

Note from the Editor

Kwe' Members,

We hear you! Communication is important to you and it's important to us, too. We are committed to keeping the lines open and will continue to reach out to you via our Facebook page, "Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band", with regular email's to members, newsletters like this one, and on our website, Qalipu.ca.

Alison White, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Qalipu Program Updates

TOURISM CONSULTATIONS

Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation (QMFN) has identified tourism as a promising economic growth area. Their vision is to build on the tourism infrastructure already in place in the province and create a uniquely Aboriginal tourism strategy and implementation plan.



Photo by Stephen Rose, QMFN Natural Resources Technician

Qalipu met with members in Stephenville and Grand Falls-Windsor to work toward this goal. A third session was scheduled for Corner Brook but was canceled due to bad weather. This will be rescheduled.

Following the first consultation, QMFN Consultant, Terry Hickey, reported "We saw existing business operators, potential operators looking for information, youth, and members interested in culture and heritage.

We had lots of detailed engagement and feedback. We will re-engage with the participants through a webinar once we have had a chance to synthesize the feedback from the sessions."

If you did not have the chance to attend one of these consultations, keep an eye out for an upcoming member information bulletin on how to contribute your ideas via a survey and tourism webinar.

'Healing Waters' program to focus on health needs of members and culture-based healing



Pictured here (L-R) are Aboriginal Wellness Researchers Heather Mousseau and Brenda Gilligham, hired to work on a recently launched initiative, Healing Waters.

This research, consultation and assessment based project should result in a greater awareness of membership needs, and how to meet

those needs, in the area of health and wellness.

Health is a priority for QMFN. In 2010, a Health Needs Assessment study of Off-Reserve Mi'kmaq people in Western and Central Newfoundland was completed by the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. The study focused on communities with high concentrations of Mi'kmaq residents, and included a detailed survey on the health-related practices of Mi'kmaq individuals in those areas. It also delved into the existing health care services available and noted areas for service improvement.

[Read More](#)

QMFN pilot to improve Medical Transportation Benefit claims processing

As of January 2nd, members of QMFN from the wards of Gander Bay, Glenwood and Exploits who are living in Atlantic Canada, should see a faster return on their Medical Transportation Benefit claims thanks to a pilot project that will significantly reduce wait times on claim processing.

The Medical Transportation Benefit is an element of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), the health plan which all members of QMFN, and other First Nations and Inuit in Canada, are entitled to receive. The benefit provides financial compensation, based on rates set by Health Canada, for the cost of travel, meals, and accommodations to members with a health condition requiring travel to locations outside their communities to receive necessary medical services.

[Read More](#)

WELL-BEING

"Health encompasses all aspects of a person's life which of course includes the spirit, a belief acknowledged by traditional healers. By encouraging health and well-being through spirituality and culture awareness, we begin to holistically heal, not simply treat a disease or illness."

- Brenda Gilligham

REMINDERS

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT

Application Deadlines:

2015-16

Spring Semester	Feb27 th
Intersession Semester	Feb27 th
Summer Semester	Feb27 th
Fall Semester	Jun 30 th
Winter Semester	Oct 30 th

Visit [Our Website](#) to apply and to find out more about our student support programs.



QMFN to launch Certified Aboriginal Business Program



The Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation (QMFN) is taking a huge step forward in recognizing their member owned businesses by launching the Qalipu Certified Aboriginal Business program. Members of the Qalipu Business Network (QBN) will be invited to provide additional information to Qalipu in order to become certified Aboriginal businesses. Once certified they will be able to proudly display their certification using QBN's new brand and collaborate with businesses eager to do business with diverse companies.

QBN is an online registry of Qalipu member owned businesses. The registry not only makes it easier for industry to locate Aboriginal businesses in order to meet their diversity commitments, but also provides a variety of uses to members. Keep an eye on the QBN website (linked on Qalipu.ca) as these updates will be coming soon.

Artists and Crafters Residency Program

"It is, in part, through the work of artisans and crafts people that our culture is both carried on and at the same time, created. Through their art, we see elements of our history being blended with who we are today. It is a testament to a Mi'kmaq culture that is alive and evolving."

Chief Brendan Sheppard

Qalipu has rented an art studio in the new Rotary Arts Centre as part of a new program called The Artists and Crafters Residency Program. This unique project aims to support the development of Mi'kmaq art by providing a professional art studio space—a 70 sq. ft. art studio housed within the newly constructed Rotary Arts Centre.

The program also creates an opportunity to work alongside and collaborate with other emerging artists, and provides the chance to be recognized as a Mi'kmaq artist in the community. Applications are still being accepted. Please complete the application on Qalipu.ca and feel free to contact Mitch Blanchard for more information. Tel. (709) 634-8046 Email mblanchard@qalipu.ca

Reminder

GINU



Ginu (ghee nu) is the Mi'kmaq word for 'us' which we use to describe our membership database. Keeping your profile up to date is important as it is an element of eligibility for some of our programs and services, sometimes provides us with information on the right people for jobs, and gives us the information to reach you whether by email (regular updates go through email) or mail. If you haven't done so lately, update your profile [here](#).

Having trouble? Contact Charmaine Bath at (709) 679-2142

Expiry of SCIS cards for children



Please note that all SCIS (Secure Certificate of Indian Status) cards have a set date to which they will expire. This occurs on all members' birth dates, with adult cards expiring in a 10 year time frame, and children's in a 3 year time frame.

It should be noted that the majority of children's SCIS cards will be expiring in 2015. Parents must re-apply for a new card for their children. [Read More](#) (under "Latest News")

Qalipu Happenings

Qalipu/RCMP Youth Employment Opportunity



Qalipu Mi'kmaq Summer Student Program

Could a career in justice or law enforcement be your calling? QMFN and the RCMP are partnering again this year to offer youth an opportunity to explore this question while earning competitive wages (\$16/hr.) and gaining valuable work experience.

The 9 week summer-job placement is open to youth aged 19-29 that are full-time students who will return to school in the fall. Successful applicants will receive training at RCMP Headquarters, be placed at a detachment where they will be mentored by an RCMP officer, and engage in a variety of community activities.

The deadline to apply is Friday, February 13 at 4:00 pm. To find out more and complete your application, visit <http://qalipu.ca/wf/youth-programs> or contact Kristina Duffy Tel. (709) 634-5048, Email: kduffy@qalipu.ca

Qalipu Cultural Foundation official launch

Some members of the Band have grown up with stories and knowledge of Mi'kmaq culture while many more have little or no information and knowledge of this shared heritage. The Qalipu Cultural Foundation has been established to help provide that information and offer experiences that aid in the discovery of our collective past.

On February 11 at the K'taqmkuk Mi'kmaq Museum in St. George's, the Qalipu Cultural Foundation will celebrate its official launch with invited speakers, musical performances and an artisan's reception. Invitations for the event have already been sent out by organizers who have tried their best to include representation from our many communities, groups and stakeholders. If we have missed your organization please contact Alison at Tel. (709) 634-5163 or email awhite@qalipu.ca

Qalipu Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge-Species at Risk outreach seminars



Olive-sided Flycatcher

QMFN has been involved in the gathering of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, and research around Species at Risk in our province. Share your knowledge and raise your ecological awareness with a presentation and discussion at one of these upcoming seminars (6-8pm)

Stephenville, Feb. 09 Day's Inn,
Corner Brook, Feb. 11, Glynmill Inn,

Gander, Feb. 16, Albatross,

Grand Falls-Windsor, Feb. 17, Mount Peyton.

For more information, or to register please contact Scott Caines, Natural Resource Technician, at scaines@qalipu.ca or tel. (709) 634-1500

COMMUNITY EVENTS

When we hear about events relating to Mi'kmaq culture and heritage we will share the details. List your community event with us by contacting Alison at Tel. (709) 634-5163 Email awhite@qalipu.ca

Bay St. George—singing and drumming sessions

The Bay St. George Cultural Circle invites all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to attend their singing and drumming sessions Tuesday nights from 6:30–8 p.m. Anyone interested in learning to drum and sing traditional Mi'kmaq songs and receiving teachings is invited to visit the Bay St. George Cultural Circle at 329 Main St. in St. George's. For more information contact Odelle Pike at 721-0195

St. George's—Mi'kmaw language enthusiasts gathering

There will be a gathering this upcoming Sunday, February 1, 11:30 am- 2:45 pm at Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School in St. George's. The gathering is open to anyone interested in learning more about Mi'kmaq language. There will be two sessions with a potluck feast in between. Please bring something for sharing. For more information, please contact Delina Petit Pas through the Facebook page "Traditional Knowledge"

Stephenville Crossing—"Feast the Moon" midwinter sweat lodge and feast

Mutchie Bennett will be hosting a gathering on Wednesday, February 4th starting at 6:30 pm to celebrate the mid-winter full moon, something he says our ancestors might have done many years ago. The gathering is open to all. Attendees not wishing to participate in the sweat lodge are still welcome to gather around the sacred fire and join in the pot-luck style feast to follow. Please contact Mutchie to get all the details at Tel. (709) 214-1102 or Email kwbl@eastlink.ca