

# **Office of Aboriginal Affairs**

## **Annual Accountability Report**

**Reporting for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

**Issued by: Office of Aboriginal Affairs**

**Date: July 7, 2010**

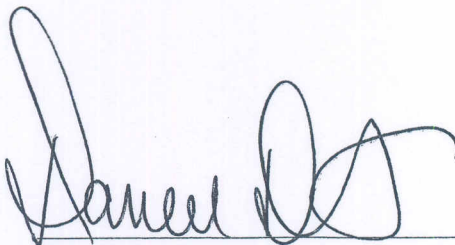
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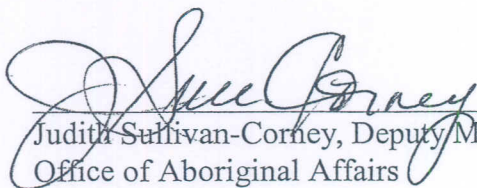
## Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs for the year ended March 31, 2010, 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 2009-2010. 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.



Darrell Dexter  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



Judith Sullivan-Corney, Deputy Minister/CEO  
Office of Aboriginal Affairs



## **Message from the Minister**

The work of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs is vital to the future prosperity of Nova Scotia and to ensuring strong and stable relations with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The Office leads the Province in its relations with the Mi'kmaq community by building mutual understanding, respect and a lasting relationship. It supports these efforts through the Made-In-Nova Scotia process, the Tripartite Forum and our consultation efforts.

Over the past year, we are pleased with progress made on several fronts. In November, the newly-elected Cabinet met for the first time with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs in the warm and hospitable community of Paqtkek near Antigonish. The meeting provided us with the opportunity to collectively acknowledge and celebrate our common interests and allowed us to reaffirm the value of the processes we currently have in place. We look forward to building on our successes and mutual priorities at next year's meeting.

In February, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs hosted the Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge (MEKS) Learning Seminar. Mi'kmaq elders and other Aboriginal leaders shared their insights regarding indigenous knowledge with more than 230 Nova Scotia public servants and others from across the region. The conference examined applications of indigenous knowledge in the workplace.

Additionally, the Province is committed to meeting its legal obligations to consult with First Nations. Within that process, we believe there is an important role for proponents in engaging the Mi'kmaq. To this end, this year, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs completed a proponent's guide to help guide their work with the Mi'kmaq. It has been well-received and has become an important resource for proponents.

We also feel privileged to support the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the baptism of Grand Chief Henri Membertou, the first aboriginal person in Canada to be baptized into the Catholic faith. This single act established an alliance between the Mi'kmaq people and the Catholic Church that would last four centuries, and signaled the Mi'kmaq's desire for peaceful relations with the European nations.

There are other developments and successes I could also point to -- all of which demonstrate our genuine interest and willingness to work together, collaboratively and respectfully. We look forward to working with the Mi'kmaq to continue our efforts toward building a prosperous province for all Nova Scotians.

**Honourable Darrell Dexter**  
**Minister of Aboriginal Affairs**



## **Introduction**

This accountability report is an annual report on the progress and accomplishments of the Office during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. It is based on the goals and priorities as outlined in the 2009-2010 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.

Throughout the year, the Office has worked hard to help departments and agencies build the capacity to engage with Aboriginal communities and organizations. We also continue to build our relationship with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in social and economic matters and on Aboriginal and treaty rights through our core mechanisms, the Made in Nova Scotia negotiation process, the Terms of Reference on consultation and the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum.

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 2009-2010 fiscal year. These achievements are organized around the core business areas of the Office as outlined in the business plan.

**Joint Meeting of the Assembly of Mi'kmaq Chiefs and Cabinet** - Fundamental to government's relationship with the Mi'kmaq is our collaboration with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. This relationship overarches all other aspects of our work with First Nations in Nova Scotia. In November 2009, the Nova Scotia Cabinet met with the Assembly in Paqtnkek First Nation. This was an opportunity for the new Cabinet to gain an appreciation of the issues facing the Mi'kmaq community of Nova Scotia and begin to build a dialogue to address these issues and set a foundation for the evolving government to government relationship between the Province and the Mi'kmaq.

***Core Business Area: Negotiations - The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for coordinating provincial departments in intergovernmental, bilateral and tri-party negotiations while working to create stable and respectful relationships to reconcile the respective rights and interests of the Parties.***

### **Negotiations and Related Issues**

Discussions on Aboriginal and treaty rights and Mi'kmaq governance continues as mandated in the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia Canada Framework Agreement, signed in 2007. The Main Table met monthly over the last year and working groups are in place for moose management, forestry and fisheries. Negotiation-related activities included:

- OAA continued to provide funding for the Mi'kmaq Moose Management Initiative (\$40,000). One of the highlights of the initiative was the publication of Mi'kmaq moose harvesting guidelines in August 2009 by the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs.
- Work is underway to begin a pilot project to adopt Mi'kmaq customary law/restorative justice approaches for hunting and fishing-related offences. A program is already in place through the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network for certain criminal matters, and the parties are intending to expand the program on a trial basis.
- With respect to lands, OAA has been providing assistance to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs to begin identifying possible locations for a Mi'kmaq House of Assembly that could serve as a headquarters for a future province-wide Mi'kmaq government.
- Efforts continued to inform Nova Scotians about negotiations. In addition to meetings with interested groups and organizations, a series of speaking engagements was held by Danny Graham, lead negotiator for the Province, and Dan Christmas a senior Mi'kmaq leader from Membertou.



***Core Business Area: Consultation - The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for coordinating and facilitating consultation efforts between provincial government departments and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, regarding various projects and policy initiatives that may impact Treaty and Aboriginal rights.***

### **Consultation with the Mi'kmaq**

Significant efforts were made in 2009-10 to implement new processes of consultation, initiated in 2007-08, between the provincial government and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Between July and November 2009, the Mi'kmaq, federal and provincial governments reviewed and revised the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference (ToR), and recommended formal adoption of the document by all three parties in 2010.

In support of the Province's new consultation management regime, OAA took a number of steps, including:

- Assisted individual departments to develop their own guidelines for consultation, in accordance with the ToR and the Province's Interim Consultation Policy, and their business lines. This is a requirement of the Interim Consultation Policy;
- Continued the delivery of a 2-day Aboriginal Consultation training course to approximately 68 people, bringing the total trained since 2007 to almost 300 people;
- Organized a learning seminar on Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge with more than 240 participants from government, academia, the private sector and Aboriginal communities;
- Developed and released *A Proponent's Guide for Engaging the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia* to provide practical guidance to industry and third parties regarding their responsibilities carrying out the delegated aspects of consultation by the Crown;
- Provided strategic risk assessment advice and conducted active consultation on more than 50 issues during the fiscal year;
- Created the Atlantic Aboriginal Consultation Practitioner's Network with federal and provincial colleagues in the Atlantic Region to share best practices on consultation and accommodation;
- Provided and increased core funding to assist the Assembly of NS Mi'kmaq Chiefs to coordinate consultation efforts through the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNNO or Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative); and,
- Provided 15 presentations to various annual meetings, conferences, industry associations and consultants to raise awareness of Nova Scotia's approach to the duty to consult.

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

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

Remaining a unique Nova Scotia vehicle for dialogue, the Tripartite Forum continues to evolve and achieve results that lead to lasting changes in Mi'kmaq communities. During 2009-10, more than \$300,000 of project related funding has flowed through the hard work and dedication of the Forum's working committees. Projects undertaken through the Forum in 2009-2010 include:

- **Healthy/Active Living** - The Forum supported the Nova Scotia Aboriginal Sports Summit, small grants to each community for winter sports activities and the Steve Nash Basketball program targeted at Nova Scotia First Nation youth.
- **Preserving/Celebrating History** - A booklet on the Grand Council was developed and funding was provided to support the media launch for Membertou 400. In addition, funding was directed toward the preservation of Malagawatch.
- **Economic Development** - Funding support was provided to support First Nation entrepreneurship and the conduct of an economic leakage study by the Una'maki Benefits Office.
- **Early Childhood Education** - The Forum provided support to a project dedicated to establishing an effective and transparent credentialing system for early childhood workers that is designed for Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia; to advocate for and develop Mi'kmaq specific cultural and language components for inclusion within existing early childhood education training programs at post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia; to advocate for and develop of a special education component for inclusion within existing early childhood education training programs at post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia and to work with post secondary institutions to identify mechanisms for delivering post-secondary programs for early childhood workers in Mi'kmaq communities.
- **Suicide Prevention** - A Task Force, comprising Forum representatives and stakeholders, was formed to identify ways of actively supporting the Eskasoni Crisis Centre, and will take responsibility for the development of an overall strategic response to youth in crisis/youth suicides for all First Nation communities in Nova Scotia.



### **Economic and Workforce Development**

During the fiscal year the province continued to engage with First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations to improve opportunities for greater employment and economic participation. These efforts were made in collaboration with our government partners in Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development and Labour and Workforce Development. Some highlights of this work include:

- The Office of Aboriginal Affairs initiated discussions with the federal government and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs on the creation of a Major Resource and Energy Fund. This fund would see the creation of a pool of capital that could be used by the Mi'kmaq to take advantage of investment opportunities in the resource and energy sector.
- The Office contributed \$25,000 to the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APCFNC) toward the AAEDIRP. This integrated program links the needs of Aboriginal communities and organizations with university resources to build Aboriginal capacity in research in the field of Aboriginal economic development. The AAEDIRP is one of the vehicles for action in the Atlantic Chief's *Atlantic Economy Building Strategy* May 2007. Through 2009-10, the following research projects have been approved under AAEDIRP and are in progress:
  - Atlantic Aboriginal Post-Secondary Labour Force
  - Critical Success Factors in the First Nation Fishery
  - Assessing the Effectiveness of Labour Force Participation Strategies
  - Baseline Data for Aboriginal Economic Development
  - Examining Partnerships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Businesses
  - The Social Impacts of Economic Development

During 2009-10, AAEDIRP also held a conference focused on creating meaningful and sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in Atlantic Canada.

Workforce development and skills training have been identified as a key priority of the Tripartite Forum. This was reinforced at the joint meeting of the Assembly and Cabinet in September of 2008. Within this context and with the federal government devolving labour market programs and services to the province, Nova Scotia continues to work with the Mi'kmaq to identify collaborative approaches that support greater Mi'kmaq participation in the Nova Scotia labour force.

- OAA supported the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre's Active Partnership Strategy. The strategy was intended to support aboriginal workforce participation, primarily in the Halifax area, through the implementation of an Active Partnership Coordinator.
- Government funded a Nova Scotia Aboriginal Labour Market Strategy Coordinator to work with the Mi'kmaq groups and government to better support and facilitate the development of the Integrated Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy for Nova



Scotia. The coordinator is also to facilitate a more effective use of associated programs and services to the Aboriginal community. The overarching vision of the Integrated Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy is to increase labour market attachment of Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.

- As part of the Integrated Strategy, an environmental scan on Mi'kmaq participation, recruitment, retention and sustainability in the workforce in Nova Scotia was completed by the Gorsebrook Research Institute in September, 2009.

### **Heritage and Culture**

The Office worked on a number of fronts to increase the knowledge and awareness of Mi'kmaq heritage and culture in Nova Scotia. Key progress during the year included:

- Continued support for the Mi'kmaq in developing the Mi'kmaw cultural tourism sector in Nova Scotia. During the year OAA provided \$70,000 to the Mi'kmaq Association for Cultural Studies (MACS) in support of the Mi'kmaq Cultural Tourism Network (MCTN). The MCTN is a working committee under MACS mandated to develop and strengthen the Mi'kmaw heritage, tourism, and cultural sector.
- Support for the development of the Mi'kmaewey Debert Cultural Centre. With the financial assistance provided by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq made progress in site selection and site development. As of July 2010, it will be ready to proceed with architectural design and construction. Planning elements completed in 2009-10 include updates to existing capital and operating budgets with an independent cost consultant analysis; phase II environmental site assessment; completion of a communications strategy; archaeological impact assessment for the proposed building site; key Elders' interviews; and ongoing collections and resource inventorying. Project staff met educational needs across the Province with dynamic and innovative educational outreach through the Cross Cultural Facilitation program.

### **Urban Aboriginal Strategy**

During 2009-10, the Office provided \$25,000 in support of the national Urban Aboriginal Study. The results of this report by the Environics Institute will be fundamental in how the province works with the urban Aboriginal community in Nova Scotia. The province continued discussions with the federal government on extending the Urban Aboriginal Strategy to Nova Scotia.

### **Aboriginal Affairs Working Group of Ministers and Leaders**

At the direction of the Council of the Federation in 2009, Provincial and Territorial Ministers came together with the leaders of the five National Aboriginal Organizations to discuss issues of common concern. Ministers and Leaders have subsequently met twice to discuss and formulate a plan to be considered by Premiers.

The plan focuses on three key goals:

- closing the graduation gap;



- closing the income gap; and
- ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

This plan and some proposed next steps will be presented at the upcoming Pre-Council of the Federation meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Leaders scheduled for early August 2010 in Manitoba.

### **Aboriginal Women's Issues**

The Office continued to work on a variety of issues relating to Aboriginal women, including chairing the Tripartite Justice Subcommittee tasked with researching family violence in Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities. This research will be invaluable to informing the development of a provincial Domestic Violence Strategy as well as the development of culturally appropriate prevention and intervention programs for Aboriginal women.

In June 2009, the Domestic Violence Prevention Report was presented to the Deputy Minister's Leadership Committee on Family and Intimate Partner Violence. The Office will lead the work with respect to two recommendations and co-lead with the Department of Justice on two recommendations. A plan for action with respect to the 70+ recommendations contained in the June 2009 Report will be presented to government in the Fall 2010. In the interim, the Office will continue to engage with Aboriginal women and front-line Aboriginal organizations to ensure that their voices are heard in the development of government policies and programs.

*Core Business Area: Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Administration - This business area includes providing corporate policy and strategic advice to departments and agencies concerning matters related to Aboriginal people while achieving departmental and corporate goals and objectives through planning, budgeting, reporting and communication.*

### **Corporate Advice on Aboriginal Issues**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs provided advice and support to a wide range of departments in the development of various policies and strategies. Examples during 2009-10 included advice on a series of Aboriginal Health Transition initiatives, the development of a major land purchase initiative by government and the development of provincial strategies on water, energy, the coast and natural resources.

### **First Nation Gaming**

Gaming revenues continue to be an important source of funds for First Nation economic and social development initiatives with the total value of the revenue from both gaming on reserve and sharing of the profits from the Sydney Casino approaching \$50 million in 2009-10.



***Core Business Area: Public Education and Awareness - The Office will take steps in an effort to better educate the public regarding Nova Scotia's first people. Through various media, Aboriginal Affairs will attempt to increase Nova Scotians' awareness of the Mi'kmaq culture. This business area includes promotion of Aboriginal awareness and importance of relationship building with other government departments and agencies.***

The Office has undertaken a variety of activities in 2009-10 to raise Nova Scotians' awareness of the Mi'kmaq over the last year. Some highlights of these activities include:

### **Building Knowledge**

As highlighted in other sections of this report, during 2009-10, with respect to consultation, the office delivered a 2-day Aboriginal Consultation training course to approximately 68 people, bringing the total trained since 2007 to almost 300 people. We also organized a learning seminar on Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge with over 240 participants from government, academia, the private sector and Aboriginal communities.

With respect to negotiations, in addition to meetings with interested groups and organizations, a series of speaking engagements was held by Danny Graham, lead negotiator for the Province, and Dan Christmas a senior Mi'kmaq leader from Membertou.

### **Celebrating History - Membertou 400**

Financial and in-kind support to the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the baptism of Grand Chief Membertou. This celebration, taking place in June of 2010, recognizes this significant event in the history of Canada. The alliance between the French and the Mi'kmaq initiated by Grand Chief Membertou helped shape the development of Canada. The celebration in June 2010 will be an opportunity for Nova Scotians to gain a greater understanding of who the Mi'kmaq are and the contributions they have made to the development of Nova Scotia.

### **Wabanaki: People of the Dawn III**

The Office, in conjunction with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, completed its third documentary film following on the success of Wabanaki: People of the Dawn Parts I and II. Wabanaki III profiles several Mi'kmaq youth and their respective achievements. During the fiscal year, this video was released, a learning guide developed and both the video and learning guide were distributed to all public schools in the province.

### **Treaty Day Celebrations and Mi'kmaq History Month**

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs also leveraged opportunities associated with Treaty Day and History Month to profile the Mi'kmaq's rich culture and history. Activities around both of these important celebrations attracted attention from news media outlets throughout the province. During the Treaty Day ceremony, the premier and several Nova Scotia cabinet ministers presented awards to Mi'kmaq elders and young people -- demonstrating the Province's support and commitment to Mi'kmaq of all ages.



## **Financial Results**

The following table outlines the budgeted and actual spending for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Overall spending came in at \$3.752 million approximately \$33,000 less than the authorized budget of \$3.785 million.

	<b>2009-10 Budget (\$ '000)</b>	<b>2009-10 Actual (\$ '000)</b>
Program and Service Area	(\$'thousands)	(\$'thousands)
Total Program Expense:		
Aboriginal Affairs	3785	3752
Total Program Expense	3785	3752
<i><b>FTEs</b></i>	<i><b>15</b></i>	<i><b>13.7</b></i>

## **REPORTING ON OUTCOMES**

### **PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

The following section of this report provides an overview of OAA's outcome measures. Each outcome measure relates to a core business area, and this section will measure OAA's progress in fulfilling its core business areas. This accountability report reports on the revised measures (as reflected in the 2009-2010 business plan), as they more accurately measure progress toward achieving our outcomes.

### **KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS:**

<b>Core Business Area – Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations</b>
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**Outcome 1 - To effectively represent the interests of Nova Scotians in federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal relations.**

**Measure – Percentage of government departments and agencies who agree that OAA effectively represents Nova Scotians' interests in federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal relations.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

This measure demonstrates the percentage of provincial clients that feel OAA effectively represents the interests of Nova Scotians' in federal, territorial, and Aboriginal relations.

**Where are we now?**

In the latest internal client survey, 92% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that OAA was effectively representing the interests of Nova Scotians. This is a slight decrease from the previous survey conducted in 2004 (96%).

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Using the results from the internal client survey we will work to improve the level of client satisfaction in this area.



**Outcome 2 – Improved relations between the Government of Nova Scotia and Aboriginal communities and organizations.**

**Measure – Assessment of government departments and agencies satisfaction with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

To improve relations between the Government of Nova Scotia and Aboriginal communities and organizations, it is important to determine how satisfied government departments and agencies are with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations.

**Where are we now?**

91% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations. This represents an increase from 80% in the previously conducted survey.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Using the current survey as a baseline for results, we will work to maintain and/or improve the level of client satisfaction in this area.

## **Core Business Area – Corporate Aboriginal Affairs Administration**

**Outcome - Effective coordination and advice being provided to government departments and agencies.**

**Measure – Government departments and agencies satisfaction with the services and advice provided by OAA.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

Addressing Aboriginal issues involves a significant level of coordination. Key to designing effective and sustainable corporate practices and solutions are the support and involvement of other departments and agencies. One measure of our success is how satisfied government departments and agencies are with the services and advice provided by OAA.

**Where are we now?**

75% of respondents were very satisfied with the advice/coordination being provided by OAA. This is unchanged from the results of the last survey conducted in 2004.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Now that we have baseline data, our main goal will be to increase the satisfaction rate of clients with respect to advice and support.



**Outcome - Improved consultation between the provincial government and the Mi'kmaq.**

**Measure 1 – Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference (ToR) to address consultation between the Mi'kmaq, Canada and Nova Scotia for government decisions, approvals and activities that may impact Aboriginal or treaty rights.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

This measure tells us that the Province is serious about meeting its commitment to address the duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq. NS is the only province in Canada with a consultation protocol among all First Nations in the province and the provincial and federal governments.

**Where are we now?**

The Province is involved in consultation on more than 50 issues. This is a small percentage of decisions, approvals and activities that may require consultation. In 2009-10, the ToR was revised and finalized for formal adoption by all three parties.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Through the formal adoption of the ToR, and increased use of the process by provincial government departments, consultation with the Mi'kmaq will be well-coordinated, efficient, effective, and a regular course of business for decisions that may impact Aboriginal or treaty rights.

**Measure 2 - Interim Policy Guidance on Consultation**

**What does this measure tell us?**

This measure provides internal guidance to provincial employees on how they should address the Crown's duty to consult; as well as direction to departments that deal with natural resource issues to develop their own guidelines for consultation based on their own business lines, and consistent with the ToR and the Interim Policy.

**Where are we now?**

Three out of five departments have developed their own guidelines.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

All five departments will develop their own guidelines, and OAA will lead the development of a final consultation policy.

**Outcome - Progress toward resolution of treaty-related issues****Measure 1 – Progress on substantive negotiations of priority topics****What does this measure tell us?**

Experience from other jurisdictions indicates that these are long-term discussions, typically taking more than 10 years to reach a final agreement. In the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia Framework Agreement, the parties committed, where possible, to work toward interim progress to provide tangible results of the parties' efforts at an earlier date. Therefore, assessing progress on priority issues is an important measure.

**Where are we now?**

As outlined in the previous section, work has begun on priority areas such as lands, fisheries, forestry and moose management. Progress has been made towards the establishment of Mi'kmaq moose harvesting guidelines, an approach to provide access to wood for domestic purposes and land has been set aside for a major cultural centre.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Continue to seek interim measures on priority topics while developing a long-term understanding of rights and governance issues.

**Measure 2 – Public Participation (processes for information sharing and input by public and stakeholders regarding negotiations).****What does this measure tell us?**

Informing and engaging Nova Scotians regarding treaty and Aboriginal rights issues will be essential for obtaining public support for future agreements.

**Where are we now?**

Information is made available via the OAA website and informal discussions continued with various groups and organizations to update them on the process. In addition a number of more formal speaking engagements were held.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

More formal information sharing and engagement mechanisms will be developed as negotiations on specific subjects reach a more advanced stage.



## **Core Business Area – Public Education and Awareness**

**Outcome - To enhance awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.**

**Measure 1 - Increase in Nova Scotian's who feel informed and knowledgeable of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

This measure provides a snapshot of the public awareness of Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia.

**Where are we now?**

41% of Nova Scotians feel informed about Aboriginal issues in Nova Scotia. (2009 Omnibus Survey).

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

Through the measures articulated in our annual business plans, OAA hopes to continually increase the level of awareness within the general population.

**Measure 2 - Percentage of government employees who strongly agree that OAA enhances awareness of Mi'kmaq culture.**

**What does this measure tell us?**

This measure provides OAA an understanding of the success we are having within government in raising the level of awareness of Mi'kmaq history and culture.

**Where are we now?**

35% of employees survey strongly agreed that OAA enhances awareness of Mi'kmaq culture. An additional 62% agreed with this statement. This is up slightly from the previous survey which reported that 33% of those surveyed strongly agreed.

**Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

While the agreement with this statement is very high, OAA seeks to continually improve and expand our efforts to enhance the knowledge base, capacity and understanding of Mi'kmaq history and culture.

### **Measure 3 – Qualitative assessment of Government employees satisfaction with Aboriginal Perceptions Training.**

#### **What does this measure tell us?**

This measure is based on qualitative feedback from course participants. Participants are asked to provide the instructor with comments on what they liked most about the training and areas for improvement. It is important for government employees to have an increased understanding and awareness of Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia. More than a thousand employees have taken the Aboriginal Perceptions course, this measure will provide us with a level of understanding of how successful the training has been.

#### **Where are we now?**

An overwhelming majority of participants who have completed the Aboriginal Perceptions Training Course provide extremely positive feedback regarding the course and its instructor. Of the negative feedback to note, most point toward the need to expand the course as it is perhaps too concentrated

#### **Where do we want to go/be in the future?**

In the coming year OAA will survey a selection of these participants to better understand how this course has changed understanding, attitudes and perceptions as it relates to Aboriginal