

Kwe'

In this edition of Maw-pemita'jik Qalipu'k we've got a lot of great stories and pictures from our communities. Grassroots people are at the heart of our Nation and this is easily seen in the many events, workshops and volunteer efforts that we see happening in our communities. Find some of those stories featured on Pages 7-11.

Qalipu's election was held on October 23 and our newly elected Council will officially take office in just one week. Find all the details on the Election, an invitation to the Swearing in Ceremony and explore the top three priorities of each member of Council on Pages 4-6.

Also, in this month's newsletter, a story and pictures from the Experience Qalipu Indigenous Tourism Forum and a focus piece on one of the Indigenous tourism operators at work in our province, Pirates Haven RV Park and Chalets; an update on the Outdoor Education Program; student success stories and opportunities from the Qalipu Education and Training Department; and important updates from the Health division.

The big announcement yesterday came too late for publication but, we are all talking about it. The federal government has committed to enter into exploratory discussions regarding veterans, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and FNI members or members of other Mi'kmaq organizations who were involved in the Enrolment Process and denied Founding Membership. Our Chief committed to fight for this in a [Demonstration of Community Solidarity](#). Many stories were collected at that time, and people who are impacted by the outcome of these discussions will be contacted as more information becomes available.

The way forward for individuals impacted by the Wells/Wells court case is also in the works and details of this were announced. What we want people to know now is that INAC cannot reach you if you do not have a current address listed with them. If you've moved or had an address change, please update it by calling 1-800-561-2266.

Please, keep in touch. Share your community event, success story, news and anything else that would be of interest to the Indigenous community by emailing me at awhite@qalipu.ca

Wela'lin

Alison



Alison White | Communications Officer

Executive Office

3 Church Street, Corner Brook, NL A2H 2Z4

ph: (709) 634-5163

fax: (709) 639-3997

Qalipu.ca

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

THE CARIBOU ARE TRAVELLING TOGETHER

Qalipu's Newsletter

November 2018

GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES LEAD THE WAY! Orange Shirt Day, Sandy Point Cleanup, Ribbon Skirt and Drum Making Workshops, Moose Hide Campaign presentation and an Indigenous Arts Showcase are some examples of the grassroots-led events at the heart of our Nation. Find stories and pictures from our communities on Pages 7-11

QALIPU CULTURAL FOUNDATION holds an annual fundraising event to raise money for grassroots initiatives via the QCF Cultural Grant Program. Find the story, and the application form to access funds for your cultural workshop or event, on Pages 12-13



Heart of
Grass ;)



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Elders Mailing List

Members of the Band who are over the age of 65 and cannot access communications on our website are invited to sign up for our mailing list. Please contact Tina at tdiamond@qalipu.ca or call 634-5111

Message from the Chief



KWE'

I greet you today humbled and thankful that you have chosen me to be your Chief for another term following our election on October 23. I look forward to continuing to build on projects that were started in my first term including establishment of the Business Park, the pursuit of Indigenous hunting and fishing rights, partnerships, enhanced community engagement and cultural activity, and settling into our place among other First Nations in Canada with the Assembly of First Nations.

I would like to thank all those who were so supportive during election time. Supporters, friends, and family, thank you for your faith in me and for your encouragement throughout the election and always.

I further offer thanks and congratulations to the newly elected Council: Randy Drover, Central Vice Chief; Keith Cormier, Western Vice Chief; Calvin Francis, Gander Bay; Frank Skeard, Glenwood; Andy Barker, Exploits; Bern White, Benoit's Cove; Brian Dicks, Corner Brook; Jasen Benwah, Port au Port; Odelle Pike, Stephenville; Ivan J. White, St. George's and;

Ivan White, Flat Bay. I look forward to working with the new Council in the years to come.

We begin our work together at 9:30 am, November 23, commencing with a Swearing in Ceremony at the Civic Centre in Corner Brook.

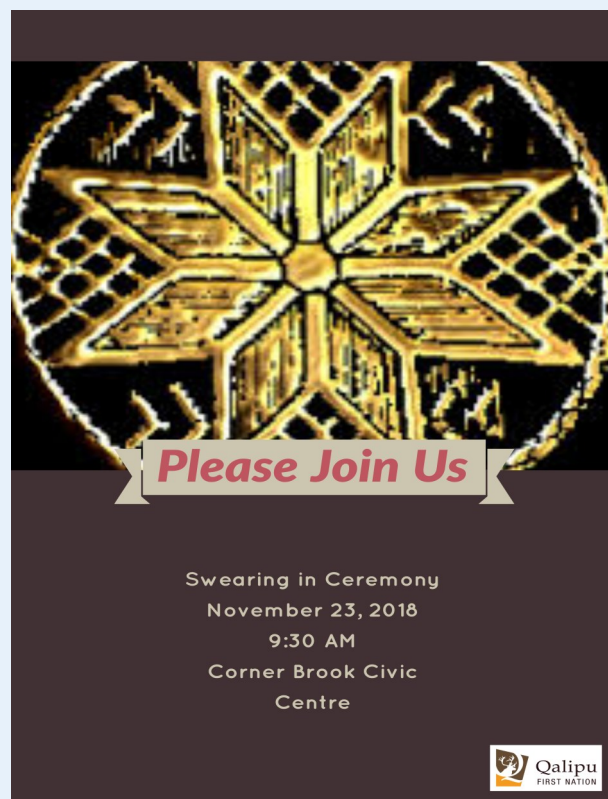
We are pleased to share that we will be joined by special guests Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Morley Googoo, and Miawpukek First Nation Chief Mi'sel Joe. All our community Chiefs, partners and government representatives have been invited to join us, and an invitation is extended to all of you! We hope to see many of you there as we mark a new beginning, a new chapter for the Qalipu First Nation.

Thank you and blessings for those who have moved on from Council, and to those who put themselves out there as leaders in this election. I hope that you will all stay active in your communities and continue to share your gifts.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to serve our membership as Chief of Qalipu First Nation for the next three years. I truly hope that our people can be united in the spirit of healing and reconciliation as we go forward to build a better tomorrow together, for our people and communities.

WELA'LIN

Chief Brendan Mitchell



Election 2018



October 24, 2018, Corner Brook—The Qalipu First Nation Band holds its election every three years to choose its governing body; a Chief, two Vice-Chiefs representing central and western Newfoundland, and nine Ward Councilors. Thousands of

members of the Band turned up at the polls to choose those leaders that will represent them for the next three years.

Brendan Mitchell was re-elected to lead the Nation as Chief. At the end of the night, Mitchell came out at almost double the votes received by his closest competitor, Hayward Young. Mitchell had received 2500 votes to Young's 1290 votes. Clyde Russell, a third contender for Chief had a good showing at 867 votes.

In central Newfoundland, incumbent Joe Bouzanne was defeated by Randy Drover for the position of central Vice-Chief and in western Newfoundland, Keith Cormier went head to head with Andy Tobin for the position of western Vice-Chief, coming out on top at 1526-982 by the end of the counts. Edith Miller wasn't far behind at 691 votes while Ron Jesseau, Blain Ford and Gary Greene who were also vying for the position had a good showing with several hundred votes a piece.

Incumbents Brian Dicks, Corner Brook Ward, Bern White, Benoit's Cove Ward, Andy Barker, Exploits Ward and Jasen Benwah, Port au Port Ward were all successful in their bid to be re-elected for another term as Ward Councilor.

In St. George's, newcomers Ivan J. White and Kenny Lee competed for the seat vacated by Arlene Blanchard White. Ivan J. White came out on top of that race 251-134. In Stephenville, for the seat vacated by former Ward Councilor Gerard Alexander, Odelle Pike came out on top in a race against former

Councilor Joe White and newcomer Stefan Young. Odelle defeated nearest competitor Stefan Young at 354-305. White was not far behind at 238 votes.

In the Wards of Flat Bay, Gander Bay and Glenwood, the seats were won by acclamation. Of the three, Ivan White representing the Flat Bay Ward is new to the table while Frank Skeard of the Glenwood Ward and Calvin Francis of Gander Bay go on for their third consecutive term on the Qalipu Council.

Voter turn-out in this election was up from 2015 with a 25.3% voter turnout.

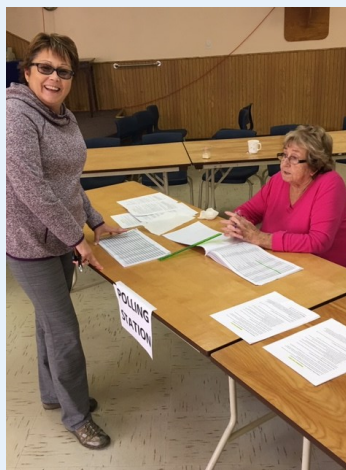
Keith Goulding, Band Manager, said that he was happy to see more members engaged but, that the Band can do better.

He said, "We are happy with another successful election, but we still hope to see more of our membership engaged in the process. With the amendment vote to change the way we administer elections, which passed last night with a 73% approval from membership who voted, we should see a more efficient, inclusive and effective election in 2021."

Following a 30-day appeal period, per the Custom Rules governing Qalipu elections, the new Council will be sworn in and take office.

[End of poll counts](#)

[Council Elect](#)



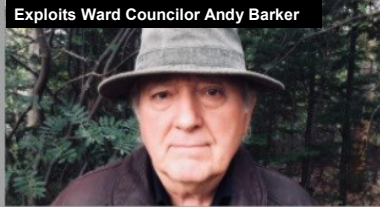
QALIPU CHIEF AND COUNCIL 2018-2021



**Central Vice Chief
Randy Drover**



Flat Bay Ward Councilor Ivan White



Exploits Ward Councilor Andy Barker



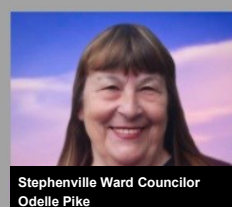
**Chief Brendan
Mitchell**



**Western Vice Chief
Keith Cormier**



St. George's Ward Councilor Ivan J. White



**Stephenville Ward Councilor
Odelle Pike**



**Corner Brook Ward Councilor
Brian Dicks**



**Port au Port Ward Councilor
Jasen Benwah**



**Glenwood Ward Councilor Frank
Skeard**



**Benoit's Cove Ward Councilor
Bern White**



**Gander Bay Ward Councilor
Calvin Francis**



SCIS APPLICATION AND RENEWALS



**ST. GEORGE'S,
STEPHENVILLE,
CORNER BROOK
JODY DAVIS**

TEL. (709) 634-4010
EMAIL JDAVIS@QALIPU.CA

**GLENWOOD, GRAND
FALLS-WINDSOR
CHARMAINE BATH**
TEL. (709) 679-2142,
1-855-263-6440
EMAIL CBATH@QALIPU.CA



NOTICE FOR NEW MEMBERS

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A PACKAGE IN THE MAIL CONTAINING
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS,
ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND YOUR GINU MEMBERSHIP
PROFILE.**

PACKAGES WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE LATTER PART OF DECEMBER.



WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES? COUNCIL WEIGHS IN

I'm pleased to have been elected for another term. My focus is on job creation, economic development, and accessing housing repair programs.

Reach my by email at calfrancis@eastlink.ca or by calling 709-676-2188

–Calvin Francis, Gander Bay

I'm most focused on youth and community engagement, band policy and planning, and Nation to Nation negotiations. It's also important to focus on the membership and create mechanisms to inform, engage and unite to strengthen the Band. It's time to honour our people and give the grassroots a voice as we move forward. Find me on [Facebook](#) or email me at ijwhite@qalipu.ca

Ivan J. White, St. George's

I would like to see the Council do something for the people who lost their status card, new negotiations with Canada; more cultural programs in our schools; growth in the fishery program. I'm hopeful that everything will go well for all of our people. Members can reach me at bwhite@qalipu.ca or by calling 709-789-3644

Bern White, Benoit's Cove

My top three priorities this term are culture, training opportunities and improving communications. I intend to be

visible as your Ward representative by holding meetings throughout the Ward.

Members can reach me by email at

jbenwah@qalipu.ca or on [Facebook](#)

Jasen Benwah, Port au Port

My top priorities include seeking justice for former and present members hurt by flaws in the enrolment process; engage our membership by live streaming meetings, enhanced employment opportunities and new business ventures via the Qalipu Development Corporation. Members can reach me by email at abarker@qalipu.ca

Andy Barker, Exploits

My priorities include taking up the fight to get ousted members who had status back in our Band. I look forward to a future that is full of hope, a richer culture, an enhanced Mi'kmaq language program, economic opportunities and prosperity. I also intend to work toward fixing the communication problem many feel exists between the QFN Council and its members. Members can reach me at kcormier@qalipu.ca or on

[Facebook](#)

Keith Cormier,
Western Vice Chief

My most pressing priority as your Chief is to negotiate with government for veterans, armed forces, RCMP and members of Mi'kmaq organizations, like the FNI, who were involved in the Enrolment Process and denied Founding Membership. Among many other priorities, I will also continue to work toward cultural revitalization, and greater unity among our people. Reach me at bmitchell@qalipu.ca

–Chief Brendan Mitchell

I have four priorities this term as outlined in my election platform. They are a strong Central Region, youth and Elder inclusion, advancing our rights and programs, and supporting good governance. Members can reach me by email at rdrover@qalipu.ca or on

[Facebook](#)

Randy Drover,
Central Vice Chief

I would like to see better lines of communication and the ability for members to vote on major decisions. Economic development is important but must be approached on the community level, and Qalipu support for cultural revival including events, workshops, language and crafts. We should be encouraging community groups to be involved in administering these programs.

Members can reach me at iwhite@qalipu.ca, on [Facebook](#) or by calling 649-0857

Ivan White, Flat Bay

Odelle Pike was in Labrador and could not be reached for comment in time for publication. However, Odelle campaigned on improved communication in the Wards and among Council, and she has committed to supporting Stephenville in their seeking an urban reserve in that Ward. She is also interested in the growth of our economy.

Reach Odelle at opike@qalipu.ca

Odelle Pike, Stephenville

My priorities include economic development to create "own source income" for the Band and employment opportunities for members. I will promote and support access to cultural traditions and language, and improve communication between Council and our membership. I also intend to continue advocating for Founding Members who lost their status. Members can reach me at bdicks@qalipu.ca or by leaving a message at the Band office.

Brian Dicks, Corner Brook

I intend to work toward a stronger Qalipu presence in the Glenwood Ward, increased participation with First Nations and other indigenous organizations located in central Newfoundland. Additionally, I am interested in culture, inclusion for elders, youth and women, housing, social development, natural resources, food security, enrolment and the urban reserve. Members can reach me at fskeard@qalipu.ca or on

[Facebook](#)

Frank Skeard, Glenwood

Orange Shirt Day-September 30

Orange Shirt Day is commemorated every year on September 30 to remember and honour those impacted by residential schools. This year, events were hosted by the Bay St. George Cultural Revival Committee in partnership with Bayview Academy in St. George's, and the People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre hosted an event in Stephenville. Photos below were submitted by Evan Butler (for PDIFC event) and Monique Carroll (BSGCRC and Bayview Academy Event). Thanks for sharing photos from this special day!

PEOPLE OF THE DAWN INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE EVENT



Submitted by Paul Pike

With the support from Stephenville Mayor Tom Rose, Qalipu First Nation Chief Brendan Mitchell, a representative from Scott Reid's office, Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network, John Finn MHA, and Membertou First Nation, the People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre were able to invite Shubenacadie Residential School survivor Clark Paul to come share his story in honour of "National Orange Shirt Day, Every Child Matters". With a great turnout of community support in Stephenville at Blanche Brook Park, the PDIFC Drum Group and numerous elders were also in attendance. It was evident to all that this was a very touching and powerful event that needed to take place, to bring awareness to the true story of Indigenous people throughout Canada and its Residential school system.



Proceeds from the sale of the shirts are being used to purchase a traditional Mi'kmaq tipi on the grounds of the school. Patrick's design was exceptional in that it reflected elements of all Indigenous cultures in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I also acknowledged a challenge from Abby Carroll of St. George's and pledged to her that every member of my caucus will wear orange next year on September 30. I call on all members of this Honourable House, in the spirit of reconciliation and revitalizing our relationship with Indigenous peoples, to join with me in recognizing September 30 as Orange Shirt Day in Newfoundland and Labrador."

PREMIER DWIGHT BALL TALKS ABOUT EVENT IN ADDRESS TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

"Last month, I was pleased to speak via Skype with Patrick Ballard and his classmates at Bayview Academy School in St. George's. Patrick submitted the winning design for an orange shirt through a contest organized by the Bay St. George Cultural Revival Centre.



Ribbon Skirt Making Workshops



Indian Cove Women Host Skirt Making Workshop

Submitted by Darlene Sexton

In the spring of 2018, members of the Indian Cove Women's Circle expressed interest in making their own ribbon skirts. Our women's circle is starting to participate in more and more Mi'kmaq ceremonies, and many of our women wanted to have a skirt that would be appropriate to wear during these ceremonies. Our president, Ola Garnier, applied for a grant through the Qalipu Cultural Foundation. We were successful in receiving a grant that allowed 22 women to design and make their own ribbon skirts. The workshop was held on two different days, and all expenses were covered by the grant. We would like to express our thanks to Qalipu Cultural Foundation. When asked how we were to evaluate the workshop, we said "by the pride in the faces of our women as we wear our skirts".

DIABETES AWARENESS

On November 14, the Health division called on Qalipu staff, members and the general public to wear blue in acknowledgement of World Diabetes Day.



SANDY POINT CLEANUP AND ARTS SHOWCASE

ST. GEORGE'S INDIAN BAND PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD SANDY POINT CLEANUP



Submitted by Richard Swyers

There were several volunteers who went to Sandy Point numerous times to cut brush, trees and remove debris from the Catholic and

Anglican graveyards. The St. George's Indian Band provided funding for gas, oil and transportation for the volunteers. People volunteered their time, equipment and atv's to do so.

The volunteers included Clayton Bennett from Flat Bay; Charlie Joyce, Roy Keating and Faye LeDrew from Barachois Brook; Richard Legge, Rick Swyers, Craig Bennett, Tony Bennett, Leanne Fleming, Isabelle Fleming, all from St. George's and Owen Burke from Stephenville.

Welali'oq to all volunteers who take on such meaningful projects.

PEOPLE OF THE DAWN INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE HOST INDIGENOUS ARTS SHOWCASE

Submitted by Paul Pike



Marilyn Matthews assorted jewelry and beading supplies



Michelle Bennett with handmade model wigwams and beaded earrings



Scott Butt with handcrafted moose skin drums and frames



Paintings by Marcus Gosse

The People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Center has been formally recognized as the second site of its kind on the island. This results from more than a year of planning, consultation and negotiations involving local leaders, volunteers and community members with the generous support of the St. John's Friendship Center and the National Association of Friendship Centres.

Friendship Centers are non-profit and charity organizations that deliver culturally appropriate services to Indigenous people— regardless of status— in urban communities. Every Center is as unique as the area it serves allowing for programs and services that vary nationally based on need.

PDIFC
Events are happening all the time!
[Click here to view the calendar](#)



CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Submitted by Mitch Blanchard, Manager of Health Services

On August 28 – 29, 2018 Benjamin Kaschta and Jody Rowsell from Indigenous Services Canada visited Qalipu First Nation. During the two days discussion Qalipu and Indigenous Service Canada – First Nation and Inuit Health Branch reviewed the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. Discussions were focused on ways to improve the program, and the successes of the program. Both the Qalipu Health division and First Nation and Inuit Health Branch are extremely focused on health and wellness; both organizations' mandate is to meet the memberships health needs. We encourage everyone to watch for exciting updates to the NIHB program.



Submitted by Lorraine Stone

This is Kaitlyn Sheppard, from the White Wolf Drumming and Youth group, seen giving Suzanne Lee a Moose Hide Campaign card during our Moose Hide Campaign Day. This Campaign is a grassroots movement of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Men who are making a stand against violence towards women and children. This is in honour of Aboriginal Month. Wearing the piece of moose hide signifies the commitment, honour, respect and the protection of the women and children around us. The goal is for men to work with other men to end the violence towards all women and children. It is our hopes that the Moose Hide Campaign will spread to other organizations, communities and even other governments throughout Canada.



Submitted by Lorraine Stone

White Wolf drumming group making drums with Cora and Willard Butt for Mi'kmaq History month. On the left, Taylor poses with Mr. and Mrs. Butt for winning the drum.

SHOWCASE YOUR COMMUNITY OR SHARE A SUCCESS STORY WITH US! WE'LL
FEATURE IT IN THE NEXT EDITION OF MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K! CALL
ALISON AT 634-5163 OR EMAIL AWHITE@QALIPU.CA

Amgwes Safety Inc. Wins Qalipu Business Network Award



On October 19, the Long-range Small Business Week Committee held their Annual Business Awards Dinner at the Caribou Curling Club in Stephenville. The sell-out event hosted many business owners/operators, along with industry stakeholders, to pay homage to their efforts throughout the past year. Qalipu First Nation is very active in providing business support to member businesses throughout our regions and, as such, are very proud to present an award to one Qalipu Business Network member each year from the Stephenville and surrounding area.

After careful consideration, this year's Qalipu Business Network Award was presented to Cecil Ryan of Amgwes Safety Incorporated. Amgwes Safety Inc. is a certified NCSO / CSO safety management & consulting firm located in Stephenville. Mr. Ryan, owner/operator, of the firm and has over 34 years in the construction industry, with the last 20 of those heavily focussed on safety.

Mr. Ryan started his company 4 years ago. He said, "I anticipated 50 clients the first year, 100 the second and 150 during the third. Amgwes safety served 180 clients in the first year, 410 in the second and today has over 1000 from many different parts of the island."

Mr. Ryan is a proud member of the Qalipu First Nations Band. The word Amgwes is a Mi'kmaq word that means first as in "First and Foremost"

Addiction Recovery Drop-in Centre

Many people in our communities are impacted by addiction. In Stephenville, a volunteer and retired counsellor by the name of Don Russell keeps an addiction drop in centre open by donation alone. The centre is now in its 3rd year.



"Thus far there has been over 3000 visits. People are dealing with and sharing issues regarding health, stages of recovery, anxiety, depression, finances, relationship issues, abuse issues, custody, career as well as other stressors and fellowship. We continue to operate from donations from various charities in the Bay St. George area. Currently, there are 12 people who are in recovery as a result of the Drop In, and many others who would have relapsed if they didn't have a place to go. People from Westbridge House also attend. It's also a great resource when new people come and find fellowship. I also started an anxiety group and it's the first of its kind in Newfoundland. There is no waiting list."
-Don Russell



The Addiction Recovery Drop-in Centre is open to everyone. Location: Suite 2, Harmon Mall, Stephenville. Hours: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays



QCF
Gala
2018



Qalipu Cultural Foundation

Submitted by Alex Antle, Cultural Resource Coordinator

The Qalipu Cultural Foundation (QCF) provides financial support to individuals and community groups who would like to host cultural events, workshops and programs. Last year, QCF donated \$20,000 through the [Cultural Support Program](#). Funds raised at the Ke'tipnemk Fundraising Gala and Silent Auction support this Program. The QCF also provides funding to support the Junior Police Academy which, last year, saw the participation of 47 youth. Further, QCF provided funding for National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Corner Brook, and supports the Outdoor Education Program at Kildevil Camp.

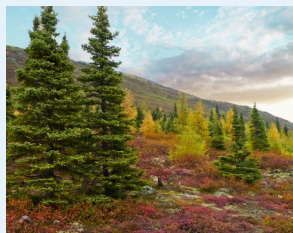
Thank you to our Sponsors!



Mountain Level \$1000 +

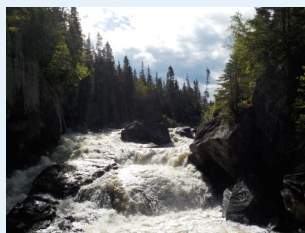
Tract Consulting Inc.

Barry Group



Tree Level \$500- \$999

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper



River Level \$240- \$499

Poole Althouse

Parks Canada

Dale Carnegie



Brook Level \$100- \$249

Pirates Haven

Holiday Inn Express

WaterWerks

Brendan Mitchell

Dr. Mervyn and Sherry Dean

Keith Goulding

Colemans

*We are pleased to share
that \$8660 was raised at
this years' Gala!*

Gala Artists

Allan Todd Neil

Bunchberry Beadwork

Lisa Hann

Dawn Sampson

Dawn Baker

Jackie Alcock

Natural Boutique

Susan Engram

Pauline Gilley

Odelle Pike

Marilyn Matthews

Trudy Veitch

Shirl Lake

Georgette Pike

Duncan Chisolm

Brian Lasaga

Symone Howell

Edith Miller

Dominic & Jack Blanchard

Scott Butt

Cora Butt

Marie Eastman

Lynda Langdon

Diane Dabinett

Herb Hotkins

Glen Pardy Art

Florence Pinhorn

Volunteers

Glenda Buckle, Marilyn Matthews, Margie Wheeler

Volunteer Committee

Sherry Dean
Lorraine Stone
Glenn Penny
Brian Dicks
Vera-Lynn Alteen

Sub-Committee (staff)

Alison White
Tara Saunders
Ralph Eldridge
Nicole Companion
Karen Tiller
Jodie Wells
Alex Antle



EXPERIENCE
QALIPU

PRESENTS Pirates Haven RV Park and Chalets

Adventure awaits at Pirates Haven ATV Friendly RV Park and Chalets. This family owned and operated business focuses on preserving the environment, maintaining the aboriginal way of life, and creating adventurous experiences for all to enjoy.

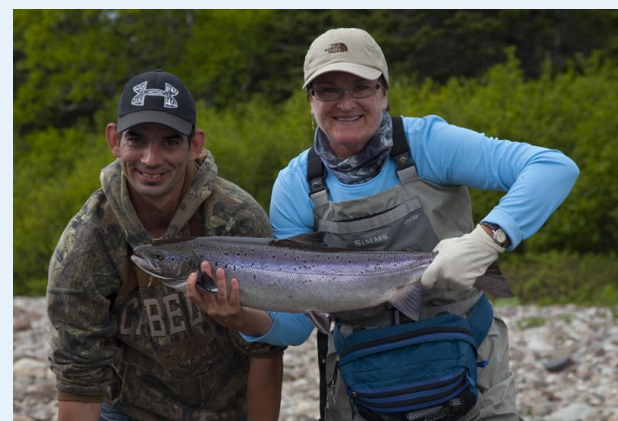
Submitted by Alex Antle, Cultural Resource Coordinator

Located in Robinsons, Pirate's Haven has direct access to the T'Rail (Trans Canada Railway System). This gives visitors the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of western Newfoundland on their bikes and ATVs.

Visitors can stay in the fully serviced RV park or in one of three 4-star chalets. All accommodations feature beautiful views of the ocean, mountains, and Robinsons River. The chalets feature a patio, outdoor sauna, and outdoor hot tub. Pirates Haven can cater to any group of travellers; they offer family excursions

women's retreats, and adventure for all.

Travellers can experience the natural beauty of the land while salmon fishing, fly fishing, and hiking the coastline. There are guided fishing tours with Paul Gale, certified angling guide, on any of the eight local rivers and ponds. For a more adventurous day, Pirates Haven offers guided ATV tours and ATV rentals. After a full day of soaking up the great outdoors, guests can enjoy a traditional Newfoundland meal at the onsite restaurant.



EXPERIENCE QALIPU TOURISM FORUM

Submitted by Alex Antle, Cultural Resource Coordinator

On November 7th, Experience Qalipu hosted the second annual Indigenous Tourism Forum in Rock Harbour, NL. This event is held each year to highlight the growing Indigenous tourism industry, communicate Experience Qalipu's tourism strategy, provide local examples of Indigenous experiences and share best practices with other First Nation groups.

The event included many experiential elements starting with a welcoming campfire. More than 30 people gathered in the Gros Morne Visitor Information Centre to participate in a ceremonial smudge, a talking circle, and drumming. This opening event was led by local knowledge keeper, Scott Butt.

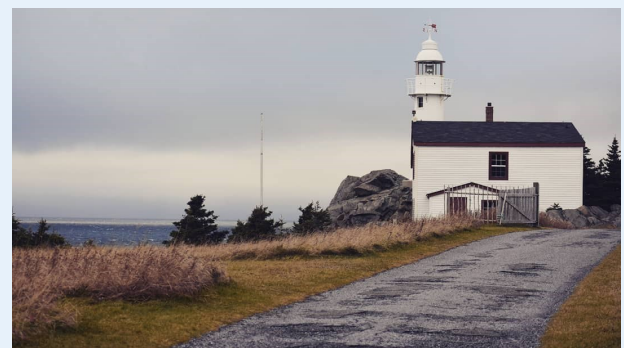
The second day included educational presentations and experiences. The keynote speaker from Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Kevin Eshkawkogan, explained his role in the creation of the Great Spirit Circle Trail on Manitoulin Island, an excellent example of a successful Indigenous tourism venture. Kevin shared many helpful tips on planning and creating Indigenous tourism experiences while remaining respectful to the land. One of Kevin's most important pieces of advice was to know your own story and to remain authentic.

Robert Bernard presented on behalf of the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC). Robert shared the five-year national Indigenous tourism strategy. This presentation highlighted the importance of the Indigenous tourism industry and how much it has grown. ITAC has exceeded most of their five-year goals in its first three years.

The first experiential element of day two started at lunchtime with world class chef, Murray McDonald. Chef Murray prepared a locally harvested meal featuring moose, rabbit and cod. He also took the opportunity to explain the burgeoning Indigenous food industry.

After a full day of presentations, Scott Butt led participants on a medicine walk around the Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse and delivered a teaching on the crafting of spruce root baskets. After showing the participants how to the baskets are created, Scott passed around the baskets for people to try weaving them themselves.

The forum concluded with a musical evening featuring Paul Pike playing a blend of original and traditional music. Paul also shared his own journey and how important music and culture are in his life.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Sara Leah Hindy, Community Development Officer (Team Lead)

Fall 2018 marked the twentieth year of the Outdoor Education Program, a program dedicated to providing grade five students with a culturally-rich outdoor learning experience in the scenic Gros Morne National Park. This season, 14 schools with over 500 participants

"I loved Killdevil; it was the best! I had so much fun doing all the fun things you guys planned and it probably could be the best three days of my life!"

-Student testimonial

embarked on a unique learning adventure and found that their outdoor classroom provided inspiration, connection, and ample space for their imaginations to grow. During this season's Outdoor Education Program, our students created art, explored ecosystems, participated in cooperative learning activities, recited poetry, engaged in cultural traditions and listened to stories tied to the history of this land. Students played the hand drum and they decorated one with their fingerprints. They learned about the significance of the talking stick and they helped create talking sticks for others. Our students played outdoors but they also wore pajamas on Jamarama Day to show unity and compassion for children who aren't always able to play outside. This was a season of connections: connection to community, connection to the environment and connection to each other. What better way to celebrate the twentieth year of this remarkable program than to simply observe the positive impact it has on our next generation?



Children raise their watercolor paintings against the scenic backdrop and the source of inspiration

Sharing history, language and traditional knowledge with our youth in a landscape steeped in natural and cultural heritage



Students contribute original flags to the "All of Us" community project for CB Nuit, 2018

Outdoor learning on a beautiful autumn evening



QALIPU TO DELIVER MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING SERVICE



November 1, [Help Line](#) at 1-855-242-3310, or the online chat at 2018, Corner Brook—The Qalipu First Nation is pleased to announce an expansion to its Health Division

and health services delivery. Effective November 1, 2018, Qalipu will take on administration of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Mental Health Counselling benefit for members of the Band living in Atlantic Canada.

The NIHB Mental Health Counselling benefit is intended to provide coverage for mental health counselling to complement other mental wellness services that may be available. This service provides for up to 22 hours of counselling annually (with extensions if needed) for individuals, children, families and groups.

There are [numerous providers across the Atlantic Region that deliver this service](#) who are ready to set appointments with clients. To access counselling, members of the Band can choose a counsellor from the list, call to make an appointment and, after the appointment, the counsellor will send a request for approval to Qalipu for processing and the member bears no cost.

If a Band member needs to travel outside of their community to access their counsellor, they may also be eligible to receive support under the [medical transportation benefit](#).

Mitch Blanchard, Manager of the Health Service Division said, "There are times in all of our lives when counselling could make a difference, and we encourage all those who are eligible to take advantage of the help that is available. You don't have to go through it alone."

Those experiencing emotional distress and wishing to talk can also contact the toll-free [Hope for Wellness](#)

Mental health counselling is the second NIHB benefit for which Qalipu has taken over the administration on behalf of members living in Atlantic Canada. The Band began administering the medical transportation benefit last year and plans to pursue management of other programs and services to grow the Band's ability to serve its own membership, create employment opportunities for our people, and generate own source revenue that can be re-invested into our communities.

Reminder: Members are Required to Sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer

All Medical Transportation Reimbursements are being converted from paper cheques to Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) on January 1, 2019. All Band members are asked to get ready for this change, and avoid any delay in payment, by completing the following form: <http://qalipu.ca/qalipu/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NIHB-Member-EFT-Form.pdf>

Please return your completed form to the Band office:

By e-mail to: nlavers@qalipu.ca

OR

Mail to:

Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band
ATTN: NIHB Intake Clerk
3 Church St. Corner Brook, NL
A2H 2Z4

For more information about your Non-Insured Health Benefits, please visit our website and [follow us on Facebook](#) for information, tips and upcoming events.



WE ARE COMMITTED
TO HELPING OUR MEMBERS
REALIZE THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL



YOUTH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Submitted by Vickie MacDonald, Employment Coordinator

The Education & Training Department administers a number of education, training and employment initiatives. One of these initiatives is the Youth Summer Employment Program (YSEP). The YSEP has been in existence for over 10 years and was introduced by the Federation of Newfoundland Indians under a funding arrangement with Service Canada. This program has been successful in improving employability skills of Aboriginal youth that will assist them to succeed in the workforce. Additionally, students are provided with tools that will help them advance their education.

Employers love it too! Check out what Starlen Thistle of the Riverside Snack Bar had to say about their experience having one of our students on the job this past summer.

Cassidy Mullett
was a Youth
Summer
Student at
Riverside Snack
Bar this past



Dear Vickie,

I would like to first express my gratitude and satisfaction to the Qalipu First Nation for enabling local businesses to access this program. I am very pleased with the application and reporting process; it was simple and straight forward; and even though your organization oversaw the program financially, your faith and trust in local business managers/owners to hire, report and manage the students was more than appreciated.

Thistle's Riverside Snack Bar INC., hired a young lady, Cassidy Mullett. She was a grade 10 student who showed a tremendous interest in the position and in our work place environment. Throughout her work term, her enthusiasm and motivation to work was exceptional. She not only performed her duties, but she went over the top to ensure the performance of the business was at its full potential, from advertising and promoting our products to the cleanliness and service to our customers. She was a very dedicated employee and I am so pleased to say that she had a great first work experience. I know her positive work experience at our establishment has and will continue to benefit her in many ways in her future choices of employment and education.

Thank you again Qalipu First Nation for giving my establishment the opportunity to access this Youth Summer Employment Program. Our local economy is at an all-time low; but with programs such as YSE being a shared or joint partnership with local businesses we will all survive and continue to benefit our communities in a positive way.

Sincerely,

Starlen Thistle

INTERESTED IN HIRING A SUMMER STUDENT NEXT YEAR? CALL VICKIE AT 634-6893 OR EMAIL
VMACDONALD@QALIPU.CA

PREPARING OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE



2017 Participants: Kolton Bennett, Jessica Burry, Megan Collins (Missing from Photo), Mallory Hicks, Joshua Lannon, Donald Tyler Moss, Amber Murrin, Riley White, and Heather Wight

RCMP/QALIPU YOUTH PROGRAM

Submitted by **Vickie Macdonald,**
Employment Coordinator

The Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band and the RCMP are working together to build a worthwhile work experience for aboriginal youth who are interested in a career in policing and/or justice. This exciting job opportunity will give you an insightful look at the RCMP and may help you decide if this is a career opportunity you wish to pursue. This job opportunity is nine (9) weeks in duration from June-August. Successful applicants will attend a one week training session at the RCMP Headquarters in St. John's prior to being placed at the RCMP detachment closest to their location. This program is a great stepping stone for individuals interested in pursuing a career with the RCMP.

Applications will soon be made available for the 2019 Summer Season. Please check here in the new year: <http://qalipu.ca/youth-programs/>



FUNDING FOR STUDENTS

The Education and Training Department provides access to skills training and employment assistance through the **Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSP)** and the **Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)**.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students! Check out the story of two talented ladies, both on the Deans List for their excellent grades, that are being funded by the Education and Training Department. Way to go Shania and Mallory, you make us all proud!



Hello my name is **SHANIA CORMIER** and I am from the small community of Flat Bay, NL. I am enrolled in my third year of the Bachelor of Nursing Program at Grenfell Campus. I am very passionate about my career choice and I would not be where I am today without the continuous support that I receive from Qalipu. Qalipu has given me the support to help me reach my educational goals and to also enhance my learning experience. I am looking forward to completing my degree in 2020 and returning close to home to start off my career. I am proud and very grateful to be apart of the Qalipu Band. Looking forward to the future!



My name is **MALLORY HICKS**, I am from St. George's NL and I am in my third year of the Bachelor of Nursing program at Western Regional School of Nursing in Corner Brook. This program this far has been such an amazing experience, I have gotten the chance to work with, and learn from so many knowledgeable people in this profession. I have also gained a deep respect for every individual who works in healthcare. Qalipu funding has helped me in more ways than I can count, being funded has eased the financial burden many students are faced with when going through post secondary. This has allowed me to focus on my schooling and put my best foot forward each semester. My plan once I finish school, is to work close to home for the first few years before going on to complete my masters. I am excited to see what opportunities this profession opens up for me in the future.

Qalipu First Nation

The presence of Mi'kmaq populations living in Newfoundland was ignored in the Terms of Union when Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949.

In the 60 years that passed before recognition was achieved in 2011, the caribou people had roamed far and wide.

Qalipu (Pronounced: ha-lee-boo, Meaning: Caribou) is a vibrant Mi'kmaq First Nation established in 2011 as an Indigenous Band under the *Indian Act*. With some 22,000 members spread across many communities both on the island and abroad, we are one of the largest First Nation groups in Canada.

Qalipu has no reserve land; it is made up of sixty-seven traditional Mi'kmaq communities, spread out over nine Electoral Wards. An elected Chief and Council govern the Qalipu First Nation. Ward Councilors are elected to represent each of the nine Wards. Additionally, two Vice-Chiefs represent western and central Newfoundland and the Chief is the official spokesperson and leader of the Qalipu First Nation as a whole.

Qalipu has three satellite offices located in Glenwood, Grand Falls-Windsor, and St. George's. Its central administrative office is in Corner Brook. These offices give representation to the regions of our dispersed Mi'kmaq communities.

Core programs and services are delivered by a dedicated body of staff. Our service offering includes education and training, tourism development, health benefits and services, employment programs, registration assistance, natural resource management, culture and heritage and community economic development. Qalipu also conducts a variety of special programs which vary from year to year.

Economic and corporate development are led by the Qalipu Development Corporation (QDC). The QDC was established by the Chief and Council as an independent, arms-length corporate business entity. It functions as a holding company for all business operations and investments of the QFNB. Its primary mandate is to manage the Band's portfolio of existing business operations and seek new investment and joint-venture opportunities to ensure the Band's long term economic growth and overall sustainability.

Get to know us better by exploring our website, Qalipu.ca, or spending time with us at National Indigenous Peoples Day and other celebrations that are shared on our events calendar.



Contact Us

Maw-pemita'jik Qalipu'k is your Indigenous community newsletter. In it, we aim to share not only the happenings of the Band but also, to help connect our dispersed communities.

If you would like to give your thoughts on what you've read here, or share an upcoming community event, achievement, news item, or anything else that may be of interest to the community, please get in touch:

Alison White
Communications
Qalipu First Nation
Tel. 709-634-5163
Email awhite@qalipu.ca

Visit our website

WWW.QALIPU.CA