

## **For Immediate Release – February 16, 2012**

Chief Brendan Sheppard of the Qalipu Mi'Kmaq First Nation has announced that the Band is going to consult with its membership to get input on the development of the organization's first Economic Development Strategy.

The Qalipu Mi'Kmaq First Nation was created in September 2011 with over 20,000 members. The Band does not have designated reserve land and members predominantly reside in Central and Western Newfoundland.

Chief Sheppard stated "Our official recognition as status Mi'Kmaq Indians has provided us with an opportunity to actively engage in business and economic development in this province. We recognize that in order to be successful as a First Nation Band we must become pro-active in making sound business investments. The creation of an Economic Development Strategy is a key step in helping to create an environment for our members and communities to succeed."

The Qalipu Development Corporation has been incorporated to run existing business operations and explore future business developments. The Band and Council have also created a Department of Resources and Economic Development. It is responsible for community economic development and encouraging entrepreneurship.

The Economic Development Strategy will provide direction for Chief and Council, as well as staff, as they plan for future economic and community development in the areas of investment, entrepreneurship, employment and community growth.

"We are relying on our members to come forward and participate in the regional consultations," stated Chief Sheppard. "People can speak to this in-person at the sessions or by completing the on-line survey at [www.qalipu.ca](http://www.qalipu.ca). We are also accepting written submissions at our office in Corner Brook."

Regional consultations will be held in the following locations:

Grand Falls-Windsor      March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Mount Peyton Hotel

Corner Brook              March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Glynmill Inn

Stephenville              March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Holiday Inn

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