



YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPT 28 2021 - SEPT 28 2022



L'NUEY
MOVING TOWARDS
A BETTER TOMORROW



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MESSAGE FROM EPEKWITNEWAQ MI'KMAW-SAQMAQ

Kwe' Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq:

Three years ago on September 28, 2019, L'nuey, the Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative of Epekwitk (PEI) was launched. As you know, this was a significant step towards advancing, implementing, and protecting the constitutionally entrenched rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of PEI) under the guidance of the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils.

There have been significant accomplishments since then as well as moments that inspire future work to be done. It is of utmost importance that our Mi'kmaq rights are protected, asserted, and honoured for those of us here today and strengthened for future generations.

We hope you take some time to read about the work being carried out on several key fronts in the updates provided throughout this document.

L'nuey is focused on three pillars: Negotiations, Consultation, and Governance Development, in the past year there has been great work done in all areas. As L'nuey grows you will see certain projects come to fruition as well as opportunities for new projects. All the work is being done with the goal of strengthening our rights for the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq of today and for future generations.

This year has continued to deliver hardship in many forms. We continue to experience the limitations of a global pandemic amid the everyday struggles of life. We continue to grieve the thousands of innocent lives lost and the ongoing impacts on survivors and families due to the injustice of residential schools and we continue to fight for our inherent rights to a treaty protected fishery. Yet, throughout challenges and suffering, our fortitude and abiding love for one another strengthens us and moves us forward.

On behalf of you, we will continue to work hard for, self-determination and prosperity in our community. Through L'nuey, we are helping to establish a firm and well-understood foundation for self-government as well as promoting a better understanding of inherent Mi'kmaq Rights.

We will continue to work through L'nuey to ensure that all government partners understand our rights – and to help build a better understanding of our treaty relationship.

We invite you to join us as we move forward towards a better tomorrow!



Chief Junior Gould of Abegweit First Nation



Chief Darlene Bernard of Lennox Island First Nation

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe that L'nuey was established three years ago. There have been unforeseen challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic as well as opportunities like the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a new national park reserve in Pituamkek off the North Shore of Epekwitk. Throughout it all the L'nuey team remained motivated and committed to continue supporting the implementation, protection, and advancement the rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

A second round of engagement on N'in aq No'kmaq Process ("Defining WHO, Defining WE") kicked off in November 2021. There was a month-long social media campaign, a podcast summarizing the first round of engagement and a mailout sent to Community Members summarizing key terminology that is important for the process. Another project that will be important for the Ni'n aq No'kmaq Process is the L'nu Genaology Project. The purpose of the project is to gather Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq

genealogical data and is a way for the Mi'kmaq community, to find out more about who their relations are and gain a sense of connection and pride through their ancestors.

The Negotiations Unit had a busy year and I encourage you to read more about this important work. Some of their highlights included: the negotiation of a large scale wind energy opportunity, significant advancement towards an establishment agreement for a new National Park (Pituamkek), as well as co-operative management opportunities in the existing PEI National Park, there has been progress made on negotiations toward a settlement for the Hog Island specific claim.

The L'nuey Consultation Unit functions to assert and protect Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and to hold the government accountable to ensure that Mi'kmaq Rights are not infringed or violated. This year, L'nuey has received and provided responses to an estimated 150 Crown (Provincial and Federal) consultation notifications of varying complexity. The L'nuey Consultations Unit worked this year to develop a Consultation Process that will serve as a guide to how the L'nuey Consultation Unit deals with notifications from here on out.

Our Communications team had a busy year with ten Juku'e podcasts being released, six video projects being produced with our marketing agency, countless social media campaigns being posted, and multiple events being coordinated. They shared educational material about the treaties in the form of "Did You Know" social media posts and they began regularly sharing Mi'kmaq language posts. Our Culture Campaign highlighted many community members from Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations and were consumed on TV and via social media by thousands of Epekwitnewaq.

Wela'liq to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq for your involvement in L'nuey's communication materials, engagement sessions, the Ni'n aq No'kmaq Process, and more. We value your input; your ideas and we need your knowledge. There have been challenges in the last year that have prevented gatherings but L'nuey is committed to restoring our connection to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. The Mi'kmaq are a resilient, strong Nation and we are stronger together.

It has been a challenging yet rewarding year and I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq-Saqmaq and the entire Epekwitk Assembly of Councils for your guidance and support, the L'nuey staff and our partners for your hard work, and to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq for pushing us to move towards a better tomorrow. I am excited to see what the upcoming year brings and am proud and humbled to be L'nuey's Executive Director.

Msit No'kmaq | All My Relations

Jenene Wooldridge

EPEKWITH ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILS

Governance Structure



The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (EAC) 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 three organizations that are Provincial in scope: L'nuey, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and the new Epekwitk Development Corporation.

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.

Epekwitk Development is the EAC's new Provincial Economic Development organization focused on increasing source revenue for Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation on shared projects that are provincial in scope.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT

NI'N AQ NO'KMAQ. DEFINING WHO. DEFINING WE.

The Ni'n aq No'kmaq process works to determine who can exercise Mi'kmaq Rights on Epekwitk. We are defining for ourselves WHO is Mi'kmaq, because only the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk can say who WE are as Mi'kmaq. This will be done through a series of interviews and analysis of the results. This process is not about access to dollars, but instead focuses on on access - who can hunt, fish and access resources in this province as a Mi'kmaq Rights-holder. We launched this work on July 27, 2020, and continued meeting with community members during the end of March 2021 for Phase 1.

A second round of engagement on N'in aq No'kmaq kicked off in November 2021 with a podcast summarizing the first round of engagement. Community members were also sent a mailout focusing on key terminology along with a month-long social media campaign.

The second round of engagement focused on four key questions. These questions were based on gaps from the first round of engagement. Over the winter a series of virtual townhall sessions and focus groups were conducted by Julie Pellissier-Lush and Richard Lush.

THE FOUR KEY QUESTIONS AND SOME KEY RESPONSES WERE:

- 1. Who should be recognized as beneficiaries and how does that relate to how we define "community members"?**
 - * Nearly half of participants felt that at minimum a beneficiary should be all Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island. Further research and discussion is needed around whether spouses or other non-Mi'kmaq are entitled to full benefits.
- 2. Should out-of-province Mi'kmaq be included?**
 - * The responses to this question created a distinction between Mi'kmaq from other parts of Mi'kmaki (a) residing on PEI versus (b) Mi'kmaq visiting temporarily. This distinction is important and should be considered in the development of the process.
- 3. Are adopted children included in the process? If so, how?**
 - * The majority said adopted children should be included. Most people's opinion was that if you are raised Mi'kmaq, you are Mi'kmaq. This aligns with traditional teachings about family relations.
- 4. In terms of claiming Mi'kmaq ancestry, how far back do we go? What is needed for proof?**
 - * One consistent recommendation from community members was to ensure individuals have strong genealogical proof. This summer experts will work on this piece, and we will await their recommendation on how far back they can trace strong tangible proof.



EPEKWITNEWAQ MI'KMAQ

N'in aq No'kmaq is a process to determine who is Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk/PEI) and, therefore, who is an heir or a beneficiary to Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.



L'NU GENEALOGY PROJECT



Overview of Work

The purpose of the project is to gather Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq genealogical data that will be of great interest to participants, as well as for the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process. It is a way for the Mi'kmaq community, to find out more about who their relations are and gain a sense of connection and pride through their ancestors. This information will be collected and protected for the use of L'nuey and the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

The L'nu Genealogy process came about after talks with community members and the Mi'kmaq leadership, where it was decided it was time to collect our past as well as protect our future by creating a database for all Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq to be able to access their family lines, including the founding families.

Methodology

It is presumed that all participants will be all Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, however there may be some unique cases where individuals are married into Mi'kmaq families, are accepted as members of the community and are knowledgeable about family histories. Individuals will be selected based on their knowledge of family history, family lines and stories. The majority are likely Elders, and priority will be focused on gathering stories from our oldest Elders first.

Participation is voluntary. If an individual decides to decline to participate after the interviews are collected, then that information will not be used. We understand that some of these conversations are sensitive and may cause traumatic memories to surface (e.g. residential schools, Sixties Scoop). Participants will be informed that the interviews will be recorded. The recordings may be used publicly (so long as there is no sensitive material) in sharing the history of our culture. However, if a participant specifically requests the recordings not be publicly shared, this request will be honored and respected. Participants will be informed that the information from the stories will be used to develop family trees that will be accessed by individuals for the purposes of determining their family trees, and possibly by some applicants when Ni'n aq No'kmaq is implemented.

Interpretation of Results from Phase One

The data collected through individual engagement and will be stored in a safe and secure spot that only the interviewer and people who have signed a confidentiality document can access (e.g. researchers transcribing the records into a database). The database where the information will be collected must be OCAP compliant – so this means that the information is stored in a secure spot, and that the information is owned by L'nuey and not by any other third party.

All Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq will be informed about this project. Information on the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process has been shared through mail-outs, online outdates, podcasts, and engagement sessions since the start of the project. We will report on this project in the same way and provide our initial introduction on the project to everyone at the Nationhood Gathering in November 2022. At that time, individuals will be able to start participating in this project.

Data will be continuously verified as the process progresses through interviews. For example, everyone calls someone a “cousin” or “Uncle” who are not, in fact, related. The findings will be entered into a database whereby all Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq can trace their family trees and have access to database.

Benefit of Work

We have a right to know who we are - every child, teen, adult and Elder. Colonization has made our lineage feel less important. We need to bring a pride back to people and show them who they are and how they belong. This is the heart of this work, along with increasing pride through proud lineage that has been passed down for generations.

Also, this will strengthen the membership process through having the lines of lineage already established.

Colonialism has impacted our oral traditions. This is how family connections and family trees were originally maintained. Now our records are disjointed in census, birth, death, and marriage records. In some cases, not all the information is there – people could have hidden from the Indian agent or hid their identity for fear of residential school or other colonial impositions. This has meant that we lack knowledge on these stories, but by doing this project, we have an opportunity to learn and save this knowledge for ourselves and others.

By doing this work we are exercising our right of self-determination over our identity and reclaiming our stories that we thought were lost.

PARKS CANADA PARTNERSHIP

L'nuey – Parks Canada Collaborative Initiatives

The Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq and Parks Canada have built a positive and cooperative relationship over many years. L'nuey and Parks Canada work together regularly in a variety of ways to meet shared goals; here are some of the partnership initiatives underway.

Sharing Mi'kmaw History and Culture at Parks Canada Places and Beyond:

Throughout this year, collaborative work continued between L'nuey and Parks Canada to share and celebrate Mi'kmaw history and culture within Prince Edward Island National Park, and at Island national historic sites administered by Parks Canada. Among the projects advanced or accomplished this year were:

- In the summer and fall of 2021, outdoor exhibits were installed at six Parks Canada locations. These sets of three-sided panels introduce visitors to the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk and touch upon topics such as Mi'kmaw history, traditional land use, Treaties of Peace and Friendship, the Treaty relationship, the struggle for recognition of Aboriginal Rights, and the cooperative partnership of the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow and Parks Canada.
- Work continued this year to update point-of-entry signs to Parks Canada places. Nearly all point of entry signs are now trilingual in Mi'kmaw, English, and French.
- The Mi'kmaw Heritage Presentation program, co-developed by L'nuey and Parks Canada, successfully continued this year, with most activities taking place at Greenwich, PEI National Park.
- Cooperative developments continue at Skmaqñ – Port-la-Joye – Fort Amherst, a place important to the Mi'kmaw, Acadian-French and British history of PEI. Work on a new video about the rich and complex history of the site is underway, led by L'nuey and Parks Canada working in partnership with representatives of the site's Acadian and British stakeholder communities.
- Also at Skmaqñ – Port-la-Joye – Fort Amherst, L'nuey, Parks Canada and an advisory committee are at work on an impressive new outdoor exhibit to bring alive the site's history for visitors. Both the video and outdoor exhibit will be completed before March 2023.
- In November 2021, with the support of L'nuey and Parks Canada, AJB (John) Johnston and Jesse Francis published a history of Skmaqñ – Port-la-Joye – Fort Amherst National Historic Site entitled *Ancient Land, New Land*.

Proposed Pituamkek National Park Reserve

In 2008, the Mi'kmaw Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow recognised the Pituamkek area (Hog Island, the Sandhills, and adjacent areas) as a Mi'kmaw Heritage Landscape. For many years, the Mi'kmaw leadership has been proposing the creation of co-managed national park reserve in here. This year saw major advances toward the creation of a possible Pituamkek National Park Reserve.

- On January 19, 2022, Chief Darlene Bernard, Chief Junior Gould and the Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and Minister responsible for Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding about Pituamkek National Park Reserve. That MOU marked the successful completion of a feasibility study, and the official beginning of negotiations toward a Pituamkek NPR establishment agreement. For more information on this topic, please see the "Negotiations" section of this document.

In 2021-2022, the relationship between the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq and Parks Canada continued to grow and evolve, with several major shared accomplishments for both partners.



PITUAMKEK PATHFINDERS INTERIM PROGRAM

This summer five Mi'kmaq community members were employed through the Pituamkek Pathfinders interim program. This was a pilot project created by L'nuey and offered with the support and cooperation of Parks Canada and partner groups. The interim program took place from June until the end of September 2022.

- The interim program was intended to help us gain some understanding of what an Indigenous led guardian or stewardship program might look like in a future Pituamkek National Park Reserve while offering an opportunity for employment and skills development.
- A team of five community members, the Pituamkek Pathfinders spent their summer becoming acquainted with Pituamkek and gaining firsthand knowledge of its cultural, historical, and ecological significance. This was accomplished through participation in a variety of land-based experiences. They had the opportunity to assist and learn from partners such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Island Nature Trust, Mi'kmaq knowledge specialists, and other researchers, in their work at Pituamkek which included the study of plant and animals, rare and invasive species, coastal change studies, archaeological excavations, shoreline survey and clean up, boat safety, and kayak training. They helped to facilitate, or take part in, several visits to the islands by various visitors, including a national parks travel writer, members of the Banff Forum, and members of the Epekwitk Mi'kmaq (MacKenzie is this the right way to say it?) and Parks Canada negotiation teams.
- In September we carried out the Pituamkek Social Values Project for which the Pathfinders provided transportation and logistical support.
- This project connected or re-connected community members, including youth and elders, with the lands and waters of Pituamkek.
- Through campfire conversations at Hog Island, the community members shared memories and knowledge of Pituamkek.
- With the participants' consent, the sessions were recorded by an audiovisual professional and the information may be used to inform planning and decision making for the future Pituamkek National Park Reserve and as part of future Park communications and interpretive displays.



NEGOTIATIONS

BACKGROUND

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 of 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 that issue.

1) Framework Agreement

In January 2019, the Mi'kmaq-Prince Edward Island-Canada Framework Agreement was signed and 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 scope for government to government-to-government negotiation processes.

As a result of the Framework Agreement, the "Main Table" was formed with representatives from each of the governments to explore the priority areas for initial negotiations, set out by the Assembly, including potential areas for self-government discussions. For further information and detail on the Framework Agreement, please visit www.lnuey.ca/negotiations.

SPECIFIC UPDATES:

MAIN TABLE NEGOTIATIONS (L'nuey, Canada, PEI)

Resulting from the establishment of the Framework Agreement.

Negotiations with DFO (L'nuey and DFO)

In summer of 2021 L'nuey was directed by the Assembly to step away from negotiations on the Fish RRA, until such time as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) was able to seek a new mandate. When the new mandate extension was announced, it was evident that no substantive changes were included. Despite this, the negotiations team continued to maintain open lines of communication and explore any additional opportunities to increase the commercial fisheries opportunities for the First Nations in PEI. In the fall/winter of 2021/22, L'nuey was mandated by the Lennox Island First Nation Council to assist with community engagement and the drafting of a treaty protected fishery management plan and guidelines for participation for lobster and to re-engage DFO in negotiations to support the implementation of a treaty protected fishery. In the spring of 2022, the Lennox Island First Nation Council developed an understanding with DFO on the LIFN Mi'kmaq-managed, self-regulated TPF fishery and launched the TPF in LFA 24, with more access to follow in LFA 25. All fishing activity is in accordance with the LIN Lobster TPF Management Plan.

Negotiations with Parks Canada (L'nuey and Parks Canada)

Negotiations with Parks Canada have continued to progress in a very positive manner. The objective of these negotiations is to recognize and reconcile Mi'kmaq Rights in PEI with the current management and oversight of the National Park in PEI, including respectful recognition of the appropriate role to be played by the Mi'kmaq in the co-management of the Park. The draft agreement is nearing completion, and community engagement sessions were held during the summer 2022 to support preparations towards ratification of the agreement, also expected to occur during 2022-2023. Once successfully negotiated, the Agreement will allow for defined governance roles for the Mi'kmaq and will facilitate increased opportunity for the Mi'kmaq in participation of the Park's operations.

Negotiations on Lands (L'nuey and Canada; and L'nuey and PEI)

A process was established at the Main Table for negotiations pertaining to lands moving forward. A draft Terms of Reference (TOR) was prepared and circulated in July of 2021. It was subsequently determined that it would be more effective to establish two separate bi-lateral tables (L'nuey and Canada; and L'nuey and PEI), and to engage the other Party as needed. Since land for housing and economic development continues to be a priority identified by the Assembly as guidance for land s negotiation efforts, L'nuey will be focusing going forward on developing a strategic approach to land and will be utilizing these two bi-lateral tables tactically, as per priorities that are identified by the leadership.

Building on the lessons on the discussion of the TOR, discussions are currently underway with the Province on a substantive land opportunity – through without prejudice negotiations – to address and accommodate the concerns of the Mi'kmaq, which are expected to conclude in 2022-2023.

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.

Hog Island Specific Claim Negotiations (L'nuey and Specific Claims Branch of CIRNAC)

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 fulfillment of treaties and agreements. There is currently one active specific claim in negotiations in PEI (Hog Island). During the 2021-2022 year, an external consultant (Turner Drake) was engaged to undertake two valuation studies and reports: the Current Unimproved Market Value Study (CUMV) and the Loss of Use Study (LOU). Specific Claims Branch is currently assessing the CUMV, and response should be provided to L'nuey shortly. Once the LOU Report is finalized (expected during 2022-2023) and both reports are accepted by all parties, it will provide a proposed value of the land to commence negotiations of a settlement. Both the negotiation process and the related studies were slowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If a proposed settlement is achieved by the negotiators and that proposal is recommended to and supported by the Councils, it would then be presented to the communities to seek support for implementation.

General Specific Claims Negotiations (L'nuey and Specific Claims Branch of CIRNAC)

L'nuey is also currently engaged in research and legal review for several other potential specific claims, which have been accepted by the Assembly for additional submissions over the next three years. An accelerated/enhanced 3-year work plan was submitted to CIRNAC to address outstanding specific claims, and increased allocation to resources be dedicated to these files in a way they haven't been in the past. A plan to have the reports on the initial three specific claims prioritized by the leadership completed by the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Pituamkek National Park (L'nuey and Parks Canada)

In August 2019, an MOU was signed between the Minister of Environment for Canada and the Chiefs to engage in a feasibility assessment for a new national park, intended to protect Hog Island and Sandhills and surrounding area (Pituamkek). L'nuey and Parks Canada are now engaged in discussions to advance this concept. Negotiations with respect to a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded, and the MOU was signed in January of 2022 (by the two First Nations and Parks Canada). The MOU signing initiated the formal negotiations for a Parks Establishment Agreement, which is expected to be concluded and ratified in 2022-2023. A project manager was hired with a longer-term goal of recommending the operational structure for a team to be responsible for implementing the agreement once signed.

PEI Energy Corp (L'nuey and PEI)

Discussions are underway with the Province related to an accommodation proposal to address concerns of the Mi'kmaq with respect to the development of a Wind Farm in Eastern Kings, PEI. If successful, these negotiations will result in revenue-sharing and training opportunities for the PEI Mi'kmaq.

VISION FORWARD

While priorities and direction may change in future, per the direction, vision, and guidance of the Assembly, ongoing negotiations will progress for the tables highlighted above, and on any other matters of importance that arise for negotiations from the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations. Relationships with the Assembly, the federal and provincial governments, partners, and various stakeholders continue to strengthen and foster further collaboration within these active negotiations' tables and discussions.

CONSULTATIONS

First Nations, Inuit and Métis 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.

The L'nuey Consultation Unit is comprised of a small team of employees from both L'nuey and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island (MPCEI) organizations. The team consists of the Consultation Coordinator, who's primarily responsible for the management and oversight of all consultation notifications and correspondence as well as works closely with team in assisting in the review, analysis, and assessment of all consultation notifications. The Historian conducts historical research and organizes those results and the traditional site-specific use of the area into a document to assist in the response for each consultation. Legal Counsel, is responsible for ensuring that the process, including responses from the Consultation Unit, is consistent with the current law and that rights are protected by ensuring that the Crown fulfills its constitutional/legal obligations. MCPEI Integrated Resource Management provides technical advice on resource matters and supports the research with the land use program. The Consultation Unit also calls upon our new Policy Analyst for consultations based on government policy.

Accomplishments

Between April 1st, 2021 and March 31, 2022, L'nuey has received and provided responses to an estimated 150 Crown (Provincial and Federal) consultation notifications of varying complexity. Each consultation notification receives legal and current and historical Mi'kmaq traditional use review and analysis. Depending on the nature of the consultation matter, the review might also include environmental and natural resource assessment. Some consultations also require external 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.

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, the L'nuey Consultation Unit worked diligently to complete a streamlined Consultation Process that will serve as a guide to how the L'nuey Consultation Unit deals with notifications. The streamlined process received approval by the Mi'kmaq Leadership in February 2022 and since then has been adopted in our day-to-day operations. It allows the Consultation Unit to deal with certain notifications that will not impact on Mi'kmaq rights, without further engaging the leadership. Where rights-based concerns are identified, the process guides the Consultation Unit on how to proceed. The streamlined consultation process sets out four phases (submission, publication, assessment and engagement and response) that will inform the appropriate level of engagement and will direct the L'nuey Consultation Unit on the appropriate course of action. Levels guide the engagement required for each notification received. Level 1 notifications are Crown activities that are not rights-based therefore they are forwarded to the Policy Analyst. The rest range from Level 2, no objection, to Level 5, automatic objection. Requirements of engagement will be determined based on the project details, our own research database, and leadership direction.



COMMUNICATIONS

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – September 30, 2021

For the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Premier Dennis King and Senator Brian Francis were joined by Lennox Island First Nation Chief Darlene Bernard and Abegweit First Nation Chief Junior Gould to observe a moment of reflection at 12 noon before lowering the flags to half-mast at the provincial buildings.

All Epekwitnewaq (Islanders) and people from across the Nation were encouraged to observe a moment of silence at 12 noon and reflect on the colonial history and lasting impacts of residential schools in Canada.

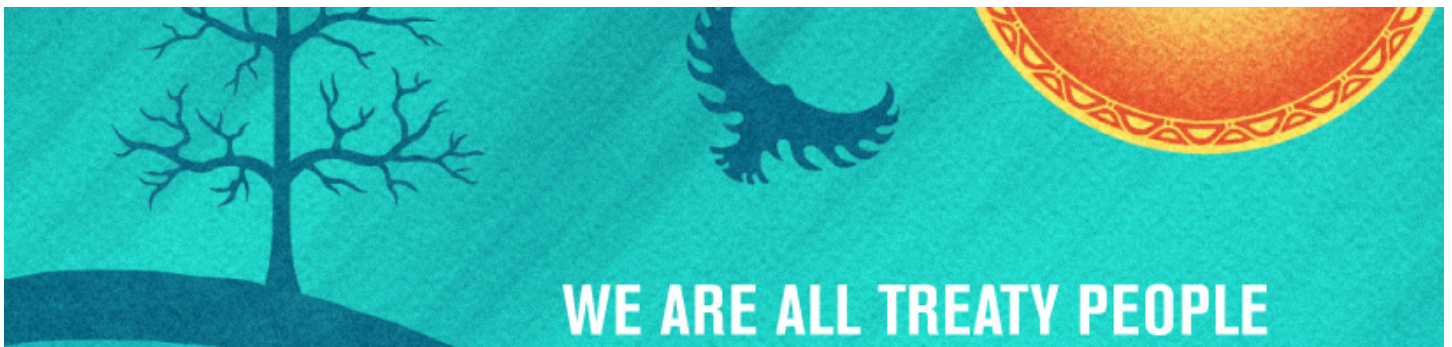
The Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Building was lit in orange starting the evening of the 29th through October 1st in honour of all those affected by residential schools.



Treaty Day – October 1, 2021

On October 1st, we celebrated the third annual Treaty Day on PEI with a flag raising and gift exchange between the Premier and Chief Darlene Bernard of Lennox Island First Nation and Chief Junior Gould of Abegweit First Nation. Senator Francis and Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry were also in attendance. The event featured traditional drumming and dancing.

The Treaty Day Campaign ran on TV, radio and in print and digital format.



Mi'kmaq History Month – October 1 - 31, 2021

During Mi'kmaq History Month 2021, L'nuey shared Mi'kmaq language, history and facts about the Mi'kmaq history and culture. We also launched a giveaway asking our social media followers to ask questions pertaining to the Mi'kmaq, to which we highlighted their questions and answers. We also shared a podcast to share some of these questions and talk about the incredible amount of engagement and questions that came in.

Culture Campaign

One of our specific success factors as identified in the 2021 Strategic Marketing Communications Plan was to: Increase the understanding of the Mi'kmaq Nation's history, culture, traditions, practices and language on PEI. L'nuey developed a series of documentary-style short videos addressing our five core content areas (history, culture, traditions, practices, and language). These six videos featured community members from Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations. They played as TV ads and were featured heavily on social media.



COMMUNICATIONS

Indigenous Awareness Week – May 24 - 28, 2022

Reconciliation Recognition Awards

Last year, the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils launched its inaugural year of "Reconciliation Recognition Awards" – an initiative recognizing the allyship of Epekwitnewaq and local towns and businesses.

The 2022 "Reconciliation Recognition Award" has been awarded to four recipients that recognize, respect, and include the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, their stories, history, or land in such a way that it creates a positive and inclusive Island community with lasting impacts for future generations. Congratulations to Receiver Coffee - the Brass Shop, the Town of Stratford, the Town of Kensington, and the Municipality of West River.

The actions of these four recipients show their strong commitment to Allyship. They have used their positions to amplify Indigenous voices, and are consciously working towards a brighter and more equitable future with the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. The efforts of the 2022 Reconciliation Recognition Award recipients are examples of steps to shape a brighter, better, and more inclusive future. Learn more about each individual recipient next week during Indigenous Awareness Week 2022.

Mi'kmaq Signage

In recognition of Indigenous Awareness Week, L'huey and the Government of PEI partnered once again to install heritage signage to highlight locations that have a Mi'kmaq origin or that hold particular importance to the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. The 2022 additions bring the total number of place name signs in the Mi'kmaq language to 29.

National Indigenous History Month – June 2022

June is National Indigenous History Month where we recognize and honour the history, heritage, and diversity of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Similar to Mi'kmaq History Month L'huey shared "Did You Knows", language posts and more on social media.

National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21 2022

National Indigenous People's Day was recognized with a social media post encouraging reconciliation: " This is a day for celebration, but also a day for reflection - a day to reflect on how you can truly move towards reconciliation. Nuta'ykw Ila'matuti – We all need Reconciliation."

On NIPD L'huey shared posts highlighting the Mi'kmaq Language and culture.



Library Grand Opening

L'nuey was contacted by the Murphy family to help curate a piece of art that would highlight Mi'kmaq history and culture at the new PEI Public Library.

Early last fall, L'nuey commissioned Loretta Gould to create two paintings to complement the existing "We are all Treaty People" education and awareness campaign. These paintings and their accompanying plaques will be featured prominently in the library to increase understanding of the Mi'kmaq Nation's history, culture, traditions, practices, and language on Epekwitk.

Stepping into the new public library you will see two beautiful paintings by Loretta Gould and an entire wall designed to complement her artwork.

We are excited for the public to experience this artwork and we are proud to have partner with the Murphy family on this project to share a piece of Mi'kmaq art, history and culture in such a public space in Charlottetown. It is great to have allies who look to actively partner and promote reconciliation for all Epekwitnewaq.

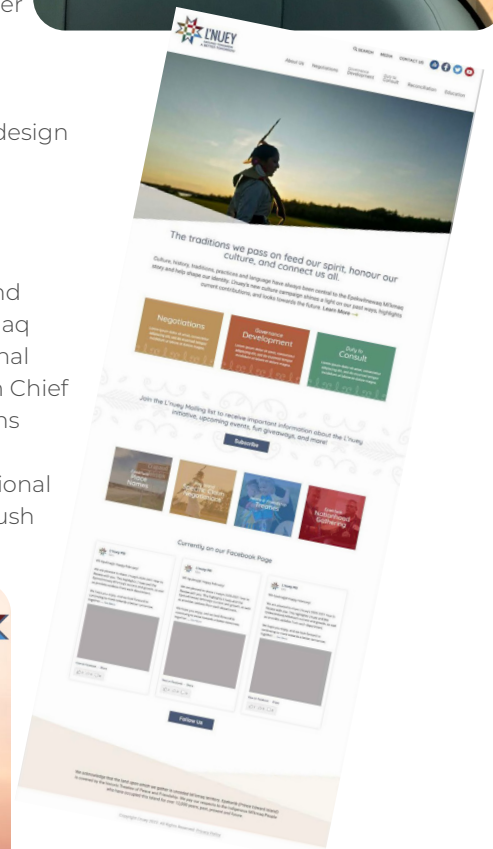


New Website!

In August L'nuey launched it's new website designed by M5. The new website has a new design featuring community photos and L'nuey colours. This year there was a 71% increase in users on our website - from 7,737 to 13,232 users.

Juku'e Podcasts

L'nuey's podcast, Juku'e, has released 10 episodes in the last year: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation with Senator Brian Francis, Ni'n aq No'kmaq with Zabrina Whitman, Mi'kmaq History Month: Treaties of Peace and Friendship, What is Reconciliation? With AFN Regional Chief Paul Prosper, International Women's Day: Celebrating and Supporting Women with Chief Darlene Bernard, Journey Towards Reconciliation with Julie Gagnon, Education as a means of Reconciliation with Mary Kendrick, Woven Histories with Keptin/Elder Jimmy Bernard, Strengthening our Culture One Generation at a Time with Elder Doreen Jenkins, and National Indigenous Peoples Day with Julie Pellisier-Lush. The NIPD podcast with Julie Pellisier-Lush has the highest number of listeners out of all the Juku'e podcasts, it is approaching 1000 listens.



Social Media Analytics

To date we have 3,676 followers on Facebook, 2,633 followers on Instagram, and 1070 followers on Twitter.

HIGHLIGHTS

2021 - 2022



Indigenous Awareness Week



Reconciliation Recognition Awards



NDTR



2022 Signage



National Indigenous History Month



lnuey.ca/culture



Culture Campaign



Treaty Day



Chief Gould, Chief Bernard, Premier King, Senator Francis



International Women's Day



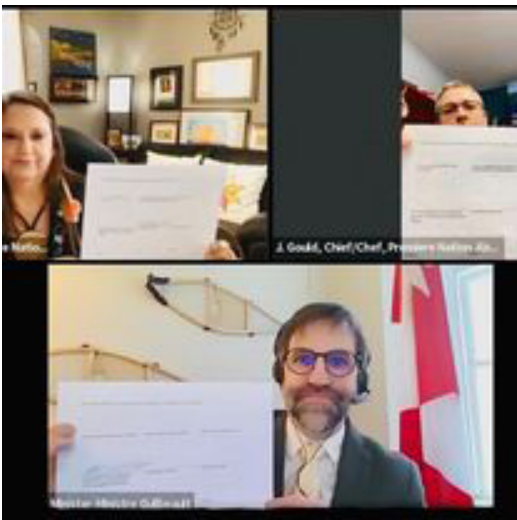
Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Building



Pitumamkek Negotiations meeting with L'nuey and Parks Canada



Orange Shirt Day



Chief Bernard, Chief Gould and Minister Guilbeault signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a new national park reserve on the Hog Island Sandhills off the North Shore of Prince Edward Island.



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WELA'LIOQ

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