









**Annual Report** 



## NIGE' 'POOJINUITA'SULTINEJ THE TIME IS NOW • LE MOMENT EST VENU

Each year the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat hosts an Annual General Assembly to report on the past year's progress and hold discussions with the Gespe'gewa'gi Mi'gmaq on matters of jurisdiction, their lands and the future of its governance.

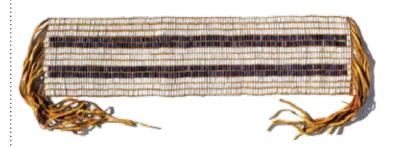
Annually a theme is chosen which reflects the current work of the MMS. In considering a theme for this year's assembly, we reflected on the general message that we have heard repeated at the numerous meetings held this past year.

Nige''Pgoji'nuita'sultinej - the time is now to do things the Mi'gmaq way, the L'nu way. Our language holds the laws that we will build our governance principles upon; our protocols on hunting, sharing, caring and looking after one another will help us teach our children about being Mi'gmaq and how caring for our land will help secure our future.

In launching efforts to host the Assembly, this theme is very appropriate as we look forward to another important stage in the Comprehensive Claims process and a step as we continue to think about Nation Building.

In this spirit, it is with great honour that we thank the Elders, the Youth, the leadership and citizens who have come out to participate at information sessions, consultation sessions and community events this past year. Together the people of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg, and Listuguj put forward the message, Nige''Pgoji'nuita'sultinej.

## THE WAMPUM



Wampum belts or strings were used to call a Council gathering, elect a Chief and as records and deeds. Every law passed by the Mi'gmaq Grand Council was recorded with a certain string or belt of wampum, which were made from the quahog clam shell. Woven strings of wampum were created to commemorate treaties or historical events and for exchange in personal social transactions, such as marriages.

A member of the Mi'gmaq Grand Council called a Pu'tus was responsible for the wampum belt. Meetings of the Mi'gmaq Grand Council were recorded and read back by the Pu'tus, re-telling the treaty, law, message or event. In this way, the wampum belts tell the history of the Mi'gmaq people.





The chiefs of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi have been working together over the past year on a number of important files for the communities. Last year, we committed to moving forward, building our Nation. Hearing what community members have been saying confirms that the work being done by the Secretariat is advancing in communities, and a momentum is being created.

Maintaining respectful and positive intergovernmental relations is

important to us as we move forward in our reconciliation process at the Tri-Partite table.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Allison Metallic of Listuguj, who will not re-offer in the upcoming election. Chief Metallic was a part of the founding Chiefs of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, and has remained committed to the mission and vision set forth. His words will be missed at the table, and we will continue to ensure that the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi get their "fair share", a statement that Chief Metallic echoed at the table for many years.

We hope that this annual report gives you information on the current mandates at the Secretariat, the progress made to date, and a better understanding of the work that lies ahead. We would also like to congratulate the Executive Director-Nutewistoq, Troy Jerome and his team for all of the outstanding work done over the past year.







Suy londe

Chief Guy Condo Gesgapegiag

Chief Claude Jeannotte Gespeg

Chief Allison Metallic Listuguj







## **3** Communities 20 Years \$100 Million

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#### Thinking Strategically; Fund Our Governments; Change our World.

Would you consider these bold statements? I suggest that before making your decision, you need to consider the question in the context of Mi'gmaq Governance, as it exists in our communities today, and reflect on the current statistics or key indicators on Mi'gmaq employment, health, and education. At the same time, look at the systemic failure of the Indian Act and how it sets out to control or threaten every aspect of Mi'gmaq life. I propose that we need a Vision for our Nation that incorporates such bold and audacious goals.



The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi, the Assembly of the Mi'gmaq of Gespe'gewa'gi, has had a challenging and rewarding year as it continues in its Nation Building efforts. To pursue nation building the Assembly must focus on: strategic decisions, long-term vision, setting good rules and bringing their citizens with them. The Assembly must also continuously assert its jurisdiction and aggressively fight for sovereignty or self-rule.

The work carried out this year by the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat, the Executive arm of the Assembly, included: undertaking an economic study, laying out a roadmap to fund our own governments; continued efforts at strengthening the claim over all of Gespe'gewa'gi; concluding a Framework Agreement with Canada and Québec; and strategically pursuing a major wind energy project forecasted to bring in over \$100 million in profits for our three communities over a twenty-year period.



To conclude, and in the

spirit of Nige' 'Pgojinuita'sultinej, the theme for the 2012 Annual General Assembly, my thoughts and reflections turn to giving thanks. It is my duty and pleasure to recognize those who have contributed to the success and growth of your organization over this last year.

First, I thank the Assembly for their leadership and allowing me the honor to act as the Executive Director and Nutewistoq. Thank you to our Directors, Tanya Barnaby, Chastity Mitchell, and Terri Lynn Morrison; they have demonstrated courage in challenging times. They created a solid team with employees understanding the vision and helping to keep the organization moving towards that vision.

I also, humbly, say thank you to all employees of the MMS and a special thanks to Laura Johnson, Executive Assistant, who continues to demonstrate professionalism while juggling many responsibilities.

We are proud of our achievements this past year, and on behalf of all the employees of the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat, I thank you, Wela'lioq.

Think Nation — Nige' 'Pgojinuita'sultinej.

STAFF - Staff

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Myrna Sook Program Administrator Consultation & Accommodation Unit



Richard Jeannotte In House Legal Counsel Intergovernmental Relations Unit



Nicole Jeannotte Gespeg Community Liaison Officer Intergovernmental Relations Unit



Jason Jerome Student Support Worker - MWP2 Intergovernmental Relations Unit



Laura Johnson Executive Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Unit



Troy Jerome Executive Director -Nutewistoq Intergovernmental Relations Unit

Andrew Lavigne Communications Coordinator Intergovernmental Relations Unit







Jill Metallic Intergovernmental Support Clerk Intergovernmental Relations Unit

Jules Barnaby Operations Support Operations Unit



Christina Burnsed Finance Officer Operations Unit



Philippe Leblanc IT Administrator/Technician Operations Unit



Lisa Saumur Finance/Payroll Clerk Operations Unit





Christy Metallic Assembly Coordinator Intergovernmental Relations Unit



Terri-Lynn Morrison Associate Director Intergovernmental Relations Unit

Walter Brisk Custodian Operations Unit



Jenn Jerome Receptionist Operations Unit



Chas Mitchell Director Operations Unit



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Accommodation.

#### **Mgnign Working Group**

The Mgnign Working Group makes recommendations to the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi.







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#### Mgnigng – The Mi'gmaq, Canada and Quebec sign the Niganiljoga'tagan

Over the past year, the Mgnigng (circle of officials) has advanced discussions at the tripartite table on the Niganiljoga'tagan (Framework Agreement) to the point where all parties approved the agreement, along with the Tripartite Agreement on Mi'gmaq Consultation and Accommodation.

The Niganiljoga'tagan is a tool, which will help guide further negotiations under an Agreement in Principle. It sets out what topics will be discussed such as:

- culture and heritage;
- natural resources;
- environmental assessment and protection;
- parks and other protected areas;

- self-government;
- taxation; and
- economic measures.

#### Mgnigng Working Group - Mgnigng Elders Circle

The Mgnigng working group is attributed to the realization of the agreements. It is this group that processed the document internally through analysis and provided the recommendation to the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi for approval.

The name of the document "Niganiljoga'tagan" which means "things that were put into place ahead of time" was given by the Mgnigng Elders Circle, and captures the essence of what the agreement is achieving.



#### **Information sessions**

Parallel to the tripartite negotiations, the MMS facilitated a number of information sessions in the communities. During these sessions, the Niganiljoga'tagan was presented and community members had discussions on their preoccupations and what they want to see come out of the comprehensive claims process.



When community members have a chance to sit down and talk about the Niganiljoga'tagan, the general message that is given is that a priority should be placed on the reemergence of the Mi'gmaq language and culture. The fundamental issue with respect to language and culture programs in communities is lack of funding from Governments. Emphasis is also placed on economic measures which would allow for the Mi'gmaq to generate additional dollars into their own governments to support such programs.

#### **Reconciliation and coexistence**

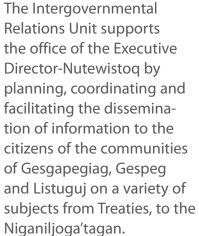
There is a goodwill presented at the table from Canada and Quebec to enter into the next phase of negotiations, and to participate in the development of agreements that will permit, among other things, the conceptualization of interim agreements respecting Mi'gmaq assertions that will build upon the parties' long standing relationship of reconciliation and coexistence.

## Section Sectio



#### About the unit

















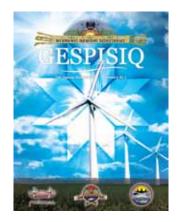


One essential function of the Intergovernmental Relations Unit is the coordination of several key groups that tie into the Tri-partite process. In order for the Leadership to be confident that we are moving in the right direction through this comprehensive claims process, we must ensure that everyone has had an opportunity to review the material, discuss it, and ask any questions required.

#### **Communications activities included:**

Mi'gmaq History Month – Throughout the month of October, MMS travels to organizations and schools to share and discuss Mi'gmaq treaties, history, language, principles and our future with community members of Gesgapegiag, Gespeg and Listuguj. 2011 saw the most reached audience of over 1000 members which included students, Elders and the general public. We were invited to speak during student assemblies at SSHS in Campbellton, AGS in Listuguj and at the Wejgwapniag in Gesgapegiag. Our visits also took us to Gespeg and Montreal, while we hosted Fall Feasts in all 3 communities to observe History Month.

**Gespisiq publications** - The Gespisiq is mailed to approximately 1510 homes, to provide up to date information on on-going files at the MMS. To sign







up for your copy, email us at secretariat@migmawei.ca.

#### Website

The MMS launched their new and improved website on September 2nd, 2011 after months of

planning to re-design a site that's user friendly and informative for our citizens on a number of subjects from Mi'gmaq History in Gespe'gewa'gi to current events in the Territory. The website was designed with the users in mind. Directors of each of the units at the Secretariat developed pages within





the homepage that allows for information around the work in their unit to be highlighted. Visit our website at www.migmawei.ca.

#### Mi'gmaq Tri-Council (MTC) with the Mgnigng Elders Council (MEC)

The Assembly made the recommendation to incorporate the Mgnigng Elders Circle representatives to their table. The reason this decision was made was because of the guidance and worldview that the group brings to the table. Rather than have them as an endorsing group, the Mgnigng Elders Circle will now be a part of the discussion at the point where decisions are made.

The MTC and MEC met once this year. Experts were brought in to talk about the future resource development in Gespe'gewa'gi. Topics discussed included Wind Power Development, Wealth Generation, the Economic Study for Gespe'gewa'gi and the next phase of discussions with Canada and Quebec – The Agreement in Principle. Presentations were made on each topic, and at the end of the



day the Leadership and Elders were anxious to get started on developing our own constitution. The energy in the room was high, and we are anxious to move forward with that same enthusiasm in 2012.

#### **Economic Development Study**

The MMS retained the services of an Economist to prepare an Economic Development Plan to the



Leadership of the 3 communities as a road map to self-government. The primary concern of the MMS was to determine the needs of its communities in order to reach their targeted standards of living and self-government. The second concern of the MMS

was to determine the means to reach those goals based on their potential economic development and resources.

## Meeting with the Maliseet from Viger (Québec)

The Mgnigng accompanied the Chiefs to a meeting on the topic of overlap with the Maliseet from Viger (Québec). The Chiefs used this opportunity to have an exchange of information, and see if we are able to help each other. Since this meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted by our legal counsel and the mandate was given to table the document to the Viger for their consideration.



Service YOUTH FORUM



#### **MMS 2nd Annual Youth Forum**

The MMS hosted its second annual Youth Forum on March 19th & 20th in Gesgapegiag. Approximately 40 youth from Listuguj and Gesgapegiag attended this event, which was designed to bring them together to talk about Nation Building. Over the 2 days, the group had an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about the future of the Mi'gmag in Gespe'gewa'gi. The level of input from the group was impressive, and a recommendation came out of the session for the MMS to develop Terms of Reference for official Youth Council to be established and advise on the work taking place at the Secretariat.







## **Nation Building**

Approximately 40 youth from Listuguj and Gesgapegiag attended this event, which was designed to bring them together to talk about Nation Building.









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# Consulting with the citizens of Gespe'gewa'gi



### About the Unit

The Consultation & Accommodation Unit (C&A) facilitates the consultation process between the communities, provincial governments and industry. Throughout the last year, we held consultation sessions in the three communities on various topics, the files where government initiated the duty to consult.













#### **Current Consultations**

Energy Forestry Oil & Gas Mining Wildlife Environment

Community sessions provide Mi'gmaq citizens the platform to learn about the consultation topic, as well, discuss how their territory and rights may be affected by the contemplated conduct or activity.

## Your opinion is critical. Have your voice heard.













#### **Tripartite Consultation Agreement**

Under the Tripartite negotiation process, the Mi'gmaq, Quebec and Canada have negotiated a Tripartite Consultation Agreement. Under this agreement, the MMS will facilitate the consultation requests that come from the federal departments such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Transport Canada, Environment Canada, etc.

Up until now, the C&A unit facilitated solely those consultations that came from the provincial (Quebec) government.

#### **The Work**

The C&A Unit held consultation sessions in Gespeg, Gesgapegiag and Listuguj throughout the 2011-2012 year. Each of the sessions are advertised with posters throughout the community, invites in the mail, notices on Facebook and our website and also on community radio where applicable.

## Some of the files the C&A unit facilitated in 2011-2012 were:

#### Oil & Gas

In November, 2011, the government of Quebec engaged the Mi'gmaq in a consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment II (SEA II) in regards to oil & gas exploration in the St. Lawrence. The leadership of the three communities, along with environmental experts gathered in Gesgapegiag to participate in a presentation by Quebec government officials detailing the



preliminary findings of the SEA II. The Mi'gmaq sent a clear message that the SEA II was incomplete, without the proper data and did not show any signs that oil exploration in Gespe'gewa'gi waters would be safe. The Leadership took a strong stance against any exploration in the St. Lawrence.

#### **New Forestry Regime**

The government of Quebec is implementing a new forestry regime, which will take effect on April 1, 2013. Throughout the last year, Quebec has been consulting with the Mi'gmaq on various parts of this new forestry regime. One of the bigger files was regarding the implementation of "Local Forests" in Gespe'gewa'gi. Several meetings were held with the Forestry departments of the three communities in order to process the technical implications of this new regime.

#### Conclusion

One of the main goals of the C&A Unit is to engage the citizens of Gespe'gewa'gi in the consultation sessions. It is so important to hear from the people on the main issues that our unit facilitates. The participation of our membership in our consultation sessions was minimal in 2011-2012. We are hoping to change that in 2012-2013 by trying new ways to reach our membership and keep them informed on the issues as well as gather their opinions on consultations from both the provincial and federal governments.





#### **About the Project**

This year, the Chiefs have had a number of meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Quebec to discuss the launching of a wind power initiative that would open the doors for the Mi'gmaq to bid on a 150 MegaWatt project in Gespe'gewa'gi. We are pleased to report that we have been able to have significant progress during the meetings, and are anticipating great results.















### MI'GMAQ WIND POWER PARTNERSHIP



## **About the Project**

The Mi'gmawei Mawiomi leadership envisions vast possibilities for jobs and other economic benefits that wind power offers to our community members in Gespe'gewa'gi.















#### Major players in the wind power/windfarm industry

Through its administrative arm ~ the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat (MMS) ~ the leadership has developed a significant partnership with the major players in the wind power/windfarm industry.

The first and overall goal of the Mi'gmaq Wind Power Partnership Initiative, known as MWP2, is to work with our Mi'gmaq communities to create employment for our people in the construction and operation of windfarms in Gaspé. Other objectives, including establishing a windfarm built and operated by Mi'gmaq communities, may be developed over time.

We now have over 15 Mi'gmaq workers who have challenged and passed their CCQ exams, have received their work permits and are working on windfarm construction sites and elsewhere. Most of the these job placements have been in or nearby the Gaspé region. Additionally, we have over 54 Mi'gmaq students that have been qualified to take training programs in the Gaspé region and in other areas of Québec, amongst them 5 have successfully completed a Linesman course outside of Quebec City and 10 are currently taking a Heavy Equipment Operator course outside of Montreal, and scheduled to be completed in November of this year.

#### **Partnership Participants Today**

As of now, all of the wind power developers currently in the Gaspé have signed on as partners. All of the construction companies building new windfarms in Gaspé are now on board or have indicated their intention to do likewise. This means many guaranteed job opportunities for Mi'gmaq applicants who qualify.



#### About the unit

Fiscal Management Human Resources Policies & Procedures Mi'gmaq Writers Award Facility Management Onsite IT Support







#### **Financial audit**

This Spring was a busy time for us as we prepared for our Annual Audit. Each year our books are closed on March 31st and our financial audited statement is produced. The financial statements are audited by Raymond Chabot, Grant Thornton (RCGT), Chartered Accountants and they are included in each annual report. This is our way of being accountable to all the communities.

#### **Finance**

Finance has been incorporated under Operations for the past year and is effectively managing sound fiscal and responsible finances for the Organization. We also engaged the assistance of Chrissy Burnsed to deliver support and consultation within the areas of Finance. She assists with the accounting and any deliverables as well as support to the other directorates.

#### LMDC

We currently work with Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Center (LMDC) and Gesgapegiag Human Resource Development Commission (GHRDC) to engage in new opportunities for our community members seeking employment. Lucie Mercier began working with us through LMDC employability project as an Operations Assistant in the winter of 2012. She will be with us for 26 weeks. She works closely with the Operations Unit and assists in the financial management of MMS as well as providing support to the other directorates.

Jason Jerome was the successful candidate for the Student Intake Worker this winter. He is currently working out of the Gesgapegiag territory located at the GHRDC building. His job consists of providing support and guidance to the adult learners through their individual training program.

Star Gray has joined the staff and is our newest custodian. She is responsible for the interior of the MMS building and Walter Brisk Jr. will continue to maintain the exterior of the building. Welcome aboard!

#### **Consultation and Accommodation Relocation**

The Consultation and Accommodation Unit has re-located to the community of Gesgapegiag. The Chief & Council of Gespapegiag have long desired to have MMS visible in the community. They still keep in close contact with the Secretariat offices in Listuguj.



#### **Executive Finance Committee**

The Executive Finance Committee meets quarterly to guide the financial decisions of the Secretariat. They receive and review financial reports, statements and expenditures. They ensure effective financial management and approve all our budgets and funding reports.

#### **Mi'gmaq Writers Award**

The Mi'gmaq Writers Award is heading into its 4th year. It continues to be an important initiative of the Secretariat. Last years winners were Ta'pit Hubert Martin in the category 17 and under and in the 18 and older category, Darcy Gray. We expect to see great writers every year brought forward and we are never disappointed. It is with great pride that we continue to showcase the importance of Mi'gmaq writers. Our official sponsor for this important initiative is Cartier Wind Energy. They help to keep this initiative alive.

#### Mi'gmaq Scholarship Award

Another important initiative is our Mi'gmaq Scholarship Award. This is extended to the host community at our Annual General Assembly. The community awards this to students who have shown exemplary efforts in maintaining good grades. We are very proud of all the recipients of this award.

In closing, we would like to extend warm congratulations to our newly elected Chief and Council of Listuguj. We look forward to working with them in the following years and wish them much success in their endeavours.

There are always new updates and job postings that are showcased on our Facebook page and our website. We encourage everyone to visit us at www. migmawei.ca or www.facebook.com/migmawei.

#### Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Consolidated Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances Year ended March 31, 2012

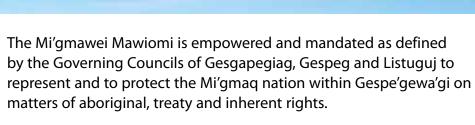
						Excess (deficiency) of	Adjusted accumulated	Accumulated
			Transfer		Total	revenues over	surplus (deficit)	surplus (deficit)
	AANDC	Other revenues	from (to)	Total revenues	expenses	expenses	beginning of year	end of year
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
01145001 Tribal council funding	261,680	43,562		305,242	307,011	(1,769)	93,191	91,422
01222001 Negotiation preparedness	987,900	19,467	(28,400)	978,967	980,762	(1,795)	(5,847)	(7,642)
01227001 Consultation and policy development	17,500		(4,094)	13,406	12,958	448		448
01370003 Comprehensive claims submission							(21,764)	(21,764)
04877002 VCACT		201,211	(53,464)	147,747	147,747			
08101001 Business development	66,728		24,304	91,032	103,741	(12,709)		(12,709)
08102001 Land and resources development	76,442		36,742	113,184	121,064	(7,880)	(27,402)	(35,282)
08867001 Large renewable energy	150,000		30,203	180,203	180,203			
10000000 Golf tournament		11,445		11,445	12,399	(954)		(954)
20000000 Skills partenership fund		72,748		72,748	72,748			
40000000 Wind resource development		176,523	(37,785)	138,738	138,738			
60000000 SAA consultation & accomodation		261,066	28,400	289,466	285,238	4,228	19,049	23,277
60000001 Conférence Régionale des Élus		23,840	4,094	27,934	27,934			
99999999 Discontinued projects							46,201	46,201
	1,560,250	809,862		2,370,112	2,390,543	(20,431)	103,428	82,997

#### Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat Financial Position

March 31, 2012

Financial assets		Liabilities	
Accounts receivable	705,886	Bank overdraft	5,365
		Bank loan	166,000
		Accounts payable	524,077
		Deferred revenues	100,046
	705,886		795,488
Non financial assets		Surplus	
Fixed assets	172,599	Accumulated surplus	82,997
	878,485		878,485

Servicion Section



Asserting our inalienable rights and jurisdiction over the Gespe'gewa'gi 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.

