

L'NUEY
2024-2025
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'kmaq have occupied this Island for over 12,000 years. We honour the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," which recognize Mi'kmaw rights and establish an ongoing relationship between nations, past, present and future. We are all Treaty People.



MESSAGE FROM EPEKWITNEWAQ MI'KMAW-SAQMAQ



Kwe' Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq,

Since L'nuey began its work in 2019 as the Mi'kmaq rights initiative of Epekwitk (PEI), we have continued a journey grounded in responsibility to our ancestors and commitment to future generations. Guided by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils – the full Councils of Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations – L'nuey remains a strong and steady force in advancing, implementing, and protecting the constitutionally recognized rights of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, renewed partnerships, and visible signs of reconciliation taking shape across Epekwitk.

Our work continues to be rooted in self-determination – ensuring that Mi'kmaq voices guide decisions about our lands, resources, culture, and governance.

Among the most significant developments this past year is continued progress toward the Hog Island Specific Claim Settlement, an important step in addressing long-standing historical matters and advancing justice for our Nation. This work reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that unresolved issues of the past are addressed with fairness and respect.



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



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



We also saw major movement in the implementation of our landmark agreements with Parks Canada. The appointment of the Pitumkek National Park Reserve Co-Management Board and the Toquktmekl Co-Management Board represents a new phase in Mi'kmaw governance and stewardship. These Boards bring Mi'kmaw knowledge, laws, and priorities directly into decision-making for lands of deep cultural and ecological significance, demonstrating reconciliation through action.

Across Epekwitk, we also witnessed powerful moments of recognition and learning. The Reconciliation Recognition Awards, along with growing participation in National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Treaty Day, show a broader commitment to understanding the history of this land and the ongoing role of Treaties. These gatherings continue to strengthen relationships and create space for shared learning and respect.

Another visible symbol of pride this year has been the introduction of the Mi'kmaw license plate, a meaningful reflection of identity, presence, and the enduring place of the Mi'kmaq in Epekwitk. It stands as a daily reminder that reconciliation includes recognition – on the land, in our communities, and in public life.

L'nuey's pillars – Negotiations, Consultation, and Governance Development – continue to guide this work. Together, they support rights implementation, land and resource stewardship, and the growth of strong governance structures that will serve our Nation long into the future.

While we celebrate these milestones, we know the work continues. Progress requires unity, participation, and the voices of our people. We encourage all members of our Nation to stay engaged as we move forward together.

We invite you to explore the pages that follow to learn more about the work accomplished this past year. Grounded in the strength of our ancestors and guided by the vision of our people, we are building a future where Mi'kmaw rights, culture, and governance continue to flourish.

Wela'lioq – Thank you all.



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



Chief Tabatha 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.

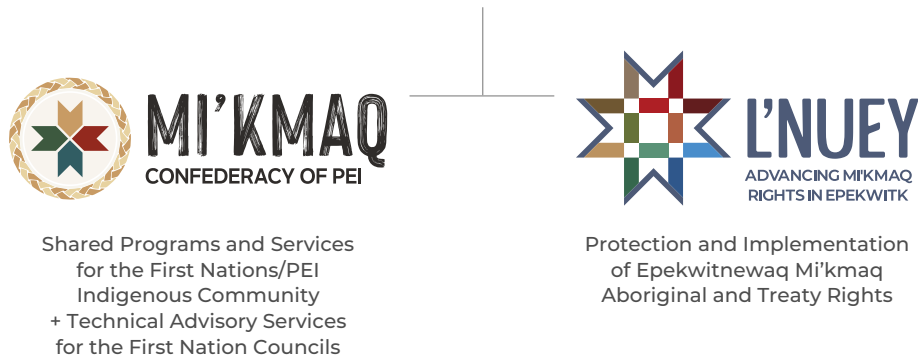
L'nuey's mandate is focused on protecting and advancing the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of the Epekwitknewaq Mi'kmaq, including negotiations, consultation and governance development.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Reflecting on a Year of Growth, Engagement, and Implementation

As I reflect on the past year, I am proud of the continued progress L'nuey has made in advancing Mi'kmaw rights, strengthening governance, and deepening community engagement across Epekwitk. This has been a year focused not only on new milestones, but on implementing the strong foundations built in recent years.

A key focus has been supporting the transition from agreement-making to action. The establishment of a Secretariat to support the Pitumkek and Toquktmekl Co-Management Boards marks an important step in ensuring these historic agreements are effectively implemented. This work helps translate commitments into meaningful participation, stewardship, and opportunity for Mi'kmaw communities.

Our Governance Development and Communications work continued to grow in scope and impact. This year we delivered a wide range of materials to support the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process, including a video, an infographic, written features, genealogy workshops, and we also hosted UN Declaration Act Action Plan information sessions. These tools are helping community members better understand governance pathways and their role in shaping our collective future.

We also launched the L'nuey Interactive Series, hosted in both the spring and fall, creating new spaces for dialogue, learning, and engagement. These sessions brought community members together to explore L'nuey's work related to Mi'kmaw rights, governance, and history, in accessible and meaningful ways.

Public education and reconciliation remained central to our work. Through Indigenous Awareness Week, we supported the addition of Mi'kmaw place names and helped present Reconciliation



Jenene Wooldridge
Executive Director of L'nuey

Recognition Awards, celebrating those contributing to understanding and relationship-building. Participation in National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Treaty Day continued to grow, reinforcing the importance of these observances in the life of the Island.

During Mi'kmaw History Month, we highlighted Mi'kmaw symbols and cultural teachings, helping broaden awareness of Mi'kmaw knowledge systems and identity. Our storytelling efforts expanded through media coverage and new episodes of the Juku'e podcast, which continues to share Mi'kmaw perspectives with a wide audience.



Our Consultation Unit maintained a strong presence, ensuring Mi'kmaw rights and interests were represented in ongoing development and land-use discussions. At the same time, our Negotiations work advanced key files, including continued progress toward the Hog Island Specific Claim Settlement.

None of this work happens without collaboration. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils for their guidance, to the L'nuey team for their dedication, and to our partners and community members who continue to engage with openness and commitment.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear: strengthening governance, supporting rights implementation, and ensuring Mi'kmaw voices shape the future of Epekwitk. I am honoured to continue to be a part of this work.

Msit No'kmaq – All My Relations

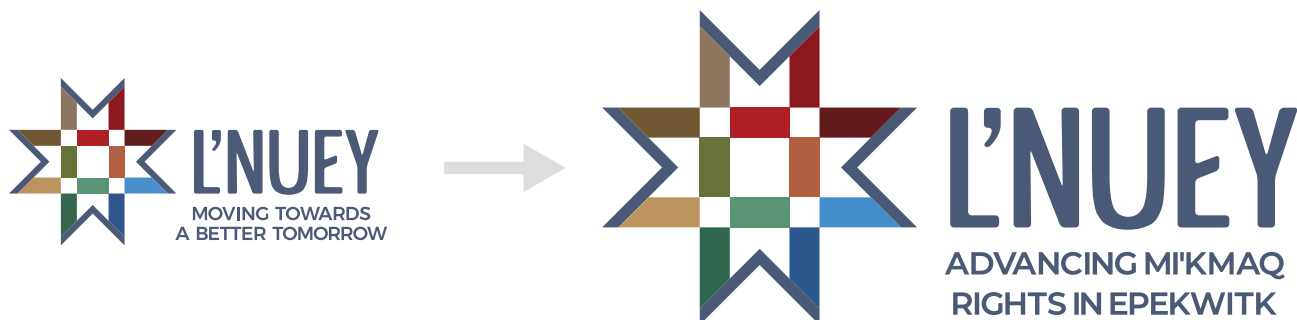


Jenene Wooldridge

WHAT'S NEW

This year, L'nuey refreshed its visual identity. While the core logo remains rooted in its original design, the tagline has evolved from “Moving Towards a Better Tomorrow” to “Advancing Mi'kmaq Rights in Epekwitk.”

This shift reflects not only where L'nuey stands today, but also a growing clarity in its mission as the organization continues to build its reputation and presence. After years of laying the groundwork, the work has moved from possibility to action – from moving toward something to actively advancing it. The rights are real. The obligations are clear. And the work continues.



OUR LOGO STORY

The L'nuey logo is grounded in the traditions, history, and spirituality of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq.

The eight-point star represents the light of the universe that guides and protects the people, the land, and the Nation. This powerful symbol is overlaid with visual elements inspired by the rich traditions of basket weaving – an art form that requires many hands, and years of knowledge and care, much like the work of L'nuey itself.

These elements are brought together through colours drawn from naturally occurring dyes and pigments found on Prince Edward Island, alongside tones that reflect Epekwitk as a whole.

GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS



L'nuey's Governance Development and Communications work remains central to advancing Mi'kmaw self-determination in Epekwitk. Progress in negotiations and rights implementation depends not only on agreements, but on informed communities, strong governance foundations, and broad public understanding. Clear, consistent communication about Mi'kmaw rights helps build that understanding, while governance development ensures the Nation is prepared to lead, implement, and sustain those outcomes over the long term.

Together, these efforts help create the conditions where progress is not temporary — but lasting. When Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq community members are engaged and equipped, and when the broader public better understands Mi'kmaw history, rights, and responsibilities, negotiated achievements become a foundation for future growth.

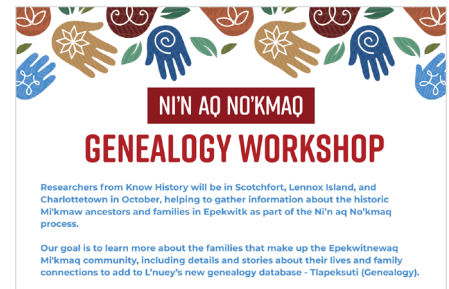
HIGHLIGHTS

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE FOUNDATIONS

This past year, governance development efforts continued to support the Ni'n aq No'kmaq process, helping community members understand pathways toward strengthened governance and self-determination. A suite of accessible communications tools was developed, including:

- An informational video
- A visual infographic
- A written feature article
- Genealogy workshops
- UN Declaration (UNDA) information sessions

These resources help translate complex governance topics into clear, community-focused information, while also creating opportunities for dialogue and questions. Engagement through community sessions, one-to-one discussions, workshops, and online formats ensured feedback continued to inform leadership and next steps.



N'I'N AQ NO'KMAQ

DEFINING WHO CAN EXERCISE ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS IN EPEKWITK

2020-2021
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
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 805 conversations, including 877 individual and 148 group sessions.
- Launched public summiting first round of engagement.
- Ran social media and mail campaign focusing on defining identity and belonging.

In 2018, L'nuey was formed and mandated by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils (the full council of both 916 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. This is a foundational step toward Mi'kmaq self-governance and, ultimately, self-determination in Epekwitk.

2023
FOCUS: Establish a shared understanding of the work and future direction.
Outcome: Engaged 299 Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq through various sessions.

2024
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.

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.

Charlottetown: October 23, 2025
9:30 am - 11:30 am
L'nuey Office
8 Stan MacPherson Way

Bring: copies of documents to bring: y trees ige certificates baptism, and death certificates papers and obituaries

Include of importance in historical research and a working-in-progress genealogical research note timeline charts for indigenous communities record-keeping for government income.

LEARN MORE & JOIN IN
www.lnuey.ca/governance-development
info@lnuey.ca
903-569-2150



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING

In 2024–2025, the L’nuey Interactive Series was launched, hosted in both the spring and fall. These sessions created new spaces for community learning and dialogue on Mi’kmaw rights, governance, history, and current initiatives. The series strengthened two-way engagement — sharing information while also listening to community perspectives.

Ongoing engagement also included updates on governance development, co-management implementation, and rights-related files, ensuring community members remain informed as this work evolves.



MI’KMAW RIGHTS & PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Public education and awareness campaigns continued to play a vital role in building understanding and support across Epekwitk.



For thousands of years, the Epekwitnewaq Mi’kmaq lived in harmony with this land.

When the British arrived, colonizers labeled Epekwitk as a “wilderness, void of inhabitants.” This erased Mi’kmaq language and presence from maps while turning these lands into prizes for settlers.

As ancestral grounds were lost, the number of Epekwitnewaq Mi’kmaq dwindled and traditional ways of life began to fade. Existence became a grave struggle.

In 1832, five brave elders reminded the colonizers: “Our fathers and your fathers had long talks, and they promised to leave us some of our land—but they did not—they drove us from place to place like wild beasts—that was not just.”

Generations of the Epekwitnewaq Mi’kmaq continue to bear injustices, enduring the loss of their lands and rights.

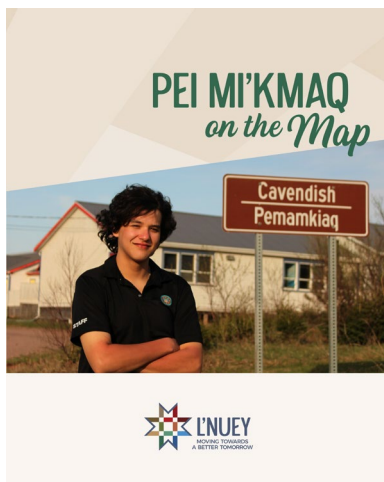
**IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THIS STORY.
IT'S TIME TO HONOUR
THE TREATY RELATIONSHIP.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

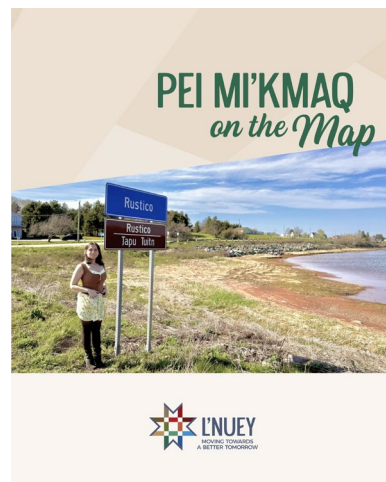
4M	52K	1.32%	618K
IMPRESSIONS	CLICKS	CLICK-THROUGH RATE	VIDEO VIEWS

INDIGENOUS AWARENESS WEEK

Indigenous Awareness Week remained a key moment for celebration and learning. L'nuey continued to support the expansion of Mi'kmaw place name signage across the Island, reinforcing the enduring Mi'kmaw presence on the land and helping Islanders connect with the original language of Epekwitk.



Pemamkiaq / Cavendish



Tapu Tuitn / Rustico

RECONCILIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Reconciliation Recognition Awards once again honoured individuals and organizations demonstrating meaningful contributions toward reconciliation, highlighting that reconciliation is lived through everyday actions and relationships.



Island Nature Trust (INT) was recognized for its unwavering commitment to working in partnership with the Mi'kmaw of Epekwitk to protect and steward the land in a way that respects Mi'kmaw rights, knowledge, and leadership.



Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) was recognized for its meaningful partnership with the Mi'kmaw of Epekwitk in advancing reconciliation through land protection, conservation, and stewardship grounded in Mi'kmaw rights, perspectives, and leadership.



Julia Campbell, founder and creative director of PEI Fashion Week, was recognized for her remarkable leadership in advancing reconciliation through the arts by creating inclusive spaces that honour and uplift Mi'kmaw and other Indigenous designers, artists and storytellers.

OTHER CAMPAIGN PERIODS INCLUDED:



- National Indigenous History Month
- Mi'kmaw History Month, featuring content on Mi'kmaw symbols and cultural teachings
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Treaty Day, with growing public participation
- Ongoing awareness related to Pituamkek, Toquktmekl, and Mi'kmaw co-management
- Public visibility initiatives such as the introduction of the Mi'kmaw license plate, a symbol of identity and recognition

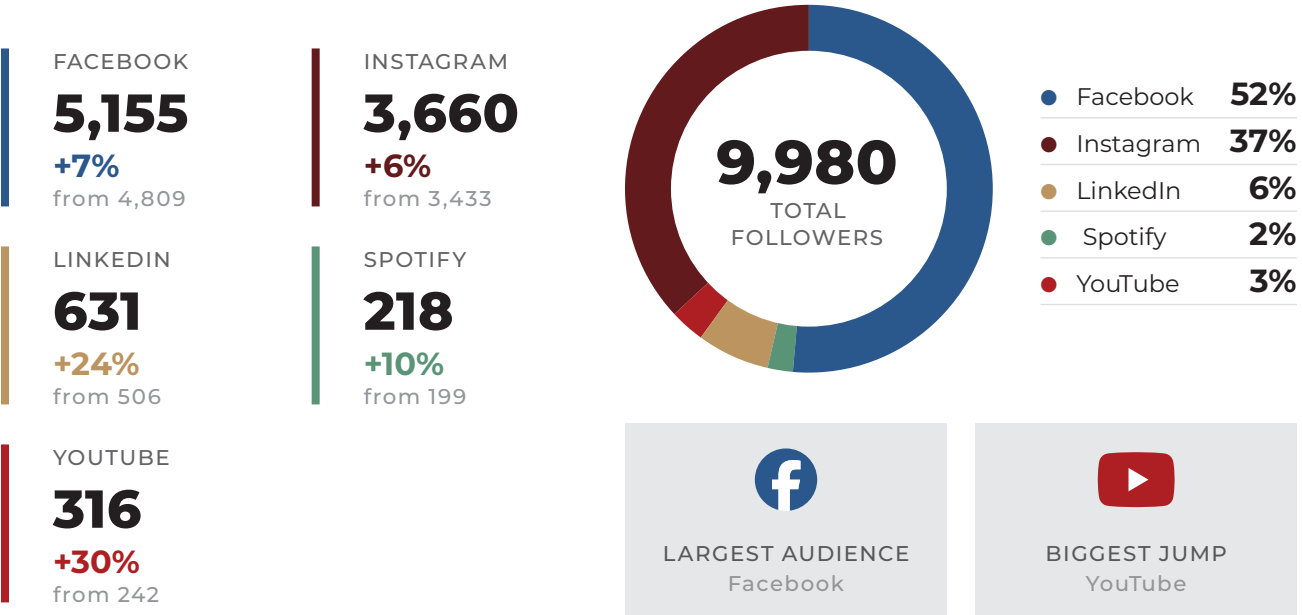
STORYTELLING & MEDIA

Storytelling continued to be a powerful tool for education and connection. The Juku'e podcast expanded its reach, sharing Mi'kmaw perspectives on history, rights, culture, and current initiatives. Media relations increased news coverage throughout the year, which further amplified Mi'kmaw voices and helped bring complex rights and governance topics into public conversation.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS & SUBSCRIBERS

Digital communications channels also continued to grow, supporting timely updates, educational content, and engagement with both community members and the broader public.



CONSULTATIONS



The Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmaq of PEI) have lived on Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island) since time immemorial. These lands and waters have never been surrendered, sold, or ceded. The Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq continue to assert Aboriginal Title to all of Prince Edward Island, including surrounding waters and nearby islands, and uphold their responsibilities as stewards of the territory's lands, resources, and future generations.

Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, including those affirmed through the historic Peace and Friendship Treaties, are recognized and protected under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

THE CROWN'S DUTY TO CONSULT

The Crown has a legal Duty to Consult and, where necessary, accommodate Indigenous peoples when government decisions may affect Aboriginal or Treaty Rights.

On Prince Edward Island, this responsibility is guided by the Mi'kmaq-PEI-Canada Consultation Agreement (2012), which sets out when and how consultation must occur.

WHAT TRIGGERS A CONSULTATION?

Consultations may be triggered by activities such as, but not limited to:

- Land development and construction
- Infrastructure projects
- Fisheries and environmental management decisions
- Work near archaeological or cultural sites
- Activities affecting traditional harvesting or land use

L'NUEY'S ROLE IN CONSULTATIONS:

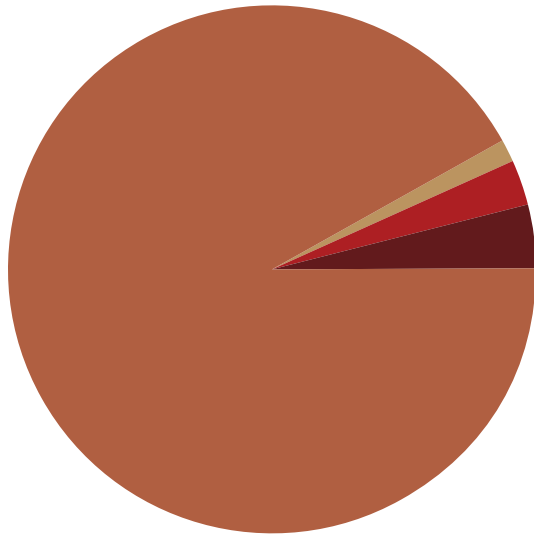
L'nuey's Consultation Unit operates under the direction of the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils and serves as the central coordination body for all Crown consultation notifications that may impact Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq rights and interests. Many files remain active for extended periods, often involving ongoing back-and-forth communication and coordination with Crown departments for months, and in some cases, years.



HIGHLIGHTS

CONSULTATION ACTIVITY:

In 2025, the Consultation Unit managed over 131 consultation files, a breakdown of which is reflected below:

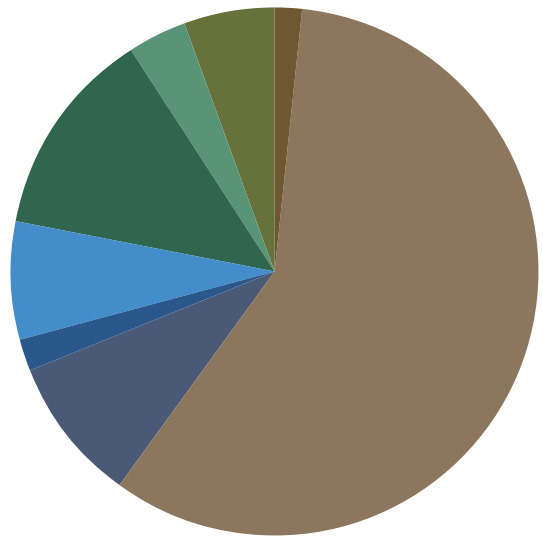


- 1** Prince County Hospital Foundation (PCH Foundation)
- 2** Environment, Energy and Climate Action (EECA)
- 3** Finance PEI
- 70** Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI)

76 PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIONS

- 1** Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 32** Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- 5** Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada
- 1** Indigenous Services Canada
- 4** Infrastructure Canada
- 7** Parks Canada: 7
- 2** Public Services and Procurement Canada: 2
- 3** Transport Canada: 3

55 FEDERAL CONSULTATIONS



NEGOTIATIONS



On behalf of the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, L'nuey continues to lead ongoing negotiations with the Province of Prince Edward Island and the Government of Canada to advance Mi'kmaw rights and address longstanding loss of use and other obligations in Epekwitk (PEI).

Guided by Mi'kmaw leadership and supported by legal standards, historical and archaeological evidence, and land mapping, these negotiations help to:



Advance and protect Mi'kmaw rights



Create meaningful and lasting change for the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq



Foster self-determination and strong governance structures



Support socio-economic opportunity and prosperity for generations to come.



Build respect, cooperation, and partnership in support of reconciliation

THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

ILA'MATULTI'K ("WE RECONCILE")

The Framework Agreement, Ila'matulti'k ("We Reconcile"), was signed on January 15, 2019, between the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, the Government of Canada, and the Province of Prince Edward Island. This agreement established a critical foundation for a renewed government-to-government (tripartite) relationship, built on recognition, respect, cooperation, and partnership.

For the Mi'kmaq, Ila'matulti'k represents more than a legal document; it is a living promise to work together. It commits all parties to addressing Mi'kmaw rights and to achieving tangible change in Epekwitk.

The agreement marked a vital step in advancing Mi'kmaw rights, fostering self-determination, and creating socio-economic opportunity for the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. It continues to stand as a powerful reminder of shared responsibilities and the obligation to ensure reconciliation is realized through action and lasting outcomes.

SIGNED JANUARY 15, 2019

EPEKWITNEWAQ
MI'KMAQ

GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA

PROVINCE OF PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND



HIGHLIGHTS

MAIN TABLE NEGOTIATIONS

L'nuey continues to represent the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq in tripartite Main Table negotiations with the Province of Prince Edward Island and the Government of Canada. These discussions aim to advance Aboriginal Title and Treaty Rights, increased governance capacity, and land recovery initiatives through strategic approaches grounded in Mi'kmaw principles, values, and priorities. Despite government transitions, continuity has been maintained through structured briefings, with progress advancing on land, co-management, and the near finalization of key legal position documents that strengthen the Mi'kmaq negotiating framework.

LAND, TITLE, AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Work continues to help advance land priorities in support of title claims, including advocacy related to the limited availability of Crown land in Epekwitk. GIS analysis supported Duty to Consult files, land identification and prioritization, and alternative land and financial strategies where Crown land is unavailable, strengthening negotiation readiness and practical solutions.

PARKS CANADA AND CO-MANAGEMENT

A long-standing negotiation relationship with Parks Canada reached a major implementation phase following the signing of two co-management agreements in 2024. Co-Management Boards for Pituamkek National Park Reserve and Toquktmekl were appointed in 2025, a dedicated staffing unit was established, and work planning is underway. These agreements move co-management from commitment to action and provide a proven model for shared stewardship that strengthens Mi'kmaw governance and future negotiations.



On July 4, 2024 Chief Junior Gould (Abegweit First Nation), Chief Darlene Bernard (Lennox Island First Nation) and Steven Guilbeault, the minister responsible for Parks Canada, signed an agreement to formally establish Pituamkek as a national park reserve.

PITUAMKEK NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

The 2024 Establishment Agreement for Pituamkek National Park Reserve confirmed a Mi'kmaq–Parks Canada co-management governance model, guardian programs, community employment, and climate-smart infrastructure commitments. This agreement represents a landmark recognition of Mi'kmaw rights and presence on the land and establishes a durable foundation for long-term shared stewardship and Nation rebuilding.

TOQUKTMekl CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The Toquktmekl Co-Management Agreement provides a framework for shared stewardship across Parks Canada–administered sites on Prince Edward Island. Implementation is now underway, translating negotiated commitments into operational practice and reinforcing the protection and transmission of the Mi'kmaw Way of Life for future generations.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS
CANADA

Negotiations continue with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on behalf of Lennox Island First Nation toward a collaborative fisheries management agreement. Treaty-protected fishing continued for a fourth season without any impact to conservation, reinforcing Mi'kmaw stewardship capacity. Preparatory work is underway to more formally advance priorities for future fisheries governance in early 2026, strengthening Mi'kmaw participation in decision-making and long-term fisheries sustainability.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT
CANADA

Engagement with Public Services and Procurement Canada continued regarding certain federally owned lands in Epekwitk. An accommodation agreement proposal related to land has been received and is under review by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils, representing a potential pathway for land-based outcomes outside traditional claims processes.

MI'KMAW HISTORY, RESEARCH, AND
RECORDS

Foundational historical, genealogical, and oral history research is nearing completion and will support community access to Mi'kmaw records while strengthening evidentiary foundations for negotiations. Commissioned treaty and fisheries research continue to inform long-term legal, strategic, and governance planning. Protocols for the respectful care of ancestral remains were developed, reinforcing Mi'kmaw control over cultural heritage, with a burial ceremony planning forthcoming.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS

L'nuey' Negotiation Team continues to lead and coordinate Specific Claims negotiations addressing historic reserve land losses and other breaches of federal fiduciary obligations. The Hog Island claim is active and nearing settlement, representing a milestone opportunity for land and financial redress in Epekwitk. Worrell/Morell, Scotchfort, and Lot 55 claims have been submitted and are pending federal decisions to negotiate, collectively strengthening leverage by demonstrating the scale and persistence of unresolved Crown obligations. The Lot 15 claim is prepared and pending submission approval, while research continues on potential claims relating to Ordnance Reserve and Lady Wood Trust.

• Hog Island	Nearing settlement
• Worrell/Morell	Submitted
• Scotchfort	Submitted
• Lot 55	Submitted
• Lot 15	Pending submission

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governance and accountability were maintained through regular internal coordination, and ongoing briefings to the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils. These practices support transparency, continuity, and disciplined negotiation alignment with community-led and driven priorities.

4

ACTIVE
SPECIFIC CLAIMS

2

CO-MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS

4

SEASONS OF TREATY-
PROTECTED FISHING

CO-MANAGEMENT UNIT



The L'nuey Co-Management Unit was established to support the implementation of two agreements between the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow (the Mi'kmaq Nation Government of PEI) and the Minister responsible for Parks Canada.

At their core, these agreements reflect a commitment to respect Mi'kmaw knowledge, affirm Mi'kmaw rights and practices, and ensure Mi'kmaw voices guide the future of these lands.

Two Agreements. One shared vision

TOQUKTMekl (TACKLING PROJECTS TOGETHER) CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

This co-management agreement aims to protect and manage the PEI National Park and associated Historic Sites for future generations of Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq and all Canadians through shared planning, management and operations. Toquktmekl provides the framework for Parks Canada and the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow to continue working together and sharing knowledge and resources.

Toquktmekl Co-management Agreement:

- Ensures that the Mi'kmaq have a seat at the governance table.
- Establishes a co-management board (3 members and 2 Co-Chairs) to provide advice on all aspects of park management.
- Supports cultural and environmental stewardship.
- Encourages economic opportunities for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq communities.



Guided by consensus decision-making, the board will provide advice to both the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow and Parks Canada on the integrated stewardship of resources, protection of cultural heritage, and the development of economic opportunities.

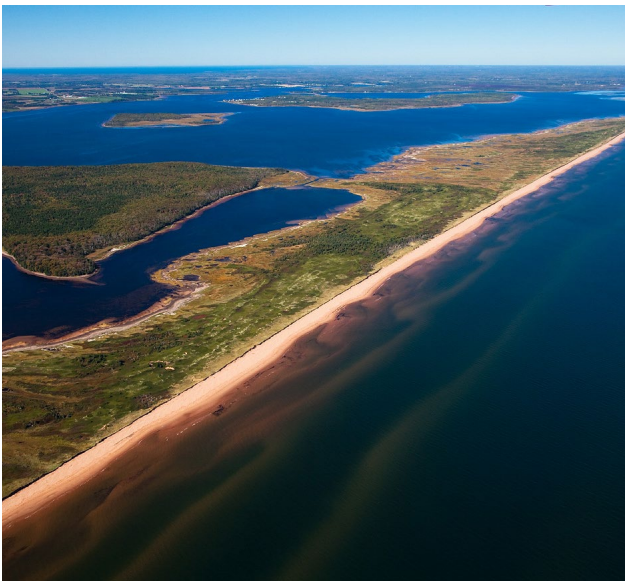


**PITUAMKEK (AT THE LONG SAND DUNE)
NATIONAL PARK RESERVE
ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT**

The Pitumkek National Park Reserve Establishment Agreement sets the path for the creation of a new national park reserve in northwestern Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island), near Lennox Island First Nation. This agreement establishes a shared governance approach between the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow and Parks Canada to guide the planning, establishment, and management of the park.

Pitumkek Establishment Agreement:

- Ensures that the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq play a leadership role in the development and stewardship of the National Park Reserve.
- Establishes a co-management board (3 members and 2 Co-Chairs) to guide decisions on park establishment, infrastructure, access, research, and land use.
- Protects culturally significant Mi'kmaw sites, ecosystems, and stories connected to this landscape.
- Supports long-term stewardship and planning grounded in Mi'kmaw values and knowledge.



Guided by consensus decision-making, the board will provide direction and strategic guidance to the Mi'kmaq Epekwitnewaq Kapmntemuow and Parks Canada to shape how Pitumkek is protected, managed, and experienced for generations to come.

Over the past year, the L'nuet Co-management Unit focused on building the governance structures, processes, and partnerships needed to bring these agreements into action.

The Co-Management Unit spent significant time developing the processes that support the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq and Parks Canada working together effectively in co-management.

Work included:

- Designing processes that create the conditions for shared stewardship and collective responsibility, informed by principles such as Netukulimk and the Seven Generations teachings.

Netukulimk
neh-doo-goo-limgp

A Mi'kmaw word based on the concept of achieving adequate standards of community nutrition and economic well-being that does not jeopardize the integrity, diversity or productivity of the environment.

Seven Generations

A Mi'kmaw concept that decisions made today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

- Developing governance and operational processes grounded in Mi'kmaw values, relationships, and ways of working, rather than relying solely on standard government administrative models.
- Establishing the secretariat function to support board operations and administration
- Supporting early implementation planning for both agreements by working with co-management counterparts to build practices that respect Mi'kmaw governance while operating within federal systems.

This work builds the administrative and governance foundation needed for long-term co-management, while ensuring Mi'kmaw knowledge, cultural protocols, and community perspectives are incorporated into how meetings, planning, and implementation work are structured.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

PITUAMKEK CONSERVATION PROJECT

The unit supported the Pituamkek Conservation Project, an early step in the stewardship of the future park reserve.

Activities focused on:

- Supporting conservation and research initiatives in the Pituamkek area
- Strengthening collaboration with conservation partners
- Advancing Mi'kmaw-led stewardship approaches



CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD RECRUITMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT

One of the largest priorities this year was establishing the co-management boards required under both agreements.

- Recruited 2 co-chairs and 3 board members for each board through a joint recruitment process led by Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq Leadership and Parks Canada.
- Supported onboarding and orientation to prepare members for their roles.

Two co-management boards are now in place to guide the future management of these protected areas.

2

BOARDS NOW
IN PLACE

2

CO-CHAIRS
PER BOARD

3

MEMBERS
PER BOARD

1

JOINT RECRUITMENT
PROCESS

ARCHAEOLOGY



L'nuey's Archaeology unit consists of a Senior Archaeologist, a Geospatial Archaeologist, and an Indigenous Monitor and Archaeological Assistant. The unit is responsible for protecting, preserving, and managing Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage throughout Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq territory.

The team works to strengthen the capacity of Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq to manage and share their archaeological heritage through policy and protocol development, information management including an ArcGIS mapping tool, collections management, and related research and education initiatives.

HIGHLIGHTS



*Pituumkek Conservation Project team
at L'nuey session on processing artifacts*

L'nuey's Archaeology unit had a productive year, building on the momentum of last year's field research program. Archaeological staff continued field and archival research at historic-period Mi'kmaw sites. Under a provincial permit, fieldwork was carried out at six locations across the province,

6

FIELDWORK
LOCATIONS

28

DAYS IN
THE FIELD

2

NEW SITES
IDENTIFIED

200+

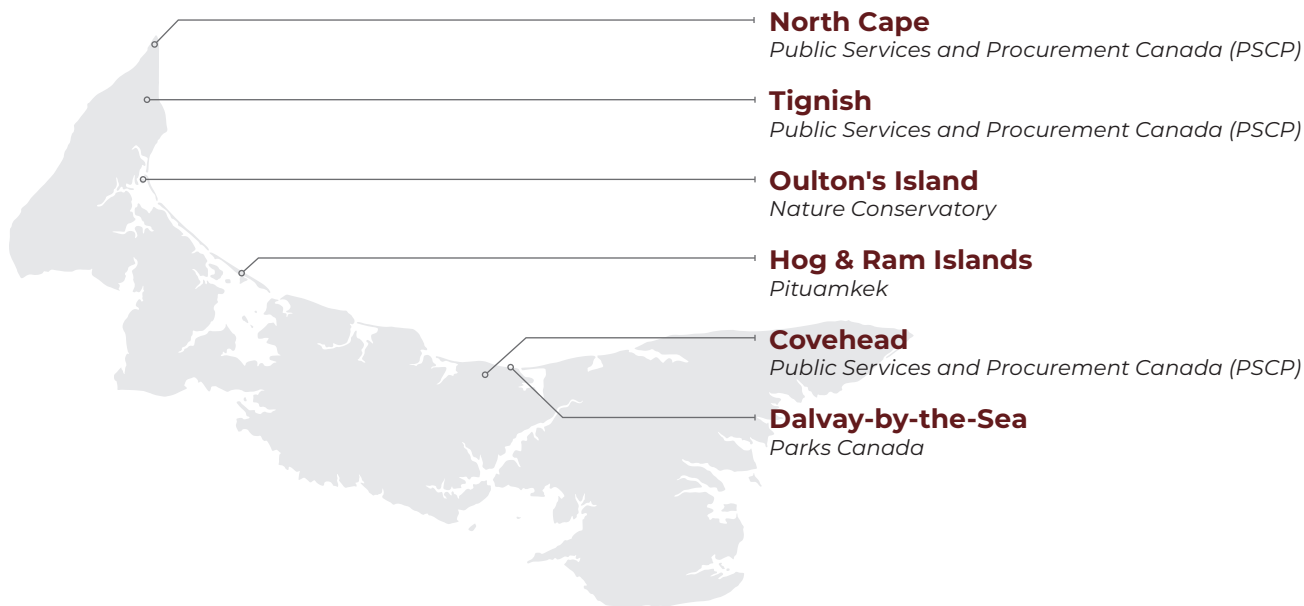
ARTIFACTS COLLECTED

totaling twenty-eight days in the field. Two new Mi'kmaw archaeological sites were identified, and over 200 artifacts were collected. The information and artifacts gathered during this field season will be analyzed during the off-season.

The unit expanded with the addition of an Indigenous Monitor and Archaeological Assistant, assisting with archaeological monitoring, surveying, and testing, as well as post-excavation artifact processing.

Through the consultation process, Public Services and Procurement Canada invited L'nuey's archaeology staff to advise on and participate in three cultural resource management projects at Covehead, North Cape, and Tignish. In cooperation with Parks Canada, L'nuey's archaeology staff also led an archaeological impact assessment at Dalvay-by-the-Sea National Historic Site within the National Park.





The Archaeology team was joined by the Pituamkek Conservation Project team for projects at the Pituamkek site at Hog Island, Ram Island, and Dalvay-by-the-Sea. L'nuey and Pituamkek teams also joined forces with the Nature Conservancy of Canada for a shoreline survey at Oulton's Island. These archaeological activities were shared at an end-of-season open house with community leadership and partner representatives.

L'nuey's archaeology staff also invited community members, Elders, and knowledge keepers to visit and share memories of Maggie's Camp, a late 19th to early 20th century Mi'kmaw settlement in Richmond. Preliminary investigations into this site began in 2024 and included archival and census research, examination of historical maps, a review of oral history transcripts, and elevation mapping.

An archaeological site seasonality research project is well underway, with faunal material submitted for radiocarbon dating and stable isotope analysis. This work will also contribute to L'nuey's growing inventory of radiocarbon and other absolute dates associated with ancestral Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq archaeological sites and materials in Epekwitk. Archaeology staff also partnered with Dr. Jonathan Fowler of St. Mary's University to conduct geophysical research at two Mi'kmaw archaeological sites in Tracadie Bay and Savage Harbour, with results that will guide archaeological excavations in 2026.

Sharing knowledge remains a priority for the Archaeology unit. The team continues to highlight the rich archaeological history of Epekwitk with the community and broader public through initiatives such as social media posts, L'nuey's interactive series, presentations to schools and other venues, and educational workshops.



*Maggie's Camp
community and Elder site visit*

The Archaeology unit is also in the preliminary stages of developing a suite of policy documents aimed at increasing Mi'kmaw involvement and leadership in all aspects of archaeological heritage management. These policies will include principles and best practices to protect, preserve, and manage Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage in a way that respects Mi'kmaw values and traditions.

OUR TEAM



Jenene Wooldridge

Executive Director
jwooldridge@lnuey.ca

Tracey Flynn

Executive Assistant
tflynn@lnuey.ca

Bridgette Wilkinson

Office Administrator
bwilkinson@lnuey.ca

CONSULTATIONS

Anagha Muralidharan

Consultations Coordinator
amuralidharan@lnuey.ca

LEGAL COUNSEL

Don MacKenzie, K.C.

Legal Counsel
dmackenzie@lnuey.ca

GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Sean Doke

Governance & Communications Coordinator
sdoke@lnuey.ca

Kiara LaBobe

Governance & Engagement Officer
klabobe@lnuey.ca

Julie Pellissier-Lush

Knowledge Keeper
jlush@lnuey.ca

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MacKenzie Cutcliffe

*Strategic Partnership and
External Affairs Coordinator*
mcutcliffe@lnuey.ca

CO-MANAGEMENT UNIT

Diane Arsenault

Lead, Parks' Agreements Implementation
darsenault@lnuey.ca

Bridget McCloskey

Special Projects and Assets Manager
bmccloskey@lnuey.ca

NEGOTIATIONS CENTRE

Matt McGuire

Director, Negotiations Centre
mmcguire@lnuey.ca

Tracey Cutcliffe

Senior Negotiator
tcutcliffe@lnuey.ca

Erica Perry

Negotiations and Finance Coordinator
eperry@lnuey.ca

Theresa Redmond

Negotiations Consultant
tredmond@lnuey.ca

Monica MacDonald

*Senior Strategic Advisor,
History and Outreach*
mmacdonald@lnuey.ca

Helen Kristmanson

Senior Archaeologist
hkristmanson@lnuey.ca

Erin Montgomery

Geospatial Archaeologist
emontgomery@lnuey.ca

Jonathan Sark

*Indigenous Monitor & Archaeological
Field Assistant*
jsark@lnuey.ca



THANK YOU
WELA'LIOQ



@lnueypei



@lnuey.ca

www.lnuey.ca