

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

Qalipu's Monthly Newsletter

January 2017

HOW WILL QALIPU FIRST NATION INCLUDE NON-STATUS ABORIGINAL PEOPLE?

"Chief and Council have pledged to build an inclusive Nation for the Qalipu Mi'kmaq. Status cards are not required to participate in Band led teachings, ceremonies or events. For instance, all people are welcome at powwows, sweat lodges, workshops, and functions of the Band. Furthermore, Qalipu will review policy on education and employment funding whose guidelines make it possible to financially support any eligible person who self-identifies as Aboriginal. We will be exploring all possible ways to support Mi'kmaq not registered under the Indian Act."

- Chief Brendan Mitchell

End of Enrolment Q & A

The Enrolment Committee has completed its review of all 101,000 applications. A letter regarding the Enrolment Committee's decision on your file and next steps will be mailed on January 31, 2017. You should expect to receive this letter in the mail within the first ten days of February. The Band has posted updated questions and answers regarding the end of the process on our website.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *I have moved since I applied. What should I do to ensure I receive my letter on January 31?*
- *What will my letter say?*
- *If I'm found eligible for Founding Membership, will I immediately get my status card and benefits as a status Indian?*
- *What is the Supplemental Agreement?*

Find the answer to these questions and many more on our [website](#)

WANT TO SEE YOUR PICTURE FEATURED HERE FOR 2017?

We are looking for a new caribou image to feature in the Maw-Pemita'jik Qalipu'k and other promotional materials throughout 2017. Do you have *the* photo? Send your best shot to the editor at awhite@qalipu.ca to win this spot and a gift bag containing a Qalipu hoodie, t-shirt, toque and water bottle. We will announce the winner in the next edition of Maw-Pemita'jik Qalipu'k. Remember to include your name and where the photo was taken. Good Luck!



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CHIEF TO DEMONSTRATORS:

“I have an obligation to act in the best interest of our First Nation”

Approximately 25 demonstrators gathered outside the Qalipu administrative office in Corner Brook earlier this month to raise concerns related to the upcoming conclusion of the Qalipu enrolment process. At the end of January, some 101,000 letters will be mailed to Qalipu members, and those seeking membership, advising them of the Enrolment Committee’s decision on their application to become members of the Qalipu First Nation. This marks the end of the Bands registration process that began in 2008 when the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) partnered in signing the [Agreement for the Recognition of the Qalipu Mi’kmaq Band](#).

The primary concern expressed by the demonstrators gathered at the gazebo on the Majestic Lawn before walking to MP Gudie Hutchings’ office, was that many people will not be found eligible for Founding Membership in the Band following their assessment under the enrolment criteria. Some expressed the concern that their ancestry alone should be enough to qualify for membership in the First Nation. Organizer and Qalipu member Blain Ford argued that the process should be thrown out, and the fight for recognition be taken up anew.

Chief Mitchell, who stood in solidarity with the demonstrators along with Corner Brook Ward Councilor Brian Dicks, said that while he is sympathetic to the concerns of applicants, walking away from the table or starting over would not be in the best interest of the First Nation. He said, “I’m concerned about jeopardizing the decades of effort and persistence which allowed us to form the Qalipu Mi’kmaq First Nation. After an incredible investment of time and resources, it would be unreasonable to walk away and expect that Canada would be willing to sit with us again any time soon on a new enrolment process. Walking away would likely put us in breach of the Supplemental Agreement and Agreement in Principle with the potential of destroying the Qalipu First Nation.

He also expressed concern over the risk of losing or suspending the many programs and benefits available to those who gain membership in Qalipu First Nation.



Demonstrators walk to the office of MP Gudie Hutchings

In a related statement, Chief Mitchell commented, “When I was elected in 2015, the legal agreements setting out how Founding Membership in the Qalipu First Nation was to be determined had already been established. I might have negotiated things differently had I been in a leadership position at the time that agreements were made. However, this is the legal agreement that created our First Nation and I have an obligation, as difficult as the outcome will be for many, to act in the best interest of our First Nation as a whole to see the enrolment process through as it had been previously negotiated.”



Demonstrators gather outside the office of MP Gudie Hutchings

NOTICE FOR APPLICANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE QALIPU MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION

The Qalipu enrolment process is coming to an end. On January 31, 2017, letters will be mailed to all applicants, except those previously rejected, advising them on the decision of the Enrolment Committee (EC) and next steps. Applicants can expect to receive this letter within the first ten days of February.

- Have you moved? Call 1-800-561-2266 to update your address with INAC
- If you don't receive your letter by February 13, 2017, please contact the INAC Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation information line at 1-800-561-2266
- The enrolment process will be followed by an appeal period which will begin on February 1, 2017 and be completed in the fall of 2017.
- Applicants who wish to appeal the decision of the EC can do so by completing the appeal notice attached to their decision letter and return it to the Appeal Master no later than March 17, 2017.
- A new Founding Members list will be established after the determination of all appeals in the spring of 2018.

For more information:

Web: www.aandc.gc.ca/qalipu

Phone: 1-800-561-2266

MORE INFORMATION

Frequently asked questions and answers about this process, take a look:

[End of Enrolment Q & A](#)

Are you interested in the history leading up to the creation of our First Nation, including where we are today? Click the link below for a summary:

[Road to Recognition of the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq-History](#)

Would you like to review all the details of the Agreement and related documents? Find these documents here:

- [Agreement for the Recognition of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq Band](#)
- [Amendment to the Agreement for the Recognition of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq Band in relation to Conne River](#)
- [Accelerated Process of Enrolment](#)
- [Exclusion of Sop's Arm](#)

How about the Supplemental Agreement?

- [Supplemental Agreement](#)
- [Directive to the Enrolment Committee and the Appeal Master \(s\)](#)

What has Chief Mitchell been saying about the end of Enrolment? Click on the links below to hear from our Chief in news items posted by the Qalipu First Nation.

- [Christmas Greetings from the Chief](#)
- [Chief to Demonstrators: I have an obligation to act in the best interest of our First Nation](#)
- [Video: Chief Mitchell talks Enrolment at Corner Brook Café](#)

Do you still have unanswered questions? Please email them to our Communications Officer at awhite@qalipu.ca

Coming Soon on Qalipu.ca: Questions and Answers about the appeal process

Qalipu Welcomes Band Manager



Randy Drover

The Qalipu First Nation is pleased to advise that a new Band Manager has been hired to fill the important position of working with Chief and Council and leading staff. Randy Drover of Bishop's Falls will begin working for the Nation on January 9, 2017.

Chief Mitchell said that application and interview process included the input of Executive (Chief and Vice Chiefs), Council and independent recruiter Bonnell Cole Janes. He noted that there were many strong applicants and that making the right decision on who would be the right fit to assume this important position, was a difficult decision that merited a lot of time and focus. In the end, it was Drover's combined involvement with the Mi'kmaq movement, experience with Qalipu Council, education and work experience that landed him the job.

Chief Mitchell said, "Randy's education, work experience and prior involvement with the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and Qalipu Council have equipped him for the important role of Band Manager."

Between 2006 and 2016 Randy worked with the Town of Bishop's Falls in various capacities; he managed projects including development and implementation of the Town's strategic community development plan, served two years as Town Clerk, and in 2010 was promoted to Town Manager/Clerk. During his time with the municipality, Randy gained extensive experience in preparing and managing annual budgets, policy development, strategic planning, human resources, project management, program development, labour relations/collective agreement negotiations, clerking, and a variety of other assignments. Prior to becoming Band Manager, Randy was employed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as a Manager of Operations with Service NL.

In terms of education, Randy holds a Master of Public Administration Degree from Dalhousie University, a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Memorial University, and a Diploma of Business Management (Human Resources) from the College of the North Atlantic.

Reminder: Medical Transportation Claims

The Health Division would like to remind members living in one of the nine wards or within Atlantic Canada to submit their Medical Transportation claim to:

**Qalipu First Nation
(Corner Brook Office)
3 Church Street
Corner Brook, NL
A2H – 2Z4**

By sending your claim to Health Canada, the timeframe in which your reimbursement payment is received may be delayed by a minimum of 2 weeks.

Members living outside Atlantic Canada must submit their Medical Transportation claim to the Health Canada Regional Office located closest to their area.

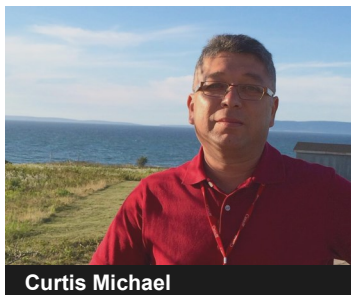
As the Health Division is only administering Non-Insured Health Benefit's Medical Transportation program, all other Non-Insured Health Benefit claims must be submitted to the appropriate Health Canada Departments located closest to your area.

Rethinking Language

I signed up to participate in the Grenfell Mi'kmaq Teaching and Learning course for one reason. As the Communications Officer for a Mi'kmaq Nation, I knew that many of our readers expect me to have a grasp on the Mi'kmaq language. I approached the course in this way- as a professional obligation that I wasn't entirely excited about. That is to say, learning without heart.

I longed for a deeper experience, like that which seemed to be motivating the language warriors who practice with gusto around sharing circles, powwows, online interest groups, and in greeting one another.

However, what I believed (something I was sure I would have to hide from the '*language is culture!*' participants) was that we are English speaking Mi'kmaq and what difference does it make if we express ourselves, our Mi'kmaq spirit, in English? I felt that more than an ancient language, my Mi'kmaq culture was about adaptation and survival. After all, my ancestors had learned French and English, and spoke these new languages with a strong spirit of survival and forward momentum. Why now go back?



Curtis Michael

Learning with Nijjaqmij (my spirit)

Curtis Michael a Mi'kmaq teacher from Shubenacadie who is teaching our group through online discussion forum and videos, unknowingly posted a video that answered this question that I was privately discussing with the Creator. Using the word *Nijjaqmij* (in-jee-jock-ha-midge) he demonstrated that a word is more than a word, it is a lesson about the people who use it and their shared tribal wisdom.

Curtis said, "*There's one word, Nijjaqmij. It's a pretty neat word. Mainly because I've learned it has a few meanings. First of all Nijjaqmij means my shadow. It also means my soul, my spirit.*" He said that he had asked himself, 'why these multiple meanings for one word?'

Curtis turned to Elders from his community for an answer. He said, "*I was informed by a few Elders here and there. 'Well,' the Elders said, 'anything that casts a shadow, has a soul.'*" Curtis said that, with this in mind, he realized a teaching. He said, "*if it can cast a shadow, then it has a soul. Ahh, well that means we should respect it!*"

Curtis went on to add still more depth to the word *Nijjaqmij* through a teaching he received from another Elder who told Curtis "*You take your hand and put it over the ground. You'll see your shadow right? But as you go closer to the ground...do you notice what happens as you move your hand closer to the ground?*"

He responded, "*It gets darker.*"

"Yes," the Elder said. "*Your spirit gets stronger closer to the earth. We're from the earth. We sprouted from the ground, from mother earth.*"

"Aha Moment"

At last, an 'aha' moment tuning me in to the deeper purpose I was looking for. An example of how language is culture, just as I've heard people say. Learning the language is more than translation from English to Mi'kmaq (learning without heart). It is the essence of a people. More than identifying objects and basic communication that will be lost on most, language leads the way to the very thoughts, emotions and wisdom that flowed through the people and the meanings that make up the foundation of who we are today. Wela'in Curits, aqk Wela'in Kisu'lkw.

This community education course is based on a partnership between the Mi'kmaq Burial Ground Research and Restoration Association (MBGRRRA) and Grenfell Campus. It is offered through GO Engagement and administered by Kelly Anne Butler, Student Affairs Officer—Aboriginal Affairs, Student Services.

The intent of the course is to build on MBGRRRA's language and culture immersion camps offered throughout Bay St. George over the past three years. Grenfell's delivery of this course is part of a larger plan to commence offering basic Mi'kmaq courses through GO Engagement's community education program beginning in the fall of 2017.

For more information, contact Kelly Anne Butler at kbutler@grenfell.mun.ca



L-R Monique Carroll, Manager of Education and Training, Ashtyn McLean, the 2016 recipient of the Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship, and Keith Goulding, Director of Work Force Qalipu

2016 Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship Winner

The Qalipu First Nation is pleased to announce that Ashtyn McLean, a fourth year Bachelor of Social Work student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, is the 2016 recipient of the Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, valued at \$1000, is awarded each year in memory of Bernadette “Bernie” Hanlon, a former Qalipu employee and member who dedicated her life to working with, supporting and encouraging aboriginal students to achieve their dreams. Bernie was also known for her passion for Mi’kmaq culture. As such, this scholarship is awarded to a student who not only demonstrates commitment to academic success, but also to an individual who embodies Bernie’s passion for culture and community.

Monique Carroll, Education and Training Manager at Qalipu First Nation was on hand to make the presentation to McLean, along with Keith Goulding, Director of Work Force Qalipu.

“We have been following Ashtyn’s growth in our community for some time. She has worked as a summer student telling the story of the Newfoundland Mi’kmaq at the Ktaqmkuk Mi’kmaq Museum in St. George’s, and excelled in community and cultural engagement with her involvement in the RCMP/Qalipu Mi’kmaq Summer Student Program. Ashtyn has also volunteered as a cultural youth educator, and is an active member of the Indian Cove Women’s Circle. Combined with her success in the Bachelor of Social Work program, Ashtyn was a great choice to win this award. We are all so proud of her.”

Grateful for the Support

On her Christmas break Ashtyn was back home in St. George’s and visited the Qalipu offices there to receive the scholarship. She humbly accepted the award and shared her vision for the future.

“I hope to work in the province, ideally I will find employment close to home,” Ashtyn said. “The funding I received from Qalipu to complete my degree, along with this scholarship, will allow me to come out of university without the high debt that too many students have to face while also trying to get a job. I’m so thankful for the financial help.”

Ashtyn is currently completing the final semester of her program, an unpaid work term in the Stephenville area with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Would you or someone you know be an ideal candidate for the Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship? Find out more about this and other awards [here](#)

HOW TO APPLY

To apply to the Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship

**Work Force Qalipu
Education and Training
Monique Carroll
709-647-3096
mcarroll@galipu.ca**

Engagement Sessions:

Western

When: 6:00 p.m.
January 24th

Where: Qalipu
Community Room
1 Church Street,
Corner Brook

Central

When: 6:00 p.m.
January 26th

Where: Qalipu
Community Room
28 Hardy Ave
Grand-falls Windsor

Light Refreshments to be provided.
For more information on the work of QNR and the upcoming engagement sessions please contact:

Andrea Coombs,
Natural Resources Technician
Tel: 709-634-1500
E-mail: acoombs@qalipu.ca

Qalipu Natural Resources Division to Host Engagement Sessions, Review Purposed Changes to Fisheries and Navigation Protection Acts.



Photo Credits : Stephen Rose

Later this month the Qalipu First Nation Natural Resource Division (QNR) will host engagement sessions with members to request input on the federal government review of the changes to the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act. The focus of the review is restoration of lost protections and the addition of modern safeguards to both Acts.

It is important that our First Nation community provide input regarding the best ways to safeguard our fish and fish habitat for future generations, as well as comment on the impact of legislation change on the long-term viability of commercial and recreational use of Canada's waterways.

QNR is requesting that Band members come forward and participate in one of two upcoming regional engagement sessions to be held in Western and Central Newfoundland. Feedback can be provided to us in-person at the sessions, or through written submissions to acoombs@qalipu.ca.

For background information on the Fisheries Act changes, please visit [here](#). For background information on the Navigation Protection Act changes, please visit [here](#).


Expressions of Qalipu Land

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 25, 2017

Art show at the Arts and Culture Centre in Corner Brook featuring the work of Marcus Gosse and Scott Butt.

- Opening Art Show: January 28 3:00-5:00 PM
- Carvings
- Paintings
- Sculpture
- Purchase a treasured artwork for your home or business.

ART SHOW
"Expressions Of Qalipu Land"
Arts and Culture Centre
Corner Brook, NL



FEATURED ARTISTS:
MARCUS GOSSE
SCOTT BUTT

"Expressions of Qalipu Land Art Show" (Jan 28-Feb 25, 2017)
Mi'kmaq Carvings, Paintings, and Sculpture For Purchase
Opening of Art Show:
Saturday, January 28th, 2017
Arts and Culture Centre - Corner Brook, NL
Time: 3:00 - 5:00pm

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Norpen Aboriginal Womens Circle

Santa brought each lady a personal smudging kit. The ladies also visited the Northern Retirement Home with gifts, and shared drumming with the seniors.



Norpen Aboriginal Women's Circle Christmas Activities

Mi'kmaq Connections: Meet the Besaw Brothers



(L-R) Jesse, Braden, and Tom Besaw

Jesse, Braden, and Tom Besaw are three Mi'kmaq brothers who grew up in Beaverton, Ontario. They are members of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation in Newfoundland, where their father is from. The Besaw boys attended Thorah Central Public School and Brock High School; both of these schools are schools in the Durham District School Board.

All three of the Besaws brothers are now students at Queen's University in Kingston! They are busy studying this week for exams. Tom will graduate in 2017 with a degree in Civil Engineering; Jesse will graduate in 2018 with a degree in Physical Therapy, and Braden, who just started in engineering this year, will graduate in 2020.

Source: [Four Directions Aboriginal Student Center, Queens University](#)

Alexis Bennett: Little Drummer Girl

Alexis Bennett, daughter of Troy Bennett and Michelle Lasaga, from Stephenville Crossing recently visited the Qalipu Office in Stephenville.

Following in her fathers footsteps, who plays both the big drum and a hand drum, Alexis lights up the room when she drums and shall dances.

At just the age of 2 her parents say she is the jewel of the family, after having four boys(some of whom are now adults) they are over joyed to be able to share their culture with her.



Alexis Bennett

IN OUR OFFICE

The Dangers of Texting and Driving

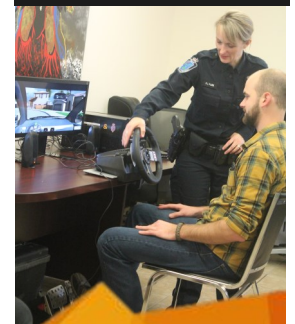
Friday , December 16, 2016, Cst. Shawna Park of the Corner Brook Detachment of the RNC offered to facilitate a presentation to our staff regarding the topic of distracted driving. She presented a wonderful slide show, filled with videos and statistics, as well as, the texting and driving simulator. Out of the five employees who tried the simulator only one of us passed it, everyone else ended up in major accidents. With so many accidents happening these days due to texting while driving, this presentation showed us how quickly things can happen. Thank you Shawna and RNC!



**6,000 PEOPLE IN CANADA
DIE ANNUALLY AS A RESULT OF
TEXTING RELATED ACCIDENTS**



Cst. Shawna Park Shows Stephen Rose how to use the simulation.



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 24,000 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-six 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 and 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 growing body of staff. Our service offering includes education and training, tourism development, health benefits and services, employment programs, registration assistance, environmental monitoring, 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 Qalipu Business Trust Committee which is comprised of representation from Council, senior staff, and members at large. The Committee, along with the Qalipu Business Network, and the Mawio'mi Business Forum, represent some of the avenues where relationships are built and partnerships are formed with industry and other stakeholders to Foster Band prosperity and growth.

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



Qalipu
FIRST NATION

Contact Us

Maw-pemita'jik Qalipu'k is a monthly 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 any-thing else that may be of interest to our indigenous community, please get in touch:

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

Visit our website

WWW.QALIPU.CA