

MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K

THE CARIBOU ARE TRAVELLING TOGETHER

Qalipu's Newsletter

April 2019

Feather Carriers in Newfoundland!

Reprinted from *Feather Carriers: Leadership for Life Promotion Newsletter*, Issue 3, March 2019

Story by Kelly Brownbill

The people of the Eastern Doorway are the latest cohort of Feather Carriers. A partnership between Western Health and Qalipu First Nation is providing the support for the program, which is being held in St. George's Newfoundland, in the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

The program is three quarters completed, with only the last session left to complete sometime in June. Approximately 29 people have been participating and their journey has been extraordinary. Qalipu is the newest formed First Nation in Canada, and so many Indigenous people in the region are experiencing the process of self-discovery, and truly examining their Indigenous roots for the first time.

The teachings of life promotion fit well into traditional

Newfoundland life, where the contact with the land has never been truly severed. John and Ed are treated to traditional foods like moose and lobster at every visit. Family structures are still strong, with the everyone from the very old to the very young still connected. What was not easily accessible after years of colonization, the ceremonies and traditional teachings used to celebrate a traditional life, are making a resurgence now, with Mi'kmaq teachers from other parts of the province and from the mainland sharing their wisdom and vision.

It is gratifying to know that Indigenous communities outside of Ontario are embracing the concepts of life promotion and using Feather Carriers to strengthen and heal their families and communities.



The Feather Carriers Program is a community mobilization strategy and collaborative life promotion training approach. Learn more here: <https://www.feathercarriers.com/>

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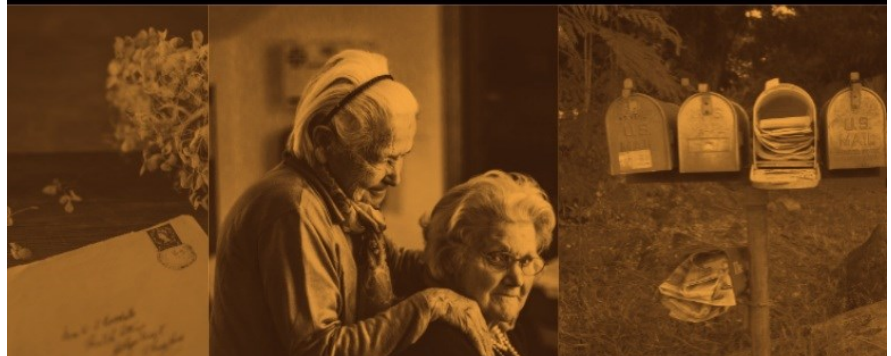
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Did you know you don't have to be a member of the Band to subscribe? Community Members can sign up to receive our Newsletter by email here: <http://eepurl.com/gfuxPP>



Elders Mailing List

Members of the Band who are over the age of 65 and cannot access communications on our website are invited to sign up for our mailing list. Please contact Tina at tdiamond@qalipu.ca or call 634-5111



PROUD TO BE WELCOMED AS NEWEST MEMBER OF APC



Chief Bob Gloade, APC Co-Chair, Regional Chief Roger Augustine, Assembly of First Nations, Chief Brendan Mitchell, Qalipu First Nation, John G. Paul, Executive Director, Atlantic Policy Congress, Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation.

April 12, 2019 Corner Brook—Qalipu First Nation is pleased to share that following a recent meeting of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC), the Band has been accepted into the APC. This policy and advocacy body represents more than thirty First Nation communities in Atlantic Canada and Gaspé region of Quebec; as of April 11, 2019, the APC now counts Qalipu as its newest member.

As a regional policy, research and advocacy organization, the APC plays an important role in economic development activities across the region in support of all Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Innu communities across the Atlantic. Following the vote, Chief Mitchell spoke to how Qalipu will work together with the APC, and what acceptance means for the Band and the Mi'kmaq people of Newfoundland.

"Reconciliation, for us, is unique. Acceptance by our own Mi'kmaq community continues to be an important aspect of our identity and our reconcilia-

tion. For us to be accepted here, for our people to be accepted here, this has a sense of coming home."

Qalipu has already been working with the APC in areas of Education, Community Development and Natural Resources and looks forward to new ways of collaborating and building strength as a united First Nation peoples.

Chief Mitchell noted, "Our wish at Qalipu First Nation is to work collaboratively with other Chiefs and Indigenous communities across Atlantic Canada in an effort to work to build a better tomorrow for all Mi'kmaq people."

-30-

About Qalipu

Qalipu First Nation is a vibrant Mi'kmaq First Nation established in 2011 as an Indigenous Band under the Indian Act. With a large membership spread across 67 traditional Newfoundland Mi'kmaq communities and abroad, we are one of the largest First Nation groups in Canada.

Newfoundland is part of the traditional Mi'kmaq Nation whose territory extends from Quebec through the Maritime Provinces and into Newfoundland.

Membership Orientation Community Tour

Everything you need to Know about your access to Benefits, Programs and Services

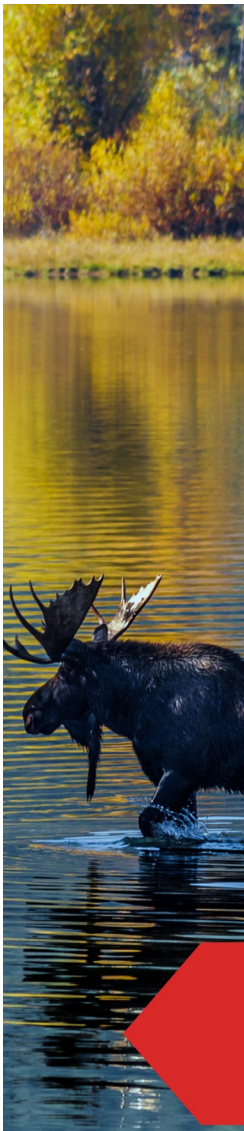
Throughout March and April, representatives of Qalipu are travelling around the island to deliver information sessions regarding the many programs, services and benefits that are available, and to familiarize new members who may have an interest in learning about what it means to belong to the Qalipu First Nation.

Orientation Sessions feature a general overview of all programs, services and benefits. Subject matter experts are on hand to answer questions on hot topics like health benefits, education funding, community engagement and registration. Councilors and Vice Chiefs are also on hand to join in the discussion.

Members attending these sessions also receive their copy of the new Membership Information Guide—a colorful and easy to read quick reference guide to every program, service and benefit that is available to you as a member of the Band.

Sessions have been delivered in Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander, Gander Bay, St. George's, Stephenville, Flat Bay, and Burgeo. The final leg of the tour will include stops in Port au Port, Corner Brook, Benoit's Cove and St. John's.

We hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

PORT AU PORT, TUESDAY APRIL 23, 7:00PM OUR
LADY OF FATIMA PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
13 NL-460, AGUATHUNA

CORNER BROOK, WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 7:00PM
AT BENNETT HALL - MASONIC HALL, 11 WEST
STREET

ST. JOHN'S, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00PM, FIRST
LIGHT CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE AND CREATIVITY
81 COCHRANE STREET

BENOIT'S COVE, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 7:00PM
COMMUNITY ROOM, 103 HILLVIEW RD.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ACCESS
TO PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON?

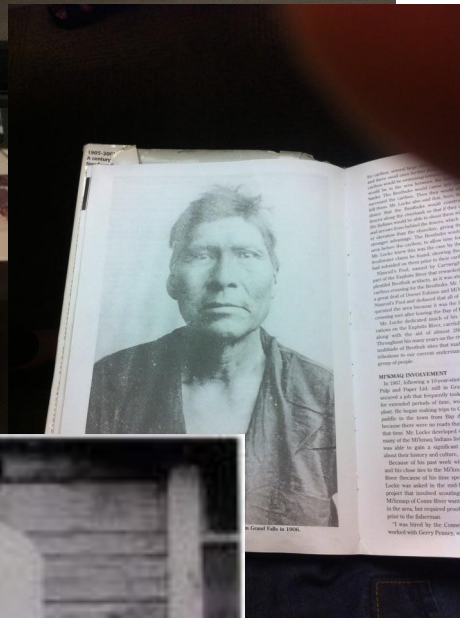
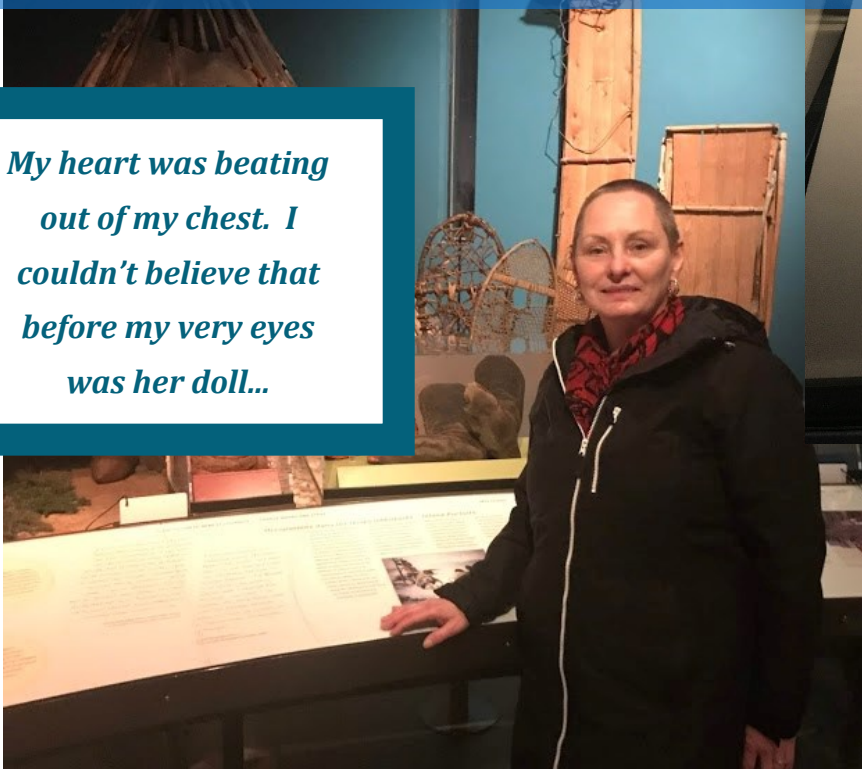
View the online
copy of the
**Membership
Information
Guide**

and stay tuned for
an upcoming
information
session to be
hosted online.

Cultural Connections

On a recent trip to Ottawa for a conference, Qalipu employee Colleen Paul discovered a personal connection to her Mi'kmaq ancestors at the National Museum of History

My heart was beating out of my chest. I couldn't believe that before my very eyes was her doll...



View the Full Story by Clicking here:

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/D2b6M4bgdovnj/>

Indigenous Education Outreach

Submitted by Jennifer Brake Strickland, Education Outreach Officer

The Indigenous Education Outreach program is cluing up for the school year after a busy winter. This year the program has grown from six schools to ten, reaching from Deer Lake to St George's.

The students have participated in interactive Mi'kmaq history lessons and have had a taste of some cultural traditions. They learned the significance of the rattle and had the opportunity to craft one of their very own. They were invited to partake in a talking circle to share and connect with each other and discover their own family heritage.

The lessons that were delivered throughout our visits taught the children the core values of respect for each other and for Mother Earth. They very much enjoyed the lessons, songs and the meanings behind the traditions that we shared with them.

To build upon the learning that took place throughout this program, six schools participated in a Powwow event, where communities and schools came together to share cultural knowledge and traditions. They were given teachings that

are sacred for a Powwow and were encouraged to wear colours of the medicine wheel. The students brought along their rattles to be smudged at the ceremony.

This program relies heavily on the involvement of each community we attend. We have many volunteers that generously offer their time and knowledge to make this program possible. It is wonderful to show the students how a community can come together for a common purpose. We are always welcomed with open arms and thanked with hugs and cards of gratitude, leaving our hearts full.

As we prepare ourselves for the upcoming Outdoor Education program at Killdevill Camp and Conference Centre, we look forward to meeting 15 new schools to share and learn from each other and continue to grow.



Qalipu Takes the Wheel

Signing of Ten-Year Comprehensive Funding Agreement an Important Step Toward Self-Determination



April 2, 2019 Corner Brook—Qalipu First Nation is pleased to announce a new development that provides for more sustainable funding for its membership, and a stronger sense of self-determination for the nation. On March 14, 2019 Qalipu signed a ten-year grant funding agreement with Indigenous Services Canada. The agreement marks a significant departure from annually allocated funds that were often lacking in flexibility and autonomy for the Band and marks a new opportunity for creating a shared vision for the future with the members it represents. The Agreement is effective as of April 1, 2019.

Band Manger Keith Goulding leads a group of some fifty staff in five office locations across the province. He commented on his pride in the work the team has put in, including working closely with the Financial Management Board (FMB) to obtain the certification needed for grant funding approval with Indigenous Services Canada.

Goulding said, “Receiving this grant is a great opportunity for our Band. We have been working to meet the eligibility guidelines, developing policies and procedures that are up to industry best standards and maintaining a high level of accountability and transparency with our members. The signing of this ten-year agreement means that the way we conduct ourselves in business is top notch, it allows us to set our own course and move our First Nation forward in a positive way.”

The new comprehensive funding agreement will allow the Band to design its own programs, carry money forward from year to year, and focus on creating a vision for the future that is driven by the people and communities it represents.

Qalipu’s Comptroller, Jodie Wells, plays a lead role in the Bands financial management. Wells explained that members will not see sudden changes but that they will have more say in how the Band spends money going forward.

She said, “For now, we have a five-year budget in place that has been reviewed and approved by Council. Our members will not notice a sudden shift in the way we do business. Going forward, we still have to be accountable in how we spend but there will be more accountability to our people and communities rather than to government.”

To prepare for the future, Qalipu recently began a three-year project to consult with membership to build a Comprehensive Community Plan. This Plan will help guide the way the Band grows in terms of programs, services and development initiatives.

Wells added, “Consultations for the Comprehensive Community Plan are likely to begin in the fall and will feature a variety of outreach and engagement approaches. We hope that everyone will take the opportunity to have their say and be a part of a shared vision for the future.”

For more information about the Comprehensive Community Plan please contact Joanne at 634-6384 or email jharris@qalipu.ca



On January 25, 2019, Eagle Feathers were blessed and presented to the Provincial Courts of Newfoundland and Labrador. The feathers, which are an important symbol of integrity and truth in Indigenous culture, can be used to take an affirmation or oath in the Provincial Courts.

Stephenville Ward Councilor Odelle Pike championed the cause to have the feathers introduced. She was on hand to make the presentation to the Chief Judge Pamela J. Goulding and Andrew Parsons, Provincial Minister of Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

Members of the Mi'kmaq community were in attendance to witness this special event including Paul Pike who provided a smudging ceremony for the feathers, and Troy Bennett and group shared songs on the community big drum.

Qalipu created a short video to capture the occasion. Take a look by clicking here.



SELF-IDENTIFICATION REASSESSMENT

If you were denied founding membership in the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation in 2017 on the basis of the self-identification criterion, you were sent a letter dated January 31, 2019 with more information regarding implementation of the Federal Court's decision in Wells et al. vs Canada.

Recipients of these letters have the opportunity to respond to this letter and indicate previously filed documents, or submit new self-identification documents, that fall within a date range which had not previously been accepted. The deadline to respond is May 13.

Find more details including what to do if you did not update your address and have not received the letter, can be found on the Indigenous Services Canada website here:

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1319805325971/1319805372507#aa1>

Provincial Merit-Based Appointment Process

In July 2016, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador implemented a Merit-Based Appointment Process for provincial agencies, boards and commissions. This process is open to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and ensures the people appointed have the necessary qualifications to perform the duties the position requires.

The services provided by our agencies, boards and commissions, are among some of the most important in Newfoundland and Labrador. When thinking of the province's agencies, boards and commissions, some of our larger entities likely come to mind: The Board of Directors of Nalcor, the Regional Health Authorities, or the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, to name just a few. However, you may be surprised to learn that there are over 150 agencies, boards and commissions that oversee areas such as education, farming, fisheries, health care, and human rights.


Since the implementation of the Merit-Based Appointment Process, almost 2000 individuals have applied through the application process, which can be found at www.iacnl.ca. Of those applicants, nearly 500 have been appointed to serve on over 90 separate boards and tribunals.

Did you know that you don't have to be a subject matter expert to apply? In fact, many boards look for members with diverse backgrounds to represent the public interest. We need applicants with a wide range of experience and expertise to ensure the continued success of our merit-based appointment process, while also contributing to the strong leadership of our public sector organizations. There are numerous opportunities for you to serve and bring your own unique perspective to the table.

Please visit the website at www.iacnl.ca to apply for opportunities that may be of interest to you.

For updates on new opportunities and recent appointments please follow us on Twitter @PSC_GovNL.


George Joyce
Chair and Chief Executive Officer (Interim)
Public Service Commission



**SCIS APPLICATION
AND RENEWALS**

**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

 Qalipu
FIRST NATION

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Client Service Officers Kristina Duffy and Kristen Pittman meet with high school students at the College of the North Atlantic Open House in Corner Brook



(L-R) Rev. Tanya White, Gavin Targett, and Diann George. The White Wolf Drumming and Youth Group donated items for a family for Christmas.



White Wolf Drumming and Youth Group Christmas Party



White Wolf Drumming and Youth Group visit the hospital. Songs, tea and biscuits and gifts were shared.

SHOWCASE YOUR COMMUNITY OR SHARE A SUCCESS STORY WITH US! WE'LL FEATURE IT IN THE NEXT EDITION OF MAW-PEMITA'JIK QALIPU'K! CALL ALISON AT 634-5163 OR EMAIL AWHITE@QALIPU.CA

Self-Employment Assistance Program Supports Business Development in the Bay of Islands

Weldon Brake of Meadows recently received support through the Self-Employment Assistance Program to restore his family home, one of the oldest houses in the Bay of Islands containing many invaluable cultural artifacts. It is now the Olde Brake House Museum & Café, and Weldon couldn't be happier.

Weldon reports, "I was privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the program in order to get my business operational. This program allowed me to upgrade my skills as an entrepreneur in the museum and tourism sectors. I gained knowledge in collections and artifacts management as well as conservation. I also learned to implement a security system, safety and fire planning. I worked closely with the Town of

Meadows and Government officials to obtain the necessary permits and licenses to operate my business. I was able to put in place the health and accessibility requirements to offer food and provide accommodations to potential clients. I look forward to marketing my business to the larger Canadian society so that there is a better understanding of our culture."

The original Brake House was built in the 1800's by Cornelius and Eliza Brake. The blend of 18th and 20th century design provides a comfortable environment to stay and dine. There is a large fishermen room, dining area, parlour, library and artifacts to see.

The Self-Employment Assistance Program provides financial assistance to clients who want to start their own business. Under this program, the client can access up to \$10,000 for assistance to cover living and other personal expenses during the initial stages of the business including consultants or technical experts to assess the business opportunities and/or prepare a business plan.

For more information contact educationandtraining@qalipu.ca or call 709-647-3514



Find the Olde Brake House Museum and Café on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theoldebrakehousemuseum/>

Ancient Art Explored

Did you know that the whale symbolizes serenity, tranquility and self-discovery?

Are you aware of the meaning of the double curve, and it's unique representation in our Mi'kmaq culture?



Participants at a Petroglyph Paint Night at the Ktaqmkuk Mi'kmaq Museum learned this and more as they created their own paintings this winter.

Get the full story by clicking here:

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/tk1pOzayh5GF6/>



Petroglyph Paint Night is one of a series of events being hosted by Experience Qalipu in partnership with artists, knowledge keepers and community people in the Bay St. George area. This development initiative aims to help build upon the local indigenous tourism offering and create facilitation skills among our people.

Crafting a Connection Cultural Workshop Series

Submitted by Alexandra Antle, Experience Development Officer

Experience Qalipu and the St. George's Indian Band are partnering to host a series of 12 craft workshops throughout the winter. These workshops focus on cultural revitalization through the teaching of traditional skills and will contribute to the development of Indigenous Experience providers in the local area. The workshop series began in January with hide tanning taught by local knowledge keeper, Scott Butt. Ten participants spent two days learning how to skin, flesh, stretch and tan a moose hide.

participants how to paint petroglyphs and make dream catchers, drums, moccasins and ji'kmaqns. The remaining workshops include medicine bags, song sharing, story telling, marketing, spruce root baskets and a medicine walk. These events will take place during the next several months.

Thank you to Scott Butt, Marcella Williams, Marcus Gosse and Phyllis Cooper who are sharing their skills with the community.

Five workshops, primarily held at The K'taqmkuk Mi'kmaq Historical Museum have been completed to date; teaching



Qalipu Business Forum

The Qalipu Business Network hosted its seventh annual business forum on Tuesday, March 26 in Stephenville.

The Forum focused on culinary experience development and showcased offerings created by Experience Qalipu and its partners. The one-day event included a blend of presentations from traditional knowledge keepers, local entrepreneurs and Indigenous chefs.

College of the North Atlantic (CNA) joined as a major event partner this year by offering its Bay St. George campus facilities and expertise. Students in the college's Cook program worked alongside Chef Rich Francis and food foraging expert Lori McCarthy to engage delegates in an interactive culinary experience. An evening reception saw participants gather at Secret Cove Brewery in Port au Port for a meal featuring traditional Indigenous ingredients that is prepared by chefs.

Experience Qalipu's Tara Saunders said, "We were thrilled to be partners in this year's forum, and hope that the delegates walked away with a better understanding of how to create an authentic experience for their visitors. We have had so much interest in this culinary forum that we are confident it will become an annual event."

Experience the Event through pictures and story!

click here:

[Bog Myrtle Salt, Fresh Fish, Berries and the Art of Story Telling](#)



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 a large membership spread across 67 traditional Newfoundland Mi'kmaq communities and abroad, we are one of the largest First Nation groups in Canada.

Newfoundland is part of the traditional Mi'kmaq Nation whose territory extends from Quebec through the Maritime Provinces and into Newfoundland.

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 four satellite offices located in Glenwood, Grand Falls-Windsor, St. George's and Stephenville. 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 Development Corporation (QDC). The QDC was established by the Chief and Council as an independent, arms-length corporate business entity. It functions as a holding company for all business operations and investments of the QFNB. Its primary mandate is to manage the Band's portfolio of existing business operations and seek new investment and joint-venture opportunities to ensure the Band's long term economic growth and overall sustainability.

Get to know us better by exploring our website, Qalipu.ca, or spending time with us at National Indigenous Peoples 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