
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

In response to numerous requests from member communities, and in keeping with the objectives of the Tribal Council, CMM developed a new arm of the organization which will concentrate on revival of the Mi'kmaq language and awareness and understanding of the Mi'kmaq culture.

These are two areas for which financial support and expertise are not plentiful. With the coordinated effort of several staff and support from a variety of sources, CMM has been able to participate in several initiatives this year which will hopefully provide the base from which many more language and culture initiatives will develop.

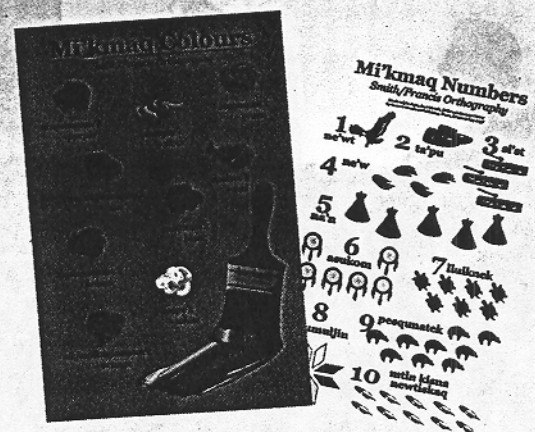
LANGUAGE

In the spring of 2000, CMM undertook a needs assessment to determine the status of the Mi'kmaq language in member communities. This study consisted of informal community interviews with many members. Findings indicated that the language was indeed at risk of extinction, very few learning opportunities and materials were available to encourage revival, and Mi'kmaq language teachers were very hard to find. In response, and with financial support from the Aboriginal Languages Initiative, and the FNCCEC (First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres), CMM initiated the purchase and distribution of a series of 15 language posters to teach colours, numbers, seasons, body parts, farm animals, forest animals, facial features, months of the year, my family, days of the week, and the alphabet.

An accredited language course was offered on site at CMM to 15 participants through UCCB. The Course, Conversational Mi'kmaq, was delivered by Eleanor (Tu'ti) Bernard and included teaching ideas which the participants could share with others in their communities.

For the first time, CMM became involved in the planning and financial administration for the Atlantic Mi'kmaq Language Conference – L'nui'sultinej that took place May 9th-11th, 2001 at St. F.X. University.

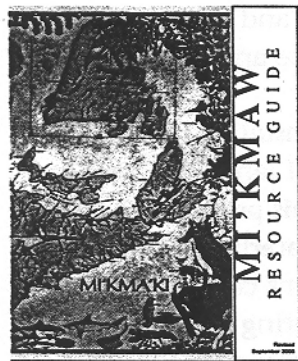
At year end, CMM was in the process of negotiating for a full-time in-house language consultant who will provide outreach language training at the community level and help the organization to continue its work in Mi'kmaq Language Revival.



A series of 15 language posters are available for purchase from the CMM offices.



CULTURE



The exhibit - Mikwite'Imanej Mikmaqi'k: Let Us Remember the Old Mi'kmaq – which depicts Mi'kmaq life during the 20th century, has toured many interesting sites this year:

- NS Museum
- St. Francis Xavier University Art Gallery
- University College of Cape Breton
- Robert S. Peabody Museum, Andover, Massachusetts
- Canadian Embassy, Washington, DC
- Yager Museum, Hartford College, NY
- Hudson Museum, University of Maine

The Exhibit will be on display at the Wagmatcook Cultural Centre during the summer of 2001.

As follow-up to the exhibit, CMM, in conjunction with the Robert S. Peabody Museum, will be launching a book this summer of pictures and stories from the exhibit. The book titled "Mikwite'Imanej Mikmaqi'k: Let Us Remember the Old Mi'kmaq", is 144 pages in length with a production run of 3200 copies. Text summaries are provided in the Mi'kmaq language throughout the book.

CMM participated with UNSI and Native Council in producing and publishing the second version of the Mi'kmaq Resource Guide – a popular resource for researchers, teachers and those wanting to know more about history and culture.

CMM continued to offer speakers to various audiences on several aspects of Mi'kmaq history and culture. With increased demand from schools and community groups, CMM has hired two Cross Cultural Facilitators who will develop materials and information and provide presentations to schools and

community youth groups upon request beginning in September, 2001.

A one day cross cultural training package was developed this year and offered to a number of audiences on a fee-for-service basis. Participants are given a half day presentation on the history of the Mi'kmaq culture complimented by another half day on current Mi'kmaq developments and issues. This course is delivered by the Executive Director and the CMM Legal Advisor. The course can be delivered on-site at CMM or off-site as requested by the client.

On September 9th, 2000, in Guysborough, the Sword of Peace was presented by the Right Honorable Malcom Sinclair, Earl of Caithness and Chief of the Clan Sinclair, to Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. The sword was in turn presented to Don Julien to be held in trust for the Mi'kmaq until a protocol for protection and a final resting place is ratified. The sword is a symbolic gesture of peace and friendship between Henry Sinclair and the Mi'kmaq people who he met on his arrival in Guysborough in 1398. The sword is on display at the CMM Office.

CMM participated in the Ethics Committee appointed by the Grand Council. This Committee was tasked to draft a Code of Ethics to govern research work (pertaining to the Mi'kmaq) to preserve cultural integrity and Mi'kmaq ownership of cultural material. The document was ratified during the St. Anne's Mission in July 2000 at Chapel Island and later circulated. The Ethics Committee continues to provide a monitoring function with respect to research projects.



LANDS



Tricia Bernard
Lands Officer

CMM Lands personnel assisted the Pictou Landing Council with land transactions to ensure the Band Public Works are registered in the Indian Lands Registry. The land titles are now complete and can be displayed on the new Geographical Information System maps with the buildings and other physical attributes of the community. Pictou Landing is the only First Nation in Atlantic Canada with current and complete land and survey data built into a GIS system.

The practices of DIAND concerning the surveys and registration of lands required for capital works and infrastructure were reviewed and recommendations for change prepared to ensure land records are up-to-date and the assets secured for Band use.

Lands personnel reviewed the Additions to Reserve policy and the Interim Policy Bulletin on Additions. A position paper was prepared concerning the background of the Reserve system and recommendations regarding the future administration of this process.

Millbrook Council and staff were assisted with field investigations and preliminary sketches for survey plans concerning existing and proposed subdivisions. Assistance was also available for drafting documents for exchanges between Band and individual members.

A land record filing system was implemented to organize and inventory hard copy correspondence and plans.

Software was also installed to enable electronic storage of land data from scanned images. This process has been used to assemble material for presentation of specific claims cases and other pertinent files requiring legal review. Following the initial input of the material, electronic copies can very easily be available to other interested parties.

Work continued on the land addition for the Annapolis Valley First Nation resulting in a successful purchase late in the fiscal year. Reserve status will be pursued in the coming year.



LEGAL



Eric Zscheile
Legal Advisor

Tripartite Forum – As a result of a new co-ordinated effort, the Tripartite Forum was evaluated and a Report and Recommendations paper completed suggesting a more efficient decision-making structure within the Forum. As well, rights-based issues have been moved to a Title and Treaty discussion table. It is hoped that new emphasis can be placed on the Forum to create work plans in the Working Committees that will promote visible programs and projects at the community level. For more information on the Tripartite Forum, the Tripartite Forum Annual Report is available from CMM upon request.

Band Elections – In response to the Corbiere decision, new Band elections regulations were put forward by DIAND and will govern the Band elections scheduled for 2001. A costly and time consuming process, CMM will not be involved in the administration of elections. However, legal services began a series of information sessions for Chiefs and Councils to discuss the implications of the Corbiere decision and will continue to provide information to interested communities regarding development of customized elections options to meet community interests.

Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs – A proposal to begin providing a formal structure to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs has been accepted and will begin in 2001. The purpose is to provide proper procedural rules for the way the Assembly operates and create greater Band Council involvement in decision-making at the Assembly level. This work will be undertaken jointly through CMM and UNSI.

Litigation – CMM is currently involved

in the appeal of the Stephen Marshall case. It is estimated that the appeal will be heard early in 2002. CMM is also a Defendant in the Shubenacadie Fishing Case. This case is an action in Federal Court and could take some time to move through the system. The action against Nova Scotia and Canada vis-à-vis crown land easements for the gas pipeline continue in the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Wills Project – CMM contracted a legal consultant to create “user-friendly” will packages to distribute to the community. It is hoped that this will increase the use of wills in communities and therefore lessen possible disputes. Pending funding approval, CMM hopes to facilitate community meetings on this important topic in 2001.

Fishing Arrangements – Work was done with each community to create a fishing arrangement for the season that is beneficial to the community. For some, this has meant negotiating fishing agreements and for others, it meant creating community fishing plans and liaising with DFO to ensure peaceful fisheries access. It is hoped that the Title and Treaty discussions can begin creating a future dialogue on this issue.

Aboriginal Title - Canada, Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, in February of 2001 began working on an Umbrella Agreement to coordinate efforts on the Tripartite Forum, Title and Treaty discussions and a Consultation Framework. To facilitate internal communications, planning began for a Chief and Council symposium scheduled for May 2001 to fully discuss the issues and begin to create a Mi'kmaq mandate for the upcoming discussions.



MARITIMES NORTHEAST PIPELINE



Norma Prosper
Environmental Liaison Officer

Under an agreement between NS Mi'kmaq and Maritimes Northeast Pipeline (MNEP), CMM housed a Mi'kmaq Environmental Representative sponsored by MNEP. Working for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs, the Environmental Representative was active this past year in the inspection and monitoring of the construction of the Halifax Lateral Pipeline and was tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the interests of the Mi'kmaq were protected.

Liaison among and between MNEP, the First Nation Communities, the Tribal Councils, the Assembly of NS Chiefs, the Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee, etc. became integral functions of the position.

Mi'kmaq environmental concerns were outlined in a Traditional Ecological Study of sites of concern for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Additional sites of interest were also identified through interviews and site visits from a number of Mi'kmaq resource people.

As part of a joint venture between CMM and MNEP to improve Aquatic and Wildlife Habitat, the Mi'kmaq Environmental Representative was involved in stream restoration and tree planting projects for the restoration of the Mainline.

Later in the year, CMM contributed expertise to plan options for the distribution of the training funds and scholarship initiative which were also part of the Mi'kmaq/MNEP agreement.

MEMBERSHIP



Woody Peters
Band Membership Advisor

CMM administered band membership registration for Afton, Bear River, Glooscap, Millbrook and Pictou Landing this year. In addition, CMM presided over one referendum in Pictou Landing, and presided over the election in Millbrook.

An initiative was undertaken to archive membership information on disc for protection and storage.

Discussion regarding the concept of a "universal" status card which would serve many functions came to a halt at year end as DIAND is planning a national status card initiative for the future. However, the Province continues to be interested in producing a tax exemption system for purchase of gas and fuel oil on reserve. CMM will remain involved in all discussions and plans for this initiative.

Membership

Community	On	Off	Total 2001 March 31	Total 2000 March 31
Afton	306	162	468	463
Bear River	95	160	255	259
Glooscap	95	185	280	273
Millbrook	637	555	1192	1146
Pictou Landing	355	157	512	499
Annapolis Valley	76	131	207	200



**MI'KMAWEY
DEBERT**



Elaine Jeffery
Mi'kmawey Debert Coordinator

CMM was fortunate to second Elaine Jeffery from HRDC to begin the strategic planning and development work needed for this important initiative. As well, toward year end, an assistant position was supported by DIAND to provide administrative support for the project.

Negotiations have begun with the province to access the land for development – both for the Cultural Centre and the Mi'kmawey Forestry Initiative.

A proposal for pre-engineering work is prepared for funding with the work commencing early in the new year.

Work with St. Mary's Business students produced a tourism study examining cultural centres across North America and highlighting the strong and weak points of each development. This will be a valuable document as development continues in Debert. A second group of St. Mary's Students were tasked to do a study on certified forest products for First Nations Forestry which will also be helpful in the development of Mi'kmawey Forestry in Debert.

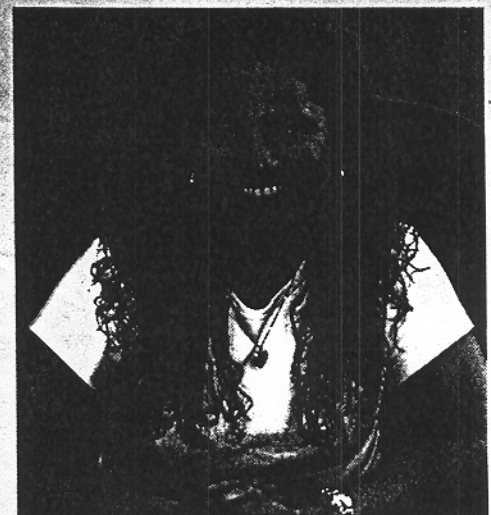
The Mi'kmawey Debert Conference was held on March 21 and 22 in Debert. Fifty participants from across Canada attended. Many suggestions were given to help move the project forward. As part of the conference preparation, display units and artwork were produced that will be used to promote awareness of Mi'kmawey Debert.

Initial research regarding legal and charitable status of Mi'kmawey Debert, environmental design of the facility, partnership opportunities and forestry initiatives has begun to gather an inventory of material that will guide the design of the centre and steps needed to establish the various segments of the initiative.

Numerous information sharing and contact meetings were held with a variety of interested parties – Colchester Regional Development Agency (CORDA), The Colchester Parks Development Society (CPDS), Dalhousie University, the Eco-efficiency Center, INAC, Federal Council, ACOA, and HRDC – to name a few.

The name of the project "Mi'kmawey Debert" has been registered and documents drafted for the legal entity to be established.

A web site and GIS mapping for Debert were in progress at year end.



Shannon Brooks has been hired as an Administrator for Mi'kmawey Debert.