# ANNUAL REPORT

## • 2001 •    • 2002 •

## Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs

• • • • • **Nikanitaiek** • • • •

"People's Moving Forward"

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A wide range of issues were moved forward and addressed by the Chiefs and staff of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. Based on 46 resolutions, committee's work and contributions by APC staff and First Nation Technicians, the agenda moved forward. Work completed has been through the wide contributions of all those involved and this must be recognized.

## GOVERNANCE:

One major issue for the year was Governance and the federal perspective to put communities first by providing an opportunity for input through a flawed consultation process, in the absence of detailed legislation. Through the year APC staff and regional technicians conducted numerous presentations of the potential implications of a federally based Governance Act. This new Act would displace portions of the Indian Act and provide a prescription of rules and codes First Nations must develop at a bare minimum, to assist First Nations in how they operate and if not enacted, regulations would be imposed by

DIAND. The APC Sect. played a coordinating role and participated Nationally in all discussions on Governance. A vast quantity of legal, policy, and communication materials have been developed and has been circulated. APC Staff, with other technicians, have conducted sessions to explain the implications of the proposals and garner input on how a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy Governance approach would work and be consistent with First Nation values and beliefs.

## TREATIES AND TREATY EDUCATION:

The staff of APC Sect., in conjunction with legal advisors and historians, conducted various Treaty Education sessions across the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy communities and attempted to target key non-aboriginal communities and other key groups to increase awareness of Treaties. Our APC booth, posters, hats, mugs, pins, pens, and T-Shirts have appeared at many gatherings, including various Pow Wow's across the region. The promotion and provision of information is key to

educate all people about facts about Treaties and the need for greater understanding and dialogue.

A key achievement was a Treaty panel on Eastlink cable television, which was broadcast across Nova Scotia and repeated numerous times, since the original airdate of July 11, 2001. These tapes and other materials were sent to all First Nation Schools and to those who requested copies.

The dialogue on Treaties, specifically ideas and models for a proposed Treaty Commission was the subject of community level dialogue with First Nation Councils and Communities. Both, National and International, models were presented to garner people's views about the idea and purpose of a Treaty Commission. A final report was prepared and submitted to the Chiefs and a resolution was adopted to take the next steps to further the dialogue and the Commission idea. A wide spectrum of views were put forward that reflected the diversity of all our First Nation communities. To date, no response has been provided by DIAND.
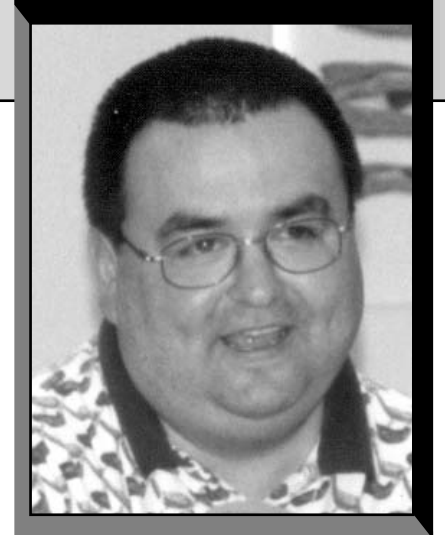
*John G. Paul*
*Executive Director*

## POLITICAL ACCORD ON SOCIAL:

After much dialogue and discussion, the work under the Accord was extended for 2 years. The focus of the work has been Fiscal, Governance Design, Research, Intergovernmental Relations, and Community Information. The Committee's and staff work under the Accord partnership framework with DIAND, lead toward a regional symposium last January, to confirm the directions and create strategies on how best to move forward. A supported vision, a case management model, ideas about specific strategies, for youth, that focuses results in the

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS:

*O*ur Mi'kmaq, Maliseet & Passamaquoddy communities have gone through another year of significant changes. The contributions of APC staff and First Nation technicians across the region must be recognized because through them our leaders are able to identify and address the wide-range of issues faced by all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy people.
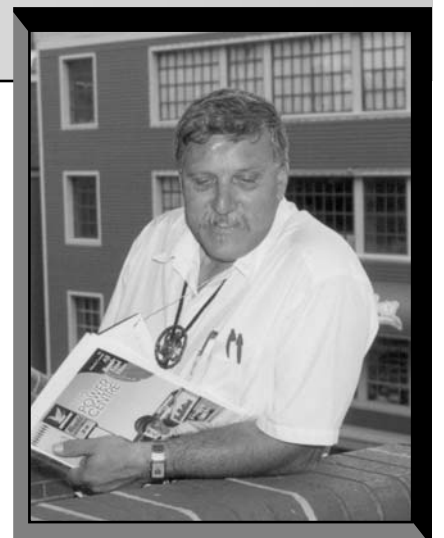
*This report attempts to highlight their work for the fiscal year 2001-2002. Should you require further information on any issue please contact our staff at APC.*

Chief Lawrence Paul                    Chief Second Peter Barlow
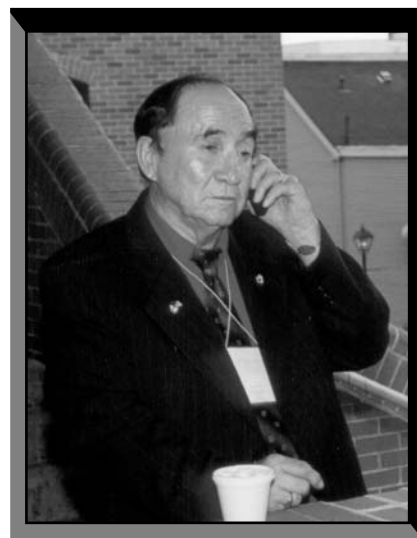
*Chief Second Peter Barlow*
*Indian Island First Nation*

*Chief Lawrence Paul*
*Millbrook First Nation*

First Nation came out of the Symposium. The dialogue clearly laid out the issues which now need to be addressed by the Chiefs, DIAND, and First Nations, on getting on with direct action on reform, and getting clarity on the governance. First Nations implementation of income security demonstration projects have also shown the degree to which First Nations have been able to implement changes which make sense, and to show real First Nation level innovation.

## FISHERIES:

The changes to APC staff and the additions of staff at the First Nation level, made it difficult, but not impossible, to continue the development of a First Nation network on fisheries issues. The staff worked closely with both First Nations, with and without fisheries agreements, to provide strategic, timely, relevant information and advice as requested. Being a link to DFO in cases and to First Nations, allowed the continued exchange of information and to keep lines of communication open, especially in cases where conflict was happening in areas such as Burnt Church. APC Sect staff provided a supporting role and assisted based on requests by First Nation Chiefs or Technicians.

The focus of work related to implications of agreements and distribution of current, relevant information to First Nation technicians and fisheries coordinators. Many First Nations, not all, focused on implementing agreements and negotiating. Later in the year, APC, jointly with DFO, coordinated the fisheries training conference to share work going on at all First Nations and best practices. The dialogue and exchanges allowed each First Nation to get on with its work to get fishing.

## HEALTH:

As always the implementation of new programs involved a great deal of input and collaboration by First Nation technicians with Health Canada officials, under the partnership framework of the MMAHB. As always, issues were raised and addressed by regional or national Health Canada officials. Health information systems, Diabetes, Home & Community Care were being implemented, with First Nation technician's input, to ensure all First Nations meet the requirements or expiration.

A major issue of concern was the new Health Canada Agreements and the development of new agreements templates. APC staff, together with a committee of First Nation Technicians in cooperation with Health Canada, made a number of changes to template agreements for the benefit of all First Nations. The majority of changes proposed were made by Health Canada, based on the information and arguments provided.

Also, during the year, the Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2001 Boycott was put forth to the Chiefs. Although various First Nations did participate, the issue related to funding of the Longitudinal Health Survey, which was addressed. The yearly Health Conference was a huge success and allowed First Nations to honour First Nation level contributions in the area of health. At the end of the year, the conference on the Tobacco Strategy allowed all First Nations input in development of a workable strategy for First Nations implementations.

Challenges and problems persist, but health staff and technicians continue to provide solutions or options to our Chiefs for action.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

This work continues to implement the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic strategy. An implementation committee



Chief Terry Paul
Membertou

and the AAEDN continues to support the work and action plan. The Regional Project Review Committee continues to review and recommend projects to DIAND for a variety of DIAND programs.

## HOUSING:

Chiefs and the Housing technicians continue to address serious issues of mold and mildew. A major issue was the reduction of section '95 units to Atlantic Canada, which was addressed. Additionally, issues related to environmental assessments and eligibility to Ministerial Guarantee's, continue to be issues/concerns that affect First Nations ability to address housing needs, on a short and long term basis.



Chief Mickey Augustine
Red Bank



Chiefs Mi'sel Joe
Miawpukek



Former Chief Lindsay Marshall
Chapel Island



Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy (right) presents Chief George Ginnish of Eel Ground with a plaque recognizing the work done by the late Eugene Patles.

# EXECUTIVES

**Co-Chairs:**

- Chief Lawrence Paul
  Millbrook First Nation - Nova Scotia

- Chief Second Peter Barkiw
  Indian Island First Nation- New Brunswick

**Members:**

- Chief Deborah Robinson
  Acadia First Nation - Nova Scotia

- Chief Michael Augustine(Mickey)
  Red Bank First Nation - New Brunswick

- Chief Reginald Maloney
  Indian Brook First Nation - Nova Scotia

- Chief Terrance Paul
  Membertou First Nation- Nova Scotia

- Chief Jean Guy Cimon
  Madawaska Maliseet First Nation- New Brunswick

- Chief Francis Jadis
  Abegweit First Nation - Prince Edward Island

- Chief Jeff Tomah
  Woodstock First Nation- New Brunswick

**Ex-Officio Members:**

- Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy
  Wsycobah First Nation - Nova Scotia

- Elder Raymond Tremblay
  Tobique First Nation - New Brunswick

- Vice-Chief Len Tomah
  AFN District Vice-Chief New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island

- Vice-Chief Rick Simon
  AFN District Vice-Chief Nova Scotia & Newfoundland

# STAFF

- John G. Paul, Executive Director
- Krista Brookes , Senior Policy Analyst - Legal Advisor
- Violet Paul, Senior Policy Analyst
- Cheryl Knockwood , Senior Policy Analyst
- Noreen Copage, Financial Officer
- Carla Moore, Senior Health Policy Analyst
- JJ Bear, Communications Officer
- Adam Augustine, Chief Informatics Officer
- Jeannette Morrison, Informatics Officer/ Webmaster
- Simon Osmond, Treaty Policy Analyst
- Norah Ward, Treaty Policy Analyst
- Georgianna Barlow, Treaty Policy Analyst
- Cheryl Copage, Social Policy Analyst
- Donna Gauvin, Social Policy Analyst
- Catherine Paul, Executive Assistant
- Elizabeth Joseph, Administrative Assistant
- Charity Barlow, Records Clerk

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chief**

P.O. Box 36,
26 Industrial Park Drive,
Amherst NS  B4H 3Y7

Telephone: (902) 667-4007
Fax: 902-667-7057
Email: info@apcfnc.ca
Website: www.apcfnc.ca

**TOLL FREE: 1-877-667-4007**

# ABORIGINAL & TREATY RIGHTS EDUCATION INITIATIVE REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the activities of and accomplishments undertaken by the Aboriginal & Treaty Rights Education Initiative (ATREI) for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The Aboriginal & Treaty Rights Education Initiative is embarking on its fourth year in providing information on treaties and the treaty relationship to the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy people and to the general public. APCNFC has been quite successful in raising the awareness and understanding of the Covenant Chain of Treaties and in exploring the meaning of the treaty relationship.

## TREATY EDUCATION INITIATIVE (TEI)

### Introduction

This report is intended to highlight the activities of the Treaty Education Initiative (TEI) for the April 2001 to March 2002 fiscal year.

The purpose of the Treaty Education Initiative is to raise awareness and understanding of the Covenant Chain of Treaties

and to explore the meaning of the Treaty relationship. Information packages are made available to participants during these sessions, which include posters and publications.

### Focus Group

On February 11, 2002, a focus group session was conducted at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth. Twenty three participants were invited to provide an evaluation on the effectiveness of the TEI. The participants were asked to evaluate the TEI on its communication materials; its TEI presentations; TEI website; and TEI staff . Recommendations were made on to how to improve the Treaty Education Initiative. Overall, the TEI was given an overwhelmingly positive evaluation.

### Elements of the Work Plan

The following is a synopsis of the activities set out within the April 2001 to March 2002 work plan.

### Treaty Education Initiative – Community & Public Information Sessions

A total of twenty-two community sessions and fifty-five public information sessions were conducted for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.


*Teachers from the Atlantic Region attended the Atlantic Native Teachers Education Conference (ANTEC) in Miramichi, NB*

- 22 community information sessions
- 55 public information sessions

### Communications

The following is a list of communication materials published and/or produced:

- Treaty Education Initiative brochures
- Children's colouring books Mi'kmaq and Maliseet text
- TEI tote bags
- Treaty of 1725 signed June 4th, 1726
- TEI video Eastlink Community television
- Survey tool
- TEI pins
- 6 articles submitted to Mi'kmaq – Maliseet Nations News
- FAQ sheet on treaties
- Kit folders

### Deliverables

The deliverable requirements were all met. Status reports were submitted to DIAND on:

- April to August 2001
- September to October 2001
- November to February 2001
- Final report April 2002

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SESSIONS (2001 - 2002)

Public Sessions 71%
Community Sessions 29%
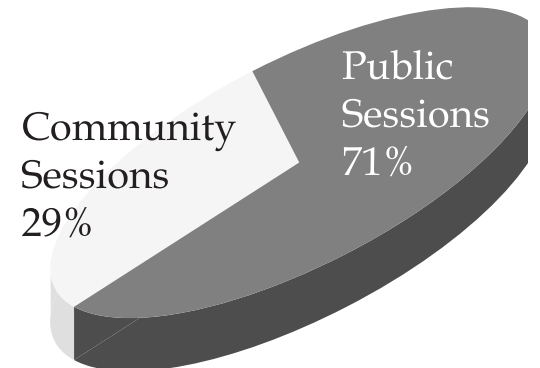

*Norah Ward delivers Treaty Education Session to Atlantic Teachers.*


*People gained knowledge of health and healthy diets from their info booth*

# ECONOMIC
## DEVELOPMENT REPORT


*Students from Membertou learn more about jobs available from companies and governments during Career Day at Membertou.*

## REGIONAL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN ON REBUILDING THE ATLANTIC ABORIGINAL ECONOMY

The APC developed a strategy document based on the conference held in April 2000, the Atlantic Aboriginal Economy Building Workshop. Sponsored by APC, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Dalhousie University, the conference brought together Aboriginal leaders, economic development officers, and government and academic personnel from the Atlantic region. Following the conference, the economic development officers (EDO's) continued to meet. At the request of the Aboriginal leadership, they prepared a strategy document and action plan.

There were eight practical steps that were identified to be implemented over the last year that will, we believe, make an important contribution to the building of the Aboriginal economy in the region. We want to underline that other items in the Action Plan are also very important, such as the settlement of land claims or the reform of the welfare system, but in many cases there are existing processes underway to address these areas. By establishing certain priorities, we certainly do not wish to signal that other initiatives should not be vigorously pursued.

The 2001-2002 members of the APC Regional Implementation Committee were: David Nevin (Indian Brook), Florence Gehue (Indian Brook), Sherry Morrison (Listuguj), Sam Lafford (Ulnooweg), Wayne Nicholas (Tobique), Lisa Francis (Acadia), Dawn MacEwan (Bear River), Tim Dedam (Eel River Bar), Jim

Hepworth (CMM), Gina Barlow (DIAND), Fred Hall (Labrador Inuit Development Corporation), Cheryl Knockwood & Krista Brookes (APC), Fred Wien (Dalhousie School of Social Work) & Junior Denny (Eel Ground).

On the following page is an Update on the Action Plan (Short Term Priorities) as implemented by the Regional Implementation Committee.

The Action Plan, and its priorities, will be updated on an annual basis. The Chiefs have mandated the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Developers Network (AAEDN) and the Implementation Committee members to work on implementing the Action Plan as approved by the APC Chiefs. The Strategy Document and Action Plan are located on our website at: www.apcfnc.ca under "Economic Development." If you have any questions or require further information about the Strategy Document and Action Plan, please contact either Krista Brookes or Cheryl Knockwood at APC.

## UPDATE ON ATLANTIC ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS NETWORK (AAEDN)

The AAEDN Terms of Reference required some changes and will be proposed to the Atlantic First Nation leadership at their next meeting in November. The changes that are being requested deal mostly with membership. The AAEDN Workplan was reviewed at the most recent Imp. Comm. Meeting on Oct. 22 in Fredericton. A few modifications were made and these changes can be reviewed upon request. The Training subcommittee that was initially set up to review the training requirements of the EDOs has been re-established they are Junior Denny, Dave

Nevin, Jim Hepworth, Tim Dedam also joining the committee are Wayne Nicholas, Cheryl Knockwood. A teleconference is being held in November to discuss the issue of CANDO certification with Veronica Vinge from CANDO. The latest AAEDN budget has been discussed and submitted to INAC for funding for this year only.

## CREATION OF AN ATLANTIC ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A proposal was developed which outlines the objectives, structure and budget for an inter-university Research Institute for Aboriginal Economic Development for the Atlantic Region.

The objectives of the Institute would be:

- to improve the knowledge base for Aboriginal economic development in the region


*One booth show how their compay works and wht type of jobs are available.*

through the conduct of relevant research by faculty and graduate students, linked to the needs of Aboriginal communities

- to conduct executive development workshops for the Aboriginal leadership, for their staff and for government and university personnel, making available the best possible information from the region, from Canada and abroad to support the process of economic development of Aboriginal communities

- to encourage and support students, especially Aboriginal students, in the Atlantic region to undertake university level studies in fields relevant to the economic development of their communities, at both the undergraduate and the graduate level; and

- to serve as a focal point for information pertaining to Aboriginal economic development. This data base should emphasize information that is accessible electronically by Aboriginal communities and governments, as well as by faculty and students .

The proposal was supported unanimously via resolution in September from the Atlantic Chiefs and we also received several letters of support from most of the Atlantic universities. The AAEDN has also rec'd a copy of the proposal as well. The proposal and support letters have been forwarded to various government departments for their funding support. We will continue to keep you updated about the progress of this proposal. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the proposal, please contact Krista Brookes at the APC.

| PRIORITIES FOR ACTION | WHAT TO DO | BY WHOM | BY WHEN | NEXT STEPS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **(1.1)** Build Human Resources Capacity Undertake research on Human | Resources shortages that are expected in FN communities and the availability of personnel | Fred Wien will develop Terms of Reference and proposal for this research study. | Completed | APC will submit, on behalf of Ec Dev Implement Comm, to DIAND, JEDI NS Trip & HRDC, METS for funding consideration. |
| **(1.2)** | Organize a workshop or conference on the shortage of Aboriginal personnel in various fields | | Ongoing. This will be put off until after the research study is completed as well as the regional PS Education Needs Assessment workshop has been completed. | Regional Education Needs Assessment Workshop will be held that will touch upon this in |
| (2.1) Build Capacity for EDOs | Increase CEDO budget to ensure that each community has at least one EDO Tim | Dedam, Junior Denny & Greg Martin (INAC) will develop a background paper on CEDO program & funding | Final Options to be tabled at next AAEDN mtg in September | Subcommittee will meet to discuss options with Greg Martin– Sam, Junior, Tim, Dave, Wayne, Sherry, Lisa: Present Resolution to Chiefs in May. |
| (2.2) | Support ongoing program of education & training for EDOs | Dawn & Florence, David | Table for discussion with AAEDN at next mtg in August.  Training completed on Basic Accounting; Business Plans; | AAEDN agreed to scratch their list of training priorities and work with CANDO. Certified Economic Developers. Get CANDU to submit proposal to facilitate training. |
| (2.3) | Create an Atlantic region network of EDOs to share info, identify opportunities & lobby for Ec Dev measures | | Completed | Completed (Revisit sustainability, the network may be less than meeting in person and move toward chatroom). |
| (3.1) Improve Access to Capital | Mandate the RPRC to take a more active role in the pathfinding process for project funding, including program streamlining | Krista Brookes (APC) will ensure that this is an agenda item for discussion at the next RPRC meeting in October 2001 | Completed | At meetings held in March and May, RPRC stated they remain committed to maintaining their role in Pathfinding. |
| (4.1) Build Capacity for Atlantic Regional Projects | Make the full implementation of the ABSN a priority, including the hiring of a Coordinator to be housed in an organization in region | David Nevin (Indian Brook) and Todd Hoskins (Ulnoweeg) are members of the national ABSN committee. | 235,00 coming into Atlantic from ABSN into 4 provinces. | Dave Nevin sought direction from Chiefs to get AADEN to play a leading role. We want more of a mandate and need all players to sit here and discuss issue. See Chiefs resolution on www.apcfnc.ca See 2.1 |
| (4.2) | Conduct a feasibility study on the potential for Aboriginal businesses to supply a larger share of the goods and services to counteract the leakage effect. | Krista Brookes (APC) will develop Terms of Reference and proposal for this research study. | JEDI did an inventory of FN Businesses in NB and Chris Googoo has already done FN Businesses in NS. These tools will be used to conduct a study to find out what businesses Bands would support Bulk Buying. | Revising TOR & developing a budget before submitting to DIAND, ABC & ACOA & provinces for funding consideration.          k |
| (4.3) | To Market Mi'kmaq Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities by expanding the availability of community profiles to all interested communities in the region . | Tim Dedam & Florence Gehue have gathered model and proposal. | Completed | Table with AAEDN at their next meeting in November & develop proposal subsequent to next AAEDN meeting to seek funding to implement profile by next Spring |
| (4.4) | Expand the availability of community planning process to all communities in the region. | Invite Frank Palermo from JCPC to present to the next AAEDN. | Schedule for next AAEDN Mtg meeting Fred will invite Frank Palermo to the next AAEDN meeting in October. | November 2002  See 2.2 |
| (4.5) | Undertake a feasibility study on the potential larger Ec Dev projects that link communities in the region, ie, | Georgia Pacific | Krista Brookes (APC) will develop Terms of Reference and proposal for this research study. | January 2003 |

# FIRST NATION GOVERNANCE ACT ACTIVITIES REPORT


*National Chief Mathew Coone Come & Chief Lawrence Paul of Millbrook.*

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs passed several resolutions this year rejecting Indian Affairs' proposed First Nation Governance Act (FNGA) for several reasons. The main reason being that it was another attempt by the federal government to impose upon us a system on how they believe we should be governed. As a result of our position, APC developed a regional workplan and organized regional roundtable sessions on governance with all organizations. There was a group created called the First Nation Governance Regional Technical Committee that was mandated to assist in the implementation of the workplan. Their mandate was primarily to work with communities to inform them about the proposed FNGA and the potential legal implications of the new Act. Regional Technical sessions were held in October, December, January and March and July.

As part of the workplan, APC also developed a Consultation Policy for use by its First Nation members in dealings with the Crown. The policy outlined some of the up to date caselaw on the issue of consultation and also outlined some guidelines of consultation for Bands and organizations.

APC also developed a communications strategy to deal with the FNGA. APC developed a plain language FNG presentation and handouts that can be given in communities. All this information is also on our website in a separate section dealing with governance. Our staff also held several community information sessions on the proposed FNG Act. Some other regional organization technicians attended with APC staff. Some of the communities in which information sessions were held are: Abegweit, Lennox Island,

Buctouche, Membertou, Bear River, Listuguj, Tobique, Millbrook, Waycobah, Big Cove, Fort Folly, Acadia, Woodstock and CMM Annual Assembly. APC also sat as as a technical member of an AFN national committee on the FNGA. This committee had several conference calls to discuss what each region was doing in this area and what recommendations should be made to the national leadership on this issue. Check out AFN's website at www.afn.ca for more information on this issue at the national level.

APC is currently in the process of developing a draft Submission to present to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on the proposed legislation. This submission will be tabled with the Atlantic Chiefs at their meeting in November for their review and approval. APC will eventually present the final draft to the Standing Committee this fall. APC is also in the process of organizing a meeting with Chiefs and members of the Atlantic Members of Parliament and the opposition parties to discuss the issue of governance and our concerns and issues with the proposed legislation. As part of our workplan, APC has also sought legal advice from a senior lawyer in the region on the legal issues for us are on the proposed legislation and what our legal options are. If you would like more information or copies of the legislation or other materials, please contact either Cheryl Knockwood or Krista Brookes at the APC at 1-877-667-4007.


*Bruce Wildsmith, UNSI Legal Advisor.*


*Peter Birney, UNBI.*


*Jennifer Cox & Tonya Levi, APC.*





*The Atlantic Policy Congress Annual General Assembly was held in Halifax in October of 2001. Chiefs from around the region seated here to discuss issues affecting our communities.*

# FISHERIES ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2001-2002 was once again a year of challenges for the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy in the fisheries sector. The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat played a pivotal role in supporting First Nations by provided strategic and timely advice to communities while maintaining a good working relationship with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

One of the biggest initiatives undertaken in the past year was the production of the "Caddy Report" which was an effort to respond to the questions surrounding the Lobster Fishery in Burnt Church First Nation. The Caddy report was a scientific study, which focused on the viability of conducting a commercial lobster fishery in a season compatible with traditional Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy practices. Communities were also provided with support to develop or finalize management plans. A joint conference between DFO and APC showcasing the various training initiatives taking place within First Nation Communities and looking forward to the needs of the future by asking participants to provide their views on training needs within the First Nation fishery. Supporting communities in their efforts to implement their interim fishing agreements. Collection of information on the many DFO advisory committees continues as does the public education of First Nations communities.

The Marshall decision continues to pose many challenges to the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy, to Canada, and to all users of the Atlantic fishery. The Atlantic Policy Congress is working hard to keep First Nations informed to ensure that First Nations' entry into the Atlantic fishery continues on an efficient basis and to assist Canada in fulfilling its obligations to Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. The following is a more detailed overview of the work undertaken and the achieved results.

## BURNT CHURCH SUPPORT

Atlantic Policy Congress has provided ongoing support and assistance related to the dialogue between Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the community of Burnt Church. Activities and dialogue begin with an initial meeting between the Associate Deputy Minister Jack Stagg, James Mackenzie and various Head Quarter and Regional Officials and a delegation from Burnt Church including fishers and Council members. Atlantic Policy Congress staff acted as the key link for communication and dialogue including provision and distribution of materials and to act as Chairperson at all meetings between Burnt Church and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Officials. A working group of Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Burnt Church worked for weeks and months to



*Opening ceremonies from the Migmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Annual General Assembly in Listuguj, Quebec.*

find a common ground on issues and concerns. One key issue raised was the lack of scientific data for Miramichi Bay.

To address stocks in the Miramichi Bay, both parties agreed to hire an independent scientist. It was left to the Atlantic Policy Congress staff to attempt to identify potential candidates for consideration of the Burnt Church leadership. After much effort Mr. John Caddy was identified as the most available and credible scientist for conducting this work. Terms of reference were developed and Mr. Caddy worked for a period of 6-8 weeks to complete a study in advance of the Burnt Church summer fall fishery season. The report and recommendation were tabled to both parties at a meeting in Miramichi and formed the basis for continued dialogue. During this period an election occurred and created great uncertainty toward the use of the research and dialogue between Burnt Church and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. After the First Nation Election disagreement arose on the focus and provisions of the recommendations. Department of Fisheries and Oceans imposed on Burnt Church a commercial license that included a restricted fishing zone in a limited area in front of the reserve.

The report, recommendation and dialogue between Department of Fisheries and Oceans Officials and Burnt Church continued to be supported by Atlantic Policy Congress secretariat staff on an ongoing basis. These efforts included daily ongoing dialogue discussion and meetings with the parties to further efforts to find any common ground and keep lines of communication open during all periods before, during and after the summer fall fishery. The Atlantic Policy Congress updated All Chiefs and First Nations Officials weekly on issues and provided relevant information to media as requested by Burnt Church Officials

The report and dialogue supported by Atlantic Policy Congress staff has allowed dialogue to continue between parties on an ongoing basis. The Atlantic Policy Congress staff has been available to assist and support Burnt Church leaders and staff on all efforts for the full year.



*The Listuguj singers and drummers.*

# DFO–APC JOINT INITIATIVE ON FISHERIES TRAINING

As in the past years, the DFO-APC Joint Initiative on Fisheries Training continued to provide a forum for the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy to discuss training issues and needs with fisheries training institutions throughout the Atlantic and the Gaspé. Meeting number eight and nine were held in Sydney and Antigonish, respectively.

The training institutions continue to participate in this initiative and maintain a relationship between themselves and the communities. APC continues to notify First Nation Participants of meetings and provide necessary follow up to ensure First Nation participation.

Some of the discussions identified training needs including:

◉ Diesel mechanic training,

◉ Post Secondary training in the Sciences

◉ Smaller Communities and those who have not entered into fishing agreements continue to need funding for training costs.

◉ Marketing Expertise

The training institutions continue to work with Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy concerns. Various pilot projects were commenced including:

◉ A mentoring project involving the Nova Scotia School of Fisheries, Pictou Landing First Nation and 8 mentors from six different communities. A candidate screening process was also developed. In addition to the 8 mentors who were trained, 24 new entrants to the fishery were given training;

◉ Fishing Vessel maintenance and Winterization continues.

◉ Website development.

◉ First Nations Mentor-feasibility study.

◉ The a training module on the Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations

involving the Centre Specialisé des Pêches and the community of Viger delivered in Grande Riviere, P.Q.

These pilot projects were showcased during the Fisheries Training Conference jointly hosted by the APC and the DFO.

## FISHERIES TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Fisheries Training Conference was jointly hosted by the APC and the DFO and occurred on February 20th and 21st, 2002 in Moncton, New Brunswick. The conference was well attended with approximately 200 First Nations



*Chief Allison Metallic, Listuguj.*



*Chief John Martin, Gesgespajiag.*

participants from almost all thirty-five Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities throughout the Atlantic and the Gaspé.

As outlined above, updates on pilot projects undertaken through the training initiative were showcased during this conference. Workshops were also utilized to further identify

training barriers and tasks for the APC to undertake in further support of First Nations fisheries training.

APC's role in the conference included; planning and development of the agenda, arranging First Nations speakers, website development and presentation at the conference, confirming attendance hotel registration and conference registration of all First Nation representatives, facilitating the Breakout Groups, development, distribution and summarizing the conference evaluations. In addition APC arranged both the guest speaker and entertainment for the Dinner.



*Dr. Bill Wicken, Dalhousie University.*



*Chief Richard Jalbert, Gaspe.*

## LINKING FIRST NATIONS TO DFO ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND NGO'S

There are many, many committees created by DFO, which meet and ultimately make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on the management of the fishery. In an

effort to both understand their roles and the level of First Nation participation on these committees; APC has started the process of gathering this information for the benefit of the First Nations. As well, APC staff is in an ongoing process of identifying community interest in the various committees and provide a vital communication link between the committees and the First Nations. Many non-governmental organizations are concerned with the management of the fishery and APC is in the process of identifying these groups in an effort to keep First Nations informed of both their existence and role. All of these efforts support the vision of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy, as constitutional rights holders to the Atlantic fishery, to move closer to a significant role in its management.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-FIRST NATION USER GROUPS

The APC recognizes the value of good relations with non-First Nation user groups. Over the past year, we have initiated dialogue with the Maritime Fishermen's Union in New Brunswick culminating in many meetings with representatives of the MFU, attending one, two day MFU Lobster seminar and seeking cooperation with the preparation of the Caddy report.

General discussions have also taken place with other non-First Nation user groups on an ad hoc basis, which is leading to a greater network between these groups and the First Nations.

The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy and non-First Nation user groups have their differences but there are also shared goals as well such as sustainable use of the resource, peaceful co-existence and mutually beneficial arrangements where non-First Nation harvesters can share their experience with relatively new First Nation harvesters. While it is acknowledged that there is

*John G. Paul, Cheryl Knockwood, and Donna Gauvin receive gifts from the Migmawei Mawiomi Secretariat for presenting at their Annual General Assembly.*

much work that needs to be done, these meetings have been productive and there remains a desire to have this dialogue and networking continue.

## BUILDING GOVERNANCE CAPACITY IN FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES

Perhaps one of the most important areas of activity over the past year has been the task of building governance capacity within First Nations fisheries. The study on five-year objectives, the conferences and the joint initiative on training have all lead towards building this capacity but there have been other lower profile activities designed towards this objective. These include:

◉ APC All Chiefs Forums: these forums are where the APC received their mandates and political support for their fishery initiatives;

◉ The APC Fisheries Working Group: this task-oriented group, made up of APC fisheries staff and technicians from across the region, has met on a regular basis to discuss issues of concern to First Nations and has assisted APC staff in specific tasks in support of First Nations;

◉ Committee of Academics: a committee of academics has offered their assistance to the APC in almost all aspects of the fishery. This committee is made up of academics from various universities from across the region, and have offered their assistance at no cost to the APC.

While this committee has been under utilized over the past year, their expertise will be of enormous benefit to First Nations in the coming years.

◉ Management Plans: APC has provided technical assistance in the development of a management plan for Indian Brook First Nation;

◉ APC Website: APC is in an ongoing effort, working to update it's website to transforming it from a vehicle to share information to a fully interactive site where First Nations technicians can not only receive information but share information and ideas as well. Work is being done on password-protected sites to keep access restricted to fishermen where necessary and as data is collected the information on the site continues to grow. The website continues to be a very effective tool for meeting dates and updates in fishery policy development

◉ Fisheries Technical Network: APC continues to have a strong informal network amongst technicians from across the region as well as with academics, training institutes and First Nations technical people from outside of the region. The Fisheries Working Group, the Committee of Academics and the APC website are envisioned as the roots of a stronger, formal network where First Nations can access any kind of information they may require from fisheries management and habitat protection to marketing and accessing capital. A new group is planned for the upcoming year

with a focus on business strategies. The rationale behind the Network concept is that there is a fair bit of expertise already in place within Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. It is hoped that by augmenting this with cooperative outside expertise, a strong governance capacity can be established in a minimal amount of time using the most up-to-date technology.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

In conjunction with the APC's Treaty Education Initiative, a public education campaign has been under way prior to the Marshall decision to raise awareness of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy treaties and since Marshall to raise awareness of our goals and aspirations in the Atlantic fishery. We recognize the value of accurate information both internally within First Nations communities and externally with the general public. In our efforts to ensure that accurate information reaches our communities and the public as a whole, e have undertaken several initiatives, including:

◉ Assembly and distribution of supplements of the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Nations News for distribution to every Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy on-reserve household, all provincial and federal politicians, federal departments including the DFO as well as media outlets throughout the region;

◉ Development of informational material such as brochures and posters highlighting Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy

perspectives on treaties and the fishery;

◉ Presentations to a wide range of audiences from government officials and employees, to universities and internally within First Nations communities on Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy treaties, the Marshall decision and the fishery issue in general.

## CONCLUSION

As stated in the executive summary, the past year continues to pose many challenges to all affected by the Marshall decision. The APC recognizes that reaching Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy objectives in the fishery will take time.

As seen in this report, much has been accomplished over the past year. However, much more needs to be done. While some initiatives from the past year have been successfully completed, several remain outstanding. Furthermore, other initiatives will have to be engaged as needs are identified. The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy as well as Canada and non-First Nation user groups embark on "uncharted waters" every day. While the Marshall decision has posed many challenges, it has also posed infinite possibilities for the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy to build new economies and alleviate their devastating social and economic conditions. It has also presented an opportunity to Canada to become a true world leader in aboriginal relations.

# HEALTH REPORT

The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB) had a busy year with work on several things including the following.

## FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (FNIHIS)

The Atlantic Policy Congress participated in both the national and regional steering committees for FNIHIS. The national project's funding was cut this year. To address the cut in funding, a budget review committee was set up to find ways to ensure that the system was not significantly impacted. Until Version 2 is fully operational, a combination of version 1 and 2 were used with Java integrating both. Utilization rates of the system did not improve because First Nations' OCAP (ownership, control, access, possession) principles had not been satisfactorily addressed.

Heidi Simon was hired as the regional First Nation's Project Coordinator housed at Big Cove. Her primary role will be to promote FNIHIS in communities and to develop good working relationships with all the FNIHIS users. Jennifer Dobblestyn, the regional FNIHIS educator, also housed out of Big Cove, was hired to help community health nurses use the system to their advantage.

## MI'KMAQ AND MALISEET ABORIGINAL DIABETES INITIATIVE (ADI)

The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Atlantic Health Board (MMAHB) ratified the ADI work plan for the year with hopes to see a continuation of the good work accomplished so far under this initiative. Some of the accomplishments of the year included the establishment of the ADI work plan, development of a standardized community resource binder, development of a diabetes quarterly newsletter, and the development of linkages with other organizations. The Atlantic region was advised that it had the most comprehensive ADI program in Canada.

## NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS (NIHB) CLIENT CONSENT FORM

The National Joint Committee on NIHB (including First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and First Nations) decided that clients wishing to access NIHB would be required to sign a NIHB client consent form so that clients abusing prescription drugs can be tracked. All eligible people will have to sign the one-time client consent form by September 2003. According to Health Canada, this is the only way it can monitor the abuse of prescription drugs by clients, physicians and pharmacists and provides them with the ammunition to file complaints against physicians and pharmacists. If clients do not sign the client consent form, they will have to pay for NIHB up front and then seek reimbursement from NIHB. They will be required to sign a NIHB reimbursement consent form for each and every NIHB transaction requiring reimbursement. MMAHB had expressed concerns regarding the client consent form and the lack of thought put into how abusers will be treated once cut off of the NIHB that they are found to be abusing.

## HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HCC) PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2001/02

Training allocations were given



Karen Callaghan



Renee Masching

out based on training plans; capital was notional pending capital plans. Each region received $200,000 for coordination. The region also received $3.5 million for program planning that was allocated to communities using the national formula. MMAHB decided by consensus that $100,000 would be taken from the program planning funds to fund both a spring workshop and ensure that HCC is on the agenda for the annual health conference. It was decided that any surplus would be allocated to communities.

## HEALTH TRANSITION FUND II

The health transition fund (HTF) II was announced this year. The fund has a 70- 30% split between the provinces and the federal government (approximately 150 to 200 million dollars to be split). The focus of HTFII will be integrated primary care.

Projects will be transitional in nature and all projects must be self-sustaining into the future (funding is for only two years). Interested groups can apply in the new-year.

## APSII BOYCOTT

The Atlantic Policy Congress boycotted the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) II in favor of the First Nations and Inuit regional longitudinal health survey and because Statistics Canada would have controlled all the data gathered in APS11. This is contrary to First Nations principles of OCAP, which outlines that data gathered on First Nations should be owned, controlled, accessible and possessed (held) by First Nations. Although there was a boycott of APSII, a few communities in our region took part in the survey, as they were unaware that a boycott had taken place.

## MI'KMAQ MALISEET ANNUAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The theme of this year's annual health conference was "Living a Healthier Tomorrow Everyday" with a focus largely on what the participants could take home to help improve the health of their community members. The conference took place in November at the Harbourview Holiday Inn in Dartmouth, NS. Participants included Chiefs, community health nurses, community health representatives, NNADAP workers, home and community care workers/coordinators, community diabetes workers, and other health staff. Approximately 225 people participated in this year's conference.

An awards ceremony was held during the banquet that honored people in the communities who contributed to improving the health of their community members. The recipients included the entire Bear River health staff, Julianna Julien of Afton, and Sharon Rudderham and Elizabeth Paul of Membertou for their contribution to the development of the Home and Community Care program. Al Garman was also provided with a gift in appreciation of his work in the region.

The Home and Community Care (HCC) Initiative joined the health conference this year and put on a one and a half day workshop for HCC coordinators. The focus of the HCC workshop included capacity building and liability awareness training.

## FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY WORKSHOP

This workshop was held on March 19 and 20, 2002 in Halifax at the Citadel Halifax Hotel. There were 150 participants representing First Nations and Inuit communities in the Atlantic Region with a relatively large delegation from Labrador. Funding for the workshop was provided under the First Nations
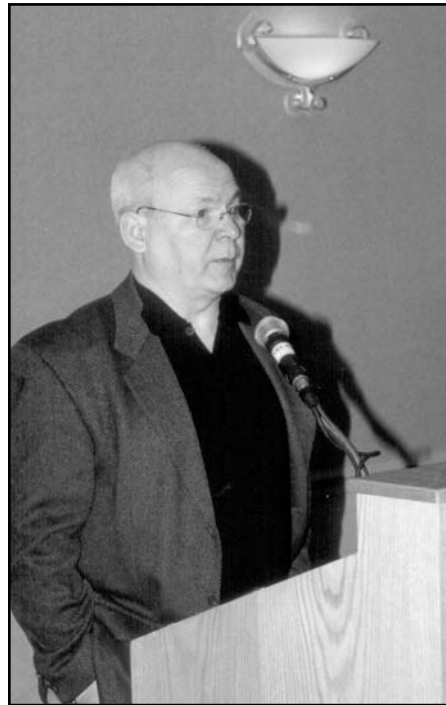


Dr. Gerry Brosky, Dalhousie University.



Dr. David M. Rippey.

and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy, announced in the fall of 2001. This strategy has four objectives which include: community capacity building; reduce the numbers of youth beginning to smoke; decrease impacts of second-hand-smoke; and, to decrease the prevalence of smoking especially among youth and pregnant women. It was important to hold such as workshop because non-traditional tobacco use is widespread in First Nations and Inuit communities with a prevalence rate that is more than double the rate for the rest of

Canada. Smokeless tobacco use is substantially higher and exposure to second-hand smoke may be double that of the national average in First Nations and Inuit families.

The participants enjoyed a presentation that outlined the various smoking cessation aids and programs available under non-insured health benefits. A presentation on the Inuit Women's Association's Special Project called "Breathe Easy Program" showed participants how much could be accomplished with very little

money. Dr. Gerry Brosky provided a no-nonsense approach to quitting smoking and about the effects of smoking on the brain and body. Alexander Denny, Grand Keptin of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and Noel Knockwood, Mi'kmaq Spiritual Advisor conducted a workshop titled "Traditional Use of Tobacco".

The evaluation found that delegates were very pleased with the entire workshop citing that it was very well done, very informative and helpful, and that it had excellent facilitators.

## FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS (FNIHIS) WORKSHOP

This workshop was held at the Citadel Halifax Hotel on March 20 to 22, 2002 with about 150 participants in attendance.

The focus of the workshop was to ensure that each data entry clerk was able to complete "Priva-C" training online. This is an educational tool developed to teach data clerks the intricacies of handling personal health information with the parameters of protecting the client's right to privacy and confidentiality.



First Nation Health Working train on Health Information System during workshop in Halifax, NS, in March of 2002.
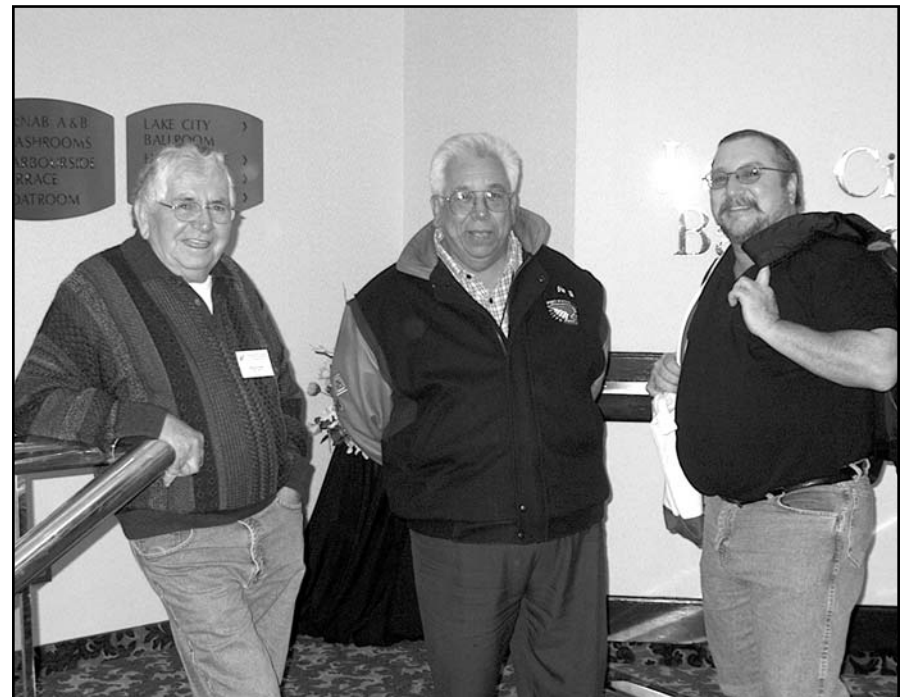


Elder Raymond Tremblay, Elder Frank Nevin & Kenneth Perley.

# HOUSING REPORT

There are two committees which deal with On Reserve housing activity in the Atlantic region. APC chairs and administers the work of both committees.

The Mi'kmaq Maliseet Senior Housing Committee (MMSHC) is the senior group which provides vision, leadership and direction in the operation of the On Reserve Housing Programs in the Atlantic Region. It is made up of six Chiefs from the Atlantic as well as the Atlantic Regional Director General of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the General Manager of Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Atlantic Business Centre. The MMSHC is a high level decision making body. The Committee met twice this year – once in June and February.

Senior Housing Committee Membership 2001-2002

- Chief Lindsay Marshall, Chapel Island
- Chief Reginald Maloney, Indian Brook
- AFN Vice Chief Rick Simon, NS/Nfld
- Chief Everett Martin, Eel River Bar
- Chief Shirley Clarke, Glooscap
- Chief Robert Levi, Big Cove
- John G. Paul, Atlantic Policy Congress
- Jim Rockwood, CMHC
- Bill Smith, CMHC
- James Wheelhouse, INAC Atlantic
- Vern Bob, INAC
- AFN Vice Chief Len Tomah, NB/PEI

The second Committee is the On Reserve Liaison Housing Committee, which is the working group that implements the delivery, administration and capacity building programs. It consists of housing representatives from the Atlantic Region's First Nation communities through the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs as well as participants from INAC and CMHC. Both groups meet, on average, three times annually.

On Reserve Liaison Housing Committee Membership 2001-2002

- John Paul, Pictou Landing
- Helen Ward, North Shore Micmac District Council
- Brian Kelly, Miawpukek
- Albert Julian, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Marg Boer, Kingsclear
- Noel Doucette Jr., Union of NS Indians
- Howard Jeddore, Wagmatcook
- Stephen Pictou, Bear River
- Paul Paul, St. Mary's
- Gary Sappier, Lennox Island
- Anthony Nevin
- Charlie Levi, Big Cove
- Eldon Bernard, Tobique
- Jim Rockwood/Tom Levesque, CMHC
- Rachel Smith, INAC
- John Paul, APC
- Vern Bob, INAC
- Karen Ackles, INAC
- Reta Eatmon, CMHC
- Susan Fortune, CMHC
- Darlene McLeay, CMHC
- JJ Bear, APC (resource person)
- Darlene Marshall, Eskasoni
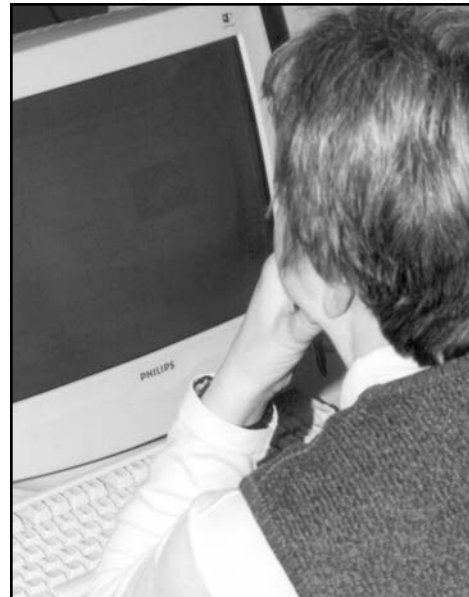


Health information system is bringing health services into the future by using it on the computers and internet based.



Lana Lennon of Tobique has her hand at the system.

## UPDATES ON WORKING SUBCOMMITTEES

### 1. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Subcommittee has identified a community for the project and the committee be discussing the implementation of the project within the next few months. The intent is to have the project in place this year. Part of this would be to have a property management committee set up on each reserve. The On Reserve Liaison Sub Committee will ensure ongoing liaison with the project specific group on reserve and the consultant. It has also been agreed that the Sub committee will ensure that what is occurring at the national level in the area of property management is to be kept in mind so as to avoid duplication.

**Membership Includes:** Vern Bob (INAC), Paul Paul (St. Mary's), Noel Doucette Jr., (UNSI), Helen Ward (NSMDC), Gary Sappier (Lennox Island) & Susan Fortune (CMHC)

### 2. TECHNICAL TRAINING

Workshops were held in October/November in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that focused on the Builders Series. They were well received and the evaluations showed that the workshop was highly recommended. There is a need for more knowledge of furnaces, A/V, R2000 and Air Quality specific information. Background training and information for trainers is needed before workshops are held. A key recommendation was the need to provide a train the trainers session.

**Membership includes:** Paul Paul (St. Mary's), Rachel Smith, (INAC), Noel Doucette Jr. (UNSI), Marg Boer (Kingsclear) & Reta Eatmon, CMHC

### 3. WEBSITE REVISIONS

The APC web site is currently under development, this subcommittee will be providing housing updates to this site. Members were asked to submit good news stories to JJ Bear who will ensure they are included on website. There have been 546 visits to housing site of web site over last 4 weeks. These "hits" exceeded the goal by 20%. Website Committee will be blended with Communications Sub Committee

**Membership Includes:** JJ Bear & Jeannette Morrison (APC), Susan Fortune (CMHC), Albert Marshall (Eskasoni)

### 4. ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY REVIEW

This subcommittee collects statistical data from recent RRAP and Section 95 On-Reserve commitments as well as revenue and expenditure data and makes recommendations based on analysis. Chignecto Consulting Services has been recently hired on contract by APC to examine

Noel Knockwood

three options on the allocation methodology of section 95 in the region. They will conduct research and do analysis on possible options to be considered by the ORLC and the Chiefs. The subcommittee will work with the consultants to do this work. The objective is to have the options developed for the next On Reserve Liaison committee meeting to be held in February 2003.

**Membership includes:** John Paul (Pictou Landing), Darlene McLeay (CMHC), Charlie Levi (Big Cove) & Karen Ackles (INAC)

## 5. FIRST NATION MEMBERS OF ORLC MEETINGS

The First Nation representatives on the On Reserve Liaison Housing Committee continue to meet in between the ORLC meetings to raise and discuss various housing issues that need to be addressed at the upcoming ORLC meetings. The meetings are usually chaired by the APC and APC works with DIAND and CMHC to ensure that the First Nation issues are raised on the agenda. APC also raises issues of the FN Housing Technicians with the Atlantic Chiefs, if and when necessary, at their meetings to determine the appropriate course of action.

## 6. MI'KMAQ/MALISEET ATLANTIC ON RESERVE HOUSING INFORMATION SHARING WORKSHOP

APC, CMHC and Indian Affairs hosted a regional workshop in which Chiefs, Band Managers and Housing Technicians were invited to share information about various housing related issues. Several experts presented on various issues such as Financing of Housing, Mold & Mildew Issues, First Nation Housing Authorities etc. Workshops were held also after each presentation to allow for the sharing of information amongst participants. The workshop was held in October 2001 in Dartmouth and was very well attended by representatives from both the federal government departments as well as the First Nation governments and organizations. A report on the workshop is available from the Atlantic Policy Congress.

## 7. POLICY RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Two of the major policy issues in the area of housing that APC dealt with in 2001-2002 were: (1) Environmental Assessments on section 95/RRAP units; and (2) Ministerial Guarantees on Section 95/RRAPs. With regards to (2), Indian Affairs made a policy decision that affected some of the Atlantic Bands. Earlier in the fiscal year, letters were sent out to the Bands stating that they were "allocated" a certain # of section 95 units, however, mid fiscal year, Indian Affairs decided that the Band had to be 'eligible' for a Ministerial Guarantee before they would be allocated one or more units. This affected some Bands that had already begun construction on units for example. Indian Affairs' new policy stated that Bands basically must be in good financial standing in order to be "eligible" for a Ministerial Guarantee. Otherwise, for example, if a Band was in "third party management," they were not 'eligible' for their section 95 unit(s). This policy decision would have dramatically affected the # of units allocated within the region as well as financially affected some bands that would have "acted upon" the original letter from CMHC/DIAND that stated that they were allocated a certain number of units and had already begun construction. Although this policy has been fully implemented this fiscal year, APC was able, through strong advocacy with CMHC and DIAND, to ensure, that at least for this fiscal year, that no units were lost in the region and that all Bands received their original allocation, regardless of their individual financial situation. With regards to (1), the Housing Technicians made a presentation to the Senior Committee regarding this very important issue. Namely, the cost and liability related to these types of assessments were the main issues. A small subcommittee was created to work with DIAND to work out the issues related to the implementation of this DIAND policy.


Elder
Caroline Gould






Dr. Gerry Brosky on Smoking Sensation Workshop. Steps in quitting.


People of all ages attended the Tobacco Workshop in Halifax in March.

# INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this Report

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. (APC) and the Centre for Collaborative Government have undertaken a roundtable dialogue and research project to identify information and communication technology (ICT) opportunities and address ICT challenges within Atlantic Canada for Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. The purpose is to generate a comprehensive ICT strategy in partnership with key stakeholders, and to consolidate the information gathered throughout the process and summarize the analysis and thinking into a strategic framework.

This report is structured to provide an overview of the highlights and key findings of the roundtable process. Section two focuses on the emerging ICT vision, objectives and principles. Section three outlines the pivotal debates and general conclusions with regard to the role of ICT in cultural renewal and promotion, economic development, and youth education and training. Section four identifies the three key components of a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy strategy. Section five highlights the critical importance of developing strategic partnerships to the success of the strategy. Finally, Section six outlines several starting points for moving forward with and Atlantic First Nation's ICT agenda. The content of this paper is intended to serve as a point of departure for any sector specific ICT strategies, as well as a work plan for some of the more immediate implementation activities.

### 1.2 Atlantic First Nations Information & Communication Technologies

Driven by a "technology revolution", within the past couple of decades, western society has vaulted into the "information age". Information has become a new form of currency and technology the new vehicle driving us toward a "knowledge based" global economic order. New information and communication technologies


The Atlantic Policy Congress display system.

(ICTs) have improved quality of life for many Canadians, by stimulating economic growth and expanding business markets, by improving access to a wide variety of services, and by creating new learning opportunities. Within the knowledge economy there is a growing need to stay ahead of the technology wave in order to remain competitive and increase prosperity.

The Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) has recognized the importance of participating in and benefiting from these changing trends and the increased opportunities they provide for First Nations. The APC goal is to advance an ICT agenda within all Atlantic First Nations to support cultural, economic and social growth and well being. Many Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities and individuals have begun to embrace ICT as a tool to enhance businesses and services, improve learning environments and promote Mi'kmaq and Maliseet culture. A well conceived ICT strategy can move by forward building on these impressive beginnings.

### 1.3 A Collaborative Process

The Atlantic Policy Congress and the Centre for Collaborative Government recognize the importance and urgency of advancing a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT agenda. Accordingly, the two organizations have spearheaded this syndicated research initiative to assess the opportunities,

challenges and impacts of ICT within the 35 Atlantic First Nations in order to develop a holistic and community driven ICT strategy. The objectives of this initiative included:

● identifying a First Nations driven ICT vision, agenda and strategy for Atlantic Canada;

● creating synergies and sustainable networks that can assist in achieving this vision; and,

● building an Atlantic wide partnership with government, private and public sectors to promote and support the strategy that emerges from this process.

In keeping with these objectives, this project has been designed as a highly participatory and collaborative partnership. The Mi'kmaq Education & Training Secretariat (METS), Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and the First Nations Help Desk, and the Atlantic Policy Congress represent a cross section of the First Nation partners. The federal partners in this initiative are: Aboriginal Business Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). The Atlantic provincial governments, academic institutions and a number of private sector and business partners have also shared their knowledge and expertise in the field of ICT. The inclusive and transparent nature of this process


A shy person mans the First Nations Help Desk display.

has been highly successful in establishing a network of individuals, businesses and communities who now share similar goals in using ICT in the 35 Atlantic First Nations.

Roundtable dialogues were a key part of the process. Each roundtable was supported by a discussion paper based on research for each strategy theme: nation rebuilding, cultural renewal and development, community economic development and enhancing youth education and training. The composition of the roundtable sessions included plenary discussions, small workout groups, and presentations on "best practice" initiatives that exist within First Nations, such as the Knet Smart First Nation, the Atlantic First Nations Help Desk and Eskasoni high-tech high school. There were also panel discussions on ICT partnership building that consisted of First Nation leaders, federal and provincial senior officials, academics and regional business leaders.

The roundtables concluded with a final strategy building session that brought together the knowledge and conclusions developed in previous sessions into a long-term vision and strategic framework for moving forward on a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations ICT agenda. The five roundtables attracted approximately 150 individuals from various backgrounds: Mi'kmaq Maliseet Chiefs, youth, businesses, community members and front line workers; senior officials from various

government sectors; professors and other educational institute representatives; and Atlantic business leaders. This cross-section of diverse stakeholders engaged in facilitated roundtable discussions on themes deemed to be critical to the development of a long-term ICT strategy.

Additional information and perspectives were gathered through forums outside of this process, including the ongoing Political Accord Social Reform process managed by the APC, which is addressing service delivery issues. For the purposes of this report we have included some of the initial findings from the Social Reform work, however the major ICT components of a Social Reform strategy are being addressed in the context of Social.

Summaries and discussion materials from each of the five roundtables can be found on the APC website at www.apcfnc.ca. The combined results of the roundtable sessions has contributed to achieving the desired outcomes of this initiative. The level of response, the range of insights and ideas and continued interest has been very heartening. The roundtable structure provided a forum for lively debate that has culminated in a practical framework for moving forward on a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT agenda.

This initiative has demonstrated that there is both a sense of urgency and opportunity in Atlantic Canada for the development of a First Nation ICT strategy. Such a strategy is timely. The Atlantic Provinces have an ICT infrastructure upon which to build, and the current regional innovation agenda has created an atmosphere of collaboration that extends from Universities and the private sector to First Nation


*ICT round-tables were held throughout the region to discuss Internet Technology availability to our communities.*

communities.

## 2.0 MI'KMAQ, MALISEET & PASSAMAQUODDY EMERGING INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY VISION & PRINCIPLES

The ultimate goal of an Atlantic First Nation ICT strategy is improve Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy quality of life, to ensure sustainable and healthy communities, and to increase Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy participation in the knowledge economy. This goal complements the nation rebuilding process that is currently underway amongst all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy First Nations. Nation rebuilding takes on many forms and extends from the cultural renewal to business realms. It sees Atlantic First Nations working together on common goals. The process of nation rebuilding is an inclusive one, bringing in all segments and aspects of society. Examples of current nation rebuilding activities being pursued by Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations are economic and resource development and social reform. It is within this context that the Atlantic Policy Congress is contemplating the role of information and communication technologies.

Much of the Atlantic First Nation ICT focus to date has been on infrastructure and connectivity. However, information and communication technologies are pervasive and extend to every aspect of society. As such, it was widely recognized that the ICT discussions had to evolve from issues of connectivity and capacity building to include how ICT applications and uses can assist in community development. This recognition very much influenced the design of the roundtable process. What emerged from the dialogue was an understanding that nation

rebuilding must the driving force behind ICT development and that the focus of an ICT strategy had to focus on providing practical benefits at the community level. Many aspects of the strategy that has emerged correlate with existing community priorities in the areas of education, cultural renewal and economic development, and in turn support "nation building".

Indeed, there was a strong consensus among participants that ICT should be promoted within Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities as an "enabler" of nation rebuilding activities. ICT provides a set of new and dynamic tools to support and sustain the development of First Nation communities, improve delivery of and access to services and strengthen governance. At the end of the day, roundtable participants agreed that the question is not one of whether or not technology should be used to accomplish developmental goals in these various areas. What mattered most was figuring out how to use ICT in proactive and appropriate manners to meet community needs and priorities.

### 2.1 Digital Equity

The initial vision adopted at the outset of this project assumed that Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations would have computer use and Internet access equivalent to all Canadians by 2005. Essentially the vision is one of digital equity and it was driven in part by the federal government's commitment under its Connecting Canadians initiative to ensure that First Nations, along with other communities in Canada, had access to high speed broad band service. With access assured, the task seemed clear enough: to develop a strategy to promote wide spread individual and community use of the technology within all Atlantic First Nations. Unfortunately, shortly after this project got underway the federal government's budget signalled a dramatic retreat from its connectivity agenda and in the

process raised fundamental questions about the continuing validity of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy First Nations vision of having access to ICT services on par with other Canadians within the next five years.

This event triggered a core debate among roundtable participants on whether or not comparable access is an essential goal. Many participants questioned the goal of "Cadillac connectivity". It would be expensive to achieve and potentially result in an excess of unused capacity. Others argued that if the capacity is established it will get used; in other words, build it and they will come. For Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations, "on par" access means high speed connectivity and community infrastructure that can support ongoing ICT development and use in homes, businesses, institutions and service delivery.

While no clear consensus emerged, First Nation participants felt strongly that digital equity must remain a priority of a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy strategy for two reasons. High speed and broadband are critical to key applications that are already in use - within schools for example - and others that are planned, such as the integrated case management system contemplated by the APC Political Accord Social Reform process. Also, First Nation participants expressed misgivings with regard to the possibility of increasing disparities that could result if a wider digital divide between First Nations and the general Canadian population was allowed to emerge.

The National Broadband Taskforce has attributed much of recent economic growth to the use of broadband (high capacity networks) and the Internet, comparing the social impacts to those of the railway. Broadband is rapidly developing, and in order that First Nations reap the possible economic and social benefits of ICT, they need to move forward in conjunction with technological advancements. The point was made that the process cannot lose sight of the use of proactive applications in conjunction with existing technology options, particularly as content is a key developmental driver.

The question remains as to how comparable access will be achieved and what resources will be required to facilitate a connectivity agenda. Infrastructure and connectivity objectives, including access to resources, can be driven by applications that address community needs, priorities and development. Full scale connectivity is attainable through incremental steps and options must be assessed against the overall goal of cost effectiveness.

## 2.2 Smart Communities

The roundtable discussion produced a long term Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy vision around which to structure and mobilize a strategy. The vision is one of "Smart" First Nation communities that have the capacity to use the tools and respond to an ever changing technology environment and that use ICT for economic, social and culture development. This aspect of the vision fits with Industry Canada's Smart Communities agenda: a "Smart Community" is a vibrant community that builds and participates in the knowledge and information economy.

For practical reasons of cost and feasibility, roundtable participants moved towards a more immediate vision of "Integrated Technology Communities": networked and connected communities and individuals, knowledgeable and innovative and ready to take advantage of ICT opportunities and advances in technology. The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy strategy will therefore adapt the Smart Communities concept to their own needs and priorities, beginning with existing opportunities and moving incrementally toward optimum use of ICT.

The Smart Communities and Integrated Technology Communities goals are consistent with each other and require common building blocks. Roundtable participants identified a common framework of principles to guide the practical evolution of this vision:

◉ First Nations must maintain "control" over their ICT strategy and connectivity agenda. This would involve actively developing content and applications for the use and benefit of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. Community driven content will inspire the use of technology.

◉ The approach to developing and implementing an ICT strategy should be community driven, value-based, holistic, and participatory. It should also be inclusive and responsive to needs, concerns and opportunities of all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy community members. This will ensure that the strategy is culturally appropriate and supportive of cultural renewal. This approach will entail community development and the involvement of both youth and elders in ICT decision-making processes and participatory forums for dialogue on opportunities and concerns.

◉ An ICT strategy must include building capacity for First Nation institutions, organizations and businesses. Skills development and knowledge transfer are essential aspects of this principle. Capacity needs to be developed at the local levels and networked and supported by a regional structure, such as a steering committee, that can provide guidance and help to mobilize and coordinate capacity and make it available to communities.

◉ An Atlantic wide strategy, tailored to the different starting points within individual communities, with collaboration among First Nations at a regional level, is a key principle. Although First Nations political leaders are faced with several competing priorities, an ICT agenda can be driven at the community level by integrating ICT into community


*Mary Ellen Googoo of Membertou.*

plans and community planning processes. Inclusion in individual community agendas will allow the strategy to be tailored to different community needs, priorities and starting points. Through coordination at the regional level and collaboration between communities, Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations will be able to capitalize on growing capacities, expedite connectivity, and extend and develop more sophisticated applications.

## 3.0 THE ROLE OF ICT IN MI'KMAQ, MALISEET AND PASSAMAQUODDY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

While the following section highlights the key findings from each of the roundtable dialogues, it is not a complete summary of the discussions that took place. The primary objective of the roundtables was to explore the role that ICT could play in supporting various aspects of community development and nation building. This paper attempts to capture some of the high level discussions as well as the central conclusions on the role of ICT in cultural renewal, education and training, and economic development.

The overriding consensus among all participants was that ICT plays a vital role as an "enabler" in each of these areas, and that

separate strategies should be developed for each sector. Likewise, all of the elements of the strategy - connectivity, applications, content development, and training - are equally important. An effective ICT strategy must balance each of these pieces of the ICT puzzle. There are natural synergies or convergences that result in ICT priorities that are in line and consistent with community priorities and agendas.

### 3.1 Cultural Renewal & Promotion

Living cultures are always dynamic, in that they must adapt continuously to a changing environment. Adaptation and cultural development allow for survival of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy cultures in a contemporary world, while maintaining indigenous cultural philosophies, traditions and values. Roundtable participants were unanimous in their view that ICT is one of the best methods to preserve and widely disseminate various aspects of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy culture. However, some participants recognized the need to protect some cultural aspects or components.

At the cultural roundtable, discussions centered on the role that ICT could play in the preservation and promotion Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and

Passamaquoddy culture and the risks of cultural appropriation. Recognizing that the Internet is a largely un-monitored space, some First Nation participants fear losing control over traditional knowledge, teaching and symbols. This, coupled with issues around privacy of personal information such as genealogy, creates hesitancy in an open embrace of "digitizing culture" (making culture accessible on-line).

Participants identified several methods of recording, archiving and promoting First Nations culture - many of which have already been adopted by Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy artists and cultural organizations. For example, there are many Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy websites that document various cultural activities - from Powwow trails to virtual art exhibits. The increased visibility of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy artists and culture in this era of globalization, when there is a great deal of international interest in Indigenous cultures, has allowed artists to expand both their markets and exposure through the international promotion of their work. Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy history and tradition is also being preserved and shared by students who have recorded the stories of Elders and

have made these stories available to an on-line audience. Participants also expressed an interest in creating cultural networks among communities - whether they are Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal - and between members, both on and off reserve. These activities can play an important role in the promotion of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy identity.

Priorities for an ICT cultural agenda should be in-line with the existing cultural priorities, therefore, the preservation and dissemination of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaqoddy language is of utmost importance. Current technologies are such that language, and oral traditions themselves, can be conveyed through on-line programs and activities. Participants also expressed a sense of urgency in preserving and archiving traditional knowledge using readily available technology while moving towards the long term goal of digital conversion of cultural content. Funding and programming exists for these types of activities and should be immediately accessed.

How do you strike a balance between sharing and protecting Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy cultural property? Many posed this as a critical challenge. The answer, many felt, resides in who

maintains control and ownership over the cultural and traditional information being disseminated. Thus, achieving a balance between sharing and protecting culture must be premised in First Nations control over the creation and production of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy cultural and traditional content.

Control and production of cultural information and applications requires a proactive approach to building First Nations content in a culturally appropriate manner. Participants voiced the view that this would best be achieved by establishing a role for Elders in the determination of authoritative content and in determining what should be accessible on-line and what should not. If protocols were established, Elders and other cultural caretakers could ensure that which is sacred does not become public and that traditions or information suitable for public consumption are not debased by technological reproduction.

The key strategic objective identified by roundtable participants was the creation of a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy portal - a website that can act as a single window to Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy culture and cultural activities. This could address concerns of ownership, control, and access of Mi'kmaq,



*Parks Canada Official explains what his job is like at Career Day in Membertou.*



*Wilfred Wysote and Wendal Metallic relax during ICT session in Halifax.*

Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy Intellectual Property. A portal creates a space for community driven content, which will inspire communities to use technology; as noted by one participant, "business and education applications may drive (the use of technology), but cultural expression will sustain it." A portal that is created and maintained by First Nation community members will help to ensure that content is authoritative, appropriate and instilled with Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy values.

### 3.2 Youth, Education & Training

Young people under the age of 21 represent approximately 50% of the First Nation population on and off reserve in Atlantic Canada and they are the primary users of technology. Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy leaders have identified this growing population of youth as a First Nation priority. The future of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy youth increasingly depends on their ability to fully participate in the knowledge economy, which requires different skill sets and higher education than is typically required in the service and production industries. While Atlantic First Nation young people are online and getting exposure to computers and the internet at a rapid rate, it is clear from the research and roundtable feedback that Atlantic First Nation children and youth do not have the same opportunities as non-Aboriginal young people to develop the skills, knowledge and competencies that will enable them to participate fully in the information society and the jobs and careers it offers.

Currently, First Nations peoples are under-represented in the Canadian Workforce with unemployment rates more than double the Canadian average, and even greater for those living on reserve. DIAND predicts that by 2010, rates of dependency on government transfer payments could increase by more than 50%. There is a growing recognition by both First Nation leaders and community members that
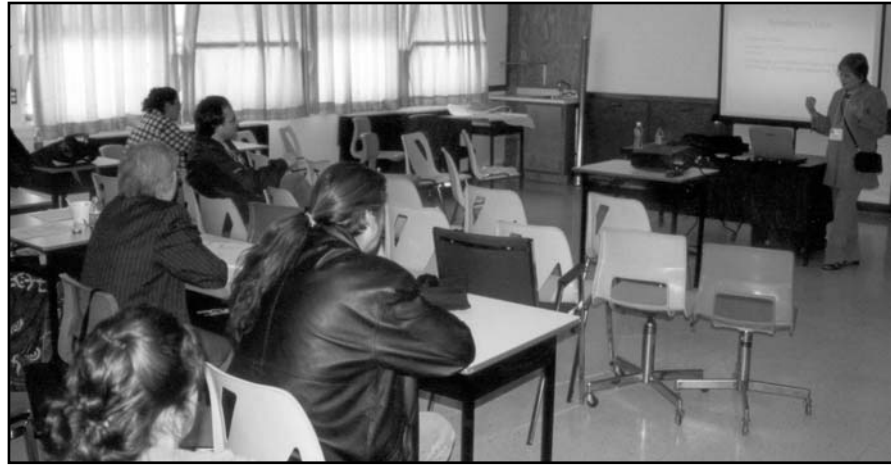


*Mary Ellen Googoo presenting to participants at the Atlantic Native Teachers Education Conference held in Miramich, NB.*

without rapid action, First Nations face the prospect of being left behind in the new economy, just as they were in the old.

Roundtable participants concluded that the application and use of ICT would definitely increase the training and education opportunities for Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy youth, as well as enrich their lives in a variety of other ways. For example, ICT engages youth in a way that generates interest in learning and provides increased exposure and access to information and learning opportunities. ICT also has the ability to offer on-line programming and services to those in special circumstances, such as those in rural locations or with competing priorities (eg. single mothers). Youth participants also felt it important to create an on-line youth network to offer support, role models, mentoring, counselling, information, interaction and education for Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy youth.

Looking at the current state of education - retention, performance, and completion rates among Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy youth - it is evident that a balance needs to be struck between ICT access, exposure and literacy and the basic requirements of a sound education. Roundtable discussions broadened the focus from "youth" to "children and youth", in recognition that early intervention is required to address some of the socio-economic conditions faced by Mi'kmaq Maliseet and

Passamaquoddy young people. The failure to provide First Nation elementary school children with ICT skills and competencies early in life could negatively affect their future success in school. Educators stressed the importance of integrating ICT into school curricula in order to increase ICT literacy and improve school performance and retention rates. There is a need for focused ICT intervention and fast track technical capacity building in order to create a First Nation ICT literate population and skill pool.

Youth are critical to the success of any ICT strategy, because as the primary users of technology, they are able to share their skills with others. The long term goal for a youth component of an Atlantic wide First Nations strategy would be to ensure equal access to computers and technical infrastructure for all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy youth, both in the home and school environments. The more immediate focus should be on reserve schools, a number of which are leading-edge in their use and application of ICT.

Many Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy children are participating in various ICT related activities in the education and culture fields, particularly with the encouragement of the First Nations Help Desk. This is a base that can be built upon. Addressing youth training and education needs also requires identifying where future ICT skill development and effective on-line learning would be most beneficial.

### 3.3 Economic Development

Educating and training Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy young people to have the skills to enter and find productive and rewarding careers in the new economy is but one aspect of participation in the knowledge economy. The other is having First Nation communities with the capacity to use ICT to grow their own economies, to create employment through applying technology to the traditional cornerstones of the First Nation economy, and to reach out to the opportunities of an information and technological driven global market place. ICT investments are critical to strong and growing communities. This is no less true for First Nations. Even baseline technologies within communities provide new economic and job opportunities. Roundtable participants were firmly of the view that community economic development must be directly linked to connectivity and the ability to increase the base of ICT skills and strengthen ICT oriented entrepreneurship. Current economic development strategies so far are not fully focused in this way.

Economic development is an enabler to provide information, resources and encourage partnerships that can result in growth. ICT applications are a natural fit with this role and extend the reach and capacity for economic development. Participants warned that it is important not just to focus on technical skills, because it is often the "soft technologies" which are key to business success, including: motivation, governance, business organization, etc. On line information, training and business tools can be used to support the development of these key success factors.

Roundtable participants also acknowledged that economic development does not by itself create jobs - business creates jobs - and there has to be the right environment to encourage and sustain Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy business. Providing ICT infrastructure and

skills, while essential to business development, is not in itself a panacea. There has to be the right business environment and foundation for business development to occur.

Current limited business and entrepreneurial environment on reserve, coupled with a general lack of employment opportunities, has resulted in an inability to keep educated and trained resources working within communities. First Nation communities are experiencing a "brain drain". This "brain drain" was of particular concern to participants. Although the "brain drain" is considered a detriment to sustainable community resources, it was noted that a core group continues to remain within communities and these people will need to be skilled in various areas of ICT to support the local economies and networks. Good technology jobs are key to keeping talented, entrepreneurial individuals within the communities.

There are relatively few Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT related businesses in Atlantic Canada. This is a serious economic challenge for First Nation participation in the knowledge economy. On the other hand, there is potentially a largely unexplored First Nation ICT market. The "ICT market" ranges from provision of broadband access or technical services to the creation of First Nation applications. Some participants felt that if ICT was positioned as a business opportunity in any of these areas, First Nation and non-First Nation leadership may become more engaged in an ICT strategy. This type of approach has the potential to marry many Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT objectives with current federal and provincial key business lines and focus areas, which was deemed important by federal participants.

To move forward on the application of ICT to economic development requires the integration of ICT into current Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy economic

strategies to determine how ICT can add value to some of the traditional economic pursuits that are still prominent within communities. Finally, partnerships with the private sector, initially focusing on mentoring and building relationships and moving toward creating business linkages, are key to the success of an ICT based economic development strategy. Types of partnerships and vehicles for collaboration are further explored in Section 4 of this paper.

## 4.0 A THREE-CIRCLE ICT STRATEGY

There are three key components to the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT strategy that emerged from roundtable dialogues: 1) Infrastructure & Access 2) Skills & Capacity 3) Applications & Content. All three of the components are equally important and need to be addressed in a balanced way. Participants indicated that the incremental implementation of this strategy should occur both at the community level, and within sectors such as those discussed in the previous section. Implementation needs to happen on a project-by-project basis, according to the priorities in each community, and in partnership with the key players in specific sectors.

This section identifies some of the challenges associated with each component of the proposed strategy and proposes ways to move the various pieces forward. Some of the more specific implementation activities can be found in Section 6 of this paper.

It should be noted that the overarching challenge identified by roundtable participates is inadequate financial resources. Affordability and many competing demands are limiting ICT development and its application amongst First Nations in Atlantic Canada. The point was summed up by one participant: "If 50% of our reserve population are having trouble paying for their telephones, why should we put

high speed in place if they can't afford it." Compounding this barrier, there appears to be limited knowledge about federal and provincial ICT initiatives and funding programs that could be tapped into. A Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT strategy needs to take economic realities, priorities, and various affordable options into account.

### 4.1 Infrastructure & Access

Comparable computer use and access to the Internet at affordable costs with sufficient bandwidth to support community growth and goals remain central to the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations ICT vision. The roundtable process served to elaborate this vision to encompass the idea of creating an "integrated technology community" that links and networks First Nations across Atlantic Canada. In fact, it was suggested that investment in technology infrastructure and access would allow many communities to "leap frog" the actual "bricks and mortar" infrastructure that currently does not exist. Exchanging the costs of technology for the costs of physical infrastructure would provide "virtual access" and create alternatives to mainstream services.

Achieving these goals presents two major infrastructure and connectivity challenges:

Limited Telecommunications Infrastructure & Access

◉ The extent and quality of ICT infrastructure and access to the Internet varies widely among the communities. For example, only a few communities have high speed, broadband access. Computer hardware is in short supply, critically so in some cases where there are only a few computers in the community, and much of the hardware that does exist is outdated. In-home access is extremely limited.

Lack of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Connectivity

◉ Tied to the issues of infrastructure, limited access to the Internet and the absence of
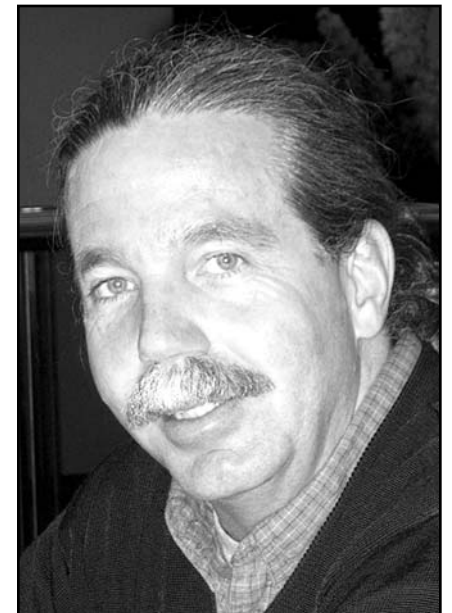

Brian Arbuthnot, Wagmatcook.

any network connecting First Nation communities hampers their ability to work together to use ICT to improve service and promote social and economic development. This issue was particularly apparent in the discussions on Social Reform. Single window case management of social programming is currently not possible, as it requires access to shared information, files and opportunities across a range of departments and organizations.

If a key objective of the strategy is to achieve on reserve high-speed connectivity equivalent to that of other Canadians, the approach to implementation should be an incremental one based on realistic targets established for each community. Starting points and priorities will differ for each community, and there is a need to look at community planning priorities and the state of readiness as part of charting a connectivity plan. Priority should be placed on connecting community sites, such as schools and band offices, and creating or expanding community access points. In this regard, in-home access would be viewed as a longer-term goal.

Second, each community should examine it technology options, capitalize on existing opportunities and determine workable technology solutions to fill gaps. As communities are at varying states of capacity, a diverse implementation strategy

that is tailored to different community starting points, needs and priorities requires a number of "technological" solutions. For example, where a facility or community is not wired, examine a wireless option to get Internet access. Establishing better linkages with provincial governments, adjacent municipalities and the private sector may serve to open up a broader range of options.

Finally, a major effort is required to significantly increase access to updated computer technology. A specific strategy is urgently required as there is limited access to computers in most communities, and in some cases the most basic requirements are not being met. The strategy could include both rebuilding and recycling computers. Partnerships with government and private sector suppliers would serve to assist this strategy.

### 4.2 Skills & Capacity

Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations need to develop the ICT skills and capacities required to maintain the community technological infrastructure that is being contemplated by this strategy. Apart from technical support services, there are a variety of roles for an ICT skilled population, such as in home support, design of Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy software and applications, provision of access, or training and development.

There is an existing capacity from which to build, although the extent of the skill base and its ability to support current and future systems is not well defined. The skills and capacity challenge appears to be a significant one however. Some of the key barriers to creating and sustaining the support systems required include:

Small Skilled Human Resource Pool

⬤ The lack of a skilled Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT human resource pool leaves communities dependent on

outside expertise and support. As a result they are unable to take advantage of ICT opportunities that do exist. The availability of skilled human resources is considered key to both local capacity and ICT business development, as they represent the baseline from which an Aboriginal ICT business sector will grow over time.

Developing the technical skills and capacity within Atlantic First Nations is a critical underpinning to a successful long-term ICT strategy. Both the short and long term goals of this strategy component involve establishing a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT technical network. The network, in partnership with public and private sector partners, would provide mentoring, determine the capacity needs, assist with planning, provide support and maintenance to communities, and help to implement the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT strategy.

Participants concluded that, as a first step, an inventory of First Nation ICT human resources and capacity, both on and off reserve, should be undertaken. A second step would be to identify longer-term needs and a plan of action to fit with the connectivity and applications strategy as it becomes further defined. It was suggested that in order to fast track technical capacity, strategies should concentrate on specific user groups, particularly youth.

The Tobique IT Learning Centre, the First Nations Help Desk and other First Nation ICT technicians and training institutions should be fully involved in the process of needs identification and action planning. Skills and capacity development is an area where colleges and universities and the private sector also have a key supportive role, whether through training, mentorship or provision of career opportunities. HRDC's program dollars need to be better targeted to strategically support an ICT skills and capacity building agenda.

More broadly, participants felt that creating a more ICT literate



Brothers, Warren and Ronald Tremblay, of Tobique.

environment within the communities would contribute to the overall building of capacity. The more advanced organizations and people become in their knowledge and use of technology, the more demands for higher levels of expertise and capacity. This broad based process of capacity building through progressively greater use and access is an integral part of moving Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nations towards becoming self-sustaining, integrated technological communities.

### 4.3 Applications & Content

Section 3 of this paper described in some detail various ICT applications and content pieces that are considered to be priorities in the areas of culture, education and economic development.

Communities need to develop their own ICT priorities and plans. The key challenge in the area of content and application is community buy-in. In particular, there are competing priorities for Atlantic First Nations political leadership - such as treaty rights and social conditions - that result in a limited focus on ICT needs and opportunities. Also, political leaders are not especially ICT and innovation knowledgeable. As such ICT is perceived as a technical issue, and therefore peripheral to the other issues facing community members. Participants stressed, and other ICT strategies have proven, that political champions are key to the success of any community based strategy, therefore, there is a need to demonstrate the tangible

benefits of ICT investment to Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy leaders and community members, especially among those in influential roles. There is also a need, either through a coordination and planning mechanism or an ongoing governance structure, to bridge the short term objectives identified by individual communities in order to develop long term, Atlantic wide goals and objectives.

In order to achieve community buy-in, champions of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT strategy must work with community leaders to develop ICT priorities as part of the community planning process. A model and process is being tested in First Nations in Atlantic Canada via the Joint Community Planning Committee (JCPC). There is a need to demonstrate, at a practical level, how communities' current socio-economic priorities can be facilitated by technological applications and by the sharing of knowledge and experience.

## 5.0 DEVELOPING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Moving an Atlantic First Nation ICT strategy forward will require strong, open and incremental partnerships with many players, both Atlantic wide and at the community level. The scope for ICT partnerships appears to quite broad, and includes joint research undertakings, joint ventures, knowledge transfers, skill development, access to financial and other resources, and

mentoring. Participants felt there were two key considerations for developing ICT partnerships with First Nations: partnerships should always contain a skills and knowledge transfer component; and, partnerships need to be formalized in order to ensure commitment and accountability on the part of all players.

### 5.1 Partnership Challenges

First Nation participants noted that while they have extensive experience and are comfortable working with governments, and are in the process of building strong relationships with colleges and universities, they have much less experience with the private sector, especially in the area of ICT. Questions were raised about cultural differences and understandings that, while challenging, can be addressed by open dialogues and a commitment to continued learning by willing partners. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency generously offered to help to continue to bridge contacts and private sector investment though leadership in the Atlantic and advocacy across other federal departments. ACOA's continued assistance and willingness to champion this initiative will be instrumental to securing commitment from both the private sector and other federal departments.

Another (somewhat daunting) challenge identified by participants was to coordinate and build synergies among the many and various federal department initiatives in a manner that would support a long-term Mi'kmaq, Maliseet Passamaquoddy driven ICT vision. Through the roundtable process, DIAND officials have offered to work with the APC to refine this strategy and present it to the ADM subcommittee on Connecting Aboriginal Canadians, in an attempt to assist with the coordination of government departments.

### 5.2 Creating Momentum

The roundtable process produced considerable discussion around

the need for a multi-faceted approach to partnership. Each sector has its set of key players and opportunities. Establishing contact, creating awareness, education and relationship building in each of these sectors is all part of the long equation of partnership development. (A common thread in this process was how educational the roundtables were for everyone involved.) There was a strong emphasis on developing relationships with the senior executives in organizations, because, once trust is established at this level, the entire organization becomes more open to partnership processes.

Ideas about key players or sectors were very much modelled on the successful approach that has evolved in Atlantic Canada, which centres on a government-post secondary-private sector set of relationships. First Nation participants were very supportive of this model, but there were suggestions that a First Nation ICT Partnership Model could reach beyond this framework to include major foundations and other community organizations and networks. First Nation participants were also clear that a successful model would involve them bringing their own resources to the table.

For their part, private sector participants expressed interest in continued involvement in support of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet Passamaquoddy ICT agenda emerging from this process, including the desire to be part of an advisory committee or implementation board should these ideas develop. The roundtables have made inroads with a variety of private sector players, and once a series of concrete objectives have been established, Atlantic First Nations can begin to engage them in a more fulsome way.

Partnerships are not a panacea for an Atlantic First Nation ICT strategy. However, long-term, sustainable partnerships that are built around a shared vision that serves the interests of all partners are key to success. The benefit of

this roundtable process is that it has identified many interested players and many opportunities for partnership - the task now is to fashion a strategic partnership that will see the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet Passamaquoddy First Nations realize their long-term ICT goals and objectives.

## 6.0 DEFINING THE AGENDA AND MOVING FORWARD

### 6.1 Filling the gaps in baseline information.

It is important to note that much of the information on the status of First Nation communities provided for the roundtable is based largely on anecdotal evidence rather than actual data. For example, there is a general lack of information on the differences between First Nations schools and public schools - such as what facilities and programs are available on and off reserve and what is the equivalency of curriculum. This applies to ICT facilities and programs as well. Communities have not systematically identified ICT needs, opportunities or capacity and there is little information about the extent of connectivity, penetration and usage of new technology. Finally, there is not an Atlantic First Nations skills inventory that determines computer literacy, competency, and use; however, as with their mainstream counterparts, First Nation youth definitely appear to be the most ICT savvy component of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet population.

Accurate and current baseline information on the take-up, penetration, and usage of ICT is important to developing realistic plans and establishing benchmarks from which progress and success can be measured. Some work has started and needs to be fully supported.

### 6.2 Creating an ICT Partnership Structure

Another key component to the launch and implementation of a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and



*Darren Googoo, Director of Education, Membertou.*
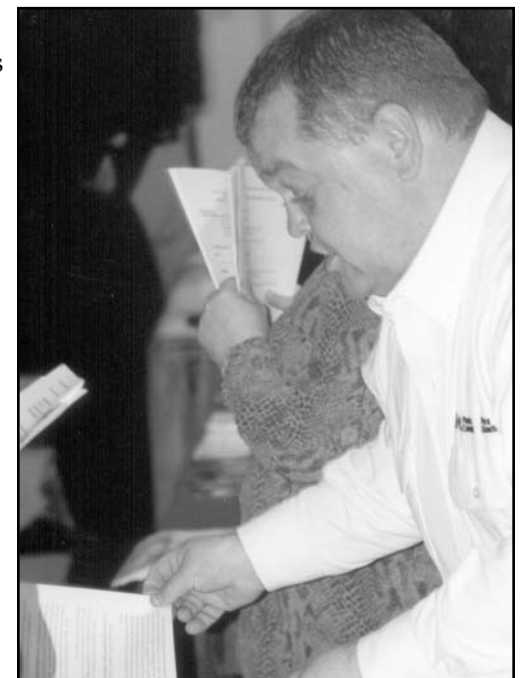


*Parks Canada Official*

Passamaquoddy ICT strategy is the creation of a "virtual network" of mentors and partners to drive various components of the strategy. The roundtables have provided an abundance of skilled and qualified professionals, from various related fields, that have demonstrated an interest in continued involvement to ensure the success of this strategy. Thus, either via an advisory board or a steering committee, a structure consisting of representatives of the key players should be established to move this ICT agenda forward. This can be used to build a much broader platform of partners over time.

There are various "partnership"

models - provincial and regional networks - that are already in place in Atlantic Canada. The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT partnership and strategy needs to be linked to what currently exists within the region. Federal representatives have also provided the opportunity to use vehicles such as the regional innovation agenda and existing decision-making bodies (such as the federal council), to promote the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT strategy.

**6.3 Building a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Portal.**

A Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Portal could be an immediate and visible hallmark of Atlantic First Nations moving towards the goal of an integrated technology community. It would provide Atlantic First Nations with an 'identity window' to the global community and its market place. Sector specific and community strategies, that include the objectives of the users in each area, would feed into the content and application side of a portal, while allowing for various initiatives to be pursued at the same time. It is recommended that a task group be created for the express purpose of developing and implementing this portal by 2003.

**6.4 Addressing short term Capacity Building**

i) Build on existing infrastructure, including community access sites. Provincial government participants noted that they can play a role in building "connectivity alliances" by working with First Nation communities to leverage buying power, better band width and telecom infrastructure in community public institutions. There are also federal programs such as Connecting Canadians and School Net that can assist in the provision of connectivity and access to technology. An extensive list of available program dollars can be found in the Appendices A - C of this report.

ii) Establish a Virtual Training Institute. As a starting point, the current ICT human resources can be used to help to fast track technical skills development. Training is increasingly expensive and is required at all levels in order to ensure that ICT experts are available to Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. Roundtable participants suggested First Nation training resources be targeted to create a larger pool of ICT talent.

iii) Develop an integrated ICT planning model for community use. Atlantic First Nations can work with the private, university and federal representatives to ensure that community planning is consistent with Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT objectives. Community plans can establish targets and specific projects that could constitute business cases for accessing current programming dollars. This is already underway via the Joint Community Planning Committee model.

iv) Hold a Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT Conference and Trade Show. Participants expressed the need to demonstrate the advantages of technology, in terms of applications, career and business opportunities. An Atlantic wide First Nation ICT conference would provide a venue to educate and expose community business and political leaders, youth and members to existing and potential applications, available funds and current Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT priorities. This type of comprehensive venue has proven successful in other areas of development, such as the APC Social Reform and would give community members an opportunity to contribute to the further development of this ICT strategy and its implementation.

v) Establish Pilot or Demonstration Projects. Community pilots, based on current best practice models found both nationally an internationally, could build on resources and infrastructure already in place. The development of human expertise, technical resources and applications could be replicated to assist in the capacity building of all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy communities. Pilots could also develop a best practice model for community ICT planning that could be shared with all Atlantic First Nation communities.

vi) Secure immediate financial resources. Most of all, Atlantic First Nation community leaders need to recognize the importance of integrating ICT into community planning. Secondly, there must be public and private sector intervention in the existing digital divide, in order to ensure that First Nation communities do not become further entrenched in the gap. Finally, both First Nation leaders and government officials need to recognize that there is a large cost in not investing in a First Nation ICT agenda.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

A sense of momentum and a genuine interest in advancing the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT goals have been created through this collaborative roundtable process. There has been wide participation and support from First Nation communities and leaders, the private and post secondary sectors and from government both at a regional and national level. A practical strategy has emerged from this dialogue. Concrete initiatives and existing building blocks have been identified. Participants have identified both short and long term goals necessary to achieve the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy ICT vision and goals. Key opportunities and challenges have been addressed. Champions and role models have been confirmed.

To maintain momentum, this strategy requires endorsement from all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, & Passamaquoddy First Nation leaders. The APC should propose the establishment of a Steering Committee to oversee the continued development of this strategy.


*Students examines the possibilities at the Career fair.*


*Danny Christmas and Darlene Paul at the Membertou Career Fair.*

# POLITICAL ACCORD REPORT

## 1.0 SUMMARY

### 1.1 Purpose

This report fulfills the requirement for a final report consistent with the terms of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) Self Government Branch's agreement to fund the Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) under the Federal Gathering Strength initiative for Political Accord discussions related to governance for the period July 2000 to May 30, 2001.

### 1.2 Conclusions

The exploratory discussions and the work undertaken over the 2000-01 funding period have created a better understanding of the complexities of governance issues, have identified need for further work on models and options and are helping to move the thinking on social reform alternatives forward.

The completion of the Working Group's joint workplan for 2000-2001(see Annex A) has enabled participants to sort the governance issues and develop more appropriate structures to address the most urgent.  There was consensus that much more information was needed on:  how social governance could/should work; how jurisdiction would relate to rights; how agreements could be funded; how First Nation social standards related to provinces; how trends might effect future jurisdiction; what liabilities could change and where they might rest.  The increasing demand on the part of the First Nations leadership for information on existing governance models and their intergovernmental, fiscal, jurisdictional elements and governance architecture as well as the means of implementing new approaches for accountability, transparency and redress mechanisms provides the focus for future partnership work by the Political Accord Working Group on Governance.

The APC leadership and DIAND share a growing recognition of complexities inherent in social reform and governance undertakings in the Atlantic context but also share the view that, irrespective of the challenges, the existing level of dependence on social assistance must change if Atlantic First Nations communities are to thrive. That change can take place most successfully if both parties to the Political Accord continue to work in partnership toward the goal of increasing economic opportunity and independence for individuals and



*Chief Allison Metallic share stories with former National Chief Phil Phontiane during celebration diner in Listuguj, Quebec.*

communities; changing the nature of social programs to support innovation and progress for the unique characteristics of the Indian communities involved.

The partnership approach promoted by the Political Accord and by the Gathering Strength initiative has resulted in a Federal –First Nations cooperative model for identifying and exploring issues of importance to both parties without the need to 'stake-out' positions in advance of a clear exploration and understanding of the various options and interests. This model, still at a preliminary stage, is worth pursuing further to achieve both the common objective of both parties – greater independence from the circle of dependence created by social assistance in order to build successful and healthy First Nations communities in the Atlantic

### 1.3  Recommendations:

◉  DIAND and APC Chiefs further develop their innovative Atlantic Political Accord partnership model in social policy reform, program integration and governance development.

◉  The joint exploratory discussions continue to explore/flesh out the issues and complexities of the governance elements of the Political Accord with a view to further clarification of the issues and options for both APC and the federal government;  the APC-DIAND Political Accord

Governance Working Group 2001-2002 workplan (Annex B), jointly developed by the DIAND and APC representatives, be approved.

◉  A linkage be maintained with other DIAND-First Nations discussions/negotiations in the Atlantic to ensure co operative communications and clear messages for the provinces, community members and general public.

◉  APC core funding be assessed to ensure that it provides an appropriate level of resources to enable the APC, both the Chiefs and their Secretariat, to carry out their responsibilities with respect to the provisions of the Political Accord in a sustained and secure way.

◉  The APC-DIAND Political Accord Steering Committee continue to increase its involvement, strategic direction and monitoring of  the  work of the Technical Committee to ensure that the goals of the Accord are met and that the appropriate level of human and financial resources are made available.

◉  DIAND support to the fullest extent possible the proposed Checkpoint Symposium to provide a forum for the APC leadership to inform, explore issues and obtain feedback from the Atlantic First Nations leadership and community representatives on progress to date in the Political Accord discussions on social reform and exploratory discussions on governance.

◉ Establish a pilot for implementation of the Income Security Demonstration project to test out viability, identify key issues and build impetus for social reform.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 The Political Accord

The activities of the Working Group on governance flow from the DIAND-APC undertakings in the 1998 Ministerial –First Nations Atlantic Political Accord.

As a result of their concern about the serious impacts on their communities of the high level of dependency on Social Assistance, the Atlantic Chiefs in October 1996, passed a resolution to move towards self-government in social services. Also in 1996, the Atlantic Policy Congress was mandated by the Atlantic Chiefs to begin working with the DIAND Atlantic Regional Office officials to develop a draft Political Accord, and the Atlantic Chiefs secretariat(APC) and DIAND regional office staff began discussions over social services jurisdiction. Discussions revealed that application to enter a formal self-government process would probably not meet existing criteria, and that some matters were more operational concerns than self-government.

The announcement of the federal Gathering Strength Policy in January 1998, opened another option for dealing with these matters and a Political Accord was signed on March 27, 1998 between 23 Atlantic Chiefs and Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart. The Accord committed the parties to working in partnership to reform the social welfare system on reserve, consider the scope of interests in governance and jurisdiction, and address some specific initiatives.

An additional impetus for the Political Accord was the First Nations' desire to stabilize social programs and welfare rates on Reserves rather than having to automatically implement program and rate changes consistent with revisions made

by the provincial governments in the Atlantic Provinces. Those provincial program changes are made without aboriginal participation and consultation and do not take into account the varying conditions on Reserves. Through the Accord, the First Nations leadership sought a period of stability to review the situation while investigating approaches to social reform appropriate to First Nations needs and greater governance responsibilities.

The Accord had an initial three year term, expiring on March 27, 2001. At a Political Accord Steering Committee meeting in October 2000 both senior officials of DIAND and the First Nations Chiefs agreed that progress was being made under the provisions of the Accord and that its partnership approach should be extended for an additional two years. The Co-chairs of the APC then wrote to the Minister requesting an extension of the Accord, consistent with the agreement reached at the meeting. The Minister agreed to a two-year extension by letter of March 27, 2001.

### 2.2 Significance of Social Programs in the Atlantic

The dependency rate for social assistance approaches 80% amongst Atlantic First Nations. The social budget forms a significant portion of the moneys managed by DIAND's Atlantic Regional office and of the budget transfers provided by DIAND to First Nations communities. The reliance of individuals, families and communities on social assistance for basic everyday needs gives it a high profile in communities politically, administratively and at a very human level – and any changes around social programming are the focus of considerable interest and for some, considerable anxiety as they wonder what the impact of change will be on their basic needs.

### 2.3 Proposal for exploratory work on governance

Discussion between DIAND and APC resulted in an agreement to



*Doug and Elanor Howe of Millbrook.*

enter into exploratory discussions under Gathering Strength that would focus on identifying issues with respect to governance in the Accord and consider the interests of the parties and the options that might be looked at. Neither DIAND nor APC would bound to self government negotiation at the end of the exploratory process. Decisions on further steps would be held until completion of the work when both parties would consider the options for any further action.

Violet Paul was named the APC representative for the exploratory talks on governance and Karen Allen was named the federal representative for discussions with the Atlantic Policy Congress in facilitating and supporting the advancement of the governance undertakings in the Political Accord. She and her associate John Higham were engaged to assist DIAND by considering 'the scope of the interest of the parties as well as those of the provincial governments concerning jurisdiction and governance over social programs and services in the context of an overall governance model'.

### 2.4 Governance Working Group/joint workplan

During initial meetings, the representatives of the Atlantic Policy Congress and DIAND agreed that the identification of key issues and related exploratory work would be done jointly by the Federal-First Nation representatives. The working group has operated

under a partnership approach consistent with the Political Accord and the Federal Government's Gathering Strength initiative. Membership in the working group over the course of the workplan included Violet Paul, Senior Policy Analyst APC, federal representative Karen Allen and her associate John Higham, Cheryl Copage and Donna Gauvin, Social Policy Analysts, APC. In the spring of 2001, the Atlantic Regional Office assigned a representative to attend Working Group meetings, initially Mark Davis and subsequently Bill Flowers.

The development of a joint workplan for the funding period 2000-2001 served as common ground for establishing a cooperative working relationship for the team. The work plan also provided DIAND and the APC a more systematic approach to considering governance issues under the Political Accord .

While the Governance Working Group covered a range of elements under the Accord, the Working Group recommended to the Technical committee that the scope of the Social Reform issues – both broad policy and program-was such that additional social program knowledge and expertise was required to devote specifically to social reform issues and that a new Working Group on Social Reform be created. APC and DIAND HQ and Regional representation was named to ensure that both broad and operational policy levels are represented. The Working Group

*AFN Vice Chief Manny Jules.*

is developing a workplan and budget for review by DIAND HQ SEPP, the Atlantic Regional office and the APC Chiefs Executive. The terms of reference for the working group were approved by the Steering Committee in February 2001.

The Governance Working Group also recommended creation of a Working Group on Communications. The language for self-government is largely based on legal and policy terminology. DIAND and APC representatives agreed that a set of plain language communication tools was needed for useful discussion at the community level. The Steering Committee agreed in February 2001 to the creation and terms of reference for a Working Group on Communications. A workplan has been developed and will be funded by a combination of HQ and Regional communications budgets.

**2.5 Social Programs Environment**

The discussions on issues and explorations of options with respect to social governance have taken place in a complex environment, including amongst other initiatives the DIAND's Income Security Reform(ISR) initiative, major policy and program changes in the Province of Nova Scotia's social welfare programs, and changes related to the National Child Benefit.

The ISR demonstration projects have direct relevance to governance issues, and the working group has been kept up to date with the ongoing overall

progress of the projects. As many of the demonstration projects have not yet been completed, the final results cannot yet be assessed for the implications for governance; however, close linkages continue to be maintained. The Nova Scotia legislation setting out the new social program framework comes into effect August 1, 2001 and the full implications are still being determined by the DIAND Atlantic Regional Office.

In addition to the items above, there are several other Federal-First Nations discussions



*Benjamin Sylliboy, Millbrook.*

underway, including treaty education, fisheries, and the Marshall follow-up. The working group has steered a careful course to avoid creating confusion in the minds of First Nations communities or the Provinces with respect to any perceived overlap. It would be useful to have a set of common themes or messages amongst the processes to ensure that public messages are clear with respect to the roles/responsibilities and expected outcomes of the various processes.

**2.6 Key elements of the Governance Working Group's workplan 2000-2001**

The APC submitted to DIAND for 2000-2001 funding under Gathering Strength a workplan proposal for the exploratory discussions on governance, a workplan developed jointly by the APC and DIAND representatives. The workplan, approved by DIAND, covered six key elements: 1) governance concepts and models; 2) research;

3) provinces; 4) key groups linkages; 5) programs, services and capacities; and 6) reporting and communications.

1. Governance. Activities designed to contribute to identification of the principles for social services governance; development of preferred models and accountability structure; consideration of advantages and disadvantages and; creation of a governance discussion paper that builds common understanding and widespread support for self-government negotiations.

2. Research. Sectoral self-government over progressive social services is unique and much is unknown. Research in key fields is essential to create new information that informs the process. The current range of Demonstration Projects under ISR will provide some new information but other research will be required to feed into preliminary discussions and support any future negotiation. Baseline social conditions and indicators will be needed , along with methods of tracking key data.



*Violet Paul, APC.*

3. Provincial Involvement. The Atlantic First Nations interact with five provincial social services regimes. Self-government negotiations would be greatly enhanced by early identification of the views, positions and interests of each province. Establishing positive support for the initiative and realistic objectives and processes will create a much more effective negotiation process.

4. Key groups Involvement. Various groups and processes

have direct stakes in the future of social services, can provide essential support, or have the power to derail any process. Each must be contacted, informed and involved as appropriate to help build informed consent and support. Other parallel or overlapping initiatives and processes must be identified and mutually supportive linkages maintained.

5. Programs, Services & Capacity Development. As the nature of desired self-government becomes clearer the type and scope of changes required in legislative, financial, managerial, communication, and administrative systems, as well as in human resources also becomes clearer. Early identification, planning and scheduling will assist progress.

6. Communications and Reporting. Exploratory discussions and social services jurisdiction are both new processes that involve many interests in First Nation communities and other governments. Consistent and good communications and reporting among and between key parties is essential to success on all fronts.

The workplan, as revised and updated by the working group was completed in May of 2001 (see Appendix A). During the course of the year APC Executive and DIAND, as well as the joint Steering and Technical Committees, regularly reviewed progress and changes. As well, regular reports on progress and products were provided during the year to the Self Government



*E. Nagugwes (Manny) Metallic, Listuguj.*

Policy Directorate as provided for in the funding agreement and there was frequent contact between working group members and DIAND Regional and HQ officials.

**2.7 Proposed workplan 2001-2002**

The themes that emerged from the Technical and Steering committees and the Working Group's discussions are reflected in the five areas below and elaborated in more detail in Annex B:

1. Fiscal: to build a common understanding of the existing federal provincial and First Nation fiscal context for social services in Atlantic Canada, and the implications for fiscal arrangements under First Nation governance.

2. Governance Design: To refine the range of governance models being considered, and gather input on the advantages and disadvantages of each model.

3. Intergovernmental: To develop broader understanding of existing and potential government-to-government mechanisms, ensure effective use of limited resources of all parties, and maintain clarity of roles, responsibilities and plans in related processes.

4. Community: To offer opportunities for wide ranging participation, distribute quality information to community members, and gather focused input.

5. Research: pursue priority knowledge gaps identified by work to date.

The workplan focused on achieving the objectives of the five priority themes as agreed by the Technical and Steering Committees. The Working Group will continue in 2001-2002 to report on progress through regular updates to Technical and Steering Committees as it did for the 2000-2001 period.

**2.8 Challenges for further progress in social reform and governance:**

Both partners face significant



*Elder Margaret Labillois, Eel River Bar.*



*Listuguj Drummer*



*Listuguj Drummer*

challenges in moving forward on next steps in social reform and governance:

1. Absence of models for sectoral self government in social assistance programs

Atlantic Chiefs are exploring/elaborating a vision for sectoral self government in social programs in relatively uncharted waters; there is little reference available for governance design/architecture solely for social assistance. While there is experience with the Mi'kmaq Education Agreement a sectoral model in Nova Scotia, there appears to be general First Nations agreement that the model is not appropriate for Political Accord social reform or social governance.

As program design and direct delivery of social welfare programs are generally in the purview of the provinces rather than the federal government, the general lack of DIAND and First Nations experience in broad social welfare policy and program redesign creates need for additional capacity - and potentially a higher need for cooperation and input from provinces with respect to issues such as comparability, harmonization, program

eligibility, etc in addition to potential jurisdictional discussions.

2. First Nations leadership and DIAND will face significant challenge to any attempt to reduce the high level of dependence that does not provide corresponding alternatives in economic development, training and employment opportunities.

3. While the leadership of the Atlantic First Nations recognizes the importance for their future of their communities of increased independence from social assistance, the challenge for the leadership in building consensus for social reform cannot be underestimated when dealing with a program of such fundamental significance to community members dependent on social assistance.

4. Limited human resources/ policy and program expertise.

The complex social program environment is a fluid and complex one for both DIAND and First Nations. DIAND's major policy review on Income Security (ISR), the national child benefit, changing provincial policies and regimes, and the increasing focus by provinces on

case management and alternatives, etc – are challenging the human resource capacity/time of both DIAND and First Nation officials. DIAND at present has staff constraints that place considerable limitation on its capacity to participate fully in the social reform working group.

5. Implementation of new governance models may require DIAND's active advocacy and intervention with other government departments, the central agencies and provincial officials for First Nations to achieve success in integrating federal programming at the First Nations level, ie

◉ Integration of funding and program terms and conditions from various federal departments will be needed to enable First Nations to integrate the range of social, employment and training and economic activities necessary to achieve success.

◉ development and implementation of innovative social policy/program approaches in the Atlantic that may be inconsistent with DIAND's social programs in other regions, or that may vary from the social programs of the four provincial governments in

the Atlantic Region.

6. The absence of dedicated funds/ resources for implementation of the Political Accord

no resources were identified when the Accord was signed to support the undertakings in the Political Accord, hence both DIAND and APC annually have to 'find' money to support Accord related activities. The APC burns up resources annually to 'knock on doors', prepare proposals and report to two or three DIAND HQ Sectors and several DIAND Regional programs for funding for activities clearly set out in the Accord , eg funding for the joint DIAND-APC Social Reform.

## OBSERVATIONS

### General

◉ the exploratory discussions process and team approach to developing a joint workplan has put into place a more systematic approach to moving the working group discussions forward, with a common understanding of the process.

◉ the neutral, fact based approach has encouraged shared First Nations – DIAND learning and identification of key governance issues without raising adversarial issues.

◉ progress on the workplan wasn't always as fast as the team may have initially planned, for a variety of reasons and

circumstances, however the workplan serves to guide activities forward in the context of an overall plan of direction.

◉ As the work progressed additional issues were identified and additional information requirements and resource requests emerged, placing demands on DIAND staff and resources

### Information/communications materials

◉ Much DIAND material on self government is in the form of policy statement, in a writing style not readily accessible to many on-reserve residents. The range of information is broad rather than specific; additional information would be helpful for all parties on the practical application of models, especially to help communities understand the concepts and the real life implications/impact of different approaches to governance (eg jurisdiction at the community level as opposed to at an aggregate level - what impact could this have on decision making, program design and delivery at the community level? To individual residents?

◉ The production of information, material on governance in a format other than print would be helpful.

### Impact of limited resources on First Nations side

the absence on the First Nations side of resources for dedicated policy, program or legal expertise

can impede their participation

◉ federal expectations of immediate visible progress by First Nations representatives need to be tempered by reference to the relevant First Nations internal decision process as well as what is e possible from the resource as well as political standpoint.

◉ Both federal representatives and First Nations need to realistically determine resource capacity - financial and human- to set reasonable work planning

### HQ/Region participation

◉ Internal common understanding and communications on issues/projects essential (All DIAND stakeholders need to be on side on issues- or undertake to resolve differences without confusing First Nations).

◉ DIAND has a need for additional social program expertise to contribute to discussions

### Impact of uncertainty re the Political Accord extension

◉ A lengthy delay in responding to the APC Co-Chairs' request for a two year extension to the 1998 Political Accord (a federal letter agreeing to the two year extension of the Accord was dated the last day of the 3 year term of the initial Accord date) created uncertainty about the fate of the Political Accord for all engaged in Accord work, put planning Accord related activities

for the next fiscal year on hold, and most significantly raised serious morale issues for the APC about the potential for continued employment of APC staff engaged in work funded for activities related to the Accord.
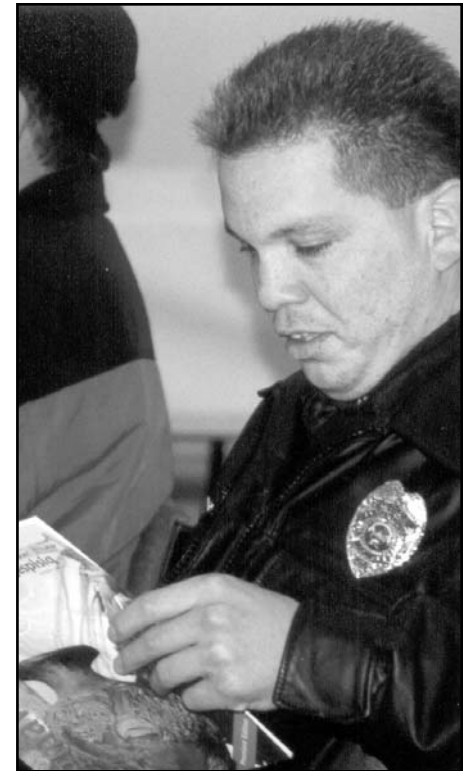


*Gesgespagiag Police Officer*

(The Co chairs of the APC wrote to the Minister in the autumn of 2000 seeking extension of the Accord based on the support of the RDG Atlantic and the ADM of Social and Economic Policy and Programs, and on the progress made in the joint work under the Accord. However, the Minister of DIAND's agreement to extend the Accord was not made available until the end of March 2001)



*Gladys Levi and Valarie Levi, Big Cove.*



*Helen Sylliboy, Eskasoni, Rita Joe, Eskasoni, & Maynard Stanley, Passamaquody.*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## MARCH 31, 2002

**Grant Thornton LLP**
**Chartered Accountants**
Management Consultants
Canadian Member of
Grant Thornton International

## CONTENTS

## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying financial statements of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. and all the information in this annual report are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the First Nations of Atlantic Canada.

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

The congress maintains systems of internal accounting and

administrative controls of high quality, consistent with reasonable cost. Such systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is relevant, reliable and accurate and the band's assets are appropriately accounted for and adequately safeguarded.

The congress is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. The congress carries out this responsibility principally through its executive committee.

The executive committee, composed of First Nation members, reviews the congress' financial statements and recommends their approval to the First Nations. The executive committee meets periodically with management, as well as the external auditors, to discuss internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues, to satisfy themselves that each party is properly discharging their responsibilities, and to review the annual report, the financial statements and the external auditor's report. The executive committee reports its findings to the First Nations for consideration when approving the financial statements for issuance to the members. The executive committee also considers, for review and approval by the First Nations, the engagement of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards on behalf of the members. Grant Thornton LLP has full and free access to the executive committee.

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc.

We have audited the balance sheet of Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. as at March 31, 2002 and the statements of operations, surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the congress' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the congress as at March 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

The comparative figures presented for 2001 were audited by another firm of chartered accountants.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

| Year Ended March 31 | Page | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | | |
| Indian and Northern | | | |
| Affairs Canada | | $2,515,500 | $2,257,358 |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | | 560,205 | 1,270,004 |
| Health and Welfare Canada | | 677,073 | 474,185 |
| Environment Canada | | - | 140,000 |
| Canada Mortgage and | | | |
| Housing Corporation | | 167,330 | 73,779 |
| Harmonized sales tax rebate (Note 10) | | 336,874 | - |
| Miscellaneous | | 35,438 | 38,500 |
| Interest | | 6,209 | 8,031 |
| | | 4,298,629 | 4,261,857 |
| | | | |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Administration | 11 | 606,649 | 170,771 |
| All Chiefs Forums | 12 | 215,000 | 440,377 |
| Executive | 13 | 106,270 | 137,748 |
| C.M.H.C. Housing | 14 | 171,209 | 83,709 |
| Social - | | | |
| Income Security Reform | 15 | 218,370 | 421,742 |
| Social - Governance | 16 | 872,665 | 758,884 |
| Treaty education/commission | 17 | 490,996 | 160,776 |
| Health | 18 | 591,511 | 336,987 |
| Fisheries | 19 | 560,205 | 1,191,746 |
| Economic | 20 | 261,261 | 288,432 |
| Species at Risk | 21 | - | 156,515 |
| Harmonized sales tax rebate | | - | 100,000 |
| | | 4,094,136 | 4,247,687 |
| | | | |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | | **$204,493** | **$14,170** |

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

## STATEMENT OF SURPLUS

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Surplus, beginning of year | $29,430 | $15,260 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures (Page 3) | 204,493 | 14,170 |
| Surplus, end of year | $233,923 | $29,430 |

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

## BALANCE SHEET

| March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $533,605 | $102,186 |
| Restricted cash (Note 3) | 2,848 | 34,514 |
| Receivables (Note 4) | 357,978 | 501,246 |
| Prepaids | 17,352 | - |
| | 911,783 | 637,946 |
| Capital assets (net of accumulated | | |
| amortization of $56,571; 2001 - $28,926) | 142,108 | 106,662 |
| | **$1,053,891** | **$744,608** |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| Current | | |
| Payables and accruals | $434,698 | $290,114 |
| Deferred revenue (Note 6) | 240,314 | 283,888 |
| | 675,012 | 574,002 |
| **Surplus** | | |
| Investment of capital assets (Note 7) | 142,108 | 106,662 |
| Legal Defence Fund reserve (Note 8) | 2,848 | 34,514 |
| Unrestricted (Page 4) | 233,923 | 29,430 |
| | 378,879 | 170,606 |
| | **$1,053,891** | **$744,608** |

Commitments and contingent liability (Notes 9 and 12)

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Cash receipts from revenue | $4,398,323 | $4,140,775 |
| Cash paid to supplies and employees | (3,966,904) | (4,068,841) |
| | | |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 431,419 | 71,934 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year | 102,186 | 30,252 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of year | $533,605 | $102,186 |

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**March 31, 2002**

## 1. Nature of operations

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. operates under funding agreements with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other government agencies and acquires substantially all of its revenue from these sources. The objective of the congress is to create a forum to enable First Nation Chiefs to speak with one voice to policy matters affecting the First Nations of Atlantic Canada. The congress is exempt from tax under Section 149 of the Canadian Income Tax Act.

## 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not for profit organizations, as defined in the CICA Accounting and Auditing Handbook, which encompass the following principles:

**Capital assets -** Capital assets acquired after March 31, 1997, are valued at acquisition costs. Rates and bases of depreciation applied to write-off the cost of equipment over their estimated life is 20%, declining balance.

**Revenue recognition -** Revenue is recognized as it becomes receivable under the terms of applicable funding agreements. Funding received under these agreements that relates to a subsequent fiscal period is deferred in the year of receipt and classified as such on the balance sheet.

**Statement of cash flows -** For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, the congress considers cash on hand and balances with banks, net of overdrafts, and deposits with original maturities of three months or less as cash and cash equivalents. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

**Financial instruments -** The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc.'s financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, payables and accruals and deferred revenue. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risk arising from financial instruments. The fair market values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

**Use of estimates -** In preparing the congress' financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

## 3. Restricted cash

Cash held in the Legal Defence Fund is subject to internal restrictions and is not available for unrestricted purposes without the approval of the executive committee.

## 4. Receivables

| | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $174,684 | $41,485 |
| Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation | 56,616 | 57,290 |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | 56,020 | 120,404 |
| Mi'kmaq Employment Secretariat Inc. | 25,000 | - |
| Assembly of First Nations | 2,310 | - |
| York University | 723 | - |
| Department of Justice | - | 1,602 |
| Health and Welfare Canada | - | 94,240 |
| Environment Canada | - | 30,000 |
| Harmonized sales tax rebate (Note 10) | - | 140,246 |
| Staff advances | 42,625 | 15,979 |

| | |
|---|---|
| $357,978 | $501,246 |

## 5. Bank indebtedness

The congress has an operating line of credit of $200,000, none of which was used at March 31, 2002. As security, the congress has pledged receivables.

## 6. Deferred revenue

| | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation | $ - | $ 30,000 |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | 240,314 | 253,888 |
| | $240,314 | $283,888 |

## 7. Investment in capital assets

| | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Investment in capital assets, beginning of year | $ 106,662 | $52,291 |
| Purchase of office equipment | 63,089 | 72,028 |
| Amortization of capital assets | (27,643) | (17,657) |
| Investment in capital assets, end of year | $142,108 | $106,662 |

## 8. Legal Defence Fund Reserve

| | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Beginning of year | $ 34,514 | $ 9,362 |
| Contributions | 23,334 | 25,152 |
| Expenditures | (55,000) | - |
| End of year | $ 2,848 | $ 34,514 |

## 9. Commitments

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. has entered into agreements to lease its premises and office equipment for various periods until 2007. Minimum rent payable for premises and equipment in aggregate for each of the next five fiscal years are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2003 | $ 39,407 |
| 2004 | $ 21,169 |
| 2005 | $18,881 |
| 2006 | $ 17,533 |
| 2007 | $ 14,611 |

## 10. Harmonized sales tax rebate

The organization has received correspondence from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency which questions their ability to recover Harmonized sales tax paid. During the year, the organization received Harmonized sales tax rebates of $336,874 in excess of amounts accrued in prior years, of which $51,724 related to March 2000 and $285,150 from March 2001 fiscal years.

Due to the uncertainty of collection, the organization has not recorded in their books the Harmonized sales tax rebates claim of $277,158 filed for the 2002 year end.

## 11. Remuneration of senior staff

The executive committee of the congress has established the rates and levels of compensation of senior staff.

## 12. Contingent liability

The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc. has entered into contribution agreements with various government departments on both the provincial and federal level. Funding received under these agreements are subject to repayment if the congress fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: ADMINISTRATION

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $601,830 | $590,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 26,000 | - |
| Harmonized sales tax rebate | 336,874 | - |
| Interest income | 6,209 | 8,031 |
| | 970,913 | 598,031 |
| Transfers to: | | |
| Executive | (106,270) | (137,748) |
| Social – Income Security Reform | - | (110,000) |
| Social – Governance | (45,000) | (35,000) |
| | 819,643 | (315,283) |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 38,352 | 10,249 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 14,656 | 2,145 |
| Catering | 8,038 | 2,032 |
| Communications | 55,371 | 41,532 |
| Contractors, researchers, technical support | 34,658 | - |
| Dues and fees | 3,333 | 5,127 |
| Equipment and room rentals | 6,943 | 2,303 |
| Equipment leases | 27,878 | 23,426 |
| Furniture and equipment | 52,912 | 7,916 |
| Harmonized sales tax rebate | - | 100,000 |
| Incidentals | 4,837 | 761 |
| Insurance | 791 | 394 |
| Interest and bank charges | 5,049 | 6,366 |
| Library resources | 2,363 | 4,332 |
| Meals | 26,307 | 6,168 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator & administrative support | - | 3,570 |
| Office supplies and postage | 76,897 | 50,675 |
| Per diem | 1,500 | - |
| Professional fees | 19,777 | 28,572 |
| Rent and facilities | 59,654 | 46,599 |
| Salary and benefits | 326,567 | 178,960 |
| Staff training | 1,574 | 1,601 |
| Travel | 70,114 | 27,413 |
| | 837,571 | 550,141 |
| Overhead allocation to: | | |
| All Chiefs' Forum | 23,298 | (44,644) |
| CMHC Housing | (23,226) | (5,236) |
| Social – Income Security Reform | (15,595) | (32,350) |
| Social – Governance | (30,781) | (11,100) |
| Treaty Education | (39,569) | (21,653) |
| Health | (8,026) | (32,046) |
| Fisheries | (40,228) | (93,373) |
| Economic | (28,654) | (22,042) |
| Species at Risk | - | (16,926) |
| Transfer to: Fisheries | (68,141) | - |
| | 606,649 | 270,771 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | **$ 212,994** | **$ 44,512** |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: ALL CHIEFS' FORUMS

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $120,000 | $197,200 |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | - | 97,090 |
| Health Canada | 95,000 | 146,087 |
| | 215,000 | 440,377 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 113,920 | 47,371 |
| Catering | 39,348 | 28,578 |
| Dues and fees | - | 800 |
| Equipment and room rental | 17,020 | 16,072 |
| Incidentals | 35,623 | 3,925 |
| Meals | 64,108 | 21,354 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator & administrative support | 5,282 | 3,632 |
| Office supplies and postage | 1,044 | 2,998 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | - | 44,644 |
| Per diem | - | 224,018 |
| Travel | 93,388 | 101,832 |
| | 369,733 | 495,224 |
| Transfer to: | | |
| Species at Risk | - | (54,847) |
| Administration | (23,298) | - |
| Health | (33,725) | - |
| Fisheries | (60,000) | - |
| Treaty | (37,710) | - |
| | 215,000 | 440,377 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $     - | $     - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: EXECUTIVE

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Transfer from administration | $ 106,270 | $ 137,748 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 24,523 | 6,501 |
| Catering | 3,896 | 3,597 |
| Equipment and room rental | 3,206 | 2,999 |
| Incidentals | 7,750 | 506 |
| Meals | 13,770 | 3,940 |
| Office supplies and postage | 89 | 244 |
| Per diem | 27,180 | 128,645 |
| Travel | 25,856 | 41,316 |
| | 106,270 | 187,748 |
| Transfer to Fisheries | - | (50,000) |
| | 106,270 | 137,748 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $     - | $     - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: C.M.H.C. HOUSING

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $ - | $ 9,930 |
| Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation | 167,330 | 73,779 |
| | 167,330 | 83,709 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 39,977 | 6,801 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 137 | - |
| Catering | 1,608 | 1,291 |
| Communications | 467 | - |
| Contractors, researchers & technical support | 9,800 | 31,830 |
| Equipment and room rental | 9,935 | 241 |
| Incidentals | 9,313 | 772 |
| Meals | 23,144 | 4,125 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator and administrative support | 2,246 | 50 |
| Office supplies and postage | 207 | 370 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 23,226 | 5,236 |
| Per diem | 1,100 | 13,165 |
| Rent and facilities | 900 | - |
| Travel | 49,149 | 19,828 |
| | 171,209 | 83,709 |
| Excess of expenditures over revenues | $(3,879) | $ - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: SOCIAL – INCOME SECURITY REFORM

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $ 218,370 | $ 313,472 |
| Transfer from administration | - | 110,000 |
| | 218,370 | 423,472 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 7,397 | 36,134 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | - | 890 |
| Catering | 100 | 9,783 |
| Communications | 5,929 | 20,280 |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 33,065 | 52,606 |
| Dues and fees | - | 2,047 |
| Equipment and room rental | 128 | 6,379 |
| Furniture and equipment | 3,000 | 28,087 |
| Incidentals | 1,276 | 3,306 |
| Meals | 7,016 | 22,966 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator and administrative support | - | 600 |
| Office supplies and postage | 652 | 11,977 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 15,595 | 32,350 |
| Per diem | - | 20,047 |
| Rent and facilities | 712 | 485 |
| Salaries and benefits | 120,176 | 138,581 |
| Staff training | 684 | - |
| Travel | 22,640 | 85,224 |
| | 218,370 | 471,742 |
| Transfer to Fisheries | - | (50,000) |
| | 218,370 | 421,742 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $ - | $ 1,730 |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: SOCIAL - GOVERNANCE

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $ 827,665 | $ 727,159 |
| Transfer from administration | 45,000 | 35,000 |
| | 872,665 | 762,159 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 97,652 | 27,074 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 6,184 | 5,500 |
| Catering | 43,040 | 15,628 |
| Communications | 9,469 | 2,948 |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 184,294 | 159,113 |
| Dues and fees | 2,547 | 851 |
| Equipment and room rental | 19,748 | 12,164 |
| Furniture and equipment | - | 7,641 |
| Incidentals | 20,220 | 3,256 |
| Interest and bank charges | 64 | - |
| Meals | 57,080 | 22,204 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator and administrative support | 29,850 | 810 |
| Office supplies and postage | 10,565 | 1,194 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 30,781 | 11,100 |
| Per diem | 11,363 | 80,650 |
| Salaries and benefits | 198,338 | 68,005 |
| Social development training contract | - | 250,000 |
| Staff training | 206 | - |
| Travel | 151,264 | 90,746 |
| | 872,665 | 758,884 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $ - | $ 3,275 |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATION: TREATY EDUCATION/COMMISSION

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $ 490,996 | $ 160,776 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 41,625 | 7,746 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 31,926 | 25,169 |
| Catering | 1,204 | - |
| Communications | 9,030 | 1,694 |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 10,300 | 150 |
| Dues and fees | - | 1,412 |
| Equipment and room rental | 813 | 830 |
| Furniture and equipment | 6,191 | 12,743 |
| Incidentals | 8,591 | 2,009 |
| Insurance | 64 | - |
| Library resources | - | 150 |
| Meals | 34,234 | 11,330 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator & administrative support | 2,723 | 1,100 |
| Office supplies and postage | 14,634 | 10,289 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 39,569 | 21,653 |
| Per diem | 2,000 | 2,980 |
| Rent and facilities | 173 | - |
| Salaries and benefits | 174,258 | 41,195 |
| Staff training | 1,280 | - |
| Travel | 74,671 | 20,326 |
| | 453,286 | 160,776 |
| Transfer from All Chiefs Forums | 37,710 | - |
| | 490,996 | 160,776 |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $ - | $ - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: HEALTH

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Health Canada | $582,073 | $328,098 |
| Miscellaneous | 9,438 | 8,889 |
| | 591,511 | 336,987 |
| | | |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 122,197 | 33,274 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 3,433 | 5,691 |
| Catering | 22,044 | 2,506 |
| Communications | 3,074 | 654 |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 4,725 | 34,300 |
| Equipment and room rental | 11,474 | 14,161 |
| Furniture and equipment | 2,759 | - |
| Incidentals | 26,831 | 4,471 |
| Meals | 69,992 | 19,811 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator and administrative support | 16,720 | 12,000 |
| Office supplies and postage | 1,862 | 426 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 8,026 | 32,046 |
| Per diem | 1,240 | 58,596 |
| Salaries and benefits | 66,550 | 45,584 |
| Travel | 196,859 | 73,467 |
| | 557,786 | 336,987 |
| Transfer from All Chiefs Forum | 33,725 | - |
| | 591,511 | 336,987 |
| | | |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures | $     - | $     - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: FISHERIES

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | $560,205 | $1,172,914 |
| | | |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 30,439 | 57,000 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | 13,130 | 43,284 |
| Catering | 2,735 | 7,698 |
| Communications | 10,991 | 15,219 |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 27,744 | 110,041 |
| Dues and fees | 627 | 1,531 |
| Equipment and room rental | 6,377 | 12,184 |
| Furniture and equipment | 2,759 | 15,642 |
| Incidentals | 12,363 | 7,241 |
| Insurance | 196 | - |
| Interest and bank charges | 40 | - |
| Meals | 32,489 | 62,514 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator & administrative support | 1,600 | 3,510 |
| Office supplies and postage | 1,620 | 18,165 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 40,228 | 93,373 |
| Per diem | 1,350 | 109,088 |
| Professional fees | - | 14,278 |
| Salaries and benefits | 152,401 | 301,185 |
| Staff training | 847 | - |
| Travel | 94,128 | 219,793 |
| | 432,064 | 1,091,746 |
| Transfers from: | | |
| Administration | 68,141 | - |
| All Chiefs Forums | 60,000 | - |
| Executive | - | 50,000 |
| Social – Income Security Reform | - | 50,000 |
| | 560,205 | 1,191,746 |
| | | |
| Excess of expenditures over revenues | $     - | $ (18,832) |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: ECONOMIC

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Indian and Northern Affairs Canada | $256,639 | $258,821 |
| Miscellaneous | - | 29,611 |
| | 256,639 | 288,432 |
| | | |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | 51,174 | 32,541 |
| Advertising and promotional materials | - | 880 |
| Catering | 8,683 | 14,835 |
| Communications | 4 | - |
| Contractors, researchers, & technical support | 54,600 | 16,475 |
| Equipment and room rental | 6,644 | 12,464 |
| Incidentals | 9,699 | 2,825 |
| Meals | 26,359 | 15,856 |
| Meeting coordinator, facilitator and administrative support | - | 2,015 |
| Office supplies and postage | 435 | 2,438 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | 28,654 | 22,042 |
| Per diem | - | 49,952 |
| Salaries and benefits | - | 14,960 |
| Travel | 75,009 | 101,149 |
| | 261,261 | 288,432 |
| | | |
| Excess of expenditures over revenues | $ (4,622) | $     - |

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS; SPECIES AT RISK

| Year Ended March 31 | 2002 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues | | |
| Environment Canada | $     - | $140,000 |
| | | |
| Expenditures | | |
| Accommodations | - | 3,479 |
| Catering | - | 591 |
| Communications | - | 2,048 |
| Contractors, researchers, and technical support | - | 6,092 |
| Equipment and room rental | - | 397 |
| Incidentals | - | 745 |
| Meals | - | 5,041 |
| Office supplies and postage | - | 212 |
| Overhead allocated from administration | - | 16,926 |
| Per diem | - | 750 |
| Salaries and benefits | - | 48,634 |
| Travel | - | 16,753 |
| | - | 101,668 |
| Transfer from All Chiefs' Forum | - | 54,847 |
| | - | 156,515 |
| | | |
| Excess of expenditures over revenues | $     - | $(16,515) |

# APC

# HAS A WEB SITE

www.apcfnc.ca

**Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat**

Archives | Links | What's New | Contact Us | Home

SEARCH

SOCIAL
HEALTH
FISHERIES
TREATIES
COURT DECISIONS
INFO ON FNG ACT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING
LANDS & RESOURCES
FIRST NATIONS
MEDIA CENTER
APC STAFF
RESOLUTIONS

**Quick Links**

RESOLUTIONS

### Welcome

➤ **Contest for First Nation Youth on Social Reform**

## Our Mission

Nikanitaiek - "People's Moving Forward"

On behalf of our Chiefs and our Mi'kmaq/Maliseet/Passamaquoddy people we welcome you to our web site. Development of our efforts into the computer age and the net clearly reflect our ability to meet the challenge of the world and the future, which awaits all people. Rebuilding our Nations one step at a time. A strategic voice, collective approach to develop our policies of self-government by self-determining peoples and First Nation Governments.

## Organization Profile

To research, analyze and develop culturally relevant alternatives to federal policies that impact on the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy First Nation communities and peoples.

We are in association with the Assembly of First Nations located in Ottawa, Canada.

## Our Mandate

To develop culturally relevant alternatives to federal policies.

WELCOME

## CALL TOLL FREE
## FOR MORE INFORMATION
# 1-877-667-4007