

2023-2024

YEAR IN REVIEW



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Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island) is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw People. The Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaw have occupied this Island for over 12,000 years. We honour the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which recognized Mi'kmaw rights and established an ongoing relationship between nations. We are all Treaty People.



MESSAGE FROM Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaw-Saqmaq

Kwe' Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq,

Six years ago, on September 28, 2019, L'nuey, the Mi'kmaw rights initiative of Epekwitk (PEI), began a transformative journey. Since then, we have seen remarkable growth, historic milestones, and strengthened support for our community. Guided by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (the full councils of both Lennox Island and Abegweit), L'nuey continues to be a vital force in advancing, implementing and protecting the constitutionally entrenched rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of PEI).

This past year has been one of progress and resilience, as we continue to safeguard

our Mi'kmaw rights and work toward self-determination for the benefit of present and future generations. The support and dedication of our community remains the foundation of our success. Together, we have achieved significant progress, and together, we will continue to move forward with pride and determination.

Among the most significant highlights of the past year are the Pitumkek National Park Reserve Establishment Agreement, and our co-management agreement with Parks Canada, Toquktmekl (doh-gook-t-may-gul), which are both large advancements to reconciliation.



*Chief Darlene Bernard, Lennox Island First Nation
Co-Chair, Epekwitk Assembly of Councils*



*Chief Junior Gould, Abegweit First Nation
Co-Chair, Epekwitk Assembly of Councils*

These agreements represent concrete steps toward regaining governance of traditional lands for the Mi'kmaq, and milestones in our shared commitment to protecting and celebrating the cultural and environmental significance of Mi'kmaq culture and history. The power of partnerships, rooted in respect and mutual understanding, helped to bring these agreements to life.

We also celebrated the establishment of L'nuey's Archaeology program, which reflects our commitment to protecting our history, ensuring our stories are told in an accurate way, and our ancestors are honored. This program will support our Negotiations team. Through this program, we embrace our responsibility to safeguard our heritage while strengthening our future.

Our celebration through the Treaty Day Mawio'mi continues to grow, fostering understanding of Mi'kmaq rights through our Treaties and building bridges with all Islanders. These efforts are helping to shine a light on the path of reconciliation, creating opportunities to learn, share, and work together for the benefit of all who call Epekwitk home. We also held our third Nationhood Gathering in February of 2024, to discuss with members of Lennox and Abegweit our visions for the future as we chart a course towards self-governance, and ultimately self-determination.

L'nuey's pillars—Negotiations, Consultation, and Governance Development/Communications—remain firm as the foundation of our work. They guide us as we advance rights implementation, reclaim lands and resources, and create pathways for community prosperity. This year, we have seen tangible progress, and we remain focused on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

While we celebrate these achievements, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. The road ahead requires continued dedication, strength, and unity. We call on all members of our Mi'kmaq Nation to actively engage and participate in these initiatives. Your voices and contributions are vital to our collective success and advancing Mi'kmaq rights in Epekwitk, to ensure a brighter future for all.

We invite you to explore the following pages for updates on our efforts and accomplishments. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant Mi'kmaq Nation, grounded in the legacy of our ancestors and inspired by the promise of our future.

Wela'lioq – Thank you all.



*Chief Darlene Bernard
Lennox Island First Nation
Co-Chair, Epekwitk Assembly of Councils*

EPEKWITK 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 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 Epekwitknewaq 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 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILS

Full Councils of the Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations



MI'KMAQ
CONFEDERACY OF PEI

Shared Programs and Services
for the First Nations/PEI
Indigenous Community +
Technical Advisory Services for
the First Nation Councils



Protection and
Implementation of
Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq
Aboriginal and
Treaty Rights



MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



Reflecting on Another Year: L'nuey's Journey and Growth Continues

As we look back on the past year, I am proud of the incredible strides made by L'nuey in advancing the rights, governance, and cultural heritage of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. 2024 was a year of significant growth, collaboration, and accomplishments, all of which reflect the dedication and resilience of our team and community.

On behalf of the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, our Negotiations Unit continues to champion the rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. Some of the most noteworthy achievements include the signing of the historic Pituamkek National Park Reserve Establishment Agreement, and the signing of the Toquktmekl Co-Management Agreement with Parks Canada. These agreements exemplify reconciliation in action, weaving Mi'kmaw knowledge and priorities into land stewardship, ecological preservation, employment opportunities and most importantly – a seat at the table where decisions are being made. The creation of a dedicated Parks Co-Management Implementation Unit will ensure these agreements are effectively executed to benefit generations to come.

In 2024, we also celebrated a major archaeological discovery: a 5,000-year-old Mi'kmaw ancestor. Being the oldest human remains found in the Atlantic region to date, this discovery underscores the deep history of the Mi'kmaq in Epekwitk and reinforces the importance of our new Archaeology Program, led by Dr. Helen Kristmanson.

L'nuey's archaeology program will directly support the Negotiations team by providing evidence of Mi'kmaw land and resource use, strengthening rights-based discussions. It will also help to protect and assert accurate

Mi'kmaw cultural heritage, inform policy and co-management agreements, and ensure proper consultation on development projects. By reclaiming archaeological research, the program reinforces Mi'kmaw self-governance and advances the recognition of Mi'kmaw rights. By establishing policies to protect Mi'kmaw cultural heritage, this program empowers us to take a leading role in shaping our collective history and future.

Another key area of our work that saw progress was the merging of our Governance Development and Communications Unit, uniting the critical areas of governance, communications,



*Jenene Wooldridge
Executive Director of L'nuey*



and engagement. This merger has empowered us to amplify our efforts in creating impactful campaigns, engaging with communities, and advancing the foundation for self-governance.

From launching campaigns to build public support for Mi'kmaw rights, celebrating our accomplishments, continuing to raise Mi'kmaw place name signs across Epekwitk, growing the Juku'e podcast, social media initiatives and hosting events like the Nationhood Gathering, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and Treaty Day Mawio'mi, to strengthening the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process, our team has worked tirelessly to foster knowledge-sharing and connection.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our Consultation Unit, which has responded to over 175 Crown consultation notifications this year alone. Their work ensures that Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are respected, protected, and upheld at every level.

As we move into 2025, our team at L'nuey remains dedicated in our commitment to protecting and promoting the rights, culture, and governance of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

As we reflect on a year filled with both challenges and achievements, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils for your steadfast guidance and support. To the dedicated L'nuey team and our valued partners, your commitment is truly inspiring. And to the Mi'kmaq of Epekwitk, it is your resilience and determination that drive us toward advancing Mi'kmaw rights for a better tomorrow. Together, we are shaping a future rooted in reconciliation, respect, and shared understanding.

I look forward to the year ahead with great anticipation and am deeply honored to continue serving as L'nuey's Executive Director.

Msit No'kmaq – All My Relations



Jenene Wooldridge

GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT, Communications & Engagement



L'nuey's communications and governance development efforts are essential pillars of the organization's broader mission. Lasting success in negotiations and self-determination is rooted in both public support and strong, community-driven steps toward regaining self-governance. Clear communication of Mi'kmaw rights fosters public understanding and backing, while governance development builds the capacity to lead and implement negotiated agreements. Together, these efforts work to create an environment where progress isn't just possible — it's sustainable long-term. When the broader public supports Mi'kmaw rights, and Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq communities are informed, engaged, and equipped with the tools for self-governance, negotiated outcomes are more than accepted; they become a foundation for future growth and collective success.

In 2023-2024, L'nuey's governance and communications units merged to allow the teams to work more closely in the areas of governance development, communications and engagement. All three of these areas share a core foundation of communication, knowledge and education.

HIGHLIGHTS

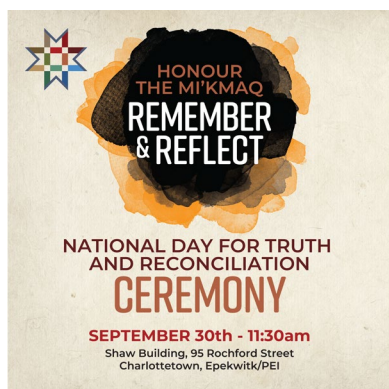
EVENTS HELD



3rd Maw-Lukuti'kw Nationhood Gathering (February 1, 2024)

Bringing over 150 Mi'kmaq from across Epekwitk, the 2024 Epekwitk Nationhood Gathering showed an immense sense of community for our Mi'kmaw Nation here and every part of the gathering brought valuable insights, especially the visioning session.





National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Ceremony
(September 30, 2023 & 2024)



Treaty Day Ceremony
(October 1, 2023 & 2024)



Treaty Day Maw'io'mi
(October 1, 2023 & 2024)

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

This past year we had three successful campaigns targeting Epekwitnewaq:



"How We Say Home"
(November 2023)

How We Say Home showcases genuine moments of life on the Island, the campaign emphasizes that Epekwitk connects us all—Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq alike—through shared traditions, belonging, and the land we all call home.



"Re-Mix"
(November 2024)

The Re'mix Campaign celebrates the cultural revitalization and collective progress of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, focusing on the importance of language, land, and identity. It invites the community to reflect on how far we've come and to walk together toward a future rooted in pride and belonging.



“Mi’kmaw Rights Campaign”

(November 2024)

The Mi’kmaw Rights Campaign encourages Islanders to understand and support the inherent and treaty rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi’kmaq by connecting these rights to local history, identity, and justice.

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS WEEK & PEI MI’KMAQ ON THE MAP

Indigenous Awareness Week, which took place May 21-25 this past year, offers an opportunity to celebrate the Mi’kmaq of Epekwitk (PEI) and acknowledge the Island’s shared history. Epekwitk, also known as Prince Edward Island, is the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaw People.

L’nuey, in partnership with the Government of Prince Edward Island, continues its efforts to recognize Mi’kmaw heritage through the installation of Mi’kmaw place name signs across the province. This past year, new signs have been erected in Rocky Point and Portage Lake, bringing the total number of Mi’kmaw place name signs installed across PEI since 2020 to over 40.



Indigenous Awareness Week
(May 21-25, 2024)



Portage Lake “Meski’k pu’ta’sk”
(June 2024)



Rocky Point “Kuntal Kwesawe’kl’”
(June 2024)

RECONCILIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

Through L'nuey, the Reconciliation Recognition Award continues to recognize exemplary contributions to reconciliation efforts on the Island. This past year, the fourth annual Reconciliation Recognition Award ceremony was held, where Corryn Clemence, Stephanie Arnold, and Joe McGuire were honored for their outstanding dedication to fostering an inclusive Island community.



Corryn Clemence

Tourism PEI

Corryn Clemence is a deserving recipient for her steadfast support and allyship to Indigenous Peoples, particularly in her work in tourism development and advocacy for Indigenous tourism.



Stephanie Arnold

UPEI Climate

Stephanie Arnold is recognized for her commitment to reconciliation by centering Mi'kmaq voices in climate action and challenging systems that uphold colonial power imbalances.



Joe McGuire

Joe McGuire is honoured for his lasting contributions to PEI, including key support in establishing a shared Mi'kmaq rights forum and tribal council for PEI First Nations.

As well as these campaigns:

- **National Indigenous History Month** (June 2024)
- **Pitumakek Campaign** (July 2024)
- **NDTR/ Treaty Day Campaign** (September 2024)
- **Parks Co-Management Agreement Campaign** (October 2024)

ENGAGEMENTS – COMMUNITY AND COMMITTEE

L'nuey's Engagement Officer continues to engage with Mi'kmaq from across Epekwitk to discuss the foundational work for governance development including the importance of the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process, as well as monitoring progress and providing updates on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act (UNDA) Action Plan. We will continue to host engagement sessions and discussions to answer questions, provide information on the process and the work of L'nuey, and convey feedback from the community to leadership.

NI'N AQ NO'KMAQ

DEFINING WHO CAN EXERCISE ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS IN EPEKWITK

In 2019, L'nuey was formed and mandated by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (the full councils of both PEI First Nations) to protect, advance, and implement Aboriginal and Mi'kmaq Treaty Rights in Epekwitk. Collaborating with Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, L'nuey started the Ni'n aq No'kmaq initiative, named through a community competition and meaning "Me and My Relations," to determine who can exercise these rights.



2020 - 2021: Phase 1

Focus: Identify priorities for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, envision our future, and determine who should benefit from Aboriginal and Mi'kmaq Treaty Rights in Epekwitk.

Outcome:

- Engaged 348 participants, 50% on reserve, 50% off reserve, and 9% out of province.

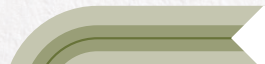


2021 - 2022: Phase 2

Focus: Define who should be recognized as a beneficiary, including questions around out-of-province Mi'kmaq, adopted children, and ancestry proof requirements.

Outcome:

- Conducted 305 conversations, including 157 individual and 148 group sessions.
- Launched podcast summarizing first round of engagement.
- Ran social media and mail campaign focusing on defining identity and belonging.



2024: Phase 4

Focus: Clarify concepts like community member, rights holder, citizenship, and beneficiary, while fostering open dialogue and consensus.

Outcome:

- Engaged 324 individuals on and off-reserve through various means of communication to ensure as many voices as possible are heard.



2023: Phase 3

Focus: Establish a shared understanding of the work and future direction.

Outcome:

- Engaged 299 Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq through various sessions.



2025 and Beyond

Next Steps:

- Finalize enrollment criteria.
- Get feedback on the draft Enrollment Process.
- Hold a vote for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq to ratify the draft Enrollment Process.
- Implementation of process and set up of Enrollment Committee to review applications.

Final Objective: Have a fully established process created by us and for us in place that defines who is Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq with ID cards that can be used to exercise Aboriginal and Mi'kmaq Treaty Rights in Epekwitk.

Learn More & Join In

For questions or to get involved with Ni'n aq No'kmaq, contact us:

- 🖱 lnuey.ca/governance-development
- ✉ info@lnuey.ca
- 📞 902-569-2150



WHAT IS UNDA?

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (**UNDA**) of 2021 is a federal law that requires Canada to align its laws and policies with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (**UNDRIP**). The Act commits Canada legally to upholding Indigenous rights and towards genuine reconciliation.

KEY ELEMENTS OF UNDA

- Ensures federal legislation is consistent with **UNDRIP**.
- Requires the development of an Action Plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.
- Includes annual progress reports on implementation.

WHAT IS THE UNDA ACTION PLAN?

The **UNDA** Action Plan, released on June 21, 2023, outlines concrete steps to implement **UNDRIP** in Canada. It includes a total of 181 actions across various sectors to promote Indigenous rights and self-determination.

For more information, please contact
Kiara LaBobe – Klabobe@lnuey.ca or (902) 388-1007



HOW ARE WE INVOLVED?

- **Monitoring implementation** – Keeping governments accountable and monitoring progress.
- **Providing input** – Meeting with national and regional leadership.
- **Hosting information sessions** – Updating and gather feedback from community members.

FIRST NATION PRIORITIES IN THE UNDA ACTION PLAN:

First Nations priorities play a critical role in shaping the **UNDA** Action Plan by ensuring that Indigenous rights, needs, and aspirations are at the core of its implementation.

These priorities guide the plan in areas like self-determination, treaty rights, land stewardship, cultural preservation, and justice. By integrating First Nations leadership and perspectives, the Action Plan creates a path for meaningful reconciliation, fostering community empowerment, and ensuring First Nations are active partners in decisions that directly impact their lives and future.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER FOR EPEKWITK (PEI)?

UNDRIP affirms the rights of our culture, land, and self-governance. The Action Plan helps to ensure that our rights are recognized and respected by Canada.

UNDA and the Action Plan are critical milestones towards the enforcement of Indigenous rights in being known, defended, and implemented in policy and legislation. Engaged involvement is called for to ensure that these duties lead to concrete, effective action for First Nations in Epekwitk (PEI) and elsewhere.

PODCASTS

Hosted by L'nuey Media Relations Officer Sean Doke, Juku'e (meaning 'come here' in Mi'kmaq) is a podcast series focused on current matters in the Mi'kmaq Community.



Reconciliation in Action
with Chief Junior Gould
(September 30, 2023)



Mi'kmaq History Month
with Mi'kmaq Artist and
Educator Gerald Gloade
(October 25, 2023)



**An Obligation Unfulfilled:
Hog Island Specific Claim**
with Tracey Cutcliffe
(November 16, 2023)



**Maw'Lukuti-kw: The 2024
Epekwitk Nationhood Gathering**
with Jenene Wooldridge
(March 23, 2024)



**Ancestral Connections
on Epekwitk Through
Archaeology**
with Dr. Helen Kristmanson
(June 25, 2024)



**Earliest Islander Found: A Major
Discovery for the PEI Mi'kmaq**
(November 20, 2024)

DECEMBER 2022

6,193 OVERALL LISTENS

DECEMBER 2024

25,051 OVERALL LISTENS



IN THE NEWS



IN THE MEDIA

Earliest Islander: Jawbone fragment discovered near Stanhope, P.E.I. revealed to be 5,000 years old

Archaeologist Helen Kristmanson and L'nuey executive director Jenene Wooldridge say a jawbone fragment discovered on the shore near Stanhope belonged to the earliest known Mi'kmaq resident of P.E.I. The jawbone, belonging to a woman, is about 5,000 years old. - Stu Neatby/The Guardian



IN THE MEDIA

Podcast focuses on what matters to the Island's Mi'kmaq community

A podcast hosted and produced on P.E.I. is finding its audience. Sean Doke is the governance and communications co-ordinator with L'nuey and produces and hosts the podcast called Juku'e, which means 'come here' in the Mi'kmaq language. We speak with Doke about how it helps him grapple with his own identity.



IndigeNews: Dec. 17, 2024 - Jan. 6, 2025

Kwe' nitap - Hello friend,
The Mi'kmaq phrase of the week is...
"Pusu'l Puna'ne!"
(boo-sool boo-na-ney)
Meaning: Happy New Year! 🍷

In the News

- 1. Tree of Hope lights up Parliament Hill. - CBC News
- 2. Mi'kmaq MP Jaime Battiste shut out of cabinet shuffle - APTN News
- 3. What were the biggest Indigenous news stories of 2024? - APTN News
- 4. Statement - Statement by Minister Hajdu on Jordan's Principle - Newswire
- 5. Meet the NI history teacher who helped her students identify unmarked Mi'kmaq graves - Saltwire
- 6. Sea of colour at Winnipeg Ribbon Skirt Day round dance celebrates Indigenous culture and pride - CBC News
- 7. A chance discovery reveals one of PEI's earliest inhabitants, and even deeper Mi'kmaq roots on the island. - The Globe and Mail

FEBRUARY 2024

DECEMBER 2024

147 INDIGENEWS SUBSCRIBERS

1,030 INDIGENEWS SUBSCRIBERS

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS & SUBSCRIBERS

		12/2023	12/2024	
		Facebook	4,005	4,809 +16%
		Instagram	3,023	3,433 +13%
		LinkedIn	268	506 +89%
		Spotify	168	199 +18%
		YouTube	242	282 +16%

Consultations



The Mi'kmaq have lived on Epekwitk for thousands of years, never surrendering, ceding, or selling these lands. The Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq assert Aboriginal Title to all lands in Prince Edward Island and, as stewards of these lands and resources, expect the Crown to address any potential impacts on Mi'kmaw Rights and Title.

L'nuey's Consultation Unit is dedicated to asserting and protecting Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Rights by holding governments accountable to prevent rights violations or infringements. Mandated by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils – the Chiefs and Councils of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations – L'nuey's Consultation Unit acts as the agent in the Duty to Consult process, as outlined in the Mi'kmaq - Prince Edward Island - Canada Consultation Agreement.

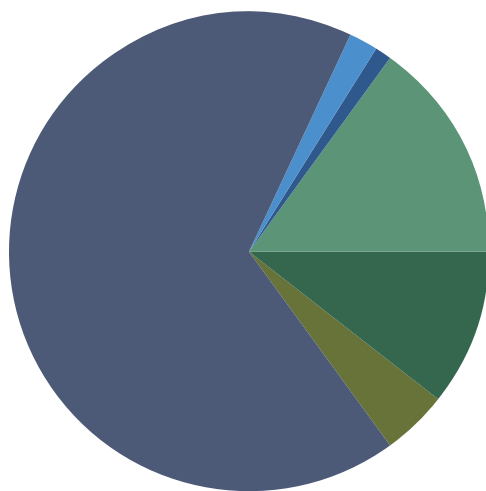
L'nuey represents the PEI Mi'kmaq in all consultations matters, managing requests and responses to Crown consultation notifications. These reviews are conducted through legal, archaeological, and Mi'kmaw use and occupation lenses — both historical and current — and may also include environmental and natural resource assessments. While L'nuey coordinates the consultation process, the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils maintains final decision-making authority.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONSULTATIONS SUBMITTED BY CROWN DEPARTMENT

Between September 2023 - December 2024 L'nuey has received and provided responses to over 175 Crown Consultation notifications of varying complexity.

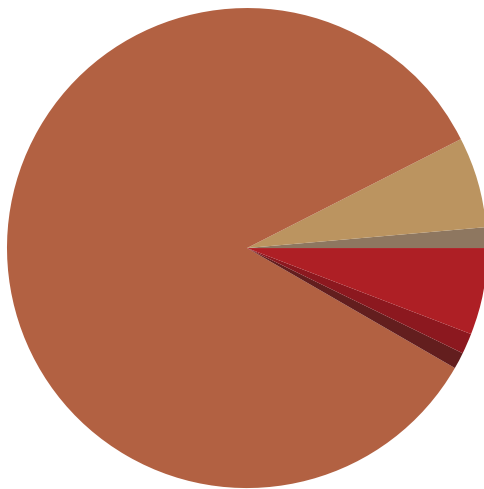
The following charts provide a breakdown of each of the Crown Departments that were engaged and the number of consultations submitted between September 2023-2024, both federally and provincially.



63	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
2	Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Small Craft Harbours
1	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
14	Parks Canada
10	Public Services and Procurement Canada
4	Transport Canada

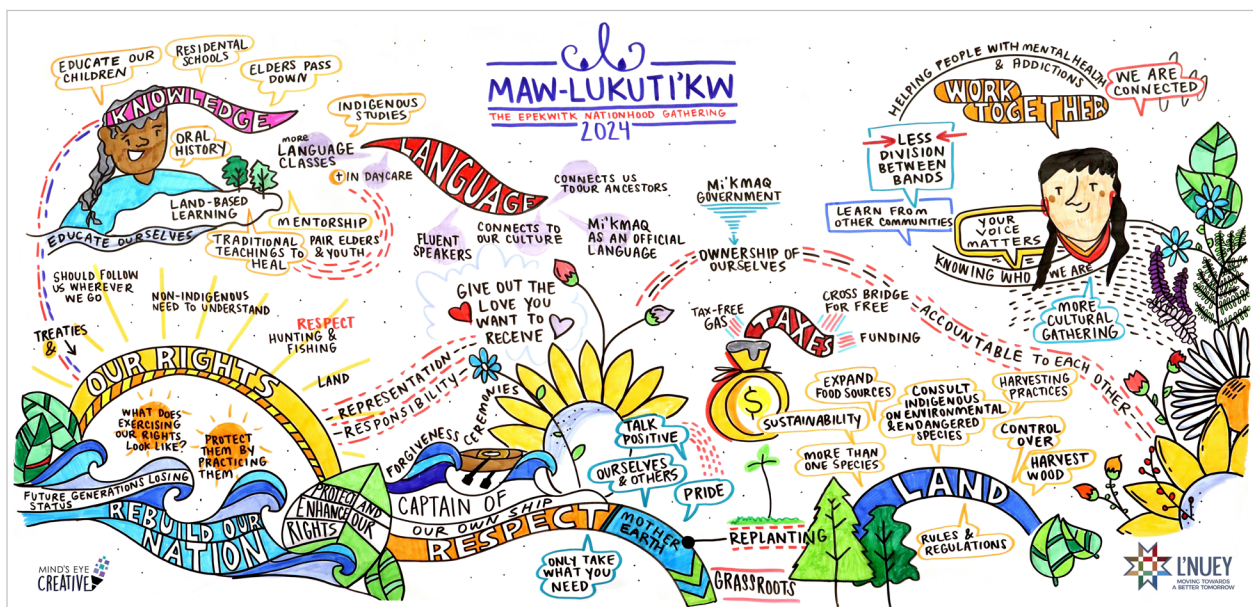
94 FEDERAL CONSULTATIONS





5	Dept. of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
69	Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure
1	Dept. of Workforce, Advanced Learning & Population
5	Finance PEI
1	Innovation PEI
1	Slemon Park Corporation

82 PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS



3rd Maw-Lukuti'kw Nationhood Gathering (February 1, 2024)

Negotiations



The Negotiations Centre is guided by the direction of the Mi'kmaw leadership to help advance the rights of Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, meeting regularly to oversee the negotiations processes and advancements under the Framework Agreement Main Table (Mi'kmaq – Prince Edward Island – Canada), and Specific Claims.

As L'nuey has grown to incorporate other areas in their negotiations, such as Land

Strategy, Archaeology, History and Outreach into their unit, it continues to ensure the negotiations are in the strongest position possible on behalf of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

L'nuey continues to work towards being the trusted source for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq history, in advancing their rights, and making Mi'kmaq history accessible to all Islanders, with a special emphasis on Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. Development has begun on building L'nuey's Historical Database.

Through adding historical research and developing land mapping tools, L'nuey continues to position the organization to be in the most optimal negotiating position. Indigenous nations can address historical grievances through various options, including the Specific Claims process, which rectifies specific wrongs against First Nations by the federal government, including broken promises, reserve land mismanagement and other grievances. L'nuey is tasked with leading the historical and legal work in preparation for Specific Claims.

After decades worth of negotiations, The Mi'kmaq Nation Government of Prince Edward Island reached an agreement to establish a new national park reserve on July 4th, 2024, called "**Pituamkek**". This incredible accomplishment highlights key elements in the Agreement, such as a co-management governance model, guardian programs, community-based employment opportunities and commitments to net-zero, climate-smart infrastructure.

In October 2024, a co-management agreement was signed between the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow and the Government of Canada, as represented by Parks Canada Agency and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The Agreement, called "**Toquktmekl**", provides the framework for Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow to continue to work together and share resources. The agreement embodies the shared commitment to ensure ecological integrity, and the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq Way of Life are maintained and promoted for the use, benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations.



Signing of the Pituamkek National Park Reserve (July 4, 2024)



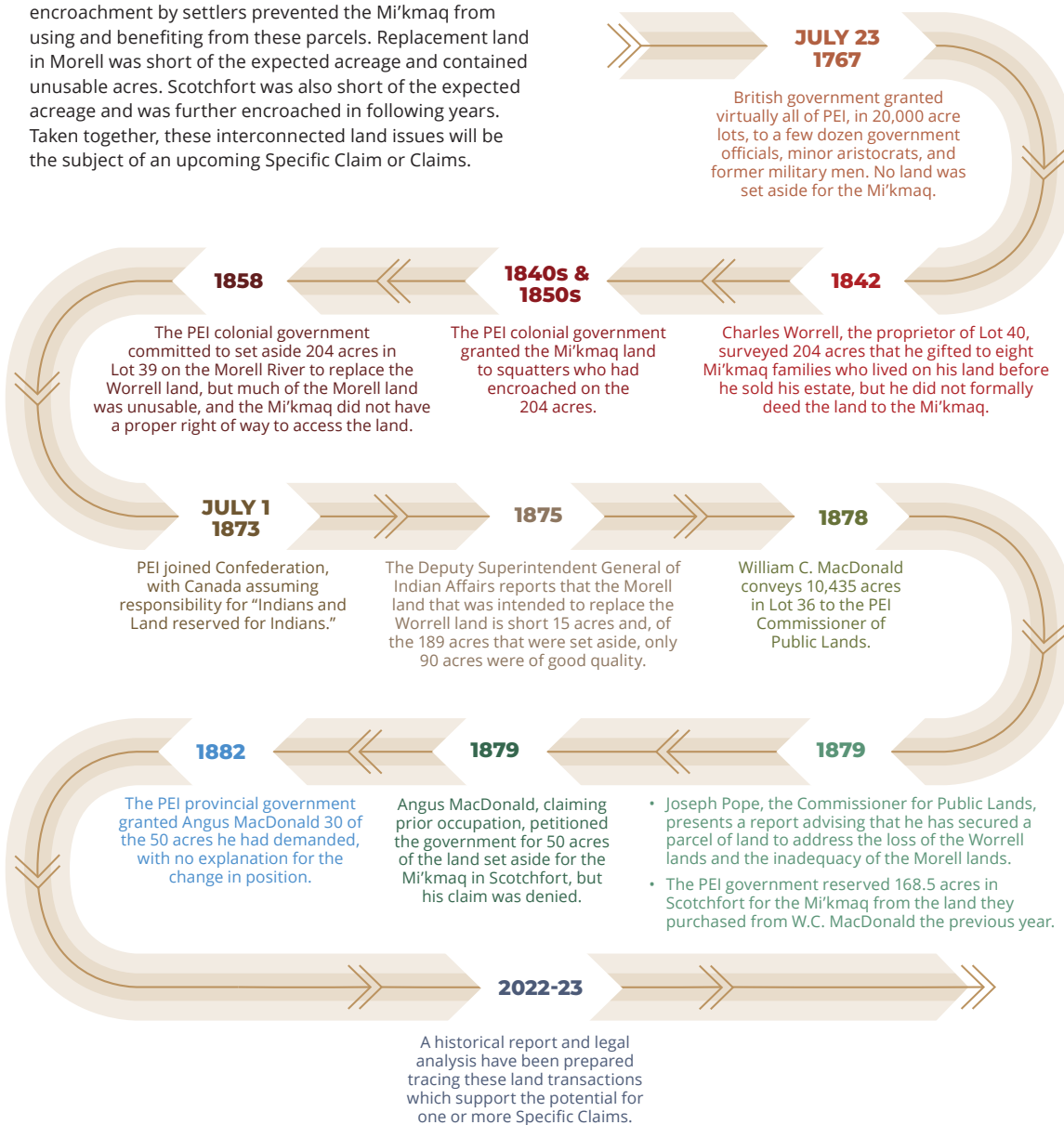
SPECIFIC CLAIMS

Worrell – Morell – Scotchfort



Although the British crown did not set aside land for exclusive Mi'kmaq use, several plots of land were set aside by private individuals as well as the PEI colonial and later provincial government for the Mi'kmaq in eastern PEI in the 1800s. However, the poor quality of the land and repeated encroachment by settlers prevented the Mi'kmaq from using and benefiting from these parcels. Replacement land in Morell was short of the expected acreage and contained unusable acres. Scotchfort was also short of the expected acreage and was further encroached in following years. Taken together, these interconnected land issues will be the subject of an upcoming Specific Claim or Claims.

A Specific Claim, otherwise known as a Specific Land Claim, deals with past wrongs against First Nations caused by a breach of Canada's fiduciary duty. These claims relate to the administration of land and other First Nation assets and to the fulfillment of historic treaties and other agreements.

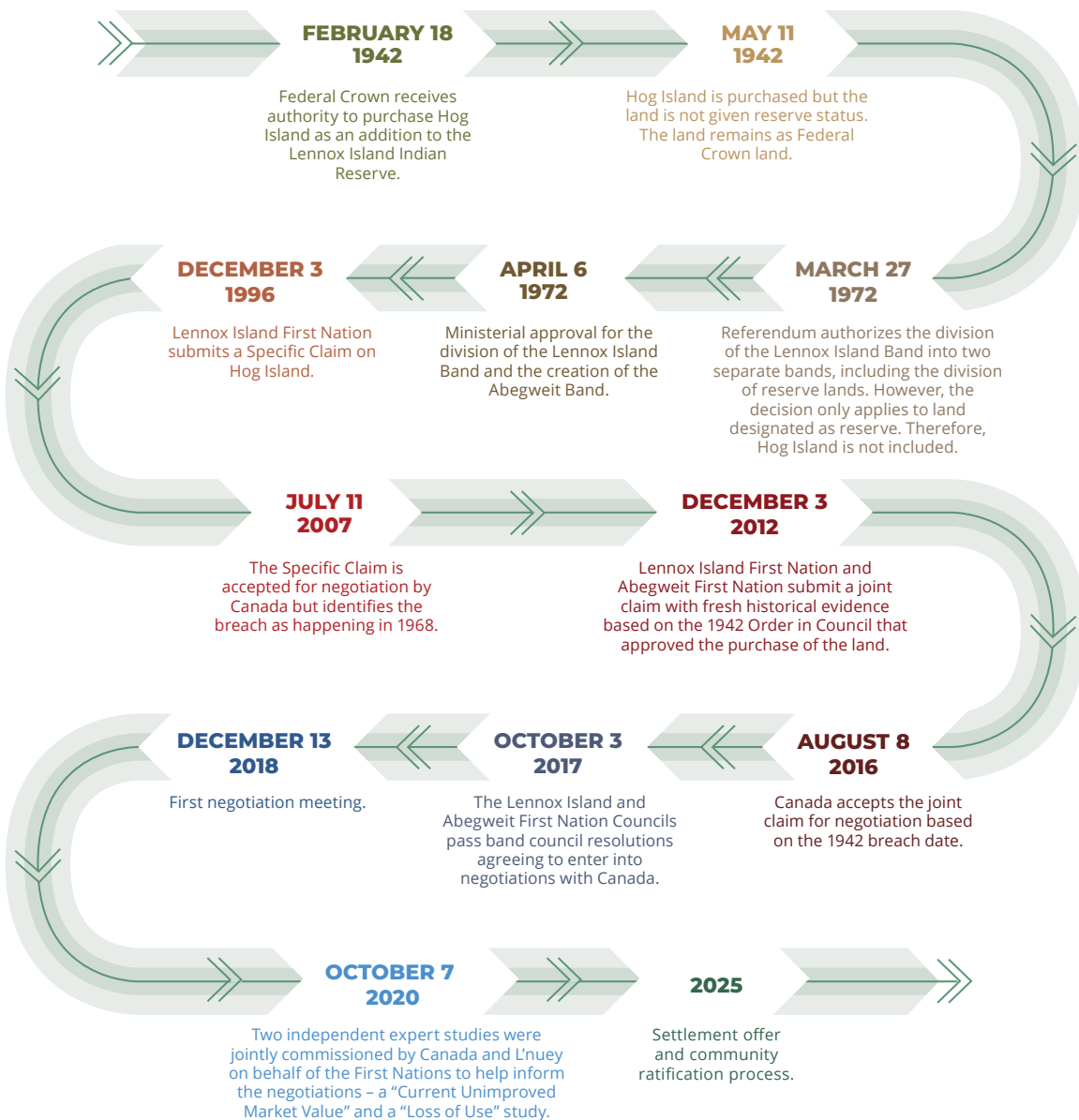


SPECIFIC CLAIMS Hog Island

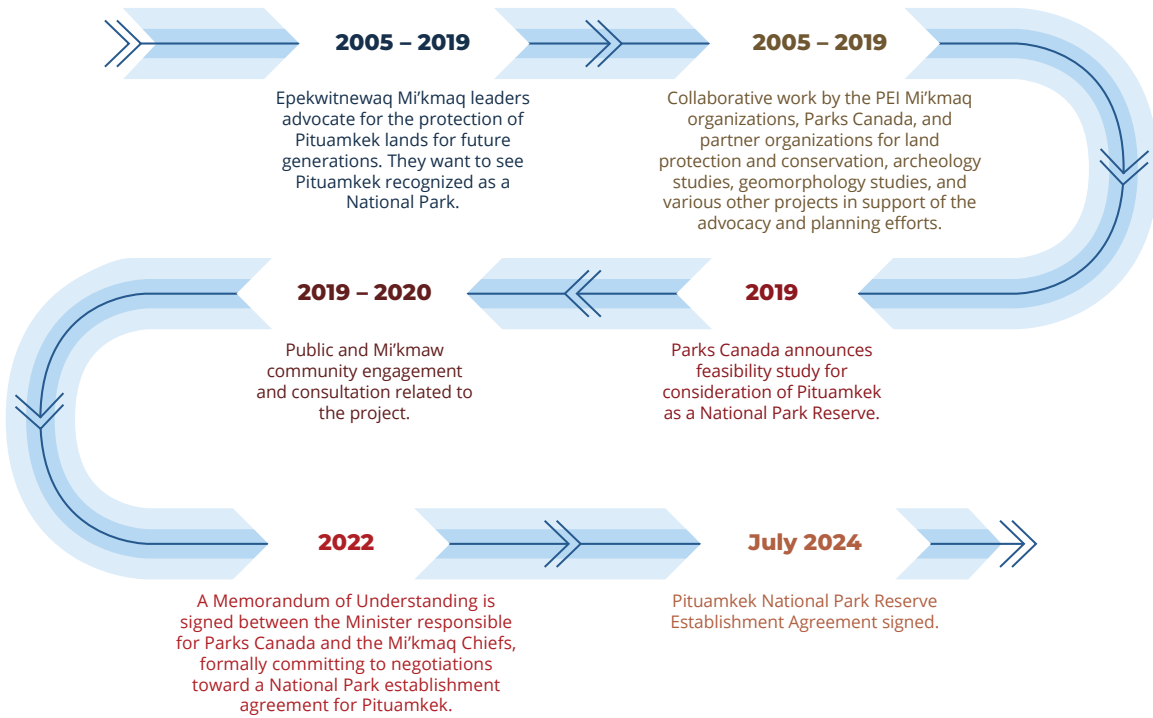


Hog Island is the collective name for the lands originally composed of George Island, George's Sand Island, Fish Island and Bill Hook Island. George's Sand Island and Bill Hook Island are now joined.

A Specific Claim, otherwise known as a Specific Land Claim, deals with past wrongs against First Nations caused by a breach of Canada's fiduciary duty. These claims relate to the administration of land and other First Nation assets and to the fulfillment of historic treaties and other agreements.



Pituamkek NATIONAL PARK RESERVE



ESTIMATED DATES FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Parks Canada



Since 2005 the PEI First Nations and Parks Canada have built a positive and cooperative relationship. Together we've offered collaborative experiences and work throughout various Parks Canada locations, engagement on Province House exhibits, Mi'kmaq Heritage Presentation at Greenwich, A'tuken shows in Cavendish, Stories of Canada at Skmaqn, and Wigwam repairs at Skmaqn and Greenwich.

This year was monumental for PEI First Nations in continued reconciliation efforts and collaborative relationship with Parks Canada. After decades of work from our Negotiations Unit, we saw two newly signed Co-Management Agreements in 2024 with the Government of Canada, as represented by Parks Canada.

With the newly signed Agreements, our Parks Unit was officially formed to assist in the implementation of the agreements. This unit is led by Diane Arsenault, Implementation Lead, Co-Management Agreements. Alongside Bridget McCloskey, who holds the current role of Special Projects and Assets Manager, they are coordinating the implementation of both Parks Canada co-management agreements.



HIGHLIGHTS

EXHIBITS & EXPERIENCES

- A'tuken
- Stories of Canada
- Wigwam repairs
- Green Gables
- Province House



AGREEMENTS



What are the Pituamkek and Toquktmekl agreements?

Toquktmekl is the co-management agreement for the current National Park (which comprises of existing national parks and historic sites). Pituamkek Agreement is the co-management agreement for the new/separate national park.



What does Co-Management mean?

Shared commitment to ensure ecological integrity and the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq Way of Life are maintained and promoted for the use, benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations. This arrangement supports the weaving of Mi'kmaw knowledge, values and priorities into Parks Canada-administered places on PEI through the Toquktmekl Agreement. The Pituamkek Establishment Agreement includes a co-management governance model, guardian programs, community-based employment opportunities and commitments to net-zero, climate-smart infrastructure.

Archaeology



Based on the principles of Netukulimk, Etuaptmumk, and Msit No'kmaq, the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils and community guidance, the Archaeology Unit focuses their efforts to protect, conserve Mi'kmaw cultural heritage throughout Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq territory. One of the greatest advancements in this unit this year, was the time discovery of the 5,000-year-old bone, confirmed to be that of the earliest known Indigenous ancestor.

L'nuey's GIS Specialist, gathers and prepares technical and screening reports to assist in negotiations by creating maps with layers of information to serve as the foundation of future land negotiations in Epekwitk. These newly developed mapping tools help to support the leadership in providing L'nuey with additional direction and priorities relating to both Federal and Provincial land. Underneath the arch of the Negotiations Centre, our Archaeology team also assists in advancement of negotiations efforts with Parks Canada's Protected Establishment Branch in the development and implementation of the Pitumkek National Park Reserve Establishment Agreement.

HIGHLIGHTS

FIELD & ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

- Under provincial permit, fieldwork was conducted under 3 locations across Epekwitk.
- Two new Mi'kmaw Archaeological sites were identified, along with artifacts.
- Continued work with the Pitumkek Conservation Project team at the Pitumkek site, and the newly uncovered historic Mi'kmaw archaeological site in Richmond.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

- Archaeological exhibit of artifacts collected from field research and past donations created and shared at several community events, including Nationhood Gathering.
- Through the Archaeology Unit's Absolute Dating project, eight samples were submitted for radiocarbon dating, dating back as far as 1200 years ago.
- Mi'kmaq Involvement and Education
- The Archaeology Unit is in the preliminary stages of developing policy documents. This policy will include principles and best practices to protect, preserve, and manage Mi'kmaq archaeological heritage in a way that respects Mi'kmaq values, beliefs and traditions.
- A priority for the Archaeology Unit has been to share the rich history of Epekwitk and exploring the archaeological record of Epekwitk with the community and broader public, through initiatives such as social media posts for Mi'kmaq History Month and Lunch and Learn community presentations.



This stone
spearhead
was
uncovered
over 80
years ago
in North
Tryon.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



This remarkable slate
cutting knife was discovered
by a fisherman's scallop dredge
about a mile off the shore of
North Lake



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



This stone
artifact,
known as a
plummet,
was found
in a scallop
drag near
Sea Cow Head.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



Likely created by ancestral
Mi'kmaq around 600 years ago,
this beautifully crafted tool's
true purpose remains a mystery.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



Clay pot
making was
introduced
to the
Maritimes
around
2,500 years
ago.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



The artifacts pictured here are
both made from Ramah quartzite, a
distinctive stone sourced from
Labrador — over 1,300 kms away.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



These two shark teeth recovered
from St. Peter's Bay have been
modified by humans and show
that ancestral Mi'kmaq used
them as tools.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



This complete
stone smoking
pipe was
discovered
at Pitumakek.

The pipe bowl
fragment below
appears to have
been made in part
with a metal tool.



**MI'KMAQ
HISTORY
MONTH**



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