

L'NUEY

A Year In Review



2019 | 2020



www.lnuey.ca



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS OF EPEKWITK



Kwe' Epekwitk Mi'kmaq,

One year ago, today, we embarked upon the path before us. A road that leads to self-determination, wellbeing, and prosperity for the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk. This is an important day for our PEI Mi'kmaq family, the L'nu of Prince Edward Island. As your elected leaders, we take our roles seriously. Each of us brings uniqueness and diversity to our governance table. We contribute a wide range of skills and abilities, strong beliefs, opinions, and ideas. The one thing that we all share – the commonality among us – is our deep love for our communities and the L'nu. It is truly an honour and a privilege to serve our Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Communities.

Our people, the L'nu, have been on this Island for thousands of years. We have inherent rights that extend to what some would call “time immemorial”. We remember. We remember that there is an unbroken chain of generations of Mi'kmaq who have lived, raised families, hunted, fished, sheltered one another during the harsh winters, and celebrated the bounty of our beautiful Island summers. Our traditions, our heritage, have been passed down to us. And so, we remember.

It is our sacred mission to protect our Mi'kmaq rights, to assert those rights, to honour those who came before us, to sustain those here today, and to be strengthened for future generations. On September 28, 2019, we took a significant step forward towards a better tomorrow. This was the first of many steps in a long journey – a journey that we must take together as a people, now and in the days to come.

One year ago, today, we held the first ever Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Nationhood Gathering. On this day, we marked a line in the sand. We committed that we have taken the torch from our ancestors who came before us and will assert like never before that we are the L'nu of Prince Edward Island. It is now our job to affirm, exert, and protect our rights as Mi'kmaq people.

(Continued on page 2)





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS OF EPEKWITK



At our Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Nationhood Gathering last fall, we introduced you to our new organization that is meant to help coordinate the assertion of our rights, to work with all of our people, to express what those rights mean today, and to protect those rights into the future. This organization is L'nuey. L'nuey means pertaining to and belonging to the Mi'kmaq people as a whole. This is the essence of our rights. While we all should benefit, they belong to us as a people, and for our future generations.

L'nuey is an initiative focused on protecting and implementing the constitutionally entrenched rights of the PEI Mi'kmaq. As such, L'nuey is the guiding principle behind the negotiations that happen through the framework agreement and beyond. Our mission is to address both past and present imbalances between Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq people in Prince Edward Island.

As leadership, we have established and given mandate to L'nuey, but how it grows and takes shape is up to you. The mandate of L'nuey is to focus on three pillars: Negotiation, Consultation, and Governance Development. Large decisions will always require approval of the L'nu of PEI. For L'nuey to succeed, we need you—our people. We need your input, your ideas, and your knowledge.

By getting involved and participating in the engagement processes, you will have an opportunity to help shape the future – for yourself, your family, your community, and generations yet to come. L'nuey is ours; if we make it ours. We challenge you to be proud and proclaim that only we, the Epekwitkewaq, can direct our future. Through exerting our rights as Mi'kmaq people, we can sustain our communities today and strengthen these rights for future generations. As proud Mi'kmaq people, we remain resilient. We will continue moving towards a better tomorrow, as a nation, together.

Wela'lioq,





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been full of adventure, growth, and change. The few months after joining L'nuey were invested in establishing our organization, staff and engagement processes. Only a few short months later, our offices closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has presented unique opportunities and challenges. We were able to pivot and establish new processes for our work at L'nuey, this meant moving to remote education and engagement, as well as increasing our online presence. Our staff have showed up ready to serve and have done a great job at adjusting where needed and are dedicated to protecting and advancing the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq rights.

In adjusting our sails to further our mandate virtually, we had many successes. We have developed a podcast series called “Juku’e”, an L'nuey podcast series focusing on current matters in the Mi'kmaq community. A few months later, for Aboriginal Awareness Week, nine signs of traditional Mi'kmaq Place Name signs were permanently installed across PEI. For National Indigenous Peoples Day, we hosted a virtual Mawi'omi featuring Epekwitk community members and their song, dance, words, and talents.

Earlier last year, the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq leadership signed “Ila'matulti'k” (“We Reconcile”) – The Mi'kmaq-Canada-Prince Edward Island Framework Agreement. This agreement affirms the historic Mi'kmaq treaties and commits Canada, PEI, and the Mi'kmaq to respectful and cooperative negotiations to deal with our outstanding Aboriginal Treaty Rights and claims. It sets out the guidelines for negotiation processes between these orders of government. The purpose of the Framework Agreement process is to determine what these rights mean for today, and how we can use them for the benefits of the Mi'kmaq tomorrow.

(Continued on page 4)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Through our community engagement, the input from the visioning process was compiled and summarized. This process will assist the work and link into larger engagement processes including fish governance engagement, the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process, treaty education, community and public engagement, and other initiatives to assist in increasing Mi'kmaq knowledge and education across Epekwitk.

The L'nuey team continues their work in protecting and advancing Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights. We are also working every day to hold government accountable in this regard.

Community input and direction is essential for L'nuey to live up to its mandate. We are not one voice – we are many voices, who all deserve to be heard. We need you to guide our work with your hopes and vision for the future. Your input is essential, and this work is just beginning. We also know that engagement is a conversation. We need you to know what is happening before decisions are made. We need you to know that any decisions reflect the input of the Epekwitkewa. Communication is a centerpiece for this process.

It is my hope that we use our energy and this opportunity to move the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq rights initiative forward for our people and future generations. The Mi'kmaq are a resilient, strong Nation and we will only grow stronger as we work as such to protect and implement our rights together. We need to work together, support each other and lift each other up.

Wela'lioq to our community members, our leadership, the L'nuey staff, and our partners for making this year a great success. I look forward to the upcoming year as L'nuey's Executive Director and working with Epekwitkewa and all Islanders to move towards a better tomorrow.

Msit No'kmaq,

Janene Wooldridge





The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils



2002
MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI INC.

2019
EPEKWITK ASSEMBLY
OF COUNCILS INC.
(THE FULL COUNCILS OF THE LENNOX
ISLAND AND ABEGWEIT FIRST NATIONS)



ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS:

- NEGOTIATIONS
- CONSULTATIONS
- GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT



• SHARED PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES

• TRIBAL COUNCIL
AND PTO

The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils is the joint forum that oversees and governs organizations that act in the shared interest of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation. Comprised of the full Councils of both First Nations, the Assembly currently administers two organizations that are Provincial in scope: L'nuey and The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.

L'nuey's mandate is focused on protecting and advancing the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq, including negotiations, consultation, and governance development.

The Confederacy's role is to deliver shared programs and services on behalf of both First Nations, as well as serving as a Tribal Council, which provides services and technical supports to each First Nation's administration.



The logo has been designed, in shape and elements, to display unity with the new logos of Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation, as well as L'nuey. The logo features the double curve, which is a prominent symbol in Mi'kmaq culture. It serves to remind us to keep balance in our lives. Clusters of curves together or side by side can symbolize community and alliance.

This approach also utilizes the eight-pointed star within the centre of the symbol. Amongst its many meanings, the eight-pointed star represents the four seasons, four winds, and also being a symbol for unity and harmony - all strong characteristics that the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils share.

Our chosen colours Blue and gold were chosen for a number of reasons. The combination of the blue and gold creates a regal tone to the symbol, making it have the feel of high achievement. Also, blue was a rare colour, historically, among Wabanaki peoples because of its difficulty to produce in dyes. This made blue very popular and prestigious.

This approach also utilizes the idea of Talking Circles. Talking Circles are used to discuss issues of great importance. Insight is gained by everyone participating in the circle and sharing their point of view.

Finally, we have used eight individual double curves on the outside and the eight pointed star on the inside to represent the eight members that make up the Assembly.

The L'nuey Logo

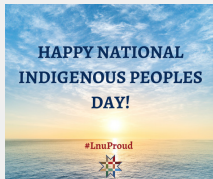
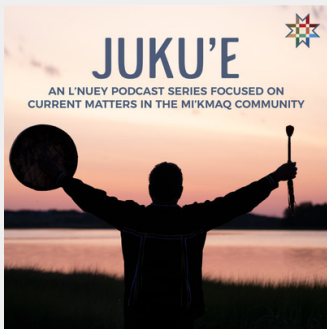


The L'nuey logo is founded in the traditions, history and spirituality of the Prince Edward Island Mi'kmaq.

The eight-point star is representative of the light of the universe that guides and protects the people, the land and the nation as a whole. This powerful symbol is then overlaid with visual elements taken from the rich traditions of basket weaving - an art form that takes many hands and many years of experience and education, similar to that of the efforts behind L'nuey. These two elements are then paired with the rich colours of naturally occurring dyes and pigments found on the island as well as colours representative of Epekwitk as a whole.



Highlights and Accomplishments



Mi'kmaq beginning move towards self-governance on P.E.I.

‘Ultimately it is having power and control of our destiny’
Tony Davis - CBC News - Posted: Oct 30, 2019 7:43 AM AT | Last updated: October 30, 2019

PEI raises flag to celebrate Treaty Day

Celebrating Treaty Day is an important step on the path to reconciliation, says First Nations chief
CBC News - Posted: Oct 31, 2019 4:08 PM AT | Last updated: October 31, 2019



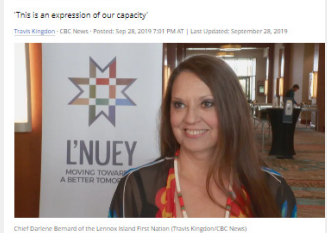
Lennon Island First Nation Chief Doreen Bernard and Kingston First Nation Chief Roddy J. Gould are joined by Premier Dennis King at a Treaty Day ceremony Tuesday in Charlottetown. (Brian Higgins/CBC)

The Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Rights Process

For more about the process, visit www.lnuuey.ca

Mi'kmaq leaders on P.E.I. introduce new rights based initiative

This is an expression of our capacity
Travis Kingston - CBC News - Posted: Sep 26, 2019 7:01 PM AT | Last updated: September 26, 2019



Chief Doreen Bernard of the Lennon Island First Nation (Travis Kingston/CBC News)

Islanders invited to 'come here, and learn more about Mi'kmaq'

A new podcast designed to reach P.E.I. Mi'kmaq about important issues in their community is also an opportunity for all Islanders to learn more about their Indigenous neighbors.
CBC News - Posted: Aug 14, 2019 11:00 AM AT | Last updated: August 14, 2019

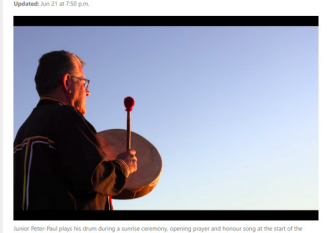
JUKU'E

AN L'NUY PODCAST SERIES FOCUSED ON CURRENT MATTERS IN THE MI'KMAQ COMMUNITY

For more about the process, visit www.lnuuey.ca

L'nuoy P.E.I. brings National Indigenous Peoples Day online with community collaboration

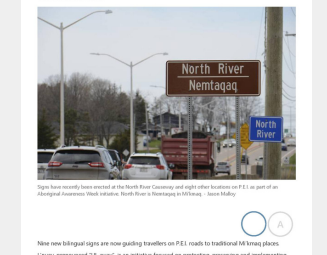
Michael Robar (L'nuoy) - Published: Jun 21 at 4:40 p.m. | Updated: Jun 21 at 7:59 p.m.



Mayor Robar (L'nuoy) is shown during a summer community opening and honorarium on the part of the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration brought by L'nuoy P.E.I. in this screenshot of a YouTube video.

Bilingual signage now in place at significant Mi'kmaq locations across P.E.I.

Alison Redford (L'nuoy) - Published: May 21 at 11:52 a.m. | Updated: May 21 at 2:41 p.m.



New bilingual signs are now guiding travellers on P.E.I. roads to traditional Mi'kmaq places. L'nuoy, pronounced "L'nuoy", is an initiative focused on protecting, preserving and promoting traditions.

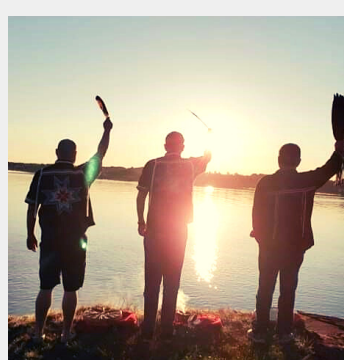
Newly formed P.E.I. Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative appoints executive director

The location: Charlottetown, P.E.I. | Published: Nov 12, 2019 at 10:23 a.m.



Isabelle Wokwisewey - P.E.I. Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. — Just one month after its official launch, P.E.I.'s Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative, L'nuoy, has its first executive director.
Chief Doreen Bernard of Lennon Island First Nation and Chief Junior Gould of Abegweit First Nation, announced the appointment of Isabelle Wokwisewey to the position on Monday.
L'nuoy, governed by the P.E.I. Mi'kmaq Leadership, the Legislative Assembly of Councils (L'nuoy) and Abegweit First Nation Councils, was launched during the inaugural Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Nationhood.



The Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Rights Process

For more about the process, visit www.lnuuey.ca

JUKU'E

AN L'NUY PODCAST SERIES FOCUSED ON CURRENT MATTERS IN THE MI'KMAQ COMMUNITY

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JUKU'E

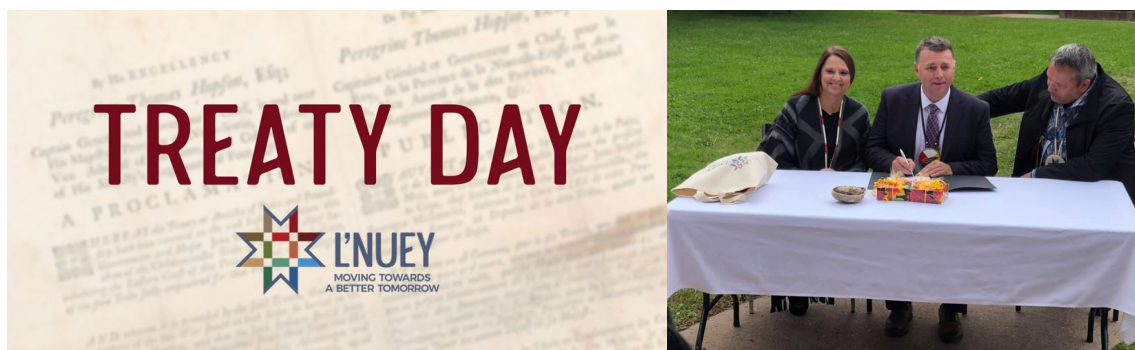
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For more about the process, visit www.lnuuey.ca



The first official proclamation of Mi'kmaq Treaty Day in PEI.

PEI officially recognizes Oct. 1 as Treaty Day. Premier Dennis King, Chief Darlene Bernard of Lennox Island First and Chief Junior Gould of Abegweit First Nation signed an official Mi'kmaq Treaty Day proclamation to recognize the beginning of the month as Treaty Day during a ceremony at the Shaw Building in Charlottetown.

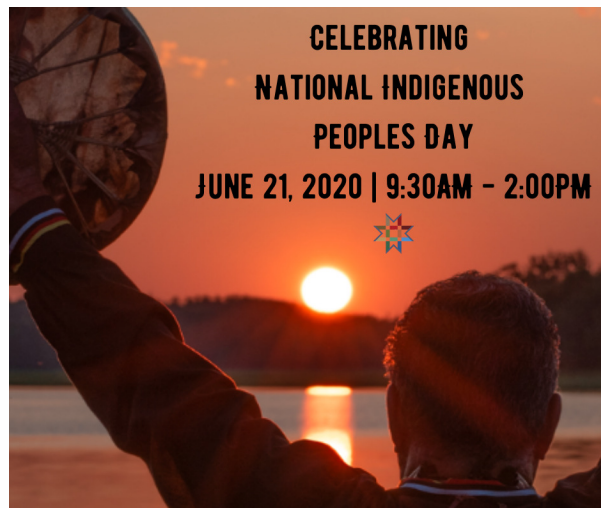


Aboriginal Awareness Week - May 19-22 2020

Communications Officers worked with Prime Creative and PEI Government to have 9 Mi'kmaq Place Name signs permanently installed across Epekwitk to be announced for Aboriginal Awareness Week. As well, several videos were launched, including a video message from Lennox Island Chief Bernard, a Say "L'nuey" Contest promotional video awarding prizes of L'nuey swag, and a "Mi'kmaq on the Map: Place Names" video. Mi'kmaq Words of the Day were created as visual content for language revitalization.

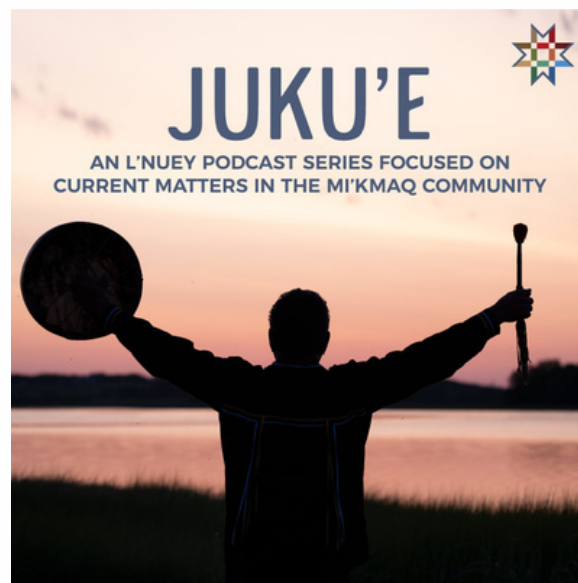


To date, we have:
1,142 Page Likes on Facebook
546 Follows on Instagram
222 Follows on Twitter



National Indigenous Peoples Day

Video and social media content was created and shared by the Communications team for the observance. The online celebration featured a Mawi'omi-style schedule consisting of images and videos from 9:30AM until 1:30PM on June 21st, 2020. The day consisted of a video launch of an Opening Sunrise Ceremony with Junior Peter-Paul, video messages from Leadership: Chief Gould and Chief Bernard, video launch of a special "White Sky" virtual sing-along, launch of Father-child video composed of submissions by Fathers and Children of Mi'kma'ki (to incorporate Father's Day on same date), A closing ceremony featuring a reading from Poet Laureate Julie Pellissier-Lush, a closing prayer from Jimmy Bernard, and featured videography of Sunset by Patricia Bourque.



Launched JUKU'E Podcast

As L'nuey continues our work of protecting and implementing the rights of the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq, we need a way to keep our community informed, engaged, and empowered. Through Juku'e, we'll be delivering a series of Podcasts and Webinars focused on important current matters and processes.

A news release regarding the launch of Juku'e was distributed to media contacts and social media on July 30. Podcast platforms for Juku'e on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and various others have been established, as well as a web page for the podcast at anchor.fm/lnuey. Link to the podcast webpage is also on L'nuey's website.



Community Engagement & Governance Development



L'NUEY VISIONING REPORT



At *Maw-Lukuti'kw*, the inaugural Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Nationhood Gathering (September 28, 2019), the new Rights and Reconciliation initiative, L'nuey, was launched. L'nuey was created to be the focal point of all PEI Mi'kmaq efforts to assert, protect and reconcile Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, including negotiations and governance development, in response to the *Ila'matulti'k*: Mi'kmaq - Prince Edward Island - Canada Framework Agreement.

The Gathering was also the starting point for a community consultation process to set priorities for L'nuey, as well as to guide the organization as it develops.

Subsequently, L'nuey continued to engage the community on their vision for their Rights and Reconciliation Initiative, which included a series of community-based consultation sessions held December to March - as well as an online survey.

KEY QUESTIONS

At all five sessions, the following questions were used to guide the conversation:

1. What if we look beyond the Indian Act? What if we could design the future of our people?
2. What do we value as Mi'kmaq Nationhood? What are your long-term (10 year plus) priorities for the Mi'kmaq Nation?
3. Who will be the beneficiaries of Mi'kmaq rights

THEMES

The Visioning sessions revealed a number of themes:

The importance of revitalizing Mi'kmaq language and culture

The overwhelming majority of those who attended the sessions felt that central to any discussion on Mi'kmaq nationhood is the return to tradition, whether that be language, ceremony, forms of government or land use.

Mobility Rights

As Indigenous people, they felt that their rights should not end when they leave the reserve, regardless where they live and work.

Beneficiaries

The concept of who the beneficiaries of Mi'kmaq rights and title are is more complicated. There will need to be much more work and in-depth conversations with

community members to understand both what is meant by 'beneficiaries' and who will be entitled to rights based benefits once confirmed or negotiated.

Initial feedback from the Visioning sessions included the following:

- The *Indian Act* should not tell us who benefits.
- This should be determined by the community.
- All Mi'kmaq children should benefit.

Involvement in Decision-making

All decisions that impact the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq need to be made by the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq. The federal and provincial governments should no longer be making decisions that impact Indigenous lives without their involvement and say. Furthermore, these decisions need to be made by the Mi'kmaq as a nation, not as two separate communities.



Community Engagement & Governance Development

The Importance of Elders

Participants highlighted the importance of Elders' participation in all aspects of life. Elder knowledge needs to be central in everything from helping the youth to understand and take pride in their culture, to advising government on protocols and decisions.

Continuing to Gather as a Nation

Participants spoke very positively about the Nationhood Gathering and wish to continue to gather as a Nation and work together toward a better tomorrow.

The Importance of Communication

Participants placed a high importance on communication with the community and general public regarding Rights and Reconciliation.

of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, as well as the history of the Mi'kmaq on Prince Edward Island - all while putting a greater emphasis on the Mi'kmaq language.

L'nuey is also committed to enabling the Reconciliation process. Islanders are supportive of Reconciliation but often do not know how to take the initial steps forward. L'nuey will work with the public and with government to ensure that there is real, tangible progress in this regard this year.

In order to evaluate the success of these communications efforts, L'nuey has established the following Critical Success Factors - goals by which the success of our activities will be measured.



PARTICIPATION

The Visioning process benefitted from some significant participation from the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq. People attended the Nationhood Gathering, participated in online consultations and community consultations.



TURNING INPUT INTO ACTION

L'nuey have taken the input from their Visioning Process and applied it directly to their 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.

L'nuey's first communications' priority in 2020-2021 is to increase communication and transparency with the community regarding its activities. A communications strategy has been developed, which will enable greater community engagement and involvement in activities such as Consultation, the Beneficiaries Process, Governance Planning and more.

Communication and transparency are essential to building trust.

Coming soon, community members will be able to take part in webinars, consultations - and receive frequent updates on the activities of L'nuey directly from the staff and leadership of L'nuey.

L'nuey will also develop a broad public education plan that will focus on increasing understanding and awareness

1. There is an increased public and community understanding of the foundational terms and concepts related to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.
2. There is an increased public and community knowledge of the historic Mi'kmaq presence on Prince Edward Island; including, increased/greater prominence of Mi'kmaq words - greetings, place names, terms - on Prince Edward Island.
3. There is an improved understanding of the concept and practice of Reconciliation and concrete public and governmental action is taking place.

These factors will unify the work of staff members throughout the organization. As they advance their individual files, they will also be working toward these collective goals - which will build trust and set the organization on a course for long-term success.



CONCLUSION

The L'nuey Visioning progress has given clear direction for the organization as it grows and moves forward. It is clear that L'nuey's success is only possible if the community participates and is engaged from the very beginning.

As we "move toward a better tomorrow," it is clear that we must do this together. There is no greater task for the future of our people and our communities for generations to come.



Ni'n ag No'kmaq

OUR IDENTITY AS A NATION IS GROUNDED IN OUR FAMILY ROOTS AND CONNECTIONS.

When Mi'kmaq interact, the first things we ask are questions like:

“TAMI WETAPEKSIN”

(“which district do you belong to?”)

“WENIK KUJJEWIJK”

(“who are your parents?”)

“WENIK KIKMAQ”

(“who is your family?”)

In 1876 when the federal government established the Indian status system, they developed their own “criteria” to determine who qualified to be registered as an “Indian”. A registered Indian is not necessarily Mi'kmaq, and not all Mi'kmaq are Status Indians. The Indian status system took away the Mi'kmaq Nation's ability to self-determination. The negotiation process in PEI is about the implementation of our Rights and how can we ensure that our territory is protected and managed not just today, but for future generations.



Who can exercise our Treaties and our Rights is not about Indian status but about who is “Mi'kmaq”.



L'nuey, on behalf of the Mi'kmaq leadership, wants to make sure that rights are being exercised by the Mi'kmaq, and in doing so, resources are being protected and used properly, ensuring resources are there for future generations. Yet we cannot exercise our rights if we do not have our own process of defining who is Mi'kmaq. We need our own process.

Creating our own process is not about creating a citizenship code or interfering with non-Mi'kmaq participation in our community. While non-Mi'kmaq people who participate in our events, live in our communities, are in relationships with Mi'kmaq, or those who may be generally considered or defined to be “community members”, they are not Mi'kmaq for the purpose of accessing Aboriginal Rights. As self-governance progresses, the Mi'kmaq may develop a citizenship which includes this broader community. We are not at that stage yet.

Our Process will;

- reflect our understandings, definitions and ways of identifying who is L'nu.
- determine who is an heir of Mi'kmaq Treaties and Aboriginal Rights and Title.
- be based on the inherent rights of the Mi'kmaq to determine our own identity in accordance with our customs and traditions, as recognized under the Canadian Constitution and UNDRIP.
- work with the other parts of Mi'kmaki to ensure consistency.
- make sure that what is created for PEI Mi'kmaq works for PEI Mi'kmaq.
- define who is a Mi'kmaq rights-holder in Prince Edward Island.

Our Process will be Your Process.

We will engage with Mi'kmaq from across the province, on and off reserve, coming back to you at each stage to ask if we heard you correctly. Together, our first step will be to determine what we want our process to be called and to ensure everyone has a clear understanding about the work ahead.

Visit Inuey.ca/governance-development for more information.





Community Engagement & Governance Development



September 8, 2020

“N’in aq No’kmaq” - Me and My Relations The Epekwitk Mi’kmaq Rights Engagement Process

Kwe’ Epekwitk Mi’kmaq,

We have an opportunity to identify who the rightful heirs to our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are, as referenced in the Peace and Friendship Treaties. This is about determining who will benefit as “Mi’kmaq rights holders” in Epekwitk. Yet we cannot exercise our rights if we do not have our own process of defining who is Mi’kmaq, so we need to create our own Epekwitk Mi’kmaq process.

The engagement process recently started. You can expect to see Julie Lush, Richard Lush and Jamie Thomas going door to door and reaching out directly to start the conversation and getting your input.

Some of the questions to start conversation and act as building blocks for this work include:

1. What if we could design the future of our people, what would that picture look like to you?
2. What do we value as Mi’kmaq? What are our priorities?
3. What does being Mi’kmaq mean to you?
4. Who should be the beneficiaries of Mi’kmaq rights and title in Epekwitk?
5. How far back should someone be able to claim Mi’kmaq ancestry?
6. Who should be a part of the decision-making process, who determines who should be accepted by the Mi’kmaq?
7. If you live in PEI and are Mi’kmaq, but are not from one of the two bands, should you still be eligible to benefit from Mi’kmaq rights?
8. Is there anything you don’t understand regarding the work of the Epekwitk Mi’kmaq Process?
We want to make sure you understand the work with regard to this.
9. Is there anything else you would like to share about this process?

How can you participate?

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Answer these questions online at lnuey.ca | - Message, call or email us to come out for a |
| - Email us your answers to these questions | visit and ask the questions in person |
| - Print and fill out questions to be picked up | - Arrange a call or video call to review questions |

Julie Lush 902-377-2233

Richard Lush rlush@lnuey.ca

Jamie Thomas 902-439-0644

Wela’lioq


Richard Lush, Engagement Officer



The existence and validity of Aboriginal and treaty rights have been recognized in Canada through many court decisions. However, the courts have only partially defined the nature and scope of the rights and the common theme throughout these decisions has been the court's direction or advice for government and Aboriginal people to resolve their issues and find fair solutions through negotiation, rather than litigation. The Marshall decision in 1999 prompted greater collaboration between Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nation Councils on the protection and implementation of Mi'kmaq Rights in PEI and from the outset, the leadership has been clear that they are committed to negotiations as the preferred path to resolving these issues.

Framework Agreement



1) Framework Agreement

In January 2019 the Mi'kmaq-Prince Edward Island-Canada Framework Agreement was signed and it established a process for the parties to discuss and advance Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including the inherent right to self-government. It sets out the guidelines for government-to-government negotiation processes.

Through the Framework Agreement a "Main Table" is established with technical staff representatives from each of the governments and work plans are developed based on the direction and authority of the respective leadership for each party – for the Mi'kmaq that is the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils.

With the guidance and direction of the Assembly, L'nuey will begin to explore the priority areas for initial negotiations at the Main Table, including potential areas for self-government discussions. Under the Main Table, two specific bi-lateral negotiations (between the Mi'kmaq and Canada) have been underway under the "Rights and Reconciliation Agreement" process. In 2017 Canada obtained a mandate to negotiate Rights and Reconciliation Agreements as a means to respond to the unique rights and interests of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet and Passamaquoddy in the Maritimes. The Agreements were intended to be legally binding, time limited agreements which recognized the Aboriginal and historic treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq and set out how those rights would be exercised during that time limited period. Two areas have been the subject of RRA negotiations in PEI – Fisheries and Parks.



Fish RRA (Representatives at the Table: L'nuey and DFO):

These negotiations have been effectively been on hold for over a year as the Assembly has objected to the approach and the mandate provided to the DFO negotiator.

Parks RRA (Representatives at the Table: L'nuey and Parks Canada):

These negotiations have been progressing in a very positive manner. The objective of the negotiations is to recognize and reconcile Mi'kmaq Rights in PEI with the current management and oversight of the National Park in Prince Edward Island, including respectful recognition of the appropriate role to be played by the Mi'kmaq in the co-management of the Park. No Agreement will be reached until the Assembly has proposed terms that they are satisfied with and will then present to the community to seek support.

2) Other Negotiations

L'nuey is also mandated on behalf of the First Nations to lead and coordinate other negotiation processes that are not specifically related to the Framework Agreement, such as the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations' Hog Island Specific Claim negotiations and the negotiations related to the Feasibility Study for the Hog Island Sandhills National Park Reserve.

2a) Specific Claims

Specific claims deal with past wrongs against First Nations. These are claims made by First Nations against the Government of Canada and relate to the administration of land and other First Nation assets and to the fulfilment of treaties and agreements. There is currently one active specific claim in negotiations in PEI (Hog Island). L'nuey is also currently engaged in research and legal review for five other potential specific claims.

Hog Island Specific Claim: (Representatives at the table: L'nuey and Specific Claims Branch of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada)

Negotiations are now at the stage of independent studies to help inform the negotiation table on potential values related to the loss of use and value of the land. If a proposed settlement is achieved and that proposal is supported by the Councils, it would then be presented to the communities to seek support for implementation.

2b) Hog Island Sandhills/Pitawikek National Park Feasibility Assessment (Representatives at the table: L'nuey, Parks Canada and PEI Department of Environment and Climate Change):

In August 2019 an MOU was signed between the Minister of Environment and the Chiefs to engage in a feasibility assessment for a new national park, intended to protect the Hog Island Sandhills and surrounding area. L'nuey and Parks Canada and the Province of PEI are now engaged in discussions to advance this concept. Community and public engagement plans are currently being updated due to COVID and are expected to roll out this fall.



Consultations

L'nuey, through the L'nuey Consultation Unit, is mandated by the Chiefs and Councils of both the Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations to act as their agent in the consultation process as set out in the Mi'kmaq – Prince Edward Island – Canada Consultation Agreement. L'nuey receives hundreds of consultation notifications each year of varying complexity from both the Federal and Provincial Crown. Each consultation notification receives legal and historical review and analysis, including any evidence of Mi'kmaq land use. Depending on the nature of the consultation matter, the review will also include environmental and natural resource assessment. Many of the subject matters require expert analysis and advice. In addition, the Consultation Unit manages the engagement process with the elected Mi'kmaq Leadership/Councils and the Community where appropriate.

First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples in Canada, including the Mi'kmaq of PEI, have unique rights guaranteed under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Section 35 recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples. To protect these rights, the doctrine of the duty to consult and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous groups was developed by the Canadian courts – and in particular the Supreme Court of Canada in the 2004 landmark Haida decision. The duty obligates both the Federal and Provincial Governments to consult with Indigenous groups when the government is contemplating an action or decision that might adversely impact proven or asserted Aboriginal and/or treaty rights. The general purpose of the duty to consult is to foster reconciliation.

The L'nuey Consultation Unit functions to assert and protect Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights and to hold government accountable to ensure that Mi'kmaq rights are not infringed or violated.





Staff Directory



Jenene Wooldridge

Executive Director

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Jenene leads L'nuey and staff in a manner that supports and guides the organization's mission as defined by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, including consultations, negotiations, governance development, communications and engagement. She is also responsible for advancing L'nuey's overall strategic direction. In her role, she establishes relationships with the First Nations, Provincial and Federal governments to assist in building bridges between those worlds. As Executive Director her priority is the protection and implementation of Mi'kmaq rights in PEI.

Wendell LaBobe

Consultations Coordinator

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Wendell, Consultation Coordinator with L'nuey, is responsible for ensuring the Duty to Consult process meets the requirements of the Consultation process as confirmed by the Courts and as stated in the Mi'kmaq-PEI-Canada Consultation Agreement. Wendell provides oversight, management and leadership on L'nuey mandated responsibilities regarding the Crown's constitutional obligation to consult on any proposed activities that may have an adverse impact on Mi'kmaq Rights in PEI. He is the first point of contact when Canada and/or Province identify matters requiring consultation. As Coordinator, Wendell is responsible for coordinating the receipt, review, and response to a wide variety of consultation requests for various projects and initiatives and advises the Executive Director and the Assembly on Duty to Consult activities.

Erica Perry

Office Manager | Executive Assistant

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Erica serves as the Executive Assistant and Office Manager for L'nuey. Under the Executive Director's leadership, she is responsible for L'nuey's office operations and administrative components; staff onboarding and various HR functions; financial processing; and assisting the Executive Director and Assembly as required. She is a member of the Consultation Unit, and sits at most negotiation tables, for record keeping and logistical purposes. Erica also coordinates internal and external events and meetings, and is committed to supporting the work of all staff.

Sean Doke

Communications Officer

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Sean serves as the lead media contact for communications on behalf of L'nuey. In his role he holds responsibility for coordinating and participating in the execution of L'nuey's Communications Strategy, Media Strategy, and relevant content development including video, photo, and podcasts. Sean also serves as support to L'nuey's communications unit by assisting with publications, news releases, messaging documents, and monitoring media, all of which directly support the broader communication efforts of L'nuey.





Staff Directory

Annie Martin

Communications Officer

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In her role, Annie is responsible for the execution of the Communications Strategy, the Social Media Strategy, creating and managing video and photo content for the website and social media, and sharing news releases and relevant content on social media platforms. She also manages preparation and organization of internal and external events. She supports the communications unit in writing news releases, messaging documents, letters, and advisories to advance L'nuey's broader communication efforts.

Tracey Cutcliffe

Senior Negotiator

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Tracey serves as the lead negotiator on all negotiation processes L'nuey is mandated by the Assembly to advance. In her role she has responsibility for, and coordinates, the Framework Agreement Main Table negotiation process as well as other negotiation processes under the responsibility of L'nuey, including Specific Claims. Tracey also serves as support to the Executive Director on L'nuey strategic direction and oversight with respect to L'nuey's Duty to Consult and Governance Development work.

Tammy MacDonald

Historical Researcher and Archivist

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As the historian, Tammy exhaustively researches all types of historical records, including oral history, to ensure accurate Mi'kmaq historical information is shared for many applications, including Consultations, Negotiations, Specific Claims, all levels of government departments, private organizations, and community requests, among other things. On the other side of the historian role, Tammy is also the archivist and "Keeper of History" for L'nuey.

Don MacKenzie, Q.C.

Legal Counsel

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Don is Legal Counsel for L'nuey and is responsible for providing legal expertise, guidance and counsel to advance all aspects of L'nuey's mandate – consultation, negotiations and governance. Don also serves as lead for litigation and adversarial processes, should they be necessary to achieve the goals of L'nuey as established by the Assembly; including litigation strategy, legal positioning and representation. Don also provides strategic advice and support to the Executive Director and the Assembly on Aboriginal and treaty rights matters, including Aboriginal title.

Richard Lush

Engagement Officer

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Richard is responsible for L'nuey's community and engagement efforts. He works to assist all staff and partners with engagement planning. Richard is currently engaging with Epekwitk Mi'kmaq on the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process. Richard also works to promote and facilitate networking and knowledge exchanges on Mi'kmaq history, culture, traditions, and the Mi'kmaq way of life.



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