

Mawpmi'tjik Qalipu'k

Pronunciation **Ma be ta jik—ha le boo gee**

(The caribou are travelling together)

AMALGAT

Pronunciation **a mal kat**

(She dances)

One of the highlights of the Mini Powwow's, hosted by Qalipu in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, was the dance lesson shared by Fancy Shawl dancer Julia Blanchard of St. George's. Her smiles and youthful energy were a good match for some 120 children who attended the event. So too was her message: anyone can dance, just listen until you feel the beat in your heart, and go for it!



Julia Blanchard of St. George's gives a Fancy Shawl Dance Lesson to grade five students at mini powwows hosted in Corner Brook.

The Powwows were held to mark the conclusion of this year's Mi'kmaq Culture and History Community Project—an initiative that saw Aboriginal volunteers working together with teachers to cover a large part of the grade five Social Studies curriculum.

Many of us will recall that there was a time when the history of our Province had nothing to do with Aboriginal people, that is to say, ex-

cept for a brief mention of the Beothuk. Today we can celebrate the sharing of our diverse history with initiatives like this community project, and the integration of a more complete story being told in our children's history books. It is in Qalipu's long term vision to contribute to education and youth outreach for even more of our students across the Province in the years to come.

Check out page 2-3 to get the full story and pictures from the Community Project, and some pictures of this year's Mini Powwows.

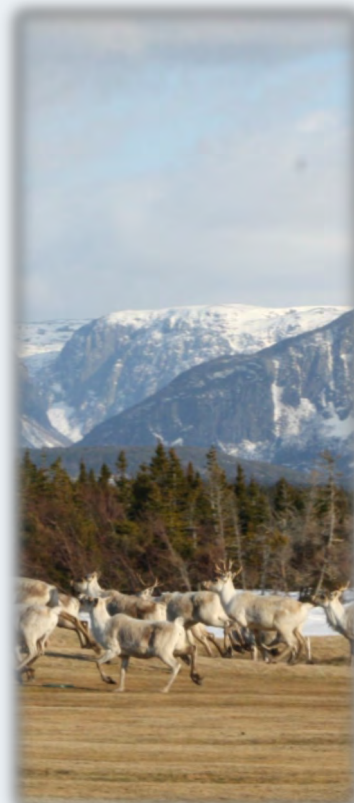


Photo by Qalipu member Megan Webb

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Qalipu
Mi'kmaq
First Nation Band

Mini Powwow



April 27, 2015—Corner Brook, NL—More than 120 students, teachers and principals from Sacred Heart and C.C. Loughlin Elementary schools gathered today to celebrate the conclusion of the **Mi'kmaq Culture and History Community Project** with the first of two mini powwows at the Royal Canadian Legion in Corner Brook this week. They were joined by representatives from the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District and the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation, partners in the development and delivery of this project, along with the many community volunteers who supported it.

This is the second year for this initiative which covers a large part of the Grade five Social Studies curriculum. Grade five students from Sacred Heart, Humber, C.C. Loughlin, and St. Gerard's Elementary Schools all took part in the project. Over the past eight weeks they have learned about the history of contact between Europeans, the Mi'kmaq and the Beothuk and reflected on their own ancestries, learned about traditional and present day decision-making in Mi'kmaq communities and learned through crafts and cultural teachings about the medicine wheel and regalia. Students were also provided with the materials and guidance needed to make their own rattles or drums which they brought with them to play at the mini powwow.

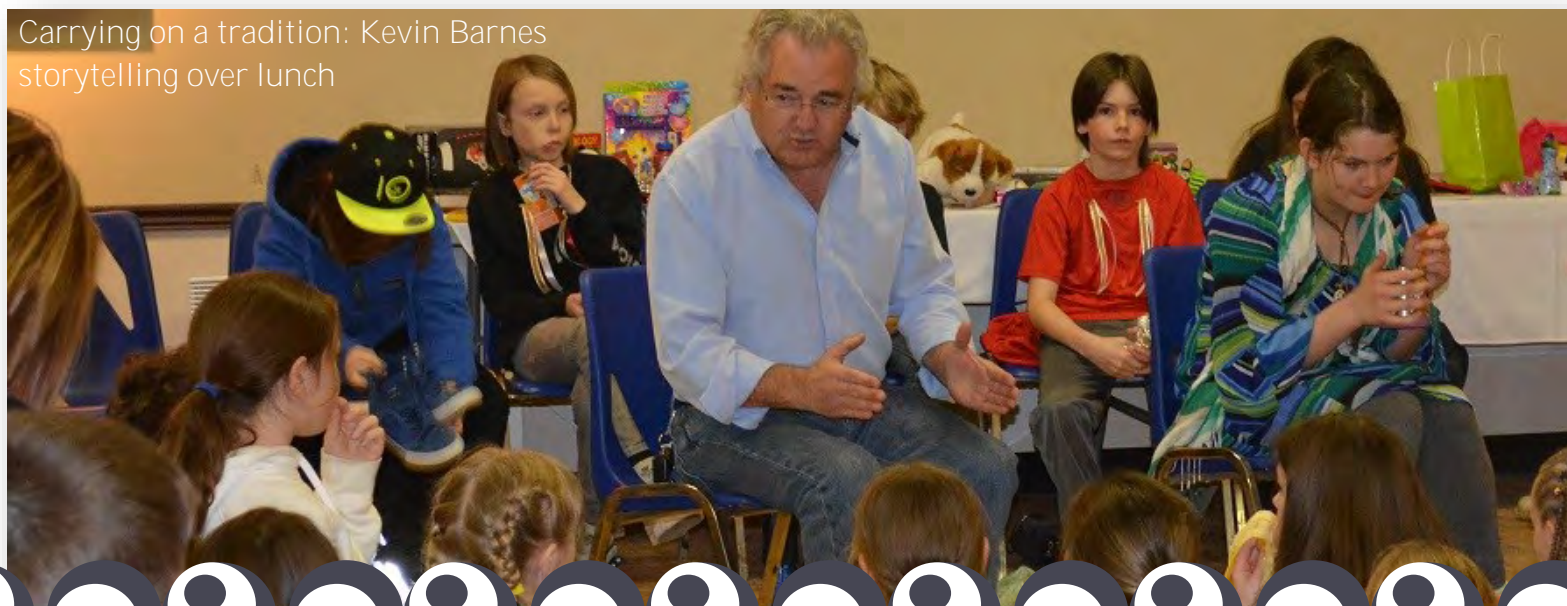
In the Classroom

187 Children discovered Aboriginal history in their Province, learned about historic and present day decision making in Mi'kmaq communities, received cultural teachings and practiced hands on learning through crafts.

The Corner Brook Aboriginal Women's Association was on hand to perform a smudging ceremony, and lead the children in several songs. Marlene Farrell, Director with the Qalipu Cultural Foundation also led the group in an opening prayer.

The day of celebrations also included talking circles, storytelling and a special demonstration of Inuit throat singing performed by Lena Onalik. Onalik is one of the parents who attended the mini powwow along with her son, Joseph, a grade five student from C.C. Loughlin.

Carrying on a tradition: Kevin Barnes storytelling over lunch



Mini Powwow

Students were also treated to a dance lesson by a talented fancy shawl dancer, Julia Blanchard. Blanchard told the students that she learned to dance by observing her elders and experienced dancers and also by travelling around to different powwows, not being afraid to give it a try. Blanchard is a teacher at Abegewit First Nation in Scotchfort, PEI but is currently at home in St. George's enjoying maternity leave with her first child, Layla, who joined her, wooing all the children at the mini powwow.

Jessica Dumont, grade five student from C.C. Loughlin spoke about some of the things she learned in the classroom and her experience at the mini powwow. She said, "we learned about talking circles and what to do in a talking circle, we made rattles and got to decorate them and we learned about the four medicines. This day has been really amazing, it's so fun!"

Brendan Sheppard, Chief of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation, was in attendance and shared his appreciation for the hard work of the many people involved in the project and coordination of the mini powwow.

"Qalipu western region Vice Chief Kevin Barnes has been so involved in cultural initiatives. Just in this project alone he volunteered several days a week at the local schools. Margaret McKeon, the resource person for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, Dwayne Gillam a parent and member of Qalipu, the Aboriginal Women's Association have also helped to put this together. We are pleased to see all the interest in being involved in Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. Thanks also to the many parents and community volunteers and educators who gave so generously of their time both in the classroom and at today's event."



Talking Circle



Five volunteers and a little lady.
Everyone falls for baby Layla

Below: Surprised with a special gift:, Western region Vice Chief Kevin Barnes is presented with a drum, finger painted by all 187 children he worked with this year.



Fancy Shawl
Dancer Julia
Blanchard



Margaret McKeon,
NL English School
District Resource
Person

Mitch Blanchard,
Qalipu Resource
Coordinator

Quarterly Meeting of Council

March 21, 2015—**St. George's, NL**—Qalipu Chief and Council met for their quarterly meeting at **the T'Kaqmuk Mi'kmaq Museum in St. George's**. With year end just around the corner, one of **the meeting's key objectives** was to review, discuss and approve the proposed operating plans and associated budgets presented by the heads of each department.

True to Qalipu's mandate to incorporate spirituality into all elements of the organization, Chief Sheppard opened the meeting with a heartfelt prayer.

"Great Creator, we ask you to be with us as we meet today. Please guide us in our discussion and decisions so that we might fairly and wisely represent the members we serve. Please be near on to all of those who traveled here today as they travel home this evening. Please provide us with good health—the Council, the staff and of course all of our members near and far. Thank **You, Creator."**

Part of the role of being a Qalipu Ward Councillor is to sit on, or chair, a committee. As part of the March 21 meeting the Finance Committee was called on to report back to Council prior to hearing to proposed budgets.

Brendan Mitchell, Councillor for the Corner Brook Ward, was appointed to chair the Finance Committee in the New Year.

Along with Grand Falls-Windsor Ward Councillor Andy Barker and member-at-large Deon Hancock, who both sit on the Committee, Mitchell met several times with staff in the Qalipu Operations Department, where all financial matters are handled. Mitchell said the purpose of those meetings was to

Great Creator, we ask you to be with us as we meet today. Please guide us in our discussion and decisions so that we might fairly and wisely represent the members we serve..." —Chief Sheppard

review all financial processes and to get familiar in his new role as Committee Chair.

Mitchell remarked that the Qalipu Policies and Procedures Manual is an excellent tool keeping the financial houses in order, and that the committee was pleased with what they found in their review. The Committee proposed a few changes to improve the policies. These suggestions will be prepared by finance for the consideration of Council.

Mitchell, having had the opportunity to review the budgets being proposed prior to the meeting, recommended that Council approve the budgets.

Keith Goulding, Director of Work Force Qalipu, was on hand to present the budget for his department as well as give an update of activities in the fourth quarter. Work Force Qalipu is the department that handles delivery of educational funding, the wage subsidy program, self-employment assistance, youth employment programs and the skills parachute program.

Goulding noted that these core programs would continue to be offered to Qalipu members in the year to come with a few changes such as the addition of an administrative support worker to help process education funding applications, and the introduction of cultural training as an element of the

application process.

Goulding also made note of a couple of new programs including the Maritime Link Targeted Training Initiative and the Health Care Careers Camp, a program which will be offered to youth this summer as an opportunity to explore career paths related to health care.

Rob Dicks, Director of Operations, spoke next on Finance which is in his area of responsibility. Year end is a busy time for this department and finance staff have been hard at work ensuring that all the books are balanced at March 31. A key priority for this department is also to have the financial statements of 2014 audited **and posted for membership's review** in advance of the upcoming Annual General Assembly in June.

Quarterly Meeting of Council

Dicks also referenced Qalipu's upgrade to electronic records management which makes it easier to organize and locate documents as needed. He also talked about the development of a continuity plan.

"The continuity plan is required in case we have a significant disruption to Qalipu's ability to perform duties. For example, in the event of a fire or significant event of that nature."

Ralph Eldridge, Director for Service Qalipu, is responsible for several divisions including Health, Economic Development, Culture and Natural Resources.

Eldridge first discussed Health and **Qalipu's administration of the NIHB Medical Transportation Claims Benefit**. He said that the pilot to test administration of this benefit took place in central Newfoundland and proved to be a great success.

Claims are being processed in around 16 days. Compared to the sometimes six weeks turn around on claims sent to Halifax, it's fair to say this pilot project has been a great success.

We have done internal quality audits and we will soon be ready to take on administration of this benefit for all members on a full time basis."

Moving on to Economic Development Eldridge talked about the Qalipu Business Network, the main avenue for communicating opportunities to member-owned businesses. He said that a formalized process for registration with the Network is being developed and that the result will be a Certified Aboriginal Business logo that businesses can use to show that they have met certain standards and are certified by Qalipu.

As a result of the Socio-Economic Agreement that was signed with Emera late last year, Eldridge noted that Qalipu was able to hire two new employees, a Communications Coordinator and a GIS Technician.

Activities in the area of culture and heritage continue to be a priority for Qalipu. Eldridge talked about some of the cultural initiatives that are currently underway.

"It's fair to say this pilot project has been a great success. We have done internal quality audits and we will soon be ready to take on administration of this benefit for all members on a full time basis."
—Eldridge

Eldridge also mentioned that the Qalipu school outreach work is underway again this year and has expanded to include more schools.

While it would be nice to offer this **in schools in all of Qalipu's Wards**, Eldridge noted that the resource person from the English School District works within the Corner Brook area only.

Eldridge introduced Jonathan Strickland, Manager of the Natural Resource Division, to give an update for that part of the Department.

Strickland noted that the division will carry on with work in Aquatic Marine Resource Inventory, Species at Risk, Alien Invasive Species Program and work with Department of Fisheries and Oceans to plan for the year ahead with the Fisheries Guardian Program.

Strickland also reported that the Traditional Use Study underway in Flat Bay and Stephenville is going very well with a high level of interest from members. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge sessions **were held to support Qalipu's work** with Species at Risk and the Division continues to participate in opportunities for youth and community engagement.

The next meeting of Council will take place on May 30, 2015, in Grand Falls Windsor. This upcoming meeting will see the Chief and Council finalizing details for the upcoming Annual General Assembly to be held on June 13 in Stephenville.

Stay tuned for summary reports from all meetings of Chief and Council here, in your monthly **newsletter, Mawpmi'tjik Qalipu'k**.

Two Journeys, One Path

Aboriginal cultural teachings and environmental education in Newfoundland and Labrador share a common thread: respect for the land and consideration for the needs of future generations. This was the theme of the three day conference, **Two Journey's, One Path: Tracing Respect in Aboriginal Teachings and Environmental Education**. Held in Corner Brook April 30-May 2, 2015, the conference was co-hosted by **Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Natural Resource Division** and the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Educators group. The event featured presenters from the hosts along with educators, environmental groups and representatives from the Aboriginal community.



Top left: Helen Spencer of the Brother Brennan Environmental Education Centre says that incorporating the **Aboriginal practice of drumming and singing** would be a meaningful addition to the Centre's summer camps. "What a powerful way to help connect the children with nature."

Top right: Parks Canada Interpreter Alice Wills shared details of an interpretive program offered at Gros Morne National Park which was developed in partnership with Qalipu. In this picture Alice demonstrates the traditional **Mi'kmaq use of a dried eel skin as a bandage**. Her volunteer is program participant **Amelia Reimer** of the St. John's Native Friendship Centre.

Bottom left: Jeri Graham, a conference participant from Corner Brook and Angie Payne, Public Outreach Education Officer with Parks Canada Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit, examine a tool traditionally used by the **Mi'kmaq to spear eels**.

Bottom right: Sara Young, Community Services Coordinator with the Canadian Cancer Society, commented that she **advocates for nature as a place of healing**. She said, "healing can come from connecting with nature and from the use of traditional natural medicines. I encourage those fighting illness to spend time in nature."

Medicine Workshops

April 20, 2015—Corner Brook, NL—Qalipu hosted a series of Traditional Medicine Workshops to share knowledge about natural medicines, the historic connection of **Mi'kmaq to the land, and the practice of passing on knowledge from generation to generation through oral history.** More than 130 individuals participated in the workshops which were held in Corner Brook, Grand Falls and Stephenville Crossing.

Following an opening smudge ceremony, participants heard from project co-facilitators Michelle Matthews and Mutchie Bennett on the historic and, in some cases, present day use of traditional medicines.

“Sweet grass, cedar, sage, fungus and tobacco are the sacred medicines commonly used in a practice called smudging which takes place at ceremonies, meetings, events or even on the personal level.” Said Michelle Matthews, Cultural Researcher for Qalipu **Mi'kmaq First Nation.** **“They are burned together in a smudge bowl and we can fan the smoke over us, or over special items or places, as a cleansing, prayerful act.”**

Matthews and Bennett shared

details on a variety of natural medicines found in Newfoundland: bear root, Labrador tea, balsam birch, blueberry, yarrow, mint, chaga and other medicines which they said can be used for healing in poultices, salves or teas. The medicines were passed around the circle so that participants could touch, smell and experience them.

Mitch Blanchard, Resource Coordinator for Qalipu, noted that knowledge of medicines represents our connection to the environment and is a hallmark of traditional **Mi'kmaq culture, something** that he says he would like to see carried on for future generations.

“The sharing of knowledge through the generations is part of the traditional Mi'kmaq way.” He said, **“Understanding the importance of passing on valuable information and traditions is part of the modern, Qalipu culture that is alive and still evolving.”**

Grand Falls participant Toby Penney said of the event, **“I just want to thank you so much for everything, it really means a lot. The support you have offered and the teaching you have provided are so im-**

portant and cherished. It really energized myself, and local groups to keep learning and to pay it forward.”



GOOD MEDICINE

The Mi'kmaq had their own powers of healing by using plants that have medicinal properties. Some are still used today. Pictured here are Labrador tea, sage and juniper.

QCF Receives Charitable Registration Status



Corner Brook, April 15, 2015—With its newly acquired designation as a registered charity, the Qalipu Cultural Foundation is well on its way to achieving its **mandate of supporting Mi'kmaq culture and heritage** in Newfoundland.

The Foundation was launched in February with a logo unveiling and an afternoon of celebrations at the **T'kaqmkuk Mi'kmaq Museum in St. Georges** howev-

er, Chairman of the Foundations Board of Directors, Charles Pender, says that the group has been working for over a year to get this important initiative going.

“Our work to this point has been to get set up, to be properly established with a strong base and accountability to members. We have done this and being recognized as a registered charity is a very important part of this process.”

Pender went on to say that being registered with the Canada Revenue Agency provides **greater opportunity for accountability and transparency.** **“Money raised to support the development of programs and projects will flow through the guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency. This means members and other stakeholders can be sure of the purpose it is being used for.”**

The purpose Pender is referring to is the Foundations plan to offer unique programs and services that will connect Qalipu members and the public with information and experiences **aimed at preserving and promoting Mi'kmaq culture and history.**

Vice Chair of the Foundation, Sherry Dean, notes that there are many options being considered for fulfilling this mission.

Dean said, **“Programs could include culture, history and heritage workshops, elder community engagement sessions, Mi'kmaq language classes, genealogy programs and provision of resources to Mi'kmaq artisans and crafters. There are so many possibilities and we are so excited to get started.”**

Mitch Blanchard, Qalipu's Resource Coordinator, provides support to the Foundation and said that charitable status will give the Foundation access to grants provided by various organizations and different levels of government who require charitable status as part of their application criteria. It also gives Qalipu members the opportunity to support initiatives they care about, and receive a receipt for income tax.

“This charitable status will allow the Qalipu Cultural Foundation to hold fundraising events, and find support from members and other participants who want to get behind the Foundations mandate.” Said Blanchard, **“I look forward to the possibilities at hand.”**

To find out more about the Qalipu Cultural Foundation, or to donate, visit their website at <http://qalipuculturalfoundation.ca/>

Enrollment Update

April 2, 2015 Ottawa, ON, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Brendan Sheppard, **Chief of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq**

First Nation, today announced the Government of Canada and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) have doubled the number of **members to the Qalipu Mi'kmaq** Enrolment committee.

The new Enrolment Committee members will apply the same approach to reviewing

the files in accordance with the 2008 Agreement and the 2013 Supplemental Agreement. The additional four members continue to offer equal representation from the Mi'kmaq and the Government of Canada.

Further, the parties have agreed to extend the deadline for the Enrolment Committee to review the 94,000 eligible applications for enrolment in **the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation**. The new deadline for completion of the review process will be June 30, 2016 and, as a result, the deadline for completion of the appeals pro-

cess will be January 31, 2017.

The extension will ensure that the decisions rendered by the Enrolment Committee on eligibility will be the result of a sound, equitable and a rigorous process of evaluation.

Canada and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians are committed to ensuring that all applicants for membership in **the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation** are treated fairly and equitably. When the enrolment process concludes, applicants will be notified by mail with regard to their eligibility.

Renewing your SCIS Card

We continue to remind members that all Secure Certificates of Indian Status (SCIS) cards have **a set date at which they expire. This occurs on all members' birth dates, with adult cards expiring in a 10 year time frame, and children's in a 3 year time frame.**

It should be noted that the majority of children's SCIS cards will be expiring in 2015. Parents must re-apply for a new card for their children.

Qalipu is here to help with the process of reapplication. An SCIS clerk, Jody Davis, has been **hired to take appointments at the Corner Brook office. She will also be traveling to St. George's** for appointments with members in that area. Please call (709) 634-0996 or email jdavis@qalipu.ca to book your appointment.

Charmaine Bath, Indian Registration Administrator, will continue to assist members from the Glenwood office and she will travel to Grand Falls-Windsor to assist members there. Please contact Charmaine at (709) 679-**2142** or email cbath@qalipu.ca. **Charmaine's next day at the Grand Falls-Windsor office will be May 13.**

Your Community

Qalipu Annual General Assembly

On June 13, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 PM Qalipu will hold its Annual General Assembly. This year it will be held in Stephenville at the Days Inn. All members of Qalipu are invited to attend and are reminded to bring their registration number which will be needed to sign in to the meeting.

Here's some of what members can expect at the upcoming Assembly:

- All members in attendance will receive a copy of the 2014-2015 Annual Report. This report outlines all of the major activities that happened within the organization through the year.
- Presentation of consolidated and audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2015. The auditor will be on hand to answer any questions related to the financial statements.
- Presentations from the Departments: Work Force Qalipu, Service Qalipu and Operations.
- An opportunity to ask questions relating to the activities of Qalipu and the Enrolment process.
- Information to take away such as brochures on our programs and services including education, employment, culture, economic development and health.
- Chance to purchase Qalipu merchandise including T-Shirts, hats, hoodies and other goodies.
- An opportunity to connect with your Chief and Council, Qalipu executive staff and fellow members **of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation**



Your Community

Events and Announcements

Bay St. George Powwow Fundraiser

Please donate your recycling at any of Scotia Recycling locations in Stephenville, Corner Brook, Grand Falls, Gander and St. John's. Just ask them to add your refund money to the 'Powwow 2015' fundraising account.

Sharing Circle

Join in drumming, singing and sharing at a weekly get together in Stephenville Crossing. Thursdays 6-8 PM at the Fire Hall. Hosted by Mutchie Bennett

Singing and Drumming sessions

The Bay St. George Cultural Circle invites all aboriginal and non-aboriginal people to attend their singing and drumming sessions Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM. Anyone interested in learning to drum and sing traditional Mi'kmaq songs and receiving teachings is asked to visit the Bay St. George Cultural Circle at 329 Main St. in St. George's.

Disaster Management Training for First Nation Communities

Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation will partner with the Canadian Red Cross to offer Disaster Management training to members in

First Nation communities within the Qalipu Wards.

The first of three sessions will be **launched in St. George's at the T'kaqmkuk Mi'kmaq Museum.** The training will run from 8:30-4:30 on Friday, May 8th. Lunch will be provided. Registration for this session is free and will be open until May 4. Space is limited.

For more information, or to register, please contact Judy Bond at (709) 634-4626 or by email at judy.bond@redcross.ca. Members are advised that this training will also be offered in the Bay of Islands and Central region. Stay tuned for dates in your area.

Health Care Careers Camp

Grenfell Campus Memorial University will be holding a career camp this summer for youth to explore careers in health related fields. Qalipu is sponsoring two students to participate in this camp. To find out more or to apply please visit our website, Qalipu.ca, under Youth Employment Programs.

Tickets for Sale: Powwow Fundraiser

In support of the Bay St. George Powwow, tickets are being sold on a caribou tufting artwork. Please contact the Flat Bay Band office to find out where to buy tickets 647-1370

Graduation Feast

There will be a Graduation Feast on June 6th at 4:00 PM at the Bay St. George Cultural Circle for those who attended the 5 day **Mi'kmaq Language Culture Incentive Program** this past summer. This Feast is only for those who attended the 5 day camp. Please contact Delina Petit Pas if you plan to attend 709 647 1359

Qalipu School Visits



Pictured here: Work Force Qalipu staff Kristina Duffy, Kristen Pittman and Samantha MacWhirter.

If you would like to have Qalipu visit your grade 12 classroom to talk about funding support programs for post-secondary and hear about other youth programs and employment opportunities, please contact Kristina at 634-5048 or email kduffy@qalipu.ca

To share your community events please contact
Alison White at Tel. (709) 634-5163 or Email
awhite@qalipu.ca

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