022.
 - Note: The number may be inflated by Notices of Planned Work.
- Bi-weekly review meetings held to discuss projects collaboratively with all departments.
- Three projects from the municipality of Dieppe undergoing the Mi'gmaq Rights Impact Assessment (MRIA).
- Multiple presentations of the MRIA process given to project proponents.

FORESTRY - NIPUGTUGEWEY

The Forestry and Natural Resources Department is the primary contact for government and industry on projects, activities, and issues that take place on Crown Lands in New Brunswick. The Department primarily deals with the potential impacts of forestry, leasing on Crown Lands, blueberry and peat bog development.

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **Interfor**
 - MOU with Interfor, an international forestry company, purchased Chaleur Forest Products.
- **MOU for Riverstone Mill:**
 - MOU endorsed by MTI Chiefs with KOHTALO.
 - The purpose is to explore economic opportunities around partnering on wood processing facilities and a wood pellet plant. Meetings are well underway and we an update will be provided in the near future.
- **Ministers and Chiefs Table on Forestry (MCTF):**
 - Terms of Reference (ToR) for MCTF is nearing completion.
 - The table aims to meet, identify key decisions on forestry, and strive for consensus.
 - Chiefs and Ministers will be advised by a technical working group.
 - Consensus decisions will be deemed joint recommendations.
 - MCTF created as part of the 2022 Forest Strategy consultation to integrate Crown and Indigenous Forest management processes.
 - Target to sign off the ToR before the end of June.



ENERGY & MINES – MLGIGNO'TI AQ WE'GATI'L EPSETGUNIG

The main goal of the Energy and Mines Department is to prevent negative effects on our use, occupancy, and management of the land and waters in Mi'gmaq'i that could result from proposed energy and mining projects. This is accomplished by meetings with proponents, governments, and their agencies to ensure consultation principles are respected and information is shared with communities.

The MTI leadership has always been interested in exploring green energy project. We have been involved, solar and wind development projects. Seven MTI communities have partnered with Natural Forces to develop the Neweg wind turbine project near Sussex, adjacent to the Wocawson project. Construction has begun and the plan is to see it operational by early 2025.



- **Neweg Wind Project**
 - Partnership through MUIN: In collaboration with Natural Forces we are working on the Neweg wind project, which is currently in development.
 - located 20 minutes outside of Sussex, NB.
- **NB Power Projects in Mi'gmaq'i**
 - Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station/SMR Development: Oversight of operations and development at Point Lepreau, including small modular reactor (SMR) initiatives.
 - East Coast Interprovincial Clean Energy (Atlantic Loop): Engagement with NB Power on this interprovincial clean energy project.
 - Nepisiguit Falls Generating Station Extension Project: Monitoring and support for the extension of this hydroelectric generating station.
 - Belledune Generating Station Pilot Program: Supervising pilot programs aimed at advancing energy technology at Belledune.
- **Nuclear Community Engagement Sessions (Early 2024)**
 - ·NWMO's nuclear waste mgmt. & transportation plan, role of the CNSC and the development of SMRs in New Brunswick.
- **Summer 2024 Engagements**
 - East Coast Interprovincial Clean Energy (Atlantic Loop).
 - NB Power's Indigenous Energy Efficiency program.
- **Future Engagements (Fall 2024): Topics:**
 - MR development, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for SMRs, and related topics.
- **Wagalusan (Battery Storage) Project**
 - Partnership: Collaborating with NRStor and NB Power to advance the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) submission for the Wagalusan battery storage project.
 - Federal Funding: We will be making funding applications to offset cost.
- **Belledune Port Authority Collaboration**
 - **Objective:** Working with the Belledune Port Authority to develop the site into a green energy hub.

FISHERIES – NME'JUGEMGEWEY

The Fisheries Department aims to develop a structure for Mi'gmaq rights-based fishery that will be governed according to Mi'gmaq laws, principles, and values. This structure will be based on input received from Mi'gmaq fisheries and community members through our annual Fisheries Summit, consultation meetings with the federal and provincial governments, and community members.

This department plays a pivotal role in consulting on matters concerning fish species, fish habitat, marine protected areas, and various other fishery-related concerns.

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **Leadership and Team Changes**
 - Wendy Narvey is acting Director while Malian Levi is on education leave.
 - Barbie Gauvin joined the team in January 2024 as a Fisheries Coordinator.
- **Governance and Structure Development**
 - Continued work on the development of the Mi'gmaq Governance Entity.
 - Research under the Rights Implementation Agreement to develop a governance structure.



- **Fisheries Advisory Committee comprises representatives from eight Mi'gmaq communities.**
 - Provides advice and input for DFO/MTI Consultations and other consultations, including:
 - Trilateral and Rights Implementation Agreement files within the fisheries portfolio.
- **Formation of Committees**
 - Formation of the Oversight Board and Joint Technical Committee.
- **Mawi Anqotemenej Nimejuaqneminu/Livelihood Fishing Plan**
 - Finalized template Interim Livelihood Fishing Plans.
 - Supported communities in adapting and implementing the plans to meet individual needs.
- **Research, Engagement, and Information Sharing**
 - Engaged in dialogues with Federal and Provincial governments to advance rights-based fishery implementation.
 - Consulted on matters concerning fish species, habitat, marine protected areas, and other fishery-related concerns.
- **Community Engagement and Meetings**
 - Fisheries Directors/Coordinators annual meeting.
 - Fisheries Summit annual meeting.
 - DFO Quarterly Consultation Files Meetings.
 - Small Craft Harbours Quarterly Updates.



ECONOMY BUILDING – MAWI-ULMIMAJU’AQAN ETLITASIG

A strong economy is important for any government and any nation. The Economy Building Department supports the efforts aimed at enhancing the economy as a whole in Mi’gmaq communities in New Brunswick. This department will work with Economic Development and Employment and Training Officers from our communities to identify, assess, and inform the Board and communities on economic issues and trends.

To support self-sufficiency and growth within the NB Mi’gmaq Nation, the following key partnerships and initiatives have been ongoing: The Mi’gmaq United Investment Network (MUIN) was created as a profit-sharing entity to explore economic opportunities, investments, and partnerships. MUIN has been focusing on strengthening its formal board structure and processes and has recently adopted its own unique logo for branding and communication purposes.



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **MUIN has established formal partnership agreements:**
 - **Plaex Inc.:**
 - Investment partnership.
 - Utilizes recycled materials to manufacture modular construction blocks that don’t require cutting or mortar.
 - **Neweg Wind Project:**
 - Limited partnership with Natural Forces.
 - Development and construction of a six wind turbine project in Sussex, NB.
 - **Both partnerships:**
 - Include MUIN representation on their respective Board of Directors.
 - Report regularly to MTI Leadership.
 - Developing a formal opportunity assessment framework
- **Developing a profit-sharing distribution decision-making model for Mi’gmaq Nation.**
- **Development and construction of the Atlantic Science Enterprise Centre (ASEC) at the Gulf Fisheries Centre in Moncton, NB.**
 - One of the largest projects in the Atlantic Region since the Confederation Bridge construction.
 - Engaging with Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC):
- **Projected contract allotments:**
 - \$50 million to Diamond Schmitt Architects for architecture and design.
 - \$300 million to Pomerleau Inc. for construction management.
- **Indigenous Participation Efforts:**
 - Both components (Diamond Schmitt Architects and Pomerleau Inc.) are establishing Indigenous Participation Plans (IPP) and Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Businesses (PSIB).

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE – ILNUEY GINA'MASUTI EPSETGUNIGL

The Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Department's purpose is to continue to research and apply the experiences and observations of Elders and knowledge keepers, especially around historical and present land use and occupancy of the Mi'gmaq within New Brunswick. The IK Department can often be found meeting community members on activities taking place on the lands and waters within this province.

The IK department follows steps and protocols outlined in the New Brunswick Mi'gmaq Indigenous Knowledge Study (NBMIKS) guide. This study guide is intended to provide guidance in the initiation, timing, and execution of Indigenous Knowledge Studies within New Brunswick.

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **New Leadership and Team Members:**

- New director: Charles Labilloy-Bjorndal from Ugpig'ganjig.
- Two new researchers:
 - Kirsten Leclair-Mazerolle from Natoganeg.
 - Tasha Smith (Augustine) from Metepenagiag FN.

- **Project Involvement and Progress:**

- Involvement in all major projects that have come to MTI.
- Addressing a backlog of files, nearing completion of finalizing these reports.

- **New Projects Over the Past Year:**

- NB/NS transmission line project (Atlantic Loop).
- Neweg Wind Development.
- City of Dieppe infrastructure projects.
- Department of National Defence (Gagetown) infrastructure improvements.
- Fundy National Park Guardian Program.



- **Collaboration and Training:**

- Close collaboration with consultation group called Shared Value Solutions (SVS).
- Training provided by SVS on the IK process and ways to improve the IK department.
- Knowledge gained from SVS training to ensure a more streamlined process moving forward.

- **Rematriation Committee Activities:**

- Specific duties: Returning and/or burying ancestral remains, artifacts, and funerary items to the Mi'gmaq.
- Designing a room in the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John from an Indigenous/Mi'gmaq perspective.
- MOU with NB regarding archeological items is currently on hold.
- MOU with the New Brunswick Museum is in communication, but no progress has been made yet.
- Stabilized a section of Aldouane Peninsula where ancestral human remains were exposed.
- Ongoing consultation with KNP & Kopit.
- Nominated for 2024 CEO Awards of Excellence.

TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS – NE'SISGL EPSETGUNIGL (WESGO'TASIG ILAGNUTMAQAN)

The Trilateral Negotiations department at MTI is dedicated to advancing the recognition, protection, and implementation of rights and self-governance for our member communities. Our trilateral team identifies opportunities for our involvement in sectors such as fisheries, parks, forestry, energy, and justice. The department leads discussions using the 'Rights Implementation Approach,' a collaborative strategy developed by the Mi'gmaq community to implement the Peace and Friendship Treaties which guide our governance and policy implementation.

Through bilateral and trilateral consultation processes with governmental entities, the department aims to dialogue and collaboration, working towards self-governance of Mi'gmaq communities within the broader governmental framework.



HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

- **Peacekeeping Program:**
 - First cohort graduated on Dec 8, 2023, with 13 trainees.
 - Second cohort training began on April 8, 2024, set to graduate 13 on May 30, 2024.
 - Community engagements completed, except in Esgenoopetitj, awaiting confirmation.
 - Course modules cover various aspects including fitness, driving, conflict management, and cultural teachings.
 - Aim to enhance community safety through community-based policing.
- **Indigenous Court Worker & Gladue Report Writing Programs:**
 - Federal and Provincial funding secured, details being finalized.
 - Collaborative effort with partners to develop education modules.
 - Goal to educate legal actors on factors contributing to Indigenous overrepresentation in the justice system.
- **Indigenous Justice Strategy:**
 - Contribution to National Justice strategy.
 - Developing a Mi'gmaq Justice Strategy.
 - Discussed at MTI's Justice and Chief, Elders/Youth Summits.
- **UNDRIP Action Plan:**
 - Session held in March 2023, generating "What We Heard" report.
 - Next step: Develop an action plan.

TRILATERAL CONTINUED

- **Treaty Education:**
 - Ongoing presentations to government departments.
- **Negotiations:**
 - Fisheries Rights Implementation Agreement finalized.
 - Parks Implementation Agreement negotiator's draft reached.
 - Community briefings ongoing.
 - Agreement to provide decision-making power over National Parks and historic places.
 - Collaboration with Kopit on a wampum representing commitment to land and water protection.
- **Nationhood:**
 - Research and input gathering on five key themes:
 - People (Wen Net L'nu)
 - Lands (Title Assertion, Land conservation)
 - Treaties (Research for the 300th anniversary of the first Peace & Friendship)
 - Governance and Laws (Core Governance, Mi'gmaq laws revitalization)
 - Language and Culture





Wela'liog



Contact Information :

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For additional information about projects don't hesitate to contact our department heads or connect with your community's liaison.



Wela'liog to our leadership, community members and our MTI Youth & Elder Committees for your continued support of the work and mission of Mi'gmawel T'plutaqnn Inc.

