

# **Office of Aboriginal Affairs**

## **Annual Accountability Report**

**Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2002-03**

**Issued by: Office of Aboriginal Affairs**

**Date: October 20, 2003**

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## **Accountability Statement**

The accountability report of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs for the year ended March 31, 2003, is prepared pursuant to the Provincial Finance Act and government policy and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Office of Aboriginal Affairs business plan information for the fiscal year 2002-03. The reporting of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs' outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs' management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs business plan for the year.

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Honourable Michael G. Baker, QC  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

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Judith Sullivan-Corney, Chief Executive Officer / Deputy Minister  
Office of Aboriginal Affairs

## **Message from the Minister**

The information we are providing in this document outlines the work the Office of Aboriginal Affairs has undertaken in the last fiscal year. Much of what has been accomplished is due to the professionalism, dedication, and commitment of our staff. We are proud of what we have been able to do for the people of Nova Scotia in our role of organizing and ensuring a consistent government approach to addressing Aboriginal matters. We encourage you to examine our efforts over the past year.

After going through a year of growth and change, the staff of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs have worked hard to build a solid foundation for a meaningful and lasting relationship with the Mi'kmaq of this province. At the same time, the Office also provides support (financial and organizational) to the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum. This is the key mechanism for governments and the Mi'kmaq to come together to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Please take some time to examine this document and feel free to contact the Office of Aboriginal Affairs if you have any questions.

Michael G. Baker, QC  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

## **Introduction**

This accountability report, the second for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs provides a report card on the progress and accomplishments of the Office during the fiscal year, 2002-03. This report is based on the goals and priorities as outlined in the 2002-03 business plan for the Office.

The main body of the report provides a review of achievements during the fiscal year. In addition the report provides an overview of financial results and performance measures.

In addition, the Office continued the internal work necessary to prepare the Province for the negotiation process and build capacity across government to address Aboriginal issues in an effective and proactive manner.

Additional information on the activities of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs can be found at our web site [www.gov.ns.ca/abor/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/abor/) .

## **Department Progress and Accomplishments**

The following section provides an overview of the progress and achievements of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs during the 2002-03 fiscal year. These achievements are organized around the core business areas of the Office as outlined in the 2002-03 business plan.

*Core Business Area: Negotiations and Related Discussions - The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for coordinating the negotiation process and representing the province's interests in negotiations and related discussions with the Federal Government and Mi'kmaq.*

### **PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Signing of Umbrella Agreement**

In June 2002, after two years of negotiations an Umbrella Agreement was signed by the Province, the Government of Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. This agreement formalizes the key aspects of the relationship among the three parties including:

- Framework Agreement negotiations on treaty and related issues;
- Restructuring and revitalization of the current Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum; and
- Discussion among the three parties on the nature and extent of consultation between governments and the Mi'kmaq.

#### **Negotiation of Treaty and Related Issues**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs conducted the following activities during the fiscal year in preparation for the negotiation process with the Mi'kmaq and the Government of Canada:

- Appointment of a chief negotiator for the Province;
- Establishment of an interdepartmental committee of senior officials on treaty-related and other aboriginal issues to coordinate departmental involvement for negotiations;
- Internal consultation with provincial government departments to raise awareness of the negotiation initiative and assist in identifying departmental interests;
- Introductory meetings with provincial groups and organizations to begin raising awareness of treaty issues and identify concerns and interests about negotiations.

- Begun consultations with stakeholder groups to enhance public awareness and understanding of the negotiating process. A strategy is being developed using a range of strategic communications methods to ensure wide public awareness and knowledge of the process. Public understanding is critical to the success of negotiations.

### **Fuel Tax Rebate Negotiations**

- The Province reached settlements totaling \$19.1 million with seven of eight Mi'kmaq bands regarding the repayment of provincial fuel taxes paid in error in prior years by Status Indians. Negotiations with one remaining band will continue into 2003/2004.

### **First Nation Gaming**

Through a series of gaming agreements with First Nations, almost \$30 million was made available to First Nation governments through a sharing of revenue under the video lottery terminal program and participation in revenue sharing from the Sydney Casino.

During the year, the Province also initiated discussions with bands on the renewal of gaming agreements. Negotiations on these issues have continued into the 2003-04 fiscal year.

***Core Business Area: Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations - This area includes working with Aboriginal communities and organizations and other levels of Government to coordinate Aboriginal initiatives, develop strategies, and build and maintain a sustainable framework for First Nation-Government relations***

## **PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **National Aboriginal Discussions**

Ministers responsible for Aboriginal Matters and National Aboriginal Leaders met on November 15, 2002 in Nunavut, Iqaluit, to further the work of the FPTA Forum on matters of economic participation and of the complex issues facing Aboriginal Youth. A number of informational tools were developed and Ministers and Leaders endorsed the creation of the National Aboriginal Youth Organizations Committee (NAYOC). In addition Ministers/Leaders directed officials to focus efforts on the issues of housing and education.

In February of 2003, Nova Scotia participated in the National Aboriginal Business Summit, a gathering of business, government, Aboriginal Leaders and Aboriginal Business People.

### **Regional Aboriginal Discussions**

The Office met with Maritime colleagues to discuss issues of common interest and established a dialogue of key issues facing governments in this region. In the future, the Office will continue to work with its Maritime counterparts to further the joint interests of both the Aboriginal peoples within the region and their respective provincial governments.

### **Fuel Tax Point of Sale System**

During 2002-03, OAA in collaboration with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations begin implementing the Nova Scotia Indian Fuel Tax Exemption Program (NSIFTEP). This program, unique Canada provides Status Indians with a tax exemption on fuel purchases at the point of sale. To facilitate the implementation of this program, the Province support First Nation retailers in the purchase and installation of the necessary technology and training required to implement the system. This system is currently operating on the majority of reserves in Nova Scotia.

### **Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN)**

Building on the Clairmont report of the Mi'kmaq Justice Institute, the Tripartite Forum Justice Committee, with strong leadership from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq has built the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network (MLSN). MLSN is an umbrella organization designed to oversee Mi'kmaq justice issues in the province of Nova Scotia. One of the first programs MLSN will roll out is the Aboriginal Court Worker Program, based on the national model. This program is a collaborative effort of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Chiefs, the Federal Department of Justice, the Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Nova Scotia Department of Justice. MLSN is planning to have four Aboriginal Court Workers trained and in place in the fall of 2003.

### **Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum**

2002-03 was a year of transition for the Tripartite Forum. During the year, the Tripartite Forum Secretariat was formed. This secretariat is seen to be a key mechanism for improving the effectiveness of the Forum.

Committees of the Forum pursued a range of initiatives within their mandates including:

- The Culture and Heritage Working Committee engaged in the investigation of measures



for protection of paleo-indian, archaeological sites. They are also providing assistance and technical expertise to the Mi'kmaq in their efforts to repatriate collections of cultural heritage, now found in Australia. The working committee also worked on developing a strategy for improving the public presentation of Mi'kmaq culture in Nova Scotia.

- The Economic Development Working Committee promoted entrepreneurship in Aboriginal communities through training and increased awareness of procurement opportunities, with specific initiatives including “Open For Business”, “Mi'kmaq FirstNet”, and worked towards building an Aboriginal Tourism Strategy.
- The Education Working Committee worked towards the restoration and preservation of the Mi'kmaq Language by supporting existing language initiatives in Nova Scotia, explored the creation of new language initiatives and supported and promoted a Mi'kmaq Studies curriculum. They also worked to promote adult learning within Mi'kmaq communities as well encouraged the expansion of career choices for all those entering or within the Nova Scotia work force.
- The Health Working Committee worked primarily in the identification of service delivery gaps and jurisdictional ambiguities with respect to healthcare in Mi'kmaq communities. Along with the development of a plan to address barriers to Mi'kmaq people accessing healthcare services, efforts were made to foster more cooperation and partnership among the various Federal/Provincial and First Nation agencies providing health and related services to the Mi'kmaq people of Nova Scotia.

In addition, Officials created an Ad hoc committee to address the need for a common approach on healthy and active living within communities. Finally, resources were identified to support the creation of a communications position within the Tripartite Forum. The creation of this position was seen as critical to enhancing the understanding and awareness of the Tripartite Forum and Aboriginal issues in general.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs has also created an intranet site for sharing information on Aboriginal issues with departments and agencies. The Office is now developing interdepartmental protocols and policies to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing these issues. This will be particularly helpful as the province begins negotiations on Treaty and related issues.

### **Treaty Day**

In collaboration with the Mi'kmaq, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs organized the annual Treaty

Day events held at the Nova Scotia Legislature. At this event held every October 1, the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Senior Elder Award was presented to Martha Denny and Martha Isadore. Both were recognized for their outstanding contributions as Mi'kmaq elders.

The Chief Noel Doucette Memorial Youth Achievement Awards went to Sarah-Lynne Rose Knockwood and Jaimie Battiste. This award was established in 1996 and is presented to Mi'kmaq youth who possess leadership qualities and show high academic achievement.

Mi'kmaq Kina'matnewey (Education) also presented two \$1,000 scholarships to recipients of the Donald Marshall Sr. Memorial Scholarships. This scholarship supports Mi'kmaq post-secondary students at the diploma, certificate, bachelor and graduate levels. The recipients of these two awards this year were Madelaine R. Gould and Monica Y. R. Andros.

*Core Business Area: Interdepartmental Coordination, Policy Analysis and Strategic Advice - This business area includes providing policy and strategic advice and support to departments and agencies concerning Aboriginal issues. The office also works with departments and agencies to develop and implement the Government's overall approach to Aboriginal issues.*

## **PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Aboriginal Policy Framework**

With the assistance of departments and agencies, OAA began work on the development and implementation of an Aboriginal Policy Framework to guide Government's overall approach to Aboriginal issues. The Policy Framework will be consistent with and support Government's overall strategic direction on economic and social policy. This Framework will enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and provide a strategic approach to Government's response on Aboriginal issues, as well as clarity with respect to roles and responsibilities.

- Preliminary work has been initiated on the Aboriginal Policy Framework, primarily focused on setting the context, identification of key issues, roles and responsibilities and strategic considerations.

### **Interdepartmental Committees/Structures**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs plays a lead role in organizing and ensuring a consistent government approach to addressing Aboriginal matters. Throughout the year, the Office provided advice to line departments on Aboriginal matters and participated in corporate initiatives to ensure there was a reflection of Aboriginal issues. Some key activities during the

fiscal year included:

- The Province of Nova Scotia was a key member in several interdepartmental committee/structures that attempt to cross jurisdictional barriers in order to improve the quality of life for Nova Scotians. Such initiatives include the Sustainable Communities Initiative, the Provincial Government Advisory Group on Community Development, and the Nova Scotia Rural Team, part of the Canada Rural Partnership. The Office of Aboriginal Affairs made valuable contributions to each of these initiatives and is a regular member.

### **Research**

The Office is committed to identifying, preparing and distributing Aboriginal related research and information for use by provincial departments and agencies. During the fiscal year:

- OAA established and began to implement a research workplan. This included support for work conducted by Natural Resources on crown grants, the development of a program and service inventory and a report on Aboriginal demographic information on Nova Scotia.

### **Aboriginal Perceptions Training**

The Office is committed to raising the level of awareness and understanding of Mi'kmaq heritage and culture generally and specifically within the Nova Scotia Government. To further this commitment the Office pursued the following activities during the 2001-02 fiscal year:

- During the year, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, through a program jointly developed by the Aboriginal Justice Learning Network, developed and began delivering an Aboriginal Perceptions Training program. Through an in-house facilitator, the training is intended to include a set of six, intense and comprehensive sessions designed to equip participants with necessary tools for working in and with Aboriginal communities. So far, the program has been delivered to OAA employees, with the aspirations of being a program deliverable to the entire Nova Scotia Public Service

### **Human Resources**

This year was one of significant change within the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. With a number of new staff, a priority was placed on staff development and training. In addition to the introduction of an Aboriginal Perceptions Training Program, a number of strategic planning sessions were held throughout the year.

## Financial Results

The following table outlines the budgeted and actual spending for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs during the 2001-02 fiscal year. Overall spending came in at \$2.0 million, approximately \$132,000 less than the authorized budget of \$2.169 million.

Cost Centre	Budget	Actual	Variance
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 671,900	\$ 662,976.85	(\$ 8,923.15)
Travel	39,000	56,475.61	-17,475.61
Professional and Special Services	727,000	493,584.08	233,415.92
Supplies and Services	83,100	108,841.00	-25,741.00
Other	193,000	381,849.93	-188,849.93
Grants and Assistance	460,000	364,459.28	95,540.72
<b>Less:</b>			
Chargeables to Other Departments	5,000	2,400	2,600
Recoveries	0	29,000	-29,000
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,169,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,036,786.75</b>	<b>(\$ 132,213.25)</b>
<b>FTEs</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>

- *Salaries and Benefits* were 8% below expected levels as a result of staffing changes and delays in rehiring throughout the fiscal year.
- *Professional and Special Services* were below budget estimates primarily as a result of a delay in entering into formal negotiations on treaty and related issues with the Mi'kmaq and the Government of Canada. Costs associated with the negotiation process such as stakeholder involvement, communication and public education are some examples of the expenditures that were budgeted for under this cost centre and to a large extent went unexpended throughout the fiscal year.
- Expenses in the major cost centre, *Other* were over-expended due to the inclusion of partial costs associated with the implementation of the proposed fuel tax exemption program for Status Indian purchases of fuel on reserve.
- *Grants and Assistance* payments were below expectations primarily as a result of the delay in formal negotiations.
- *Chargeables to Other Departments* were lower than anticipated due to a decrease in enrollment in

Cultural Awareness training offered throughout the fiscal year.

# **REPORTING ON OUTCOMES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The following pages report on our progress in meeting targets set during the business planning process. As the outcome measures established by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in 2002-2003 changed in the 2003-04 business planning process (see Appendix A), these measures will be used as the basis of the report.

Measures are grouped within the core business areas of the Office, although in one instance a measure used was broad enough that it addressed all aspects of the core business.

## **PART I - NEGOTIATIONS AND RELATED DISCUSSIONS**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for coordinating the negotiation process and representing the province's interests in negotiations and related discussions with the Federal Government and Mi'kmaq.

The key outcome associated with this core business element is *fair and timely resolution to issues of mutual concern*. What follows is a reporting on each of four measures identified to track progress on this particular outcome.

## **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATION OF TREATY AND RELATED ISSUES**

### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

Reaching consensus on a Framework Agreement with Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia is the next milestone in the treaty negotiation process. This document will guide all future negotiations as it sets the items that will be negotiated and articulates how the negotiation process will be conducted.

### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The three parties (Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia and Canada) formally signed an Umbrella Agreement on June 7, 2002. This agreement formally initiates preparation for Framework Agreement Negotiations. The Province has appointed Jamie Campbell, Q.C., as chief provincial negotiator. A federal negotiator is in place and as of March 31, 2003 the parties are awaiting the appointment of a Mi'kmaq negotiator to begin discussions.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

Our target is for this agreement to be in place by March 31, 2004. Once a Framework Agreement is approved and ratified, the parties will enter into substantive negotiations on agreed-to issues.

## **AGREEMENTS IN NON-TREATY RELATED AREAS**

### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

The relationship between the Province and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia is not limited to a treaty or series of treaties. A wide range of arrangements already exist which set out some of the parameters within which governments relate with First Nations. Despite these areas of agreement there remain many outstanding issues of concerns. Reaching agreements in these areas is a sign of progress in resolving these matters to the satisfaction of all parties. A number of areas have been identified by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs as requiring resolution through some form of agreement. The key areas that are currently being addressed by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs include:

- the introduction of a fuel tax exemption for purchases on reserve by Status Indians;
- Repayment to Status Indian consumers of provincial fuel taxes paid in error in prior years; and
- First Nation Gaming agreements.

### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

#### **Nova Scotia Indian Fuel Tax Exemption (NSIFTE) Program**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs in cooperation with the Departments of Finance and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations reached settlements and developed refund mechanisms totaling \$19.1 million with seven of eight Mi'kmaq bands. Provincial fuel taxes are included in the price of fuel purchased by status Indians on Indian reserves. The refund programs and the new point-of-sale system rectify this situation, which courts have found is contrary to the federal *Indian Act*.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The Province continues to negotiate with one band on reaching a Fuel Tax refund settlement. During 2003-04 the following targets have been set.

- Completion of thirteen First Nation Gaming Agreements
- Completion of a Nova Scotia - Mi'kmaq agreement on an Aboriginal Courtworker Program
- Completion of a tripartite MOU on the promotion of a healthy, active living initiative for Aboriginal communities

Additional areas where work is required to resolve outstanding issues are being identified on an on-going basis.



## **DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

A key aspect of Nova Scotia's approach to the negotiation process will be to encourage a broad public awareness of the process and ensure that the views and concerns of provincial groups and organizations are well understood by the parties. This measure will be one way in which the Province will be able to gauge how successful we are in meeting this objective.

### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the Chief Negotiator have held introductory meetings with provincial groups and organizations to begin raising awareness of treaty issues and identify concerns and interests about negotiations. Public awareness of treaty issues was also raised as part of communications planning and media coverage associated with Treaty Day and the signing ceremony of the Umbrella Agreement.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

An approach to consultation in Nova Scotia is targeted for completion by March 31, 2004.

## **PART II - INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION, POLICY ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC ADVICE**

This business area includes providing policy and strategic advice and support to departments and agencies concerning Aboriginal issues. The office also works with departments and agencies to develop and implement the Government's overall approach to Aboriginal issues.

The following are measures intended to assist in the evaluation of how effective the Office has been in moving toward an outcome of *an effective corporate approach to addressing Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia*.

### **LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING AND SATISFACTION EXPRESSED BY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

#### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

Addressing Aboriginal issues involves a significant level of horizontal coordination. Key to designing effective and sustainable corporate practices and solutions is the support and involvement of other Departments and Agencies. One measure of our success in this area is the level of understanding and satisfaction of the role the Office is playing within government as expressed by other Departments and Agencies.

#### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

Some limited survey work with our internal clients has been conducted, essentially identifying areas for improvement. An annual survey of key departmental clients is proposed to measure our improvement in this area. The development of an OAA Intranet website has helped improve access to information for other departments/agencies on Aboriginal related material as well research initiatives spearheaded by OAA.

#### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

Once the baseline is established, we will target continuous improvement on this measure.

## **CORPORATE POLICIES AND APPROACHES THAT REFLECT AN ABORIGINAL COMPONENT**

### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

One measure that provides an indication of success in developing a more effective corporate approach to addressing Aboriginal issues is the reflection of these issues in the development of corporate policies and strategic approaches.

### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The inclusion of Nova Scotia's Aboriginal community interests in the development of corporate policies and strategic approaches is a qualifying measure of the progress we are making.

### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The office will continue to encourage the reflection of Aboriginal issues throughout government policy. In addition, over the coming year, a key focus of the Office will be the development of an Aboriginal Policy Framework which will provide government with some clear guidance on addressing Aboriginal issues and will provide First Nations and the general public with a clear understanding of Nova Scotia's goals and policy direction in this area.

## **PART III - ALL CORE BUSINESS AREAS**

The following is intended to measure progress on the Office's strategic goal of *Greater awareness of Mi'kmaq culture in Nova Scotia*. This is a measure of success within each of our core business areas.

### **NUMBER OF PUBLIC SERVANTS COMPLETING CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING**

#### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This output measure provides a level of understanding of the reach of our corporate training initiatives. It is intended that this area of measurement will be refined over the coming year to better reflect the outcome which is "greater awareness of Mi'kmaq culture in Nova Scotia." During the year, as OAA has changed, the former program has undergone significant change.

#### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

OAA staff participated in a new "Aboriginal Perceptions Training" program, developed jointly by the Aboriginal Justice Learning Network and OAA. The intent is to test the program with OAA staff and if successful, will become the Government's cultural awareness training program.

#### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?**

Additional training will be offered in the coming year, depending on this program's success. Once a baseline measurement is done, the Office will be carrying out activities that will target an enhanced level of awareness of Mi'kmaq culture in the Nova Scotia Public Service and more broadly in the general public.

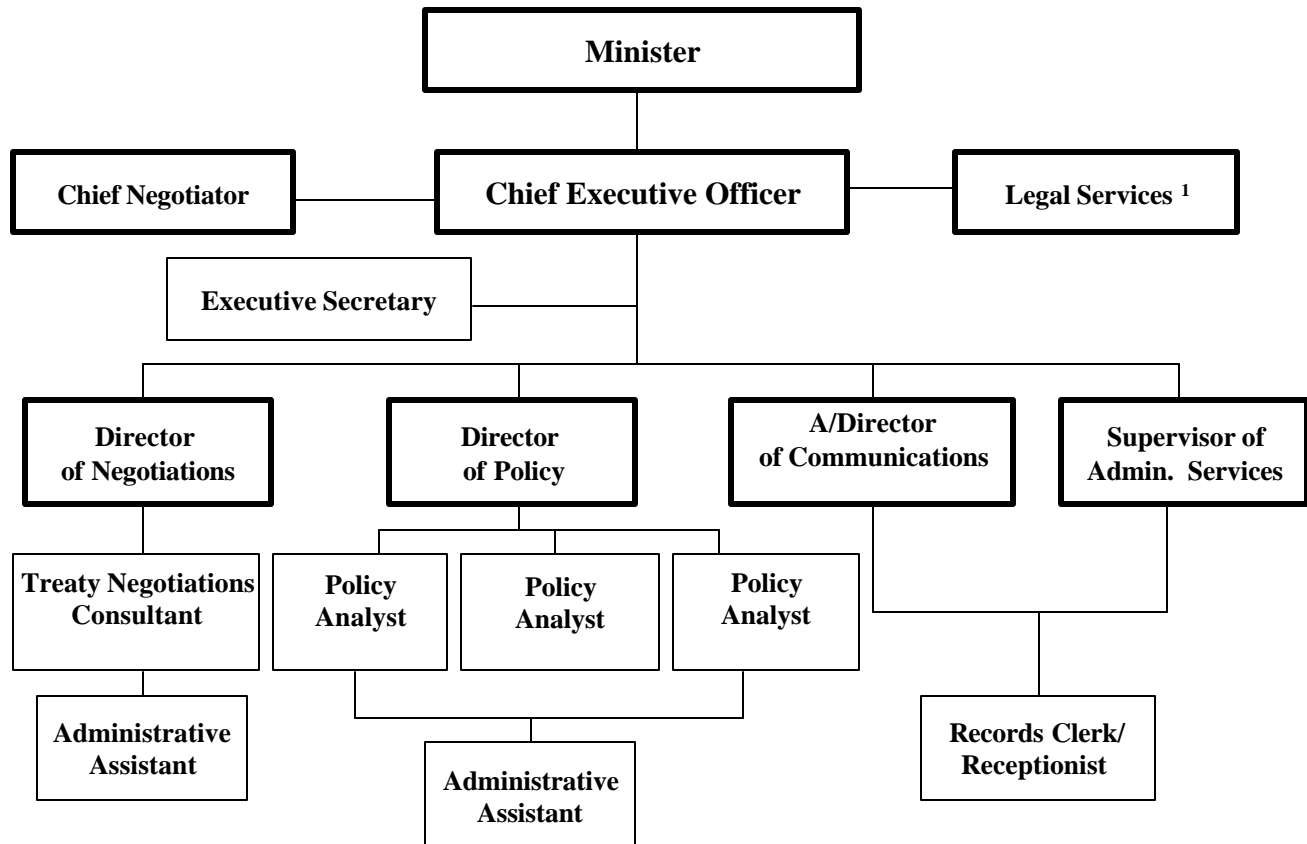
## **Supplemental Information**

- Organizational Chart (as of September, 2002)
- Program & Service Inventory

### **APPENDIX A**

#### *Organizational Chart (as of September, 2003)*

# Office of Aboriginal Affairs



<sup>1</sup> Legal Services provided by the Department of Justice

September 2003

## **APPENDIX B**

### *Program & Service Inventory*

## **Inventory of Provincial Programs, Services and Initiatives for Aboriginal People in Nova Scotia**

*Note: This request for information was sent to each department and agency and the following is a compilation of the responses received.*

### **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:**

The department deals with all clients equally. The following programs and services would apply equally to aboriginal clients in the agriculture/agri-food sector, the commercial and sportfishing sectors, and aquaculture industries as non-aboriginal clients.

#### **Agriculture Resource Management:**

Agriculture programs and services include a broad array of programs for registered commercial farmers targeting resource management such as land use and protection, manure management, soil conservation, water quality, and environmental farm plans.

*Contact:*

*Mike Langman*

*Phone: (902)893-6557*

#### **Safety Net Programs (agriculture):**

The department also offers a suite of federal/provincial safety net programs aimed at income stabilization and farm losses due to natural disasters including drought.

*Contact:*

*Mike Johnson*

*Phone: (902)893-7534*

#### **Agriculture Developmental Programs:**

A number of developmental funding programs target strategic investment in agriculture:

***Agri-Food Industry Development Fund*** encourages entrepreneurship and innovation in marketing.

***Farm Investment Fund*** supports growth, responsible resource management and innovation.

***Agriculture Water Resource Development Program*** encourages research and demonstration in agriculture water management.

*Contacts:*

*Mike Johnson*

*Phone: (902)893-7534*

*or*

*Alan Grant*

Phone: (902)893-6579

**Farm Loan Board** offers loans at competitive rates and assists new entrants into the industry.

Contact:

*Derrick Jamieson*

Phone: (902)893-6500

**Livestock Health Services:**

Assists registered producers in obtaining veterinary services to farm gate.

**Food Shop/Meat Plant Licensing & Inspection:**

The department manages and regulates an integrated food safety system that covers the food continuum from processing through to distribution, retailing and eating establishments. The department also offers food safety training. Health Canada takes the lead in issues of food safety with aboriginal groups. The province cooperates with the federal government as required. The province requires that all meat sold in off-reserve food stores and/or restaurants be inspected.

Contact:

*George Smith*

Phone: (902)893-6363

**Aquaculture:**

Under aquaculture, the department issues licenses and leases for sites, and offers technical and fish health services.

Contact:

*Leo Muise*

Phone: (902)424-3664

**Marine Plant Licensing:**

The department also issues licenses to harvest marine plants. Activity to date is conducted by non-aboriginals.

Contact:

*Justin Huston*

Phone: (902)424-2996

**Inland Fisheries Services:**

Inland Fisheries programs are aimed at fishery conservation and enhancement through the sustainable development of the resource. There is aboriginal representation in the advisory process that the division uses for community/stakeholder consultation.

Contact:

*Murray Hill*

Phone: (902)485-7021



**Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board:**

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board offers loans to commercial harvesters and aquaculturists who reside off reserve. On-reserve aboriginals are subject to regulations of the Indian Act.

*Contact:*

*Jim Sarty*

*Phone: (902)424-0312*

**Licensing for fish buying/selling and processing:**

The department issues licenses for fish buying, selling and processing. To date, aboriginal groups have been involved primarily in the harvesting aspect of the commercial fishery, which is managed by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. There is one fish processing plant off-reserve and one plant on-reserve licensed under our department.

*Contact:*

*Nadene MacAulay*

*Phone: (902)424-0335*

**Education and Training:**

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) takes a lead role in providing education, research and public service in the agricultural and food industries and related disciplines. The college also offers a degree program in aquaculture.

*Contact:*

*Dr. Bernie MacDonald*

*Phone: (902)897-5655*

**Publications and Videos:**

A comprehensive listing of publications and videos are found on the department's website <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/home.htm>. Of particular note is the department's Online Resource Library related to Farm Business Management and Economic Development. Videos can be ordered online: Fish Plant Sanitation, Marine Fisheries Technology and NS 4-H Audio Visual Resource. See website as well for details on programs and services identified above.

**Specific Initiatives Targeting Aboriginal People:****Aquaculture Training:**

The department is currently offering a training program in aquaculture and horticulture through the NSAC Continuing Education Division. This program is being directed to the Millbrook First Nations to enable band members to operate the land-based aquaculture facility that is in the planning stages. The new facility will grow Arctic char.

*Contact:*

*Dr. Bernie MacDonald*

*Phone: (902)897-5655*

**Aquaculture:**

Several aquaculture sites, particularly in the Brad d'Or Lakes, are operated by aboriginal peoples. These sites are licensed in accordance with departmental legislation and policies.

*Contact:*

*Leo Muise*

*Phone: (902)424-3664*

## **Department of Community Services:**

### **Mi'kmaq Family and Children Services Agreement:**

The purpose of the Mi'kmaq Family & Children's Services is to provide Child Welfare and Family Services to Mi'kmaq women, men and children. They accomplish this by operating as a private agency mandated by the Children & Family Services Act to investigate and assess all reports of suspected abuse and neglect of children under sixteen years of age and living on Indian Reserves in Nova Scotia. They offer a range of services to families and promote an environment conducive to their well-being. The Department of Community Services provides the legislative authority for this agency, as well as training, advice and support.

*Contact:*

*Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services*

*Box 179, Shubenacadie*

*Hants County, Nova Scotia*

*Phone: (902)758-3553 or 1-800-263-8686*

### **Mi'kmaq Adoption:**

Children who speak Mi'kmaq must be placed in an environment where the language is spoken and/or understood. Culturally enriched activities must be supported for the overall well-being of the child. The Mi'kmaq Adoption program recognized that many Mi'kmaq children who need supportive families have spent most of their lives in one community. These children require sensitivity and understanding during the adjustment period to a new home, a new school, or new community environments.

*Contact:*

*Mi'kmaq Family and Children Services*

*Mainland NS, contact Shubenacadie at (902)758-3553*

*Cape Breton, contact Eskasoni at (902)379-2433*

### **Rural and Native Housing:**

Rural and Native Housing began in 1977. It was established and funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and delivered by various third sector delivery groups in Nova Scotia. Initially the province was involved only in contributing to the annual operating loss. In May, 1998, the province was given the program by CMHC through the Social housing Transfer Agreement, signed in October 1997. There are currently 1,651 total units in the program, of which 983 are homeowner units and 668 are rentals. All clients pay a housing charge based on a percentage of gross annual income, roughly 25%. In 1995, CMHC created Ki'knu Housing Commission Society to be the property managers for the RNH program. Ki'knu is still the property manager, having recently signed a 1-year agreement with the province which expires on May 31,

2003. During 2003-04, the Department of Community Services will be taking over the delivery of this program.

*Contact:*

*Jim Graham*

*Phone: 424-3224*

**Policy Manual for Day Cares on Reserve:**

Over the past year there has been considerable work done between staff from the Department of Community Services and the Tripartite Forum Social Committee on developing a policy manual for regulating day cares on reserve.

*Contact:*

*Shulamith Medjuck*

*Senior Advisor, Federal-Provincial Initiatives Unit*

*Phone: (902)424-4039*

## ***Department of Economic Development:***

### **First Nation Economic Development Fund (FNEDE):**

The First Nation Economic Development Fund is a joint initiative between the province and the Government of Canada. It provides a means of implementing projects which improve employment opportunities, enhance business development or economic planning and capacity building. Project funded under the FNEDE include the Aboriginal Procurement Officer, Practice Firm, and the Mi'kmaq NS Firstnet.

*Contact:*

*Jeff MacCallum, Policy Analyst*

*Strategic Management & Rural Development Division, Office of Economic Development*

*Phone: (902)893-6197*

### **Community Access Programs (CAP):**

The Office of Economic Development (formerly Technology and Science Secretariat) provides funding to First Nations communities for public access sites. The program aims to provide Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and to the skills they need to use it effectively. With the combined efforts of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, community groups, social agencies, libraries, schools, volunteer groups and the business community, CAP helps Canadians, wherever they live, take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new global knowledge-based economy. Under CAP, public locations like schools, libraries and community centres act as "on-ramps" to the Information Highway, and provide computer support and training.

*Contact:*

*Karen Parusel or Jim Stanley*

*Phone: (902)424-1723*

### **Opportunities for Prosperity - A New Economic Growth Strategy for Nova Scotians:**

The Opportunities for Prosperity document represents the strategy of the Province to sustained economic growth. It outlines the priorities and how the government will support them. It addresses how all Nova Scotians, including aboriginal peoples, can expect the government to achieve its vision of "...a thriving Nova Scotia that by 2010 is the best place in Canada to live, work, do business and raise families".

*Contact:*

*Chris Bryant*

*Office of Economic Development*

*Phone: (902)424-3545*

## ***Department of Education:***

### **Community-Based Learning Funding Program:**

Provides funding on an application basis to Mi'kmaq communities to deliver programs to aboriginal adults who need to upgrade their literacy skills and work towards the new Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adult Education. Funding has been provided to Kijipuktuk Aboriginal College and a number of communities, such as Eskasoni, Indian Brook and Membertou.

*Contact:*

*Carmelle d'Etremont*

*Manager, Adult Education Division*

*Phone: (902)424-5160*

### **Adult Education Coordinator for the Mi'kmaq Community:**

This person facilitates the provision of Adult Education programs and services to the Mi'kmaq community, including the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning and the Community Learning Initiative.

*Contact:*

*Nora MacDonald-Plourde*

*Adult Education Coordinator*

*Adult Education Division*

*Phone: (902)893-5989*

### **Mi'kmaq Services Division:**

The Mi'kmaq Services Division was established in 1997. The Mi'kmaq Services Division is responsible for providing the leadership, direction, and planning required to develop and implement the policies, procedures, programs and services that will ensure Mi'kmaq Nova Scotians benefits from a fully supportive learning environment in the public schools. The Department of Education recognizes that education must be attuned to the cultural and language needs of Mi'kmaq students. Through partnerships with parents and Mi'kmaq educational organizations, the department is committed to developing and delivering programs in Mi'kmaq heritage, history, language, and culture.

*Contact:*

*Lorraine Smith-Collins*

*Director, Mi'kmaq Services*

*Phone: (902)424-3551*

### **Council on Mi'kmaq Education (CME):**

The Council on Mi'kmaq Education was established in 1997 and continues to make recommendations to the Minister of Education addressing the needs of Mi'kmaq students in the public school system.

*Contact:*

*Ann Blackwood*

*A/director, English Program Services*

*Phone: (902)424-5745*

### **The Education Act:**

The Mi'kmaq have been defined in the Education Act as "all first nation people, whether living on or off reserve." The Education Act defines Mi'kmaq education as "the development of programs, resources, and learning materials that provide information about and promote understanding of the Mi'kmaq and their history, heritage, culture, traditions, and contributions to society and that recognize their origins as first-nations people."

*Contact:*

*Ann Blackwood*

*A/director, English Program Services*

*Phone: (902)424-5745*

### **Mi'kmaq Studies 10:**

A Mi'kmaq Studies course has been developed for the grade 10 level as a course eligible for the Canadian history graduation requirement. Mi'kmaq Studies 10 provides students with an understanding of historical and contemporary issues in Mi'kmaq society. This course will enable students to achieve a greater understanding of and respect for Mi'kmaq contributions to society.

*Contact:*

*Ann Blackwood*

*A/director, English Program Services*

*Phone: (902)424-5745*

### **Mi'kmaq Language 7 and 8:**

Mi'kmaq Language 7 and Mi'kmaq Language 8 provide options for junior high students for the fulfilment of a second language requirement. Mi'kmaq Language curriculum will continue to be developed to include Grade 9 in the future. *Foundation for Mi'kmaq Language Curriculum* is in development in collaboration with education partners.

*Contact:*

*Ann Blackwood*

*A/director, English Program Services*

*Phone: (902)424-5745*

### **Aboriginal Content in Curriculum and Authorized Learning Resources:**

The Department is working to ensure appropriate aboriginal representation in curriculum and related learning resources throughout public school programs.

*Contact:*

*Ann Blackwood*

*A/director, English Program Services*

*Phone: (902)424-5745*

**Provincial Student Education Council:**

The Department of Education recognizes the need for youth input into the development of policies and programs which have a direct affect on public school students in Nova Scotia. Because students have informed perspectives on issues concerning the education system, it is important that their concerns and ideas be heard and considered. In response to this recognition, the Provincial Student Education Council will be formed to utilize the resource represented by secondary school students. The mangle of the Council is to coordinate a process through which students will be engaged in: advising the Minister of Education on matters relating to the secondary school system; developing leadership development opportunities that will enhance their capacity to make a successful transition from school to work, further education or training; and providing input on related activities. The provisions of the Council ensure that the Council has representation from the Mi'kmaq communities.

*Contact:*

*Rick Gilbert*

*Executive Director*

*Nova Scotia Youth Secretariat*

**Workplace Education Program:**

Provides essential skills training to individuals in the workforce or who are entering to workforce in partnership with business, industry and labour. It is available to all communities and has recently been used by Pictou Landing to help a group of women in the carpentry Apprenticeship Program.

**Forums of Labour Market Ministers' Western and Northern Aboriginal Task Group:**

Includes the Western and Northern Provinces and Territories, and New Brunswick. Group addresses Provincial/Territorial concerns related to the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements (AHRDAs) including: lack of information, lack of coordination with Provinces/Territories, relationship between AHRDAs and Labour Market Development Agreements, level of P/T involvement, management of AHRDA – Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC) National Headquarters versus HRDC Regions, distribution of AHRDA funds, and accountability.

*Contact:*

*Bruce Roberts*

*Phone: 424-5296*

**Department of Energy:**



**Nova Scotia Energy Strategy:**

Part VIII of the Nova Scotia Energy Strategy “Aboriginal People and the Energy Sector” recognizes that energy resource development can have an impact on the Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia and is also clear that this development creates an opportunity for Mi’kmaq to build greater self-reliance. The Nova Scotia Energy Strategy “Seizing the Opportunity” can be accessed through the internet at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/petro/EnergyStrategy>.

*Contact:*

*Bruce Cameron*

*Phone: (902)424-2288*

## ***Department of Environment and Labour:***

### **Environmental Assessment:**

Through the Environmental Assessment program, the department reviews large proposed developments in Nova Scotia regarding their potential to cause environmental impacts. Types of development include mines, highways, pipelines, incinerators, etc. The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq and the Union of Nova Scotia Indians are participants in the environmental assessment process.

*Contact:*

*Chris Daly*

*Phone: (902)424-4936*

### **Labour Services:**

The Nova Scotia statutes regulating labour management relationships do not exempt aboriginal people from the administrative or appeal processes available to unions/employers. There is a question of federal versus provincial jurisdictions, however, and provided it is determined that an issue is within provincial jurisdiction, the same laws apply to all employers/unions.

*Contact:*

*Laurie Rantala*

*Executive Director, Labour Services*

*Phone: (902)424-8466*

### **Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)**

While the program does not target aboriginal people specifically, we do inspect and require compliance with the OHS legislative requirements when the work is within provincial jurisdiction, which will involve aboriginal people.

*Contact:*

*Jim LeBlanc*

*Phone: (902)424-8477*

### **Protected Areas**

The Protected Area program protects and manages areas of natural significance to the Province. In certain cases protected areas include sites or values important to aboriginal people. In these cases appropriate recognition and participation is provided. For example Canadian Heritage River Plaques for both the Margaree and the Shelburne Rivers include Mi'kmaq text recognizing the historic and cultural values of the river to the Mi'kmaq people. Protected area planning processes provide opportunities for aboriginal participation in the planning and management of protected areas (e.g. Parks and Protected Areas System Planning Process- 1994-5, Margaree Heritage River - 1995-9, and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area Management Planning Exercise -2002 )

*Contact:*

*John LeDuc*

*Phone: (902)424-6936*

### **Alcohol and Gaming Authority:**

The Alcohol and Gaming Authority is involved with the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation in moving toward regulation of gaming on Reserves.

*Contact:*

*Dennis Kerr*

*Alcohol and Gaming Authority*

*Phone: (902)424-4884*

### **Water Resources:**

#### **Sewage Management, Bras D'Or Lake**

The Department has facilitated a joint initiative between First Nation communities and Municipal units in Cape Breton Island to address issues of sewage contamination in the Bras D'Or Lake. This has resulted in the creation of a 10 point management plan which has been endorsed by the five First Nation and five municipal units.

#### **Canada Shipping Act Designation**

The Department is collaborating with First Nations and other relevant Federal and Provincial departments to establish a non-discharge designation for boating sewage in the Bras D'Or Lake. This collaboration is taking place through the creation of a Task Team of the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative.

#### **Conflict Resolution Initiative**

A protocol to assist in the facilitation of effective solutions to environmental infractions where there may be First Nation involvement in areas of provincial jurisdiction is being developed in Cape Breton.

#### **Joint Enforcement Team**

The department participates in the Joint Enforcement Team for the Brad D'Or Lake which includes those federal, provincial and First Nation units having enforcement capacity on the Lake.

#### **Sustainable Communities Initiatives**

The Department has a strong role in the SCI which is a collaborative initiative of federal, provincial, municipal and First Nation units in the Annapolis Valley and Bras D'Or Lake regions. This initiative provides stronger communication links between government departments and between government and community with the aim of providing appropriate support to community sustainability issues and projects.

#### **Protected Water Areas**

Designation of a Protected Water Area under the Environment Act is available to municipal water utility operators as a means of protecting drinking water supplies. If a proposed designation watershed included First Nations land, then the band would be included in the public consultation process. A few years ago, Indian Brook First Nation requested designation of an area outside the reserve lands in order to protect the Band's water supply. The designation process includes a

number of steps. Although designation was initiated there has been no active response from Bands on the request for many years.

### **Approvals**

First Nations are often involved with approvals, particularly water approvals in watersheds where there is an identified First Nation interest, i.e., where reserve lands are involved. A provincial water approval for water withdrawal is not required for wells located within federal lands or First Nations lands.

*Contact:*

*David Briggins*

*Manager, Water and Waste Water Branch*

*Phone: (902)424-2571*

### **Labour Standards**

Aboriginal persons, when they function in a personal capacity as employer and employee, are subject to the same minimum employment standards as other persons in this Province. There is some variation if aboriginal persons are employed directly by a band council, then federal minimum employment standards would apply.

*Contact:*

*Ross Mitchell*

*Phone: (902)424-5404*

### **Environmental Industries**

Programs provided under this branch do not target aboriginal people specifically; however, the services provided to support and promote the growth of environmental companies is available to all Nova Scotians including aboriginals, and the department has worked with aboriginal companies in the past, in the area of wind power.

*Contact:*

*Andrew Murphy*

*Phone: (902)424-2177*

### **Solid Waste Resource Management**

Department staff have been working with the Eskasoni band toward developing a curbside recycling program for the band's 3,000 residents.

*Contact:*

*Barry Friesen*

*Phone: (902)424-2645*

### **Office of the Fire Marshal**

The department assists the RCMP through provision of Fire Investigation Services for aboriginal communities. Costs of these services are recovered from INAC.

*Contact:*

*Robert Cormier*  
*Phone: (902)424-4553*

**Education, Training and Youth Corps.:**

The Education and Training Branch have been working with First Nation communities, Eskasoni and Bear River through the Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps. (NSYCC). The NSYCC has worked hard over the last year to build a relationship with the Eskasoni community in hopes of bringing Eskasoni into the solid waste management plan of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. The NSYCC facilitated a number of meetings involving the Eskasoni Public Works, CBRM solid waste management group, the RRFB, DEL Solid Waste Management Group and the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources. As a result, the Eskasoni Band Council agreed to work closely with CBRM in starting a curbside recycling program. The RRFB agreed to a pilot project to engage the schools to adopt a beverage container collection program whereby the additional 5 cents would go to the community. This summer the NSYCC sponsored a project to begin a solid waste education program in the community. Three youth were hired to work on this project under the supervision of the Unama'ki Institute. The NSYCC also has a project in Bear River to complete the development of two wilderness trails as well as to work on a Fish Habitat Restoration project.

*Contact:*

*Paul Schwartz*

*Manager, Education and Training Branch*

*Phone: (902)424-5206*

## ***Department of Justice:***

### **Mi'kmaq Young Offender Project (MYOP):**

- Project was launched in 1995 through collaborative effort between Union of Nova Scotia Indians and Island Alternative Measures Society.
- Focus of project was initially to provide alternative measures program services consistent with Section 4 of the *Young Offenders Act* (Diversion of youth from normal court process on a pre-charge/post-charge basis by providing youth and family with opportunity to meet with victim and/or community to respond to the wrong that was done through the offence. Program was intended for first time offenders and non-violent offences.)
- Department of Justice funds Mi'kmaq Young Offender Project as a Tripartite project.
- MYOP focuses almost entirely on Mi'kmaq youth from Cape Breton.
- MYOP Coordinator (Paula Marshall) ensures appropriate cultural content by nurturing an effective, inclusive, victim sensitive diversion program drawing, as much possible, on Mi'kmaq imagery, language and community participation. Justice Circles are used.
- MYOP became part of the former Mi'kmaq Justice Institute (MJI) in 1998. It reverted to a separate operation in May, 1999 after MJI ceased operations.
- The Department of Justice increased the scope of MYOP in November, 1999 to include responsibility for restorative justice. Work on the scope is ongoing.

*Contact:*

*Fred Honsberger*

*Phone: (902)424-7640*

### **Aboriginal Policing:**

Department of Justice contributes 48% of the cost (shared with the federal government) for the provision of aboriginal policing services at eight locations including the five reserves in Cape Breton, Millbrook, Shubenacadie and Acadia

*Contact:*

*Fred Honsberger*

*Phone: (902)424-7640*

### **Aboriginal Courtworker Program:**

During 2003-04, Nova Scotia in collaboration with the Mi'kmaq and Justice Canada will be implementing an Aboriginal Courtworker program to assist Aboriginal people through the court system in Nova Scotia.

*Contact:*

*Steve Mattson*

*Phone: (902) 424-3925*

**Native Probation Officer:**

A Mi'kmaq probation officer is employed at the Sydney office to work primarily with native offenders at Eskasoni, Wagmatcook and Membertou.

*Contact:*

*Fred Honsberger*

*Phone: (902)424-7640*

***Department of Natural Resources:***

**Native Conservation Officer Program:**

The Native Conservation Officer Program provides training and employment during hunting season (September to December) for an assistant conservation officer for each of the 13 Mi'kmaq bands.

*Contact:*

*John Mombourquette*

*Director of Enforcement*

*Regional Service*

*Phone: (902)424-5254*



**Public Service Commission:**

**Summer Employment Diversity Initiative Program:**

The Summer Employment Diversity Initiative Program provides equality of opportunity for summer employment. Students from the designated groups of aboriginal students, racially visible students, students with disabilities and female students pursuing non-traditional studies related to applied science, trades and technology careers are encouraged to apply for this program.

*Contact:*

*Heather Chandler*

*Diversity Management Unit*

*Phone: (902)424-6916*

**Affirmative Action Policy:**

The objective of the Affirmative Action Policy is to improve the representation of aboriginal persons, black persons and other racially visible person, persons with disabilities and women in all occupational groups and at all levels in the Nova Scotia civil service.

*Contact:*

*Heather Chandler*

*Diversity Management Unit*

*Phone: (902)424-6916*

## ***Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations:***

### **Assessment Service:**

The Assessment Services Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, provides the First Nation Band - Millbrook - with an annual assessment roll of non-native residential and commercial properties. This service is by contract with Assessment Services and includes an annual assessment roll and defense of any appeals. The assessment roll identifies the owner, address, situs and property value.

*Contact:*

*Sam Farrel*

*Regional Director, Assessment*

*Alternative Service Delivery*

*Phone: 424-3555*

### **Indian Act Tax Exemptions:**

**Tobacco Tax** - An administrative arrangement is in place to provide tax exempt (unmarked) tobacco to status Indians. Agreements are in place with each individual Band Council establishing the quantities of exempt tobacco and identifying the designated retailers and wholesalers. The quantities are based on population and are increased for special events upon approved requests. The arrangement allows for 3 cartons of cigarettes plus 200 grams of other tobacco products per person per month. The individual Band Councils stipulate the portion of the Band's quota that each designated retailer may sell.

**Fuel Tax** - The province is in the process of implementing a point of sale tax exemption system (Nova Scotia Indian Fuel Tax Exemption Program) on reserve. The province is also negotiating with First Nations a settlement on the extent and distribution of taxes paid in error in prior years. The total amount of this settlement is approximately \$20 million.

**Property Tax** - Property (land and buildings) occupied by Aboriginals and situated on Reserve land are exempt from property tax. The ***Indian Act***, R.S.C.1985, C.1-5 was amended in 1988 to clarify the powers of Bands to levy property taxes on reserve lands, including those portions of reserves that have been conditionally surrendered or designated for development or lease. On May 15, 1996, the Millbrook Band passed the Millbrook Band of Indian Land Tax By-Law pursuant to Section 83(1)(a) of the ***Indian Act***.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations provide assessment services to the Millbrook Band. This assessment service relates to real property situated on the Reserve and owned (leased, etc.) to non-Aboriginals. Millbrook can set their property tax rates and collect property taxes from non-Aboriginals or businesses occupying land and buildings on Reserve lands.

**Sales Tax - Private Purchases of Vehicles and Boats On-Reserve by Status Indians:**

Provincial Sales tax is not applicable on private transactions involving motor vehicles and other designated personal property such as boats and aircraft purchased by status Indians on Reserve. A private transaction is a transfer of title or possession from a person in Canada who is not a GST/GST registrant.

*Contact:*

*Frank Moore*

*Senior Policy Analyst*

*Phone: (902)424-4723*

## **Department of Tourism and Culture:**

### **Mi'kmaq Resource Guide:**

This guide provides online access to archival and library materials relating to Mi'kmaq throughout Atlantic Canada. The online guide incorporate records, published material, sound recordings and film clips in a fully searchable electronic database containing 2,200 descriptions of individual items. The public archives of Nova Scotia launched the Mi'kmaq Resource Guide on September 30, 2002 and it is available at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/mikmaq](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/mikmaq).

*Contact:*

*Lois Yorke*

*Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management*

*Phone: (902)424-6068*

### **Nova Scotia Museum:**

#### **Licensing of all Archaeological Activities in the Province**

The museum keeps in contact with the Mi'kmaq community in archaeological matters in order to protect Aboriginal cultural sites.

**Advisory Services** in the areas of interpretation/exhibitory planning to people working on any Aboriginal projects.

Museum will consider providing **internships** such as a 12 week program just completed with Tiffany Sark from the Cultural Centre, Lennox Island, PEI – funded by the Federal Museums Assistance Program.

#### **Mi'kmaq Portraits Database**

-Provides visual access to 800 selections from the NSMs collection of images of the Mi'kmaq of Atlantic Canada, mainly historical, to any Internet user.

#### **Educational Materials**

Museum provides basic level historical information about the Mi'kmaq in a published INFO Sheet.

**Publishing** of Research Reports and Books on Mi'kmaq Cultural Topics.

Information available in the Publications Catalogue of the Nova Scotia Museum.

*Contact:*

*David Newlands*

*Executive Director*

*Phone: (902)424-6478*

**Culture Division:**

The Department of Tourism and Culture has a number of programs in place to support cultural activity throughout the province. The Culture Division's programs are open to all cultural groups, with a focus on cultural industry growth, community cultural development, creative expression, artistic development and sustainable infrastructure.

*Contact:*

*Diane Coish*

*Executive Director, Cultural Affairs*

*Phone: (902)424-6472*

## ***Department of Transportation and Public Works:***

### **Provincial Highway System:**

As required, consultations between the Department of Transportation and Public Works, aboriginal communities, and/or the Office of Aboriginal Affairs takes place on issues related to our provincial highway system.

- Any new alignment requires an environmental assessment which would normally include some archeological investigation and possible consultation with the Aboriginal community.
- Consultations occur when there are nay highway access-related issues impacting Aboriginal reserves.
- The Office of Aboriginal Affairs advises Transportation and Public Works on any additions to reserve in the Province. The Department in turn comments on the impact of the highway system.

*Contact:*

*Al MacRae*

*Executive Director, Public Works*

*Phone: (902)424- 5687*

### **Trunked Mobile Radio:**

The Department of Transportation and Public Works administers a program through which mobile radios are provided on loan to groups such as volunteer fire departments and brigades to facilitate inter-agency communication, such as communication with the RCMP. Several Aboriginal reserves are included among those groups that benefit from the use of these radios under this program. The Eskasoni, Pictou Landing and Waycobah reserves have all directly received radios and airtime packages for their use. Several other reserves are benefitting through the provision of radios and airtime packages to municipalities with non-reserve fire brigades who provide fire protection services to nearby reserves.

*Contact:*

*Todd Brown*

*Director, Trunked Mobile Radio System*

*Phone: (902)424-7678*

**Supplier Development:**

The Department of Transportation and Public Works includes Aboriginal groups within its supplier development initiative. The objective of this initiative is to identify ways of improving access for Nova Scotia companies to public procurement opportunities. Aboriginal community representatives have attended federal/provincial joint meetings on procurement.

*Contact:*

*George Murphy*

*Director, Purchasing*

*Phone: (902)424-5522*

**Boat Harbour:**

Transportation and Public Works officials meet regularly with Pictou Landing First Nation representatives in relation to the Boat Harbour lands and the Kimberley Clarke effluent treatment plant for its pulp mill operation at Abercrombie Point in Pictou.

*Contact:*

*Denis Rushton*

*Manager, Environmental Services*

*Phone: (902)424-4082*

## ***Office of Aboriginal Affairs:***

### **Treaty Day Activities:**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs coordinates and provides support to the annual Mi'kmaq Treaty Day events held at Province House on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

*Contact:*

*Wendy Casey*

*Supervisor of Administrative Services*

*Phone: (902)424-8088*

### **Tripartite Forum:**

The Tripartite Forum in Nova Scotia is made up of three parties: The Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. The Tripartite Forum provides the opportunity for all parties to discuss and negotiate issues of mutual concern. The Office of Aboriginal Affairs provides approximately \$270,000 annually in core funding to support the activities of the Tripartite Forum in Nova Scotia. The Office also participates in the Steering Committee and supports the operational planning of the various committees of the Forum. Working committees of the Forum include culture and heritage, education, justice, health, social, and economic development. Currently, there are approximately 25 staff from seven government departments actively participating in the Forum.

*Contact:*

*Ernest Walker*

*Director, Policy*

*Phone: (902)424-4931*

### **Cultural Awareness Training:**

In the coming year, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs will be focusing on a course that will build on the knowledge obtained in the *Orientation to Mi'kmaq First Nation Culture* course. The course will provide basic knowledge and skills to Government employees that will enable them to work more effectively with Aboriginal communities and organizations in Nova Scotia.

*Contact:*

*Wendy Casey*

*Supervisor of Administrative Services*

*Phone: (902)424-8088*



**Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Aboriginal (FPTA) Forum:**

At the National level, Nova Scotia is a committed participant in the FPTA Forum. The FPTA Forum was formed by Ministers and Aboriginal leaders in 1999 as a primary vehicle for pursuing national discussions on Aboriginal issues.

*Contact:*

*Ernest Walker*

*Director, Policy*

*Phone: (902)424-4931*

**First Nation Gaming:**

Nova Scotia has entered into a series of gaming agreements with eleven of the thirteen First Nation communities in Nova Scotia. The primary objective of these agreements is to provide First Nations with a revenue source that allows them to take a more directed role in the development of their particular communities. These agreements have provided \$88 million over the last five years.

*Contact:*

*Ernest Walker*

*Director, Policy*

*Phone: (902)424-4931*

**Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network**

The Province is collaborating with the Mi'kmaq in the creation of an umbrella justice/legal support organization to assist in developing and administrative justice programs and services that reflect the distinct needs of Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq community.

*Contact:*

*Ernest Walker*

*Director, Policy*

*Phone: 424-4931*