

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

Qalipu's Newsletter

August 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JULY 14, 2017

"I'm proud to report some positive steps taken recently toward our Economic Development goals. The pursuit of successful investment and business growth is the Band's responsibility. As a Nation without reserve lands, we do not have access to significant natural resources to fuel growth and meet the demand for programs and services. We must focus on generating income and wealth from sources other than direct government funding through successful economic growth and business development. To that end, Qalipu has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Barry Group Inc., the largest inshore fishing enterprise in Atlantic Canada."

- Chief Brendan Mitchell

[Find out more in this month's Message from the Chief.](#)

Eastern Owl inspiration for a new generation



L-R Kayla Stride, Jaime O'Leary, Jenelle Duval, Stacey Howse, and Rebecca Sharr perform at the 22nd Annual Miawpukek First Nation Powwow (missing are Natasha Blackwood and Danielle Benoit)

Eastern Owl has taken the Newfoundland Mi'kmaq music scene to a new level by sharing not only traditional songs, but also incorporating new sounds and lyrics as co-creators of a present day Mi'kmaq culture. The fiddle, guitar and piano sometimes accompany the hand drum, and original songs express the lives lived *today* by the seven Newfoundland women who make up this ensemble of musicians. Their repertoire includes songs about everyday things like falling in love at powwow (*Millbrook Man*), and a couples quarrel over bingo winnings (*Bingo Song*). Through their music, the group also explores more serious topics like the emotional trauma experienced by the children and families impacted by the residential school system (*Baby*), and the tragedy of so many Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (*Henrietta*).

Eastern Owl is a rising force. They recently won the Arts NL CBC Emerging Artist Award and are set to release their second album in the Spring of 2018. Check out Eastern Owl on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

If you like what you hear, get their album on iTunes, Spotify or Fred's Record's.



Photo by Jerry MacQuarrie of Kippens, NL

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NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES 2017



The Qalipu Chief and Council pledged \$15,000 to support members of the Qalipu First Nation who competed in the games as Team Mi'kmaq. Pictured here for the presentation of the cheque are (L-R) Chief Brendan Mitchell, Odelle Pike, Mike Alexander, Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle Regional Coordinator, and Qalipu Ward Councilors Arlene Blanchard White and Gerard Alexander.

A group of exceptional young athletes from Newfoundland and Labrador represented our province in competition with teams from across North America, at the North American Indigenous Games July 16-23 in Toronto.

Team NL, a group of around 90 athletes representing the province's four indigenous groups; Inuit, Innu, Metis and Mi'kmaq, competed in volley ball, swimming, badminton, athletics, wrestling and rifle shooting.

Mike Alexander, Regional Coordinator of the Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Circle in Newfoundland, said, "The team did great as usual. We placed 8th out of 22 teams. The success of our youth isn't just in the medals and overall results, it's also in the cultural and educational experience that these kids are coming home with, and memories that will last a life time."

Newfoundland Medalists at NAIG 2017

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ◆ Do you need to renew your Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) card, or apply for a card for your child? You can make an appointment in one of our five office locations. For an appointment in Corner Brook, St. George's or Stephenville please call Jody at 634-4010; for an appointment in Glenwood or Grand Falls-Windsor, please call Charmaine at 1-709-679-2142
- ◆ The next regular meeting of Council will be held in Corner Brook at the Qalipu Community Room, August 26 beginning at 9:30 AM. These meetings are open to members of the Band. To register, please email Mabel MacDonald at mmacdonald@qalipu.ca or call 634-5111
- ◆ Council is seeking recommendations and feedback regarding the proposed Elders Advisory Council (see next page) in advance of their next regular meeting. An update summarizing feedback and next steps will be shared following the meeting. Contact your Ward Councilor to share your thoughts. [Find their emails by clicking here.](#)
- ◆ Qalipu administers the NIHB Medical Transportation Benefit for all members living in Atlantic Canada. You can apply to have a portion of your travel, meals, and accommodations covered when you travel for medical reasons. Find out more about the benefit here: [Medical Transportation Benefit](#)
- ◆ Dancers and Drummers of the New Dawn youth workshop is coming up August 28-31 at the Bay St. George Cultural Circle. Keep an eye on website for details.

ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Your feedback will help guide discussions at the next meeting of Council



At the June 10 meeting of Council in Corner Brook, it was decided that Ward Councilors would seek recommendations from their communities to establish an Elders Advisory Council. The Elders Advisory Council will ideally consist of individuals who are respected and engaged in their communities and are able to represent a broad range of voices when the Band is making important decisions, planning events, delivering programs and identifying & developing key initiatives.

We need your help to help identify the elders in our communities who could be a representative on the Elders Advisory Council. While these individuals can be Elders in the traditional sense of the word, they can also be an elder that you see as a strong community leader who is involved in one or more active community groups, who communicates

well with others.

With their permission, you are invited to make a recommendation on who you would like to have representing the communities in your Ward. Please contact your Ward Councilor to make the recommendation. [Click here to find your Ward Councilor and their email address](#)

When the Council meets again in August, they will discuss the feedback received from this request, and determine how to move forward with this initiative and the establishment of the Elders Advisory Council.



EXPLOITS MAWIO'MI

Submitted by Debbie Mallard

The first Exploits Mawio'mi was held at George Park in Grand Falls-Windsor along the banks of the Exploits River, an area where aboriginal people frequented for generations. The Mawio'mi saw about 200 people pass through from Friday to Sunday (June 16-18). Elders and friends from the West Coast conducted teachings in Sweat Lodge, dancing, pipe ceremony, sunrise and water ceremonies. Some local people held teachings as well, including Vanda Martin, Stacie Martin, Debbie Mallard and Tyrone Mulrooney. People from all over the province attended and a great time was had by all. An overall great teaching experience for us here in Central.

Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare



Participants at the Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Roundtable

Submitted by Vickie MacDonald, Employment Coordinator

A roundtable discussion regarding Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare took place on July 5th at Bennett Hall in Corner Brook. The primary goal of the roundtable was to hear what indigenous communities had to say about Early Learning and Child Care in our region. We particularly wanted to hear from community members that may currently be experiencing challenges in accessing child care, their concerns and recommendations. Community input from regional engagement sessions held across Canada (through funding made available with the Congress of Aboriginal People) will be used to inform the Federal Government in shaping the development of an Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework to guide future federal investments and programming.

The report will be made available on the Congress of Aboriginal People website and shared by Qalipu First Nation

DULUX PAINTS
25% OFF

For members of Qalipu First Nation
All Dulux and Glidden brand paints at all Dulux and Stan Dawe locations
Show your card and reference account #30949714

People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre

A new Friendship Centre is being established in Bay St. George. The Centre's Executive Director, Patrick Park-Tighe noted that over the coming months the focus will be on establishing a strong community foundation. Here's what he had to say in his first official greeting on the Centre's Facebook page ([People of the Dawn Indigenous Friendship Centre](#)):

"I'd like to start our first official posting with a sincere thank you to the organizers and community champions that have worked so hard to make the new Center a reality. Their dedication and commitment have set a high bar for our work going forward. I'd also like to acknowledge the National Association of Friendship Centres for their support and unwavering belief in our community's vision."

"I'm also a grateful to report that Paul Pike has joined us as our Director of Cultural and Community Programming. For those of you not yet having the pleasure of meeting him, Paul carries a wealth of knowledge related to Indigenous issues and cultures, broad experience as a counselor and facilitator, and is recognized as a respected and accomplished songwriter and performer. Whatever his role, Paul brings warmth, compassion and humility to everything he does."

"Like many of you, I'm anxious to see what's next for the Center. But as it's said, you have to learn to walk before you can run. In the coming weeks and months, we will be building a foundation to keep the Center strong in the years ahead. That measured, deliberate approach requires engaging with our communities to understand their needs and concerns. It demands finding and securing the funding opportunities to bring those essential programs and services to life."

"Most importantly, we need to continue to nurture the proud Indigenous culture that sustains, unites and strengthens our community."

MIAWPUKEK 22ND ANNUAL POWWOW

A few friendly people met at this years event



Carley Drew is 13 years old and going to grade 8 at the new school in Conne River. Here she is with her cutie pup, Foxy



Faye Hibbs and her 10 year old son, Chase. Faye is from Conne River and has never missed a Powwow. Chase said he likes to hunt and fish and really enjoys traditional foods, especially moose nose!



Julia Tuffett from Catalina shows off her hand-made, naturally smoked, moose hide jacket (gifted to her in 1955). Looking on are (L-R) local crafter Daisy Joe and Mardina Joe, Store Manager at Glenn John Arts and Crafts in Conne River.



Kayla Stride is from Conne River. She is a member of Eastern Owl, and was there to perform on Friday night of the Powwow. Kayla also had her own craft table selling her hand made ceramic pieces [Red Fire Ceramics](#)



Melita Howse and her grandson Lincoln Jeddore, both from Conne River. Lincoln will be 2 in October. Some sweet!



Mike and Karen Doucette from Eskasoni. Mike was the MC for the Miawpukek Powwow this year.



Joseph Duval and Rosie Stride, proud parents. They each had daughters take the stage with Eastern Owl (Kayla and Jenelle)



Bay St. George 11th Annual Powwow

Submitted by Kelly Anne Butler, Vice-Chair, BSGMCRC Chair, powwow planning committee



Head Dancers Julia Blanchard and Brycen Young. Photo submitted by BSGMCRC.

Thank you to all who attended and celebrated with us during Powwow 2017. The weekend was a huge success and the pride on the faces of our brothers and sisters was heartwarming.

On behalf of the BSGMCRC and the powwow planning committee, I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this event possible. To our sponsors we would not be able to do this year after year without your help and kindness. Our generous 2017 sponsors are listed below.

To the drummers, singers, dancers, flag carriers, staff carriers, MC, arena director, elders, knowledge keepers, fire-keepers, sweat lodge keepers, parking attendants, security, first aid, volunteers, kitchen staff, sound technician, and film crew, you are what makes the Bay St. George Powwow the success it is. Thank you to everyone who worked hard all year preparing for our powwow, whether it be preparing your regalia, learning more about the culture, preparing your art work, clearing the field, donating food, making quilt blocks, donating to our auctions, donating your time and supporting our events. Thank you all. Welia'liq.

For the second year in a row we have had the honour of having two local dancers head our Powwow as lead dancers: Julia Blanchard and Brycen Young. Thank you both for representing our nation in fine style.

The powwow was enjoyed by many from across Turtle Island. Young and old alike enjoyed the events through the weekend. Friday was a day of learning, and we expanded the day this year with great attendance! Many teachings were shared by some of our wonderful elders and knowledge keepers. Dance steps were offered by

our head dancers and Michael Denny. The educational Blanket Exercise was offered on Friday evening.

There were several sweats through the weekend starting with one on Friday night, two more on Saturday, and a final one on Sunday. Sunrise ceremonies also took place Saturday and Sunday morning as did the water ceremony. Dancing and drumming started both days at noon and the arbour was filled with many beautiful dancers celebrating our rich Mi'kmaw traditions. We tried something new this year and held a merchandise bingo on Saturday evening which was a huge hit. Everyone loved it and some went away with some amazing crafts donated by our generous brothers and sisters.

Another wonderful new edition to the powwow this year was the community quilt, created through donated quilt squares, displayed throughout the powwow, and then used for the giveaway at the end of the weekend. We will continue to use this quilt year after year, and more squares can still be added to it!

Planning has already begun for Powwow 2018 and if you have any suggestions or recommendations please feel free to contact myself (kbutler@grenfell.mun.ca) or Arlene White (blanchardarlene@hotmail.com) We look forward to hearing from you.

Once again, thank you all for making the Powwow such a wonderful success. Our theme this year, Helping Hands: In Unity We Are Stronger, was really demonstrated throughout the year and during the powwow.

SPONSORS

Gold Sponsor (\$5000.00)

- *Heritage Canada
- *Flat Bay Band Inc.
- *Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band
- *Southwest Tourism

Silver Sponsor (\$2500.00)

- *Abadak Wilderness Adventures

Bronze Sponsor (\$1000.00)

- *Boyd & Bungay Construction Ltd.
- *Stephenville Lions Club
- *Ghost Train Trucking
- *Skinners Pharmacy
- *AMGWES Safety

Friend of the Powwow Donations 2014-2015 (Under \$1000)

- 1) Royal Band of Canada
- 2) Harteries Restaurant
- 3) Madores Auto Body
- 4) NAWN
- 5) Colemans Food Centre
- 6) St. George's Indian Band
- 7) Everyone who donated to our auctions and giveaways

Notice: Medical Transportation Benefit, Claims Processing



Qalipu provides the support, preapprovals, processing and payment for all Medical Transportation Benefits for members of the Band in Atlantic Canada who are travelling for medical reasons.

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

Qalipu began administering the benefit last year with a six-month pilot in the Central Wards, and has since expanded the delivery to include all members living in Atlantic Canada who are travelling for medical reasons within Canada.

Jenna Osmond, Manager of the Qalipu Health Division said the move to administer the benefit to all members living in Atlantic Canada was a big piece of work but, that it's going smoothly.

"After the expansion, the demand for service enhanced significantly. To keep up, we hired another Data Entry Clerk. With more than 20,000 members living in the region, our health team is busy!"

Osmond noted that many members are calling to ask for their claims within days or a couple of weeks of sending it in. She added that while returns may happen sooner, the standard for processing claims is 6-8 weeks.

She said, "Members should wait the full 8 weeks before calling the office to ask if their claim has been processed. This will allow our team to focus on processing claims rather than responding a high volume of calls."

Members are reminded that all Medical Transportation Benefit claims are to be sent to Qalipu's Corner Brook office. Claims sent elsewhere will be redirected back to the Corner Brook office which will likely cause a delay. Members should also be aware that they are required to sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to receive payment on their claims. Find these details, and other important facts regarding the Medical Transportation Benefit by reading the [Medical Transportation Benefit Fact Sheet and Useful Links](#)

For more information, please contact a member of the Non-Insured Health Benefits team at 1-855-675-5743

Health Tip

Submitted by Jenna Osmond, Manager of Health Services

The main source of harmful UVA and UVB rays that damage our immune system, eyes, skin, and is the leading cause of many preventable skin cancers. This is not to say we should avoid the sun and stay inside. Staying inside would be bad for our health as it would prevent us from being active. However, we can limit our exposure to the sun by considering the following sun safety tips:

Now that the weather is warming up we can get out and enjoy the sun. Unfortunately, the sun is

Avoid or limit sun exposure when UVA and UVB rays are at their strongest between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00 pm. The general rule of thumb: short shadow, strong sun.

If you are outside when the sun is at its strongest try to stay in shaded areas as much as possible. Stay in areas with shaded trees, awnings, gazebo tents and so on.

Try and coordinate outside activities when the UV index is at low to moderate, not intense. When the UV index is 3 or higher, wear protective clothing such as wide brimmed hats and loose fitting long sleeved shirts, sunglasses and sunscreen.

Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen frequently and liberally when in the sun. Sunscreen with less than 15 SPF should be avoided as they provide inadequate protection.

References:

American Cancer Society (2017). How Do I Protect Myself from Harmful UV Rays? Retrieved from: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/skin-cancer/prevention-and-early-detection/uv-protection.html>

Government of Canada (2014). Sun Safety Basics. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/sun-safety/sun-safety-basics.html>

World Health Organization (2017). Sun Protection. Retrieved from: http://www.who.int/uv/sun_protection/en/

COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

June 10, 2017



Council and members in attendance pause for a photo op with CAP National Chief Bertrand

The Qalipu Chief and Council met for their regular meeting on June 10 in Corner Brook at the Qalipu Community Room.

The report for this meeting is now online. Topics covered include the finance donation and sponsorship policy, question and answers with members, a visit with CAP National Chief Robert Bertrand, business structures review and an Election Committee update.

The next meeting of Council will take place on Saturday, August 26, 2017 in Corner Brook. Please preregister by contacting Mabel MacDonald at 634-5111 or email mmacdonald@qalipu.ca

[Click here for the June 10, 2017 Council Meeting Report.](#)

TEL 709-634-6895

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE IN GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR

LOCATION: 28 HARDY AVENUE
AVAILABLE: IMMEDIATELY

APPROXIMATELY 790 SQUARE FEET IS AVAILABLE WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE. COMMON KITCHEN AND BATHROOM AREAS. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. LARGE PARKING LOT. HEAT AND LIGHT INCLUDED.



St. Anne's Day Celebration

On July 26th over 120 people attended a Eucharistic Celebration at Sacred Heart parish in Curling to honour St. Anne's Day. The Mass featured 20 drummers from Benoit's Cove and Corner Brook, and a moving rendition of Amazing Grace sung by Sarah Leah Hindy in Mi'kmaq. The Mass was followed by a special feast featuring a moose stew and soup prepared from meat that was donated from the Qalipu Cultural Foundation earlier in the year. A special thanks to Father Don for helping celebrate this event each year, and we wish him a Happy Retirement.



Father Don cuts the cake with Chief Mitchell

BUILDING MI'KMAQ TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

A Five-Year Plan

-Submitted by Tara Saunders, Tourism Development Officer

2017 marked the launch of “Experience Qalipu”; the implementation of the Qalipu First Nation’s five-year tourism strategy that was created in 2015.

The initiative is funded through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Provincial Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation. Experience Qalipu is about connecting Indigenous tourism operators and craft producers to the visitor, providing professional support to operators and those interested in entering the tourism industry and strengthening the Indigenous Tourism Profile of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Experience Qalipu offers training and professionalization initiatives for tourism owners and operators. In the last year, through these initiatives, Qalipu has sent 12 participants to the Edge of the Wedge program at the Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism, held workshops on pricing, story telling, interpretation and culinary experiences and held the 1st Annual Indigenous Tourism Forum at the Marble Inn Resort. Qalipu has also been working to develop an online toolkit for entrepreneurs that is set to be piloted in the upcoming year.

Working with partners such as Hospitality Newfoundland and

Labrador, regional Destination Management Organizations, Parks Canada and the Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism and tourism professionals from other indigenous groups from across the Province, we are not only helping to develop and strengthen tourism products, but we are also increasing Aboriginal Tourism within the Province, creating ways to share Mi’kmaq culture with the world and each other and letting people know “We are here and we are proud”.

Experience Qalipu includes a marketing strategy to help highlight Qalipu owned businesses within our wards, as well as tourism assets within the province, such as Parks Canada or the Boyd’s Cove Interpretation Centre, that could contribute to a visitor’s Aboriginal tourism experience within the province. Many of the visitors to Newfoundland and Labrador are interested in embarking on authentic cultural experiences, surrounded by nature, and sharing the story and culture of the Mi’kmaq people of Newfoundland is a great way to offer that. Experience Qalipu will not only promote these businesses through social media, a website and partnerships with other organizations, but will work with tourism operators to develop their products and improve market readiness.

To keep up-to-date on what’s happening with Experience Qalipu and Qalipu Tourism Operators, please follow us on Facebook:

[Experience Qalipu](#) and Twitter: [@experienceqalipu](#)



Ask us about training opportunities available to tourism owners and operators, and how we can help promote your business. Contact Tara at tasaunders@qalipu.ca

“Wave Sound”



Check it out! Art installation Wave Sound at Green Point

Rebecca Belmore is a member of Lac Seul First Nation (Anishinaabe), and an internationally recognized multidisciplinary artist currently residing in Montréal. Belmore's project *Wave Sound* is an invitation to listen to the land. Check out Rebecca's sculpture on top of Green Point in Gros Morne National Park of Canada.

A Fish Tale



-Submitted by Mitch Blanchard, Resource Coordinator

On July 25th at 9pm, participants, volunteers and over one hundred individuals from the community gathered at Margaret Bowater Park to enjoy the artistic production *A Fish Tale: A Puppet Lantern Play*. This production, a collaboration between Memorial University, Granite Coast Festival Committee, the Isle aux Morts Theatre Festival, the Qalipu Cultural Foundation and Qalipu First Nation, is an outdoor theatrical spectacle that is rich with Mi'kmaq culture, folklore, and traditions. The play also explores the Newfoundland and Labrador fishing history. Dubbed as a Newfoundland version of Dr. Who, this time travelling play tells the story of a young Isle aux Morts woman who goes in search of her father who is lost in time. Along the way, she encounters and falls in love with the young Mi'kmaw male protagonist who helps her on her journey. They travel in time to the Mi'kmaq origin story of how Glooscap defeated the Frog Monster to create the creatures of the sea.

Avoca Collegiate Celebrates NAD



Submitted by Hailey Morgan, Band member

Thanks to the partnership with Na'taqamug Community Cultural Group of Badger, Avoca Collegiate and Qalipu First Nation; Avoca Collegiate's auditorium was bursting with energy from people participating in cultural activities,

the sounds of aboriginal music, and the smell of food.

"It was a time to unite the community, celebrate our culture, be inclusive and highlight cultural identity", said Colleen Paul, a member of the drumming group and organizer of the June 21 activities.

Students at Avoca Collegiate participated in a teepee teaching where each grade had a pole with its own teaching. The poles were assembled to create a teepee. The student's painted a covering for the teepee and the finished product was gifted to the school.

Badger was one of the earliest Mi'kmaq settlements in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Colleen Paul's grandfather, John Paul Sr., was the first aboriginal settler in what used to be Badger Brook before the town incorporated.

"So, it's a celebration of that legacy too," Paul added. "It's about teachings now – teaching our young people, giving them the cultural tools they need to carry on the traditions."

"We've been fortunate because we've been able to hold on to culture."

Families and volunteers created the lanterns at drop-in workshops in Corner Brook

SPONSORS

- ArtsNL
- City of Corner Brook
- Community Foundations of Canada – Canada 150
- Isle Aux Morts Historical Society
- Memorial University: Office of Public Engagement
- Professional Development Memorial University
- Qalipu Cultural Foundation
- Qalipu First Nation
- Rotary Arts Centre
- Town of Isle aux Morts

School Outreach

Submitted by Michelle Matthews, Education Outreach Officer

Qalipu First Nation, Western Newfoundland English School District, Parks Canada and Killdevil Camp delivered two successful 2.5 day camps for the Grade 5 Curriculum with a special focus on aboriginal content. During this time, we also welcomed students in the MUN Education Fast Track program. In all, over 1000 people participated.

Outreach in schools and preschools took place from October to May. Along with volunteers, we visited 67 schools which included Kindergarten to Grade 3, two senior high school classes, five pre-school visits and 2 mini powwows. The mini powwows involved approximately 250 students, 40 volunteers, 10 teachers and 20 guests. During the summer, working with Grenfell and RNC and United Church, we provided and assisted in Youth Camps. During these sessions, students were engaged in cultural teachings, language, games, songs, drumming, ceremonies, dancing, and crafts.

Continuing forward in the next year, there are plans to create cultural activities suitable to Grades 4&6 and junior high.

We are always looking for volunteers to come into the schools to help during visits. Please contact me at 640-3856 if you can give us an hour, a half day or full day of your time.



The pre-powwow gathering at the Bay St. George Cultural Circle . Photo submitted by Evan Butler. Thanks Evan!

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:

Alison White
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Tel. 709-634-5163
Email awhite@qalipu.ca

Visit our website

WWW.QALIPU.CA