

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

Newsletter

June 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MAY 29, 2017

Kwe'

We made it through the winter and can now look forward to warmer temperatures, sunny days and time outside. The Mi'kmaq of the island have weathered a lot together, still we find many things to be thankful for.

I am proud to share with you all that our Nation has again this year received an excellent rating in our General Assessment. Our score of 2.2, gauging effectiveness of our processes, financial management and reporting and other areas that measure our accountability, was among the best of First Nations in Canada.

[Click here to read more of this Message from the Chief](#)

National Aboriginal Day and Summer Celebrations

National Aboriginal Day is a day to celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Metis. No longer just celebrated on June 21, activities and events have been planned in several communities across the province.

Find out what's happening in your area for Aboriginal Day, local powwows, and other events all summer long by checking our events calendar here: <http://qalipu.ca/events/>

Please feel free to use this calendar to keep the indigenous community aware of the many events happening this summer and throughout the year. Contact awhite@qalipu.ca to have your event posted.



Photo by Jerry MacQuarrie of Kippens, NL. Taken near Bottom Brook.

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OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Partners Committed to Long Term Sustainability of Program

In May, staff at the Outdoor Education Program in Gros Morne National Park welcomed its first groups of grade five students, their teachers and parent chaperones for the 2017 school year. The two-and-a-half-day, camp-based program, now in its 20th year, is an educational experience that meets classroom curriculum requirements, while students benefit from immersion in the great outdoors.

Qalipu has been involved in the Outdoor Education Program since 2014 through the delivery of a cultural teaching module, and last year took on the enhanced role of coordinating the program in partnership with the Western Newfoundland and Labrador English School District and Parks Canada.

Ralph Eldridge, Director of Service Qalipu, said, "The program was a natural fit for Qalipu as it aligns with our mandate to engage youth in learning opportunities. The fact that it takes place in an outdoor setting helps to engrain a sense of importance of our natural world. It goes beyond the classroom, beyond the text book."

Eldridge noted that the program is structured around seven modules that have children engaged in activities such as an archaeology dig, a night hike, painting, poetry writing, and exploration and appreciation of our natural environment. Each of the modules corresponds with grade 5 curriculum outcomes.

Michelle Matthews, Education Outreach Officer, hired by the Band to facilitate the program, works with children and teachers on the ground at Killdevil. She said, "While helping to coordinate this program, Qalipu will also continue to deliver one of the modules, *Epsisi'tat Awia'tat (Little Feet Travelling in a Circle)*. The focus of the culturally based module centers on sustainability, history of the aboriginal people in Newfoundland and Labrador, and how the Mi'kmaq relied on mother earth to provide for the necessities of life. We will also continue to provide unique cultural experiences to students through participation in such

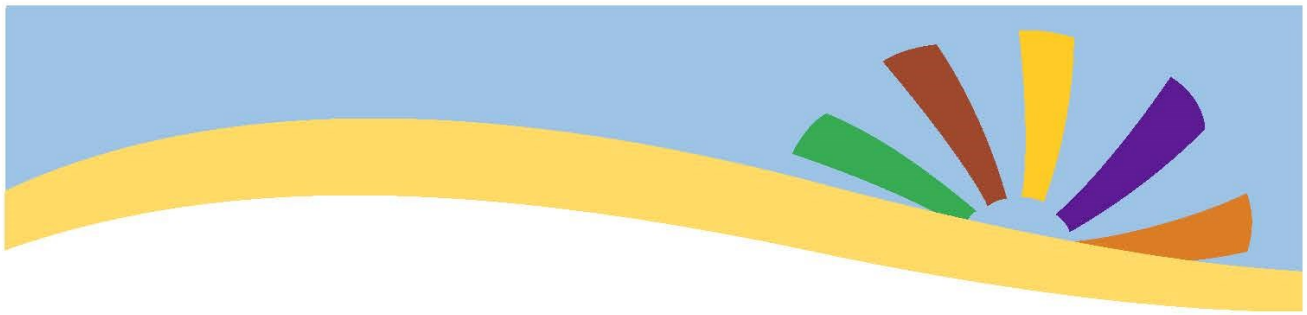
things as talking circles, drumming and singing.

Future goals for the program include ensuring sustainability for generations to come, providing opportunities for schools in the central region to participate in the Killdevil program or offering a parallel program in that region, and integrating greater cultural content within the existing teaching modules.

For more information on getting your classroom involved in this opportunity, please contact Education Outreach Officer Michelle Matthews at 634-3856 or by email mmatthews@qalipu.ca



Maddy Melanson (St. Michael's Elementary) leads Claire Smith (Our Lady of Mercy Elementary). This activity is part of a module that has children exploring nature using senses other than sight.



Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Round Table Community Engagement



- * We want to hear from parents, family members, communities, early childhood educators, youth, elders, and experts about your vision for early learning and child care for Indigenous children and families. There will be food and refreshments provided as well as travel / accommodations for people travelling out of town.

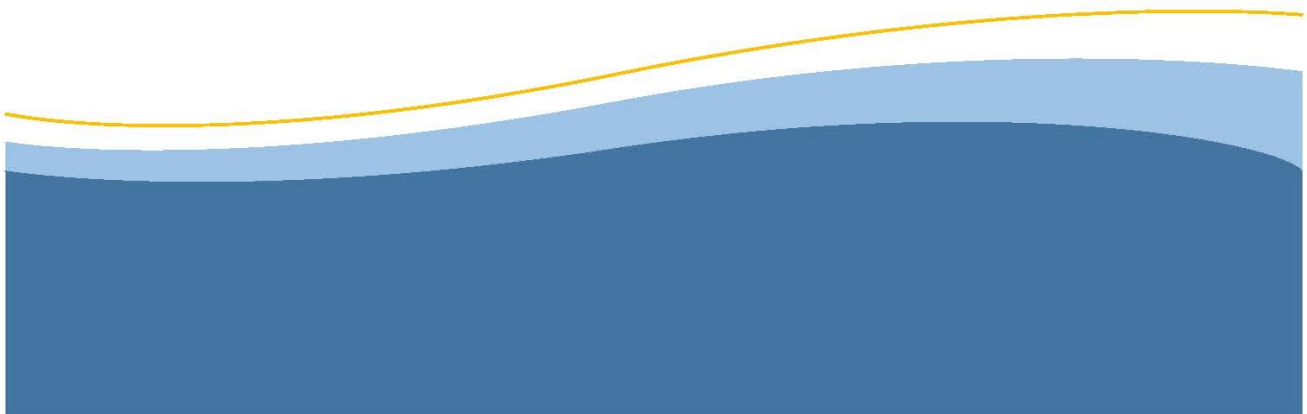
July 5, 2017, 10 to 3 p.m.



Bennett Hall

11 West Street, Corner Brook, A2H 2Y6

To register, please email vmacdonald@qalipu.ca. The deadline to register is June 28, 2017



RNC Junior Police Academy: Seeking Volunteers and Participants



Last year at the Junior Police Academy children met an RNC service dog

From August 8-11, The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and Qalipu Cultural Foundation are partnering to host the Junior Police Academy at Killdevil Camp. This camp is designed to create stronger relationships with youth (10-12 years old) and police as well as with other community partners.

The Junior Police Academy will enhance participant learning on a variety of topics by providing a healthy, active and unplugged environment where youth will be educated on the benefits of healthy, responsible decision making. Topics to include healthy eating, decision making and lifestyle choices, bicycle safety, fire safety, environmental sustainability, police investigative techniques and Mi'kmaq cultural awareness.

- Transportation from Corner Brook to Killdevil and return will be provided.
- Meals and accommodations provided while at camp.
- Bring your own sleeping bag, bedding and camping necessities.
- Deadline to apply is June 28th, 2017.
- Apply here: [RNC Junior Police Academy Youth Application](#)

To facilitate this event, we are currently seeking volunteer chaperones. Volunteers will be responsible for general supervision of youth during the camp.

- Volunteer Chaperons [click here](#) for Volunteer Application.
- Deadline for volunteer registration is July 21st @ 4 pm.

For questions regarding the RNC Junior Police Academy please email mblanchard@qalipu.ca

Elder Calvin White Receives Honorary Doctorate Degree

For his pivotal role in achieving recognition for Newfoundland Mi'kmaq and his longstanding commitment to the rights of his people, Flat Bay Elder Calvin White was awarded the honorary doctor of laws degree from Memorial University.

"Mi'kmaq, and born and raised in Flat Bay, N.L., Calvin White is one of the founders of the Aboriginal revival in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In the 1960's, he helped organize Aboriginal families in the province, including those in Conne River and Labrador, to form the Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador which later became the Federation of Newfoundland Indians.

Mr. White is one of the original petitioners in the 1989 legal action brought by the FNI against the federal government, which eventually resulted in the agreement to form the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation,"

[Click here to read more about Calvin White in MUN's Gazette](#)



Picture compliments of Ivan J. White

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Cst. Shawna Park first runner up for Police Officer of the Year Award



Cst. Shawna Park at the 2016 RNC Junior Police Academy

The Police Officer of the Year Award (POYA) program honours enforcement officers in Newfoundland and Labrador that perform beyond the call of duty both on the job and in the community.

Qalipu First Nation is pleased to share our pride in Cst. Shawna Park, Media Relations/Community Services Officer for the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Corner Brook Region, has been recognized as the first runner up for Police Officer of the Year Award. Shawna is well known for her frequent engagement as a partner and friend to the Mi'kmaq community.

Cst. Park, in her current role, has continued to work with victims of domestic violence and she sits on the Domestic Violence Working Group committee for the RNC. Cst. Park was instrumental in setting up the first ever Pet Foster/Pet Safe Keeping program for the City of Corner Brook and surrounding areas. This program ensures that victims of domestic violence can find temporary homes for pets allowing them to leave abusive situations without leaving their pets behind. The RNC has now partnered with Willow House, NL West SPCA, Humber Valley Veterinary Clinic and the City of Corner Brook to help ensure this program is a success and brings comfort to victims of domestic violence.

Over the past three years, Cst. Shawna Park has taken an active leadership role in building a relationship between Qalipu First Nation and the RNC. As an indigenous female police officer, Cst. Shawna Park has demonstrated unwavering loyalty and commitment to her profession, family, community and First Nation. Cst. Shawna Park strives to improve the lives of all the people she touches and unselfishly dedicates her time to initiatives aimed at the advancement of the community. She is dedicated to providing opportunities for dialogue between community members and the RNC and is committed to building trust and forming strong, lasting relationships.

Cst. Park is dedicated to reducing the historical barriers between individuals and policing agencies. She is committed to fostering stronger, healthier police-community relations, implementing strategies to improve lines of communication and build trust with community members from diverse backgrounds.

Cst. Park strengthens many partnerships within the community through secondary schools, the university and with many programs with partner organizations such as Willow House, Corner Brook Women's Centre, Western Regional Coalition to End Violence, Aids Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador, Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation, and LBGTQ. Cst. Park is also engaged in the community through programs that educate participants about driving while distracted, she assists in training other departments on first response to sexual assault and domestic violence, and violence against seniors. She facilitates the Junior Police Academy Summer Camps and has been involved in panel discussions on prescription drug misuse.

Cst. Shawna Park is described by her colleagues as "bringing new light to law enforcement; she is welcoming, positive and friendly... can always be counted on as a volunteer, supporter, liaison, facilitator and professional."

There is no doubt, Cst. Park's community engagement is helping to reduce historical barriers to community policing while building and fostering stronger relationships and improving the lines of communication.

Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



Hall (left) receives Innovation Award from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

Paula Hall is a Qalipu member and vice-principal at an Ottawa high school who worked with community partners to implement an Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program (InSTEM program) at Gloucester High School in 2016-2017. Collaborating with not-for-profit group Actua (who deliver STEM projects to youth across the country), University of Ottawa Faculty of Engineering and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Hall supported the delivery of the InSTEM project for Grades 9-12 Indigenous students this year.

The project enabled Indigenous students to experience STEM through the lens of both Indigenous cultural knowledge, and western science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The goal of the project is to create learning environments where Indigenous students see themselves being successful within the STEM fields of study, also providing cross cultural learning experiences for participating non-Indigenous students. Uniquely, the project included Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers who spoke to cultural issues and science through Indigenous experience and where there is alignment to western science. Hall's participation in the project earned her an Innovation Award from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board which recognizes noteworthy contribution of a staff member to the development of innovative concepts, suggestions, actions, or process improvements that result in immediate and significant ongoing benefit to the school district.

Paula's inspiration in supporting Indigenous students comes from her family who are proud Mi'kmaq and she especially recognizes her grandfather, Donald Bennett, who has always instilled the importance of Indigenous culture in his family and community.

Qalipu's Annual Janeway Donation



\$5000.00, collected through fundraising efforts at four office locations.

NAWN Youth Workshops

Join Us... ARE YOU AN ABORIGINAL YOUTH BETWEEN 10-14 YEARS OLD?



WE WANT YOU!!!

Come spend the day with us. Let's play some games and talk about self esteem and body image. Help us develop a course for your Aboriginal peers. We want your stories and opinions.

ALL IN A FUN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

Workshops to be offered in the following communities:

Grand Falls (3 June)

Port Saunders (4 June)

Corner Brook (10 June)

Benoit's Cove (11 June)

Stephenville (17 June)

St. George's (24 June)



**Win a Tablet!!! 1 in 10
participants will leave the day
with a new Tablet. Join us for your
chance to win.**

Lunch is provided. Limited seating for 15 youth in each session.

For more information or to register for your nearest location, please contact
Andrew Sheppard at (709) 643-4563 or by email at
andrewthomassheppard@gmail.com



Student Success

Aboriginal Role Model



My name is Michael Brake and I am in grade twelve at WJ Mouat. I have Qalipu First Nation Ancestry, Mi'kmaq from Newfoundland. These past four years have been incredible. I had the opportunity to make many great friends and develop my leadership skills in the Mouat Aboriginal Student Council (MASC). I joined a Healthy Living Boys Group, where we learned the teachings of the medicine wheel, such as the importance of mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health, and how to continue to grow in all four areas. I travelled to Ottawa with the school and on this trip, things really came together for me. I had the opportunity to really develop my leadership abilities. We planned monthly feasts, archery, marksmanship, and overnight outings. I feel more confident, living life to the fullest, and achieving my goals. This journey was not easy. I struggled with being bullied and I also made mistakes. Being a role model isn't about being perfect. But I feel that we are not defined by our mistakes, but by the way we chose to respond, and grow. My best advice for future students is get involved. Play sports, or join clubs and leadership. Allow yourself time to grow into your own person and stay true to yourself. Allow yourself to make mistakes and grow, keep your head held high, and be proud of who you are as an Aboriginal person. Be respectful in your words and actions. Be caring and compassionate.



Weekly Youth Workshops were held at the Plum Point Youth Centre by Norpen Aboriginal Women's Circle throughout the winter. The youth did smudging, drumming, sharing a little of the Mi'kmaq language, crafts such as dream catchers, medicine bags, necklaces, painting, rattles, family trees, and much more! Our group was delighted to share a little of our culture with such eager and enthusiastic young people.

-Submitted by Mildred Lavers

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY WHITE

Accepts position of Assistant Deputy Minister with Indigenous Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador



Qalipu First Nation is pleased to share that Ms. Judy White, a well-known Mi'kmaq leader from the community of Flat Bay, has accepted a position as the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ms. White holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Dalhousie Law School with emphasis on Aboriginal Law. She has completed the Intensive Program of Lands, Resources and First Nations Government at Osgoode Hall Law School, as well as a certificate in Leading People's and investing in sustainable communities, an Indigenous program at Harvard Business school. Ms. White is also a certified board director through completing the Chartered Directors Program at McMaster University.

Her most recent role was Chief Executive Officer of the Assembly of First Nations, and has also worked as the Self Government Advisor for Miawpukek First Nation, and as a partner with the law firm of McDonald White located at Conne River, Newfoundland Labrador, which specializes in aboriginal law.

Ms. White has vast board and governance experience and has served many agencies and in various capacities including the National Centre for First Nations Governance, the First Nations Financial Management Board, Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Board of Regents for Memorial University and most recently the Small Departments Audit Committee.

Brendan Mitchell, Chief of the Qalipu First Nation, said, "Ms. White's education, work experience and involvement with indigenous people, communities and organizations have equipped her with the means to accomplishing much in her new position. We can all be proud of her achievements and I look forward to working with and assisting her in her role as Assistant Deputy Minister. It's great to have a true indigenous voice in this important position within Government."

Rental Space in Grand Falls-Windsor



Location: 28 Hardy Avenue

Available: July 1, 2017

Approximately 790 square feet is available which is suitable for office or retail space. Common Kitchen and bathroom areas. Wheelchair accessible. Large parking lot. Centrally located. Heat and light included.

For more information, please contact Rob Dicks at 634-6895 or email rdicks@qalipu.ca

A Taste of the Great Outdoors



Join the fun on June 28 at 7:00 PM at Shallow Bay Beach. Accompanied by songs and storytelling by Mi'kmaq Park Interpreter Kevin Barnes and friends, Executive Chefs Frank Wildmer and Alain Bosse will incorporate Mi'kmaq traditional foods to show you how to create something beautiful in a hands-on, interactive evening around the campfire.

World Ocean's Day



World Ocean's Day, June 8, is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. This year, Qalipu partnered with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the World Wildlife Federation, the Marine Institute, ACAP Humber Arm, Naia, Canadian Museum of Nature, Nortrax, the provincial government and the city of Corner Brook. There were 6 schools visited in total; St Peters Academy, Templeton, JJ Curling, CC Loughlin, Xavier, and Our Lady of Mercy Elementary. Approximately 600 students participated in total, ranging from grade K-8. Some of the events involved map activities, board walk activities where kids drew how they expect the ocean to look in the future, craft making that had students cutting out hand prints and decorating them as fish, canvas bag deco-

rating with one side showing different things found in the ocean, and the other showing how technology has changed, and a beach and land cleanup in the St. Georges area.



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-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 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 anything else that may be of interest to our indigenous community, please get in touch:

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Visit our website

WWW.QALIPU.CA