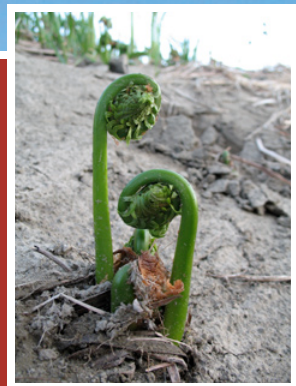




# NATION TO NATION

8th ANNUAL REPORT › 2008-2009





## MISSION

The Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi was founded upon the spirit and intent of the Political Accord of 2000 consented among the Gespegewagi Mi'gmaq governing councils of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg.

The Mi'gmaq nation, having inhabited this territory since time immemorial have inalienable title to the land, surrounding waters and have unextinguished aboriginal rights, title and treaty rights throughout the territory.

It is therefore our mission to uphold, reaffirm and respect the treaty and aboriginal rights and aspirations of our people by rebuilding the nation through repatriation of lands, resources and surrounding waters.

We will forge alliances to support the pursuit of all paths to Mi'gmaq self-determination by engaged strategic national and international partnerships in economic, social, traditional, cultural and other nation building developments as deemed necessary by the Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi.

Unanimous and in solidarity, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003 executed at Listuguj, Gespegewagi territory.

## VISION

The Mi'gmawei Mawio'mi is empowered and mandated as defined by the Governing Councils of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj to represent and to protect the Mi'gmaq nation within Gespegewagi on matters of aboriginal, treaty and inherent rights.

Asserting our inalienable rights and jurisdiction over the Gespegewagi territory through self-determination and nation status are the goals we envision to sustain our families, youth and elders toward the next seven (7) generations.

Agreed by consensus this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003 at Listuguj, Gespegewagi territory.



### THE SANTÉ MAWIO'MI FLAG

The Santé Mawio'mi Flag or Grand Council Flag, is commonly referred to as the Mi'gmaq nation Flag. It has a White background, Red Cross, Sun, and Moon.

**Wape'k (white)**

Denotes the purity of Creation

**Mekwe'kKlujjiewey (Red Cross)**

Mankind and Infinity (four directions)

**Na'ku'set (Sun)**

Forces of the day

**Tepknuset (Moon)**

Forces of the night

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# CHIEF ALLISON METALLIC, LISTUGUJ

CHAIR OF THE MIGMAWEI MAWIOMI AND CHIEF'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In June 2008, I was elected by my community and I continued my work with the MMS once again. When this organization began in 2000, I was a part of the development of the organization, and was an original signatory to the agreement which saw the three Gaspésie Mi'gmaq communities pledge to work together in areas of common interest. Since that time, there have been many significant changes that have taken place. Last year when I was briefed on the activities and on all the files, I was impressed with the amount of work that has been done for our community.

Over the past year, we have had made some major accomplishments. As Chair of the Mi'gmawei Mawioimi Assembly and of the Chief Executive Committee, it has been a pleasure to be a part of the bigger pictures issues that affect us all.

Being involved with the CEC, which are the three Chiefs; we meet monthly to discuss that administration and the larger issues at hand. This year we approved to hire a new Executive Director, Troy Jerome. Since he has been with the organization he has made significant changes which have had a positive impact on the organization.

Throughout the year we have been discussing consultation and accommodation in our territory. The Chiefs felt that this area was a huge concern; therefore we worked with the Assembly and decided to open a Consultation Unit within the office of the Secretariat. This will allow us to be more involved and to keep us more informed about the projects that are ongoing within our territory.

Another major file is Wind Power. The three Chiefs of Gespe'gewa'gi have agreed to work together and present a cohesive voice to industry and government. When we work together, we are stronger and united as a nation. With the potential for larger projects, we will be able to provide more opportunities for all of our communities.

In closing, being apart of these MMS committees has allowed our communities to work together which can only provide positive results for us. I have enjoyed working with the Chiefs and the Secretariat, and I look forward to the future. I am very proud to work with the dynamic staff of the MMS, and I look forward to serving both my community and the Mi'gmaq Nation.



**Allison Metallic**  
Chief of Listuguj First Nation





# CHIEF CLAUDE JEANNOTTE, GESPEG

CO-CHAIR, MI'GMAWEI MAWIOMI, CHAIR OF THE STEERING AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Dear members of the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq Nation, it is my pleasure to present to you the report of the Steering and Technical Committee for the year 2008-2009.

At this occasion, the STC received updates from the Nuteswistoq Office on the evolution of the tripartite process with the Governments of Canada and Québec.

As you know, the STC has been constituted in 2003, in order to permit the meeting of a group of elected representatives of each three constitutive communities in the presence of technicians and professionals in the goal to analyse and work on different issues arising from the negotiations process with Canada and Québec. The STC has also been formed to work on the elaboration of strategies for the defence, the advancement and the promotion of Mi'gmaq constitutional rights.

Following these presentations, the STC analyzed the possibility of elaborating a declaration that would make Mi'gmaq the official language of the Gespe'gewa'gi. This discussion arose from the statements made by Québec and Canada in the course of the finalisation of the Ni'ganita Suatas'gl Ilсутақаан document, where they declared that the only official languages for the purpose of interpretation of the NI would be French and English. It was agreed at the STC to make a recommendation to the MMA on the necessity of adopting a resolution declaring Mi'gmaq as the official language of the Gespe'gewa'gi.

In this context, the STC has the mandate to make recommendations to the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi Assembly. Moreover, the STC can realize specific mandates at the demand of the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi Assembly. For example, the STC, in the past, had prepared memoirs that have been presented to parliamentary commissions. Moreover, when required, Ad Hoc committees can be implemented to produce specific reports in order to feed and support the STC in its mandate.

It was at that meeting that I announced that I was going to leave my seat as chair of the STC, and leave Mr. Troy Jerome, Executive Director of the MMS fill in that position. I explained to the members that my duties as Chief of Gespeg and my involvement at the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador were becoming more and more time consuming and therefore, I felt it was time for me to pass the torch to Mr. Jerome. I enjoyed being part of the STC and I am honoured that I had the opportunity to occupy the Chairing position.

Since our last Annual General Assembly, the STC has maintained its activities in order to support the work of the technical people and more importantly with the express purpose of providing adequate information and recommendations to the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi Assembly.

Consequently, the first meeting of Mr. Troy Jerome as chair and the second meeting of the STC which took place in early November focused on the follow-up to the ratification of the Ni'ganita Suatas'gl Ilсутақаан document. It was important for the STC to elaborate a workplan related to the advancement of the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi agenda at the tripartite negotiations table (the Mgnign). On that aspect, it

In the past year, the STC members have met on four occasions:

The first STC meeting was held in December 2008.



was recommended to the Nutewistog and her team to go forward with Canada and Québec. On the establishment of a principle-based approach to the development of a relationship of reconciliation and co-existence based on their long-standing relationship of peace and friendship, which is intended to result in a Framework Agreement.

The purpose of this Megitetaqann document is to identify the megite'taqann (principles) for the Framework Agreement, which will guide that work and lead to the identification of implementation mechanisms and processes to accomplish the Megite'taqann.

The following seven core principles were identified as common principles to each of the Mi'gmaq, Canada and Quebec.

- **Nenmgl (Acknowledgement)**
- **Mawqatmu'ti'gw (Co-existence)**
- **Gepmite'taqan (Respect)**
- **Apajigisagutultim (Reconciliation)**
- **Tetapu'nasgwa'tatultim (Sharing)**
- **Ta'n Telipgwatu'g (Responsibility)**
- **Ulo'gnitew (Mi'gmaq Communal Well-being)**

The third meeting of the Steering and Technical Committee took place in February 2009. At that meeting the STC analyzed the content of the proposal deposited by the SAA on the implementation of a consultation unit at the MMS. It was proposed by the STC, that a Consultation Unit would be beneficial for the three Mi'gmaq communities of the Gespe'gewas'gi, especially with the number of consultation requests presented by the Minister of Natural resources on a yearly basis to the Councils of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj. The STC recommended to the MMA

to authorize the implementation of such a unit and to work with the SAA on a bipartite memorandum of understanding.

The last meeting of the STC was held in May of this year. This last meeting before this AGA was very important in order to support the workload of the Nutewistog office resulting from the evolution of the negotiations with Canada and Québec.

With that in mind, it was first recommended that a meeting was to be scheduled between the Nutewistog office and the MMS Communication Unit to discuss "Treaty Education Initiative"

Second, the STC suggested that the Megite'taqann document be tabled at the Mi'gmaq Tribal Council for approval to move forward in the tripartite process towards the drafting of a framework agreement

The STC also recommended to the Nutewistog office that a proposal on an economic development side table be developed to the attention of Canada and Quebec government time lined for the next Mgnign meeting in June 09.

Thirdly, the STC elaborated a Circle of Leaders Meeting agenda that contained the following topics:

Discussion on the Principled Approach based on the Megite'taqann  
Treaty Relationship option based on TA'N AN-GUGAMGEWEI GISA'TU'TIP MI'GMWEWAQ  
GESPE'GEWA'GIG  
Quebec Mandate  
Consultation and Accomodation  
Interim arrangements"tangible results under the NI"  
Funding issues

Finally, the STC recommended that the Nutewistog office open the dialogue for the inaugural of the Mi'gmaq Elders Circle.

As you have heard, the STC year 2008-2009 was really important and filled with essential work in allowing us to take a step forward in a Nation to Nation relationship with Québec and Canada.

With the Mgnign moving towards the building of a framework agreement the in Year 2009-2010 will be crucial and incremental for the future of our Nation.

Our communication team will certainly keep you informed of the latest developments and will have the mandate to conduct community consultations on the subjects that your representatives will be addressing at the Mgnign table.

It was a pleasure to inform you on the evolution of last year's work.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the work of the STC.

Thank you for your attention.

Merci,

Wela'liog

Na'multes



**Chief Claude Jeannotte**



# CHIEF GUY CONDO, GESGAPEGIAG

CO-CHAIR, MI'GMAWEI MAWIOMI

When I first came into office in 2007 the MMS organization was new to me. However, after an informative orientation and years of working with MMS, I've seen the three communities working together on many important issues for the Mi'gmaq and I'm quite happy being a part of the on-going steps towards Nation building.

As a Chief, I am part of the Chief Executive Committee (CEC) that is constituted by the Chiefs from Listuguj, Gespeg and Gesgapegiag. I am also on the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Assembly (MMA), which is the governing body for the organization. These committees are extremely important for the organization. As Chiefs, our duty is to make prompt decisions that impact the three communities collectively.

Looking at the past year, we have added much needed staff to our organization, which will only improve how effective we are in the communities. We began with the hiring of an Executive Director, three (3) Mi'gmawei Liaison Officers (MLO), and we hired an Operations & Support Manager for the Office of the Nutewistiq.

Not only have we increased our staff, one major accomplishment this year was the approval of the proposed model and implementation plan which was presented by the Nutewistiq, Brenda G. Miller. The Office of the Nutewistiq (ON) is a branch of the MMS that officially opened their doors in March 2009.

Since Ms. Miller's position as Nutewistiq, the office has made huge strides, such as seeing the Tri-partite plan approved; preparing the initial ground work on the principles for a framework agreement; the Chiefs signed the Niganita'suatas'gl Ilsutaquann (NI) and presenting it to Governments. The ON had also requested that we put forward a Mi'gmaq Language Declaration document to

Government, notifying them that Mi'gmaq be the only official language of the Gespegawagi Territory. Another important document was "The Treaty Relationship between Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi and the British Crown and its Implication for the Province of Quebec". The Chiefs have formally approved both documents and they were presented at the 2009 Annual General Assembly.

The new Executive Director, Troy Jerome has been busy on resource development for the three communities. A few accomplishments that came out of the Executive office are: agreement to work on Wind Power together, a Wind Team was created which includes representation from each community; the opening of a Consultation Unit within the Secretariat; and moving forward with litigation against the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the Regional CRE. This is an effort for us to get the Ministers to include the Mi'gmaq in the process of Consultation & Accommodation.

The MMS and the ON are both extremely important for achieving our short and long-term goals; each has different roles and is needed in order that the functioning of the Secretariat can operate efficiently and effectively as they collaborate on all files and work together for the best interests of Listuguj, Gespeg and Gesgapegiag. We have overcome many challenges with the transitions of both offices, and we are united as 'One Voice, One Vision'. I am proud to be a part of this organization and I look forward to the future that lies ahead.

Chief Guy Condo



# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TROY JEROME, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the course of the 1700's and through to the early part of this century we dealt with colonization and the devastating impacts that it brought upon our language and culture, our way of life. Though today we have a renewed vision, we are positioned to reclaim the gifts and responsibility the Creator bestowed upon us as told to us through songs, stories, legends, and teachings of our elders and storytellers.

This is our destiny and our Mission as the Chiefs of Gespegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj defined it for the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi on March 18, 2003. This Mission along with the Vision of asserting our rights throughout Gespe'gewa'gi is something we take seriously and literally.

We have un-ceded territory with resources that are more than enough to provide a livelihood for our people in a sustainable manner. Together with our political leadership and the support of the people, the Secretariat will help secure access to resources and opportunities and greater protection of our waters, lands, wildlife and our forests. Bringing forward the communities to assert their inherent and treaty rights is now a major focus and continues to be a major part of what is required.

Consultation and Accommodation and Wind Energy Development are highlighted here because of their importance in helping us to meet the vision.

## **Backgrounder on Consultation and Accommodation**

As many First Nations communities struggle to develop employment opportunities and resources for programs such as education, language and cultural programs, etc., they are bystanders to the development of the natural resource sectors on their ancestral territory largely without their involvement and often to the harm of their territories.

Public communications and consultations within our communities continue to challenge us. We are learning and making progress in getting our message out and in engaging community members in a dialogue at the grass roots.

Recently, funding has been secured to develop a Consultations Office allowing us to have greater presence within the communities, and to provide a vehicle for members to voice their opinions and concerns on resource development. This will be in addition to the Secretariat's Mi'gmawei Liaison Officers who have increased our two-way communications with the community members in each community.

The Secretariat is determined to engage people by utilizing methods as basic as sitting at kitchen tables to provide information, listen, answer questions, and document the experience. More modern one-way communications include the use of such innovative methods as internet-based podcasts.

## **Resources: Backgrounder on Wind Power Development**

With wind energy development being a significant industry throughout our territory, the Secretariat has its focus on securing our rightful share by putting forward the position that if wind energy is to be developed here, we will not stand by the sidelines and be shut out.

The Secretariat will continue to press the Government of Quebec until appropriate measures are undertaken to eliminate barriers of access to economic opportunity for the benefit of our communities, and until Mi'gmaq-tailored environmental assessment policies are implemented.

*Continued on page 10...*



## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The MMS has also commissioned position papers testifying to Quebec's inadequate attempt at consulting the Mi'gmaq on development of wind energy in Gespe'gewa'gi, from which over half of Quebec's total wind energy supply will come. The Secretariat has also been working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the largest developer in Gespe'gewa'gi, Cartier Wind Energy.

To bolster the fight for its rightful share of the wind energy resource; the political leadership has decided by way of a joint resolution that any action to be taken on wind energy development will be done together thereby strengthening the position of the Mi'gmaq. It is clear that through a unified approach in this sector the Mi'gmaq will be in a strategic position to achieve success in the wind energy development sector.

### Closing Remarks

In closing, I express thanks to Richard Jeannotte, Legal Counsel, who acted in the position of Executive Director and to Chastity Mitchell, Director of Operations, who remained on during a demanding transition period.

I have only been working with the staff here at the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat since November 2008. During this time I have reiterated to them and those who we work with, that it is our front line workers who come in every day to take care of the coordination of meetings, type the reports, seek solutions to problems, and provide the vehicles for communications who deserve most of the credit. Thank you.

Also, I do express appreciation to the Chiefs who had confidence in me to allow me to be in the position to listen to their guidance and be with them as they participate in rebuilding our Nation.

To our community members, thank you for any participation you had with us this year and over the past eight years. We have been listening and we will continue to listen to your comments and questions and we look forward to being with you to talk about Mi'gma'gi over the next year.

To our elders, we have been fortunate to be in your presence and engaging you as the Mi'gmaq deliberate on its nationhood. As we listen you provide us direction in so many facets of our past through our language. We appreciate you and we do honor your participation and look forward to being with you more this year.

The Mi'gmaq today are able to assert their rights, speak their language, and access their resources and to share in their ceremonies. This is a testimony of our resilience. Today we are in the position to bring ourselves together and to speak about the governance of our lands, our resources and our own affairs. This resilience can be largely related to our determination in standing together as Mi'gmaq. One Nation.

Nawe'gwei Wela'lieg



**Troy Jerome**  
Executive Director, MMS



# OFFICE OF THE NUTEWISTOQ

BRENDA G. MILLER, NUTEWISTOQ

**G**we' ~ Greetings to all community members, with a special warm greeting to our Elders. The Office of Nutewistooq is celebrating its first year of operations, and we are pleased to provide you with a summary of the work conducted through this Office from April 1st, 2008 - March 2009.

The Office of Nutewistooq is currently comprised of a team of four (4) staff. Nutewistooq, Brenda Gedeon Miller, has led the Office of the Nutewistooq, as well as the negotiating team ~the Mgnigng ~ since April of 2008. In January 2009, Terri Lynn Morrison came on board as Operations and Support Manager. Terri manages and works directly with all staff at the Office, with the Management Team at the Secretariat, as well as the Mgnigng. Meredith Bernard, Receptionist/Office Administrative Assistant, is responsible for daily tasks, and keeping the Office running smoothly. Amy Chamberlin (Metallic), Technical Writer, recently transferred to the Office from the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi Secretariat. Amy contributes to the writing of information related to negotiations. Additionally, Elders, Mi'gmaq linguists, community and professional consultants have also assisted in the work of the Office of the Nutewistooq.

The role of the Office of the Nutewistooq is to oversee and manage the negotiations' work, as mandated by the leadership. By supporting the negotiations' work, our aim is to assist in the reconciliation of Mi'gmaq Title and Rights on Gespe'gewa'gi.

The Office of the Nutewistooq is located at the upper level of the Woodpile, Highway 132.

## **Mgnigng: The Official Negotiation Team**

The Gespe'gewa'gi Negotiations team, the Mgnigng, is comprised of Nutewistooq, Brenda G. Miller, as well as legal counsel Bruce Clarke (of Burchell, Hayman Parish in Hali-

fax) and Richard Jeannotte (of Jeannotte, Plourde Cote in Gespeg). This year, the Mgnigng worked with Canada and Quebec. Our priority this year was to set goals and objectives, within the context of the tripartite process.

## **A Principled-based Approach for Negotiations**

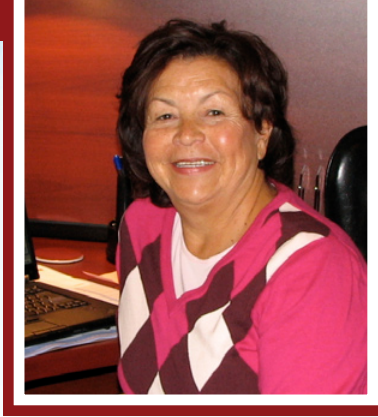
In its work this year, the Mgnigng focused on establishing a common understanding among the parties for a principled-based approach to negotiations. That is, the negotiation processes will be based on seven (7) Mi'gmaq principles. These principles will be consistently reflected in all agreed upon texts, which will inform future discussions, agreements and negotiations as we move towards a Framework Agreement. The teachings for these principles originate from previous consultations and close working relationships with Mi'gmaq Elders. Many of the teachings are expressed in Nm'tginen: Me'mnaq ejiglignmuetueg gis na naqtmueg, a Statement of Claim to Gespe'gewa'gi, submitted to government in 2007.

## **Seven Areas of Interest: Developing a Framework Agreement**

The Mgnigng was mandated by the Mi'gmawei Mawiommi to begin discussions on topics and common interests, which will be part of the Framework Agreement phase of negotiations. The Framework Agreement will identify areas that will be negotiated through the claim process. The Gespe'gewa'gi model includes non-exhaustive topics in seven (7) areas. These seven areas include Mi'gmaq interests around:

- **Land**
- **Water**
- **Air**
- **Governance**
- **Citizenship**
- **Finance**
- **Nation & community issues**

*Continued on page 10...*



In 2009-2010, the Mgnigng will focus on developing a Framework Agreement. We anticipate the tabling of a draft agreement by the fall of 2009 with the Mi'gmaq leadership. As well, the objective of the Mgnigng is to undergo comprehensive consultation with community members throughout the year. The anticipated date for tabling a Framework Agreement is 2010.

### **Areas of Common Interest**

This year, the Mgnigng worked on two (2) specific areas of common interest arising from the table discussions:

i) Consultation and Accommodation and ii) Economic Opportunities.

#### ***i) Consultation and Accommodation***

The Mgnigng established a working committee to examine issues and questions about consultation and accommodation from the leadership as well as at the community level. Presentations were made to the leadership in March of 2009. The result was a comprehensive report which will be tabled to the Tri-Partite table in May 2009. The report confirmed the need for a formal strategy when consulting with local Mi'gmaq governments prior to external governments issuing grants and permits to developers and companies exploiting Mi'gmaq traditional territories.

#### ***ii) Economic Opportunities***

The Mgnigng table also began exploring common interests on the potential for, and the immediate impact of, economic opportunities in and around Gespe'gewa'gi. This work is in progress.

### **Mi'gmaq Right to Governance: Starting with our Mi'gmaw Language**

In the 2008/09 Work plan, and in the context of the long term strategy to reestablish Mi'gmaq Governance within the communities, the Mgnigng recommended to the Mi'gmaq leadership that we ought to begin with the promotion of Mi'gmaw language as "the" official language" in Gespe'gewa'gi territory. Oral tradition, taught through our language, not only teaches us about who we were, but more importantly defines us as a unique nation of today.

Subsequently, a declaration on Mi'gmaw language, titled: Mi'gmaw na Gepmnsituninen ula Gespe'gewa'gig ~ Mi'gmaw as the Official Language of Gespe'gewa'gig was carried by consensus during the Assembly meeting of January 16, 2009.

The Office of the Nutewistog has developed an information delivery strategy to brief the leadership of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi in detail on the implications and impacts of the Mi'gmaw Language Declaration.

### **Angugamge'wel ~ Treaties**

The Mgnigng team, along with staff and consultants of the Office of the Nutewistog, produced a factual historical report on the sacred treaty relationship established between the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi and the British Crown in the 18th century, and its implications for the Province of Québec.

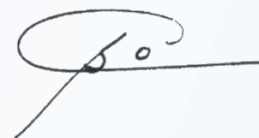
The Treaty Report is officially titled "Ta'n Angugamge'wei gisa'tu'tip Mi'gmewaq Gespe'gewa'gig aq Elege'uti Aqalasio'wei aq ta'n telnapitoqa'tegeg ugjit Gepegewei Gpnnolewuti ~ The Treaty Relationship between Mi'gmaq of

Gespe'gewa'gi and the British Crown and its implication for the Province of Québec."

This Treaty Report firmly establishes that Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi clearly occupied lands and waters within what is now known as Québec. The report also reaffirms a treaty relationship that includes the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi with the British Crown during the Covenant Chain of Treaties between 1760 to 1779.

Moreover, from a legal point-of-view, the rights guaranteed by the treaties are exercisable within the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi, bind Québec to the extent that the traditional territory overlaps the present day territory of Québec.

The Treaty Report was presented, and approved for transmission to Governments, by the leadership in late March and early April of 2009. The report was submitted to the Governments of Canada and Québec on May 1, 2009.



**Brenda G. Miller, Nutewistog**  
Office of the Nutewistog  
Gespe'gewa'gi, Listuguj, Mi'gmagi

# OPERATIONS

CHASTITY MITCHELL

Welcome to our 8th Annual Report, this last year was a very busy one for the team of the Mi'gmawei Mawioimi Secretariat. I would like to take this opportune time to welcome Troy Jerome as our new Executive Director.

In 2008, we went through a transitional period and during that time we were faced with many changes as well as a number of continued activities which lead me into my current position as Director of Operations.

Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Director of Operations main responsibility is to effectively centralize and manage the administering of support staff, overseeing the day to day operations of the Secretariat, revising and implementing human resources policies and procedures, providing advice to staff members and current departments which include Finance, Communications and Research and evaluating community related programs that fall within the Tribal Councils pillars.

Some of the most recent work set out by Operations is assisting the Executive Office in re-evaluating our current structure. We began auditing the departments through a job analysis and also securing yearly evaluations to measure performance. This process will be maintained to make sure our goal of supporting the mandates given to us by the leadership will be done efficiently. We continue to revise policies and procedures, upkeep personnel records and manage our yearly work plans respecting our allocated budgets.

In the near future, we will be visiting with our leaders to work together on areas of Governance, Community Planning and Economic Development towards the growth of our communities of Listuguj, Gesgapegiag and Gespeg known as Mi'gmawei Mawioimi.

I hope this finds you in good spirits.



**Chastity Mitchell**  
Operations Manager



# RESEARCH

TANYA BARNABY, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

We've gone through a few changes in the Research Unit this past year. A temporary change in direction for the Unit brought Tanya Barnaby to act as Interim Research Director. Karen Barnaby, from Listuguj, also joined the team as the new Research Analyst.

Through the mandates of the leadership of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomis, the Research Unit has made some significant progress in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We have been very busy with projects continued from last year as well as new projects that have arisen throughout the year. Here is a summary:

## The Traditional Use Study (TUS)

The Traditional Use Study (TUS), is now well into Phase II. This includes a complete internal analysis of the project. All the interviews that were conducted in Phase I are being translated from Mi'gmaq and French to English and then transcribed. This process is necessary for the expert analysis that will be required in the end.

Also, this year in the TUS, more layers of information were added to the maps. We were able to add historical relevant information, pictures and sound files to the maps with our growing database of information.

The Geographical Information Technology (GIS) is also playing a pivotal role in the work of the Research Unit. Mapping has become central to identifying our needs on the territory.

## Mi'gmaq Place Names (Toponymy)

This project has been the major focus for the Research Unit in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

First, the Research Unit continues to hold Focus Groups in Gesgapegiag and Listuguj. The groups consist of Elders who work together, using their knowledge of

the language and the territory to identify place names (toponymy) throughout Gespe'gewa'gi. The validated place name information from the Elders aids us in creating maps identifying our traditional territory.

Another project we have underway in Toponymy is the "Mest'gipigajit Muin" initiative. This project is named after Elder, William Jerome whose vision in the early days of MMS was for the Mi'gmaq to have place name recognition throughout Gespe'gewa'gi territory.

This work involves the partnership of the Quebec government's Commission de Toponomie department. We are working to bring recognition of our Mi'gmaq place names throughout Quebec.

The first part of the workplan involves incorporating Mi'gmaq toponymy on the Commission's website for provincial recognition. More long term projects are planned for the 2009-2010.

## Archaeology

Archaeology is quickly becoming a priority for the work in the Research Unit. Last year, the Societe de Machault, looking for the Petite Rochelle historical Acadian village, came across some Mi'gmaq artifacts during their test dig.

The MMS and the Societe de Machault have since signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on the Petite Rochelle archaeological project.

Also in archaeology, MMS has been collaborating with the community of Gespeg on an archaeological project at Pointe Penouille. Because of the increasing number of files in archaeology, the MMS now recognizes a need for general protocol around archaeology. This will be a focus for 2009-2010.

## Canadian Heritage Website

In July, 2008, MMS began work on a website sponsored by Canadian Culture Online. This site is designed for youth and is centered on our traditions and cycles of life through stories, photographs, videos and other research mediums. The launch date for this site is June 30th, 2009.

## Other Research Projects

The Research Unit continues to focus efforts in other important areas of study. Projects involving Mi'gmaq law ways and land tenure progressed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We've also held meetings with the Ministry of Communications and Culture Quebec in an effort to form a working relationship with them on various interest areas.

## In closing

The above was just a glimpse into the hard work that the Research Unit has conducted throughout the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We would like to thank all the community members who have participated in our Focus Groups as well as any other meetings that required your input. We look forward to the new year filled with important goals and community participation.

Wela'lieq

**Tanya Barnaby**

Interim Director of Research

# COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

FELIX ATENCIO-GONZALES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

During the last few years, the Mi'gmawei Mawioimi Assembly has made remarkable progress in asserting Mi'gmaq Title and Rights. Having Quebec and Canada agree to formally enter a land claim process with the Mi'gmaq is the result of our leadership's determination and guidance and the work of the people supporting that intent.

The evolution of this historic process, guided collectively by the communities of Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj, is reflected in the themes of previous Annual Reports and AGAs

- "Reconciliation and co-existence"  
2004-2005
- "Living our rights and responsibilities"  
2005 – 2006
- "Mi'gmaq Nation: reflections & renewal"  
2006 – 2007
- "In the Spirit of Nm'tginen"  
2007 – 2008

The theme of this year's AGA, "A Step Forward: Nation to Nation," reflects our resolve to continue reaffirming Nation to Nation relations with Canada and Quebec and the exercise of Mi'gmaq rights within Gespe'gewa'gi.

The Communications Unit's mandate is to inform, consult and to help strengthen a common understanding in our communities about the Mi'gmaq land claim process. That's what we were busy doing this year.

During the fiscal year, the Communications' Unit work plan, approved by the Chiefs, was ambitious and our efforts to deliver all the programs and activities as intended, faced some limitations in terms

of staff, capacity and the Unit's cohesiveness.

We had several changes in our Unit. The Gespisiq Coordinator, journalist Charlene Labillois, resigned from her position in May. We thank Charlene for her contribution and wish her success on her new endeavours. Christianne Bernard from Gesgapegiag, was hired in February to continue the production of the Gespisiq.

In December, we started planning a permanent Community Liaison Officers program and in February the program – now called Mi'gmawei Liaison Officer, MLO - was implemented. The three MLO's: Joan "Joannie" Labillois (Listuguj, Coordinator), Nicole Jeannotte (Gespeg) and Christine Jerome (Gesgapegiag) are visiting community members in their own homes to inform them about the MMA, the land claim process and to gather people's comments and feed-back.

We also produced live and recorded G'mitginaq Radio shows on various topics including interviews with Chiefs, the Nutewistoq, wind power development, the "National Day of Action" and a 2 ½-hour special Residential School apology programming.

As with previous years, October "History Month" was again full of different activities aimed at the youth of the three communities. We gave presentations to schools in the three communities and we organized a special visit to a sacred place in Gesgapegiag where students from our three communities and one invited school from New Carlisle met elders and learned Mi'gmaq traditional teachings.

Our work plan also included a joint publication project with non-native media, supporting translation services in Mi'gmaq-French-English for all the MMA needs, coordinating the Mi'gmaq Writer's Award, video production, photo exhibits, redesigning our website and producing the Annual Report. This ambitious work plan had mixed results and we are working to improve it in order to have well informed communities.

The arrival of Troy Jerome as the MMS' Executive Director has brought some changes that will be reflected in the following months and we, at the Communications Unit, will be working hard to support the land claim process, to assert Mi'gmaq rights to the territory, inform communities and share their input with the MMA leadership.

## Communications Unit:

**Andrew Lavigne**

Multimedia coordinator

**Joan "Joannie" Labillois**

Mi'gmawei Liaison Officer Coordinator - *Listuguj*

**Nicole Jeannotte**

Mi'gmawei Liaison Officer - *Gespeg*

**Christine Jerome**

Mi'gmawei Liaison Officer – *Gesgapegiag*

**Christianne Bernard**

Gespisiq Coordinator

**Sherry Condo**

Administrative Assistant

**Felix Atencio-Gonzales**

Director of Communications

# MIGMAWEI MAWIOMI SECRETARIAT

AUDITED BY RAYMOND CHABOT GRANT THORNTON

## Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat

### Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance

Year ended March 31, 2009

	INAC	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	Adjusted Prior Year Surplus (Deficit)	Cumul. Surplus (Deficit)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
01045 Consultation and policy development - governance	4,545		4,545	4,545			
01110 Tribal Council Funding	261,680	51,781	313,461	330,438	(16,977)	50,786	33,809
01360 Comprehensive Claims Submission	315,798		315,798	317,722	(1,924)	(37,859)	(39,783)
01370 Negotiations Preparedness Initiative Funding	1,300,000	13,337	1,313,337	1,389,675	(76,338)	(10,134)	(86,472)
01370 Negotiations Preparedness Initiative Funding Supplement	60,459		60,459	34,846	25,613		25,613
63000 Web site project		135,281	135,281	119,498	15,783		15,783
64000 CRRNT Program Discontinued projects		40,000	40,000	39,355	645		645
	<u>1,942,482</u>	<u>240,399</u>	<u>2,182,881</u>	<u>2,236,079</u>	<u>(53,198)</u>	<u>64,233</u>	<u>64,233</u>
	<u>1,942,482</u>	<u>240,399</u>	<u>2,182,881</u>	<u>2,236,079</u>	<u>(53,198)</u>	<u>67,026</u>	<u>13,828</u>

## Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Financial Position

March 31, 2009

### ASSETS

#### Current assets

Cash	133,603
Term deposit, 1.8% to 3%	9,495
Accounts receivable	<u>223,291</u>
	366,389

#### Fixed assets

532,652

899,041

### LIABILITIES

#### Current liabilities

Accounts payable	342,106
Deferred revenues	10,455
	<u>352,561</u>

### SURPLUS

General fund	13,828
Capital fund	<u>532,652</u>
	<u>546,480</u>
	<u>899,041</u>