

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

Qalipu's Newsletter

February 2018

Public Demonstration Planned

-Submitted by Jim Duhart, organizer

MEMBERS OF QALIPU FIRST NATION AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS:

“The time is now for us to take our cause directly to the Prime Minister of Canada, Honourable Justin Trudeau and his Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Dr. Caroline Bennett.

I hope that you can walk with us and demonstrate our sense of injustice with the enrolment process, including the 2013 Supplemental Agreement and Bill C-25.

This is our opportunity to be heard from coast to coast to coast. Our message will be loud and clear so everyone in Canada can witness the discrimination this is being imposed on our people across the Country.

Please mark this very important date and information on your calendar:

Demonstration Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018

Headquarters Location: Meet in front of Albert and Bay Suites Hotel, 435 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ont. (then walk directly to Parliament Hill)

Start time: 9:45 a.m.

End Time: 13:30 p.m.

I need to know if you are going to accompany us. You can reply directly on my [Facebook Event Page](#), or call me at 613-640-1010.

I have reached out to Chief Mitchell, Qalipu First Nation and he will be with us in Ottawa.

"THE GRASSROOTS PEOPLE OF THE QALIPU NATION WILL NOT BE LEFT BEHIND"

Hope to hear from you soon!

Jim DuHart ”

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

February 2, 2018

Kwe'

Happy New Year. I hope that you all weathered the recent flooding in Newfoundland, and that in cases where damage was done, I pray that you found support in your families and community. May the Creator bless you all with good health and the care of community in the year ahead.

Something that has been much talked about in the media and on Facebook recently is the issue of separation that has been brought forward by the Flat Bay Band Inc. This has been a concern for members living in Flat Bay, and for other people in our communities. I would like to take a moment to address this topic. Band Division is, in fact, a provision under the *Indian Act*. If you would like to read about it for yourself, go to this link and look under the heading "How to divide a Band?"

I would like to take a moment to clarify a few points with members of the Qalipu First Nation who have been calling me to ask what this means for them, and others who may be wondering. First, I am not in support of Band division. Secondly, Band division would be a lengthy process involving formal application to INAC and agreement by the Minister. Further, the elected Chief and Council of the day would have to agree to division. Such a division would also require the majority vote of status members belonging to the impacted community. In this case, status card holders who are members of the community of Flat Bay, and those directly affiliated with Flat Bay Band Inc.

While some of the rhetoric in the ongoing conversation seems to imply that Band division would rectify issues related to the enrolment process or achieve status for individuals who do not currently have it, I regret to say that it will not. Only status members would decide on division, and the number of status card holders would remain the same. I hope that this situation has not given false hope to people.

I have no issue with any community or organization doing whatever they can to better themselves and the lives of people. I do however, feel that the timing may not be the best to publicly talk of division. We should try to stick together at this time as we fight for the rights of people who are not yet members of Qalipu and those that may lose First Nation status after the enrolment process concludes.

At this time, I am working diligently for those residents of our 67 recognized Mi'kmaq communities who were assessed on the points system and were found ineligible for Founding Membership. This system of assessment, the points system, was never

intended to be applied to people who lived in one of those communities at the time of recognition! People who, in fact, lived there all their lives. I am compiling information on cases like these and I will fight for their fair treatment. There are many others in this process we strongly support, and we will continue to do so.

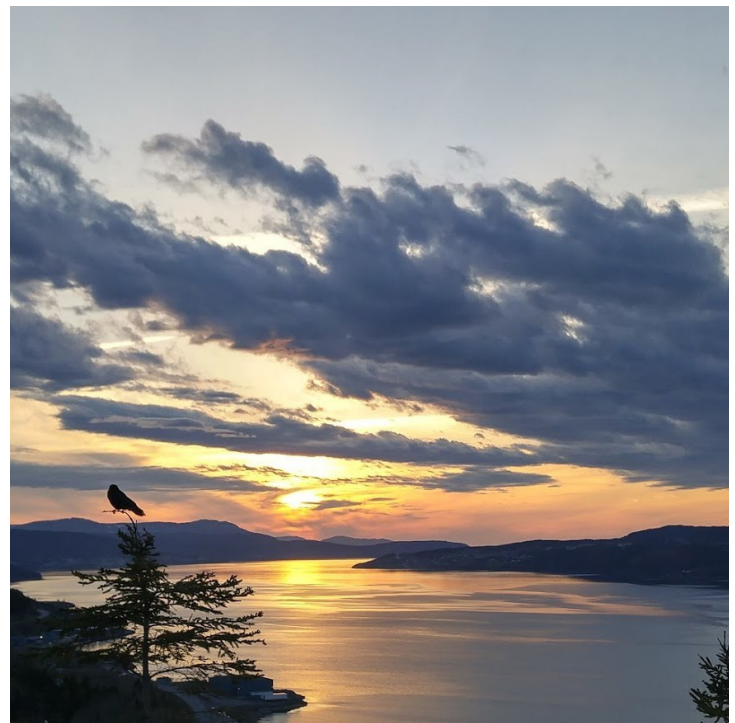
While I'm talking about fairness, how on earth can the very members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians, those who voted to ratify the Agreement to create our First Nation in the first place, now be found ineligible for membership? This is unacceptable, and the Government of Canada has not heard the last from me on this. Grassroots people, I am fighting for you. I offer myself, wholeheartedly, to walk with the people and seek justice.

Were you an FNI member who voted on ratification for the Agreement in Principle, yet you have been found ineligible for Founding Membership? Did you live in a Mi'kmaq community yet, were assessed on the points system and denied membership because you didn't have enough points?

I want to hear from you! Please send your story to stories@qalipu.ca

Wela'lin,

Chief Brendan Mitchell



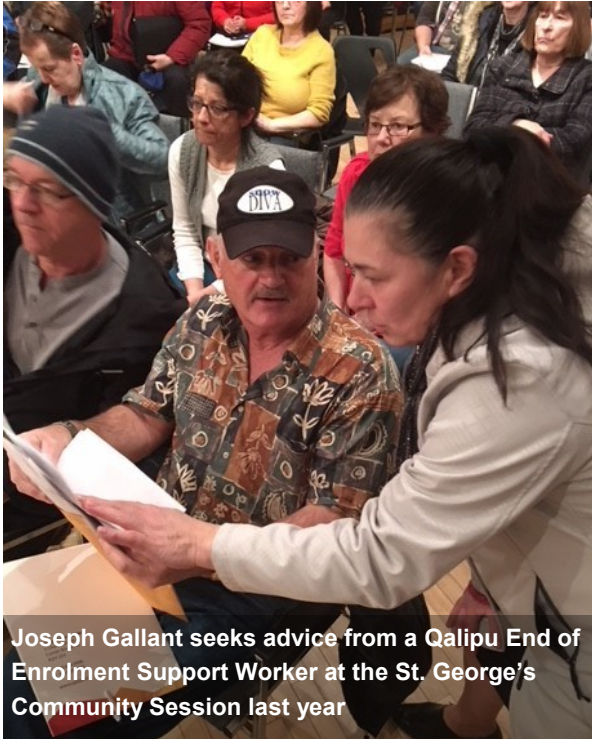
EDITORIAL

Editor: Alison White

Email: awhite@qalipu.ca

Phone 634-5163

"I'm with you, Joe"



Joseph Gallant seeks advice from a Qalipu End of Enrolment Support Worker at the St. George's Community Session last year

I RECENTLY TOOK A PHONE CALL from Joseph Gallant, a current member of the Qalipu First Nation. He was one of the first elders to join the Elder's Mailing List back in 2015, so we have known each other for a while now.

Joe called because he had just received notice that his appeal was unsuccessful. He said this was the last straw, and he's too tired of it all to be angry anymore.

Joe was a member of the Indian Head Band since the 1980's, a band that fell under the umbrella of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians. In 2008, when a vote was taken to accept the Agreement-in-Principle to create the Qalipu First Nation, Joe voted Yes.

Joe gave up his membership in the Indian Head Band and became a Founding Member of the Qalipu First Nation. For the past 6 years, Joe has been a member of this Band, and a status card carrier.

Following the Supplemental Agreement, Joe's file fell into the reassessment category because his home community, South Branch, is not one of the designated Newfoundland Mi'kmaq communities. Joe, like so many others, would have to show his continued connection to a Mi'kmaq community under the points system.

A COMPLICATED PROCESS FOR MANY

Joe said a letter came and, he responded. He told me that he wrote the sender to say they must have made a mistake because he was a Founding Member, not an *applicant* as the letter stated. He said that he didn't understand what was being said, nor did he understand what was expected of him.

During our phone call Joe said, "Why were they calling me an applicant? I had my card, I was a Founding Member."

No response to his letter came, but when he recently requested a copy of his file, his letter was there.

"I guess even if you don't understand what happened, you were supposed to understand it and, too bad for me."

Joseph received 12 points; 9 for his membership in the FNI, and 3 for living in Newfoundland. He received no points for being connected to Mi'kmaq communities despite his membership in the Federation of Newfoundland Indians that goes back decades. His

regular, life-long, activity in Mi'kmaq communities near South Branch, including Stephenville, a designated community that is the main hub for shopping and medical care for people in the region, was not taken into consideration either.

"No connection to a Mi'kmaq community?" Joe exclaimed.

"Who in South Branch, or anywhere else here in our area, isn't travelling to Stephenville once or twice a week for errands or to see a Doctor? And when I leave here on my skidoo to set snares and fish, I travel in and around Mi'kmaq communities. Am I living in a bubble? All around this land is my home."

Sadly, the truth about who Joseph Gallant is, and his lifetime of connection to our Mi'kmaq community, was lost in a process that he didn't understand.

"I'm sorry, Joe. I'm with you and I'm so sorry," I say, knowing that it won't fix a thing.

Stories@qalipu.ca

There are two areas that the Chief is currently focusing on in his negotiations with Canada. 1. Residents in and around the 67 recognized Mi'kmaq communities who were assessed on the points system and 2. Grassroots people/early members of the FNI who voted to create the First Nation but are now at risk of losing their status. If your situation fits this focus area, please send your story to stories@qalipu.ca

What are you going to do with my story?

Chief Mitchell is working toward new negotiations for fair treatment of people who may have fallen through the cracks in the enrolment process.

We want to hear your stories so that they can be presented to government. By becoming familiar with individual stories, Chief Mitchell will better be able to advocate for you. This is more than numbers, it's about our people.

We may also ask your permission to use your questions, or unique situations for Q & A to help people who may share the same questions and concerns.

UPDATES

DoorWays: Single Session Walk-in Counselling Service

-Submitted by Jenna Osmond, Manager of Health Services

As of late January, Western Health has been offering 50-minute counselling services in Stephenville and Corner Brook. These services are beneficial for anyone who feels the need to speak to a counsellor regarding mental health and/or addiction issues. It is important to note that this service is walk-in only and offered on a first come, first serve basis.

Stephenville:

Every Wednesday 1-8 p.m. (last walk-in accepted at 7 p.m.)

127 Montana Drive

643-8740

Corner Brook:

Every Tuesday 1-8 p.m. (last walk-in accepted at 7 p.m.)

35 Boone's Road

634-4506

BERNIE HANLON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Education and Training Department is now accepting applications for the Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship.

Bernadette "Bernie" Hanlon dedicated her life to supporting and encouraging the aboriginal people of Newfoundland both culturally and in working with them to meet their educational dreams. Bernie always went above and beyond for her many students and tried to help in any way possible through her many years with the Federation of Newfoundland Indians and later with the Qalipu First Nation. Bernie worked tirelessly to help those around her develop personally as well by supporting and encouraging cultural and spiritual growth. The Bernie Hanlon Memorial Scholarship was created to help students.

[Click here to Apply](#)



Pictured here: students from the 2017 RCMP/ Qalipu program

Apply Now! RCMP/Qalipu Summer Student Program

Qalipu and the RCMP are working together to build a worthwhile work experience for aboriginal youth who are interested in a career in policing and/or justice. This exciting job opportunity will give you an insightful look at the RCMP and may help you decide if this is a career opportunity you wish to pursue. This job opportunity is nine (9) weeks in duration from June-August. Successful applicants will attend a one week training session at the RCMP Headquarters in St. John's prior to being placed at the RCMP detachment closest to their home. This program is a great stepping stone for individuals interested in pursuing a career with the RCMP. The deadline to apply is February 23, 2018

[Click here for more information](#)

SCIS Applications and Renewals

If you would like assistance applying for, or renewing your Secure Card of Indian Status, please contact the representative in the office nearest you.

St. George's, Stephenville, Corner Brook

Jody Davis

Tel. (709) 634-4010

email jdavis@qalipu.ca

Glenwood, Grand Falls-Windsor

Charmaine Bath

Tel. (709) 679-2142, 1-855-263-6440

email cbath@qalipu.ca

NATIONAL INQUIRY

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

THE NATIONAL INQUIRY was initiated by the Government of Canada in September 2016 to examine and report on the causes of violence against indigenous women and girls in Canada. A team has been established to work toward that goal. Following the inquiry, the team will make recommendations to Government that may lead to positive solutions.

Collecting the stories of Canadians who have lost a loved one to violence is the most important part of what the Inquiry team is calling the Truth Gathering Process.

The Inquiry will end in December of this year. Have you shared your story?

If you want to share your story, and participate in the National Inquiry, here's what you need to know:

- There are six steps to share your story (Registration, Initial Contact and Conversation, Sharing your Story, Preparation, Sharing your Truth, and After-Care).
- Find details of each of these six steps by clicking "How to Participate" below.

The National Inquiry is guided by the following principles: Participant centered, collaborative, holistic and is rooted in compassion.

Families, survivors and loved ones have choices in how to share, in a comfortable and safe way.

More information:

[Fact Sheet-Who We Are](#)
[Fact Sheet-What the NI Can and Cannot Do](#)
[How to Participate](#)



Employers, are you interested in getting a student worker this summer? Not sure? How about if we pay their wages for you?

QALIPU YOUTH SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Let's talk about how your organization can partner with us to hire a student this year.

**The deadline to apply is
Friday, April 6, 2018 by noon**

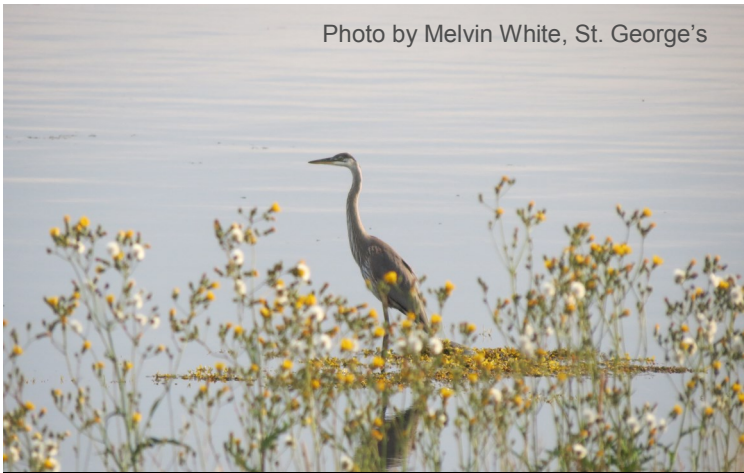
Find all the details, and the application
on our website:
<http://qalipu.ca/youth-programs/>

Or call Vickie 709-634-6893

CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY

Submitted by Joanne Harris, Research Assistant

Photo by Melvin White, St. George's



Climate change has an impact on our communities and people. What can we do to come up with solutions, and to adapt to a changing environment? Schedule an interview with Joanne or Nancy and have your say.

Qalipu First Nation is pleased to announce that it will be conducting Climate Change interviews in the communities of Lark Harbour, Cox's Cove, Burgeo, St. George's, Cape St. George, Stephenville Crossing, Lewisporte, Bishop's Falls, and the Gander Bay area from February 12 to March 29, 2018.

The purpose of these interviews is to gather information about climate change, its impact on our communities and people, and solutions for adaptation. Topics will include: extreme weather events such as flooding and the impact on water quality, community infrastructure, and emergency preparedness, coastal erosion and rising sea levels and the impact they may have on spiritual grounds and medicinal plant sites, forest use and the impact climate change may be having on this use, and plant and animal life. This information will be used to help communities adapt to the challenges of climate change.

Interviews are open to members of the Band, and self-identifying Mi'kmaq, aged 14+, and will take place Monday through Friday, February 12 – March 29, 2018. Times and locations to be determined on a community basis. Home visits and evening interviews are available.

To schedule your interview:

Residents of **Lark Harbour, Cox's Cove, Burgeo, St. George's, Cape St. George, and Stephenville Crossing** please contact Joanne Harris, Research Assistant, at jharris@qalipu.ca or call 709-634-4706.

Residents of **Lewisporte, Bishop's Falls, and the Gander Bay area** please contact Nancy Jeans, Research Assistant at njeans@qalipu.ca or call 709-393-6771.

TEL 709-634-6895

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- ♦ Wage Subsidy Program-hire one of our graduates and we will help pay their wages!
- ♦ Employment counseling and job search support
- ♦ Income support for job shadowing
- ♦ A lump sum bonus to the graduate upon hiring

[For more information, please click here](#)



L-R Education and Training Department Staff
Kristen Pittman, Kristina Duffy, Sharla Abbott,
Kayla Lucas, Judy Falle

CANNEXUS 2018 is a National Career Development Conference designed to promote the exchange of information and explore innovative approaches in the areas of career counselling and career development. This Conference is a way to connect career practitioners in order to gain ideas and best practices that ensure our clients have a well rounded experience along their career path. The wide variety of topics for the sessions gave the Education and Training staff the opportunity to choose the sessions that were the best fit for our or-

ganization. This conference has helped the Education and Training Department to make connections with others in our field which will help keep up to date on any new and beneficial approaches to techniques that will grant better success to the clients. Many of the sessions allowed the Education and Training staff to gain knowledge in career development areas in which they would not have had access. This conference was a huge success and all Education and Training staff who attended have expressed their excitement and appreciation in being able to attend such a great event. The Education and Training Department made valuable contacts at this conference, and looks forward to using these new relationships to pass on information to our clients.



Qalipu
FIRST NATION

NOTICE

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) would like to announce the availability of one Communal Commercial Fishing license. License details are as follows:

This Enterprise consists of Groundfish-except lumpfish (2J, 3PN, 4RST), Herring Fixed Gear (Area 13), Squid (Area 13), Whelk (Area 13), Lobster (Area 13B), Snow Crab (Area 12), Mackerel Fixed Gear (Area 13), Capelin Fixed Gear (Area 13), and a bait.

Successful applicants will be designated to fish this license by paying an annual administration fee to QFN. The purchase and maintenance of all fishing gear is the responsibility of the designated fisherperson. The designation will be renewed annually on the basis that the fisherperson meets criteria as listed in the Fishing Designation Policy.

Any member of QFN interested in such a designation is encouraged to submit an application. The application form and Fishing Designation Policy can be found at <http://qalipu.ca/new-fishing-license-available/>

Printed applications are also available at St. George's and Corner Brook Qalipu offices.

The deadline to submit applications is February 23, 2018

PIPING PLOVER RESEARCH

Submitted by Stephen Rose, Natural Resource Technician



THE PIPING PLOVER is an endangered ground nesting shorebird that inhabits some of the two nests at Flat Bay Peninsula, 6 matured to fledgling stage. Of the seven eggs found on mostly sandy beaches (with some larger grain and smaller rock) and in coastal dunes where vegetation is sparse and mostly limited to grasses. This year, Qalipu continued its monitoring of the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus melodus*) in the Bay St. George region. We returned to the same sites which we have been surveying the past number of years; Sandy Point, Flat Bay Peninsula, Stephenville Crossing, and Black Bank.

Only three nests were located this year, one on Sandy Point and two on Flat Bay Peninsula. We can confirm the hatching of the three eggs at the Sandy Point site with all three chicks maturing to the fledgling stage. Unfortunately, no nests were found at Stephenville Crossing or Black Bank. However, two plovers were observed at the Stephenville Crossing site.

The same beaches in which piping plover inhabit are one's that are favorable to recreational activities (sun bathing, swimming, beach fires, etc.). This can make things difficult for preventing disturbance of the species during their nesting period. There are some preventative measures we can take when using beaches that have suitable piping plover habitat or are inhabited by piping plovers.



What can you do to help protect the plover?

Between April and August stay away from recognized piping plover breeding and nesting areas. Walk on the wet sand, close to the water's edge.

Keep your pets on a leash. Wandering pets can disturb nesting birds and be significantly harmful to chicks and fledglings

Clean up garbage found on the beach and if you pack it in, pack it out. Food wrapping, and waste can attract scavenging predators

Leave natural debris on the beach as piping plovers rely on these resources for food and cover. These include seaweed, shells, and woody debris

Do not operate any vehicles on beaches or coastal dunes. Doing so can disturb nesting plovers, cause chicks to get stuck in tire ruts and separated from their mothers, crush eggs/chicks, and in the case of riding in dunes, accelerate coastal erosion in the area and cause permanent habitat loss.

Report the location of piping plovers and their nests to the Canadian Wildlife Service(CWS) or Qalipu Fisheries Guardians

If you see people, or pets disturbing piping plovers or their nests, contact CWS to report the disturbance. It's a federal offence under the Species at Risk Act to harass species at risk.

Join a local stewardship group or volunteer organization to help protect species at risk and talk to others about these best practices to help protect our species at risk. You can contact CWS for more information on Piping Plover groups in your local area

For more information on this program, contact Stephen Rose at srose@qalipu.ca or 709-634-5053. For more information about piping plover or to make a report, contact CWS at 1-800-668-6767, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement at 1-877-820-0999, or Crimestoppers via phone at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477) or via text to "CRIMES" (274637) by texting TIP190 plus your message.

-Environment and Climate Change Canada-

Stay in the Know



People of the Dawn
INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Weekly Drumming

"Every week friends and family come together to share songs, drumming and laughter. The evening is open to everyone-from those who attend regularly to those visiting for the very first time."

Other services can be provided depending on need and volunteer interest.

Every Tuesday

6:30-8:00 PM

INDIGENOUS ARTS & STORIES

Indigenous Arts & Stories invites self-identified First Nation, Metis and Inuit youth (ages 6 to 29) to submit a piece of writing or two-dimensional artwork exploring indigenous identity or a moment or theme in indigenous history or culture.

Win up to \$2,000 and other great prizes. Groups of 6 or more can win a **special classroom prize**.

Visit the website for full guidelines, bilingual learning tools, and to view galleries of incredible writing and artwork created by past participants. View engaging testimonials from 10 previous winners who discuss what the contest has meant for their lives and careers.

Don't miss it!

The contest deadline is March 31, 2018

Three easy ways to submit your art of creative writing:

1. Email WritingandArts@gotoinfo.ca
2. Fax 1-866-634-8737
3. Online www.gotoinfo.ca/writingandarts

For more information, call 1-866-644-6195 or visit www.gotoinfo.ca/writingandarts



In 2017, the community of Burgeo established a committee to focus on celebrating and learning more about Mi'kmaq culture and tradition in this historic Mi'kmaq community on the south coast of Newfoundland. Burgeo is one of four communities within the Flat Bay Ward, along with the communities of St. Fintan's, Flat Bay and St. Theresa's, that are represented by Ward Councilor Ben Bennett.

Elaine Ingram is the Secretary of the new committee, the Burgeo Qalipu Corp. She shared some snapshots of great things that have been happening in this community, and provided a yearly report to share with our dispersed Mi'kmaq communities.

[Click here to view the story "Burgeo: Strength, Community and Mi'kmaq Pride"](#)

Supporting the Arts

Submitted by Logan MacDonald



Kwe'

I am a band member and a visual artist. I just recently relocated back to Corner Brook to teach Fine Arts at Memorial University Grenfell Campus. I am currently exhibiting art work at Eastern Edge Gallery in St. John's focusing on Newfoundland Mi'kmaq indigenous identity in relation to other indigenous communities in Canada. For people who can't make it out to St. John's they can view this work on my website.

Thanks,

Logan

Check out Logan's Work at the Links below:

<http://www.thewesternstar.com/news/indigenous-artist-logan-macdonald-from-corner-brook-opens-exhibition-in-st-johns-157904/>

<http://easternedge.ca/exhibitions/current/>

For people who can't make it to St. John's to visit the show at the Eastern Edge Gallery, the work can be seen online here:

<http://www.artlogan.com/Land1.html>

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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. It's 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 your indigenous community 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 the community, please get in touch:

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

Visit our website

WWW.QALIPU.CA